

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842  
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The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Long - Term Supply Priest

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## Pentecost Season - June, 2020

### When and How shall we gather again to worship? We need to hear from you.

Trinity's vestry and Fr. Ben met on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss resumption of services at Trinity and set a tentative date of July 5<sup>th</sup>. We believe at this point it is possible to hold services safely with appropriate precautions. With the entry of Bradford County into Governor Wolf's designated green phase, a number of the previous restrictions have been relaxed. Conversations have been held with the Bishop and Diocesan staff regarding additional limitations and criteria. It will be necessary to have our reopening plan approved by the Bishop and his staff prior to the actual resumption of services.

This newsletter is also being sent to our friends from Grace, Waverly, so that they may be fully included in our planning to reopen.

First and foremost, we want to hear from members of the congregation and our Grace friends to find out if you are in agreement about how and when we will reopen. Simultaneously, we will be preparing our plan for reopening and submitting it to the Bishop for approval. We anticipate that both tasks can be completed in June, which will give us another month to evaluate the impact of Pennsylvania's green phase.

Like everything else, resumption of services will not be a return to worship as usual.

- Face coverings will be required.
- Social distancing will be required at all times.
- Seating will be modified accordingly.
- We will be keeping a log of attendees for contact tracing purposes.
- We will have music, but no congregational singing.
- Passing of the Peace will be from a distance of six feet
- Hand sanitizer will be available as well as extra masks if you forget yours.

We believe Father Ben has come up with a Eucharistic protocol for administration of a single specie (host only), which will, hopefully, be considered acceptable in small congregations such as ours. We will submit his proposal in our plan to reopen. If the Eucharistic protocol is not acceptable to the Diocese, the service will be Morning Prayer and Sermon.

**Most importantly, are you ready for a resumption of worship services as described above?** No amount of planning on our part is of value if no one comes. **Please respond** to Dan Gerhart or Barbara Caum via email or phone and let us know your intent to participate. Also, please feel free to express any other concerns you would like to see addressed.

Hoping to see you on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

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Barbara Caum [bccaum@gmail.com](mailto:bccaum@gmail.com) 570 888-8981

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### New Normal A Ruminations from Fr. Ben

As of May 29<sup>th</sup>, Bradford County entered the Green Phase, opening the door to a "new normal." "New normal"?



"Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

In my usual place, hovering close, not to the abyss but the rabbit hole, I began to think about what a "new normal" might be like at Trinity.

When Trinity reopens, it will be a choice made by its members and Grace Church members, as they've been invited to join us in worship at Trinity. In conjunction with Commonwealth guidelines and the direction of the Diocese of Bethlehem, we will do the utmost to keep our in-person worship safe. Social distancing principles (occupancy rules, face masks,

hand sanitizer, etc.) will surely be a part of the “new normal.” Even the worship experience (congregational singing, communion practices, fellowship, etc.) will be closely scrutinized with an eye to safety.

Because of the “new normal,” it’s not just of a matter of we were closed and now we are open. There will be decisions and choices to be made; some might not be easy nor appealing.

But the “new normal” also begs the question of what it might look like for our society in general, what its challenges and pit-falls might be. I suppose the best starting place for such a rumination would be to look back down the yellow brick road and see where we’ve been over the last few months.

It’s been an interesting several months, to say the least. Once normal social services offered by churches have adjusted and developed innovative ways to continue getting food and assistance to those in need in the community as unemployment rises higher than any of us have ever experienced. People have rallied to offer assistance to their neighbors and the community. I’ve personally witnessed it when a gas station attendant, knowing that Andrea was high-risk and having learned that I had been unable to obtain protective disposable gloves, ran back to his kiosk and gave me one of his packs.

On the other hand, some people have chosen to *rally* for different and selfish reasons. Under the guise of exercising their rights as citizens even so-called-christians (I purposely used a lower case “c”) treasure their “rights” more than honoring their God and Savior by emulating His sacrifice. It has been ugly and disturbing.

I’m writing this the week of Memorial Day. A time when we should be honoring the sacrifice of so many. I wonder how many of those who sacrificed their all for our “rights” would be ashamed of those who refuse to sacrifice such petty measures as to wear a face mask in order to protect others?

A “new normal” for our society: selfish or sacrificing. Since the time of Adam and Eve, it remains our choice as to which path we follow in developing a “new normal”.



A pandemic shows us and the world our true colors. We are the Imago Dei (Image of God) called to be the Imago Christi (Image of Christ).

*Look for a new rumination from Fr. Ben later this week in your email. It's a dandy, with even more pictures. \*If you are not receiving this newsletter by email and would like to, send your address to [information@trinityathens.org](mailto:information@trinityathens.org) -Editor*

## **Message from Bishop Kevin: The Primacy of Love Demands Justice and Racial Reconciliation**

May 29, 2020

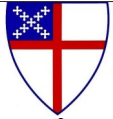
Dearly beloved of God,

The outrage and horror over the brutal and needless murder of George Floyd, the latest in a string of brown and black people who have died senselessly, brings me to tears once again. The racial injustice that pervades our country and our communities leaves many terrified and in despair. The protests that have erupted out of this moment bespeak the desperate need for listening, healing, and action towards racial reconciliation.

As the adopted father of a young man of color, I have learned over the last 20 years that many of the things that my father taught me about the realities of this world are not true for those who happen to be brown or black skinned. My outrage and heartache does not and will never touch that of those who live the daily struggle of a world where racial bias and injustice abounds.



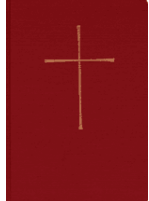
The primacy of love demands that each of us must respect the dignity of every human being. Sadly, this dignity has been diminished. Whether it is the racist killing of a jogger, biases in our criminal justice system, systemic poverty, healthcare inequalities, unjust immigration policies, or the disproportionate death rate of people of color during this COVID-19 pandemic, I am learning that I must find a way to leverage my societal privilege, authority, and power to confront these injustices and walk in solidarity with all of God’s beloved.

I join with leaders around the country, the church, and in our local communities and beg that we focus on solutions to the systemic problems that surround us and find ways to support the most vulnerable in our communities. To that end, today I have called upon Sandy Milien, Missioner for Community Engagement, and the Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield, Canon Missioner, to assist me in the formation of a Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force, as we envision how to faithfully and actively stand against racism and inequality.



# Trinity Episcopal Church - June 2020

Pentecost

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Cycle of Prayer:</b> 6/7 Tom and Shannon Bubniak. 6/14 Joe and Laura Cama; Rachel, Daniel, Cole, Dennis Cama-Nemer; Tim, Jennifer, Lily Cama. 6/21 Barbara and Alan Caum, Nate Schwartzberg. 6/28 Walt and Marcella Chaykosky.		<b>Diocese of Bethlehem:</b> 6/7 St. Mark's and St. John's, Jim Thorpe, The Rev. Nancy Packard, Interim. Kirby House. 6/14 Grace Church, Kingston, The Rev. John Hartman, Rector. Clergy of the Diocese. 6/21 St. Barnabas', Kutztown. Commission on Ministry. 6/28 Christ Church, Susquehanna.		<b>Anglicans around the World:</b> 6/7 The Anglican Church of Mexico, Bishop Francisco Moreno. 6/14 The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) Bishop Stephen Than Myint Oo. 6/21 The Church of Nigeria, Bishop Henry Chukwudum Ndokuba. 6/28 The United Church of North India, The Most Rev. Dr. Prem Chand Singh.		
 Summer Begins June 21	<b>1 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>2</b>  <i>Barbara Bean</i>	<b>3</b> AA Intergroup 5 pm AA 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm  <i>John Strange</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Trinity Sunday</b> 	<b>8</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>9</b>  <i>Laura Cama Chris Bailey</i>	<b>10</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>11 St. Barnabas</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	<b>12</b>  <i>Malcolm Forbes</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Pentecost 2 - Proper 6</b>	<b>15</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>16</b>  <i>Kate Murray</i>	<b>17</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>18</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm  <i>David Caum</i>	<b>19</b>  <i>Bruce &amp; Colleen Barton</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Pentecost 3 - Proper 7</b>  <i>Hildegard Mohr Greg &amp; Ginny Caum-Lake</i>	<b>22</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Jeremy Forbes</i>	<b>23</b>  <i>Jessica Cameron</i>	<b>24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b> AA 7:30 pm  <i>Charles Ford</i>	<b>25</b> AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm  <i>Tom Bubniak Shannon Bubniak</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost 4 - Proper 8</b>	<b>29 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Karen Nichols</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>Our Partner Diocese of Kajo Kejo:</b> 6/7 St. Peter Kinyiba. 6/14 Gurube and Mangaloti Parishes. 6/21 Sonder Parish. 6/28 St. Paul Kasurak Parish.		 Tentatively, worship at Trinity begins July 5. Please bring your personal copy of the Book of Common Prayer. If you don't have one, a church copy will be labeled for you to use each week.	

(cont'd, from p. 2)

As I often say, the heart of Jesus' ministry was time spent with ordinary people—truly listening to them, and speaking truth about the most pressing issues of the time. I believe we are called to do the same in our communities. We need to hear from each other's hearts, acknowledge and confront our own biases, and have difficult conversations with each other. The only way forward is together – in love.

In God's love,



The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols,  
Bishop of Bethlehem



### Preparing to worship together

Do you have a *Book of Common Prayer* at home? If so, please plan to bring it with you. The diocesan guidelines call for removing all prayer books and hymnals from the church. If you don't have one, we'll label one for your use from week to week. We also plan to have most of the service in a leaflet.

**Please Pray** - for those on our **parish prayer list**: Andrea, Joe, Holly, Don, Patricia, Todd, John, Jenny, Marie, Barbara, Frank, Mina, Richard, Martha, Chuck, Ginny, Ritchie, Justin, Brian, Lucile, Mary, Mark, Billy, Ruth, Julia, Larry, Mary, Joyce, Allyson, and Clayton. **We give heartfelt thanks for the negative Covid-19 test results for Patricia Gurney - Alleluia!!!**

The June calendar includes the Anglican, Bethlehem, Kajo Keji, and our own parish cycle of prayer, birthdays and anniversaries to include in your prayers as well.

Remember that the church's expenses still go on while we are apart, so please keep your pledge current by mailing it to PO Box 9 or 701 S. Main, Athens.

Continue to check on your friends and neighbors who live alone. A friendly phone call or a card would be most welcome. This time of physical distancing does not mean that we cannot continue to do what our Lord commanded - that we love one another.

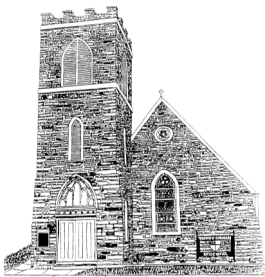
**Refinished and Rebuilt** - Our resident wood craftsman and Junior Warden, Nate Schwartzberg, has



worked over 120 hours refinishing the doors and tracery and building a new sign box. The original, made lovingly by Jack Strange, had suffered too many harsh winters and was not repairable. The new one is equipped with solar powered lights so it's visible at night.

We are very grateful to Nate for sharing his time and talent to make our entry so welcoming.

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**Early Pentecost**

**June, 2020**

*To seek and serve Christ in all people*