

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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Pentecost Season - August, 2020

[Editor's note: Due to unavoidable circumstances, this newsletter is quite late; the excellent articles were written in anticipation of our first Sunday of Spiritual Communion, which has now already taken place and was rich and rewarding worship.]

From "Spiritual Communion in a Season of Social Distancing"

The Rev. Ruth Myers, Dean and Professor of Liturgics, Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Social distancing makes us keenly aware of real absence and our yearning for the Real Presence of Christ, an experience we share with Christians through the ages. To respond when we cannot celebrate Eucharist, Christian tradition offers us the practice of **spiritual communion**. St. Thomas Aquinas explains this as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him" at times when it is not possible to receive the sacramental elements.

The 1979 Prayer Book refers to spiritual communion in the form for Ministration to the Sick, directing the priest to assure a person unable to eat and drink the bread and wine "that all the benefits of Communion are received even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth" (BCP 457). The Prayer Book for the Armed Services suggests a prayer for spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

August Ruminations

The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz

In my spare time during this period of self-isolation, I have begun re-reading books of my past. The latest has been "How To Read The Bible" by James Kugel as well as the five books of Douglas Adams' *Trilogy* of the "Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy" series. What can I say, I have an eclectic taste.

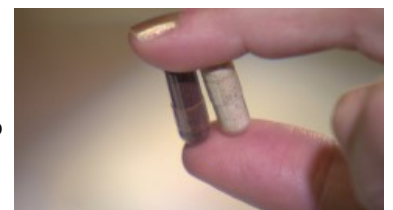
In his book, "Life, The Universe, and Everything", he – Adams, not Kugel – introduces an interesting word that seems to have great relevance, although nearly 40 years after the fact. The word is bizarrologist. Succinctly put, a bizarrologist is a person who studies the improbabilities of current reality.

As we return to in-person worship in the "new normal," bizarrology is surfacing. I'm not speaking of the common sense practices of face masks, social distancing, and liberal use of hand sanitizers. I'm speaking of how to return to in-worship celebration of the Eucharist.



Fantastic safe practices for the preparation of the Table, the consecration of the elements, and the distribution of a single specie, the Host, are being developed by the diocese involving the use of cupcake papers and the sacrament being handed out at the door.

A quick internet survey found several other solutions. A few examples: although it was nearly 30 years before the pandemic, there was "God in a pill." One pill contains a pulverized matzo cracker, the other powdered wine. Although now, gloved hands would be required.



Cont'd on p. 2



Yet another, more modern approach modeled on the famous "Pez" dispenser is available (left). There is also



the even more hands free, social distancing, 'open wide' version (right).

I know these seem rather bizarre options, but they are actually available on the internet. Some even from religious stores.

I will leave the discussion of the use of a "Super Soaker" water gun for any baptisms that might be scheduled during the pandemic to a later "Rumination". Let's deal with one sacrament at a time.

Your Vestry is not currently pondering the purchase of any of these products, at least to the best of my knowledge. We've also dismissed the cupcake approach as it seems a tad irreverent. Sort of like – don't forget to pick up Jesus at the door on your way out.

Turning away from the bizarre for the moment, sincerely, they are considering how to bring the Eucharist to you, into your physical presence. The approach being considered is not as bizarre as those previously illustrated, indeed it is simply called a "spiritual Eucharist." The priest celebrates the Eucharist in the congregation's presence, although does not dispense the elements to the congregation.

I heartily support the practice of "spiritual Eucharist" during these difficult times. Although a person may not be able to physically consume the sacrament, they are able to bathe in the Real Presence of Christ at the worship service. It has been a long-standing convention of the church that if a person is unable for physical reasons to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, that person's desire to do so is sufficient for grace imparted by the sacrament.

Seriously, it is our intention to move to this form of worship the first Sunday of August.

Fr. Ben



It's Always Something

Have you ever been in the church cellar? It's a journey that takes you back in time, where the great hand-hewn beams that support the building fade off into the darkness. The few scattered 60 Watt

bulbs throw off a dim light over the dirt floor.

When it rains, a small waterfall cascades down the concrete steps under the Bilco doors, but mostly it's dry and musty.

Unfortunately, this past week, when workmen ventured into the space to extend a water line to the south side of the building for a faucet so that the gardens can be more easily watered, it wasn't dry in the old undercroft. It was wet – really wet. But it hadn't



been raining.

The water was coming from the boiler, which has cracked. While we're thankful that this didn't happen during the heating season, we're now faced with having to replace it. Just a few months ago

we had the exhaust system replaced because it had rusted over the years and water vapor was gathering behind the wall in the narthex, making the light switches drip. If you look closely at large silver pipes in this picture, you can see that the "new" exhaust pipes are already ruined.





We will also be looking at the rectory chimney, which has thrown off some of its brickwork in the past couple of weeks. We'll be parking one of the cars behind the parish hall to prevent it from being damaged.

As good stewards of our 160 year old church building and our 110 year old rectory, in the next few weeks your vestry members will be looking at how to cover these unexpected expenses. The vestry always welcomes your input and ideas. They meet again on August 23.



Trinity Episcopal Church - August 2020

Pentecost

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Trinity: 8/2 Dan and Marny Gerhart. 8/9 Patricia Gurney, Paul Kelley. 8/16 Trula Hollywood and Karen Nichols. 8/23 Chris, Heather, Adam, Brandon and Caleb Hunsinger. 8/30 Hazel and Ron Hunt.		Do you have a UTO box? Our ingathering is September 27. <i>Every day, in every way, give thanks.</i>				<i>Kajo-Kaji</i> 8/2 Koiba Parish. 8/9 Diocesan Office; St. Matthew Wurta Parish. 8/16 St. Philip Andasire Parish. 8/23 St. Joseph Jalimo Parish. 8/30 Ajira Parish, Gaderu-Victoria Leach Primary School.	1
2 Pentecost 9 P-13 10:00 Holy Eucharist II (Spiritual Communion) <i>Emmerson Forbes</i>	3 AA 8:00 pm	4 <i>Wendy Murray</i>	5 AA Intergroup 5 pm AA 7:30 pm <i>Kathe Maneval</i>	6 The Transfiguration AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	7	8 <i>Dave & Chela Bubniak</i>	
9 Pentecost 10 P-14 10:00 Holy Eucharist II (Spiritual Communion)	10 AA 8:00 pm	11	12 AA 7:30 pm	13 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	14	15 St. Mary the Virgin	
16 Pentecost 11 P-15 10:00 Holy Eucharist II (Spiritual Communion)	17 AA 8:00 pm	18 <i>Charles & Ginny Ford</i>	19 AA 7:30 pm	20 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	21	22	
23 Pentecost 12 P-16 10:00 Holy Eucharist II (Spiritual Communion) --Vestry Meets-- <i>James Caum</i> <i>Michael Maneval</i>	24 St. Bartholomew AA 8:00 pm <i>Jake Parshall</i>	25 <i>Ben & Andrea Lentz</i>	26 AA 7:30 pm	27 AA 5:15 and 8:00 pm	28	29 The Beheading of St. John the Baptist	
30 Pentecost 13 P-17 10:00 Holy Eucharist II (Spiritual Communion)	31 AA 8:00 pm	<i>Bethlehem</i> 8/2 St. Thomas, Morgantown, The Rev. Megan Dembi, PIC. Episcopal House of Allentown. 8/9 St. Mark's, Moscow. 8/16 St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Mountaintop, The Rev. Dan FitzSimmons, Rector. 8/23 Trinity, Mt. Pocono, The Rev. Susan Treanor, Rector. 8/30 St. Brigid's, Nazareth.				<i>Anglicans Around the World</i> 8/2 The Lambeth Conference. 8/9 The Anglican Church of Rwanda, Archbishop Laurent Mbanda. 8/16 The Scottish Episcopal Church, Bishop Mark Strange. 8/23 The Church of the Province of Southeast Asia, Archbishop Melter Tais. 8/30 The United Church of South India, Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam.	

August at Trinity

Sundays at 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist II and Sermon with Spiritual Communion (read more about Spiritual Communion on pages 1 and 2)

Vestry meets August 23 following worship.

Please Pray for - Andrea, Joe, Holly, Patricia, Don, Todd, John, Jenny, Marie, Barbara, Richard, Martha, Chuck, Ginny, Ritchie, Brian, Lucile, Mary, Mark, Ruth, Julia, Larry, Mary, Joyce, Allyson.



Flowers from your garden are always welcome at the altar for our Sunday worship.

The birthday and anniversary list is on the back table in the church. Please add yours and your family members' dates so they can be included on the calendar and in our prayers.

Pledge Statements are ready for you to pick up in church, or they can be mailed to you. **Thank you** for keeping your pledge up to date during the months that we were not holding worship. Normally the statements are issued as of June 30; because of the break in worship, your statement will reflect donations through July 31. Please remember that your pledge statement is *never* to be considered an invoice. Rather it is for your information so that you can make sure Trinity's records and yours agree.

Many thanks to everyone for your cooperation in keeping our worship safe. As the pandemic spreads, it is even more important that we pay attention to maintaining the basics – masks, social distancing, and hand washing.

While we have been fortunate in our area to have low case numbers, that does not mean that the virus is not here. Areas that have seemed to be barely touched have lately begun to see rapid increases in infections, mostly because people had begun to think that they were safe, that "it won't happen here." Sadly, that is not the case.

It is difficult maintaining distance, not singing, not being able to hug or shake hands. It's hard. But by following the guidelines, we can keep gathering together in worship where we gain strength from our faith and from each other.

Continue to hold each other and our world in your prayers as we journey together through this very difficult time.

The Trinity newsletter is normally published the last week of the month and is emailed and mailed with the hope that it reaches you by the first of the month. I apologize for this month's late issue, but honestly, my back would not let me sit at my desk for well over a week. The newsletter is available on our web site, in color in pdf format so that you can share it with friends and family. Or, send me their email or postal addresses and I'll add them to the list.

Thanks!
Barbara

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Season of Pentecost
August, 2020

To seek and serve Christ in all people