

# THE CHIMES OCTOBER 20

Trinity Episcopal Church  
815 N. Grant St.  
Bay City, Michigan 48708  
(268) 333-5333

Volume 20 Issue 9



Dear Trinity Community,

In Sunday's gospel reading (Matthew 21:23-32) we heard a familiar story of Jesus being questioned by the religious leaders. After Jesus stormed into the Temple the day before and overturned vendor tables and money changer stations they wanted to know under whose authority Jesus was doing these things.

Being a good rabbi, Jesus answered their question with a question. "Did the baptism of John come from heaven or was it of human origin?" Since they didn't want to be chastised by Jesus for not believing in John's repentance they didn't want to say "from heaven" and they didn't want to upset the crowd by saying "of human origin" so they said they didn't know.

Jesus then told a story – another rabbinic teaching tool – about two sons who were asked by their dad to work in the field. The first said he wouldn't go and the other said he would but each ended up doing the opposite. Jesus asked which one did the will of his father and they replied, "The first."

Unbeknownst to them, the religious leaders condemned themselves. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of heaven before you." The tax collectors and prostitutes (those on the fringe of society)

are like the first son who weren't going to do anything on behalf of God but they encountered John the Baptizer. Their hearts were open and they repented, changed their ways and shared the good news of repentance. The religious leaders are like the second son who have given their lives up for God and, yet, when they encounter John they see what he is doing but don't receive his message and therefore miss out on what God was calling them to do and be.

Just as in the time of Jesus we, too, are called to a life of repentance and change. Jesus shakes up the status quo and says that those on the fringes of our society – the ones we don't want to see, people of color, the LGBTQ community, the oppressed, the homeless, etc. – are the ones he is inviting into life abundant with us. But we can only be transformed when we are humble enough to allow God to open our hearts to truly see where we err so that we may receive the gift of life anew.

Jesus is calling people of every generation to look into the eyes of those we don't want to see and to see Christ in them. Doing this will transform us as individuals, as a community of faith, as a city, state, nation and world. And none of us will ever be the same. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's love,

*Rev. Sue*

**A Word to the Church from The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops, Gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska, September 21-26, 2017**  
**The bishops of The Episcopal Church came to Alaska to listen to the earth and its peoples as an act of prayer, solidarity and witness.**

**We came because:**

- *"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers"* (Psalm 24:1-2). God is the Lord of all the earth and of all people; we are one family, the family of God.
- *"You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are ... members of the household of God"* (Ephesians 2:19). The residents of interior Alaska whom we met are not strangers; they are members of the same household of faith.
- People have *"become hard of hearing, and shut their eyes so that they won't see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them"* (Matthew 13:14-15). We are blind and deaf to the groaning of the earth and its peoples; we are learning the art of prayerful listening.

**What does listening to the earth and its people mean? For us bishops, it meant:**

- Getting out and walking the land, standing beside the rivers, sitting beside people whose livelihood depends on that land. We had to slow down and live at the pace of the stories we heard. We had to trust that listening is prayer.
- Recognizing that struggles for justice are

connected. Racism, the economy, violence of every kind, and the environment are interrelated. We have seen this reality not only in the Arctic, but also at Standing Rock in the Dakotas, in the recent hurricanes, in Flint, Michigan, Charlottesville, Virginia, and in the violence perpetuated against people of color and vulnerable populations anywhere.

- Understanding that listening is deeply connected to healing. In many healing stories in the gospels, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" That is, he listened first and then acted.

**What did we hear?**

- "The weather is really different today," one leader told us. "Now spring comes earlier, and fall lasts longer. This is threatening our lives because the permafrost is melting and de-stabilizing the rivers. We depend on the rivers."
  - The land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where the caribou birth their calves is called the "sacred place where life begins," so sacred the Gwich'in People do not set foot there. "Drilling here," people said, "is like digging beneath the National Cathedral."
  - After shopping together, a native Episcopalian told one of us how hard it is to even secure food. "We can't get good food here. We have to drive to Fairbanks. It is a two-hour trip each way."
- What we bishops saw and heard in Alaska is dramatic, but it is not unique. Stories like these can be heard in each of the nations where The Episcopal Church is present. They can be heard in our own communities. We invite you to join us, your bishops, and those people already engaged in this work, in

taking time to listen to people in your dioceses and neighborhoods. Look for the connections among race, violence of every kind, economic disparity, and the environment. Then, after reflecting in prayer and engaging with scripture, partner with people in common commitment to the healing of God's world.

God calls us to listen to each other with increased attention. It is only with unstopped ears and open eyes that our hearts and lives will be changed. It is through the reconciling love of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we and the earth itself will be healed.

#### **A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth**

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home  
we share;

Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around  
and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers  
among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those  
who live off the land

and to hear and understand those who extract its  
resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness  
in our communities

and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its  
people

and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost,  
binds our wounds and sets us free,  
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

Amen.



Have you fallen behind on your pledge payments over the summer? If you have fallen behind on your pledge payment, please try to catch up in October. Thank you.

#### **TRANSGENDER INFORMATION SESSION**

This Saturday, October 7 from 2:00-4:00pm at the Boys and Girls Club in Bay City is a free transgender informational session. Terms and transition stories will be followed by a Q&A session.

#### **SYMPATHIES**

to Don and Mary K Freel on the death of Don's brother, Leon Raymond Freel on Monday, August 28, 2017.

to the friends and family of Ed Shimabukuro who died on September 15, 2017.

#### **WELCOME TO**

new choir member Julia William.

new choristers Joe LaPrairie and Colton Causley.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to George McPeak and Jan Zuelsdorff for completing Theory Book I. Both are going on to Theory Book II.

## THANK YOU

to Jett and Shelley Whitehead for hosting coffee hour the end of August and to Emilee Sabourin and Denise Middleton for hosting coffee hours in September.

to Dee Mulholland, Trinity Band and everyone who helped with the church picnic.

to the Choristers' parents for making singing at Trinity a priority in your family schedules!

to Diane Rapson-Gabil for framing the beautiful parchment of Matthew 5:9 that hangs on the wall leading to the choir room.

to Dave and Pat Maxim who spruced up and painted the sign by the office.

## ARE YOU 70 ½ OR OLDER AND HAVE AN IRA?

If you are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, then you know that the tax laws require you to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year from your IRA or else pay a large penalty. In December 2015, Congress made permanent a provision in the tax code that allows persons who are 70 ½ or older to transfer money from their IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization and have that money count as part of their RMD. In addition, that money can be excluded from gross income on the person's tax return. This is a great way to pay your pledge to Trinity and not pay tax on the amount contributed even if you do not itemize deductions on your tax return.

## NOISY OFFERING

Our October 8 Noisy Offering will go to our diocesan camp, Camp Chickagami, for an Automated External Defibrillator.

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Evensong this month will be sung by the Trinity Choir. It will feature the "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B-flat" by C. V. Stanford and the anthem Ye Servants of God by Noble Cain. Choirmaster and composer Cain was the Choral Director at Northwestern University as well as the choir director of an a cappella Choir heard over the NBC-Red network each Sunday at 4:30 p.m. His festival setting of Ye Servants of God" was once sung by choir all over the country.

Friends of Music will host a reception after the service.

## CHORISTERS

I have seen five singers for the Choristers program, three boys and two girls. They are great fun to work with and I look forward to their leadership in worship. We are always looking for more singers. Please talk to Bob Sabourin for more information.

## MUSIC SCHEDULE

Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Boy Choristers

5:30 p.m. Advanced Girls

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Schola

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

## ORGAN RECITAL

Nicholas Schmelter, our artist in residence, will be giving an organ concert at Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Saginaw on October 15 at 6:00 PM.

Trinity's treasurer, Steve Beckert, will be available to discuss this provision with you, either in a group setting or individually if you desire. Just let Steve know if you would like further information or to meet with him.

## OCTOBER CHORAL MUSIC

- 3 Christus Factus Es  
Pietro Yon
- 8 My Song Shall be Always of the Loving  
Kindness of the Lord  
Ralph Sampson
- 15 Turn Thy Face From My Sins  
Arthur Sullivan
- 21 Thy Peace of God  
John Rutter
- 22 Give Alms of Thy Goods  
Christopher Tye
- 29 O How Amiable  
Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Ye Servants of God  
Noble Cain
- Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis  
C. V. Stanford

## FINDING YOUR SINGING VOICE

Steve Beckert challenged us all to find ways that will make our church more attractive to new people. It is no secret that Trinity is not a great singing congregation. Many people do not even open a hymnal. We have a number of women who sing an octave lower and people who do not match pitch. Both of those issues can be worked on if people are willing to take the time. Singing in tune can be learned.

Have you ever been to a service where the singing just makes the worship service? We will be hosting the Diocese of Eastern Michigan closing worship service on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. That will give you an idea what really great singing can do for a worship service. Things we can do to improve singing at Trinity include:

1. Sit closer together in worship
2. Remove all carpet in the nave - acoustics have a huge influence on all music but especially congregational singing and organ music
3. Attend a congregation that is a good singing church. Suggestions would be St. Alban's or St. John's in Midland
4. See Bob Sabourin to find your singing voice
5. Catch the spirit of active participation in Sunday morning worship

## The Prayer Station

One of the traditions dear to the hearts of many Christians is lighting candles at church. They are found adorning the altar, on the Advent wreath, are carried by torchbearers in a procession. The large Pascal candle symbolizes Christ and the pascal mysteries of His passion, death and resurrection. Candles are also used as votive lights at prayer stations. They are reminders that Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). In St. Luke's Gospel, the prophet Simeon calls Jesus "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" or as the King James Version says "a light to lighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).

Found mainly in Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and some Anglican/Episcopal churches, a prayer station is usually a stand with votive candles. The word "votive" means consisting of or expressing a vow, wish or desire; it also means offered or performed in fulfillment of a vow or in gratitude or devotion. The word is of Latin origin and was first used in 1597. The phrase "votive candle" means a candle lit in gratitude or devotion and is traced back to 1824.

A Prayer Station or Votive Station often has a cross, crucifix, or some scene such as the Holy Family or a saint to visually help us in our prayer request. Sometimes a candle is lit in memory of a departed loved one; other times for a special need for someone or for ourselves, or in thanksgiving for an answered prayer. The physical act of lighting a candle gives us a solid sense engaging a spiritual request or thanksgiving and using our senses in seeing, lighting and even smelling the candle or its smoke. Some prayer stations have kneelers where we can kneel as we make our prayer known. Others have only

the candles themselves to light and we can offer a prayer from the pew. Whatever the Prayer Station is, with or without a kneeler, it is a reminder to bring our prayer requests to God and that prayer, while invisible and mysterious, is a personal conversation with the living God and is very real.



The following comes from a Prayer Station with votive lights and a depiction of the Holy Family, - Joseph, Mary and the young child Jesus about the age He was when He was found teaching in the Temple. It is found near the front entrance of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ogdensburg, N.Y., near the Thousand Island area. May the words bless our hearts and minds and may the phrase "He heareth and answereth our prayer even before we yet ask" stir us to deeper devotion and love of Jesus Christ.

"Light this candle knowing that Christ is the true and only Light of the world, and that He heareth and answereth our prayer even before we yet ask. Light this candle, thus, in thanksgiving that He hath already heard and answered thy prayer."

Trinity's Prayer Station is in loving memory of Virginia Atkinson and was given in 2006. It is found in the nave near the woman figure "Charity" window.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Faithfully submitted by the Historical Guild

**St Elizabeth's Guild** will meet for lunch on Tuesday, October 10 at 12:30 at Hooligans on 3022 N. Water Street off of Woodside. All are welcome and hope to see you all there.



### **Birthdays**

- 04 David Maxim
- 06 Randall Brown
- 09 Rev Sue Rich
- 10 Andrew Denay
- 12 Madden Brady
- 13 Carole See
- 13 David York
- 16 Thurman McMurren Jr
- 19 Brennan Denay
- 19 Jacob Suchodolski-Denham
- 20 Myah Brooks
- 22 Linda Ryder
- 23 John Reynolds
- 25 Charles Frantz
- 29 Lauren Denay
- 31 Terry Oliver

### **Anniversaries**

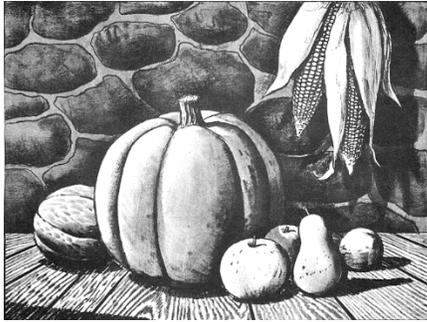
- 03 Steve and Susan Beckert
- 13 Rodney and Faith Culler

### **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

Our Food Pantry has had a busy year and I want to thank everyone for all of your support. In addition to providing food assistance to individual and families housed in our community, our pantry will now begin participating in two community outreach programs through the Bay County Emergency Food Pantry Network. The first program is to have a "homeless pantry" for individuals living in their cars or on the streets. The second program will assist students (age 18) attending the Bay Area Community High School who live day to day with friends or family and need food assistance for home and at their job sites. The items provided in both situations are "ready-to-eat" food products with no preparation or heating needed. Trinity's pantry provided food to the High School in September and other pantries will fill in during the school year.

For the holiday season, our pantry will again provide holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Referrals will be provided by the BCEFPN. We are currently registered to fill 15 baskets for Thanksgiving and 25 baskets for Christmas. Our numbers could increase based on community needs.

Thanks again for all of your support. You are the best! Jan Waldman



The **Harvest Dinner** will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 until 7:00. This dinner will serve our Pot Roast dinner, squash, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by our Trinity Band. Tickets are now available in the office or most Sundays after service. If you buy tickets early it will be \$8.00 per person. If you wait until that evening it will cost \$10.00. Children from 5 to 12 will be \$5.00 and children younger than 5 will be free. We hope you will be able to come so put it on your calendar.



**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

The **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm. If you want to sign up a table to sell your crafts or if you know of anyone who would like a table, please call the office. Eight foot tables are \$30 and four foot tables are \$20. We will also be having a Trinity Treasure section of which we will happily receive your donation and sell gently used items of interest. (No clothing or electronics, please.)



## The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

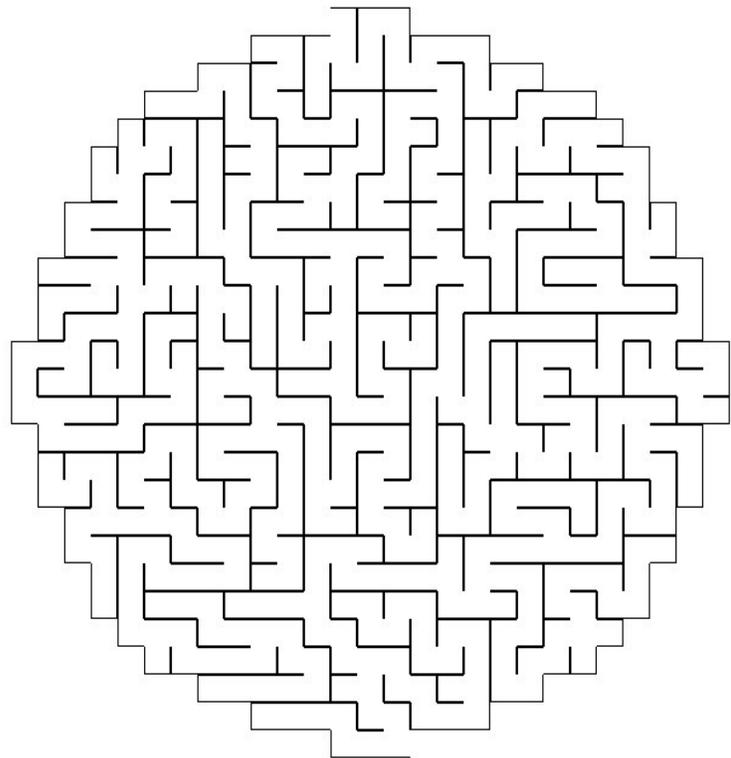
*Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.*

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	o	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

“ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
 through \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV



**WORSHIP**

Sunday – 10:00 AM - With Music  
 Wednesday – 11:30 AM - Without Music

**Food of Faith** 2:30 P.M. on Sundays

**NEW OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM– 4:45 PM  
 CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12:30 – 1:15 PM  
 Friday - Closed

**CONTACT US**

**Telephone:** (989) 892-5813

**e-mail:** [trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com)

**Web Site:** [www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org)

**Facebook:**

Trinity-Episcopal-Church-Bay-City

**VESTRY**

Adam Culler - Sr. Warden  
 Tod Meisel – Jr Warden  
 Pat Maxim – Asst Jr Warden  
 Jett Whitehead - Clerk  
 Kurt Carlstrom  
 Faith Culler  
 Susan Hoyle  
 Cathy Leibrand  
 Amy Salazar

Steve Beckert

Treasurer

**CLERGY**

The Rev. Susan C. Rich

**STAFF**

Mr. Robert C. Sabourin Organist/Choir Master  
 Ms. Melissa A. Krzysik Office Manager  
 Mr. Terry J. Oliver Sexton

**CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER STAFF**

Faith Culler  
 Dawn Moulthrop-Brady  
 Sean Brady  
 Bruce Sherbeck  
 Pat Trahan

Dee Mulholland  
 Pat Maxim

Chimes Editor  
 Chimes Editor