

play something beautiful the first time you sit down. It's true of anything hard: braiding hair, speaking a new language, learning to read, or learning to draw. If you want to do it well, you have to practice, and you have to be willing to make a lot of mistakes along the way. That's why Jesus talks so much about forgiveness as being part of love. God shows love for us by forgiving our mistakes, and we have to find it in ourselves to forgive other people.

Jail, incidentally, is a great place to practice neighbor-love. You have an awful lot of neighbors in a very close space, and they are not the people you would have chosen to spend this time with. No one is feeling or looking her best; everyone is pretty worried and stressed and everyone is missing someone or something on the outside. It's an advanced test of neighbor-love, when some of us haven't had much practice on the basics. But in here, when someone reaches out to you in love, it can change your whole life. Love matters a lot in here, even though it's hard.

So today for the hour we have together, we're going to practice. We'll practice loving God by singing and praying and praising and digging into that living Word, that has something new for us every time we read it and share it. We'll practice loving each other by listening carefully and showing respect with our words and our looks and by encouraging each other and making room for each other in the circle and in the conversation and praying for each other. If you leave having spent an hour practicing loving God and loving your neighbor, we'll all be just a little bit better at our most important jobs by the end of the day!"

Anna asks, "Does this sound like the Episcopal Church you know? How would you explain your church if you had to start from scratch?" Sound intimidating? Perhaps theologian Karl Barth said it best, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Go forth and spread the good news!

Warmly, Tony

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Spring Retreat, April 22 - 24**

The Spring Retreat for the Women of the Church will be held April 22 - 24 at The Episcopal Center. Sue Carmichael will be the keynote speaker. All women of the ECW, DOK, and Altar Guild are invited as well as all other women of the church. We hope to see you for this exciting weekend! The registration form is available on the Diocesan website

## **Colossians 3:23**

Trinity Take Home Paper

Calendar - Announcements - Reports - Schedules

April 10, 2016 , 3rd Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

*The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region  
Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ  
as a growing Episcopal Church.*

### **YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

We are pleased that you have come to worship with us this Lord's Day morning, and it is our prayer that you will receive God's blessing throughout the service. Trinity is an active and caring Episcopal Church. If you are a baptized Christian, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to receive the Sacrament of the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. No Exceptions!

### **WELCOME FATHER MICHAEL MOORE**

Today while Father Tony is on vacation in Virginia, Father Michael Moore has come to celebrate the Eucharist with us. Fr. Moore has come a long way from Jacksonville to join us, so be sure to take a minute to greet him and welcome him to Trinity.

### **THE BISHOP IS COMING!**

The Bishop is the only one who can, with the laying on of hands, confirm members. Bishop Howard will be with us on Sunday, May 15th. If you are interested in being Confirmed, Affirming your baptismal vows, or being received into the Episcopal Church (if you are coming from another denomination) please talk with Father Tony. He will be starting an Inquirer's Class on Sunday, April 18th between the services so everyone will be ready when Bishop Howard is here in May. There is a book, "Those Episcopalians" that goes along with the class so we need to know how many people will be attending the class in order to order enough books for everyone, please call the office to sign up.

### **PRAYERS FOR SAFE TRAVEL**

Please keep Father Tony and Ann in your prayers as they are on vacation and driving to Virginia and home again.

**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH**

**Sun. 4/10**

**8:30 and 11:00 Eucharist Service**

9:30 Breakfast  
10:00 Youth Formation  
Discussion of the Lessons  
12:00 Lunch

**Monday 4/11**

**Tuesday 4/12**

10:00am Sister's Circle  
12:00pm Betty's and the Bible  
1:30pm New Testament Class  
in the Wicker Room  
5:30pm AA in Wicker Room  
7:00pm Al Anon in Wicker Room

**Wednesday 4/13**

**6:00pm Holy Eucharist and  
Healing Service in Church**

**Thursday 4/14**

10:00am—4:00pm Thrift Shop  
Meet at church at 10am  
PH in use am and pm

**Friday 4/15**

2:00—5:00pm Thrift Shop Open

**Saturday 4/16**

9am—Noon Thrift Shop  
PH in use

**Sun. 4/17**

**8:30 and 11:00 Eucharist Service**

9:30 Breakfast  
10:00 Youth Formation  
Discussion of the Lessons  
12:00 Lunch

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**APRIL**

Apr. 17 Service in the Park  
8:30am  
Apr. 20 Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

**MAY**

**May 1 First Sunday 10:00am  
UTO Ingathering**  
May 3 ECW Meeting  
May 10 PH in use evening  
May 14 PH in Use  
May 15 One Service 10:00am  
Bishop Howard Here  
May 18 Vestry Meeting  
May 30 Memorial Day Holiday  
Office Closed

**JUNE**

June 5 First Sunday 10:00am  
June 4 PH in use evening  
June 11 PH in use evening  
June 14 PH in use evening  
June 15 Vestry Meeting

Dear Trinity Family,

Reporting for the Episcopal Church Foundation's Vital Practices, Anna Olson writes, "A few times a month for most of the last eight years, I have led a Bible Study at Century Regional Detention Facility, Los Angeles County's main jail for women. It's an environment where just about nobody knows what an Episcopalian is.

I pass through nine locked doors and a security checkpoint, arrive in my assigned unit, and gather whoever is in the mood for Bible Study (or an hour out of her cell...). Fifteen to forty women sit in a noisy circle and wait for me to start. I have to explain Episcopalianism, every time, completely from scratch. Here's my spiel. I vary it a little each time, but the basic points seem to work pretty well:

The Episcopal Church is a Christian Church. We believe in God and in Jesus and in the Bible. If you're familiar with Catholic Church, our worship services look pretty similar. If you're more familiar with Protestant churches, you will easily recognize the way we place a lot of emphasis on the Bible as the living Word of God, and draw on scripture to try to understand how we should shape and change our lives so that everything we do points towards God.

Here are some things that set us apart from a lot of churches you may have experienced. We really try hard to be a church that has room for everyone. That means that our leaders and our members are men and women, people who are married and not married, have kids and don't have kids, people who are gay and straight, people of different races and different languages and cultures, people with different kinds of mental and physical abilities. When you hear us criticized, it's usually because someone thinks we have the doors open a little too wide. But we truly believe that God love us all and has placed gifts in all of us, and that the church is the richest when it can receive all those gifts and make space for people to use them.

We're not a church with a lot of rules. That makes some people suspicious. But God really just gave us two jobs to do, love God and love each other. God could have said, "Judge one another, as I will judge you," but judging isn't actually in our job description. God kept that one for God-self. So we try to let God be God and get about the business of doing our job: love.

Being good at our job takes practice. Anything you want to do well takes practice. If you want to learn to play the piano, you're not going to

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**Altar Flowers**

The flowers today are given to the glory of God. If you would like to give flowers in memory of someone, to celebrate an event or for a special thanksgiving, please call the office and sign up on the hall bulletin board.