



The Trinity Bell



Volume 14, Issue 2

Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

March/April 2016

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.



A Word from Father Tony

United Methodist Pastor Joseph Yoo writes,

“One Sunday, our five-year-old foster son wanted to wear his Ninja Turtle costume to church. “Not today, buddy. You can’t wear a mask to church.” While he and I were

going through our usual Sunday morning routine before people started coming (which often consists of playing catch in the sanctuary), a thought struck me: Don’t we all wear some type of mask to church?

I remember the point in my life when I started resenting the church. I started seeing and noticing just how awful some church folks would treat my dad (a pastor). I saw the heavy expectation that the church placed on me because I was the pastor’s kid. I couldn’t wear this, say that, do this, eat that, watch this, listen to that... I got tired of seeing people act a certain way on Sunday mornings and then completely different every other minute of the week.

Then I heard the call to ministry. I’ve always said that the pastors’ kids who goes into ministry are the really crazy ones. We have seen, experienced, and know what our parents went through... and we *still* follow the same path. When I entered into ministry, rather than become disillusioned by the double lives people were leading, I began to see the tragedy of the expectation of perfection placed on people by the church — whether intentional or not.

Don’t we all carry some sense of burden of guilt and/or shame? Yet, instead of finding solidarity, a friend, common ground, grace, we’re worried that we’ll be “discovered” as a “fraud” and be met with judgment, contempt, and/or condemnation — whether this is deserved or not.

So we play charades. We wear our masks. We put on our Sunday best. We wear that smile that let’s the world know “all is good.” But underneath all that, we’re barely hanging on; our world is falling apart; we’re lost and broken. And for whatever reason, we’re afraid that someone will find out how we’re really doing. Afraid that someone will see through our facade, through the show that we’re putting on.

We may worry that we’ll be excommunicated. Or that we’ll scare God away with our secrets. We may think that the power of grace isn’t powerful for us *if people find out what I did or who I really am.*

Perfection is as realistic as Superman is.

The idea that one person can follow *all* the rules, have their entire life in order, have the perfect job, the perfect family with the 2.5 kids and 3 dogs and 2 cats, perfect home, perfect in-laws — that’s unrealistic. That’s not the type of perfection that God wants for us anyway. More than be “perfect” in our terms, I think God wants us make us whole.

The first step to wholeness begins by refusing to wear a mask — at the least in front of God.

The crazy thing is, we’re never too far from redemption. Not only do we have a God who’s relentless in pursuit of us, we also have a God who, like a loving father, waits on the edge of his chair for us to come home so he can embrace us with a big hug and a loving “Welcome back!” You’d be surprised at how loving and understanding some of the folks at church can be when you stop pretending and start being real. Sure, there are awful stories of people who judge and scoff and turn their nose up. But I have faith in the church. I have faith in humanity. There are more people who will open their arms and hearts than there are people who’ll turn their backs with an air of snobbery, judgment and condemnation. I regretted not allowing our foster son to wear his costume. Yes, I was worried what someone folks would say, “The pastor let his kid wear *that* to church? *To church?!?*” (Even though no one would say or think that because my church has wholly embraced our foster son, who has autism.)

He wanted to express himself and how he was feeling, and I said to him, “No, buddy. Be someone else. Be more acceptable to the community.” For all who’ve heard a message like that from the church, well, I apologize. That’s the church being more afraid than loving. It’s not who the church is, and it’s not who God is. God loves us just the way we are — scars, flaws, and all. And that love urges us toward the path of wholeness.”

I agree wholeheartedly with Joseph Yoo and his message — the perfection God seeks is perfection in Him, wholeness! Utterly complete in Him: body, mind and spirit. Take time this Lent to reflect on God’s goodness towards us and bathe in the light of his glory, being sanctified and perfected in Him.

Warmly, Tony+

**The Next First Sunday is:
March 6, 2016
One Service at 10:00am**

Potluck Lunch will follow the service.

**Head of the Church
Jesus Christ**

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard
Bishop of Florida**

Members of the Vestry

Senior Warden

**Donna Eichelsderfer 2017
Bob Hood, Jr. Warden 2017**

Clay O'Neal 2017

Jeanne Homany 2018

Laurie Alsobrook 2018

Joyce Chesnut 2019

Brian McCrea 2019

Carol Pettie, Treasurer

Liz Otten, Clerk

Clergy

Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

Music

**Margaret Rice, Choir Director
Figg Poncher, Organist**

Office

**Figg Poncher,
Financial Administrator
Linda Wilcox,
Parish Administrator
and Editor of the "Trinity Bell"**

Service Times

8:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday

**Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26**

**Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666**

**Office Hours: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Monday thru Thursday**

**Office Phone: 352 475-2177
Fax: 352 475-6181**

Email:

trinitymelrose@windstream.net

Website: trinitymelrosefl.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY/
JUNE TRINITY BELL IS
APR. 15th**



NEWS FROM ECW

Meetings for March and April will be held at 10:00am on the first Tuesday of the month. At the meeting in March we will announce the nominees for office and at the April meeting we will hold the election.

The Diocesan Spring Retreat will be held on April 22 thru 24 at Camp Weed. The retreat is always a lot of fun and Sue Carmichael will be the keynote speaker this year. There will be many fun workshops, lots of music, our wonderful speaker and delicious meals! You can find a registration form on Facebook (Diocese of Florida ECW), on the bi-weekly "Connect" put out by the diocese, or pick up a form in the office.

BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 10	Joyce Chesnut	Apr. 4	Paul Stegall
Mar. 17	Pat Parsons, Marilyn Blair	Apr. 8	Peggy Alseth
Mar. 18	Bill Chesnut	Apr. 9	Huey Long
Mar. 20	Larry Alsobrook	Apr. 11	Carol Pettie
Mar. 22	George Bothwell	Apr. 12	Anne Lowry, Linda Wilcox
Mar. 23	Judy Davis	Apr. 15	Tony Powell
Mar. 25	Elaine Ashley	Apr. 19	Phill Thompson
Mar. 26	Pat Warren, Chris Greenfield	Apr. 24	Tara Rhodes
Mar. 27	Laurene Owen	Apr. 25	Karen Wacha Caleb Currie
Mar. 28	Ann Powell	Apr. 27	Jean Giesel
Apr. 18	Jean Marshall	Apr. 29	Marie Long
		Apr. 30	Ginny White

O God, our times are in your hand; look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mar. 23	Paul and Cathy Stegall
Apr. 4	Bill and Joyce Chesnut
Apr. 17	Dave and Margaret Kidd
May 22	Jim and Ginny White



O God, bless our relationships, assist us with your grace, so that with true fidelity and steadfast love we may honor and keep the promises and vows we make to one another. Let us love one another as a sign of your love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GIGGLESOME

The Archbishop of Canterbury called together all of the bishops for an important meeting in England.

"I have some good news and some bad news," said the Archbishop. "The good news is ... Jesus Christ has returned to earth. In fact, I spoke to him on the phone this morning." The bishops yelled hoorahs and applauded! "Wait," said the Archbishop. "The bad news is ... he was calling from Salt Lake City."



NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

As I write this, Lent has just begun. This is a time when Christians are called to spiritual reflection and renewal. We look at our Baptismal vows and await the celebration of Jesus's resurrection.

Many of us use this as a time of self-denial in a penitential/sacrificial effort. I've been one of those many times. Unfortunately, for me, I usually gave up something that benefitted me in the long run, so it couldn't really qualify as a sacrifice. For example, to do without chocolate, ice cream or potatoe chips meant I could lose a few pounds or save a few dollars.

The years when I've elected to do something rather than giving something up have been more gratifying in spiritual rewards. In past years I've attended a Lenten workshop, prayerfully read meditations distributed by the Church and last year, with Father Tony's guidance, a group of us studied "The Last Week- What The Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem".

There are many Lenten activities available at Trinity and in the community- the weekly Lenten luncheons at community churches (Trinity's is March 16), soup suppers each Wednesday at Trinity or Saint Marks in Stark and the services of Holy Week that will celebrate Christ's life, death and the miracle of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I hope, whatever you are doing for this Lenten season will bring the blessing of spiritual renewal to you and that, on Easter Sunday, you'll receive the grace of the risen Christ.

Blessings to all,
Donna



JR. WARDEN'S REPORT

What makes you most aware of God's love?

So how can we come to know the love of God in our lives and in the lives of those around us? I start with the understanding that God is Himself love. God is love. And in a sense all love is God's love and all love has its source, its ultimate source, in the heart of God. Like that very old hymn reminds us, "Wherever love is, God himself is there."

So we see God's love all around us in the lives of those that we know, in their compassion, in their generosity, in their giving, in their acts of love and kindness, the way that they care for other people. It is all God's love even though it is coming through those individuals. Even more immediately, we can come to know God's love within ourselves because we too, like the people we admire and appreciate, we, too, are instruments of God's love. We are Christ's hands in the world, as it were.

So God's love is something that's alive and present and active in and through us and so recognizing that in our giving, in our generosity, in our compassion, in our loving kindness and care for others, that that's God living and active and working through us and through our lives. Some of us have gotten very good at making confessions, you know, making a list of our failings and our sins. But sometimes I wonder if we are not very good at recognizing the good that we do and maybe we need some kind of sacrament, a confession of good deeds. A confession of the ways in which Christ's love has been active and manifested in our own lives, in and through us.

And so I think this is important to consider in [contemplate] a Rule of Life because a Rule of Life, of course, will include some kind of reasonable, healthy self-care plan, some ways to make sure that we are healthy in ourselves. But it also will include some opportunities for serving others and for some plan for giving to others so that Christ's love can be manifest in and through us, and in an intentional way. I think it is a very important part of making our lives livelier still.

Br. Mark Brown, member of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, Anglican Monastic Order

Bob Hood, Jr. Warden
rrwhmj@yahoo.com

Trinity Bell Report for the month of January & YTD, 2016

	Jan Actual	Jan. Budget	Over/Under	Y-T-D Act	Y-T-D Bud	Over/Under
Total Revenue	\$ 20,642	\$ 14,370	6272	\$20,642	\$14,370	6,272
Total Expense	17,733	18,358	625	17,733	18,358	625
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,909	(3,988)	6,897	2,909	(3,988)	6,897

Collections	January Actual	January Budget	Over/Under Budget	Jan YTD Actual	Jan YTD Budget	Over/Under Budget
Pledge Offerings	\$17,018	\$10,486	\$6,532	\$17,018	\$10,486	\$6,532
Non-Pledged Offerings	1,495	1,667	(172)	1,495	1,667	(172)
Other Offerings	569	1,000	(431)	569	1,000	(431)
Priest Fund	<u>975</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>975</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>333</u>
Net Income	\$20,057	\$13,795	\$6,262	\$20,057	\$13,795	\$6,262

Carol Pettie
Treasurer

A WORD FROM THE PEWS

Isn't it interesting that our dictionary continues to evolve? It's not that Mr. Webster didn't get it right the first time, but rather we continually drop and add meanings to words.

Consider the word "clippy"; it used to refer to the conductor of a tram or bus who clipped the cardboard tickets of your destination! A word needed in previous times, now obsolete.

How about the word "word"? It has various definitions, including a grouping of letters to gain a new meaning; a brief remark or conversation; an order or command; a rumor; and Microsoft gave it yet another meaning as a component of MS Office; but the Word I was looking for is (often capitalized): "logos; gospel; the expressed or manifested mind and will of God".

The gospel of John begins with "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". Personally, I had not paid attention to that introduction, which is unlike those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This indicates that the birth of Jesus was not a new piece of the Trinity, but the incarnation of one of the existing pieces! That might lead one to think that Jesus was born "impeccable" (if you recall Fr. Tony's recent sermon where that word was mentioned and explored). Then again, why would Satan tempt Jesus for 40 days (Luke 4) if he undoubtedly knew that Jesus was impeccable? More to ponder and research...

Another word – Trinity – meaning a trio, or in Christian faith: the Godhead in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From the very beginning we see God as a Trinity. Notice the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in Genesis 1:26 -- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Does this mean that before Christ the Trinity was God the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit? Words to ponder...

Clay <><



SERVERS' SCHEDULE MARCH 2016



DATE	SERVICE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	USHER	GREETER
06-Mar-16	Single Service 10 AM	Sharon Jax Rodney Paul	Jean Giesel	Will Flynn	Donna Eichelsdfer Carol Flynn
13-Mar-16	8:30	Bob Hood	Chris Greenfield	Brian McCrea	Kathi Warren
	11:00	Bob Tickle	Kristi Gregory	Kristi Gregory	Elaine Ashley
20-Mar-16	Single Service 10 AM	John Katterhenry Marie Czewitz	Joyce Chesnut	Rodney Paul, Liz Middleton	Vi Paul Joyce King
	11:00	Marie Curewitz	Sharon Jax	Liz Middleton	Joyce King
27-Mar-15	Single Service 10 AM	Chris Greenfield Rodney Paul	Margaret Rice	Will Flynn Eric Beshore	Carol Flynn Ann Beshore
Altar Guild					



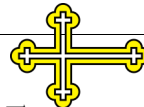

Cinnie Brown and Margaret Kidd

Thank you for placing yourself in the service of Our Lord and His Church. If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please arrange for your replacement and notify the office.



March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6 First Sunday One Service 10:00am Lunch Following</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 10am ECW/ Noon Lunch & Gospel 1:30 Book Study 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AI/Anon</p>	<p>2 6:00pm Eucharist and Lenten Soup Supper</p>	<p>3 Thrift Shop 10am- 4pm</p>	<p>4 2-5pm Thrift Shop</p>	<p>5 Thrift Shop 9am—Noon</p>
<p>13 8:30 and 11:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00 Breakfast Adult & Youth Classes 12:00 Lunch</p>	<p>14 Vestry Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>8 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Lunch & Gospel 1:30 Book Study 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Eucharist and Lenten Soup Supper At St. Mark's 6pm</p>	<p>10 10am-4pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm AA ~ Wicker</p>	<p>11 2-5pm Thrift Shop</p>	<p>12 Thrift Shop 9am—Noon</p>
<p>20 Palm Sunday One Service 10:00am</p> 	<p>21 Evensong 6pm</p>	<p>15 Presidential Primary PH all day 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Lunch & Gospel 1:30 Book Study 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AI Anon</p>	<p>16 Lenten Community Luncheon Noon Lenten Soup Supper St. Mark's 6pm</p>	<p>17 10am-4pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm AA ~ Wicker Happy St. Pat's! </p>	<p>18 2-5pm Thrift Shop</p>	<p>19 Thrift Shop 9am—Noon</p>
<p>27 Easter Sunday One Service 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshments</p> 	<p>28 DOK 6pm </p>	<p>22 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Lunch & Gospel 1:30 Book Study Taize Service 6pm</p>	<p>23 Tenenbrae Service 6pm</p>	<p>24 Maundy Thursday Service 6pm Thrift Shop Closed</p>	<p>25 Good Friday Services Noon and 6pm Thrift Shop Closed</p>	<p>26 Thrift Shop Closed</p>
<p>31</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>29 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Lunch & Gospel 1:30 Book Study 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AI Anon</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>



A MESSAGE TO OUR YOUTH:

Our youth still have much school and study ahead, but summer is not far away! The annual Memorial Day weekend BBQ fundraiser is coming up; if we want to host it this May, it's time to start planning!

Youth Leadership training was gained just a year ago, with several youth and adults completing that program from YP Ministries. In it we learned methods of *community leadership* – where each and every member of the group has an equal voice – *something that many of us now intentionally promote on a regular basis.*

I offer some self-study helps that each person may find useful on their own timetable:

EveryStudent.com has some excellent information about questions many young adults have. Their drop-down menu is easy to navigate, and subjects range from “Is there a God?” to “What to do with Loneliness”. Our youth may find topics here that have been nagging questions for some time, and the information provided may contain answers or lead to even more questions. Father Tony and the YTEC volunteer staff are always available to join in a group discussion of any topics of interest!

For current information about what is happening at Camp Weed, take a look at their website: campweed.org and you'll find easy to navigate menus for activities and registration of events.

The Church without Walls has been a favorite mission for YTEC. *ChurchwithoutWallsJax.com* has a drop-down menu for the “lunch angels” and you'll find an updated list of Sundays still available; the YTEC staff and the Outreach Committee members are ready to help facilitate this whenever you desire. We've enjoyed a few trips to the local Melrose Assisted Living Facility, and from their comments I do think our visits are appreciated; they likely don't get out or have many visitors, so this is a form of ministry that is very much needed “in our own back yard”.

Communication is a key to success, and we can improve in many ways; call, text or email Clay anytime. We will plan meetings that best fit your schedules. Lunch at Betty's Pizza, Wednesday evenings, Sunday afternoons, maybe some cooking and food purchasing classes... tell me what works best for YTEC.

God's presence is everywhere!

Clay, your YTEC coordinator



CURSILLO

Cursillo is a three-day learning, sharing, inspirational experience of living. Its purpose is to deepen our spiritual relationship with God and to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. The leadership may be exercised in work situations, and environments. Leadership, in Cursillo, does not mean power over others, but influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us. Ultreyas are opportunities for those who have attended a weekend to come together with music, a good meal and fun to share how God has been working in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church.



THE TRINITY BELL AND COLOSSIANS

The Trinity Bell is going to a bi-monthly edition starting in this month. The “Bell” will be published for Jan./Feb., Mar/Apr, May/June, no July/Aug, Sept/Oct, and Nov/Dec. If your organization has something to be advertised or announced for the two month period, please submit it to the office on the 15th of the month prior to the month of publishing.

In addition to printing “Colossians” for the bulletin each week we will also be sending it out to everyone on email, and posting it on our website. Information for “Colossians” should be submitted by Monday for the following Sunday's edition.

Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26
Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666

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MAR./APR. 2016

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Mar. 1 ECW Meeting 10 am
Mar. 2 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm at Trinity
Mar. 6 **First Sunday 10:00am**
Mar. 8 PH in Use
Mar. 9 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm at St. Mark's
Mar. 14 Vestry
Mar. 15 Presidential Primary PH
Mar. 16 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm at St. Mark's
Community Luncheon 12 at Trinity
Mar. 20 Palm Sunday 10:00am
Mar. 21 Evensong 6:00pm
Mar. 22 Taize 6:00pm
Mar. 23 Tenenbrae 6:00pm
Mar. 24 Maundy Thursday 6 pm
Mar. 25 Good Friday 12 and 6
Mar. 27 EASTER SUNDAY 10am

APRIL

- Apr. 3 First Sunday 10:00am
UTO Boxes Out
Apr. 17 Service in the Park 8:30am
Apr. 20 Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday : 8:30 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Breakfast
10:00am Children's Sunday School
Adult Christian Formation
Noon Lunch

1st Sunday of the Month

One Service only at 10:00am
In the Parish Hall
Lunch Following

Tuesdays: Noon Bible Study at Betty's Pizza

Wednesday: 6:00pm Eucharist

Thrift Shop

Open 10am to 4pm Thursday
2pm—5pm Friday
9am—Noon Saturday

Access Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am—2pm