

# Time Together While We are Apart

Wednesday, April 1, 2020



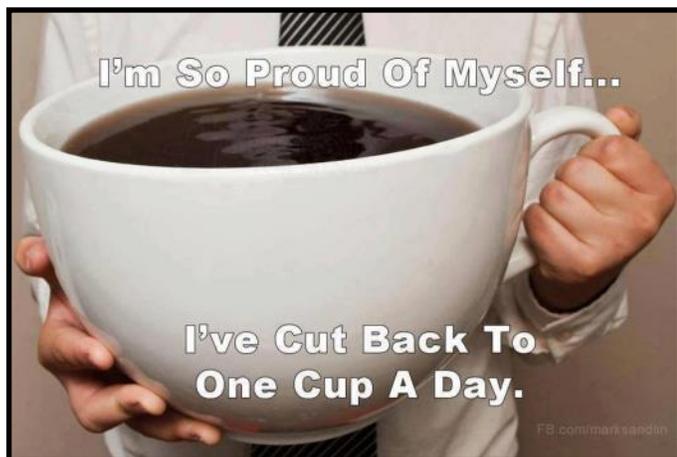
Good morning, dear church communities,

Our coffee mugs today come from Dave and Susan Whitlow from Trinity. One is from the Seamen's Service Ministry in Morehead City, a group Susan volunteered with when they lived in North Carolina. The other is from Portsmouth Methodist Church on Portsmouth Island, North Carolina, an uninhabited island that is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. The Methodist Church is a remnant of the old fishing village that used to thrive on the island. The Whitlows have visited the island twice if you want to learn more. Many thanks, Dave and Sue!

Because this edition of "Time Together" is arriving on April Fool's Day, our second mug, sent in by Glenn Courtney, will hopefully give you a laugh! Only one cup each morning, Glenn!

Come to think of it, an April Fool's edition of this newsletter, during a global pandemic, needs, not pranks or surprises, but definitely more laughs!

Here is one more: folks have been sending me "pandemic humor," which I much appreciate! Sue Ramsey sent this one joke along, focused on toilet paper and religion, an amazing and admirable combination to attain! An observation as we all continue to check empty toilet paper shelves at the grocery store:



"So the Rapture has taken place and we all missed it. TP shelves are empty because  
"...The Roll's Been Called Up Yonder."

Groan!!!!

Now, onward to a little more  
"Time Together."  
-Megan

### Announcements:

In this week's Zoom meeting for clergy, with the Bishops and the Diocesan staff, Bishop Susan announced that, with Governor Northam's "Stay at Home Order" in effect until June 10<sup>th</sup>, the **Diocese of Virginia will now suspend public worship through June 10<sup>th</sup>**. The Diocese will continue to monitor the pandemic developments and keep us updated.

Paula will be posting on the Trinity website (Trinityva.org), and on our Facebook pages, **prayer/reflection videos from me for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday**. Transcripts of these videos will also be available to folks without computers.

For other worship options, **Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily**, including during Holy Week and on Easter Day. They can be found at [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org)

**\*\*\*Palms for Palm Sunday Update:** In our last Newsletter I noted that we would have palms available for folks to pick up at both churches. The Diocese wisely noted in our weekly Zoom call that we can not hand out palms without increasing risk of transmitting the coronavirus. **Thus, we will NOT be putting palms out for pickup on Saturday**. Bishop Susan did note that on the first Palm Sunday, folks did not get their palms out of a box, but rather by pulling a branch from a tree, or by honoring Jesus by laying their garments in the path as he passed by. So, if you want a "palm" or garment to wave while watching Palm Sunday worship at the Cathedral or other places, feel free to check in the yard, or in your scarf drawer!

Please let me know **if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities**. Several folks from both churches have volunteered to help do errands for anyone in the churches who cannot get out to shop. Call, text, or email and I'll connect you with a volunteer.

**SMWC had scheduled their Spring Concert featuring Birch, Coleman and Fuller for May 3**. However, as we will still be out of worship at that time, the concert is postponed until we are able to gather again. Trinity was scheduled to provide dinner for the volunteers at the Free Health Clinic on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Clinic asked that we choose another date, thus **Trinity will be providing a meal on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in helping to organize the meal, please let me know.

### Prayer Notes:

We will include our prayer lists in each Sunday Newsletter. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists. Notes for this week:

- Nancy Brandon will complete her fourth of six weeks of chemo and/or radiation this week. She is very fatigued but otherwise coping, and sense of humor continues to function well! Nancy sends many thanks for all her helpers and drivers, and for all the cards, flowers, good thoughts, and prayers folks have been sending her way!
- Bishop Susan had her surgery for breast cancer last Friday and was able to go home the same day. The surgery went well. She is resting and healing at home, while doing some work from home.
- Glenn has scans this Friday. Next chemo is scheduled for Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- I checked in on Chuck and Alexa McGrath (SMWC). Their daughter Malena reported that everyone was coping well and staying VERY close to home.

### April Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### St. Mary's Whitechapel

**Birthdays:** Charles Dwight Deale, April 4;  
Betty Thornton, April 23; Sue Ramsey, April  
24; Sparky Marsh, April 25

**Anniversary:** Bill and Jannine Pennell,  
April 5.

#### Trinity

**Birthdays:** Nancy Chilton, April 7th; Madeline Withers, April 11th; Catherine Chilton Ford, April 15th; Meredith Brent, April 16th; Bill Hayden, April 20th; Diane Smith, April 21st; Sandra Walker, April 22nd; Emmett Christopher, April 23rd; Alexandra Cornwell, April 23rd; Carter Christopher, April 25th; Melissa Dunaway, April 25th; Elizabeth Anne Kellum, April 25th; Joanna Hyde, April 27th

**Anniversary:** Janet and Michael Christopher, April 12th



## Reflection

Tim remarked to me this week, as the coronavirus pandemic continues and deepens, that among the many things we are learning in this strange time is the clear fact that each of us is so very dependent on each other. In what I guess can still be called “normal” time, we did not have to think about this fact of our inter-dependence, but now, today, we know this fact. We are deeply dependent on the people who stock the shelves in our grocery stores, as I have learned as I shop early in the day, and watch the store employees working quickly to refill the bare shelves. I cannot take their work for granted.

When I go to buy gas, and see the truck arriving to fill the tanks, I cannot ignore the person in the tanker truck as I might in “normal” time, taking for granted this person’s work then, but not now. I am keenly aware that without this person doing their job, and right now risking exposure to so many people, and taking that exposure home to their family each night, without this person, I would be, indeed, stuck, and without transportation.

And I know you, like me, have seen the photos and listened to the interviews with health care workers. The doctors and nurses, yes, and remembering too the CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants), among the lowest paid in health care, and who are often the closest care and comfort in this strange time. One young woman, interviewed as she walked quickly back into a NYC hospital where she worked as a CNA, was taking family messages texted to her phone, to COVID-19 patients, who could, of course, have no visitors. Those patients, and I, cannot take this merciful work for granted.

I greatly look forward to whenever we are able to get back to “normal,” but I hope we will not lose our sight again, in the “normal” time. I hope we will remember what we have learned in this strange time, who we depend on each day, and remember how interdependent we all are. May we honor and value the work done by all, for the common good.

Amen.

Two Prayers for the evening and to remind us, as we go to bed, who might still be working, for our common good:

*O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*