

# Time Together

## *While We are Apart*



Sunday, June 7, 2020

Good morning, dear church communities,

This morning we meet Chloe, treasured dog of Carol and JR Roscher. Chloe is thirteen years old, a rescue dog through the Animal Welfare League, and as Carol wrote, “the best dog ever!” The Roschers just moved from the Drum Point area to a rental in Ditchley, until their new house in South Carolina is built. This picture was taken the day they brought Chloe to her new home in Ditchley. She is VERY glad to be back on her favorite couch! Many thanks to JR and Carol for sharing dear Chloe with us!

Below we have a part-two picture from Wednesday’s pets, when Scotch and Bella Cammarata were featured. Scotch, the dachshund, is small in size, so you might have missed him tucked in next to Bella. So today we add Scotch, easier to see, in his favorite sleeping mode. Time for a nap!

Just a reminder that our Zoom church service meets today at 10am! The bulletin and the Zoom invitation to join the gathering went out by email yesterday, Saturday. Remember to look for emails from “Parish Administrator,” as Paula sends these messages. Also, feel free to forward the invitation and bulletin to anyone, near and far, who might like to join us. All are welcome!

And if you are nervous about the technology, our dear technology gurus, Ellen Tracey (804-436-2371) and Richard Gill (804-462-9939) are very patient and helpful in getting folks connected. And know that if you do not have internet, but you do have a smart phone, you can get the Zoom app and attend the service! Call Ellen and Richard for details.

Hope to “see” you at church today!

And now onward to a little more “Time Together,”

Megan



## 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:

- Chuck McGrath is doing well. Mobility is still a challenge, but PT persists in working on ways to help. Please continue prayers for Chuck, and all who care for him and love him.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

## Prayer Lists:

**St. Mary's Whitechapel:** Chuck McGrath, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Sherry Mann, Susan Goff, Jori Keckman, Nancy Brandon, Ron Okrasinski, Sally Flanigan, Alexa Frisbee, R. W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Nora Pennell, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Donna Alexander, Rose, Cecil Courtney, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Roger Fortin, Wier Harman, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

**Nursing Home Resident:** Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

**Armed Forces:** Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Mark Medina, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Anderson Sale, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

**Trinity:** Omid, Nancy Clark, Vicki Simmons Watson, Jerry Gregor, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Nick Slaughter, Fran and Dick Davis, Sally Flanigan, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Barbara Nunnery, Keith Elswick, Steve, Rick Bateman, Jenny Dunaway, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Donna Alexander, Mary and Karen Jackson, Cecil Courtney, Berkeley Kellum, Wendy Boswell, Preston Bryant, Michael, Mel and Frances Ercelino, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Karen Woodruff, Joey Coker, Michael Dunaway, J.W. Boone, Brad Quillen, Ian Larmore, Brandon Dunaway.

**Armed Forces:** Giovanni Elhordoy, Ward Gavin, Paul Price and Michael Stout.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for Grace, Keswick; St. Thomas, Richmond; Church of the Spirit, Kingstowne, Alexandria; St. Anne's, Reston; Holy Comforter, Vienna.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

## Announcements:

Zoom worship service will be held today at 10am, and we will celebrate Trinity Sunday. The site will open at 9:30am to allow for greeting time, and time to work out any technological kinks. If you would like to join us, but need technology help, feel free to contact Ellen Tracey (804-436-2371) and Richard Gill (804-462-9939).

Our Zoom worship services are recorded and can be viewed on YouTube. Simply search “St. Mary’s Whitechapel and Trinity Churches” on YouTube.com.

Zooming Coffee Hour” meets every Sunday afternoon at 3pm. All are welcome at this comfortable gathering of folks. We visit and laugh together, concluding with prayers for the concerns on our hearts. Text, call, or email Megan if you want to join us, and I’ll put you on the list to receive the Zoom invitation each week. Once you sign up you are on the list and can come any Sunday that suits you. (My cell number is 804-477-5515).

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org).

Please let me know if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities. Call, text, or email and I’ll connect you with a volunteer.

You can continue to mail pledges and donations to Rector’s Discretionary Fund to each church:

Trinity Church  
PO Box 208  
Lancaster, VA 22503

SMWC  
5940 Whitechapel Rd  
Lancaster, VA 22503



## ***Thoughts from the Organ Bench*** *by Glenn Courtney, Organist* *SMWC and Trinity*

George Beverly Shea (1909-2013) was a Canadian-born American gospel singer and hymn composer. Shea was often described as "America's beloved gospel singer" and was considered "the first international singing 'star' of the gospel world," as a consequence of his solos at Billy Graham Crusades and his exposure on radio, records and television. He was known for his strong, booming baritone voice.

He ministered alongside Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, often singing right before Rev. Graham stepped to the podium. One of his best known songs, was ***I'd Rather Have Jesus.***

Bev Shea had been singing since he was a young man in the Wesleyan Methodist churches where his father was a minister. He was forced to leave college and work in an insurance office as a young man, due to the family's financial needs. But, that did not stop him from singing. He continued to sing in churches and for Christian radio programs, which led to the unexpected offer of an audition in New York City. He was offered a substantial salary and wide recognition for this secular singing position and prayed long and hard, in making this difficult decision.

Bev Shea's mother often would leave poems and quotes around the house that she collected, in order to spiritually guide him. One Sunday, as Bev was preparing for the morning service, he found a poem his mother had left for him.

The poem, written by Mrs. Rhea F. Miller, was ***I'd Rather Have Jesus.*** He was immediately impressed with the words and so "deeply moved" that he began to compose music for the lines.

That same day, he sang the song in his father's church service.

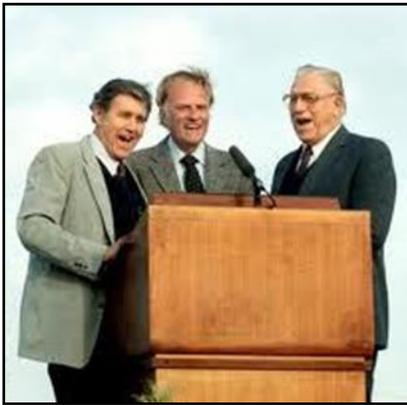
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When Bev Shea signed with RCA Victor, ***I'd Rather Have Jesus*** was chosen to spotlight their new singer.

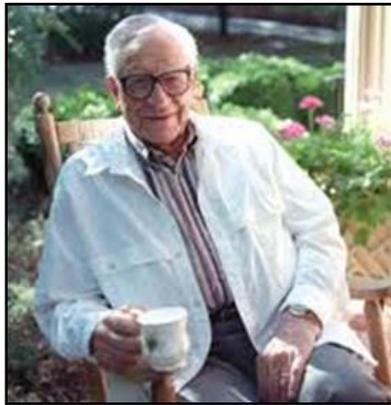
Bev Shea commented, "Over the years, I've not sung any song more than ***I'd Rather Have Jesus***, but I never tire of Mrs. Miller's heartfelt words."

He allowed these words to guide and direct him as a young man, and we {the world} are better off for it. Otherwise he may never have teamed up with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusades and shared such a powerful message with the world in song.

***I'd Rather Have Jesus*** became his musical "theme song" for audiences around the world.



Cliff Barrows, Dr. Billy Graham, Bev Shea



Mrs. Rhea F. Miller

Here are two performances of *I'd Rather Have Jesus*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHg-o2eGzM4>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L\\_TFazEMJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L_TFazEMJk)

Sources:

Wikipedia.com

dianaleaghmatthews.com

## Reflection

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday, a day that often makes Altar Guild chairs and clergy pull their hair out. After the white cloth graces the altar for the 50 days of Easter, Altar Guilds change the cloth to red for Pentecost, and then often miss the need to change it back to white for Trinity Sunday, before finally putting the green on the altar for the long and lovely quiet season of Pentecost, which runs until early December and the start of Advent. Consequently, on this Sunday clergy often come down the aisle in their white stoles, while the altar looks lovely in green. The Altar Guild chair cringes, but the clergy do not notice as they are so confused from writing a sermon on the Trinity, that they are lucky they remembered to robe for worship! Welcome to Trinity Sunday!

When I taught World Religions to nine-year-old boys at St. Christopher's, we would learn the vocabulary for each religion, understanding that knowing the language of another religion was one way to show respect. Thus, we learned that a house of worship in Judaism is a synagogue, the major holiday for Islam is Ramadan, and the name for God in Christianity is the Trinity. This answer always stumped my largely Christian classes. They knew many of the terms for Christianity, but the Trinity was not familiar to them. The concept of a three-fold understanding of one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... or Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer... made them confused and questioning, actually a good state for learning to occur! They had learned about monotheism and polytheism, belief in one god and belief in many gods, and would wonder how the Trinity would not place Christianity in polytheism.

Wrestling and questions are how we learn, how our faith grows and matures, and how we deepen our relationship to God. In short, the Trinity is a central belief of Christianity. The book I use with newcomer classes states: "Using the image "Father" to describe the source of everything, we used the image "Son" to describe the communicating aspect of God (god in the flesh)... (and) the third aspect of God that enables the past action of God to be constantly present with us... the Holy Spirit. "(page 24, *Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*).

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After all these explanations, the boys would look at me the same way I imagine you all looking at me now as you read this reflection, perplexed and wondering. But rather than putting the Trinity aside, perhaps we can take this concept that often confounds us, and instead see a door. The open door we might need is a humbling reminder that we do not know everything. The Trinity can remind us that our God is an expansive and mysterious God, far larger than we can imagine, far more present than we can see, far more loving than the very best of us. In any lifetime we will only catch onto a fragment of our God, as St. Paul said:

*“....for now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13: 12-13)*

In our human existence we can only at best see God, understand the expansive, trinitarianism of God, dimly, looking into a mirror in low light... not catching all, only fragments. But we can know that at the center, at the foundation, at the edges, in all, our God is love. And thus, our call as Christians is to keep God's love at the center of our faith. And in our weary world of pandemics and protests, our call is to be vessels of God's love. Our call is to continue to resist the us and them mentality that our politics, our world tempt us into: mask or no mask? Police or protesters? Justice or order?

Our God of love, claims us all, and calls us to acts of love far greater than we can imagine, acts of love inspired by the God who created all, by the Son who suffered for us and suffers with us, and the Holy Spirit that sustains us with the fiery energy and the holy breath of life we all need to live as children of our God.

Amen.