

# Time Together

## *While We are Apart*

*Trinity and St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churches*

Wednesday,  
October 21, 2020

Good day, dear church communities,

At our recent worship services, I announced that our beloved Parish Administrator, Paula Stallard, is leaving SMWC and Trinity after over three years of such faithful service. Paula has been offered a full-time job at Historic Christ Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for Paula, and we celebrate with her, as we are sad at her leaving our churches. If you would like to send Paula a note of thanks for her ministry with us, she can be reached at:

71 Figg Lane, White Stone, VA 22578  
Paulastallard1@gmail.com

Paula will finish her work with us on October 30th. I am in the midst of talking to possible candidates for her position. Because of the transition, we will not have our next Newsletter in two weeks, but rather in three weeks, on November 11th. This will give me and the Vestries a little more time for the transition.

This week we are featuring our final two "Pictures from the Past." Our first photo is from a spring day in 1954. The child pictured is six years old and all dressed up for a family reunion; her mother was the organizer of the reunion and in a whirl before the event began, hence this child in her good clothes and sent outside so not underfoot! She looks organized and ready to go, qualities she still exhibits as a leader at Trinity Church!

Our second photo is also a Trinity member, four-years-old at the time, from a long-ago Christmas morning, showing off a beloved new doll! That doll foretold her life today as a mother and grandmother,



who loves taking care of her grandkids, even going swimming with them in the summertime! Do you have guesses for these two "Pictures from the Past?" Check the first Announcement to find out if you are right!

And now onward to a little more "Time Together,"  
Megan

## **Prayer Notes:**

We will include our prayer lists in each Wednesday Newsletter and in our worship services. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists.

The family of Chuck McGrath has decided to hold his funeral service in May, on Chuck's birthday. Thus, the service will be Monday, May 17th, 2021. The family is hoping that gathering to celebrate Chuck's long and good life will be a bit easier by May. Please continue to keep Alexa, Malena, and all of their family in your hearts and prayers in this season of grief.

Our All Saints services will be held at our Zoom service on October 31st, at 5pm, and at our in-person service on Sunday, November 1st, 10am. If you would like to add a name to the list of those we love who have died in the past year or two, please contact Megan. rectorstmtrin@gmail.com

Feeling spiritually exhausted from the stresses and grief of the past eight months?

The National Cathedral will hold a special service on Sunday, November 1st at 4pm. The service, "Holding on to Hope: A National Service of Healing and Wholeness" will be led by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The Cathedral website describes this service as "a service of prayer to shine as a beacon of hope for the nation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, racial reckoning and a hard-fought election. The live-streamed service will gather Americans for prayer, song, lament, hope and a call to love God and neighbor." More information can be found on the Cathedral website: [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org)

**Trinity:** Faye Wright, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Fran Davis, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Walter and Barbara Nunnery, Steve, Rick Bateman, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Donna Alexander, Mary and Karen Jackson, Berkeley Kellum, 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.

**St. Mary's Whitechapel:** Agnes Robbie, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Jori Keckman, Alexa Frisbee, R.W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Donna Alexander, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Roger Fortin, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

Nursing Home Resident: Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

Armed Forces: Jacob Sensenig, Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

## **October and November Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Trinity Birthdays:** Cheryl Christopher, October 3rd; Jay Davenport, October 4th; Helen Towles Palmer, October 6th; Dallas Walker, October 9th; Thomas Hyde, October 11th; Lewis Walker, October 14th; Ben Heltzel, October 15th; Fillmore McNeal, October 15th; Dukie Smith, October 15th; Christina Slavin Cammarata, October 17th; Jessica Morgan, October 20th; J. R. Roscher, October 21st; Sydney Gray, October 27th; Savannah Locke, October 27th; Helen Pinkerton, October 29th; Pam Brent, October 30th; Tim Limburg, November 1st; Charlie Spencer, November 1st; Joseph Berkeley Kellum, November 13th; Matthew Brent, November 21st; Janice Shanks, November 23rd; Peter Cammarata, November 24th; Lorraine Jett, November 26th

**Trinity Anniversaries:** Dave and Susan Whitlow, October 5th; Anne and Milton Kingsbury, October 13th; Jane and Stuart Jane Dunaway, November 27th; Lorraine and Malcolm Jett, November 27th

**SMWC Birthdays:** Lydia Brittle, October 6; Mary Sue Courtney, October 10; Don DeFilippo, October 12; Anne Stanley, October 22; Tim Limburg, November 1; Lin Greene, November 3; Pete Ranson, November 4; Leroy Ransone, November 4; Carol Schroeder, November 6; Rick Johnson, November 12; Richard Gill, November 20; Alexa McGrath, November 30; Anne Muse, November 30

## Announcements:

Our first "Picture from the Past" is Jane Dunaway, a Vestry member at Trinity, who grew up in West Point, the location of that long-ago family reunion. Our second picture is Diane Smith, daughter of Malcolm and Lorraine Jett (who also gave her that beloved doll so many years ago!) and an active member of Trinity. Many thanks, Jane and Diane, for these wonderful Pictures from your Past!

The Trinity Scholarship Committee announces their scholarship recipients for 2020; all recipients of a Trinity scholarship have a connection to the Trinity community. The recipients and their college choices are:

Mears Pollard (Virginia Commonwealth University)  
Mary Binder (James Madison University)  
Meghan Anthony (James Madison University)

Congratulations to these recipients; our prayers are with them, especially in such a challenging year to pursue a college degree.

Trinity Yard Sale Committee is continuing to search for donations! After the success of the Spring Yard Sale, in which Yard Sale Committee Chair Judy Ripley, and her dedicated husband Fred, sold most of the collected items one at a time on the curb, the Yard Sale Committee (Fillmore McNeal, Jill Donaldson, Jane Dunaway) continues their search for items. They need our help in two ways:

First, if you have an empty shed or garage available, the committee is looking for storage space.

Second, if you have items to donate, especially larger items that can stay at the curb, like boats, cars, and trailers (please, with titles) call Chair Judy Ripley at: 804-761-5007

Our Zoom worship service meets 5pm Saturdays with Prayers for the Evening. The bulletin and Zoom invitation will be sent to all that day. This service is a lovely, quiet way to enter into the evening, and we have gathered a warm and welcoming community of folks who enjoy worship at this time and by Zoom. Join us!

Our outdoor worship service for both churches meets on Sundays at 10am at the Trinity Pavilion and includes both a sermon and the communion service. Please be sure to text or email Megan so we can save a seat for you; 50 is our maximum attendance. Masks are required and we maintain 6 feet of distance.

Do you need help getting trash to the dump or picking up prescriptions or an occasional grocery item? Please know that we have folks ready to help in our joint churches community. Contact Megan for connection to a volunteer.

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

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

## .....the rest of the story for the spring book drive for Lancaster Elementary

I wanted to thank the members of St. Mary's Whitechapel church for the book drive we started last winter. I asked the congregation to buy or bring a book that they had loved as a child, and we would donate them to Lancaster Primary School in March. Sherry Mann, a former educator, pointed out that many children of color might enjoy a modern book with children on the cover who looked like them: one of a wide range of the American rainbow of peoples and children, of colors and sizes and abilities and disabilities.

So, I searched the local major store, and not one cover showed any children who might look like ours in our community. As the winter progressed, a box was filled, nevertheless. They were lovely and colorful, and ranged from kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Then just when we were going to the box to the school librarian, the pandemic shutdown the schools. The lovely box of books sat in Courtney Hall all spring and summer getting dusty. No one knew what to do with them. Little by little, more books trickled into the church and to me. I loved perusing through them.

In September we took four full boxes of books to the primary school librarian, and the school was thrilled. Because of the new safety precautions there was no budget for new library books. Our gift was "Heaven sent," and I thank you.

Imagine if only one child falls in love with reading, or sees a role model who looks like them on an adventure.

Thank God and thank you.

-Linda Stough





## **Thoughts from the Organ Bench**

*by Glenn Courtney, Organist*

*SMWC and Trinity*

***The Day Thou Gavest Lord, Is Ended***, is a classic hymn, greatly upheld as a favorite in Britain and the Anglican Communion, and is sung in many Churches of other denominations. This beautiful hymn is #25 in the Hymnal 1982. It was written in the 19th century by Church of England minister, John Ellerton (1826-1893).

John Ellerton was educated at King William's College on the Isle of Man and at Trinity College, Cambridge, England. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1851. He served six parishes, spending the longest time in Crewe Green (1860-1872), a church of steelworkers and farmers. Ellerton wrote and translated about 80 hymns, many of which are still sung today. He helped to compile *Church Hymns* and wrote its handbook, *Notes and Illustrations to Church Hymns* (1882). Some of his other hymn texts were published in *The London Mission Hymn Book* (1884).

The story goes that in 1870, the Rev. Ellerton was walking home after teaching classes at the Mechanics' Institute and noticed how beautiful the night was. He wrote these hymn lyrics based upon that inspiring moment. Being customary in the Anglican Communion to give thanks to God 'Morning and Evening' the lyrics reflect 1 Chronicles 23:30 and Psalm 113:3. Christians from the earliest days of the faith, gave thanks to God both in the morning and the evening. This hymn reflects that practice.

It is easy to assume that the words and music of such great hymns were written entirely by one person, but this is not always the case. The melody for ***The Day Thou Gavest Lord, Is Ended*** is actually set to the hymn tune known as *St. Clement*. This tune is generally credited to Clement Cotteril Scholefield (1839-1904) and first appeared in a hymnbook in 1874. This publication was known as *Church Hymns and Tunes*.

Clement Scholefield was educated at Pocklington Grammar School and, after three years at St John's College, Cambridge, he was ordained a deacon in 1867 and a priest in 1869 in the Church of England. From 1869 until 1879, Scholefield served at Hove parish church, St. Peter's in Kensington, as well as a brief tenure at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. He spent the ten years to 1890 as chaplain at Eton College before becoming vicar at Holy Trinity, Knightsbridge, for five years. In 1895 he retired from clergy ministry and devoted his time to various pursuits including music, of which he was particularly fond. He had no systematic musical training but he was an accomplished pianist. He wrote other songs but is remembered for his hymn tunes *St Clement* and *Irene*.

This inspiring and uplifting melody sets the lyrics in motion for an ever flowing waltz of affectionate love. These are no mere words of a self focused individual, but from the soul of a person devoted and affectionate to the One true God. They ascribe to God the honor and praise as the One who gave the sinner the gift of each day and night; the knowing that God hears the praises of His people. They give thanks to Him continuously for His provision and building of His Church; that she is unchanging, and “*unsleeping*” as the world worries its way through life; that men’s empires pass away, but the Kingdom Christ has established, will never pass away for He is her King. The lyric speaks of the continuing growth of Christ’s everlasting Kingdom, that His people are everywhere beneath the “*Western skies*” and such can never be destroyed.

It is interesting that this hymn is listed in the “Evening” section of the hymnal with a footnote that “this hymn may be used in the morning by omitting stanza 1.”

1. The day thou gave us, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended,  
thy praise shall hallow now our rest.
2. We thank thee that thy church, unsleeping  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.
3. As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.
4. The sun, that bids us rest, is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.
5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
but stand and rule and grow forever,  
'til all thy creatures own thy sway.

Here are two performances of this beautiful hymn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIHXCJZC7BY>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW9VhmrOdfg>

Sources: <https://simonpetersutherland.com>  
Wikipedia.com

## Reflection

I recently spent a morning with Anne Clewell, a member of SMWC, in the church building. We were there to do measuring and analysis of the space to make SMWC's application to the Diocese for reopening the church, when our health markers are low enough to do so safely. Anne worked in graphic design and she and Bill built and renovated many houses, so she was a great help in this task. She came with a very long tape measure, a notebook for numbers and sketches, and a great attitude! While my eyes glaze over quickly when dealing with numbers and analysis, Anne was greatly enthused with our job!

The process to make these applications involves documenting how many people we can safely seat at least six feet apart in each church building, as well as how we plan to have people enter and exit the churches, remaining at least six feet apart. Consideration also must be given to where the priest will stand to lead the service, how close that makes her to the congregation and the organist, as well as how she can move safely in the sanctuary, maintaining at least six feet of distance. In addition, we will describe our plans for cleaning surfaces before and after services.

Indoor activities are deemed most risky by the CDC, because of the lack of ventilation and fresh air. Our indoor services will not include communion, as it is too risky in this setting, and requires too close of contact. We will worship in the Service of the Word, the first part of our "normal" service, including the readings and a sermon. Finally, opening each church will not be a single event, but will vary week to week, depending on our health markers. A clergy colleague in Winchester recently told me that his church had made their application and received permission to open. They welcomed folks for three Sundays before their COVID cases began to rise again, and they had to close. They have been closed now three weeks, waiting for cases to go down again in Winchester.

I realize that all of this information might be interesting, but it does not sound much like a reflection, but hang in there with me. As I spend time on the process to reopen our churches, I have found myself going back to the readings from Exodus that have been included in our worship over the past many weeks. After the miraculous escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Moses leads them into the wilderness, where the people experience many ups and downs! Fears about how they will be fed, how their thirst will be satisfied, fears about where they belong and when will they will ever have a home again, all these fears are taken over and over again to Moses. And Moses takes all their fears, sometimes expressed in anger other times in despair, to God. The path for the Israelites is not straight and it is not easy, but the one constant in the wilderness is God's

presence with them. In last week's lesson, Exodus 33:12-23, God assures Moses that God will be with Moses and the people in all their days: "...there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by..." Moses would be near to God in that safe place, in that cleft of the rock, where the power of God will not overwhelm him, and the care of God will enfold him.

As we go through our own wilderness time, in this season of the COVID pandemic, we too have had and will have our ups and downs, and we will take our fears to God, expressing them in our anger and our despair. And too the one constant will be God's presence. God does not leave us alone in this strange, frightening and difficult season. We too are in the cleft of the rock, whether we are alone with our prayers, in the Pavilion at worship, in the individual church buildings, or on Zoom, the cleft in the rock is there, our safety and our home with God, always.

Amen.

