

Time Together

While We are Apart

Wednesday,
June 10, 2020

Good day, dear church communities,

Our animal picture today is unusual, and wonderful! This picture of a very young fawn was sent in by Ernie and Lin Greene (SMWC). Ernie took the photo about 15 years ago in their yard. I'll let Ernie tell the story now:

“Our god-daughter, Sari, who was 15 at the time, was up from Florida with her parents. We were out on the deck when this little baby deer showed up and took a liking to Sari. It followed her around all afternoon.

We called "the deer lady," a local deer expert, who told us that it had probably been born the night before, and its mother had felt that our yard was safe enough to leave here alone while she went out to forage for food (kind of like deer day-care). She said that the mother would be back in the evening to pick it up, and that we should avoid picking it up or touching it so it wouldn't fixate on us.

It was amazing how, as the deer followed Sari around during the afternoon, we could actually see it get stronger and more sure-footed.

Sure enough, that night after sundown, the mother came back, took the fawn, and left.

While we have no way of knowing, we like to think that the deer lived out its life in the area around here, and passed through our yard occasionally, on the off-chance that Sari might still be here.”



Many thanks, Ernie and Lin, for sharing this beautiful animal story with us.

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:

- Please keep Ann Rau (SMWC) in your prayers. After a brief hospitalization, Ann is coming home today with hospice care. Please pray for Ann, her granddaughter Tracy, who lives with her and cares for her, and for Branden, Tracy's son and Ann's great grandson, and for all of her family and friends in this fragile time.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

June and July Birthdays and Anniversaries

SMWC Birthdays: Rita Theisen, June 3; Ursula O'Bryhim, June 16; Ed Ramsey, June 16; Jane Henley, June 17; Jane Fortin, June 22; Warren Hottle, June 29; Barbara Wheeler, July 16; Alison Towles, July 28

Anniversaries: Ed and Sue Ramsey, June 15; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20

Trinity Birthdays: Jamie Hayden, June 12th; Jodie Hayden, June 12th; Alexis Hayden, June 15th; Cole Hayden, June 15th; Dinny Jackson, June 23rd; Julian Cornwell, June 24th; Curtis Walker, June 30th; Stan

James, July 2nd; Mariah Mears, July 2nd; Josie Spencer, July 2nd; Kenneth Jett, July 5th; Sydney Price, July 5th; Janet Worsham, July 8th; Janet Christopher, July 11th; Mark Dunaway, July 11th; Shelva Jean Gaskins, July 13th; Ryan Cammarata, July 19th; Carol Roscher, July 23rd; Justin Cammarata, July 25th; Frances Callaghan, July 26th; Brandon Dunaway, July 30th

Anniversaries: Gwen & Stan James, June 16th; Diane & Dukie Smith, June 18th; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20



Announcements:

Congratulations to Trinity Church as a recipient of a Mustard Seed Grant from The Diocese! Last year, Trinity parishioners, Cheri and Joe Sheridan, pledged a gift to Trinity that will fund a new playground behind Townsend Hall. The Mustard Seed grant will help fund the fencing and fall zones at the new playground. Many thanks to Fred Ripley and Jock Chilton for arranging for the sale of and removal of the old playground, and for the grading of the area where the new playground will be installed, hopefully later this year.

An invitation from the Diocese to receive the weekly Diocesan newsletter:

“Connect with Your Bishops and Episcopalians throughout the Diocese of Virginia Episcopalians throughout Virginia are participating in God’s ministry every day. Sign up to receive the latest updates from your bishops and to hear about how God is at work through your siblings in Christ around the Diocese of Virginia. Sign up for the **General Diocesan News email list** to connect and stay informed.”

Our Zoom worship service is held each Sunday at 10am. The site opens 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). All are welcome!

Our Zoom worship services are recorded and the link to the past week’s service can be found on the Trinity website: **Trinityva.org**.

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**

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

"In the Garden" (sometimes rendered by its first line **"I Come to the Garden Alone"**) is a gospel song written by American songwriter C. Austin Miles (1868–1946), a former pharmacist who served as editor and manager at Hall-Mack publishers for 37 years. According to Miles' great-granddaughter, the song was written "in a cold, dreary and leaky basement in Pitman, New Jersey that didn't even have a window in it let alone a view of a garden." In 1912 music publisher Dr. Adam Geibel asked Mr. Miles to write a hymn text that would be "sympathetic in tone, breathing tenderness in every line, one that would bring hope to the hopeless, rest for the weary, and downy pillows to dying beds." Mr. Miles has left the following account of the writing of this hymn:

"One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the dark room and drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20 – whether by chance or inspiration. As I read the account of the meeting of Jesus and Mary, I seemed to become part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment when Mary visited the empty tomb.

My hands were resting on the Bible when I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shadowed by olive branches, and saw Mary, John and Peter and their encounter with the risen Lord.

I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music."

The song was first published in 1912 and popularized during the Billy Sunday evangelistic campaigns of the early twentieth century by two members of his staff, Homer Rodeheaver and Virginia Asher.

Many artists have recorded this gospel hymn, including Roy Rogers and Dale Evans in 1950, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Perry Como, Rosemary

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Clooney, Doris Day, Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson, Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, John Prine and Mac Wiseman. It is also used in juxtaposition to "Blue Tail Fly" near the beginning of the Merchant Ivory film *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. The book of poetry *Tea* by D. A. Powell also refers to the song. The gospel song is sung in the closing scene of the film *Places in the Heart* (1984) and by Ronee Blakley in the Robert Altman film *Nashville* (1975).

Lyrics

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain: *And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. Refrain.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. Refrain.

Here is an arrangement of ***In the Garden*** by the Tabernacle Choir:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcRCa7SDhxA>

and another by the Jim Cullen Jazz Band:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4r7s--kJC4>

References: Wikipedia.com

101 Hymn Stories, by Kenneth W. Osbeck

Reflection

I subscribe to a daily devotional offered by the United Church of Christ (UCC) called *Still Speaking*, referring to God still speaking in our lives today. The authors are a wide variety of clergy and laity in the UCC. Our reflection today comes from The Reverend Quinn Caldwell. He describes himself as “a father, husband, homesteader and preacher living in rural upstate New York.” He is also the author of a book of daily reflections for Advent and Christmas called [All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas](#). This devotional is at times irreverent, and yet, still deeply moving, and is one of my favorites. Caldwell’s reflection is entitled “Exactly” and focuses on the familiar opening lines of Psalm 23, in a gender neutral adaption of the NRSV.

*The LORD leads me beside still waters;
they restore my soul.*

*They lead me in right paths
for their name’s sake.*

- Psalm 23:1-3 (NRSV, adapted)

My son and I hike along, looking for the next flash of color. Those who knew the way through this forest have gone ahead of us, painting blue blazes on the trees to lead us in right paths.

I think of the ancestors who set aside this state forest, the ones who blazed the trail. What did they think we’d be using this for? Did they know that one day we’d be out here because we had nowhere else to go except the living room? That we’d be walking their path in search of virus-free air?

What about the ones who built the local library? What would they say if they knew the building was closed, the books inaccessible ... but that the library was going strong, doing a rip-roaring business restoring people’s souls with books downloaded from the sky?

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How about the founders of your church? What would they say about the still living waters God and your pastors are pouring through your screen each week despite the shuttered sanctuary? Would they recognize you as their church, worshiping there in your jammies in the living room?

Maybe hiking in the woods to escape lockdown isn't what the sylvan ancestors envisioned. Maybe accessing your library on your phone isn't what the bookish ancestors planned for. Maybe church on the computer isn't the kind of thing the charter ancestors would have wanted.

Or maybe it is, exactly.

Prayer

For the gifts of the ancestors, for the paths they blazed and the institutions they started, and for your Spirit, showing us new ways and purposes for using them, thank you. Amen.

