

# Time Together

## While We are Apart

Wednesday,  
June 17, 2020

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

Good day, dear church communities,

We take a pause today from our usual first page activities, as we need to say a big CONGRATULATIONS to one of our own: Sydney Price!!! (Trinity)

Sydney, a student in the Governor's School program, graduated from Lancaster High School this month! She is heading to West Virginia University in the fall and plans to major in Forensic Science and minor in Criminology. Sydney was awarded an amazing number of scholarships this spring, twelve in all: Historyland Community Scholarship, Lancaster County Lions Club, Fary Scholarship, Grace Church Scholarship, Kiwanis Club of the Northern Neck Kids Foundation, Whitestone Methodist Church Scholarship, Robert A. and Linda Sanders Treacle Scholarship, Grace and Roy Jordan Scholarship, Frances Nichols Memorial Scholarship, Ammon G. Dunton Sr. Scholarship, P.E.O. Sisterhood V.S.S.F. Scholarship, and Military Officers Association of America NN Chapter Scholarship.

WOW! Our churches are so proud of this amazing young lady! Sydney lives in Lancaster with her Mom, Stephanie, and her younger siblings, Emily and Eli. Her grandparents are Paul and Jean Price.

Sydney grew up at Trinity and has been active in the youth programs, and as an acolyte. For the past few years Sydney, with her signature red high-tops, has been our senior acolyte ready to help and serve, especially on red shoe days, like Pentecost!



If you would like to send Sydney a graduation card, her address is:

Sydney Price  
41 Cove Colony Road  
Lancaster, VA 22503

Please keep Sydney in your prayers as she heads to college in August!

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

## Prayer Notes:

Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists. Notes for this week:

Seems that every month recognizes different groups; two for June caught my eye and thus offer prayers for each.

June is LGBTQ Pride month. The following prayer is from the Washington National Cathedral website and is from writings of the United Church of Canada. May we appreciate and offer joyful prayers for all of our siblings in Christ.

### *A Prayer in Thanksgiving of the Diversity of Humankind*

*Almighty God, who breathes life into each one of us, and all of Creation, we pray for the human family, giving thanks for the diversity of your creation; help us to embrace people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions as your children in love, compassion, and celebration, that guided by your Holy Spirit, we may live together in your peace. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. The following prayer is from the book, *Seasons of Caring: Meditations for Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers* and is written by The Reverend Wesley Stephens. May we pray with and for all who struggle with dementia, and all who love them.

*Gracious God, hold near to Your heart those who struggle through the confusion and uncertainty of Alzheimer's disease. Bring, at last, some signs of hope to those who care for ones whose minds this disease has invaded. Bless those who tirelessly work to seek ways through which the power of this darkness may be conquered. Through the love that will not turn away from this human need, we offer our prayer. Amen.*

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 and Stan James, June 16th; Diane and Dukie Smith, June 18th; Jenny and Michael Dunaway, July 20; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20

## Announcements:

**\*\*\*Change in Newsletters\*\*\*:** As we now offer Zoom worship each Sunday, our newsletters will change from twice a week to once a week. The *Time Together* newsletter will be published each Wednesday. On Sundays, a reflection from Megan will be emailed to all. For folks without computers, Megan will continue hand delivering newsletters on Wednesdays. The Sunday reflection will either be hand delivered or sent by US mail.

### 2020 Trinity Episcopal Hammack-Hayden Scholarship Fund

Scholarship applications, and cover letters setting forth guidelines, are available from committee members Sally Cornwell (sallycornwell@mac.com), Jane Dunaway (janemdunaway@gmail.com), or Craig Giese (chgfarmer@gmail.com).

Applicants should have a personal or family relationship with Trinity Episcopal Church. They should also be enrolled in an accredited institution, pursuing a degree or professional certification related to their career goal. Applications may be mailed or emailed and must be received/postmarked no later than July 31, 2020. This year, due to Covid-19, there will be no church service to honor scholarship recipients and to present their checks. Instead checks will be mailed to them.

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## Announcements (continued):

A Blood Drive by the Virginia Red Cross will be held at Kilmarnock Baptist Church on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm. You must make a reservation to give blood. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and click on “Make Your Appointment” to get started.

Our Zoom worship service is held each Sunday at 10am. The Zoom invitation and the worship bulletin will be emailed each Saturday. The site opens at 9:30am on Sunday 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](http://Trinityva.org).

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

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 late 1960s, while expecting their third child, Bill and Gloria Gaither were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives. Bill was recovering his strength from a bout with mononucleosis. They, along with their church, were the objects of accusation and belittlement. Gloria was experiencing a time of torment, including fear of the future and of bringing children into such a crazy, mixed-up world.

As Gloria sat alone in a darkened living room, tormented, and fearful, the Lord sent a calm and peaceful rest to her. The power of the resurrection of Christ seemed to affirm itself in their lives once again. Gloria remembers the realization that it was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day. The joy seemed to overcome and take precedent over frightening human circumstances. And the song ***Because He Lives*** came out of their personal bout with darkness.

Gloria recounted:

*"I am a wife and a mother. It was in the middle of the upheaval in the sixties that we were expecting our third baby. The drug culture was in full swing, existential thought had obviously saturated every area of our American thought, the cities were seething with racial tension, and the God-is-dead pronouncement had giggled its way all through our educational system.*

*On the personal front, Bill and I were going through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Bill had been discouraged and physically exhausted by a bout with mononucleosis, and in that weakened condition had little reserve to fight the psychological battle brought on by some external family problems. Someone whom we had cared about a great deal had hurled some accusations at us and at the Fellowship of Believers and at the whole idea of the existence of God.*

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*It was on New Year's Eve that I sat alone in the darkness and quiet of our living room, thinking about the world and our country and Bill's discouragement and the family problems and about our baby yet unborn. Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this? I thought, the world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this child?*

*I can't quite explain what happened at that moment, but suddenly I felt released from it all. The panic that had begun to build inside was gently dispelled by a reassuring presence that engulfed my life and drew my attention.*

*Gradually, the fear left and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with optimism and trust. It was the Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day."*

### **Because He Lives Hymn Lyrics**

(1) God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain: Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives All fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future.

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

(2) How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride, And joy He gives;  
But greater still The calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Refrain

(3) And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives.

Refrain

Here are two arrangements of **Because He Lives:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA&list=RD4M-zwE33zHA&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA&list=RD4M-zwE33zHA&start_radio=1)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20z\\_caE8oQE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20z_caE8oQE)

Source: <https://believersportal.com/story-behind-because-he-lives-hymn/>

## Reflection

As many of you know, I did not grow up in the church; I was baptized at age 24 in the Episcopal Church. As will happen when you are in your twenties and newly baptized, I quickly found myself involved in youth group ministry and after that, working at camps at Shrine Mont. Through these activities I learned, at lightning speed, every religious youth song, as every gathering and camp had a required time of singing, of course, with guitars! One of my favorite songs from this time is “They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love.” The words are based on John 13:34-35, when Jesus, at the Last Supper, tells his friends he will only be with them a little longer, and thus gives them a new commandment:

*“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

How hard can that be? Well, a couple thousand years later we still wrestle with this simple concept. We allow much to get in our way, but often the things in our way are tied up in our politics. Now, everyone take a deep breath, and relax, because I am not going to preach on politics here. I don't preach politics, only Jesus; that is way safer, right?

We get into trouble with our political convictions, as politics intrinsically requires that we break into groups of us and them; we belong or we do not.

The Book Group that gathers at SMWC on Friday afternoons has been meeting on Zoom, and reading *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding Church* by Rachel Held Evans. The author refers to that “us and them” mentality as “...our sorting system. It makes us feel righteous.” (page 94) Our sorting system allows us to look at the world and sort everyone... folks we agree with and disagree with, good and bad people, Republicans and Democrats, LGBTQ and straight, north and south, black and white... and on and on. And our sorting systems, our us/them thinking is, to use a religious word, our sin... our great idea for how to look at the world is... our sin. When we are separated from God, when we think we can keep God for the pretty stuff, like candles and flowers, while we sort out the rest, and frankly congratulate ourselves for doing such a great job of it... we are in our sin.

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But the life of Jesus shows us over and over, he did not come to do the pretty things, but to be with us, the sinners, all of us. Evans, the author I referred to above, says it far better than I can:

*“When Jesus said he came not for the righteous, but for the sinner, he meant he came for everyone. But only those who know they are sick can be healed. Only those who listen to the rumblings in their belly can be filled. Only those who recognize the extent of their wounds and their wounding can be made well.”* (page 92)

Do we know, can we admit to ourselves, that our politics may lead us into wounds and wounding? Can we admit we might be sick and in need of healing?

Well enough preaching for now; as Tim says, “once you start preaching, next thing you know you are meddling.” So, I’ll end back at camp, humming away:

“They will know we are Christians by our love.”

Amen.

