

Time Together

While We are Apart

Trinity and St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churches

Wednesday, July 1, 2020



Good day, dear church communities,

Our animal of the week is Duke, the grand-dog of Connie Horne (SMWC). Duke is a Weimaraner and has recently re-located to the Northern Neck from Pennsylvania, along with his people, Connie's son Troy and his wife Kathy. On a personal note, I have known Duke for over two years and I have found him to be a deeply spiritual dog; maybe it is just his soulful eyes, but I sense he is having deep thoughts! Welcome to the Northern Neck, Duke, and Troy and Kathy too! And many thanks to Connie for sharing contemplative Duke with us all!

This past Sunday 33 folks from Trinity and SMWC gathered at the Trinity Pavilion for worship, our first in-person gathering since March 8! We all wore our masks and maintained our six feet of social distance, and found pool noodles helpful in maintaining that distance! (Pool noodles are about 5 feet long.) Sue Ramsey brought gorgeous flowers from her garden for the altar. Though the morning was warm, about 80 degrees when I arrived at the Pavilion, folks told me they were comfortable, the ceiling fans and the occasional breeze keeping us happy.



We will continue meeting for this 10am Pavilion service this Sunday and onward. Please note that if you want to attend the service, you will need to *make a reservation* as our spaces are limited. You can reserve a spot by emailing, calling, or texting Megan. (rectorstmtrin@gmail.com 804-477-5515)

We are not ready to start advertising this service yet, but please feel free to invite friends or family to join us. Just be sure that they contact me, so we can save a seat for them!

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

Scenes from last Sunday's Pavilion Worship Service



*Many thanks for the photos from
Ed Ramsey and Glenn Courtney!*

Prayer Notes:

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

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Chuck McGrath, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, 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, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

Trinity: Nancy Clark, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, 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.

July and August Birthdays and Anniversaries

SMWC Birthdays: Barbara Wheeler, July 16; Alison Towles, July 28; Susan Dameron, August 1; Bill Pennell, August 6; Pat Ficklin, August 13; Betsy Woods, August 21; Anne Hanchey, August 22; Walter Mauro, August 26; Lucy Hottle, August 28; Sherry Mann, August 29; Nancy Brandon, August 31; Raymond Gaddy, August 31

Anniversaries: Ben and Cay Weimer, July 17; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20; Jane and Page Henley, August 6; Richard and Sharon Gill, August 8; Gloria and Randy Romaine, August 12; Ernie and Lin Greene, August 22; Betsy and Bob Woods, August 24; Fred and Mary Ann Fred Olsen, August 28; Dorsey and Pat Ficklin, August 30

Trinity Birthdays: 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; Cara Christopher, August 6th; Sally Cornwell, August 7th; Judy Ripley, August 7th; Julie H. Kellum, August 9th; Barbara Nunnery, August 13th; Janet Davenport, August 16th; Elizabeth Calder, August 17th; Keegan Kellum, August 21st; Henry Christopher, August 29th; Michelle Giese, August 31st

Anniversaries: Jenny and Michael Dunaway, July 20; Megan and Tim Limburg, July 20



Announcements:

Our Zoom worship service continues to meet each Sunday, at 2pm. All are welcome and please feel free to share the link and bulletin (emailed each Saturday from Paula Stallard, our Parish Administrator) with any family or friends who would like to join us. *We are considering moving the worship time to Saturdays at 5pm.* Please contact Megan with any feedback on this option.

Zoom Coffee Hour takes place immediately after the Zoom worship, for folks who want to stay on and have a chance to visit. If you want to attend Zoom Coffee Hour, but perhaps do not want to come to Zoom worship, feel free to join the worship at about 2:30pm and Coffee Hour will begin shortly thereafter. The Zoom Sunday worship invitation will also admit you to the Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour. 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.

Change in Newsletters: As we now offer Zoom worship and in-person worship, our newsletters have changed 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 be sent by US mail.

On behalf of the Vestries and Treasurers of both churches, I offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to all! As we enter the fourth month of this new chapter in the life of our world, our country, and our churches, folks in both churches continue to honor their pledges. Many thanks for your support of the churches through your participation, your encouragement, your caring, your prayers, and your monetary support. SMWC and Trinity Churches continue in ministry because of each of you.

Announcements (continued):

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.

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*

One of my favorite hymns is *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, #686 in the Hymnal 1982. The author is Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, and the composer, John Weyth, 1770-1858. The scripture reference is taken from 1 Samuel 7:12.

Robert Robinson was born of lowly parents in Swaffham, Norfolk. His father died when Robert was eight, and at age fourteen he was sent by his mother to London to learn the barbering trade. There for the next few years he was associated with a notorious gang of hoodlums and lived a debauched life. At the age of seventeen he attended a meeting where George Whitefield was preaching. Robinson and his friends went for the purpose of "scoffing at the poor, deluded Methodists." However, Whitefield's strong evangelistic preaching so impressed young Robinson that he was converted to Christ. Several years later he felt called to preach and entered the ministry of the Methodist Church. Subsequently, he left the Methodist Church when he moved to Cambridge and became a Baptist pastor. Here he became known as an able theologian through his writing of theological works and hymns.

Come, Thou Fount, written when Robinson was only twenty-three years of age, contains an interesting expression in the second stanza: "Here I raise mine Ebenezer-hither by Thy help I'm come." This language is taken from 1 Samuel 7:12, where the Ebenezer is a symbol of God's faithfulness. An expression in the third verse, "Prone to wander-Lord, I feel it-prone to leave the God I love," seems to have been prophetic of Robinson's later years, as once again his life became characterized by lapses into sin, unstableness and involvement with the doctrines of Unitarianism.

The story is told that Robinson was one day riding a stagecoach when he noticed a woman deeply engrossed with a hymn book. During an ensuing conversation, the lady turned to Robinson and asked what he thought of the hymn she was humming. Robinson burst into tears and said, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then."

The tune, "Nettleton," most often used for this hymn, was named for the Rev. Asahel Nettleton, noted American evangelist of the early eighteenth century. Its composer, John Wyeth, born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a printer and lay musician. This hymn first appeared in his hymnal *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Songs*, published in

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1813. The original four-stanza hymn appears with only three stanzas in some hymnals, including the Hymnal 1982, and the lyrics have had variations over the years. Here is the original:

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace!
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood.

3. Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face.
Clothed then in the blood washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace.
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransomed soul away.
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

4. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Here is a performance of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* by the Tabernacle Choir:

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

Source: *101 Hymn Stories*, by Kenneth W. Osbeck. Kregel Publications. Grand Rapids, MI. 1982

Reflection

Our Reflection this week comes from Bishop Susan. She contemplates the Matthew text from Sunday, “the cup of cold water,” in our context in 2020. I appreciated her perspective and found much to ponder; I hope you enjoy it too.

“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” Matthew 10:42

The measure of hospitality that Jesus lays out in the Gospel reading we heard [Sunday] is quite minimal. It’s simple. It’s easy. A cup of cold water to someone who is vulnerable, unseen or in need.

Naming that Black Lives Matter is that kind of simple measure of hospitality. We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that all lives matter. Jesus said so when he commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and when he taught in the parable of the Good Samaritan what loving your neighbor looks like in action. If you haven’t read that parable in a while, I encourage you to do so, noting who it was that proved neighbor. (Luke 10:25-37). All lives matter, including the animal lives and the plant lives on this planet that we share with them.

Naming that Black Lives Matter does not take away from God’s love for all and God’s call to us to love all. What it does do is recognize that there is a particular population of our neighbors that needs a focus of our love and attention right now. Think of it in terms of another parable of Jesus, the Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:4-6.

“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’”

Focusing attention on the one sheep that was in need does not mean that the other 99 were not important, that their lives didn’t matter. It meant that the one required special focus and attention for a time, because that one suffered losses that the 99 did not. The shepherd lovingly chose to offer that focus. So do I.

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The Black Lives Matter banner on the fence in front of our Diocesan offices in downtown Richmond is a sign of hospitality and welcome to our neighbors. It is a sign that our predominantly white staff is choosing to engage the hard work of understanding prejudices in our structural systems and in our own hearts so that we can be more faithful neighbors. Finally it is a sign of our bias, our Jesus bias, that requires us to love our neighbors as ourselves, especially those neighbors who suffer disproportionate losses. God bless us all as we walk this road together.

