

Time Together

While We are Apart

St. Mary's Whitechapel and Trinity Episcopal Churches

Wednesday,
August 12, 2020

Good day, dear church communities,

Today we have our first "Picture from the Past"! Do you recognize this young lady, a member of SMWC? She is appearing here in a 1953 production called "Coed on Holiday" and showed off her baton skills. The photo was not taken in Virginia, and I will not say the location now, as the town and state will likely immediately reveal the name to many. Check the first Announcement to find out if your guess is right!

Please submit your "Picture from the Past" and join in the fun! You may recall I introduced this new feature two weeks ago, inviting you to send in a photo from your past: a baby picture, a school picture, a wedding photo, or a pic from some long-ago holiday! You can take a picture of a photo and then text or email it to me. (804-477-5515 or rectorstmtrin@gmail.com) If technology is not your thing, you can mail your photo to me (253 Navajo Rd, Kilmarnock 22482) or we can make arrangements for me to come by and take a picture of it. Start digging through those boxes in your closet and send in those mystery photos!



Though my week off contained several storms, and we were without power for 40 hours, I did enjoy a few chances to sleep in. Now looking ahead, the In-Person Worship Committee (Frances Callahan, Jane Dunaway, Connie Horne, Theresa Kanuck) and I have decided we will meet for Zoom only worship at 10am this Sunday, August 16th. The committee will meet this Friday to look forward and evaluate how both the temperature and our local COVID numbers are trending, and come to a decision for upcoming Sundays. As we paddle our way through the dog days of summer, hope everyone can stay cool, dry, and safe!

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.

A Prayer for Healthcare workers in this time of COVID-19:

Loving God, we pray today for all doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers. Give them courage of heart, and strength of mind and body. Keep them safe from harm. May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing to heal and help those affected by the corona virus. God of all consolation, may they know your protection and peace. Bless them in these challenging days, and bless their families. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Trinity: Nancy Clark, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Fran Davis, Sally Flanigan, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Walter and 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: Giovanny Elhordoy, Ward Gavin, Paul Price and Michael Stout.

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Cynthia Mercado, Agnes Robbie, 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.

August and September Birthdays and Anniversaries

SMWC Birthdays: 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; Will Towles, September 1; Frans Kasteel, September 2; Buzz Budzinski, September 4; Fred Olsen, September 4; Linda Stough, September 5; Donna Ransone, September 11; Bob Woods, September 11; Jack Blaine, September 21; Jean Bonnell, September 22; Bo Wright, September 29

Anniversaries: 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 Olsen, August 28; Dorsey and Pat Ficklin, August 30; Don and Jean DeFilippo, September 11



Trinity Birthdays: Cara Christopher, August 6th; Sally Cornwell, August 7th; Judy Ripley, August 7th; Julie H. Barrack, 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; Kellum Hayden, September 8th; Mears Pollard, September 8th; Gwen James, September 9th; Logan Kellum, September 9th; Joshua James, September 17th; Albert Pollard, Jr., September 18th; Brandon Kellum, September 21st; Michael Brent, September 24th; Madison Giese, September 24th; Tracy Hayden, September 24th; Walter Nunnery, September 24th

Announcements:

Our “Picture from the Past” was taken in 1953 in North Platte, Nebraska. The production was called “Coed on Holiday” and shows off her baton skills, and perhaps foretold her future tennis skills! Many thanks Connie Horne for this wonderful Picture from your Past!

Our Zoom worship service will meet this Sunday at 10am. Paula will send the bulletin and the Zoom invitation the day before. Invite your family and friends, near and far, to join us!

Welcome to the new Sexton at SMWC, Missy Lyon! Missy, pictured here with her fiancé, Benji Sanford, moved to Lively a few months ago. Her name came to SMWC through Beth Self, her future sister-in-law, who does cleaning with Faith Kemp. The Vestry was happy to meet Missy, learn of her excellent qualifications from the Search Committee (Gloria Romaine, Paula Stallard, and Megan Limburg), and voted unanimously to hire her. Missy and Benji are getting married in September. When you see her at SMWC please welcome her!



If you would like to meet in-person for a visit/pastoral care time with me, we can wear masks and meet outdoors, either at the Pavilion at Trinity, or the Labyrinth at SMWC, or at your home. Feel free to reach out and I’ll look forward to connecting! I will, of course, also be continuing phone and Zoom pastoral visits.

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](https://www.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



Thoughts from the Organ Bench

by Glenn Courtney, Organist

SMWC and Trinity

The Story Behind The Hymn, "Just As I Am"

Just As I Am is one of the few hymns for which we know not only the author's story but also the exact circumstances in which it was written. Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England (1789–1871) in early life became an invalid. Her life was a testimony to patient endurance in suffering, not only physical, but also emotional and spiritual. Her grandfather was a famous evangelical preacher. Her family, who belonged to the evangelical wing of the Anglican Church, taught her Christian piety.

Elliott was a famous humorous poet during her youth. At the age of 32, she suffered from a serious illness that left her disabled for the rest of her life. Then her lifelong spiritual mentor César Malan, a Swiss minister and hymnologist, counseled her to replace her rage and inner conflict with peace, and simple faith in God; from that day on, she turned her literary talents to writing hymns.

Although sometimes depressed by her condition, she always felt renewed by the assurance of salvation, and she responded to her Savior in hymns with her "strong imagination and a well cultured and intellectual mind" (John D. Julian, *A Dictionary of Hymnology*, 1892).

By the invitation of Harriet Kiernan and the suggestion of the Rev. Hugh White, Elliott became the editor of *Christian Remembrance Pocket-Book* (1834-1859) and published *The Invalid's Hymnbook* in 1834. She wrote about 150 hymns. Her most famous, *Just as I Am*, is widely used in English and North American hymnals today.

According to her nephew, The Rev. Handley C. G. Moule, this is how the writing of *Just As I Am* came about: Ill health still beset Ms. Elliott... it often caused her the peculiar pain of a seeming uselessness in her life while the circle of friends and relatives around her was full of unresting service for God. Such a time of trial marked the year 1834, when she was forty-five years old, and living in Westfield Lodge, Brighton.

Her brother, the Rev. H. V. Elliott, had not long before conceived the plan of St. Mary's Hall, at Brighton — a school designed to give, at nominal cost, a high education to the daughters of clergymen. In aid of St. Mary's Hall there was to be held a bazaar; Westfield Lodge was all astir; every member of the large circle was occupied morning and night in the preparations, with the one exception of the ailing sister Charlotte — as full of eager interest as any of them, but physically unable to help.

The night before the bazaar she was kept wakeful by distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness; and these thoughts passed — by a transition easy to imagine — into a spiritual conflict, till she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life, and wondered whether it were anything better than an illusion of the emotions, an illusion ready to be sorrowfully dissolved.

The next day, the busy day of the bazaar, she lay upon her sofa. The troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, his

(continued next page)

power, his promise. And taking pen and paper from the table she deliberately set down in writing, for her own comfort, 'the formula of her faith.' Hers was a heart which always tended to express its depths in verse. So in verse she restated to herself the gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven.

Within a matter of years Ms. Elliott had the hymn published in *The Invalid's Hymn Book*, and from there it spread and gained in popularity.

Many people associate *Just As I Am* with the life and ministry of Billy Graham as for years it was sung during altar calls at his crusades; it is also the title of his autobiography.

The hymn has been set to at least four tunes, the best known being *Woodworth*, which was written by William B. Bradbury, and was first published in the *Third Book of Psalms* in 1849.

***Just As I Am* original hymn lyrics:**

Just as I am – without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Here are two performances of *Just As I Am*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tdmQh-MIIA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxA0TFe3-Uo>

Sources: believersportal.com, umcdiscipleship.org

Reflection

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23

I had to look back in my file of past Time Together Reflections to find the previous issue in which I wrote about remembering those who have died in this pandemic. I wrote on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 3rd, when the United States death toll from the pandemic was just over 65,000. I remembered those many “good shepherds” among our health care workers who have stepped in, and continue to step in, offering comfort and companionship as patients die without loved ones close by to hold their hand.

Now just a little more than three months later, I write as the death toll in the United States is close to 165,000. The numbers are staggering and so demoralizing... so many good folks, part of our United States, dead, young and old, all too soon. Our photo shows the funeral of just one of those 165,000 who have died, Charles “Rob” Roberts, a Glen Ridge, New Jersey police officer who contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty in April, and died at the age of 45 in May. Rob, married and a father of three children, was an officer in the schools’ drug education program who mentored students and who seemed to know just about every resident by name.



In our own community we may feel that the virus is far away, but folks here have lost loved ones too. Theresa Kanuck’s cousin, Mary Lou, died in Pennsylvania in May. Angela Bethea, a friend from our Chair Yoga class, lost her Aunt Doris to COVID in April in New York.

I have never been good at estimating or grasping large numbers. So, in order to try and grasp 165,000 folks dead of COVID-19 in our country, I turned to other numbers to try

and understand better. I learned that with 165,000 and the number still rising, the number of dead from COVID-19 is more than the number of Americans killed in World War I (116,708), the Korean War(36,516), and the Vietnam War (58,318). Only World War II (405,399) and the Civil War (U.S. Army: 364,511 and Confederate Army: 290,000; Total: 654,511) claimed more than COVID-19 so far.

I return again to our Good Shepherd, to bring my grief for Cousin Mary Lou, Aunt Doris, and Officer Rob Roberts and so many more folks, each a part of families, communities, businesses, schools, houses of worship, and now gone. And gone in a time period, now just six months, so much faster than any war. I take comfort that God knows the names of each one who has died of COVID-19, and God knows of the still new grief with each family member, each friend. As with our war dead, we need to honor them and remember them and say their names. And may we each act as good shepherds ourselves and do all we can to protect others and slow the voracious pace of this deadly, and so contagious virus. *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”* Amen.