

Time Together

While We are Apart

St. Mary's Whitechapel and Trinity Episcopal Churches

Wednesday,
September 23, 2020

Good day, dear church communities,

Today we feature another "Picture from the Past!" This bright-eyed toddler (now a member of Trinity) was about two years old in 1948. She was living in a major metropolitan area on the east coast; if I get more specific many will be able to guess immediately, as she still speaks of growing up in this city with her older sister. Do you have a guess? Check the first Announcement to find out if you are right! Do you have a "Picture from the Past" to share with our church communities? We need more photos! Contact Megan to share a snap of your adorable self! (804-477-5515; rectorstmtrin@gmail.com) So far only women have volunteered a photo; I'm looking for a brave man to be the first to send in his photo!

I need your help with a simple but important task that has been put off due to our unusual worship circumstances. We need to take a bit of time and review our prayer lists. A few examples point to our need for this review! Nancy Brandon stopped by church recently, just as our September Food Pantry was finishing. She was a gift to our tired souls, as she came to help with clean up, cheerfully washing down the tables in the parish hall and helping with the trash. When she saw me, Nancy exclaimed: "You can take me off the prayer list!" She went on to explain that her cancer treatments were done, as well as follow up scans and that she was doing great. A second example, I had placed Bishop Susan on our prayer lists in the spring, as she was facing surgery for breast cancer, and then chemo afterwards. She has now finished her treatments and is doing well, thus I have removed her from our lists.



Please take a few minutes to look over the prayer lists on the next page, and if you have put a name on the lists, let Paula know if you would like that name to remain on the list or be removed. We are glad to keep any name on our lists; we are just overdue for a checking of the lists. Paula can be reached at: stmarys.whitechapel@gmail.com.

Unclaimed names will be removed; of course, if you want a name put back on at any time, we are glad to do so. Many thanks for your help in keeping our prayer lists up to date!

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.

Giovanny Elhordoy is on our Trinity prayer list in the Armed Forces section. Donna and Pete Ransone put him on the prayer list; he is married to Donna's daughter Rachel. I had reported to you all that Gio, as his family calls him, was stationed in Afghanistan and he and his whole team had come down with COVID. I also reported Gio and his team recovered well and were able to rejoin their unit. The good news now is that Gio has come home from this deployment to Afghanistan and is now stationed in Florida and home with Rachel! Gio will remain on our Armed Forces prayer list as he continues to serve in the Army.

Trinity: Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Fran Davis, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Walter and Barbara Nunnery, Steve, Rick Bateman, Jenny Dunaway, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Donna Alexander, Mary and Karen Jackson, 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: Agnes Robbie, Chuck McGrath, Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Jori Keckman, Ron Okrasinski, 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, 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: Jacob Sensenig, Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Mark Medina, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

September and October Birthdays and Anniversaries

SMWC Birthdays: 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; Lydia Brittle, October 6; Mary Sue Courtney, October 10; Don DeFilippo, October 12; Anne Stanley, October 22

Anniversaries: Don and Jean DeFilippo, September 11

Trinity Birthdays: 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; 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

Trinity Anniversaries: Dave and Susan Whitlow, October 5th; Anne and Milton Kingsbury, October 13th

Announcements:

Our "Picture from the Past" is of Ellen Tracey of Trinity! She grew up in Baltimore with her older sister, Deb, who has joined us for Zoom worship, all the way from Nebraska! Many thanks, Ellen, for this wonderful Picture from your Past!

Our Zoom worship service meets 5pm Saturdays with Prayers for the Evening. Paula will send the bulletin and the Zoom invitation to all that day. This service is a lovely, quiet way to enter into the evening, and we have gathered a wonderful 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. We are running close to our maximum number of 50 seats, so please be sure to text or email Megan so we can save a seat for you. Masks are required and we maintain six 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

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

You Raise Me Up is a favorite song of this writer and probably that of many individuals. It was originally composed by the Norwegian-Irish duo Secret Garden. The music was written by Secret Garden's Rolf Løvland, and the lyrics by Brendan Graham. Loveland stated that the song was performed for the first time at his mother's funeral. Originally an instrumental piece, the words were added later... Loveland approached Irish novelist Brendan Graham after he (Loveland) read Graham's novels. The melody was originally titled *Silent Story*. When in studio, the original mix was made with the violin.

After the song was performed early in 2002 by Secret Garden and their invited lead singer, Brian Kennedy, the song only became a minor UK hit. The song has since been recorded by more than a hundred other artists including American songwriter Josh Groban in 2003 and Irish boy band Westlife in 2005, whose versions were hits in their countries. Welsh singer Aled Jones recorded a successful cover in 2004, and all-female Irish ensemble Celtic Woman in 2004 as well, enjoying massive world-wide success with it in 2005.

In 2003, David Foster decided to produce the song after being introduced to it by Frank Petrone of peermusic, the song's publisher. He chose the up-and-coming Josh Groban to record the song, which was accompanied by the tenor Craig Von Vennik of the Establishment. Groban's version made it to #1 on the Billboard adult contemporary chart in early 2004 and remained there for six weeks. This version also peaked at #73 on the Billboard Hot 100, his first single to do so, and was nominated for a 2005 Grammy award.

In 2004, the song was played more than 500,000 times on American radio. In late 2005, there were over 80 versions available in the US alone, and it has been nominated for Gospel Music Awards four times, including "Song of the Year."

On 21 September 2006, *You Raise Me Up* became the first song to have sold over 76,000 copies of the score on the popular sheet music website musicnotes.com.

The Irish band Westlife's official music video for *You Raise Me Up* was shot in late-2005 and was directed by Alex Hemming. It is currently the most played *You Raise Me Up* official music video version on YouTube with 73 million views as of January 2019. It is also their most-streamed single of all time with 19.7 million listens in the United Kingdom as of January 2019. It is the band's third best selling single of all-time on both paid-for and combined sales categories. It is their eighth most streamed song of all time from their home country, the Republic of Ireland, as of 2 April 2019. It is the second best-selling single of 2005 in Ireland. The song has had similar popularity in many other countries worldwide.

Here are the lyrics to *You Raise Me Up*:

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up, to more than I can be.

There is no life no life without its hunger
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly
But when you come and I am filled with wonder
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
And I am strong, when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up, to more than I can be.

You Raise Me Up is a song that has most likely inspired millions around the world with its message of hope, strength and overcoming. Is it a “spiritual” song? a “religious” one? a hymn? “gospel”? There is no mention in the lyrics of God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

Who is the “You” in the lyrics? God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, a friend, lover, parent, spouse, or child? There are many interpretations. I think many have found healing and indeed, have strengthened their relationship with God through this song. Some say it is a powerful hymn to make us realize how lucky we are to have God beside us. Viewpoints vary on who raises a particular individual up. Rolf Loveland stated everyone raises one another up, others point to a specific person and Josh Groban states that God raises him up and that *the lyrics of this song convey a strong belief in God and the message of power and strength through faith. The song effectively portrays Josh Groban's expression of faith and also presents the influence of his Episcopalian religion in the lyrics.*

Who raises you up?

I hope you will enjoy one or all of these three performances; the first by the Tabernacle Choir; the second by Westlife, and the third by Josh Groban.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6ojnuHuTa8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bxc9hbwkkw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJxrX42WcjQ>

Sources: <http://dianaleaghmatthews.com>, <https://sites.google.com/site/joshgrobansite/analysis-1>, [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You_Raise_Me_Up)

Reflection

This September is one of the coolest I can remember. So often we stay in 80 degree temperatures in September, and even the 90s. But this year is such a blessing of lovely days and cool nights. About fifty folks have gathered at the Pavilion the past two Sundays for worship that now includes communion. And as has become my new normal, I am always looking ahead, wondering if the weather gets cooler will this worship setting work into late October, November? What will we need to do then?

And the weather is, of course, not the only consideration. Lancaster County is currently experiencing a spike in cases of COVID. The Virginia Department of Health shows an almost daily rise in our case numbers, as of this writing, at 140 cases. The Diocese is now using the work of Harvard Global Health Institute and Brown University School of Public Health for a simpler metric to determine when a church might be able to reopen. Rather than look at a Health District, the Diocese is using this website to look at counties to determine if a church is in a riskier area to reopen. According to this work by Harvard and Brown University, Lancaster and Northumberland are two of only ten counties in Virginia now designated as red, highest risk. Thus, moving indoors for worship is not going to happen soon for us.

But I find myself, as the weather cools and autumn moves forward, feeling more wary of being indoors with groups. The CDC reports that the virus lives longer in the cool, dry air, and that we are most susceptible to catching the virus when we are with other people indoors, without fresh air circulation. And as we reach the terrible, grief-soaked number of 200,000 dead in the United States, we must be thoughtful and careful. Will we be able to move indoors as cold weather comes on? And if we can, should we?

I do not know any of the answers, but I do know that God is in the midst of all of these questions, and God is with us in all the chaos and sorrow that the pandemic has brought us. God is with us when we gather in the Pavilion; God is with us when we gather on Zoom on Saturday evenings as the sun sets; and God will be with us as we move into the fall and winter and discern how to gather in the safest ways. I find a favorite old hymn humming in my head as I write this reflection, so I will finish with these words of comfort and hope:

“Oh God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.”

Amen.