



Trinity Topics

From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

Dear Friends,

February brings with it the beginning of Lent, a season of introspection, of looking deep inside and reflecting on just who we are/I am. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, one of those "Hallmark holidays". It seems appropriate then, to focus on **God's** great love for us. I share an excerpt from Joyce Rupp's book, *The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth*. I was intrigued with the section on *Disguised Blessings*:

Some of our greatest blessings have been difficult situations, uncomfortable ones we wanted to throw out of our lives as quickly as possible. Sometimes our greatest pain holds a gift for us that is hidden for a long, long time. The blessing is disguised amid the turmoil, confusion, heartache, and struggle. Sometimes we are unable to accept the blessing because we are still too hurt, too angry, too grieved, too overwhelmed, to receive it. It is only much later that we see the gift that has come from what we thought would destroy our happiness forever.

My brother David drowned at age twenty-three. I was twenty-five at the time. It was fifteen years before I found my gift amidst the grief. It was his death that led me to write about goodbyes, loss, and grief. It was my struggle with this catastrophe that helped me become the writer I am today. I would never say that my brother's death was a blessing, but I can now say that the insights and spiritual growth that eventually came out of that experience were blessings disguised within the sorrow.

Within each struggle, there is a blessing waiting to happen. The biblical passage of Jacob struggling with a messenger of God is a symbolic story of our

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own struggle with the unwanted parts of our life. All during the long night (the darkness) Jacob wrestles with this unknown figure (our unwanted life experiences). Jacob is wounded in the process (our memory of the experience). He is wise enough to say to hope, some wisdom from this inner wrestling match.”) Jacob goes away limping, but he is wiser than he was before the struggle began.

Sometimes the pain of our life doesn't make much sense, but usually disguised blessings eventually come to light when we leave the fray behind and begin to let go of what has brought us so much misery. In the process of healing, we begin to see the blessings that are ours. Today is a day to survey an experience that you wish you never had and to see if there might be a blessing hidden within it.

Prayer: Holy Wisdom, come with your vast vision. Help me to sift through the rubble of my trying times, to find the teachings that can guide my life. You who see far beyond the devastation, lead me to believe that there might be gifts in what I want to toss away. I offer you my gratitude for all the disguised blessings that are mine.

Today: If an unwanted experience occurs today, I will not toss it out until I struggle to find a blessing in it.

Ash Wednesday Services with Imposition of Ashes

February 14 in the Sanctuary

Noon (no music)

and 7 p.m. (with music)

Healing Service via Zoom Thursdays at Noon

We continue to offer a Healing Service via Zoom on Thursdays at Noon. The Zoom link is emailed via our Constant Contact email service on Wednesdays along with a copy of the order of service for the week. The order of service is also shared on the screen during the service itself. We commemorate a “saint” from the Episcopal Church utilizing the resource ‘A Great Cloud of Witnesses’ and share a little healing music from a variety of sources.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER BUFFET

Join us on Tuesday, 2/13, for pancakes, sausage, juices, and homemade desserts. Come anytime from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Cost = \$4.00 for adults; \$2.00 for children ages 4-10; and free for children 3 and under.

Parish Administrator – New Office Hours

Jamoca Harkins has new office hours. She is in the church office Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays.

Vestry Meeting – Sunday, February 18th at 11 a.m.

in the social hall

Monday Bible Study

We now meet on Mondays in the Parish Hall from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. The Bible Study includes videos, discussion and handouts based on material of Anglican Bishop NT Wright. Bring yourself and your favorite Bible. You may bring a lunch and beverage with you. You may also want to bring a notebook and pen to take notes. We are doing a survey of the books of the New Testament through April, and then go deeper into a New Testament book of the group's choosing.



Aaron Bruce	3-Feb
Violet Armstead	9-Feb
Michael Magness	10-Feb
Andrew Bentley	13-Feb
Martha Rutledge	14-Feb
Pat Hendricks	17-Feb
Vic Shanley III	20-Feb
Patricia Vogt	22-Feb
Jamoca Harkins	25-Feb
Kent Nation	26-Feb
Laverne Cheatham	27-Feb

Craig & Nicole McGovern 22-Feb

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Healing Service 12noon		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		AA 7PM		Healing Service 12noon		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Shrove Tuesday ***** AA 7PM	Ash Wednesday ***** Valentine's Day	Healing Service 12noon		SH Rented
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Vestry Meeting 11AM	<u>President's Day</u> Office Closed	AA 7PM		Healing Service 12noon		
25	26	27	28	29		
Vet's Brunch		AA 7PM		Healing Service 12noon		

Readers, Servers and Greeters for February 2024

Date	Readers	Psalm	Prayers
2/4	Minnie Kirwin	Betty Sullivan	Seth Haak
2/11	Vic Shanley	Chris Haak	Greg Bentley
2/18	Tom Swett	Deborah Murray	Erika Haak
2/25	Bill Terry	Kent Nation	Pat Bush

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY

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For more information

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Mission Statement

Church of the Trinity is a
congregation rooted in the
faith and love of Christ, unified
in diversity, seeking to grow
and nourish the Trinity family
and our Coatesville
community.

Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist

Sundays 9:30 AM

Thursdays 12:00 PM

Jamoca Harkins,
Parish Administrator

Parish Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 1-3 PM

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4-7 PM

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
323 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, Pennsylvania
19320-3409

Church School

Sundays: 9:15 AM