

# The Message

The Newsletter of

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - Little Rock, Arkansas

A House of Prayer for All People

Lent 2021

## Hope For the Future

*by The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Dean and Rector*

When the world shut down on March 13, 2020, my family still lived in Kentucky. Indeed, four members of Trinity's search committee were scheduled to visit that weekend. I remember telling my children to bring everything home from school that Friday. I remember sitting in the van at a stop light and the anxiety in my gut. I remember having no idea what would happen next.



The "Pandemic Two Week Shut Down" began the third Wednesday of Lent in 2020. Then, we imagined we'd be back in church for Easter. As the days passed, it became more and more evident we would not be back for Easter. It was anyone's best guess when we might be back at church, school, or even, for some, work. And, I began to think about the disciples.

I thought about their last days, even hours, with Jesus. I wondered who cleaned all the dirty dishes from The Last Supper, about their conversation or their silence. I wondered about Peter and Mary Magdalene. I wondered about the isolation of the disciples, from God, their community, even one another. I wondered if they were afraid, sad, and lonely. I realized that we have the luxury of the resurrection; we know how the story ends. Meanwhile, Peter, Mary, and the disciples had no idea

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## Thoughts on Reconciliation

*by The Rev. Canon Dr. Russell Snapp, Sub-Dean*

In January 1978, Fr. Hale, the North Carolina priest who hosted our Sewanee choir, privately expressed his dismay that some young priests, with whom he had recently talked, denied that priests have the power to forgive sins. Echoing some 16th-century Protestant reformers, they might have quoted the scribes in chapter 2 of Mark's gospel, who asked "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Fr. Hale would have agreed that forgiveness

comes from God alone, through Christ. Nevertheless, he leaned toward the Catholic heritage of Anglicanism in believing that ordination confers on priests the power, given to the Church by Christ, to absolve sins—i.e., to pronounce that they are forgiven, giving those who are truly penitent a fresh start, so that they can walk "from henceforth" in God's "holy ways." (BCP, p. 330)

The classic words used when a Bishop ordains someone to the priesthood express this tradition, alluding to Christ's giving Peter "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew 16: "Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained . . ." (1928 BCP, p. 546; English 1662 BCP, p. 459)

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## Trinity Cathedral Staff

## Dean and Rector

The Very Rev. Amy  
Dafler Meaux

## Clergy

The Rev. Deb Cooper  
The Rev. Dr. Lisa Corry  
The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke  
The Rev. Susan Payne  
The Rev. Canon  
Dr. J. Russell Snapp

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Jason  
Pennington-Saugey

## Lay Staff

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Joe Harris  
Dawn Howe  
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Mary Penick Hodges  
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## ECEP

Christy Poindexter

## The Vestry

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Neal Lea  
Junior Warden  
Tom Fennell  
Treasurer  
Herschel Cast  
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Susan Borné  
Member-at-Large  
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Mary Margaret Wippo  
Marcia Wayland

## Chancellor

Clarke Tucker

## Hope For the Future

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what would happen next. How did the disciples imagine their future? Where did they find hope?

These wonderings, and my imagination, permeated my experience of Easter last year. In John's Gospel, Jesus meets Mary in the garden; she mistakes him for the gardener. The women flee the empty tomb in terror in Mark's Gospel. These stories took on new character for me in the pandemic. Surely their isolation and anxiety shaped their experience of the cross and empty tomb. I imagine they were desperate to see Jesus: to make amends, to have one more chance, to say what they needed to say.

And now, here we are, one year from that "Pandemic Two Week Shut Down". The world is beginning to open back up. The Cathedral vestry has begun a master planning process, including examining our own mission and vision. How, we wonder, can we use our space to benefit our community? How will we imagine our future? Where do we find hope?

When I imagine people in the pews, our community gathered together, I get emotional. We have been isolated from one another for a year. Yes, I see you at the grocery, or at coffee, or on Spring Street. And, I long to join you in the Cathedral. There is nothing like saying our prayers together. There is nothing like sharing holy bread with one another. There is nothing like an Easter when we are together.

A lot has changed since March 2020. For my family, we have a new home, new schools, and new friends. Now, I remind my kids to take their masks wherever they go. I look out the window of my office and feel a deep well of joy in my heart. When I close my eyes, I can hear the bustle of people in the hallways and on Spring Street. I have hope for the future of the Cathedral and our community. Thanks be to God!

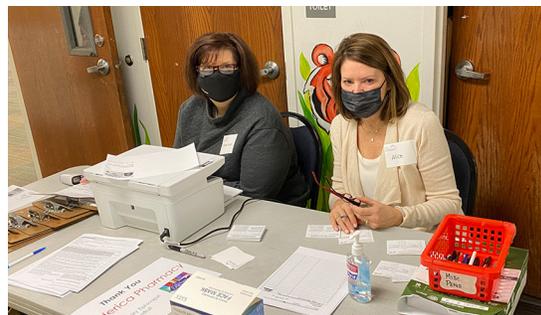
## Vaccine Clinic a Success

On Friday, March 5, sixty-eight people got their first Pfizer coronavirus vaccine at an impromptu clinic with vaccine provided by Freiderica Pharmacy.

Trinity staff and volunteers guided folks from Trinity, Bethel A.M.E. and our

greater community through the process of checking in, vaccination and recovery observation.

If the opportunity arises, we will let you know when and where the next clinic will be.



## February Vestry Retreat

On February 6, the vestry gathered on Zoom for their annual retreat. Dean Meaux kicked off the meeting by asking each person to introduce themselves and answer the question, "What would you do if you could not fail?" The answers were all very thoughtful and fell within the themes of community building, social justice and personal growth. Amy admitted she would choose being the Dean of Trinity Cathedral.



The first order of business was to elect officers. Neal Lea had already agreed to serve as Senior Warden and after a collegial discussion, Tom Fennell was chosen as Junior Warden, Lisa McNeir, Clerk, and Susan Borné as the Member-at-Large. Everyone agreed that Herschel Cast should continue as Treasurer, and it was even suggested that the bylaws be changed to allow him to be Treasurer-for-Life.

The master plan was discussed next. It will have a focus of supporting partnerships, building sustainability and environmental stewardship, and developing a positive presence in the community.

The vestry decided to engage the services of Polk, Stanley and Wilcox for the planning process, and because Sarah Benning is an Associate Principal Architect, she decided to step off the vestry. A vote was taken to replace Sarah with the next candidate, Susan Mehlberger.

Treasurer-for-Life Cast presented a carefully considered 2021 budget for approval. It takes into account the effects of our pandemic reality. Pledges are \$35,000 less than the \$1.3M goal, but expenses are predicted to be manageable. The vestry approved the deficit budget after Hershel explained that Trinity has appropriate cash balances to comfortably move forward. Hershel and Dean Meaux committed to monitoring the budget closely.

The Rev. Russ Snapp thanked the vestry for their service and reminded them of the importance of their lay ministry. On that fine note the group broke for lunch.

The afternoon session of the retreat was focused on mission, vision and strategic planning. Dean Meaux started the afternoon with a metaphorical observation about knitting and how different skeins of yarn are knit together to form a beautiful fabric. In her observation, she offered that the work of the Mission and Vision Committee and the Facilities Master Planning Team are like skeins that will be woven into the tapestry of Trinity's

future.

Amy continued by reviewing the core values and strategic filters from the 2017 Strategic Plan, and then breaking the vestry in to small groups for discussion. Their assignment was to talk about what is still relevant and what should be considered anew.

Returning from the Zoom breakout rooms, groups reported on their discussions. Some of the topics included:

- Peace and justice, and community engagement
- Being a place of reconciling diverse and divergent religious and social views.
- Sharing our wonderful Anglican tradition beyond organ recitals and high tea
- Continue the *Insights* series with speakers that would attract a more diverse population.

Amy thanked the vestry for their strong work of the day. The group has its work cut out for them, but they are definitely up for the task.

*Retreat documents can be found on the Vestry page of our website.*

### The Message

A newsletter about life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Send correspondence & address corrections to:

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## Youth and Children News

### Calling All Youth

We want you to stir your artistic abilities by creating thumbnails for our YouTube church services.

These thumbnails, are pictures or drawings that may follow the themes of Lent, the Sunday readings or might, for Holy Week, be images stirred in you related to the Stations of the Cross.

As you likely know, thumbnails are small images that probably get their name from its use in the phrase, "a picture the size of your thumbnail."

Whatever medium you would like to use, painting, drawing, collage, even digital. Your artwork should be in a 16:9 ratio, which on a piece of paper would be 10" x 5 5/8", or you can get a template on our website, <http://bit.ly/TrinityThumbnail>. If you make a digital design make sure it is 1280px by 720px.

Scan your artwork and email it to [jack@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:jack@trinitylittlerock.org), or bring it by the cathedral and drop it off at the office.

Please contact the Rev. Dr. Lisa Corry ([lisat@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:lisat@trinitylittlerock.org)) with your interest or questions.

### Step Through the Wardrobe With Us

*The Chronicles of Narnia story time*

Beginning March 17th on weekdays and then beginning Good Friday each day until Tuesday, April 6th video recordings of chapters of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis being read will



be available on YouTube. These can be watched daily or all at once! We'll also schedule an opportunity to discuss the book together either in person outside, or by Zoom.

Look for more information coming soon via Realm!!

### ECEP Kids Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday With a Parade



## Lenten Playlist on YouTube

Victoria and the Trinity Schola have created a playlist on the Trinity YouTube channel which contains music to assist in meditation and reflection during this penitential season. There are also frequent postings on the Music at Trinity facebook page which may be easily accessed. If you have a hymn or an anthem that you would like recorded, please do not hesitate to contact Victoria at [victoria@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:victoria@trinitylittlerock.org).



## Confession

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All Anglican Prayer Books through the centuries refer to priests giving “absolution” after general prayers of confession, as we experience at most Eucharists and sometimes in Morning and Evening Prayer. However, with the Reformation, the Church of England departed from the tradition of considering private confession before a priest, or Penance, as one of seven sacraments. Consequently, this practice, which was so prominent in the Middle Ages, fell into disuse in the Church of England and its offshoots, although the Prayer Book service for the Visitation of the Sick did include a priestly absolution to be used when “the sick person be moved to make a special Confession of his sins . . . .” (1662 BCP, p. 240; 1928 BCP, p. 323)

This heritage from the Western Catholic tradition formed the basis for an Anglican revival of the practice of private, or “auricular” confession before a priest, beginning in the 1830s as the Oxford Movement, or Catholic revival, got under way. This movement aimed for holiness, which its proponents believed would come as people, following ancient tradition, participated in the worship and sacramental life of the Church, including the possibility of private confession and absolution. The founder of Trinity Cathedral, Bishop Henry Niles Pierce, who was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement, saw such spiritual practices as the foundation of the Cathedral’s and of the larger Church’s mission. Private confession in the presence of a priest was seen as one of a number of ways God’s grace was channeled through the Church, for the benefit of a Christian penitent and of

## Music Director Search by Scott Whitfield

The search for our new Director of Music has begun in earnest. The application process opened in February and runs through March 15. We have received information from many qualified individuals from various areas around the country. Please keep the search committee in your prayers as we begin making our way through resumes and recordings. It is our hope to have someone in place by mid-summer.

the Church and world in which he or she ministers.

Despite a feeling among some Anglicans on both sides of the Atlantic that the Oxford Movement took too “High” a view of the Church and leaned toward Roman Catholicism, this movement reshaped the Church and led to significant changes such as weekly celebrations of the Eucharist at our main services, beginning in the 20th century. Our 1979 Book of Common Prayer, unlike earlier editions, calls “the Reconciliation of a Penitent” one of the “sacramental rites which evolved in the Church” since biblical times (pp. 860-61). It also provides two liturgies for this practice (pp. 447-452).

Private confession is still not a regular, general practice in the Episcopal Church or the wider Anglican Communion, but it is a sacramental treasure whereby a Christian can fully come to terms with hindrances to fullness of life in Christ and receive grace to move forward on a truly life-giving path. I don’t know who said it originally, but I like the old saying about private confession and absolution in the Anglican tradition: “All may, none must, some should!”

To learn more about this practice and how to prepare for it, I recommend Martin L. Smith’s book, *Reconciliation: Preparing for Confession in the Episcopal Church*. Your clergy will be glad to discuss the Rite of Reconciliation with you and to make appointments for this Rite for this Lent and beyond!

Russ Snapp

## Ministry Partners

### *Live-streaming keeps us connected*

A year ago when the pandemic shut our doors to in person worship Trinity joined scores of other churches around the country in throwing together a version of the service that people could “participate” in from their homes.

The early going was a basic, one camera affair, streamed directly to Facebook and YouTube. Surely that would be all that was needed for a few weeks of online worship, but as the pandemic restrictions extended longer and longer, it became clear that improvements would need to be made.

Two Mevo cameras were purchased and a subscription was set up with Vimeo Livestream. Sounds simple enough, but the Livestream software alone has a 757 page user manual.



*Richard Moore at the mixing booth*

Fortunately for Trinity, Richard Moore got involved. He has a degree in broadcasting, and spent 20 years working in radio. He happily brings that experience to our live-streamed services.

Richard read the pertinent parts of the manual and watched a lot of livestreamed services from other places like Washington National Cathedral. Using those as a benchmark, he determined what we could do to improve our presentation.

Each week before the service, Richard takes short videos to include in the broadcast, and types in all subtitles and credits. Then during the service he works his magic, fading between cameras and video clips, pushing in text, and adjusting sound. All to great effect.

Be sure you say, “thank you,” to Richard the next time you see him.

### *A special ministry through flowers*

Sandra Cook is a founding member of the Trinity Flower Guild and for many years she has been the co-chair, making sure the group was organized to enliven our worship space with beautiful flowers.

Sandra has decided to step down as co-chair, but will continue to be part of what she considers one of the best ministries of the Cathedral.

Beyond providing flowers for the regular services, the Flower Guild provides a low cost option for weddings and funerals. They donate their time, and provide the flowers at cost, taking a little bit of stress out of those big life events.

Sandra loves working with the guild. She says they are a great group of people who really get down and get to work. Some people take on the big lavish displays



*Sandra Cook in her home*

at the alter, while others are more comfortable with a simple arrangement for the chapel. She says anyone who is willing to participate is welcome to join.

She shared an important tip about flower arranging. Always get your flowers enough in advance so they can be conditioned and adjust to their new environment. This tip will keep you from watching your arrangement slowly wilt during an event.

Sandra is excited about returning to in person worship at the Cathedral. She has really missed seeing people and is looking forward to all the wonderful social interactions.

Beth Hathaway Barnes has been the co-chair with Sandra and will continue as the chair moving forward.

## Book Drive for Dorcas House

The Matthew 25 Outreach Committee has a new project to help the residents of Dorcas House: Stock book shelves at Dorcas House for women & children's reading. We hope you can help!

We are looking for new or gently used books along the following themes:

- Spiritual growth
- Health
- Self-improvement
- Children's books

A box is inside the church entrance at the north ramp door (in the vestibule outside the Chapel) where the books may be left. We'll be collecting now through March 15.

For those not familiar with the mission of Dorcas House, it shares the compassion of Christ with the women and children of Central Arkansas who are in the greatest need. Dorcas provides housing, classes, counseling, daily chapel time, and other services that help them begin to change their lives. Through a relationship with Jesus Christ, women trapped in domestic violence or struggling with chemical dependency or other addictions find the hope and support they have so desperately needed to break the shackles of their past and rebuild a new life.



## Neighborhood Pantry by Lisa Corry



The motto of Little Free Pantry is “Take What You Need, Give What You Can.” The beauty of this ministry for us as a congregation is that it is direct participation – we are not looking for food to be donated to the church or brought to the church office, but to be directly placed by you in the box. Please consider purchasing a little extra at the store for folks who are struggling with food scarcity.

The website for the Little Free Pantry offers the following description:

The Little Free Pantry is for neighbors helping neighbors. In high poverty areas, the Little Free Pantry is most often for those who are not easily able to meet everyday food and personal needs. In middle class neighborhoods, the Little Free Pantry might stock after-school snacks for neighborhood kids or that “cup of sugar” you never have when you need it. (In my case it's an onion.) In all places, the Little Free Pantry is for those who want and/or need to give.

The Little Free Pantry is small, so it cannot stock the quantity and variety other food pantries can. For this reason, it should not be relied on for meeting pervasive need.

Many food pantries require application before use and have set hours of operation. Anyone may access the Little Free Pantry at any time.

Food pantries operate as service providers, those who use them as clients. The Little Free Pantry dissolves that professional boundary. Whether stocking or taking stock, everyone approaches the Little Free Pantry the same way, mediating the shame that accompanies need.

Food pantries are critical in addressing food insecurity. But some fall through the cracks. The Little Free Pantry is a safety net.

The Little Free Pantry is a proving ground, testing concepts like community, charity, justice, and sharing economy.

Please consider stopping by and adding food as you're able or taking food as you need.

If you have questions please contact Lisa Corry, [lisa@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:lisa@trinitylittlerock.org)



## Holy Week at Trinity

The Cathedral staff is working with guidance from Bishop Benfield, on a schedule for Holy Week. The goal is to have all the services be in person, in the cathedral.

Easter Sunday services will be scheduled to allow for as many people as possible to participate safely, with time in between for cleaning.

Watch for email updates for the final schedule. It will include information about which services will have music, and which will be streamed live. All the services will be open to all without reservations.

We are excited to be together in this important season in the life of the Church.

