

TRINITY RECORD

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During the early days of the church as recorded in the Book of Acts, we read that Peter spoke to a crowd in the temple that gathered in awe after he and John had healed a man who'd been lame from birth. Peter addressed the crowd as "You Israelites". He took the opportunity to tell the listeners that it was not he and John, but God who was the real healer of the lame man. But Peter did not stop there. He added that God "glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead."

Peter really dishes out blame, and perhaps it's on target with some in his audience. It is altogether possible that some of those listening to him had been in the crowd that had yelled, "Crucify him!" when Pilate asked what he should do with Jesus. But Peter here lets Pilate off the hook, and tells his audience, "You killed the Author of life!" As we read the rest of the story, we see that Peter's purpose was to lead his audience to repent of their sins. So this "you killed Jesus" statement served as a way to jolt people into thinking about their overall rebellion against God, and to hear the message that if they repented, their sins would be "wiped out". And, as we read further, we see that his message was effective. Luke, the

Easter tide 2015

author of Acts, says that "many of those who heard the word believed."

To help us understand Peter's apparent use of a wide net of blame, it helps to realize that Luke was reporting a speech he was not present to hear, and it's possible that he shaped his rendition of Peter's sermon to support the larger teaching of the church leaders. But we'll never know for sure whether Peter actually intended to blame his entire audience for Jesus' death. And yet he surely wouldn't have supported the subsequent branding of Jews through the ages since as "Christ-killers". Yet such has been an unfortunate side effect of some of the New Testament language. We who follow Jesus today should care about this. Anti-Semitism is still a dangerous force running amok in the world today. And we who value and love the Bible need to recognize that wording that may have made sense in the context of the early church does not apply thereafter. And if we encounter someone spouting this heresy, we should be willing to speak up with a kindly and informed correction.

But that leaves us who want to live by the Bible with a dilemma. If parts of the Bible, such as this blaming of Jews no longer applies, does any of it, and how do we know which is which? In other words, which biblical material is bound to the time in which it was

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written, and which is timeless and thus applies for us today? The answer is not simple, but it is straightforward: We need to learn how to study the Bible. I don't intend this statement to be condescending, but the fact is the Bible is not an easy book. Neither is it overwhelming. To be able to sort out the time-bound from the timeless requires us to approach it with at least the same sort of rigor and willingness to hear it without bias with which we'd approach any complex subject. Granted, we are looking at the Bible to hear God's word to us. But we are looking at it for information and understanding as well.

And so an honest approach to Scripture must encompass the whole of Scripture. When we're considering a matter biblically, we should do so in the light of the whole mind and character of Jesus Christ as we know them and in the light of the mind and heart of God. That principle can help us hear what's timeless in Scripture. But there are also specific study procedures we can use to clarify what God's word is for us out of a piece of text. Here are seven things you can do before deciding how a passage may apply today:

1. Determine the Bible passage. Include enough context to be sure you are looking at a complete thought.
2. Read the passage carefully, word-for-word, as if you were seeing it for the first time.
3. Investigate key terms using a Bible dictionary to make sure you know what specific terms means in the context in which they appear.
4. Clarify the literary context. Read what comes before and after the passage to make sure you see how what you're studying fits into the spot it occupies in the text.
5. Clarify the canonical context. That is, look at where the passage is located in the Bible and if it is cross referenced. Discover where else in the Bible the topic of the passage is referenced.
6. Clarify the historical and geographical context. Who wrote the passage? When and where was it written? What was going on at the time? Bible handbooks and general introductions to books of the Bible can help fill in this information.
7. Finally, state the original meaning of the passage for the time, place and situation for which it was written.

Complete these seven steps and then consider what the passage means for today. This is the payoff for the in-depth work you've done. Once you answer those questions, you'll likely recognize where the Bible is addressing you.

We may now seem a long way from the discussion about blaming Jews for the death of Jesus, but if we apply this study procedure to the passage where Peter is preaching, we're likely to be reminded where we're ducking blame or blaming other for things we have done. And we can see that the larger message of the passage, that repenting of our sins and turning to God, wipes out our sins, "so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Father Bill+

Vestry

This month's Vestry meeting was a follow up to the very successful Parish Retreat we held on April 10th and 11th. The Leljedals and Jackie Draht attended the meeting to discuss our next steps which are detailed in a separate article in *The Record*.

We plan to pursue the purchase of an upgraded alarm system, which is both required by building code and needed by Trinity as we move forward with the use of our building. A separate Capital Campaign will be sent to the congregation, explaining the need and the amount required to install a complete system.

We heard reports from the other committees within the church and celebrated the wonderful Spring Fling luncheon that was held the previous week.

Our next Vestry meeting is May 13th at 7:00 pm in the Trinity Room. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Sue Draht

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March

INCOME

Pledges	\$5,000.00	\$4,720.84	\$279.16
Plate Offerings	\$83.00	\$91.67	-\$8.67
Regular NonPledge	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$340.00
Facility Use Income	\$625.00	\$2,670.59	-\$2,045.59
Pastoral Sub ELCA	\$3,907.13	\$3,907.13	\$0.00
Thrift Shop Operations	\$444.15	\$300.00	\$144.15
Outreach	\$87.40	\$0.00	\$87.40
Labyrinth	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Revitalization Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$140.00
Gifts Received	\$236.00	\$0.00	\$236.00
Boiler Reimbursement	\$23,218.71	\$0.00	\$23,218.71
Total Income	\$34,101.39	\$11,690.23	\$22,411.16

EXPENSES

Buildings & Grounds	\$28,597.58	\$5,335.86	\$23,261.72
Christian Ed & Spiritual Growth	\$206.74	\$312.53	-\$105.79
Diocese	\$1,429.21	\$1,429.25	-\$0.04
Governance	\$10,932.69	\$7,818.41	\$3,114.28
Lay Staff	\$2,037.50	\$1,960.84	\$76.66
Lay Staff Fringes	\$406.42	\$329.58	\$76.84
Miscellaneous	\$69.38	\$300.00	-\$230.62
Office Expenses	\$314.82	\$541.69	-\$226.87
Pastoral Care	\$0.00	\$12.50	-\$12.50
Outreach	\$325.95	\$0.00	\$325.95
Total Expenses	\$44,320.29	\$18,040.66	\$26,279.63
Positive/(Negative) results	-\$10,218.90	-\$6,350.43	-\$3,868.47

Offertory Counters

Each Monday morning throughout the year someone helps Kelly count the offertory money that was placed in the plate on Sunday. Georgia Jordan, Judy Sheasley, Carol Van Deusen and Joy Perry have all donated their time for the year 2015. Kelly needs help during the months of July, August, September and October. This process usually takes no more than thirty minutes. The Diocese requires that all money be handled by two people. If you would like to help out, please send Kelly either an email or call the office and let her know which month you are able to help.

Kelly Comfort

Trinity History

An Evolution of Trinity Church Part 1: The May Fair

Primarily in the 1960s and 70s, the month of May and many weeks before were busy times for the women's groups at Trinity Church. Annual May Fairs included card parties with dessert and sometimes a fashion show and bazaars were held in the Arnot Memorial Room. These were elegant affairs in the days when women dressed up to spend a weekday afternoon together playing cards. There are photographs in the Trinity archives which show the Parish Hall beautifully decorated and filled with card tables.



The May Fairs carried on a tradition which began in the earliest days of Trinity's history. In the summer of 1840 refreshments were served weekly at the Eagle Tavern to benefit the church. In 1854 a July 4th Ladies Fair was held in Ely's Hall and in 1874 the Ladies Society held a Peach and Ice Cream Festival in the church parlors on Baldwin Street. In those early days there was no Parish Hall at Trinity. While there are records that indicate that various women's groups over the years did make donations to mission, in at least one instance specifically to migrant workers, other monies were allocated to support the choir, to redecorate, or to support other needs of the church.

Watch for the rest of the story in June's edition of *The Record*!

Judy Sheasley

Second Place East, Inc.

Second Place East, Inc. is still counting on the individual churches that are involved with its program to donate selected good in the coming months. For the month of May, the designated good is toilet paper. Regular size toilet paper of any brand name will be acceptable and can be purchased at any Family Dollar, General Dollar, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or area grocery stores. Please put the designated good in the basket by the chapel door. Second Place East, Inc. thanks everyone for their help in this mission.

Labyrinth News

World Labyrinth Day Walk
Saturday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Labyrinth

On Saturday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm labyrinths around the globe will be open, each in their own time zone. Local labyrinths are joining together for one walk, which will be held on the outdoor labyrinth at Christ the Redeemer Parishes/Our Lady of Lourdes, 1100 West Church Street, Elmira. **“The World Walks as One at 1:00 pm.”**



Third Friday Walk at Trinity
“Honoring Mothers”
Friday, May 15th at 7:00 pm

Trinity’s Third Friday Walk will be held on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 pm. We will walk in honor of mothers, those who are with us and those who are separated from us by distance or by death.

The labyrinth offers a spiritual and still space for prayer and reflection. Walking a labyrinth is like making a pilgrimage—a journey where you might think about loved ones on the way in, be open to the grace and love of God at the center, and return uplifted and renewed.

Please join us!

Gloria O’Sullivan and Judy Sheasley

Altar Flowers

If you’d like to contribute toward altar flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for a person or event, a donation of \$40.00 is suggested. Thank you for helping beautify our worship. This month the altar flowers are in given in memory for the following individuals:

May 10th: Betty Thorne by Jackie Draht
May 17th: Stephen Culshaw and Irene Jones by Mary Culshaw
May 24th: Carl Edson by Sybil, Judy and Beth

Please contact the office if you would to place flowers on the altar.



Leadership Retreat

All members of the parish were invited to attend this year's Leadership Retreat that took place April 10th and 11th. This retreat focused on looking at options for a new pastoral ministry model as we anticipate Father Bill's pending retirement in June 2016. The retreat was very ably led by Pastor Judith Van Osdol of the Upstate New York Lutheran Synod. Seventeen members of the parish attended.

We discussed current thinking about the state of the church in today's world and addressed the following questions:

- What are we doing well?
- What are our missed opportunities?
- What are the BIG questions?

The importance of mission was stressed. The immediacy of moving forward in a timely manner was recognized and endorsed.

Thus, a follow up meeting of the Leadership Retreat Team was set for April 29th. Also, throughout the task set before us, we are committed to regular and frequent communications with the entire parish through *The Record*, Sunday Bulletins and Trinity's website and Facebook page.

The Wardens will meet first with our current partners, the Trustees of United Baptist Churches on May 20th and the Council President and Vice President of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Corning (TBD). We will then initiate conversations and work to develop relationships with area churches. The charge of the Leadership Team for the April 29th meeting is to identify the churches and to determine the nature of these conversations and the order in which they need to occur. Relationships in mission and ministry with other churches will be key to our success in the future. Creating a vision of the future of Trinity in today's changing world will be a priority as well.

Sue Draht & Judy Sheasley, Wardens

Keys

As some of you know the office is attempting to get a more accurate list of which individuals have keys to which doors. If you haven't already notified Kelly in the office and you have a key or two, please contact her at 732-3241. Thank you.



Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop continues to develop a following as a mission of our church. We continue to see growth in both the number of visitors and especially the all important repeat visitors. Our teams are enthusiastic and eager to work on a Saturday. We can always use more hands, however, especially with the summer season coming up with vacations. If you'd like to participate, please just let me know and we'll find a place for your participation.

We appreciate any and all donations, as always. We are transitioning to spring and summer clothing, so we'd prefer to receive new items we can put out now. But, if you're cleaning out closets and have some winter stuff, don't hesitate to bring it in. Donations can be left on the table in the hallway downstairs, behind the curtain in the "upper hall". If you need a receipt, please ask and we'd be happy to provide that.

We'll be open during the Park Church rummage sale on May 7th and 8th, as well as our normal hours on Saturdays in May. The Wisner Market starts in May and we will be open during those hours, where we have volunteers to man the shop. If you can help us on a Thursday, it would be much appreciated. I understand from the teams who work that they have a great time and are quite busy, so time flies by!

Thank you to all who are assisting in this important ministry that continues to evolve for Trinity.

Sue Draht

UTO INGATHERING May 10, 2015

"GOD GAVE YOU THE GIFT OF 86,000 SECONDS TODAY, HAVE YOU USED ONE TO SAY "THANK YOU"?"*

The United Thank Offering is a mission program of the Episcopal Church to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. As we give thanks for our many blessings and challenges, we also look toward serving others through our UTO participation. Our gifts are spread throughout the world in grants for widely varied, much needed projects. With grateful hearts and a discipline of giving in our daily life in Christ, our UTO offering is a tangible outpouring of our commitment to God and the Anglican Communion.

With thanks to everyone,
Joy Perry, UTO Chair

*William A. Ward

May Birthdays

1: Bill Stanton & Heather Lutz	10: Sybil Edson	27: Claire Elston
5: John Kelly	18: Nancy Annis & Stephen Buchholz	29: Laura Spaziani
6: Rosanna Smith	20: Al Draht	31: Nicholas Brown
8: Daureen Spaziani	21: Devella Colwell & Jack Elston	
9: George Eisinger	24: Tom Wingert	

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Date	Lector	EM	Intercessor	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Guild	Offering Counter
May 3 5 th Sunday of Easter	Steve Snyder Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21	Shelly Bacmanksi Psalm 22:24-30	Dan Brayer	Steve Buchholz	Mike Buchholz Al Draht	Tari Buchholz Carol Ostrander	Carol Van Deusen
May 10 Mother's Day 6 th Sunday of Easter	Sue Collins Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6	Dan Brayer Psalm 98	Georgia Jordan	Kendra Mace	Scott Mace Carol Van Deusen	Jackie Draht Jeanne Battisti	Carol Van Deusen
May 17 Rector's Discretionary Sunday 7 th Sunday of Easter	Shelly Bacmanksi Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13	Sue Draht Psalm 1	Esther Thomas	Nick Potter	Steve Snyder Joe Battisti	Judy Sheasley Emily Meyn	Carol Van Deusen
May 24 Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) Memorial Day	Esther Thomas Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27	Sue Nagle Psalm 104: 25-35, 37	Mark Lewis	Haleigh Carlson	Al Draht Carol Van Deusen	Nancy Isaacs Jeanne Battisti	Carol Van Deusen
May 31 Trinity Sunday	Emily Meyn Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17	Joy Perry Psalm 29 OR Canticle 2 or 13	Tari Buchholz	Steve Buchholz	Judy Sheasley	Jackie Draht Emily Meyn	Carol Van Deusen

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will take place this year July 12th (Sunday) – July 16th (Thursday). The cost will be \$10.00 per child with a maximum of \$25.00 per family. The hours will be in the evening, with dinner included in the cost. More information will be following as the date approaches.

May Anniversaries

26: Steven & Virginia Snyder

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office closed	2 Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm
					UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30am	Triple Talent Academy 9:00am-3:00pm World Labyrinth Day 1:00pm
3 Holy Eucharistic Service 9:00am UBC Adult Ed 10:00am Coffee hour 10:15am UBC Worship 11:00am UBC Coffee hour 12:00pm	4 Office open 9:00am-12:00pm Staff meeting 9:15am	5 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm	6 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm CCC 9:00am-11:00am 2nd Place East 11:00am Counseling 11:00am-8:00pm AA 12:15pm Buildings & Grounds/Finance 5:30pm UBC Choir Practice 6:30-8:00pm	7 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm	8 Office closed Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30am	9 Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm Triple Talent Academy 9:00am-3:00pm
10 Mother's Day Holy Eucharist and UTO InGathering Service 9:00am UBC Adult Ed 10:00am Coffee hour 10:15am UBC Worship 11:00am UBC Coffee hour 12:00pm	11 Office open 9:00am-12:00pm Staff meeting 9:15am	12 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm	13 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm CCC 9:00am-11:00am Counseling 11:00am-8:00pm AA 12:15pm Canterbury Way 2:00pm-4:00pm UBC Choir Practice 6:30-8:00pm Vestry 7:00pm	14 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm	15 Office closed UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30am Labyrinth 7:00pm	16 Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm Triple Talent Academy 9:00am-3:00pm
17 Holy Eucharistic and Rector's Discretionary Service 9:00am UBC Adult Ed 10:00am Coffee hour 10:15am UBC Worship 11:00am UBC Coffee hour 12:00pm Abrahamic Walk	18 Office open 9:00am-2:00pm Staff meeting 9:15am	19 Office open 9:00am-2:00pm	20 Office open 9:00am-2:00pm CCC 9:00am-11:00am Counseling 11:00am-8:00pm Area Clergy 12:00pm AA 12:15pm Aktion Club 5:00pm-9:00pm UBC Board of Trustees 5:00pm UBC Choir Practice 6:30-8:00pm	21 Office closed Thrift Shop open 10:00am-2:00pm if Wisner Park is open	22 Office closed UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30am Wedding rehearsal 4:00pm	23 Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm Triple Talent Academy 9:00am-3:00pm Nieber/Haberstock Wedding 6:30pm
24 Holy Eucharistic and Pentecost Service 9:00am UBC Adult Ed 10:00am Coffee hour 10:15am UBC Worship 11:00am UBC Coffee hour 12:00pm	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm Staff meeting 9:15am UBC Executive Board 5:30pm	27 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm CCC 9:00am-11:00am Counseling 11:00am-8:00pm AA 12:15pm Canterbury Way 2:00pm-4:00pm UBC Choir Practice 6:30-8:00pm	28 Office open 9:00am-1:00pm Thrift Shop open 10:00am-2:00pm if Wisner Park is open	29 Office closed UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30am	30 Spring planting day 8:00am Thrift Shop open 9:00am-12:00pm Triple Talent Academy 9:00am-3:00pm UBC Wedding 12:00pm
31 Holy Eucharistic Service 9:00am UBC Adult Ed 10:00am Coffee hour 10:15am UBC Worship 11:00am UBC Coffee hour 12:00pm						

Trinity Planting Day

Spring is here and it's time once again to beautify our grounds and gardens!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 30th and plan to join to pitch in. Any amount of time that you can give that morning will be much appreciated. NOTE: We are starting a little earlier this year in order to be done by 10:30 or 11:00 as there will be a wedding at the church at noon.

Bring rakes, gloves, gardening tools AND plants. Geraniums and begonias are suggested. IT looks like we need to avoid planting the common garden Impatiens again this year as they continue to be susceptible to "downy mildew". There are some new resistant varieties, however, so ask your nursery or buy New Guinea Impatiens instead.



Perennials from your gardens are strongly encouraged as well since they are hardy and will keep the need to buy annuals down in succeeding years.

Join in a morning of fresh air and family fun!

Judy Sheasley

From the American Red Cross

For those of you who were certified in the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED trainings two years ago, your certification will expire in June. If you are interested in recertifying, please contact Kelly in the office at 732-3241. Time and date will be determined based on those individuals' schedules.



THE WOUNDED HEALERS' BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP, INC.

will hold its monthly meeting on

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

This month's topic: "The Hardest Thing For Me..."

Time: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: St. Mary our Mother School, 811 Westlake Street, Horseheads, NY 14845

WHBSG is open to anyone who needs support, education and understanding in a time of grief after the death of a loved one.
There is no charge for the monthly meetings. All are welcome.

Counseling, Training Programs and Lectures

For more information, please call 607-796-2795 or contact us at www.woundedhealers.com

"Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

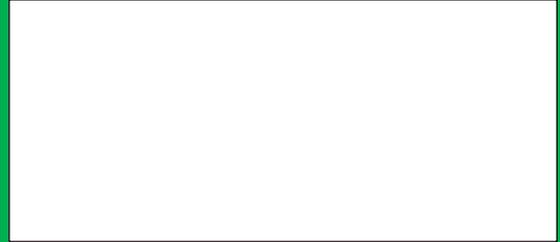
Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

Trinity Episcopal Church

304 North Main Street
Elmira, NY 14901

Phone: 607-732-3241
Fax: 607-732-3894
Email: info@trinitychurchelmira.org



Trinity Church: Serving God and
All People in Heart, Mind and Soul

www.trinitychurchelmira.org

Trinity Staff

Rector:	Rev. Dr. William C. Lutz Email: brsebastian@juno.com . Fr. Bill is at Trinity Church on Mondays and Wednesdays and is at Emanuel on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can always be reached at 725-1090.
Office Staff:	Kelly Comfort Email: info@trinitychurchelmira.org Office hours are usually Mondays 9:00am-12:00pm and Tuesdays-Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm unless otherwise noted in the calendar.
Sexton:	David Woodhouse
Organist:	Sharon Reynolds
Wardens:	Susan Draht and Judy Sheasley
Vestry Members:	Jeanne Battisti, Nancy Isaacs, Steve Snyder, Emily Meyn, Susan Nagle and Mike Buchholz
Treasurer:	Dori Riggs
Clerk of the Vestry:	Shelly Bacmanski