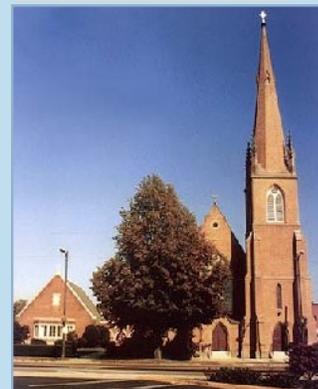


Trinity Church Record



June 2018

Volume 7, Issue 6



Our Last Big Thing

As many of you know Melody's sister, Theresa, died last week. While she had been receiving treatment for over a year for melanoma and its complications, it was only in the last couple weeks that she became irreversibly ill. She was consulting with doctors at M.D. Anderson Cancer Clinic in Houston, only four hours from her home. When she was told that the 'cocktail' of immunotherapy drugs she had been taking were no longer working, she had already decided for herself that she did not want to have her family live through her lengthy decline, and she did not want to spend weeks and perhaps months being unable to live fully. Theresa's decision that she would not seek additional treatment—even if just for comfort—resulted in her dying less than 48 hours later. As Melody pointed out, Theresa's decision was her "one, big, last thing." Theresa accepted the medical prognosis and the inevitability (if not the grace) of death, and chose to lovingly spare her family a prolonged decline.

It's a choice many of us have to make—weighing the balance of deeply held thoughts about the value of life over and against the strong urge of the medical profession to keep us alive at all costs and contrasted with the desires and anxieties of our loved ones who may have an entirely different idea of how we should be with them. All these can become a jumbled mess at the end of our lives. Clearly, our decisions reflect what we have chosen as highest priorities. And our decisions usually speak to the way we have lived for the whole of our lives—going along to get along, listening to others first, or carving our own path. When we consider it, we realize choices about the nature of life are in front of us quite frequently.

I have thought about this a lot since Theresa died. As I have said in the past few months, we have choices—about how we live, about **standing in front of** those things that matter to us; and **standing with** those we love and respect; and **standing for** values that are commendable by our Lord. This has drawn my mind to wonder what "One, Big, Last Thing" might we as people of God and Episcopalians of Chemung County do?

In the last few months, the Vestries and Wardens of Trinity and St. Matthew's have been in intense dialogue around our merger. We have looked at our respective financial positions; thought about our mission and ministry in our communities; found occasions for joint worship; and imagined how our buildings best serve us. We have talked about the sadness that we have come to this place; and the difficulty of letting go of all that we have established in our churches. All these steps are vital and need to be done. Plus, there is so much more to accomplish.

As I have urged these beloved folks on, I have asked that we be intentional about coming together in a visible, intentional way. As our worship is the primary thing we do, I have asked that we set a date to begin joint worship and have asked that we use Bishop DeDe's visit on June 10th as the date. Let's put a stake in the ground here, and say that from now on, we worship as one community. Worshiping together gives us a chance to get to know each other better, and to learn to trust that we can make decisions together.

The decisions around how to merge are complex and entangled. Most of us have a proclivity against change—don't change my worship hour, my pew, my favorite hymns, etc. Most of us have emotional attachments that we have developed over the years. We love a certain stained glass window, or appreciate how close the church is to our house, or the feel of the community with which we worship. We may be grateful that we have been allowed and affirmed in the ministries we are engaged in. We may feel relief that the church is still there, not needing anything more. Just knowing it is.

All these are normal, appropriate human reactions. Yet they may be diminished reactions from the largess that God wants to tease from us. One of my favorite quotes is from Marianne Williamson's *Return to Love*:

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us."

So, I ask you: What is your One, Big, Last Thing for St. Matthew's or Trinity? What is your grandest hope, your deepest wish that we do together? We know that for the foreseeable future, we need the strength and joy that we each bring to God in order to be complete. We know that the world has drastically changed over the last half-century, and that all our wishing and hoping for the good, old days won't be what brings people to church. We know that shaping a new vessel of love from two established communities won't be easy. We know that God has been with us countless times in the past. We know that it feels easier to take the "I'll stay here in my pew and do nothing about this and maybe it'll go away" mentality.

Yet, we worship a God who stretched out loving arms and created worlds. We swear allegiance to a savior who gave all he had to show us a path of life. We believe that confidence in that savior has launched countless mission trips, life journeys and new communities of faith. Why do we want to shrink back in fear when we have the God of the universe rooting for us?

So, I ask again: **What is your One, Big, Last Thing?** What will you do, now, to make our new life together more complete?

Wanda+



Trinity and St. Matthew's Church Picnic and Worship Service

Trinity and St. Matthew's annual Church Picnic and Worship Service will be held on July 1, 2018 at Harris Hill. We have reserved pavilion #1. We have been told that this pavilion is on level ground and near the rest rooms, so there will be easy access for all.

Worship begins at 10:30 with a picnic to follow. Picnic meats and desserts provided. Bring a dish to pass with serving utensils, table service, beverages and chairs.



**Next Vestry
Meeting
June 13
6:30 pm
At Emmanuel**

Vestry Report – Joint Session

Since our last report in the May *Record*, the Vestries of Trinity, St. Matthew’s and Emmanuel Churches have met twice. Each meeting opened with meditation and prayer for God’s help with the serious decisions we will be making.

May 2 at Trinity Church

Kitty Rolfe, Jr. Warden at St. Matthew’s, facilitated.

The meeting focus was reporting by the *ad hoc* committees prepared to do so. Those were Mission, Finance, Traditions, and Fellowship.

Mission shared the following “draft” mission: “Uniting in a welcoming worship and encouraging growth of the spirit of ministry and love;” **Finance** reported candidly on the assets and liabilities of each parish; **Traditions** distributed a listing of established traditions of each parish; and **Fellowship** focused on a “Picture Ourselves Together Potluck” at St. Matthew’s on Sat., May 19 following 5:30 p.m. worship. This social event, which will bring together the members of all parishes, provides parishioners an opportunity to get to know each other.

The following questions were presented for discussion:

1. Do we understand the need to merge?
2. What are the visible signs that people are “buying into” this idea?
3. What kinds of questions are being asked?
4. In our wildest dreams/most practical selves, where is the right space for us to become one?

The discussion ended with a commitment to coming to the next meeting prepared to discuss the “pros” and “cons” of each the parish, both its buildings and other relevant factors which would inform the decision regarding either a merge and/ or closing of a parish.

May 9 at St. Matthew’s

The meeting was facilitated by Pastor Wanda.

Fr. Bob Adkins represented Emmanuel Church.

The following were discussed:

The **Ad Hoc committees** which have not met were encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Calendar Items

The Bishop’s Visitation: Sun., June 10; with Confirmation

Locations were discussed, but no final decision was made.

Wanda’s Time Away: Wed. June 6-Sat. June 9 for a family event

Tues. July 3- Fri. July 13 to attend General Convention

July 1; time and location to be determined

Joint Parish Picnic: July 1; time and location to be determined

We then revisited the **Four Questions** listed above.

It was reported that few parishioners have asked questions about the work we are doing.

The “pros” and “cons” of St. Matthew’s and Trinity.

Items for these lists were recorded from the floor. They ranged from assets and liabilities of each building complex, including size and capacity; to the subsequent impact on the ministries of each parish; and to the character and needs of the neighborhoods and communities in which they are located. There was no further discussion. The exercise will be completed at a future meeting, as some Vestry members were absent from the meeting.

Other points to consider:

We need to be willing to let go of our space and to embrace a new vision; to think of this process not as merging, but instead as planting a new congregation.

We need to set our minds on our strengths as we move forward and not be afraid to try something new. Even if we have failures, we can learn from them.

We need to continue to move toward joint worship.

We need to keep Grace Church apprised of what we are doing, even though at this point they are on another path and invite them to join us when the Bishop is here on June 10.

The Vestries request your prayers as we continue our deliberations.

Faithfully submitted,

Susan Nagle

Judith Sheasley

Wardens of Trinity Church



Bishop DeDe's Pentecost Message: Come Outside!

Each time I approach Pentecost, I think, "I wish I could get some of that Holy Spirit!" I have tried for years to learn to speak Spanish. And I've improved, but I still can't speak very well. I would love it if God would just "boom" smack me on the head and give me the ability to communicate. To meet people that I haven't met before and be able to talk with them in their own language.

It takes work and effort and most of all, really, vulnerability. And there's a certain amount of fear in it. But then I think about the apostles and the disciples who had gathered in that upper room, who were terrified, probably fighting with each other, probably arguing about who's best and who's least, who should be the leader now and who should be the follower. And in that moment of fear and trepidation as they gathered and are hiding, literally hiding from the world, the Holy Spirit comes in with tongues of fire we're told (we don't know what those are exactly).

But they go out proclaiming the risen and resurrected Jesus in languages that other people can understand, and cultures and diversity.

There had to be vulnerability and there had to be a sense of love that overcame that fear.

Our reading this past Sunday talked about how perfect love casts out fear. And in this time in our world I think so many people are bound up in our fear and are not trusting love to be strong enough to overcome it.

It is our commitment to Jesus Christ, it is our commitment as a church and a people of God, to be the beloved community of God living and meeting each person in their own language, speaking to them whether it's Spanish or Mandarin or maybe just "contemporary teenager." That we're speaking to them in languages they can understand so that we can proclaim the love of Jesus we've experienced.

In this time of Pentecost as we celebrate the Church's birthday, this moment when our Church is born because it becomes the Church of God, the Kingdom of God alive in the world, beyond the walls of an upper room, beyond the fear, beyond the vulnerability, I pray that we will reach deep inside ourselves and connect with that love of God bubbling up, calling us to go and to do likewise. To go out and to proclaim.

In this beautiful spring, in this wonderful season, come outside! Come outside of your fear—and love.

God's blessings be with you.

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe

The Altar Guild

The June Altar Guild schedule is as follows:

June 3-Nancy Isaacs

June 17- TBA

June 10- TBA

June 24- TBA

We will be joining with St. Matthew's for worship this summer so a joint schedule is not yet complete.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report

We have had a few events this May.

The Spring Fling Luncheon was attended. Delicious food and joyful fellowship combined to make a lovely afternoon for all.

We hosted a punch and cookie reception after the Elmira Keyboard Ensemble's concert on Sunday, May 20th. This was an opportunity to welcome the community to Trinity. We received many compliments on our hospitality.

A busy June will include the Bishop's visit and our annual Recognition Sunday.

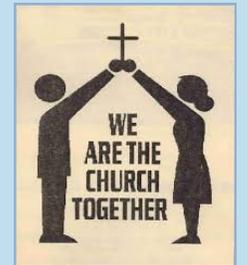
Submitted by Lisa Kelly

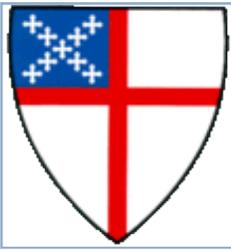
Second Place East, Inc.

Second Place East, Inc. is still counting on the individual churches that are involved with its program to donate selected goods in the coming months. June's selected goods is multi-purpose cleaner. These goods can be of any brand name, type and size will be acceptable and can be purchased at any Family Dollar, Dollar General, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or area grocery stores. Please put the designated goods in the basket near the Chapel doors. Second Place East, Inc. thanks everyone for their help in this mission.

Altar Flowers

Did you know that you could place flowers on our altar each week to recognize a special event or the flowers could be placed in memory of a loved one? The arrangement cost is \$40.00. Please contact the Parish Office or fill out the altar flower form found in the back of the church.





Trinity History Corner

Trinity's Mission Churches – A Continuing Relationship

On June 17, 1907 Trinity's handsome marble altar was dedicated to the memory of The Rev. Dr. George H. McKnight, rector of Trinity Church for thirty-six years, 1869-1905.

The following description was offered by The Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, Bishop of New York, in his dedicatory sermon: "The altar is of the finest white Italian marble, the length being seven feet, standing on a space about nine feet long." "The Mensa (table top) has in it an inlaid cross in green marble and is supported in front at the ends by two massive columns of white marble with carved capitols of the lily motif in high relief. The panel in front of the altar is of Venetian mosaic, the field being gold with the resurrection lilies in pure white and leaves and stems of rich green. In the center of the field is a cross with the eternity circle treated in red with a superimposed chalice in silver, the whole producing a rich and beautiful effect in tone and color." The memorial was designed by Charles R. Lamb and executed and erected by the firm of J. & R. Lamb.

The Rev. McKnight was literary in his tastes and the author of several books, a contributor to magazines, and the editor of "The Trinity Church Record." He was a Trustee of Elmira College and of the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre for many years. During the last year of his ministry his son Charles was called to be his assistant. Charles succeeded him as rector (1906-1911) and son George Morgan McKnight was organist at Trinity for fifty-three years. At the time of Dr. McKnight's death on December 14, 1905, William G. Conklin, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, furnished a private car to carry the vestry, friends, and relatives to Rochester for his burial service.

The McKnight Children Memorial Window. Located on the south wall of the nave, this window was by given The Rev. Dr. George H. and Julia E. McKnight to commemorate their children. The McKnight's were the parents of Theodore and Kate as well as Charles and George. The figures in the window appear to be a father, perhaps dressed as a knight, the protector of his family, a mother and three children.

The George Morgan McKnight Memorial Window. Located on the south wall of the Chancel, this memorial window bears the inscription "Heavenly Alleluias Rise." This window, crafted by Pike Stained Glass Studios of Rochester, New York, was dedicated on April 12, 1942. George Morgan McKnight was also Director of Music at Elmira College.



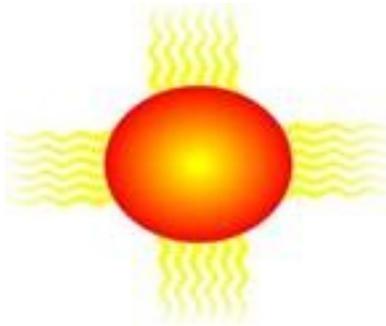
Bishop's Visitation

Bishop DeDe Duncan Probe will be visiting us at St. Matthew's on June 10, 2018. Confirmations and Receptions will begin at 10:00 am There will be no 5:30 service at St. Matthew's on June 9th, so that we can all worship together while the Bishop is here.

Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk

You are invited to take part in a Labyrinth Walk
Thursday, June 21st at 7 p.m.

to celebrate the Summer Solstice ~
our first official day of summer,
the longest day and shortest night of the year



We walk the labyrinth in celebration of the great circle of life,
the sun, the giver of energy to all living things.

As we enter into the summer season, it is a time to contemplate
what we give light to,
what sustains us, and where we put our energy.

For centuries, civilizations have celebrated the Summer Solstice.

Outdoor Summer Solstice Celebration and Walk
7 p.m. on Thursday, June 21st

Trinity Episcopal Church
304 North Main Street • Elmira, NY 14901

Trinity Court Yard on an Outdoor Labyrinth

In case of rain, will be held inside

<http://www.labyrinthsofchemungcounty.org>



Recognition Sunday

Recognition Sunday will take place Sunday, June 3rd. This is a time to recognize and thank members of our Parish Family who have served Trinity in the past year. All those who have contributed in any way to the life of the Parish will be invited to come forward and place flowers in a vine wreath. The flowers represent our different ministries and the completed circle of flowers symbolizes our lives together in mission, ministry and fellowship. Flowers will be provided.

Just an FYI: Rev. Wanda has a new email address

pastorwanda24@gmail.com



Newsletter Update

As many may have noticed, this month you have received the newsletters of both St. Matthew's and Trinity. Beginning in July 2018, our newsletters will be combined. This is an important and exciting step in our "coming together as one:."

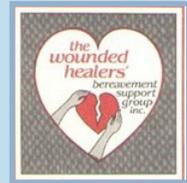


Therapeutic Foster Care

Pathways, Inc. is asking you to, "Open Your Heart, Open Your Home!" They are always looking for local, Resource (foster) Parents to provide a local home to keep children and youth in their community. They offer training and support. To offer your assistance contact Savannah Monroe, L.M.S.W. 607-937-4525, smonroe@pathwaysforyou.org.

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group, Inc.

Will meet at St. Mary our Mother School in Horseheads on Tuesday, June 12th from 7:30 until 9:00 pm. The Topic will be: Packing For The Grief Journey



Buildings & Grounds Report

It's with tremendous sadness that we report that Tim Marsh has left our employ as our "Jack of all Trades" sexton. Tim did a great job for us and really focused on leaving our buildings in great condition. Tim had the opportunity to work full time for a local rental agency, maintaining properties and managing the grounds for the company. We wish him well in his new endeavor and thank him for all of his efforts in helping us over the past 18 months.

We are pleased to announce the addition of our new sexton, Paul Palmer to our Trinity family. Paul began work on May 30, 2018. If you are in the building look him up and say hello! We are looking forward to his time with us!

Sue Draht



Thrift Shop Report

Thankfully, spring is finally upon us and hopefully you're getting some spring cleaning done! Please remember us for donations of usable, good condition items.

With spring, comes the Wisner Market on Thursdays in downtown Elmira. As in the past, we're rallying the troops to open the Shop during the Market and draw in some additional customers. If you're in a position to help us on Thursdays from 10 to 2, please contact Lisa Kelly with your availability. It's a great group of volunteers and the customers love to stop and shop with us. We'll be open every Thursday until the end of September, as well as our Saturday mornings.

With the additional day open, our need for donations increases, so please remember us and contact me if you need help delivering the goods to the church. Otherwise, we'll take donations whenever we're open or when someone is at the church during the week. – Sue Draht

Schedule for May-

6/2 – Buchholz team
6/9 – Sheasley team

6/16-Bacmanski team
6/23- Buchholz team
6/30-Draht

Sue Draht





June Birthdays:

02:	Virginia Snyder	21:	Burke Hilgendorf
05:	Sharon Reynolds	23:	Susan Draht
06:	Logan Church		Steve Costello
07:	Leah Church	24:	Carson Vieselmeyer
	Landon Briggs	27:	James Hilgendorf
18:	Tallie Marsh	29:	Gloria O'Sullivan
	Jeffrey Snyder		

Anniversaries:

08:	Jeanne & Joe Battisti	21:	Shirley & Tom Wingert
15:	Sharon & Jim Reynolds	27:	Peggysue & Thomas Potter

Spring Planting Day

Spring Planting Day is scheduled for June 2, starting at 8:30 AM. We'll be doing the usual weeding, edging, cleaning up and planting flowers in our beds around the church. With the bishop visiting us on June 10, it's important that our building look great, so if June 2 is a rain out, we'll try for June 9 as a backup plan.



If you can please donate flowers to the cause, it would be greatly appreciated. We find that begonias work very well, as well as geraniums. If you have perennials that you'd be willing to share, we're always looking for additional plants that can be long term additions to our gardens.

If you prefer to donate money for the purchase of flowers, we can take care of getting flowers, provided you make your donation by May 31.

Many hands make light work, so the more help we have on the 2nd, the quicker the job will be to get done!



June 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
3 Holy Eucharist 9	4 Office Open 1-5	5 Office open 1-5	6 Office Open 1-5 2nd Place East 11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 Children's clothing Closet 9-11	7 Office Open 1-5 Thrift Shop Open 10-2	8 Office Closed	9 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
10 Bishop's Visitation At St. Matthew's 10:00 am	11 Office Open 1-5	12 Office Open 1-5	13 Office Open 1-5 Christian Counseling 11-8 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11	14 Office Open 1-5 Thrift Shop Open 10-2	15 Office Closed	16 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
17 Holy Eucharist 9 Father's Day	18 Office Open 1-5	19 Office Open 1-5	20 Office Open 1-5 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 Aktion Club 5-9	21 Office Open 1-5 Thrift Shop Open 10-2 Labyrinth 7	22 Office Closed Deadline for The Record	23 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
24 Holy Eucharist	25 Office Open 1-5	26 Office Open 1-5	27 Office Open 1-5 Children's Clothing Closed Christian Counseling 11 - 8	28 Thrift Shop Open 10-2	29 Office Closed	30

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

www.trinitychurchelmira.org

Trinity Staff

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Email: pastorwanda24@gmail.com

Office Staff: Melissa Ransom
Email: info@trinitychurchelmira.org

Organist: Sharon Reynolds

Wardens: Judith Sheasley and Susan Nagle

Vestry Members: Lisa Kelly, Sue Draht, Ben Buchholz

Treasurer: Dori Riggs

Clerk of the Vestry: Melissa Ransom

Sexton: Paul Palmer

