

## The Journey from Desert to Garden

How do you turn a desert into a garden?

As I write to you, Lent has just begun and there are about six weeks until Easter. How many Lenten journeys have you made in your life thus far? And what are you looking for this year as we pilgrim together towards Easter?



The Rev. Bill Rich  
Vicar

The Gospel markers along our Lenten journey are startlingly true to what I have come to know about life. Each Sunday in Lent centers on some transformative movement—away from the broken places of life, the deserts we all know and experience, and towards the amazing so-good-it-is-hard-to-believe experience of Easter, of life rising up out of death.

On the first Sunday of Lent, Jesus goes out into the wilderness with us and on our behalf. Each year, I find myself grateful again that we follow in the footsteps of a God-made-one-with-us who knows how tough life's way can be. Our God knows that life sometimes feels like a desert. But instead of floating on a lofty cloud far away from our desert moments, he walks right onto the stony roads we tread. He is with us in our struggles. He understands them. He feels them. But he does not just dwell in the



Thousands of protesters—people of all colors and faiths—jammed Copley Square in January to protest President Trump's order blocking travel to America by Syrian refugees and immigrants from six other predominantly Muslim countries. Trinity's steps served as the stage for speakers, such as Senators Warren and Markey, at the event organized by the Council on American-Islamic Relations. (Photo: Mary Davenport Davis)

wilderness with us. He leads us on towards a better place, a garden we can barely imagine when caught in the deserts of life.

On the second Sunday of Lent Jesus meets Nicodemus, who comes to him at night, and on the third Sunday he encounters the Samaritan woman at the well in the blazing light of noonday. (These are the stories commemorated in the stunning La Farge murals along the north and south walls of Trinity's nave. Look at them this Lent. What do they reveal to you?) For me, these stories speak

powerfully about the hunger we each have to find God, and God's willingness to speak to us at any time, night or day. They speak of the God we sneak out at night to find because we are ashamed to own up to our needing; of the God we are so hungry to meet that we are willing to be surprised that this God can be found at noonday in the midst of our daily tasks. These encounters bring us farther from the desert; closer to the garden.

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# 4 Highlights

## from the February Parish Update

### 1 Our Ministry This Year

In the midst of swirling change in the world, it's more important than ever that Trinity be a sure beacon of the love of God.

Every day, we are working together to **Live our faith** more deeply, courageously, and lovingly as disciples of Christ, and to **grow the ranks** of faithful disciples in the world.

#### We are growing!

Since September, 73 households have joined us! Against national trends, our Sunday service attendance is up just a bit over last year! A long dreamed of chapel has been created, and was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts, on February 12, 2017.

#### We are already living into the call we heard that came out of work together over the past few years.

*Use our luminous building as a holy instrument to shape new generations of Christians, and do works of justice and mercy without ceasing.*

125 of us are in small groups studying the Bible.

More of us are caring for each other, through prayer, home and hospital visiting, and through relationships built in small groups.

100+ parishioners and staff are taking reconciliation and anti-racism training.

Our Copley Square steps have become a gathering place for those seeking to change the world for the better.

More people are engaging in Outreach ministry:

60 new volunteers

New ministries forming to serve refugees, to address climate change, and to seek a global companion parish with which to partner

We continue to collaborate with other organizations with shared missions to increase our impact: City Mission, Episcopal City Mission, Blackstone School, GBIO, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and others.

### 3 Annual Pledging

**Thank you!** Thank you to the 686 households who have generously pledged a total of \$2,814,744 to our annual campaign (as of February 22).



#### Budget Cuts Necessary

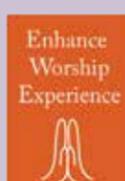
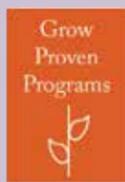
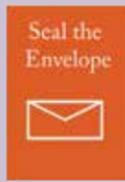
Unfortunately, this means we have not met our goal of 800 pledgers for a total of \$3.25 million, the amount needed to sustain our ministries at the current levels of activity. Not meeting the goal means that some changes to our programs and ministries will need to be made to ensure that we don't spend more than our funded budget. The budget will be discussed at Annual Meeting.

#### Be a Sustainer of Trinity's Ministries

We have seen so many acts of generosity this year, but we need those of you who may be still on the sidelines to join us.

If you haven't yet made an annual pledge, it is not too late! Give thanks to God for all the gifts given to you by making a pledge today to sustain Trinity's ministries. Visit [trinitychurchboston.org/2017-annual-pledge](http://trinitychurchboston.org/2017-annual-pledge) or contact Hailey Robison, Assistant Director of Stewardship, [hrobison@trinitychurchboston.org](mailto:hrobison@trinitychurchboston.org), 617-536-0944 x306.

### How Firm A Foundation Capital Campaign



#### Current Status

In our capital campaign to renew and restore our inspiring building and secure its mission, enhance our worship, increase our safety, improve our technology and expand our outreach programs, Adam Dawkins is happy to report that we are approaching \$21 million in commitments as of February 22. The chapel is just the first of many projects to be completed thanks to your generosity and faith in the future of Trinity Church.

#### Engaging the Entire Parish

Many thanks to the hundreds of parishioners who have so generously supported our campaign effort through their gifts, their volunteer leadership, and their prayers. We are still aiming to have a conversation with every parishioner about this exciting effort to secure Trinity's future for generations to come. Our goal is to reach the remaining 500 households before June.

#### Rise to the Challenge!

There's no better time than now to make your campaign commitment to secure our beloved church and our life-giving ministries. Thanks to a challenge grant offered by two longtime parishioners, every new or increased commitment to the campaign will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2 million. Take this opportunity to have your gift go farther, and help us meet our goal by June!

If you haven't had a conversation yet, but would like to schedule one, please contact Adam Dawkins, Director of Stewardship, [adawkins@trinitychurchboston.org](mailto:adawkins@trinitychurchboston.org), 617-536-0944 x342

### 2 Transition Planning

#### Discerning Next Steps

The Vestry and senior staff have been studying and discerning our next steps for the Rector Transition. We have not rushed into Transition activities, because we already have the critically important work of the Capital Campaign and the conclusion of Sam Lloyd's ministry at Trinity which will help secure our future and create a firm foundation for our next Rector. To ensure that we are effective and efficient in our search, the following process and timeline have been developed:



**Naming the Committees:** Among other tasks, the Consultant will help us to develop our criteria and goals for the Parish Profile Committee and a Search Committee. We will be considering qualities that are needed, and the make-up of each of the committees, so that as many aspects of our parish as possible are represented.

**Job of the Profile Committee:** To listen to the parish, discern who we are now, and produce a "brief" that provides rector candidates with a clear view of the parish and expectations/dreams for a rector. There will be opportunities for all parishioners to contribute to this process. Profile Committee will begin its work in earnest after Sam's last day, Sunday June 11.

**Job of the Search Committee:** To research, recruit and vet candidates, and recommend top choice(s); Then to help "on-board" him or her, to integrate new rector into our life and support him/her in the first year or so. The Search Committee will begin its work when the Profile is available, but may do some preparatory work and research before it starts the search.

# Construction Projects Planned

As Trinity Church celebrates 140 years in Copley Square, we are launching some projects that will ensure the ministry of our building for decades to come.



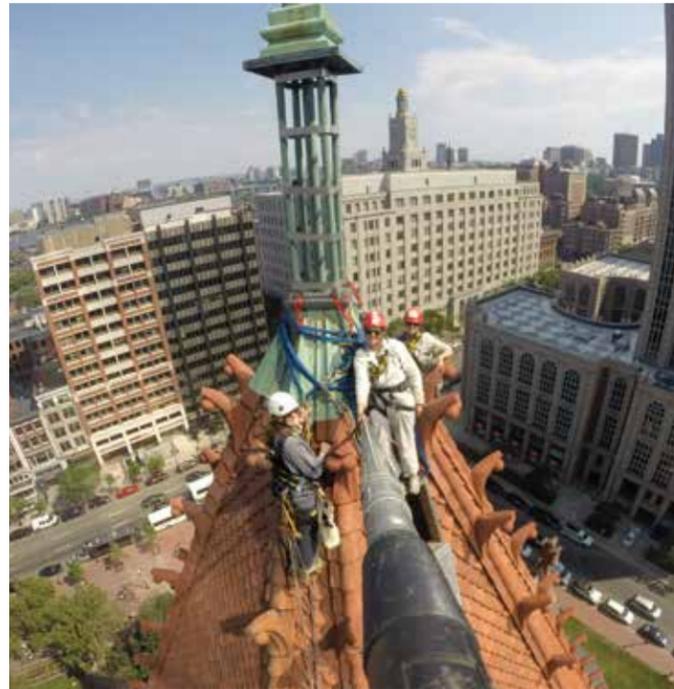
These projects to renew and strengthen our National Historic Landmark building, are made possible by the generosity of parishioners to the How Firm a Foundation capital campaign, and through the diligent work of the Building Committee.

The most visible projects will be the roof and masonry repair, which will begin after Easter, and will conclude before Christmas. To accomplish this work on the church, fencing will surround the entire Trinity property in Copley Square, and scaffolding will envelop much of the exterior. There will be pathways to provide access to the church, so that Trinity will continue to operate throughout the project.

During this time, many of the stained glass windows in the Church and Parish House will have protective glazing installed to defend these artworks from the punishing winds of Copley Square.

In the summer, scaffolding will be erected in the western end of the nave, so that the two La Farge murals on the North and South walls, *Christ and Woman at the Well* (1877) and *The Visit of Nicodemus to Christ* (1878), may be restored.

A few of the projects planned for this year will not be visible to the parish, but are essential to the safety and comfort of the church. Two of the geo-exchange wells, which are church's central heating and cooling system, are being updated to be more efficient and to withstand the environment.



Engineers and inspectors from Vertical Access rappelled Trinity's exterior last summer, documenting areas that need repair. (Photo: Vertical Access)

Also scheduled are the updating and installation of improved fire protection and life safety measures, and electrical work to update wiring that is decades old.

These projects are being managed under the Building Committee by much of the same team responsible for the building of the Undercroft, renovation of the Parish House, and repair and restoration of the central tower murals and exterior, from 2001-2005: Leggatt-McCall Properties, project manager; Goody Clancy, preservation architects; Shawmut Design & Construction, general contractor; and conservation painting by Gianfranco Pocobene Studio and John Canning & Co. TL

## 2017 CONSTRUCTION PLANS



# How does our faith inform how we care for others ?

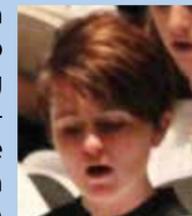
Parishioner and choir member Clara Brown works as a community residence counselor in the obsessive compulsive disorder unit at McLean Hospital in Belmont and is currently discerning doctoral programs in clinical psychology. Her passion for mental health research and treatment as well as her interest in our Sunday Night Living Bread ministry—a group of parishioners who visit our homeless neighbors for communion and conversation—led her to our Pastoral Care Workshop last May 2016, an event that marked her return to Trinity.



Rebecca Kreshak  
Web & Graphics Specialist

“Pastoral Care: A Workshop in Spiritual Companionship” was offered by Trinity in partnership with Ecclesia Ministries, the organizers of Common Cathedral, an outdoor church and street ministry of the housed and un-housed in Downtown Boston. The five-hour workshop provided a space to begin and expand skills for the work of supporting people in need.

Coming into the workshop, Brown was interested in reflecting on the question, “How does our faith inform how we care for others?” As someone who regularly dialogues with those struggling with obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and those in recovery from substance abuse, Brown was curious to explore the extent to which her Christian faith informs the values she brings up and discusses with patients.



Clara Brown  
Parishioner

By creating an opportunity for people committed to helping others to come together, the workshop confirmed for Brown not only that her faith does indeed inform a lot of the work she does on a daily basis, but also that we, as Christians, need not go very far to put our faith into action. In the case of Sunday Night Living Bread, a ministry in which she would like to become more involved, volunteers extend hospitality to those who are homeless right outside Trinity's doors, in and around Copley Square.

“The idea of Sunday Night Living Bread is really cool,” she praised, “because it takes the community of the church and our values and brings them into the community around us.” TL

## FROM DESERT TO GARDEN Continued from page 1

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, Jesus heals a man born blind, and on the fifth Sunday he raises his dear friend Lazarus from the grave. Our God can heal our various blind spots—and oh we have so many—and open our eyes to the truth: God is with us, right here, even if we can't see that! God can meet us in those moments when we feel we are about to be (or have already been) “killed off” by life's challenges. Standing at the yawning maw of these moments, God in Christ calls out: “Unbind him. Unbind her. Set them free!” Brought back from our blindness, and the very edge of death, now we draw closer to the garden.

**Our God can heal our various blind spots—and oh we have so many—and open our eyes to the truth...**

The culminating Sundays of our Lenten journey bring us into Jerusalem with Jesus. The palms of triumph are waved, but this isn't the garden yet. We know that a Friday is coming that does not feel good, despite how we name it. Jesus' journey must take him and us right into the heart of life's terrible truth: we betray life and kill it off, in ourselves and in others. We seem to be back in the desert.

But the story doesn't end there. God does not let our nasty “NO” to life serve as the last word. On Easter, God speaks a decisive counter spell—literally the God-spell—the Good News. God speaks a powerful “YES!” to undo our and the world's negativity. And God makes a Garden in the very place of death. He raises Jesus from the tomb, and sends him—and us—to proclaim that God has the power to undo the worst that we can do, and the worst that can be done to us. God can make a garden in any desert we contrive.

I invite you to make this journey from desert to garden together with Jesus and your fellow parishioners at Trinity. It will—quite literally—save you and give you life beyond what you think possible. A garden awaits us!

In the indefatigable love of Christ Jesus our Lord,

Bill

# The 2017 Slate of Nominees

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., the parish will elect a new Junior Warden and three members of the Vestry, as well as delegates to the Episcopal City Mission, the Diocesan Convention, and our region of the Diocese—the Boston Harbor Deanery. The process began with the Nominating Committee, appointed each year by the Wardens and the Vestry, which accepted candidate names for consideration and compiled this slate of nominees after a review of all those recommended. Chaired by Kathleen Hirsch, the 2017 Nominating Committee included Grace Clark (ex-officio), Linda Davidson, Peter Lawrence, Tim Martin, Scott McIntyre, Anne Ogilby, Libby Roberts, and the Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III.



## Mark S. Morrow

Junior Warden (term of four years)

Mark has been a parishioner since 1993 and has served the parish in a variety of ways—as a children’s ministries teacher, as member and chairman of the Urban and Justice Steering Committee (and its present-day successor, the Outreach Leadership Committee), as co-chair of the Mission Task Force and as a member of the Vestry from 2011-2015. He lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife, Kathleen Hirsch, and their son William.



## Patricia (Pam) M. Lassiter

Vestry (term of four years)

Pam joined Trinity in 2002 and was part of the Stewardship Committee for 4 years. She has been an usher for 9 years and is currently a member of the Usher Steering Team. She’s working on the Capital Campaign and has been a member of an inspiring Bible study group led by Ralph and Linda Cole. She runs a career management firm and lives in Back Bay with Bic Stevens, her partner, who attends Trinity as well. Her two daughters live in NYC and Philadelphia.



## James L. Morgan

Vestry (term of four years)

Jim and his wife, Joyce, have attended Trinity since 1997 when they moved from Connecticut to Cambridge. They were leaders of the Rosie’s Place Team for many years, active on Dever School book drive and other social justice projects. He is currently a member of the Community Life Committee as well as part of the team that prepares lunches for Boston Warm.



## Jill S. Norton

Vestry (term of four years)

Jill has been at Trinity since 2004. She’s mentored acolytes, taught Sunday school and served as a DOCC facilitator. Most recently, she has been working with the Outreach Leadership Committee. Jill, her husband, Read, and her two sons are faithful participants in the Parish Family Weekend at the Harris Camp, and supporters of the Trinity Boston Foundation. Jill lives in Belmont and has spent her career serving in various roles in public education.



## Pamela D. Waterman

Delegate, Diocesan Convention (term of one year)

Pam Waterman “walked into Trinity Church in 2000 and never left.” She has served as a regular usher at the 9 a.m. service since 2007, and is a member of the Usher Steering Team. With the invaluable help of her wife Michelle Coleman, she led the Rosie’s Place ministry from 2007 to 2012 and currently leads the newly revived Habitat for Humanity ministry. She served as a member of the 2014 Mission Task Force, and proudly plays 2nd base (“very badly,” she says) for the Trinity Paracletes. She and Michelle live in Jamaica Plain.



## Michael Wood

Alternate Delegate, Diocesan Convention

When Michael began to attend the 6 p.m. service while in graduate school, he found a place of worship he could call his spiritual home. After taking the Inquirers’ Class, he was received in the Episcopal Church in 2012. Since then, he has served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Liturgist, and as an Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention for the past two years. Michael received his Masters in Social Work, and currently works at McLean Hospital, and for the Mass Rehab Commission home care assistance program.



## Frank Furnari

Alternate Delegate, Diocesan Convention (term of one year)

A regular at Trinity’s 6 p.m. service since 2003, Frank has assisted with Sunday Simple Suppers, and served as a greeter, on the Membership Taskforce, and currently on the Events Committee for the Capital Campaign. He is an IT manager at Boston University. He has been involved with area community theatres for a decade, working back stage on productions and serving on the board of directors. Frank and Thomas live in Quincy.



## Grace A. Elson

Alternate Delegate, Diocesan Convention (term of two years)

Grace has worshiped at Trinity’s 11:15 a.m. service for the last twenty years. She has served as a lector, a small group facilitator for the DOCC program, on a discernment group, and has been a member of the Short Stories about Faith group. Previously employed by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts revising and coordinating the Safe Church and Anti-Racism programs, Grace currently works in Academic Affairs at Boston University on its medical campus. She lives in the South End.



## Matthew L. Hutchings

Delegate, Boston Harbor Deanery (term of one year)

As a child in the UK, Matthew became chorister and parishioner at his local Church of England parish. He has sung with the Trinity choirs since early 2012, is a member of Trinity’s 20s and 30s community, served on the Liturgy Study Group, and has represented Trinity on the Boston Harbor Deanery for the last two years. He is also a member of the Diocese of Massachusetts’ Commission on Ministry. Regulars at the 11:15 a.m. service, Matthew, his wife Mathilde and their daughter Eléonore live in Roslindale.



## Carol Masshardt

Delegate, Episcopal City Mission (term of two years)

Carol has lived in Boston all of her adult life, and has attended Trinity since 1990. She is a co-facilitator of the Bereavement Group, served on the Homelessness Committee, and last year was one of Trinity’s delegates to Episcopal City Mission. She received her Master of Social Work Degree at Boston College, and has held a number of leadership roles at Boston non-profit agencies. A published writer of short stories and poetry, Carol currently is the Director of Field Education and teaches at Bridgewater State University. She is the step-mother of Cecily Thornton.

## JARVIS WYCHE RECEIVES FREDERICK DOUGLASS ISAACS, JR. PARISH LAY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Parishioner Jarvis Wyche was awarded the Frederick Douglass Isaacs, Jr. Parish Lay Leadership Award by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians for his faithful and dedicated service at Trinity.

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206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116



## Trinity Church

*in the City of Boston*

Copley Square  
206 Clarendon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722

# Prepare the Way of the Lord!



## Special Service Times

**Palm Sunday** Holy Eucharist

*April 9 • 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 6 p.m.*

**Holy Tuesday** Holy Eucharist

*April 11 • 12:15 p.m.*

**Holy Wednesday** Holy Eucharist

*April 12 • 12:15 p.m.*

**Maundy Thursday** Dinner & Footwashing,

*April 13 • 6 p.m.*

**Good Friday**

*April 14*

*12 p.m. - 3 p.m. • Readings & Meditations*

*5:30 p.m. • Concert*

**Easter Vigil** Festival Holy Eucharist

*April 15 • 8 p.m.*

**Easter Festival** Holy Eucharist

*April 16 • 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m. & 6 p.m.*