

News from the Parish Update
page 3

*A Discerning Way to Conduct
a Rector Search*
page 6

*Audio Tours Offer
a New Perspective*
page 7

Trinity Life



*The Rev. William
Rich, Interim
Rector*

When I was the “new kid” in sixth grade, an East Coast boy who had just moved to Milwaukee, I knew no one, and didn’t feel as if I belonged. Then Joe

sought me out during recess one September day, and asked me two questions. “Where did you live before you moved here?” And, after I told him about the four places I’d lived, he asked, “Do you want to come to my house for dinner?” From that day on, because of Joe’s curiosity, I felt welcomed. I began to feel I belonged.

***What better way
of preparing
to welcome
Trinity’s new
Rector than to
practice with
one another
the deeply
spiritual art of
hospitality?***

Be curious. Be welcoming. Belong.

Do you remember the first time you felt you belonged at Trinity? Whether we are a newcomer, or have been at Trinity for decades, we all want to feel that we belong here. In fact, in your responses to the Parish Profile Committee last fall, you said loud and clear: “I want a deeper sense of belonging, of knowing others and being known.”

You can be sure that when our next Rector is called, s/he will come with an eager curiosity about you and this community, and will want to feel welcomed, to begin to grow a sense of belonging.

What better way of preparing to welcome Trinity’s new Rector than to practice with one another the deeply spiritual art of hospitality?

The first step is to become more curious. When we cultivate a child-like sense of wonder, the unknown becomes a source of exhilaration and adventure rather than fear.

And so each Sunday we might ask: Who are you really? Who are you, God? Who are you, my neighbor in the pew, and stranger at the threshold? Who are you, Trinity, in all the splendor of your wonderful strands and sub-groups? And who are you, wider, wondrous world beyond Trinity’s doors?

The practice of curiosity leads to the second step: to welcome each person we encounter with the same loving hope with which we would greet Christ standing before us. Like Joe inviting me to dinner, can we invite the person near us in the pew to come down to coffee hour, or to the Forum, or to our Bible Study group? Could we extend the welcome of Trinity by introducing that person to one other person? When we welcome each person as Christ, we discover Christ in each person.

The final step is to belong.

Continued on page 2.

Continued from page 1.

Much as we may desire its perceived security, splendid isolation is antithetical to belonging. We cannot truly feel we belong without becoming mutually dependent on and vulnerable with each other. And we ourselves cannot truly belong unless we create a community of welcome, where others can belong as well. Oh, but when we do these things, what a miracle unfolds! We feel known! We feel loved! We feel part of something larger than our lonely selves!

At Trinity, we love to pray, "Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind!" (Henri-Frederic Amiel) In the spirit of that prayer, I promise to be more curious about you, and about God, in the coming program year. And I ask you: will you promise to be more curious, too? I promise to stretch out the warmest, most loving welcome I can to you, and to all who come into our midst—believing that, in so doing, I will experience the love that is Christ. Will you stretch out too?

If together we do this, I promise that we will build a sense of belonging here at Trinity greater than we can imagine. And I believe that power of belonging will draw to Trinity others who want to become a part of this community of swift love and hastening kindness; and in Christ, our community can be transformed into one that can "turn the world upside down." (Acts 17:6)

The Rev. William W. Rich, *Interim Rector*

And so each Sunday we might ask: Who are you really? Who are you, God? Who are you, my neighbor in the pew, and stranger at the threshold?

Directory Due to Arrive After Labor Day

After a final opportunity to review the proof, the Parish Directory will be published and delivered to Trinity Church in early September. For information on how you can get your copy, watch for updates in Trinity Community Update emails, *TrinityEvents* Sunday inserts, trinitychurchboston.org, and the Trinity Church Boston Facebook page.



Patricia Hurley, Director of Communications

The book will only be available to the parish households who gave permission to be included between the dates of June 2016 and Spring 2018. If you weren't able to participate in time to be part of this edition of the Parish Directory, we will consider publishing an updated version after the arrival of a new rector. If you'd like to be included, please contact Mark Kharas, mkharas@trinitychurchboston.org, with your name(s), address, and contact information.

Help Distribute the Parish Directory!

Copies of the Parish Directory are scheduled to arrive after Labor Day. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and execute the distribution of Directories to everyone who is included in the book. Presence on Sundays after services is particularly needed. Many hands make light work! Please contact Pat Hurley, phurley@trinitychurchboston.org.

September is Coming...

Sunday Schedule Changes on 9/9

On Sun., Sept. 9, Trinity resumes the following worship schedule:

- 7:45 am Holy Eucharist
- 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
Holy Eucharist first Sun. of month
- 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Back to School Sunday is 9/9

Join us for a Forum and an opportunity to register for Church School, the Choristers program, and Youth Ministries.



Co-chairs of the Rector Search Committee, Jr. Warden Mark Morrow and Vestry member Jill Norton gave a status report on the process.

News From The Parish Update

On a morning and evening in early June, the Rev. Bill Rich, members of the Vestry, Building Committee, and Search Committee presented an update on various parish initiatives. The following are highlights from that presentation.

TEEP in Residence

While parish activities slow down in the summer, the Church and Parish House buildings continue to buzz with activity as the Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP) is in full swing for the month of July. Nearly 100 Boston middle school students, along with their high school-aged mentors and professional staff, consider Trinity home, and it is our privilege to be able to share these facilities with these members of our beloved community.

Construction News

Most of the exterior building projects are complete, and this summer, the primary projects will take place behind the scenes. Updating the Fire, Safety, & Electrical Systems should be complete by the fall, and the restoration and retuning of the Nave Organ will take place mostly offsite through spring 2019.

As happens when restoring and renovating any historic building of this magnitude, some surprises have emerged. Preparatory work on the geo-exchange wells revealed extensive damage, largely the result of the corrosive effect of the brackish Back Bay water beneath us. This will require a more complex and expensive upgrade to these temperature management systems than originally forecast, and the work will continue into 2019.

Rectory Sale

The Vestry's deliberations & decision to sell the new rectory have been reported in previous updates, and we're pleased to report that a purchase & sale agreement has been signed. After covering loans and the expenses of the sale, we expect to be able to return the 1.5 million that was borrowed from the endowment for a down payment with a profit of about \$600,000. As the Diocese requires, the proceeds will go to establish an endowed fund for the housing needs of future rectors.

To stay up to date with the latest news of the parish, subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, Trinity Community Update, visit trinitychurchboston.org/news, and follow us on Facebook.

Staff Transitions

With spring and summer, come staff changes. We're grateful for the ministries of these friends, and while we're sad to be saying some goodbyes, all of these changes include reasons for celebration:



The Rev. Rainey Dankel, who has been working part-time since mid-2017 in preparation for a planned retirement in Dec. 2018, will instead be working full-time into early 2019.



Hailey Robison, Assistant Director of Stewardship, has departed to attend Virginia Theological Seminary.



Mark Kharas, formerly Minister of Welcome, has begun the newly created position of Assistant Director of Welcome and Stewardship, and **Adam Dawkins'** title has changed to

Director of Welcome and Stewardship, to reflect the new focus and mission of this ministry area.



Mary Davenport, Digital Communications Manager, will attend seminary this fall at the Berkeley Divinity School of Yale Divinity School. A new Digital Communications Manager will join the staff in late July.



Simone John, Outreach Coordinator, has joined the staff of the Trinity Boston Foundation as Assistant Director of Organizational Equity Practice.



Anti-Racism Team The crowd at the Anti-Racism Team “reunion” were welcomed by Muna Majekodunmi and Stephanie Bode-Ward, A.R.T. co-chairs, who also spoke about hopes and plans for the coming year’s work.

Learning and Growing Priscilla Andrade, Director of Trinity Education for Excellence (TEEP), speaks to the student assembly before the day’s enrichment classes. TEEP, a program of Trinity Boston Foundation, occupies the Undercroft and Parish House each July.

WE SHINE IN SUMMERTIME

Happy Campers Interim Rector Bill Rich and two young parishioners enjoy a card game outside during Parish Weekend in early June at Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH.



Splendid Pentecost Hundreds attended Trinity’s Pentecost service on Sun., May 20, and experienced an immersive, Taizé-style service for the fiftieth day of Eastertide.

Ministry Moment At the Outreach Ministries celebration, Bernetta Morton shared her story of a moment of inspiration that called her to volunteer with youth at the McCormick School Library.

Singing and Silence On June 24, the 10 a.m. congregation processed to Copley Square to sing a hymn and observe silence in solidarity with immigrant families.

A Discerning Way to Conduct a Search

A rector search shares many things with executive searches in other settings, but so much of what we are charged with doing is nothing like an ordinary executive search at all. As the Rector Search Committee proceeds



Vincent James

with our exciting, challenging, yet largely low-profile work, we thought it would be informative to share how we are going about our work, learning to listen for God and to discern together.

The “ordinary” work of the committee is humming along. After the position was posted on the national church website in early April, we began receiving applications even as we determinedly recruited those nominated by parishioners and recommended by others. The deadline for applications was June 1, and we have since nearly completed the task of identifying our leading prospects and preparing for formal interviews in late Summer. Then, there will be visits to the parishes of our finalists, and visits by them to Boston. We hope to recommend a candidate to the vestry later this year.



Mark Morrow

This has been an experience unlike any of us have known so far in our very different lives. It is, and must be, a journey of faith exploration, kindling a deeper relationship with God, and working in Christian community. And doing this work has already had a deep influence on us as individuals, as a group, and as lay leaders at Trinity.

The first steps for us were simple, but critical. We begin each meeting with devotion time and close each meeting with either prayer or a service of Compline. We have sought to observe the rules of true listening and sharing built into the torah for small groups. We have promised, all of us, to be led by the Holy Spirit. We also have a spiritual advisor—Brother Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE—with whom we have met every 4 to 6 weeks, as well as at a day-long retreat. Brother Geoffrey has helped us understand the importance of creating room for sacred silence in our work. We have incorporated this by beginning each

meeting with three minutes of silence as we transition from the routine business of our daily lives to prayerful listening.

With Brother Geoffrey’s help, we have also come to understand that this is a process that cannot be rushed—though all us, of course, are as eager as the parish in general to find the next leader for our treasured congregation. This is a spiritual process. God has a vision of who our next rector should be. As Brother Geoffrey has advised us, “We need to take the time to align our recommendation with God’s.” “Having the entire process rooted in prayer acknowledges God’s presence and the presence of the Holy Spirit,” he said.

Trinity is sometimes described as a “corporate” church—in size and resources and ways of conducting business. But in a truer sense, as a Christian community, Trinity is indeed “corporate.” We are living members of the body of Christ. Our search for a new Rector must be true to this meaning of the word “corporate”—and thanks be to God for all the ways in which we are learning just how powerful that word and mandate is.

Update from the Rector Search Committee

Following the June 1 deadline for nominations and applications, Committee Co-Chairs Mark Morrow and Jill Norton reported an encouragingly large, diverse, and well-qualified pool of applicants. The Search Committee continues to reach out to ensure that the call for diverse and gifted clergy reaches the entire church. They also reported that, in addition to other research, they spend a lot of time listening to and viewing sermons online to become familiar with the vast preaching talents of the Episcopal Church. As the confidentiality of the candidates engaged is absolutely essential, many details of the Search Committee’s process and findings cannot be shared. For a fuller explanation, please see Bill Rich’s June 7th essay, “Why Confidentiality in a Rector Search is Imperative,” in the “Latest News” section at bit.ly/RectorSearchConfidentiality.

Candlelight Carols Tickets Go On Sale Online 9/20

Save the date for a beloved Boston tradition on Sun., Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Candlelight Carols Benefit tickets, \$45-\$120, go on sale online at trinitychurchboston.org on Thurs., Sept. 20.

There will also be two free Candlelight Carols services at 4 & 7 p.m., on Sat., Dec. 15.



Audio Tours Offer a New Perspective

Beginning this summer, parishioners and sightseers can experience Trinity in a whole new dimension. Thanks to a longstanding effort from the Welcome Center and Shop staff, Trinity’s first Audio Tour launched in mid-June. The audio tour was written by tour guide Peter Smiledge, directed by Tourism Coordinator Donna Stenwall, and narrated by baritone and Trinity parishioner David McFerrin, whose “voice of seductive beauty” (*Miami Herald*) echoes the warmth of the church’s interior. Explore Trinity’s extraordinary varieties of art and design, the result of vision and collaboration among the leading artists and preacher of the day as well as Boston’s own citizens. In its first month, more than 700 people have taken the audio tour — and many have claimed it’s the best audio tour they’ve ever taken!

As always, the experienced volunteer docents offer daily tours of the church as well, where they delight in sharing their wealth of knowledge. Every tour is a little different based on the interests of participants and the expertise of the guide, so even if you’ve taken a tour in the past, you’re sure to learn something new. And the richness of decorative detail within the church means that new sights are around every corner.

For many of us who call Trinity our church home, this space serves not just as a beautiful and historic building, but as an energizing sign of God’s glory and a living witness to what faithful people can create together with a desire to serve and praise. If you’ve never taken a tour, come listen to the stories of ordinary people who came together to create something extraordinary. You just might come away with some ideas for what extraordinary things God might be calling us to do together.

photo via Aaron Schmidt



Trinity Church

in the City of Boston

Copley Square
206 Clarendon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Watch upcoming Trinity announcements for online registration.

Weekend of Engaging Scripture with Lauren Winner

Learning Retreat, Sat., 9/29,
9 a.m.-2 p.m., Trinity Forum

Trinity Forum, Sun., 9/30, 10:15 a.m., Forum

Join author and Duke Professor of Christian Spirituality **Lauren Winner** for an extended session on holy scripture. With her trademark humor and incisiveness, Winner will cover the ways in which both the Hebrew and Christian testaments speak to us as 21st-century Christians.

Especially recommended to parishioners engaged in one of our many ongoing bible study groups.



A Weekend of Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers

Learning Retreat, Sat., 12/1,
9 a.m.-2 p.m., incl. lunch

Trinity Forum, Sun., 12/2,
10:15 a.m., Sanctuary

How do we move beyond mere “inclusivity” and “tolerance” to offer a church experience that is wider and deeper and transformative? How do we live together into the good news of welcoming others into our community, especially those who differ from us personally? Author, teacher and Canon to the Presiding Bishop **Stephanie Spellers** will share both theological and practical insights gleaned from her years of work in interviewing hundreds of people in Episcopal congregations—urban, suburban, and rural—all over the United States.

Especially recommended to parishioners who serve in our outreach, liturgical and welcoming ministries.