

Pastoral Feature

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January 2021 : News and Encouragement from Trinity Anglican Church

Trinity Evangel

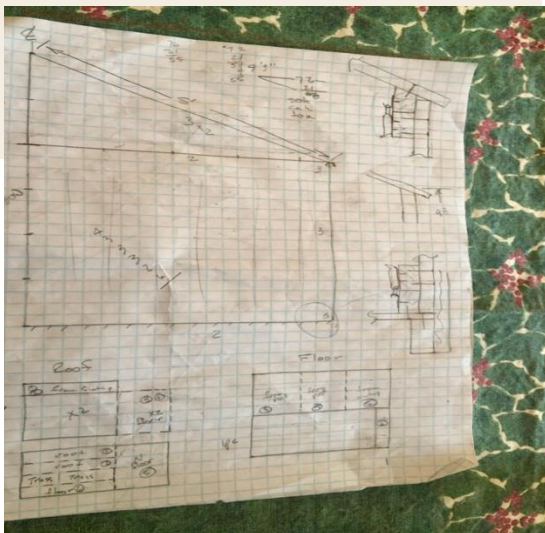


Stable Design and Construction

Burnell Bailey, John Godfrey and Barry Dunphy volunteered to construct a stable for the Holy Family and the rest of the figures purchased for the creche. They quickly realized the need to come up with a design that would enable the church to reuse the stable many times over the years and would be easy to put up, tear down, and store.

The whole Christmas Chorale team met to set up the figures and measure the entire display as well as the placement of the figures. These measurements were worked into the design to determine roof pitch and height, as well as width of the floor and “patio”.

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May Our Lamps Burn Bright Throughout the Night

What a joyous Christmas season we have had! From the Christmas Creche lighting to the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, we at Trinity have been blessed with joy, even in the face of difficulty. What a wonderful way to end a challenging year.

Although we just celebrated the arrival of a New Year, the celebration tends to crowd out two major days of commemoration: The Circumcision of Christ and Epiphany. We hope for a better year in 2021 – maybe because of a vaccine or a change in politics – but these Holy Days tell us that our true hope is anchored in the Son of God.

As I write, Epiphany is just days away. On this day we commemorate the coming of the wise men of the East, who bring gifts to the newborn King. The Western Catholic tradition emphasizes the revelation of Christ to the gentiles. In the Eastern Tradition, among Orthodox Christians, the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God is the focus. The theme that unites these two perspectives is Jesus, revealed as the mode of salvation for the world.

2020 was a tough year for many of us.

Some have been separated from worship since last March. Others, out of concern for loved ones and as winter set in, felt it was too risky to return. Despite all these legitimate concerns, others have joined our congregation during this time. Our church is adding people and thriving in joy and spiritual growth in the face of unprecedented challenges.

As I look forward to the coming year, and our upcoming annual meeting, I am apprehensive about the future. I am sure you are, too. The challenges we face are first and foremost spiritual. Although we may have legitimate concerns about our health or our country, we have to understand that our hope rests in Jesus Christ. That hope is nurtured by a strong and vibrant spirituality. It probably sounds like I drone on one tone, but that spirituality is only fed by praying, receiving Holy Communion, worshipping with the church, and spiritual reading. It also requires serious and sober action.

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Only then could they construct the pieces. Burnell and John designed a stable consisting of ten pieces that were tightly screwed together: four wall pieces, two pieces for the roof, and finally two pieces for the floor of the stable and what they dubbed “the patio” on which the animals would rest outside the roof covering. These pieces were then attached to one another by means of heavy duty capacity, adjustable toggle clamp latches so that they could be clipped together without use of tools.

The beams supporting the roof were inserted into notches that were made to fit the beams. This design has made it possible to lay the entire stable flat for transport and storage. Engineering and carpentry skills were definitely useful in the making of the stable that houses the Holy Family and their visitors, both human and Angelic.



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When times are easy, faith can be sustained with minimal effort. When times are challenging, it demands more of us. This is what the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins is about. Some did not have oil in their lamps when the bridegroom came calling. The oil is the fuel of faith lit by the love of Christ. To be fit for the days ahead, we need to be well-catechized, well-informed, and spiritually strong so our lamps will continue to burn bright throughout the night.

Politics and vaccines can't heal the world of the sickness - sin. This spiritual illness infects everything we might place our hope in. It corrupts our hearts when we neglect our own spiritual therapy. The wise know this and, like the wise men of the East who followed the star to the Christ child, we too must come to Him and lay at His feet our gifts of wealth, devotion, and sacrifice.

Member spotlight

The Lewis Family: Butch, Kathy, Jessica and Jillian

In 1978, as newlyweds, Butch and Kathy moved to Rochester from Whitefield, where Kathy's father had retired from the U.S. Navy. Born and raised in Lancaster, moving to Rochester was quite a change for Butch! Piece of cake for Kathy as she was well used to moving every year and a half while her father served his country, living both abroad and in the United States.

Blessed with two daughters, Jessica and Jillian, and four grandchildren, soon to be five! they now live in Farmington with Liam, their Pembroke Welsh Corgi, and two horses, Seamus and Connor. Over ten years ago, Butch retired from education after 32 years as a teacher, coach, and school principal. He joined a school photography company as account manager, but when laid off in March due to Covid-19, he joined Hygenall Corporation in September. Kathy retired in 2018 from her work from the banking industry where she had worked as credit and condo underwriter.

Members of Church of the Redeemer for 27 years, they left the Episcopal Church due to the consecration of Gene Robinson and the general direction of the church at large. Butch, Kathy and their daughters were involved with creating St. Michael's Anglican Church after leaving the Episcopal Church. When St. Michael's closed, they joined Trinity. Butch enjoys cooking for Men's Breakfast, Deep Recovery, Reboot Combat Recovery and Trinity's various events. He serves on Vestry and ushers as well. Kathy enjoys serving Trinity as Treasurer, preparing the bulletin and various administrative tasks, singing in choir, serving at the Rochester Fellowship Kitchen and is currently in the Deaconess program.



Lighting of the Creche

Voices raised in song, beams of light illuminating the Nativity, soft whispers and shared moments of joy and anticipation. Such was the scene on Saturday evening, December 19th, when the congregation at Trinity Anglican Church gathered with friends and family for the first annual Lighting of the Creche.



The Christmas Chorale Committee, which included Kathy Lewis, Father Matt, Cheryl Perry, Jessica Lewis, Brenda Anair, Carlos Martinez, Logan Gabriel, Barry Dunphy, John Godfrey, Burnell and Diane Bailey, worked hard to ensure that all was ready for the event. Barry, Burnell and John set up the stable and figures on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Brenda Anair ensured that the Ladies Guild provided refreshments, including hot cocoa, hot mulled cider and cookies.

Under the direction of Maestro Martinez, everyone was able to participate in singing the timeless songs of Christmas under the starry skies on a frosty night decorated with fluffy snow and the glow of the Nativity. It was an experience all will long remember. As it was lit for the first time, Father Matt dedicated the Creche to the memory of Jens Alan Wiik.

Jens was not a part of the church for very long, just a little over a year, but he was active in the Men's Group, ReBoot Combat Recovery, Bible Study, and more. He loved the church very much indeed and was reborn to Christ while a member. He had a wonderful friendship with Father Matt and Inger, both at church and privately. His parents, Diane and Burnell, are deeply grateful for all that Father Matt, Inger, and the entire congregation did for Jens and his widow Alina during his life at the church and during the dreadful days following his death. It is a true blessing to have him remembered in this way.

Our Creche represents a true commitment to and declaration of our faith in our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. The team that worked on building the stable, those who found the figures, and those who worked to make the experience a success, all felt moved by the spirit of the Lord while undertaking this task.

How marvelous that Trinity is on a busy road so that when people drive by they are treated to the sight of the Nativity illuminated in the darkness, just as our Lord illuminates the darkness of the world. This is a clear statement of faith and an invitation to all to come worship.



Brenda Anair, Cheryl Perry, & Alice Riches-Snow



St. Anne's Ladies Guild

A big thank you to all those who made the refreshments for our Lighting of the Creche event on December 19th. It was a big success. We did learn that for next year we will need to provide more cider and cocoa! After the event, fall decorations were taken down and Christmas decorations put up as the Guild helped "green" the church. Special thanks to Mary Osborne and Cheryl Perry along with Alice for their work decorating the windows.

In January the Guild will meet with the hope we can make a decision about the future of the Thrift Store and whether to keep up the permit to hold Craft Fairs and bake sales. More on this in the next newsletter.

Above is a picture of the team who manned the refreshment table at the Creche Event!

Brenda Anair

The Men's Group

The men met at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 2nd. Father Matt opened with a prayer, followed by another fine breakfast prepared by Butch and then by continuing discussion of Rod Dreher's book *Live Not By Lies*.

Our recent discussion was centered primarily on Chapter Three, captioned "Progressivism as Religion". We contemplated how to recognize and respond to a prevailing atheistic belief that science and technology should be the supreme and exclusive source of truth. There is specific evidence that a new "soft totalitarianism" is demanding that everyone must validate and comply with the dynamic, changing norms of non-religious society. These demands can be in direct conflict with Christian beliefs, thus making us dissidents in the popular culture as we live our daily lives.

Our next meeting will be dedicated to "How To Live in Truth". All of the men of the congregation are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the men's breakfast meetings. The conversations are informal and free flowing, making it quite easy for remote participants to join in the dialogue. Please mention to Father Matt or Burnell Bailey if you would like to be included remotely. *John Godfrey*

Why do we do that? >>>

Q: *Why do we kneel, make the sign of The Cross and stand?*

A: Behind that word "worship" lies the idea of prostration. Prostration comes to us from antiquity. It is the act of falling to one's knees and putting one's face to the ground in the presence of the sovereign. It is an act of humility in the face of overwhelming power. To kneel in church is to take a position of humility before God. It calls us to consider His great power and our dependence upon Him for mercy and help. Likewise, standing to pray or crossing ourselves are physical acts that draw on this idea of bodily worship. Fundamentally, they teach us how outward acts instruct the inward attitude.

Book corner

Chance or the Dance? by Thomas Howard



Thomas Howard wrote *Chance or the Dance?*, *A Critique of Modern Secularism* in 1969 to illuminate the differences between the Christian and secular world views. It is an expression of what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13v12: “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” Howard puts it this way: “The viewpoint being described in this book would accept neither the positivism that insists that it (reality) is “only this and nothing more” nor the idealism that says that this isn’t really it (reality) at all. It celebrates the hard reality and beauty of things in themselves - things that need no transcendent apologia (borzois, mountains, dolphins, sex, wine, babies) and sees this reality as appearing simultaneously and paradoxically as itself and as image. Not as mirage but as image.”

According to Thomas, “We men of the twenty-first century, living as we do in an epoch that has jettisoned the notion of divine creation when we speak of the universe, or of intelligent life, have become accustomed to the notion of chance. How did it all *happen*? The following text offers a very ancient reply to this awkward question.”

That ancient reply makes use of what Howard terms the Old Myth and the New Myth. “The myth sovereign in the old age was that everything means everything. The myth sovereign in the new is that nothing means anything.”

Howard then methodically compares everyday things showing how we can perceive what they are through the lens of either view. For, when “everything means everything, and we have an idea of (for example) Royalty (...) which we attribute to lions and eagles, We have this idea because there is a great King at the top of things,...” How we view things and associate things with symbols is based in the idea that “..something is at work in us every moment of our lives, sleeping and waking, and that shapes every thought we have about ourselves and everything else.”

Through the lens of poetry versus the lens of what one can only call “regular” language we can see how powerful our imagination and imagery are. “One foot up, one foot down, that’s the way to London Town.” as opposed to “It is possible to walk to London.” What images do each of those phrases evoke? The magic of language can evoke the magic of Creation and the Creator.

Or as Thomas puts it, “The old myth would have seen all these phenomena as images (...) And it would have seen all these images as suggesting not a moral servility for that unique creature Man, but rather the brilliant display, under a thousand forms, of the Dance, which goes on aeon after aeon, and which waits all breathless with hope for the Man to recognize the pattern, see his place, assent to it, and join.”

Thomas Howard was raised in an Evangelical family who did extensive mission work abroad and ran a weekly newspaper called *Sunday School Times*. His entire family worked to defend Biblical Christianity. Howard himself, who died at 85 in October 2020, was a devout man who spent his whole life defending faith. A professor of English Literature at Gordon College, he moved away from his Evangelical roots to Anglicanism, and then finally Catholicism in 1985.

In this era of mob mentality and harsh persecution of faith everywhere, Thomas reaffirms people as extraordinary in every way. And we are. Each one of us. I highly recommend this book.

Diane M. Bailey



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