

# St. Paul's by-the-Sea

## Weekly news & updates

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May 28, 2021

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### Congregational Meeting Highlights

The Vestry hosted a congregational meeting on Tuesday evening, May 25, 2021 at the church. The meeting was moderated by Tom Shuster, Senior Warden and our consultant Sandy Cormack. There were 15 parish members in attendance.

The meeting focused on two important topics: 1.) where we stand in our work to call a new Priest-in-Charge and 2.) how to best use

our property at the West Campus on Worcester Highway now that we are not reopening Red Doors.

The discussion about calling a new priest included a review of the attributes we are looking for in a priest and how to incorporate them in the interview process. The conversation then led to a discussion of timing, for which there was a strong sentiment to move ahead as expeditiously as possible. The consensus was to complete the Ministry Portfolio and submit it to the Diocese as soon as possible. The submission would need to include additional data about the parish demographics and salary and benefit information. There was consensus among the group that we need to call a full time priest.

The group then moved to a discussion of the West Campus property. Sandy reviewed the 7 Goals that were developed for Red Doors as a base of discussion. The group agreed that many of the goals identified could be applied to potential uses by the parish at the property. The group developed a list of ideas of how the property could be used to achieve the mission of the parish.

Tom reported that the Vestry was approached by a local, non-profit environmental group that would be interested in using the building. A potential for a use lease could be considered beginning later this summer. The group discussed the potential that a simple transactional arrangement with the non-profit could grow to some type of partner relationship. Tom reported that the Vestry has authorized Bob Rothermel and him to enter into negotiations with the non-profit and make a recommendation to the Vestry.

Sandy recommended that the Red Doors Work Group be transformed into a West Campus Work Group to be tasked with exploring what types of uses would be most suitable to our parish needs. The group agreed.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer at 7:45 p.m.

I believe important work was accomplished at this meeting. Thanks to all who attended and provided feedback.

## A Debt of Gratitude (John 15:13)

BY CHARLES E. MCCrackEN

We may think of Memorial Day as a three-day weekend that officially begins the summer season. This annual holiday is more, however, than outdoor activities, BBQs and gatherings with family and friends; it's the specific day set aside as a national memorial.

Memorials are necessary. They remind us of people who made a difference and critical events in history that we should not and must not forget. Memorial Day in the United States is just such an occasion—a reminder that we are indebted to brave men and women who gave their lives to protect the freedom we enjoy.

The following Scripture passage puts their sacrifice into perspective: JOHN 15:13

**“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”**

In context, the passage quotes Jesus describing the love we should have for one another—a love powerfully exemplified by His own sacrificial death.

### Exemplifying Sacrifice

In a very real sense, however, this verse is a fitting description of those serving in our armed forces. Whether obvious or not, one characteristic distinguishes the lives of those serving in the military—love demonstrated by sacrifice.

Love for country . . . love for fellow man . . . love for our way of life . . . by stepping into the military uniform, each one demonstrates willingness to die protecting our nation and our freedom.

At crucial moments of our history, brave individuals have stood on our behalf in the face of mortal danger, inexplicable deprivation and overwhelming odds. Over a million brave men and women have died during the 12 major wars fought by the American military. Theirs was the ultimate sacrifice.

Others survived, but returned home maimed and battle scarred—their bravery often costing them the ability to live a normal life.

All deserve the esteem and gratitude of those they fought to protect.

### Show Gratitude

Memorial Day is an opportunity for Americans to take the cost of our freedom to heart—to grasp the reality that freedom is not free—to be reminded that the America we enjoy today came at the price of great sacrifice.

This Memorial Day, intentionally reserve time to honor the memory of those who gave



their lives on our behalf. [Observe the National Moment of Remembrance - at 3pm local time pause for a duration of one minute to remember those who have died in military service to the United States.]

Considering the sacrifice America's service men and women have made on our behalf, a memorial moment of silence is the very least we can do to show our gratitude. Then, remember to thank veterans for their service, which is appropriate every day throughout the year.

© Charles E. McCracken 2016, devotional comments only. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (Emphasis added.)



## Trinity Sunday

*Today is Trinity Sunday, one of the seven principal feast days observed in the Episcopal Church. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Thomas Becket was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on the first Sunday after Pentecost. His first official act was to ordain his consecration day as a festival day in honor of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated in all the Western liturgical churches and encourages us to contemplate the three-fold nature of God – unified as one, the triune God.*

Among other things, we baptize, bless and pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We usually sing about the Trinity...Holy, Holy, Holy, God in three persons, blessed Trinity...the three in one and one in three. We are monotheistic, yet we worship a triune God.

Definition of the Trinity: The Trinity is a Christian doctrine, stating that God is one Being Who exists, simultaneously and eternally, as a mutual indwelling of three persons: the Father, the Son (incarnate as Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Since the beginning of the third century, the doctrine of the Trinity has been stated as three Persons in one God, all three of whom, as distinct and co-eternal persons, are of one indivisible Divine essence, a simple being.

It is a very difficult concept and one that is unique to Christianity.

The concept of the Trinity, for me, is that God sent Jesus to us and then Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us and that all three of them are God. The point is that we are loved, guided, instructed and graced by this union in which we are allowed to become a part. Now that is something I understand and feel.

*Excerpts taken from a sermon by Joe Minarik posted on Christ Episcopal Church, Rugby, TN website. [Click here](#) for the full text.*



**May 30: Trinity Sunday**

Rite II Morning Prayer with music, officiated by Lay Worship Leaders, Amy Rothermel and Paul Rogers.

**Click here** for a PDF version of the bulletin so you can follow along.



music, officiated by the Rev. Frieda Malcolm.

**June 6:  
II  
Pentecost**  
Rite II Holy Eucharist service with



music, officiated by Pastor Karen Wamester.

**June 13:  
III  
Pentecost**  
Rite II Holy Eucharist service with



**Phone & Email Scams Reported**

Once again we are hearing reports of scammers impersonating clergy and other leaders via phone & email asking for assistance/donations/gift cards. Here is a **link to more information** about this form of scamming as well as steps you can take to protect yourself and your parish members (knowledge is power in this case).

You can't stop the senders of "whaling" emails, but what you can do – which is entirely free – is educate yourself and other potential recipients. Here are **simple guidelines** to help potential recipients avoid being tricked.



**Church Online**

To view the May 23rd Holy Eucharist service, **click here**.



**Birthdays**

Kevin Ball (5/31)  
Lawrence Barrett (6/4)

**Worship Leaders Schedule**

**This Week - May 30, 2021**

Officiants: Paul Rogers, Amy Rothermel, Debbie & Tom Shuster  
Altar Guild: Mary Wright  
Ushers: John & Nancy Knotts

**Next Week—June 6, 2021**

Celebrant: The Reverend Frieda Malcolm

Reader: Dan Harris

Altar Guild: Amanda Cropper & Kay Ayres

Ushers: Dan Harris & Karen Gordon

Counters: Nancy Knots, Debbie Shuster

[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)

