



TRINITY MATTERS AUGUST 2020

MY JOURNEY AT TRINITY

God is good, all the time. All of the time, God is good!

I believe that, *'God will never lead me where His grace will not keep me.'* My ministry in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts started as a volunteer at St. Luke's, then St. Matthew's and continued as a Supply Priest in churches throughout the diocese. I prayed to have my own church where I had a pulpit to preach from, an altar to celebrate the Eucharist and to provide pastoral care to my congregation. I had great hope, but always prayerfully waited on God's own time. My supply work brought me to Trinity Episcopal Church in Shrewsbury where my prayers were answered.

After supplying at Trinity during Lent and Easter of 2019, God lead the people of Trinity to call me to serve as their priest in charge. The call was unbelievable to me. But, I wasn't surprised by the mystery of God's grace. In thanksgiving I accepted the call to Trinity and as a privileged opportunity, probably becoming the first Black-African priest at Trinity. The call was also surprising since I was passed over by Trinity about five years before. I was thrilled by the exuberant embrace of me and support in my ministry by the wardens, vestry and members of Trinity.

The call started with challenges. Within the first few weeks there were four funerals in a row. That was a real challenge. Some of the families of the deceased were shocked to see a Black priest at Trinity. I believe that Sue got a little chuckle from meeting with the families when they came into the office to make funeral arrangements, and then escorting them into my office to meet with me. You could see that the families were mildly surprised. But by the end of the funeral service, each family was glad to have me.

With the support of the vestry and the congregation I was inspired to preach the Gospel, deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ and share new ideas on how to enhance the liturgy. I received maximum cooperation from everyone: the Wardens, Vestry, Organist, Lay Readers/Lectors, Sexton, Altar Guild, and most of all our highly capable secretary, Sue Barnard.

Covid-19 greatly impacted my tenure of service. An abiding regret was our inability to have an in-person service on Easter and for Holy Week. However, together we conquered the mysteries of Facebook and Zoom! None of us ever expected living in this country under the shadow of a national pandemic, Covid-19. I sincerely believe we are not alone, but God is walking together with us and speaking to us in a special way. In that way, I believe nothing should, can or will separate us from God's love and our worship of Him. In the absence of in-person gathering, we continued to worship God in spirit and in truth using technology.

Trinity Church is very unique. A community of special, loving and amazing people who love God and the work of God's kingdom. I will always remember the people of Trinity for their love and support of my ministry and support of "Black Lives Matter" through the weekly Vigils for Peace and Social Justice.

With gratitude and appreciation, I want to thank the many people who stood with me to make my ministry at Trinity successful in my eyes. First of all I want to thank God for leading me to Trinity. I want to express my gratitude to: the wardens and vestry members; the Facebook/IT crew (Ron, Sherry and Debbie); our dynamic organist, Chris; and acolytes and readers (Allen, Ron and Emmanuel). A special thanks to Sue Barnard, for making it possible to have the bulletins out on schedule, and Paula Green for her support to our Zoom presentations. I also want to thank Joanne and Aileen Cox, the Morgados, the Alaries, Jeff Kalb and the entire Trinity family for their efforts to join our services on Facebook and Zoom.

In my journey at Trinity, I was not alone. There is a saying that behind every successful man, is a strong woman. That strong woman is my wife, Debbie. Debbie is God's gift to me and my ministry.

May God bless Trinity and may you all continue to be strong in your faith. Please keep Debbie and me in your prayers. You will certainly be in mine.

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!

Fr. Freeman +

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*This month's message from our senior warden will be sent separately.*

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TRINITY EVENTS IN AUGUST

Saturday, August 1

6:30 pm Worship will be taped earlier and available on Facebook
by 6:30 pm Saturday or any time after that.

Sunday, August 2- Please continue to save those Coins for IHN!

11 am Coffee Hour – A Zoom Event.

Tuesday, August 4

4-6 pm Vigil for Peace and Social Justice, Trinity Front Lawn

Wednesday, August 5

7 pm e-Evening Prayer – A Zoom Event!!

Thursday, August 6 – The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday, August 8

6:30 pm Worship will be taped earlier in the afternoon and available on Facebook
at 6:30 pm Saturday or any time after that.

Sunday, August 9

11 am Coffee Hour – A Zoom Event

Tuesday, August 11

4-6 pm Vigil for Peace and Social Justice, Trinity Front Lawn

Wednesday, July 12

7 pm e-Evening Prayer – A Zoom Event!!

Thursday, August 13

6:30 pm Vestry Meeting – via Zoom. Members of Trinity are welcome to attend monthly vestry meetings. If you are interested, please email the parish office to receive the Zoom link for the August meeting.

Saturday, August 15 – St. Mary the Virgin

Worship Plans to be Announced. More to come!

Sunday, August 16

Worship and Coffee Hour Plans to be Announced with a Zoom Link to Coffee Hour.

Tuesday, August 18

4-6 pm Vigil for Peace and Social Justice, Trinity Front Lawn

Wednesday, August 19

7 pm e-Evening Prayer – A Zoom Event!!

Saturday, August 22

Worship Plans to be Announced. More to come!

Sunday, August 23 – Today we say Goodbye to Fr. Freeman and Debbie

Worship and Coffee Hour plans to be Announced with a Zoom Link to Coffee Hour.

Monday, August 24 – Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Tuesday, August 25

4-6 pm Vigil for Peace and Social Justice, Trinity Front Lawn
This will conclude the current series of vigils on the front lawn at Trinity.

Saturday, August 29

Worship Plans to be Announced. More to come!

Sunday, August 30

Worship and Coffee Hour plans to be Announced. with a Zoom Link to Coffee Hour.

Zoom invitations will arrive by email prior to Zoom events – except please contact the office to request a Zoom invitation if you are interested in the August 13 Vestry Meeting.

SUMMER COMPLINE

To add to your worship calendar: The Diocese is offering a service of Compline at 8 pm on Mondays (with the Very Rev. James G. Munroe), Tuesdays (with the Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher), and Wednesdays (with the Rt.

Rev. Mark Beckwith). This is a Zoom event. An invitation with the link and phone numbers has been sent separately or you can also visit www.diocesewma.org for more details.

In Our Parish Family

Necrology:

John McDonald, father of Trinity's former music director, Brenda McDonald Salvi.

Kaikor Getaweh, Fr. Freeman's uncle, who died July 24 in Liberia.

Barry Aslanian, Linda Jackson's son, who died July 26. Visiting hours are August 2 from 2-4 pm at the Callahan Fay Caswell Funeral Home, 61 Myrtle Street, Worcester. Fr. Freeman will officiate at the graveside service on Tuesday, August 4 at 11 am in Hope Cemetery, Section 100, Worcester, MA.

Luther Harmon, Debbie Harmon Hines' brother, in Chicago on July 27.

FLOWERS FOR THE TRINITY ALTAR

Your donation of flowers for the Trinity altar help beautify our worship!
Still only \$35 for a Sunday, dates available as of this writing through 2020 are:
August 16, 23, and 30; September 13; October 4, 11, 25 and 25.
Please contact the parish office: trinitysecretary@townisp.com.

THIS MONTH – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Judith Gramstorff	8/1
Philip Kasputis	8/1
Kyle Prior	8/10
David Thompson	8/20
Judy Pugliese	8/21
Nancy Goodwin	8/24
Beth Murray	8/27
Susan Harris	8/29
Shane Gorrie	8/30

And HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Dan & Luanne Morgado	8/4/1979
Phil & Debbie Mudway	8/8/1984
Chris & Francine Estrop	8/17/1992
Chris & Jen Morin	8/22/1992
Frank & Judy Pugliese	8/30/1975
John & Joanne Tyndall	8/30/1987

Please let the office know if any information needs to be added or updated! Thank you.



Trinity Matters –the monthly newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church
440 Main Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-842-6040 Phone/508-842-6730 FAX
Office Hours vary due to Covid-19. Please email for an appointment.

+TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH+
440 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545



Thank you Fr. Freeman and Debbie
God's Blessings on your New Life in Tennessee!
Trinity will miss you!!