

Dear Trinity Parishioners and Friends,

The past few months have been an unprecedented time in our lives, both as individuals and as a parish. The Covid-19 pandemic has threatened the health of our community, and also caused financial distress and loneliness for many. Additionally, our nation continues to struggle to form a “more perfect union” in which the promise of freedom and equality is available to everyone, especially those whose skin is not white. It has been quite overwhelming! Vestry spent the last meeting considering the question of “what has God been up to in all of this.” We are sure many of you have asked that question too. It can be tempting to retreat into ourselves during times like this, but as in so many troubling times, we are called to be the body of Christ:

His eyes to witness injustice.

His mouth to speak out against it.

His ears to hear the stories of those who are afraid or alone.

His hands to serve others.

His feet to travel on behalf of those who cannot.

His heart to bring love where it is needed.

Now more than ever, it is obvious that the church is not just a building. It is not just the priest. It is all of us, and we'd like to share a bit of what this part of the “body of Christ” has been doing during this time. We continue to host the Community Soup Kitchen, which has suspended sit down meals but is still providing takeout for guests. We have worked with AA and NA to allow them to continue to meet outside in our back courtyard for those struggling with addiction. Members of our church leadership have been reaching out to parishioners by phone to see if they have any spiritual or material needs during this time. Happily, many members already had a fellow parishioner helping them. We continue to host the McCall's Center, and allow them to use our parking lot for opioid treatment and mitigation programs. We also allowed Community Health and Wellness to use our parking lot for a day of Covid testing and information. Trinity often gets asked to assist with these programs because community members see our church campus as a place to come for help when in need.

Additionally, members have been involved in food delivery and distribution to those in need. Our regional coordinator Dylan Mello has been very active in this regard. Parishioners, in particular Conrad Sienkiewicz, have been involved in racial justice ministries and facilitating the difficult discussions we need to have about race in our country. Our weekly services have been reaching more people than usual thanks to our live stream and the efforts of Newlin Keen. Our garden guild continues to bring beauty to our block. Many of us have been trying to heed Christ's call in our daily lives and work: educating children, providing health care for others, caring for the elderly, and other essential missions.

Our parish needs to continue to examine “what God is up to” in our community during this pandemic with no clear end, and struggles for racial justice which have lasted for decades. We need to continue to ask ourselves how we can help facilitate that work. We are accustomed to

a fall season that brings fuller pews and coffee hours, our beautiful choir, and church school. This fall won't look like that, but make no mistake that we are still called to be a church together. Please continue to be creative, and look outward for opportunities to do Christ's work during this difficult time. Please feel free to contact your vestry members or Mel in the main office if you have any needs, or ideas for how we can continue to reach out to our parish family and our community.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Nik Combs, Priest-in-charge

Dr. Roger Coutant, Sr. Warden

Dr. Jessica Magda, Jr. Warden