



# The eMessenger

**Coronavirus Special Edition—What we've been doing**



***An Empty Church: The heart breaking facts of keeping the congregation safe.***

## **Changes around the Church**

There have been a few changes around the church. One that you likely have heard about through the grapevine is that Nancy Gould is no longer working as our financial secretary. Since the closing of society due to the pandemic, we have had to make significant changes in order to keep the church and preschool running. Many changes revolve around paying bills and banking. The PPP application process showed us that having multiple checking accounts at the church; we are to have only one account handling payroll in order to receive the PPP loan.

While we were working to streamline the finances and move our books to the cloud, we found Vestry minutes from 2001 with a motion that all accounts be moved to one general account with designated funds accounting from that account. The only account holder that complied was the music ministry. When Fr. Paul started at Trinity, we found that we had

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## **Fr. Paul Price, Rector**

What we've been up to

As I wrote in the cover letter, I realized it has been a while since we've sent out the written word to everyone at Trinity. We are working to correct that and send out a letter twice a month. We will send this out both through the mail and via email. The cost of mailing will be covered Ray Totten. Thank you Ray!

Since we have had to close our doors to worship and office visits, the staff has been working from home and occasionally from the church. The first two months have been the hardest. We had to rely heavily on our technology support person to get things working remotely. Fortunately, I have extensive experience setting up remote work

environments and computers. I have been setting up accounts on Zoom, YouTube installing Teamviewer, OBS, Camera Twist, computers, microphones, and other hardware to bring you the service and allow our staff to work remotely. Even the phones at our desks ring us at home.

Scrambling to get things ready was just a part of the job. Like the rest of the world, we implemented a lot of online offerings on the internet. With our Zoom account we have been holding weekly evening prayer. Something that we did in person but cannot do so now. We have been holding the weekly Healing Service as well. This too is through Zoom. We started our weekly Bible Study class too. Again, all these can be attended through Zoom. If you would like to be on the email list on

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*From the Rector*

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how to attend these services, send a message to me at:  
frpaul@episcopalredlands.org.

Each week I prepare liturgies for eight services. Each service is different every week. We have been keeping up with the daily office lectionary for Evening Prayer. We have been following the Revised Common Lectionary for our Sunday services. The Healing Service has been focusing on several topics from prayers for healing to prayers for healing our nation and the stewardship of Creation.

The Church's web site, episcopalredlands.org, is updated twice a week with service information. From the website, you can download the liturgy for the service you are attending. You can find the YouTube site that contains the archives of all our services. A thank you goes out to all those who help make the online services possible: Doug Macomber, Jeff Apmadoc, Cn. Jeff Rickard, Michael Deen, Thomas Melton, and especially my wife Cheryl. Cheryl has been handling the camera and scenes for the Sunday services since the beginning. We also have a great group of readers who have volunteered to be on the reading rota.

Now all this is well and good but there are other aspects of running the church that has been taking our time. At the beginning of the shutdown, the US government authorized financial aid in the form of the payroll protection plan, or PPP, to help businesses and nonprofits. We applied for that to help the preschool and the church. Because our financials were split over many checking accounts, we were rejected on our first application. Through diligence and explanation, Marc Weniger, preschool board president and Wendy his wife and our treasurer, prevailed and on the second wave, got us our loan. We were able to keep paying the preschool staff while having to shut the doors.

At the beginning of the pandemic, our intern organized a phone calling tree, the Vestry started meeting every other week on Zoom to check in, the Diocese started weekly check ins with the clergy. Our dean, Bill Dunn, followed suit and started holding weekly clericus meetings. The clergy of Redlands has also been meeting regularly. All these meetings via Zoom.

The most difficult part of all this for the clergy has been that we all did not sign up for being televangelists. Not seeing our congregations has been disheartening. The unexpected side is that we have all been busier than before the pandemic. It is too easy to work all hours and days of the week since the office is at home. ✕

Anniversaries and Birthdays

**Happy Anniversary**

Fr. Lou and Joan Hemmers

**Happy Birthday**

Felix Riesz  
Cathy Stokes  
Cynthia Cervantes  
Antoinette Everts  
Sophia Ezinwa  
Grace Ezinwa

Prayer List

**Parishioners**

Lisa, Carlos, Dawna, Cari, Jamie, Kevin, Fr. Haldar, Elena, Ann, David, Michael, Cathy

**Friends of Parishioners**

Bruce, Merilee, Jim, Sarah, Anna, Miranda, Andalynn, Aaron, Kim, Griselda, Shannon, Trisha, Henrietta, Angela, Scott, Michelle, Richard, Martha, Kim, Phil, Carol, Shelly, Lexi, Aimee, Michael, Tom, Alice, Sarah, Judy, Stephanie, Rudy, Rosario, Couch Family

**Caregivers on the Covid Front**

Emily & Eric Harris, David Lynn, Dottie Williams, James Halder, Raea Ann, Theresa Holt, Mark, DeeAnne Chase

**Those traveling**

**Those who have died**

*Musings from the Senior Warden*

**Nancy Doss,  
Sr. Warden**

Musings from the Senior Warden on a soon to be very warm (HOT) August day.

Our preschool children and their teachers are absolutely amazing. The preschool opened for half days the first part of July. Parents told us that the children badly needed the interaction with their peers. For parents and children it was and is an opportunity for a little time away from each other. The schoolrooms were thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom. All the rugs and soft toys were removed and are in storage. Rules were set, the most important, masks must be worn at all times and social distancing is required. 3, 4 and 5 year olds said ok. They wear their masks and stay 6' apart. This seems to be really hard for many adults but not for the children. They are truly rock stars as are their teachers. We are blessed to have such an amazing staff.

Beginning in late spring the Mormon Stake up by the Temple under the sponsorship of RAIC (Redlands Area Interfaith Council) began receiving boxes of produce under a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture and growers in Southern California. The boxes contain potatoes, onions, lettuce, vegetables and fruit, and have been picked up on Monday mornings at the Redlands Unified School District

facility on Church St. just north of Redlands High School. Approximately 1,300 boxes every week. Trinity chose to take five boxes and distribute them to parishioners in need. But wait, what did those five parishioners do, they shared with their neighbors so those five boxes have fed 15+ households each week. Additionally, thru the Blessing Center, we have been receiving dairy boxes that contain eggs, milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt which have also been distributed to parishioners. Now the bad news is that the contracts for both have expired. But good news is that people are working very hard to find new sources for produce and dairy. Thank you to Liz Zeller for helping me with the project. Keep the program in your prayers.

This is a tough time for all. We can't do the things we're used to doing, we can't go where we want to go, and we can't buy what we want to buy. As an aside who knew dishwasher soap would be in short supply? We miss church and we miss each other. We get frustrated and angry mostly because we aren't in control.

2020 is certainly one for the books. My friends and I have laughed that all that we're missing is a giant swarm of locusts and blizzards. That's not all. There is an asteroid winging it's way toward earth. All jokes aside, this will pass. We will again gather in the Church and the Great Hall, we in the choir will again sing, the organ will sound the birth of a baby boy, bag pipes will play, and children will head to camp, just not this year. Pray for each other. ✕

***Changes around the church***

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not had an audit for seven years. After that audit it was completed in 2014, it confirmed that we should not have multiple checking accounts. Had we done so, we would not have missed the first round of PPP loans.

While are moving to the cloud, bill pay and check depositing has been automated and no longer required a dedicated person. No financial information from our congregation is on the cloud. Credit card processing remains the same as before the cloud. Pledge information is tracked on site at the church by the counters, the same as it has been since our audit in 2014. No pledge information will be on the cloud.

All the information we have on the cloud is banking and accounting. The same information that is available to the public since we are a nonprofit corporation. The system we are using online is Blackbaud which had a ransomware attack that they thwarted. No financial information was leaked. Blackbaud is the same system the Diocese uses to track their finances.

We have contracted the services of a CPA to handle our financials and the conversion of our accounting from Quickbooks to Blackbaud. The cost savings is significant. ✕

## *In Closing...*

*Some thoughts from our congregation*

*Jeanne Stellar sent us the following story.*

A while back, I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country.

The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast:

“Lord, I hate buttermilk,” the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, “And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour.”

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, “But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits.

“So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen.”

*Author Unknown.*

*Humphrey Mosely wrote the following poem.*

*The Church*

*The pews wait expectantly  
With windows throwing down their rainbow light*

*The church aglow;  
All are waiting;*

*Waiting for the penitent  
Waiting for the people*

*Waiting for the choir to sing  
Waiting for the priest*

*Waiting.*

*Then suddenly all changes  
And the church, it comes to life*

*The choir sings  
The priest calls out to the congregation*

*They listen to his sermon.  
Then the people pray; when all is done*

*They stand and quietly go away.  
Once again the church is still*

*The pews once more are waiting.*

## *Trinity Episcopal Church*

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Nancy Doss, Senior Warden

Françoise Van Horn, Junior Warden  
Wendy Weniger, Treasurer,  
Matthew Marnell, Chancellor  
Lindsey Christopherson  
Michael Deen  
Lois Musmann  
Paul Simpson  
Paul Thompson  
Hopi Hayes, vestry clerk