



Topics

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Statesville, NC

Trinity Topics

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Spring 2021

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A welcomed step in our return toward normalcy

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Submissions

We welcome your
submissions, your ideas
for articles, your photos,
and your comments.
Please send email to
smanly03@gmail.com.
with your input.

A Companion in Uncertain Times



Dear Friends,

In the sequence of our church calendar, we are approaching Ascension Day, the day Jesus rose into heaven, and Pentecost, the day God's Holy Spirit visits the disciples with power. Ascension Day is forty days after Easter, the length of time Jesus appeared in his resurrected body after the resurrection. Pentecost is ten days later because it was a Jewish festival dated fifty (note the "pente") days after Passover.

So, in a liturgical sense this is something of a waiting time, an in-between time as we near the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, a time to reflect upon all that Jesus had said, all that he had taught, all that he had done, in anticipation of the power God would unleash in the world at Pentecost.

Jesus' ascension in the lives of the disciples marked a day that was really in between times, in between the time when they had Jesus with them, and before the time when they would be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. An awkward time for them, no doubt, but a time for

them to think about the words of Jesus, to dwell on his teaching, to recall his promises to them.

It was from such an in-between time that the disciples must have recollected Jesus' words to them. They remembered words from Jesus' last conversation with them as recorded in the last supper for John. This section is called the High Priestly prayer, which Jesus prayed with the disciples on the night of his death. They could not understand the prayer then, but after his resurrection and ascension, they could appreciate it more. Jesus says: "Holy Father, keep them in your name which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

Jesus is praying that the disciples would remain in faith, remain in the name of the Father, remain true to the teaching that he had taught them. It would have been easy for the disciples to chalk all this up to an exciting three years and leave it at that. They could have gone back to the fishing boats, something they knew, something that was secure and not scary. But remembering this prayer of

Jesus, as I'm sure they must have, they had the power, the strength, and the encouragement to wait, to stay in Jerusalem for the coming of the Spirit.

Jesus wanted the disciples to have faith, to remain true to God, to believe in the promises and teaching he had given them.

There are many times when we are not quite sure in our faith, not quite sure what is going to happen next, what the future is going to hold for us. The pandemic has made most of those times look small. It has changed so much and left us frightened about the future even as we seem to be emerging from Covid. I hope we recall these words of Jesus also. I hope we know that even when the future seems more uncertain than usual, that even when we can't see how God can ever make a way out of what looks like a dead end, when we can't see what a new normal will look like, that we can still cling to Jesus's promises, and know his presence.

God gives gifts of spirit, perseverance, and power in ways we can't understand. God never abandons us. For all of us who claim the name Christian, we are called from fear to hope. In times of adversity and uncertainty, all of us who are in the community of Christ are called to perseverance. We have the companionship of Christ for our journey. We have the community of faith, sisters and brothers who also believe and with whom we share. Our call is to keep going, to persevere in

faith, to take one step at a time in our journey with Jesus.

St. Augustine spoke of the destination of our journey in faith and life as the eternal love and presence of God. He envisioned a time of security from adversity without fear of death. But in the meantime he said that we need to keep on walking. In his words, "brothers and sisters, let us sing Alleluia now, let us sing as travelers sing along the road, but keep on walking. Sing, but keep on walking. What do I mean by walking? I mean press on from good to better. If you press on, you keep on walking."

The good news of the gospel is news of companionship. Christ is the companion on the journey. The risen one is with us as a fellow sojourner on the way. It is the news that the Spirit of the risen and ascended Christ is our advocate and guide for the journey. The Spirit gives us words and works, guides our comings and our goings, strengthens and sustains us on our journey.

In the in-between times of our lives, in all our lives, sing Alleluia, the song of life, of victory, of hope, and keep on walking. Amen.

Brad+

Father Brad Mullis is the rector at Trinity Episcopal Church. He can be reached at rector@trinitysvl.org / 704-872-6314.

Evangelism

By Jane Getsinger



Our church is working on several fronts to spread the word about Trinity, and one of our special projects (one that had to be put on hold due to the pandemic) has been the creation of a mini-brochure. We are asking all members of Trinity to share these mini-brochures and invite friends, neighbors, and newcomers to join us. Each of you will receive a copy of the following letter and a few brochures to distribute. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Evangelism Letter to Trinity

Evangelism

1. The spreading of the Christian Gospel by speaking or personal witness.
2. Zealous advocacy of a cause.

Our Vestry at Trinity invites YOU to invite OTHERS to come worship with us.

Early in 2020, before the full-blown effects of COVID were upon us, the Vestry discussed and blessed a project that was in the best sense of the word Evangelical.

Evangelism does not come easily for many Episcopalians, but we tried to make it easy for everyone; we created a beautiful mini brochure that does all the “talking.”

Thankfully, the time has come that we can, with renewed energy, invite our friends and neighbors to experience the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ.

We live in challenging times and the moral compass of the Gospel is needed as always. Community is needed. We offer a beautiful place of worship. We are blessed to have a gifted shepherd in Father Brad, and we at Trinity try to follow. All these points are addressed in the mini brochure. Worship and programs are in person and on-line. All you must do is share.

In order for us to put just three brochures into your hands we have organized your packet. We have begun distributing these packets at church and through the mail ...all we ask is that you share them.

Why?

The church is our moral compass. Trinity offers a sense of belonging. We are in challenging times. Church attendance is down nationally. Now, more than ever, people may need what the church has to offer – a community of love and hope where all are welcome.

In Christ,

The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal, Statesville

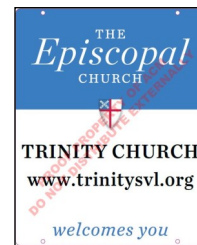
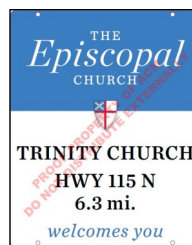
Signs Point to Trinity

NEW TRINITY ROAD SIGN

Jane Getsinger has been working with a sign maker and the N.C. Department of Transportation since January to arrange for a road sign in Troutman that will direct people to Trinity Episcopal.

The sign, which is scheduled to be installed in early June, will be on Highway 115/21, next to the Fairgrounds and just north of Old Mountain Road.

Below are design proofs of the sign. The first is the side that motorists heading north from Troutman toward Statesville will see. The second is the side that motorists leaving Statesville heading south will see.



The process, from first contact with the N.C. DOT to the actual installation, involved months of follow up and mountains of governmental regulations to work through.

Thank you, Jane, for making this project happen!

UPDATED & REFRESHED CHURCH SIGNS

Have you noticed the updated signs in the front and rear of the church? Both now have the new website URL. The main signs will soon get a fresh coat of paint.





**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

Trinity Episcopal Spring Blood Drive

**June 18, 2021
2:00 pm until 6:30 pm**

**Trinity Episcopal Church
801 Henkel Road — Statesville, NC 28677**

What a great way we can give back!

You can still go out and give blood. Help to avoid potential blood shortages in the future. "Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement."

Give Blood, Help Save Lives

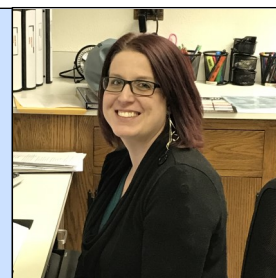
Healthy donors are encouraged to book an appointment.

Go to: redcrossblood.org or call Bill Neely 704-929-6554

Donating blood products is essential to community health and eligible donors are encouraged to donate during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need.

For the safety of our donor community and in accordance with CDC guidelines, all donors are required to wear a face covering or mask. Please bring one to your donation. If you do not have one, a mask will be provided to you. Thanks for your ongoing support of patients in need!

Welcome, Heather Scercy



Meet our new Parish Administrator, Heather Scercy

Heather grew up in Mooresville and moved to Statesville in 2015. She has two children; Connor, 7, and Kade, 3. Her interests include cooking and baking (she was a pastry chef for 10 years) and arts and crafts, especially when she is able to involve her boys. In addition, she is the vice-president of the Parent Teacher Organization at her son's school and enjoys helping at the school in other ways whenever she gets the chance. Heather looks forward to meeting everyone in person soon. In the meantime, Jenneffer Sixkiller had the chance to chat with her and found out some really interesting things that will help us get to know Heather better!

What are some of your favorite tools and techniques you use to stay organized in the office?

I love labels and folders. I think I label everything multiple times before I have it just how I like it and to make it work "better" for me to find it. I LOVE my Apple phone, so I don't ever think I'll switch from the Apple brand. I am a pretty scheduled person and I love routine and structure, but I've learned to become flexible and adapt to many different scenarios where sometimes it's chaos.



Is there any prior experience that helps you rock your job?

I used to be a personal assistant for a Children's Pastor many years ago. But other than that, I have always worked in some form of customer service role, so interacting with people has always been a strong suit for me. Computers and technology are my friend (some days), and I'm not afraid to ask for help from others or google. If I'm struggling, there is always someone who knows a better and easier way.

Tell us about your experience in the culinary arts

After finishing school for a catering degree, I became a pastry chef at Harris Teeter. I worked there for 10 years. I loved the creativity of each order and seeing the joy from children when they got their "special cake". Nothing too fancy when it comes to pastries, just trial and error ... and tons of sweet mistakes to eat.

What is your favorite dish to make?

My favorite dish is going to have to be Chicken and Rice Casserole. My favorite dessert is either pineapple upside down cupcakes or gluten free brownies (Nutella and eggs only). I tend to enjoy the sweet items more than the savory – HAHA.

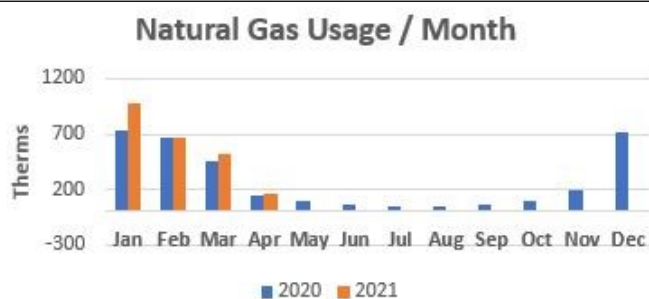
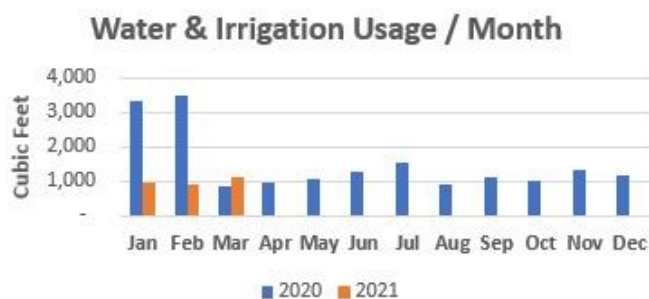
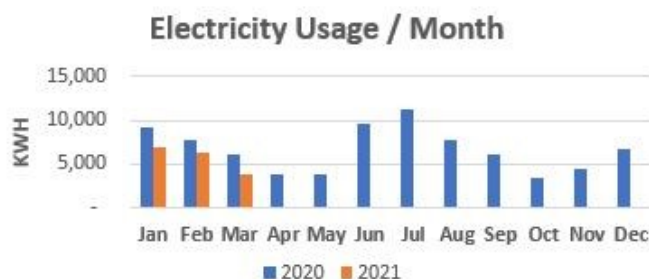
Anything else you'd like to share?

I'm pretty simple, easy going, and laid back. I love spending time with my 2 boys (Connor and Kade) and participating in school functions and activities. Kade will be attending pre-

school at Trinity this fall and we are both pretty excited about it! I'm a big DIYer and don't have too green of a thumb. My plants are mostly fake so they don't die, except for our strawberry plants and blueberry bushes, which never get to grow the berries since the boys eat them before they are ripe!

Environmental Stewardship

Tracking Our Utility Usage



The charts will be updated with 2021 data as subsequent monthly bills are available.

Updates and Happenings

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive-Through



Even with a different format this year, our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was a big success. Thank you to everyone involved. Due to everyone's generosity, \$1,284 was added to our Youth Missions Fund for future outings and projects.

The event also included "Ashes To Go" that folks could take and self impose during the livestream Ash Wednesday service.

Community Garden Work Day



Dee Ham and his crew recently spent a Saturday morning refreshing and repairing the Community Garden. This included spreading 50-60 bales of pine needles, preparing the Outreach garden beds for planting, and mowing the grass.

If you haven't visited the Garden lately, especially the labyrinth, you'll notice a big improvement. It's a beautiful, spiritual setting. A few minutes there will refresh your soul and renew your appreciation for God's natural world.

"Feeding Our Friends" Spring Food Drive

On Saturday, April 17th, a group got together to take food collected from our food drive to Iredell Christian Ministries. We loaded the food into a truck and SUV and made the short trip across town. There we were met by Joy Morrison, the director of ICM's food pantry, who unlocked the gate and helped us unload and weigh the food. The food totaled **810 pounds**. We also presented Joy with a check for **\$1,338**, which will be used to purchase food to give away. ICM provides food for about 300 families per week.



Joy then gave us a tour of the facility and told us about the organization and how it operates. This was fascinating to the group and made us more aware of the need in Iredell county. We all went home very grateful for our blessings.



Donations are being accepted for the Community Garden project of installing a water line to the labyrinth. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated!

Jim Rhyne

Updates and Happenings

Building and Grounds Work Day



On March 13, Trinity's volunteer work crew gathered for an enjoyable and productive morning of sprucing up our church grounds. Thanks, folks, for your hard work and dedication.



May 16: Outdoor Rogation Service

May 23 Pentecost

June 18: Red Cross Blood Drive

Church Building

Bill Neely, our Junior Warden, has been hard at work taking care of our building. Under Bill's guidance, we have installed new lighting in Brad's and Heather's offices, and we've updated the building alarm system.



Dear Trinity Family,

With our love and gratitude, we thank you for reaching out to us when our granddaughter, Lauren, died in Texas.

Your dear prayers, the flowers, delicious meals, sweet notes, cards, phone calls, and visits ... it's hard to put into words how much this means to us.

Father Brad and each of you will never know how we appreciate you and our church family.

Love in Christ,

Richard & Kay Holshouser

Trinity Episcopal Directory



Thanks to everyone's help, we now have a current church directory. With the new format, it will be possible to update listings, so please notify the office, parishadmin@trinitysvl.org / 704-872-6314, of any corrections. At some point in the near future, when things are closer to "normal," we plan to add photographs. So be on the lookout for more information about that.

Welcome, Katherine Smith



Meet our Pre-School Director, Katherine Smith

A graduate of Elon University, Katherine has worked for the Iredell County Health Department and been the Operations Manager for the Friends of Fort Dobbs. Her husband is Ron, and her children, Lucy and Ryder, both attended Trinity preschool. She currently serves on the board of the American Renaissance School.

So, to start with, what made you interested in the position?

My interest in the position came from my love of Trinity Preschool. My children attended here and it was such a positive experience for them and myself. Trinity Preschool is also the reason my family decided to visit church service at Trinity and become members. When the position became available, I knew I wanted to be a part of this wonderful ministry.

What kind of work is involved directing a preschool?

The preschool director is responsible for registering students for the school year, hiring staff, developing and managing the budget, purchasing supplies, planning the calendar, conducting tours, and many other responsibilities.

Do you have special connections with any community members or stakeholders?

I would not say that I have any special connections to community members or stakeholders regarding preschool. There are 6 church preschools, including Trinity, in Statesville that communicate regularly with each other. While Trinity was not open, I understand that these communications were invaluable during COVID. I look forward to working with these preschools. I am also blessed with a church family that supports Trinity Preschool.

What special challenges do you anticipate as we pivot from this pandemic?

The biggest challenge preschool is facing currently is filling our classrooms with students. Since, the preschool did not open for the 2020-2021 school year, we don't have any current students that will be moving up to the next class. However, registrations are definitely picking up. At this point I am not certain how preschool will look next school year, but I am working with the diocese to figure that out. The staff and I are just excited to get back to teaching our students.

Who are some of your mentors and role models?

I could not imagine being in this position without the mentoring of the previous Trinity Director, Mrs. Sherry George. Sherry has been invaluable in my time as director. She has been willing to meet several times and is always available to answer any questions that come up. Another valuable mentor is Mrs. Falon Speaks, director at First Presbyterian Preschool. She took me on a tour of her preschool and also met with me to answer questions I had about preschool in general.

My parents are my role models for sharing Jesus' love with me and my brother. They also made sure we regularly attended church and were involved in mission work helping others. Also, my Aunt Ann is another role model who taught me it's okay to be silly and laugh at yourself.

What are your major interests in life, outside of work and family?

In my free time, you will probably find me volunteering or reading a good book. I also keep busy with my work on the Board of Directors for the American Renaissance School. I'm looking forward to volunteering more as COVID restrictions are lifted.

Anything additional you'd like to share with me?

If you or someone you know are looking for a preschool program for their child, please have them call me at 704-872-0540 or email me at preschool@trinitysvl.org.

Thank you to Jenneffer Sixkiller for chatting (electronically) with Katherine and sharing this wonderful interview.



Diocese News

Bishops Sam Rodman & Anne Hodges-Copple of the Diocese of North Carolina Share a Statement on COVID-19 Vaccines



The last 10 months have been a trial for all of us, but the successful development of vaccines for COVID-19 and their approval through rigorous medical trials are reasons for hope.



With distribution of the vaccines underway, we are committed as your bishops to making reliable information available to all and to doing everything we can to ensure these life-saving vaccines' equitable and prompt distribution.

We can now move closer to a safer way of life and the opportunity eventually to gather together, again. That requires action from all of us: Vaccinations are what will prevent the spread of COVID-19. Until sufficient numbers of us have been vaccinated to achieve needed levels of immunity, we must remain vigilant about social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing.

Understanding that some have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines, we offer these reassurances:

- Vaccines, including these, are [safe and effective](#). The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have each been shown to be more than 90% effective.
- During the last 200 years, vaccination has controlled major communicable diseases, including polio, measles, mumps and rubella. With the exception of the provision of safe water supplies, vaccination has potentially [saved more lives](#) than any other medical intervention, including antibiotics.
- [Ongoing systemic racism](#), including in the fields of science and medicine, has left racially subordinated communities understandably concerned with new interventions. Every indication we have is that these vaccines are [equally safe for all](#), and we join with those in health care – medical professionals from these same underserved communities among them – who are urging Brown and Black people to be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- We believe the church can provide significant leadership for communicating and educating about COVID-19 and vaccination. In that spirit, we have formed the Diocesan Task Force on Vaccine Education, calling on experienced medical providers, scientists and educators in our diocese to take the lead in identifying educational resources along with information about access to vaccines in all parts of our diocese. Task Force members include:
 - Maureen Flak, Parish nurse and public health advocate (Facilitator)
 - The Rev. Scott Balderson, Deacon and physician assistant with the Duke Hospital Department of Surgery
 - Joseph Graves, Professor at NC A&T University and PhD in evolutionary, environmental and systematic

biology; Associate Director, Triangle Center for Evolutionary Medicine.

- James Horton, Physician at Atrium in Charlotte and infectious diseases specialist
- Chris Paul, Assistant Professor of Public Administration at NC Central University and director of the MPA and the health policy specialization
- The Rev. Sallie Simpson, Campus minister at St. Augustine's University and retired nurse

Other diocesan leaders will support and supplement their work. We will be encouraging clergy to organize online town halls or other educational events to answer parishioners' questions. For those who wish assistance, the task force will provide resources and access to medical and scientific professionals who are willing to participate in events to answer questions about vaccination.

Two resources currently available from the NC Department of Health and Human Services include [this presentation](#) and [this video](#). Another resource from The New England Journal of Medicine [is found here](#). In addition, a small step each parish can take is to share information about vaccination availability in their county.

We mourn with those in need of comfort, grieving the costs of this pandemic in the loss of more than 400,000 precious children of God, impacts to health that will not be resolved quickly or easily, and lives indefinitely disrupted. We also give thanks to the scientists and health care professionals, farmworkers and grocery store clerks, teachers and other essential workers who sacrificially continue to serve the welfare of us all even at the risk of their well-being.

Let us never forget that we are all in this together. St. Paul writes in the twelfth chapter of his First Letter to the Corinthians:

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."

We may not all be of one mind about the vaccination. That's understandable. But let us be of the same Spirit in seeking not only the welfare of our individual selves, or our own households, but seeking the welfare of our wider communities, in fact, the whole global community.

(Taken from the Diocese "Please Note" weekly newsletter)

Milestones

Birthdays

MAY

5/4 David Landry
 5/8 Megan Davis
 5/9 Parker Gilliam
 5/10 Joy Allison
 5/10 Charles Davis
 5/14 Reay Griggs
 5/15 Trudy Goodman
 5/15 Larry Trott
 5/16 Keith Crouch
 5/17 Rae Marie Clark
 5/17 Chantres Harrison
 5/17 Ava Harwell
 5/17 Margaret Johnson
 5/17 Ansley Tsumas
 5/19 Martha Neely
 5/19 Derek Wilson
 5/21 Berry Williams
 5/23 Aston Johnson
 5/23 Jackie Warren
 5/24 Locke Allison
 5/24 Sarah Borders
 5/25 Henrietta Williams
 5/26 Will Fanjoy
 5/26 Rob Hites
 5/26 Susan Quarantiello
 5/26 Monica Trott
 5/26 Jim Vacca
 5/27 Paul Tsumas
 5/29 Nora Davis
 5/30 Bill Balatow
 5/30 Carter Payne
 5/30 Julia Scott

JUNE

6/1 Charity Graves
 6/2 Emma Peters
 6/3 Ia Lewis
 6/4 David Alexander
 6/6 Ellison Johnson
 6/6 Charlie Mullis
 6/7 Tessa Gottholm
 6/7 Charles Harwell
 6/7 Blair Warren
 6/8 Claire Balatow
 6/8 Chuck Dockery
 6/8 Walter Patterson
 6/8 Maribeth Peters
 6/11 Jonas Dearman

6/11 Anne Johnson
 6/12 Lynn Lawton
 6/13 Jason Gilliam
 6/13 Lynda Sloan
 6/14 Bruce Cardwell
 6/17 Sarah Shoobridge
 6/18 Ryan Fox
 6/23 Sarah Alexander
 6/23 Hawkson Rikard
 6/24 Katherine Smith
 6/27 Brad Mullis
 6/28 Reid Balatow
 6/28 Dee Ham
 6/30 Lillian Rutter

JULY

7/1 Lula Cheatham
 7/1 Mary Alice Rutter
 7/3 Reed Hassler
 7/6 Michael Reimann
 7/7 Tessica Martin
 7/7 Page Rankin
 7/10 Thomas Fanjoy
 7/10 Usoa Sixkiller-Criswell
 7/11 Buchanan Deter
 7/14 Laura Peters
 7/14 Brent Warren
 7/16 John Deter
 7/16 Re Johnston
 7/18 Sandra Landry
 7/18 Lisa McBroom
 7/20 Karalee Rikard
 7/21 Malachi Hart
 7/21 Lori Martin
 7/21 Meredith Smith
 7/21 Linda Thornton
 7/23 Michaela Quarantiello
 7/23 James Shoobridge
 7/24 Benjamin Hites
 7/25 Patterson Beard
 7/26 Martha Jennings Rutter
 7/27 Jan Ambrose
 7/28 Nick Harknett
 7/28 Tammy Neely
 7/29 Louisa Clendenin
 7/30 Angela Holland

AUGUST

8/1 Garrett Gilliam
 8/2 Natasha Marko
 8/5 John Solberg
 8/6 Carol Leach

8/7 Billie Bourgeois
 8/7 Bill Caldwell
 8/7 Cameron Rankin
 8/7 Sarah Kate Rankin
 8/8 Ashley Alexander
 8/9 Adam Hassler
 8/9 Samantha Holland
 8/11 Nancy Davidson
 8/12 Joanne Schinaman
 8/13 Wendy Allison
 8/14 John Johnson
 8/16 Brittany Cooper
 8/16 Shane Fox
 8/17 Sandy Manly
 8/18 Laura Johnson
 8/20 Timothy Crouch
 8/20 Susan Fanjoy
 8/20 Genevieve Lewis
 8/21 James Hogan
 8/22 Ed Abercrombie
 8/23 Brenda Gregory
 8/24 Barbee Ham
 8/25 Brittainy Dearman
 8/25 Tres Gaither
 8/25 Jane Serene
 8/27 Andrew Rutter

Anniversaries

MAY

5/4 Clay and Susan Crouch
 5/4 Ray & Leslie Lackey
 5/11 Chuck and Marcia Lindler
 5/18 Andy and Cindy Booker
 5/22 Elliott and Heather Harwell
 5/27 Kirk & Amy Lawton
 5/28 Walter and Denise Fox
 5/31 Jason and Renee Gilliam

JUNE

6/3 David and Ashley Alexander
 6/7 Bill and Evie Caldwell
 6/9 Paul and Destiny Tsumas
 6/12 Joe and Sally Furr
 6/26 Scott and Elizabeth Rankin

6/26 Jim and Anne Rhyne
 6/27 Bud and Lori Martin

JULY

7/2 Sonny and Page Rankin
 7/6 Art and Lynne Werner
 7/24 Richard and Reay Griggs
 7/26 Bruce and Susan Cardwell

AUGUST

8/4 Keith and Barbara Crouch
 8/7 Bill and Carol Leach
 8/11 Tommy and Wendy Allison
 8/11 Dee and Barbee Ham
 8/11 Jim and Brucie Serene
 8/13 Brad and Ellyn Mullis
 8/16 Nicholas and Katie Harknett
 8/19 Bill and Inga Balatow
 8/26 Richard and Jennifer Griggs
 8/29 Bob and Laura Johnson

Please send any obituaries or birth notices to parishad-min@trinitysvl.org for inclusion in Topics. Similarly, if you spot any errors, please send those to the same email address.



P.O. Box 1103 Statesville, NC 28687
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

