

# From the Desk of the Senior Warden

## **Just Show Up**

We are a pretty old church...well established...but we are, in a way, a very young church. There has been continuity but there has been a break with continuity...so, this makes us brand new in some important ways. One thing this offers us is a new beginning. We have seen what this realignment means in our real life existence as a vital body in Christ....We have been looking at this and living it for about a year and a half now. These early years of our new life warrant an assessment of where we are. Like a new baby whose life is counted in months, not years, with each month's many developments, our first years as an Anglican church deserve to be looked at as something special and fecund with potential and possibilities. We ask, "Who are we?" in a different way than we did last year. Now, "Who are we?" in our second year casts our vision close in to "Where do I fit in with the church family of Holy Trinity Parish? We are a family in Jesus Christ. We all know that family means relationship, and relationship grows out of time and involvement. Like your favorite fruit tree, if not provided with a couple of critical elements, you won't get anything from it. Without sun and water, not one avocado. Not one orange. No bananas. Nothin'. Add sun and water and watch nature take its course. Add time and involvement to your relationship with your Holy Trinity family and watch what happens!

John and I became members of Holy Trinity in 2005. Not very long ago. We came with some baggage. Some hurts. Some little feelings of betrayal that got in our way of getting involved whole-heartedly with the life of Holy Trinity. But three years isn't such a long time, and here we are. It took the tenderness and patience of the Lord. It took the dedicated and Truthful teaching of Fr. Bausch. It took the sensitive delicacy of the family we had joined. We kind of knew from the beginning that it was only a matter of time before we "stepped up to the plate" because "the Bible tells us so". It is good to worship God through the liturgy and the Eucharist, but it is almost impossible to get through the New Testament without the sense that being and doing together along the way of our lives outside the Sanctuary is vital to our life in the Holy Spirit. So, in the course of time John and I found ourselves where we are now, with relationship and involvement and participation in a number of ministries that just keeps increasing.

It began with little steps. It actually began with me turning down more invitations to participate than I accepted and the feeling that every little opportunity cost too much. Now, when I think about it, I can't remember what I thought the price was. It was largely to do with Time. Precious Time. Holy Time. Mmmm. Time, like wealth, shows me where my heart is. When we first started getting the LOGOS, I would look at the calendar page and only see the services. In time, I began to see the services and the Sunday Evening Study Group. Soon, I began to see other things. Now I take the calendar page out and highlight everything I want to attend. I don't make it to all of them, but I want to. My goal is to look at the calendar of events and not think in terms of what I have time to participate in, but instead, identify those events that I actually have specific conflicts with and go to everything else. I mean, this is where my life is. This is where I belong. It is where my heart is. This is my family.

I don't know where you are with all this, but I encourage you to make your life with your church family a priority that is reflected in the time you spend with it. The community of Holy Trinity is like a living, breathing thing that needs you and the life you bring to it.

There is a lot that is going on there and a lot to do. Please get involved. Pick one thing...or one additional thing...to take part in here. Make it a little something or a major bite out of your week. Say "yes" when you are asked to help or invited to be a part of something. Or, don't wait to be asked. Come and be enriched and enrich the life of all of us. You are needed here. Just show up!

Yours in Christ, Melissa Cochran, Senior Warden