



trinity episcopal church

33 linwood ave, whitinsville, massachusetts

email: trinityoffice@trinity01588.com

phone: 508/234-5303

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of Trinity Parish,

As a member of the Vestry, the Search Committee, and most importantly a fellow parishioner of this beautiful community, our Trinity Church, I want to bring you some news that may be painful to hear but may offer us a wonderful miracle.

For the past few years we have been collaboratively working with St. John's in Millville. We attempted to satisfy several objectives. First, we were able to financially assist (now retired) Father John. Second, were able to reduce and share expenses of a full-time priest. Last, and most important, we collaborated to search for a new priest. We met on several occasions with Cannons to the Ordinary (Bishop's Assistants), which revealed startling challenges we were not aware of, but also introduced opportunities to keep our parish home viable and literally open.

***We are faced with a very somber decision: "To be (stay open) or not to be (close the parish)".
That is the question and the decision we must prayerfully consider.***

As we pray about and consider this serious decision – here are some questions I will be asking myself and I hope you will also consider:

1. What is our mission at Trinity?
2. What are we lacking that could be a detriment to attracting and retaining families?
3. How do we bring members back to our weekly worship?
4. What are we doing or not doing that has caused such a significant drop in attendance?

However serious and painful this realization is, we must pray and ask: Lord God, what is your plan for us? Please give us the wisdom, the fortitude and the faith to accomplish what is necessary to save our parish, to your glory.

As we all pray about this decision, here are a few more points to consider:

1. We remember that Jesus Christ is the Leader of this church and we are to "seek Him first and His righteousness – and all these things shall be added unto you Alleluia!"
2. Search our hearts as to what God's Will is for this congregation and parish; present and future generations. "When two or three are gather in His name ..." He hears our prayers.
3. What specifics should we be praying for? "... THY WILL be done on earth, as it is in Heaven."
4. What will our plan of action be? "I have set you an example so that you should do as I have done for you."

Our parish has a long-standing reputation of accomplishing great things when we pull together, pray together and act together. If you would like to forward comments about this letter to the parish office, please send them via email to trinityoffice2@verizon.net.

On Sunday, March 31, 2019 we will have a frank discussion using the comments forwarded as well as an open conversation during our Sunday service to start on our journey of transformation. Our timeframe to start is **now**; your attendance and input for March 31st is most urgently required.

The Vestry is praying that a positive outcome results from our prayers, discussions and actions and we are able to keep our parish alive and healthy. PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!

Faithfully in Christ

Sue Vanderzicht