

Rector's Column

For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.
Leviticus 23:3-4

Dear Friends,

Through October to mid-December, our congregation will be observing a period of sabbatical. This a time of pause in the midst of our usual parish and organizational life in order to reflect, envision, and renew the values and mission we hold as a community and how our values and mission will inform our priorities and collective commitments for the next 3-5 years of planning. Trinity's Leadership Team is a concept that includes not only the Vestry but also the Trinity staff and lay leaders responsible for coordinating the work of our core committees and teams such as the Endowment Committee and Business Group. Our Leadership Team and membership will have opportunities each month to meet with consultants, each specialized in differing areas of congregational vitality.



As a prelude to the sabbatical time, Trinity hosted The Rev. Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg, who is a member of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's staff. Shaneequa led a full day retreat for Trinity's Leadership Team on September 28th, with an additional session on Sunday, and preached at both morning services on the 29th. If you have not had the opportunity to listen to her sermon, you can view it on Trinity's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UurTVm3Skt4>. The sermon asked the people of Trinity, "Who are we called to be for such a time as this?" More than ever, the congregations of the Episcopal Church are asked to meet the tensions of our national life and international conflicts with the courage of our faith to take risks for truth telling in the realms of social justice and creation care; with the creative inspiration of the Holy Spirit for change; and with the willingness to step out into new relationships in the neighborhoods beyond our doors.

We will build on the groundwork established in the first Leadership Team retreat with three additional weekends of retreat and consultation. On the weekend of October 19/20, Trinity will host a consulting team from Kaleidoscope Institute – the originators of the model of Holy Currencies and program development that Trinity has been using for the past few years in our annual pledge campaigns. The Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton and The Rev. Dr. Liliana DaValle will meet with the Leadership Team on Saturday and present an adult forum on Sunday following the 10:00am service. DaValle will preach at both Sunday morning services. During their time with us, the two consultants will review the cycle of communal blessings that the Holy Currencies support and additionally initially guide the community in developing new community partnerships and new outreach ministries. During the weekend of November 16/17, The Rev. Terry Kyllö who is the

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Executive Director of Paths to Understanding will provide consultation on lay leadership development and allyship formation for ministries that make a difference in the work of social justice that can help guide the development of interfaith and multi-cultural partnerships. He will meet with the Leadership Team for a retreat on Saturday, preach at Sunday morning services, and provide an adult forum following the 10:00am service. Finally, on the weekend of December 7/8, The Rev. Ivar Hillesland who is the newly appointed Canon for Congregational Development in our diocese focus his consulting on budgeting for fulfilling our mission for deeper community connections, lay leadership formation, and skills for leading crucial conversations for collaborative community development. He will provide a retreat for the Leadership Team on Saturday, and as with the previous consultants, he will preach at Sunday services the following morning and provide an adult forum after the 10:00am service.

While Trinity is engaging and reflecting on the work of the consultations, I will also be on sabbatical. For me it will be a time of rest, education, and reconnecting with family. I have been invited by the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, Australia to serve as their Theologian in Residence for a week in October, and my husband Nigel will be joining me on that trip. Following our time in Adelaide, we will travel to New Zealand to stay with friends there and explore some places we fell in love with during a vacation there two years ago. The month of November will include a time of much-needed time catching up on deferred chores at home as well as a visit to one of my brothers who lives in Portugal. My sabbatical time will conclude with a course in Disaster Spiritual Care, a training that meets the concerns and regulations of the National Transportation Safety Board for providing adequate spiritual care to airline employees and families in the event of airline disasters. Because of my years of experience as a healthcare chaplain and chaplain to first responders, I like to maintain professional certifications in trauma care and organizational trauma recovery.

The coming final quarter of the year will be a reflective and busy time for all of us, and I know that you will support the staff and lay leadership during this time as our community engages in important discernment and learning. As a time that is different from our usual operations, I hope you will participate in the consultations opportunities as much as you are able. I wish you all every blessings, deep peace and much love – may our Congregational Sabbatical be time of grace for all of us.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rachel+

The Rev. Rachel K. Taber-Hamilton, Rector

God's Sign for Sabbatical:

