

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · TRINITYTIDE 2021

# THE GALILEAN SHORE

Official Newsletter of HOPE Anglican Church

## Trinitytide? Sundays after Pentecost?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Once we leave the portion of the Church Year that focuses on the Life of Christ, we enter into this time where there aren't many HUGE festivals. Incense gets stored for a while and there just aren't many big events for which to look forward. People go on vacation and, for many, the year just becomes - ordinary.

But these Sundays after Pentecost - that we call Trinitytide - are actually times when the Church gets to be super focused on what it means to be a Disciple of Christ Jesus and what that involves. Over the next 20 weeks following Trinity Sunday, we will be spending our time in the Epistles of 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews. Our focus will be on what defines our lives as Christians and what that means for our life in this world. Join us as we journey deeper into the life that Jesus gives us.



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## What we learned when the Church Doors Closed.

BY FR. TIMOTHY DOUBBLESTEIN, MSJ

In March of 2020, by suggestion of the State and advice of the Council of Bishops, HOPE Anglican Chapel and all other ACNA Churches closed their doors to in person worship. It was an unprecedented time in the life of the Church and left priest and laity alike wondering how we were going to navigate this time. What would this do to our momentum as a parish? How would



pay the bills? Would we lose members? How could we make sure people received the life-giving Eucharist?

We innovated, got on-line and, for the most part, endured. But now it's time to look back at what we learned about the nature of the Church and ourselves as Disciples during the "lock-down".

It has often been said that the Church is not the building. Rather it is the people of God gathered together. But can we be the Church when we have to gather virtually? I think we have learned that we can but also that it takes dedication to do so. Many times we rely on "someone else" to gather us together. However, we cannot do that when we have to meet online. Each one of us has to make the decision that our gatherings for Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer, Bible Study and the like are essential to our growth as Disciples. It doesn't matter if we are online or not. If we don't show up we find ourselves drifting away from the Faith.

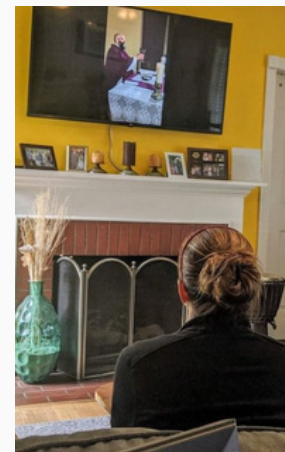
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"The Church is not the building. Rather it is the people of God gathered together."



## What we learned when the Church Doors Closed continued from pg. 2

We have also realized how fragile our parish is when it comes to finance. HOPE Anglican never has been (nor probably will be) a large parish. That's fine. We recognize that our dedication to the mission of serving the homeless and growing disciples of Jesus Christ is not a casual thing that can be done just by showing up on the occasional Sunday and throwing a \$5 into the offering. However, long periods of time without people making a contribution or tithe can be devastating to a parish with small finances. That's why the Vestry and I made the decision to make contributing to the church and Mission available through PayPal. We want to make



sure that you (and our parish online) can make your weekly or monthly tithes even when you cannot be in church with us. By the way, you can make those contributions by going to [www.hopechapel.me](http://www.hopechapel.me) and clicking on the Donation button.

And speaking of our "online parish", one of our most happy discoveries was that, as our services began to be live-streamed on Facebook, we had a number of people who would faithfully show up to be a part of our worship together. Some were old friends who missed being with us now that they had moved away. Others were new friends who wanted to explore what we were doing as a parish. We even had the occasional Bishop show up to see how things were going. So HOPE Anglican On-line is here to stay! As our equipment and expertise gets better I hope to be producing more and more content, but that is something that God will lead us through.

Was closing the doors of the Church a necessary evil? I think that will be debated for a long time. But I think we can safely say that it revealed to us a new, creative dimension that we had not explored, as well as pointing out some cracks in our foundation that needed attention. Let us continue to pray that God will not only reveal what needs attention but equip us to attend to it.

*Fr. Timothy Doublestein, MSIJ*



## A Charge to Keep We Have

Perhaps the most unique thing about HOPE Anglican Chapel is that we are both an active parish and an active Mission. Emmanuel Mission was founded at the same time that our parish was and that mission, to serve the rural homeless of our area, is essential to who we are.

A majority of our congregation is involved in the ministry of service to the homeless. Whether it is serving as an Innkeeper,



doing fundraising, or helping to keep the facility clean and repaired, they have embraced this calling as part of their Discipleship. As Christians, we remember that we were enslaved to a variety of things before Jesus saved us. This motivates us as we care for those who need to have obstacles removed from their lives so that they can meet Jesus as well.

Emmanuel Mission rounds out it's volunteer staff with like-minded Christians from other churches and denominations. They too have caught the vision and, in the future, we hope to be adding to our numbers resident missionaries from the Missionary Society of St. John the Evangelist. All of these people help us do the ministry we have been called to. But first and foremost, it is the calling of those of us who have made HOPE Anglican Chapel our home.

You can find out more about our vision on our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqYD-AKwKsDrEzz7hEggUUQ/featured>) and watching the videos entitled "Re-Discovering Mission".

"To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will"

CHARLES WESLEY





## Caffeinated Christianity

BY FR. TIMOTHY DOUBBLESTEIN, MSJ

Every Wednesday morning during the Spring, Summer and Fall, you are invited to join Fr. Tim at the Sunrise Kava Cafe (on the corner of River Rd and Lake St) for Caffeinated Christianity!

The origins of this group are three-fold. They consist of a desire to be visible in the community, to have time to discuss the Morning Prayer readings in a casual setting, and to feed Fr. Tim's coffee addiction.



Caffeinated Christian begins following Wednesday Morning Prayer (approximately 9:45 am) and lasts as long as we have things to talk about. Our main topics will be the Old Testament and Gospel readings for the day but will range all over the place (theology, philosophy, stupid quotes from Fr. Tim's favorite movies, etc.)

Why don't you join us for this time of study, laughter, outreach and the proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy....COFFEE!

"I have  
measured out  
my life with  
coffee  
spoons."

T. S. ELIOT





## Upcoming Projects and where you can help

Most of us know a little bit of the history of our church building. Built in 1887, it was one of the few structures to survive the forest fires of 1911 that destroyed the towns of Oscoda and AuSable. We are proud of that heritage.

But, being an older structure there are a lot of things that need to be updated to meet the current requirements of our parish. This summer we will begin working on a few of them that will make our facility more useful for the future.



These projects will be the first to be addressed:

- Re-roof the Southern rake over the Mission
- Painting the handicap ramp
- Unclutter and redesign the Sacristy, Vesting room, and entrance from the Sanctuary to the Mission/Fellowship area
- Finish the small "apartment" in the former balcony for use by a Resident Missionary for Emmanuel Mission

As these projects are completed we will move on to more (including an indoor handicap access from the Sanctuary to the Mission).

If you are desiring to help with any of these projects, please contact Fr. Tim at [hope.oscoda@gmail.com](mailto:hope.oscoda@gmail.com) or on his cell phone at (989) 820-5588.