

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ:

June 2018

As I mentioned briefly in my sermon on Trinity Sunday, we have now reached the mid-point of the Church's year of grace. The first half of the year, from Advent to Trinity Sunday, rehearses to us all the implications of our Saviour's Incarnation: Through the Son's birth, life, teaching, example, death, resurrection, ascension and session at the Father's right hand we learn the will of the Father to save us and bring us into eternal fellowship with Himself. Pentecost and Trinity Sunday teach us of the means of our entering into that fellowship (the justifying grace of the Holy Spirit) and its very nature (the life of God the Holy Trinity). The second half of the Church year is about the same Holy Spirit's gift of sanctifying grace, that we might *know and do* the will of Father, taught us by the Son, in the power of the Holy Ghost. The first Sunday after Trinity points us in this very direction with its Epistle wherein we are commanded to "love one another." Growth in the virtues of Faith, Hope and most especially Charity (love; the bond of all other virtues and the one without which all others are meaningless) is our spiritual goal at all seasons of the Christian life, but most especially in Trinity Season. Through the seasonal Sunday Epistles, John, Paul and other Apostolic men commend this message to us even as the Gospels in the same period offer both Christ's teaching and his example as illustrations of the same. That is why this season is so very 'trinitarian'; the life of the God, absolutely united in His triune person by virtue of love, is now to become our life (recall John's vision in the *Revelation*: not a window, but a *door* has been opened to us – we are invited into the very life of the God we behold). Consequently, our question to ourselves must be "what is the measure of love in my life?" Each of us must ask this question and none of us ought to be satisfied with a quick response. The shallow measure of love that satisfies our contemporary society, really just trite sentimentality, is NOT the substantial, challenging standard of self-giving love that Christ exemplifies and demands. However, it is what we are called to: we must begin to live as becomes such a calling.

Yours in Christ, Edward L. Rix

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

With the departure from 515 Manor Road of tenants of several years, we have taken the opportunity, before re-renting, to make some needed improvements to the house. Almost the entire interior has been repainted (the first time in several years), repairs have been made to some plumbing and electrical fixtures and the worn and damaged formica countertops in the kitchen have been replaced with granite. At 723 Braeburn Lane the Rix family are undertaking a removal, repair and re-setting of the hardscape brick paving behind the Rectory. We are also soliciting bids for concrete repair to the bilco basement doors to the rear of the house and stone repairs to the front steps and walkway. The same companies are giving us bids for repairs to our concrete walkways at the church, mandated by our insurance company. On the topic of insurance, a sub-committee of the Vestry has been hard at work assessing our property value, current rate of insurance and competitive options to our current property and casualty coverage. This is a long-term project but will allow us to decide at this time next year how best to proceed with our insurance coverage. Our thanks are extended to Dan Hutchinson for heading up the Insurance Sub-Committee and to Margarete Marvin for the excellent leadership she has been providing since taking over as Chairman of the Property and Grounds Committee (amongst all the things mentioned above you might also take note of the protective covering added to one of our fine stained-glass windows, refinishing of the pantry floor, repairs to the kitchen fan and Lybrand Hallway roof drain). This summer will also see drywall repairs in the Lybrand Hallway and some removal of trees and overgrown shrubbery. We will also be closing down our parish used bookstore in the next month: Vox Ama Deus has expressed interest in using the rooms it now occupies with an increase to its regular donation that far exceeds the current proceeds of book sales. On these matters, take note of the next item...

PARISH WORK DAY

We encourage all able-bodied volunteers who have opportunity to join us for a parish work day on Saturday, June 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our aims are several that day: to remove unwanted materials from the undercroft of the Church, to remove some unwanted shrubbery and trees, to give our caretaker a bit of hand with weeding and pruning, the removal of old computer equipment from the library and the boxing and disposal of books from the parish bookstore.

THANK-YOUS

Thanks are extended to all who so graciously welcomed Bishop David Njovu during his visit to the parish for Confirmation last month, especially to the Marvins who hosted a wonderful dinner for the Bishop, visiting clergy, confirmands and their families. Likewise thanks to all who attended and brought food items to our annual Parish BBQ and Choir Luncheon. On the topic of the Choir, we thank them, Dr. Radu and Ms. Fix-Keller both for a year of fine music and for the willingness on their part to return as individuals (on a completely volunteer basis) to sing as soloists over the next three months. This adornment to our Summer worship is much appreciated.



"The kingdom of God...is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." *St. Luke 13:18-19*