



# TRINITY TALK

February 2023

2400 N. Canal Street      Orange, California      714-637-1390  
The Rev. Jeannie Martz, Rector  
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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10am - Ash Wednesday Liturgy with imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion—in person



The Book Club will be meeting on **Saturday February 11th**. The group will have a discussion on the book The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg. They meet in the library from 9:30am - 11:00am. Join them for a truly enjoyable morning, and some lively literary discussions. A synopsis follows:

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future.

Sookie begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time, to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman named Fritz takes on the job of running her family's filling station. Soon truck drivers are changing their routes to fill up at the All-Girl Filling Station. Then, Fritz sees an opportunity for an even more groundbreaking adventure. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life.

Fabulous, fun-filled, spanning decades and generations, and centered on a little-known aspect of America's twentieth-century story, The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion is another irresistible novel by the remarkable Fannie Flagg.

## LENTEN MEDITATION BOOKLETS

The 2023 ERD meditations are available online to [download](#). Supporters are also invited to [sign up](#) to receive the daily meditations in English and Spanish by email. Like last year, the meditations are only available online, not as printed booklets.

THE STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Orange, California

First, I'd like to begin this State of the Parish address with our pre-sermon prayer because that's always a good way to start anything.

Please pray with me: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.*

Yesterday morning, when I read through all the reports in our Annual Meeting packet, I was, and still am, deeply touched by the level of commitment our congregation has to God, to the greater community beyond our campus, and to each other. Through 2022 and here early in 2023, we have faced challenges; we have received blessings; and we have experienced loss; and the mutual love we share in Christ in this place has been key in helping us all stay the course.

Among our challenges has been the vital and now permanent ministry of our hybrid worship, and the technological and audio issues that crop up from time to time. Our tech teams have gotten pretty good at troubleshooting (and at working a second camera when we have baptisms); but every now and then there are gremlins in the system! Thank you to Carl and Donna Watson, Mike Donaldson and Isabel Salazar, and David Ripley for continuing to battle the gremlins.

Another challenge that's had an impact throughout our ministry areas is our reduced volunteer base. Between moves out of state and the natural attrition of time, age, and illness, we don't have the "depth on the bench" that we've had in the past; and because we have fewer hands available, we've needed to be flexible and creative in how we carry out our ministries. It used to be said that "the last seven words of a dying church" are "But we've **always** done it that way!"

I don't think ANYTHING is "how we've always done it" anymore, and kudos to the Altar Guild, the Ushers, the Choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and everyone else who's had to let go of "how they'd *always* done" their ministries, and then go on to create something new.

Another big challenge – the ongoing conversation re permits with the City of Orange that has created timing delays in our window replacements, stucco repair, water damage repair by the sacristy and Bride's Room, and the Bride's Room bathroom remodel. A good portion of the funding for these various projects has been provided by individual donors, and we continue to thank you for your generosity in both treasure and time, and we're grateful for your patience. On a more positive note, these same donors have been instrumental in helping to make possible our new and **in-place** gates, front step handrails, and extensive security fences and HVAC unit protection cages. Again, many, many thanks for your generosity and your honoring God through your work in this place.

The most emotional and most spiritual challenge for 2023, of course, is the upcoming search process for Trinity's next Rector. I can't say anything about the details because, as Diocesan policy requires, I haven't been part of the Vestry's conversation with Fr. Thomas Quijada-Discavage, the Diocesan Transitions Officer -- but I will make a big pitch here for TRUST. Trust the Vestry, trust the process, and above all, trust the Holy Spirit. As I've said before, things worked out pretty well for all of us the last time around!

Granted, the last time around was simpler logistically because Fr. Paul was already in place to provide clergy continuity, but the process itself contained exactly the same unknowns then as it does now. Trust the process.

Our challenges, of course, have been balanced with blessings along the way. We've returned to full in-person worship with the Choir and congregational singing, and with both bread and wine available at Communion. Our worship ministries of the Choir, Altar Guild, Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Bell Choir, and AV Teams have become more and more resilient, flexible, and creative with every week that goes by -- and we as a congregation have learned to go with the flow!

We've returned to a regular schedule of in-person Outreach events, monthly Parish Dine Outs, and, last summer, Messy Church. Yay! We've also returned to our ministry of hosting Sunday Supper at St. Paul's, Tustin every other month. Again, everyone's generosity in their stewardship of time, talent, and treasure has been spectacular and very much appreciated. You are all keeping us strong!

We've also experienced the losses that come with life itself. One loss was both sad and happy, as we bid Rev. Annie and Pastor Buddy farewell and Godspeed in their move to Washington state where Annie is now the much-loved Vicar of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Washougal, WA.

Other losses were more poignant. Since just before our Annual Meeting last year, we've said good-bye to Betty Johnson, Jack Crabbs, Joyce Yoder, Jeanne Fischle, Jane Abeysinghe, Carolyn Lussier, and Jerry Jensen -- and we've finally been able to celebrate the life of Diana Hubbard who died in January of 2021 while we were still locked down.

With all these dear friends in our hearts, let us pray: Father of all, we pray to you for Betty, Jack, Joyce, Jeanne, Jane, Carolyn, Jerry, and Diana, as well as for all those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As an aside, Tilani Samarasekera left for Sri Lanka yesterday, taking her mother Jane's ashes back for interment there, so we also pray for safe travel for Tilani. Through challenge, blessing, and loss, we were all able to depend on our parish leaders: the Wardens, Lindsay Whipple and Alex Long, and Vestry, as well as Clerk Mike Donaldson and Treasurer Jack Reynolds – and thank you, Mike, for serving once again as Clerk of this Annual Meeting. We were able to depend on our parish staff: Parish Administrator Amy Morales, Music Director David Ripley, first Rev. Annie and now Alex Long as Youth Director, co-Christian Education Directors Heather Anderson and Suzanne Bilodeau, Acolyte Director Grant Avise, Ophelia Bueno in the nursery, and baristas Simone Bilodeau and Jacob Candela.

We were also able to depend on all our supportive volunteers – the Property Commission, the Kitchen Guild, the Parish Nurses who once again sponsored a flu vaccination clinic, as well as the recent in-person Alzheimer's Worship Service and Luncheon; the Parish Hall and Messy Church AV crew; the Counters, Bulletin Stuffers, Bulletin Strippers, and Office Volunteers; and, of course, we continue to depend on everyone who attends and participates in our small group ministries such as the Saturday Book Club, the Prayer Shawl ministry, the online Friday Bible Study Group, the Spiritual Transitions Group, as well as the various short-term discussion groups offered during the year. Once again, you are all keeping us strong – and we can't wait for the return in person of the Trinity Players, coming up this May!

At this point, I'd like to make special mention of a quiet but mighty parish ministry that supports all of us, whether we're aware of it or not. The Contemplative Prayer Group meets in person in the Youth Center on the first and third Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., and at home on the other Thursday evenings of the month, each person praying in their own home, but still praying together in the Spirit. For approximately 20 to 30 minutes, those who are participating sit in silence, open to the presence, the love, and the power of God – as one spiritual director has said, "leaning back into the conversation that is already taking place" in the depths of all our beings. As they do so, this Prayer Group holds all of us and, in fact, holds our entire world in the creative, redemptive, healing, living energy that is prayer.

If anyone would like to know more about Contemplative Prayer and the Contemplative Prayer Group, Jonnae Ostrom – who didn't know I was going to say this – would be more than willing to provide additional information. Their prayers are weaving golden strands of love, a golden web of prayer, around us all, every week.

Depend on their prayers and on all our prayers. Depend on each other; and most of all, depend on the power and the guidance of that same Holy Spirit who came upon the Church at Pentecost. Kindled by the fire of the Spirit's love, Trinity has a wonderful whirlwind future ahead of her, and all to the glory of God.

The state of this parish is very, very good – because I'm not the parish. All of **you** are the parish – and in the power of the Holy Spirit, **YOU ARE TRINITY STRONG**. Amen.

*jeanne +*



In honor of the President's Day Holiday, the office will be closed Monday February 20th.

## ST. PAULS SUPPER PROGRAM

**Sunday March 5th** Trinity will once again host "Sunday Suppers" at St. Paul's. Please join in this rewarding ministry by meeting at St. Paul's church to help prepare, serve, and clean-up.

Sign-up sheets are on the back bulletin .

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Watson



### PARISH DINE OUT

For this month's Parish Dine Out we will be going to Tulsa Rib Company, here in Orange. The Tulsa Rib Company has been one of Orange County's favorites since 1981. If you enjoy good old down home barbecue, you will love Tulsa Rib. Come join us Thursday February 19th from 11am-9pm, and help Outreach meet their 2023 goals. They are located at 220 E Katella Ave. Don't forget the flyer in your Sunday Bulletins. We can now enjoy Tulsa Rib at lunch time!



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is for food, fellowship, deepening relationships, and finding common purpose. Hosted by St. Paul's Tustin, the breakfast will take place Saturday February 25 at 9:00am. There will be a sitarist and will feature a keynote speaker, Matthew Jones. Please see the flyer on the back bulletin board.



### Celebrating Jeannie!

Join us on Sunday, February 19, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm in Armstrong Hall for an open house honoring Rev. Jeannie and her service to Trinity! The party will include cocktails and appetizers, dinner and a few special surprises. We hope you can join us. Questions or to RSVP, contact Ann Walker (714.496.0571 or [petplacegirl@me.com](mailto:petplacegirl@me.com))





02/01 Tom Hughes	02/10 Fran Fischle
Jeff Kenan	02/12 Cheryl Sosa
02/03 Trent Kibby	02/13 Jack Luce
02/05 Gail Metzger	02/14 Mary Robinson
02/06 Chris Laub	02/24 Pat Walker
02/07 Cindy Kimura	02/28 Dreena-Lee Stephens
Judy Lehman	

## Saturday and Sunday monthly attendance and collections

01/01	\$ 9,855	53 in-person
01/08	\$ 5,120	81 in-person, 20 zoom
01/15	\$ 11,194	88 in-person, 18 zoom
01/22	\$ 7,200	94 in-person, 22 zoom



**02/24 Hal and Carolyn Westfall**



The Youth Group program at Trinity is still going strong and meeting regularly every Sunday. We have about 3-6 youth who join us to hang out and play games, sports, as well as Bible Study and prayer. Our group has also started painting in recent youth group meetings and we plan to continue this going forward, as it has been rather popular. As always, we encourage you to invite your middle school and high school friends, children or grandchildren to join us on Sundays from 4-5:30pm at the Youth Center.

In addition to our weekly meetings, the youth members also participate in helping with Sunday Suppers, and serving on the altar as acolytes and cup servers. They also assist in the reading of Scripture during Eucharist and at our summer Messy Church gatherings. We thank each and every one of you who have donated and helped support the youth program with money, food, and of course your commitment of time. We really appreciate being able to provide this youth group for your children. They continue to grow as individuals in their own faith, as well as in their friendships with each other, and it is our pleasure to facilitate this. They are the future of Trinity after all! Thank you again for all of your support and prayers going into the new year.

