

# TRINITY TOPICS

### WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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### **DEAR FRIENDS**

### Narrowing the focus...



Dear Friends,

I've been thinking about my sermon. This is something I do every week I'm preaching, of course, but so much is going on this Sunday that I'm having trouble narrowing the focus. And since the professor of my advance preaching class in seminary told us

students not to start writing a sermon until we could complete the statement, "what I want this congregation to do is . . ." I find that I'm paralyzed. Here are the strands I'm supposed to weave into a coherent sermon:

- The Day of Change two things to remember the first is to set your clocks back one hour "fall back." If you don't you'll be an hour early for church!
   Related to the time change is our request for you to bring in your loose change (Day of Change get it?) Every quarter, dime, nickel, and penny will go to support our Community Breakfast program a program that welcomes more and more of our neighbors every week.
- Ingathering Sunday Thanks to everyone who has already turned in their pledge card for the 2025 Annual Pledge Drive. The tally of pledges is encouraging: Trinity hopes to receive \$215,000 in pledge commitments from 80 households. As of this writing, we have \$142,704 from 38 households. Thirty-two additional households pledged \$63,708 for this fiscal year. If those households renewed their pledges, we'd only be \$8,588 shy of our goal. Let's do this!!

- All Saints' Sunday one of my favorite church holy days. We'll remember the giants of the faith – apostles, prophets, and martyrs – and we'll also remember loved ones whom we hold dear in our hearts. Those you want to have remembered in the parish's prayers will be chanted by the choir as we begin the service. Please email their names to heather@trinitytoledo.org no later than today at 5:00 pm
- Baptisms two adults will be baptized during this Sunday's service, and we'll all have the opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant.
   Congratulations to Taylor Marshall and Alyssa Thomas as they take this step in faith!
- Garage Black Out as if Halloween weren't scary enough, the lights will be
  out in the Four Seagate garage this Sunday as the building undergoes
  necessary maintenance. You may want to bring a flashlight or have your cell
  phone handy to find your way to one of the two entrances from the garage
  to Trinity.
- Election Day on Tuesday a consequential day under normal conditions, this Election Day on November 5 feels particularly significant. Remember that there will be a prayer vigil at St. Andrew's, 2770 West Central Ave, across from FoodTown, on Monday, November 4, at 7:00 pm. Trinity will have its usual noon celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, November 6 the day after the election in St. Mark's Chapel.

You can see where my problem lies. What do I want this congregation to do? All the things I've listed above! And if you have trouble remembering them, most – if not all – of these will be repeated below.

See you this Sunday. And if you want to volunteer to preach, let me know. I'd be grateful for the help:)

Blessings, Stephen Applegate

**Pledge Now** 



### **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Search Committee continues to meet and discern with candidates for the next rector of Trinity. We would be especially grateful for your prayers as we move through this process. And, although you don't know who they are, please pray for the candidates with whom we are discerning.

### PLAZA WORK DAY

**Saturday, November 16 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon** Let's put the plaza beds to bed for the winter! We'll pull up the tomato plants and compost them, do some weeding, and secure the tarps on the beds for weed suppression. It won't take long if we have many hands. Bring your work gloves and tools for weeding. Please sign up here so we know you're coming. All are welcome and wanted! <a href="https://sugeni.us/ViJy">https://sugeni.us/ViJy</a>

### VIGIL ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION

St. Michael's in the Hills and St. Andrew's are hosting a prayer vigil on Monday, November 4, All are invited to attend, to be together in prayer for this election. This service of scripture,

prayer, and reflection begins at 7:00 pm, and will be held at St. Andrew's (2770 W. Central Avenue, across from FoodTown). For more information, see the <u>event posting on Facebook</u>.

### **INVESTITURE WATCH PARTY IS TOMORROW!**

Tomorrow morning, 10 am, Episcopalians in northwest Ohio will be gathering at Trinity to watch the investiture of Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean Rowe. Trinity is one of four sites in the diocese hosting watch parties for the livestream of the service. We are blessed to be joined by Bishop Anne Jolly. Our party starts at 10 am (music starts at 10 am; service starts at 11 am). Appetizers and beverages will be served. Did you forget to RSVP? No problem! We want you here with us, so come downtown!

Why attend the watch party? This is an important transition for the Episcopal Church and us in the diocese and at Trinity — and not just for church nerds! Over his 9-year term, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry introduced us to Jesus' Way of Love and reminded us repeatedly, "If it's not about love, it's not about God." Participating in Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean's investiture — through the miracle of live streaming — lets us prayerfully support and welcome him and his leadership. Just as important, it's a time that lets us gather and connect with other Episcopalians in our area. As a bonus, we'll be playing investiture bingo.

### **EPISCOPAL 101**

#### November 3, 10, & 17

Perhaps you are new here at Trinity. Or maybe you have been coming for a while but still have lots of questions about what this "Episcopal" church is all about. If you'd like a deeper understanding of who we are and why we do what we do, then Episcopal 101 is for you! Our Interim Rector, Stephen Applegate, will hold Episcopal 101 sessions on three consecutive Sundays in the Walbridge Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Parish House following the 10:00 am service.

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The class begins this Sunday, November 3.

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Organ Recital: Ken Stoops November 12, 2024 @ 7:00 pm Treasured Trinity organist, Ken Stoops, is giving a concert Nov. 12, 2024. With over 40 years of parish organ music ministry, Ken is a wealth of knowledge and undeniable talent sure to dazzle and delight organ enthusiasts of all levels. FREE EVENT.

### **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

It's Time for Diocesan Convention – And You're Invited!!

The 206<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio is coming to the Toledo area. On Friday and Saturday, November 8 & 9, the convention will be meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg. Clergy and lay delegates from parishes across the northern half of the state will be in town to celebrate the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement and conduct the business of the church – and Convention is for everyone!

In addition to the meaningful and essential work of the delegates regarding diocesan business and elections, the entire diocese is participating in creating a joyful space for engaging in collective worship, fostering congregational development, and creating and strengthening relationships and camaraderie in our diocese.

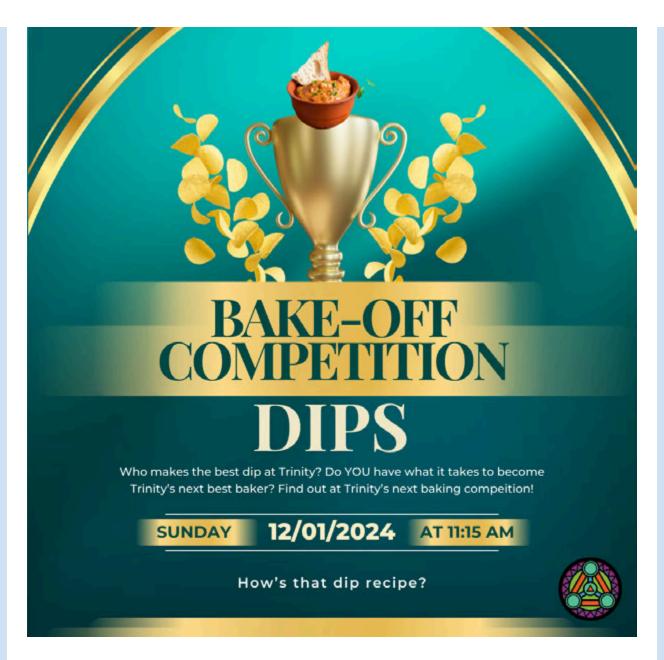
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Have we sparked your interest? Then contact the Parish Office – <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitytoledo.org">trinity@trinitytoledo.org</a> – for more information!

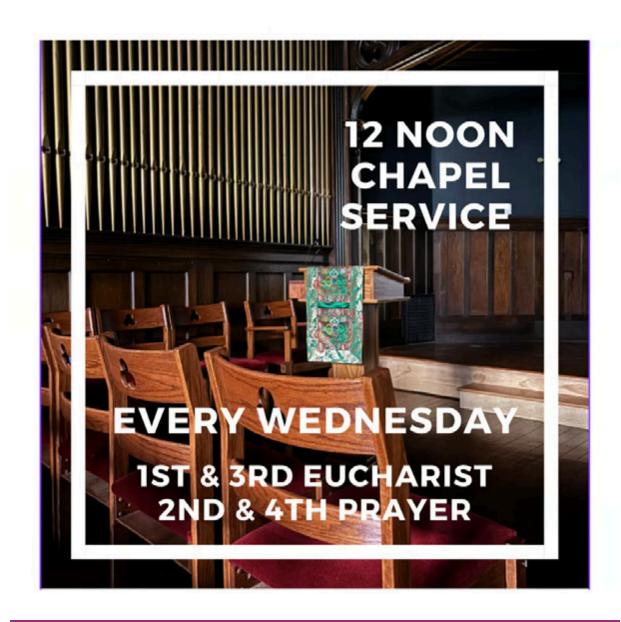


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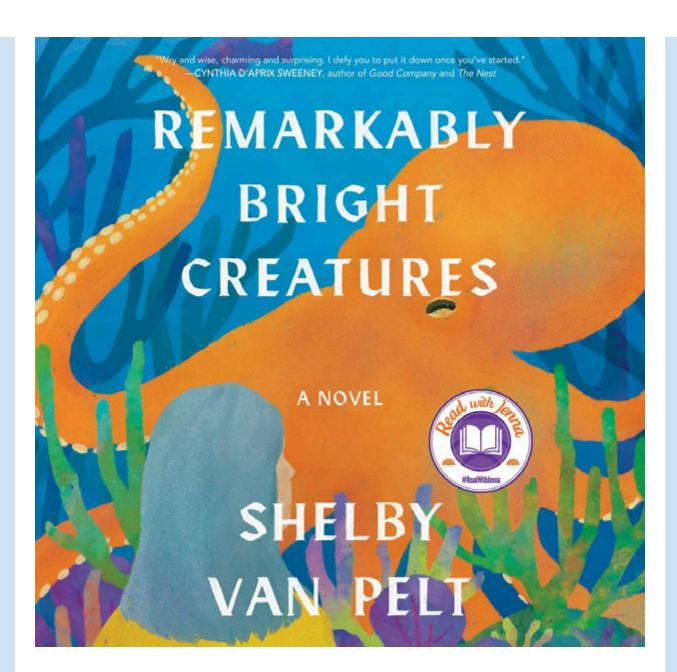


Our community partners and newer building partners, Toledo Streets, invite us all to their Toledo Streets Scenes annual calendar fundraiser on Thursday, November 7 from 6-8 pm. The celebration will be held at Toledo School for the Arts Community Portal. Link for tickets <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toledo-streets-scenes-tickets-1004763483627">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toledo-streets-scenes-tickets-1004763483627</a>

WEDNESDAY SERVICE RETURNS



**BOOK CLUB** 



November 10 - Sign Up!

TRINITY PRAYER LIST



Did you know that Trinity has an active prayer list? If you'd like prayers for yourself or for someone you know, you can request them by contacting the Trinity office (<a href="mailto:trinity@trinitytoledo.org">trinity@trinitytoledo.org</a> or 419-243-1231) or our interim rector, Stephen Applegate (in person or via email at <a href="mailto:stephen@trinitytoledo.org">stephen@trinitytoledo.org</a>).

At the moment, all prayer requests are shared only with a small intercessory prayer group who, along with parish clergy, offer recurring prayers for each request. This is not a closed group. If you want to join Trinity parishioners who've committed to the practice of regularly praying for others, ask Stephen about joining the prayer team.

When a request is received, it remains on the prayer list for four weeks before it's taken off. Requests can always be renewed or submitted again. However, having an "expiration date" will prevent the list from overflowing with prayer requests that are out of date.

### TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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www.trinitytoledo.org/live

**EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE** 

### Founded by a 'witch,' Salem's oldest Anglican church tells its unique history

[Episcopal News Service] Every October, more than a million people visit Salem, Massachusetts, known as the "Witch City," for its monthlong Haunted Happenings festival. They celebrate "spooky season" with haunted [...]

### Lambeth Calls webinar series to focus on human dignity

[Anglican Communion Office] The Lambeth Call on Human Dignity will be the focus of a webinar on Nov. 6 and 7, facilitated by the Episcopal Ministry team of the Anglican [...]

### Episcopal young adults of Asian descent connect, bond at Hawai'i retreat

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopalians of Asian descent in their 20s gathered at Camp Sloggett in Kōke'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, to connect and build new relationships through worship, meditation, hiking and bonding [...]

Collaborative project focuses on listening, empowering Episcopal Church's Gen Z leaders

[Episcopal News Service] In 2023, Robert Garris, managing director for leadership development at Trinity Church Wall Street, reached out to The Episcopal Church's Department of Faith Formation to ask about [...]

Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604, United States



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### **DEAR FRIENDS**

### Where do you find God in this?



Dear Friends,

The deadline each week for Trinity Topics, our weekly e-newsletter, is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. This means that I am writing my "Dear Friends" letter on the day after the election.

I've had little time to process my own feelings, much less reflect on the meaning of all the election results. Although I follow politics and economics closely, I don't have formal training in either. My training is in scripture, church history, and theology. So, rather than opine about what the election might portend in terms of the political or economic implications of one-party rule at the level of the federal government, I'll write about what I know.

First, scripture contains story after story of the ways human beings have thwarted God's hopes and dreams for the world. The list is long. I know that some who call themselves Christians believe with all their hearts that the election results match God's hopes for the world. I respectfully disagree. What scripture also says is that God can take the ways we have thwarted God's hopes and dreams and redeem them. Exhibit A: We crucified Jesus of Nazareth. And God raised Jesus on the third day. What this means, in part, is that everything Jesus stood for – and stands for – ultimately wins: love, joy, compassion, kindness, life. . . .

Second, church history, which begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to a tiny community in Jerusalem, tells how that community – and every faithful community of Christians ever since – has kept hope alive, stood with the marginalized, and actively

resisted evil. Sometimes, as a result, members of the Jesus Movement have given their lives rather than capitulate to "the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God." What this means is that, come what may, we must hold fast to the Baptismal Covenant: persevering in resisting evil, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, and striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being. Trinity Toledo is linked by its witness to faithful Christian communities throughout history and to faithful Christian communities that exist now in the country and around the world. The work continues.

Third, theology, which is, in part, trying to discern what God is up to. Years ago, one of my clergy colleagues, Jim Hanisian, decided that he would ask his parish to focus on a single question: "Where do you find God in this?" The question completely transformed the Church of the Redeemer in Cincinnati. Every time something happened in that congregation, whether it was tragic or joyous, the question, "where do you find God in this?" caused people to look for where God was at work. I will be honest: I don't know where God is at work in this, but I know it's the question I need to be asking today, tomorrow, and for the foreseeable future.

We gather again this Sunday, as the Trinity community does every Sunday, to remember who we are and whose we are, and to ask ourselves and each other where we find God. I hope to see you.

Blessings, Stephen Applegate

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THANKSGIVING MEAL



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This year Trinity received a sizable monetary gift from one of our long-time members, Helen Hilfinger. With this gift, we will be able to provide a meal on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve for our friends and neighbors, especially those who join us for breakfast on Sundays. It will work similarly to Breakfast at Trinity with prepared food served family-style. If you are interested in helping on Thanksgiving, please feel free to click here for the signup genius. We're asking volunteers to arrive by 10:30am. The feast will be served from 11:30-12:30.



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### **EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE**

# Presiding bishop, deputies' president open Executive Council meeting at time of great change

[Episcopal News Service – New Brunswick, New Jersey] Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe opened his first Executive Council meeting as chair of the church governing body on Nov. 7 with brief remarks [...]

Armenian churches urge the world to pray for hostages, and pursue truth and justice [World Council of Churches] H.H. Catholicos Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, asked for people to join the prayer for Armenian hostages on Nov. 10. "We are

[...]

Episcopal leaders respond to former President Donald Trump's election to second term

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church's two presiding officers and other church leaders are responding to former President Donald Trump's election to a second term by emphasizing Episcopalians' baptismal commitment [...]

The Rev. Richard Sudworth named Church of England's next director of faith and public life

[Church of England] On Nov. 6 the Church of England announced the appointment of the Rev. Richard Sudworth as the new director of faith and public life. He will succeed [...]



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### **DEAR FRIENDS**

#### The stuff that matters



Dear Friends,

On Sunday, November 3, we invited people to bring their loose change for a "Day of Change" fundraiser to benefit Breakfast at Trinity. I am happy to announce that it was a rousing success, and we received \$3,701.60 in total donations. This amount will continue to bolster and support our rapidly growing signature ministry. Thank you so much. Over the past month we have averaged about 100 people a Sunday, and this past week

we served our 2,500th meal. For a ministry that has been in full operation since Easter, I am constantly impressed with its growth – not just in numbers of people, but, more importantly, in the relational aspect that we value the most. Our incredible volunteers, who show up every week and continue to listen to the stories of those present, are an important part of who we are at Trinity.

Before we know it, it will be time to decorate our houses for Advent and Christmas. Trinity, at one point, had a history of making custom ornaments. This is something we are bringing back in the form of another fundraiser for Breakfast at Trinity. Starting this Sunday, November 17, you will be able to purchase custom-designed ornaments for \$30 (about what it costs to feed a table of eight people on Sunday). All proceeds will support Breakfast at Trinity. It is getting colder, and as the number of guests on Sunday climbs due to inflation affecting the cost of groceries, your purchase of an ornament will help put us further ahead of our financial goals as we wait to hear whether we will be the recipients of another Episcopal Community Service (ECS) grant for Breakfast at Trinity.

Finally, as has been announced in a previous issue of Topics and on Sunday in church, we received a gift from a long time Trinity member to provide meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Thanksgiving meal will be served 11:30 am-12:30 pm on Thanksgiving Day. Most of the food we need has already been purchased. However, if you are interested in volunteering and want to bring something as well, please feel free to do so! We are asking for volunteers to arrive by 10:30 am to help set up and to review some brief training about serving the meal. We expect 100 guests to come and eat, so we could use all the help we can get! Please sign up to help by <u>clicking here</u>.

This is the stuff that matters in the times we are in. Shine bright my friends.

Grace and peace,

George Benson
Director of Community Engagement



### NEW START TIME FOR PLAZA WORK DAY

12:30PM - NEW START TIME - Saturday, November 16

We all love a parade, right? We were aware of the holiday parade this Saturday in downtown Toledo. However, new information from the City tells us that all roads that lead to us will be

closed beginning at 7:00am. Being in the heart of the city poses some challenges and we're sorry for the last-minute time change. Sleep in a little then head our way after the paradegoers and hoopla have moved on. \* Bring your work gloves and tools for weeding.

### **KEEPING TRINITY A SAFE PLACE**

### Thoughts in the wake of Archbishop Welby's resignation

In the last several months, members of Trinity's Vestry, staff, and those working with children – both staff and volunteers – have completed Safe Church training. The purpose of this training is to reduce the likelihood of abuse of all kinds in this parish and to help those who go through the training be aware of how abusers get access to and groom their victims. In addition to the training, Trinity requires background checks before we hire staff and for certain non-staff members who have regular contact with children through certain parish programs.

The authority with which leaders – ordained persons, adults who minister with minors (children and youth), youth in leadership roles, and adults who minister with vulnerable humans – are entrusted, creates an inherent power imbalance in the pastoral relationship. This power imbalance derives from the leadership role and, in the case of clergy, the symbolic authority of an ordained person. Christian leadership is intended to provide occasions for guidance and grace, and its abuse is always and unequivocally wrong!

What prompts me to write about this matter is news that was reported widely this past week. On Tuesday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, announced that he was resigning his position. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England and is the ceremonial head of the worldwide Anglican Communion of which The Episcopal Church is part.

Bishop Welby resigned under pressure for his delayed response to extensive and devastating allegations of "physical, sexual, psychological and spiritual attacks" by a British lawyer, the late John Smyth, on young victims he met at youth camps tied to the Church of England. Welby had faced pressure to step down since the November 7<sup>th</sup> release of a 253-page report detailing the independent investigation led by Keith Makin. I will spare you the details. They are available in this article from Episcopal News Service. Makin's report found the Bishop Welby had taken insufficient action over claims of abuse he knew about from the time he became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013.

"It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and retraumatizing period between 2013 and 2024," Bishop Welby said in a statement on Tuesday, confirming that he had sought permission from the King of England (who holds the title of supreme governor of the Church of England, with responsibility for appointing archbishops and deans) to resign.

No church has avoided having abusers – whether clergy or lay people – take advantage of their positions of trust. In fact, Trinity's history includes a sad chapter – many years ago now – in which a rector abused his power and acted inappropriately. For his actions, he was removed from ordained ministry. The Roman Catholic Church has dealt with abuse with mixed success for years. It should give us, as members of the Anglican Communion, little comfort that Bishop Welby resigned as a result of the serial abuse by a single person, while reports put the number of Catholic clergy perpetrators well into the thousands – for individual countries alone.

If you suspect that a staff member or a lay volunteer is abusing a child or a vulnerable adult, please share your concerns immediately with me or with one of the Wardens. And if the perpetrator is a member of the clergy, contact one of the Intake Officers for the diocese, The Intake Officers for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio are: The Hon. William F. B. Vodrey: Phone: (216) 385–8511, Confidential Email: <a href="intakeofficer@dohio.org">intakeofficer@dohio.org</a> and Ms. Marie B. Curry: Phone: (330) 990–3092, Confidential Email: <a href="intakeofficer@dohio.org">intakeofficer@dohio.org</a>. Anyone can report information about a clergy member's offense to an Intake Officer by phone, email, letter, or anonymously.

Keeping Trinity a safe place is everyone's responsibility – and that means you and me!

Faithfully,

Stephen Applegate

### **ACT PRESENTS**

Our building partners Actors Collaborative Toledo presents John Patrick Shanley's Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, November 15-17, 2024, in the Chapel Theatre at Trinity Episcopal Church (316 Adams St. Toledo, Oh 43604). Directed by Joe Capucini and featuring Liam Ellis as Danny and Hali Malecki as Roberta. Tickets at <a href="https://www.act419.org">www.act419.org</a>

Have you ever been caught in an earthquake? A chance meeting. A dive bar. Some encounters are so dangerous and so beautiful, they redefine the meaning of love. Follow two desperate people as they walk the line between destruction and transcendence.

John Patrick Shanley is one of the most celebrated dramatists of his generation. His accolades include an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for the film Moonstruck and the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for his play, Doubt: A Parable. Please be advised that Danny and the Deep Blue Sea contains strong language and is not appropriate for children.

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### **EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE**

### WCC youth commission gathers for first in-person meeting

[World Council of Churches] The World Council of Churches Commission on Young People in the Ecumenical Movement has convened in Manila, Philippines, marking the start of its first in-person meeting [...]

Historically Black South Carolina parishes lament, repent church's complicity in slavery

[Episcopal News Service] The three historically Black Episcopal churches on South Carolina's Charleston Peninsula recently gathered together for the first time in history for a worship service of lament and [...]

Former Green Bay, Wisconsin, church becomes new home for women and families in recovery

[Diocese of Wisconsin] The Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin, in a demonstration of faith, community and transformation, has given a former church property in Green Bay to the Mandolin Foundation, creating a [...]

At COP29, religious leaders call for 'regeneration and renewal of our only planetary home'

[World Council of Churches] At COP29, religious leaders are emphasizing the need to care for the creation that God made, and to safeguard the most vulnerable who have contributed the [...]

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### **DEAR FRIENDS**

### **Hallelujah Chorus**



Dear Friends,

I may hold the record for attending the most school holiday concerts of anyone you know. Our eldest child is 18 years older than our youngest. That means that – starting with elementary school concerts and ending with the last high school concert – we were in

school gyms and theaters for a lot of years listening to kids sing or play in an orchestra or band. Not that I am complaining. I enjoyed all of the concerts – with the possible exception of the performances by those young people who were learning to play strings: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Heaven holds special reservations for middle school string teachers.

For seven of the above-mentioned years, we were able to secure tickets for the Granville High School Holiday Concert. These are as hard to come by as the tickets for Hamilton were when the original cast was performing on Broadway. The reason is simple – the music program is terrific, the percentage of the school's kids participating is astronomical, and the performing arts center simply doesn't have enough seats to accommodate everyone who wants to attend.

The culmination of every holiday concert was the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. Somehow, they were able to get every single kid on the stage – the choirs, members of the orchestra, and concert band members. It took two conductors to pull it off – one for the instrumentalists and one for the choirs!

Perhaps sometime between now and Christmas, you will hear the Hallelujah Chorus sung live – or if not live – on your record player, CD player, or streaming service. It was always a showstopper at the end of the concert at Granville High. I'm guessing you already know the words. The lyrics are quite repetitive – stop and count the number of times "hallelujah" is sung!

But there's more there than a bunch of hallelujahs – and the more there underscores that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I know you can hear the music as you read these words: And he shall reign for ever and ever. The kingdom of this world/Is become/The kingdom of our Lord/And of His Christ.

It's unclear how the Hallelujah Chorus became associated with Christmas. It actually appears in Part II of the oratorio – the part that covers the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus – rather than Part I, the part that draws its texts from the Christmas readings. It's probably included because it's a much more exciting way to bring a concert to its climatic conclusion than the chorus with which Part I ends: "His yoke is easy" – great music, but one wouldn't fill a stage with teenage musicians to sing it!

The Hallelujah Chorus will be going through my head this Sunday – not because Chelsie has the choir singing it – but because the theme of this Sunday – the Last Sunday after Pentecost – is Christ the King (or if you prefer a less-gendered name: the Reign of Christ).

What does it mean to talk about Christ as King? To call him King of Kings and Lord of Lords? And if the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ, how come it so often feels as if someone else is ruling or, perhaps equally troubling, no one is ruling over the darkness and the chaos?

I hope you'll come this Sunday as we celebrate Christ the King and as we pray our way through what it might mean to acknowledge his reign.

Blessings, Stephen Applegate

### GREENING OF CHURCH

Saturday, December 7 at 9:30. Sign up and save the date!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-53044906-greening

### OFFICE SCHEDULE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

Stephen will be heading home after worship this Sunday. Heather will be taking time away Thanksgiving week as well. The rest of our staff will be in the office Monday-Wednesday. As

always, email heather@trinitytoledo.org or stephen@trinitytoledo.org if you need to get in touch.



# THANKSGIVING DAY

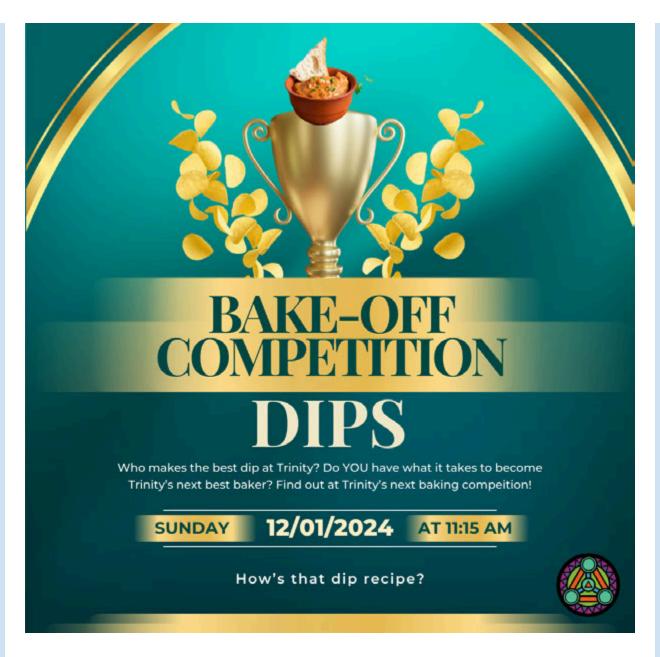
we are providing Lunch for our friends and neighbors on the margins thanks to a generous Donation, we are asking for volunteers to be here From 10:30 - 1PM.

### Questions? email george@trinitytoledo.org

This year Trinity received a sizable monetary gift from one of our long-time members, Helen Hilfinger. With this gift, we will be able to provide a meal on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve for our friends and neighbors, especially those who join us for breakfast on Sundays. It

will work similarly to Breakfast at Trinity with prepared food served family-style. If you are interested in helping on Thanksgiving, please feel free to <u>click here for the signup genius</u>. We're asking volunteers to arrive by 10:30am. The feast will be served from 11:30-12:30.



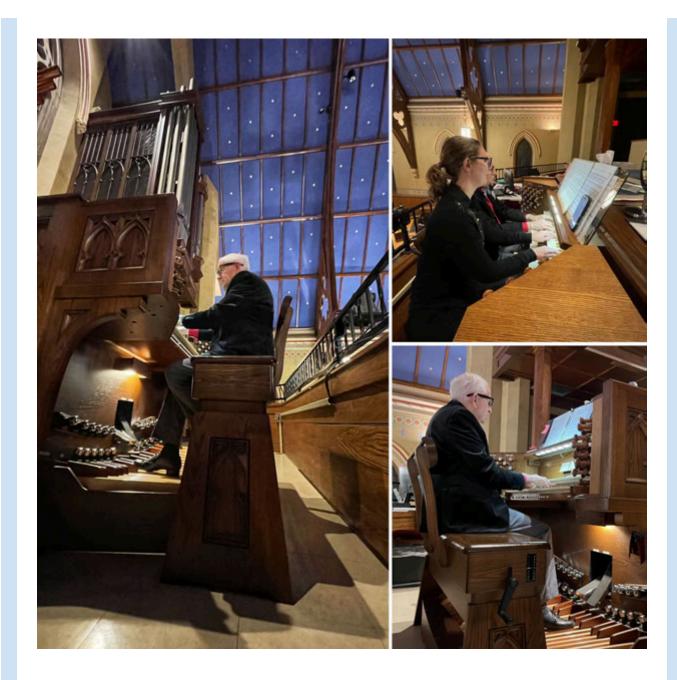


Our next bake-off competition is slated for December 1, 2024. <u>Start planning and signup now!</u>



### HIGHLIGHTS REEL

Organs and Gardens and Baptisms...Oh My! What a beautiful week we had. Ken Stoops dazzled us with his organ recital; an amazing crew showed up to get our plaza gardens ready for a long winter's nap; and Liam Dailey was baptized. Each of these were beautiful and sacred.









316 Adams Street

www.trinitytoledo.org

You are Loved.

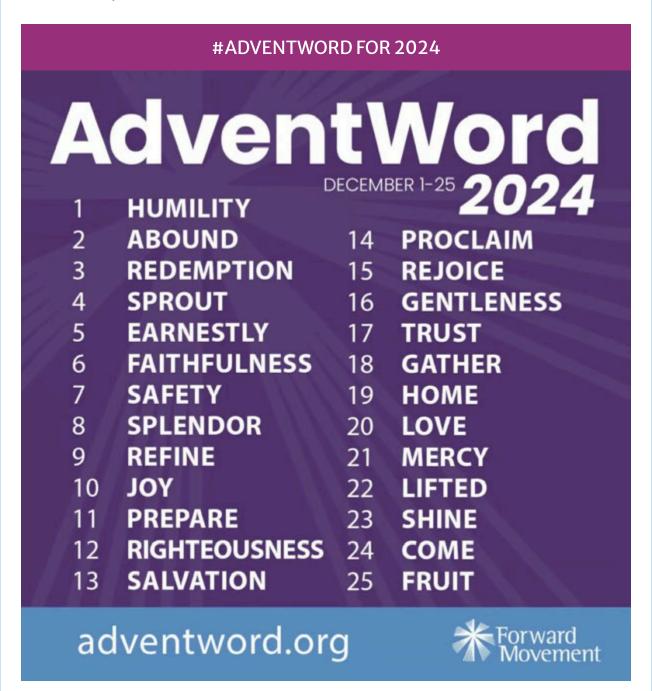
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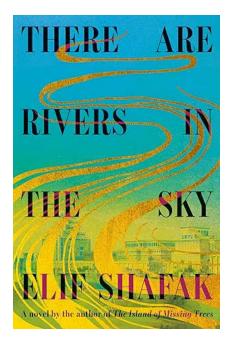
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#### AdventWord with Children

Sybil MacBeth, author of the book Praying in Color, suggests <u>using AdventWord to create an Advent prayer chain</u>: talk with kids about the word of the day, then decorate a strip of paper with the day's word, then add it as a new link in the prayer chain.

In 2020, at GrowChristians.org, <u>Emily Gowdy Canady</u> encourages parents to talk with their kids about the word of the day, then have them <u>identify pictures in books or magazines</u> that reflect the word. Consider taking a walk with kids outside to look for something that reflects the word.

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Sign Up Now

# TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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www.trinitytoledo.org/live

#### **EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE**

# Los Angeles faith leaders support City Council's vote to protect immigrants with 'Sanctuary City' ordinance

[Diocese of Los Angeles] Los Angeles City Council members voted Nov. 19 to adopt a "Sanctuary City" ordinance, which would prevent city resources and personnel from being used to help [...]

## Former Mississippi bishop named assisting bishop in Diocese of Texas

[Episcopal News Service] Texas Bishop Andrew Doyle announced Nov. 21 that former Mississippi Bishop Richard Seage had been selected and agreed to serve as assistant bishop

in the Diocese of [...]

# Virginia priest could be removed from priesthood over ongoing Eucharistic 'fast' against racism

[Episcopal News Service] A white Virginia priest has demanded The Episcopal Church atone for its past complicity with white supremacy and racism. Now the Rev. Cayce Ramey, who has embraced [...]

## Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to complete official duties by Jan. 6

[Episcopal News Service] Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will complete his official duties by the Feast of the Epiphany – Jan. 6, 2025 – according to a Nov. 20 statement [...]

Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604, United States



# TRINITY TOPICS

# WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Trinity@Home

**Give Online** 

**Pledge Now** 







#### **DEAR FRIENDS**

#### How will you be transformed?



Dear Friends,

The season of Advent begins this coming Sunday, December 1, with the first of the four Sundays of Advent. The season provides time and space for the coming of Christ as we celebrate his first coming at Christmas and anticipate his second coming at some future

unknown date – the time when, as the Nicene Creed says, "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead."

Read several of Paul's letters to the churches he founded, and you'll quickly see how the first Christians were standing, as it were, on tiptoes. They expected Jesus to return at almost any moment and looked forward to that time with joyous anticipation. They saw themselves living in an in-between-time; the awareness of this inspired them to share the Good News with as many people as possible, to serve the world in which they found themselves, and to risk everything since they believed they would be called upon right away to give an account of the gifts God had given them.

Two thousand years, and then some, have passed since the early church waited with eager longing for the return of their Lord and Savior. Quite understandably, people found it harder and harder to wait for Christ's return. The church settled down for the long haul and created institutions and orders of ministry that could sustain the faithful for a longer journey than they had anticipated. So, with the exception of a few believers, most of us don't stand on our tiptoes in anticipation of the Second Coming. That's why, it seems to me, the season of

Advent is so valuable. For four weeks out of fifty-two, we recapture some of the joyous anticipation of those first Christians.

I will admit that most of the joyous anticipation this time of the year seems more directed to the celebration of the first coming – Christmas – than to the second coming. But I believe we can anticipate more than one thing at a time – and I hope we'll try.

What might that look like? Here's a suggestion. Take some time each day of Advent and remember a time when you waited excitedly for something – perhaps the birth of a child or grandchild, the return of your college student after a semester away, a service member's homecoming after a deployment, how about the arrival of Trinity's new rector sometime early in 2025 – you get the idea – and then ask yourself this question, "how would I live my life differently if I was waiting excitedly for God to come into my life?"

I look forward to observing Advent joyfully with you again this year. How will you be transformed while you wait?

Blessings, Stephen Applegate

#### TRANSITION UPDATE

The Search Committee's work has continued for the last several weeks behind the scenes as they continue to discern with the rector candidates who remain in the process. When will a new rector come to Trinity? The answer is "soon," but it's impossible to forecast exactly when. As a veteran of serving many churches in transition, I can tell you that the sheer number of variables makes a prediction impossible.

If it's impossible to predict the next rector's arrival, it isn't impossible to predict my departure as your interim. My last Sunday at Trinity will be January 12, 2025. I had hoped to be able to have the announcement of my leaving coincide with the announcement of your new rector's coming. However, since I have only seven Sundays left, I felt this announcement could not be delayed any longer. The Wardens and Vestry and the staff have known about this timetable for a while – and it's not been a secret – but it's now time for this notice in topics.

What's next for you? A soon-to-be announced name of a new rector, and a new beginning in the ministry of parish and priest. And what a blessed and lucky priest it will be who comes to serve with you here in downtown Toledo. I have loved being here and have been grateful for the work done by so many to "prepare the way." When I was a director of a wilderness tripping camp, our goal when camping in the wilderness was to leave the campsite better than we found it. I pray that has happened at Trinity.

What's next for me? After a short break, I will begin serving as Interim Rector of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights on Sunday, January 26, leading a staff of 20 through their transition to their new rector sometime, God willing, in 2026.

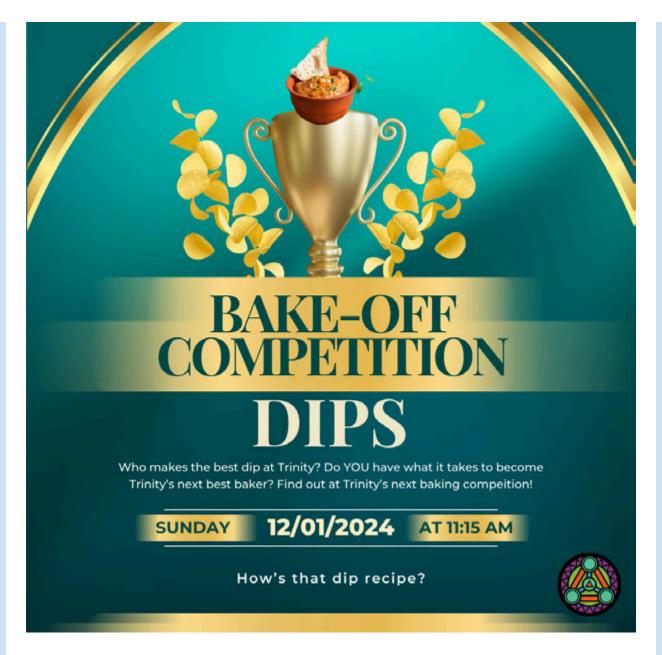
There'll be time for us to say good-bye. The Wardens, Vestry, and I will have a ministry review before I leave to capture all that's been accomplished and to acknowledge what we've learned from each other. I've told the parish leadership that marking the farewells of interims should always be low key. I firmly believe that interim work is something done collaboratively, and that the congregation and its leaders always deserve the major part of the credit for a successful transition. So, on my last Sunday, we'll celebrate your successes — which have been many!

Faithfully yours, Stephen Applegate

## **GREENING OF CHURCH**

Saturday, December 7 at 9:30. Sign up and save the date!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-53044906-greening



Our next bake-off competition is slated for December 1, 2024.

<u>Start planning and signup now!</u>

## ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

On October 6, Joe and Jennifer Dawson – this year's co-chairs – kicked off Trinity's Annual Pledge Drive. The Stewardship Committee established an ambitious goal of \$215,000 for 2025 – a 6.8% increase over the amount pledged for 2024.

This past Sunday, the amount pledged for 2025 was \$216,567 with 66 households represented!! Trinity parishioners' generous response has made it possible to exceed the monetary goal for the pledge drive!!

There's now one more goal to achieve. In addition to a monetary goal for 2025, the Stewardship Committee established a *participation goal of 80 pledging households*.

If you haven't yet made a pledge for 2025, please consider becoming one of the 14 households Trinity needs to meet the participation goal. Here are some possible pledge levels:

\$2 a week (or about the cost of an 8 oz. coffee at Starbucks) = \$104 per year. \$3 a week (or the cost of a basic streaming service subscription on Netflix = \$156 per year. \$5 a week (or the cost of the \$5 meal deal at McDonalds) = \$260 per year.

We hope you agree that the progressive, inclusive, creative ministries Trinity is doing are worth at least a weekly cup of good coffee! To make your pledge online, please go <u>here</u>. And thank you for considering a pledge for 2025.



**Christmas Memorial Poinsettia Sale** 

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias are on sale - you can order your poinsettia by <u>filling out our online form</u>, or you can find order forms at the Parish Life Table in the back of the Sanctuary. When filling out your form, please be sure to include your first and last name, phone number and quantity. If you are requesting a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please include their first and last name(s) which we will list in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

The poinsettias will be 6 1/2" with multiple blooms, for \$12.00 each. Flowers can be taken home after our 11pm Christmas Eve service. **Orders are due by Tuesday, December 17th!** 



#### CHRISTMAS "Advent" SING-ALONG!

Crafts, Snacks and Songs Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Join your Trinity Musicians as we sing the night away with our favorite CHRISTMAS SONGS! Featuring music like "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," an interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman," just to name a few. Lyrics, snacks, crafts and songs will be provided. FREE EVENT.



#### **CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT TRINITY**

Saturday, December 14th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

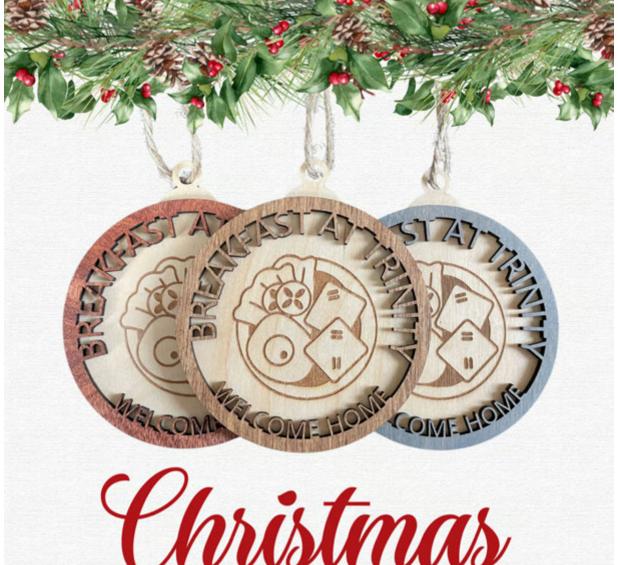
The Northwest Ohio Vocal Arts Ensemble, NOVA, celebrates the wonder of the nativity story with a musical journey through time. Through medieval chant, early Renaissance, and rich 20th century settings, this program of beautiful choral selections is sure to bring a sense of mystery and awe to your holiday season. A free-will offering will be taken with a suggested donation of \$30. Program is approximately 1 hour, without intermission.



CASTING CALL: TRINITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Rehearsal after church December 22nd, and performed December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm

Trinity's calling all theatre enthusiasts and performers to sign up to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant! With a script written by Chelsie and Grace, you can trust it will be fun, joyful, and have a great message. (And, you'll have a great time!) While preference will be given to our youngest actors, all are welcome. We'll find a part for you. Click the sign-up genius to learn more about how you can get involved.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/christmaspageant24



# Christmas **ORNAMENTS**

Support the Trinity Community Breakfast Program

\$30





316 Adams Street

www.trinitytoledo.org

You are Loved.

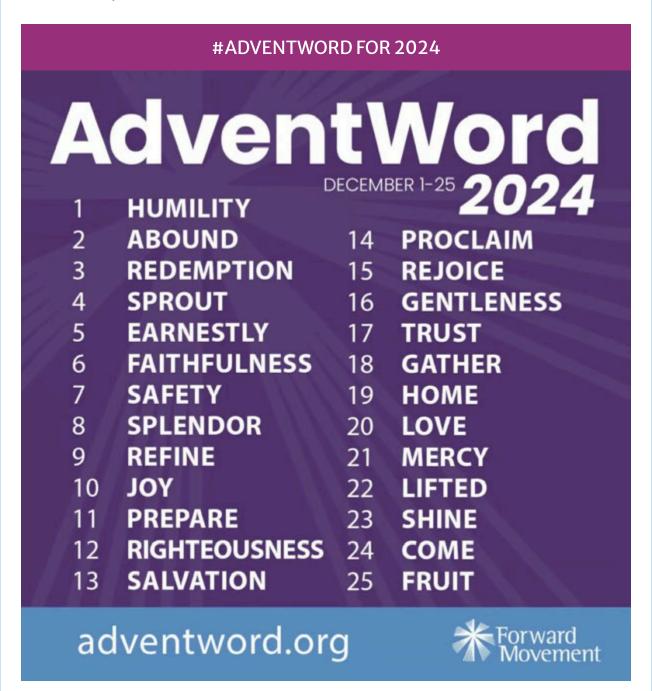
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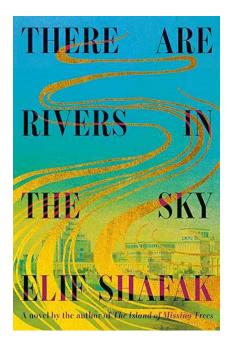
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## **EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE**

# Episcopal church in New Orleans hosts interfaith Mass, clergy breakfast observing World AIDS Day

[Episcopal News Service] When Gabriel Gutierrez was a young adult in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the 1980s, hearing about a friend or acquaintance dying from AIDS every week became unbearable. [...]

#### African churches lead the call for dignified sanitation

[World Council of Churches] The Ecumenical Water Network Africa, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network and Norwegian Church Aid, hosted a hybrid workshop in Abuja, [...]

#### Bishop Gene Robinson, first openly gay Episcopal bishop, preaches defense of McBride

[Religion News Service — Washington, D.C.] Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay man elected to be an Episcopal bishop in 2003, preaching Nov. 24 at the Washington National Cathedral on [...]

Anglican-run Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza to receive \$3.4 million in emergency support [Episcopal News Service] The United Nations Development Program and the Palestinian American Medical Association will provide \$3.4 million in emergency support over the next two years to the Episcopal Diocese [...]

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