

Senior Warden's Report 2021

Good morning. Thank you to everyone who is joining us in person today and those of you joining online.

I am honored to be in front of you as your Senior Warden. It has been a good year. We welcomed our new Dean in January and began our year together with a Vestry retreat in Satterlee Hall spread out 6 feet apart and masked. We continued to meet and carry out the business of the church this way for most of the year. We elected a new Bishop, we briefly owned an IHOP restaurant, we worked to create a Vestry stewardship statement, we supported the mission and outreach committee with their work, and we funded a request from Homeless No More for the emergency motel program. It really has been a good year.

I remember shortly after I was nominated for Junior Warden, Nancy Dunbar, a former warden, thanked me for being willing to serve and said that I would really learn how to pray.

I have, in fact, learned a great deal about praying, but not exactly the way I thought I would. I expected to come away from my experience as a Warden a very confident public prayer, but what I ended up learning was that Dean Boston has a real gift for prayer. When I asked Dane to begin our meetings in prayer, he always started with silence to get us all in the right frame of mind. Then he said something that we all needed to hear right at that moment. Thank you, Dane, for sharing your gift.

Another thing that I have learned about prayer is that it truly does work. Having other people pray with you and for you can be miraculous. Thank you to all of you who faithfully pray for everyone on the Trinity prayer list and the members of the Order of St. Luke who offer prayers of healing at our services.

Trinity Cathedral is an amazing place. The building is beautiful and the history is fascinating, but it is the people that make Trinity home. I grew up at Trinity. I was baptized here, confirmed here, met my husband and got married here, and I will be buried here. It is my church home. However, what I have learned as a Warden is completely separate from all of those things. I have had the privilege to work alongside some of the finest people there are. I could name 20+ people who serve our church with so much talent, wisdom, counsel, leadership, dedication – I could go on. Before I was a Warden, I had no idea what went into making this place what

it is today. The clergy, the cannons, the staff, the Vestry, all the committees, the volunteers – all of them love this place and love God.

In this crazy world we are living in today it is so refreshing to be around people who care about each other, Trinity, and loving their neighbor. The people of Trinity have a real desire to live into our Baptismal covenant. Here are some the parts that I have seen in action during my time as a Warden. (From Page 304-305 in the Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

While at times it can be intimidating to work with such talented people, (I know this because I am married to one of them) what I learned this year is that I do have gifts to offer this incredible group of people because we all do. We are all children of God and we each bring our own unique gifts to everything we do.

I encourage you to take a moment to pray, to notice and be thankful for this place and all the wonderful people who make it what it is, and to look for your place here. What unique gifts do you have to offer?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Warden.

Respectfully submitted,

Llewellyn Shealy

January 30, 2022