

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
DAVID G. WOLFF**

**208TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 26, 2020**

Thanks again to all of you for being here today. There are many things I could talk about, but I want to focus on three things that are very important in our lives together at Trinity.

The first thing is the power of engagement. I would not be speaking to you today without it. When Betsy and I first came to Trinity eighteen years ago, I was concerned that Trinity was too big, and I would just become a number. I was the kind of person who needed to be nudged to get involved in church activities and I never dreamed I would become involved in leadership at Trinity. Fortunately, several people nudged me, and I am so grateful to all of them for that. One simple thing started my journey. About ten years ago, my friend and tennis buddy Marvin Caughman recommended me to Norah Grimball to become a Eucharistic Minister. I did not know Norah Grimball well before that time, but over the past several years she has become a very good friend and a mentor, and she along with others encouraged me to become involved in leadership roles at Trinity. I was fortunate enough to be elected to Vestry five years ago, and to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and as a Warden. The best thing about my engagement is all of the new friendships I have made along the way. I truly feel that my Trinity friends are my best friends and always will be. I hope others at Trinity will be as fortunate as me, and have other Trinity members help them become engaged, and I hope that all of us will focus on engaging others at Trinity.

The second point I want to mention is the importance of saying thank you. Let me start by saying thanks to all of you for the faith and trust you have put in me as your Senior Warden. This has been such a

meaningful and rewarding experience, and I will always be grateful for this opportunity.

There are so many people who do wonderful things for Trinity. Some are more visible than others, but regardless, we need to say thank you to every one of them for what they do. There are many people I would like to thank, and I know I do not have time to mention all of them, but there are a few I would like to specifically mention. First, are the Clergy, Vestry, and Staff. They work hard and are very dedicated and we all owe them thanks and gratitude. Tim, thank you for all of your hard work and efforts over the past seven years. It has been a privilege to work with you and see your dedication and love for Trinity. I wish you and Jill all of the best and Godspeed as you embark on a new chapter in your lives in Halifax, Virginia. Andrew, thank you for all of your hard work and your willingness to serve as Acting Dean. I know we will be in good hands with your guidance during this time of transition. Wade and Llewellyn, thanks for all you do. I can't think of two better people to lead us this year as Senior and Junior Warden.

The next group of people I want to thank are all of those who have put in so much time on the Trinity Forward Campaign. I want to give special thanks to our Trinity Forward Co-Chairs, Vance and Linda Bettis and Kirby and Llewellyn Shealy, to David Danforth and Donald Benson who have spent countless hours on the Trinity Center repairs and the Kitchen Renovation, and to William Haselden who chaired the Kitchen Renovation Committee.

I would also like to thank the Trinity Foundation Commission, and especially Susie VanHuss, and Dave Sojourner, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, for all of their time and effort in providing Foundation funds to help complete the Trinity Forward building projects, and in providing assistance to our Operating Budget with an infusion of working capital and an agreement to provide funds over the next three years for strategic initiatives in our Operating Budget. We really appreciate all of this.

I would also like to thank the past Senior Wardens who have willingly made themselves available to me for advice and support. This has meant a great deal to me.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank my wife Betsy. She has supported me every step of the way and put up with my long hours at work and at Trinity over the past five years. Even more importantly, I want to thank her for her ministries at Trinity and all that she does to help people in need, as a Lay Chaplain for the Parish and for the Daughters of the Holy Cross, as a leader of a support group for women with depression, and also for being a Co-Chair of the Trinity Recovery and Support Ministry to help people who are dealing with a family member or friend who suffers from substance use disorder.

The reason I mention all of these things that she does leads into my third point, which is the importance for all of us at Trinity to make sure we focus more on our parishioners who are hurting and in need. There are so many ways we can help. I know we are doing some of these things, but I also know we can do much more. If you know a person who needs help, don't assume that someone else is taking care of this need. I encourage you to reach out to those in need because that is part of our ministry to one another. If additional help is needed, please contact Clergy, Wardens, a Vestry member, or a Lay Chaplain so this can be provided.

I would like to close with a wish for Trinity that I think is particularly important as we embark on a transition period and a search for a new Dean. Trinity is a big tent with a wide range of people. We have different views on religious, social and political matters, and we live in an environment where all of these things have become very divisive. However, I think that as a church family, this should be a place where we can put these differences aside, respect one another even when we disagree, and strive to make Trinity an even better place as we move forward. I hope and pray for this every day.

