

May 2016

Volume 5, Issue 1

Trinit-E News



Our Mission

*In and through Christ, to
restore people to unity
with God and each other
(2 Cor. 5:14-21)*

This is an article written by a well known Biblical scholar. I thought this would be a good starting point, for what I hope, will be a future focus for us.

At the feast of Mary Magdalene at Christ Chapel this Easter season I wrestled once again with how to portray and proclaim Mary of Magdala, apostle to the apostles, amid the multiple conflicting portraits of her in the early church and contemporary culture. Witness to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, Mary is commissioned by Jesus to tell his sisters and brothers that he is ascending to “my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Her authority has been undermined by traditions that draw her as a prostitute, as lover, or wife of Jesus. (I recommend the work of Jane Schaberg and Melanie Johnson Debaufre on [Mary of Magdala](#)).

Today I consider the possibility that her authority may be intensified, rather than discredited, by the tradition of Mary as the exorcised one:

“Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.” Luke 8:1-3.

Mary is the emptied one, who had been swept out and scoured, made a house where God’s presence would dwell.

Might her experience of having been possessed by evil spirits have made her able to recognize and endure the vision of divine power she saw and heard in the garden?

There is another person remembered in the gospels, also occupied by demons, who too had the gift of preaching and evangelism: the man in the country of the Gerasenes who used to live in the tombs naked and bruise himself with stones (Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39). Like Mary, he was [healed by Jesus](#) and followed and proclaimed the good news to his people. Both in the story of Mary and the account of his exorcism, the demons get counted – they get a number – his “legion,” hers “seven.”

(Mary, cont.)

What if exorcism of demons, rather than being a black mark against you, might be a qualification for evangelism?

What demons have prepared you to hear Jesus when he calls your name?

What demons having crashed around and run amok, then left you silent and still, what demons have made you ready to follow and gave the courage to speak?

I think of depression, episodic or chronic, the heaviness and disquietness of soul, that brings you to the knees of God to be lifted up.

I think of betrayal, by a parent, by a spouse, by a friend.

I think of devastating loss – “tears have been my food day and night.”

I think of colossal messing up, effing up. The wreckage. When you do it.

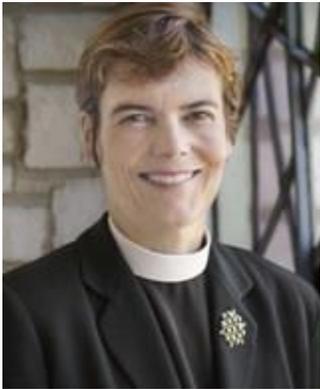
I think of sin.

You can give these demons names for yourself. You can enumerate them from one to seven to legion. You can describe their damage. And you can identify the gratitude, the overwhelming thankfulness, when power, mightier power, hurricanes through the house, consigns them to the desert, drowns them in the deep, deep sea.

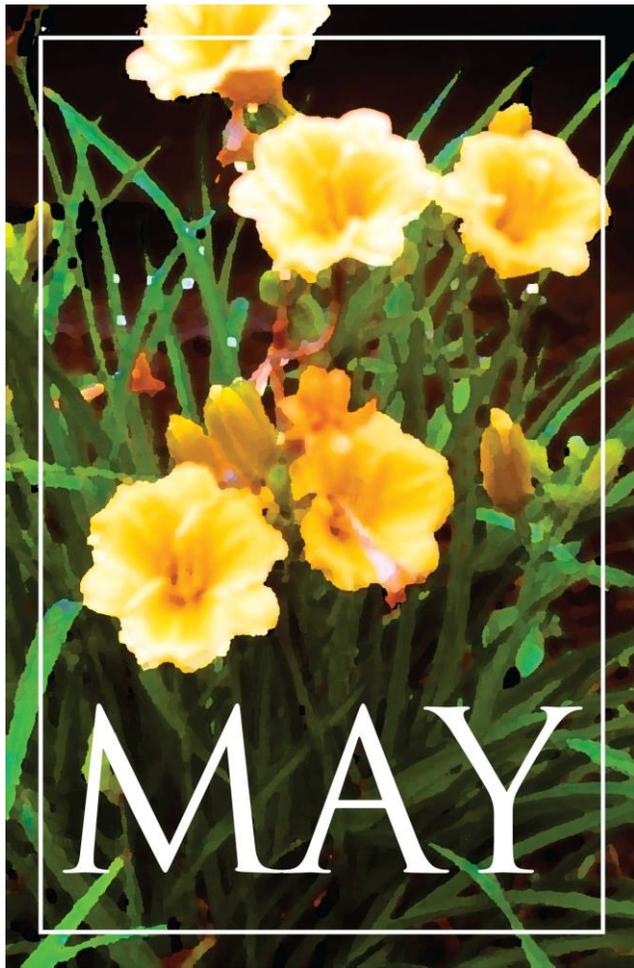
What demons qualify you for evangelism?

How does exorcism enable you to know resurrection?

What capacity lets you say, “I have seen the Lord”?



Cynthia Briggs Kittredge ([@cbkittredge](#)) is the Dean & President of Seminary of the Southwest. She believes that historical and literary study of scripture in its ancient context can inform and nourish the imagination for faithful preaching and teaching. Professor Kittredge, a contributor to *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* and the *Women's Bible Commentary*, is the author of *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of John and Community and Authority: The Rhetoric of Obedience in the Pauline Tradition*. She co-edited *The Bible in the Public Square: Reading the Signs of the Times and Walk in the Ways of Wisdom: Essays in Honor of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza*.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Lisa Parsiola | 18 Lindsay Blair |
| 01 Paul Webster | 20 Isabella Lodrigue |
| 03 Jane Webster | 22 Dez Kapp |
| 03 Elizabeth Blatt | 25 Kay Raymond |
| 08 Griffin Rogers | 25 Robert Bell |
| 09 Bo Blair | 27 Doyle Dennis |
| 10 Wayne Rink, Jr | 30 Catherine Parsiola |
| 10 Douglas Osborne | 31 Irving Blatt |
| 12 Barbara Bell Berry | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

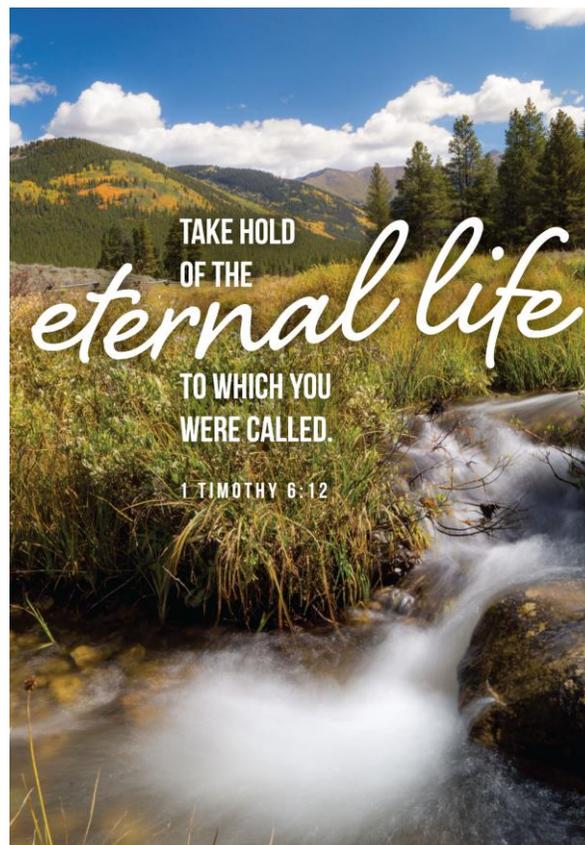
- 22 Rhonda and Doyle Dennis



Please Pray For: Frances and Bob, Ara Mae, Glen, Ellen and Wayne, Nancy, Cathy and Barry, Jeanette, Ed, Rose and B.G., Kay and Mike, Jane and David, Aaron, Ally, Bridgette, Heath, Gertrude, Rex, Zach, for all Christians who are persecuted around the world, for members of Morgan City Police Department, those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, our partners in mission at the Deaneries of Copan and Maya in Honduras and our sister parish Cristo Salvador; and our prayer partners in the Anglican Diocese of Tohoku, Japan; and the Anglican Diocese of Lango, Uganda.



| Ministry Schedule May 2016 | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | May 8 | May 15 | May 22 | May 29 | June 5 |
| CELEBRANT/ Officiant | Fr. Doug | Mary H | Fr. Doug | Fr. Travers | Fr. Doug |
| PREACHER | " | | " | " | " |
| SERVER(S) | Joshua J | | Austin B | Sean D | Tim C |
| CHALICE | Judy W | | Charlie P | Tammy C | Tim C |
| LECTOR | Tammy C | | Elizabeth B | Judy W | Mary H |
| INTERCESSOR | Judy W | | Elizabeth B | Dez K | Mary H |
| GREETERS | Doug O Ed Bell | Ed B Debi B | Drew M Ben M | Doug O Ed Bell | Peggy C Ray K |
| ALTAR GUILD | Cathy B. | Judy W. Jennie R | Jane W | | Mary H |
| VOD | Judy W | Peggy C | Drew M | Doyle D | Tim C |
| | | | | | |



May 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Travers Pot Luck Lunch | 2 | 3 Bible Study 6:30 pm | 4 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 pm | 5 Choir Practice 5 pm | 6 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 pm | 7 |
| 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Doug | 9 Vestry 6:00 pm | 10 Bible Study 6:30 pm | 11 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 pm Holy Eucharist— 6 pm | 12 Choir Practice 5 pm | 13 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 pm | 14 |
| 15 <i>Morning Prayer</i> | 16 | 17 Bible Study 6:30 pm | 18 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 pm | 19 Choir Practice 5 pm | 20 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 pm | 21 |
| 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Doug | 23 | 24 Bible Study 6:30 pm | 25 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 pm Holy Eucharist— 6 pm | 26 Choir Practice 5 pm | 27 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 pm | 28 |
| 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Travers | 30 | 31 Bible Study 6:30 pm | | | | |



Trinity Episcopal Church

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Morgan City, LA 70381

PHONE:
(985) 384-7629

Sunday Services
9:30 AM

Fr. Doug Lasiter

Our Vision

Recognizing that we are all one in Christ, Trinity Episcopal Church is an embracing family, growing spiritually, and joyfully serving the community; a home that comforts the spirit; a place where people's gifts for ministry are identified, nourished, and shared; and place of learning where disciples are formed.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trinitymcla.org

www.facebook.com/trinitymcla



SO NEITHER THE ONE
WHO PLANTS NOR THE
ONE WHO WATERS IS
ANYTHING, BUT ONLY GOD,
WHO MAKES THINGS GROW.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:7