Welcome to the dedication and blessing of our new playground
In memory of

THE REVEREND HENRY MITCHELL and THE REVEREND THEODORE (TED) EVANS
Vicar, Trinity Episcopal Church 1958 to 1977 Rector, St. Paul’s Memorial Church 1947 to 1961

September 24th, 2017
Trinity Episcopal Church
Charlottesville, VA
The Blessing and Dedication of a Playground

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have

The Presentation of the Playground

A representative body from the Congregation presents the new playground

Celebrant All things come from you, O Lord.
People And from your own gifts do we give to you.
Celebrant Prosper the work of our hands;
People Prosper our handiwork.
Celebrant Show your servants your works;
People And your splendor to their children.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this playground to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

The children Babies, toddlers, middlers, teens playing on the playground, laughing at the mall, yet... some are crying in hunger, strangled by neglect, dying in the cold.
The children created by God, welcomed by Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit baptized, confirmed, loved by the church but then... why are the children, so many children, in danger?
The children united in their need, the children need us; dear God, help us to hear that the children need us.
Memorials

The following are named memorials that were given as a part of the renovation of the outdoor gathering space.

**ALTAR**

The granite altar was given by the family of Eugene “Al” Anderson. Al had many accomplishments in life; most notably, however, he was a quiet and powerful presence of love. He demonstrated his love of family and of God in the daily actions of his life.*

**BAPTISMAL FONT**

The baptismal font was given by the Bailey family in memory of David Antonio Acevedo Maradiaga. David died of cancer but during his brief time on earth and as a member of the Bailey family he had a profound impact. David loved life and never let his circumstances get him down regardless of how challenging they were. He had a beautiful and generous spirit and worked tirelessly to help others.*

**Fountain in memory of James Rubin**

The granite fountain, made by Stone Forest in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was given by Jane Perry in memory of her husband, James Richard Rubin. James died on July 6, 2016, in Charlottesville. Jane and James were married from St. Paul’s in 1988, after meeting in grad school at UVA in 1982. In addition to teaching at Darden for a number of years, James was a double-bass and electric bass player. The fountain catches some of that music that flowed from his hands.

**Seating Wall**

The seating wall was made possible by family and friends of Dr. William “Bill” Henry Anderson. Bill was a member of the Charlottesville community for more than 30 years. He affected it in many ways as a tireless worker for peace and reconciliation. Many will remember Bill for his singing. At the end of his life, Bill was filled with praise and thanksgiving saying, “God has been so good to me. How can I keep from singing?” Bill was also a psychologist. He considered his 40 year career in psychology to be a sacred vocation. He sought to integrate his professional work with his religious faith as he served people in need.

In addition to this named memorial gifts members from Trinity and the community contributed funds for the purchase of the many of plants, trees, and landscaping that make up this beautiful outdoor gathering space. If you would like to make a contribution please contact the vicar.

*The altar and font will be consecrated during Trinity’s annual episcopal visitation on December 3rd.

**INVITATION TO PARDON**

The children are created by God, welcomed by Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit. They are the children. You are the children. We are the children, created by God, welcomed by Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit.

**THE DEDICATION**

This play area is established for the praise and glory of our heavenly Creator and in gratitude for the spirit filled lives and ministries of two tireless fighters for racial justice, The Reverend Henry Mitchell and The Reverend Theodore (Ted) Evans.

**THE BLESSING**

**Celebrant** Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

**Celebrant** Praise to the Lord, you children of the Lord.

**People** Praise the Name of the Lord.

Let us pray.

**Heavenly Father,** your Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Embrace the children who will delight in this playground with your unfailing love, protect them from all danger, and bring them in safety to each new day, until they greet with joy the great day of your kingdom. Let the fullness of your blessing be upon them and upon this playground; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Musical Selection:** “May the work I’ve done speak for me” by Sullivan Pugh

**James Bryant, Soloist**

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE SEATING WALL AND FOUNTAIN**

**Representatives from the Congregation present the seating wall and fountain**

**Celebrant** All things come from you, O Lord.

**People** And from your own gifts do we give to you.

**Celebrant** Prosper the work of our hands;

**People** Prosper our handiwork.

**Celebrant** Show your servants your works;

**People** And your splendor to their children.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,** we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this wall and this fountain to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
THE DEDICATION

This seating wall and this fountain are established and set apart for the praise and glory of God and in memory of Bill Anderson and James Rubin to the end that all who use and enjoy them may find peace in the love of God.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Jesus began his ministry in the waters of the river Jordan and at the close of his time on earth he called his disciples to “Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Celebrant Praise to the Lord, for the refreshment of water and rest.

People Praise the Name of the Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

One Sunday morning during our usual family service of Morning Prayer in St. Paul’s, Charlottesville, I noticed that the rector was walking down the long center isle toward the front door during one of the canticles. We all turned to see that the ushers (all male vestry members) were blocking a black family from entering the worship service. The rector, The Rev. Dr. Theodore Evans, quietly asked the ushers to step aside, and he escorted the family to a pew. He then returned to the chancel to resume leadership of the service. It was a traumatic moment, we all realized, that was to divide us.

Ted Evans, innately a gentle but committed pastor, was openly and critically opposed by a majority of the vestry and congregation. Among other hostile messages was one from the Governor of Virginia condemning the rector’s “rebellion” and threatening his future standing in the Episcopal Church.

Slowly, over the following eight years, his persistent witness to the costly ministry of Christ and the inclusive love of the Gospel captured more and more of us. Though almost fifty years my senior, he increasingly became my confidant and trusted friend. I was changed as gradually more and more were.

A memorable sermon that characterized his influence upon many was based on Paul’s assertion in Romans 8 that “All things work together for good” ... but only through those who insist on adding the rest of Paul’s statement: “... to them who love God and are called according to his purpose.” - The Reverend Bill Wood

In 1961, when Ted was told by Bishop Robert Gibson that the Senior Warden and Junior Warden of St. Paul’s Memorial had driven to Richmond to advise Bishop Gibson to “get rid of” Ted Evens because he was a “trouble maker” for trying to bring St. Paul’s and Trinity together with a ladies luncheon. He instantly forgave all three men and never got angry or resentful or bitter. - A story related to a family friend by Ted’s wife

The following are some reflections from the homily at Ted’s funeral given by his son The Reverend Theodore Evans Jr.

- Ted made God real to us with his use of examples such as “Oil is like God’s love which lubricates and smooths out friction.”
- Only wore a collar when job demanded it.
- He said he wanted to be the right person at the right time and in the right place for a few people and he was that for us
The Revered Henry Mitchell served Trinity from 1958 to 1977, during which time Trinity continued to grow in size and diversity. In 1964, Father Mitchell launched an ambitious outreach effort, the Trinity Program. The first component provided summer activities for African-American children in the northwest sector of the city. The activities were based at Trinity, with two other local Episcopal churches, St. Paul’s Memorial and Christ Episcopal, contributing substantial financial resources, volunteers, and moral support.

The program was quite successful and eventually grew into “Camp Faith” in Earlysville, serving children from all sections of the city and county. The second component of the Trinity Program was a year-round preschool. Later known as the James Hicks Trinity Episcopal Child Care Center, the preschool served local families for nearly 40 years.

The following are some reflections from members of Trinity:

- Henry was a “pusher” he always would find way to push you in a good way; to make you try something you wouldn’t do otherwise.

- Father Mitchell always seemed to care for you and wanted to know that things were going well. He was a real pastor.

- Father Mitchell had an impact on the entire city of Charlottesville and the diocese.

I think Henry’s favorite scripture must have been that verse from Amos “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,” because his entire life and ministry was about bringing justice and relieving poverty.

- reflection of a current Trinity member

Reflections on the Reverend Henry Mitchell and
The Reverend Ted Evans