

# CONNECTING GREENSBORO: HOLY TRINITY AND THE GREENWAY

BY SHELLEY MILLER, THE SACRED GARDEN BOOKSTORE MANAGER

In June, construction of the Downtown greenway moved to Fisher Avenue, encompassing the Sacred Garden Bookstore, the Fisher House Annex, and access to Holy Trinity. It was disruptive, noisy, dusty and confusing as orange cones defined access to Fisher, the parking lot, and Simpson Street and varied according to construction needs. The “hump” of Fisher Avenue was removed, new water lines and storm drains installed and the sidewalk widened and the beautiful vision of the greenway slowly came into view.

It has been a long process, mostly achieved in the heat of the summer, and Holy Trinity staff realized that a group of construction workers were spending every day in the heat and noise and dust of work. Patty Jennings, parish secretary said. “We need to do something nice for them” and so a small group of Holy Trinity staff members including Patty, Tammy McElroy, parish administrator, Annie Slaughter, liturgical coordinator and assistant treasurer, Allison Cochran, stewardship and planned giving coordinator, and Shelley Miller, bookstore manager began preparing a breakfast consisting of homemade sausage balls, doughnuts, brownies, fruits and juices on several Fridays during construction. The crew was most appreciative, saying “no one does things like this for us, people are usually mad at us for disrupting their roads.”

A lovely relationship began forming between the crew and all of Holy Trinity. When the pavement was broken up, crew members would escort those needing to access the bookstore or Fisher House by the arm across the uneven pavement and confusing orange cones to safety on the other side of the street. Other crew members have guided traffic to the parking lot and Simpson Street when it was difficult to tell if the roads were open to traffic.

John Dedrick, pipe superintendent, came to the bookstore one day and said that a section of the walkway would have to be removed and that there was no way they could preserve the pewter triquetra that had been embedded in the concrete following the centennial celebration in 2010. The next morning we were presented with a perfectly cleaned and preserved triquetra. Luis Avila, one of the concrete finishers, had painstakingly removed and cleaned every bit of concrete from the medallion, and it was lovingly installed when the new concrete was poured.

A week or so later, John Shepard, another supervisor asked for another triquetra. He thought it would be perfect in the walk under the Galucci Arch and a third triquetra was installed at the crew’s suggestion on the bench pad on the north side of the church.

Children who come to the bookstore have been entranced to see the big equipment up close and will venture onto the porch with their parents for a closer view, but one of the dearest sights ever was when the little day school students in their stroller encountered a big front loader parked on the new sidewalk.

Eyes as big as saucers, they sat in rapt attention as two of the crew sat down at their eye level and talked to them about their big “trucks” and the work they do.

As work on this part of the Greenway nears completion, we can say there was not just a construction crew working this summer, they have become “our” crew- our friends and neighbors. 🌱



Staff watching the installation of the triquetra



View from the Bookstore during construction