

The Trinity Times

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 430 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV, 26101
304-422-3362, www.trinity-church.org

The Mission of Trinity Episcopal Church is to seek and share the love of God made known through Jesus Christ with all people through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

OCT 2015

THE STAFF

The Rev.

Paul L. Hicks,
Priest in Charge

The Rev.

Art Bennett,
Pastoral Associate
Dr. Daniel Monek,
Choirmaster
Allan Zipf, Organist
Susie Fitcher,
Administrator
Cathy Dawson,
Sexton

THE VESTRY

2015

Connie Bookman
Michael Cameron
Michael Rauh

2016

Tiffany Deem
Julie Gyongyosi
Kelli Marteney

2017

Lynn Fury-Prather
Dianna Quick
Dan Thomas

TRUSTEES

Forbes Hiehle
Denny Prather
Larry Tucker

TREASURER

Paul Miller

TIMES EDITOR

Barbara Full





A LESSON FOR ALL DECADES

by Fr. Art Bennett

Over several weeks this summer we heard the terrible story of David, Bathsheba, and the prophet Nathan. As you will remember, David spied Bathsheba bathing and sent soldiers to bring her to him. He was the most powerful king the world had ever known, so Bathsheba didn't have much choice about sleeping with him. She got pregnant that night. David eventually arranged to have her husband killed in battle. David then took Bathsheba to be his wife. The Lord came to the prophet Nathan and told him what had happened. Nathan confronted David with the truth, David repented, but the child born from their illicit union died. The story is terrible, but I have seen it in very different ways in my pilgrimage.

Late in the decade of the 60's, I was in seminary. My seminary had combined with two large Baptist seminaries and one Roman Catholic seminary. There were many black students in the combined Baptist seminaries, but no black professors or classes on black religion. We decided there should be, but the faculty didn't agree. We were students and relatively powerless, but the lesson in question shows a powerless prophet confronting the most powerful man in the world. **CONFRONTATION WITH THE POWERFUL.** That was what we learned from the lesson back then. We took over the school, locked the faculty out, made national news, and won the battle! Just like Nathan, we went up against the folks with all the power, but we were on the side of justice and we prevailed!

Many of the folks who read this article won't remember it, but back in the 70's women were not allowed to be on vestries. There were no women clergy either and certainly no women deputies to General Convention. In those years the lesson reminded us that Bathsheba was a mere pawn in the story. She was given no voice and certainly no power. Women shouldn't be treated like possessions. Women are every bit as important to God and the Church as men ever were. So in the decade of the 70's, we read that lesson as a mandate to establish equal rights for women in the Episcopal Church. The battle wasn't over when the first two women were ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of West Virginia.

Women were priests, but not many were "cardinal" rectors and certainly not diocesan bishops. The victory finally came with the consecration of the first woman as a diocesan bishop! In my heart during those years, the story was about the abuse of Bathsheba.

But Bathsheba certainly wasn't the only victim in the story. Bathsheba's husband was killed at David's command. Soldiers actually arranged for his death. They didn't have much power to disobey their king. Neither did the soldiers who brought Bathsheba to David, the act that started the story. There were powerless people who were put in horrible places by folks who had all the power. In the late 80's, the Episcopal Church adopted the slogan "No Outsiders" to define our denomination. That was never a true statement. We might say there were no outsiders, but that was more a dream than a reality. All through the 80's and into the 90's, we were aware that there were fellow Episcopalians who hid their sexuality from others because they were aware that they would not be accepted. In those decades, the story of David, Bathsheba, and Nathan spoke to me powerfully about the abuse of power and the folks who were looked upon as second class citizens. We struggled with our own prejudices and understandings as our church made bold steps toward a new stance on homosexuality. We did the right thing, but there are deep scars and shattered relationships throughout Christianity because of standing up for the powerless. Winning a battle, even a just battle, doesn't always feel good.

David deserved to die because of what he had done. He knew it, and even said so. But God didn't take David's life. It would have been justice, from my point of view, if God had simply struck David down. But God didn't. For the last couple of decades I read the story with a real sense of wonder. David didn't get what I believe he deserved. Neither do I! Neither do you! We deserve to be punished, but we receive forgiveness. We continually fall short of what we know God wants and needs us to be, and what we get is grace. I stand in awe of God's love for us all.

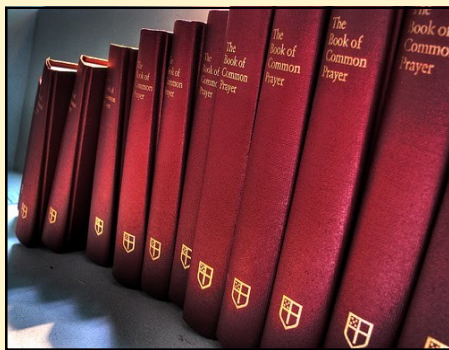
We Episcopalians have been called "people of the book". That appellation comes from our reliance on the Prayer Book for our common worship. We really should be called "people of the books", because we really rely on three books: the Prayer Book, the Hymnal, and, of course, the Bible. Scripture lessons are a



main part of our common worship. In most congregations, we have four lessons every Sunday. The sermon is to be based on one of those lessons, or a combination of two, three, or all four. And the same lessons appear every three years on a cycle. A friend who is a pastor in another denomination asked me if I got tired of the same lessons every three years. I explained to him that the lessons might be the same, but I am not. I wonder what new theme I will discover three years from now when God calls me again the story of David, Bathsheba, and Nathan.

CHANGES TO SERVICE

I wanted to give everyone a heads up. Father Art and I have been thinking about this and I have discussed it with the vestry. We want to take advantage of our transition time to sort of "reset" some of the details of our Eucharist services. That is to reset them back to the Book of Common Prayer. Each Priest has his or her own style. But in order to make it easier for the next Rector, we will set things back to ground zero as you might say. These changes will be reflected in the first service bulletins after the Times is published.



- The first item is the collect of the day. We will "unbold" that collect and it will just be prayed by the Priest.
- Next, we will break the Psalm at the asterisk and recite it by half verse. This also has the benefit that it will always end on the congregation's part.
- Third, the congregation does not need to spring to attention for the Nicene Creed. The Priest will extend the invitation to rise and recite the creed.
- Four, somewhere along the way we developed the habit of waiting to kneel after the first part of the Eucharistic prayer until the Priest said "Let us pray". There really is no reason to announce the "Let us pray", the rubric of the prayer book simply says "The people kneel or stand".
- Finally, we are going to return to the Prayers of the People from the Rite I service in the Book of Common Prayer, at least for the 8:00 service.

I hope this advance notice and explanation is helpful and everyone is comfortable with these changes. If you have any further questions, please feel free to stop me and ask them.

God Bless,
Fr. Paul

Trinity by the numbers August

Sunday worship attendance:
8:00-10:30

Aug. 2: 8~75 (total 83)

Aug. 9: 18~73 (total 91)

Aug. 16: 15~68 (total 83)

Aug. 23: 23~57 (total 80)

Aug. 30: 17~78 (total 95)

Average August 2015-86

Average March, 2014-84

Food closet:

6 adults, 5 children

Crisis Intervention:

Assistance with 5 electric bills,

3 gas bills, 5 water bills

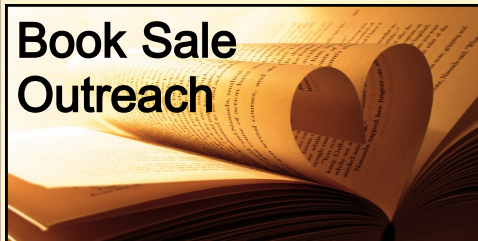
(all \$30 ea.)

Goodbye to Linda and Bob Brantner

A special reception was held September 27 after the 10:30 service to bid farewell to long-time Trinitarians Bob and Linda, who are moving to Tennessee to be near their daughter Shannon. Their new address: 3459 Peppermint Drive, Maryville, TN 37804



Book Sale Outreach



A Thank You Note from **The Trinity Feeding Program**

The ECW includes Trinity's Monday Feeding Program in their outreach. A note of thanks was received from Chuck Guyer that read in part....."I want you to know how much your help allows us to feed those less

fortunate. Additionally it sends that message, "we care". Thank you, Charles A Guyer." It is good to know that ECW also supports our own in-house charities. A reminder of the good things at Trinity.

Paula Sellers, Secretary of the ECW

OCTOBER 2015

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00am-Bible Study, Book marking 11:00am-Knitters, Food Closet	2	3 9:00am-1st Saturday breakfast @ Redwood, Belpre 8:00pm-AA
4 Pentecost 22 8:00 am—Eucharist 9:15-Choir Rehearsal <i>Blessing of the Animals</i> 10:15-Sunday School 10:30-Eucharist	5 11:00am - Feeding Program	6 8:00am-Men of Trin. Breakfast 10:00am-Book marking 6:00pm-Blenn. Stamp Soc.	7 10:00am-Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet	8 10:00am-Bible Study, Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet	9 6:00pm—Wedding	10 8:00pm-AA
11 Pentecost 23 8:00 am—Eucharist 9:15-Choir Rehearsal 10:15-Sunday School 10:30-Eucharist	12 11:00am - Feeding Program 1:30pm-ECW Fall mtg (T Hall) <i>Office closed</i>	13 8:00am-Men of Trin. Breakfast 10:00am-Book marking	14 10:00am-Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet 7:30pm-Choir rehearsal	15 10:00am-Bible Study, Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet 6:00pm-Blenn. Stamp Soc.	16 6:30pm—Supper Club @Austyn's, hosted by Edith & Bob Newman	17 8:00pm-AA
18 Pentecost 24 8:00 am—Eucharist 9:15-Choir Rehearsal <i>Discretionary Sunday</i> 10:15-Sunday School 10:30-Eucharist	19 11:00am - Feeding Program 6:00pm-Finance 6:30pm-Vestry	20 8:00am-Men of Trin. Breakfast 10:00am-Book marking <i>"Times" deadline</i>	21 10:00am-Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet	22 10:00am-Bible Study, Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet	23 <i>Diocesan Convention—Pipestem</i>	24 10:00am-MOT monthly mtg. 8:00pm-AA
25 Pentecost 25 8:00 am—Eucharist 9:15-Choir Rehearsal <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 10:15-Sunday School 10:30-Eucharist	26 11:00am - Feeding Program	27 8:00am-Men of Trin. Breakfast 10:00am-Book marking	28 10:00am-Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet 7:30pm-Choir rehearsal	29 10:00am-Bible Study, Book marking 11:00am-Food Closet	30	31 8:00pm-AA

BIRTHDAYS

3. Rod Ingraham
4. Sue Palmer
6. Olivia Parsons

7. Michael Cameron
Abbey Justice
Michael Shaw
11. Cathy Mildren

13. Carma Guertin
16. George DeHoff
Amelia Hess
Betsy Murray

Nicholas Wright
17. B.J. Hess
Paul Miller
18. Dennis Ramsay

22. Nick Gyongyosi
Ellsmore Northrup
25. Becky Alkire
Joe Shaw

26. John B. Ralsten
29. Bella Marteney
31. Hannah Adkins
Marjorie Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES

7. Beverly & Steve Reger
9. Joy & John Brownfield
17. Terry & Joe Shaw

28. Pat & Earl Westbrook



**Episcopal Church Women
Fall Meeting
October 12, 2015
Trinity Hall at 1:30 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker
Margaret Burdette
CASA**

***We will have a brief business meeting , followed by delicious desserts and coffee.
You don't need a reservation; however, a call to the church office would be helpful.
There will be ample parking in the bank lot. Don't miss this time of fellowship !!***



Book Sale is Almost Here!

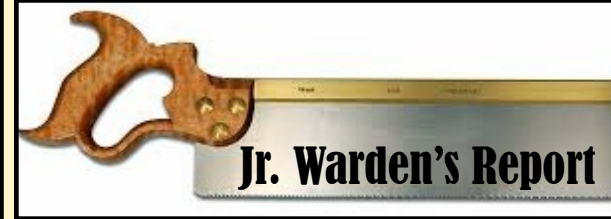
Our 66th Annual Used Book Sale is only weeks away and from the quantity of books already on hand, it should be another success. Everyone will be needed to be sure it runs smoothly.

Parishioners will be called to volunteer their time, as we will need help with set up, clean up and manning the check-out tables. Please be generous with your time. Every cent earned goes for something good at Trinity or in the community. Needed now are bags, both paper and plastic, standard size only.

We're counting on you for your yummy donations to the "Food for Thought" table at the annual Trinity Parish BOOK SALE. Please bring your baked goods, soup, candy, meat loaves, 'dips', cheese balls or whatever you choose as early as possible Monday morning, Nov.2. Someone will be in the Memorial Room from 8:00 am to receive them. The fresher the better! And, we love to receive additional items on Tuesday and Wednesday, as we are typically sold out by that time, but our customers still want to buy. If this is inconvenient, please bring your donation Sunday morning, Nov. 1, between 9:00 and noon. You are requested to mark on it "Food for Thought". Please indicate a suggested price for your donation and wrap attractively. Candy and cookies are best presented in small packages.

Nice gift items are always welcome.

St. Anne's Guild thanks you!



Hooray, the roof is finished. At long last, after dealing with weather problems and nasty asbestos, I am happy to report that all aspects of the roof replacement are complete except for

one: the three lights which illuminate the east stained glass window are going to be replaced with one fixture which will be brighter and energy efficient. I am especially pleased that the leak which allowed water to come down the north wall of Trevor Chapel has also been repaired. According to the roofing contractor, there were four pieces of slate next to the bell tower which were out of place. The slates are now in place and the flashing has been resealed.

New ceiling panels have been ordered for the kitchen and should arrive by mid October.....these panels have been paid for through the generosity of St Anne's Guild. The kitchen door to the outside is also slated to be replaced and will swing into the kitchen as per the fire code. The door project is also being funded by St Anne's. Sincerest thanks to all for these gifts.

Finally, the painters will be on hand by the last week of October. This project will require approximately three weeks to complete.

.....and before I forget, many thanks to Larry Nutter for organizing the volunteers who have faithfully mowed the church lawn: (Larry), Forbes Heihle, Paul Miller, Jacob Miller, Jim Batten and Tom Gyongyosi. Your service to the church is greatly appreciated and, in case I missed anyone who also assisted in this effort, please forgive me.

Stay tuned.....more to tell you!

Dan Thomas, Junior Warden



MONDAY FEEDING PROGRAM

In the month of August, with five Mondays, we served 564 meals, with an average of twelve helpers per meal. Program chairman Connie Warren would like to send a special thanks to Chuck Geyer who headed the program while Connie and Jim were on vacation. "They did a beautiful job! Thank you, one and all!"



Notes from the Senior Warden

Father Paul Hicks has been appointed Priest In Charge. With this appointment, Fr. Hicks will be taking on more of the day to day supervision of the church. I am personally excited about his energy and level of involvement. He's bringing a lot to the table. He gave a preview of some of his areas of emphasis. I was especially moved by his vision for Stewardship and Christian Education. As we continue into our transition period, Father Hicks will be that solid foundation on which we'll grow. Father Hicks will be working a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the church and his employer.

Budget, we continue in the black.

2016 Budget – Input? Now is the time. The Vestry will be undertaking the 2016 Budget and we'd like your input. Please feel free to contact Father Hicks, Paul Miller, myself, or any Vestry Member with any Budget recommendations. We'd like to have any suggestions by our next Vestry meeting (October 19).

The roof repair has been successfully completed. Now it's on to fixing some water damage. The painting and plaster repair has been delayed, but we're still on track for this year; we just have to work around two weddings. Projects in the Office and Education Buildings have been added.

Reminder, about the Blessing of the Animals Service; bring your pet. Plus, planning is underway on the Holiday Services.

Challenge to serve. Now is the time: pick a program; committee; or activity. Serve on Vestry, with a three year tenure; Vestry Members will need to be replaced at the end of this year. Come and be a part.

Michael Rauh Senior Warden



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all you Trinity folks who prayed for me during my recent hospital stay. I could feel them strengthening me minute by minute, hour by hour.

Thanks also for all cards, flowers, food and visits.

Jean Jackson



PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

Trinity Episcopal congregation is having a wonderful boom in births. Baptisms have increased. Often we hear the special sounds from toddlers as they join the congregation in prayer and song. There certainly is more life in our congregation. **Isn't it Wonderful!** Many of us know the parents of this youngest generation in Trinity. These parents are very attentive to the health needs of their offspring, whether these health needs be physical, emotional, or spiritual. Although these children over the years will experience "boo boos" in all three areas; their loving parents will be with them, support them, pray for and with them. These parents will nurse or doctor them back to states of normal health.

Unfortunately some children do not have parents that have the knowledge to identify their children's needs and/or don't seem to care. If we are aware of children whose **basic needs for living** are not being met, we have a moral responsibility to be advocates for these children. Teachers, social workers, nurses, and physicians all have a professional responsibility to help these children.

Recently I have been in the presence of three children who, in my opinion, are not having their needs met. Twin girls, age 4, run around their unfenced yard in diapers, bare-footed, and speak only a few words. Their older sister, age 7, who also has a very limited vocabulary for a seven year old seems to act like mother to her younger sisters. I have been told by their grandmother that the parents have little to do with the children. The three children play outside with little or no supervision. They live right off one of Parkersburg's busiest streets.

What does one do about these **children who seem to have unmet needs. One can anonymously report this situation to children's protective services.** They will listen to your concerns. If they determine these children are at risk for neglect or abuse they will intervene. They will assess these children and their environment. The agents will then formulate a plan to help these children have their basic needs met.

Please keep these three little girls in your prayers this month. Thank you. Comments or questions concerning child neglect or abuse can be forwarded to your parish nurse.

Marion

mlculbertson@cascable.net



Supper Club October 16 at 6:30pm

This month's social event for all adults at Trinity will be hosted by Edith and Bob Newman at Austyn's Restaurant in Marietta. There is a sign up sheet and menu on a bulletin board in Trinity Hall. Please sign up so we can give the number of diners to the restaurant.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
430 JULIANA STREET
PARKERSBURG, WV 26101



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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 4
8:00 & 10:30 services

Plans are underway to once again offer an opportunity to bring your animals to church for the annual Blessing of the Animals, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessing will be included in the both services Sunday, October 4. If your pet is well-trained (especially potty!!), is on a leash and is well-behaved, bring him or her to church that day. Humans are also welcome!

