

# The Trinity Times

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 430 JULIANA ST., PARKERSBURG, WV 26101 • 304.422.3362 • TRINITY-CHURCH.ORG

## APRIL 2024

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2024

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2026

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*The Mission of Trinity Episcopal Church:  
We exist to love God and our neighbors!*







The old cliché or line goes “April showers bring May flowers”. As I write this all I can say is we will see. March was pretty tame from the get-go with a little bit of roar in the middle. Whether or not the weather cooperates with our expectations is always a dodgy bet. Despite what the weather folks promise.

While Easter may have happened in March, dangerously close to April Fool’s Day, the season continues. And there is a nice parallel to the focus on the call, and hopefully response, to live a life of resurrection in our world and even life. For the natural world is undergoing if not resurrection, certainly rebirth. And the April showers may create mud, but out of that mess comes life.

In addition to the importance of these showers as a component to the new life and rebirth happening all around us, they do something else. They wash away the detritus and dirt and grime of the “dead” and dormant months of winter. We don’t see much of it anymore, but remember the dark shadow pollution on the snow and ice? April showers clear that away.

Re-birth, replenishing, re-hewing, reanimating, regeneration and maybe even

reincarnation are all possible from these (anticipated) April showers. Taking a few steps back to take it all in, it seems a lot like Baptism. Baptism at its second best reason and purpose, to proclaim that what was is now new. (The first reason is to become a Christian) (but you knew that) (I just felt it needed to be made clear). Right after a good washing we emerge as a new creation.

During Lent a group of us explored what wasn’t resurrection in the hopes of discovering what it might be. Some of the “R” words we explored appear in the list just above. We didn’t come up with an answer which is okay. Trying to figure out the mystery can lead one to settle for the mechanics.

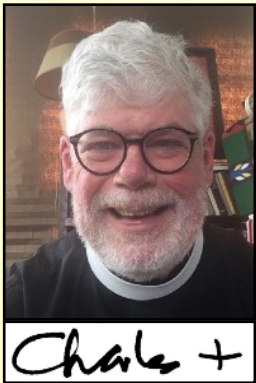
For instance, a seminary professor once wryly noted that if he were to perform a miracle before the class the response would not be “Wow!” Or “Praise G-d!”, instead it would be “Do that again” with their paper and pens (or cell phones and tablets) in hand. To not have some mystery how would we be able to make it our own? Even the mechanics of Baptism must give way to how we will be a baptized person.

All around us the world is changing. In some ways it will be familiar, note the daffodils. In other ways (hopefully) we will be surprised. And, yes, we might be dismayed. Creation, as it often does, is demonstrating how we are to live in this season, this time. Washed and renewed Creation is living into its baptismal life connected to G-d. Infused with new life and the urge to embrace it, Creation is practicing Resurrection in the phrase the wonderful Wendell Berry has coined for us. (Check out his poem here: <https://www.shelburneprimrose.com/resources/practice-resurrection-wendell-berrys-manifesto> )

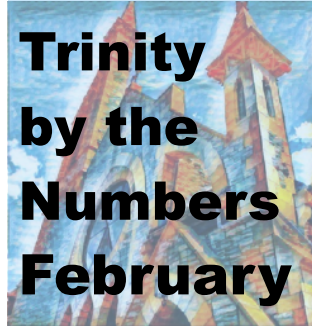
So celebrate. Burst out however you will. Mirror what you see, and be. Easter is a new time. And as I’ve said before, I will say to you again: Happy New Time, sisters and brothers! Its time to live and breathe the Good News that Christ is alive!

And so are you.

Peace,



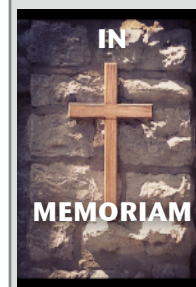
Charles +



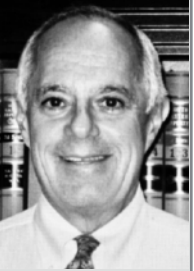
**Trinity by the Numbers February**

Weekend Worship Attend.:  
5:30/8:00/10:30  
Feb. 3,4: 18/7/49 (74)  
Feb. 10,11: 23/6/48 (77)  
Feb. 17,18: 14/9/51 (74)  
Feb. 24,25: 12/10/43(65)

Ash Wed. Services: 34/35 (69)  
Wed. Healing: 11  
Friday, Stations of the Cross - 14  
Community Resources/Thrive:  
Number served - 64  
Utility Assistance -3 families



**George Zivkovich** passed away March 1 in Beavercreek Township, OH, at the age of 74. A former member of Trinity, serving on the Vestry, George is survived by his wife Mary Jane, one daughter, three grandchildren, Brynn, Will, and James, and one brother.



*Rest eternal grant to George, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



Palm Sunday Procession





# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Office Closed</i>  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	2 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Corner Cafe 12:15 — Life Group 4:30-6:00 pm — Smoot Chorus, Nave 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Choir rm.)	3  12:15 — HE & Healing 5:30 pm — Life Group (Conf. Rm)	4  10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid)	5	6  5:30 pm — Saturday Evening Prayer 7:00 pm — AA
7 <b>EASTER 2</b> 8:00 am — Morning Prayer 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 10:30 am — Morning Prayer	8  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	9 8:30 am — Men's breakfast, 1st Lutheran 12:15 — Life Group 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Choir rm.)	10  12:15 — HE & Healing 5:30 pm — Life Group (Conf. Rm)	11  10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid) 11:00 am — Knitters	12	13  5:30 pm — Saturday Evening Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA
14 <b>EASTER 3</b> 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir Rhrl. 10:30 am — HE, Rite II 5:30 pm — Movie Night	15 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 5:45 pm — Finance Comm. 6:30 pm — Vestry	16 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Corner Cafe 12:15 — Life Group 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Choir rm.)	17  12:15 — HE & Healing 5:30 pm — Life Group (Conf. Rm)	18  10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid) 6:00 pm — Blenn. Stamp Soc. (T.Hall)	19	20  5:30 pm — Saturday Evening Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA  <b>Trinity Times Deadline</b>
21 <b>EASTER 4</b> 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir Rhrl. 10:30 am — HE, Rite II  <b>Discretionary Sunday</b>	22  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	23 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Corner Cafe 12:15 — Life Group 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Choir rm.)	24  12:15 — HE & Healing 5:30 pm — Life Group (Conf. Rm)	25  10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid)	26	27  5:30 pm — Saturday Evening Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA
28 <b>EASTER 5</b> 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir Rhrl. 10:30 am — HE, Rite II 5:30 pm — Game Night	29  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	30 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Corner Cafe 12:15 — Life Group 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Choir rm.)	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b> 1. Jennie Brannon 2. Julie Rathbone Jennifer Swisher 4. Barbara Full 5. Kate Yi 10. Cara Bowen Lydia Welling	12. Jesse Paul Thomas 13. Charles Yates 14. Dianna Quick 16. Pam Gordon 17. Will Couch Cathy Martin 18. Diane Hensley	20. Mary Bonnet Liz Ramsay 21. Gabriel Bookman 25. Debbie Poole 27. John Alkire Andy Thomas 28. Madison Brown 29. Nadia Yisa-Doko	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> 9. Beverly & Fr. Paul Hicks 19. Joan & Dennis Ramsay 29. Karen & Paul Miller

## ANOTHER TRINITY MYSTERY by Paul Miller

On the wall in the stairwell of Trinity's office building hangs a faded, rather ratty-looking embroidered portrait of a priest wearing vestments and in a state of adoration. The priest is St. Francis Xavier and how this fabric portrait ended up at Trinity is a bit of a mystery.

Francis Xavier was born in Xaiver, Navarre, Spain in 1506 to a prestigious noble family. In 1525, Francis attended the University of Paris where he spent the next eleven years studying and acquiring somewhat of a reputation as a high-jumper. Near the end of this time, Francis shared lodgings with Ignatius of Loyola, and in 1534, Ignatius, Francis, and five other students founded the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits.

Francis rivaled St. Paul in missionary journeys. In 1541, King John III of Portugal sent Francis to minister to the Portuguese colonies in Mozambique, Africa and Goa, India. Later, Francis traveled back and forth between Indonesia and India, sailed to Guangzhou, China and in 1549, to Japan, the first Jesuit to do so. On a return trip to India, a storm forced him to land on a Chinese island. He died of a fever in December 1552 while waiting for a boat to take him to the mainland. Francis was declared a saint in 1622 at the same time his roommate Ignatius was canonized.

But apparently, he traveled as much in death as in life: He was first buried on the beach of the island where he died, but his body was later moved to St. Paul's church in Malacca in modern-day Malaysia, and then to the house of a companion. In 1553 the body was finally moved to Goa where it remains today. Well, most of it. A relic from St. Francis' right hand is on display at the Roman cathedral in Sydney, Australia. Another bone was brought to Macau where it has been housed in a silver reliquary in two different churches. The right forearm was detached in 1614 and displayed at the main Jesuit church in Rome. Between 2016 and 2019, this forearm toured a dozen cities in Canada before being returned to Rome.



As if in imitation of the pre- and post-mortem wanderings of "St. X," his embroidered image now hanging in the old rectory seemed to have followed an inclination to travel as well. On the back of the hanging is an inscription stating that the needlework was "finely wrought in **Macao China in the 17th Century** of thread of gold and silver, for an altar vestment." The inscription, dated in 1974, also states that the by-now-over-325-year-old piece of altar hanging was a gift from the Episcopal congregation of St. James the Less, Philadelphia, to the Rt. Rev. Andrew Ye-Yue Tsu.



Bishop Andrew Tsu (1885-1986) was a graduate of St. John's Episcopal University in Shanghai and studied at General Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York. In 1940 he was consecrated Bishop of Shanghai and was named Assistant Bishop of Hong Kong and Bishop of Kunming. During World War II, he was known as the "Bishop of the Burma Road" for his efforts to help Allied troops traveling that important wartime international highway. Following the victory of Mao-Tse-Tung's Communist forces in 1949, Bishop Tsu fled China, settling in the Diocese of Pennsylvania where he worked for eighteen years.

Perhaps not coincidentally, Bishop Tsu was no stranger to Trinity. Almost 20 years before receiving the needle-work image, Tsu conducted services for the Ohio Valley Convocation as a guest of Dr.

Joseph Waterman, Trinity's ninth rector. Is this the connection that leads the St. Francis Xavier image to Trinity, just a block away from a Roman Catholic church that bears that saint's name?

According to a second inscription on the back of the hanging, the embroidery was a gift to Trinity from Anne Kinney in 1976, just two years after Bishop Tsu received it from the Philadelphia congregation. Instead of giving us answers to our questions, this poses more. How did Anne Kinney, who was later ordained to the priesthood, obtain it from Bishop Tsu? And why so soon after it was given to him? And what was the occasion or reason for Mother Kinney giving it to Trinity?

From Macao, China to Philadelphia to Bishop Tsu to Anne Kinney to Trinity, the St. Francis Xavier needlework, like the Saint himself, has done quite a bit of traveling. Because of its age, it is in dire need of some loving care to restore it to its former beauty. My suggestion: Trinity should, as a sign of good will between the churches, present it to the congregation of St. Francis Xavier here in Parkersburg. Perhaps then its travels will truly be over.



## Making palm crosses



## A Brief Word From Father Mackey

Dear Friends,

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I write to you in advance of becoming Trinity Church's next rector. Together with my wife, Erin, and our children, I am eager to make the move to West Virginia and begin my ministry together with you.

I am reminded that the Catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer* states that the ministers of the Church are "lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons." (p. 855) It is remarkable that laypeople are listed first. We are all - by virtue of our baptism - ministers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, "a kingdom of priests to serve our God" (Canticle 18, p.94). So a pastoral relationship between a rector and a congregation is one of mutuality.

I look forward to coming to you soon and ministering both *to* you and together *with* you as we proclaim by word and deed the great redemption we have been given in Christ. As a priest, I understand that my own role is one of serving *your* priesthood. The Word I have been commissioned to proclaim and the Sacraments that I will administer are for *your* transformation, growth in Christ, and ultimate joy in the Lord. I look forward to growing together with you as we serve Christ and our neighbors together.

There is so much more to be said. But for now, sisters and brothers, I am excited. Of your kindness, please pray for the Mackeys as we continue to prepare to make this move. We are praying earnestly for you, eager to meet you all in person!

And "*may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (Rom 15.13)

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Geoff

*(Father Mackey, with daughter Josephine, signing Letter of Agreement)*





Trinity Episcopal Church  
430 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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*Dear friends,  
We would like to thank you  
for the beautiful card from  
our friends at the Monday  
soup kitchen and friends from  
Trinity. It really boosts our  
inspiration and we are doing  
a lot better.  
Love, Jim and Connie*