

The Trinity Times

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

OCTOBER 2024

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



A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For the last couple of months I've suggested that we take some time to look at the content of the *Book of Common Prayer*. I've suggested that it is not simply a worship manual, but it is a whole "system" or "method" of *formation* in the faith. This month, I'd like to point out one part specifically. It begins on page 304 of the Prayer Book and, after the baptismal candidate (or the godparents) make some renunciations of evil and an affirmation of trust in Jesus Christ, the whole congregation joins with them in the **Baptismal Covenant**.

This is the commitment we make as baptized disciples, incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church. The first part of the Covenant is taken up with a recitation of the Apostles' Creed in answer to the first three questions. But then we make a few more promises. We promise to "continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers." (See Acts 2.42) Further, we promise to "persevere in resisting evil" and to repent when we fail to. We promise to "proclaim [the Gospel] by word and example," to

"seek and serve Christ in all persons," and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

If you happen to have been baptized *before* the 1979 Prayer Book, the Baptismal Covenant was not as explicit, but that Liturgy still included a prayer for the Candidate, which asked God that "all sinful affections may die in him/her," and that the Candidate be granted "victory" and "triumph" over "the devil, the world, and the flesh." If you were baptized, as I was, in a non-liturgical tradition, we embrace these at our Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church.

Even though the Baptismal Covenant is foundational to how we Episcopalians understand the Christian life, I'm not sure we often reflect on it. But these promises are at the heart of how Christians are to interact with each other and treat those we come in contact with. It is often easier to love people abstractly than it is to deal with the people who are right next to us in our homes, in our workplaces, and even in our own parish.

I think of the various virtues that St. Paul lists in his writings. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5.22-23). "Let no offensive talk pass your lips, only what is good and helpful... so that it brings a blessing to those that hear it... Have done with all spite and bad temper, with rage, insults and slander, with evil of any kind. Be generous to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4.32).

If we took seriously our promises to seek and serve Christ in all people, to promote the dignity of our fellow human beings, and sought to live out the virtues that St. Paul exhorts his readers to, I wonder what would happen. Perhaps, as Jesus predicted, the world would know that we are his disciples by the way we love each other.

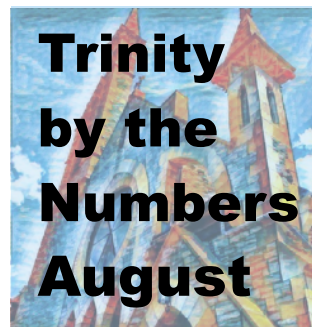
This month, might I suggest that we each take some time to re-read our

Baptismal Covenant, to reflect on our commitments as Christians, and to examine how we are doing? Are we walking in love with each other? Where do we fall in terms of gentleness or kindness? What about slander or offensive talk? Perhaps we could ask the good Lord to open up our hearts to his Gospel, so that his mercy and love might flow through us to encourage and build each other up. By doing so, we will give glory to God and provide a witness to the world that there is another, more excellent way: the humble way of Jesus Christ.

For his sake,
Fr. Geoff

**"I WILL,
WITH GOD'S
HELP."**

The Baptismal Covenant



Weekend Worship Attend.:
5:30/8:00/10:30
August 10,11: 15/11/50 (76)
August 17,18: 17/11/44 (72)
August 24,25: 20/10/49 (79)
Aug. 3 (Installation Svc) 111
Aug. 4, 10:30 —39

Wed. Healing: 10 (ave. wkly. att.)
Holy Day Services:9 (ave. att.)
Community Resources/Thrive:
Number served - 104
Utility Assistance -12 families

Book Sale

Wednesday, October 2: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday, October 3: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday, October 4: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday, October 5: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

How you can help

- When Becky Roberts calls, please volunteer to work one (or more) of the days of the sale. Or call the office to be connected with Becky.
- Book Sale Luncheon - Saint Anne's Guild will have their luncheon at the Annual Book Sale. We will serve on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We need donations of pies and cakes for our dessert offerings. Please let Jennifer Currey know if you can donate towards the cause. We have our tried and true usual crew working the kitchen. Please stop in and have lunch!
- Treasures and Treats (formerly Christmas Presence) – This year's bazaar will be under the direction of Lynn Fury-Prather and Anne Deputy, continuing in the footsteps of Marjorie and Dan Thomas, who are unable to be in charge this year. They are looking for donations of new or gently used decorations, jewelry, crafts, artwork, or any other items you no longer want or would like to donate. Baked goods and homemade candies are always a hit. As always, the money that we make from this sale goes to St. Anne's Guild to support the work of the church.

Getting ready!!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BIRTHDAYS 4. Brian Copeman Sue Palmer 6. Olivia Parsons Amy Warren 7. Michael Cameron Michael Shaw Katharin Foster 11. Mona Life Cathy Mildren 16. Amelia Hess Karen Miller Nicholas Wright 17. B.J. Hess Paul Miller 18. Dennis Ramsay 22. Nick Gyongyosi 25. Becky Alkire Joe Shaw 26. John B. Ralsten 29. Bella Marteney 31. Hannah Adkins Marjorie Thomas		1 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Bob Evans 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study (Conf. Rm) 5:00 pm-7:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Nave) 5:30 pm — Adult Ed.	2 < - - - - - Book Sale - - - - - >	3	4	5 2:00-4:00pm —Blessing of the Animals (courtyard) 5:30 pm —Saturday Eucharist, Rite II 7:00 pm — AA
6 PENTECOST 20 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir rhrl 10:30 am — Holy Eucharist, Rite II	7 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	8 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Bob Evans 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study (Conf. Rm) 5:00 pm-7:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall) 5:30 pm — Adult Ed.	9 12:15 — HE & Healing	10 10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid) 11:00 am — Knitters	11	12 5:30 pm —Saturday Eucharist, Rite II 7:00 pm — AA
13 PENTECOST 21 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	14 11:00 am — Feeding Program <i>Office closed (Columbus/ Indigenous Peoples' Day)</i>	15 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Bob Evans 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study (Conf. Rm) 5:00 pm-7:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall) 5:30 pm — Adult Ed.	16 12:15 — HE & Healing 6:00 pm — Talent Showcase and Dinner	17 10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid) 6:00 pm —Blenn. Stamp Soc.. (Tr. Hall)	18	19 5:30 pm —Saturday Eucharist, Rite II 7:00 pm — AA
20 PENTECOST 22 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir rhrl 10:30 am — Holy Eucharist, Rite II Trinity Times Deadline Discretionary Sunday	21 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 5:45 — Finance Comm. 6:30 pm —Vestry	22 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Bob Evans 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study (Conf. Rm) 5:00 pm-7:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall) 5:30 pm — Adult Ed.	23 12:15 — HE & Healing	24 10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid)	25	26 5:30 pm —Saturday Eucharist, Rite II 7:00 pm — AA
27 PENTECOST 23 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday Sch. 9:30 am — Choir rhrl 10:30 am — Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Game night	28 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	29 8:00 am — Men's breakfast @Bob Evans 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study (Conf. Rm) 5:00 pm-7:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall) 5:30 pm — Adult Ed.	30 12:15 — HE & Healing	31 10:00 am — Bible Study (hybrid)		ANNIVERSARIES 9. Joy & John Brownfield 17. Terry & Joe Shaw 28. Pat & Earl Westbrook



Trinity is beginning the Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach Programs a bit earlier in hopes of avoiding the holiday crunch. Envelopes will be given each Sunday in hopes of providing holiday meals as well as additional food for the week school is not in session. Santa gifts will be an added treat to make the children's eyes twinkle on Christmas morning. We will be connecting with the Jefferson Elementary School counselor as well as with Piggly Wiggly. Please be generous in supporting this project. (Last year we served 30 children plus their parents). From Linda Bennett

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St Francis Day Blessing of Animals

We will hold a Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, on Saturday, October 5 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Bring your pet to the St. Francis Courtyard (between the Sunday School building and Trinity Hall, on 5th street) for Fr. Geoff to pronounce a blessing! Donations will be gratefully received to benefit local animal shelters!



Hunting Magic Eels: Recovering an Enchanted Faith in a Skeptical Age

Richard Beck
Broadleaf Books, 2021

"Love is the enchantment of the world. When we love the world, every grain of it, it shines like transfiguration. Love, as Tolkien said, helps us recover the world, turns everything into a fairy tale. Every leaf, every ray of light. Animals and plants. Mead and good music. The kiss of rain on your skin. The face of a friend and loved one. It all becomes magical. Even the eels."

As technology continues to develop at breakneck speeds, we may get excited at the latest new gadget to put on our wrist or in our pocket. But we have lost *wonder*. Our world has become flat, and we have lost our sense of the transcendent. Only those things which are scientifically provable or useful can command our attention. And our vision becomes limited to what philosopher Charles Taylor calls "the immanent frame."

But it was not always so. This myopic worldview is a fairly recent phenomenon among human beings. Before modernity, humankind was "enchanted." Today, we have limited matters of faith and spirituality to personal and private spheres. For some, faith could almost be described as a hobby, having little bearing on how we interact with the rest of our lives.

In *Hunting Magic Eels*, the psychologist Richard Beck suggests that faith is more a matter of *perception* than *belief*. "Faith," he writes, "isn't forcing yourself to believe in unbelievable things; faith is *overcoming attentional blindness*." God is all around us, but is our spiritual sight too dim? Beck provides us with a lovely and readable examination of the problem of our *disenchantment* and the hope of *re-enchanting* our lives.

Far from a book of wishful fantasy, Beck's work is grounded in the *really real*. Using examples from liturgical, contemplative, charismatic, and Celtic traditions, he walks the reader through another way - an older and richer way - to view the world around us, our experiences of joy and sorrow, and unexpected, miraculous grace.

If we accept the challenge to re-train ourselves into viewing God's world in all its enchanted glory, we are accepting a fierce hope. "God's enchantments will draw you to both the beautiful and the ugly, to delight and to disgust, to the easy and the hard... That voice you're hearing is the voice of God."



Highlights from September Vestry meeting

- The Treasurer reviewed the August financial reports. The Diocesan Managed Trust Funds increased in value again, and the church's financial position remains healthy.
- The DRE reported that the Adult/Teen Religious Education class that began on September 24 will take the place of the Wednesday night Bible Study class.
- The Building & Grounds Committee discussed holding a Fall Workday on November 2.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that sign-up sheets for the Talent Showcase on October 16 have been posted on the bulletin board in Trinity Hall. Parishioners are encouraged to display or perform their talents.
- The Nominating and Election Committee will be seeking candidates for Vestry, Trustees, and Convention Delegates to serve in 2025.
- The Rector announced that twenty-eight people have signed up so far for the Meals with the Rector. He has also received several responses back to the "Open Invitation for Ministries" form and will schedule training sessions for the various ministries.
- A Vestry Retreat is still scheduled for November 9 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Linda Bennett and Steve Turner will be in charge of the Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach projects again this year. The goals are to raise \$2,000 for the Thanksgiving outreach and \$4,500 for the Christmas outreach.

Submitted by Julie Rathbone, Recorder

Trinity Talent Showcase

October 16, 2024

Whatever your talent is,
please share it with your Trinity family.
Sign up to display or perform your talents — sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in Trinity Hall.





Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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MOVIE NIGHT



Sunday, October 13th at 5:30 pm Pizza, other snacks provided