

# The Trinity Times

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

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

## FEBRUARY 2025

### THE STAFF

The Rev. Geoffrey Mackey  
Rector

Marie Mallory,  
Dir. of Music Ministry

Julie Rathbone,  
Administrator

Bree Fleming,  
Dir. of Religious Education

Paul Miller,  
Treasurer

Jacob Miller, Sexton

### THE VESTRY 2025

Jeannie Gallagher  
Michael McKibben  
Mary Thomas

2026

Anne Deputy  
Katie Perrine  
Mickie Richardson

2027

Jennifer Currey  
Karen Northrup  
John Tharp

### TRUSTEES

2025

Denny Prather

2026

Paula Sellers

2027

Tim Northrup  
Chad Mildren



# A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am sometimes shocked to think how much information I have access to at literally any time, day or night. As someone who is just old enough to have been taught to use a library card catalogue, my lifetime has been one of incredible growth in the accessibility of information. I can simply pull out my smart phone and research almost any question.

Over the centuries, Christians have sometimes fallen into a misunderstanding of the faith as largely a matter of knowing the right information. We have certain beliefs that are expressible as propositional statements. We believe in one God. We believe Jesus was born of a Virgin and that he rose from the dead on the third day. We believe that the Holy Spirit is given in Baptism. But we can sometimes forget that the spiritual life is less about information than it is about *formation*.

The life in Christ is ultimately about being “shaped.” The word St. Paul uses for this is “transformed.” This is one of the reasons we are liturgical Christians. In some traditions, Sunday worship is primarily about the sermon: about *learning* certain truths about Jesus, the faith, and the gospel. And certainly this is a part of our worship. But worship, as a whole, is intended to be *formational* or even *transformational*. This is how liturgical worship works.

To be “spiritual” is not about rising above the bodily aspects of our humanity. Rather, to be a “spiritual” person is to use our bodies in ways that are inspired by the Holy Spirit. And so, we use our whole bodies in worship. Our minds, yes, and our hearts, too. But also our bodies. We stand to express praise. We kneel or stand to pray. We sit to hear instruction. We may make the sign of the cross or bow at certain times. We use

our vocal cords when we sing out. Our eyes rest on symbols and imagery. Our ears hear the sounds of our music. We feel the touch of a handshake or a hug during the passing of the peace; and the feel of the eucharistic host in our hands at Communion. We “taste and see that the Lord is good” in the reception of Christ’s Body and Blood. And - at least sometimes - we smell the sweet smell of incense, or the fragrance of decorative flowers that ornament the sanctuary.



As humans, we are not formed merely by our thoughts. Rather, our thoughts themselves are formed by external stimuli, our language, and even our own behavior. The liturgy of the Church speaks to our physicality as well as to our intellect and our emotions.

Human beings are not spirits in a body, “ghosts in a machine.” Rather we are spirit *and* body. When God created us, he created us as physical beings and pronounced his creation “good.” When we

were baptized water was poured over our physical bodies (or, in some cases, we were physically submerged under the water entirely). What God has created, God has redeemed - and that is our *whole person*. So we worship God in our bodies which, as St. Paul tells us, are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).

So when we gather together, week by week, for our worship, remember that we give “our selves, our souls and bodies” to God. In doing so, God is form-

ing us - heart, mind, and strength - for God’s service, to the end that we might be conformed to God’s image, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Geoff

---

Image above from a Russian fresco of the creation of Adam and Eve.

Cover image: Watercolor of Trinity Church by Lee Fritch, Jr., 2005





## The Great Blessing of the Waters at Point Park

On January 12, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, following the Annual Meeting, members of the parish gathered at Point Park, on the bank of the Ohio River, for the Great Blessing of the Waters. This service has its roots in the early Church, as early as the 4th century.



O Christ our King, you came as a man into the river Jordan; for our sins, O loving and blessed Lord, you desired to be baptized like a servant at the hands of the Forerunner. By your fulfillment of all righteousness, the Jordan trembled, the nature of water was sanctified, and the Triune Godhead was revealed. Be present to us now, as we gather to bless and sanctify these waters...

Collect adapted from the *Stichera* (hymns) of the Byzantine Rite of the Great Blessing of Water



## Stewardship Corner

Winter is here. Christmas is over, Thanksgiving and New Year's can barely be remembered. The warmth filling our hearts with the desire to give has been replaced with the desire to stay warm.

Wow! It has been so cold for what seems like forever. And so much unending snow. With our minds focused on staying warm, avoiding the snow, keeping safe on the ice, volunteering probably hasn't been foremost in our thoughts. But think about it we must.

Stewardship is a continuous job. The needs that our stewardship efforts attempt to fill are ongoing, rarely getting less, usually getting more necessary. Volunteering is an important, necessary part of stewardship.

Thank you to those of you who do volunteer, who give of your time to be ushers, Lay readers, cooks, servers, Altar Guild members and more. Thank you to those who have taken on leadership roles with ECW, the Book Sale, Daughters of the King, Vestry, Trustees, Monday Feeding to name a few. Your generous hearts are exemplary examples of "Living in Love".

It is interesting but not surprising that it is many of the same people who give of their time for much of the above. That is the way it is in most groups. But Trinity isn't "most groups", Trinity is special, our people are special, they are generous and kind and will be there when a specific need arises. Well, this message is to tell you that the specific need is people to help with the work of each ministry. And it is an ongoing need.

We are asking all of our Trinity family to be good stewards all year and give of your time and talent and when necessary, your treasure this week, next week and any time help is needed.

Start this renewed stewardship the next time you come to church. Take a Blessing Bag and be ready to give it to someone in need. Take a ball of yarn and knit or crochet a shawl or lap blanket for a lonely resident of a care facility. Call the office and add your name to the Usher or Lay Reader list. Donate gloves and socks and food to the Helping Hands ministry. Help the Caring Cards ministry with card assembly and delivery. Volunteer! Step out of your comfort zone, warm your heart not just your body.

Consider these quotes —

- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill
- "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." - Erma Bombeck
- "The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." - DeAnn Hollis
- "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2
- "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..." - Galatians 6:10

And, of course, "Many hands make light work!" — be some of those many hands!

With grateful hearts for all you do and all you will do!  
The Stewardship and Outreach Committee



# 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting

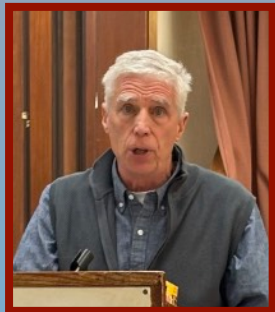
Sunday, January 12, after the 10:30 AM Liturgy

Parishioners gathered with coffee and snacks in hand for our 2025 Annual Meeting, chaired by outgoing Senior Warden Scott Ramsay. Reports were given by:

- Paul Miller, *Treasurer*
- Tom Gyongyosi, *Chair, Buildings and Grounds*
- Bree Fleming, *Director of Religious Education*
- Marie Mallory, *Director of Music Ministries*
- Anne Deputy, *Chair, Stewardship & Outreach*

The 2025 Budget was presented to the congregation as a balanced budget. Two amendments to the Parish By-Laws were adopted to bring them into conformity with Diocesan & Episcopal Church canons, and the Rector gave his State of the Parish report.

Sincere thanks to the parishioners who attended and to the work and dedication of the many, many people who keep Trinity's many ministries going.



# Admission of a Catechumen

From the earliest days of the Church, becoming a Christian was accomplished by a journey of initiation in several stages. Though infants were baptized, those who came to the faith later in life, were initially prepared for Baptism by becoming "Catechumens." The **Catechumenate** was a period of prayer and study leading to **Baptism** and full inclusion in the life of the Church.

On Sunday, January 26, we welcomed Jacob Dillon-Fontaine as a catechumen in our parish. It is our privilege and responsibility to keep Jacob in our prayers and do all we can to encourage him in his life in Christ.



Jacob is anointed and admitted as a catechumen by Fr. Geoff.



Fr. Geoff, Jacob, and Jacob's sponsor and brother, Michael Dillon

# Two Celebrations at Good Shepherd!

**The Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden,**

Bishop of West Virginia  
will install

**The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa**

as Rector of  
**the Memorial Church  
of the Good Shepherd**

on February 15, 2025  
at 11:00 AM

**The Rev. Jim Offenberger,**

having been ordained to the  
priesthood by a bishop in the historic  
succession, will have his orders  
received into the Episcopal Church by

**the Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden,**

Bishop of West Virginia at  
**the Memorial Church  
of the Good Shepherd**

on March 31, 2025 at 6:00 PM



# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <p>4. Justin Warren 5. Pamela McGraw Andrew Patrick 8. Margie Miller Dorsey Northrup 9. Joy Brownfield</p>	<p>11. Lori Ullmann 13. Karen Northrup 15. Fr. Art Bennett Ron Caldwell Regan Ann Rauh 16. Claudia Smith 18. Carol Payne</p>	<p>19. Pat Beamish Marielle Bullock 20. Jennifer Currey 25. Cynthia Bullock 27. Jason Perrine 28. Thomas Walsh</p>	<p><b>ANNIVERSARIES</b></p> <p>9. Olivia &amp; Andrew Parsons</p>			<p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>9 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Movie Night</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 am — Men's Breakfast (First Lutheran) 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study 11:00 am — Knitters</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am — Daughters of the King (at Mary B's) 5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>16 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II</p> <p><b>Discretionary Sunday</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p> <p><b>Presidents Day Office Closed</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p> <p><b>Trinity Times Deadline</b></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am — Adult Religious Education 2:00 pm — E.C.W. 5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>23 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Game Night</p>	<p>24 ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 6:30 pm — Vestry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	



# The Rector's Bookshelf



## O Taste and See: A Biblical Reflection on Experiencing God

Bonnie Thurston  
Paraclete Press, 2013

Poet, theologian, seminary professor, and member of the Diocese of West Virginia, Dr. Bonnie Thurston offers a lovely and compelling meditation in *O Taste and See*. Psalm 34:8 is perhaps one of the best-known lines in all of Scripture: “O taste and see that the LORD is good.” Thurston’s book is an extended reflection on the truth of this Scripture. For her, the text expresses four things:

First, the Lord *IS*. This is a statement of belief. God exists and God is personal. “*At the bottom of the universe is not some mindless grinding machinery or evolutionary process. What moves everything, from stars to human hearts, is personal existence.*”

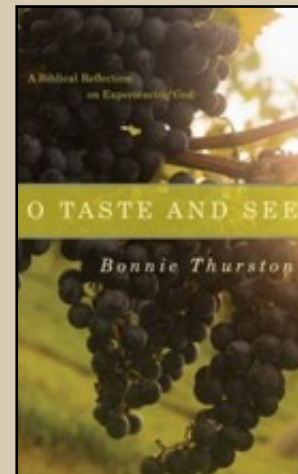


Second, at the Lord is *GOOD*. This is a claim about the character of God. Not only is the ground of all being personal, but this personal God is a God who is gracious, generous, and kind. She writes that, “*God is manifested in the world by ‘energies,’ characteristics, qualities like goodness and graciousness. God’s goodness is primarily manifested by the verb love.*”

Third, this sentence of Scripture is a call to *TASTE*. This is a

God who is not distant and removed, like Aristotle’s “unmoved mover.” This is not the god of Deism, who is hands-off on creation. Rather, this is a God who invites us into experiencing the divine, who longs to be in relationship with us.

Finally, we are invited to *SEE*. To “see” is not merely to observe with the eyes of our bodies, but to *understand*. To “see” God is not merely physical perception, “*but also the knowledge of the inner life of God, which is undivided love.*”



I commend Dr. Thurston’s book. It is not a long or heavy tome, but it is filled with insights and suggestions for exploration of the spiritual life. We indeed *do* have a God who the Scriptures teach us *is* love itself. And the historic Anglican liturgy teaches us that God’s “property [character] is always to have mercy.” As we have each been invited to “taste and see,” we would do well to reflect on who it is we are seeing and tasting, and in whom we believe. As she explains, “*You get an invitation, but it is not to think abstractly about God, but to experience God.*”

---

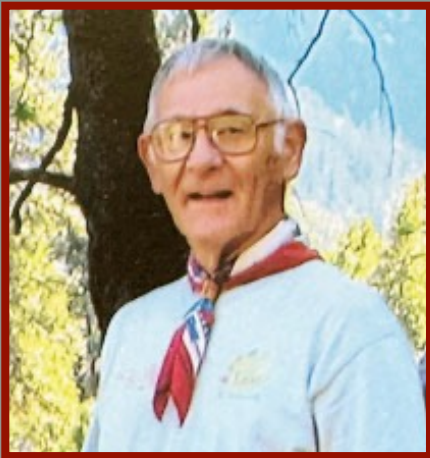
## Upcoming Adult Religious Education: *The Christian Way* Saturday, February 22, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

What does it mean to be a Jesus follower? How do we live our lives in accordance with the beliefs we profess. In this class, Fr. Geoff will lead us as we look at Christian “behaving” in terms of both ethics and mission. We will look at the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Fruit of the Spirit. We will also take a look at repentance and classic spiritual disciplines. All are welcome to join this introduction to *The Christian Way*.

## In Memoriam

*"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God..."*

(Wisdom 3.1)



**Lee Fritch, Jr.**

1934 - 2024

Leroy (Lee) Fritch, Jr., passed away on December 3, 2024. A native of Allentown, PA, he was for many years a very active member of our parish. Well-known for his paintings, one of his watercolors - of Trinity Church - hangs in the hallway of the parish Office. In his later years, he was a resident of Signal Mountain, TN.



**John Brownfield**

1946 - 2024

John Brownfield, a Parkersburg native, resident of Belpre, OH and long-time active member of Trinity Church, passed away on December 21, 2024. He and his wife Joy recently returned to Belpre, OH after several years in Florida. A man of great faith with a love for the Scriptures, he served in many capacities in our parish.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed,  
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## In Memoriam



**Mary Elizabeth  
Bonnet**

1945 - 2024

Mary Bonnet, a parishioner of both Trinity and Good Shepherd parishes, passed away on November 5, 2024. Mary grew up in New Hampshire but was a long time resident of Parkersburg. She was involved in altar guild and many other ministries. A primary school teacher and mother, she is survived by her husband, Dick. She will be laid to rest in the Good Shepherd Columbarium.

## Trinity by the Numbers December

### Attendance

Weekend Liturgies (5:30/8:00/10:30)

- Dec 7/8 — 12/17/49 (78)
- Dec 14/15 — 14/11/68 (93)
- Dec 21/22 — 19/19/56 (94)
- Dec 29 (one liturgy) — 58

Blue Christmas Service (12/15) — 15

Christmas Services (total) — 188

Wednesday Liturgy (average) — 3

Holy Day Liturgies (average) — 6

### Community Resources / Thrive

Number Served: 91

Utility Assistance: 11 Families

### SAVE THE DATES

March 4 - Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras  
Pancake Supper, time TBA

March 5 - Ash Wednesday  
Liturgies at 7:30 am, 12:15 pm, and 6:00 pm

March 8 & 9 - First Sunday in Lent  
Bishop Cowden's Visitation



# The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

February 2

On February 2, the Church celebrates one of its "Holy Days," the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. This is the *last* feast in the Incarnation cycle of feasts, coming as it does 40 days after Christmas. And it is one of only *three* Holy Days that, when they fall on a Sunday, take precedence over the regular Sunday observance (BCP, p. 16). This year, February 2 is a Sunday.



This Feast - which is alternatively called "The Purification of St. Mary the Virgin" - commemorates the events of *Luke 2.22-38*, when the Holy Family fulfills the obligations of the Law of Moses found in *Exodus 13* and *Leviticus 12*. A firstborn son or daughter was to be "redeemed" - made holy to the Lord; and on the 40th day after giving birth, a mother was to present a sheep and a turtledove (or two turtledoves, if she was poor), to be sacrificed as offerings to the Lord.

When Mary does so, the aged and righteous Simeon takes the holy Child in his arms and sings his hymn, the *Nunc dimittis*, which later became a part of the daily prayer of the Church (see page 120 of the Prayer Book). Then, the Prophetess Anna recognized the child, and began to spread the good news to those "who were looking for the redemption of Israel."

The French monk and theologian Fr. Lev Gillet wrote, "These texts from the feast of the Presentation can also be applied to our souls. Each soul ought to be a Temple of God, to which Mary brings Jesus. And each one of us should, like Simeon, take the child in his arms and say to the Father: 'My eyes have seen thy salvation.' The prayer of Simeon, 'now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace' does not simply mean someone who has seen Jesus and held him in his arms can leave this life and die in peace: it also means for us that, having seen and touched the Saviour, we are released from the hold that sin has on us, and, in peace, can leave the realm of evil."

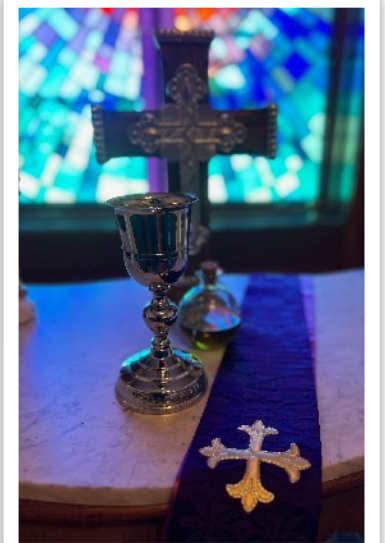


## Highlights from January Vestry meeting

- The vestry elected Mary Thomas as Senior Warden. The election of Junior Warden was tabled till February.
- The Treasurer reviewed the December 2024 financial reports. The church ended the year with a significant increase in diocesan-managed trust accounts and a healthy balance in the checking account.
- The Rector announced that there are three expected confirmation candidates and two expected reception candidates for Bishop Cowden's visit in March.
- The DRE reported that acolyte orientation will begin in February.
- The Stewardship and Outreach Chair announced that the next outreach and information event will be the day of the Parkersburg Easter Parade.
- Under new business, the Vestry was notified of the staff holidays for 2025.

### *Pastoral Ministry to the Sick or Homebound*

If you or your loved one is sick, in the hospital, or homebound and you would like visitation for Communion, Anointing of the Sick, and/or the Rite of Reconciliation, please contact the parish office. We will be happy to arrange a visit.



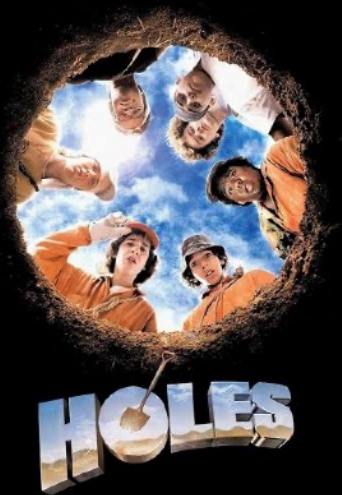




Trinity Episcopal Church  
430 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested  
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PARKERSBURG, WV  
PERMIT #70



FEBRUARY PARISH MOVIE NIGHT  
February 9 at 5:30 PM

## HOLES

A Neo-western comedy drama  
based on the young adult novel by  
Louis Sachar

Trinity Hall  
(Use the St. Francis Courtyard entrance  
on 5th Street)