

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!*

JANUARY 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

2024

Susie Fitcher
Tom Gyongyosi
Scott Ramsay

2025

Jeannie Gallagher
Michael McKibben
Mary Thomas

2026

Anne Deputy
Mickie Richardson
Justin Warren

TRUSTEES

2024

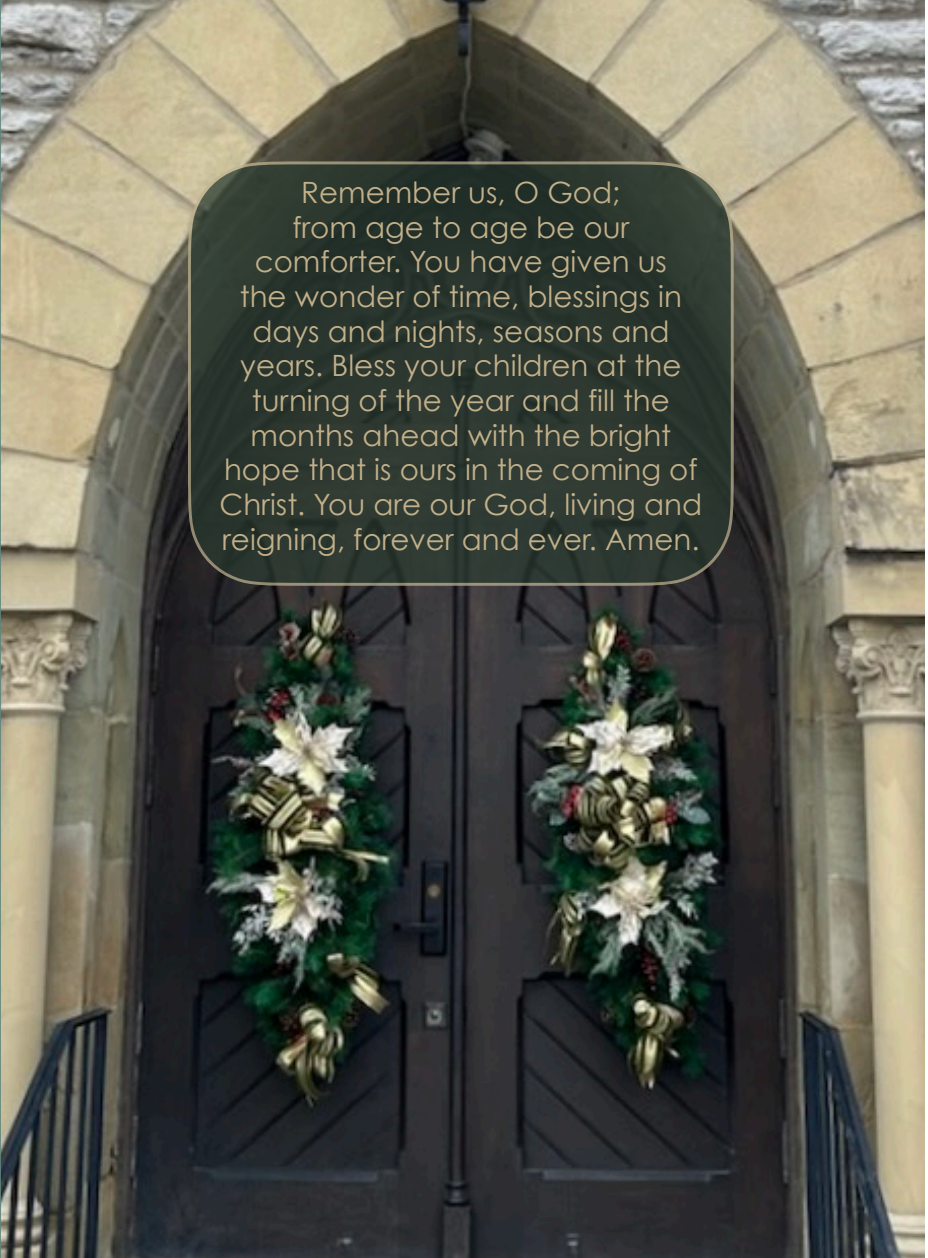
Chad Mildren
Frank Northrup

2025

Denny Prather

2026

Paula Sellers



Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our
comforter. You have given us
the wonder of time, blessings in
days and nights, seasons and
years. Bless your children at the
turning of the year and fill the
months ahead with the bright
hope that is ours in the coming of
Christ. You are our God, living and
reigning, forever and ever. Amen.

A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The New Year is often a time of great anticipation. Sometimes we may look forward with excitement, sometimes with fear or concern. What will 2025 bring? Will it be better than we hope? What challenges or triumphs might come to pass in the next 12 months? And how well will we negotiate them?

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

(BCP, p. 213)

As the civic calendar turns a page, as liturgical Christians, we are in the midst of our 12 days of Christmas celebration. The time between Christmas Day and the Feast of Epiphany is intended to be a graced time of joy into which a New Year's celebration fits quite nicely. But January 1 on the Church's calendar is a different feast: The Most Holy Name of Jesus (see BCP, p. 16). The

Gospel appointed for the day is Luke 2.15-21, in which the holy Virgin Mary "treasures up" the mysterious things that have surrounded Christ's birth, Jesus is circumcised at eight days old in accordance with the Torah, and he is given the name "Jesus" which Joseph had been instructed by the Angel to give him (Matthew 1.21).

It is a wonderful providence that we begin our new year on this feast, because I think it gives us an opportunity to start our year "in the Name of Jesus." And I think there are two ways we can do this.

First, to do something "in the name" of someone else, is to do something on his or her behalf. And to do something on someone else's behalf, is to do it the way he or she

would want it to be done. To begin our new year "in the Name of Jesus" is to dedicate ourselves to living *this* year the way Jesus would want us to live it. We have the opportunity to dedicate our time, our efforts, and our energy to Christ and to serve in his Name.

But there's another way in which we do something "in the name of" others, too. Often, when we begin prayers, we say "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and perhaps make the sign of the cross. This signifies to us that what follows is to be done *in the Trinity*, within God's fellowship. Our prayers which follow are all made in the context of God's own divine life, which we have been made partakers of (see 2 Peter 1.4). And we often end our prayers "in Jesus' Name."

What if we were to think of dedicating our year to the Name of Jesus in this way? What if we saw 2025 as if it were one continuous prayer? We begin our year "in Jesus' name" - actually *IN* it. We can take this opportunity to make a sort

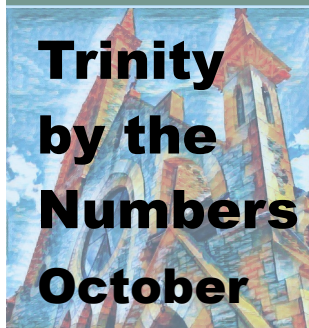
of personal consecration: giving to God "our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice" (BCP, p. 336).

Whatever the new year brings - be it joy or sorrow or (most likely) a mixture of both - it is a gift. It is a gift of *time* that God gives us. The more time God gives us, the more opportunity we have to grow in grace and love; that is, the more opportunity we have to grow to be like Jesus.

May our merciful God grant you and yours peace, joy, and health in the coming year. Above all, may God make you mindful that, as a Christian, you are always bearing the name of Jesus so that you may live out this new year in faithfulness to his love.

For Jesus' sake,
Fr. Geoff

Prayer on the cover from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*.



Weekend Worship Attend.:
5:30/8:00/10:30
Nov 2/3: 16/10/56 (82)
Nov 9/10: 15/15/46 (76)
Nov 16/17: 16/13/60 (89)
Nov 23/24: 18/13/47 (78)

Nov 30/Dec 1: 11/14/60 (85)
Wed. Healing (avg.): 4
Holy Day Masses (avg.): 8
Community Resources/Thrive:
Number served - 103
Utility Assistance - 18 families

Advent and Christmas at Trinity

Wreath-Making Party

November 20, 2024



The Greening of the Church

December 22, 2024



2024 Christmas Outreach: The Joy is Real

All those envelopes handed you by our young people starting in September make the joy real for all the families receiving food and gifts from Trinity during the holidays. The generosity and support of our congregation and Piggly Wiggly is heartwarming. The faithful shoppers are not “Elves on a Shelf,” but in fact are very active assistants to St. Nicholas who couldn’t fulfill his mission without their help. Thank you to everyone who grasped the opportunity to help may the joy real for so many!

- Linda Bennett



December 7, 2024 at
Jefferson Elementary School



Outreach to Parkersburg Christmas Parade Participants

December 7, 2024 at
Parkersburg High School

Stewardship Corner

A new year has begun, and new year resolutions have been made - how many will you keep this year?

If **Living in Love** was one of your resolutions, you are off to an amazing start! Trinity Family, you have embraced our theme "Living in Love" wholeheartedly. YOU provided 12 families with food for Thanksgiving. YOU donated food and supplies to the animal shelter. YOU provided 10 families with food for Christmas at the week the schools are closed. YOU provided 30 children with gifts and clothing for Christmas. YOU have given food and clothing to our own Helping Hands ministry. YOU have given your time to bake, cook, serve, sing, read, knit, clean, and more to help Trinity and your community. You are all truly Living in Love.

Thank you always for all you have done and all you will do. Stay amazing! Keep Living in Love! Today and everyday.

With grateful hearts,
Anne Deputy for the
Stewardship and Outreach Committee

"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the chalice."

St. John Chrysostom
4th century archbishop of Constantinople



Annual Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting will be convened on January 12, 2025 following the 10:30 AM service. The congregation will be electing new members of the lay leadership for the year to sit on Vestry and to serve as delegates and alternates to the 2025 Diocesan Convention. We will also have a vote to change the by-laws to bring them into conformity to the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of West Virginia. Reports from leaders of various ministries will be presented, and the 2025 budget will be presented. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend and participate in this important process in the life of our church.



Highlights from December Vestry meeting

- The Treasurer reviewed the November financial reports. The diocesan managed trust funds increased in value, and the church's financial position remains healthy.
- The Building & Grounds Committee installed a new environmentally friendly water cooler in the Christian Education Building.
- The Vestry approved the 2025 budget. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 12 after the 10:30 am service.
- The Rector reported that Bishop Cowden will be visiting the weekend of March 8 & 9, 2024.

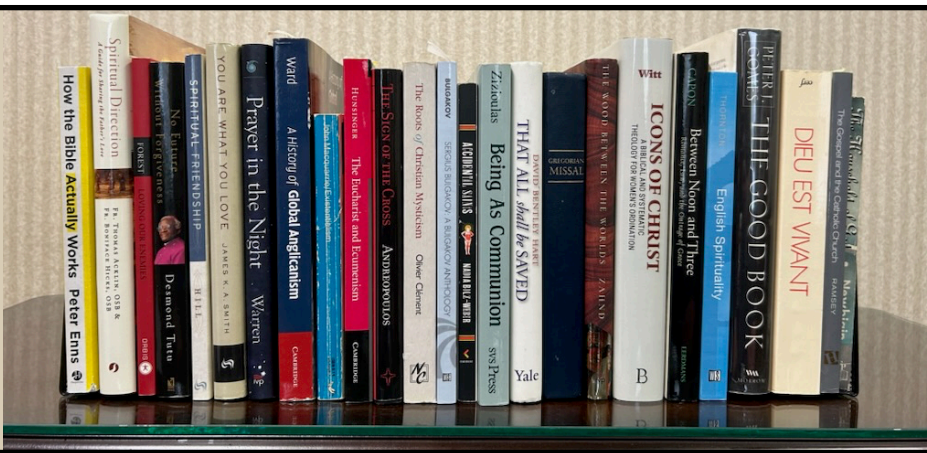
by Julie Rathbone, Registrar

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>BIRTHDAYS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tim Northrup 2. Ron Brake 3. Charlotte Bee Ariah Agbo Ujim-Adie 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Qessa Brown 18. John N. Ralsten 20. Finan Warren 26. Mark Miller 27. Kelly Miller 28. Bree Fleming 31. Monique Cameron 	<p>ANNIVERSARIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Amy & Justin Warren 20. Mona & Jim Life 22. Susan & Butch Shock 	<p>1 HOLY NAME OF JESUS</p> <p>Parish Office Closed (New Years Day)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>5 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 6:00 pm - Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am - Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm - Smoot Ensemble</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:15 — HE & Anointing</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study 11:00 pm — Knitters</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 pm — AA</p> <p>NO EVENING LITURGY</p>
<p>12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</p> <p>9:00 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am — Annual Meeting 1:30 pm — Blessing of the Rivers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am — Men's Breakfast (at Trinity Hall) 10:00 am - Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm - Smoot Ensemble</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:15 — HE & Anointing</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 CONFESSION OF ST PETER</p> <p>5:30 pm — Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>19 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II</p> <p>Discretionary Sunday</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 5:45 pm — Finance Committee 6:30 pm — Vestry</p> <p>Parish Office Closed (Mik Jr Day)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am - Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm - Smoot Ensemble</p> <p>Trinity Times Deadline</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:15 — HE & Anointing</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 CONVERSION OF ST PAUL</p> <p>10:00 am - 2:00 pm — Adult Religious Education 5:30 pm — Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>26 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Game Night</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am - Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm - Smoot Ensemble</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:15 — HE & Anointing</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>	

TRINITY HALL CLOSED FOR CLEANING

The Rector's Bookshelf



Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God

Lauren F. Winner
HarperCollins, 2015

As Christians in a liturgical tradition, we are very familiar with various metaphors for God. God is our Shepherd, our King, and our High Priest. Certain metaphors have a kind of pride of place in our language of God. God is Father, for example. But God is also our Rock and our Fortress. God is a Warrior and a Vindicator.

But the Bible uses many, many other ways of speaking about God that we don't tend to pay much attention to. The best-selling author, university professor, and Episcopal priest Lauren F. Winner considered six of these metaphors in her wonderful book, *Wearing God*. Writing of God as clothing, smell, bread & wine, laboring woman, laughter, and flame, Winner invites us to try looking at God with new perspectives as curious as they are faithful to the Biblical text.

Often, our metaphors about God are stated in our prayers so frequently that they become worn out and "old hat." They become dead metaphors, no longer goading us into making the comparison between God and whatever name we use for God. To think of God as clothing, something we put on; or to think of God as fire, which con-

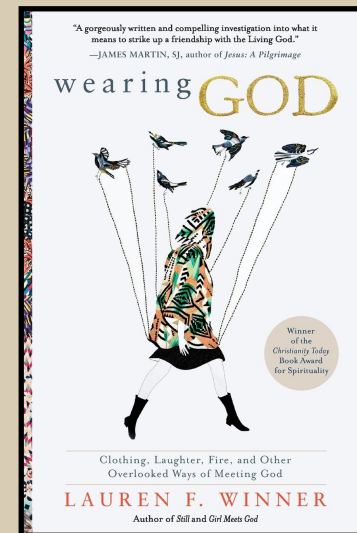
sumes impurities; these are ways to think about God that get us out of our ordinary "religious" ways of thinking.

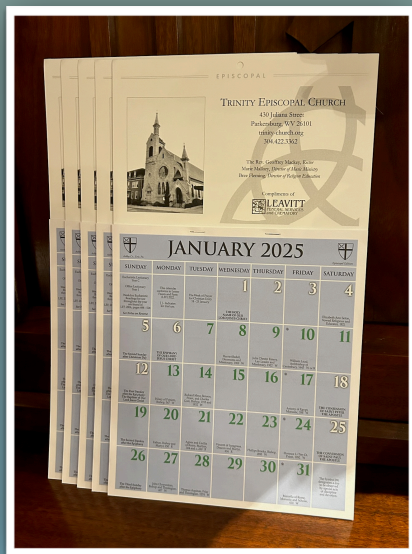
"Unlike my church, with its four favored metaphors, the Bible offers hundreds of images of God - images the church has paid a great deal of attention to in earlier centuries, although many are overlooked now," Winner writes. "Drunkard. Beekeeper. Homeless man. Tree. "Shepherd" and "Light" are perfectly wonderful images, but in fixing on them - in fixing on any three or four primary metaphors for God - we have truncated our relationship with the divine, and we have cut ourselves off from the more voluble and variable witness of the scriptures, which depict God as clothing. As fire. As comedian. Sleeper. Water. Dog."

This book is delightful and charming investigation into just a few of these. As Winner explains, when Jesus (for example) talked about God, he used metaphors from the world around him that his hearers would have had immediate connection with. Agriculture, weather, parenthood, and the like. But at a distance of 2,000 years, most of us no longer have an immediate resonance with shepherds, for example.

Wearing God is an exploration that not only helps us look at God in these six other ways; it also encourages us to use our God-given imagination to consider that our own pictures of God are limited and often need *other* metaphors to give us a fuller, more well-rounded, image of who God is. God is not only the "rock" that shelters us, but also the "one who gives us birth." God is not only a "mighty warrior," but also "bread" that nourishes us.

I commend Dr. Winner's book to those who would like to have their understanding of God expanded. No one metaphor - or even collection of metaphors - can give us an entirely accurate understanding of God. After all, God is ineffable and incomprehensible. But God calls us into relationship with himself. And in doing so, we have been given a plethora of images to engage with.





2025 Liturgical Calendars

Follow along with the Church's historical calendar of feasts, fasts, and seasons with a 2025 Trinity Church liturgical calendar. This calendar conforms to the Book of Common Prayer and includes the lesser feasts approved by General Convention. Calendar dates are in the proper color of the day. Every family in the parish is encouraged to have one in their homes, to be reminded of the celebrations of our faith. These have been graciously provided compliments of Leavitt Funeral Services. Pick one up the next time you're in church!

Bishop's Annual Visitation

The Diocese of West Virginia has now published Bishop Matthew Cowden's 2025 calendar. He will be making his episcopal visitation to Trinity Church on the weekend of the First Sunday of Lent, Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9, 2025. He will preside at all three of our usual weekend liturgies. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or be received by the bishop into the Anglican Communion, please see Father Geoff as soon as possible so that adequate preparation can be undertaken.



The Bishop and Edith Mezick from his 2024 episcopal visitation

If you would like to explore being Confirmed or Received into the Anglican Communion when the Bishop visits, please let Fr. Geoff know as soon as possible.

Upcoming Special Liturgies

December 31 at 6:00 pm

THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Holy Eucharist with Hymns

January 6 at 6:00 pm

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Holy Eucharist with Hymns

January 12 at 1:30 pm

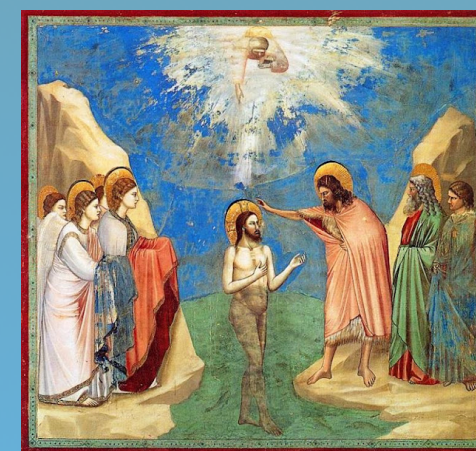
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Great Blessing of the Waters

at the confluence of the Little Kanawha & Ohio Rivers
at Point Park

The Great Blessing of the Waters

On the Sunday following Epiphany, we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan. In the early Church this feast was often more elaborately celebrated than Christmas itself, and still is in Orthodox countries. It became the custom in many places to bless water on this feast, especially the nearest large bodies of water. This year, Fr. Geoff will celebrate this blessing after our annual meeting on January 12th. The central part of this service is a long prayer of blessing which came into its current form under St. Sophronius, a 7th century Patriarch of Jerusalem, but has roots coming from St. Proclus of Constantinople and St. Basil of Caesarea in the 4th century.



Giotto, *Baptism of the Lord* (1305)

“That they all may be one...” - January 18-25

Every year, Christian communities join to pray for the visible unity of the Church, faithfully abiding by the will of Christ, who prayed, “that all may be one” (John 17.21), during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In most of the world, this is held between January 18 (the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter) and January 25 (the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul). Originating in 1908, this annual observance was started by Fr. Paul Wattson, the



founder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars in New York. Now it is coordinated by the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church’s Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. The theme this year is “Do you Believe?” (John 11.26).



This week is a special time, set aside for Christians from a variety of backgrounds and traditions to pray for unity as Christ did as part of his “High Priestly Prayer” in John 17:

“It is not for these alone that I pray, but for those also who through their word put their faith in me. May they all be one; as you, Father, are in me, and in you, so also may they be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me....I in them and you in me, may they be perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me, and that you loved them as you loved me.” (John 17.20-23)

There are several sources for materials that can help guide our prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, such as:

- The World Council of Churches: <https://tinyurl.com/38a4xzut>
- Episcopal Office of Ecumenical Relations: <https://tinyurl.com/57nkr96s>
- The Graymoor Friars: <https://tinyurl.com/mv5a7v47>

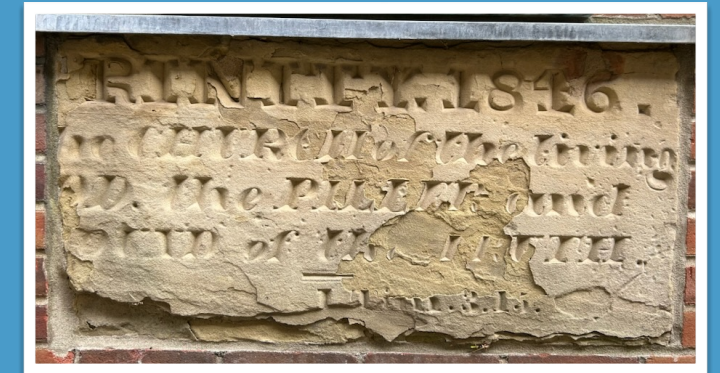
(1) Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey receives an episcopal ring from Pope Paul VI in 1966. (2) Pope Francis passes the peace with Lutheran Archbishop Antje Jackelen in 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

The building we worship in week by week is actually the second church building our parish built on this site. The first church building was built in 1846, three years after the founding of the parish. That building was razed in 1877 and the current edifice was constructed in 1879. However the Date Stone from the *first* Trinity Church still remains. If you take a walk into our Columbarium Courtyard and look to the left, toward the parish offices, you will see it there, though it is no longer very easy to read. It reads:

Trinity 1846
The Church of the Living God, The Pillar and Ground of the Truth.

1 Tim. 3:15



Sanctuary Flowers

The Flower Chart for 2025 is now available with many Sundays open. Two vases of sanctuary flowers cost \$50 total, which can be shared with another person, if desired. Please contact Julie for more information, including whether you are giving the flowers in memorial or thanksgiving. If you wish a particular date to continue each year, she can save that for you as well.



Blessing Bags

Those who attended our 5th Sunday FunFest Potluck know that we had a table with non-perishable food items to make “Blessing Bags” with. These can be kept in one’s car to give out when there is someone in need asking for money or food. As long as supplies last, we will continue to have this table available during our Coffee Hours after the 10:30 AM Sunday service.

“Give to anyone who asks”

- Matt. 5:42

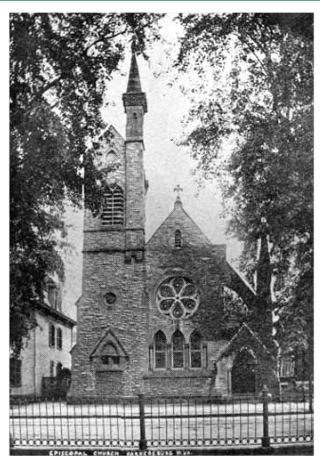


Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

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

A Prayer for Our Parish



Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear your servants' prayers, and grant to our parish all things that are necessary for its spiritual welfare; enlighten and guide its priest; strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wandering; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of your Gospel; bring all to be of one heart and one mind within the fold of your holy Church; to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from St. Augustine's Prayer Book
Holy Cross Publications, 1947*