

The Trinity Times

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

JUNE 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
Mark Edwards
John Tharp

TRUSTEES

2025

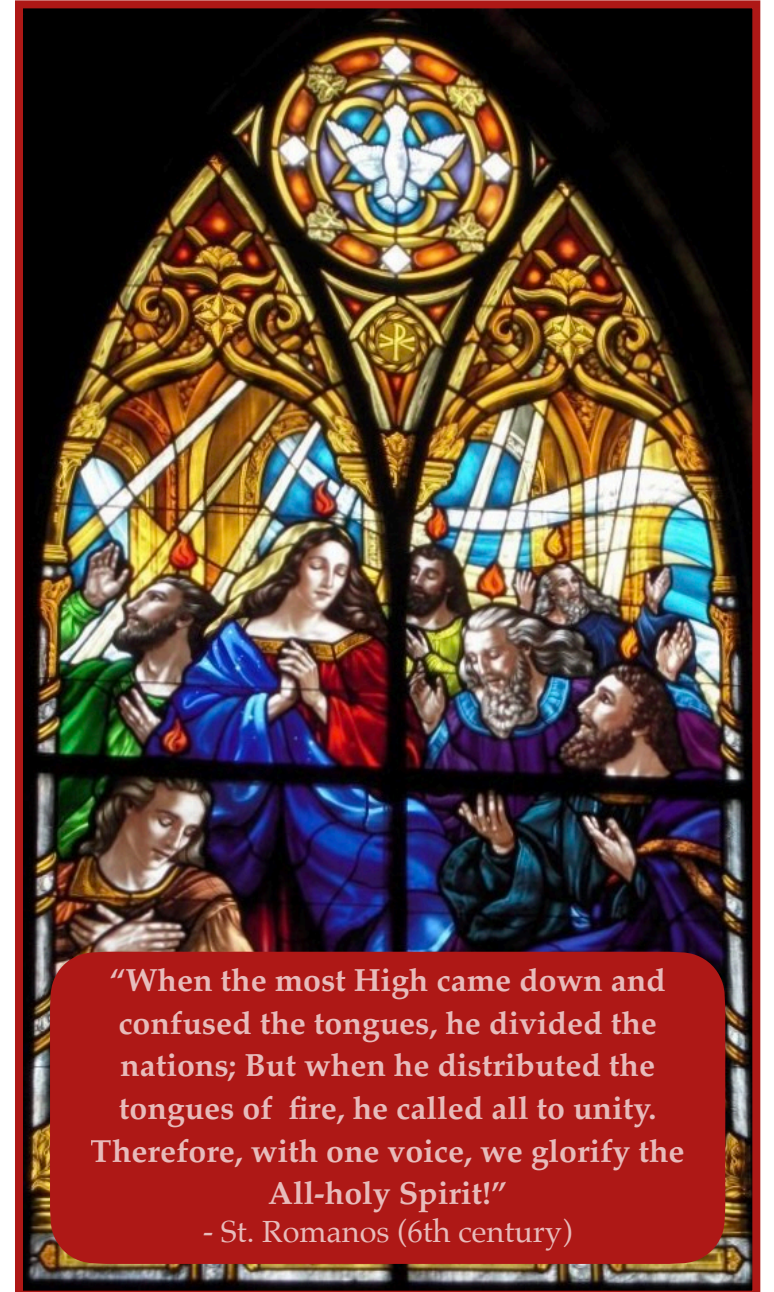
Denny Prather

2026

Paula Sellers

2027

Tim Northrup
Chad Mildren



*“When the most High came down and
confused the tongues, he divided the
nations; But when he distributed the
tongues of fire, he called all to unity.
Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the
All-holy Spirit!”
- St. Romanos (6th century)*

A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wonder if you've ever given thought to some of the words we so frequently and casually use at church. Sometimes we use a word, and we think we know what it means, but maybe there's more to it than meets the eye. One word we use a lot is **communion**.

Most often, you probably use this word to refer to receiving the Sacrament each Sunday at the Eucharist. In some contexts "Communion" is the word they use for the whole service. In others - like in our church - "communion" usually refers specifically to the act of receiving the consecrated elements - "The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven; the Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

But we also use the word in another way. As Episcopalians, we are members of the Anglican Communion. This is a category of canon law. To be "in communion" with a church or a person is to be able to share eucharistic fellowship with them. Some churches, for example, are not in communion with us - we would not be welcome at their Eucharists. However, as Anglicans, we welcome all the faithful to join us at the Lord's Supper. Further, the Episcopal Church has made agreements of "Full Communion" with some other churches, for example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This means not only that we share the Eucharist with them, but that our clergy can minister in each other's churches.

The theological and biblical word that we translate "Communion" is the Greek *Koinonia*, and it has a more basic, more fundamental meaning. It means simply a "fellowship," an intimate connection. Our English "communion" comes from the Latin *communio* - which means a sharing in common. It has the word "union" right in the word.

So whether we are talking about churches being in fellowship with each other or participating in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, we are talking more fundamentally about something we hold in common, something with or through which we share a deep, intimate connection.

I think this is a really important (and much overlooked) concept in Christian circles today. In our wider society we have all sorts of enticements and incentives to find our identity in some other fellowship, be it our nationality, our political party, our social or economic status, our good reputation, or whatever it may be. We like to take sides; we like to have "us" and "them," "insiders" and "outsiders." But as Christians we must always, always, always come back to the Cross and Person of Jesus Christ. As the Baptized people of God, our most fundamental identity is found in Christ alone.

Christ is not only our Lord and Judge; Christ is also the Standard by which all other things must be judged. To be a Christian is, ultimately, to be somewhat uncomfortable in the social and political categories of the world. Political parties will inevitably get things wrong. Nations and states will come and go. Cultures grow and change. All of these aspects of human social life have their place. They can all be instrumental goods. They can also be led astray. To be a Christian is to place our communion in Christ above all other allegiances and commitments. This means not only worshiping Christ with our lips, but serving him and his Kingdom in our lives.

We are most reminded of that when we come to the Table of the Lord. We kneel or stand and receive the gift of God's grace and mercy without merit, next to others who are just as unworthy as we are. And we are reminded that those we commune with - whether here at our parish or at any of the millions of Christian altars across the globe - are our truest sisters and brothers, regardless of whatever other category we might place them in.

The challenge of the Christian life is to take that Sacramental act and make it not only a matter of personal piety, but a commission to live that eucharistic reality in the rest of our lives; to open our hearts to the kindly judgment of Jesus, which alone can transform us into the kinds of people who will be at home in the Kingdom of God.

May we be conformed to his image.
Fr. Geoff



Cover Image: Pentecost Window, Ss. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church, Fargo, ND

Trinity Book Sale 2025

SAVE THE DATES

Book Sale
October 1-4, 2025

Sorting & Storing
Wednesdays,
beginning June 4

The book sale is back on the agenda! Before you turn around it will be time for the next annual Trinity Used Book Sale. It will take place Wednesday through Saturday, October 1-4, 2025. We will begin sorting and storing books on Wednesday June 4, at 10:30. Be ready to work this wonderful sale in some capacity! A member of the Book Sale Committee will be calling to schedule your time to help with the sale that week in October. Please consider helping



because this sale is valuable to the community organizations, as well as our own programs at Trinity. I want to thank you in advance for your willingness to help, and for the tireless, endless work of the book sale committee.

Also going on during the sale will be lunch being served Wednesday through Friday from 11:00-1:30 PM. The Food for Thought and Christmas Gift table will also return. There is something for everyone to be a part of.

Wednesday through Friday the book sale times are 9:00AM-6:00PM, and Saturday 9:00-12:00. Please help us get the community reading!

We do not accept:

- dictionaries
- encyclopedias
- computer books
- travel books
- VHS tapes
- cassette tapes
- moldy or water-soaked books
- Financial or business books
- Medical books before 2015
- small paperback cookbooks or pamphlets
- Magazines

What is the Anglican Way?

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Within the greater Christian family, we have a particular history and heritage that gives us our unique expression of the faith. On three Sundays in June, Fr. Mackey will be offering a brief introduction to this **Anglican Way** - our particular charism (giftedness) that we Episcopalians have received and pass on. On **Sundays, June 1, 8, & 29**, at **9:15 AM** we will gather in the Conference Room. The three sessions will be on our **history, theology, and spirituality**, respectively. We hope that you're able to attend!

Right: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Canterbury Cathedral



Left: St. Hilda of Whitby, Stained glass in Cowley Convent, Oxford

TRINITY BY THE NUMBERS — APRIL

Attendance

- Weekend Liturgies (5:30/8:00/10:30)
- Apr 5/6 — 13/12/53 (78)
 - Apr 12/13 — 16/9/54 (79)
 - Apr 19/20 — 64/13/115 (192)
 - Apr 26/27 — 15/12/50 (77)

Wednesday Unction (average) — 3
Lenten Quiet Day — 9

Holy Week

Holy Wednesday — 27
Maundy Thursday — 50
Good Friday Presanctified — 23
Good Friday Vespers — 19

Community Resources / Thrive

Number Served: 113
Utility Assistance: 0

Stories from Sunday School

Genre Jumble

For the last several weeks, Sunday School has been exploring the Bible.

What is it? Where did it come from? How do you read it? On one Sunday in particular, we focused on the basic genres you could find in the Bible: Narratives, Prophecies, Gospels, Letters, and Poems. The challenge the Sunday Schoolers were given that week for their craft was to pick a Bible story, one they knew well, and mash it together with a writing genre that was not in the Bible. The examples they were given were Fantasy, Mystery, Sci-Fi, and Western.

The idea of transforming a Biblical story, a place from where we draw truth, into a science fiction or a spy thriller might feel strange, even sacrilegious. However, it's also what some of our most celebrated Anglicans have done.

Authors like C.S. Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle have drawn many closer to the family of Christ through fantastical stories that pull ideas directly from the Biblical text and transform them. More secular creations that borrow from God's Word, like *The Matrix* or *Jesus Christ Superstar*, reveal questions and dreams we have about who God is and who we are in relation to Him.

As creatures made in the image of God, a spark of His creativity is present in all of us. We may not write the next *Chronicles of Narnia*, but we can share the truths we've found in Scripture in imaginative ways that invite others to wonder more deeply about God. As we head into the summer, I invite you to try out this Sunday School craft. Pick a Bible story you love, one that speaks deeply to your heart, and imagine how you might tell it differently. **What would it look like if it happened today? If it were a musical, what would the songs be about? What is the central message that holds the story together?**

While you ponder questions like these, consider sharing your thoughts with a friend, either here at Trinity or in your wider community. You might be surprised (and excited!) by the response.

Girls Group:
Fairy Garden of Eden

Boys Group:
Western Moses



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school & Adult Forum 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II	2 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	3 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 11:00 am - 4:00 pm — Blood Drive (Trinity Hall)	4 10:30 am — Book Sorting 12:15 — HE & Anointing	5SS PHILIP & JAMES 10:00 am — Bible Study 6:00 pm — Eucharist (Trevor)	6	7 5:30 pm —Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA
4PENTECOST (WHITSUNDAY) 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school & Adult Forum 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II	9 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	10 8:30 am — Men's Breakfast (First Lutheran) 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study	11ST BARNABAS DAY 10:00 am — Book Sorting 12:15 — HE & Anointing	12 10:00 am — Bible Study 11:00 am — Knitters	13	14 5:30 pm —Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA
15TRINITY SUNDAY (FATHER'S DAY) 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II Discretionary Sunday	16 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 6:30 pm — Vestry	17 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study	18 10:00 am — Book Sorting 12:15 — HE & Anointing	19 10:00 am — Bible Study	20 6:00 pm — GH Dance Club (Trinity Hall) Trinity Times Deadline	21 5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA
22SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II	23 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	24NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 6:00 pm — Eucharist (Trevor)	25 10:30 am — Book Sorting 12:15 — HE & Anointing 5:00-8:00 pm — Space Workshops (Trinity Hall)	26 10:00 am — Bible Study	27	28 7:00 pm — AA
29THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:15 am — Sunday school & Adult Forum 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II	30FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL 11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 6:00 pm — Eucharist (Trevor)	BIRTHDAYS 1 Terry Shaw 2 Rae Oliphant 3 Julie Gyongyosi 4 Mike Matheny Michael Dillon 6 John Bailey	8 Isaiah Yi 9 Marie Mallory 12 James Batten 13 Becky Roberts 16 Brent Francis 18 Simon Mezick 20 Alexis Ullmann	23 Elaine Dauphin 29 Henry Oliphant Thaya Deputy 30 Earl Westbrook ANNIVERSARIES 5 Monique & Michael Cameron	6 Kim & Blair Couch 6 Katie & Jason Perrine 10 Kate & Eric Yi 17 Lynn & Randy Francis 18 Diane & Dr. Michael Hensley Cathy & Bill Mildren	22 Lynn & Jim VanFossen 26 Paula & Roger Sellers 27 Anne & Brian Deputy

Trinity SAC Events This Summer

(Science, Arts, and Crafts)

Space - A Cool Place

For grades K - 3

Wednesday, June 25 - 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Space - Where and What It Is

For grades 4 - 6

Wednesday, June 25 - 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Register by **June 11** - Space is limited! Email stewardshipattrinity@gmail.com or call the parish office with the participants name grade, school, parent's name, cell phone number & email. **There is no cost** to this event, no experience needed. Don't miss this free, hands-on, fun learning experience about space, rockets and more with retired NASA EMD, Mr. Steve!



Image: *The Moon as Sacred Mirror* by artist Luke Jerram at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Long Island
Photo © Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

Learn to Hula (Hawaiian dance)! Three sessions are provided for children (and adults) of various ages! **No cost, no experience needed!** Email stewardshipattrinity@gmail.com or call the parish office with the participants name grade, school, parent's name, cell phone number & email. Girls and boys are welcome in all sessions! **Register by July 15.** Don't miss this free, interactive, fun learning opportunity with ka hay Ana, Miss Anne, retired director & performer with the professional Polynesian Dance Company *Hula Ho Aloha!*

Downtown Hula

Wednesday, August 13

4 - 4:30 PM for kamalei, ages 3-6

5 - 6 PM for keiki, ages 7-12

6:30 - 7:30 PM

for wahine & kane, ages 13 & up



The Trinity Blood Drive has been set for **Tuesday, June 3, from 11am to 4 pm** in Trinity Hall. Donors can sign up for an appointment at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Signing up on your own will insure the best available times, but everyone who indicated they were interested in donating will be contacted and we can set up an appointment for you. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments take priority. For questions on Red Cross eligibility, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Eligibility or call 1-866-3276.

Call for Graduates to Recognize

We will recognize and celebrate our graduating seniors (high school, college, and graduate level) next month. Please call the office by June 23 with their names, where they are graduating from, and what their future plans are. We will acknowledge them in the Liturgy on June 29th and also here in the *Trinity Times*.

Pastoral Visitation

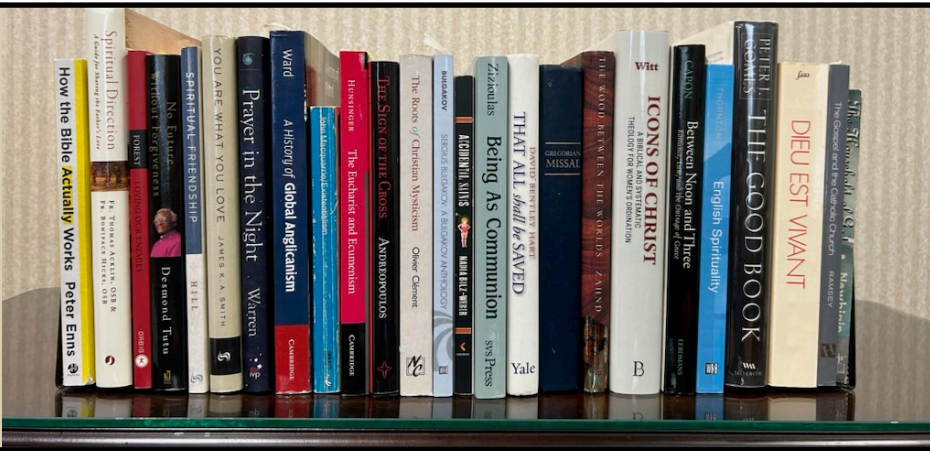
If you or a loved one are homebound and would like a visit from the Rector or a parish Eucharistic Visitor, please contact the parish office at 304-422-3362. Also, in case of emergency, the Rector is available to administer anointing of the sick, hear confessions, and administer the Eucharist. In these cases, please call either the parish office (during office hours) or the Rector's cell phone (available in the Parish Directory).

"Is any among you sick? Call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the Name of the Lord."

James 5.14



The Rector's Bookshelf



Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God: The Scandalous Truth of the Very Good News

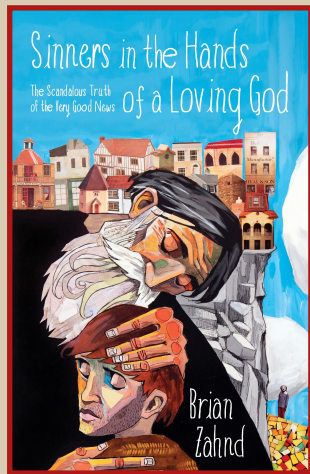
Brian Zahnd
Waterbrook, 2017

“What I want you to know is that God’s attitude, God’s spirit, toward you is one of unwavering fatherly-motherly love. You have nothing to fear from God. God is not mad at you. God has never been mad at you. God is never going to be mad at you.”

Classically, Christianity has held that God is - as St. John Chrysostom put it - “ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible.” That has not, however, stopped Christians from trying to put words to God and God’s interaction with humanity. On one level all of our language for God is metaphorical. And the Scriptures give us much language to work with, both images and attributes.

One of the hardest things for many to reconcile is the idea that God is wrathful, vengeful, or jealous with the idea that God is compassionate and merciful, indeed that “God is love.” The metaphors and images that we use regarding God shape not only how we think about God, but how we understand our own spiritual life and faith.

In 1741, the Puritan revivalist preacher Jonathan Edwards gave one of the most influential and remembered sermons from colonial America. It was entitled “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Perhaps you read it at some point in your education. It gives an image of God holding human be-



ings over the yawning pit of hell, ready to drop them. It was, for many, a compelling image of God precisely because it was so awful and terrifying. Fear can be a powerful motivator.

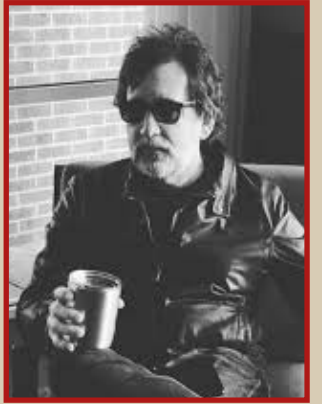
Taking his title from this sermon, but turning it on its head, Brian Zahnd’s *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God* shows why this terrifying, wrathful image of God is not faithful to the full revelation of God in Christ.

So what are we to make of the experience that many people have called “God’s anger?” What are we to do with the passages of the Bible that show God commanding the killing of innocents? What do we make of the fact that in one place God seems to command one thing (e.g. sacrifice) and in another God seems to renege on that command (“I desire mercy, not sacrifice”)? How do we reconcile the idea of hell with a God who supposedly loves all his creatures? In short, how do we get a handle on the *character* of God.

And if we do begin to understand God’s character, how can we be sure that it’s more along the love/mercy/compassion/forgiveness end of the spectrum than the vengeance/anger/punishment end of the spectrum? The answer, for Zahnd, is **Jesus Christ**. Jesus Christ is the *full revelation of God*. In Jesus we see what God is *really* like. Jesus himself is the interpretive lens through which we read the rest of the Scriptures and our own experience of faith.

Zahnd, who hails from a fundamentalist Baptist background, was influenced by the “Jesus Movement” of the 1970s and founded a non-denominational Church in 1981 which he still pastors. But over the years, as Zahnd drank more deeply from the “Great Tradition” of Christianity, his theology became deeper and more robust. Today, his parish blends both liturgical and contemporary elements in an independent setting. This gives him the ability to write in such a way that is at once accessible to the non-theologian and deeply rooted in the Scriptures and Tradition of our faith.

For all those who have struggled to make sense of seemingly contradictory understandings of God; and for all those who have struggled to feel themselves worthy of God’s love; for all those who struggle with fear that God will reject them; and for all those who would like a very compelling answer to the question, “What is God like?” - I highly recommend *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God*.





Reading Camp at Good Shepherd August 4-8, 8:30 AM — 4:00 PM

Hop Aboard the Reading Railroad for a fun-filled week helping area children refresh or improve their reading skills and self-esteem before they head back to another year of school.

How can you help? We need both adult and teen assistance. In the morning you could teach reading skills, mentor a small group of children as they move from one learning station to the next, help serve a light breakfast or daily snack, or listen to a child read in the Pleasure Reading Room. In the afternoon you could accompany a small group of children through the afternoon activities (field trips, on site activities like braille, cooking, science and crafts), lead or help with an onsite activity, help serve lunch and an afternoon snack, and/or driving to field trip locations. Do you know a local celebrity? We want to invite people to come share their favorite children's book with the kids at the end of the camp day. Please give us their contact information. Can't help during the week due to work or other obligations? Come help us decorate on Saturday August 2.

Reading Camp is a wonderful and fun experience for both the kids and the helpers. Please contact Bree Fleming at Trinity or Linda Crocker at Good Shepherd (llbc100@msn.com or 304-210-5591) for further information.

Applications for Reading Camp for children entering grades 2-5 (or repeating grade 1) are also available from Linda Crocker.

Vestry Highlights April 2025

- The Rector reported that Trinity Church is a “regional hub” for the Diocesan “Seeds of Faith Initiative.” This will involve hosting training sessions with the first one being held on December 20, 2025. An informational meeting about the program will be held at a date TBD.
- The Rector will be in London June 14-23 for continuing education at the “Learning From London” program on evangelism and church growth, with other diocesan staff.
- The Treasurer reviewed the April financial reports. Trust funds decreased in value by \$9,000 in April, but the church’s financial position remains healthy.
- The DRE discussed this summer’s reading camp being held at Good Shepherd Church, August 4-8. The theme this year is *Hop Aboard the Reading Railroad*. Volunteers are needed to assist with various activities. Please contact Linda Crocker at Good Shepherd if you would like to help.
- The Stewardship & Outreach Chair reported that the 2026 Stewardship Campaign will kick off on October 15 with a potluck and activities.



Shield of
The Episcopal Church



Seal of the Episcopal
Diocese of West Virginia



The Compass-Rose,
Symbol of the worldwide
Anglican Communion



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Almighty God, on this day you opened
the way of eternal life to every race and
nation by the promised gift of your Holy
Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout
the world by the preaching of the
Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of
the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Pentecost (BCP, p. 227)

Bernini, *Dove of the Holy Spirit* (ca. 1660)
alabaster stained glass
St. Peter's Basilica, Rome