

# 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!*

## MARCH 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

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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



Have mercy on me, O God, according to  
your loving kindness; in your great  
compassion blot out my offenses. Wash  
me through and through from my  
wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51.1-2

# A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Brothers and Sisters,



The Ash Wednesday liturgy tells us that in the early Church, it became customary to prepare for Holy Week and Easter “**by a season of penitence and fasting.**” The Church, therefore, in her wisdom, calls for us to observe this season “**by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.**” (BCP 265). The Church’s calendar instructs us that the weekdays of Lent “**are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial**” (BCP 17). So there are five practices we are encouraged to take up during Lent:

- **PRAYER** - It is customary to take up a discipline of Prayer during Lent. If you already pray daily, perhaps add something to this. If you are not already praying daily, perhaps now is a good time to begin a simple “rule of prayer.”
- **FASTING** - The historic fast was somewhat extreme (and still is in much of the Christian world): abstaining from meat, dairy, eggs, oil, and wine. Today, most people fast in less extreme ways, cutting out meat, or alcohol, or coffee, for all of Lent or for particular days of the week. It is also a valuable practice to have a periodic “media fast,” from television, social media, or from the news.
- **SELF-DENIAL** - This practice historically had an economic component to it. Before the 20th century, the three major Lenten disciplines would have been referred to as “Prayer, Fasting, and *Alms-Giving.*” Alms-giving is a particularly important kind of self-denial: giving

“Fasting and self-control are a double wall of defense and whoever lives within them enjoys great peace.”

St Gregory Palamas  
(14th century)

up something of our own livelihood for the good of those less fortunate. Lent is an ideal time to remember that “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6.21) and that how we treat the needy is how we are really treating Christ himself (Matthew 25.41-46).

- **SELF-EXAMINATION AND PENITENCE** - Lent is a time when we reflect on our life’s direction, our behaviors, decisions, and attitudes and measure them against the grace and love of God. It is a valuable practice to make an “Auricular Confession” to a priest, if you are so moved, that you may speak your sins out loud and receive assurance of God’s forgiveness.
- **READING & MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE** - Again, if you do not already have a regular practice of Bible reading, Lent is a good time to take one up. Do not bite off more than you can chew, but spend a short time each day reading Scripture. Perhaps read a Psalm each day, or slowly work your way through the Gospel of Mark.

The idea behind Lenten disciplines is not to become a spiritual giant

or to be a hero. Simple, doable disciplines are better than those that you will get frustrated with and walk away from.

God is not impressed with our fasting or wordy prayers. We pray, fast, give, read, and confess not because *God* needs it, but because *we* do. Taking up an additional time of prayer, or giving up a beloved food, taking five more minutes of your day to reflect on Scripture, giving to the poor, and confessing our sins do not convince God to be more gracious to us, or to love us more, or even to forgive us. God has already forgiven us; God is always gracious and generous with us;

God cannot ever - for any reason - love you any less.

We do these things as we have opportunity to draw closer to God, for the benefit of our own souls and for the good of our sisters and brothers. If you have any questions about Lent or want help deciding how you might observe it, please don’t hesitate to ask! And may God bless you as you seek him this holy season.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Geoff





**TRINITY BY THE NUMBERS**  
**JANUARY**  
**Attendance**

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

- Jan 4/5 — 11/12/24 (47)
- Jan 12 (one liturgy) — 51
- Jan 18/19 — 16/9/24 (49)
- Jan 25/26 — 16/9/53 (78)

Wednesday Liturgy (average) — 5

**Community Resources / Thrive**

Number Served: 106

Utility Assistance: 30 Families

**Kitchen Request**

We kindly request that on Monday mornings, parishioners avoid entering Trinity Hall and the Kitchen, while our volunteers prepare and serve our Feeding Ministry. Thank you!

**SPRING FORWARD**

Daylight Savings Time Begins



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 9TH**

Don't be late to the  
Bishop's Visitation  
Liturgies!



**February**  
**Vestry Highlights**

- ◆ The Vestry accepted the resignation of Karen Northrup, and Mark Edwards was appointed to fulfill her term. The Vestry then elected Mark Edwards as Junior Warden.
- ◆ The Treasurer reviewed the January financial reports. The Trust funds increased in value in January, and the church's financial position remains healthy.
- ◆ The Rector announced that he will be attending the Diocesan College for Clergy at Sandscrest from March 27 through March 29.
- ◆ The DRE reported that the Sunday School class will be studying the Exodus story during Lent.
- ◆ The Stewardship & Outreach Chair reported that the ECW is sponsoring a blood drive for the Red Cross. It will be held in late May or early June in Trinity Hall. A sign-up sheet is available in the Memorial Library.
- ◆ Under new business, the Vestry approved the 2024 Parochial Report for submittal to the Diocesan Office.

**Stewardship Corner**



Stewardship is more than just getting pledges each year. Stewardship is helping Trinity in all ways. The pledges make sure that we can maintain both the physical and spiritual wellbeing of our people, our buildings and our community. But more than money is needed. We need engagement, involvement, hands on participation.

With the varied outreach and in-reach events Trinity has coming up there will be lots of opportunities to get involved. Take a leap, and decide to get involved! Caring Cards will be decorating birthday cards and signing Easter cards for the local care facility residents again this year. Large cards for the Fire Department will also be ready for signatures soon.

More Blessing Bags need to be assembled on Sundays during Coffee Hour. March 30th is the next 5th Sunday Funfest. Mark your calendar! Bring a dish to share, come socialize with friends from all services and be ready to play a church trivia game! (there will be prizes!) Help is needed with set up and clean up. Be ready to sign up soon! Treats will be needed for the Easter Parade Sidewalk Social – sign up to bake something!

Beginning in May we will be starting a new Community Engagement program. Several times a year we will be hosting a free class or program for the community. We will start with a free Hula class for kids and one for adults and an amazing program about NASA.

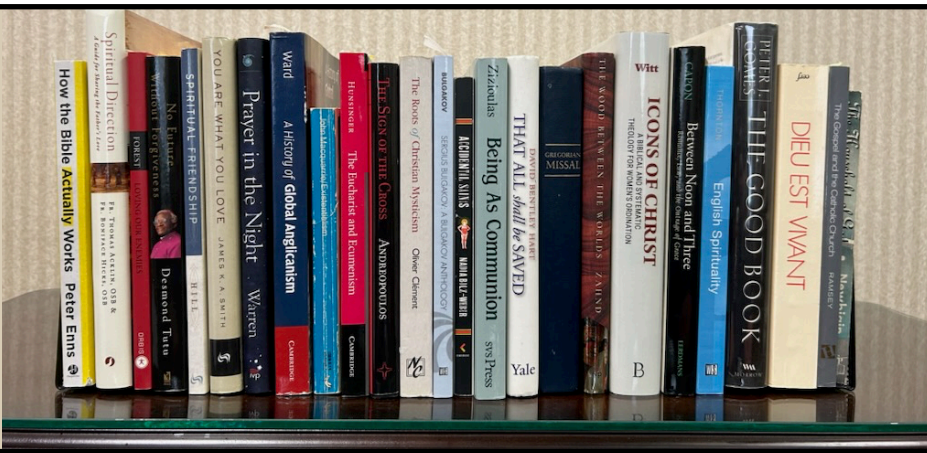
These two will get us started but we need ideas for others. If you have a job, business or hobby that would make an interesting presentation please let us know. And these are just a few of the events/programs we need volunteers for. Info on when each event is and how to volunteer will be included in the bulletin each week and posted on Facebook. Step out of your comfort zone and volunteer! Our Trinity family is an amazing group of people, we know all of you will find a way to help Trinity by engaging with the community and each other!

# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <p>1 Ted Foster 5 Connie Bookman 6 Paula Oliphant 11 Kerry Hensley 12 Jim Dauphin 15 Randy Francis</p>	<p>16 Megan Gyongyosi Traver Joe Handlan 18 Steve Turner 19 Sara Patrick Brian Deputy 20 Henry Dailey Frank Northrup</p>	<p>20 Becky Mathis-Stump 21 Midge Simperts George Staats 22 Mary Schisler Anne Deputy 24 Erica Parrish 25 Salem Cole Chapman</p>	<p>26 Kim Couch 27 Eric Yi 31 Harper Cameron Conner Dauphin Hughes Samantha McGee Denny Prather Dan Thomas</p>	<p><b>ANNIVERSARIES</b></p> <p>12. Paula &amp; Kevin Oliphant 18 Julie &amp; Tom Gyongyosi 20 Stephanie &amp; Charles Yates 25 Olivia &amp; Roland Mezick 29 Abby &amp; Richard Hayhurst</p>		<p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>2 <b>LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b></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 5:30 pm — Pancake Supper</p>	<p>5 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES</b></p> <p>7:30 am 12:15 pm 6:00 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 pm — Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist</p>
----- TRINITY HALL CLOSED FOR CLEANING -----						
<p>9 <b>1ST SUNDAY IN LENT [DAYLIGHT SAVINGS]</b></p> <p>8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist &amp; Confirmation 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 (Trinity Hall) 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>6:00 pm — Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>16 <b>2ND SUNDAY IN LENT</b></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 6:30 pm — Vestry</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 <b>ST JOSEPH</b></p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study 6:00 pm — Blenerhassett Stamp Society</p> <p><b>Trinity Times Deadline</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm — Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 am — Smoot Choir Spring Fling 5:30 pm — Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>23 <b>3RD SUNDAY IN LENT</b></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</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>25 <b>ANNUNCIATION</b></p> <p>8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls 6:00 pm — Eucharist (Trevor)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:15 — HE &amp; Anointing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 am — Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 pm — Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 pm — AA</p>
<p>30 <b>4TH SUNDAY IN LENT</b></p> <p>9:15 AM — Sunday school 10:30 AM — Eucharist</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 am — Feeding Ministry</p>					



# The Rector's Bookshelf



## The Wood Between the Worlds: A Poetic Theology of the Cross

Brian Zahnd

InterVarsity Press, 2024

*"...There is the world that was and the world to come,  
and between those two worlds  
Is the wood upon which the Son of God was hung.  
Three trillion trees.  
One became the wood between the worlds."*

This month we enter the season of Lent, the "great fast" that culminates with Holy Week and our meditation on the passion, death, and burial of our Lord. The Cross of Christ, which is always before us, is especially central in this time of reflection on our sin, brokenness, failings, and mortality. For this Lent, I'd like to recommend Brian Zahnd's new book, *The Wood Between the Worlds: A Poetic Theology of the Cross*.

Attentive readers of C.S. Lewis will recognize the phrase "the wood between worlds" from *The Magician's Nephew*. Here Zahnd uses it as a way of speaking about the Cross. One of the most simple ways of speaking of the Gospel is to say that "Jesus died for our sins." But how did his death - upon a shameful instrument of torture that the ancient Romans thought up - accomplish our salvation? That's not a simple question to answer.

Over the years countless books have been written, theories posited, and arguments made about *how* the Cross of Jesus Christ saves us. Zahnd looks back to an earlier way

of doing theology. In early Christianity, it was as likely that theology would be written in poetic form as it would be for it to be in prosaic, propositional form. Rather than giving an extended argument about a theory of the Cross, we are given instead a series of reflections on its various aspects. Steeped in the "great tradition" of Christianity, we are nonetheless given a book that is fresh and applicable to our lives today.

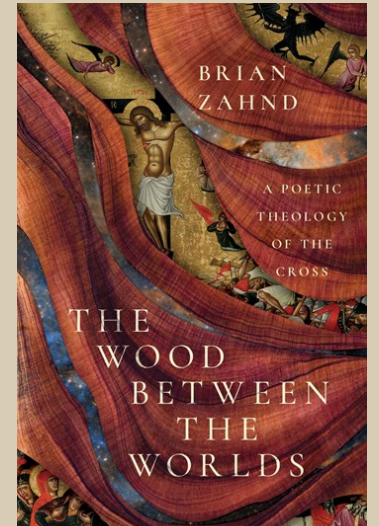
This is, perhaps, the most *beautiful* book of theology I've ever read. While bracingly realistic about the realities of sin, destruction, war, death, and evil, it is astonishingly optimistic about our cosmic future. In this way, it is ultimately good news in the vein of the Gospel which it seeks to expound. What the sacrifice means in terms of our own sin and redemption is beautifully explained. But social implications on the problems and sorrows of our day are examined in light of the work of Calvary.

Zahnd is at home with ancient Christian writers like Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and Ambrose of Milan. He is also an adept biblical interpreter, drawing careful conclusions from the *whole* of Scripture. But he is just as comfortable bringing in examples and illustrations not only from Christian writers like Lewis, Tolkien, and Pope Francis; but also from less expected sources like John Lennon and the movie *Men in Black*. He also uses the thought of philosopher Rene Girard, theologian James Cone and poet William Butler Yeats, effortlessly weaving together all these pieces into a beautiful tapestry - a written icon of the Cross. And as might be expected in such a beautiful text, he also refers to fine art - ancient, medieval, Byzantine, and contemporary depictions of the Crucifixion and Resurrection are included.

This book promises to become a classic on the subject. If you are looking for an engaging read for this Lent, I would highly recommend it.



Cover image: Romanesque *Crucifix with Christ the Conqueror* from the Crypt of Naumburg Cathedral, Germany





# Stories from Sunday School

## ..... A Home for Jesus .....

Jesus's childhood flight from King Herod into Egypt is a story that lingers in many of our minds. It carries a challenging reflection of the lives of many contemporary families fleeing from trouble, but also is an important mirror of Israel's journey in the Old Testament.

That story was the focus of a Sunday School lesson around Epiphany. Our craft for that day was to build Jesus a new house in Egypt. We split into teams and crafted Jesus, Mary, and Joseph three different homes from Lego bricks. The kids took to their task with interest and began to wonder about what Jesus's home would need. ***What does the furniture look like? How big is Jesus's bed? Where should the trees go? Does Jesus need a skateboard?***



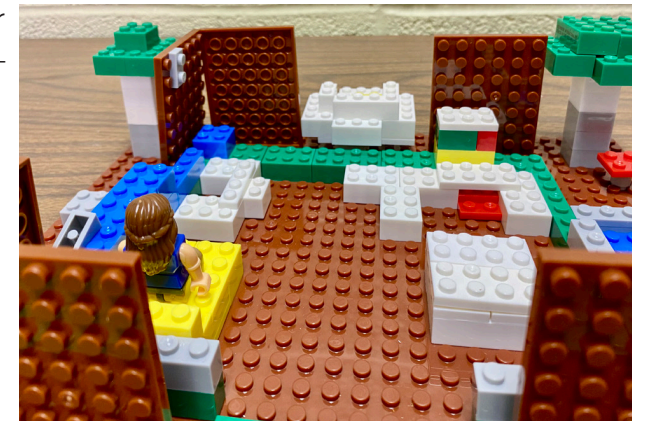
Some of us have pondered over these questions in our own ways in relation to Trinity. ***What color should the church carpet be? Is it time to get a new water fountain? How many new plants does the Columbarium need this year?***

These are important questions to ask as Trinity Parkersburg is a home for Christ, in so much as the Body of Christ gathers there. Creating a physical space that helps us to love God and love our neighbor most effectively is a time honored tradition of Christianity. From the grandest cathedrals to the prayer corner covered in icons to the rosary hanging from your rearview mirror, it's important to ask ourselves questions about how we can invite Christ to make his home in each moment of our lives.

However, Christ's home among us goes beyond our physical spaces. The Holy Spirit also dwells within each of us and works continually to make us a "palace" for Christ to live in, as C.S. Lewis describes in *Mere Christianity*.

In changing our view of Christ's home from a physical space to our own selves and our parish community, we begin to ask different questions. ***Who could we welcome into our home that might be fleeing from their own King Herod? How do we find rest in our own journey to Egypt? What does it mean to return to Israel and the ministry that awaits us there?***

**As we approach the Lenten season, take some time to ponder how you're building a home for Jesus in our community and in your own heart.**







Trinity Episcopal Church  
430 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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### **ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 5**

Distribution of Ashes & Holy Eucharist  
7:30 AM; 12:15 PM; 6:00 PM

### **FRIDAYS IN LENT**

6:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

### **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

### **EPISCOPAL VISITATION**

Saturday, March 8:

5:30 PM - Great Litany & Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 9:

8:00 AM - Great Litany & Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist

& Confirmation