

The Trinity Times

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 430 JULIANA STREET - PARKERSBURG, WV 26101 - 304-422-3362 - TRINITY CHURCH.ORG

"WE EXIST TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR"

THE STAFF

The Very 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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2026

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Connie Bookman
Mickie Richardson

2027

Jennifer Currey
Mark Edwards
John Tharp

2028

Michael Dillon
Mark Miller
Karen Northrup

TRUSTEES

2026

Paula Sellers

2027

Tim Northrup
Chad Mildren

2028

Denny Prather



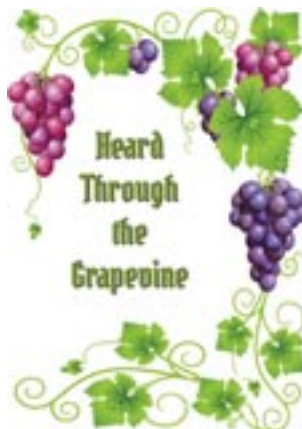
*The Transfiguration,
ca. 1516-1520 Raphael*

From Sea to Sea

In our Thursday morning bible study this year, Bree Fleming, our gifted religious educator has been taking us through the Acts of the Apostles. Then as Bree headed for Peterkin at the end of the school year, she temporarily handed the reins over to Father Geoff, and he has continued



on with Luke's description of the travels and the travails of the apostles. As a study guide resource for our class, he recently handed out some maps of their travels. One of them is pictured here to the left. His map reminded me of a lesson given to me years ago by a dear old Irish priest named Father Conlon. He would draw a "bare bones" sketch of this map and tell us what it pictured. At the top he described the Sea of Galilee, a lake about 13 miles in length, that for thousands of years has provided many good days of fishing to fishermen. (Perhaps none moreso than when our Lord and Savior was there to board a boat.)



Conlon's lesson was that the Sea of Galilee remains full of life because it takes the fresh waters of the Jordan River on its north end and lets them pass through it as it continues south on its way to the Dead Sea, where the Jordan River comes to its end.

He warned us that the same thing that happened to these two seas would happen to us if we didn't learn from them. If we hold onto our blessings, and don't let the blessings that we are given flow through us we will end up like the Dead Sea at the end of the river - lifeless.

Barnabas

Editor's Note: At Trinity Men's Breakfast, in March of 2026 Trinity's own Ray Swick, MOV Historian Laureate, conducted a symposium to introduce our group to his newest work, a collection of his favorite maxims. We have received gratefully his permission to publish excerpts from the work in the Trinity Times. We dubbed it "Swickisms."

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

Robert Swan

What to do with a good book after reading?



**Pass it on to
Trinity Episcopal Used Book Sale!**

**Now accepting books at Trinity Hall,
Every Wednesday through August 26th!
Donations may be dropped off
from 10:30 to 11:45**

Yes to fiction, nonfiction, hardback, paperback popular or classic.

No to pamphlets, textbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, moldy books, magazines, outdated information such as legal, medical, computers, business or travel.

A note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What does it mean to be a member of the Church? At the most basic level, it means that we are baptized, that God has claimed us as children and we are “marked as Christ’s own forever” (BCP 308). But we seek to be active members of the Church. This means an active faith, a participation in the life of God’s people, and striving to live out our Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304-305).

When I was 14, on a visit to New York City, I was in the gift shop of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square (aka “Smokey Mary’s” because of how much incense they used). In their gift shop, I picked up a little book, a classic of Anglican spirituality called *St. Augustine’s Prayer Book*. In the front of it, it listed “The Christians’ Obligations.” These included regular attendance at worship, receiving Communion, confessing sin, living a chaste life, and giving alms.

“Obligation” is an unpopular word, but the reality is we can have no relationship at all - with God or with each other - without some obligations, some duties, some responsibilities. Parents have responsibilities to their children, spouses have obligations to each other, citizens have duties to their state. Following the way of Jesus also places some obligations on us. These are most broadly outlined in our Baptismal Covenant. But it may be helpful to think about how to live these out in more practical ways.

In 2003, David Stancliffe, the Bishop of Salisbury (UK) outlined the “Duties of Church Membership.” I offer this list not to add a burden to our already busy lives, but as something to help us think about how we are living out our Christian faith in our parish and in our wider world. Bishop Stancliffe writes:

We are called upon to play a full part in [the Church’s] life and witness. That means we should:

- + Follow the example of Christ in home and daily life, and seek to grow in faith.
- + Read and study the Bible prayerfully.
- + Celebrate together in Sunday and weekday worship God’s love for the world.
- + Receive Holy Communion faithfully and regularly.
- + Pray daily for the coming of God’s kingdom of justice, mercy, and peace, seeking to promote the common good by prayer and example.
- + Express our Christian faith in work and leisure; in the life of our neighbourhood and nation; in our concern for the peoples of the world and the future of the earth.
- + Dedicate our personal gifts and talents to Christ in the service of the Church and the community.
- + Give generously for the work of the Church at home and overseas, and for other charitable causes.
- + Support Christian values, especially relating to marriage, children, family, neighbours and community.

(The Pilgrim Prayerbook, p. 1)

May God continue to guide each of us in our unique callings, as we seek to grow in grace individually and as members of Trinity Church.

*Yours In Christ,
Fr. Geoff*



July Happenings

More congrats ... College Graduate

**Margaret
Allspaw
Glover,**

daughter of Rochelle Lantz,
granddaughter of Cheryl
Harb, and
niece of Kim
and Blair
Couch gradu-
ated summa
cum laude
and Phi Beta
Kappa from Wake Forest
University on May 18 with a
BA in Psychology. She plans
on attending dental school
after doing a one-year in-
ternship with a dental group
in Richmond, Virginia.



Captain of the Tuesday Men's Breakfast Club, Ken Currier, toasts the Lutherans who join Trinity the second Tuesday of every other month in Trinity Hall.

Trinity Hall Hospitality



Our Monday Feeding Program Team Hosts hundreds of people every month from the community looking for a good meal.



On Sunday afternoon, July 20, following the morning Eucharist, parishioners gathered in the parking lot for a Blessing of the Vehicles. The Parkersburg Fire Department also brought four of their fire engines to be blessed. The blessing of vehicles is a tradition in both Western and Eastern Christianity, usually observed on or near the Feasts of St. Philip the Evangelist (October 11) or the Prophet Elijah (July 20).

Any wheeled vehicle can be blessed in honor of these saints, both of whose stories have to do with chariots. Even an orthopedic knee scooter was blessed. While they were having their vehicles blessed, ice cream sandwiches were handed out to help beat the heat.

The Liturgical Question Box:

The Parts of a Liturgical Church

Churches of many denominations refer to their whole worship space as the “sanctuary.” But in a liturgical church, there are different words for different parts of the church building, and not all churches have all the same parts. Here are some of the parts of *our* building here at Trinity Church.

The **Altar** (aka “Holy Table”) is table on which the bread and wine are placed which will be consecrated in the Eucharist. It usually has two candles lighted during Communion (with an extra one sometimes, if the bishop is presiding).

The **Sanctuary** is the highest part of the church, where the altar stands. It is from the Latin “sanctus,” meaning “holy.” It is marked off by the altar rail and kneeler where the faithful receive Communion.

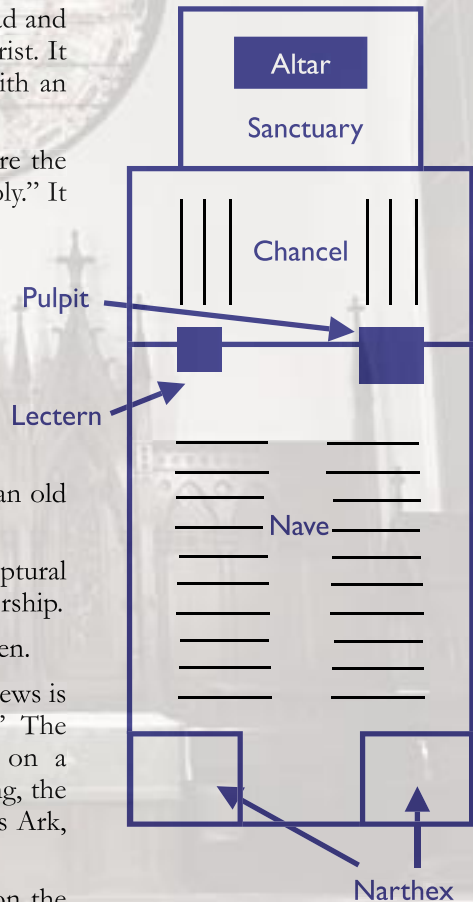
The **Chancel** (also called the **choir** or **quire**) is the part of the church from which the scriptures are read and the sermon is preached. It is also, not surprisingly, where the choir sits. It comes from the Latin word “cancellus,” meaning “screen,” because in medieval churches it was often set apart by a sort of screen or wall called the “rood screen.” (“Rood” is an old English word for a cross.)

The **Lectern** is the podium which holds the Scriptural readings (also called **Lessons**) which are read during worship.

The **Pulpit** is the podium from which the sermon is given.

The part of the church where the congregation sits in pews is called the **Nave**, from the Latin word for a “ship.” The symbolism here is that Christians are “passengers” on a journey toward heaven. In ancient and medieval thinking, the Church was often thought of as a ship that, like Noah’s Ark, saved people from the storms outside it.

The **Narthex** is the vestibule or foyer of the church on the Western end. Trinity has two of them.



If you have a question about church terminology, practice, or symbolism you would like addressed, please use the “Liturgical Question Box” in the rear of the Nave, or send your questions to our parish office. Father Geoff will be happy to answer them!

Peterkin Senior Camp 2026

Our Director of Religious Education, Bree Fleming, also serves as the WV Diocesan Youth Director. As part of that role, she oversees the summer camps at Peterkin, our diocesan camp & conference center. From July 5 through 11, our rector served as part of the Program Staff for Peterkin Senior Camp 2026, together with Mother Katie Beth Miksa (Good Shepherd, Parkersburg), and Katherine Schipke and Fr. Nathan Self (both of St. Christopher's, Charleston).

Trinity parishioners Carty Ramsay and Henry Oliphant have been serving at Peterkin again this summer as counselors. Despite some thunderstorms and torrential rain (which included a mud-slide off Prayer Hill into the road), it was a joyful and blessed week, spirits were high, and God received the glory!



Peterkin Senior Camp 2026



Where, Oh, Where?

1. In which place did Jesus perform his first miracle at a wedding?

2. Moses ascended this mountain and descended with stone tablets inscribed with Ten Commandments. Which mountain?

3. On which body of water did Jesus calm rough waters and walk upon it?

4. To which city was Saul of Tarsus (St. Paul) traveling when he had a blinding vision of the resurrected Jesus?

5. In what land is the patience of Job tested?

6. In which river was Jesus baptized by John?

???

Highlights from the July 2026 Vestry meeting:

- + The Rector announced that attendance at the Blessing of the Vehicles was good. Four fire engines were present. The Adult Education Class resumes on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:00 p.m.
- + The Rector will be away the weekend of August 8th-9th and a few days the following week. Father Jim Offenberger will celebrate Saturday and Sunday services.
- + Paul Miller will be meeting with Marietta Stained Glass Windows on Tuesday, July 21st to look at repairing the stained-glass windows that are cracking. Six windows on the parking lot side are cracking and little pieces are missing. The window behind the choir is bowed. The windows will be worked on one at a time.
- + The Monday feeding ministry opened on July 6th for in-house meals. Another person to cook once a month is needed.
- + The theme of the 2027 Stewardship Campaign will be based around the Prayer of St. Francis. The kickoff will be the first week of November.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

June 6,7: 22/9/43 (74)
June 13,14: 15/17/44 (76)
June 20,21: 12/13/40 (65)
June 27,28: 17/8/48 (73)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) - 3

Morning Prayer - (average) - 3

Holy Day Liturgies - (average) - 2

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Total	85
New	17
Referred to case magmt.	3

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	41
2	23
3	10
4	8
5+	3

Utility Assistance	
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5+	0



ANSWERS

1. Cana
2. Mt. Sinai
3. Sea of Galilee
4. Damascus
5. Uz
6. Jordan River



**Join Trinity Episcopal Church on our Journey with Jesus.
All are welcome as we work together to take care of our community.**



August

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."
Desmond Tutu

Summer is ending, school is starting, families still struggle to make ends meet. Listen to Jesus:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17
Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. Proverbs 28:27
Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4
But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9
Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered. Proverbs 21:13

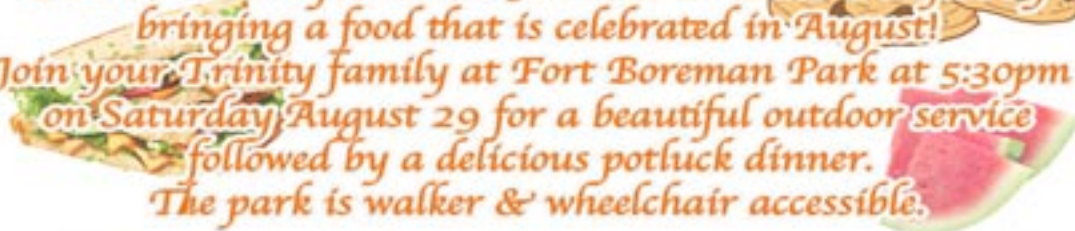
Collect & bring in paper goods & personal hygiene items to help our neighbors in need.

Bring your donations to Trinity any time during August. The items will be blessed at the 10:30am service on August 23 & then taken to The-Paper Pantry for distribution.



August is a month filled with days to celebrate food. Let's have some fun at the 5th SATURDAY Funfest by bringing a food that is celebrated in August!

Join your Trinity family at Fort Boreman Park at 5:30pm on Saturday, August 29 for a beautiful outdoor service followed by a delicious potluck dinner. The park is walker & wheelchair accessible.



and while we share our food and fellowship let us not forget our neighbors
Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Blessing Bags make &/or take a few Blessing Bags to give out to those in need on the roads

Helping Hands Food & Clothing Ministry non-perishable foods, socks, gloves or cash

All God's Creatures Animal Shelter Collection dog, cat, rabbit food, treats, litter cleaning supplies or cash





Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

***Heaven can wait ...
Don't be afraid to
Drop into Trinity soon!
Can't wait to see you!***



The Very Rev. Geoffrey Mackey is really a down-to-earth guy!