

The Trinity Times

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

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

2026

Anne Deputy
Connie Bookman
Mickie Richardson

2027

Jennifer Currey
Mark Edwards
John Tharp

2028

Michael Dillon
Mark Miller
Karen Northrup

TRUSTEES

2026

Paula Sellers

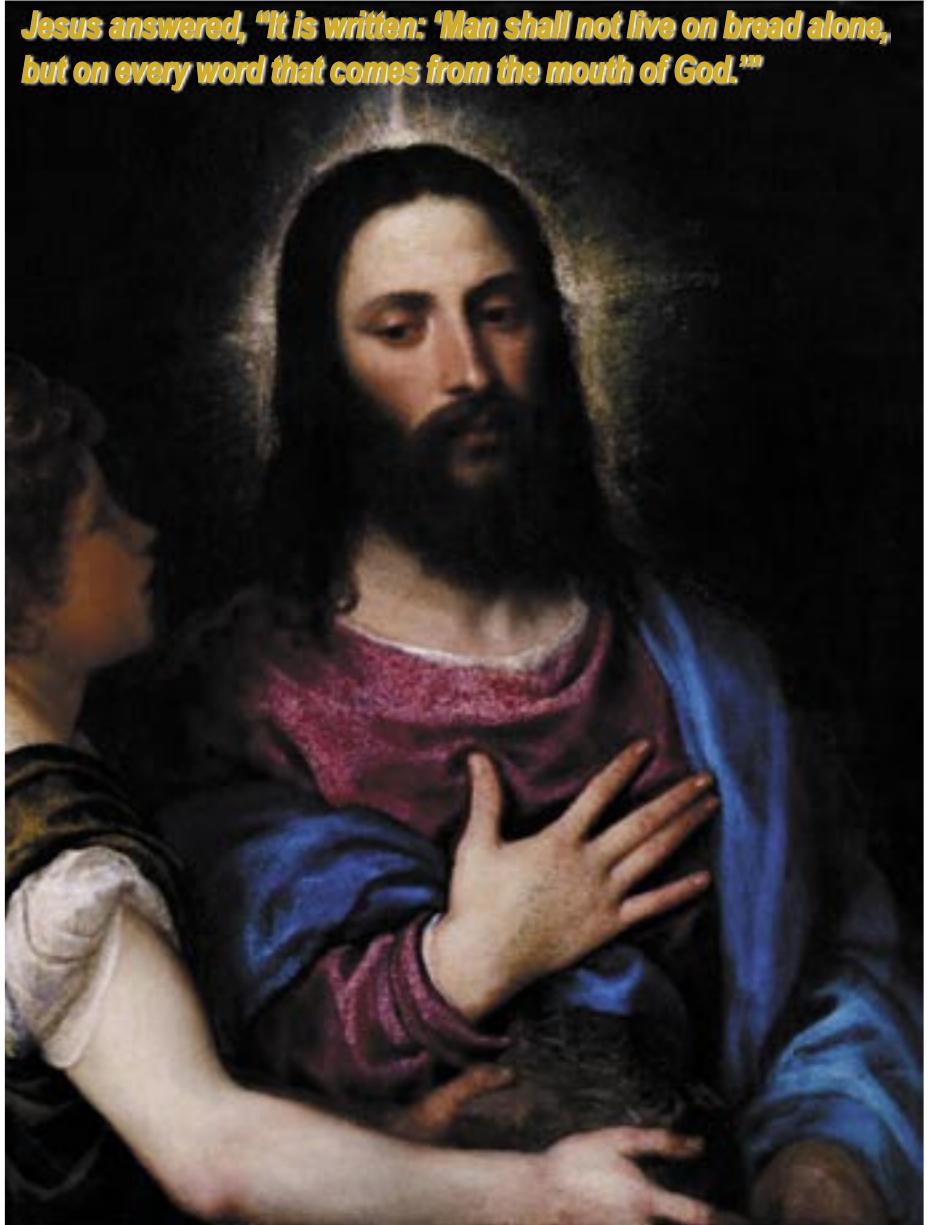
2027

Tim Northrup
Chad Mildren

2028

Denny Prather

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"



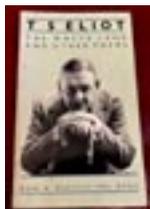
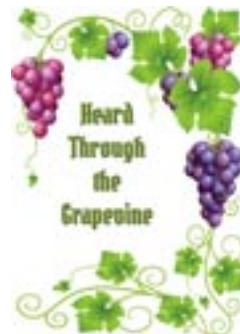
February is a bear, but grin and bear it

In the last few years I have reclaimed a goodly portion of the space on my bookshelves by making donations to the Trinity book sale, but Lynn Fury and her minions will have to wait until I die before they get my slender volume of T. S. Eliot poems (pictured below.) I keep it at the ready in these cold winter months that lead up to Lent.

Misery loves company, and T. S. Eliot in my opinion must have loved misery. He certainly was on very close speaking terms with it. He didn't drink it, he bathed in it. (Let me digress but stay with me. I'll get back to why I keep TS Eliot on my shelf ...)

I confess that patience is not my long suit, so when a bleak situation arises that calls for a cocktail and a peer group, I'm down with it before you can say, "Let's go."

However, I know that during Lent I should try to put the brakes on, and switch to a higher gear of discipline. Giving up my bad habits and delaying gratification is not easy for me, but I know I've got to do it. The good news is that **it's not that hard** for me to do it. The bad news is, to repeat, I know **I've got to do it**.



What helps me? Listening to Danny O'Keefe sing "**Good Time Charley's Got the Blues**", reading T.S. Eliot's "**Ash Wednesday**", and thinking about my Lord and Savior fasting in the desert while some twerp taunts him. (See Front Cover of this month's Trinity Times - Titian's "**Temptation of Christ**".) It's good to be in community with kindred spirits!

With due respect to TS Eliot (and his first line of "**The Waste Land**": "April is the cruelest month"), **February, not April, is the cruelest month of the year. It's the shortest on the calendar, but it seems to last forever and a day.** (How cruel is leap year? Salt on the wound.)

So here it comes, **February. It's "Groundhog Day"!** ... **again.** And February 18 is Ash Wednesday this year. Ashes to ashes; dust to dust. Have a holy Lent. You can do it. It will be a glorious Easter.

Barnabas

In Memoriam

Dianna Sue Quick, 77, of Vienna, West Virginia, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2025.

She was born in Hundred, West Virginia, in Wetzel County, and grew up in Clarksburg. She was the daughter of the late Albert Merle and Mary Maxine (Ferguson) Poland.

Dianna devoted her life to education, music, her faith, and service to others. She was a licensed professional counselor in both West Virginia and Ohio and held teaching certifications in General Elementary Education as well as Music Education.

After completing two years at West Virginia Wesleyan,

Dianna transferred to Marshall, where she graduated with honors. Later in life, she returned to school to further her calling

to help others, earning a Masters of in Counseling from Ohio University.



A gifted musician with a beautiful voice that few forgot, Dianna shared her talents generously throughout her life. She served for several years as Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian, and maintained a music studio in her home, where she taught piano and voice lessons to children and adults throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Dianna was a woman of deep spiritual faith with a unique gift for compassion and healing. She spent many years as part of the healing ministry at Good Shepherd and was a devoted member of the Order of the Daughters of the King, St. Monica Chapter, at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Her memory will be lovingly held in the hearts of her family, dedicated friends, and church community, including her daughter, Carrie-Meghan Quick-Blanco; her grandson, Lauren José Blanco; and her cousin, Shelia Aberegg (Bill).

In addition to her parents, Dianna was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Dr. Harold Blanco, and her husband, Joseph Howard Quick, in 2018.

A note from Father Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month we enter once again into the sacred Season of Lent, the “Great Fast” that precedes the “Feast of Feasts,” the Resurrection of our Lord. It lasts for 40 days, in imitation of the 40 days that our Lord spent fasting, praying, and resisting temptation in the wilderness (Mt. 4; Mk. 1; Lk. 4). The three temptations our Lord faced were temptations to self-gratification, pride, and power. These are three temptations that are common to all of humanity, though they appear in our lives in various ways.

They are also temptations that are all too often encouraged in our present culture and society. The advertising industry thrives on encouraging us to demand immediate gratification, as if our latest purchase somehow will satisfy our longings. Unchecked consumerism confuses us and makes us forget that we rely not on what we can possess, but on God alone and God’s generosity.

Pride, on the other hand, can be seen as the “Queen of Vices.” All sin, in one way or another, can be traced back to pride, because it is pride that makes us place ourselves in the role that should be held by God himself. Pride can make us cut corners, step on others, or put others down, so that we can feel self-justified.

The desire for power is a temptation that we contemporary Christians have not only individually, but also, often as a group. Power, of course, is at the service of pride. If we have strength, if we are in control, if others must bow to our will, then we can get whatever we want.

Often these temptations aren’t glaring and obvious. Giving into them can start small - a judgmental attitude, a small comment, a snarky joke among friends. These things may seem insignificant, but they can dull our consciences and make us insensitive to that which would pull us away from God.

This Lent, let us not merely give up some creature comfort like sweets or alcohol. Let us instead remember who we are and whose we are. Let us fast from attitudes of self-righteousness, superiority, and self-centeredness. Let us ask the Lord to soften our hearts to those around us - people we know and people we do not know. Let’s ask him to show us the reality of our nature (“you are dust”) and that it is only by the grace of God that we can stand.

And may the God who overcame temptation dwell in our hearts and grant us the humility needed to overcome temptation in our own lives.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Geoff

The Rector's Bookshelf

Discovering the Freedom of Lent

Aaron Damiani

Moody Publishers, 2017

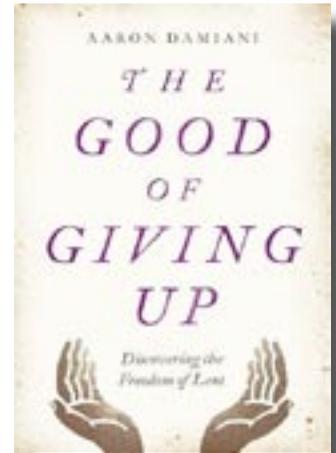
Lent is a much misunderstood season. For some, it is seen as little more than a time to give up sweets or soda and they're not entirely sure why. For others, it is seen as a kind of test, a self-imposed competition to see just how self-sacrificing they can be. For yet others, it is little more than a vestige of an outdated religion and a reason to change the church's vestments from green to violet.

In *The Good of Giving Up*, we have a great resource from Aaron Damiani, a pastor in Chicago. Part One of the book is "The Case for Lent." Here he gives the logic of and rationale for a season of self-denial and self-reflection in our Christian year. Included is a chapter on answering common objections that you might hear from people who think that Christians shouldn't celebrate a season like Lent.

The second part of the book leads us through the traditional practices of a holy Lent: fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and confession of sins. This is where the text gets particularly practical. How should I observe the season of Lent? And what can such practices do for my spiritual life?

Finally, he covers the idea of practice of leading other folks through the season of Lent. This is particularly helpful for parents, godparents, grandparents or those who work with children.

Damiani pastors in the Anglican tradition, who came to it from evangelicalism. The result is that this book is written in such a way that no "insider knowledge" is expected. The great value of this book is that it is very clearly written and accessible to any Christian who wants to understand Lent and incorporate practical, meaningful lenten practices into their lives. I highly recommend it.



January Happenings

The Magi arrive and soon depart Trinity's creche



"De-greening of the church- left to right: Keith Currier sets Trinity record for steps climbed. Susie Fitcher puts creche figurines into storage (wise men go home a different way.) Pam Parsons makes a last stand before setting Trinity high jump record. (Yikes - she's going to kill me for this.) Cara Bowen steadies Mark Edwards on the big ladder.

January Happenings

On Sunday, January 11, after the 10:30 eucharist, parishioners gathered at the river at Point Park for the Great Blessing of Water in honor of the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the "Theophany"). It was a bitter cold, windy day and the river was choppy. As the faithful huddled against the wind, Fr. Geoff blessed the waters of the Ohio with the 7th century prayer. of St. Sophronius, patriarch of Jerusalem.

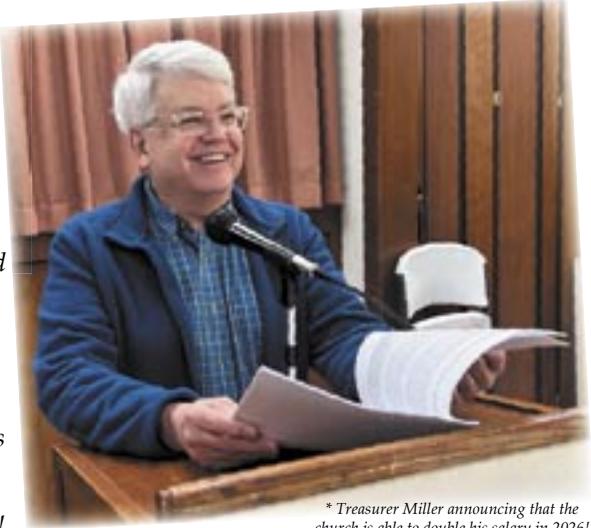


Father Geoff says grace at Men's breakfast with First Lutheran.
Pastor Ian Reed speaks on Gospel reading for the week.



Paula Sellers and Erin Mackey prepare to receive the large gathering of mourners for Diana Quick's funeral - see "In Memoriam" - page 2

Annual Meeting



Clockwise from upper left: Father Mackey, opened and closed the meeting with prayer, giving thanks to the congregation for its generosity in giving of its time, talent and treasure;

Marie Mallory continues to hit all the right notes in growing our music ministry as she sings the praises of the members of this community; Anne Deputy heads our active Stewardship and Outreach program and invites parishioners to join our "Journey with Jesus" in 2026; Treasurer Paul Miller is pleased to announce that the church continues on its path in a strong financial situation thanks to its pledgers!*

** Treasurer Miller announcing that the church is able to double his salary in 2026!*



*Elected Delegates to the WV Diocesan Convention:
Mickie Richardson and Jeannie Gallagher*



*Elected to the 2026 Trinity Vestry:
Michael Dillon, Connie Bookman and Karen Northrup*

Annual Meeting



A YEAR OF LEARNING AT TRINITY



Complete Reports for the Annual Meeting are available at the church office for those unable to be there on January 18.

*(above) DRE Bree Fleming submitted a report full of pictures
(below) Attendees shown studying the reports at their tables*



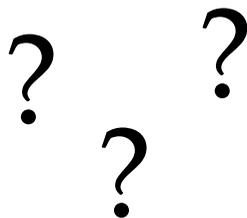
Mark Edwards, Junior Warden, reported on Trinity's Building and Grounds



Lenten Quiz

True or False

1. We get the word "Lent" from a medieval English word meaning "sacrifice." T/F
2. Ashes as a sign of repentance date back to the old Testament books of Daniel and Esther but Ash Wednesday wasn't established in the church until the Middle Ages. T/F
3. Legend has it that a 7th century monk made pretzels from flour, salt and water (no eggs) during Lent and fashioned them in a shape resembling a prayer pose. T/F
4. Lent lasts 40 days to recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament. T/F
5. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent. T/F



Highlights from the January 2026 Vestry meeting:

- + The Vestry elected Mark Miller to be Sr. Warden and Mark Edwards to be Jr. Warden.
- + The Rector reported that he will restart the Church History classes on April 15. Our Pastoral Intern, Xenia Smykova, will lead the Adult Religious Education classes on February 25, March 5, and March 12. The Daughters of the King will lead a newly formed Visitation committee.
- + The Rector announced that Trinity and Good Shepherd will hold a joint Easter Vigil on April 4. On April 26, there will be a joint service at Good Shepherd Church, and on May 31, there will be a joint service at Trinity Church.
- + The Treasurer reviewed the December financial reports. Pledges for 2026 total \$358,000. The church's financial position remains healthy.
- + The Stewardship and Outreach Chair urged Vestry members to support the outreach activities scheduled in the next few months.
- + The Rector reported that a contractor will be inspecting the sandstone on the church. He also said the stained-glass windows need to be inspected.
- + The Vestry approved up to \$7,000 to install chancel railings around the choir pews.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

- December 6,7: 14/16/64 (94)
- December 13,14: 7/5/22 (34)
- December 20,21: 17/13/62 (89)
- December 28: 57 (10:30 service)

- Wednesday Liturgies (average) - 4
- Holy Day Liturgies (average) - 6
- Morning Prayer - (average) - 6
- Noon Prayer (average) - 4
- Christmas Eve (5 pm) - 60
- Christmas Eve (11 pm) - 146
- Christmas Day - 6

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| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Total | 101 |
| New | 20 |
| Referred to case magmt. | 0 |

| Family Size | |
|-------------|----------|
| # in Family | # Served |
| 1 | 37 |
| 2 | 28 |
| 3 | 12 |
| 4 | 11 |
| 5+ | 13 |

| Nov. Utility Assistance | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 |
| 5+ | 1 |



ANSWERS

1. False (old English word for Spring)
2. True
3. True (arms/hands crossed on shoulders)
4. False (Jesus time spent in the wilderness tempted by Satan)
5. True

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

February

A month traditionally known for Love.
 Love of family & friends, Love for your neighbor.
 Love for all of God's creation.



Feed the Birds Day

At Trinity we do our best to take care of all of God's creatures. Winter is a hard time for birds and other animals. Birds in a city have an especially hard time when their main food sources disappear. So on February 8, during coffee hour, several bird feeding stations will be set up. Grab a cup of coffee and come help as we provide food & water for our feathered neighbors.

"My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love Him: He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need. It is God who made you noble among all creatures, making your home in thin, pure air." St. Francis of Assisi

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendar for the famous Trinity Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 17th! Come have delicious pancakes topped with fruit or syrup or both! Add some sausage and a drink and dinner is complete! It is a wonderful time of food and fellowship, provided by the talented Trinity Men's group. that shouldn't be missed!

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10



The season of Lent begins in February. It is a time for reflection and spiritual growth. Starting with 2 services on Ash Wednesday, February 18th and continuing with Stations of the Cross every Friday, Trinity is here to support you on your journey as you follow Jesus' path of suffering & sacrifice.

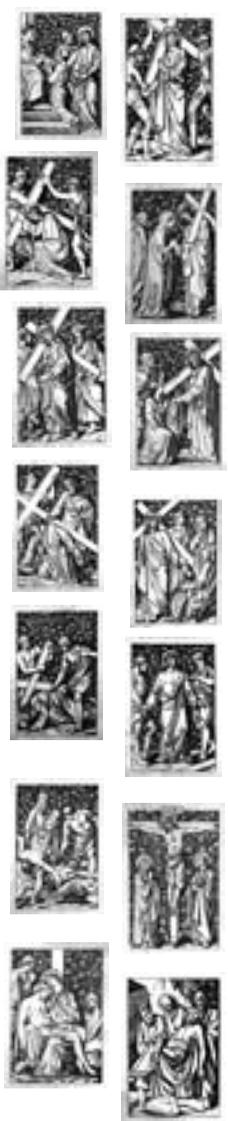
Open your heart to those in need & help renew their faith in God and love

Blessing Bags make A/ir 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

Join us in the Sanctuary!
 Stations of the Cross
 Every Friday Evening
 During Lent - 5:30 pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
 ARE GIVEN IN
 LOVING MEMORY
 OF
 THE REV.
 JACK D. NEILSON
 PARISHES PRIEST & PASTOR



Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

*If you
can't
be in
New
Orleans
for
Mardi
Gras ...*



*... then come
to Trinity
Hall on
Tuesday,
February
16th
at 5:30 pm
for the ...*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
