

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

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



*A Visitation From
Bishop Matthew Cowden*

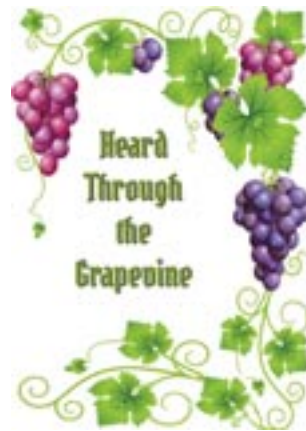
Growing Pains

In our May Trinity Times I compared our church to a big family. Let me continue on this theme of the nature of families. In any big family, sibling rivalry and bickering is only natural, but in the end this discord can work like those rock tumblers that produce polished stones. As the rocks stand up to the tumbling, the rough edges get worn down and the stones get smoother. Similarly a family can benefit if it will stay together in the tumbler. This is not always a pain free process. It can take years for a family to get over its growing pains.

I followed up in the June Trinity Times by talking about my difficult experiences at Peterkin. On the subject of growing pains, I recommended Peterkin as a prescription for them. A dose of camp was always good medicine for me. If you would like to know more about why I believe it's so effective, I recommend a book titled, *Homesick and Happy*. The author, Michael Thompson, argues that "brief separations from parents are crucial for a child's development, fostering independence, resilience, and self-esteem through challenges like homesickness, problem-solving, and navigating new social environments."

Psychologists who study loss aversion and negativity bias say that the impact of losing something is twice as powerful as the equivalent gain. So it's only natural when we stay out of situations that we think might risk some hurting. However, it's a mistake not to exercise. As the saying goes, "no pain, no gain."

Don't be afraid to do some stretching!



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."

SWICKISMS



"He loves thee well, who makes thee weep."

Spanish Proverb

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 Fellow Disciples,

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read about the call of Jesus' first disciples: "As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into a lake - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him." (Mt. 4.18-22)



All four of these first-called were busy with their work when Jesus called. And all four "immediately" left what they were doing. Peter and Andrew left their nets; James and John left their boat and their father. This is, of course, not just about the call of these four men. It is about each and all of us. What can we learn from this about what it means to be followers of Jesus?

First, we learn that hearing the call and obeying the call are connected. We obviously cannot obey unless we first hear. So we must be in an attitude where we can listen, even if we are busy with the many distractions of our day. We must be attentive. What can we do to place ourselves in a receptive mindset? But also, to hear is to obey. In Hebrew the word for "hear" ("shema") implies also to act on what one has heard. To hear with the ears and not obey is, in a sense, not to truly have heard.

Second, we learn that the call is to "fish for people." This means that our discipleship is outward-oriented. The word "evangelism" makes many of us uncomfortable. But being ready and willing to talk about our faith and witness to the Gospel with our lives is part of what it means to follow Jesus. Metropolitan Anthony Bloom said, "We should try to live in such a way that if the Gospels were lost, they could be re-written by looking at us." Why? Because God desires more and more people to come to the banquet of his Kingdom. And we are the way he invites them in.

Lastly, to follow the Lord means to leave some things behind. These first Apostles left their work. James and John left their father. Each of us, to follow the way of Christ, must leave behind anything that hinders our discipleship.

The French monk Lev Gillet wrote, "Jesus's call has a very positive aspect: one must follow the Master. But the first apostles could not have followed the Master if they had not first of all left their ships, and their nets, and their father. And what have I abandoned in order to follow Jesus? What does he want me to leave?"

*Yours In Christ,
Fr. Geoff*

Congratulations Graduates!

High School Graduates

Charlotte Bowen, granddaughter of Cara Bowen, graduated from Huntington High School. She will be attending Davis & Elkins College on a track and cross-country scholarship.

Jacob Dillon-Fountain is one of our outstanding choral scholars and graduated from Parkersburg South High School. He will be attending Marshall University.

Sydney Newman, granddaughter of Edith Newman, graduated with academic honors from the International School of Panama and was named Female Athlete of the Year. She will be attending McGill University in Montreal and will major in cell biology or biochemistry with a minor in business.

Hannah Elizabeth Tucker, granddaughter of Linda and Larry Tucker, graduated from Nitro High School. She will be attending Bridge Valley Technical College in South Charleston and will be studying cybersecurity.

Ella Catherine Walsh, granddaughter of Susan and Tom Walsh, graduated from Parkersburg High School with academic honors. She will be majoring in Studio Arts at the School of Fine Arts at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

College Graduates

Alexandria Adams, granddaughter of Dr. F. David and Mickie Richardson, graduated from Xavier University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She will begin her Master of Science in Exercise Training at Xavier in July.



Nathaniel Miller, grandson of Margie and Mark Miller, graduated from The Ohio State University, with a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Finance. He will be working for Epic Systems Corporation in Madison, Wisconsin.

Evan Newman, grandson of Edith Newman, graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. He will be working for Interstate Warehousing in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Elizabeth (Liz) Ramsay will be completing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from WVU Parkersburg in July. She currently works as Director of Nursing at Westbrook Health Services and will continue to provide leadership in all aspects of Nursing needs for the agency.



In June the **JULIETS** (*Just us ladies interested in eating together*) met at Napoli's in Belpre. All ladies from Trinity and Good Shepherd are welcome to join us at Las Trancas on Tuesday, July 7, 6 p.m.

What on Earth is That?

Aspergillum. Ember Days. Thuribles. Chancels, Sanctuaries, and Naves - oh my! Liturgical Christians like us Episcopalians have a lot of liturgical items and funny names for them and odd ways of doing things. If you've ever been at church and thought Why do we do that? Or What is that called? Or What's that for? you're in luck! In the rear of the church, there is now a box for you to put your Episcopal questions in! Father Geoff will keep track of the questions and attempt to offer some explanations in future issues of *The Trinity Times*. So now's your chance to ask questions like: "Why does the priest wear a poncho?" or "Why is the Gospel read from the middle of the aisle?" or "What do the different colors in church mean?"

Inquiring minds want to know!



From Pastoral Intern to Parish Missionary!

Since November of last year, we have been blessed to have Xenia Smykova with us as a Pastoral Intern. She came to us as a recent seminary graduate and with a wide variety of life experiences behind her. It has been a grace to have her preach, teach, and minister with and among us for these past six months.



At the beginning of July she returns to Spain, where she spent much of her childhood. Once she's settled, she will begin new missionary work through Latin Link International, a missions agency working with Latin Americans around the world. Her present plan is to minister at a church in Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands off the coast of North Africa, the population of which is approximately 25% immigrants to Spain. After her mission, it is her hope to return to the Diocese of West Virginia to

continue ministry here - and we'll be glad to receive her back!

Vista de Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Back in December, our Vestry voted for Trinity to become her sponsoring parish in her missionary work. In order to do her work, Xenia needs to raise her own support, approximately \$35,000 for the upcoming year. Some donations have already come in, but she still needs significant funding. Donations can be one-time or you can commit to giving a certain amount monthly. Donations for Xenia's mission can be given to Trinity Church, with "*Xenia Smykova Mission*" in the memo line.



Those who partner with Xenia will be able to receive updates on her travel and mission as well as prayer requests and praise reports.

The Church is not merely a local, independent organization, but the Body of Christ throughout the whole world. We are responsible for each other. As St. Paul raised money throughout the Greek-speaking world for the suffering Christians in Jerusalem (see Acts 11, 20 & 21), we have a great opportunity to bless God's people overseas through the work of Xenia, our parish's own missionary. Please consider giving generously. Regardless of what you are able to give, please keep Xenia in your regular daily prayers.



*We look forward to hearing what
the Lord is doing through her in Spain!*

Bishop's Visitation



***Celebrating
the afternoon in
Trinity Hall!***

Bishop's Visitation



Canon Mackey



*Bishop
Matthew
conferring the
title of
Canon
Theologian
on Fr. Jeff
Mackey
(Father of our
Rector)*



Confirmations



*Bishop Matthew confirmed three members of Trinity on his visit:
from left to right - Bryar Greene, Liz White, and Isabella Wolfe*

Saintly Symbols



1. If you see a figure in a garden with a bird perched in his hand; which saint does it represent?

2. There is a figure of a woman clutching flowers and a cross; which saint does it represent?

3. Which Gospel writer is represented by an eagle?

4. Which Gospel writer is represented by a winged lion?

5. There is a stained glass window with a man putting his hand into the side of Jesus; which apostle does he represent?

6. There is a stained glass window with a man holding a key; which apostle does he represent?

Highlights from the May 2026 Vestry meeting:

- + Xenia Smykova has finished her official internship with Trinity but will continue to serve and be part of our community until she leaves for Europe.
- + The Rector reported that a new dishwasher and microwave have been purchased for the Rectory and will be installed in June.
- + The Bishop is visiting on Trinity Sunday and will meet with the Vestry at 9 a.m. that morning. The congregation of Good Shepherd will be joining us for the service. There will be a catered luncheon afterwards.
- + The DRE reported that she still needs volunteers to teach Sunday School while she is at Peterkin in June and July. Lesson plans will be provided. She also said that registration for the Peterkin camps is still open, and financial assistance is available.
- + The newly formed committee on Safety and Security issues met for the first time, and members include Michael Dillon (chair), John Tharp, Joe Handlan, Bree Fleming, and Anne Deputy.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

April 5: 19/115 (134) Easter Sunday

April 11,12: 13/19/49 (81)

April 18,19: 11/14/60 (85)

April 25: (5:30 Service) (19)

Holy Week

Holy Wednesday – 15

Maundy Thursday – 50

Good Friday Presanctified – 28

Good Friday Vespers – 33

Wednesday Liturgies (average) – 3

Morning Prayer – (average) - 4

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Total	65
New	15
Referred to case magmt.	0

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	28
2	16
3	7
4	7
5+	7

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



- ANSWERS**
1. *Saint Francis of Assisi*
 2. *Saint Therese of Lisieux*
 3. *John*
 4. *Mark*
 5. *Thomas*
 6. *Peter*



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



July

Psalm 33:12 - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

**Celebrate the independence and freedom God has given us.
We must use them to make the best choices for our families,
parish, community, country & world.**

Galatians 5:1 - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Isaiah 61:2 - "He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the captives."

John 8:26 - "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Proverbs 14:34 - "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people."

1 Peter 2:16 - "Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil."



**Vehicles take us where we need to go,
vehicles help us in times of trouble,
vehicles deliver what we need
and vehicles of all kinds help us have fun.**



**On July 19th after the 10:30 service
join Trinity Episcopal Church
and receive a blessing for the
vehicles that support your life.**



**Blessings will be for all vehicles
in Trinity's parking lot,
the Sentinel lot across the street
and the parking spaces behind Trinity Hall.**



**All vehicles, including bikes, skateboards & scooters,
are welcome.**



**After the blessing celebrate National Ice Cream month with
ice cream! The ice cream is free but donations for
the outreach programs below will be gratefully accepted.
Invite your family, friends & neighbors!**

Don't forget those in need, be a vehicle for change, make someone's life a little better

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



Two Trinitarians recently received honors at Camp Echo held at Cedar Lakes. Stan Whitaker, known for his artwork, placed second in the pairs cornhole competition. Our sexton Jacob Miller placed first in Ninja Warrior and second in the shot put. Sponsored by the Wood County Society, Camp Echo provides adults with different abilities the opportunity to participate in crafts, sports, and social activities.



Artwork: Stan Whitaker