

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



Strider Chapel, Peterkin

Homesick and Happy

Oh Peterkin, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways. There was a time in my life a score and more than a decade ago when my midlife struggles were maxing out. Karen and I were stretched between the demands of aging parents and adolescent children. Peterkin family camp brought us welcome relief.

The picture below was taken during that time. I'm in there somewhere. If you're able to find Waldo, you might find Barnabas.

It was taken in front of Gravatt Hall, and inside of Gravatt on the living room wall there used to be a picture frame containing the following words:

Do not pray for an easy life. Pray to be a stronger man.

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

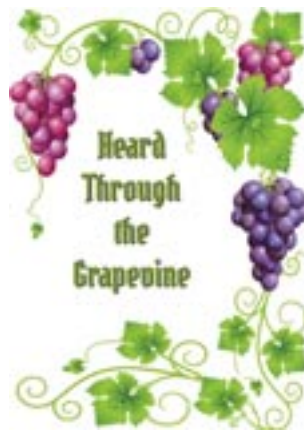
Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle.

And every day you will wonder at the richness of life which has come to you through the grace of God.

As I reflect on those days, I appreciate them more now than anyone can know. Peterkin's theme of "Living Under Grace" sustained me then and sustains me now. Funny how the homesickness I experienced at Peterkin was one of my lowest lows as a kid, but now Peterkin is a place that feels like home and makes me

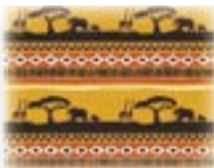
happy every time I go there. I love the way Peterkin connects Episcopalians throughout the diocese. Some of my best friends are Peterkin people.

Barnabas



Editor's Note: At a recent Trinity Men's Breakfast, 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. Welcome to our newest feature, "Swickisms."

SWICKISMS



Let your love be like the misty rain, falling softly but flooding the river.⁴
African proverb

Attention graduating seniors and current higher education students attending West Virginia institutions.

Applications are now open for the Fred Davis, Jr. Scholarship. Founded by lifetime "Pink Church" member Sally Davis in honor of her beloved husband, Fred, and carried on by Fred's descendants, the Fred Davis Jr. Scholarship is awarded to students attending a West Virginia institution of higher education. In addition to other requirements, applicants are asked to write an essay addressing their spiritual commitment, financial need, past scholastic achievements, general character, and leadership skills.



For full application information, please contact Ginger Smith in the office at gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com Completed applications, along with three reference letters, are due June 30.

A note from Father Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name.”

- Jaroslav Pelikan, Lutheran theologian

I imagine no parishioner would be surprised to hear that I consider myself something of a “traditional” priest. But, as the quotation above puts it, traditionalism can be a problem. I understand traditionalism to be a devotion to the Church’s traditions for their own sake, as an end in themselves, and regardless of their relative value. In other words, traditionalism says “because it’s old, it’s automatically good. Because it’s new, it’s automatically bad.” There is often a danger among liturgical Christians that our adherence to the traditional forms can become stilted, forced, or, in a word, dead. Many of us have met Christians who are opposed to anything new and who bemoan change of any kind.

But the abuse of a thing does not negate its proper use. And Tradition is no different. Those who would throw out Tradition as inherently dead will inevitably need to drum up or manipulate emotion, fearing that without constant novelty and perpetual enthusiasm, the Holy Spirit will somehow be hindered.

But the reality is that Spirit-filled, faithful worship and practice is not at odds with receiving and passing on the Church’s holy Tradition. Tradition is not a museum to be curated, but the life of the Holy Spirit throughout the ages. Much of what we do at church has been handed down to us generation after generation - some of it for almost 2,000 years. The Church’s task in any era is to discern what, out of the Tradition, we should employ in our lives together; and what might need to be innovated for the sake of souls in our own day.

Rabbi Shai Held, speaking of his own Jewish heritage, says, “I just find that to be such a great privilege, and to mediate tradition for people, is just a great blessing.” I like Rabbi Held’s phrase: “mediate tradition.” I think this is what we are called to do.

We have a wonderful expression of the faith. We know that there are many treasures in the Church’s Tradition that still speak to peoples’ concerns, hungers, fears, and hopes. We have the Gospel of Jesus Christ, after all. And like those who have gone before us in every generation, we seek to take what has been given to us and share it.

Around us is a world full of people who are - just like us - thirsting for the Living God, whether they know it or not. They may not all look, think, or behave like us. They may have different ways of looking at the world. They may not be very “traditional.” But at the core of every human person is the Image of God which longs for union with God. This hasn’t changed since the dawn of human history. What the Spirit-inspired Tradition of the Church gives us is a set of tools and a way of life. Let us not shy away from inviting and welcoming others to share this Spiritual life with us. Let us be a beacon of hope; a traditional church for non-traditional people.

*In Christ,
Fr. Geoff*

The Rector's Bookshelf

*Ever Ancient, Ever New:
The Allure of Liturgy for a New Generation*
Winfield Bevins
Zondervan, 2019



Bevins and Father Mackey

When I was coming of age in the '80s and '90s, there was a modest but significant movement of people out of evangelical, baptistic, "free church" type congregations and into denominations with robust liturgical and sacramental traditions. Unbeknownst to us, my family was part of that movement: my father was an evangelical pastor who became an Episcopal priest when I was in my early teens. In that period of time there were some "big name" evangelical Christians who made drastic denominational changes (and often wrote about it). High profile pastors, evangelists and professors were joining the Orthodox Church, Roman Catholicism, or the Episcopal Church. And they represented hundreds of others.

That was a movement primarily of baby boomers. But what of today? In a world that seems less and less traditional with every passing year, what can we say about these traditional, liturgical, sacramental churches like ours? On the face of it, it might seem that traditional religious expressions would be distasteful to younger people. This was the assumption of many in the '60s and '70s. But for a significant number of young adults today, the historic expressions of the faith are appealing for a variety of reasons.

*That is what Winfield Bevin's book, *Ever Ancient, Ever New* is about. In it, he digs into the appeal of these traditions for non-traditional people. Unlike a previous generation, it is not only about people joining these older churches; it is also about people in less formal congregations adopting historic practices.*

This book is not a difficult theological read. Bevins is good at explaining theological concepts in straightforward and practical ways. With plenty of real-life examples, he shows the appeal of the traditional liturgical structures, what we can learn from the "New Monasticism," the appeal of Christian orthodoxy to contemporary people, and that much of the received Christian tradition is countercultural in significant and profound ways. Many today are seeking a faith with a trustworthy groundedness and an authentic community, and are willing to consider the treasures of the past.

*Rather than be at the mercy of an independent pastor's opinions or try to construct a religious outlook from the ground up, the historic expressions of Christianity - like our beloved Anglicanism - have much to offer the people of today. *Ever Ancient, Ever New* offers a fascinating look at what we have to give.*

Spring Happenings In the Community



Rogation Day Blessing of the Land

On Saturday, May 16th, parishioners gathered at the Curry Farm on Winding Road to celebrate a Rogation Day blessing of the land. Rogation Days are traditionally observed on the three days before the Feast of the Ascension, but in modern times can be "transferred" to any convenient and appropriate date. Anciently, these were days of supplication for fruitful seasons and in medieval England, were observed by processions and the "beating of the bounds," i.e., walking around the borders of the parish's geographic perimeter. Though it rained on the 16th, we gathered with umbrellas and good spirits to pray God's blessing on the good earth and to give thanks for all its blessings.



A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Trinity Church Community,

As my time serving with you is gradually coming to a close, I first want to say how deeply grateful I am for this season of ministry. Serving alongside you during this past year in West Virginia has been a true joy and privilege, and Trinity has become a place that I will always carry with me with great affection.

I am writing to share with you an important step in my vocation and to invite you to consider partnering with me in it. Although this past year I have been serving in West Virginia, my ministry experience extends much further. Over the past eight years, I have served in churches across Europe — including Italy, Denmark, and Spain — often working in cross-cultural and immigrant contexts. Most recently, in Ambridge, Pennsylvania — where my seminary is located — I helped plant a Spanish-speaking (primarily Latin American) church community. This experience deepened my commitment to ministry among people navigating cultural transition, displacement, and questions of belonging.

Beginning in mid-September, I will be starting a ministry placement in Tenerife, Spain, where I will continue working with a Latin American and, possibly, a Muslim population.

There is a line in Epistle to the Romans where the Apostle Paul speaks of his desire to go to Spain — a place that, for him, remained just beyond reach. He made it to Rome, but Spain remained a horizon. I often think of that unfinished journey as something the Church continues to inherit: the call to go further, across cultures and languages, into places where the Gospel must be lived as much as spoken. In a small and ordinary way, I see my own calling as contributing my experience in building up that same movement.

At the same time, I intend to continue my ordination process, one of the long-term goals being returning to West Virginia to serve in the Episcopal Church here. To make this possible, I am currently raising financial support for one year of ministry. My goal is \$35,000, which represents a modest annual missionary support budget covering basic living expenses and ministry costs. This placement is being facilitated in collaboration with two organizations: Latin Link — an international Christian mission agency that provides oversight, accountability, and support for missionaries serving cross-culturally. FIEIDE — a federation of evangelical churches in Spain that serves as the local partner and is able to receive financial support from the United States and distribute it within Spain.

Together, these organizations ensure both spiritual and administrative accountability, as well as a transparent and secure structure for this mission.

If you choose to support this ministry, you will not only be contributing financially, but also becoming an active part of this mission. I will be sharing regular updates, including weekly video reflections in a private Facebook group, so that you can follow the development of the ministry, see how your support is being used, and stay connected to the work on the ground. In addition to ministry support, I am also raising funds to cover my relocation to Spain.

If you prefer, you may choose to contribute either to the mission itself (through the organizations listed above) or directly toward my relocation expenses. Direct contributions will go personally to me and will be used specifically for moving-related costs. I want to be honest: this is my first time raising funds at



A Letter ... (Continued)

this scale, and at moments it feels daunting. Yet when broken down, the goal becomes much more realistic. For example, if 15–20 churches committed to supporting this ministry at around \$1,500–\$2,000 per year, the full amount would be reached. In this way, the mission becomes not an individual burden, but a shared work of the Church.

If you feel called to support this ministry—whether through a one-time gift or ongoing partnership — I would be deeply grateful. I would also greatly value your prayers as I take this next step.

Thank you for your time, your faithfulness, and your witness.

Mission is never the work of one person. It is always the quiet faithfulness of many — those who go, and those who send.

Blessings,

Xenia



Trinity Photo Quiz - What year in the last century was the picture taken?

Row 1: Lewis Wolfe, Charlie Allman, Joe Handlan, Cindy Moellendick, Bob Brantner, Douglass Adams, Ann Bailey

Row 2: Charlotte Hoblitzell Muse, Betty Rodda, Nancy Handlan, Richard Mason, Carle Lewis

Row 3: Susan Shock, Alex Marshall, Rev. Kenneth Price, Rev. Jack Neilson, Dale Hartough, Alan Rogers, Bill Horn, Bill Moellendick, Rev. G. T. Schramm

Answer: -1981

Saintly Symbols



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.

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?

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.*

June Trust in the Lord

He provides the opportunity for rest,
we just have to take it.

*A Blessing for the summer season, for
time to relax and have fun with family
and friends will be given on June 7
between the services, approx 9:15*

RELAX, ENJOY, DeSTRESS

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
present your requests to God." Philipppians 4:6-7*

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and
I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

*"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast
because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3*

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." John 14:27

*"He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters." Psalm 23:2-3*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you
trust in Him." Romans 15:13*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your
own understanding." Proverbs 3:5-6*

"The God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Blood Drive Tuesday June 2

*Don't forget those in need, help them to also have time to relax knowing their
neighbors are still there*

Blessing Bags

make a number of blessing bags to give 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, bird, treats, flea
cleaning supplies or cash*



Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

register NOW at peterkin.org



Junior Camp: June 14-20, 2026 <i>(Entering Grades 4-6)</i>	Intermediate Camp: June 21-27, 2026 <i>(Entering Grades 7-9)</i>	Seeds of Faith Camp: June 28-July 1, 2026 <i>(New Campers and their adults)</i>	Senior Camp: July 5-11, 2026 <i>(Entering Grade 10 -Grads)</i>	Music-Art-Drama Camp: July 12-18, 2026 <i>(Entering Grades 4-12)</i>
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Family Camp: July 19-25, 2026 *(For Everybody!!)*