

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

All in the Family



On Saturday, January 31, four new members of the Church were baptized: Joshua Renfro, Dianna Rollyson, and Delilah & Jackson Renfro. "We receive you into the household of God!"

Hugs on a Plate, Weren't They Great?

Who knows who first called hotcakes, "Hugs on a Plate."

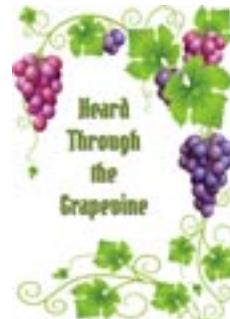
And who knows if Plato really said, "At the touch of pancakes, everyone is a poet."

All I know is that today -- I Sing of Hotcakes and the Men who compiled a flippin' good Shrove Tuesday supper in Trinity Hall to get us all ready for Lent.

It is not my intention to give short shrift to all the guys who contributed to the effort by not writing all of you personal notes, but you know what a penny pincher I am. (Have you bought a first class stamp lately?)

So gentlemen, (please see picture of men's breakfast gang on the bottom right of page #4 to see those of whom I speak) please accept this public thank you note for all you did by donating ingredients, setting the tables, mixing the ingredients, flipping the pancakes, cooking the sausage, and lastly and definitely not leastly, cleaning up!

Check out page #8 for pictures from the dinner. Thanks a million guys for helping Peterkin.



Barnabas

P. S. (Let me also sing the praises of the women who played such a big part in the dinner; Linda Bennett for donating the pancake mix and recipe; Karen Northrup for mixing it up; Susie Fitcher, Anne Deputy and Julie Rathbone for the Mardi Gras setup; Connie & Jim "Coffee" Batten for having the Java ready to go; and Tom & Julie Gyongosi and Anne Deputy for cleaning up. Also honorable mentions go to Marie Mallory, whose bread crumb production and donation raised over \$100 for the Monday Feeding Program, and to Ray Swick whose vanilla ice cream was such a hit.)

In Memoriam

William E. Mildren III ("Trip"), 57, of Tupper Plains, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly on January 17, 2026. He was born on August 10, 1968, in Parkersburg, the son of William E. Mildren Jr. and his late mother, Marlene Jo Anderson (formerly Marlene Mildren). Trip graduated from Myers Park High School in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1986.

After high school, Trip moved back to Parkersburg, where he owned and operated his own business. He later returned to Charlotte before eventually settling in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, where he devotedly cared for his mother during her illness—a role he took on with deep love, patience, and selflessness. In later years, Trip made his home in Tupper Plains, Ohio.



Trip loved his family, friends, and the outdoors, and he genuinely cared for everyone around him. Trip found peace and purpose in the outdoors and took great pride in caring for Hickory Lakes Farm in Tupper Plains, Ohio, with his father.

In addition to his love for the outdoors, Trip had many hobbies and creative interests. He enjoyed playing golf, listening to and appreciating music, and had

a deep love for art and photography, finding beauty in capturing moments and the world around him.

Trip was preceded in death by his mother, Marlene Jo Anderson, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; his grandparents, William E. Mildren Sr. and Mary Carolyn McCoy Mildren, and Harold and Velma Taylor. He was also heartbroken by the recent loss of his beloved dog and devoted companion, Hailey.

Trip is survived by many family members who will miss him dearly, including his father, William E. Mildren Jr., and stepmother, Cathy Mildren. He is survived by his brother and best friend, Charles "Chad" Mildren (Nikki), with nieces Annie and Margaret Mildren; and his loving sister, Suzanne Brooks (Pat), with nephew William Brooks and niece Caroline Brooks. He is also survived by his stepbrother, Philip Parsons II (Becky), with nieces Paige and Callie Parsons; and stepsister, Christin Smith (Jason), with nephews Cooper and Paxton Smith.

He is also survived by a dear friend who was like a brother, John Ralsten. Trip was a friend to so many, and his kindness, loyalty, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Services were held on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Trinity. Trip was laid to rest at Mt. Olivet Cemetery following the services.

A note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

"Fasting in tongue is better than fasting in food." - St. John of the Cross

In ages past the Lenten fast was a very strict one. In many places, Christians abstained not only from meat, but from daily products, oil, and alcohol as well. This is still the traditional fast in some communities. We modern Westerners tend to put less emphasis on fasting, but perhaps this is to our detriment. Exercises of self-discipline like fasting can be beneficial in the spiritual life. For some of the fathers of the Church the idea was that being able to control our appetite was a first step in being able to control our tongues. It is not ultimately what we eat or don't eat that is important, though. Jesus taught that "it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth" (Mt. 15:11)

Or consider what the Epistle of St. James says about the tongue. It "is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts" (3.5). It is like a spark of fire that can cause a whole forest to become engulfed in flame. (3.5-6). For Christians, who are called to a life of blessing and reconciliation, what we use our speech for is indicative of the divided nature of our hearts. "For out of the abundance of the mouth, the heart speaks." (Mt. 12.34). James warns us: "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be." (Jas. 3.9-10)

In a world where inflammatory language is part and parcel of our everyday experience - in the news, in politics, in social "discourse," on social media, in the music and films we consume - perhaps this Lent we should take some time to pay attention to our own words. How often, throughout the day do I say words that build people up? Or do I spend more time on judgment? Is my language boastful or humble? Do I complain or express gratitude more? How do I refer to others - those of other religions, nationalities, or languages? Are we known more for words of grace, forgiveness, and welcome or for rejection and condemnation?

Most of us do not spend a lot of time in self-reflection on the kinds of things we say. But it is a good exercise to do so. Perhaps, as we continue on this journey of Lent, we can be attentive to what comes out of our mouths just as much as - if not more than - what we put into them. After all, the "Word" that God speaks to us is a Word of blessing. Jesus, the living and eternal Word of God, was "spoken" into our world "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3.17) This holy season, let us seek to be like our Lord and speak words of blessing and edification.

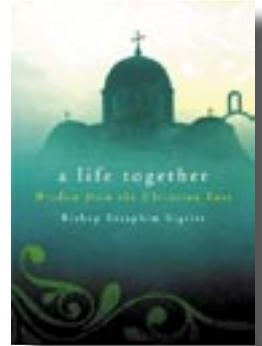


In Christ, the Good Word of God

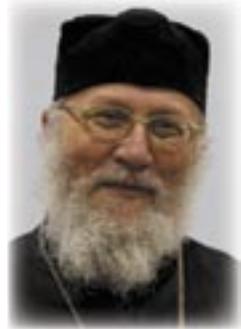
Fr. Geoff

The Rector's Bookshelf

*A Life Together:
Wisdom of Community from the Christian East*
Bishop Seraphim Sigrist
Paraclete Press, 2011



On February 6, 2026, Seraphim Sigrist, an Orthodox bishop, missionary, poet, mystic, and prolific blogger, passed to his eternal reward. (pictured below) Erin and I had the good fortune of knowing him and being ministered to by him. He performed the blessing of our first home. And I was part of a small, informal, ecumenical group he led in and around New York City called Transfiguration. He was a friend and spiritual father to me for almost 24 years.



One of the books he published during his life is this little book of meditations called *A Life Together*. It consists of short sections (one could hardly even call them chapters) which come at the idea of Christian “community” from a number of angles. He starts with the Russian priest and martyr Alexander Men and the “gatherings” which he held in the homes of the faithful, out of the watchful eye of the Soviet authorities. “Christianity is in its infancy,” Fr. Men would say. From here Bishop Seraphim goes on to reflect on the Russian theological idea of sobornost, roughly translated “unity” or “conciliarity” but which has an element of the individual-grounded-in-the-community.

The subtitle, *Wisdom of Community from the Christian East*, is in some sense misleading. Certainly Seraphim writes from his vocation as an Eastern bishop, and he begins with Eastern priests, philosophers, and theologians. But he is thoroughly ecumenical, and just as comfortable with the likes of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin, the Grail legends, Jewish mysticism, the symbolism of the Tarot, and even John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Fellowship. But don't be intimidated. This is not a philosophical or theological treatise. It is a series of gently accessible thoughts, written as though they were spoken by a wise old friend over an evening cup of tea.

Seraphim sees in disparate expressions of Christianity a foundational unity that cannot be broken. There is a fundamental complementarity to all actions of the Holy Spirit. And it is this same unity that he sees at work on the local level, in every Christian community. “The grounding of I in we... is not a demand against our nature, but is a coming home,” he writes. Each is complete in the other. “God's love and acceptance of the other enters us, and makes the other not a stranger but, at a deep level, a friend, or a friend-to-be.” And, “as we realize how this can be, and must be, perhaps we are freed from fear of the surface divisions and confusions and disorder in the world and in the church because we have discovered - just a little - what the church really is in Christ.”

February Happenings



Thursday Bible Study



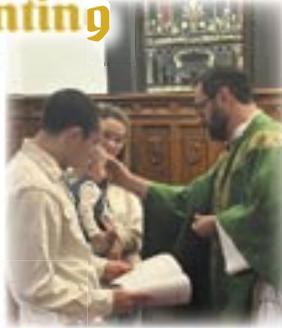
House
Blessing
With
Father
Geoff &
Tom
Walsh



Tuesday Breakfast at Bob's

Receiving New Family Members Into the Household of God

Anointing



Baptism



Lent Begins ... Ash Wednesday



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



1. Pancake Flippers, Mackey, Miller, & Harris
2. Dueling Griddles, Harris vs Nutter
3. Mezicks crafting Mardi Gras Decorations
4. Josephine takes spatula from Father Geoff to engage in the culinary arts
5. Digging into pancakes, sausage, & fruit
6. Kitchen crew, Northrup, Currier, Nutter
- 7-8. Nice turnout contributed to sizable donations to Peterkin & the Monday Feeding Program



Seeds of Faith - Godly Play



Our second Godly Play Day, themed around Lent, was a big success! Families heard the Faces of Easter story together and then enjoyed activities that helped everyone meditate on the themes of Lent. We finished our day with a delicious meal and community time.

Symbolism

Match the number of the symbol, with the letter of the meaning -



A. - Greek Fish meaning Jesus Christ, Son of God Savior.

B. Latin acronym meaning Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

C. First and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolizing Christ as the beginning and the end.

D. Chi-Rho - Initial letter of Greek word for Christos.

E. Initial letters of Greek word for Jesus.

+ The Rector has put together a communications team to assist in communication and publicity efforts both internally and externally to the parish.

+ We are seeking estimates for new flooring in Trinity Hall
The Holy Week liturgical schedule was discussed as well as an upcoming wedding in the parish.

+ The next Pub(lic) Theology gathering will be held on March 24th.

+ The first meeting of the Parish Visitors' Committee was held and they plan to begin parish visitations in March.

+ The DRE reported a successful second Seeds of Faith "Godly Play Day" on February 21. Adult Bible Study continues to be well attended.

+ The Treasurer's Report continues to indicate that the parish finances remain healthy

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

January 3,4: 20/6/62 (90)
January 10,11: 19/11/50 (80)
January 17,18: 10/7/54 (71)
January 24: (5:30 only) 13
Jan 31, Feb. 1: 28/11/40 (79)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) - 4
Morning Prayer - (average) - 5
Epiphany Day - 17
Great Blessing of the Water - 21

**T
H
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N**

Total	101
New	18
Referred to case magmt.	0

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	38
2	28
3	15
4	9
5+	11

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



ANSWERS

1. E - the first three greek letters (Iesous)
2. D Chi-Rho
3. A ICHTHYS
4. C Alpha-Omega
5. INRI - Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum



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

March

March is a month of preparation.
It is a time to get ready, our homes, our hearts,
our church, our community.

We join together preparing for renewal &
rebirth, for Spring & Easter

**Come help serve cookies
& lemonade at the**



Parade!

Sat March 21 - 11:30am-2pm

Trinity will be giving out bags of cookies &
Trinity info to the participants of the
Parkersburg Easter Parade.

Come help share the joy of Easter
and life at Trinity!

meet at Trinity Hall, 11am to load
up and car pool to 18th & Market
(parking is limited)

**Trinity Work Day March 7
10am**

Give a few hours of your time and talent to help
with the upkeep of the buildings and grounds of
your church. There is always something that
needs to be done in and around a building the
size and age of our beautiful Trinity church.
Come dressed to clean, paint, organize, rake,
prune, etc.

Palm Cross Making

10am March 28 in Trinity Hall

If you ever wanted to learn how to make
a palm cross now is your chance!
Members of Trinity's Altar Guild will be
available to help you learn how to make
palm crosses which will be given out on
Palm Sunday.
All levels of expertise are welcome!

**Palm Sunday, March 29,
is a 5th Sunday**

*Sharing fellowship with your Trinity
family is the best way to begin Holy
Week. Sharing food, sharing love,
sharing faith - we will do it all on
March 29 after the 10:30am
service. Please plan to be there.*

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

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*

Wednesday Evenings - 5:30 pm - Trinity Hall - February 25, March 4, & March 11

Meeting the Syriac “Desert Fathers” With Xenia



Across three classes, we'll meet the Syriac “Desert Fathers” and Syrian mysticism through voices like Ephrem the Syrian and Isaac of Nineveh.

We'll explore the desert as a spiritual method: de-powerment, risky prayer, and love beyond spiritual “commerce.”

We'll finish with their poetry of the heart— purification, inner senses, and virtues— linked to discipleship and neighbor-love today.



*It's Coffee Talk With
Xenia Smykova,
Our Pastoral Intern!*