

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 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



"Music ... the speech of angels ..."

*... in fact nothing among the utterances
allowed to men is felt to be so divine."*

Carlyle

Trinity Choral Scholars: l. to r. - Bryar Greene, Jacob Dillon-Fontaine, Isabella Wolfe, Eva Crocker

Family Ties

If my parents were alive today they would have just celebrated their 84th wedding anniversary. (They did live to celebrate their 62nd.) As the years go by and my brothers and I remember our Mom & Dad's anniversary or their birthdays, my oldest brother frequently reminds us other brothers that when it came to selecting our parents we chose wisely. We may disagree on some things, but on that score we concur.

Mom and Dad went the way of heaven many years ago, but we four brothers have no complaints about the family they assembled. We picked great parents.

Yes, of course my brother is kidding when he says that "we chose" our parents wisely. He would no doubt agree with Desmond Tutu who said, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."

Nevertheless, if like me, you see our church as a family, I hope you feel as I do that you when you chose Trinity as your church family, you chose wisely. I look at our members and see some great brothers and sisters. People who care about each other and who care about the family's place in the community.

Our family has very talented people with great musical abilities who devote many hours to make our worship services more inspirational. (Thank you Marie Mallory and thanks choir for making Holy Week so glorious!)

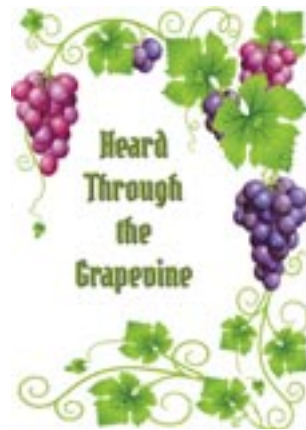
Our family has people who work faithfully and diligently on our outreach programs like the Monday feeding ministry, book sale, and crafts sale.

Our family has people with great organizational skills to see that our financial resources are put to best use in helping those who need help.

Our family has people with handy skills who keep our house in good order.

Our family has people with experience, education and wisdom to provide spiritual guidance to the community.

I could go on and on about our family and the generous gifts that its members bring to Trinity ... When it comes to church families, you and I picked a good one!



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



"Love of our neighbour is the only door out of the dungeon of self."

George MacDonald
(1824-1905)

Register for your time slot at redcrossblood.org
or call 800-733-2767



Put Trinity's zip code, 26101
in the Find A Drive box

Scroll through the list of blood drives to Trinity's
on June 2. Pick a time slot and fill out your info.

Thank you for your generosity!

A note from Father Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thomas Cranmer, the architect of the first Book of Common Prayer, in one of his most famous collects, wrote: *“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us to to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life...”* (BCP, 236) It is one of his most famous phrases. And it goes to the heart of a major aspect of Christian spirituality: that of **biblical knowledge and fidelity**.

When I was a child, in an evangelical church, *memorization* was a major aspect of our Sunday school work. And I still have a lot of those verses rattling around in my head from those tender years. But memorizing - or even just reading the Bible is not, in itself, *enough*. After all, Christians of many different traditions can read the same biblical words and come to *wildly* different interpretations about all sorts of things.

One of the most challenging parts of biblical interpretations is what to do with what we might call the “bad god” passages of Scripture. Sure, God is depicted as Savior. But at least in some parts, the way God seems to be depicted is morally reprehensible. For example, in 1 Samuel 15, God, through the Prophet Samuel, commands Saul to attack Amalek and destroy not only the soldiers or the men, but also the women and children and livestock. In 1 Peter 2, slaves are told to submit humbly to masters, whether they are gentle or harsh. How do we reconcile things like this with the claim that “God is love” and that God “is not willing that any should perish,”

Some, of course, have thrown out the whole thing. The Bible has contradictions, they say, so it must not be trustworthy or authoritative; it must not be a *sacred* book. Or they throw out Christianity entirely. After all, a god who can command genocide in one age and then love of enemy in another seems to be a fickle deity indeed. Or they become fundamentalists: if the Bible says it, that must be the exact way it was; God *must’ve* commanded these heinous things.

But the historic, orthodox way that Christians interpreted the Bible was not uniformly literal. After all, it is not *the Bible* that is the ultimate revelation of God. It is *Jesus* who is the full revelation of God. The Bible simply points to *him*. We read, listen to, and “inwardly digest” the Scriptures because we believe in Jesus, who shows us perfectly who God is. This is the opposite of the fundamentalist approach which believes in Jesus “because the Bible said it,” as if the Bible ranked above Jesus.

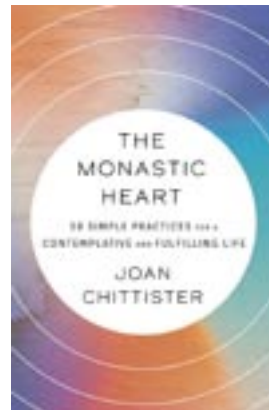
In short - we know that God is love, because we see the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus did what he saw God the Father doing (John 5.19). In Jesus the whole fullness of God dwells bodily (Col. 2.9); he is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1.15).

So the next time you are baffled or confused by something in the Scriptures that seems decidedly *un-Christlike*, take heart. You’re not the first to have discovered this. To be faithful interpreters of Scripture is to read the Bible in light of the full revelation of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. And when we do that, we are “inwardly digesting” a great feast, which can result in our spiritual health and growth.

*Yours in the Word of God,
Fr. Geoff*

The Rector's Bookshelf

The Monastic Heart: 50 Simple Practices for a Contemplative and Fulfilling Life by Sister Joan Chittister Convergent Books, 2021



**Sister Joan
Chittister**

When I was 14, I got a job at St. Margaret's House, an Episcopal convent just a few blocks from my school. I can't say I always appreciated the work at the time, but I loved being able to participate in some of the rhythms of the sisters' lives; going into the chapel for Morning Prayer or Noonday Prayer when the bell rang; hearing the community chant the Psalms; sometimes taking a meal with them. When I was in college, I thought I might join a religious order myself - that is, until I met Erin and, well, plans changed.

But many of us who are "in the world" find something compelling about the devotion, the single-mindedness, the peace, and the "set-apartness" of those in monastic vocations. Joan Chittister, well-known nun from the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA, has provided a lovely book that takes aspects of monastic life and shows how they can be spiritually beneficial in an active life.

The Monastic Heart is a light and easy read about substantive ideas and practices. Various aspects that inform the life of a nun or a monk - things like the ringing of bells, the commitment to hospitality, practices of solitude and silence, chant, incense, candles, the virtue of humility, and the need for repentance - all of these are not for those in vowed orders alone. For each of these, and many other topics, Sister Joan gives an insightful reflection and then suggestions for those of us outside the cloister to integrate the practice.

Monasteries are schools for growth in the spiritual life, the gospel, and the love of God and neighbor. I am grateful that monastics such as Sister Joan are willing to share with the rest of us the wisdom of a lifetime lived in their communities so that we, too, can benefit from their commitment. To that end, I happily recommend *The Monastic Heart*.

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On April 19th, four new members were inducted into Trinity's chapter of the Daughters of the King: Edith Newman, Erin Mackey, Midge Simperts, & Sherry Smith.

Spring Happenings at Trinity & In the Community

Craft
FAIR



The Spring Arts & Craft Fair attracted a good crowd and raised over \$600 for Trinity Outreach Programs.



*JULIET's first gathering at George's
(Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together)*

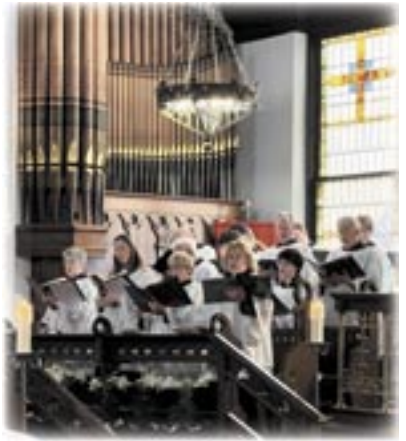


PUB(lic) Theology at the NET



Palm Sunday Luncheon in Trinity Hall

Holy Week at Trinity



Holy Week at Trinity



Getting in on the Acts (of the Apostles)

1: In the first chapter of Acts there is an occasion where Jesus meets His disciples and commands them not to depart from Jerusalem, because He wants them to wait there for a gift promised by God.

True/False

2: There was a requirement that in selecting the new apostle to replace Judas that he must have been with the apostles during the entire time Jesus was with them, from John's baptism to the ascension. Who was selected? (Acts 1:21-22).

3: Who was the first Christian martyr? (Acts 7:58-60).

4: In Antioch the disciples were first called by a Greek name that has stuck with them and one which continues to the present day. What were they called?

5: On what island was Paul shipwrecked? (Acts 28:1)

6: Fill in the blanks -- "But you will receive power when the _____ comes upon you." (Acts 1:8)

Highlights from the April 2026 Vestry meeting:

- + The Rector discussed maintenance issues at the Rectory which include replacing the microwave and repairing the dishwasher and icemaker. A committee to oversee Rectory issues will be formed.
- + The Advent Seeds of Faith Hub Day will be on December 5.
- + The Treasurer reviewed the March financial reports. He noted that the Diocese wants a completed audit done by July 1.
- + The DRE reported that she will be at Peterkin during the months of June and July. She is asking for volunteers to teach Sunday School. Lesson plans will be provided.
- + The Craft Fair raised \$650 which will be used for outreach projects.
- + A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled on June 2.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

March 7,8: 14/7/57 (78)

March 14,15: 16/10/70 (96)

March 21,22: 17/13/50 (80)

March 29: (One Service) (84)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) - 4

Holy Day Liturgies (average) - 7

Morning Prayer - (average) - 4

Stations of the Cross (average) - 6

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Total	111
New	22
Referred to case magmt.	0

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	42
2	30
3	12
4	11
5+	16

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



ANSWERS

1. True
2. Matthias
3. Stephen
4. "Christians" (Greek: Christianoi) first applied to disciples in Antioch.
5. Malta
6. Holy Spirit



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



May God provides

*The land is ready to provide for all.
We have to be ready to help.*



*God provided the land, the trees, the plants
and the ability to care for them so that they
will provide food for all.*

*It is up to us to take care of the land, to
treat it well and to give thanks for its
abundance.*

*On May 16th, at the Curry farm, join
Trinity in providing a blessing for the land
and in giving thanks to God for the land and
it's abundance*

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to
work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15*

*"He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to
cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth." Psalm 104:14*



***Trinity Sunday - May 31st is
the next 5th Sunday Funfest***

***Celebrate Trinity Sunday
and the Bishop's
visitation at Trinity!***

Open your heart to those in need & help grow their understanding of God's love

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, cleaning supplies or cash*





Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

ACTS 2:1-3

