NOVEMBER 2026

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

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Connie Bookman
Mickie Richardson

2027
Jennifer Currey
Larry Nutter
John Tharp

2028
Michael Dillon
Mark Miller
Karen Northrup

TRUSTEES
2026
Paula Sellers
2027
Tim Northrup
Chad Mildren
2028
Denny Prather

The Feast of St. Cecilia - Nov. 22

Patron Saint of music, musicians, poets and pipe organs

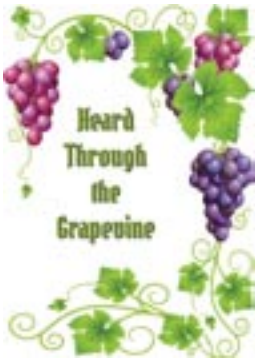


"To die for Christ is not to sacrifice one's youth, but to renew it." (Account of St. Cecilia's Martyrdom)

Tee for Two

In the course of my life I can recall several times when I brushed up against some moderately famous celebrities in person. I'm talking about face to face close encounters. Up close and personal, I looked at them, and they looked at me, and their expressions seemed to say, "Yes, I'm that guy. So are you going to ask me a dumb question or ask for my autograph?"

These were all happenstance encounters - situations where almost no one else was there but that guy and me ... in public spaces that were all very empty at the time - not in a crowd. Maybe one or two others nearby.



You might recognize some of these names, Don Meredith, George Carlin, Michael Jordan, Lee Trevino ... In all these cases save the last one when I bumped into these guys I was mute. I like to think that these fellows could sense that I was a fan but respected their privacy.



Not in the case of Lee though. When I bumped into him on a driving range. He seemed very approachable in the situation, and I had something in common with him that I wanted to tell him -- we had both been struck by lightning.

Lee was there with a friend who asked for my cell phone and said, "Let me get a picture of you with Lee." Glad he did. A good memory of a chance meeting with an admirable man.

I've always appreciated something Supermex had to say on the subject of golf's complex rules and regulations; Lee once stated that the entire Rules of Golf should be able to sit inside a matchbook. So whenever I hear in our Gospel readings about Jesus being questioned on the most important commandments, I think of Lee. Our Lord and Savior had a ready reply:

Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor as yourself.

You can fit His rules inside a matchbook. In the game of life ... His rules ... play by them.

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."





"Civilizations die from suicide, not by murder"

Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975)



A note from Father Geoff



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Those who attend our 5:30 Saturday service know that I love the autumn evening light that shines through the stained glass windows, enlightening the space of worship with an almost magical, golden glow. The long shadows and slowly waning sunlight of this time of year give me a kind of sentimentality or nostalgia, though not for anything in particular that I can articulate.

There is a kind of longing in the human heart, too, for something we cannot quite grasp. It's a kind of nostalgia, but not in the ordinary sense. Instead of a longing for some romanticised version of the past, it is a longing for the future. It is a longing for - as C.S.Lewis put it - "*that unnameable something, desire for which pierces us like a rapier at the smell of a bonfire, the sound of wild ducks flying overhead, the title of* **The Well at the World's End**, *the opening lines of* **Kubla Khan**, *the morning cobwebs in late summer, or the noise of falling waves.*"

These kinds of experiences - like my experience with the autumn evening light through our windows - can remind us that the world is indeed "enchanted" by the presence of the Spirit. Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins tells us *"the world is charged with the grandeur of God."*

This grandeur and this heart-longing is a reminder that the beauties of this world are pointers toward another world. All the good in this world is mixed. The beauty of the flower fades, the castles we build turn to ruin, *"tow'r and temple fall to dust."* And yet… And yet the human heart longs to build them, to write our stories and poems, build our buildings, pursue our hobbies, read our favorite novelists. We seek beauty, and truth, and love, knowing that these things are temporal, knowing that we are temporal.

Lewis suggests that this is because built into the very heart and soul of every human being is a longing for something which has not yet been. It is a longing for the life of the Age to Come when all of the beauties of this world will be fulfilled and all of the ugliness of the world will be undone. As we enter this month of Thanksgiving, what if we spent our time and attention on those good things which God has given us which are indications, foretastes, and sacraments of the Kingdom to come? Perhaps we would begin, more and more, living as if that Kingdom has already begun to arrive, which it has.

With a grateful heart,
Fr. Geoff

Music Notes



Who is St. Cecilia?

Cecilia
Martyr at Rome, c. 230

Saint Cecilia, a Roman Christian virgin martyr venerated in Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and some Lutheran churches, is the patroness of music and musicians, known for her unwavering faith and martyrdom around 230 AD, and commemorated in the Canon of the Mass.

Key Facts*

Here is a summary of St. Cecilia's life:

+ Born into a noble Roman family, Cecilia secretly converted to Christianity and dedicated herself to a life of virginity and service.

+ Despite being forced to marry, she converted her husband Valerian and his brother Tiburtius to Christianity, leading to their martyrdom.

+ Cecilia preached the Gospel tirelessly, reportedly converting hundreds of people to Christianity and bringing them to be baptized.

+ She used her wealth and home to support the early Church, providing shelter for Christian worship and aiding the poor.

+ Arrested for her faith, Cecilia miraculously survived initial execution attempts before succumbing to wounds from a failed beheading.

+ Venerated as the patron saint of music, Cecilia's unwavering faith and sacrifice inspired countless Christians throughout history.

***From the Daily Office Book of Common Prayer 2019**



An Invitation to join our choir



Marie Mallory
Dir. of Music Ministry

I did an in-person pitch at 10:30 when the choir came back this fall, but let me remind people again about joining our choir. If anyone is interested in singing, it's best to just come talk to me or send me a text.

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 5:30 in the Hall. No experience is required, although it is helpful, and all ages (high school and up) and abilities are welcome.

We're prepping for Christmas, so we'll be adding rehearsals. We always have returning singers at Christmas, so if someone was interested in a one-shot Christmas Eve singing commitment, that's also a thing... so join the choir and bring joy to the world!



A Word about Votive Candles

In the rear of our church, opposite the Sanctuary and the High Altar, is the Trevor Chapel with its own, beautiful altar. To the right of this altar is a small bank of red candle holders. These are **votive candles.** They are a medieval devotional development that continue to be used in many liturgical churches today.



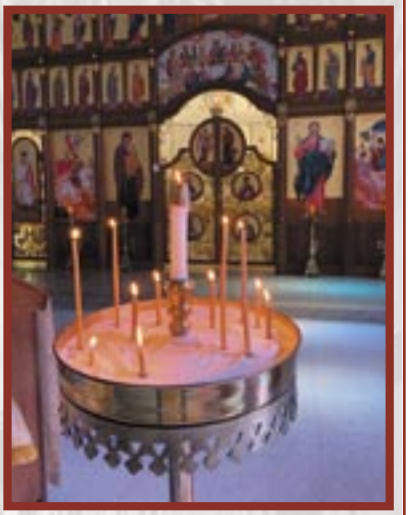
Votive candles at Westminster Abbey

According to author Patricia Klein, lighting a votive candle "represents continuing prayer, often for a special intention" (*Worship Without Words*, 166). The idea is that our prayer "arises" to heaven as the flame "arises" from the wick. Like the candle burns, our hearts burn with care for those for whom we pray. A votive candle represents our desire that our prayer be remembered before God's throne of grace.



Votive candles in the Trevor Chapel

In Anglican and Catholic contexts, they are usually white candles in small, glass containers. These containers can be of any color, but most often red or blue. In Eastern churches, they are usually long, thin, unbleached beeswax tapers that are set into a basin of sand.

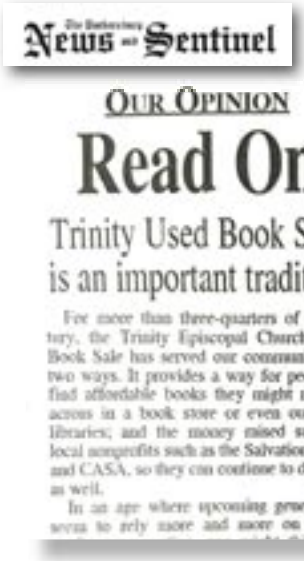


Votive candles in an Eastern Church

Votive candles are often placed on shelves or stands all together in front of an icon or statue of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, or one or more of the saints. In our Trevor Chapel, they are placed under the stained glass window of our Lord.

How does one "use" a votive candle? One simply lights a candle and stands quietly in prayer for your intention - perhaps for a sick loved one, or the meeting of some need. There is no magic to a votive candle, it is simply a way to connect something physical and symbolic to our internal prayers of intercession. As the flame flickers, we remember Jesus Christ, the "true light" (John 1.9), the "light of the world" (John 8.12), who is seated at the right hand of God the Father and "ever lives to make intercession" for us (Hebrews 7.25). In this way, we unite our own prayers to the eternal prayer of Christ to his Father.

Trinity Book Sale - Big News!



The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

OUR OPINION

Read On

Trinity Used Book Sale is an important tradition

For more than three-quarters of a century, the Trinity Episcopal Church Used Book Sale has served our communities in two ways. It provides a way for people to find affordable books they might not run across in a book store or even our local libraries; and the money raised supports local nonprofits such as the Salvation Army and CASA, so they can continue to do good as well.

In an age where upcoming generations seem to rely more and more on digital





Above: Erin Mackey on WTAP - TV talking about the book sale.



"The 2026 book sale ended this year with a combined profit of around $10,000. Many people attended and we tried a few different things such as lowering prices and a BOGO sale. We have not decided on the recipients of the donations but we always give to the Monday feeding program, CASA, the Humane Society and other programs that are not federally funded. New donations for 2027 begin in June!"







Not just a book sale - a lunch spot & gift shoppe!











Thanks!

Thanks for responding to the Thanksgiving Outreach Envelopes in October. By filling them with your generous contributions we will be able to provide many of our neighbors with their Thanksgiving dinners.

Dog Day Afternoon in the Park

Many of our canine companions turned out to meet Father Geoff at this year's annual Blessing of the Animals.
(October 3, 2026)









Thursday Bible Study's full table

Bree Fleming, Director of Religious Education, has a full table for her Thursday morning bible study class, but there's always room for one more. The class has wrapped up its study of Acts and has moved onto a short session on the prophet Malachi. Think about joining the group for Advent as it begins the New Church year with a study of Luke.



Xenia in Spain

Many of you have been asking about how Xenia Smykova is doing. As you know, our parish has committed to supporting her and before she left, we raised money for her support in a mission in Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Her plan had been to spend the summer working and getting her documents in order and then begin ministry with a church in Tenerife in the fall. Unfortunately, the work with the parish in Tenerife has fallen through because of issues with the church that was intended to receive her. At present, she is living and working in El Puerto de Santa Maria in southern Spain, while she discerns next steps for ministry. In the meantime, she is continuing to do Russian language ministry through her online presence and the monies raised for her mission support remain in an account to be distributed when the right ministry context opens up. In the meantime she wants us to forward her gratitude for all of your prayer and support for her relocation. She writes, "I genuinely feel supported by your prayers. Even with all the uncertainty of these past months, I have had a strong sense of God's hand guiding me, and I continue to trust that He is leading me purposefully." Please continue to keep Xenia and her vocation in your prayers!

QUIZ TIME
Test Your Knowledge

Tuned In ...

1.) What type of musical instrument did David play to soothe Saul?

2.) With what instrument in her hand did Miriam lead the women out to sing to the Lord when the Israelites had crossed the Red Sea?

3.) A shofar is a drum that was beaten to call troops to battle. True/False

4.) In Matthew's gospel Jesus sends some musicians away who were preparing to play for a little girl that they presumed had died. What instrument did they have to play?

5.) The Apostle Paul during his time in prison at Philippi sang hymns to the other prisoners one midnight along with a companion. Who was his accompanist?

6.) The famous hymn Amazing Grace was written by a former slave trader. What was his name?

Highlights from the October 2026 Vestry meeting:

+ The DRE plans to schedule an Advent wreathmaking workshop in late November or early December.

+ The Vestry approved hiring the Basement Doctor to correct the rainwater drainage problem in the Administration Building basement.

+ The kickoff of the 2027 Stewardship campaign is scheduled on November 7 and 8. There will be a "dessert before dinner" gathering after the 5:30 p.m. Saturday service and a catered brunch after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

+ The Rector commented on four upcoming special services –
  1. November 2, 6:00 p.m., All Souls Day Requiem
  2. November 21, 5:30 p.m., Choral Evensong
  3. November 25, 6:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Eve Service
  4. November 29, 5th Sunday combined weekend service (1st Sunday of Advent, Great Litany)

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

September 5,6: 16/11/51 (67)
September 12,13: 15/10/75 (100)
September 19,20: 14/12/64 (90)
September 26,27: 15/11/59 (85)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) – 4
Morning Prayer – (average) - 2

Holy Day Liturgies - (average) - 5

THRIVE SEPT

Total	67
New	12
Referred to case magmt.	0

Family Size

# in Family	# Served
1	29
2	14
3	10
4	8
5+	6

Utility Assistance

1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5+	0



ANSWERS

1. Harp
2. Timbrel (tambourine)
3. False (horn)
4. Flute (pipes)
5. Silas
6. John Newton

Lord make us an instrument of Your peace

PEACE

HOPE

CONSOLATION

PARDON

LIGHT

FAITH

UNDERSTANDING

JOY

LOVE



Trinity Episcopal Church

Stewardship & Outreach 2027

Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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Choral Evensong at Trinity

"Evensong" is a name given to the service of Evening Prayer when it is primarily sung. When it includes choral settings of the traditional canticles (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis), it is called "Choral Evensong" and it is a quintessential Anglican liturgical observance. Many churches in England have choral evensong weekly or even daily, the most famous of these being places like Westminster Abbey and King's College, Cambridge. It has been many years since we've celebrated Choral Evensong at Trinity, so we will have a reintroduction of this service on Saturday, November 21. This is the eve of the traditional Feast of St. Cecilia, a virgin martyr of Rome, martyred in the year 230 and the patron saint of musicians, especially church musicians. This will replace the 5:30 p.m. Eucharist for that week, but we hope that many who plan to come Sunday morning will also come for this beautiful service of prayer.

Saturday
November 21
5:30 p.m.