

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

Trinity's Choral Scholars Emma Deem, Zach Gaston, & Allison Miller



He who sings, prays twice.
St. Augustine

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Do you know the hymn, *How Can I Keep From Singing*? (Originally it was *My Life Flows On* - you may know it by that title.) I love it. It was written and composed in the 19th century by a man born in Philadelphia named Robert Lowry.*

I've told our music director, Marie Mallory, how much I love this hymn. (Marie does too, and every so often you will hear it sung at a Trinity service even though it is not in our Hymnal.) I fell in love with it after listening to it on an Enya CD -- a gift to my wife from a dear friend. I've played it a thousand times.

I've told Marie that at my funeral service program, I want a soloist to do it as a prelude. (If she can't get Enya to sing it, perhaps somebody in the Trinity choir could do it. There's plenty of talent in that group.)

One day many years ago I was driving down the highway with my daughter Frances riding shotgun, and I found myself singing along with my Enya CD ..."

No storm can shake my inmost calm

while to that Rock I'm clinging.

since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,

how can I keep from singing?

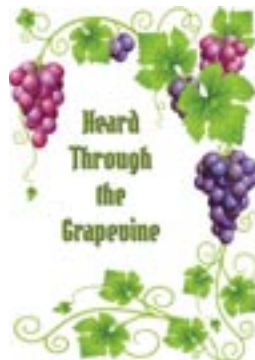
Frances interrupted my singing with a question, "Dad, who sings this song?"

I was excited to tell her, "Enya! ... an Irish vocalist ... Don't you love it?"

She responded, "Let's just let Enya sing it."

Well ... that's how Frances kept me from singing.

But don't worry, at Trinity with our music programs, no one will keep you from singing! Belt it out!



* Robert Lowry (1826-1899) was born into a Presbyterian family but became a Baptist Preacher in his late 20s after he had earned a degree from a school now known as Bucknell. Lowry professed to be a minister first but he became world famous for the hymns he composed. Perhaps his best known work is "Shall We Gather at the River."

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



*"Oh, how many torments lie
within the small circle
of a wedding ring."*

Colley Cibber (1671-1757)

First Lutheran Church's German Fest '26

First Lutheran Church's annual German Fest
Saturday, October 3, 11 am - 2 pm

German Bratwurst Meals (\$15) and Hot Dog Meals (\$5) will be available. A German band will perform on the lawn, pop-up tents and tables, church organ concert (12:30) and church building history talk (1:00).

Join our Lutheran siblings in celebrating the German ancestry of their church! For more information, call: 304-428-6174.



A note from Father Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As a parish, we are soon to enter our next “stewardship season,” the time of year when we reach out and ask you to discern how to support Trinity Church in the coming year. This involves thinking and praying not only about how much you can pledge financially to the parish, but also questions of participation in the life and mission of our beloved church.

A parish like Trinity requires a lot to keep it running smoothly, financially as well as in volunteer hours. We are deeply grateful for all those who give of their time, talent, and resources for the good of the parish.

A church is different from other forms of charitable giving. You might, for example, give to organizations that promote some social cause, the arts, or literacy. Giving to the church, however, is different, because you *are* the Church. The Church of Christ is not merely an organization; it is the primary means through which the Grace of God is proclaimed and provided to a world that is in need of a Savior. While it takes institutional forms - like a parish or diocese - the Church is not fundamentally an institution, but a *communion*, a fellowship, a participation in Christ.

You may ask, “how much should I give?” In the Hebrew Scriptures, the faithful were expected to give 1/10th (a “tithe”) of their income and 1/7th (a Sabbath) of their time to God. Although we have no requirement as such as a parish, these remain good ideals. Not everyone can give at this level and some can give much more than this.

However, God calls us not to give only a portion of what we have and keep the rest, as it were, to ourselves. Rather, God calls us to give all of our lives and livelihoods to him. This doesn’t mean giving away everything you have and entering religious life. It means that our time, our money, our resources, and our talents, *already belong to God*. It’s not as if we give a portion of our resources to the church, and then God isn’t concerned with what we do with the rest. Everything we are and everything we have is *a gift from God*, and we are called to be good stewards of those gifts, knowing that we will one day give an account of them.

As a parish, God has blessed us with many resources. Individually, God has given you stewardship of your time, your giftedness, and your financial resources. As members of the parish, let us pray about our giving and ask our generous Lord what he would have us do this coming year, for God’s glory and the building up of the Church!

*Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff*

Music Notes



Practice Makes Perfect!

To the left: an organist workshop run by Sol Rizzato - organist, technician, organ builder and clinician. Our Director of Music Marie Mallory to his right organized the event.

Below: Trinity's full house of instrumentalists & vocalists



Trinity Scholars, Emma, Zach & Allison



Quessa Brown & Lori Clark



Choir Practice - Robes Aside

A Question About Altar Candles

Question: If the right-hand altar candle is the “Epistle Candle” and left-hand altar candle is the “Gospel Candle,” why do we light the Epistle Candle first? Isn’t the Gospel more primary?

When I was a teenager, being trained to be an acolyte, our rector told me that, when lighting the candles on the altar, “You’re right if you’re right.” In other words, light the right-hand candle first, and then the left-hand candle.

Traditionally, the right side of the altar was called the “Epistle Side” and the left side of the altar was called the “Gospel Side.” This is because in the old medieval Low Mass (and still today in some parishes, both Catholic and Episcopal), the Epistle was read from one side and the Gospel from the other. The respective candles on either side of the altar came to be also associated with the Epistle and Gospel.



So the answer to why we light the Epistle side first and the Gospel side second is: “The Gospel never stands alone.” But this seems counterintuitive, since if *anything* could stand alone, one would think it would be the Gospel. I must confess, I didn’t have a definitive answer. So, I reached out to the Rev. Dr. Matthew Olver, Senior Lecturer in Liturgics at Nashotah House, the Episcopal seminary in Wisconsin known for its high liturgical practice.

Fr. Olver explained that the answer “is speculative. I don’t think the order of the lighting of candles was related to the Epistle and Gospel sides. As with many things that become normative or customary, a decision had to be made. A thing has to be done, and so a decision needs to be made about how. In the Western Mass, things generally happen beginning with the right (as opposed to the left)... A long-standing pattern is that practical actions are given a spiritual/symbolic interpretation at a latter point. These interpretations often have little to do with their historical origins.”

So, the short answer is: We don’t know for sure. But at least one expert holds that it probably wasn’t originally tied to the symbolism of the Gospel and Epistle, but developed that interpretation later.

NEXT MONTH: A Question about Votive Candles

If you have a question about church terminology, practice, or symbolism you would like addressed, please use the “Liturgical Question Box” in the rear of the Nave, or send your questions to our parish office. Father Geoff will be happy to answer them!



*Fort Boreman 5th Sunday
End of Summer Eucharist*





Trinity Bulletin Board



Diocesan Online Worship Services

Bishop Cowden has provided opportunities for us to share the daily offices with other members of Episcopal churches around the diocese at midday and evening. We welcome others to join us for these short services. Noonday begins at 12:05 on weekdays and Compline at 7:00 pm every day.

Noonday Zoom address:

894 9007 8519

passcode: 343 473

Compline-address: 813 3859 0479

passcode: 966 554

We hope people will avail themselves of this chance to meet and worship with our fellow Episcopalians

Trinity's Thanksgiving Tradition of Giving

For several years Trinity has provided food for Thanksgiving week for selected families from Jefferson Elementary. This food is a life line for these families while their children are out of school. The funds that make it possible for Trinity to do this comes from the envelopes provided at our worship service - that's YOU. Please be generous with your cash or check as we share our blessings with those less fortunate.



Pies, Pies, Pies, Pies & More Pies



If you're thinking about donating baked goods to the Treasure & Treats Gift Shoppe at the Trinity Book Sale, Jennifer Currey suggests pies would be greatly appreciated!

Trinity's Candid Camera



Getting by with a little help from our friends: Michael Dillon brings in a few volunteers from Novolex to help our crew of Monday feeding regulars!



Thanks to all who turned out on Sept's Work Saturday, especially Larry Nutter for his hedge trimming and Anne Deputy for her hardware adjustments. Also kudos to Craig Curry, Christina Hilton, Michael Dillon and Ken Currier for their help. Honorable mention goes to Bob Harris who did a deep dive into the basement. His archaeology report will be issued in a future edition of the Times.

Father Geoff blesses the wildlife at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge



Sad Endings

1. He was the first of Jesus' twelve disciples to die.
2. Who was the first disciple to be martyred when King Herod had him put to death by sword?
3. This disciple is credited with the evangelization of many in India where tradition of his martyrdom maintains he was stabbed by a spear.
4. This disciple travelled to Armenia as a missionary where he ended up converting King Polymius to Christianity. He ended up being flayed and beheaded.
5. The emperor Nero condemned this apostle to death by crucifixion. He asked to be hung upside down because he did not deem himself worthy to copy Christ's crucifixion.
6. This disciple's crucifixion by a Roman governor was executed on an x-shaped cross also so as not to copy Christ's crucifixion.

- + The Vestry approved the hiring of a maintenance coordinator who will work together with the Junior Warden. This will be a part-time position of not more than 15 hours a week. The coordinator will meet with contractors, obtain quotes, etc.
- + The Rector will be attending a Clergy Retreat in Charleston from October 4th p.m. through October 7th. He will be attending the College for Clergy in Wheeling from October 19th through October 20th.
- + On Saturday, November 21st, there will be a Choral Evensong service at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesday, November 25th, there will be a Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

August 1,2: 25/13/51 (89)

August 8,9: 11/8/46 (65)

August 15,16: 18/12/57 (87)

August 22,23: 19/9/71 (99)

August 29: 65 (One service & picnic)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) - 3

Morning Prayer - (average) - 2

Holy Day Liturgies - (average) - 2

**T
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Total	86
New	18
Referred to case magmt.	0

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	40
2	21
3	13
4	5
5+	7

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



ANSWERS

1. Judas (suicide)
2. James the Greater
3. Thomas
4. Bartholomew
5. Peter
6. Andrew



*Join Trinity Episcopal Church on our
Journey with Jesus.*



All are welcome as we work together to take care of our community!

October

"The purity of a person's heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals." - Fr. Ignace

All beings of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man.

God wants us to help animals. If they ever help

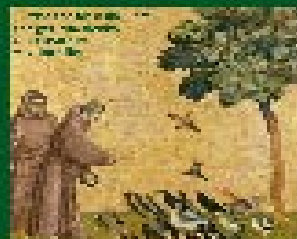
Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected.

St. Francis of Assisi

Celebrate the blessing of all the beautiful pets we are blessed to have in our lives.

They love without judgement, they comfort without expectations,

they accept who we are however we are. Only Jesus can offer a love more pure.



**The Feast
of St. Francis of Assisi**
Saturday, October 3
11:00 AM

St. Francis of Assisi is a saint who loved animals and was known for his gentle and loving nature. He is the patron saint of animals and the poor.

Photo by: [unreadable] - [unreadable] - [unreadable]

*Join Trinity Episcopal Church on
October 3, 2pm at City Park
where a blessing will be given for
all animals. If you are able, please
bring a donation for the local
animal shelters which will be
delivered in Nov in honor of
St. Martin de Porres the patron
saint of animal shelters.*

The collection for the shelter will be active all of October

"Love knows no species: it embraces all creatures with equal tenderness."

"Animals teach us patience and kindness, for they are the masters of unconditional love."

"Animals are not just pets; they are our teachers, guides, and healers."

"In the eyes of an animal, we see the universe of love they hold for us."

"To care for an animal is to cultivate a garden of empathy in our own souls."

"In the presence of animals, we learn the beauty of acceptance without judgment."



"For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi

*Open your heart to the animals in our community who need to know
they are not forgotten.*

All God's Creatures Animal Shelter Collection

Helping Hands Food & Clothing Ministry

Blessing Hugo *A dog who has been living with a heart condition and is now healthy*

Helping Hands Food & Clothing Ministry

Helping Hands Food & Clothing Ministry





Trinity Episcopal Church
430 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Please Deliver Promptly*

***Don't Miss It!
It's Back! ... The Trinity Book Sale!
October 7-10, 2026***

<i>Wed, Thu, Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>Food/Lunch</i>
<i>9 am - 6 pm</i>	<i>9 am-noon</i>	<i>Wed - Fri</i>

Check out our Treasures and Treats!!

