

The Trinity Times

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 430 JULIANA STREET - PARKERSBURG, WV 26101 - 304-422-3362 - TRINITYCHURCH.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

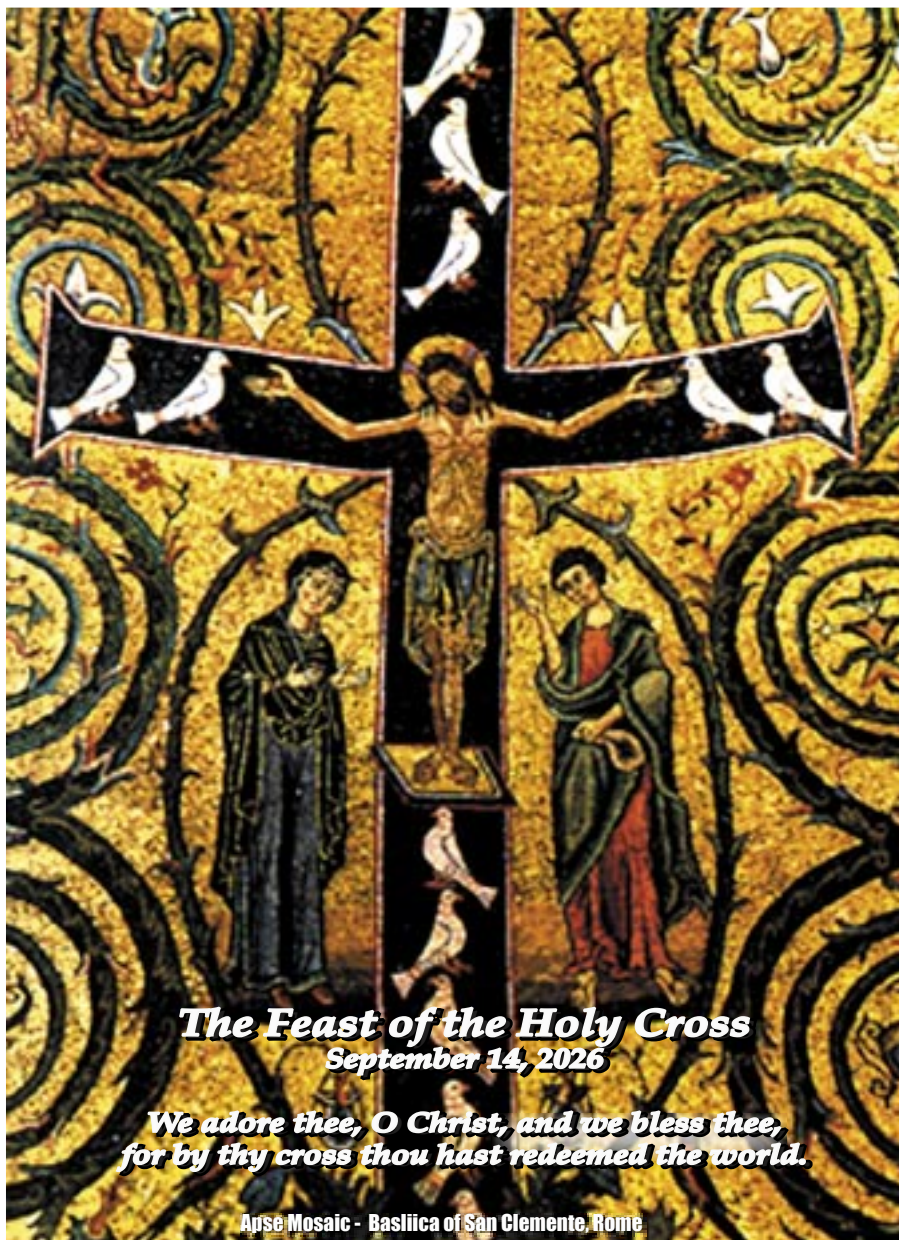
Paula Sellers

2027

Tim Northrup
Chad Mildren

2028

Denny Prather



The Feast of the Holy Cross
September 14, 2026

***We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
for by thy cross thou hast redeemed the world.***

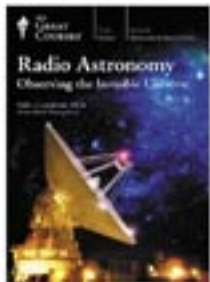
Apse Mosaic - Basilica of San Clemente, Rome

From Here to Eternity

September is my favorite month of the year. Not too hot, not too cold. The Goldilocks month for weather. What makes it so special for me is that this is the month that Blackwater Falls hosts an annual astronomy weekend. I have attended it for many years. It's a "can't miss" event on my calendar.

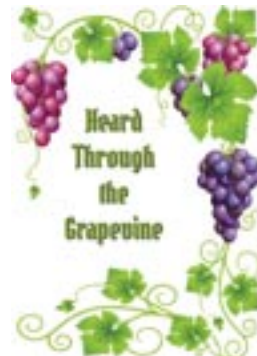
In the evening hours, geeks with telescopes gather under dark skies to be awestruck by the Milky Way, constellations of stars and the wandering planets above. During the daylight hours in the lodge we assemble to hear lectures from some internationally known astronomers.

One of my favorites among these speakers is Felix J. Lockman from the Green Bank Observatory. Jay drives up from Green Bank most years and his talks are always very engaging. He said something a few years ago that stuck with me. "Space is big; but time is even bigger."



It brings to mind an old anecdote I heard about eternity. Seems that there was a Catholic school nun who had grown weary of punishing a boy named Butch for his profane language. Finally, she threatened him - "Butch, if you keep using that foul language your soul is going to burn for all eternity ... and do you know how long eternity lasts?" When Butch replied no, she explained, "Imagine a moth that floats through space every century and brushes its silky wings against a diamond as big as the sun. When that moth has worn that diamond away, one second will have passed in eternity! What do think of that?" Butch who was never speechless answered, "D@#n Sister! That is one h#ll-uva moth!"

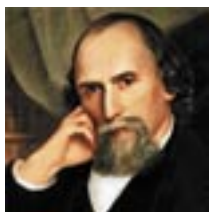
In my mind, poor Butch. Too easily impressed. What's a moth compared to all of God's creation. I will go to Blackwater Falls this month and wonder at God's creation - His time and His space. I will thank Him for sending His son to us that we may know Him and love Him ... and that it's for ever and not just a second in eternity.



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."

SWICKISMS



***"Work while you have the light.
You are responsible for the talent that
has been entrusted to you."***

Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)

Our Church Directory is Online!

You can now view our church directory online or through the FREE mobile app.

To access the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Then check your email and click on the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the Apple® App Store and the Google Play™ Store. Just search for "Instant Church Directory" to download.

Important: Your email address must be listed in the directory before you can log in.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact Tim Northrup - 304-483-6280



Our Church Directory is powered by Instant Church Directory.

A note from Father Geoff



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

C.S. Lewis once wrote a book called *Mere Christianity*. It's a good book as far as it goes, and I recommend it. But in reality, there is no such thing as a "mere Christian," without an adjective. Every Christian is following Jesus in one context or another. Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Mennonite, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denom, and the list goes on. We who gather regularly at Trinity Church -- what is it that makes *us* who we are?

With all of those listed above, we are, at the most basic level, Christians: those who are trying to follow Christ and who recognize him as Savior, Lord, Messiah, and the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. With most Christians over time, we share the same basic faith summed up in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

Specifically, we are *Episcopal* Christians. The word "episcopal" indicates that we have a governing structure that includes the authority of bishops (episkopos in Greek). This we share with some other churches, such as the Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Orthodox, and Methodists. Like our Catholic and Orthodox siblings, our bishops are in *Apostolic Succession*; that is, they stand in a line of succession going back to apostolic times and Jesus' first disciples. The Episcopal Church is also a member of the worldwide *Anglican Communion*, a fellowship of churches who trace their heritage to the Church of England which gained its autonomy during the 16th century. Among Reformation-era churches, Anglicans are unique in having kept many Catholic practices and institutions. So what makes us different from other Christians?

The most succinct way of putting it is that "Anglican" refers to a person or a church that is "in communion (i.e. full fellowship) with" the Church of England. The Episcopal Church is the Anglican Church in the United States as well as Taiwan and a few other nations in Latin America. But that's just Church structure and organization. Recently, some Episcopal theologians* summarized the Anglican approach it this way:

We see our Anglican identity as informed by:

- *the Bible as the living and authoritative Word of God,*
- *passed on to us by the Apostolic Tradition to which we are gratefully accountable,*
- *and bearing fruit in Personal Conversion to a new and transformed life in Christ Jesus and His likeness.*

Continued on next page

* Ephraim Radner & George Sumner, *The Hope in Us: A Catechism for World Anglicans*

- *This life is lived in Communion with other Christians, and in the fellowship of other churches in common prayer, sacraments, orders of ministry, and in common service and witness to the world,*
- *and we believe this life is faithfully formed by the Book of Common Prayer and its biblical character. These prayers articulate the life and teaching that shapes the Christian faith we share.*

I find this way of explaining our faith helpful. It is **Biblical**, but without ignoring 2,000 years of faithful tradition. It is **Traditional**, but the traditions are in the service of a vibrant faith, a relationship with Jesus. It is **Transformative**, each faithful Christian growing in grace and the knowledge and love of Jesus. It is **Communal**, and this community seeks to worship, fellowship, and serve together for the good of the whole world.

We are the recipients of a rich and varied heritage. That doesn't mean we can't learn and "borrow" from Christians on other paths. And it doesn't make us superior to others. It means we stand in a particular tradition, a context of history and experience. And the many gifts we have received are not ours to keep like a hoarded treasure, but to share with others! I sincerely believe that our unique way of being Christian has enormous potential for the world around us: a traditional faith that is at the same time open and receptive has a great opportunity to bring many into the fellowship of the family of God. So, let's keep the faith... and share it, too!

*Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff*



Autumn At Peterkin

OCT
2-4

Peterkin Homecoming
Friday: 3:00pm-Sunday: 11:00am

OCT
9-11

Men's Retreat
Friday: 5:00pm-Sunday: 1:00pm

OCT
23-25

Fall Work Weekend
Friday: 3:00pm-Sunday: 11:00am

Peterkin Camp & Conference Center is a ministry of our Diocese and a place of pilgrimage for West Virginians.

For more details and updates about events at Peterkin, please visit the peterkin.org and follow their social media!



The Liturgical Question Box: What is That?

In liturgical churches like ours, there is a lot of *stuff*. As you look around the church building, you may see all sorts of things made of precious metals or you may see the clergy handling different objects. These all have purposes and names, and many of them have been used for many centuries! Here are some of the liturgical objects used here at Trinity Church.



To the right of the Altar is a wooden shelf. This is called the **Credence Table**. This is the where the bread, wine, and other necessary elements for the Communion Rite are placed before the liturgy. An acolyte or other minister usually assists the priest (or deacon, if there is one) in setting the altar, by bringing him or her items from the Credence Table.

Set into the wall to the right of the Altar is a brass door which, when opened, reveals a small, lined box. This small cabinet is the **Ambry**. (Sometimes it is called the Tabernacle, though technically speaking a Tabernacle is a free-standing cabinet on the center of an altar - but they serve the same purpose.) The Ambry holds consecrated eucharistic elements which can then used to take Communion to the sick or shut-in, or be used if the bread or wine consecrated at the liturgy run out. Whenever the Ambry holds consecrated Bread or Wine, a candle (called the **Sanctuary Lamp**) is lighted. This lets the faithful know that the Jesus is sacramentally present.



An **Aspergillum** (from the Latin *aspergere*, “to sprinkle”) is a tool used by the clergy for sprinkling Holy Water, used in blessings and to remind us of our Baptism. It is sometimes in the form of a perforated metal ball on a handle. The aspergillum that Fr. Geoff usually uses is a brush.



The **Thurible** (or censor) is a metal incense burner, hanging from a chain or chains. This is used at various points in solemn liturgies. It is used infrequently in most Western Churches, reserved for Principal Feasts or high Holy Days. The word “thurible” comes from the Latin *thuribulum*, which in turn comes from *thus*, meaning “incense.” In the Old Testament, Moses was commanded by God to set up an altar for offering incense (Ex. 30). Incense (frankincense) was one of the gifts of the Wise Men to the Holy Child (Matt. 2). Revelation shows us that incense is used in heavenly worship (Rev. 5.8) which symbolizes our prayers rising to God (Rev. 8.3-4).



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!

Stewardship Corner

A Few Words Beyond the Posters

Anne Deputy, Stewardship Chairman

Every month for this past stewardship season we had a blessing for something appropriate to the month as well as an outreach event. Our Trinity family has always been very generous with their treasure and did not disappoint even with the new outreach additions. Thank you to all those who participated in those blessings and the events that were part of each months' outreach.

As we get ready for the next stewardship and outreach season, we would really like to know what stewardship means to you. Is there something you would like to see more of? What makes you proud to be a member of Trinity? What gets you excited or would get you excited to participate in a Trinity event or community project? What sparks your willingness to give your time, talents, treasure?

There is a box in the back of the church, the library and Trinity Hall along with paper and pens. Please take a moment to share your thoughts with us. Help us to make stewardship at Trinity a way of life not just things that happen.

*We appreciate you all. With love and thanks,
The Stewardship & Outreach Committee*



AUGUST INS & OUTS

Knitters
Meet
Monthly
in the
Conference
Room



*First Lutheran guys
hosting August's monthly
men's breakfast*



*Half-Marathon
Runners passing
by Trinity*



Peterkin & Religious Education at Trinity



Bree Fleming - Trinity DRE

Bree's Summer - a Strong Summer's Breeze!

Our Diocesan summer camps at Peterkin this year were a great success! Despite the occasional weather hazard, we had plenty of fun in the sun, from hiking out in God's creation to playing games in the pool. The camp theme, *Thanks Be to God*, explored Biblical stories where the character of God was revealed and gave us opportunities to reflect on times in our own lives where God has been present for us in important ways. We had several campers who returned from

last year, as well as many new campers, particularly at Junior and MAD Camp.

We also had a large class of Graduating Seniors at Senior Camp, who are getting ready to take their next steps out into the world. There were some campers from our Parkersburg community, as well as several folks who served as Program Leaders and Counselors. The Peterkin staff would like to express our thanks to all of our folks at Trinity who prayed for us, donated your time and money, and supported summer camp in other ways!



Sunday School at Trinity is available weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. We gather on the upper floor of the Education Building for a snack and lesson, followed by a game and a craft. We also occasionally take field trips around the church for special lessons and have holiday events for occasions like All Saints Day or Easter. All children and youth are welcome to participate in our multi-age program. Grownups of participating children are also welcome to stay and participate as well.



Thursday School at Trinity (for adults) is available weekly on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The class has almost finished its study of the Acts of the Apostles. Stay tuned for future bible studies.



Biblically Relative

1. Moses had only one brother. What was his name?

2. Moses also had only one sister. What was her name?

3. Joseph had ten half-brothers but only one full brother (*brother with the same mother-Rachel*). What was his name?

4. Joseph's father, Jacob, had a twin brother. What was his name?

5. Rachel had a sister who had six sons and a daughter by Jacob. What was her name? (*Bonus point for the daughter's name.*)

6. Two of Jesus' disciples were sons of Zebedee. What were the names of these two brothers?

?? ??

Highlights from the August 2026 Vestry meeting:

- + The Rector discussed several capital projects that need to be addressed and proposed that a Capital Projects committee be formed. The projects include:
 - (1) Stained Glass Windows
 - (2) Building Security
 - (3) Trinity Hall Renovation
 - (4) A/V for streaming services
 - (5) Accessibility issues.
- + The Vestry approved the purchase of computer and scanning equipment so that archival materials can be digitized.
- + A Workday has been scheduled for September 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- + There are several Building & Grounds projects that need to be addressed:
 - (1) Handicapped ramp to conference room needs painted
 - (2) Sandstone exterior of church needs inspected
 - (3) Door to basement in Columbarium needs repaired.

Attendance: Trinity by the Numbers

Weekend Liturgies

5:30/8:00/10:30

July 4,5: 9/14/35 (58)
 July 11,12: 14/12/48 (74)
 July 18,19: 23/8/56 (87)
 July 25,26: 16/15/69 (100)

Wednesday Liturgies (average) – 5
 Morning Prayer – (average) - 2

Holy Day Liturgies - (average) - 2

**T
H
R
I
V
E

J
U
L
Y**

Total	86
New	19
Referred to case magmt.	1

Family Size	
# in Family	# Served
1	43
2	23
3	9
4	5
5+	7

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



ANSWERS

1. Aaron
2. Miriam
3. Benjamin
4. Esau
5. Leah (*Daughter Dinah*)
6. James and John

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

September

"In everything set them an example by doing what is good.
In your teaching show integrity, seriousness." - Titus 2:7

School has started, and although many groups have provided many kids with backpacks filled with school supplies, the teachers still buy many items they need with their own money. Let's change that!

"A teacher's greatest lesson isn't found in the curriculum—it's found in the way they make students believe they matter."
"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." - Proverbs 22:6
"If you can read this, thank a teacher." - American proverb.
"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds." - Unknown.



Supporting our teachers and schools is so important.
We will be collecting items the TEACHERS need.
These items will be blessed on September 27 at the 10:30am service
and delivered the following week.



Celebrate the amazing wildlife we are blessed to have in this area.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky,
and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea
inform you." - Job 12:7-9

"Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky.
He brought them to the man to see what he would name them;
and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name." - Genesis 2:19

"How many are Your works, LORD!

In wisdom, You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures." - Psalm 104:24



Join Trinity Episcopal Church
on September 12, 1pm at the
Ohio River Wildlife Refuge where a
blessing will be given for all
wildlife. If you are able, please
bring a donation for the Refuge.
After the Blessing take a moment to
watch the birds at their feeders and
look at the exhibits to see the
amazing work that the Refuge is
doing.

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember
the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Open your heart to those in need & help them see that Jesus walks among them

Blessing Bags make &/or take a few Blessing Bags to give out to those in need on the roads

Helping Hands Food & Clothing Ministry

All God's Creatures Animal Shelter Collection

non-perishable foods, socks, gloves or cash
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*

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

WHO?
Trinity Church and Friends

WHAT?
Lunch and an Outing along the Ohio River

WHERE?
DaVinci's for Lunch -
(215 Highland Ave., Williamstown)
then to
the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge
(3982 Waverly Road, Williamstown)

WHEN?
September 12 -- 11:15 a.m. (lunch) -- 1 p.m. (refuge)

WHY?
To Support the Refuge, Bless and Thank God for the Wildlife There

