



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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January/February 2025

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

Musings from the priest's computer..... January 2025

Dear friends in Christ:

2025 will have dawned by the time you read this. It is always exciting to begin a new year. And 2025 will, no doubt, be an exciting year for us!

Planning will begin soon for the celebration of Trinity's 200th anniversary in 2027. Committees will be formed focusing on the history of the church building, the congregation, the furnishings, and the organ. From the beginning, outreach and participation in the local communities were important, as they are today, and those too will be highlighted. Events to draw folks into our beautiful space will need to be planned and announced. Special liturgical events requiring participation in development and implementation will also engage us. If you are interested in any specific area, see a vestry member. Details will follow after the annual meeting.

As we roll into the planning for the anniversary celebration, we are also mindful of the liturgical seasons to come in 2025. Lent begins on March 5 with liturgies detailing the imposition of Ashes, both within the church buildings, but also outside among others in various community locations for Ashes in a Flash. This vital ministry brings reminders of Trinity's link to those with other church homes, but also those seeking a connection without a formal church membership. Speak with me if you are called to assist in this ministerial outreach.

A new, national, secular administration will be formed in a few weeks. Pray for the people of the United States and the elected leaders. We are blessed to live in America, and, like every other part of our lives, we strive to improve ourselves, and the lives of those who live and work here. We still recognize that all things come from God, and we pray for God's grace and goodness to be showered on all Americans, and all inhabitants of this beautiful planet.

The poem to the left considers what may or may not come to us in 2025. We are assured always that God is with us, as we traverse the days, weeks and months of 2025. May the Grace and Peace of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Brother, be known to you daily.

With Brotherly love,

Kurt+

Trinity Church's Mission Statement

"Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ"

Vision Statement

"Honoring the past as we build a strong foundation for the future, while sharing our Christian faith through service to the community."



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 9, 2025, we will have our Souper Bowl Soup Sale. The homemade soups from our great cooks will be the perfect meal for a cold winter day. Containers will be available for you to take home, fill and return for the sale. The cost of the soup will be pints \$5.00 and quarts \$10.00.

Clothesline-of-Love

The Clothesline-of-Love season has arrived. The line was put up on Sunday, December 1, and will remain up until Ash Wednesday. Please keep your donations coming. Thank you. And the citizens of Pottsville thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Barnwell.



Advent Project

Thank you to all who so generously donated items for the Nursing Home Project. In collaboration with North Parish, we were able to fill 100 bags and deliver them to Ridgeview Nursing Home in Shenandoah where the need was determined to be the greatest.

Thinking ahead to 2025- if you happen to see travel-size items during the year, please donate them at any time and we will store them at the church in anticipation of the 2025 project. Please NO body wash or soaps. The nursing homes do not want them. Thank you again and God bless you all for making this so successful.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, during the 9 am service. Reports and the 2025 Budget will be sent by email for review before the meeting. Please call Kristy in the office if you would like a copy mailed to you or you can request to pick one up in the office.



Vestry Nominees And 2024 Reports

Biographies for Vestry nominees and Committee Reports are due in the office by January 9, 2025. Kristy will then be able to have the Annual Report available for review by January 20.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is held on the second Sunday of each month. We invite a family or individual to sign up to bring a treat to share for fellowship after the service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway behind the altar. Individuals or families are needed for February 9 and May 11. Pentecost is June 8.



Altar Guild

Volunteers are needed for the Altar Guild. As with the Counters, we have very few volunteers. Setting up for a Eucharistic service is easy to learn and only takes about 15-20 minutes of setup at the end of each week. On Sundays after the service, guild members clean up and put the consecrated elements in the tabernacle when necessary. If you are interested, please see Karen Portland or Cora Gamelin-Osenbach.

Prayer List

We are in the process of renewing our prayer list. All names will be removed and If you would like someone included in that list, please call the office at 570-622-8720 and let Kristy know.





THE MUSIC CORNER by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

What a glorious way to get in the joyous holiday spirit! The organ concert and carol sing-a-long on December 15 was fantastic. Many thanks to Allen Artz for sharing his incredible talent and raising funds for Trinity. The concert netted \$800 for our fund raiser.

We are grateful for Father Michael Molina from Trinity Easton celebrating the birth of Christ with us on Christmas Eve. A beautiful service with the chime choir led by Lea Bortner, piano solos from Teagan and Elliot Wehr and a vocal duet by Lea and Timothy Bortner. And as always the anticipated procession by the Church School children to the crèche. May the Light of Christ be with us each and every day.



Trinity's 200th Anniversary

In 2027 we will be celebrating our parish's 200th anniversary! It seems like a long way off, but it will be here sooner than we think. A committee needs to be formed to discuss possible events for this momentous celebration. A liaison with the Historical Society should be part of this. If you or any friends of Trinity are interested in serving on a committee or have any ideas for events, please speak to any member of the

Vestry to begin this process. Many thanks!



Thank you!

Thank you to the chime players for sharing their time and talent in presenting a portion of the Christmas Eve prelude. Members included: Teagan Wehr, Elliot Wehr, Samantha Simatos, Tracy Frederick, Maegan Frederick, Delaney Burns, Dawn Burns and Tim Bortner. Also, thanks to Pam Foley who was a substitute

for Sunday morning practice.

Christmas Service at Trinity





TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Christmas Flowers adoring Trinity Church have been given to the Glory of God by:

June & Robert Bednar in Memory of J. Stewart & Phenie Rowlands, James S. Rowlands, Eleanor Roth, William Angelo, Nicholas & Anna Bednar, and in Thanksgiving for Josh Secoges and Nick DelConte, Grandsons

Nanci & Jeff Billie in Memory of Jack & Nancy Reigle, Mary & George Billie

Lea Bortner in Thanksgiving for Our Chime Players Elliot Wehr, Teagan Wehr, Gianna Bagley, Dawn Burns, Delaney Burns, Samantha Simatos, Tracy Frederick, Maegan Frederick, Tim Bortner

The Curtis Family in Memory of Jack Curtis, Marlin & Martha Hain, William & Susan Starr, and in Thanksgiving for the Bowler, Burns, Curtis Families and Our Trinity Family

Steve, Lisa, Mikey, Ricky, Tina & Juliette Ferguson in Memory of Russell A. Frantz

Carol Field in Memory of George & Emmeline Stone, George Stone III, William Stone, Allen Brennan & Jerry Field, and in Thanksgiving for Eric Stone & Family, Heather Procacci & Family, Peggy Moser and Nancy Miernicki

Patrick & Sandra Moore in Memory of Kathryn Moore, Adeline Flail, A.J. & Baby Laine Marie Kominsky.

Franklin & Cora Osenbach in Thanksgiving for Nate, Jessica & Quinn, and Frank's continued recovery.

Kathy Polcrack in Memory of Carl & Kay Coller and Betty Lee Gibson.

Albert & Karen Portland in Memory of Bertha & Emmett Miller, Mildred & Francis J. Portland, & Francis M. Portland and in Thanksgiving for our Family, and Annabelle, Duncan, Elliot MacLea & Emmett Portland.

The Simatos Family in Memory of Olive & Sally Simatos, Nancy & Jack Reigle, The Johns' Family, the Jones Family, the Steidle Family, and the Novicenskie Family.

Joseph & Leigh Ann Siminitus & Family in Memory of Harry & Jean Ebling, David Frey, Stanley W. & Anna Siminitus and Stanley R. Siminitus.

James & Sandra Snyder in Memory of Jean, Charles & Toby Bedford, Frank & Grace Snyder, C.J. Snyder, and in Thanksgiving for Tim Synder and Lily & Evan Leymeister.

Marria Walsh in Memory of Basil Walsh, III and The O'Malley Family

The Wehr Family in Memory of Mary Jane Wehr and in Thanksgiving for our Trinity Church Family

Jim & Barb Tokarz in Memory of Edmund Florence Perry, Adam & Mary Tokarz, and Katherine Reese

Bill & Darlene Bowler in Memory of Marlin & Martha Hain, Bill & Frances Engleman, Shoemaker Family, Ernst Family. Jack Curtis, Jean Nice, Nublock Family, Merrick Family, Walter Noel, Ed Harris, Lawrence Tobin, James Bowler & Family, Kay Washuta, Minna Hutchinson, Elmer and Susan Starr. And in Thanksgiving for Curtis, & Burns Families, Trinity Episcopal Church Family & Fr. Kurt.

In Gratitude for all the Blessings of this life by Rev. Dr. Kurt K. Kovalovich

Pamela & Jim Foley in Memory of Betty Foley, Hattie Martin, Carl Martin, & Donna Marie Martin

Howard Mitchell Jr. in Memory of Justina & Howard Mitchell, Catherine Devlin Mitchell, and James Rowbottom

June Reedy in Memory of John & Madelin Achenbach, Harvey Reedy and Nathan Reedy

Edith Y. Khayatt in Memory of F. Dohrman & Edith Yuengling

John Pritiskutch in Memory of Michael & Elizabeth Pritiskutch

Edna Rauco & Family in memory of Mark, Irene & Tony Rauco, George W. & Shirley Barlow, George C. Barlow, Joseph Zagrosky and in Thanksgiving for AJ & Joey Rauco, Nick Lewars, and Ethan & Jake Doyle

The Flowers Adorning the Baptismal Font are given by Evelyn Bacon Barnwell & Family in Memory of Lilly Bacon Allen, Fred, Ann, Marion & Waverly Bacon Jr., Paul B. Barnwell Sr., Paul B. Barnwell Jr., Alma S. Barnwell

The Flowers Adorning the High Altar are given in Loving Memory of Russ Frantz by his wife Anne, daughter Lisa & Family and son, Rusell & Family

The Bread & Wine Offering for December is given in Loving Memory of Charles Buehler, Harold & Malba Nicholas, and Elizabeth Strohecker by Wife, mother & daughter, Nancy Buehler.

News from Marion C. Price Trust Fund

Happy New Year! My wish for all of you this year is for health and happiness in 2025. WOW, 2025!! It has been 25 years since we “partied like it’s 1999” and waited anxiously to see what happened in the world as we started the year 2000. I remember people predicting the end of the world and all computers crashing as we turned from 1999 to 2000. As we all know, none of that happened and the world moved on.

This past year has been good to me. My son graduated from Penn State and accepted a job in Florida. We moved him down in July and although I miss him, he’s excited about his job and adjusting well. My husband and I also have a warm place to visit in the winter. My daughter is still attending college at Penn State Hazleton and doing well. She spent the three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas doing her clinical work in physical therapy at a local nursing home in Mt. Carmel. Although she enjoyed the clinical aspect, she had an awakening to the loneliness and sadness of some of these nursing home residents.

Trinity began an Advent project two years ago to support our local nursing home residents. Cora Gamelin-Osenbach stopped in my office one day after reading an article on how little the nursing home residents were supplied in the way of toiletries. The items they did receive were often generic, non-smelling items and cheap one-ply tissues. She asked what I thought about collecting some items to donate to those residents in need. This became Trinity’s Advent project. In 2023, sixty bags were filled and delivered to Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

In 2024, the project was expanded to include the other Episcopal Churches in Schuylkill County. Due to the increase in donations, one hundred bags were filled and delivered to Ridgeview Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Shenandoah. In deciding where the bags will go, the Schuylkill County Ombudsman is contacted to find out which facility has the greatest need. I was not there to see the residents’ faces when they received those bags, but I can imagine the joy they felt by not being forgotten at Christmas. I would like to thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for making those residents feel loved. Thank you to those who organized, sorted and packed the items, assisted in delivery and especially to everyone who donated.

I visit the nursing homes of Schuylkill County and I enjoy saying hello, smiling or chatting to lonely residents. If you are ever looking for something to do try visiting a nursing home. Some of the people there just need a friend to talk to. By visiting, you can provide brightness to their day, relief from loneliness, and make them feel special. The joy you feel in your heart after visiting may be greater than the joy you give.

Donations as well as visits are welcome anytime at nursing homes. A local facility posted on Facebook, looking for Christmas decoration donations, so residents could decorate their rooms. I’m sure this would work for any holiday, so next time you want to downsize your decorations, consider donating to a local nursing home. If you have costume jewelry you no longer want, or gifts you receive that are just not your style, consider donating them to be used for BINGO prizes at a nursing facility. Please consider donating your time, talents or gifts this year to our elderly population.

“Everyone can experience the joy and blessing of generosity; because everyone has something to give”

Jan Grace



Charles Baber Preservation Trust

Sounding Out the New Year

by C. Field - Jan.-Feb 2025

Last year was a transition year with outsourcing the lawn mowing and leaf blowing. We had many setbacks with numerous and costly tree damage. We also accomplished a lot with electricity to the storage barn, fencing and a gate at 16th Street, security cameras on the chapel and the barn, 4 new paved sections of road, and late in December, the repairs to the barn's foundation, and the creation of better drainage behind the barn. And we hired a new part-time person, Bill Smith. Bill had many duties to learn, like probing for burials, measuring the plot layouts, efficiency in cleaning the gutters after heavy rains, leaf blowing the Market Street sidewalk without annoying the neighbors about the dirt on their parked car, weeding and replenishing the mulch at the chapel and the Scatter Garden, and picking up an endless supply of many broken branches. Bill is a gem and we hope he remains with us for many years to come.

We are so very grateful to our plot holders, board members, church parishioners, and friends of the cemetery who helped us financially with the cleanup expense of the trees, the purchase of the gate and fencing, the purchase of the security camera, the repaving of the road sections, the repairing of the barn foundation, the payment of two outstanding oil burner repairs bills for the chapel, and the hooking up of electricity to the barn. We are also grateful to the volunteers who replaced all the veteran's flags. Impose ashes on Ash Wednesday, help with Arbor Day, and help with the many tasks required for the success of Baber Day. We are especially grateful to Fr. Kurt Kovalovich who must rearrange his schedule for the Arbor Day tree blessing, for Baber Day, for the new Veteran's Day 5PM service, and for getting up early on Easter morning for the 6AM sunrise service. And we have one board member volunteer, Joe Orlowsky, who is indispensable. We lost count of how many pickup trucks loads of broken branches he took to the City compost pile throughout the year. And when we had so much tree damage, he was always there putting up sawhorses to block the roads after tree damage or cutting smaller branches with his handheld saw. He is the one who calls the city repeatedly to pick up all the stacked leaves along the roads. And he is the one with the pickup truck who runs to get diesel for the Kubota. He plants the Arbor Day trees and then nurses them for their first three years, especially in pruning the lower limbs. He and Frank Snyder hold the first event of each season, with a February tree pruning class. And he is the one who started our first official Veteran's Day celebration.

January and February are busy paperwork, ground letters, and newsletter months. The ground maintenance request letter generates \$20,000 in donations and is sent to parishioners, plot owners, dog walkers, people wanting family burial research done, and friends of the cemetery. Interestingly, the majority of the contributions are from plot owners from as far away as TX, CA, SC, GA, and FL. This is followed with thank you letters or notes to each contributor, and a mailing of our annual newsletter. The newsletter is an informational piece that also contains our Arbor Day sponsorship page to pay for damaged tree cleanup.

The cemetery Topic insert you are reading is condensed for the year into a three-page insert and then included in the thank you letters sent to out-of-town and out-of-state contributors who respond to the annual ground maintenance request letter. To most church parishioners who live locally and who can visit the cemetery firsthand, these articles may be mundane or repetitious. The intent is to be informative and interesting. If you have an opinion or suggestions about these articles, feel free to share them with me when you see me at church.



If A Tree Could Talk

by C. Field - Jan.-Feb 2025

It was not until we had damage to a 120-year-old white oak and a 95-year-old red oak that will require their cutting and removal, that we realized the value these gentle giants gave to the cemetery. Not only are they massive with long outstretched limbs and responsible for cleaning and purifying the air, and entertaining us as they changed through the seasons, but think of their history. They would have seen so many changes through their 120 years. They may have been planted as young saplings in the late 1800s when Pottsville was growing into a coal mining town. The roads were dirt roads with some wooden planks serving as sidewalks. The borough of Pottsville had not developed passed 12th Street, then called Woods Street. They would have seen horses and buggies as the primary mode of transportation, which expanded into horse-drawn trolley cars that ran behind the cemetery to Minersville. They would have seen coal and timber hauled on canal boats navigating down the Schuylkill River.

By the 1900s they would have seen massive growth and industrial development. The 12th Street Silk Mill would have infringed on their backyard. They would have seen rails for the trolley running down Market Street, and wooden sidewalks giving way to slate sidewalks and across the street, the sidewalks would eventually be made of cement. They would have seen the horse and buggy give way to the automobile. They would have seen massive industrial production in the garment and shoe industry. The buildings had changed from wooden log cabins and shanties to brick, stucco, and concrete homes with many rooms and eventually electricity and indoor plumbing, and a functional entrance for bread, milk and grocery deliveries. They would have seen the high school being built behind them on 16th Street, and they would have endured 25 acres of their land taken from them to make way for the Middle School and its large parking lot.

The very large water reservoir on the property sometimes called a “lake”, would have seen the change in people, dress attire, and customs as the environment changed from family picnics on Sunday. Every business closed on Sunday, for occasional visits and picnics because people now had cars and could travel farther. Eventually, sadly, the large reservoir was mandated to be filled in because its water flooded the city’s sewer and water system.

Imagine the laugh and perhaps the delight that they had as women’s dress attire changed from long dresses, binding corsets and large hats to short skirts, and eventually on some women, short shorts or tight jeans and revealing blouses. They were even around to see that women were finally granted the right to vote, and could hold meaningful jobs beyond being a secretary, a housewife, a sewing machine operator, a nurse or a schoolteacher.

And with sadness think of the many people buried at the cemetery. They are from all walks of life. There were many infant deaths and deaths that are now preventable because of the progress and development of drugs, medicines, and vaccines. Think of the coal miners who died not only from black lung but from mine collapses and fires. Think of the many young men buried there or memorialized on a Veteran’s marker who lost their lives in the many wars that America was destined to fight.

It is with sadness that soon we will say goodbye to the one white oak and one red oak that have aged so gracefully but are now hallow images of themselves. For safety reasons, they must be removed. But the bright note is that they will be replaced with a similar species at an Arbor Day tree planting and sponsorship event.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1ST- OFFICE CLOSED
NO HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JAN. 5TH- 9 AM SERVICE, CHRISTMAS II
- MONDAY, JAN. 6TH-EPIPHANY
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8TH- 12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, JAN. 9TH- DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS
VESTRY BIOS DUE
- SUNDAY, JAN 12TH- 9AM SERVICE, BAPTISM OF CHRIST
BAPTISM OF NORA BARREIRO,
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING
- WEDNESDAY, JAN 15TH- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JAN. 19TH- 9AM SERVICE
- MONDAY, JAN 20TH- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY-
OFFICE CLOSED
- WEDNESDAY, JAN 22ND- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JAN. 26TH- 9 AM SERVICE-ANNUAL MEETING
ORGANIZATIONAL VESTRY MEETING
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29TH- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE

FEBRUARY

- SUNDAY, FEB. 2ND- 9AM SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5TH- 12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, FEB. 9TH- 9 AM SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12TH-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, FEB. 16TH- 9 AM SERVICE
- MONDAY, FEB. 17TH-PRESIDENT'S DAY-
OFFICE CLOSED
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19TH-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, FEB. 23RD- 9AM SERVICE
10:30 AM VESTRY MEETING
- SUNDAY, FEB. 26TH- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE

MARCH

- SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND- 9AM SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH- ASH WEDNESDAY-
SERVICE TBD
- SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH- CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD
9AM SERVICE-LENT I

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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**Deadline
For
March/April "Topics"
Friday, Feb. 14, 2025**



January

2 - Samantha Simatos
4 - Carla Kauffman
7 - Courtney Rauco-Lewars, Margie Keyworth,
Wanda Dodds
8 - Herbert Harris, Jr.
9 - Elizabeth Cirelli
16 - Daniel Hopkins
18 - James Snyder
22 - Tim Bortner
23 - Hank Beaver
26 - Karen Portland
27 - Cody Lewars
30 - Al Portland

February

1 - Phyllis Moehrle
4 - Kathy Polcrack, Elise Scott
8 - Norm Kauffman
10 - Shelby Hostetter
16 - Brent Burns
20 - Erin Banonis
23 - Patricia Brennan
24 - Sara Wehr
25 - John Fehr, Laura Weiner, Deliliah Howells
29 - Cassie Kauffman Holm