



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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July/August 2023

Musings from the priest's computer....

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: Ecclesiastes 3:1

It seems I was purchasing ice melt for the walkways just yesterday, and now, I was looking to bring home a bag of Miracle Grow-Enhanced Potting Soil. I unrolled my Green Stole last week, but was hesitating about rolling up and stashing away my white one. It seems that Lent passed quickly. And then the Easter season was gone in a flash. The Paschal Candle had been a focus of lightness and joy in Easter, but now it is back, unlit, where it belongs for Ordinary Time.

I think it is strange that we call this season after Pentecost "Ordinary Time" though there are some Sundays after Christmas and before Lent which are also "Ordinary Time". And because of this, this is now the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Proper 6, but the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Ordinary does not mean dull or boring in this case, however. It refers to the ordinal numbers, as in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., rather than cardinal numbers, as in, one, two, three, four. It has been suggested also that these times of ordinariness also signal when Christ lived among us ordinary folks, working, ministering, teaching and loving. This year, Year A, we will hear the many events recounted by the Gospel of Matthew.

Ordinary time is a special time of the church year, when we are called to live more fully into the faith we express and nourish, becoming alive in the ordinariness of life itself. Ordinary time in the Church also focuses on the entirety of our faith, not only the anticipation associated with Advent or Lent, or the peaceful Brilliance of Christmas, or the Extraordinary Joy of Easter. Ordinary time is a special time to seek new ministry, research burning questions of theology, and learn nuances of our Christian faith.

I pray in the rush of this summer that you take some time to consider how you can be more active in your faith, and what you can explore more fully and how you can strengthen your prayer life to live more fully into your Baptismal promises. Remember, Advent is just around the corner.....

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. 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."



Services at Chapel of the Resurrection

Summer services continue to be held at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery at 9 am. This will continue through September 10.

ECSC Picnic

The combined picnic for the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County will be held on Sunday, September 17 at the Island Pavilion in Schuylkill Haven. Please put the date on your calendar — more information will be forthcoming.



United Thank Offering

As we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ, we are grateful for the many blessings in our lives. Please remember those less fortunate than we are by your offerings in your UTO box or set aside to put in a UTO envelope at our fall ingathering on October 1 and 8.

Envelopes are available at the back of the Chapel.

Healing Services

The Wednesday noon Healing service will be on hiatus during the summer but will resume on September 13 in St. Luke's Chapel. However, healing and anointing will be offered on the 4th Sunday of every month during the Eucharistic service.



Junior Warden's Notes:

Our church rectory at 1318 Howard Avenue has been sold. The Vestry met on Friday evening, June 16th, and unanimously approved the sale. Closing is scheduled for July 14th.

Many thanks to Evie Barnwell, Paul Barnwell, Bob Bednar, and Peter and Tim

Bortner for their help in preparing the house for photos and showings.

If you have any questions, you can contact Lea Bortner (570)-516-4726 or any Vestry member after the closing on July 14.

Summer Reading Camp

Preparations for Summer Reading Camp are in full swing as we prepare for the week of July 10-14. This year, we have 30 children registered from the Pottsville and St. Clair School Districts and Gillingham. We have 6 parishioners volunteering to help with various aspects of camp as well as 2 members of North Parish, 2 members of the Presbyterian Church, and 2 community members, making this an ecumenical ministry.



In keeping with our Sports theme, visits from student-athletes are scheduled as well as a visit from a football coach, and a band director. The values of practice, perseverance, and good sportsmanship will be stressed in these visits and will give the children a chance to gain some insight into the sports they watch and enjoy. On the final day of camp, Screwball, the mascot from the Reading Phils is scheduled to visit. In addition, the children will obtain library cards and will visit the library to learn all about what it has to offer. On the final day of camp, we will host a parent workshop and luncheon, which is an interesting and exciting finale for camp.

None of this would be possible without the support of our very generous parishioners. The staff of Summer Reading Camp appreciates all of your time, talent, and financial support that makes this camp possible.



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

Our 2023-24 Concert series season is scheduled. The fantastic marimba player, Greg Giannascoli will return as requested on October 8 accompanied by Pottsville native, Ron Stabinsky. On November 19, Simon Maurer, violin, will present the first concert of the Beethoven Trio Project with Xun Pan, piano and Ai-Lin Hseih, cello. On April 14, 2024, the "Wrapped in Light" program based on the Psalms will be presented by composer Jill Haley, pianist Sue McDevitt and guitarist David Cullen with accompanying slides. Please see the enclosed season flyer.

Organ refurbishment update:

Murphy's Organbuilders will be removing parts of the console on July 5 and hope to return by July 17 for 2 weeks of work to complete the refurbishment. If all goes well, this extraordinary project will be completed by the first of August. We are thankful for all who have contributed to and supported this project and we continue to welcome all donations.



The 2023 Schuylkill County Fair

"The 2023 Schuylkill County Fair will be held from July 31 until August 5. The Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County has been a presence there for many years, and we hope to be for many years to come. We offer "Hugs and Kisses from an Episcopalian" and will offer pony bottles of water this year as well. Volunteers are needed to be in our booth from 4 PM until closing--usually 8 PM--each day. Consider when you are available to share in this vital ministry. Please recruit your children and or grandchildren to come and enjoy this with us. If you have questions, please call Fr. Kurt".

Rev. Dr. Kurt K. Kovalovich...(Father Kurt)
Priest-in Charge

Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County: North Parish: Ashland and St. Clair;
St.James, Schuylkill Haven, and Trinity, Pottsville

Regozijai-vos sempre
([Filipenses 4:4](#))

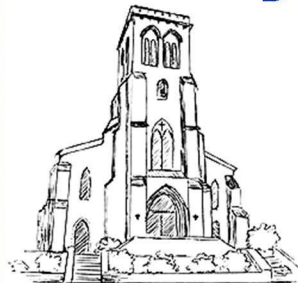
Backpack Blessing

Summer has just begun, but before school starts up again, be sure to bring your backpacks, briefcases and tote bags to be blessed on Sunday, August 27 at the Chapel at Baber Cemetery. Having the blessing of the Lord with us daily is the only way to go!



Trinity Episcopal Church Concert Series

Calendar of Upcoming Events for the 2023-2024 Series



October 8, 2023

Greg Giannascoli, marimba
Ron Stabinsky, piano



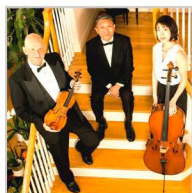
Greg Giannascoli has won numerous competitions and has toured throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He is the coordinator of the percussion department at New Jersey City University and teaches Master Classes at top music schools.



Ron Stabinsky, a Pottsville native, is known for working in many stylistically diverse musical contexts and continues to perform through the US and Europe with several ensembles. We are thrilled at the return of this dynamic duo that brought the house down in 2015. What a way to kick off our 17th season!

November 19, 2023

Beethoven Trio Project



Simon Maurer, violin; **Dr. Xun Pan**, piano; and **Dr. Ai-Lin-Hsieh**, cello, are embarking on this project presenting all of the Beethoven Trios in the coming year. These artists are seasoned international solo and ensemble performers and teachers. We welcome this new venture in our beautiful sanctuary.

February 18, 2024

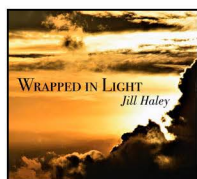
Austin Organ Dedication



F. Allen Artz, III, will present this exciting concert to dedicate and showcase our newly refurbished Austin Organ Console at **2 pm** (please note time). \$10 suggested donation.

April 14, 2024

Wrapped in Light



Composer **Jill Haley** has presented some of her award winning National Park series in our concerts. This is the first project outside the usual inspiration of the parks and is based on the beautiful words in the Book of Psalms. "Wrapped in Light" is performed with video and features 10 pieces based on lines of scripture. Jill plays oboe and English horn and will be joined by pianist **Susan McDevitt** and guitarist **David Cullen**.

ALL CONCERTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sunday Afternoons at 4:00

No Admission Fee - Free Will Offering Taken

Handicapped Accessible - Free Parking in Mahantongo Street Garage

Reception following the concerts to meet the Artists

For more information, please contact Trinity Episcopal Church
570-622-8720 email: Episcopalch200@gmail.com

200 S. Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901
web: trinityepiscopalpottsvillepa.org



NORTH PARISH PEACH FESTIVAL

Thursday, August 24, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

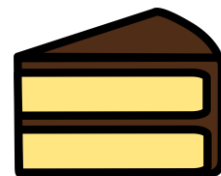


**St. John's Episcopal Church
13th & Market Streets
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Peaches, Ice Cream, Baked Good and
Beverage**

Tickets: \$8.00 – Call: 570-429-7107

Eat In or Take Out



News from Marion C. Price

SUMMER PICNIC

The Marion Price Trust Summer Picnic is being planned for Thursday, August 10th. The picnic will be held at Bubeck Park in Schuylkill Haven at noon. We will begin with a picnic lunch, followed by bingo and socializing. Please spread the word- the picnic is open to all Episcopalians served by MPTF (age 60 and over). If you are interested in attending, please contact Cathy Clouser at 570-621-3220 for more information and to RSVP.

NEW PROGRAM

The Marion Price Trust is looking to start a new program in the near future. The project will be based on a telephone reassurance program and will utilize parishioners reaching out via telephone to each other. The project is in its early stages of development, but we expect it to be a very beneficial program once set in place. More information will follow in the next few months.

Summer Safety Tips

As we are spending more time outdoors this summer season, there are a few things to keep in mind to stay safe. Remember hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen to protect your skin and eyes from harmful UV rays. As summer temperatures rise so does the risk of heat-related illness- especially dehydration. The risk of dehydration is particularly high for those over age 65. Age, diet, illness and medications are among the many reasons why elders suffer from dehydration.

Seniors are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses and injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control. When we age, our bodies become less efficient at regulating temperature because older adults do not sweat as much as younger adults, and sweat is the most important heat-regulating mechanism. Older adults also store fat differently, which can further complicate heat regulation in the body. As outside temperatures rise, so does the body's internal temperature. This is why seniors suffer heat stroke more often than younger people.

Staying indoors, preferably in air conditioning, when the sun is strongest (10 am-4 pm) will keep your body from having to work extra hard at maintaining a normal body temperature. Try dressing in loose-fitting and lightweight clothes in natural, breathable fabrics like cotton. Dress in light colors that will reflect the sun and heat instead of dark colors that will attract them. Some medications can cause increased sensitivity to the sun. Talk to your doctor about sun or heat-related side effects of your current medications. Stay hydrated by drinking more fluids, especially water. Watermelon is more than 90% water and a great tasting way to replace lost fluids.

Most importantly, look for any signs of heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, etc. Signs to look for may include disorientation, dry skin, excessive tiredness, headache, lethargy, nausea, a flushed face, high body temperature, rapid pulse, dizziness and confusion. Seek medical attention for treatment.

Stay hydrated, stay cool, stay safe and enjoy your summer!



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

A Place of Cool, Quiet Refreshment

Many of us were ecstatic when we had a mild winter with very little snowfall and without strenuous snow shoveling. To add to our ecstasy, we had a spring filled with relatively warm weather and infrequent and modest rainfall. However, fast forward to mid-summer, and much to the chagrin of farmers, gardeners, the water company, firefighters, and landscaping lawn mowing companies, the lack of winter snowfall and spring rains has created hardships that may take months to recover from. Crops have dried up, the hard dry dirt in farmer's fields prevents the new seeds from taking root; acres of forest land have been lost from forest fires along with many animal and bird species; pollinating garden plants are dying, our water supply is getting low; and businesses that depend on their seasonal summer livelihood like lawn mowing and landscaping can't find consistent work.

Despite our lack of productive and replenishing rain, here at the Baber Cemetery because of the many varieties of trees and because the tree species are in many sizes, widths, and heights, our property remains relatively green and refreshingly cool. Our trees like the eastern white pine, white ash, and ginkgos are the tall dominant trees that provide an overall blanket of cover to everything underneath, particularly to the grass-carpeted paths below them. We have our cryptomeria, with their cute pom-pom-shaped needle clusters, but they don't provide much width to their shade. And we have the tall Japanese larch, but they tend to have limbs that are sparsely dotted with tiny pinecones and long strands of needle spurs. We also have our tall elms but the homestead hybrid elms along the pond have branches that grow upward and give the tree a long slender look with no relevant shade cover.

Our true shade trees are the many Norway maples and sycamore maples with massive leaf volume and long spreading limbs. So are the sugar maples, but most of the mature adults died and had to be cut down, leaving us with Arbor Day-planted babies that have a long way to grow before we have adequate shade coverage. The little leaf linden is a perfect shade tree because its limbs spread outward and slightly curve downward and when standing underneath you feel like a giant umbrella is over you. And if you want to talk about extensive coverage, stand under the mighty white oaks and red oaks. Their heavy limbs stretch far out from the trunk, but their leaves aren't as large and as heavily clustered as the Norway maples. Their cousins, the pin oaks provide adequate shade coverage along the loop inside the 16th Street entrance; and their other cousins, the young swamp-white oaks, west of the pond, are still too small to offer much coverage. The London planetrees, inside the stone wall, have long outreaching multicolored limbs offering plenty of leaf shade. And the teardrop-shaped European hornbeam offers plenty of shade on the long Market Street sidewalk.

We have many pretty trees to look at like the dawn redwood with its soft fern-like leaves and sweet gum with its star-shaped leaves, both east of the pond, the copper beach with their red leaves outlined in fine gray hair, and several red maples, but the sparsity of their leaf clusters, or the spread and reach of their limbs, only offers shade if you are close to them. And while the dwarf maple is pretty at this time of year, because their winged samaras look like tiny butterflies dotting the tree leaves, you would have to crawl underneath to get any shade. The huge and wide Norway spruce with downward and outward-curving needles and pinecone-laden branches are too dense to provide shelter to humans, but they are mightily appealing habitats for rabbits, squirrels, and birds. Come and walk the many paths to enjoy the cool refreshment from our summer leaf-laden trees.

Baber Cemetery Odds and Ends

Gatehouses: The yearlong extensive work on the east and west gatehouses is almost finished. The east gatehouse still needs the walls sanded, spackled, and painted and ceiling light fixtures installed. The west gatehouse needs an electric conduit run from the east gatehouse to provide lighting and an electrical power source for the heat tape which must still be installed on the roof. Hopefully, these outstanding items can be taken care of by the end of the summer.

Urns: Our two cast iron urns that sit inside the main gate were removed a few months ago for welding work to the base of the one urn, and power washing, sealing and painting both urns. The welding of \$400 was paid by a donor as was a \$1,000 deposit. Approximately \$2,000 remains payable upon delivery with \$1,600 gifted from two donors. These urns, upon their return and positioning onto two poured concrete slabs inside the main entrance will be filled with dirt and planted with flowers. Over the past few years. Kurt Kovalovich had always been so generous as to plant flowers in the urns. Norm Kauffman was kind enough to use his equipment to lift the two heavy cast iron urns from the ground onto the contractor's truck. The urns may be returned within a month.

Food Cabinet Repositioned: After vandalism and food destruction continued to the food cabinet and its contents, in June, the Cabinet was repaired and with permission from the City of Pottsville, it was installed outside the 14th Street entrance slightly to the west of the west gatehouse. Hopefully, with this placement in a more visible location, it may deter vandalism.

Electricity in the Barn: This is a year-long outstanding project that may hopefully be taken care of within the next month. We have purchased the wiring and the transmission poles and our busy contractor has promised to return from his other jobs to begin the work. The ground where the transmission poles are to be placed has been probed as a precaution because they lie along a walking path of a burial section at the 16th Street entrance. This project has been fully funded by two generous donors.

25th Annual Baber Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 9, 2023

3:00 to 6:30 PM

Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, watermelon & water will be provided.

Rain Date: Sunday, September 10, 2023

"Free Will Donation"

Bring your own folding chair.

NATURE AND HISTORY WALKING TOURS 3:00

SMALL BASKET RAFFLE BAKE SALE

PICNIC BEGINNING 4:30

THIRD BRIGADE BAND CONCERT 4:00 - 5:45 PM

SOLEMN EVENSONG SERVICE - 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to make baked goods, help set up and clean up, cut the melons, and grill the hot dogs.

If you can help, call Carol 617-6704, Carla or Norm 628-3868, Kurt Kovalovich 640-1738, or the office at 622-8720.

Monetary contributions are being accepted to purchase hot dogs, rolls, condiments, paper products, and chips.

JULY 2023

**Boyer's Caring and Sharing
fundraiser program continues**

- 2 — 9 am service at CBC
- 4 — OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 — 9 am service at CBC
- 10 to 14 — SUMMER READING CAMP
- 15 — St. Clair Car Cruise
Benefit for ECSC
- 16 — 9 am service at CBC
- 17 — 4 pm — Soup Kitchen
- 22 — Ashland Christmas in July
Benefit St. John's
- 23 — 9 am service at CBC with
Healing
10:30 — Vestry
- 30 — 9 am service at CBC
- 31 — Schuylkill County Fair
to August 5 — Benefit ECSC

AUGUST 2023

**Boyer's Caring and Sharing
fundraiser programs continues**

- 1 to 5 — Schuylkill County Fair
benefits ECSC
- 6 — 9 am service at CBC
- 10 — 11am Marion Price Picnic at
Bubeck Park Sch. Haven
- 13 — 9 am service at CBC
- 20 — 9 am service at CBC
- 21 — 4 pm — Soup Kitchen
- 24 — Peach Festival in Ashland
Benefit St. John's
- 27 — 9 am service at CBC with
Healing
10:30 — Vestry

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 3 — 9 am service at CBC
- 4 — OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 — BABER DAY
- 10 — 9 am service at CBC
Rain date for Baber Day
- 17 — ECSC COMBINED PICNIC
At Island Park in Sch. Haven

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street

Pottsville, PA 17901

Phone: 570.622.8720

Fax: 570.621.3221

Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
September/October "Topics"
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023**



July Birthdays

1 – Tony Bacon
2 – John Pritiskutch
3 – Lea Bortner
4 – Jerry Simatos
6 – Leigh Ann Siminitus, Alice Sapp
9 – Sharon Albright
16 – Kitty Murray
20 – Reynolds Hostetter
21 – Allesondra Pritiskutch
25 – Miriam Harris
28 – Nancy Buehler, Janine Hinnershitz
30 – Emerson Albright
31 – Robert Bednar

August Birthdays

1 – Connie Guensch
2 – Donna Ross
4 – James Coulson
8 – Alana Spotts, Sandra Snyder
12 – Doris Kauffman
16 – Edna Rauco, MacKenzie Menuchak
23 – Delaney Burns, Layne Reedy, Peter Bortner
24 – Waverly Bacon IV
25 – Patrick Moore Sr.
26 – Cynthia Ryland, Jake Oerther
27 – Justin Lindenmuth, Elliot Wehr
28 – Tracy Frederick
30 – Frank Yuengling
31 – Nancy Billie