



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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July/Aug 2024

Musings from the priest's computer....

“This is a wonderful day. I have never seen this one before.” — Maya Angelou

This quote dovetails nicely with the saying from the 1950's: today is the first day of the rest of your life. And there is so much truth in that. In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us to live for the day, and not to worry what HAS been and what WILL be. “So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Summer has a way of creating anticipation. We get concerned about the weather: too hot, too humid, too dry, too wet. When in fact, the worries are foolish. The weather will come and go. There was a T-shirt I saw when I lived in Kansas: “Don't like the weather? Wait 5 minutes and it'll change”. There is some truth in that foolish saying.

If there is anything to anticipate, anticipate better days ahead, cooler nights, sun-filled days. Enjoy the fresh breeze. Let the sun warm your face, for just a few minutes. Smell the lushness of the changing vegetation and that mysterious freshly-cut grass scent. Look up after the sun has set and count a few stars. Bask in the glow of a full moon.

All these point to the beneficence and benevolence of the Creator. And as the days pass—too quickly—consider the moments that have significance each day. If someone focuses on joy and peace and wonder, joy and peace and wonder will envelop you.

I pray you have a summer full of joy, awe and wonder. Look around, and smile. And offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the One who gives us every good gift of creation!

In brotherly love,

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.”



Summer Services

Our Sunday worship services are now at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery. These services are at 9 am and will continue through September 8.

ECSC Picnic

Time to mark your calendars for the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County's annual picnic. Sunday, September 15 with Eucharist and lunch and fellowship. More information and venue to be announced at a later date.



Healing Service

This service will resume in the fall on Wednesday, September 18 at noon.

Counters Needed

We are in need of counters for Sunday mornings after the service. We still have only 4 counters and when several are away, the counting and subsequent deposit are delayed. Another opportunity for ministry which only takes a couple of hours per month when there are more volunteers. Please speak to any member of the Vestry if you feel called for this ministry.



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 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.

Altar Guild

Volunteers are needed for 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 set up 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.



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 25 at the Chapel at Baber Cemetery. Having the blessing of the Lord with us daily is the only way to go!



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

Mark your calendars!! On Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm, organist F. Allen Artz, III will present a Christmas organ concert featuring a carol sing to benefit our church. What a blessing! Allen is a great friend of Trinity and these fund-raising concerts have been so successful in the past. All the proceeds from this concert will go to the upkeep of Trinity. There will be a suggested donation of \$10.

What a wonderful offering for the season. If needed, a weather date for December 22 is scheduled.



Susan Starr Award

This year's award was presented to Gretchen Frederick and Callie Palerino on June 9 at the 9 am service. Gretchen is the daughter of Ron and Tracey Frederick and a 2024 graduate of Tulpehocken High School. Gretchen plans to attend Empire Cosmetology School this fall. Callie is the daughter of Mark and Stephanie Palerino and a 2024 graduate of Nativity BVM High School. Callie will attend Alvernia University in the fall majoring in psychology. Susan Starr established this award in her will to honor graduating seniors who are furthering their education and who have been "an active, faithful participant in the life of Trinity."

United Thank Offering

There are so many times each day that we can feel blessed in small and large ways. Think of a beautiful sunset, the laughter of a child, the kindness of a stranger, your smile lighting up someone's day. Each time you place a coin in your UTO box, you have blessed someone else and you are blessed knowing your contribution helps others. We pray that everyone will continue to remember their blessings and help the UTO organization. This year the UTO Sundays will be the 22nd (return to the sanctuary) and 29th of September. You can bring your box or a UTO envelope to be blessed. Both should have your envelope number on them. If you have change in your box, you could help out our counters by counting it up and putting in paper money or a check made out to Trinity. Thank you in advance for counting your blessings!





Summer Reading Camp News

Plans are progressing for Summer Reading camp which will be held the week of July 8-12. Our “kick off to camp” started with a successful family game night on May 8 in the parish hall. This event gave the children an opportunity to meet the teachers and the children they will be attending camp with while having a fun evening with games and pizza. Parents completed camp applications and participated in an interactive workshop on preparing economical and nutritious snacks presented by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office while their children enjoyed the games.

We have some exciting activities planned this year for camp to help enhance the children’s reading experiences. In addition to our classroom activities that are based on our theme, *The Environment*, we will have visiting experts stop in to share their experience with the children. Our schedule is as follows:

Monday- The children will learn about plants and flowers from the Master Gardeners.

Tuesday- We will learn about the sky by visiting the Pottsville School District’s Planetarium.

Wednesday- Joe Orlosky of the Pottsville Shade Tree Commission will help the children learn about trees.

Thursday- Emily Cantor from the Schuylkill Conservation District will help the children learn about recycling and keeping the earth clean.

Friday- Red Creek Wildlife Center will come to our parent luncheon with their rehabilitated animals.

Since our field trip to the planetarium will involve transporting the children by bus, if any parishioner would be willing to accompany us on that trip to lend a helping hand, we would be most grateful. Please see Lea or Barb if you are able to help. In addition, we will host a special visitor on Wednesday; Bishop Kevin and Sandy Millen plan to visit to participate in some of our camp activities.

The staff of Summer Reading Camp would like to express our appreciation to our parishioners who participated in our demonstration cooking dinner and our Lunches for Learners and Books for Young Readers Programs. These contributions have helped defray camp expenses and make a wide range of activities available for our campers. If you are still interested in contributing, a donation of \$4.00 would buy lunch for one child for a day; a donation of \$20.00 would enable us to purchase lunch for one child for a week. A donation of \$20.00 to our Books for Young Readers would purchase a Scholastic Summer Activity Pack for one child. The Summer Reading Camp teachers truly appreciate all of the support the parishioners provide for us- financial, volunteer help with camp set up, prepping activities, and many prayers that make this camp possible.

Game Night Photos on following page

Game Night Photos



News From Marion C. Price

Summer Picnic

The Marion C. Price Summer Picnic will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024. The picnic will be held in the large pavilion at Sweet Arrow Lake in Pine Grove. The picnic will begin with a luncheon at noon and bingo and socializing following lunch. Please RSVP by Thursday, July 11th, and direct any questions to Cathy Clouser in the office at (570) 621-3220 or mptfund@gmail.com. We would like to carpool if possible, so please let Cathy know if you can drive or if you need a ride.

I have begun attending a monthly meeting for Senior Outreach services. This is a monthly meeting attended by representatives from many of the Schuylkill County services provided to assist our seniors. It is a great opportunity for me to meet people and make contacts for services available in the area.

The representative from Compassus Hospice is interested in providing an educational seminar to discuss the facts and myths of hospice care. This would provide an overview of what hospice is, who should receive hospice care, who pays for it, and where the care can be provided. I am planning to set up a breakfast shortly open to all who have an interest in receiving this information. Please contact me if interested to be sure you are notified when a date is set.

The last meeting of the Marion Price Trust board had some discussion about potentially restarting senior gatherings. This would include getting together to go out for lunch, gathering for socialization or games, or some sort of entertainment.

Another suggestion made was to see if there is a need or interest in providing some help with things such as raking leaves, small repairs, etc. This would require volunteers as well as recipients. We will be conducting a survey to see if there is an interest and where the majority of that interest is. We look forward to your input on both of these ideas.

As always please feel free to contact me with your thoughts on these ideas or anything else you have an interest in trying. I am also available to pick up groceries or prescriptions, help with phone calls, find services for you, schedule a LEV visit, a personal visit, or just a phone call to chat. If you need help with something please don't hesitate to call – I will do my best to help you. The office number is (570) 621-3220.

As summer heats up here are some summer safety tips to remember:

- Lower your risk for sunburn and skin cancer by limiting your time in the sun, especially between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM, when sun rays are most intense.
- Wear clothing to cover exposed skin such as broad-brimmed hats, sunglasses, long-sleeved shirts and pants. Clothing that offers built-in sun protection is also available.
- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF value of 15 or higher, even on a cloudy day.
- Protect your eyes with sunglasses with a UV 400 rating or 100% UV protection. This applies to you even after cataract surgery.
- Be cautious of medications that make skin more sensitive to the sun.
- Keep a water bottle handy and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

The Heat is On

Our spring was filled with many days of some form of rain during the day whether in a torrential downpour or a soft drizzle. Sometimes we had two or three rainy days in a row and sometimes it was dark threatening skies but no rain while other days were teasers of intermittent rain throughout the day. One day had hail, and a few evenings had thunder and lightning. How glorious it was when the sunshine appeared with a light warm breeze. There was so much to do outside on those sunny days including lots of fast-growing grass to mow, shrubs to prune, and gardens to plant and weed.

Spring's lingering farewell to the cemetery was the white lacey flowers on the Japanese ivory silk lilac trees by the barn, the white and orchid flowers of the northern catalpa (cigar tree) on the hillside, the white flower-laden Kousa dogwood on the east and west sides of the upper level, and the pink flowering dogwood on the west upper level and at the meditation area. And of course, with all the rain, we have thousands of yellow buttercups growing everywhere in the grass.

Spring blended into summer with the sun turning up the heat. And suddenly we find ourselves fleeing the hot sun and racing into air-conditioned cars, homes, stores, and restaurants. But with nature left to her own devices, she does double duty in providing the sun to the growing trees while allowing the growth of the trees to provide cool shade for everyone walking under them. The robust voluminous leaves of the trees sometimes expand into the growth space of the nearby tree, and they form a marvelous canopy of continuous shade cover. Eventually, over time, our sunset red maple that lines the path from the chapel to the 16th Street entrance will form this continuous canopy. The mature pin oak along the loop inside the 16th Street entrance already provides this canopy. And so do the tall eastern white pine on the east side of the property and the dirt trail going to the lower level. However, because of the extensive broken branches from the January and February storms, the eastern white pines have dropped many of their heavy needle-laden branches. Sadly, at this time, because of their height, age, and brittleness, they are becoming a hazard during the winter months.

Many of the Baber Cemetery's trees are independent trees that are not planted close to each other, but their long outstretching limbs still offer plenty of shade. These trees are the little leaf linden, white oaks, red oaks, sugar maple, sycamore maple, red maples, Norway maples, box elder, Siberian elm, American beech, and copper beech. Other trees like the ginkgo, black walnut, black gum, arborvitae, sweet gum, cryptomeria, dawn redwood, black locust, London planetree, hybrid elm, black cherry, and swamp white oak don't offer a lot of shade because they are either too tall or too gangly or have too narrow of a shape or their leaves are too narrow or spaced too far apart, or too thin and lacy, or the trees are simply too young.

Interestingly, the teardrop-shaped European hornbeam along Market Street offers plenty of sidewalk shade. The evergreen like the Norway spruce has such low-hanging branches that they only offer shade and shelter to the squirrels that can get underneath the branches. Our dwarf Japanese maples which are so stunning to look at, also have low-hanging and curving branches that only shade anyone that can crawl underneath them.

All of our varieties of trees are unique and transfixing. Come and walk the many paths to enjoy the cool shade our trees offer and beat the heat!

26th Annual Baber Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 7, 2024 3:00 to 6:30 PM

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

Rain Date: Sunday, September 8, 2024

“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 at 617-6704, Carla or Norm at 628-3868, Kurt Kovalovich at 640-1738, or the office at 622-8720.

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

Gifts of Kindness

Electricity in the barn: For the first time in its 170-year history, the barn finally has electricity. The cost was \$11,700 and it was fully funded by two very generous outside donors.

16th Street gate and fencing: Sometime this summer, fencing and a sliding gate will be installed at the 16th Street entrance. The necessity to close off the entrance became apparent this winter when the hanging and fallen tree branches and the fallen trees from the storms created hazardous walking conditions. Long Run Fencing will do the work for \$9,100. Again this was funded by a very generous North Carolina person who has family buried at the cemetery.

Vandalism creates a need for security cameras: Vandalism in February to the Rotary granite bench at the chapel along with smashed vases and Veterans flags on the two columbaria, toppled memorial markers, and one marker pushed down the hill, have created a desperate need for security cameras at the chapel and the barn. The total cost is \$14,980. On June 11th, we received a \$10,000 donation from an out-of-state person whose family is buried at the cemetery and who was appalled by the vandalism. Now we need to raise only \$4,980.

Lawnmowing/Weed whacking outsourced: DTG, Mar-Lin, was awarded the bid to do the lawn mowing, weed whacking, blowing off the memorial markers, and leaf blowing for the cemetery. They are doing a fantastic job. However, it is \$4,800 per cut with two mowing cuts done per month which equates to \$9,600 per month. They are contracted for 9 months, which will cost approximately \$90,000. This is a lot of money, and the cemetery desperately needs monetary contributions to help with these payments.

If you are attending summer Sunday church services at the chapel and if you have not given any contribution to the Charles Baber Cemetery, a donation would be greatly appreciated. You can use the form below and please make your check payable to the “**Charles Baber Cemetery**.” The donation can be given to Norm, Kurt, and Carol or put on the top of the organ as you leave or enter the chapel.

Baber Cemetery Donation

Name: _____ Amount _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

JULY 2024

4 — OFFICE CLOSED— Independence Day
7 — 9 am service
8 thru 12 — Summer Reading Camp
14 — 9 am service
21 — 9 am service
28 — 9 am service
10:30 Vestry Mtg.

AUGUST 2024

4 — 9 am service
11 — 9 am service
18 — 9 am service
25 — 9 am service and Blessing of
backpacks, briefcases, etc.
10:30 — Vestry Mtg.

SEPTEMBER

1 — 9 am service
8 — Baber Day 3 to 6 pm
Evensong at 6 pm
9 — 9 am service
Baber Day rain day

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
September/October "Topics"
Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024**



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., Austin Weiner
26 – Jake Oerther
27 – Justin Lindenmuth, Elliot Wehr
28 – Tracy Frederick
30 – Frank Yuengling
31 – Nancy Billie