



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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March/April 2024

Musings from the priest's computer.....Lent-Easter 2024

Encounter God in all things, witnessing to the joy of the Gospel. (From Ignatian Spirituality)

There will be a total solar eclipse on April 8. However, if there is a thick cloud cover here in Pennsylvania, we will see the sky darken more, and that's about it. If the clouds aren't there, then we may experience what is now being termed the "Great North American Eclipse". Mark your calendars.

We look for the razzle-dazzle and often in that search, we miss the spectacular right in front of our eyes! Yes, I understand how marvelous a rare event like a solar eclipse is. Yet the rising of Jupiter in the evening skies of March and the glittering of Venus before sunrise are just as wonderful. We ran through the Epiphany, the Revelation of Jesus, and now slug through Lent. Yet, the marvelous pause that Lent brings as we gather in Holy Week, and on Easter morning, is often tolerated rather than marveled at or even enjoyed.

We generally have to go through the gray darkness of winter for the blessing of a glorious, flower-filled, colorful spring. We also go through the seemingly grey Lent, which commences with the gray ash imposition, to sing "Alleluia Alleluia" for the Easter season. But these pauses in the majesty and mystery of joyful celebrations give us time to look around, to contemplate, and to be awed again and again by the wonder and the marvel of our seemingly ordinary lives. This is also a wonderful time to renew, refresh, and reconcile. Then, moving into the color and satisfaction that can be the Easter season, we approach Pentecost again uplifted and unburdened by difficulties, anxieties, and wrecked relationships. The ordinariness of living becomes dazzling and awe-inspiring when we are at peace.

Creation offers opportunism for wonder and awe. As part of creation, fellow humans also can be wonderful and awe-inspiring. Look around. The grey of life has dissipated and the joy of fellowship in this Body of Christ is right in front of you!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt

Trinity Church's Mission Statement

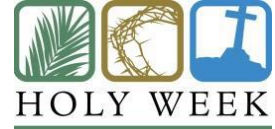
"Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ"

Vision Statement

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

Holy Week Schedule

March 24 — Palm Sunday — 9 am service with Blessing of the Psalms
March 28 — 7 pm Maundy Thursday service with Foot Washing
8 pm to midnight — Vigil in St. Luke's Chapel (sign-up sheets on bulletin board in binders at the Centre St. entrance and the ambulatory.
March 29 — 12 noon Good Friday — Stations of the Cross
March 30 — 7 pm Easter Vigil service with Baptism
March 31 — 6:30 am - Easter sunrise service at Charles Baber Cemetery
9 am - Festal Eucharist at TEC



Candy Fundraiser

Orders will be taken through March 10 for Peanut butter-filled Peanut Rolls. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board and in the binders behind the organ and at the back of the church. \$10- large box, \$6 - small box.

Counters Needed

We need more 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.



Lenten Soup and Service - THURSDAYS at 6 pm

- March 7 — St. John's, Ashland
- March 14 — St. James, Schuylkill Haven
- March 21 — Holy Apostles, St. Clair

Confirmation and Baptism

On Sunday, April 14, Bishop Kevin Nichols will join us as three young men are confirmed and a Baptism will be celebrated at the 9 am service.





Summer Reading Camp

We are in the process of planning for Summer Reading Camp which will take place this year from July 8-12 from 8:30-12:30 in the church's undercroft. Our theme this year will be *The Environment* and each day we will be exploring different aspects of the environment. One day will be dedicated to each of the following topics: trees, the sky and space, flowers and plants, wildlife, and care of the environment.

In addition to the fun reading activities that will take place every day, we will be having some exciting visitors and a field trip. We are working with the Pottsville School District to plan a visit to their newly refurbished planetarium. Visitors from the Master Gardeners and the Conservation District will help the children learn about trees, plants, and caring for the environment. Our grand finale will be the parent luncheon where Red Creek Wildlife Rescue will visit with their rescue animals and help the children learn about protecting our wildlife.

In addition, the Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Office will present a parent workshop at our Family Game Night on May 8 about healthy snacking. Parents will have the opportunity to learn how to prepare healthy and economical snacks and sample them as well, while their children enjoy some games and activities. The Extension Office will return during camp to help the children prepare blueberry spinach smoothies and learn about better food choices.

We are thankful to our parish members who have continued to support us over the years by volunteering at camp and donating to our Lunches for Learners and Books for Young Readers Program. If you would like to help support camp this year, please consider volunteering to spend a couple of hours helping out in the classroom or coming on our field trip with us. In addition, consider attending our Demonstration Cooking Dinner on March 24; profits go to support camp. (See enclosed flier) or donating to our lunch and book programs. It will cost us approximately \$4,000 to run camp this year. We have always been able to support camp through grants and fundraising efforts so none of the money has to come out of the church's budget. We have received a grant from the Benevolent Association of Pottsville for \$800.00 for our 2024 camp and are applying for three additional grants. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our sixth season of Summer Reading Camp.



Family Game Night

This year, Family Game Night will be held on May 8 in the Parish Hall. Families will be treated to dinner and the children will enjoy the chance to participate in fun games and activities while parents have some hands-on fun preparing nutritious snacks for the children. At this time, parents will be allowed to complete camp applications and have their questions answered about transportation, camp activities, and special events. If your child has not attended camp in the past, lives in Pottsville or St. Clair, and is experiencing challenges with reading, please speak with your child's reading specialist about enrolling in camp or text Barb Tokarz at 570-691-5113.



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach



What a celebration of our refurbished organ console!! Many thanks to Murphy Organbuilders of Stowe PA for completing this work, the Vestry for their vision of maintaining a beautiful instrument, F. Allen Artz, III for his extraordinary dedication program on February 18 and to parishioners and community members who have contributed and continue to contribute to the upkeep of our Austin Organ, Op. 1040. What an abundance of blessings.

Our Holy Week services will be celebrated with Father Tim and Father Kurt and the Vigil will be extra special with a Baptism. See the schedule in this edition of the TOPICS. Thank you to Teagan Wehr who will provide special music on Palm Sunday and Elliot Wehr for doing the same at the Vigil service. The Alleluia resurrection at the Vigil will be a great celebration of the triumph of the Risen Christ!



Thank you to all who provided goodies for the concert reception on February 18 and those who helped usher and collect donations for the Organ Fund. This concert marked the end of our Concert Series. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously in so many ways to the concerts and receptions for 17 years.



Easter Flowers



Donations for Easter Flowers may be made by completing this form and

returning it with your contribution by Sunday, March 17, 2024

Flower donations received after March 17 will go into the general flower fund.

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope # _____

Please return requests by Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Please Print



**BAKE SHOP VI IS PARTNERING WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH TO PRESENT A COOKING DEMONSTRATION WITH
WINE PAIRING FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRINITY'S SUMMER
READING CAMP**

MARCH 23 @ 6:00 PM AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARISH
HALL 200 S. SECOND ST POTTSVILLE

FIRST COURSE

TEXAS BARBEQUE SHRIMP

SECOND COURSE

CIOPPINO (FISHERMAN'S STEW)

THIRD COURSE

CRÈME BRULE

BREAD BASKET WITH BAKE SHOP'S DELICIOUS BREADS
THE DINNER

\$40.00 per person

Tickets available at Bake Shop VI

22 N Centre St. 570-205-6049

Or by calling Barb Tokarz

570-691-5113

NEWS FROM MARION C. PRICE

Diakon Community Services is partnering with AARP. Tax-Aide is a free service available to taxpayers with low and moderate-income, with special attention to those 60 and older. This service is by appointment only, no walk-ins will be accepted. AARP prepares only simple forms. They can handle pay from a job, Social Security, pensions, capital gains/losses, and more. For more information or to schedule an appointment at the Schuylkill Haven or Pottsville locations call 570-624-3018.

A strange old lady has moved into my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly did not invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn't there, and the next day she was. She is a clever old lady and manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And, whenever I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there she is hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body. This is very rude! I have tried screaming at her, but she just screams back.

The least she could do is offer to pay part of the bills, but no. Every once in a while, I find a \$5 bill stuck in a coat pocket or some loose change under the sofa cushion, but it is not nearly enough. And I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I think she is stealing money from me. I go to the ATM and withdraw \$50 and a few days later, it's all gone! I certainly don't spend money that fast, so I can only conclude the old lady is pilfering from me. You'd think she would spend some of that money to buy wrinkle cream. And money isn't the only thing I think she is stealing.

Food seems to disappear at an alarming rate- especially the good stuff like ice cream, chips, and sweets. She must have a real sweet tooth, but she better watch because she is really packing on the pounds. I suspect she realizes this, and to make herself feel better, she is tampering with my scale to make me think I am putting on weight too.

For an old lady, she is quite childish. She likes to play nasty games, like going into my wardrobe when I'm not home and altering my clothes so they don't fit. And she messes with my files and papers so I can't find anything. This is particularly annoying since I am extremely neat and organized.

She has also found other imaginative ways to annoy me. She gets into my mail, newspapers, and magazines before I do and blurs the print so I can't read it. And she has done something really sinister to the volume controls on my TV, radio, and telephone. Now, all I hear are mumbles and whispers. She has done other things like make my stairs steeper, my vacuum heavier and all the knobs and taps harder to turn. She even made my bed higher so getting in and out of it is a real challenge. Lately, she has been fooling with my groceries before I put them away, applying glue to the lids, making it almost impossible for me to open the jars.

She has taken the fun out of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she stands in front of the mirror and monopolizes it. She looks totally ridiculous in some of those outfits, plus, she keeps me from seeing how great they look on me. Just when I thought she couldn't get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She came along when I went to get my picture taken for my driver's license, and just as the camera shutter clicked, she jumped in front of me. I hope she never comes to live at your house!

AGE IS SIMPLY THE NUMBER OF YEARS THE WORLD HAS BEEN ENJOYING YOU



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

C. Field – March \April 2024

EXPLORING SPRING

The weather is very tricky at this time of year with snowy, icy, and rainy days occasionally speckled with warm sunshine-filled days sporting 40 and 50-degree temperatures. This shifting weather pattern plays havoc on the trees, who don't know if they should be waking up and blooming or drifting back off to sleep. The timing of the appearance of colorful spring blossoms that is usually associated with the pastel colors found in the Easter season is off track because Ash Wednesday and Easter came early this year. In fact, their early appearance in mid-February and the last day of March was only noticed by a few early ground flower blooms of daffodils, crocuses, and tulips. Our tree flowering booms do not occur until April.

Once April appears, most of the trees have awakened with their blossoming flowers and/or their catkins. Depending on where you are in the cemetery, you may catch some trees with flowers and others with dangling catkins. Many of our visitors focus on the flowering trees because they are pretty, cheerful, and delightful to look at. Unfortunately, what goes unnoticed are the trees that bear their flowers in the form of catkins. The catkins are clusters or bumps or beads of conspicuous flowers that dangle in strands. The majority of them are male. They vary in color in shades of green and yellow with a few pinkish reds. The white oaks in the upper level, the red oaks along the dirt trail and on the hillside behind the barn, the pin oak at the 16th St. loop, and the swamp white oak by the pond all bear long beaded catkin strands. The hornbeam along Market Street have similar catkins. Most of our blossoming season is short lived with the trees progressing directly from their flowering blossoms or catkins into full leaf volume. However, our maples add one more step. They go from catkins to leaf growth, to fruit mode. The fruit is their winged samaras. The red maples (throughout the property), sugar (lower level), sycamore maples (down the hill from the chapel) and the box elders by the soccer field have catkins that sprout in bunches or clusters. The rapid leaf growth comes next and clustered within the leaves, but dangling like the catkins, the samaras appear. The sunset red maple along the chapel road, adds an extra dimension with red twigs, red leaf coloring and graceful tiny red samara hanging from thin golden stems.

Setting our little noticed catkin blossoming trees aside, everyone's focus seems to be on our very noticeable flower blossoming trees. Our early bloomer is the weeping cherry with its long strands of pink flowers gently swaying in the breeze. Then there are the kwanza cherry trees by the pond, with double-petaled pink flowers. Nearby, the white blossoms of the callery pears and the Japanese lilac by the barn twinkle playfully in the sun. By the 16th Street entrance, the twigs of the red buds are loaded with small, fuchsia-colored flowers. Hidden on the hillsides, the fire and black cherries with their flaked bark, bashfully display their white flowers. Our late bloomers are the flowering and kousa dogwoods sprinkled throughout the property with their varied star-shaped petals of pinks, fuchsias, and whites; the baby horse chestnut to the east of the main entrance, with its 6" tall pyramidal yellow flower clusters; the coffee tree inside the main gate with its teeny white flowers; the magnolia inside the front gate with its large flowers whose petals are white on the outside and pink on the inside; the tuliptree inside the main gate, with bright yellow tulip-shaped flowers with a green stripe; the elm in the lower level with their cream colored disk-shaped flowers; and the red lollipop flowers on the staghorn sumac.

We also have odds and ends like the American beech, sweetgum, London planetrees, and black walnut that develop nut balls or downy seed balls later in the year. April and May are months of flowering beauty and hidden catkin and samara charm. Come and explore spring at the Baber Cemetery.

January and February - Months of Massive Damage

In late January, a windstorm brought down large limbs from our Eastern white pine immediately to the east and west inside our main gate. It took us four weeks and \$2,800 to have a tree service with a lift truck cut down hanging limbs, prune other damaged limbs, and clean up the debris for hauling to the city compost pile. No sooner was this done, and the barricaded roads reopened than the snowstorm on February 11th brought even more massive damage. Not only did more large limbs fall or break and hang from the eastern pine, but the three Siberian elm by the Comloquoy mausoleum dropped large branches, and numerous other trees like the ginkgo and Norway maple dropped smaller branches. To make matters worse, on the hillside going down to the lower level, several Norway maples toppled down the hillside to hang over the retaining wall of the housing development on 12th Street. The storm created a horrible and expensive mess. And no, our insurance doesn't cover any fallen trees or limbs. This clean-up will cost at least \$5,000. At this time we have no idea of where to get the money from to cover this expense. We blocked off the side roads again, only to find that the schoolchildren and the walkers paid no attention to the barricaded roads.

Vandalism

Adding insult to injury, just before the February 11th snowstorm hit, several vandals toppled and smashed the granite bench on the south side of the chapel. This bench had been gifted to us about four years ago by the Pottsville Rotary. In addition to the smashed bench, they also toppled several nearby memorial markers, broke the Veterans' flags placed around the columbarium, and smashed flowerpots sitting on top of the niches. At this time, unless a new bench is gifted to the cemetery, this bench, because of the cost, will not be replaced.

Memorial Day

Since Covid and because of a decrease of available servicemen, we are no longer able to get our 4th-grade students to put replacement flags on our Veterans' graves. The flag replacement by the students was always followed by a program explaining the significance of Memorial Day, prayers, and the playing of taps and a 21-gun salute by retired volunteer veterans. Thankfully for the past three years, Terry Harvey, his wife, Diane, his family and friends, and a few high school youths from the Leo Club replaced the 545+ flags. We are hoping that Terry will help us out again this year.

Arbor Day

We plant 10 new trees every year for Arbor Day. We offer them a sponsorship of \$400 per tree. The tree can be in memory of, or in celebration of someone or something. A new baby tree costs about \$140 per tree. The money difference between cost and sponsorship is what is paid to the tree-cutting company to remove dead or diseased trees or dangling snapped limbs. (See the above paragraph on tree damage.) Even with the much-needed sponsorship of the 10 trees, it will not raise enough money to cover half the cost of the tree clean-up from the recent snowstorm. This makes the sponsorship of the ten trees critical. **Our Arbor Day tree celebration and blessing is on Friday, April 26th at 2 PM.** The 10 baby trees will be blessed by the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich. It is a beautiful and environmentally gratifying service and is open and free to the public. If you wish to sponsor a tree or make a donation toward the damage, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office along with your sponsorship check or donation made payable to the "**Charles Baber Preservation Trust**".

2024 Arbor Day Replacement Trees - \$400 Sponsorship or Damage Donation

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Given in memory of: _____ Tree Sponsorship only

Given in thanksgiving for: _____ Tree Sponsorship only

Given as a donation towards the clean up of the tree damage: \$ _____

MARCH 2024

Boyer's Caring and Sharing
fundraiser program continues

- 3 — 9 am service — Lent III
- 6 — 12 noon Healing service
- 7 — 6 pm Lenten supper and service
at St. John's, Ashland
- 9 — CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
- 10 — 9 am service — Lent IV
LAST DAY FOR CANDY ORDERS
- 13 — 12 noon Healing service
- 14 — 6 pm Lenten supper and
service at St. James
- 17 — 9 am service — Lent IV
CANDY MAKING, ENVELOPE
FUNDRAISER BEGINS
- 18 — CANDY MAKING
4 pm — Soup Kitchen
- 19 — CANDY MAKING
- 20 — 12 noon Healing service
- 21 — CANDY PICKUP
6 pm Lenten supper and
service at Holy Apostles
- 23 — DINNER FOR SUMMER READING
CAMP—SEE ARTICLE
- 24 — 9 am service, PALM SUNDAY
10:30 — Vestry meeting
- 27 — 12 noon Healing service
- 28 — 7 pm, MAUNDY THURSDAY
8 pm to 12 — Chapel Vigil
- 29 — 12 noon — STATIONS OF THE
CROSS, Office closed
- 30 — 7 pm, EASTER VIGIL WITH
BAPTISM
- 31 — Easter 6:30 sunrise service at
Charles Baber Cemetery
9 am service at TEC

APRIL 2024

Boyer's Caring and Sharing
fundraiser program continues

- 3 — 12 noon Healing service
- 7 — 9 am service — Easter II
- 10 — 12 noon Healing service
- 14 — 9 am service with Baptism,
Confirmation — Bishop Kevin,
Easter III
- 17 — 12 noon Healing service
- 21 — 9 am service, Easter IV
- 24 — 12 noon Healing service
- 26 — 2 pm — Arbor Day at CBC
- 28 — 9 am service, Easter V
ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER ENDS
10:30 - Vestry meeting

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- March 24 — 9 am service — Palm Sunday
- March 28 — 7 pm Maundy Thursday
8 pm - 12 midnight — Vigil in St.
Luke's Chapel
- March 29 — 12 noon — Good Friday, Stations
of the Cross
- March 30 — 7 pm Easter Vigil with Baptism
- March 31 — 6:30 am — Easter sunrise service
at Charles Baber Cemetery
9 am — Festal Eucharist at TEC

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 570.622.8720
Fax: 570.621.3221
Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
May/June "Topics"
Monday, Apr. 15, 2024**



March Birthdays

- 3 - Alexander Costa
- 7 - Kaitlin Polcrack, The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
- 9 - The Rev. Dolores Smith
- 12 - Elaine Howe
- 16 - Tom Curtis, Ruth Bohnenblust
- 21 - Robert Hess, Waverly I. Bacon III
- 23 - Henry Beaver
- 29 - George Stone, Jr.

April Birthdays

- 1 - Kristen Doyle
- 2 - Sylvia Nabholz
- 3 - Frank Grabowski
- 5 - Mallory Hopkins
- 7 - Angelique Bacon Woodward
- 9 - Wesley Bacon, John Thomas Curtis, III
- 10 - Connor Hopkins
- 11 - Janet Curtis, Gabriel Fitzpatrick
- 12 - Cora Gamelin-Osenbach
- 13 - Lee Felsburg
- 14 - Darlene Bowler, Brenda Lindenmuth
- 15 - Jerry Simatos, Braeden Jones
- 16 - Robert Emery
- 18 - Angela Brennan, Everly Boyer, Giovanni Lantonio,
Luca Lantonio
- 19 - Mark Bacon
- 23 - Richard Brennan
- 24 - Joan Cake
- 27 - Elena Jolee Holden, Maegan Frederick
- 28 - Susan Pozza
- 29 - Holly Portland MacLea