



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church
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JUNE 2021

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Warden's Words

Legacy is all around us at Trinity.

It's in our church building, Rectory, St. Martha's House and churchyard, all listed on the national and state registers of historic places.

It's in the historical artifacts that were found on the property many years ago and rediscovered recently when we went through our files.

It's in the gravestones of people like George Hance, the Warden whose generosity enabled us to have our Rectory and expand our churchyard.

It's in the personal items left behind by Father Schmaus, our Rector for 37 years, and found in a safe at the Rectory several years ago during a restoration project.

It's in the picture of Father Counselman, who followed Father Schmaus and stayed for 33 years, that's hung in the hallway near the Parish House.

It's in the tree that hangs on the Parish House wall to honor those recognized by our Valentine Society, whose members provided major gifts to Trinity through their estates or during their lifetimes.



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THE TRINITY
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Unfortunately, much of our legacy is also a burden, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to bear.

Our buildings and churchyard require maintenance that we simply can't afford. We have been able to offset some of the cost through grants, such as the one that enabled us to get new windows at St. Martha's. But that only goes so far.

People like George Hance have always been few and far between. Now there just aren't that many people in our congregation, period. The pandemic accelerated a drop in membership that has been taking place for years. It poses a challenge in sustaining our ministries to ourselves and the local community.

And Mother Angie has become part of our legacy, just like Father Counselman, Father Schmaus and dozens of other predecessors. As we carry on, we have to figure out how best to move forward.

It's clear that we can't go on the way we did before. We aren't in a position to afford a new full-time priest on our own. Our Endowment Fund has been tapped for years to cover expenses.

The issue goes far beyond Trinity. After all, there's a second Episcopal Church in Woodbridge, another one in Edison, another in Perth Amboy, yet another in South Amboy, and on and on.

Having so many congregations in our area is also a legacy, of a time when churches were at the heart of the local community and families couldn't travel far. Neither is the case any more, and many churches are struggling as a result.

Our diocese is encouraging congregations to build relationships so they can support each other not only financially, but also spiritually. In our area, Christ Church, South Amboy, has an affiliation with Trinity, Matawan.

There's also the affiliation between St. James, Bradley Beach, and St. Michael's, Wall, which was brought home to us because of my sister's attendance at our Sunday Zoom services the past few months.

During Mother Angie's time with us, Bishop Stokes raised the possibility of our affiliating with another historic congregation: St. James, Edison. We have worked with them before as part of a collaboration among Route 1 corridor churches.

The discussions have gained momentum since her departure last month. I recently met in person with St. James's senior warden, Harriette Ward, when we were both in Texas to attend weddings. There will be much more to come on the subject in the months ahead.

Yes, Trinity has a legacy. Now it's time to ensure that it also has a future. Your support and your prayers as we determine the best direction to follow would be most appreciated.

David Wilson



Sunday School

Trinity would like to thank Allison Brennan for her years of work in running our Sunday School. We wish Allison, her husband Marty, and their children Maggie and MJ all the best in the future.

If you are interested in picking up where Allison left off, please contact one of our Wardens, Steve Kalista and David Wilson. We would like to resume Sunday School along with in-person worship, which we plan to bring back in September. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Life Events



Mother Angie carried out several long-delayed baptisms before completing her time as Priest-in-Charge in May. Among them was the baptism of Joe and Robin Vitale's daughter Isabella on April 25 at the church. The event was viewed on Zoom as far away as Guam, where a relative is stationed. (Ella is on the left in the photo. Her sister Alex is on the right.)

Congratulations to Ella and all of the other children given the sacrament of baptism in Mother Angie's final weeks. May the Lord bless them and keep them.

Trinity would also like to congratulate Janae Nicole Kirmales Prouty and Desiree Marie Kirmales Prouty, who were confirmed May 13 at St. Peter's in Spotswood. They were part of a service for our diocese's Northern Convocation.



Mother Angie's final in-person service took place in the parking lot on May 2. While rain fell at times that orning, she was able to complete the Morning Prayer service and to accept attendees' well-wishes. (Photo: Steve Kalista)

Musical Visit

Trinity has been blessed for months with the inclusion of specially recorded hymns in our Sunday morning services. They have been provided by organist Facundo Lopez and singer Alessia Santoro, who paid us a visit in May to see the church building for themselves.

Warden David Wilson met with Facundo and Alessia and told them about the history of the building and our congregation. Our other Warden, Steve Kalista, also stopped by. They both sing in our choir, which is currently on hiatus.

All four joined together on a socially distanced hymn, "God Is Here Within Us." It was the first music to be performed at Trinity since the pandemic began.



Facundo also tested out our organ by playing a piece of instrumental music.

The performances are posted on our Facebook page. Click on the photos to go directly to the video.

Facundo and Alessia may perform a concert at Trinity with other musicians later in the year. Look for details in This Week of Trinity when they're available.

Dunham Family Visit

Trinity has a historical link to the Dunham family through the Rectory, also known as the Jonathan Dunham House. The house was named for former President Barack Obama's earliest American-born ancestor and was built by his son, Benjamin Dunham, who also put up the first of our three church buildings.

The Dunham family preserves its history and genealogy through a non-profit organization, founded as Dunham-Singletary Family Connections in 2004 and later renamed Dunham Genealogy Research Association. The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, which covered Trinity's 300th anniversary celebration of the house in 2018.

Gratia Dunham Mahony is the newsletter's editor. She toured the house and the church grounds, including some Dunham family grave sites, on June 27. Her daughter, Ann Mahony Cook, accompanied her on the visit. Warden David Wilson, who has corresponded with her in the past, showed her around.



Ann Mahony Cook and Gratia Dunham Mahony are pictured in front of the Rectory during their visit.

A vibrant, colorful poster for a flea market. The background is yellow and decorated with several circular, patterned ornaments in shades of blue, green, and pink. At the top left, a pink banner reads "10am-3pm". To its right, a blue banner reads "JULY 10 2021 SATURDAY" and "RAIN OR SHINE". In the center, a large orange banner reads "The Barron Arts Center FLEA MARKET". Below this, a cartoon illustration shows a man in a blue shirt and yellow pants pushing a shopping cart filled with various items, including a birdcage and a small house. To the right of the illustration, a yellow starburst shape contains the text "at ACACIA YOUTH CENTER". At the bottom, black text provides the location and contact information: "Place: Acacia Youth Center (Formerly the Hungarian American Citizens Club) 95 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, NJ 07064 Call 732-634-0413 for more info". A small circular seal is visible in the bottom left corner.

10am-3pm

JULY 10 2021 SATURDAY
RAIN OR SHINE

The Barron Arts Center
FLEA MARKET

at ACACIA YOUTH CENTER

Place: Acacia Youth Center
(Formerly the Hungarian American Citizens Club)
95 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, NJ 07064
Call 732-634-0413 for more info

Trinity is selling surplus items and St. Anne's Unit is selling jewelry at the annual flea market. Your help and support are appreciated. See you there.

Thank you, Trinity.

By Jeanne Boyle

After retiring, I wanted to become active doing something to care for God's creation. I stumbled across a great group: [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) (CCL), a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. CCL is an international organization with about 180,000 members organized into local chapters. There are more than 600 chapters in the U.S.

CCL empowers everyday people to work together on climate change solutions. The work includes building support in Congress for a national, bipartisan solution to climate change. In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of supporting legislation, CCL trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media, and their local community.

And that is where Trinity fits.

Among the bills coming forward in Congress that include an economy-wide price on carbon, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is the primary legislation supported by CCL. The Act charges an increasing fee on carbon producers and returns the money as a dividend to the American people to manage any additional costs they may incur. Such a strong, economy-wide price on carbon could reduce America's carbon pollution 50% by 2030, putting us on track to reach net zero by 2050.

CCL provides the opportunity for organizations to support the Act by adding their names to an online list of endorsers. About a year ago, Mother Angie agreed to add Trinity to the list! We joined Episcopal brothers and sisters from Louisiana, Florida and Kentucky.

The Act has been reintroduced into the 117th Congress as HR 2307 and I look forward to Trinity endorsing anew.

Thank you, Trinity!

For more: energyinnovationact.org



The Way of St. Paul team has explored what it means to have a personal rule of life. We have tried out a variety of activities and come up with a list from which you can choose to develop your own rule of life:

- * Worship with Morning and/or Evening Prayer
- * Pray the Anglican rosary
- * Listen to Christian music and praise God while driving/commuting
- * Pray the Daughters of the King prayer while putting on the DOK cross
- * Read the Forward Day by Day meditation and respond to its prayer requests
- * Reflect upon the daily tweets from Trinity Church
- * Subscribe to a daily Bible verse service and reflect on each verse received
- * Read the newspaper and pray for those who passed away and their families
- * Respond to prayer requests from Episcopalians on Facebook
- * Participate in the Episcopal Public Policy Network and contact elected officials on issues of the Episcopal Church
- * Pray daily via email with the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist
- * Pray when you learn news, both happy and sad, of others, especially friends and fellow parishioners, newsmakers
- * Pray for family, friends, and the world
- * Be mindful of Christ in all others
- * Make all with whom you come in contact with feel heard and loved

God bless you, every one.

Beyond the Pages



Trinity's faith-based book club, Beyond the Pages, meets monthly through Zoom on Sunday afternoons. The meetings are an opportunity to gather with fellow readers and to enhance your spiritual understanding through literature.

Beyond the Pages held over a discussion of N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense* that was set for June 27. A new date will be announced soon. Information about the club's meetings and books is regularly included in This Week at Trinity. Contact Jeanne Boyle for more details.



JUBILEE

Outreach Ministries

Trinity helps carry out God's work in the world and meet the needs of the local community through feeding and diaper programs and other outreach efforts. We have operated as a Jubilee Ministry Center, designated by the Episcopal Church for our support of the poor and oppressed, since 2015.

Trinity's feeding ministries were blessed with a \$6,800 grant from the Network Investment Initiative, a program of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Mercer Street Friends and Norwescap. The initiative was designed to help food pantries and soup kitchens across the state serve more people in need during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

The grant was used to install new windows on the first floor of St. Martha's House, where the Food Pantry operates. The windows were custom made by Window World because St. Martha's, built in 1874 and listed on the state and national registers of historic places, doesn't have standard sizes.

Grant money was also used to obtain new storage shelves for St. Martha's and to buy more diapers for our Diaper Bank, among other necessities.





Volunteers help our Sextons, Joe and Mary Kovacs, move newly purchased diapers into a storage shed for our outreach ministries. Trinity was able to use proceeds from the grant to rebuild inventory at the Diaper Bank, which had been depleted during the pandemic.

Representatives of Sheet Metal Workers Local 27 joined us at St. Martha's House to help with the Food Pantry. Trinity appreciates all the support that our feeding ministries receive from the local community. Without its help, we would be unable to carry out our mission of serving others.

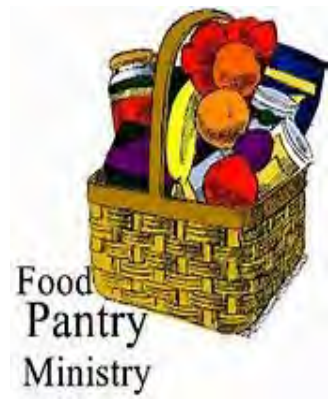


Food Pantry clients are now receiving laundry supplies that the grant enabled us to purchase. This represents an extra effort to assist families in need. We are grateful for the financial resources that allowed us to provide this additional support.



Volunteer Opportunity

Your Food Pantry ministry is in need of several volunteers to enable us to efficiently service and fulfill a most important role in our community. The number of people in need of our support is ever increasing.



Volunteers will pack and distribute food baskets. They will be able to experience the gratifying satisfaction and pride that helping others brings.

The pantry is traditionally open on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Currently, the pantry is operating every Thursday and Saturday.

If you can spare a few hours on those days, please consider joining us. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Carroll Thomas.

Donations Wanted

Food Pantry

These food items are in demand: Canned chicken, canned meats, stew (low sodium), canned and dry pasta, macaroni and cheese, rice, dry beans (black, red, pinto), vegetables, fruits, cereal, granola bars. Household items also in demand: Paper products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste.



Diaper Bank

Our diaper program always needs children's disposable diapers, especially smaller sizes, and baby wipes. You may drop them off starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday or 11 a.m. on Friday. You may also purchase items through AmazonSmile so they are delivered automatically.

THANK YOU for your continued support!



Corner

Trinity is grateful to all who have maintained their support during the current period of transition. Your contributions are essential as we move forward in serving our congregants and our local community and deciding our future.

If your circumstances have changed and you are unable to fulfill your pledge, please contact us as soon as possible. Our Stewardship chair, Nancy Milochik, can help you adjust your commitment.

Thanks to everyone who have taken advantage of our online-giving platform, Givebutter, to set up and fulfill your pledge. It's linked to our home page for convenience. Look for a red Donate button along the upper right-hand side of the page. Click on it and you will see three "active campaigns" -- 2021 Pledge, Special Envelope Donations and Holiday Donations -- that together cover all our traditional offering envelopes.

Remember that Stewardship involves time and talent, as well as treasure. We need your help in selling surplus items at the Barron Arts Center's annual flea market, scheduled for July 10 at the Acacia Youth Center. We also can use your help with preparations to bring back in-person worship, which we are planning to do in September.

For details on these and other opportunities to serve, see This Week at Trinity. Contact Wardens Steve Kalista and David Wilson for more information.



St. Anne's Unit



Thank goodness that St. Anne's and Trinity had reached the 75 year anniversary of the Strawberry Festival a few years ago. We believe the first festival was held in 1943. So next year we will start another 75-years-and-counting chance to celebrate the great strawberry desserts!

St. Anne's will have an in-person meeting when the church reopens. We are certainly looking forward to seeing each other! We have kept in touch with members through phone calls, emails, texts and the ever-reliable U.S. Postal Service.

St. Anne's will be at the Barron Arts Center Flea Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 10. We will be selling jewelry which we have collected from our own jewelry boxes and received as donations from friends. The flea market will be located at the Acacia Youth Center on Port Reading Ave., just a short walk away from Trinity. We hope to see you there!

Remembering the Sick



Trinity prays for the sick and the suffering at weekend services, during the Prayers of the People. In order to keep our prayer list up to date, names of those in need of our prayers will be included for four weeks at a time.

You may add names to the prayer list or renew names already on the list by calling our prayer request line at 732-634-7422, ext. 100, or by sending an email to Wardens Steve Kalista and David Wilson at wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org. You are encouraged to mention a name aloud during services and we hope that you will feel free to do so.



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FAQs

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SIGN-UP FEES TO ENROLL?

No. There are no enrollment charges, no hidden fees, and no long-term commitment. Cancel at any time without penalty.

WILL I STILL BE A PSE&G CUSTOMER

Yes, you will stay with your current utility provider, but your bill will be reduced.

DO I NEED TO OWN MY HOME OR APARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE?

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Address Correction Requested

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