



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church
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MARCH 2023 IN THIS ISSUE

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Father Freddie's Reflections

Hello to all of you at Trinity Woodbridge! I am excited to be writing my first column for the Herald, and I look forward to writing many more throughout my tenure as your priest-in-charge.

Seeing as this is my first column, it felt most appropriate to talk about the state of our affiliation. At the point this was written, I had been working with all of you for about 2 1/2 months. Even in that short time, much has happened.

My goal has been to acquaint myself with our two communities and get to know as much as I possibly could from them. In order to be a successful and efficient leader, I believe that one needs to know the people that make up a community, the things that motivate them, the stories that have helped shape that community into what it is today, and the hope for where they see their community ending up in both the near and distant future. While I spent some time with Trinity and St. James during my service at St. Peter's Perth Amboy, much has changed since then.

I have felt truly blessed that many of you have supported me in my mission to learn more. Some have taken time to sit and educate me on the history of Trinity. Others have invited me to sit and chat about

THE TRINITY
HERALD is published
quarterly in March,
June, September and
December by Trinity
Episcopal Church,
Woodbridge, NJ

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Paiva III

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yourselfs and your connection to the church. Most importantly, many of you have invited me into the ministries you help run here. All of these things have been helpful, as each element has helped me to gain perspective on what makes our community tick. I am starting to feel less like a stranger and more like a new but welcome member of our family, and for that I cannot be more grateful.

The communities of Trinity and St. James have both spent the last several years facing one trial after another. You have lost your clergy leader, you have faced Covid and all of the losses every church has faced, and you have maneuvered through the process of affiliation. In spite of all of this, our leaders have kept the ship afloat, and while things may be worse for wear, there is at least still a ship to sail.

I will admit that, before I started, I was worried what the state of affairs would be when I finally got here. We may have lost some things over the years. Some of us are tired from what we've gone through. But there is still hope and a willingness to do the work God has given us to do. That is something I can work with, at least. I'm thankful the ship I've been called to captain still has some life in it.

What lies ahead for our two communities as we solidify our affiliation is still being written. I am happy that it seems we have dealt with much of the administrative "stuff" now. Figuring out how our two communities will function with supporting a full-time priest, sorting out all the paperwork, and all of the details that come with that seem to have been handled now. I'm sure there will be more to come, but it seems we have at least figured out how to navigate those issues when they arise.

Both communities' leaders have approached me with ideas of things they would like to see happen in the months to come. As the weather continues to improve, and (God willing) Covid becomes more minor in our lives, it becomes more possible for us to go out and do things like we used to.

In future entries of this column, I hope to write in more detail on what is happening in our church and about events

that are upcoming within our community. For now, I would just like to leave you all with the assurance that whatever comes our way, we are in this together. I am your clergy leader, and you are the community I have been called to serve. I cannot do my job if I don't understand the goal we are moving toward. I am pleased with the relationship I have with each of you thus far, and I would hope you are happy with the relationship you have with me.

Please continue to reach out to me with any concerns or ideas you might have or even if you just want to chat. I will do whatever I can to make that happen. Many of you have told me the past few months have made the last few years' journey of getting to this point worth it, and I can say the same for me. I am so excited to see what comes next for all of us.

May God's blessing be with all of us,

Father Freddie Paiva



Spreading the Word

Now that Father Freddie has become our priest-in-charge, Trinity has reinstated a Membership Development Committee, led by David Forsythe. The committee is working to spread the word about our church throughout the Woodbridge area, especially to all the newly built apartment complexes that are located within easy walking or driving distance.

As part of that effort, the committee has come up with a flyer to encourage people to join us for Holy Week and Easter. The flyer is available on the next page. Please print out copies and hand them to friends or neighbors, post them on community bulletin boards, or distribute them through social media. Your support is greatly appreciated as the committee seeks to build on Trinity's foundation of more than three centuries of worship and service.

All Are Welcome

Trinity Episcopal Church is a historic church located at 650 Rahway Ave. at Trinity Lane in Woodbridge, NJ. Our roots go back to 1698, and we will be celebrating our 325th anniversary this year. The third church at this location, Trinity has been listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places since 2004, for its significance in architecture and religion.

Reaching out to others is part of our mission at Trinity Church. Along with providing religious services and education, the church runs a Friday lunch program, Food Pantry, Diaper Bank, and additional programs to help the less fortunate. The church also hosts community groups and supports the work of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey and worldwide.

Trinity is affiliated with St. James Episcopal Church, Edison, another of New Jersey's oldest congregations. The Rev. Fernando Paiva III is now serving as priest-in-charge at Trinity and St. James. Shared Holy Week services will be:



Palm Sunday: St. James, Edison, April 2, 10 a.m.

Tenebrae: Trinity, Woodbridge, April 5, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: St. James, Edison, April 6, Edison, 7 p.m.

Good Friday: St. James, Edison, April 7, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil: Trinity, Woodbridge, April 8, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday: Trinity, Woodbridge, April 9, 10 a.m.

To explore and connect with the Trinity congregation our website is available at:

<https://www.trinitywoodbridge.org>

Ashes to Go Times Two



About 250 people received ashes from Trinity's lay ministers on Ash Wednesday at the Woodbridge train station. The distribution was made as part of the Diocese of New Jersey's Ashes to Go program, designed to take church to the streets. We were represented at two station entrances: Pearl Street, our focus in past years, and Green Street.

The photo on the left shows David Forsythe imposing ashes at the Pearl Street entrance as Arlene Guellnitz prepares to hand out a flyer advertising Trinity.

The photo on the right shows Glenn Cunningham distributing ashes at the Green Street entrance as John Bergacs, flyers in hand, looks on. Note the "Ashes to Go" sign leaning up against the trash can.

Being at the Green Street entrance enabled Trinity to expand its distribution beyond commuters traveling to work in Newark and New York. Some people were given ashes in their cars as they dropped off people at the train. The driver of a package-delivery truck stopped for ashes while on a route.

St. James, Edison, also participated in this year's program. They provided ashes outside their church building, located off Woodbridge Avenue/Route 514, with Father Freddie's help.

Inspired by a Book and a Painting



Have you seen the new painting in the Cloister, the hallway between the church and the Parish House? It's called *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Rembrandt.

Members of Beyond The Pages, Trinity's book club, recently read and discussed a book with the same title by Henri Nouwen. The author was an Episcopal priest who was able to study the painting as it hung in a museum in St Petersburg, Russia.

We all knew about the Prodigal Son, but this book made us consider the story in new ways. The author inspired each of us to look at our relationship with our father, God.

Were we the Elder Son who never left home and stayed to help his father? Were we the Younger Son who left his father and ended up poor and hungry in a distant country?

Each of us wanted to see the painting for ourselves. A reproduction was ordered. We got to study the people in the story. Beyond the Pages wanted to share this painting with the church. We think it represents Trinity as we are in this new place of our lives. We have a new priest. We are able to have fellowship after Sunday services. We are planning future events. We say that All Are Welcome. We felt this painting represented us and our relationship with God. He is the Father who welcomes back the son who left and came back. He also loves the son who never left. Like the Father, and like God, we should also greatly love and accept others. We hope that you enjoy this painting and all of its meaning as much as we do.



JUBILEE

Community Ministry

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 efforts. We have operated since 2015 as a Jubilee Ministry Center, designated by the Episcopal Church for our support of the poor and oppressed.

Feeding Ministries Focus on the Friday Luncheon

Here's an introduction to some of the guests that attend our Friday luncheon, courtesy of our volunteers. These people are our friends and our inspiration. They provide us with the opportunity to serve the Lord at Trinity.

Mark B. is often low on food, and he appreciates being able to get a meal.

James G. is 92 years old, and he appreciates the opportunity to socialize and get out among others.

Ruth and Sandy are a mother/daughter duo. Ruth is in her 80's. They appreciate the opportunity to pray together with the other guests and are grateful for the volunteers.

Valerie B. has been coming to the Friday Luncheon since it opened.

Lori K. says that everyone is nice and friendly, and all are like a family.

Joy K., Lori's mom, says that everyone who serves the guests is kind and friendly.

Jim G. says that there is no pressure, and it feels like home.

Robin says that there is no other place around like the Friday Luncheon.

We regularly serve between 12 and 20 guests each Friday. As volunteers, we grow in Christ as we engage in fellowship with each other and among the guests. We work as a team and are blessed to have Carroll Thomas as our organizer.



Here's what the Parish House looks like as the "Monday morning packers" get ready to do their volunteer work for the Food Pantry. (Photo: David Forsythe)

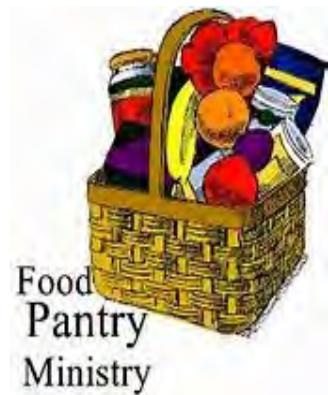


Here's the finished product for distribution to needy families. (Photo: David Forsythe)



Volunteer Opportunity

Our Food Pantry ministry is in need of volunteers to allow us to efficiently service and fulfill a most important role in our local community. Please consider joining us in this vital ministry.



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

The pantry currently operates on Thursdays, with morning and afternoon pickups, and on the first and third Saturday of each month. Diapers are also distributed by our diaper bank on the first Saturday.

If you can spare a few hours on those days, your help would be most appreciated. 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, fruit, 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 Amazon so they are delivered automatically.

THANK YOU for your continued support



Corner

Trinity is grateful to all who are fulfilling pledges for 2023. Your support enables us to serve our congregation and the local community, support the work of Father Freddie, strengthen our affiliation with St. James in Edison, and take steps to secure our future.

There are several options for paying your pledge, including the online-giving platform Givebutter, available on our home page. You may also use bank bill-paying services, mail checks to the church office, or put your contributions in the collection plate at Sunday services.

Offering envelopes are only available upon request, which allows us to save on printing costs. If you want envelopes, please contact the Church Office to make arrangements.

We are thankful to all those who have given their time and talents this year to work at our feeding ministries and other activities. We hope you will be just as generous as the year progresses.

For more information on stewardship, see This Week at Trinity. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of our Wardens, Steve Kalista and David Wilson.



St. Anne's Unit



Good news! St Anne's has decided to plan for the Annual Strawberry Festival in June. We hope that the Parish House will be back to normal so we can have Strawberry Shortcake and our raffle tables whatever the weather may be.

The topic for our February meeting was "An Evening With Father Freddie and Jessica Paiva." We played a little game that revealed our favorite and least favorite things. We talked about St. Anne's history and the deep connections our members have about Trinity.

In March we visited Proprietary House in Perth Amboy for a tour and tea.

April will find St. Anne's members joining forces with the Altar Guild for a Polishing Party. We will skip our regular Sunday meeting date and spend a Saturday morning working to prepare the Church for Easter. We can always use more help. Watch the This Week At Trinity for news about this date.

Ways to Worship

Trinity offers three ways to attend our services:

- Worship in person. Masks are recommended, though not mandated. Bread and wine are made available for Holy Communion under diocesan guidelines.
- Join us on Zoom. Login information and a link to the service bulletin are available each week through our newsletter, This Week at Trinity.
- Watch on Facebook Live, where we stream the Zoom video.

We expect to maintain this hybrid system for the foreseeable future. Whichever way you choose to worship, please join us on Sundays and holy days.

Beyond the Pages



Trinity has a faith-based book club, Beyond the Pages. Participants read a book each month and meet online to discuss it on Sunday afternoons. The meetings are an opportunity to gather with fellow readers and to enhance spiritual understanding through discussion and fellowship.

Books are selected by participants and range from Christian classics to modern novels. The most recent selection is *The Question That Never Goes Away. Why?* by Philip Yancey. The club will meet on Sunday, April 16, to discuss this story of finding meaning in the midst of suffering.

Beyond the Pages meetings are typically held on the fourth Sunday of the month. Further information and the Zoom link to join the discussion are available in This Week at Trinity.

Dine and Dwell



You are invited to join St. James's weekly Bible-study program, Dine and Dwell, held online at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

As stated on St. James's website: "These meetings give us the chance to make meaning of the scripture by looking at how God's words are speaking to us in that moment. As we learn and grow together, we are forming a deeper connection with Jesus and with one another. ""

Look for the Zoom link to Dine and Dwell in This Week at Trinity.

Remembering the Sick



Trinity prays for the sick and the suffering at Sunday morning 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 or by emailing Wardens Steve Kalista and David Wilson at wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org. You are most 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?

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