



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church
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SEPTEMBER 2022

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Warden's Words

"Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." (2 Peter 3:8)

This Bible verse is a reference to God's time, which is vastly different from the time that you and I know. It's especially relevant for us here at Trinity because events aren't unfolding as quickly as we might have expected.

The selection of a new priest-in-charge is one of those events. Our 2022 budget was based on an assumption that we would hire someone by midyear. It didn't work out that way. We're just getting to the point where our Discernment Committee will receive the names of candidates to lead Trinity and St. James, Edison.

We just went through the entire month of September without having a supply priest for Holy Communion. The priests lined up for the first two Sundays weren't available, and we couldn't even schedule one for other services. So we fell back on lay-led Morning Prayer, as we have done in the past.

Unfortunately, we'll have to go without Communion again on some Sundays in the next few months. There just aren't many supply priests to be had these days.



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Timeliness is also an issue with our facilities, specifically St. Martha's House. Early this year, we discovered that a leaky pipe was causing the floor to warp in our first-floor meeting room. The leak also resulted in mold, which was especially concerning because the supplies for our Food Pantry were stored in the house.

Since then, we have run into one issue after another in seeking to resolve the matter. The first is that the pipe had asbestos insulation, which posed a health hazard. We had to hire a specialized contractor to do remediation in the house. And we had to file a claim with our insurance company to cover the cost.

At the same time, we had to ensure that our pantry and other feeding ministries could continue to serve the people who needed them. That meant moving food items out of St. Martha's and into the Parish House, which was done over the summer.

We had hoped to be back in St. Martha's by now, and for a couple of reasons. First, it would have allowed the pantry to go back to normal operations. Second, it would have enabled us to do some much-needed maintenance work on the Parish House floor. This has to be done before we can start using the hall for fundraisers and rentals, as we did before the Covid-19 pandemic.

That hasn't happened either. The St. Martha's remediation is still playing out. Additional work needs to be done, and that means having to file for more money from our insurer. As a result, the pantry items are staying in the Parish House and the floor maintenance is on hold.

Yet in the midst of all this, we're still finding ways to carry out God's work. We're gathering in church on Sundays and also online, regardless of whether the service is Communion or Morning Prayer. When lay leaders run the services, we're able to appreciate their gifts.



The pantry and other feeding ministries are carrying on too. Visit the Parish House at the beginning of a week, as I have done, and you'll see the "Monday morning packers" hard at work. They prepare dozens of bags of food that will be distributed later in the week.

The Discernment Committee is busy as well. Preparations are being made to interview candidates as soon as they become available. Questions have been drafted, reviewed and edited jointly with St James's committee.

What's next? The answer is up to all of us. Pray that those working on our behalf will be able to move forward. Pray that priests will see Trinity and St. James as worth leading and want to serve us both as priest-in-charge. Most of all, pray that we may show the patience and understanding that comes with being on God's time.

David Wilson



Ways to Worship

Trinity offers three ways to attend our services:

-- Worship in person. Masks are recommended, though not mandated, and other pandemic protocols remain in place for now. Bread and wine are made available for Holy Communion under diocesan guidelines.

-- Join us on Zoom, in keeping with our practice throughout the pandemic. 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.

Bowling for Hunger



Trinity's team at Bowl for Hunger takes a minute away for a photo with the event's organizer, New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, second from left. The team consisted of Warden David Wilson, Dot Borkowski, Dot's daughter Rebecca D'Arienzo, and Dot's grandson James Broza, left to right, (Photo courtesy of Bowl for Hunger)

The 13th annual Bowl for Hunger was held on Monday, July 25, at Majestic Lanes in the Hopelawn section of Woodbridge. Trinity's feeding ministries are among beneficiaries of this fundraiser, which supports food pantries in Cartetet, Perth Amboy, Sayreville and South Amboy as well as Woodbridge.

Trinity had a team this year largely through the efforts of Dot Borkowski, one of the "Monday morning packers" that puts together bags of food for our pantry. She recruited her daughter and grandson to take part.

Warden David Wilson also participated. He distinguished himself by starting his first game with four straight gutter balls. It's a good thing the event was all in fun and was held for a worthy cause -- one that benefits us directly.

St. James Street Fair



Trinity made its presence known at the 32nd annual St. James Street Fair, held Sept. 17 on Main Street in Woodbridge. Arlene Guellnitz, left, and Jeanne Boyle, right, staffed our booth along with Phyllis Tory. Warden David Wilson stopped by with his family's dog, Luna, who ate some of the treats that went along with our "dog water spot."

We handed out two prizes: a set of suitcases and a game of Jerseyopoly, a variation of the Parker Brothers classic Monopoly. Anyone who gave us an email address and telephone number was entered in the drawing. More than 25 people signed up and were added to our email list. They received the latest issue of This Week at Trinity, and will continue to do so unless they opt out.



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.

For many years, Trinity's participation in the local Family Promise network was a key component of our community ministry. We housed homeless families for a week at a time in the Parish House as part of a regional rotation managed by the Fish Hospitality Program, based in Piscataway.

The rotation ended when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived. Starting in March 2020, Fish Hospitality arranged for families to stay in hotels. The change was in keeping with an earlier shift by the national Family Promise organization, which had moved away from local networks.

Fish Hospitality decided in July to close at year-end. Details about the decision were included in a letter that's reproduced on the next two pages. While we're sorry to see this happen, we're grateful to have had the opportunity to help the organization and Family Promise carry out its mission.



Otherwise, our feeding ministries are carrying on their mission of helping people meet their needs. In August, we served 275 people in 85 families even though our Friday lunch program was shut down for the month.

We have moved to having two food distributions on Thursdays, one in the morning and the other in late afternoon. This scheduling change is designed to help us reach as many people as possible and address the growing issue of food insecurity, especially at a time when food-price inflation is accelerating.

We are continuing to store food in the Parish House as remediation work on St. Martha's House continues. We are confident that the project will be successful and look forward to the day when we can relocate back into St. Martha's, our longtime home.



FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 170, Dunellen NJ 08812

TEL: 732-968-5957

Serving Homeless Women and Families since 1990

Administrative Office:

456 New Market Road, Piscataway

admin@fishhospitality.org

Executive Director:

Theresa Donatiello Neidich, MSW/LSW

fishhospsw@verizon.net

July, 2022

Dear FISH Hospitality Partners,

In this our 32nd year, FISH Hospitality Program has witnessed enormous global changes that have impacted the ways in which we assist our guests. Beginning in March 2020, with the onset of COVID-19, we shifted from our church rotation model and began housing families in local motels. Thinking that this change would be temporary, we continued to believe that returning to our previous rotational shelter model was just around the corner. Two years later we are still housing families in motels. These and other factors outlined below have led us to make the difficult and heartbreaking decision to close FISH Hospitality Program.

Recently our host church coordinators came together to discuss whether and how to resume our shelter program. Only two (2) of our churches said that they would be able to host soon; others felt that Fall was a possibility but were not sure. And three (3) of our host churches will no longer be able to host our guests. It is difficult to be sure in such an unsure world. Prior to the pandemic many of our churches struggled to provide volunteers, especially for the overnight shifts. Now, COVID-19 has affected many of our stalwart volunteers (the majority of whom are senior citizens), both physically and emotionally; the same people who would normally be ready, willing, and able to help host are now unable to do so. The pandemic has also caused churches to re-think their spaces. Is air quality what it should be? With only dividers, how are guests and volunteers protected from other sick guests? How do we mandate vaccines for our volunteers and our guests? Is congregate living the best and safest way to help our guests?

Several years ago, Family Promise, a national program for assisting homeless people, determined that their rotational shelter model was no longer sustainable. They have been utilizing a variety of different models across the country, including diversion. Union County Family Promise is renting short-term apartments for their clients. It is a massive undertaking, but they have resources and staff who can coordinate the logistical issues presented by renting temporary apartments.

Middlesex County has initiated a diversion program. Rather than refer people into a shelter system, the program is designed to keep people in their present housing, and to assist them with case work, apartment referrals and financial assistance. The program is successful, resulting in far

fewer potential families on the Middlesex County list each month. While we rejoice in the success of the Middlesex County program, the result is that there are far fewer people and families that meet the criteria for admission into our FISH program.

Norma Elliott and Anita Hoynes founded FISH in February 1990 to assist our homeless population. While most non-profits last, on average, for ten (10) years, FISH has existed for 32 years to help our homeless neighbors. Based on all of the above factors, however, the FISH Board of Directors has concluded that continuing our program is untenable. This decision did not come easily; we worry about what this closure will mean to the families whom we serve, as well as our church partners, our funders, our staff – indeed, all of you who have been supporting our efforts to help provide safe shelter for area families for many years. In the coming months, we will continue to do as much as we can to assist our families who are staying in motels. Our projected closure date is December 31, 2022.

To our coordinators and volunteers: we know that our FISH families whom you encountered and helped will remain in your prayers. Your kindness and willingness to connect with those families in their time of great need will live on in their hearts as well.

To our funders: we say thank you for believing in our mission and supporting it with your donations. FHP has always been very conscientious with the monies entrusted to us, helping our families as much as possible while operating with incredibly low overhead.

To the ministerial staff, administrators and maintenance staff at our churches: we give thanks for your willingness to give up church space a few weeks each year, enabling families to feel safe and secure on your campus. The challenges of having FISH Hospitality at your church were always resolved, thanks to your efforts.

As we prepare for our closure, we ask that you cease any recurring donations that you may have set up with your banking institutions. Coordinators, we no longer need meals nor gift cards for our remaining guests. Any remaining assets will be used to support the families who we are sheltering in addition to paying our debts and liabilities. We are required by law to distribute any other remaining assets to another non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the direction of our attorney.

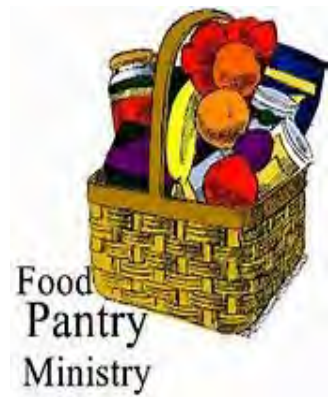
Again, the Board of Directors, as well as our executive director, Theresa Donatiello Neidich, give thanks to all of you who have helped our families over the past 32 years. Many lives have been changed by FISH Hospitality Program.

With gratitude,
Carole Cook
President, Board of Directors



Volunteer Opportunity

Our Food Pantry ministry is in need of several volunteers to enable us to efficiently service and fulfill a most important role in our local 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 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, 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, 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 AmazonSmile so they are delivered automatically.

THANK YOU for your continued support



Corner

Trinity is grateful to all who have given their time, talent and treasure during the current period of transition. Your contributions have enabled us to serve our congregants and the local community and to work toward our future.

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

We are thankful to all those who have given their time and talents this year to work our feeding ministries, fundraising events and other activities. We hope you will be just as generous through the rest of this year and beyond.

Please note that our Stewardship campaign for 2023 is scheduled to begin in October, under the direction of David Forsythe. You'll hear from us at Sunday services and also via email. Your support is crucial to our efforts to hire a joint priest-in-charge through our affiliation with St. James, Edison.

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



St. Anne's Unit



On Sept. 4, the members of St. Anne's Unit met in the Parish Hall to plan for the year. Yes, for the year! Why? Because St. Anne's was founded by a group of Trinity women who all had school-aged children. And school years run from September to June. We hold meetings based on school years as one way to honor the women that started this group.

We will meet at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. There is no meeting in October, so we will have our next meeting on Nov. 13. Until we see how the flu and Covid season runs this fall, each member will bring her own beverage and snack. We expect each meeting to last about 90 minutes. This allows us to have a short program and a chance for fellowship.

St. Anne's is helping Trinity by participating in the "Friends Helping Friends" day at Boscov's in Woodbridge Center on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Donate \$5 and you will receive a 25% off coupon, good for the entire day. You will also have the chance to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card. The discount is available at other Boscov's store as well. See details in our newsletter, This Week at Trinity.

The Annual Poinsettia, Wreath, Grave Cover and Adopt-A-Grave sale is coming up soon as well. Look for the order form later in this issue. Your support for St. Anne's is appreciated.

Christmas Sale Is Here



St. Anne's Unit is once again having its annual Christmas sale of poinsettias, decorated wreaths, grave covers, and grave blankets. The items will be from Floral Expressions, on Main Street in Woodbridge, and they will be beautiful.

We are accepting orders through Sunday, Nov. 14. All order forms should be mailed with your payment to the church. The address is on the order form, included on the next page of this newsletter.

Pickup will be Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon. If you prefer, we would be pleased to place your grave covers/blankets at family gravesites at Trinity, or select a recipient for you if you wish to "adopt a grave."

St. Anne's would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support of our Christmas sale. It is an important fundraiser for Trinity, and we look forward to your participation.

For additional information, please call Jeanne Boyle at 732-548-2431.

Order Form - Christmas 2022

Poinsettia, Wreath, Grave Cover/Blanket, and Adopt-A-Grave Sale Trinity Episcopal Church: St. Anne's Unit

<u>Poinsettia</u>						
<u>Pot Size</u>	<u>Blooms</u>	<u>Available Colors</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>How Many</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
6 inch	5 Blooms	Red Pink White	\$7ea. 3/15			
8 inch	12-15 Blooms	Red Pink White	\$16.00			
10 inch	20 Blooms	Red Pink White	\$20.00			

<u>Grave Covers</u>			
<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>How Many</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Grave Cover Decorated	\$22.00		

<u>Grave Blankets</u>			
<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>How Many</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Grave Blanket Decorated	\$32.00		

<u>Door Wreaths</u>			
<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>How Many</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Door Wreaths Decorate	\$22.00		

Adopt-A-Grave ☒: Or, indicate the person to be remembered if you wish us to place the grave cover:

Total Amount: \$ _____

Check # _____

<u>Submit Orders No Later Than: <u>Sunday, November 13, 2022</u></u>	<u>Pick Up Date For All Orders: <u>Saturday, December 3, 2022, 2 pm - 4 pm</u></u>
---	---

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____

**Mail your completed form and payment to: St. Anne's Unit,
Trinity Episcopal Church, 650 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

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 pick is *The Power and the Glory*, by British author Graham Greene, which tells the story of a renegade priest in Mexico. The club will meet Sunday, Oct. 23, to discuss this award-winning novel.

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 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 or by sending an email to 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?

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?

No. Renters and owners alike have access to clean energy and savings with our solar energy.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? WHEN CAN I START?

Right away! Go to GoSolarLandscape.com or call 732-456-5656. Our bilingual team is ready to support your needs.



The Trinity Herald

Address Correction Requested

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Woodbridge, NJ 07095-3530