



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church
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What goes around comes around. Everything old is new again. It's history repeating itself.

All these sayings and more can be applied to our affiliation with St. James, Edison, which started last month after being ratified by both congregations. Take a look through Trinity's history, and you will find our relationship with St. James echoes our ties from two centuries ago.

Let's start by reviewing minutes from the 1807 Diocesan Convention. They record that Trinity and St. James were both served by the Rev. Jasper Daniel Jones, who was then rector of St. Peter's, Perth Amboy.

Move forward a decade, and the convention minutes record the appointment of Deacon Samuel C. Stratton as missionary to vacant churches across the diocese. Trinity and St. James were among those churches, as neither one had a priest in residence at the time.

The two congregations appeared jointly in minutes during the 1830s. The Rev. William Douglass, minister at St. James, is identified as a missionary to Trinity in the 1831 report. He also served at St. Thomas, Alexandria, a congregation in Hunterdon County that still exists today.



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

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Douglass resigned in 1837 and was succeeded by the Rev. Frederick Ogilby. The next year's minutes recorded that he was holding weekly services at Trinity -- and had officiated at St. James, as well as St. Paul's, Rahway.

Trinity and St. James were named as "the oldest missionary stations in the diocese" in a report to the 1839 convention. The congregations then united in their choice of a Rector, and filed joint reports to the conventions of 1841 and 1842.

Fast forward to today, and our two congregations are again preparing to unite in selecting a priest. This time it will be a priest-in-charge, a title that didn't exist in the 1800s, rather than a rector.

Both congregations have formed Discernment Committees, which will work jointly on the selection. Trinity's panel has two Mission Committee members, yours truly and Arlene Guellnitz, and two non-members, Jeanne Boyle and Dot Borkowski.

The diocese has named the Rev. Jeffrey Kirk as a consultant. He will work with the Discernment Committees to develop congregation profiles and assist with the search process.

As this process unfolds, the affiliation is already having a positive effect. There have been several instances in which Trinity and St. James have come together:

-- Members of St. James joined us for our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, our first opportunity for fellowship since the ratification.

-- Our Ash Wednesday service was a joint effort because their supply priest, the Rev. Canon Joan Pettit Mason, was unavailable. Some of their congregants came to Trinity for the service. Many others participated via Zoom.

-- We are investigating a shared order with St. James of palms for Palm Sunday. This has the potential to reduce costs and to ensure the palms are used.



There are many more opportunities for sharing between our congregations. St. James offers a Bible-study program called Dine and Dwell every Tuesday night over Zoom. Trinity has sustained its monthly book club, Beyond the Pages, via Zoom as well. Both are featured in our weekly newsletter, This Week at Trinity, which is being sent to leader at St. James.

These online meetings help illustrate that the potential for cooperation is even greater than it was two centuries ago. We also have the ability to drive to each other's churches, which are less than 20 minutes apart by car.

To put it another way, everything old really is new again. That's what affiliation is all about. I hope you will get to know the people of St. James and work with them for the spread of God's kingdom.

David Wilson



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13: Tenebrae, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 15: Good Friday, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16: Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 17: Easter Day, 10 a.m.

Ways to Worship



Trinity now offers three ways to attend our services:

- Worship in person, as we have done every week since December. Our mask mandate has been lifted, through masks are still recommended 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. We regained the ability to broadcast Sunday services to our Facebook page through an equipment change. Online-only services held on Saturdays in January and February have been suspended.

We expect to maintain this hybrid system at least through Easter. Whichever way you choose to worship, please join us on Sundays and holy days.

Shrove Tuesday Supper



Trinity's first congregational event since the start of the pandemic took place on Shrove Tuesday, when a pancake supper was served at the Parish House. Carroll and Michele Thomas and Jeanne Boyle worked in the kitchen.

Father Peter Boyle was among those who enjoyed the colorful tablecloths and place settings, complete with beads for the occasion.



Members of St. James, Edison, also came out for the supper. This was our first chance to gather together after both congregations ratified our affiliation.

(All photos by Steve Kalista)

Ashes to Go Returns



Trinity took part in a revival of the Ashes to Go program on Ash Wednesday. David Forsythe and Arlene Guellnitz administered ashes to about 60 people at the Woodbridge train station. They also handed out flyers that highlighted our service schedule through Easter.

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.



Carroll Thomas (second from right) and community volunteers pack up items in the kitchen during our Friday lunch program, which has resumed in the Parish House.

Lead volunteers for Trinity's Feeding Ministries met March 18 to review current opportunities and to develop a new schedule of offerings. Food contributions have increased and fresh vegetables and non-food household items, such as lightbulbs, are now available.

Under the leadership of Carroll Thomas, the following comprehensive schedule was developed. It will be distributed to guests and posted on the side door of St. Martha's House.

Food Pantry: First, third and fourth Thursdays and first and third Saturday of the month, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Fresh vegetables: Second Thursday. 4 - 6 p.m.

Diapers: First Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Non-Food Items: Third Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: Every Friday, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

To accommodate the growing number of items for distribution, storage space has been rented from Pods and set up in the church parking lot. The extra space will also help us carry out much-needed restoration work in St. Martha's to deal with issues in the historic building.

Your donations, and also your prayers, for our ministries are most appreciated.

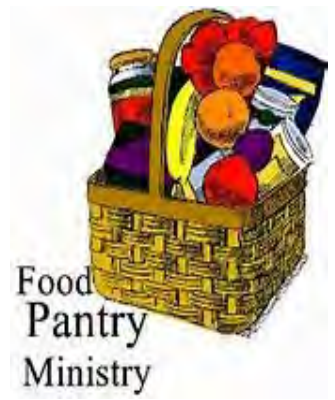


Carroll explains the new distribution schedule to those attending the Friday lunch program. Jeanne Boyle (standing at right) is among Trinity's volunteers.



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 now operating on the first, third and fourth Thursday and the first and third Saturday of the month. Diapers are also distributed on the first Saturday. Vegetables are made available on the second Thursday and non-food items on the third 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

Beyond the Pages



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

The books, selected by participants, range from Christian classics to modern novels. Recent books read and discussed were: *Stranger in a Lifeboat*, by Mitch Albom, and *Mister God, This is Anna*, by Fynn (Sydney Hopkins).

The Beekeeper of Aleppo, by Christy Lefteri, is the selection for March. This story of Nuri and Afra as they flee war and its destruction gives a personal view of the refugee experience that is often missing in today's news. Discussion will be at 2 p.m. on March 27. Further information and the link to join the discussion is in This Week at Trinity.



The Way of St. Paul team has explored what it means to have a personal rule of life. We have 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.



Corner

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

Your generosity is needed more than ever as we move through 2022. Our financial resources have dwindled because of the pandemic, and pledges have dropped substantially from past years.

There are several options for paying your pledge, including our online-giving platform, Givebutter, which is linked to our home page. Bill-paying services, available through banks, are another possibility. If you prefer to use offering envelopes, please contact the Church Office if you haven't already done so.

Remember that Stewardship involves time and talent, as well as treasure. We are thankful to all those who helped with our first events this year, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Ash Wednesday's Ashes to Go. Our Good Friday procession into downtown Woodbridge will be held in April. Look for more to come as we bring back activities interrupted by the pandemic.

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



Come to our meeting! The Women of Trinity and St James are invited to attend the next meeting of St Anne's Unit. We are a small group of women who come to the meeting to enjoy each other's company and friendship. Our meetings aren't long and we limit any business agenda items to a short discussion and then a vote.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, April 3, at 2 p.m. in the Parish House. The theme for the meeting is friendship, fellowship and a game of BanaGram. What is BanaGram? Come and find out.

The theme for the May meeting, set for May 8, has not been decided. So bring your ideas. Depending on the weather ... we meet inside or outside.

We are planning an end of the year party for the June 5 meeting.

If you have any questions or ideas, give Arlene Guellnitz a call, send her a text or an email. She can be reached at 908-380-5973 or arlene.guellnitz@gmail.com.

Dine and Dwell

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

Dine and Dwell currently meets online. Look for the Zoom link in our weekly newsletter, This Week at Trinity.

Serving the Diocese



Warden David Wilson was elected to two offices at this year's Diocesan Convention, which took place virtually on March 6.

Dave will serve a full five-year term as a Trustee of Diocesan Trust Funds, which totaled more than \$18 million at the end of last year. The trustees also oversee church property and make decisions on proposed real-estate sales by local congregations.

The convention also elected Dave to an unexpired three-year term on the Diocesan Investment Trust, which handles money for the trust funds and congregations. The trust works with an outside investment firm.

Dave is Trinity's first congregant to hold a diocesan office in many years. He nominated himself for the roles after Bishop Stokes, who chairs both boards of trustees, learned about his business and finance background and asked why he wasn't serving. Dave retired in January after 31 years at Bloomberg and about 40 years in business journalism. He holds an MBA degree from Rider University.

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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HOW DO I SIGN UP? WHEN CAN I START?

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