



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church

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Warden's Words

*"God works in a mysterious way / His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea / And rides upon the storm."*

That's the first verse of Hymn 677, written by Englishman William Cowper in 1773. It's also as good a description as any for what's happening at Trinity as we seek to recover from a two-year pandemic and find our next priest. The "mysterious way" is all around us.

Let's start with in-person services, which have been sustained since our reopening in December even in the midst of Covid-19 waves. We're seeing more congregants return to worship, including some that didn't attend our online services. Having Holy Communion with a supply priest on most Sundays is certainly helping.

Our feeding ministries have been sustained even as we have faced building issues with their home, St. Martha's House. Fortunately, we're now in the process of resolving the issues thanks to the payment of an insurance claim, which has been months in the making.

Perhaps the best example is what happened after we were visited by an organ repairman in June. He told us that our organ and speakers needed about \$3,000 worth of work.



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Trinity's financial position would have prevented us from doing the repairs, which have been needed for years. So the Bishop's Committee decided at its June meeting to reach out for the money.

We were fortunate to have a head start with the fundraising. The committee learned an anonymous donor would provide a dollar-for-dollar match for contributions. That meant we had to raise just \$1,500 from others.

The meeting was held on a Thursday night. The initial request for donations was made Friday morning in This Week at Trinity. By Friday night, the first response had come in -- and from an unexpected source.

Nancy Nelson Forsberg, a former congregant, agreed to step up. She now lives in Illinois along with her siblings, Skip and Cathy. They contributed in memory of their father, Bud Nelson.

The donation was made through our website, so we were well on the way to our fundraising goal. Then we hosted a classical concert, our first musical event in more than two years. (Look for details on page 4.)

As the concert concluded, I told the audience about the fundraising effort and the dollar-for-dollar match. Arlene Guellnitz passed around the collection plate. The response was gratifying. We took in \$547.

About 24 hours after that, I received a text message from Father Pervez Baig, our most frequent supply priest since the reopening. He knew about the fundraising because it was announced the previous day at the 10 a.m. service, where he was the celebrant.

Father Baig asked about the response we received at the concert. Then it was his turn to step up. He wrote that he would make a donation on his next visit.

Father Baig's next visit was June 26, and he delivered as promised. So did the anonymous donor. A day later, our counters learned that a congregant had sent a check. We ended up with more than enough money for the repairs, which should help us in finding a new organist and choir director.

As all these events played out, we moved ahead in looking for our next priest. A joint congregational congregation with St. James, Edison, was held on May 1. Our Discernment Committee then got to work, preparing documents and holding online meetings with its counterparts at St. James. Job postings and interviews lie ahead.

It's gratifying to know that God's "mysterious way" is taking us forward. Sure, we have plenty of challenges. Yet the opportunities are also there. Think about that the next time you hear someone playing our organ.

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.

Pursuing a Priest



The Discernment Committee meets at the local Wegman's supermarket to review documents needed to pursue a shared priest. Chairperson Arlene Guellnitz, right, leads the discussion with committee members Dot Borkowski, Jeanne Boyle and David Forsythe, from left

Hiring a Priest for a church doesn't happen with a sign on the front lawn that says: NOW HIRING. The Discernment Committee must listen to members of the church to "discern" what qualities and skills best fit Trinity's needs. Fortunately, in the affiliation process with St. James. Edison, we developed a "wants and needs" list for a priest. This priest will be shared by the two congregations.

As the teams worked over the past weeks, we have noticed how alike our two churches are. The discernment teams met with a resource consultant from the diocese, the Rev. Jeffrey Kirk, to develop a "wish list" for an ideal candidate to lead both churches. Documents were prepared for us to advertise the opening and review the candidates.

Please understand that we don't know how many candidates are available. We will do our best to find the right person for Trinity and St. James to continue the work of God.

-- Arlene Guellnitz, Chairperson

Hearing the Classics



Nate Williams, left, and members of Follia Force perform during the concert. Organist Facundo Lopez, seated behind the ensemble, provided accompaniment along with background information on each song. (Photo: From Zoom video)



Alessia Santoro sang on three songs. She also led the audience in singing Hymn 362, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty," as the concert began. (Photo: David Forsythe)

Trinity held its first musical event in more than two years on June 12, Trinity Sunday. The concert featured organist Facundo Lopez and soprano Alessia Santoro, who had recorded hymns for us in the previous 18 months.

Facundo, Alessia and the group Follia Force performed nine pieces of classical music to a near-capacity crowd. We raised \$547 through offerings, which we will put toward repairing our organ. (See the next page for more details.)

Facundo will enter a comparative-religion program at New York's Union Theological Seminary in August. While we won't have any new recordings, we will use the ones that he and Alessia have made until we find a new organist.

Repairing Our Organ



Trinity owns a Rodgers 805E organ, which has barely been used for the past two years because of the pandemic. To prepare for an eventual return to live music, we had a repairman check it out. He found that rubber stops underneath the organ's foot pedals, shown in the photo, and bass speakers behind the choir pews needed replacing. The work will cost an estimated \$3,000.

Proceeds from a fundraising campaign will cover the entire cost of repairs. We have already addressed another issue that the repairman found: mold growing in and around the organ. Sexton Joe Kovacs carried out the cleanup.

We hope the work will put us in a better position to find a successor to organist and choir director Roberta Ten Broeck, who retired in 2020. Your prayers as we move forward would be appreciated.

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.



Food pantry workers Michelle Pultz and Mary Kovacs handle some of the fresh fruits and vegetables that we are now receiving and distributing.

Our feeding ministries have moved into the Parish House temporarily. St. Martha's House is going through remediation to resolve issues with the more than 150-year-old building, which is listed on the state and national registers of historic places. We are hopeful that the work will be completed in time for us to return in September

Under the leadership of Carroll Thomas, the ministries are currently following this schedule:

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 was rented from Pods and set up in the church parking lot. Additional space has been provided by the company handling the St. Martha's project, Dry Master Restorations.

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

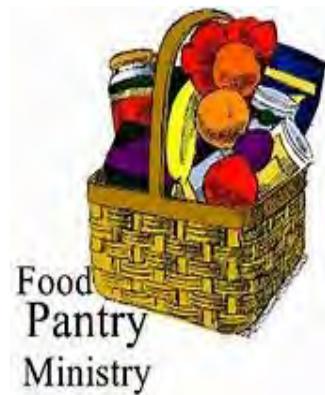


Cars line up in the church parking lot for a drive-by delivery of food items, packed by our "Monday morning packers" group and distributed by volunteers.



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 other 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. The most recent pick is *The Cost of Discipleship*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which is centered on an exposition of the Sermon on the Mount. The club will meet Sunday, July 2, to discuss this classic of Christian thought.

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



The Way of St. Paul team explored what it means to have a personal rule of life and put together a list of possible items. Choose from them 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 us to serve our congregants and the local community and to work toward our future.

Your generosity is appreciated as we move through 2022. Even as we celebrate a successful fundraising campaign for our organ, we are dealing with financial challenges that won't go away any time soon.

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 events this year, especially last month's classical concert. Arlene Guellnitz has agreed to pursue fundraising activities, and she has a number of events in mind through next year. This means there will be plenty of opportunities to show your support.

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



St. Anne's Unit enjoyed their last meeting before summer break by gathering at Colonia Dairy Maid for ice cream and conversation.

We decided that with Covid numbers on the rise again and the Parish House not yet open to larger numbers of people, that sadly St. Anne's won't be able to hold the Strawberry Festival this year. We are hoping to offer an activity for Trinity during the summer, so please make sure to read This Week At Trinity for an announcement.

St Anne's Unit is open for membership to all the women of Trinity. This is not a state or national group, but just a group unique to Trinity. When St Anne's started in 1942, it was organized to provide support to the children of Trinity. We still do that but with a twist.

The money we receive from any fund raising effort is donated to the church. We have dues (\$10/year) and that money was used to provide refreshments at a Christmas Party and End of the Year Celebration. However, for the last three years, we decided to forgo collecting the dues.

What do we do at meetings? We have had guest speakers who have offered up to date health information; another speaker gave us a travel and slide show. At each meeting we try to provide an update on activities of Trinity Church. We always allow time for fellowship and prayer.

When we have our next meeting in September, why not join us? For any questions, contact our president, Arlene Guellnitz, at 908-380-5973.

Summer Activities

While summer is often a quiet time in the church calendar, Trinity has lined up a couple of activities for the month of July.

The first is the Barron Arts Center's annual flea market, which is set for Saturday, July 9, at the Acacia Youth Center. Trinity will have a table to sell donated goods as a fundraiser. If you have items to contribute, please contact Arlene Guellnitz to arrange a dropoff.

The second is the 13th annual Bowl for Hunger, which will be held on Monday, July 25, at Majestic Lanes in Hopelawn. Trinity's team will bowl between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., the first of two time slots. If you would like to participate or cheer on the bowlers, please contact David Wilson for details.

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.

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 COSTUMER

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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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Address Correction Requested

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