

It's funny how long ago summer seems now. We're in the midst of our first major cold snap of the year; in fact, the temperature dropped so precipitously that I had to add air to my tires this morning. But the summer of 2019 was a hot one and a good one for Trinity Center. We were busy much of the time, and the voices of laughing children echoed around property all summer long. Camp Trinity and Sound to Sea Day Camp ran well and mostly full, and over in conferencing we saw lots of parish family weekends and family reunions. We fed plenty of people in our dining rooms, we had lots of picnics at the pavilion overlooking the ocean, and we passed out multitudes of drinks and bags of chips during daily canteens.

All in all, it was a fairly typical Trinity Center summer. Unfortunately, as summer rolled into fall, another fairly typical event happened. Hurricane Dorian decimated the Bahamas, threatened the entire southeastern coast, and headed right for us at almost the exact same time that Hurricane Florence did last year. And I could feel my staff, and all of Carteret County, cringe a little at the feeling of *déjà vu*. I think we were all experiencing a shared bit of PTSD at the thought of another Florence rolling into our area. Thankfully for us, Hurricane Dorian followed a much more familiar path. Unlike Florence, which barreled due west and straight for us across the Atlantic, Dorian rolled up the coast, rolled right past us, and made landfall directly over Cape Hatteras before heading back out to sea and transitioning into an extratropical cyclone.

Hurricane Dorian moved through fairly quickly, and speed matters so very much with hurricanes. While it did some damage to property, it was mostly a damage with which I am familiar. We lost the majority of the insulation under our sound-side dorms, some dorm floors took water, and Sanders Point went under water for a few hours. What we didn't have was widespread damage all over property from an extended wind and rain event like Hurricane Florence. And while Hurricane Dorian did some serious damage to areas near us (see the tornado that ripped through nearby Emerald Isle and the frightening flooding event on Ocracoke Island), Trinity Center emerged mostly unscathed.

What an incredibly fragile environment this barrier island is. I continue to be proud of how we care for and maintain Trinity Center so we can receive people into this unique place. I also remain dedicated to supporting our environmental education program, Sound to Sea. As it becomes increasingly evident that we as a species are negatively impacting our climate, I become more and more committed to Sound to Sea's focus on teaching children to be better stewards of our environment. It's yet another reason I remain so devoted to this place and its many ministries.

Anyway, we are still here and still receiving guests and groups every day. Because I know that you share my love of Trinity Center, I want to ask a favor. Please think of people or groups that you know who might benefit from a visit here. Then tell them about us. Tell them to call or email. Let them know why we are special.

I hope that you can come and visit with us soon. As always, we are ready to receive you.

Penn