



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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September/October 2024

Musings from the priest's.....bookshelf.....for September-October 2024

God bless our contradictions, those parts of us which seem out of character.

Let us be boldly and gladly out of character.

Let us be creatures of paradox and variety: creatures of contrast; of light and shade; creatures of faith. God be our constant. Let us step out of character into the unknown, to struggle and love and do what we will. Amen (A Prayer by Michael Leunig)

Summer's heading out the door. Autumn is waiting patiently for it to pass. Oh, I have no doubts that summer will creep back in the side window and heat us up again before we detect winter breathing a crisp blast in the tendrils of Autumn.

We anticipate the next the next the next, but do we draw a loving breath for the now- the present- the pause?

Here's a list of opportunities to draw in the next, while joyfully feasting on the NOW!! as we roll toward November

On September 7, or the 8th if the weather blesses us with rain, we join to celebrate all that is Baber Cemetery, for Baber Day! Tours, raffles, burgers and doggies, and slices of sweet juicy melon will be served along with the Third Brigade Band to entertain us in that lovely natural space. Evensong follows to lead us into the beauty of the night, led by an organist with masterful talents and a sort-of-practiced-croaking-oddly pitched-singing priest.

On September 15, the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County will gather to worship the Lord within the confines of Sweet Arrow Lake Park in the pavilion next to the Clubhouse off PA Route 443 near Pine Grove. Invite your friends, your family members, and especially people you are not very fond of, because we can change lives with the Love of Christ. Set up is at 9 AM and the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10, followed by yummy food and even better fellowship! AND this is an opportunity to give our best wishes to Edna for her retirement!

On September 22, as we return to the soaring sanctuary, we will celebrate with a casual "Instructive Eucharist" to learn why we do what we do when we gather for Eucharist. Bring your questions because this service will be interactive and participatory.

On October 6, Blessing of the Animals in memory of St. Francis of Assisi will be held on October 6 at 10:30 AM outside of Holy Apostles' Church in St. Clair. Bring your critters, and then consider a takeout breakfast from the monthly all-you-care-to-eat at Holy Apostles'.

This all leads to a service for Reading of the Necrology through the Commemoration of the Faithful on Friday, November 1 at the Baber Chapel at 6 PM.

May the God of all possibilities make you bold, give you a heart for paradox and variety, and always, always, a soul for love!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt+

Trinity Church's Mission Statement

"Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ"

Vision Statement

"Honoring the past as we build a strong foundation for the future, while sharing our Christian faith through service to the community."



New Parish Administrator

We welcome Kristy Sarge as our new Parish Administrator, who has been an experienced church administrator for several years. Kristy is a local woman who lives in the Pine Grove area with her husband and four adult children. We are fortunate to have found her and are happy with having her choose to work with us in the church office.

Please note that this is a new position with different hours. New office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 2 pm. No Friday hours. If you need to speak to Kristy, please call on Wednesdays. A voice message can be left on other days and she will return your call within 24 hours. If it is an emergency, the numbers to call are on the machine. Please note that any announcements for the Sunday bulletin should be in the office by noon on Wednesdays.

ECSC Picnic

The Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County's annual picnic will be held on Sunday, September 15 at Sweet Arrow Lake Pavilion. There will be a Eucharist at 10 am followed by lunch and fellowship including a celebration of Edna Rauco's retirement after 46 years of service. The lunch will be catered, no need to bring anything.



Healing Service

This service will resume on Wednesday, September 18 at noon in St. Luke's Chapel.

Return To Sanctuary

We will return to the Sanctuary for Sunday services on September 22 at 9 am.



UTO Sundays

September 22 and 29 will be the UTO Ingathering Sundays. If you have a UTO box, please put your envelope number on it so you may receive credit. The counters would be most grateful if you counted up the change and made out a check for the amount with your envelope number on it. There are UTO envelopes at the Chapel and each entrance at the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Altar Guild

Volunteers are needed for the Altar Guild. As with the Counters, we have very few volunteers. Setting up for a Eucharistic service is easy to learn and only takes about 15-20 minutes of setup at the end of each week. On Sundays after the service, guild members clean up and put the consecrated elements in the tabernacle when necessary. If you are interested, please see Karen Portland or Cora Gamelin-Osenbach.





Coffee Hour

In the spring, we began to have a Coffee Hour on the second Sunday of each month. Let's resume the practice of having a family or individual sign up to bring a treat to share for fellowship after the service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway behind the altar.

Trinity's 200th Anniversary

In 2027 we will be celebrating our parish's 200th anniversary! It seems like a long way off, but it will be here sooner than we think. A committee needs to be formed to discuss possible events for this momentous celebration. A liaison with the Historical Society should be part of this. If you are interested in serving on a committee or have any ideas for events, please speak to any member of the Vestry to begin this process. Many thanks!



Pottsville Safe Trick or Treat

Thursday, October 24th is the day of Pottsville's Safe Trick or Treat. There will be dozens of costumed children walking right in front of the church. This is our opportunity to share the Light of Jesus with everyone who walks by!

This year we're looking for donations of:

Granola bars cereal bars Lance cracker packs Keebler cracker packs
Rice Krispies Treats individual cereal servings (box or bowl) fruit snacks (indiv. packs)

If you would rather donate monetarily to the effort, please put your donation in the offering plate with your name, envelope number and the words "TRICK OR TREAT".

We are also looking for folks to sit outside that night from 4-6 pm. All you need to do is smile and hand the kids a bag. Come and join us!

Apple Dumpling Sale

Trinity is again selling apple dumplings during the fall. We are also including chocolate and pumpkin whoopie pies this year. Whoopie pies are flavored cakes with vanilla cream.

Order and pay Aug. 18th thru Sept. 22nd (orders and money collected at the church picnic).

Delivery will be made to Trinity by 1 pm on Wednesday, October 9th.

Apple Dumplings are \$6. (Same price as last year!) Whoopie Pies are \$3 each.

If you are interested in helping to sort and hand out the items on 10/9, please contact Lea Bortner. (ljbortner@comcast.net or 570-516-4726).



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024, from 8am-11pm. The event is a fundraiser that benefits local non-profit organizations. Customers can purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass that provides 25% off the lowest sale prices in-store and online. Online shoppers receive a one-time use code on their shopping passes. Customers can also register to win a \$100.00 Boscov's gift card, with one winner per store.



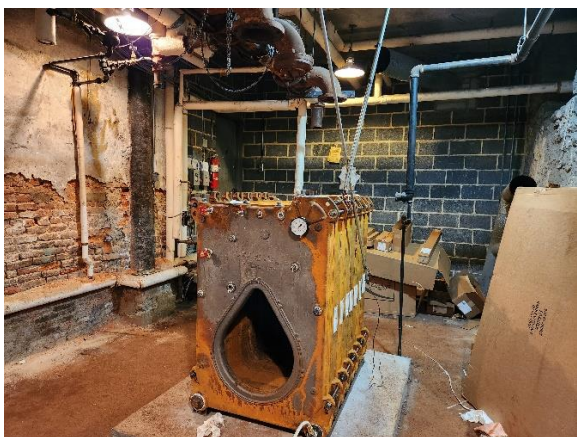
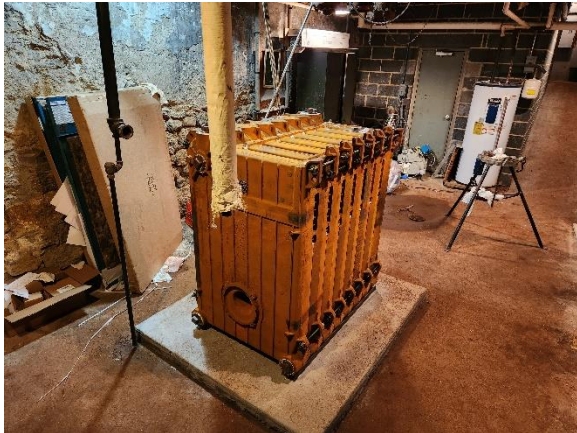
Boyer's Fundraiser

We Have received our check from Boyer's for the first half of this year for \$121.42. With the two checks from last year, it brings our year and a half total to \$254.42. Every quarter our amount increases which is an easy way to make money. Carla Kauffman still has Boyer's cards available if anyone needs one. This is a good reminder to keep using the cards as the amount we earn keeps going up each quarter.

Gas Boiler Update

All summer long, we have moved steadily toward the installation of our new gas boiler. Miller Mechanical Enterprises of Schuylkill Haven was tasked to demolish and remove the old gas burner and install a new Burnham gas boiler. A new cement pad was installed by Robert Burns Masonry. The newly installed boiler has passed Pennsylvania inspection. It will be ready for the heating season shortly.

The cost of the new gas boiler is over \$85,000. Any donations toward this new heating system will be appreciated. Please include your name and envelope number, and "gas boiler" on the envelope and place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the church.





THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach



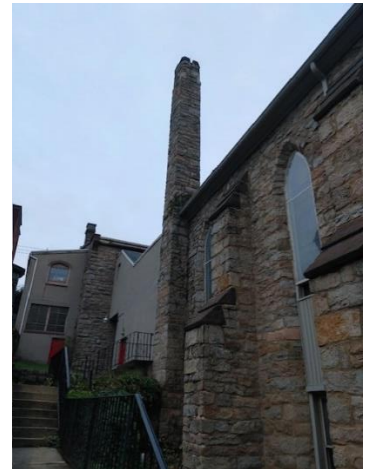
Mark your calendars!! On Sunday, December 15 at 2pm, organist F. Allen Artz, III will present a Christmas organ concert featuring a carol sing to benefit our church. What a blessing! Allen is a great friend of Trinity and these fundraising concerts have been so successful in the past. All the proceeds from this concert will go to the upkeep of Trinity. There will be a suggested donation of \$10.

What a wonderful offering for the season. If needed, a weather date for December 22 is scheduled.

Allen will also be playing an organ concert at Jerusalem Lutheran in Schuylkill Haven on Sunday, October 27 at 3 pm.

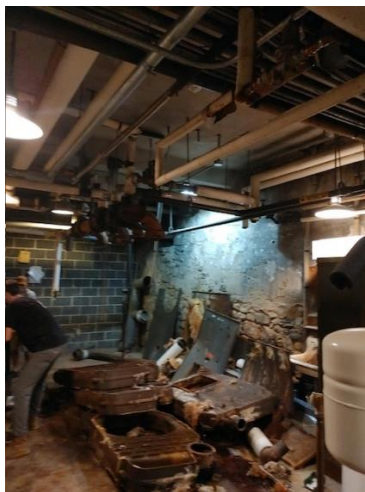
Ivy Removal

The pictures shown at the right are before and after photos of the VA Creeper Ivy that was removed by Jim Snyder Jr. This is the south side of the building that hardly anyone sees but it is definitely better to have it removed.



Gas Furnace Update

The old boiler and base were removed by Frank Sowers and his helpers on July 1. The new furnace will be installed in late September, in time for the heating season.





Summer Reading Camp

Summer Reading Camp was held the week of July 8-12 with 28 children attending from the Pottsville and St. Clair Area School Districts, Gillingham, and Child Development. The children enjoyed exploring our theme of *The Environment*, and the activities associated with it. Our visiting experts provided the children with fun hands-on experiences, as they learned about planting, trees, and keeping the earth clean. A special thanks to Jane Cruize from the Master Gardeners, Joe Orłowski from the Shade Tree Commission, and Porcupine Pat from the Schuylkill Conservation District

for their time and for presenting excellent programs for the children. We also enjoyed a visit from Bishop Kevin this year. He spent the morning with us as we learned about recycling and saving the earth.

The children especially enjoyed our trip to the Pottsville School District's Planetarium, presented by Adrien Portland, as they explored the night sky, constellations and planets. The Reading Camp concluded with a parent lunch and presentation by Red Creek Wildlife Rescue and their amazing animals. Each child received a backpack stuffed with books and school supplies so they could begin school with the materials that they needed for a successful school year.

Summer Reading Camp 2025 will take place on July 14-18. Our theme will be exploring Schuylkill County.



News From Marion Price Trust Fund

We have all heard the phrase “it takes a village”. This quote apparently originated from an African proverb emphasizing the importance of community in raising a child. Typically, it is used in reference to raising children with the help of others, such as family, friends, teachers, church family, and community. Those who are parents may agree it takes many hands to raise a child.

Do we lose “the village” after our children are raised? I hope not because I still rely on a village to help me get through life. I have family, friends, church family, work family, and neighbors that help me navigate through good and bad times. I also may seek advice from doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, and even my hairdresser. It seems that as we age, we may become more dependent on “a village”.

A group in California has recognized the need for communities that act as “a village” to support their growing older population. The Village Movement California is expanding the village model of care to allow their older adults to age well. Villages are neighbor-based membership organizations that connect older adults to the community, programming, and expertise they need to continue living lives of purpose and promise while remaining in their own homes. The model got its start in the late 90’s and has grown to an estimated 300 villages across the country. The master plan includes 5 goals: *housing for all stages and ages, * health reimagined, *inclusion and equity, not isolation, *caregiving that works, and *affording aging (economic security). While the program charges a membership fee it is widely supported by neighbor helping neighbor and volunteerism. What a wonderful concept!

Following this example can we create an Episcopal village? NO, not actually building new houses but using this concept utilize neighbor helping neighbor and volunteerism. Wouldn’t it be great to use your time and talent to help others? This would not be just one-sided for the active. It would be a give and take not limited by age or physical status. This is how it could work- I would compile a list of what you are willing to volunteer to do and match up with needs expressed by others. For example.... if you need lightbulbs changed or small home repairs, I can match the need with someone who volunteered to do that. If you need some clothing mended, I will match you up with someone that volunteered that talent.

Maybe you are willing to drive someone to the doctor or store, make fresh baked cookies or homemade soup or bread, help someone do their taxes, knit a scarf, rake leaves or just volunteer for any need that arises and you are capable of doing. Please contact me in the office at (570) 621-3220 or mptfund@gmail.com if you have any interest in volunteering or if you are experiencing a need.

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What is HOSPICE care? Hospice care is a type of healthcare that focuses on the palliation of a terminally ill patient’s pain and symptoms and attending to their emotional and spiritual needs at the end of life. Hospice care prioritizes comfort and quality of life. Most of us think death when we hear the word hospice but it actually focuses on quality of life. Because there are many myths and misconceptions surrounding hospice, we are going to host a Hospice myths and facts presentation. Representatives from Compassus Hospice will join us to provide information and answer questions regarding hospice care. Please join us Thursday October 17, 2024 at 10AM at Holy Apostle Church social hall, Saint Clair, for information and a light breakfast. If you know someone that would be interested, feel free to invite them along. Please contact me in the office at (570) 621-3220 to RSVP or with any questions you have.

Senior Outings: We are looking to restart the Senior Adventures if we have enough interest. Please contact me for details, ideas and to make sure you are registered with S.T.S.



Each Season Has a Personality

Sept.\Oct. 2024

All humans seem to have a favorite season, and some have a detested season. A person's favorite season can be based on the weather as to whether we like heat or cold or in-between, or on the sports available in that season, or for businesses supplying products and equipment during a particular season, or on what type of job we have or whether we are retired, or whether you are school aged with classes, or if you like a particular holiday in that season, or whether you are a renter, homeowner, or live with your parents. There also may be underlying variables of culture and dress, race, gender, or marital status that directs one to a favorite season. And there may be two favorite seasons and two viewed with indifference or distain.

Each season has its own personality. **Spring** with its bright colored flowers and growing leaves, after a cold and snow filled winter, offers hope, optimism, and cheer. **Summer** is a mixed personality that tests one's tolerance of heat, humidity, and even the amount of bugs. It is energized, fun and has a diversity of things to do. With its varying shades of green it supports good health, well-being and vitamin B sunshine. **Winter** with its quietness, snow, sleet and winds emulates tolerance, acceptance, durability, and stamina. And now we have **autumn**. It has a personality of charm, beauty, flamboyance, enticement and seduction. And yet it has a finality, a sense of loss, a sense of something beautiful ending. Its colorful, flamboyant, and dazzling leaf show will eventually end in the death of its leaves and barrenness of its trunk, branches, and shape. It is an enigma of both joy and sadness.

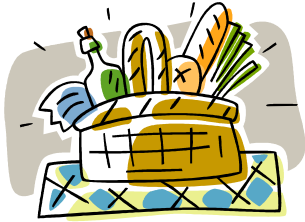
Our autumn or fall season at the Baber cemetery starts in late September, jumps into full performance in Octobers and leaps into November with its last vestige of colors. The fall color presentation covers a wide band spectrum which begins with the many summer greens changing to yellows, creams, pinks, reds, oranges, and browns. It seems like the yellows start first showing anything from sunshine yellow to pale creamy yellow and even straw and wheat coloring. The elms, little leaf linden, box elder, black locust, black walnut, black cherry, white ash, coffee tree, homestead hybrid elm, tuliptree, and American beech all take on this yellow or creamy beige coloring. Four must see trees that fall into this yellow and cream coloring are: the European Hornbeam along Market Street which change to butter yellow starting at the tip of the tree and steadily melting downward as the days go; the tall gangly female ginkgo to the west of the entrance along with two nearby baby ginkgos, and the very tall male ginkgo to the east of the entrance become a striking blaze of bright canary yellow coloring; the London planetrees along the inside Market Street wall has subdued yellow leaf coloring which highlights its multi-colored smooth bark of lime green, brown, gray, yellow, and cream; and the Siberian elm in the lower level by the Comloquoy mausoleum, who like the planetree, has subtle pale yellow leaves that become a sharp contrast to its wide vertical bands of gray, cream, rust, and brown in its deeply furrowed trunk.

Next, we move to the oranges, cantaloupe, and peach leaf colorings of the Norway maple by the chapel with cantaloupe-peachy colors, the peach coloring on the sycamore maple west of the chapel, and the black gum with orange leaf coloring. A must see in this color category are the sugar maples in the lower level that carry large patches of yellow and orange, and the star shaped leaves on the nearby sweet gum with greens, yellows, and oranges all on the same leaf.

The largest color category and the most prominent throughout the property because we have the most trees and species in this category are the red maples, the oaks, the copper beech, and the staghorn sumac with their red shades of rose, scarlet, garnet, carmine, burgundy, and merlot.

And lastly, we have the dawn redwoods, bald cypress, eastern red cedar, and cryptomeria that pick up the earth tones of amber, mahogany, walnut, and cinnamon. We also have the yew trees and shrubs that while their needles stay green, many earth tone shades appear under their peeling bark.

Autumn, regardless of what personality you assign to it, produces a spectacular color show at the cemetery.



25th Annual Baber Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 7, 2024

3:00 to 6:30 PM

Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, watermelon & water will be provided.

“Free Will Donation”

Bring your own folding chair, a sun hat, and some bug spray.

NATURE AND HISTORY WALKING TOURS 3:00

SMALL BASKET RAFFLE BAKE SALE

PICNIC BEGINNING 4:30

THIRD BRIGADE BAND CONCERT 4:00 - 5:45 PM

SOLEMN EVENSONG SERVICE - 6:00 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, September 8, 2024

- (1) Monetary contributions to purchase the hot dogs, rolls, condiments, baked beans, paper products, water and chips would be greatly appreciated.**
- (2) Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up, cut the melons, grill the dogs, man the baked goods and the basket raffle tables, and to hand out the plates of food.**
- (3) Bakers are needed to make goodies for our baked goods table.**

If you can help or contribute, contact Carol 570-617-6704, Carla or Norm 570-628-3868, or the office at 570-622-8720.

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 1 — 9 am service
- 2 — Office Closed
- 7 — Baber Day 3 to 6 pm
Evensong at 6 pm
- 8 — 9 am service
Baber Day rain day
- 14 — Blini sale - pick up at HA
- 15 — ECSC Eucharist and Picnic
Celebration for Edna Rauco
- 18 — 12 noon — Healing service
- 22 — 9 am service — Return to sanctuary
with Instructed Eucharist
(See Fr. Kurt's article)
UTO Ingathering
10:30 — Vestry meeting
- 25 — 12 noon — Healing service
- 29 — 9 am service, UTO Ingathering

OCTOBER 2024

- 2 — 12 noon Healing service
- 6 — 9 am service
10:30 — Blessing of the Animals at
Holy Apostles, St. Clair
- 9 — 12 noon Healing service
Apple Dumpling sale
- 13 — 9 am service/Coffee Hour
- 15 — TOPICS deadline
- 16 — 12 noon Healing service
- 18-19 — Diocesan Convention
- 20 — 9 am service
- 23 — 12 noon Healing service
- 27 — 9 am service,
10:30- Vestry meeting
3 pm — Allen Artz organ concert at
Jerusalem Lutheran, Sch. Haven
- 30 — 12 noon Healing service

NOVEMBER 2024

- 1 — 6 pm Necrology service at the
Chapel of the Resurrection in
Charles Baber Cemetery
CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
- 3 — 9 am service, Stewardship Sunday

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 570.622.8720
Fax: 570.621.3221
Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
November/December "Topics"
Monday, Oct. 16, 2024**



September Birthdays

1 - Alexa Stone
2 - Dawn Burns
4 - Layla Sinko
8 - Braden Burns
11 - Brianne Stone
14 - Anthony "AJ" Rauco
15 - Anthony Pritiskutch
16 - Joseph Rauco, Kennedy Holden
20 - Sandra Moore
25 - Bob Burns
28 - Sean Holden

October Birthdays

1 - Jordan Franko
3 - Justin Franko,
5 - Georgine Curtier, Fr. Timothy Albright
9 - Donna Schenck
14 - Randy Bedford
20 - Suzanne Franko, Zoe Lynn Holden
23 - Sienna Darker
28 - Barbara Tokarz
29 - John Ross