



Trinity Topics
THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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July/Aug 2026

God longs to be known; Creation reflects God's creative generosity...the dignity of human nature and the imagination that pulls our minds toward eternity and holiness reflect something of God's own being....(from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book)

Summer has begun as I write this. For some, the beauty of summer days and the stars of the summer night sky are evidence of the favor that God has showered upon all creatures, but maybe especially upon human beings. Summer brings the growth of crops for food, the development of those critters born in the spring towards adulthood, and time for more relaxation to put our busy lives on hold during vacations. That works even for the oddly named staycation: time to pause, reflect, and take in some measure of the grace of God. We are privileged to live and work and worship where we are, in such a time as this.

July 4, the 250th Anniversary of the founding of these United States of America, has come and gone. The nation paused to recall the events leading up to that specific day in 1776, and forward to the day you read this. Despite all her difficulties, the nation born on July 4 took root in the minds of her new citizens, to be, not for all folks everywhere immediately, a shining example of the generosity and grace bestowed by God, upon not just this nation, but of all peoples through this nation. The past faults and wrongs and horrific encounters between differing peoples in America and across the borders should not be forgotten, but mourned and studied and used to commit to the never again we hear often. Human frailty and human sinfulness are a part of this land as well, but solely focusing on those faults to the exclusion of remembering the largess, the generosity, the religious fervor, and the brilliant, God-given inventions worked here seems rather short-sighted and arrogant. No human-made institution is perfect; yet we strive here moment by moment to bring the more-perfect union into realization, as we acknowledge where we have gone wrong, where we have harmed, and where we have fallen short of the moniker "all are created equal".

I pray that you may take the time to consider your ancestors, those brave women and men who sacrificed for all of America, and in some cases, the world. I pray you may consider where you serve to make America that shining beacon, in your heart, your home and in your communities. I also pray that we do our civic duty, as President Lincoln intoned, to continue this nation, of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Enjoy your summer! May the Great God of All continue to bless you and this nation.

In brotherly love,

Kurt
Fr. Kurt

SUMMER SERVICES

Summer services began on June 21st in the Lounge. Service time is 9 am.

HEALING SERVICE

Healing service is finished for the summer months and will resume on September 23th

BOYER'S KEY TAGS

The Boyer's Key Tag program has ended. A new program has been implemented. Boyer's will ask for a cell phone to sign up. Once you complete this part, we can help set up the rest. Someone will be available every Sunday in July to help you. If you have questions, please see Carla Kauffman or Dawn Burns. Thank you for helping give back with your grocery purchases.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND CREATORS

Father Kurt would like to have our Stations of the Cross redone and or refreshed. If anyone with artistic and creative urges would like to participate in this project, please see Father Kurt for further details.

ADVENT PROJECT 2026

Once again, we hope to have a successful Advent Project sharing joy at Christmas time with residents of local nursing homes. This will be our fourth year of collecting items that we take for granted, but are necessary for a better quality of life for residents in nursing homes. Last year we were fortunate to deliver 100 bags to two different institutions. We are looking for travel size products or smaller bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body lotions, hand lotions, mouthwash, bathroom wipes. Also lip balm, combs, nail files, disposable razors, travel tissues, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please NO soaps or body wash — they will not be accepted by the nursing homes. This project will begin on October 18 and end on December 6. You can bring your offerings to the church— there will be boxes at each entrance. Thank you in advance for sharing joy and good will for those less fortunate.

UTO OFFERING

As we look forward to the longer, hopefully more relaxed summer days, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. People in NE PA and over the world are given hope through the generosity of the UTO. Thank you for all you have given in the past and please continue to put your extra change in the little blue box or plan to give a check for UTO Sundays — October 4 and 11. God bless you and thank you!

POTTSVILLE'S DOWNTOWN SAFE TRICK OR TREAT--YEAR #6!

Trinity will again be participating in Pottsville's Downtown Safe Trick or Treat at the end of October. We are planning to distribute 750 bags again this year. Here's how you can help:

1. Beginning in September, please contribute snacks or candy for the treat bags. Place your donations on the piano in the lounge or give them to Lea or Peter Bortner.
2. Please come to a coffee hour on Sunday, October 11th, and stay to help us pack the trick-or-treat bags. Many hands make light work. Last year, a team of 12 packed 600 bags in about an hour!
3. Please consider helping out the night of the distribution, which is held from 4-6 pm. The date is not announced until mid-October. We have a great time out front, greeting the children and their parents.

Questions? Please see Lea Bortner or call (570) 516-4726.



SUMMER READING CAMP NEWS

We're on the countdown to Summer Reading Camp. To date, we have 22 children enrolled, ranging from kindergarten to grade 3. The children who are coming attend Schuylkill County Child Development, Pottsville and St. Clair Area School Districts, Shenandoah Valley, and Gillingham. We are looking forward to an exciting camp as we Celebrate America during our 250th Anniversary year.

Each year, we like to include enrichment programs that give our campers learning opportunities that they may not normally have, in addition to our regular classroom reading activities. This year, on Tuesday, July 14, at 11:00, Loretta Murphey will present Songs Throughout Our History. On Wednesday and Thursday, July 15 and 16, we will be splitting our group by grades and taking one group to the Historical Society while the other group enjoys a library program at the church. Then the following day, we will switch so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy both programs. If anyone has some spare time and would like to help out with camp, we could always benefit from an additional adult to help us walk the children down to the historical society.

I would also like to thank our parishioners for their generous support of the reading camp. Your generous contributions to our Lunches for Learners and Books for Young Readers are appreciated. Those contributions, along with a late grant from the diocese, have helped us reach our fundraising goal. If you are able, please stop in to visit camp so you can see how your financial support and prayers are working in the lives of our children and families.

NOTES FROM THE HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee is asking -ALL MEMBERS- whether you have been here for less than one year or more than 50- to participate in any or all of these celebration activities.

1 We're Looking for Trinity Memories!

Please share photos of your family, Sunday School classes, church events, or other memories from Trinity. When submitting photos, please include:

Your name (so we can return your photo), the names of everyone pictured, and the year, or approximate year, the photo was taken.

2. Retired Practices- What practices have gone by the wayside since you have been worshipping at Trinity? Did you like the 11 pm Christmas Eve Service? Ringing the bells at Easter Vigil? We'll compile a list of these things and share it with everyone.

Envelopes for the photos in #1 and paper with writing prompts for #2 will be available in the hallway near the lounge during the summer and at all entrances after we return to the sanctuary.

Many thanks from your History Committee- Lea Bortner and Norm Kauffman, co-chairs, Carol Field, Father Kurt Kovalovich, Peter Bortner and Jane Pritiskutch

HYMN SIGN -200TH ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF

On Sunday, September 20, our 200th anniversary celebration will begin with a 10:00 am Eucharist. Please note the different time. After the service, we will have a hymn sing-along with favorite hymns chosen by you and by our sister parishes.

Favorites will be compiled and sung by the congregation before a catered lunch is served in the Parish Hall. Priests and deacons who have served TEC in the past will be invited to share in this opening of year-long festivities. Come and make a joyful noise as we celebrate 200 years of worship at Trinity—1827-2027.



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for your continued support of our Sunday School program throughout the 2025–2026 church school year. Because of your encouragement, our children have been able to learn, grow, serve, and experience God's love in meaningful ways.

Throughout the year, our lessons focused on God's love, kindness, courage, forgiveness, and faithfulness. Through Bible stories, crafts, music, and discussion, the children learned that God is always with them, that every person is loved by God, and that they can share Christ's love through their words and actions.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the children raised approximately \$400 through their weekly collection. We are pleased to donate to UNICEF's Play Campaign, which helps provide safe spaces, play opportunities, and support for children facing difficult circumstances. Through play, children can heal, learn, and simply enjoy being children.

The Sunday School will also reserve a portion of their collection for an Angel Fund during the Christmas season. This gift will help provide support and brighten the holidays for children and families in need within our community.

As a special summer gift, Knoebels ticket books were presented to students who faithfully participated in Sunday School throughout the church school year. The tickets were given as a way of recognizing and celebrating their dedication and commitment throughout the year. In addition to their involvement in Sunday School, these students have actively participated in our worship services, sharing in the ministry and fellowship of our church community.

We are grateful for every child who joined us this year, whether for a single Sunday or throughout the entire school year. Each child is a valued part of our church family.

Thank you for supporting our Sunday School ministry and for helping us nurture faith, friendship, and compassion in the next generation.

With gratitude,

Samantha Simatos
Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday School Teacher



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

C. Field – July/Aug. 2026

Nature Cools and Refreshes

Recently, the Charles Baber Cemetery had the opportunity to host a countywide tour led by the Conservancy District to visit sites that helped build America. The motorcoach unloaded the passengers at 9:30 AM, but already the day was hot. We stood on the front entrance sidewalk in the sun and the heat for only a few moments while I explained about Baber Cemetery being only one of three cemeteries in America with an Egyptian Revival Gateway entrance that still had two functioning gatehouses. Wilting in the sun, the visitors quickly asked if I could continue the presentation inside the main entrance. Once we walked through the main entrance, everything changed.

The sun was at our backs, so the archway and the two gatehouses threw long shadows of cool shade on the hot road. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The nearby yew trees, red maples, and tulip tree reached out their branches as if to fan cool air on the visitor. As we walked toward the chapel and I pointed out different types and styles of memorial markers to the right and the left, the shade and coolness of the trees beckoned the visitor to step closer into their covering. To the right were the mighty oaks and Norway maple. Further down on the right on a pine needle-laden path stood the tall eastern pine, which, while over 100' tall, still provided plenty of shade below. Nearer to the chapel, we have a second long lane of smaller eastern white pine that are now tall enough to give shade to the grassy road that they sit beside. Even our tall, gangly ginkgo and the needled leaves of the cryptomeria give off cool shade. We have the Norway spruce, while not providing shade to a person, its long upward sweeping branches provide shade to the birds and ground critters like the squirrels and yes, even the groundhogs. We have young plantings like the redbud, black gum, coffee tree, horse chestnut, and red maples that are more interested in growing skyward to gain height rather than spreading outward to give width and shade to the visitor. And we have small trees that stay relatively short, like the dogwood or droopy like the weeping cherry and the weeping willow.

To the left of the entrance, we have many shade trees. The sunset red maple that lines both sides of the road going down from the chapel has now grown wide enough to form a full canopy as one drives or walks down the road. To shade the visitor, the 3 sections going down the hill have tall eastern white pine on the left, copper beech, sycamore maple, American beech, and chestnut oak in the middle, and tall, wide red oak on the right. As we near the 16th street entrance, many pin oaks, more sunset red maples, ginkgos, cryptomeria, and little leaf linden cool the west side of the cemetery.

The lower level by the storage barn and going east toward the soccer field has the swamp white oak, the hybrid elm, the Siberian elm, the sugar maple, the dawn redwood, and the sweet gum to shade the many paths and the loop by the middle school hillside. The cypress near the pond can't help.

Our long, long sidewalk is shaded its full length by the European hornbeam outside the wall. Inside the wall, but still shading the sidewalk, are the London planetrees on the west side and the pin oaks on the east side.

Even our hillsides down from the chapel and by the middle school are laden with shade-giving elm, Norway maple, American beech, red oak, and sassafras.

Come and walk our many cool and shaded paths as nature's trees refresh the soul.



Upcoming Cemetery Events

Ash imposition on Ash Wednesday, Easter sunrise service at the chapel, Arbor Day tree planting and tree blessing, replacing 580 Veterans' flags, and the Memorial Day sunset service are long forgotten as we quickly dive into summer with its many outdoor activities. We still have several events to host from now through the end of the year.

All events are open and free to the public!

Baber Day Picnic – Saturday, September 12th at 2:30 PM

RainDate: Sunday, September 13.th

The Third Brigade Band will be performing. There will be nature and historic walking tours, and picnic food of hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon, and water. Bring a chair, a sun hat, and perhaps bug spray, and enjoy the day.

St. Francis Pet Blessing-pending day and time-Maybe Oct. 4th

All Saints Mass – pending day and time -Maybe November 1st.

Both of the above services may be held at Trinity Episcopal Church instead of the Chapel.

Veteran's Day Sunset Service – November 11th at 4:30 PM @ the main entrance

Other Happenings



Thanks to kind and generous benefactors, Buddy and Jule Quandel, the main entrance of the cemetery is refreshed and restored.

The Egyptian Revival period gateway entrance and the two gatehouses were pressure-washed, and the stone was repointed. The old rusted main gates and the two side pedestrian gates were removed, sandblasted, and powder-coated a blackish-green color. The two cast-iron urns that sat on the ground on both sides of the entrance were sanded, repaired, and powder-coated the same color as the gates. They were then lifted by a crane and fastened on top of the archway entrance. Both urns have lids on them to prevent any water or weeds from getting inside and looking unsightly. While the crane was there, Quandel's workers cleaned off both roofs of the gatehouses that were filled mostly with dried pine needles, which would clog the drains. Two sections of broken slate sidewalk inside the entrance were removed, and new concrete sidewalks were poured.

Refurbishing the main entrance was not in the cemetery's immediate future because our focus is on pressure washing and pointing the stone on the chapel and replacing the 50-year-old oil burner. So it is with our deepest gratitude to Buddy and Jule Quandel for their very generous gift of restoring and refreshing the front entrance.



MARION PRICE TRUST FUND PICNIC



FOOD - GAMES - FELLOWSHIP

MPTF WILL BE SUPPLYING HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND DRINKS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE

THURSDAY
23
JULY

SWEET ARROW LAKE
LARGE PAVILION
108 CLUBHOUSE ROAD, PINE GROVE
5:00 PM

RSVP BY JULY 16TH TO CATHY AT 570-621-3220
OR MPTFUND@GMAIL.COM

CALENDAR



- FRIDAY, JULY 3RD-OFFICE CLOSED
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY 
- SUNDAY, JULY 5, 9AM SERVICE IN LOUNGE
- SUNDAY, JULY 12-9 AM SERVICE IN LOUNGE
- JULY 13-17--SUMMER READING CAMP 
- SUNDAY, JULY 19 -9 AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JULY 26- 9AM SERVICE
10:30 AM VESTRY



- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5-BABER DAY
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6- 9 AM SERVICE
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-OFFICE CLOSED-
HAPPY LABOR DAY 
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13-9 AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20-10 AM SERVICE-KICKOFF
FOR 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION-HYMN SING
CATERED PICNIC LUNCH



- SUNDAY, AUGUST 2-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 9-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 16-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 23-9 AM SERVICE WITH
BACKPACK BLESSING
10:30 AM VESTRY 
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 30-9AM SERVICE

TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Phone: 570.622.8720
Return Service Requested

Deadline
For
Sept/Oct articles deadline is
August 17, 2026

July

- 1- Tony Bacon
- 2- John Pritiskutch
- 3- Lea Bortner
- 6- Leigh Ann Siminimtus, Alice Sapp
- 9- Sharon Albright
- 16- Kitty Murray
- 20- Reynolds Hostetter
- 21- Allesondra Pritiskutch
- 25- Miriam Harris
- 28- Nancy Buehler
- 31- Robert Bednar



August

- 1- Connie Guensch
- 2- Donna Ross
- 4- James Coulson
- 8- Sandra Snyder
- 12- Doris Kauffman
- 16- Edna Rauco, MacKenzie Menuchak
- 23- Delaney Burns, Layne Reedy,
Peter Bortner
- 24- Waverly Bacon IV
- 25- Austin Weiner
- 27- Elliot Wehr
- 28- Tracy Frederick
- 30- Frank Yuengling
- 31- Nanci Billie