



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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January/February 2024

Musings from the priest's computerJanuary-February 2024

Gregory Boyle is a Roman Catholic priest based in Los Angeles. He is the director of a program known as Homeboy Industries. Homeboy is a multi-faceted gang-mitigation agency that provides services to and with men and women who had been gang members, to steer them to a life free from gangs, substance abuse and violence. He has written several books about the ministry and the participants. (We actually studied one of them a few years back.). His latest is one titled "The Whole Language", and the book details the lives and times of some of his participants before and during their times with Homeboy. The title comes from using the whole language of love to one another.

The Whole Language of Love is found in Jesus Christ. We recently celebrated the birth of the Savior, as the Christ Child. Because God-so-loved is what we hear. We witness the Whole Language of Love in Jesus as strangers come to him, recognizing the Messiah. This is one aspect of the Epiphany, the revelation and recognition of Jesus as the Messiah. The other is in His ministry. Jesus did not set up boundaries to his love, he expanded understanding to include the excluded, the marginalized, the scorned sinners, and the harshly judged. That caused extreme anxiety for the ruling class, yet that lesson of inclusivity is one we are to emulate. Fr. Boyle notes "What was ultimately treasonous about Jesus was his inclusivity. He ignored boundaries,". Jesus did not tolerate bad behavior, yet welcomed the sinner with compassion and grace.

We can reflect and practice this radical love of Christ Jesus daily. It seems to start with loving God, our neighbors then moving to loving self. Yes, we all carry guilt and Lent calls us to confess and be restored. Yet, every day is a day to amend. Fr. Boyle states "Guilt, of course, is feeling bad about one's actions, but shame is feeling bad about oneself."

As we traverse these days of Epiphany into the beginning of Lent, it will do us well to cast away our shame, stand tall, and speak the Whole Language of Love that is Jesus 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."



Counters Needed

We are in need of counters for Sunday mornings after the service. We still have only 4 counters and when several are away, the counting and subsequent deposit are delayed. Another opportunity for ministry which only takes a couple of hours per month when there are more volunteers. Please speak to any member of the Vestry if you feel called for this ministry. Thank you.

Committee Reports and Vestry Bios

All committee reports and biographies for those standing for Vestry must be in the office no later than Monday, January 8, 2024, so the Annual meeting packet can be prepared for the meeting on Sunday, January 28. If you need a form, please call or email Cora. 570-449-7553 or singfree@mac.com.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, during the service. Copies of the annual report will be sent to email accounts the week of January 22 for you to review in advance. If you do not have an email address and would like a copy prior to the meeting, please call the office.

Copies of the annual report will be available at the meeting.

Concert Series — Organ Dedication

On Sunday, February 18 at 2 pm, our newly refurbished organ console will be brilliantly played by F. Allen Artz, III. "God So Loved the World" will be the theme that will take us on a journey from Lent through Pentecost. The suggested donation is \$10.00 which will be used for the organ fund. Reception following.



Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, we will have another soup sale fundraiser. The warm, delicious soups from our great cooks will be the perfect light supper or lunch for cold winter days. Containers will be available in the New Year.

Ash Wednesday Services

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes will be held as follows:

- 9 am — Memorial Church of St. John's Ashland
- 10 am to 1 pm — Community Imposition (if enough volunteers to assist) at Laurel Blvd. in front of the Courthouse
14th St. Entrance to Charles Baber Cemetery
On Centre St. in front of Trinity
- 3 to 4 pm (if possible) near Walmart AND/OR at Paxton St. and Dock St. next to St. James.
- 6 or 7 pm (TBD) — Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at Trinity — St. Luke's Chapel



Lenten Soup and Service - Thursdays at 6 Pm

- February 15 — St. James
- February 22 — Holy Apostles
- February 29 — Trinity
- March 7 — St. John's
- March 14 — St. James
- March 21 — Holy Apostles

The assigned congregation is responsible for the meal, the set-ups, and the minister to celebrate.



Clothesline of Love

Our outreach ministry of putting hats, gloves, scarves, and socks in front of the church on a clothesline will continue until the end of February. If you can donate items for this important ministry, please drop them off at the church at the 2nd St. entrance or call for pickup. Thank you.

Thank you!

Thanks to the chime players for their time and talent in presenting the Christmas Eve prelude. The players are Samantha Samatos, Teagan Wehr, Delaney Burns, Carla Kauffman, Elliot Wehr, and Tim Bortner. Thanks also to Dawn Burns who filled in for the players who couldn't make practice.



Advent Project

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Advent Nursing Home Project — a huge success! 60 bags were filled with soaps, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, Band-Aids and more. Cathy Clouser delivered them to Rosewood Nursing Home (formerly Rest Haven) where the need was considered greatest. What a blessing in giving! God bless you all!

Easter Candy Sale

We will be making peanut butter peanut rolls which will have a peanut butter center coated in chocolate and rolled in peanuts. They will also be available without peanuts. Candy will be sold in small or large boxes. The cost for the small box is \$6.00, and a large box is \$10.00. The proceeds will benefit the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County.



See order sheets within the church. Orders will be taken from Feb 18 to Mar 10. Make the candy Mar 17, 18 and 19. **The deadline to order is March 10. Pick-up is on March 21.**

NOTE: We will not be making any extra candy so please remember to sign up if you want candy.



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach



Many thanks to all who participated in making our Christmas celebration beautiful. Lea Bortner who coordinated the chime choir, Teagan and Elliott Wehr who offered piano selections and all the volunteers who helped to decorate the church between services on December 24th. A very hectic time with Advent IV and Christmas Eve on the same day, but we welcomed the Christ Child with joy and rejoicing!

Our November 19th concert was a fantastic presentation by Simon Maurer, Xun Pan and Ai-Lin Hsieh offering the second in their series of the Beethoven Trio Project.



Our next concert is Sunday, February 18, 2024, which will be the dedication concert for the newly refurbished Austin console, Op. 1040. F. Allen Artz, III will present a concert based on “God So Loved the World”—a journey from Lent through Pentecost. The concert will be at 2 pm (please note the time) and \$10.00 is a suggested donation. All donations will go to the organ fund. Please see the enclosed flyer.



Easter Flowers

Donations for Easter Flowers may be made
by completing this form and

returning it with your contribution by Sunday, March 17, 2024



Flower donations received after March 17 will go into the general flower fund.

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

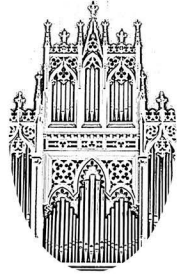
Envelope # _____

Please return requests by Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Please Print

Trinity Episcopal Church Concert Series

Sunday February 18, 2024
at 2pm



DEDICATION CONCERT OF THE REFURBISHED AUSTIN ORGAN CONSOLE, OP. 1040

F. Allen Artz, III, organist

From Darkness to Light — “God so Loved the World”



Mr. Artz will take our restored organ and the audience on a journey from Ash Wednesday and Lent to Holy Week and Easter concluding with the feast of Pentecost. Music by Bach, Handel, Franck, Langlois, Pachelbel and more.

Please join us for this momentous occasion of renewal.

A suggested donation of \$10.00 is welcome and a reception will be held after the concert.

****Please note that the time of the concert is 2 PM.****

For more information, contact Trinity Episcopal Church
200 S. Second Street, Pottsville, PA 570-622-8720
Episcopalch200@gmail.com trinityepiscopalpottsvillepa.org

Trinity is Handicapped Accessible

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 4PM

“Wrapped in Light” based on the Book of Psalms features 10 pieces performed with accompanying video. Composer Jill Haley will play oboe and English horn and be joined by pianist Susan McDevitt and guitarist David Cullen.



Trinity's Gas Boiler

As stewards of our sacred sanctuary, we must maintain this grand building for the rest of the 21st century- and beyond.

While there are smaller projects that need to be completed, your Vestry has decided that the most pressing need is for a new gas boiler to heat the church.

Therefore, Vestry has authorized starting a capital campaign to raise funds to replace the current boiler.

The boiler was installed in 1987 and converted to gas in the 2010s. It is on its last legs. Experts have examined it and have found that four of the six metal heating segments are leaking water. The cost of replacing just the segments is almost as much as the cost of the entire boiler. The cost of a new boiler will be between \$60,000 and \$80,000- plus the cost of lining the chimney.

Worshipping in Trinity is impossible during the cold months without a properly functioning boiler.

A new boiler is a necessity. Many of our other beautiful features could be damaged without the heat from the boiler, including the organ which has been refurbished at great expense. Therefore, we are turning to you, Trinity parishioners. You have never failed your church. We believe, once again, that we will come together to raise the necessary funds. Please use the "church repair" envelopes found in your 2024 envelope pack. They are found on March 3rd and June 22nd but feel free to fill them and place them in the offering plate at any time.

Sincerely,

Your Vestry

News from Marion C Price

Happy New Year! New Year represents a time when many people set new goals for the year ahead. New year pledges or promises are not new. Most ancient cultures practiced some type of religious tradition or festival at the beginning of the new year.

Historically, the first recorded people to set New Year pledges (now known as resolutions) were the Ancient Babylonians about 4,000 years ago. Babylonians celebrated their new year in mid-March when the crops were being planted. During a 12-day New Year's festival they planted crops, pledged their allegiance to the reigning king or crowned a new king, and made promises to repay debts in the year ahead. They believed if they fulfilled their promises the gods would look favorably upon them in the new year.

Ancient Rome continued the tradition of celebrating the new year and making new year pledges. The Roman New Year was celebrated with a festival on March 15 (The Ides of March) as this was the time the most important Roman officials took office. January 1 became the start of the new year when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar in 46 BC. Romans offered sacrifices to Janus and pledged renewed bonds between citizens, the state, and the deities. Blessings and gifts were exchanged and allegiances were pledged to the emperor. In the Middle Ages (around 500 to 1500 A.D.), medieval knights pledged their allegiance and renewed their vows of chivalry each new year. In the Middle Ages, a New Year was celebrated by different societies at different times of the year. Due to a timing miscalculation, the Julian calendar had resulted in 7 extra days by the year 1000. To solve this problem Pope Gregory XIII instigated the Gregorian calendar in 1582. The new year was officially reinstated to January 1.

Contemporary resolutions tend to be more secular than religious or societal in nature. However, New Year's resolutions continue to capture people's imagination, hopes, and promises for betterment. Many of us make a resolution to improve our lives in some way but we all know how difficult it is to actually follow through and accomplish that goal. If you have trouble keeping a New Year's resolution, you are not alone. A study conducted by researchers at the University of Scranton found that 23% of people quit their resolution after just one week. Only 19% of individuals can stick to their goals long-term (two years in the case of this study). Old habits die hard, but other factors can contribute to our failure such as not being prepared to make the change, lack of planning, no self-monitoring, and overconfidence.

A New Year's resolution is a promise you make to yourself to start doing something good or to stop doing something bad on the first day of the year. Naturally, if you set a more realistic goal, it will be easier to achieve. This year may be a good time to break a bad habit, learn a new skill, visit a new place, or do a good deed. Maybe you made a resolution to lose weight, get healthier, or clean and organize your home. If you decide to make a resolution this year, be sure your heart is in it. It's easy to fail if you are not fully committed. Make yourself accountable. Include a friend in your plan and update them on your progress. Plan ahead to have the time or resources needed to achieve your goal. Be ready to make sacrifices, you may need to get rid of all the sweets in your house to lose weight. Setting time limits when cleaning your house may help you from feeling overwhelmed and giving up. Small steps will help you move forward toward your goal. Don't think it will be easy. Focus on the positive results of each small accomplishment. Don't give up! Even after 4,000 years, the new year is still an opportunity for a fresh start.

2023 Christmas at Trinity



**Christmas Cookies for
Parish Shut-ins**



St. Nicholas



Advent Nursing Home Project



Charles Baber Preservation Trust

The Elegance of Evergreen

by C. Field - Jan. 2024

January and February often seem like drab, dismal months after following on the heels of a festive Christmas season which showcases many homes decorated to the “nines”. Dozens of colored lights trim the houses, trees, and shrubs. Some homes went the extra mile with swirling strobe lights on the side of the house, and two or three blow-up snowmen, Santas, and reindeer. However, after driving passed several of these enthusiastically decorated homes, it was almost a shock to pass a home modestly decorated in white lights. This simple understated white light lit house seemed to have a purity, an elegance, and an innocence about it. This is how January and February are when compared to the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations of November and December with both months filled with the excitement, exuberance, and the bustle of shopping, food preparation, and socializing with family and friends. January and February are like the simple white lights on a house while the rest of the neighbors have colorful expansively decorated homes. January and February are months of rest, reflection, and solitude.

At the Baber Cemetery, January and February are the months that highlight the elegance of the evergreen trees. They are quiet months with no running equipment like lawnmowers, weed whackers, and leaf blowers. While there are school children transiting the property, they are hurriedly walking across the property to get home to a warm house. There are still many dogwalkers, but they too don’t come as often, or they and their dogs are bundled up and quickly walking their routes. The walkers with smaller dogs are least often seen because it appears that small dogs can’t tolerate the coldness and the wind.

The frequently changing weather from sun to rain, to sleet, to ice, to snow, and gusting winds during these months, exemplifies the hardiness, sturdiness, and durability of the many varieties of trees on the cemetery property. They stand as a testament to endurance, perseverance, and survival during harsh weather conditions. The evergreens are at their best in this season because there is no competition from the barren deciduous trees. The eastern white pines are very tall, majestic trees that stand like a regiment of soldiers guarding the eastern boundary of the property from the top level by 13th Street down along the fence line to the lower level by the soccer field. Also mostly on the eastern side of the property are the Norway spruce. They are moderately tall and very, very wide because of their long downward-hanging branches. Their needles are draped like tinsel in long strands, and they are accessorized with many pinecones. They are like jovial friends reaching out their arms to embrace you in a big hug. Our eastern red cedars are found south of the 16th Street entrance. Several of them carry bluish berries during the winter season. And when sprinkled with white snow and carrying the bluish berries, they look very festive, warm, and welcoming. We have many yew trees and bushes on the upper level. These are sturdy yet flexible barked trees. Long ago during Robin Hood’s days, their wood was used to make bows. Their bark peels in long strips and shows changing color layers of reds and ambers. Lastly, we have many arborvitaes throughout the property. At first glance, they all look the same. However, a closer examination shows that their needles, which cluster in fan shapes, differentiate themselves by the direction of the fans. Some are horizontal, others are vertical, and others are diagonal. And some grow pale blue berries that harden into little florets of soft woody fiber. The weather might be cold with some wind or snow, but if it’s not icy or raining, come and meet our evergreens.



The Winds of Change

by C. Field - Feb. 2024

Change occurs in our lives whether we welcome it or not. Sometimes we are forced to accept it, such as with the weather, growing old, or the rising price of groceries and gas. Other times we can readily accept change if it is on our terms or something that we originated. Here at the Baber Cemetery, because of circumstances beyond our control, a major change and adaptation\ adjustment is about to occur in 2024. We have lost both of our full-time employees, one to retirement and the second to a better-paying job. Despite offering a fair hourly salary and 100% paid health benefits plus a 9% pension, we are unable to hire anyone who wants to work general labor of mowing, weed whacking, and leaf blowing. Paying two full-time and one part-time employee cost us over \$113,000 or 75% of our budget. Our alternative is to outsource this work. Again this is difficult because few landscapers in our area are equipped to handle mowing and weed whacking in a 25-acre Victorian garden cemetery filled with lots of trees and upright memorial markers of every size and shape. Outsourcing the work will cost at least \$90,000 and we will still need a part-time employee for trash removal, burial ground probing, digging and filling a plot for cremains burials, interment of niche cremains, and snow blowing, drain cleanings, and small branch pick-up.

Work at the cemetery can be divided into 4 categories (1) labor work as discussed above; (2) off-site work in preparing the 700-piece ground maintenance solicitation letter complete with the stamped and addressed mailing envelope and the enclosed contribution form and return envelope which gets mailed Feb. 3rd; preparing and printing the 8-page newsletter that is mailed the first week of March; maintaining the database of 700 names and addresses for the mailings; Arbor Day tree sponsorship which requires making up placards of the sponsors, taking pics of the tree blessings, ordering and affixing the brass plates to the wooden leaves on the east gatehouse wall, and mailing the packages to the sponsors; preparing the cemetery's Topics insert every other month; and sending out thank you cards for the donations from the ground maintenance letter and other donations; (3) office work of opening the mail from our solicitation letter donations; returning phone calls on varied marker and burial subject matter; research and background work including map plot locations needed for burials, family trees, buying plots, checking plot availability in a family lot for a future burial; selling plots and niches including ordering plaques for the niches, preparing the plot deed, updating the map; and of course preparation & coordination for in-ground burials. In many cases, in research and burial work, the last name is different from the family name of the lot owner; (4) groundwork at the cemetery.

Groundwork follows in-depth research work. Put on a pair of boots and drive to the cemetery. Find the family lot, (the bodies are mostly buried lying west to east); however, this varies greatly in the middle section. Family lots can vary from 2 plots to 72 burial plots like the Boone and Yuengling lots at the entrance. Some families have one large family marker with no individual markers, and other graves don't have any markers. Once you get the general layout, then the laborers must probe the plot and the adjoining plots to make sure the plot is empty, and the others are buried where they should be. Then take pictures, draw a map of where and who is buried there, show the location on the full cemetery map and include a close-up of the plot location within that particular section. Sometimes this work then gets packaged up and mailed to out-of-area inquirers, and sometimes it's for an immediate burial. Other outside duties are meeting people at the cemetery to sell plots or niches, perhaps scrubbing off markers, or saying prayers at burials. All in all, it is a very rewarding volunteer job, and the cemetery could use 1 or 2 more volunteers. One last thing, Norm Kauffman is a blessing to the cemetery. Only he knows and understands the layout of the lots of the cemetery. I am in awe of his skill and knowledge and am very thankful for his help. The cemetery would be lost without you Norm. Thank you!

JANUARY 2024

Boyer's Caring and Sharing fundraiser
program continues

- 1 —OFFICE CLOSED — HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
- 3 — 12 noon Healing service
- 7 — 9 am service
- 8 — DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE
REPORTS AND VESTRY BIOS
- 10 — 12 noon Healing service
- 14 — 9 am service
- 15 — OFFICE CLOSED
- 17 — 12 noon Healing service
- 21 — 9 am service
- 24 — 12 noon Healing service
- 28 — 9 am service — ANNUAL
MEETING
- 31 — 12 noon Healing service

FEBRUARY 2024

Boyer's Caring and Sharing fundraiser
program continues

- 4 — 9 am service
- 7 — 12 noon Healing service
- 11 — 9 am service. Soup sale.
- 14 — NO HEALING SERVICE.
Ash Wednesday — 6 or 7 pm at
Trinity - St. Luke's Chapel (see
TOPICS for more information)
- 15 — 6 pm — Lenten supper and
service at St. James
- 18 — 9 am service — Lent I
2 pm — Organ dedication
concert
CANDY ORDERS TAKEN
THROUGH MARCH 10.
- 19 — OFFICE CLOSED
- 21 — 12 noon Healing service
- 22 — 6 pm — Lenten supper and
service at Holy Apostles
- 25 — 9 am service — Lent II
10:30 — Vestry Mtg.
- 28 — 12 noon Healing service
- 29 — 6 pm Lenten Supper at Trinity
followed by 6:30 service

MARCH 2024

- 3 — 9 am service — Lent III
- 17 to 19 — MAKE CANDY
- 21 — CANDY PICK UP

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street

Pottsville, PA 17901

Phone: 570.622.8720

Fax: 570.621.3221

Return Service Requested

Deadline

For

March/April "Topics"
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024



January

2 - Samantha Simatos
4 - Carla Kauffman
7 - Courtney Rauco-Lewars, Margie Keyworth,
Wanda Dodds
8 - Herbert Harris, Jr.
9 - Elizabeth Cirelli
16 - Daniel Hopkins
18 - James Snyder
22 - Tim Bortner
23 - Hank Beaver
26 - Karen Portland
27 - Cody Lewars
30 - Al Portland

February

1 - Phyllis Moehrle
4 - Kathy Polcrack, Elise Scott
8 - Norm Kauffman
10 - Shelby Hostetter
16 - Brent Burns
20 - Erin Banonis
23 - Patricia Brennan
24 - Sara Wehr
25 - John Fehr, Laura Weiner, Deliliah Howells
29 - Cassie Kauffman Holm