



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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May/June 2023

*Some people come in our life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons: St. Teresa of Calcutta
(Mother Teresa)*

Spring 2023

The Evangelist John wrote his account of the life of Jesus after the other 3 synoptic evangelists. There is some understanding that he did not use Mark, Luke, or Matthew as points of reference, as his account was written much later than the other 3 Gospel accounts. John's Gospel revolves around signs in his Gospel. And through those signs that John details, we are to come to faith in Jesus. The signs all involve other humans and their associated questions or difficulties or maladies. In that context, they entered Jesus's life so Jesus could become a blessing for them, and also to become blessings and lessons for us. John's Gospel is then a retelling of the story of John and his encounters with this Rabboni, Jesus of Nazareth.

I have observed something that is uniquely Episcopalian: the telling and retelling of our personal journey of faith in the context of this branch of Christianity. We recount where and how God called us into this church, and what the church has done for us. In addition, portions of our personal faith journey include what we have done for this church to uplift, to minister, and to participate. We then are the blessings for others, as they are to us. And because we are responsible in some measure for each other, we can often recount when and where and also by whom we have been taught lessons.

Spring will shorten the shadows of winter, and lighten our lives with the beauty of creation. Summer will pass quickly, leading us to wonder where time went. Yet, summer, with its lengthening of days and daylight, could be a perfect time to take hold of opportunities to become a blessing to others. A simple phone call, a note telling another they are in your prayers, or even a pot of flowers or a plate of goodies can brighten the life of those we see at church. These simple actions while days stretch into weeks can also teach others the lesson that we are our siblings' keepers. All these add to our own faith journeys and to those of others.

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."



Services at Chapel of the Resurrection

Our last service of the season in the main sanctuary will be Sunday, May 28 — the feast of Pentecost. Beginning on Sunday, June 4, and continuing through September 10, services will be held at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery at 9 am.

Organ Refurbishment Update

We have been contacted by Murphy Organbuilders that the refurbishment of our Austin Organ, Op. 1040 console will begin sometime in May. Most of the work will be done as we worship in the chapel at Charles Baber Cemetery. We will return to the sanctuary in September to a gloriously improved organ for decades to come. Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the continued excellence of the organ and the music program at Trinity.



United Thank Offering

As we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ, we are grateful for the many blessings in our lives. Please remember those less fortunate than we are by your offerings in your UTO box or set aside to put in a UTO envelope at our fall ingathering on October 1 and 8. Boxes and envelopes are available at each entrance.

Rectory Update:

We're cleaning out the rectory. If you donated any items for use there, please contact Lea Bortner libortner@comcast.net or 570-516-5726 to arrange to have them returned. The deadline is May 12th. Anything remaining after that time will be donated.

Old Hymnals Available:

In cleaning out the church basement, a dozen or more copies of the small red 1940 hymnals were found. If you or anyone you know would like a copy, you can stop by the office during regular hours. The deadline is May 12th.



Fundraiser

The Envelope Fundraiser has begun and the boards at the back of the church have the envelopes marked from \$1.00 to \$100.00; the instructions are on the table. This fundraiser has the potential for making over \$5,000.00 for Trinity. Please take an envelope that reflects your donation or several equaling a figure that you have in mind. Remember to put your Trinity pledge envelope number on to receive credit.



Summer Reading Camp News

Plans are underway for Summer Reading Camp which will be held on July 10-14 from 8:30-12:30 in the undercroft. The theme for camp this year is *Sports* and our reading activities will be based on that theme. Student-athletes and coaches will visit with the children to discuss their sport and the positive aspects of participation-practice, persistence, being a team player, and good sportsmanship. On our final day of camp, we will have a visit from Screwball, the mascot from the Reading Phils.

As a prelude to camp, we will be hosting a family game night on May 10 in the parish hall. This provides parents/guardians and the children with a chance to meet the staff and have any questions answered about our program. Applications for camp will be available during game night which makes the process of completing and collecting applications much easier. Our game night last year was a huge success and was a great way to introduce the camp program to the children and helps them to be more comfortable about attending.

Many parishioners have asked how they can help with camp. We will have a large preschool group this year, and will have to split it into two classes, so extra teachers are always needed. Donations are always welcome for our Lunches for Learners Program, where you can sponsor one lunch for a child for \$4.00 per day or a week of lunches for \$20.00. At the end of camp, we give the children a Scholastic Activity Pack, since many of the children do not have books in their homes. These activity packs cost \$30.00 per student and any donations to underwrite the cost of these books would be gratefully appreciated. The staff of Summer Reading Camp thanks you for your support and prayers which are the keys to our success.



Demonstration Cooking Dinner and Wine Paring

Our demonstration cooking dinner and wine pairing for the benefit of Summer Reading Camp was held on April 1. A delicious 3-course dinner prepared by Brian Setlock of Bake Shop VI was paired with an outstanding wine selection chosen and presented by our own Erin Banonis. Who knew that in her previous life, Erin was a sales representative for a wine company and is extremely knowledgeable about choosing the right wine to complement a meal? A profit of \$310.00 was made on the dinner to help with Summer Reading Camp expenses. Many thanks to all of the parishioners who supported the dinner, Jim Snyder, our sexton who did an outstanding job helping us set up for the dinner, and Erin and Ben Banonis whose generous donation of the wine helped make this possible. We would like to try to host another dinner in the fall. Any suggestions about the menu or theme would be welcomed.

**The Easter Flowers adorning Trinity Church
have been given to the Glory of God by:**

Robert & June Bednar in Memory of
J. Stewart & Phenie Rowlands, Nicholas &
Anna Bednar, James S. Rowlands III, Eleanor
Roth, William Angelo and in Thanksgiving for
grandsons Josh Secoges & Nick DelConte.

Jeff & Nanci Billie in Memory of John W. &
Nancy J. Reigle

Darlene & Bill Bowler in Memory of Hain Family,
Bowler Family, Engleman Family, Nice Family,
Shoemaker Family, Jack Curtis, Hubler Family,
Merrick Family, Starr Family, Ed Harris,
Lawrence Tobin, Louise Teter & Walter Noel,
Minna Hutchinson, & Kelly Messina and in
Thanksgiving for the Curtis & Burns Family

The Curtis Family in Memory of Jack Curtis,
Marlin & Martha Hain, William & Frances
Engleman, George & Irene Curtis, Lawrence
Tobin, James Bowler, Dan & Jane Nice, Susan
Starr, Ed Harris, Nancy Thiers, Adrienne Thiers
Glenn Curtis and in Thanksgiving for the
Bowler, Burns & Curtis Families

Georgine B. Curtier in Memory of Joseph F.
Curtier and in Thanksgiving for Kota Joshua
Cappel.

Harry Ebling in Memory of Jean Ebling, David E.
Frey, Clayton & Dorothy Ebling, Samuel &
Florence Edwards.

Carol Field in Memory of George R. &
Emmeline Stone, George R. Stone, III, Jerry
Field, William Stone & Allen Brennan, and in
Thanksgiving for Eric Stone & Family, Heather
Procacci & Family and Tom Prichard & Family.

Fr. Kurt in thanksgiving for All the People of
Trinity.

Franklin & Cora Osenbach in Thanksgiving for
All of God's Blessings.

Albert & Karen Portland in Memory of Bertha &
Emmett Miller, Mildred & Francis Portland &
Francis M. Portland and in Thanksgiving for our
grandchildren Emmet, Annabelle, Duncan
& Elliot and our children Adrian & Holly.

John Pritiskutch in Memory of Michael and
Elizabeth Pritiskutch.

Marria Walsh in Memory of Basil S. Walsh III and
the O'Malley Family.

The Flowers at the Baptismal Font are given by
the Bacon/Barnwell Families in Memory of Lillie
Bacon Allen, Marion B. Bacon, Waverly I.
Bacon, Jr., Waverly I. Bacon, Sr., Alma
Barnwell, Elizabeth Barnwell, Paul Barnwell Jr.,
Paul Barnwell, Sr., Flossie Bedford, Frederic H.
Bacon and Ann Bacon.

In Thanksgiving for the Palm Sunday Chime
Players: Gianna Bagley, Paul Barnwell, Delany
Burns, Carla Kauffman, Samantha Simatos,
Elliot Wehr and Teagan Wehr.



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

Alleluia! He is Risen! What a journey we took during Holy Week — from the entrance into Jerusalem, the agony of the Passion, our Lord teaching us how to love and serve on Maundy Thursday, the impactful trek of the Stations, the shining new fire and light at the Vigil and the triumph over death and the grave on Easter morning! And the music reflected it all. Thanks to Lea Bortner who led the chime choir and Teagan and Elliot Wehr for their piano solos. We sang in joy as the Alleluias were resurrected and the bells rang.

Our 100th-anniversary celebration Concert series closed out with the Copeland String Quartet from Delaware. We were so pleased to welcome them back with a magnificent program of Haydn, Brahms and William Grant Still.

Our 2023-24 Concert series season is scheduled. The fantastic marimba player, Greg Giannascoli will return as requested on October 8 accompanied by Pottsville native, Ron Stabinsky. On November 19, Simon Maurer will present the first concert of the Beethoven Trio Project with Xun Pan, piano and Ai-Lin Hseih, cello. On April 14, 2024, the “Wrapped in Light” program based on the Psalms will be presented by composer Jill Haley, pianist Sue McDevitt and guitarist David Cullen. These pieces will be accompanied by slides.

Once our organ console refurbishment is completed, a dedication concert will be scheduled sometime (hopefully) in the 2023-24 season.

Thank you to all who helped to make our concert receptions such a highlight of our concert series. Fantastic fellowship and scrumptious food delight our audiences almost as much as meeting the artists and enjoying the concerts. You went above and beyond this year with the opening 100th-anniversary concert in October and the special benefit concert for the organ fund in January. God bless you all!

Altar Flowers

If you would like to order flowers for a specific Sunday as a memorial or in thanksgiving for a person(s) or event, please call the church office. Two arrangements are \$35. We will contact the florist, but please let the office know if you would like special colors or flowers, etc.

Trinity Easter Flowers 2023



News from Marion C. Price

I recently attended an AED training at my home church. The church purchased an AED or Automated External Defibrillator for our sanctuary a few months ago. This purchase was prompted by an event that took place at another church in our charge. During a Sunday worship service, a member had a medical event. It was not a cardiac arrest but prompted discussion as to what our plan would be if it happened in our church. After some discussion, it was decided that we would purchase an AED, primarily because of the wait time for EMS service at our rural location. In addition to the AED training, the Stroke/ Chest Pain Coordinator from Lehigh Valley Hospital supplied some information on strokes. This young lady had a very interesting presentation. Just as with a heart attack, an important factor in stroke recovery is time. As explained to us, the best chance of recovery from a stroke is treatment within 4 hours. Think of a stroke as a "brain attack" and just like a heart attack, it needs immediate medical attention.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. In minutes, brain cells begin to die. This can cause lasting brain damage, disability or even death. There are three different types of strokes.

Ischemic strokes occur when there is a blockage in a blood vessel in your brain, keeping it from getting the blood and oxygen it needs to function. This is also the most common type of stroke.

Hemorrhagic strokes are less common but can occur when a weakened blood vessel in your brain bursts or leaks blood. The blood builds up and puts pressure on the brain and causes damage.

A **TIA** (transient ischemic attack), sometimes called a "mini-stroke," is usually caused by a blood clot. While symptoms of a TIA usually only last a few minutes it is still a medical emergency and a warning sign that a major stroke may occur.

The signs of a stroke come on suddenly and learning to spot a stroke quickly can save lives. People who are having a stroke may not realize what is happening to them or may choose to ignore the signs. Acting quickly may prevent or reduce brain damage and lifelong disability.

BE FAST is the new acronym for spotting a stroke.

BALANCE - Watch for a sudden loss of balance

EYES - Check for vision loss

FACE - Look for an uneven smile

ARM - Check to see if one arm (or leg) is weak

SPEECH - Listen for slurred speech

TIME - Call 911

Strokes can happen to anyone regardless of age, race or sex but some people are at greater risk. Those people include the following:

Older adults – the chance of having a stroke doubles every 10 years after age 55

People with a parent, grandparent, or sibling who has had a stroke

People who have had a previous stroke, TIA, or heart attack

People who are overweight or inactive

People with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, or sickle cell disease

Smokers and heavy alcohol users

People with African American, Latin American, Native American, and Alaska Native backgrounds

You may reduce your risk of stroke by limiting alcohol and tobacco products, eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight and being physically active. Working with your doctor to prevent or manage health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, coronary artery disease, and atrial fibrillation may also reduce stroke risk.

If you think that you or someone you know is having a stroke or TIA, do not delay. Dial 911 right away!

The Stroke coordinator mentioned how some people will phone their doctor first to see if they should go to the hospital. This will cause an unnecessary delay as you may wait a few hours for a return call. Now you have used up valuable time of the 4-hour window. Calling 911 will send trained medical help to begin your evaluation before you get to the hospital. EMS will call ahead to begin the “stroke protocol”. This allows you to receive your scan quickly and the medication you need can be administered promptly.

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and a major cause of serious disability. Every 40 seconds someone in the United States has a stroke. Remember the quicker you receive medical attention the better chance you have of a full recovery. I have stroke risk cards available in the office. If anyone is interested in assessing their stroke risk, please let me know and I will get it to you.

Did you know?

If you soak orange peels in vinegar for two weeks in a sealed mason jar, then pour the vinegar into a spray bottle, you can use this for cleaning or bug spray and it's great to eliminate ants.

Plants that keep bugs away:

Rosemary – fleas, ticks

Marigolds – mosquitoes, aphids

Basil – mosquitoes, houseflies

Lavender- moths, fleas, flies, mosquitoes

Catnip – mosquitoes

Peppermint – spiders, mosquitoes, ants



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Celebrating a Happy Cheerful Spring

Many things seemed to be happening early this year. The geese, with their attention-getting honks of greetings, as they followed their northward course, were seen and heard early. Lent and Easter were early. And our warm, welcoming Spring appeared early. Here at the Baber Garden cemetery, our sunset red maples with their pale orangish red colors, like a red runway carpet, highlighted the road leading from the chapel to 16th Street. The area around the chapel is quite cheerful with its white and yellow daffodils, its red tulips, and its purple azaleas. Besides being adorned with blooming spring flowers and shrubbery, the chapel during the winter months and early spring is always aglow at sunrise as the sun's golden rays filter through the leafless trees to paint the chapel in a soft golden color. It was particularly beautiful and very meaningful when the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich celebrated Easter sunrise service at 6:20 AM (although at that hour and at that time of year, it was a mite cold at 32 degrees).

The 25 acres of the cemetery property are bejeweled with cheerful Easter colors of pinks, whites, purples, fuchsias, yellows, and greens. Besides the early blooming reds on the sunset maples, we have the white blossoms of the callery pear and the Japanese lilac by the carriage house (barn). Contrasting the whites with shades of pink are the kwanza cherry trees with their double flower bloom on the east side of the pond and the weeping cherry tree to the east of the main entrance. Soon the pinks, fuchsias, and whites on the flowering and kousa dogwoods will be appearing. As will the dark fuchsia flowers on the red buds by the 16th Street entrance and along the grassy path to the east of the 14th Street entrance. Other trees like the horse chestnut with its yellow and white cone-shaped flowers, the coffee tree with its tiny white flowers, the white flowers on the tall black cherry on the terraces and the Middle School hillside, and the large dark red lollipop-shaped flowers on the staghorn sumac are all contributing their fair share of spring coloring. And finishing off with a charming personality is the magnolia to the right inside the main entrance with its large petals of white on the outside and pink on the inside.

In addition to the pastel Easter colors, we have many different shades of green. The green coloring varies from tree species to tree species as each species either starts budding with their tiny leaves unfurling or springs forth with long dangling catkins like the box elder and the many Norway maples. Even the dangling catkins vary in cluster formation and length of strands between the different species. The Japanese Larch, north of the 13th St. little gate entrance, produces spurs of needle clusters that cling to long dangling strands. The green coloring, which can range from pale or mint colored to dark forest green, also takes on other hue colorings of yellows, reds, oranges, creams, and whites. The Japanese dwarf maples are an enigma, with some starting with lacy green leaves while others start with merlot-colored lacy leaves. Even the evergreens, yews, and arborvitae vary in their shades of green coloring. And then we have piles of pinecones below the Norway spruce and the eastern white pine as they shed their old, dried cones to make way for new growth.

With some trees bursting with flowers, others dangling with catkins, and others producing their leaves first before the flowers, there is so much to see and so much color, even the tiny buttercups and violets in the grass. Belatedly, the white, swamp white, pin and red oaks will sprout their leaves. The swamp white and the newer plantings of the pin oaks have to first shed their dried leaves from the previous year. Come and visit and see our large spring bouquet!

Arbor Day, Friday, April 28th

While this insert for the *Topic* newsletter is due before we celebrate Arbor Day, we are happy to announce that we have 14 tree sponsors this year. Several of the sponsors are new “friends of the cemetery”, and one of our new friends has sponsored 4 trees. We are appreciative to Joe Orlowsky, who chooses and orders the trees and site locations, to Norm Kaufman for digging the holes for the tree planting, our cemetery laborers, who helped plant each tree, to Carol Field for making up the tree plaques and taking the tree blessing pictures, and to the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich for doing the tree blessings this year at the 2:00 PM service. Our 14 trees are 3 red oaks, 2 little leaf “green spire” lindens (basswoods), 2 Japanese maples, 3 sugar maples, 3 red buds, and 1 ‘autumn radiance’ red maple. The sponsored trees are: (1) In Loving Memory of Marie Murphy and All the Blessings in Our Life given by Frank and Annie Murphy; (2) In Loving Memory of the Honorable Joseph F. McCloskey given by Peter and Patti Armstrong; (3) In Loving Memory of the Honorable Joseph F. McCloskey given by Joanne McCloskey; (4) In Thanksgiving for Cora Gamelin-Osenbach for Her Devotion to Trinity Church and Brightening Our Lives Through Music given by F. Allen Artz III and George Stralkus; (5) In Honor of Attorney J. R. and Ellen M. Zane given by Joe and Nancy Schlitzer (6) In Loving Memory of The Thompson Family given by Todd Thompson; (7) In Loving Memory of George “Bud” Neil given by Fred and Dona Brown. (8) In Loving Memory of James Tarone and Arthur Marsicano Sr. given by Elizabeth and Arthur Marsicano; (9) In Loving Memory of Allen E. Brennan given by The Rev. Canon Clifford B. Carr: (10) In Loving Memory of Luke and Helen M. Heimbach given by Ida Lee H. Elliott & the Elliott Family; (11) In Loving Memory of Ed and Carrie Messersmith given by Ida Lee H. Elliott & the Elliott Family; (12) In Loving Memory of Donald and Betty Elliott given by Ida Lee H. Elliott & the Elliott Family; (13) In Thanksgiving for Robert K. Elliott given by Ida Lee H. Elliott & the Elliott Family; (14) In Loving Memory of The Fallen Service Men and Women That Died For Our Country given by Brian Scheib and Klean Kut Tree Service. Thank you to all our tree sponsors. Last year our tree-cutting expense was \$4,761 against tree sponsor income of \$4,000. This year, we have already spent \$1,500 to cut down one remaining dead tree on the bank alongside the chapel and to cut large dead limbs on a few other trees.

Memorial Day

For the past two years and again this year, the cemetery has been fortunate in having the high school members of the Lion’s Leo Club replace the 580 Veterans’ flags for Memorial Day. Terry Mauer is in charge of this program. Last year, he and a few adult Lion’s Club members had to finish up four sections in the lower level that the Leo Club was not able to finish up. If you know Terry Mauer, thank him for the wonderful work he does. And a special thank you to the Pottsville Amvets who properly burn the old flags at their Memorial Day service.

Thank you!

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to the Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust in response to our donation request letter sent out in February. Your contributions were greatly appreciated since January through May are lean months with no income coming in, and with large expenses, like labor costs, chapel heating oil bills, and insurance bills having to be paid. If you haven't sent something in, and if you attend summer services at the chapel, walk the property, or enjoy reading about the trees, please consider giving a charitable donation to this charming garden park and cemetery. Please remember to make your check payable to the "Charles Baber Cemetery" not to the church (we operate as two independent agencies). Your check can be mailed to the office (200 S. 2nd St., Pottsville, PA 17901) or dropped in the Sunday collection plate.

MAY 2023

- 1— Boyer's Caring and Sharing fundraiser continues.
Envelope fundraiser continues through May 7
- 3 — 12 noon - Healing service
- 7 — 9 am service
- 10 — 12 noon - Healing service
- 14 — 9 am service, Mother's Day
- 17 — 12 noon - Healing service
- 21 — 9 am service
- 22 — 4 pm Soup Kitchen
- 24 — 12 noon - Healing service
- 28 — 9 am service - PENTECOST
LAST SERVICE AT SANCTUARY
10:30 am — Vestry
- 29 — Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED
- 31 — 12 noon - Healing service,
last Healing service until
September

JUNE 2023

- 4 — 9 am service at CHAPEL OF THE
RESURRECTION — Charles Baber
Cemetery — Trinity Sunday
- 11 — 9 am service at CBC
- 15 — Strawberry Festival at HA
6 to 8 pm
- 18 — 9 am service at CBC, Father's Day
- 19 — 4 pm Soup Kitchen
- 25 — 9 am service at CBC
10:30 am Vestry

JULY 2023

- 2 — 9 am service at CBC
- 4 — OFFICE CLOSED

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

Deadline

For

July/August "Topics"

Thursday, June 15, 2023



May Birthdays

2 – Carol Ann Bigg
5 – Evelyn Barnwell
6 – Kellon Jones
7 – Cara Kovalovich
8 – Paul Barnwell
11 – Pam Foley
12 – Gabrielle Menuchak
16 – Bonnie Eckert
18 – Jacquelyn Curtis
20 – Nicholas Lewars
24 – Elaine Howells
26 – Mason Frederick
28 – Tom Dodds
29 – Jack Mansell
30 – Nancy Cairns
31 – Marria Walsh

June Birthdays

2 – June Bednar
3 – Cathy Clouser
4 – Ann Beaver, Robert Petlansky
Corinne Gearhart, Aralyn Schenck
6 – Michael Pozza
11 – Keith Grabowski, Brady Hess
12 – Howard Mitchell
13 – June Reedy
14 – Lynn Holden, Karen Fehr
19 – Paul Harley, Joanne Barton
25 – Frank Osenbach
26 – Ronald Frederick, Teagan Wehr
29 – Zachery Brennan
30 – Robert Bedford, Tina Walb, Hunter Banonis