TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Phone: 570.622.8720

Web: www.trinityepiscopalpottsvillepa.org

Email: episcopalch200@gmail.com

May/June 2025

Musings.....from the priest.....May-June 2025

ALLELUIA!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!

With the proclamation that Christ is Risen, our Easter season comes and the northern hemisphere bursts with new life. The hope that Easter brings will continue throughout Pentecost and again we recognize that death has no hold on us. The words "He has burst his 3-day prison" were sung and Alleluias resounded. Easter is joyful, lively and bright. All words to describe the casting of death away and eternal life taking shape.

As joyful as Easter is, Pentecost comes with the breathlessness of a dawn...darkness is vanquished and daylight and the hope of a new day, and a new life begins. Pentecost gives us breathing room to study and contemplate and again rejoice in the mighty acts that God has done for us. I recommend you consider perusing the bookshelves in the church and hall for something that catches you. Take it home, read it, and ask questions to delve more deeply into an aspect of this faith that you may never have considered.

Offer your time to a ministry that continues throughout the late spring and summer. Better yet, ask a relative or acquaintance to accompany you to a Sunday service or 2. That invitation may be the start of a good solid discussion about the Episcopal Church or about Christian beliefs in general. And come and sit with a coffee, tea or treat at a coffee hour. Speak with someone you may know to see but who you may never have spent any time with. Explore that uniquely Episcopalian question- "How did you come to attend the Episcopal Church? "or "Tell me about your faith journey". Some folks have amazing stories, and sharing is an extension of our Christian faith.

During Pentecost, we are told that the Advocate-the Paraclete-will remind us of everything we need. Consider your own story, and share it without embarrassment, fear, or judgement. It may strengthen you again, knowing why you have become a part of this Christian branch. And the journeys of others worshiping and serving with you may be a spark that is needed to allow your faith to grow and develop anew.

In peace, your brother-in-Christ.....

Kurt+

Fr. Kurt

rinity 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."

Summer Worship

Since there is a possibility of repairs being made this summer to the Chapel of the Resurrection in Charles Baber Cemetery, the Vestry voted at their February meeting to hold services in the Lounge at the main church. It will be air conditioned for comfort during worship. Summer services in the Lounge will begin on Sunday, June 29 at 9 am. We will return to the sanctuary on September 14, 2025.

Congratulations to Cathy

Our own Cathy Clouser is the recipient of the 2025 Hornbrook Memorial Award for Individual Achievement. This award comes from the Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance in recognition of Cathy's "commitment to our older citizens as a member of the RSVP Advisory Board, your attention to long-term care consumers by way of donations of goods and services, visits to those consumers, and general care and concern for those most valuable individuals, we feel you are the ideal choice for the award." Cathy was presented with this award on April 30 at the Fountain Springs Country Inn. She is a blessing to Trinity and the Marion Price Trust and all those whose lives she touches. Congratulations!!

Envelope Fundraiser — March 30 To May 11

CHURCH FUNDRAISING

We are kicking off our biggest fundraiser of the year! The envelope fundraiser has begun. 100 envelopes numbered from 1-100 are posted on the boards near the front of the church. The number of the envelope corresponds to the dollar amount of the donation. You may take as many envelopes as you like. Everyone can contribute, young and old alike. Just submit the total amount of the numbered envelopes you selected. If all 100 envelopes are filled we can earn $5,050 for Trinity! If everyone does a little, together we can do a lot. Thank you!

Advent Project

This project has impacted many of our senior citizens in nursing homes and is one of the reasons that Cathy received the above award. Thinking ahead to the fall of 2025– if you happen to see travel size items during the year, please donate them at any time and we will store them at the church in anticipation of the 2025 project. Please NO body wash or soaps — the nursing homes do not want them and NO partially used items. Thank you again and God bless you all for making this so successful.

Christmas Trees Available

There are several artificial Christmas trees that the church will no longer be using. If you are interested in the following sizes, please contact the church, make plans to pick them up and please make a donation to the church.

One 12-foot tree, boxed, pre-lit
One 8–9-foot tree, unboxed and pre-lit
One 7 1/2-foot tree, boxed and pre-lit
Two 7–8-foot trees, unboxed and pre-lit

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is held on the second Sunday of each month. We invite a family or individual to 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. Individuals or families are needed for Pentecost on June 8. Coffee Hour will be discontinued for the summer and begin again in October on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

Dear Trinity parishioners,

This will be my last edition of The Music Corner. As of June 8, 2025, I am stepping down as Organist and Director of Music here at Trinity. For thirty-two years at two different time periods, I have worked to enhance the music program and your worship by choosing music that hopefully upheld the great tradition of music that has always existed at Trinity. I began in 1980 by conducting the choir and then continued conducting as I began to also play the organ. In 1993 I took a sabbatical to continue my singing career.

In 2000 Frank and I returned to Trinity with Frank as conductor of the choir. In 2006 the organist's bench was empty and after much prayer and consideration, I returned as organist. Over time the role of Director of Music and chair of Worship and Liturgy came my way. The challenge of playing the organ has been a great source of joy as I have practiced diligently to become better at playing more difficult music to offer to the Glory of God. In addition, I coordinated the very successful Concert Series for seventeen years.

Because I enjoy playing here so much, I am "retiring", but will continue as a private contractor playing up to 36 Sundays a year and special feast days. When I am not available, we are blessed to have Pamela Foley as a substitute.

I am grateful for the support you have given me over all these years and look forward to continuing in a different way the gift of music that God has granted me. Thank you and God bless you all!

Soli Dei Gloria

Cora ✝

United Thank Offering

Let us continue to be grateful for all of our blessings by putting your spare change in your UTO box or set aside and write a check when we have our Ingathering Sunday in October. Your seemingly small donations will combine with many others to provide a large difference for many in the world and Northeastern PA. Thank you in advance.

Annual ECSC Picnic

Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Sunday in September for the annual ECSC picnic. September 21st will be the date and place to be announced.

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 or any friends of Trinity 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.

Summer Reading Camp News

Plans are underway for Summer Reading Camp which will be held from July 14-18. We are linking our reading activities with our theme our theme, *Exploring Schuylkill County*, and have many enjoyable hands-on activities planned for the children. This summer, we will be focusing on the benefits of reading aloud to children to help build vocabulary, comprehension, and the enjoyment of reading.

Our kick-off activity, a family game night, will be held on May 7 at 6:00 in the parish hall. Children and parents will have the opportunity to meet the teachers, make new friends, and get a preview of what reading camp is all about.

We are continuing to explore activities to build financial support for the reading camp. It takes about $4,500.00 to run camp each year and each year, we have been able to fund camp through grants, fundraisers, and support from the parish. Thanks to those of you who have supported camp this year by attending the demonstration cooking dinner. For those of you who were not able to attend the dinner and are still interested in helping, we are once again asking for sponsorship in our Lunches for Learners and Books for Young Readers programs. For $6.00 a day or $30.00 for the week, you can sponsor healthy lunches for the children prepared by Bake Shop VI. For some of the children, this is the only nutritious meal of the day. A donation of $25.00 will help sponsor a book pack for each child. At the end of camp, each child is given a backpack filled with books, reading activities, and school supplies so they can continue reading over their summer break. Any support that you can give Summer Reading Camp is appreciated by all of the staff and the children who attend. The support and prayers of our Trinity family have helped camp throughout the years and will ensure that we can continue this program in the future.

We always welcome new volunteers to help in the classrooms. It has proven to be a rewarding experience for all who have volunteered over the years. Please see Barb Tokarz if you are interested in supporting the program by volunteering.

Calling all Gardeners

The United Presbyterian Church has been hosting a food pantry on Thursday mornings. One area of need is fresh produce since it is so expensive to buy and many of their clients are seniors on fixed incomes. Unfortunately, prices are expected to rise in the coming months which will make fresh produce unaffordable for many people.

There is a way we can help. If all of us who are gardeners have the space to plant an extra row of vegetables or an extra tomato, pepper, or another vegetable plant of our choice and donate the extra produce to the food pantry, a small effort on your part would benefit many people. When your produce is ready, it can be dropped off at the United Presbyterian Church on a Thursday morning for the food pantry. Details will follow on times and locations within the church for the produce drop-off. Thanks for helping many who need it the most.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

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

Lea, Peter & Tim Bortner in Thanksgiving for Our Trinity Family

Steve, Lisa, Mikey, Ricky, Tina & Juliette Ferguson in Memory of Russell A. Frantz

Carol Field in Memory of George & Emmeline Stone, George Stone III, William & Eva Stone, Allen Brennan, and Peggy Moser, and in Thanksgiving for Eric Stone & Family, Heather Procacci & Family, Nancy Miernicki & My Lunch Bunch Friends

Franklin & Cora Osenbach in Memory of Charles & Rose Osenbach, Joseph & Marie Gamelin, Thanksgiving for Nate, Quinn, and good health.

Albert & Karen Portland in Memory of Bertha & Emmett Miller, Mildred & Francis J. Portland, & Francis M. Portland and in Thanksgiving for our Family, and our grandchildren, Annabelle, Duncan, Elliot MacLea & Emmett Portland.

John Pritiskutch in Memory of Michael & Elizabeth Pritiskutch

The Simatos Family in Memory of Jerry, Olive & Sally Simatos, The Johns' Family, The Jones Family, The Reigle Family, and The Novicenskie Family.

Joseph & Leigh Ann Siminitus & Family in Memory of Harry & Jean Ebling, David Frey, Stanley W. & Anna Siminitus and Stanley R. Siminitus.

Bill & Darlene Bowler in Memory of Marlin & Martha Hain, Bill & Frances Engleman, Shoemaker Family, Ernst Family, Jack Curtis, Jane Nice, Hubler Family, Merrick Family, Ed Harris, Lawrence Tobin, James Bowler, Minna Hutchinson, and Melvin & Igna Bowler

Howard Mitchell Jr. in Memory of Howard Mitchell Sr., Justina Mitchell, Catherine Devlin Mitchell, and James Rowbottom. In Thanksgiving for all the many blessings of this life.

Ann & Henry Beaver Jr, in Memory of Sara & Henry Beaver, Sr., William D. Schrack Jr, and Rae Wilkinson Schrack. In Thanksgiving for Hank & Dana Beaver, and Declan & Caroline Beaver.

Bonnie Eckert in memory of The Merlino, Brennan, Cutler, and Eckert Families. In Thanksgiving for David, Heidi, and Sage Eckert.

The Bread & Wine Offering for the month of April is given in honor of Fr. Kurt's 5th anniversary of his ordination into priesthood by Frank & Cora Osenbach

News from Marion C. Price

SAVE THE DATE!
MPTF's annual summer picnic will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025. We will be trying something different this year by having the event in the evening. While the location of the picnic has not yet been finalized, the time of 6:00 PM has been set. This will allow for our seniors still working to attend, and for all of us to get home before dark in case you prefer not to drive at night. When all details are finalized, information will be available in church bulletins, the July newsletter, or by contacting Cathy Clouser.

FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT will be held Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Fairlane Village Mall Parking Area in Pottsville. Documents will be shredded on-site. Attendees are limited to a 3-bag or box limit per vehicle. PLEASE NOTE: Items for shredding should be paper-based. No 3-ring binders, plastic of any kind, binder clips, etc. This is a safe way to get rid of old paperwork containing personal information. For additional information please call 570-794-4039 or contact me in the office. The event is sponsored by Representative Tim Twardzik and Senator Dave Argall.

I have recently attended a seminar on Senior Scams. The event was held in the Fairlane Village Mall with a presentation from the Office of the Attorney General. Scammers can be very creative, hoping to catch people off guard, adding a sense of urgency before you have time to think about or question their request. Here are some tips to prevent Seniors from becoming victims of fraud:
*Tech Repair Scam- if a questionable pop-up appears on your computer do not click instead disconnect from the internet, then shut down your computer. You can then restart your computer safely.
*NEVER reveal all or part of your credit card number(s), Social Security number or bank account number(s) to any caller for any reason! Do not invest in anything you do not fully understand.
*If you don't know the caller, let it go to voicemail.
* Don't always trust the caller ID on your phone.
*Don't provide financial or personal information to callers.
*Don't pay anyone with prepaid debit cards or gift cards.
*IRS will NOT call you until they have sent you 3 official letters.
*ONLY provide Medicare information when receiving care or services.
*Always confirm contact from financial institutions by the phone number on your statement.
*Shred credit card receipts and statements before discarding. Close unused credit cards or bank accounts.
*Do not let salespeople pressure you into immediate purchases.

To file a complaint or sign up for Scam Alerts visit www.attorneygeneral.gov or phone the Senior Protection Unit at 1-866-623-2137

Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Awake and Energized

The many flowering trees at the Charles Baber Cemetery awakened in Spring with a cheerful and welcoming presentation of pinks, whites, purples, fuchsias**,** yellows, reds, and lilacs. The flowering trees like the dogwoods, cherries, redbuds, pear, Japanese lilac, magnolia, tuliptree, Siberian elm, coffee tree, horse chestnut, and staghorn sumac are scattered throughout the property with some situated near the two entrances. Other trees like the 'sunset' red maple and the dwarf Japanese red maples start with red leaves before changing to green. Even the daffodils, tulips, and azaleas got into the act to accent the chapel for the early Easter morning service.

With our colorful awakening behind us, the months of May and June are filled with active, rapid, and energized leaf growth which quickly hides the shape and profile of the trees that had been so prominent during the winter months. Everywhere you look, everything is glimmering green. At first glance, it appears as one big "green" scene like the Emerald City in the Wizard of Oz. But slow down and look at the individual trees. First of all, the leaves of each species are different shapes and sizes and the green coloring in each species is different. Some are basic green with additional coloring of yellows and creams. But there are many shades of green. Google lists these shades of green: lime, pear, moss, fern, pine, pickle, basil, seaweed, pistachio, parakeet, shamrock, mint, seafoam, olive, juniper, chartreuse, sage, emerald, and crocodile. What happened to forest and emerald green?

While each species differentiates itself in its shade of green, the species also tend to accessorize with hanging and winged fruit or samaras. The many maples throughout the property are strong examples of winged fruit bearers. The Norway maples have large, clustered samaras while the sunset red maples have tiny red and yellow samaras. The samaras on sycamore maples hang in long dangling clusters. The dwarf Japanese maple has tiny samaras that appear as tiny butterflies on the leaves. We also have alternatives to the samara like the bracts on the little leaf linden. The bracts are modified leaves that are reproductive and are similar to a flower. In the case of the little leaf linden, the leaves of the linden are heart-shaped while the bracts are long slender whitish-yellow leaves with small dangling fruit balls attached. Speaking of small dangling fruit balls, the London planetrees are dropping their fuzzy, downy brown seed balls with the seeds scattering in the wind like the flowers on a dandelion.

Even our evergreens are energized into dropping their brown needles in piles on the ground to make room for fresh new green needles. The Japanese larch, which is the only evergreen to lose its needles over the winter months, quickly grows spurs of green needle clusters that hang on long dangling strands. The tall cryptomeria which carried chocolate brown pom-pom-shaped needle clusters also dropped their needles to form bright green clusters. The tall eastern white pines along the Market Street wall and going down the hill from the chapel have new dark green needles, as do the eastern red cedar trees along the McBarron Alley fence. The arborvitae throughout the property also have fresh new greenery. And the cypress around the pond that carried burnt orange evergreen needles through the winter have exchanged these for new green ones.

Look at the shades of green posted above and see if you can identify what shade a particular species has. And while you are at it, feel the energy and the dynamics as each species is rapidly unfurling its leaves and quadrupling its leaf mass. Green is a healing color. Come and visit our small forest of green and relax.

Arbor Day, Friday, April 25th

We have planted 9 baby trees. 2 are redbuds, 2 are Japanese red maple, 2 are weeping cherry, 2 are arborvitae, and 1 is a red oak. There was also 1 red oak replacement tree planted for the one knocked down by the broken branch from the white oak. We are appreciative to Joe Orlowsky, who chooses, orders and plants the trees, to Norm Kaufman for picking the site locations and digging the holes, and to Bill Smith who helps plant the trees. Thanks also to the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich for blessing each tree at the 2:00 PM service. The sponsored trees are: (1) #226-In Loving Memory of Ann Marie (Murphy) Koch given by Frank and Annie Murphy; (2) #227-In Loving Memory Joseph Mirabella given by Sandra Mirabella; (3) #228 -In Loving Memory of Patrick and Sandy Moore and Jane Myro given by Debra Zyk; (4) #229 -In Loving Memory of Albert and Mary Marchetti given by Peggy Moser; (5) #230 -In Loving Memory of Andrew F. Matta given by Andrew and Erika Matta; (6) #231- In Loving Memory of Harry and Jean Ebling given by Joseph and Leigh Ann Siminitis and Koren & Johnathan Kulp; (7) #232- In Loving Memory of Catherine Tarone and Helen Marsicano given by Elizabeth and Arthur Marsicano; (8) #233- In Loving Memory of Dona M. Brown given by Fred Brown; (9) #234 –In Loving Memory of Michael J. Chylack given by Hermine and Danny Murphy.

Memorial Day Flag Replacement Volunteers

Last year the cemetery was blessed in having Gary Wise, his wife, and 10 other volunteers replace the 580 Veterans' flags for Memorial Day. This year we are again thrilled that Gary and his Facebook friends have agreed to replace the Veterans' flags.

Outsourcing Ground Maintenance Work

Last year for the first time, the cemetery outsourced the lawn mowing, weed whacking, and leaf blowing. While it appeared very costly at $76,320 for the year, it was a saving of $25,000 from having two full-time and one part-time employee with wages, health benefits and pension. DTG, Mike Miller and Dave George were phenomenal workers. They do the whole mowing job in one day! We received so many compliments on their work. They also were our lifesavers in cleaning up and removing the $20,000 in tree debris from the snowstorm, windstorm, and mini tornado last year. And they reset the toppled memorial markers which were covered by insurance. We do have a part-time employee, Bill Smith. He too is a blessing. He is a hard worker. His duties are many and varied from branch cleanup, probing graves, digging cremain graves, leaf clean-up, emptying the trash cans, cleaning the gutters and drains, shoveling snow and so much more.

Chapel Renovations

As you saw last summer our chapel is badly in need of many repairs. To add to our dismay, our heating oil bill for December through March was over $7,000 when normally it is $4,000. We are looking at contractors and obtaining bids for (1) stone pointing and pressure washing, (2) a new retainer wall, (3) a new mini-split heating and air conditioning system, (4) exterior painting, and (5) removing the falling and cracked ceiling and wall plaster and possibly putting up a wooden board ceiling, but the walls will either have to be ripped out and replaced with drywall or replastered. We will have to find outside donors to fund these five projects.

Thank you

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to the Charles Baber Preservation Trust donation request letter sent out in February. Your contributions were greatly appreciated. If you haven't contributed, we could use donations to offset the high heating oil bill. Please make your check payable to the "Charles Baber Cemetery" not to the church.

CALENDAR

May

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER CONTINUES THROUGH MAY 11TH

- SUNDAY, MAY 4- 9AM SERVICE, EASTER III
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 7-12 NOON- HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, MAY 11-9 AM SERVICE-EASTER IV
  MOTHER'S DAY
  COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 14- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, MAY 18- 9AM SERVICE-EASTER V
- WENESDAY, MAY 21-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, MAY 25-9 AM SERVICE, EASTER IV
  10:30 AM VESTRY
- MONDAY, MAY 26-OFFICE CLOSED
  HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!!
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 28- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

200 S. SECOND STREET, POTTSVILLE, PA

June

- SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 9AM SERVICE-EASTER VII
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4-12 NOON HEADLING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JUNE 8-9AM SERVICE,-PENTECOST
  COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JUNE 15- 9AM SERVICE-TRINITY SUNDAY
  FATHER'S DAY
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
  (LAST UNTIL OCTOBER 1)
- SUNDAY, JUNE 22-9AM SERVICE WITH BAPTISM
  10:30 AM VESTRY
- SUNDAY, JUNE 29- 9AM SERVICE-
  SUMER SERVICES BEGIN IN LOUNGE

July

- FRIDAY, JULY 4-OFFICE CLOSED
  HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
- SUNDAY, JULY 6, 9AM SERVICE IN LOUNGE
- SUNDAY, JULY 13-9 AM SERVICE IN LOUNGE
- JULY 14-18--SUMMER READING CAMP

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

Deadline
For
July/August "Topics"
Tuesday, June 17, 2025

May Birthdays

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
22 – James Snyder, Jr.
24 – Elaine Howells
26 – Mason Frederick
29 – Jack Mansell
31 – Marria Walsh

June Birthdays

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