



Trinity Topics
THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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July-August 2025

Musings from the priest's back porch...July-August 2025

During the summer of COVID—remember that? —I saw a picture of a sidewalk with marigolds growing in the cracks. A preschool located near this sidewalk had the children plant seeds in the cracks. The beautiful flowers brightened the area and got me thinking. The cracks weren't particularly unsightly, but the sidewalk was bland, and abutting the sidewalk was the concrete wall of the school. The flowers broke the monotony of the tan-grey on tan-grey. I considered that the one who encouraged this was pretty clever! With fewer people wandering the streets during the COVID pandemic, the flowers bloomed well and were not disturbed by the feet of passersby.

I had scheduled the replacement of a portion of my cement sidewalk where a downspout spews its rain, melted snow, and ice. A crack developed, and I had been diligent in clearing the soil and flame-killing the weeds. But not this year. I recognized that the little green leaves sprouting upward looked a lot like those on Wave-petunias. I left them alone. And now, in that nasty crack, there are numerous colorful little petunias, some portulaca flowers, and a few soon-to-be-yanked weeds! The beauty of those wayward plants makes me smile every time I go down the adjacent steps.

The cracks that appear in our lives often call us to patch them over. We then spend an extraordinary amount of time trying to clean them up and to fill them in. And we want to perfect our environment, our lives, our journeys. But sometimes, those very cracks are there as a reminder that life is never perfect,

that fissures and gullies will appear when we least expect them or when we least desire them, and frequently, when we are not ready to deal with the loss of those smooth, easy, nice, firm, landscaped paths. As we soon experience warmer, more humid days and, sadly, longer nights, ordinary time greets the faithful with the times Jesus spent with regular, everyday folks. Though somewhat odd that we celebrate Ascension Thursday and Pentecost then roll into Ordinary Time, this stretch gives us time to see the cracks in our lives, and consider where God might be using those faults, those imperfections, and those disruptions to bring us to change our thinking, alter our visions, and consider different futures in faith, in service and in love.

May the God of All Creation bring you beauty and grace, so that you may be kind and loving to yourself, as you consider where God might be using your imperfections to beautify God's world.

Your brother in Christ.....

Fr. Kurt

Summer Worship



With the possibility of repairs to the Chapel of the Resurrection, our summer services began on Sunday, June 29 at 9 am in the air-conditioned lounge at the main church. Summer services will continue through Sunday, September 7th. Worship will return to the main sanctuary on September 14th.



Topics Change

Topics change--all articles for the bi-monthly newsletter will now be sent to Kristy(parish admin) at episcopalch200@gmail.com. We are grateful to Bob Bednar for his many years of producing the newsletter, but it's time to turn this over to our capable Parish Administrator.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour has paused for the summer and will resume in October on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

2025 Graduates

Congratulations to the Susan Starr recipients
Delaney Burns- Blue Mountain High School
Teagan Wehr- Schuylkill Haven High School
Best wishes on your future plans!



Christmas Trees Available

There are several artificial Christmas trees that the church will no longer be using. Anyone who may be interested in the following sizes, please get in touch with Kristy (parish administrator), make plans to pick them up, and kindly bring a donation (for the tree) to the church.

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





Advent Project

This project has impacted many of our senior citizens in nursing homes. It's not too soon to think ahead to the fall of 2025— if you happen to see travel-size items during the year, please donate them at any time to the office. We will store them at the church in anticipation of the 2025 project. Please, **NO** body wash or soap, and **NO** partially used items — the nursing homes will not accept them. Thank you again. God bless you all for making this so successful.



Annual ECSC Picnic

This year's picnic will be on September 21st, place TBA.



Healing Service

Is held Wednesdays at noon in St. Luke's Chapel. The service is paused during summer months and will resume on October 1st at 12 noon. All are welcome!



With Gratitude

Dear Trinity parishioners,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity in celebrating my retirement on Sunday, June 8. The gestures, gifts and prayers are so appreciated and I am humbled by your love and support for the many years I have played and worked to maintain the musical traditions of Trinity. I will continue to play on a reduced schedule and pray that music will continue to enhance our worship together all to the Glory of God.

With love and gratitude, Cora



Exciting Transitions

July brings a season of meaningful change at TEC! After years of dedicated service, Cora Gamelin-Osenbach retired on June 8th — but no worries, she'll still be sharing her incredible musical gifts with us three Sundays each month.

We're also grateful to Dawn Burns and Darlene Bowers, who are passing the torch of Sunday School leadership to Samantha Simatos.

We are truly blessed by the faithful service of these amazing women who have enriched our church community for so many years. Their continued presence and contributions are a cherished part of our TEC family.



United Thank Offering

Let us continue to be grateful for all of our blessings by putting your spare change in your UTO box or setting aside and writing a check when we have our Ingathering Sunday on October 5 and 12th. Your seemingly small donations will combine with many others to make a large difference for many in the world and Northeastern PA. Thank you in advance.

Trinity's 200th Anniversary



In 2027, we will be celebrating our parish's 200th anniversary! We will kick off the celebration in September 2026 and continue until the culmination of the year-long festivities on September 5, 2027. Many aspects of TEC will be celebrated during those 12 months. If you or any friends of Trinity have a special interest concerning the history of the church, the music program, architecture, stained glass windows, telling stories of parishioners past and present, and many other subjects, please speak to a member of the Vestry or Father Kurt to express your willingness to participate. It may seem like a long way o, 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. Many thanks.



Calling All Gardeners

The United Presbyterian Church, Pottsville holds a food pantry every Thursday in their parking lot. Fresh fruits and vegetables are always needed to supplement the diets of their clients. Their clients consist mainly of senior citizens and families with young children. If you are a gardener, please consider planting an extra row of vegetables or an extra tomato, pepper, zucchini or cabbage plant and bring that surplus to the food pantry. Or if don't have the space for an extra row of vegetables but seem to have a surplus of vegetables from what you have already planted, the food pantry could put that surplus to good use. Contributions could be dropped off at the United Presbyterian Church's Third Street entrance at 12:00-pm on Thursday. The United Presbyterian Church is located at 214 Mahantongo St. Pottsville.

Summer Reading Camp News



The start of Summer Reading Camp is quickly approaching (July 14-18) and we have an exciting week planned for our students. The theme for camp this summer is Exploring Schuylkill County and we have a variety of activities planned to explore our history while reinforcing reading skills. Camp will begin by focusing on the Native Americans who made Schuylkill County their home. Porcupine Pat will start camp off with a presentation that gives the children fun facts, songs and activities that highlights our Native heritage. The new children's librarian from the Pottsville Library will visit with information about all of the programs and activities that the library offers on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Penn State Extension Office will visit to help the children make easy and nutritious snacks. Thursday's visitor will be Rich Nagle from the Schuylkill Haven Historical Society, who will help the children learn about transportation in the county in the "old days". On Friday, the program will conclude with a parent lunch and a program about the Pottsville Maroons, complete with a visit from their mascot. We would not be able to offer this program without the generous support of our parishioners; their prayers, assistance with activities and planning, and donations has helped sustain this program since 2018. Please feel free to stop in the see the program at work and consider volunteering your time for our program in 2026.



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Green Green Grass of Home

Many of us remember the song “Green Green Grass of Home,” popular in the 1960s, sung by artists like Tom Jones in the UK and Johnny Darrell in America, where it became a Country music hit. The song evokes images of a rural home surrounded by lush, rolling fields of green grass. Some Country fans picture a ranch with cattle and horses in a green grassy field. Others think of a cottage with beds of flowers and a gazebo set upon lush green grass. Others may picture their home with lots of green grass that always seems to need mowing, fertilizing, and aerating.

What may be hard to visualize is the cemetery as the green grass of home. And yet literally, the cemetery is our home as our bodies at the end of our life are permanently placed in the soil, which is then seeded to produce lush green grass. While home to all of us is the physical property we reside in, to our bodies after our passing, home is the earth. And what a beautiful, happy, bountiful place for our bodies to be returned for perpetuity. Here at the Baber Cemetery, the loss of a loved one and the subsequent burying of a loved one’s body or cremains for perpetuity is eased by the soothing caress of nature through her trees, flowers, and green grass. Nature wraps her arms around us and comforts our aching souls.

At Baber Cemetery, summer is the essence of greenness. It is cool under the many shade trees with their large, full, and leaf-heavy laden branches. It is the song of happiness from the many species of birds, the buzzing of the bees, the fluttering of the butterflies' wings, and the scampering of the squirrels.

The cemetery has many offerings of shade based on the size, maturity, and species of the tree. When entering the main gate, to the east, white oaks stretch wide their branches to offer shade. Along the wall, pin oaks hang some of their branches over the wall to offer shade to visitors on the sidewalk and along the grassy path inside. Further down, tall eastern white pines provide shade to visitors walking the needle-laden path underneath. Even the Norway spruce is high enough to provide shade under its low-hanging needle needle-laden limbs. Norway maples by the chapel have long-reaching branches for shade. To the west of the entrance, the London planetree along the wall provides shade to walkers on the sidewalk and inside the wall as well. Partway down from the entrance and to the west, the American beech with its smooth trunk with flared bases that look like elephants’ feet, reaches their limbs out wide. Just down from there are the wide-armed Sycamore maple, and to the north of them is the row of little leaf linden with their limbs forming a wide umbrella shape. Add to this group the rows of sunset red maple that line the road from the chapel to the loop by 16th Street, whose canopies shade the cars on the road below as well as the walkers. Continuing toward the 16th Street entrance, we have the Woodland loop that is lined with pin oaks shading that road. Also coming down the hill from the chapel, we have a row of mighty red oaks that shade the north side of the road and the hillside leading down to the pond area. To the east of the pond, we have a wide, fat sugar maple. The swamp white oak by the pond will eventually be full and wide, but are just a baby yet with many years of growth ahead of it.

I have listed most of the shade trees, but we still have many more trees like the sweetgum, the Japanese dwarf red maple, the dawn wood, the ginkgo, the red maple, the copper beach, the tuliptree, and the black gum that are quite delightful to look at but are either too small, too lean, or have short or upward extending branches that can’t provide much shade. Regardless of shade or no shade, everywhere and for many summer months, we have the green green grass of home. Come and visit and cool off.

26th Annual Baber Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 2:30 to 6:30 PM

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

Rain Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

“Free Will Donation.”

Bring your folding chair.

NATURE AND HISTORY WALKING TOURS 2:30 PM

BAKE SALE PICNIC BEGINNING 4:30 PM

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

SOLEMN EVENSONG SERVICE 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to make baked goods, to help set up and clean up, cut the melons, and grill the hot dogs. If you can help, call Carol 617-6704, Carla or Norm 628-3868, Kurt Kovalovich 640-1738, or the office at 622-8720.

Monetary contributions are being accepted to purchase hot dogs, rolls, condiments, water, and chips.

Project Updates

Last year at this time, I was writing that the cemetery had, for the first time in its 180-year history, installed electricity in the barn. We had also, through the generous gift of plot owners, had fencing and a gate installed at the 16th Street entrance, and we had security cameras installed at the chapel and the barn.

Also, we have now completed one full year with our outsourcing to DTG of mowing and leaf vacuuming. They have done a phenomenal job, and we continue to receive many compliments for the excellent work they are doing. What is most amazing is that the work is done in two days. The downside is that it's costly at \$9,600 per month. Last year, our total cost was \$76,000 for mowing and leaf blowing.

This year, we again have projects - two smaller projects that will be done this year, and one massive, long-term project. The two smaller projects are: (1) repair and seal the barn foundation, along with building a trough that takes the hillside water away from the barn and laying 2b stone in the lower level. The cost is \$6,400 with \$5,000 of it covered by a board member. (2) Regrade the gravel road to the north of the pond, buildup the area by the graves with topsoil, pour an asphalted trough and road over the gravel road leading towards the graves near the soccer field known as Section 20, install one drain basin and build a wide and shallow retention pond near our property line by the soccer field. The cost is \$24,500. This will be funded through the restoration account with money from memorial donations, Baber Day money, and special donations.

The major project is the full restoration and renovation of the chapel. It includes exterior stone pressure washing and stone pointing; replacing the heating system with a new oil burner and supplemented by a split system to provide air conditioning and heating; and replacing the cracked and leaning north exterior wall. The real big job will be removing all the plaster and lathe boards from the ceilings and the walls, and replacing the ceiling with wood, and putting new wallboard on the walls with major rebuilding around the windows. The estimate from the engineer was \$636,775, which assumes the worst-case scenario and includes contingencies, insurance, and even a markup fee. We are getting individual project bids at this time for the retaining wall, the heating system, and the stone pointing.

News from Marion C. Price

SUMMER PICNIC

The annual MPTF Summer Picnic will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Sweet Arrow Lake Picnic Pavilion. The picnic will begin at 5:30 PM with the meal being served at 6:00 PM. I hope that many of you will be available to join us for food and fellowship. Please get in touch with Cathy Clouser in the office, 570-621-3220, with any questions, directions, and to RSVP. Please RSVP by Sunday, July 13, 2025. Please let me know if you are in need of a ride or if you are willing to provide a ride for someone in need. I will do my best to coordinate in order to get everyone there. The address for Sweet Arrow Lake is 108 Clubhouse Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963. From Pottsville: Take Rt. 61 South to 183 South. Turn Right onto Rt. 443

(Deturksville Rd.) west towards Pine Grove. Travel approximately 8 miles and turn Right onto Shoreline Drive. Follow Shoreline Drive a third of a mile and stay left onto Clubhouse Road.

WALK with a DOC

Walking is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental health. People of all ages, fitness levels, and backgrounds are welcome to attend these free, ongoing events. After a brief discussion with a healthcare provider, participants will spend the rest of the time enjoying a healthy walk at their own pace. You are encouraged to ask questions and socialize with others in a fun, relaxing setting. The event is held at Martz Hall (upper level), 1541 Laurel Blvd., Pottsville, on the third Saturday of every month from 10-11 AM. The schedule for the rest of 2025 is as follows: July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20. This program is offered by the Walter and Irene Baran Schuylkill Family Medicine Residency Program in cooperation with LVPG Family Medicine – Schuylkill Medical Plaza.

Tips for summer meal planning

Summertime is synonymous with BBQing and light, refreshing meals. Preferably ones that take little time to make and don't heat the kitchen. This may include fresh healthy salads and cooking on the grill.

Prep in advance by chopping vegetables, marinating meats, and prepping sauces ahead of time to streamline cooking.

Keep cooking simple by choosing quick and easy recipes that allow more time spent outdoors doing what you enjoy.

Use seasonal produce by taking advantage of fresh fruits and vegetables. Support local farmers and enjoy fresh, tasty food grown close to home.

Stay hydrated by not forgetting to drink on those busy family days. Refreshing beverages like lemonade or fruit-infused water can help keep you drinking throughout those hot days.

CALENDAR

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 
- SUNDAY, JULY 20 -9 AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JULY 27- 9AM SERVICE
10:30 AM VESTRY

SEPTEMBER

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1-OFFICE CLOSED
HAPPY LABOR DAY! 
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-BABER DAY
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-9AM SERVICE
BABER DAY (RAIN DATE)
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14-9AM SERVICE
RETURN TO SANCTUARY
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-ECSC PICNIC-PLACE TBD 

August

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 10-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 17-9AM SERVICE
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 24-9 AM SERVICE WITH
BACKPACK BLESSING

10:30 AM VESTRY
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 31-9AM SERVICE

TRINITY
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CHURCH
200 S. SECOND STREET,
POTTSVILLE, PA

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

Deadline
For
Sept/Oct. "Topics"
Thurs., Aug. 14, 2025



July Birthdays

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

August Birthdays

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- Justin Lindemuth, Elliot Wehr
28- Tracy Frederick
30- Frank Yuengling
31- Nancy Billie