



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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January/February 2018

Dear People of God at Trinity,

The decorations are coming down, the lights are dimmed and the presents put away or returned. But our greatest gift and the light of the world is here to stay in our lives and our hearts all year round. The Son of God has come to us in human form to show us how to live and love and serve.

The ministries in this parish which extend to the wider community demonstrate that we are learning the lessons that Jesus continues to teach each and every day. We are transformed and restored through God's grace and the gift of His Son to take action and walk in love.

Several months ago, this page talked about action verbs which end in "ing". We are growing, changing, teaching, serving and walking in love to be open to being made new again and continually inviting God into our hearts so that we have new life.

The Christ Child has given us new life in this broken world, so let us continue to make the world a better place for all of God's children, instead of making a better place for ourselves in the world. Jesus is the gift that is with us 365 days a year – let us welcome Him every day so that we can continue to transform ourselves and our community with his example. Thank you for loving, praying, trusting and supporting us as we do our best to serve you.

Your Vestry

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."

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. It will begin at the 9am service and concludes with a business meeting in the lounge immediately following the service. A light breakfast will be provided. Please plan to attend to vote for Vestry members and be a part of discussions, questions and answers as our parish moves forward.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

All reports for the various ministries and committees are due no later than Sunday, January 7, 2018. Thank you for your timeliness and cooperation.

VESTRY PHONE CALLS

During the winter months (November to February), you will be receiving a call from one of our Vestry members. This call is to keep in touch and give you an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns. We would also ask that you let us know if the church can do anything for you.

ENVELOPES

Your envelopes for 2018 will be available at the back of the church. Please pick them up and also one for someone else who may not be able to get to church. It will save on mailing costs – thank you! This year, there will also be envelopes available for the Church School children.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 14 with the distribution of ashes. There will be a noon service in St. Luke's Chapel and a 7 pm service in the sanctuary. Also, on Wednesday evenings beginning on February 21, there will be a Soup and Salad supper at 6:15 followed by Evening Prayer at 7 pm in St. Luke's Chapel. There will be a sign- up sheet provided on the bulletin board for those attending.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Many thanks to our Sunday School students for the outstanding job they did on Christmas Eve serving as readers, ushers, greeters, acolytes, singers, and musicians. It made the service even more special and memorable.

In January, we will explore Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus. We will also begin our annual outreach project collecting items for local pediatric units in honor of a former Sunday School student who spent many holidays in the hospital as a patient herself.

There will be no Sunday School on January 21 due to the annual parish meeting.

On February 11, we will "bury the alleluias" in preparation for the solemn season of Lent.

Our annual Movie Night will be held in February at the Pine Grove Theater. The movie will be family-oriented and will be announced at a later date. Food and drink will be provided. We reserve the whole upstairs of the theater so all are welcome. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

THE MUSIC CORNER by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

The Light has come – the greatest gift we can ever receive has been made known among us. Many thanks to our choir for their dedication and beautiful presentations during the Advent and Christmas seasons; to Lea Bortner for her wonderful work with the children singing and adding the hand chimes. A true joy to celebrate with great music in glorifying God. And now we continue to work as we will enter the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

CONCERT SERIES

Many thanks to all who contributed overwhelmingly to the reception for F. Allen Artz, III on November 19. The concert was truly uplifting and the fellowship and gastronomic delights were a bonus to the artistry heard on our beautiful Austin organs. All of our cooks and bakers and table setters and flyer maker deserve a rest. Our next concert will be on April 8 with Trio Jolie, so stay tuned for more details in the March/April issue of the TOPICS.



Clothesline of Love

We are seeking help from parishioners who knit, crochet and those willing to make monetary donations or to donate yarn for the Clothesline of Love

The Clothesline of Love will hang in front of Trinity and will hold hats, scarves, and gloves for those needing these items this time of year.

Please call Kathy Burda at 570-621-3220 for more information.

STONE WORK FUND

On October 29, the vestry presented the information regarding the repair of the front steps and stonewall, and repointing of the stone on all sides of the church and the replacement of Plexiglas on the windows with Lexan. The grand total for all this work is \$189,100.

A reserve fund has been set up specifically for this work and there is a generous dollar-for-dollar matching gift. Donations can be made in any amount. If you plan on including it in your weekly envelope, please include a note so the amounts can be credited properly.

Five ways to avoid using the Church's investment money:

1. Sell the parish house (DONE)
2. One year forgiveness for acceptance and assessment from the diocese
3. Research and grant applications
4. A targeted fund-raising campaign
5. Sale of the rectory

If you have any questions or suggestions, please speak with any Vestry member!

STONE WORK DONATION

Name _____

Envelope # _____

One-time donation _____

Monthly _____

Weekly _____

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> 7:30pm AA	<i>2</i> 9:00-10:15am Yoga	<i>3</i> 12Noon Healing Service 7:00pm Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<u>7 BAPTISM OF JESUS</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	<i>8</i> 7:30pm AA	<i>9</i> 9:00-10:15am Yoga	<i>10</i> 12Noon Healing Service 7:00pm Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> <u>II EPIPHANY</u> 9:00 am Service 9:00am Church School	<i>15</i> <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> 4:30pm Soup Kitchen 7:30pm AA	<i>16</i> 9:00-10:15am Yoga	<i>17</i> 12Noon Healing Service 7:00pm Choir	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 7:00pm Ballroom Dance	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> <u>III EPIPHANY</u> 9:00am Annual Meeting fol- lowed by Light Breakfast	<i>22</i> 7:30pm AA	<i>23</i> 9:00-10:15am Yoga 1:00pm MPTF	<i>24</i> 12Noon Healing Service 7:00pm Choir	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 7:00pm Ballroom Dance	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <u>IV EPIPHANY</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	<i>29</i> 7:30pm AA	<i>30</i> 9:00-10:15am Yoga	<i>31</i> <u>NO HEALING SERVICE</u> <u>NO CHOIR</u>			5

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30-7:30pm Zumba	2 7pm Ballroom Dance	3
4 <u>V EPIPHANY</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	5 7:30pm AA	6 9-10:15am Yoga	7 <u>NO HEALING SERVICE</u> 7:00pm Choir	8 6:30-7:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Study Group	9 7pm Ballroom Dance	10
11 <u>LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	12 7:30pm AA	13 9-10:15am Yoga 7:00pm CBPT	14 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> 12Noon Distribution of Ashes & Healing Service 7:00pm Distribution of Ashes 7:45pm Choir	15 6:30-7:30pm Zumba	16 7pm Ballroom Dance	17
18 <u>LENT I</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School 10:30am Vestry	19 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> 4:30pm Soup Kitchen 7:30pm AA	20 9-10:15am Yoga	21 12Noon Healing Service 6:15pm Lenten Soup and Salad 7:00pm Evening Prayer 7:30pm Choir	22 6:30-7:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Study Group	23 7pm Ballroom Dance	24
25 <u>LENT II</u> 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	26 7:30pm AA	27 9-10:15am Yoga	28 12Noon Healing Service 6:15pm Lenten Soup and Salad 7:00pm Evening Prayer 7:30pm Choir			

NEWS FROM MARION C. PRICE TRUST FUND

Late September we held an "End of Life Issues" Program at Trinity. Since then some questions have arisen. Such as: Who do we call if a loved one is gravely ill or dies? And what do we do if a loved one dies?

Father Tim Albright's recommends: Obviously, with sudden death, there is no time but if someone has a terminal illness and it's only a matter of time then the Priest should be called while the individual is still alert and lucid. This gives the individual the opportunity to participate fully in last rites (anointing, confession/absolution and communion) and prepare for the dying process with grace. Notifying the Priest early in the person's struggle with illness allows more time for the priest to minister to the sick and their family.

If a loved one is ill and Clergy is needed, call the church office. The Parish Administrator will help to arrange a visit for you, if after hours; you will be directed to call the Senior Warden for assistance.

Once the person dies you will need to contact someone to get a legal pronouncement of death, to do this:

- If your relative is under Hospice care, call the hospice nurse, who can declare the death and help facilitate the transport of the body.
- If the person dies at home without hospice care, call 911. Any death occurring without a physician or medical personnel in attendance must be reported to the police, they will notify the County Coroner's office. The coroner is needed in this situation to declare the death.
- Whatever the circumstances of death, some of your first calls should be to Clergy and to a licensed funeral director. Clergy and the funeral director will assist you in arranging a funeral or memorial service.

If your loved one was under the care of a physician, notify them.

Arrange for care for any dependents or pets.

Notify family and close friends. You can ask someone to take care of this task for you.

If the deceased was working prior to death, you should notify their employer. You should also request information about any company benefits that the deceased may be entitled to, including life insurance, and if there is any outstanding pay due.

No one likes to think of their death but to make a very stressful time a little bit easier on those left behind, you should discuss with your spouse or children important issues such as: what funeral home should be called, if you have a prepaid funeral, where are you to be buried, if you are to be buried, are you to be cremated or have a full burial and most importantly the location of your will and other important papers. ***There is a Funeral Arrangement Checklist available to parishioners call 570-621-3220 for more information.***

New Medicare Cards are coming as soon as April 2018. Congress has come up with a way to make it harder for Medicare scammers to steal your ID and rip you off. The new cards will not include your Social security number, gender or signature.

Each card will feature a computer-generated mediocre beneficiary identifier (MBI) assigned just to you. The MBI, made up of 11 numbers and letters, will be used for billing, to verify eligibility for services and to check the status of a claim.

These changes will make it considerably harder for criminals to steal your identity.

Unfortunately, scammers are still hard at work trying to separate you from your money. They are calling with these common pitches:

- You're asked for your Social security number and bank information so you can get the new card. Hang Up!
- You're asked to pay for the new card. Hang Up!
- You're told you'll lose your Medicare benefits if you don't give them personal information right now. Hang Up!

Medicare members will have until Dec. 31, 2019, to begin using the new ID. Both the new card and your current card will be valid until then.

Reprinted from October 2017 AARP Magazine. More information can be found at www.aarp.org

Skin Cancers usually develops where they can be seen, so there is a good chance of catching them early. In addition to examining the legs, trunk, arms, face and neck, it is important to look for signs of skin cancer in areas between the toes, underneath nails, palms of the hands and soles of the feet, genitals and even the eyes. ***Regular examinations of the skin for any new or unusual growths or changes in existing moles is critical.*** If you find anything suspicious, you should discuss it with your primary care physician or a dermatologist. As the cancer grows, the size or shape of the visible skin mass may change and the cancer may grow into deeper layers of the skin.

Skin cancer may initially appear as:

- Flat, firm, pale or yellow areas, similar to a scar
- Raised reddish patches that might be itchy
- Small, pink or red, translucent, shiny, pearly bumps, which might have blue, brown or black areas
- Pink growths with raised edges and a lower area in the center, which might contain abnormal blood vessels spreading out like the spokes of a tire
- Open sores (which may have oozing or crusted areas) that don't heal or that heal and then come back
- Rough or scaly red patches that might crust or bleed
- Wart-like growths



Charles Baber Preservation Trust

Winter Reveals True Character

by C. Field

January is a month of new beginnings, of new resolutions, a month of clean-up from Christmas decorations, maybe sorting through closets or old items to replace them with the new gifts we received; and unfortunately, a month of finding that we charged too much over the holidays and have large credit card bills. Physically and mentally, it can be a month of stress not only from the credit card charges that may have been run up, but from high heating bills, more electricity used because of shorter daylight hours, and from the weather which can produce ice, piles and piles of snow, dangerous driving and walking conditions, frigid winds, and cold that freezes any uncovered fingers and face. It can be particularly hard on the elderly who must go outside for grocery shopping and to do simple things like taking the trash out to the curb. And it can be hazardous to one's health when trying to shovel snow or if slipping and falling on the ice. It's even dangerous for dog walkers who have to take their dogs outside for a walk no matter what the weather is. Human frailty is most evident in these cold winter months. And our only recourse, besides moving south or vacationing on a tropical island for the winter, is to be very careful when walking and driving. And to remember our elderly neighbors by giving them a hand with their trash cans, or going grocery/pharmacy shopping, or by shoveling their sidewalk.

The frailties that humans suffer is not relevant when considering the sturdiness, flexibility, adaptability, and endurance of trees. At the Charles Baber Cemetery, our trees are healthy and durable. While entertaining us all year long with foliage and needle covering, they are most insightful during the winter months. If you have the chance, and if there isn't a foot of snow or sheet of ice on the ground, bundle up, put on boots, and come and walk the property. If you can't get to the cemetery, then let me tell you what you would see. First, most of the deciduous trees, except for the pin and the swamp with oaks, have lost their leaves. The pin oaks are in the loop by the 16th St. entrance and the swamp white oaks, to the west of the pond, are still clinging frantically to their brown dried leaves. Trying to attract our attention, they seem to create a dried leaf rustling sound when we pass. Moving from the pin and swamp oaks, the true giants to see because of their height and large trunk and limb girth are the white oaks on the right side entrance of the front gate. During the winter, because of the long trunk, large limbs, and dense twigs at the top, they look like gigantic pieces of broccoli standing upright. Also as noticeable as and looking like the white oaks are two chestnut oaks to the left side of the main entrance. And while we are in the oak family, there are numerous red oaks on the terraces to the north and down the hillside from the chapel. While the oaks don't have leaves to tell them apart and their acorns are stashed away by the squirrels, a close exam of the trunk reveals that the white oak trunk forms long peeling ridges of small blocks, the red oak trunks have long, broad, smooth ridges with shallow fissures, and the chestnut oak has rugged blocky ridges and deep furrows. Just by seeing their massive sizes, one can tell that they are some kind of oak tree.

Other interesting trees to recognize are the male ginkgo (to the right of entrance and east of the white oak) and female (to the left of entrance, middle section, near the snowball red Japanese maple bush). They are tall, like the oaks, but very thin, with gangly branches that have sparse tapered winter twigs covered with knobby spur twigs. There are three American beech trees down the hill from the Atkins mausoleum. These can be easily identified because their trunks are very smooth, and where the trunk enters the ground, it curves inward to look like the toes of an elephant. The Siberian elms by the Comloquoy mausoleum on the lower level are aesthetically appealing to see no matter what time of the year. Their trunks are dark with long strips of lighter color and with narrow strands of orange or red brown. Their limbs have a graceful arching curve.

Continued on back side of sheet

Another specie that is fun to see over the winter months is the London planetree which is inside the west Market Street wall and is easily seen when driving along Market Street. The bark peels off in long strips revealing smooth under layer patches of pale yellow, cream, light green, and gray. When we have a freezing rain, an icy glaze forms on the tree that sparkles when the sunlight hit it. With the leaves off the tree, the fruit balls can be seen dangling from the twigs. Two other deciduous trees to notice is the lonely tuliptree to the right of front entrance. It is very tall and thin like the ginkgo. It stands in the Donaldson family plot. While it is barren of leaves, its buds, which bloom into a yellow tulip in late May, have already formed. And the magnolia, inside left of front entrance, has also formed its fuzzy buds for spring. The Norway maples throughout the property, the sycamore maples (2 down from the Atkins mausoleum), and the sugar maples on the lower level, east of pond, are all non-descript through the winter. They are not as tall as the oaks. The trees are evenly proportioned with dense slender twigs. Ninety percent of the maples at the cemetery are Norway maples.

The Green Trees of Winter

While the majority of our cemetery trees dazzled everyone with their fall pageantry of colors, the conifers or evergreen wait until winter to show off. They stand tall and proud through the bleakest of winter days. Most noticeable are the 100' tall eastern white pine located on the upper and on the terraced eastern side of the cemetery. They have irregular crowns, horizontal branches, needles in clusters of 5, and long slender pine cones. Nearby are the Norway spruce who look short and squatty compared to the tall lean pine. The spruce have ascending branches with drooping twigs which makes the twigs look like tinsel hanging on a Christmas tree. They have long slender pine cones as well, but their cones stay tightly formed while the pine spread open. The Norway spruce, because of its drooping branches, provides good hiding cover for animals like the rabbit. We also have four cryptomeria, 3 of which are by the spruce and pines, whose clusters of needles form puffy shaped pom poms. The trees are tall and symmetrical in shape. There is one straggly two trunked eastern hemlock in the lower level by the sugar maple, one white spruce with bare lower branches struggling to stand tall among the nearby eastern pine and Norway spruce, and one straggly douglas fir hidden aside the Japanese larch on the eastern upper side. The Japanese larch are the only evergreen to lose their needles during the winter. Their barren limbs are dotted with small pine cones that remain through the winter.

Three other evergreen species go unnoticed until winter because they appear as small trees and shrubs. They are the Japanese yew, the eastern red cedar, and the arborvitae. The red cedar is situated to the south of the 16th St. entrance along Wachter's property line, and because of their small size go unnoticed even in the winter. They can be narrowly upright with pointed top as a finger pointing to the heavens, but ours are shaping into small plump trees with pointed tops. They can bear bluish seeds. The arborvitae are situated in clusters on both the upper levels to the east and west of the entrances and in two rows in the lower level near the hillside of the middle school. They are 20' to 40' high, but are short in comparison to the spruce or tall eastern pines. Our arborvitae, while having branchlets that are 2 ranked forming flattened sprays are in two categories- one type has sprays that are apart from each other and appear barren as to seeds or cones. The second type has sprays that are close together and have noticeable upright cones with several pairs of elongated scales. Often the cones appear as bluish or greenish berries that open and harden into the cones or seeds. Both the red cedar and the arborvitae are members of the cypress family. Our final green tree category is the Yew tree. Our yew tree species appears to be a hybrid from Japan. We have a female, red berry bearing yew to the right of the entrance and a male to the left of the entrance and many yew shrubs in the Baber plot by the Chapel.

No matter what season of the year, our trees take turns entertaining us. The evergreens are prominent and distinctive in the winter and early spring while the deciduous remain barren and sleeping. In the late spring through the late fall, the deciduous spring into action, while the evergreen fade quietly in to the background.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
March/April "Topics"
Friday, Feb. 16, 2018**

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 305
Pottsville, PA 17901

Birthdays

January

2. Harry Ebling
4. Carla Kauffman
7. Courtney Rauco-Lewars, Margie Keyworth,
Wanda Dodds
8. Herbert Harris, Jr.
9. Tish Malarkey, Elizabeth Cirelli
11. Tara Hess
14. Mike McCabe
16. Daniel Hopkins
18. Raven Eckert, James Snyder
21. David Hess
22. Joanne Kraft, Tim Bortner
23. Jeff Bruce, Hank Beaver, Stacie Glauda
26. Karen Portland
27. Ann Bacon, Cody Lewars
28. Martha Kline, Julia Bensinger
30. Al Portland

February

1. Phyllis Moehrle
4. Kathy Polcrack, Elsie Scott
8. Norm Kauffman
10. Shelby Hostetter
16. Brent Burns
18. Holly Haddad
23. Patricia Brennan, David Reed Sr.
24. Sara Wehr, Jason Glauda
25. John Fehr, Laura Weiner, Deliliah Howells
29. Cassie Kauffman Holm