



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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November/December 2018

LOVING, SHARING, GIVING

Dear People of God at Trinity,

As we begin to think about the approaching holiday season, we think of gratitude and generosity; that translates to the LOVE that God has given us through his son Jesus Christ and the example that we should extend to each and every person, not just at holiday time, but every day. The wonderful Stewardship letter you received in October discusses that LOVE and how we can act on that love through SHARING our gifts — even just one small act of volunteering, even a few times a year, can make a huge difference in the life of our parish. Please seek out your Vestry members to discover how many opportunities there are to share your volunteer time and be sure to look at the leaves of ministries that are displayed in the church.

The Advent project you will read about elsewhere in the Topics is a wonderful opportunity to GIVE and SHARE and bring LOVE to the community. We ask you to consider that same sense of generosity to be SHARED within the parish — our in-reach effort of volunteering in thanksgiving for our beautiful space and the ministries that continue to define the LOVE that GIVES not only financially, but in the many ways we follow the example of Christ.

Please prayerfully consider any amount of time, even if you think it is a small amount, to dedicate your LOVING, SHARING, GIVING thanks to our God who loves us abundantly, extravagantly and unconditionally.

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.”



ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECT

As we enter the season of preparation and expectation, we often have Advent calendars that we open daily to little surprises. So instead of receiving, this project centers around giving. If each day or once or twice a week during Advent, we put travel size personal items or food items in a box, at the end of the four weeks, we will have a wonderful contribution to the Food Pantry and Servants to All. Perhaps an empty shoe box will be perfect for filling. This is a project for all in our parish, young and old. The Love of God which He has given us in the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ is the greatest example we can follow. So let us be mindful of our bountiful blessings and share them as we prepare for the celebration of the Christ Child.

Beginning on December 2, the first Sunday of Advent, there will be large boxes gaily decorated in the church. You may bring your items to the church to fill those boxes with personal items or food items. Some examples are:

- Travel size deodorant
- Travel shampoo
- Travel size hand sanitizer
- Lip balms
- Pocket tissues
- Pens
- Small winter items such as gloves and hats.
- Food items similar to those already donated for the Food Pantry

On the last Sunday of Advent, December 23, these items can be distributed to those in need and the abundant love that God has given us will shine through to others. Thank you — if there are any questions, please see a Vestry member.



ST. NICHOLAS, COOKIE EXCHANGE AND MINI-BAZAAR

On Sunday, December 9, St. Nicholas will once again visit with our Church School children. In addition, we will have our annual Cookie Exchange and also the successful Christmas bazaar that was begun last year.

For our bakers, please bring two dozen cookies to share and containers will be provided for everyone to take your goodies home. If you don't bake, no worries — there will be plenty to share.

Also, Sharon Albright will be selling her lovely quilted goods, Pamela Foley will have her award-winning photography cards for sale and Courtney Lewars will bring the scents of the season with her Scentsy collection.

A wonderful time of sharing and fellowship to highlight the holiday season!

Vestry Nominations

There will be 3 slots available for the new Vestry term which begins in January 2019. If you are interested in being nominated for a 3-year Vestry term, please speak to Cora Osenbach, Kurt Kovalovich, June Bednar or any other Vestry member. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 20, 2019.



Sunday School News

Nov-Dec 2018

We are entering a busy time of year for Sunday School.

On October 28, Miss Lea will be working with our students to practice for their upcoming performance with song and chimes. We are also blessed to be celebrating another baptism in our church that day. Following the service, there will be a Halloween party in the lounge combined with an extended coffee hour for the baptismal celebration. **NO COSTUMES PLEASE.** Anyone willing to provide light refreshments or finger foods, please contact Dawn Burns.

November 4 will be All Saints' Sunday

BOWLING NIGHT is being scheduled for either November 10 or 17. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information. Remember this is a **PARISH** event, not just a church school event. All are welcome to join us for some fun. You can bowl or just come to watch and enjoy the fellowship. The cost for the students will be underwritten by the church. We have a special deal for others to bowl. Sign-ups will be posted in the church.

November 11, Miss Lea will practice with the students for the upcoming performance with songs and chimes. Please make every effort to attend.

November 18 will be Stewardship Sunday. The students will be performing songs and chimes with Miss Lea for the congregation. Please make every effort to attend.

December 2 will be the first week of Advent. Advent calendars will be distributed. We will kick off a new outreach project as well.

December 24 We will have our Children's service in the evening. The children will be singing as well.

December 30 **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A meeting for those interested in helping out in Sunday school is being scheduled for November. Contact Dawn Burns if you are interested.

Holy Apostles

Thanksgiving Dinner

Holy Apostles Church in St. Clair will again be hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. This is a free meal for anyone in the community. Our parish has been very active in this outreach project in the past. Volunteers, who are interested in helping to cook the day before, donate and/or prepare a turkey, carve turkeys, donate a dessert, deliver meals, or help at the dinner please contact Dawn Burns at 570-640-8696 or dgre1burns@verizon.net. If you are interested in receiving a meal either via delivery, pick-up or eating there, please contact Bonnie at 570-429-2272. Watch for flyers in the next few weeks.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

We will try to reach all of our homebound parishioners with Christmas Communion before the end of December. We will not have this ministry in January and February because of inclement weather; however, if you would like Communion during that time, please call Kathy Burda and we will do our best to accommodate you.



THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

Choir

The choir is scheduling for some Sunday morning and Wednesday evening rehearsals in preparation for All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday and our Christmas Eve 7 pm Festal Eucharist. Please contact either Cora or Frank if you are interested in joining the choir. The Church School children under the tutelage of Lea Bortner will sing for Stewardship Sunday on November 18 and will be preparing for the 5 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve.

Concert Series

The second concert of our 12th season will be on Sunday, December 9 at 4 pm featuring organist Wesley Parrott from Philadelphia. Mr. Parrott has graciously agreed to play instead of Cody Mead who was unavailable to be with us. We look forward to beautiful music of the Advent/Christmas season. Please see the enclosed flyer for details. We are so grateful to our patrons for their sustaining support to enable this community outreach for all.

Concert Reception

Once again we are looking for our generous, fantastic bakers and cooks to provide goodies for the concert reception on December 9. There will be sign-up sheets in the ambulatory and on the bulletin board across from the lounge. Please sign up if you are providing food, so planning is easier. Thank you!!

United Thank Offering

Thank you for your generosity this year. To date, we have collected \$247.17 for outreach. In a world in need, every penny helps. Please continue to count your blessings by using your UTO box in gratitude.

Christmas Flowers

Donations for Christmas Flowers may be made by completing this form and returning it with your contribution by Sunday, December 16, 2018.

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Trinity Episcopal Church Concert Series



Sunday December 9, 2018
at 4 pm

Wesley Parrott organist

Mr. Parrott received his Artist Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, BA at the University of the South and his Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Winner of numerous organ competitions, he is currently the Organist at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral and Liturgical Musician at St. Francis de Sales R.C. Church in West Philadelphia.

He has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Washington National Cathedral, Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall and at cathedrals throughout England. His program will include selections reflecting the spirit of the season. We welcome Mr. Parrott to our series.



Come meet the Artist at a post-concert reception.

No Admission Fee - Free Will Offering Taken

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

Trinity is Handicapped Accessible

Upcoming Events

COPELAND STRING QUARTET
Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 4 pm

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Study Group	2 6:00pm Necrology Service at CBC 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	3 Turn clocks back one hour
4 All Saints Sunday 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	5 7:30pm AA	6	7 12Noon Healing Service	8	9 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	10
11 Veterans Service 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	12 7:30pm AA	13 7:00pm CBPT Meeting	14 12Noon Healing Service	15 7:00pm Study Group	16 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	17
18 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School 10:30am Vestry	19 4:30pm Soup Kitchen 7:30pm AA	20	21 12Noon Healing Service	22 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24
25 Christ the King 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School	26 7:30pm AA	27 1:00pm MPTF Meeting	28 12Noon Healing Service	29 7:00pm Study Group	30 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Advent I 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School 10:30am Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30pm AA	4	5 12Noon Healing Service	6	7 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	8
9 Advent II 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School Followed by Cookie Exchange & mini Christmas Bazaar 4:00pm Concert Series	10 7:30pm AA	11	12 12Noon Healing Service	13 7:00pm Study Group	14 7:00pm Ballroom Dancing	15
16 Advent III 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School 10:30am Vestry	17 4:30pm Soup Kitchen 7:30pm AA	18	19 12Noon Healing Service	20	21	22
23 Advent IV 9:00am Service 9:00am Church School 10:30am Choir	24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Family Service 7:00pm Festal Eucharist	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 <u>NO Healing Service</u>	27	28	29
30 Christmas I 9:00am Service NO Church School	31 7:30pm AA					

NEWS FROM MARION C PRICE TRUST FUND

Long-Term Care Insurance – can be expensive and confusing, hopefully this will make it a little easier to understand.

Someone with a physical illness, a disability or cognitive impairment (such as Alzheimer's disease) often needs long-term care. Long-term care generally helps you live as you are instead of improving or correcting medical problems.

If you have a major illness or injury, such as a stroke, heart attack or broken hip and need assistance with daily living, such as bathing or dressing. You may need a nursing home or home care for a short time or you may need these services for several months, years or the rest of your life. It's hard to know if you will need long-term care.

Depending on the policy options you select, long-term care insurance can help you pay for the care you need, whether you are living at home, in an assisted living facility, nursing home or hospice facility. The insurance might also pay expenses for home care or adult day care. Some policies will even help pay costs associated with modifying your home so you can keep living in it safely.

When you decide to shop for long-term care insurance seek out an independent agent who sells policies from multiple companies rather than a single insurer, making it easier to compare companies. Be sure the person you are working with has had additional training in long-term care insurance and check with Pennsylvania's Insurance Department (www.insurance.pa.gov) or you can contact the Consumer Service Bureau toll-free at 1-877-881-6388 to confirm that the person is licensed to sell insurance in Pennsylvania.

Factors to consider:

- ❖ Policies cost less if purchased when you're younger and in good health.
- ❖ Premiums often increase over time and your income may decrease. If you find yourself unable to afford the premiums, you could lose all the money you've invested in a policy. Premiums vary based on a variety of factors. These factors include your age, health when you buy a policy and the level of coverage, benefits, and options you choose.
- ❖ A rule of thumb is that you may not be able to afford the policy if the premiums will be more than 7% of your income.

Most policies limit the total benefit they'll pay over the life of the policy. Some policies state the maximum benefit limit in years while others may write the policy benefit limit in dollar amounts. Policies normally pay benefits by the day, week, or month.

When you buy a policy, insurance companies let you choose a benefit amount. It's important to know how much skilled nursing homes, assisted living facilities and home health care agencies charge for their services before you choose the benefit amounts in your policy.

“Benefit triggers” is the term usually used to describe the way insurance companies decide when to pay benefits. Benefit triggers are an important part of long-term care insurance policies. Look for a section called “Eligibility for the Payment of Benefits” or simply “Eligibility for Benefits” in the policy and outline of coverage.

Typically, a policy pays benefits when you can’t do a certain number of the ADL’s (bathing, dressing, toileting, eating, transferring and continence), such as two or three of the six. Some policies say that you must need someone to actually help you do the activities others may say you qualify if you only need someone nearby to help you if you need it. Some long-term care policies pay benefits only if your doctor orders or certifies that the care is medically necessary.

How many days you have to wait for benefits to start will depend on the “Elimination Period” (waiting period). During an elimination period, the policy won’t pay the cost of long-term care services you receive, it can be 20 days or up to 100 days after you start using long-term care or become disabled. You also might be able to choose a policy with a zero-day elimination period but expect it to cost more.

You can probably choose other policy features, but some insurers don’t offer all of them. Each may increase your policy’s cost:

- ❖ Waiver of premium lets you stop paying the premium once you’re eligible and the insurance company starts to pay benefits.
- ❖ Premium refund at death. This benefit pays to your estate any premiums you paid minus any benefits the company paid.
- ❖ Downgrades – Some insurers will let you reduce your coverage if you have trouble paying the premium.

The “Free Look Period” allows a window of time to make sure the policy is right for you without the pressure of an insurance agent. If you decide to cancel within 30 days you most likely will be reimbursed for premiums you paid during the application process. During the free look period:

- ❖ Review the policy in detail.
- ❖ Be sure you understand how much coverage you’ll have and how the policy will cover the service you will receive.
- ❖ Consider your financial situation.
- ❖ Reach out to your insurance agent with any questions or if you decide to cancel the policy.

Clothesline of Love - will be hanging in front of Trinity with colorful hats, gloves and scarves generously donated by our parishioners to offer warmth to those needing them. Donations of new or gently used items will be appreciated.

CPR class will be held at Trinity on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 9:00 AM.

For more information about Clothesline of Love or CPR call Kathy Burda at 570-621-3220.

Charles Baber Preservation Trust and Trinity Episcopal Church

GIVING THANKS

by: C. Field

Thanksgiving and Christmas are two hectic and busy holidays. While they bring shopping and preparation stress, they also bring families and friends together, shower everyone, including neighbors, with love, and produce a warm, comforting, and inviting environment. Thanksgiving reminds us to appreciate how fortunate and blessed we are with our cars, homes, clothing, household items, I-phones, wide screens TVs, sports gear, and maybe a camper. We have families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the church who like us and accept us as we are. We are free to travel, work, and worship anywhere we want. Yes, we are blessed!

We all know someone in our life who does small thoughtful things, but seldom gets a thank you. There are many such unsung heroes at both the Charles Baber Cemetery and at Trinity Episcopal Church. At the cemetery, we have two full-time employees and one part-time employee, who care deeply about maintaining the grounds, the buildings, and the equipment. They worry about the vandals abusing the property, about the trees with broken limbs, about the toppled grave markers, about the grass being too tall, about the ceiling crumbling in the chapel, about the ruts in the gravel road, about shoveling the snow, and about vacuuming all the fallen Autumn leaves before the first snowfall comes. We have the Board whose efforts are focused on getting in enough income to cover all the expenses, repairing the chapel, replacing old and worn equipment, and at the same time expanding our cemetery to meet the changing needs of the community by increasing the number of columbarium niche, and building a pet cemetery area and a memorial garden for sprinkling cremation ashes. We have the volunteers who give a helping hand and monetary and baked goods contributions and sponsor the band, give walking tours, and purchase the raffle baskets for Baber Day. We have others who put fresh plants in the two urns, help us on Arbor Day with the tree plantings and sponsorship, and provide a memorial service for the school children who replace the Veterans' flags on Memorial Day. And others who provided financial assistance when we had to replace the drains and water basins or need to purchase new equipment like weed whackers. On behalf of the **Charles Baber Preservation Trust**, **THANK YOU** for all that you do.

The list of unsung heroes for Trinity Church is even longer. We have the volunteers who print, fold, label and mail all our *Topics* and other mailings. We have our Sunday School teachers who not only teach each Sunday, but run special projects and events throughout the year. We have our bakers, cooks, and servers who help out with the Music Concert series, at the rummage sale, the soup sales, and church dinners. We have our Sunday liturgy readers and our Eucharistic ministers who take communion to shut-ins and pinch hit for Sunday morning service and Wednesday service, at funerals, for unexpected circumstances, and for Bible study. We have parishioners who stop on the way to church to pick up someone who doesn't drive. We have our workers and contributors to the food bank and soup kitchen. We have our church, Marion Price Trust and Shannon Trust staff and our organist, who go beyond their paid workday schedule to do something extra, or to forward messages, or pick up or drop something off, who often in one day run back and forth between the church, the rectory, and the cemetery. The staff cares about the buildings and the parishioners alike. We have the Vestry who are open and caring and who work hard to operate within the budget and the shrinking investment account, while still being receptive to new ideas, programs and community involvement. We have the parishioners who underwrite the cost of the Sunday flowers, the bulletin inserts, the *Day by Day* booklets, the candles, the welcoming, historic, and window brochures, and who contribute to special campaigns like the stone pointing and front entrance restoration project. For all that you do for **Trinity Episcopal Church**, **THANK YOU!**



Charles Baber Preservation Trust

by: C. Field

A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON

Oh no, it's starting already. In August, the Thanksgiving and fall decorations are in all the stores and by October, the Christmas decorations, toys, clothes, and related items are already on the shelves. Everywhere we turn, the frantic haste to prepare for Christmas is upon us. The school kids are already counting down the days until Christmas vacation. What should we buy in gifts, how many gifts should we buy for each person, and how many people should we buy for and do we have to buy for all our co-workers or board members? What food should we serve, when should we host a party, where should we eat, who do we have to wedge in for a holiday visit, where will we get the money from to pay for all of this? Do we take out a loan, or draw on our home equity, or run up our credit cards which we pay on after the items are used, returned, broken, or eaten?

Why do we have to celebrate Christmas in December when the sunlight hours are short and the weather is cold with maybe light snow, or rain, or maybe even some ice? And why did they have to give the kids such a long holiday break? The stress and tension is building already, and we are two months away from that dreadful day. Dreadful day, did I say "dreadful day"? No wait, isn't Christmas suppose to be a day of celebration, a rejuvenation of our faith, and reaffirmation of our bond, love and commitment to God and our fellow man? How quickly God and Jesus got lost in our frantic preparation to be ready for this one very special holiday.

Yes, we have lots more to do yet in preparation for the food we have to buy, the gifts and wrapping that we have to do, the parties to attend, the friends and relatives to visit, and the jobs that we have to go to eight hours each day. So let's step back, take a deep breath and focus on taking a break to reorient and center yourself. Think beyond the immediate crisis and demands. Put your hat and coat on, and your gloves if it's cold outside. Set your mental clock for a 30 to 45-minute break. If you live in Pottsville, drive out to the Baber Cemetery. If you don't live in Pottsville, at least go outside and walk around the block or go to a nearby park. Slowly take in some deep breathes and slowly exhale. Look around you. Feel nature embracing you. Listen for sounds like the birds chirping, or the dried leaves rustling on the grounds or in the trees. See what trees still have their leaves clinging to them. Look at the evergreens, like the white pines, and see the long pine cones hanging down. Notice how the needles on the Norway spruce hang down from the branches and look like tinsel draped on the tree. Look at the well-defined shapes of the trees now that the leaves are gone. Some branches reach skyward, while other hang down, and others are perfectly symmetrical, others are tear dropped shaped, some have long slightly upward curving limbs. Others are askew and jut out in every direction. Notice the many colorings of the bark and the limbs. Also look at the many memorial markers. They come in all different shapes and sizes. Some are tall columns and obelisks, while others, called eclectic, are squat and boxy. Others, like the pedestals, are broad at the base, and taper off at the top. Notice how many different types of crosses there are. Look at the tops or caps and see how many have draped urns on or orbs or cherubs, or angels. Some markers look like coffins while others look like cradles without legs. The real old markers are easily noticeable because they are very thin tablets and the inscriptions are mostly illegible.

Your heart rate has slowed, the tension in your muscles has eased, the overpowering sense of too much to do in such a short time has disappeared. Treat yourself kindly during this season. Take time to walk outside and embrace God's comforting, soothing gifts of nature. **Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season!**

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Pottsville, PA 17901
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Fax: 570.621.3221
Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
January/February "Topics"
Friday, December 14, 2018**

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

November Birthdays

1 – Madison Scott
3 – Michael Smerlick
5 – William Bowler
7 – Brad Ross
8 – Jean Smerlick
9 – Quinn Evans
11 – John Beausang, Joseph Siminitus
13 – Edward Hosler
14 – Cole Demcher, Jacqueline Menuchak
15 – Booker Hostetter
17 – Charles Guensch, Grace Menuchak
18 – Norman Kauffman, Andrea Allar
19 – Barbara Bechtel
22 – Janet Grabowski
24 – Joanne Viduszynski
25 – Lorie Kauffman
27 – Nancy Depsky, Lance Reedy
30 – Charles Bickleman

December Birthdays

3 – Ryan Wehr
6 – George Stone IV
9 – Christian Menuchak, Carol Stone Field
11 – Leo Warren Bradley
12 – Melanie Thornburg
18 – Gretchen Frederick
22 – Seraphina Brennan
23 – Carol A. Seitzinger
25 – Russell Frantz
28 – Eric Stone, Ashley Hopkins, Dallas Petrosky
29 – Lauren Polcrack