



trinity topics

From the Rector's Desk

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

It is December once again. The end of another calendar year is approaching, but we are at the beginning of a new church year with the Season of Advent. Ending and new beginnings. Times of transition. As Trinity Church, we continue to stand on the threshold where fear enters into freedom. We have been transforming into a church community that embraces our call to 'love our neighbor', taking the chances, taking the risks, that go along with that call. We still struggle with our finances and that can be scary. However, as I stated during my report to Diocesan Convention, we do so joyously.

Becca Stevens is an Episcopal Priest and the founder of Thistle Farms, a community of women survivors of addiction, prostitution, and trafficking in Nashville, Tennessee. She is also an author (among other things) and I share an excerpt from her book *Sanctuary: Unexpected Places Where God Found Me* because I think it speaks to us/Trinity Church.

The piece is entitled: The Planets Line Up

The building had been framed out and the walls were starting to go up. We had been working for about two years to build this residence for women coming off the street. We had raised a million dollars and had chosen to build it in a neighborhood in which drug dealers and prostitutes walk the streets. We were excited and full of apprehension and questions.

And so on Thursday evening, about twelve friends decided to go over and pray silently in this space that was the newest home to many of our hopes and dreams. It was a little awkward at first, but soon we settled among the beams, in what was going to be the main living room. We started our silent prayer, with the sounds of the neighborhood all around.

What we didn't know was that in really poor neighborhoods, especially on the dead-end streets, they don't have any streetlights. What that means is that it is a great place for seeing the stars. It kind of surprised everyone, and you could feel

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people shuffling around to get a better view of the sky. Pretty soon the prayer wasn't being prayed with heads bowed and eyes closed. People were lifting their heads with their eyes wide open.

One of the really smart nursing school students who had been a volunteer during the project broke the silence, saying, "Look, there are Venus, Mars, and Saturn, all in a perfect line." The contractor on the house added, "I read about it but didn't think I would get to see it." I couldn't believe it. There we were, not just sitting under a canopy of stars on a deep clear night, but seeing all the planets line up.

Sometimes the most holy and magical moments for me are the ones between the vision and the coming true, between the hoping and the living it all out. This was the moment for us. It was the time of knowing that we were within sight of our goal, but not quite there. It was the time after a woman has prayed that someone out there can help her, even if she thinks she doesn't deserve an answer. It was the time between leaning into a kiss and feeling lips touch. I am so glad I was there to experience it.



Trinity Events for the month of December

Parents Night Out: Thursday, December 1st

Our free, healthy community meal continues on Thursday, December 1st at 6 p.m. This month's menu will feature Pasta with Ground Turkey Spaghetti Sauce, Rolls, a Salad and Peppermint Brittle for dessert. Join us to help serve and clean up or simply to enjoy a delicious healthy meal.

Coatesville Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 3rd

The annual Christmas Parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 3rd. We are known and sought out for our hotdogs, hot chocolate, etc. throughout the parade. Join us to either help sell food or simply watch this wonderful parade. The church lawn is a great vantage point to see the parade.

Breakfast with Santa: Saturday, December 10th

The Women's Group will organize and host our annual, and very popular, Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 10th in the social hall. This is a good time with outstanding food! Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage and more....and SANTA! Invite your friends and family and neighbors. The time is 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.. We truly have one of the best Breakfast with Santa events in the area.

Advent Chamber Music Festival: Sunday, December 18th at 3 p.m. with reception

Advent Chamber Music Festival featuring music of the season by the woodwind quintet, Quintessence and piano duets by Gail X2. There will also be choral music by a combined choir. This is a fabulous musical experience that you don't want to miss. A reception immediately follows in our social hall. Take some important time out from a hectic December to enjoy relaxing music in a sacred space.

Christmas Eve Services: Saturday, December 24th

Our Family Service will begin at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th. This is a family-friendly service in which our young people participate.

Our beautiful, Candlelight service begins at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th. Join us for this lovely, light-filled worship experience that celebrates the birth of our Savior. It is the heart of our time with family and friends.

Christmas Day: NO Service on Sunday, December 25th.

Enjoy this day with family and friends.

New Years Day, Sunday January 1st we will hold worship service at our regular time of 9:30 a.m.

Expect something a little different because it is the first day of our new calendar year.

Giftng Tree

Trinity will once again have a giftng tree for underprivileged children in the Coatesville community. The first names, ages, sizes, etc. will be listed on a gift tag hanging on the tree. You are invited to take a tag and purchase a gift(s) for this child. All gifts will be delivered to the children's homes by Christmas Eve. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, West Vincent, will be a partner with us again this year in this special ministry, as well as Timet (Titanium Metals) located in Exton.



FUNDRAISING

By now, I'm hoping that everyone enjoyed a pleasant Thanksgiving wherever it may have been. Each of us has his/her own "this-that-or the other thing" for which to be thankful, and we express it in many different ways. And on behalf of your Fundraising Team, I'd like to express our thanks to the Trinity family for the enthusiasm, support and generosity exemplified in 2016. We've had a lot of fun presenting the various events that we've had, and I hope you've enjoyed them, as well.

As we prepare for the coming year with its opportunities and challenges, your Fundraising Team will be focused on contributing towards the lifeblood of our church. The 150th Anniversary celebration looms large in 2018, and we have to continue to support Trinity in the 149th year leading up to the milestone occasion. As mentioned in last month's *Topics*, look around and ask the folks on the Property Committee about the critical short and long term needs that are on the table now for review and action. And it is this area to which our team will direct its energies as we plan our fun and profitable events in 2017. Needless to say, your ideas for ways towards the success of these events are always welcomed.

Along with our sincere thanks now, we also hope for your continued support, excitement and dedication to Trinity in the New Year.

From your Fundraising Team.....*Best Wishes for A Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Holiday Season!*

Vic Shanley
Chmn., Fundraising Committee

Hurricane Matthew Relief

Thanks to your generosity, Trinity folks, we are able to send \$620.00 to Episcopal Relief and Development, which they will use to relieve the suffering of people harmed by Hurricane Matthew.

And by the way, check out the reputation of Episcopal Relief and Development on charitynavigator.org. You'll be pleased with their ratings for finances and percentage of expenditures for program.

And again, many thanks!

-Deacon Joan



Veterans Brunch -- Nov. 27, 2016

As 2016 comes to an end for our monthly brunches, (December is cancelled due to various services during the Christmas season) it is time to reflect and give thanks. This thanks is not only for our 62 Veterans who came and enjoyed our home cooked meals as we recognized their service to our country, but we give thanks to all our members of Trinity who have contributed so much each and every month to make this outreach program the success it has become. There were 27 volunteers this month! A special thanks to our guests who assisted in the brunch this month: Donna and Sara Schneider; David Thompson; Jennifer, Sammi, Tommy, and Joey Wayne; Connie Pennington; Mike Repetto.

Our menu items included scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes, roasted potatoes with peppers and onions, baked ham with brown sugar glaze, rotisserie chicken with au jus, green beans with bacon, sweet potato and marshmallow casserole, homemade mac n cheese, deviled eggs, potato salad, cole slaw, desserts, breads, juice, water, coffee.

As we close 2016, we wish a fond farewell to our friend and key member of our brunch bunch, Jodi Bakshas. The next adventure of her life has her relocating to Oklahoma, sometime in mid-December. We will miss her smile, energy and blond ponytail at all our functions. God speed, Jodi.

God Bless our Veterans; our volunteers; and all members of Trinity; and this great country of ours! May blessings, peace and love continue to guide us.

-Brunch Bunch.



150th Anniversary – October 5, 6, 7 of 2018

“150 Years of Faith in Coatesville”

Progress has been steady and everyone has been very helpful with their ideas, suggestions and comments. Our next scheduled meeting is slated for January 8, 2017.

Our most recent meeting was October 23rd. Key areas that have been discussed and agreed upon:

- Theme confirmed. (as quoted above)
- Logo design adopted. (as noted above)
- Various venues have been considered for our dinner celebration, including Coatesville Moose Lodge; Wagontown Fire Hall; and the residence of Greg & Caroline Bentley. We will finalize our decision at the January meeting.
- Various samples of memorabilia have been obtained and will be pursued.
- A generous Marketing donation of \$10,000 was received from Caroline & Greg Bentley.
- Confirmation received from our new Bishop, that he will be officiating at our anniversary service on Oct. 7, 2018.
- Announcements of additional prominent guests, as their RSVP are received.

Everyone is encouraged to come out to the meetings, participate in suggestions and ideas, and help make our Anniversary celebrations a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Put January 8th, meeting on your calendar. It will be directly after church and coffee “hour”.

-Joe Kirkner, Chairperson



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 10th, is a great day to be at Trinity. From 8 to 11 AM we will be serving the best breakfast around; and Santa will be there! All this for a really great price – an adult with one child is \$10 (\$6.50 + \$3.50). If Grandma is 65 or older and brings a toddler under 3, that’s only \$5.50 (\$5.50 + free!).

What better way to start your day, then to watch Santa put smiles on the children’s faces! And fill your tummy with hearty food. See the flier in this Topics for full details; hope to see all of you there. -The Women’s Group

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 10th, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pancakes, eggs, bacon,
sausage, grits, hash browns and

Santa Claus!



Adults \$6.50 Seniors \$5.50 Children (3-10) \$3.50
(under 3 = Free)

Episcopal Church of the Trinity

323 E. Lincoln Highway

Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-4771

www.trinitycoatesville.org

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Services!

5:00 p.m. – Family Service

10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service



Christmas Parade -- Dec. 3rd, 10 AM – Noon

Watch the parade in front of the church. We have a great lawn for viewing all the fun and hearing all the music. As usual, we'll be selling our **grilled hot dogs!** And hot chocolate, coffee and cold drinks. Come on out and get the Christmas spirit, while supporting The Women's Group.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS-2016

This year again, we will be ordering poinsettias to decorate the church at Christmas. If you are interested in placing memorial flowers in the church, please fill in your name, phone number and how many plants you are ordering along with the name of the person(s) placed in memory of. Make checks payable to Church of the Trinity and return this order form with your check to the parish office no later than December 4th. The suggested donation is a minimum of \$8.00 for each plant ordered.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) PLACED IN MEMORY OF:



Jennifer Chance	2-Dec
Jason Saylor	4-Dec
Samuel Haak	4-Dec
Bella Baynard	9-Dec
Anne Lutz	13-Dec
William McWilliams	16-Dec
Shane McWilliams	17-Dec
Wayne Hanley	17-Dec
Miranda Croft	21-Dec
Pamela Smyth	22-Dec
Chase Crompton	24-Dec
David Rutledge	25-Dec
William Terry	25-Dec
Linda Hammond	30-Dec
Velda Baynard	31-Dec



THERE ARE NO DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES ON
FILE

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				HE Chapel – 12Noon Parents Night Out- 6PM		SH Rented
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SH & Kitchen Rented	BIBLE STUDY 7PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL		HE Chapel – 12Noon Food Distribution	Ellis Stern Funeral Services 9am-3pm SH & Sanctuary Rented	Breakfast with Santa
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SH Rented	BIBLE STUDY 7PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL		HE Chapel – 12Noon Food Distribution		SH RENTED
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Advent Festival	BIBLE STUDY 7PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL		HE Chapel – 12Noon		Christmas Eve Services
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day	BIBLE STUDY 7PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL		HE Chapel – 12Noon		New Year's Eve



Readers, Servers and Greeters for December 2016



Date	Readers	Psalter/P-O-P	Chalists	Servers	Torches	Greeters
12/4	Ebbie Carey	N/A	Jim Anderson	Jim Anderson	N/A	TBA
	Seth Haak	Lon Cross	Lon Cross	Jim Anderson	N/A	
12/1 1	Jim Anderson	N/A	Al Carey	Al Carey	N/A	TBA
	Caroline Bentley	Donna Puma	Bill Terry	Al Carey	N/A	
12/1 8	Violet Armstead	N/A	Pam Smyth	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBA
	Bill Terry	Chris Haak	Pat Kirkner	Pat Kirkner	N/A	
12/2 4	Vic Shanley	N/A	Jim Anderson	Caroline Puma	N/A	TBA
	Greg Bentley	Pam Smyth	Bill Terry	Jim Anderson	N/A	

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
323 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA 19320-3409

For more information

contact:

The Reverend Sherry Deets, Rector
610-384-4771
trinitycoates@aol.com
Website:
www.trinitycoatesville.org

Jamoca Harkins, Parish Administrator
Parish Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday
8AM—12PM
Thursday 9AM—12PM

Mission Statement

Church of the Trinity is a congregation rooted in the faith and love of Christ, unified in diversity, seeking to grow and nourish the Trinity family and our Coatesville community.

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
323 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320-3409

Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist
Sundays 9:30 AM
Thursdays 12:00 PM

Church School
Sundays 9:15 AM

Bible Study
Mondays 7:00 PM

