

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



DECEMBER 2017

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. It seems difficult to find peace during the hectic holiday season. Becca Stevens, the founder of Thistle Farms and an Episcopal Priest, has this to say in her book *Love Heals*:
When the events of our lives get us stirred up, the waters get muddy. All the silt and dirt of anxiety swirls around, and we can't see clearly. Take a glass. Pour in some beautiful, pure water. Then stir in a bit of dirt and try to look through the glass. It's not until we set the glass down and let the dirt settle that we can see through the water. In the same way, we work through troubled waters, and we wait, and then we finally see clearly the path before us. We patiently use our cultivated daily practices when times are rough, and then suddenly, one day, the skies open up and we find peace and healing like an unexpected gift. Love heals as we calm ourselves and make room to feel revived.
When we sit beside still waters, we can remember all that healing is possible in our lives. In the Twenty-third Psalm, we are reminded that though we walk in the shadows of death, God leads us to quiet waters. We can't run away from the trouble, so we are called to sit still with that trouble and be calmed by our Lord, who never abandons us—even when we are neck-deep in turbulent, wild waters.
Even with our practices, even with reflection, the truth is that most of the time, our waters are pretty muddy and we feel lost. Jesus knows us well, and He spoke about how a loving shepherd always goes and searches for the ones who are lost: "What do you think?" If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?" (Matthew 18:12)
We wander in wild places as lonely as the fields near Galilee, where scrub brush is scattered with wild geranium and thistles on sandy soil. Those are the times when, even though the psalmist says we shall fear no evil, we still get pretty scared. When we are lost, we search, and it's hard to see ahead when everything is clouded with dust. We can't seem to find our way through or understand what the next right step is to make better decisions. In those muddy waters and dry fields, Jesus calls to us and to all who are hurting or lost. He says simply to pray and keep going—you will be found.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Rector's Desk	1-2
Gifting Tree	2
Upcoming Events	3
Christmas Memorial Flowers	3
Veterans Brunch	4
150th Anniversary	4
Women's Group	5
Columbarium	5
Community Garden Recap	5
Amazon Smile	6
Stewardship	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Calendar of Events	8
Readers, Servers and Greeters	8
Mission Statement & Contact Information	9

Look back at the times when you have felt lost and realized later that the Lord was with you the whole way. The practice of reflection can help you peer through those waters and feel more peaceful about any present stress. When we remember that we have been the lost sheep who have been found over and over, we become part of the good news. In parables like the story of the good Samaritan, we know the gratitude of the guy in the ditch. We know the freedom of forgiveness experienced by a woman caught in adultery as Jesus wiped all judgment away or the wonder of love's healing power with mud on blind eyes.

I was lost by the time I started first grade. It was a leader in the church who stepped in to “help” my family after my father was killed when I was five. His intrusion into our family began my two years wandering in the lonely fields of sexual abuse.

I learned in those moments of grief and trauma that most sheep don't wander off; they are often pushed out of the fold by the silence kept in dysfunctional communities. They're swept away by devastating poverty and by overwhelming universal injustices that render communities numb. The feeling of being lost was devastating, and peace was a rare commodity for years.

But loving communities, prayer, mercy, and forgiveness helped me beyond anything I could have done myself. They helped me find some peaceful waters along the way. I was lost—really lost—but because of those loving communities, I have been led back to still waters throughout my life.

Still Water Habits

- Reading and meditating on God's holy Word
- Carving out time alone (in the bathtub, in the car, in the woods)
 - Reflecting on how grateful you are for small things
 - Taking a bit of time away for renewal
 - Spending time in a worship setting that calms your spirit
 - Journaling even just a few sentences a day for reflection
- Sharing an inspired thought with someone to help them when they feel lost

Through habits, faith, and prayer, it is possible for all of us to find waters still enough to help us remember with gratitude all the healing we have known, no matter how lost we have been. We can go to the places and people that call us into a deep calm, that allow us to feel found. In those spaces we sing the words of “Amazing Grace,” we can breathe in the Spirit of peace, and we can feel revived. That is the gift of still waters on the healing journey.

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. Have the wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, to the church by Wednesday, December 20th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 2nd: Coatesville Christmas Parade The parade begins at 10 a.m. and Trinity has sold hotdogs, coffee and hot chocolate for years and years. Join us to watch the parade from our front lawn and/or to help sell hotdogs and hot drinks! Several members of Trinity will be carrying our 150th Anniversary banner in the parade.

Saturday, December 9th: Breakfast with Santa Join us for one of the best Breakfast with Santa's in the area. Begins on the 9th at 8 a.m. through 11 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, hash browns and Santa Claus! Adults \$8; Children \$4; under three are free. Join us for a wonderful time.

Sunday, December 17th: Advent Chamber Music Featuring music of the season by the woodwind quintet, Quintessence and piano duets by Gail x2 beginning at 4 PM. This musical experience has received rave reviews. A reception immediately follows in the social hall. Free will offering.

Thursday, December 21st: What's Cookin' in Coatesville? This month our free, healthy meal to the community consists of Vegetable Lasagna, Whole Grain Rolls/bread, a special Salad and Peppermint Bark for dessert. If you'd like to volunteer to help serve or clean up, please arrive at 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Services Our family service begins at 5 p.m. and our Candlelight Service begins at 10:30 p.m. There will be NO morning service.

Sunday, December 31st: Lessons and Carols with Communion Our tradition of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas continues. A different type of service in which we enjoy singing our favorite Christmas carols. Join us at our usual service time of 9:30 a.m.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS-2017

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 3rd. The suggested donation is a minimum of \$8.00 for each plant ordered.

NAME: _____

PHONENUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS

ORDERED: _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) PLACED IN MEMORY

OF: _____



VETERANS BRUNCH- Nov. 26, 2017

As we close out our final brunch for 2017, it was our usual excited, fast paced and anticipated outreach that all the brunch bunch members have come to expect. November was just that and nothing less. This month we served a delicious meal to 53 hungry veterans by 23 volunteers. Our menu selections this month were scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, baked ham, chicken and gravy, buttered noodles, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, fresh corn-off-the cob, garden fresh green beans, steamed broccoli with sesame sauce, corn pudding, stuffing with sausage and stuffing with apples, 2 types of coleslaw, potato salad, deviled eggs, a wide range of desserts, including 2 homemade apple pies, breads, fruit, juice, coffee and water.

This month's Missing Man table was set-up and candle lit by Jacob Furlong.

Our brunch has become a big part of the many programs we sponsor and would not be successful if it were not for all those who continue to come out, month after month...from Pastor Sherry and Deacon Joan, to little Mason Kirkner, our newest member, who is 8 years old, and loves waiting on the Vets and talking to them. We will pick up again on January 28, 2018.

God Bless our Vets; members of the Brunch Bunch; and God Bless America.



Anniversary Meeting Nov. 19, 2017

“150 years of Faith in Coatesville”

Light turnout for our monthly meeting, but discussed current status of anniversary issues and items that have or are now finalized.

- Venue: Findings, costs and general information on final 2 prospective locations compiled and submitted to the Vestry for review and decision. Vestry elected to hold October 6, 2018 celebration at Coatesville Moose. Will discuss the arrangements as time dictates; possibly spring/early summer, i.e.: final head counts, invited guests, speakers, menu, etc., etc.
- Thanks to Marshall & Diane Evans for their time and energy spent obtaining the information on the various venues for consideration.
- Received congratulations on our upcoming celebration from Brandywine Health Foundation and they agreed to partner with us with a historical display. They mentioned a “carefully preserved nurse’s uniform” they have on loan, with several copies of a pictorial history of Coatesville.

Our next phase will be the gathering of any and all historical materials for our ‘hall of history’ and timeline banner. There will be no meeting in December; the January date is not set yet. Please come out and tell us what you want to participate in.



Women's Group

The Women of Trinity had a wonderful, fun time on November 17th, at our first ever painting party fundraiser. There were 38 participants at our 'Potluck, Painting, and Pinot' event. There was plenty of food; loads of laughter; and by the end of the night, we discovered there was much talent amongst us. We also raffled off some very nice prizes at the end of the evening. Between the raffle and paint party, the Women's Group netted \$580. Thanks for supporting our efforts. If you missed this chance to explore your painting abilities, we hope to have another in the spring. Stay tuned.

Christmas Parade! December 2nd, 10AM – 12:00 Noon. We will be selling hotdogs, drinks and hot chocolate on our lawn while watching the parade and waiting for Santa Claus. Anyone who wishes to help with sales, please arrive at 8AM. Deacon Joan Wylie, along with several hearty marchers, will be carrying our Anniversary Banner in the parade, so we must be there to cheer them on. Hope to see all there.

Breakfast with Santa! December 9th, 8:00AM – 12:00 Noon.

Come enjoy the most delicious breakfast for only \$8.00. (\$6.50 for seniors; \$4.00 for children 3-10; under 3-free). We will have scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, hash browns, grits, toast, coffee, and juice. Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, sisters, parents! We are still looking for workers to help prepare and serve this meal; our biggest fundraiser of the year.

COLUMBARIUM

As mentioned in previous communication, we will be moving forward with the Trinity columbarium for the needs of members and friends. And once again, we invite the Trinity family to consider this attractive, respectful and cost effective final resting place for loved ones and ourselves.

Each niche will be capable of holding two urns and will be inscribed with the names of the departed within along with dates of birth and passing. An area/garden of peace and reflection will border the columbarium. The structure will be a permanent part of Trinity Episcopal Church whose maintenance and operation will be overseen by a Columbarium Committee as approved by Vestry. This will include perpetual care. For those among us who may not enjoy the benefit of perpetual care from loved ones, this further adds to the choice of the columbarium.

Trinity is offering its family the opportunity to purchase niches at a favored pre-construction cost or at an ongoing cost at time of need as shown below.....

- **Members – Pre-Construction - \$800.00**
Ongoing at Time of Need - \$1,000.00
- **Non-Members – Pre-Construction - \$1,200.00**
Ongoing at Time of Need - \$1,500.00

Fellow members have already signified their intention to be inurned in the Trinity columbarium, and the public will soon be made aware of availability to them, as well. If you wish to consider this option for a final resting place, please notify myself, Bill Terry of the Church Office at your convenience.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Vic Shanley and Bill Terry, Columbarium Committee

Community Garden Recap

It was a mixed season for the Community garden this year. The weather was cooperative, and we got enough rain that it wasn't necessary to water too often. The tomatoes and lettuce were great, and the peppers were good, but not as prolific as in prior years. The biggest bust was the brassica family: cabbage, kale and collards (very popular!), which were mercilessly attacked by harlequin cabbage beetles. I just learned they are in the stink bug family- no wonder I hate them so much! I will be diligent about treating for them next year. Passing gardeners commiserated that they were experiencing the same issue. We had some potatoes, sweet potatoes, eggplant, Swiss chard and beans, and still delivered over 100 pounds of produce to the Coatesville Food Co-op. The sudden deep freeze in mid-November put an abrupt end to our harvest for 2017. -Pam Smyth

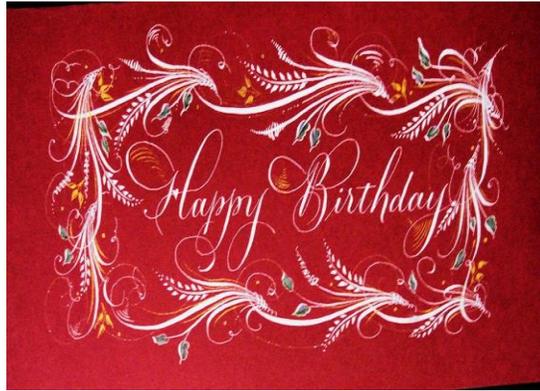
Shopping on Amazon Smile

Just a reminder that if you regularly shop on Amazon, you can choose Amazon Smile instead, selecting Episcopal Church of the Trinity as your charity of choice. A small portion of the value of your orders will accrue to Trinity, at no cost of any kind to you. My contribution year to date is currently \$11.03- I admit, not huge, but I'd have to buy a lot of hot dogs to generate that for Trinity! Encourage your friends and family to support Trinity in this way, and it could really add up! -Pam Smyth

Stewardship

It was a pleasant surprise to worship with 14 fellow parishioners on Thanksgiving morning, as Bill Terry lead us in Morning Prayer. It was my privilege to read 2 Corinthians 9: "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

What more could I add? Please ponder the value of Trinity to you, and consider cheerfully contributing so that Trinity will be here for us all, week in and week out throughout 2018. -Pam Smyth



Jennifer Chance	2-Dec	Linda Hammond	30-Dec
Jason Saylor	4-Dec	Velda Baynard	31-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		

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Christmas Parade SH Rented
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		CHOIR		HE Chapel- 12Noon		Breakfast with Santa
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SH Rented		CHOIR		HE Chapel- 12Noon		Kitchen Rented
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
ADVENT FESTIVAL 4PM		CHOIR		*HE Chapel-12Noon *Yoga 1245PM *Whats Cookin' in Coatesville 6PM		SH Rented
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Family Service 5PM Candlelight 10:30PM	Christmas Day					
31						
Lessons & Carols New Year's Eve						



Readers, Servers and Greeters for December 2017



Date	Readers	Psalter/P-O-P	Chalists	Servers	Torches	Greeters
12/3	Vic Shanley	N/A	Al Carey	Al Carey	N/A	TBA
	Greg Bentley	Kent Nation	Lon Cross	Al Carey	N/A	
12/10	Jim Anderson	N/A	Pam Smyth	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBA
	Lon Cross	Caroline Bentley	Pat Kirkner	Pat Kirkner	N/A	
12/17	Craig McGovern	N/A	Bill Terry	Seth Haak	N/A	TBA
	Violet Armstead	Bill Terry	Lon Cross	Bill Terry	N/A	
12/24	TBD	N/A	Bill Terry	Al Carey	N/A	TBA
	TBD	TBD	Al Carey	Jim Anderson	N/A	
12/31	TBD	N/A	Bill Terry	Zoey McGovern	N/A	TBA
	TBD	TBD	Jim Anderson	Bill Terry	N/A	

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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 – Friday
330PM—530PM
1 Full Day a Week-TBD

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