



Trinity Topics

From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

LOVE HEALS. Love heals is the mantra for Thistle Farms and they truly believe that “love is the most powerful force for change in the world”. As we continue down our path toward a sister organization, Thistle Hills, here in Coatesville, I share some words of wisdom from Becca Steven’s book entitled *Love Heals*.

She writes:

The space between having everything and having nothing isn’t vast. The journey between the wilderness and Jerusalem may be shorter than we think. The line that separates the givers and receivers is thin. The connections between all of us are greater than anything that separates us, and when we see them, our brokenness begins to be transformed into compassion for others and even for ourselves.

Compassion is one of the most important attributes of love. When we cultivate compassion for others, we can feel the loving-kindness God offers to us. In other words, instead of dismissing others’ brokenness, we engage suffering with hope. A daily commitment to compassion gives us the ability to feel the joys and sorrows of others and be gentle with ourselves.

Cultivating compassion for ourselves and others doesn’t require making drastic changes or giving up our lives as we know them. It means that we remember healing is possible for all people. It means asking the question, “What happened to you?” instead of, “What is wrong with you?” It means inviting someone’s story and listening to it with gentle ears. Cultivating compassion means we don’t dismiss entire groups of people for any reason, and we don’t let cynicism guide our actions and speech. It also means we don’t give up on others—even if it feels like it’s going to be a long, hard journey toward healing.

I learned about how powerfully compassion translates into healing from one of the great survivor-leaders at Thistle Farms, whose story unfolded over fifteen years. Katrina came into the community after a childhood that was filled with love but also included an abusive stepfather. That abuse led her to the streets and into addiction and trafficking. When she came into the community, she had a beautiful daughter, Ebony, who would sometimes join her mom at the community meetings.

At one of those meetings, while we were working on the skill of building financial stability, the facilitator passed out index cards and asked her participants to draw their dreams on the cards. She told the participants that if they could draw their goals, they could work toward making them come true. Ebony whispered to her mom, “Draw a house, Momma. Draw a house.”

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The next year, Katrina became the first national sales director for the Thistle Farms social enterprise, which she would help build into the largest of its kind in the United States. Two years later, she built her daughter a house. She said receiving so much compassion *from* others gave her a deep longing to be compassionate *to* others. She has always invited people who needed a helping hand into her house and has continued to go back to the streets to help other women. She serves as a mentor to women new to recovery. After Katrina married, she and her husband adopted a six-year-old boy. The compassion Katrina once received at her lowest point came back into the world in marvelous ways. And she raised her daughter Ebony, to practice the same tireless compassion.

A Prayer for Compassion

Give me eyes to see that You are the person in front of me who is hungry, gracious Lord. When I fail to see my neighbor as myself, cure my blindness.

When I fail to hear Your voice when a friend is speaking from their brokenness, give me ears to hear.

When I can't feel empathy for the stranger who is afraid, kindle my heart to comfort.

In all things, mold me to be more compassionate as a follower of Your ways.

Remind me again that in loving one another, we all find our way to You. Amen.



Rally Day on September 8: Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers and Trinity Tea with special guest Regina Mullins Greenlee from Thistle Farms

September 8th is the first Sunday after Labor Day and our annual Rally Day with the Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers during the church service. If you are attending a school of any kind, young or old, bring your backpack for a blessing and if you are a teacher, come for a blessing!

The Pastoral Care Team will be hosting one of our popular Trinity Teas after the church service and we will have a special guest, Regina Mullins Greenlee from Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tennessee. Regina was one of the first residents of Magdalene House when Becca Stevens first began this ministry. She has worked at Thistle Farms for 20 years and will be with us to share her wisdom and advice on beginning a sister program, Thistle Hills, here in Coatesville. Guests from the wider community will also be with us to share in the Tea and hear about how “love is the most powerful force for change in the world”. Join us!!

Gentle Yoga at Trinity

Gentle Yoga has been well received at Trinity and we are so pleased that Nancy Murphy will be back from a summer break, once again offering yoga on a weekly basis beginning Thursday, September 12. Gentle yoga practice for approximately one hour, following the noon service 12:40 – 1:40p.m. It is a time of meditation, gentle stretches, mindful movement, strength building, breath exercises, and Christian spirituality. No prior yoga experience or flexibility required. Mats are available. Suggested donation \$5.

Vestry Meeting

Vestry resumes regular monthly meetings on Sunday, September 15th after coffee hour at 11:15 a.m.

Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix September 21st

The 4th Annual Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix will be happening on Saturday, September 21st beginning at 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. The start/finish line will be at Third and Lincoln Highway with the announcers across the street from the Community Garden. This was a fun event the last several years and brings people from outside of Coatesville to the City. Trinity is contributing to the festivities of the day by selling breakfast pastries, hotdogs and soft pretzels. There will be food trucks, etc. at Gateway Park. Come out for the event, as we have a great vantage point on our front lawn for the start/finish of each race. Volunteer opportunities are also available for our food sales on the front lawn!

Gail's Retirement! September 1st

Gail Craven, our Organist and Choir Master for 8 years is retiring. Sunday, September 1st will be her last official Sunday with us and we are having a special send-off for her during coffee hour that day. Please join us in wishing Gail "Godspeed". She has served Trinity well in these last eight years and we will miss her!

Nancy Murphy will be leading us in Gentle Yoga in our social hall again beginning in September. Stay tuned for her return appearance!

Kitchen News

For those who work in the kitchen – there is a "Use of Kitchen" manual that is in the works. It will have its home there so that you may look up any "dos and don'ts" of equipment use.



Episcopal Church of the Trinity

323 East Lincoln Highway

Coatesville, PA 19320

Strategic Plan – 2019

Mission Statement

The 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 reenergizing Coatesville community.

Vision

We wish to be seen in the community as a vital contributor to the general welfare of the Coatesville community, as well as a Christ-centered house of worship. To reach this vision, we seek to reach out and serve our neighbors in Coatesville, demonstrating the love of Christ through our actions.

Broad Three-year Goals

1. To launch in 2020 a Thistle Farms sister-program (Thistle Hills) with a goal of its self-sustaining independence by 2022.

Leader: Sherry Deets

Target Date: 2020

2. To explore and adopt ways to develop community outreach via a part-time staff position to formulate an approach.

Leader: To-be-determined

Target Date: June 2020

3. To be open to changing or adding to our worship patterns, and improving our use of technological capabilities.

Leader: To-be-determined
Target Date: June 2020

4. To improve the church's sustainable financial footing, making our budget stronger by continuing to raise personnel compensation to realistic levels, as well as other line items, and by starting to save towards property needs.

Leader: Finance Committee
Target Date: January 1, 2023

5. To maintain our liaison with the greater Coatesville revitalization program so as to provide spiritual connections and support.

Leader: Tom Swett
Target Date: Through 2022

6. To provide awareness of Planned Giving opportunities to our membership.

Leader: Vestry
Target Date: June 2022

7. Strategic Plan Review and Revision: This strategic plan will be reviewed and revised as needed each year by the Vestry at the annual Vestry Retreat. Throughout the year, the Vestry welcomes suggestions and comments on the Strategic Plan from the members of our congregation.

Leader: Sherry Deets
Target Date: June of each year





The Women's Group will be meeting on Thursday, Sept. 5th, at 6:30 at the home of Pat Kirkner. Due to extensive activities on Sundays in September, I thought it best to have the meeting on an evening, that best suited the majority of those contacted. We will be discussing how to best spend our monies on the needs of our church buildings and services. Please try to attend, and bring your ideas and suggestions. Our address is 1306 Crestmont Drive, Downingtown.

After we discuss finances, let's make plans for a day or night out, so we can socialize and enjoy each other's company. We are overdue.

-Pat Kirkner, President



Women's Group Report – Sept 2019

Our annual Flea Market was held on Aug. 17th, and was a successful endeavor. After all sales finalized and bills paid, and between the flea market and hot dog sales, we will exceed \$600.00 in net sales! And we couldn't have done this without the generous and inspired donations from parishioners, family and friends. Your offerings were of fine quality and we found many a happy customer attended our sale. Thank you to all who dug into their belongings and found items fitting for our sale.

And big thank you to all who volunteered their time, whether beforehand, in pricing items, or carrying the items into Stone Hall from downstairs, or, most especially, those who worked hard and long the day of the Flea Market. Setting up tables, tents, displays; satisfying the customers; collecting monies; breaking down everything at the end of the day; etc. And thank you to Vic for running the hot dog and drink sales! The proceeds from these two efforts go into the Women's account, for upcoming improvements to sanctuary, sacristy and kitchen needs.



Chicken Barbeque

Thank you to all who bought tickets and promoted our barbeque to neighbors, family and friends. We sold all 128 dinners; with the last customer being served at 4:30.

An extra special thanks to Al Carey for his expert chicken grilling and secret sauce preparation of the main ingredient of our dinners; and for donating the large quantity of charcoal that kept his grills cooking for 8+ hours. The kitchen crew was their usual efficient and friendly selves. Net sales, after expenses, and because of many levels of donations, were over \$900.00. These proceeds go into the Fundraiser account.

Reports submitted by Pat Kirkner, President, Women's Group



Veterans Brunch – August 25, 2019

Even though there were a number of our regular brunch bunch volunteers absent this month, the ones that showed up, as always, rolled up their sleeves and produced another tasty meal for the 35+ veterans that came. They weren't disappointed, as our 19+ volunteers did a wonderful job of making and serving our Italian theme brunch.

This month's meal offerings were scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes, spaghetti with marinara sauce, linguini with alfredo sauce, meatballs, Italian sausage, chicken cacciatore with rigatoni, lasagna, cabbage and pasta with mushrooms in a mustard cream sauce, caprice salad, tossed salad, toasted garlic bread, fresh fruit, wide range of desserts, coffee, juice and water.

One of our visiting veterans, Brother James provided a wonderful blessing for the meal, and also lit the candle at our Missing Man Table. A special thanks to Larry and Rick from Advent in Kennett Square, who have joined us for several months now and look forward to helping us in the future.

We are always looking for new brunch bunch members; come out and participate. You won't be sorry. Many of us have brought our brothers, sisters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to share this worthy, rewarding outreach to those who stepped out and up to serve our country.

God Bless our Veterans, our volunteers and God Bless America!

-Joe Kirkner, Brunch Bunch Representative



Erika Haak	2-Sep
Michael Thompson	10-Sep
Alexander Kirwin	13-Sep
Dorothy Pawling	20-Sep
Jeanine Bush	21-Sep
Curt Jennings	29-Sep
Dana Harvey	30-Sep

Congratulations Corner!!!!

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gail's Sendoff Josephine Hanna's Baptism	Labor Day Office Closed			HE Chapel- 12noon		SH Rented
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Trinity Tea/ Rally Day- Regina Mullins Greenlee, Guest	Thistle Hills Meeting 10AM			HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240		Inurnments Ken Bush & Mary Bush 1PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Vestry Meeting			Deanery Clergy Meeting	HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240		Coatesville Grand Prix SH Rented
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240		
29	30					
Vet Brunch						



Readers, Servers and Greeters for September 2019



Date	Readers	Psalter/P-O-P	Chalists	Servers	Torches	Greeters
9/1	Seth Haak	N/A	Jim Anderson	Jim Anderson	N/A	TBA
	Greg Bentley	Jim Anderson	Donna Fleck	Jim Anderson	N/A	
9/8	Caroline Bentley	N/A	Al Carey	Al Carey	N/A	TBA
	Vic Shanley	Kent Nation	Pam Smyth	Al Carey	N/A	
9/15	Bill Terry	N/A	Craig McGovern	Seth Haak	N/A	TBA
	Dev Devereux	Betty Sullivan	Bill Terry	Craig McGovern	N/A	
9/22	Violet Armstead	N/A	Jim Anderson	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBA
	Pam Smyth	Chris Haak	Pat Kirkner	Pat Kirkner	N/A	
9/29	Greg Bentley	N/A	Paul Cox	Jack McGovern	N/A	TBA
	Craig McGovern	Seth Haak	Bill Terry	Bill Terry	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

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.

Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist

Sundays 9:30 AM

Thursdays 12:00 PM

**Jamoca Harkins,
Parish Administrator**

Parish Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 930am-130pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 330-530pm

Friday: 930am-1230pm

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

Church School

Sundays: 9:15 AM

