



Trinity Topics

From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

I am excited to share an article in our most recent edition of the Diocesan news magazine, *Caminos: Our Roads Together* (Edition 6 Fall 2019) that speaks of Regina Mullins Greenlee's visit to Trinity to speak to us about Thistle Farms and beginning our sister organization, Thistle Hills, here in Coatesville.

The link to the actual article, including color pictures, can be found on our website and our Facebook page. They did a wonderful job in creating the article. Here it is:

'Evening the Playing Field'

After years lost to prostitution, drug addiction and human trafficking, years that cost her custody of her children and a relationship with her family, along with any sense of self-worth, Regina Mullins left prison for the last time in 1997 and found a home— a real home—at Thistle Farms' Magdalene House in Nashville. She clearly recalls the day 22 years ago when she first met Thistle Farms founder and Episcopal priest Becca Stevens. Mullins was just the fifth woman to join the fledgling two-year residential program that provides housing, food, healthcare, therapy and education to women who have survived trafficking, prostitution and addiction—at no charge. She knew most of the other women in the program from the streets or prison. Mullins had serious reservations about entering a program run by a priest in "a black shirt and white collar" who would be "draggin' me to confession all the time." What she encountered instead was a barefoot young woman wearing cutoff shorts and a midriff shirt, carrying her 2-year-old son in her arms.

"That day," Mullins told parishioners at Episcopal Church of the Trinity in Coatesville one recent Sunday morning following the service, "she said to me— and I take it with me everywhere I go because I know it's true because of the people I met before and the people I will meet—she said, 'Regina, if there's a line between priests and prostitutes, it's a very, very thin line.' And that floored me. Because at that moment, somebody made the playing field even. "It didn't matter what you'd done. It didn't matter what anybody had done. What it meant was that everybody—it doesn't mean you have to be an addiction survivor or a trafficking survivor or a prostitution survivor—everybody's got some brokenness. And our job is to be willing to listen, to see where we can help. How can we be God's eyes? How can we be God's hands? How can we be his feet to go?"

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'We Should Do It in Coatesville'

On this Sunday morning, Mullins is on the go to share her inspiring and redemptive story and encourage the congregation of Episcopal Church of the Trinity in Coatesville as they embark on what Rev. Sherry Deets called in her sermon "a new path in our faith adventure:" creating a residential program with a social enterprise piece modeled on the highly successful Thistle Farms program. It would mark the first sister organization of Thistle Farms, known as Thistle Hills, in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Working under the umbrella of the Capstone Legacy Foundation, a Philadelphia-based, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit Christian Community Foundation, the Thistle Hills project has already won approval for a \$300,000 Chester County Community Development Block Grant to purchase and renovate a house located near the church in downtown Coatesville. A house suitable for the women who will live there to call home.

The project also has received a \$7,500 grant from the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust and the diocese's Anti-Human Trafficking Commission covered all expenses for Deets, Deacon Joan Wylie, and Thistle Hills Mission Committee member Jennifer Lopez, who also serves as Executive Director of the Friends Association For Care and Protection of Children, an organization working to help families move out of poverty and homelessness, to attend the national Thistle Farms conference in Nashville earlier this year. Deets expects the \$300,000 Chester County Community Development Block Grant to aid efforts to raise needed startup funding to get the program off the ground. And once it launches, the program will need volunteers. Deets has long been an unabashed fan of Becca Stevens and the Thistle Farms program. "I have every one of her books, I quote her all the time, and I've admired her ministry," she says.

When the Anti Human Trafficking Commission first began looking at starting a Thistle Hills sister program in the Diocese about three years ago, Deets' first reaction was: "We should do it in Coatesville." There were discussions about starting a program in Philadelphia, but Deets says "the idea would not leave me alone. I couldn't sleep. For me, this is kind of how things happen when the Holy Spirit is telling me, 'You're going to do something and I'm not going to let you alone until you do it.' I've also been around long enough to realize it doesn't necessarily happen the way I think it will happen. "So I thought, 'OK, God, I'm going to take the steps and see what happens. Because maybe you're not telling me it will necessarily be a Thistle Farms program, but whatever happens in the process is where we're being led.' I started talking about it in the community, and I was overwhelmed by the positive responses."

A City on the Rise

The timing certainly seems fortuitous. In addition to the residential program, Thistle Hills also has an intriguing social enterprise component that enables the women to learn new job skills and earn a living wage to support themselves. As an added bonus, the profits generated by the business stay in the community to support the residential program. Once again, it's modeled on Thistle Farms, which started its social enterprise with candle-making when Mullins was a resident there. It has since blossomed into a global business that includes everything from essential oils and personal care products such as lotion, body balm, and bath salts to clothing, accessories, and jewelry, among other

items. Coatesville is currently in the midst of revitalization efforts that are bearing fruit. Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance is a public-private partnership working to build the city's capacity to improve current conditions, stabilize the socio-economic stature of the city, foster economic development, and bring resources and community partners together. The city is also Chester County's only Opportunity Zone, a federal community development program that encourages private equity investment in low-income communities. "It would be great here. It just seems this would be a perfect community for that, especially with all the new development that's going to be happening here and the way this community looks out for each other," Deets says. Examples of social enterprises from other Thistle Hills sister organizations include hand-crafted leather products, honey and granola, earrings, coffee shops, blankets, art studios, selling products of other artisans, and much more. "We need to figure out exactly what that social enterprise piece will be," Deets says.

'Love Is the Most Powerful Force for Change in the World'

Some places where Thistle Hills programs have started began with the social enterprise component. But Deets says she believes that starting with the residential program is important for women who are coming out of the trauma of human trafficking, addiction, and prostitution. "What makes this program so successful is the two-year residential piece. It is the offering of a comfortable home for these women to live in, and everything is provided for them," Deets says. "Their medical needs are met, their spiritual needs are met, their mental health needs are met. They're provided food, care and shelter for two full years. But during that time, there's some intensive work, especially at the beginning, on recovery. "I recognized that two years was a key in helping people get their lives transformed."

Mullins is living proof. "Regina is a living, breathing example of how love is the most powerful force for change in the world," Deets said as she introduced her. Today, Mullins, who has been clean for 23 years, is married and has custody of her children. She has studied theology at a Nashville university, and spent the past two decades working at Thistle Farms "to bring this gift of another chance" to women all across the country. Recently, she started her own nationwide consulting business with Thistle Farms sister organizations, including the Coatesville project. "You guys have offered me the chance to come here to say the women in Coatesville, the people in Coatesville, are about to have their minds blown because of Thistle Hills," Mullins told parishioners. "It's coming. It's going to be a refuge to so many women who are feeling what I felt all those years ago. Hopeless. Helpless. Loveless. Worthless. And this community is about to spread grace, mercy, and love and let [those women] know you have a home, not a house. You have a home to come home to." When the Thistle Hills program opens in Coatesville, women who have traveled the same hard road as Mullins will have the opportunity to discover the grace and mercy and love that she found at Thistle Farms more than two decades ago. "God heard me when I said I can't go back to those streets," she said. "God didn't forget me. I just believed the lie that He didn't love me."

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 December 15th.

Community Christmas Caroling in Coatesville, Sunday, December 8th

On Sunday, December 8th there is a second annual Holiday Caroling event in downtown Coatesville. We will begin at the Coatesville Senior Center and follow a walking route assisted by Lt. Audette from the Coatesville Police Department. Please arrive at the Senior Center (250 Harmony Street/Martin Luther King) by 1:45 p.m. Caroling begins at 2 p.m. and goes until 4 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting at the Senior Center. A packet of holiday songs and carols will be provided. Please feel free to bring additional carols, songs, music, jingle bells, small instruments and the like. The goal is to bring the local churches together, foster positive outreach, promote the good of our Coatesville community and celebrate the joy of the season. Please come dressed in attire necessary for the time of the year and wear appropriate shoes for walking.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 7th, ***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!

Sunday, December 8th, ***Community Christmas Caroling***

Please arrive at the Senior Center (250 Harmony Street/Martin Luther King) by 1:45 p.m. Caroling begins at 2 p.m. and goes until 4 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting at the Senior Center.

Saturday, December 14th, ***Breakfast with Santa***

Join us for one of the best Breakfast with Santa's in the area. Begins on the 14th at 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, hash browns and Santa Claus!

Adults \$7; Seniors \$6.00 Children (4-10) \$4; under three are free. Join us for a wonderful time.

Tuesday, 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 service on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 29th, ***Lessons and Carols with Communion***

Our tradition of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas continues. This is 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-2019

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 6th.

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: _____



THE
Best Breakfast Buffet
Fundraiser

Saturday, December 14th, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

Santa Claus!



Adults \$7.00

Seniors (65+) \$6.00

Children (4-10) \$4.00

(3 & under = Free)

Episcopal Church of the Trinity

323 E. Lincoln Highway

Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-4771



Stewardship

Stewardship is the word used by Trinity to describe how our congregation cares for our church. Each autumn, we ask members to prayerfully consider what Trinity means to them, and to make a pledge of financial support, if possible, for the upcoming year. In many denominations, it is expected that a 10% "tithe" be given to the church. That has always made me uncomfortable. I believe each person and family has to be good stewards of their own finances as well as the church, and each situation is unique. Everyone's circumstances can and do change- for better or for worse. That is why I prefer the idea that each contribution to the church occur after a conversation with God, if you will. Let Him know your inmost thoughts and concerns and hopes and dreams, and together come up with an appropriate share of your resources for the church. Your pledge is not binding- you can adjust it at any time. We do, however, count pledges in our budget, so if there will be a material shortfall, it is important that we know. (Just tell Minnie in confidence.) As always, if you have the capacity to increase your pledge, we would be especially grateful for the help filling the gap left by faithful pledgers who have moved or died. Hopefully, you have received my letter and a pledge card in the mail. If not, stop by the office for extras.

Good Stewardship encompasses much more than money. Your contributions of time and talent are vitally important also, and so appreciated. Your many volunteer hours spent cooking, cleaning and polishing, singing with the choir, teaching Sunday school, mowing grass, attending Vestry meetings, reading in church, repairing things, serving on the altar guild and so much more are what keep our church functioning. THANK YOU!!!!

Pam Smyth, Stewardship Chair



VETERANS BRUNCH, November 24th

Even though the weather was not enjoyable before the brunch, that didn't seem to dampen the spirits of all the brunch bunch participants who came and helped pull off another great event.

This month we had 27 Veterans attend and 30 volunteers who helped in dozens of ways. Experiencing the laughter and chatter and working side-by-side while preparing a menu of love and nourishment is why we continue to come out and do what we do.

The selections prepared this month were scrambled eggs, bacon, blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes, roasted potatoes with onions and peppers, pork tenderloin with Dijon mustard sauce, sweet and sour beef, buttered egg noodles, kielbasa and sauerkraut, buttered peas and carrots, Penna. Dutch sweet and sour cabbage, corn pudding, macaroni salad, coleslaw, homemade applesauce, fresh fruit, desserts, juice, apple cider, coffee, and water.

Sincere thanks to Larry and Rick from Advent in Kennett Square; friends and family Rachel & Mason, Donna, and Bruce Roberts for all their help. A special hats-off to Paul Cox for taking pictures and for delivering two meals to Ray Hulse, our longtime brunch bunch member who is currently homebound.

Reach out and thank a veteran when you see one; you'll be glad you did. And especially on Nov. 11th, Veterans Day. God Bless our Veterans, Trinity Church, and God Bless America. Brunch Bunch



Church Security Symposium

The upcoming symposium on security and preparedness will be hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church on March 14, 2020. The location of this symposium will be advised, based on response and outcome of feedback from all the houses of worship in Coatesville and surrounding areas.

Local law enforcement and various agencies will conduct the symposium, provide inspections of our facilities and conduct some role-playing scenarios.

As we approach our gathering in March, we will have an informational gathering at Trinity to explain the program, encourage our congregation to attend, and be informed of what to do in the event of an emergency.



Jennifer Chance	2-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
Bill Terry	25-Dec
Linda Hammond	30-Dec
Velda Baynard	31-Dec
Betty Sullivan	31-Dec

Congratulations Corner!!!!

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Sight & Sound Trip	HE Chapel- <u>12noon</u> Yoga 1240pm	Secret Sister Potluck 6pm	Coatesville <u>Christmas Parade</u> Diane Umile 1230-4pm Hall
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Community Caroling				HE Chapel- <u>12noon</u> Yoga 1240pm		Breakfast with Santa 9-11AM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
SH Rented				HE Chapel- <u>12noon</u> Yoga 1240pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve <u>5pm Family Svc</u> 1030pm Candlelight	Christmas Day	Office Closed	Office Closed	Lisa & Eric's Wedding
29	30	31				
Lessons & Carols	Office Closed	Office Closed				



Readers, Servers and Greeters for December 2019



Date	Readers	Psalter/P-O-P	Chalists	Servers	Torch es	Greeters
12/1	Dev Devereux	N/A	Jim Anderson	Seth Haak	N/A	TBA
	Betty Sullivan	Craig McGovern	Paul Cox	Jim Anderson	N/A	
12/8	Vic Shanley	N/A	Al Carey	Jack McGovern	N/A	TBA
	Bill Terry	Chris Haak	Donna Fleck	Al Carey	N/A	
12/15	Greg Bentley	N/A	Pat Kirkner	Zoe McGovern	N/A	TBA
	Violet Armstead	Pam Smyth	Craig McGovern	Pat Kirkner	N/A	
12/22	Jim Anderson	N/A	Pam Smyth	Craig McGovern	N/A	TBA
	Seth Haak	Dev Devereux	Bill Terry	Craig McGovern	N/A	
12/24	Vic Shanley	N/A	Al Carey	Al Carey	N/A	TBA
	Bill Terry	Chris Haak	Bill Terry	Jim Anderson	N/A	
12/29	TBA	N/A	Pat Kirkner	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBA
	TBA	TBA	Craig McGovern	Pat Kirkner	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