



# Trinity Topics

## From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share that we have discovered our first Executive Director/Program Manager for Thistle Hills. Kaitlin begins on February 8<sup>th</sup>. In thanksgiving and gratefulness for her arrival in our community I share more wise words from the new book by Survivors, Advocates and Becca Stevens of Thistle Farms, entitled "Find Your Way" – 20 Practices That Tie Us Together.

This excerpt is from chapter 14 *Living in Gratitude*:

*Everything is a gift, so we can offer and accept everything with gratitude. Gratitude is a sign of health and faith. We have been given everything we need to make a journey in love, so we can offer any gifts we have to others with no strings attached.*

*Gifts given over and over eventually come around, so the circle of love is completed. Everyone is giving, and everyone is receiving when everyone feels grateful.*

*I had to "Live in Gratitude". Leaving behind the judgement of others. Accepting the crosses I have to bear. Realizing I am who I was created to be, instead of trying to find who I should become, set me free. I found humility in gratitude. I found grace and I found mercy.*

*Gratitude is an action. You take care of what you're grateful for. When I say, "I'm grateful for my recovery," you'll see me go to meetings with a sponsor. I take action in my recovery. When I say, "I'm grateful for my home," you'll see me cleaning my house, tending to my yard, making my bed. Taking care of what you're grateful for—my thankful words turned into grateful actions. - Naomi Hagan – Graduate, Oasis of Northeast Arkansas; Sister Community of Thistle Farms.*

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## Vestry Meeting

Our next regular Vestry meeting is scheduled for the third Sunday of the month, which is February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

## Thistle Farms Products for Sale at Trinity!

We have some amazing, high quality products created at Thistle Farms for sale through Trinity. Thistle Hills and Trinity have partnered to provide this opportunity and when you purchase a product through Trinity, you are helping both Thistle Farms and Thistle Hills whose mission involves transforming the lives of women who have been trafficked and addicted. The profits from the sales will go directly to the Coatesville based Thistle Hills ministry. A product list is available through our website <https://www.trinitycoatesville.org/> and click on the appropriate box for the ability to download a current document listing the products available.

## Healing Service via Zoom: Thursdays at Noon

We are offering a Healing Service via Zoom on Thursdays at Noon. The Zoom link is emailed via our Constant Contact email service on Wednesdays along with a copy of the order of service for the week. The order of service is also shared on the screen during the service itself. We commemorate a "saint" from the Episcopal Church utilizing the resource 'A Great Cloud of Witnesses' and share a little healing music from a variety of sources.

## Ash Wednesday

The Ash Wednesday liturgy, will occur via Live-Stream on February 17th at 7 p.m. with Music in the Sanctuary. This is a moving liturgy and sets the tone for the church season and spirituality of Lent. Lent is a time of repentance - a word which means "to return". It is a yearly reminder of the daily call to come home to God.

Many have gone without communion for close to one year and until more of us can be vaccinated, we remain concerned about the safety and health of our members. Therefore, we are offering for our members to schedule a pick-up of consecrated wafers to use during the Ash Wednesday service. You will need to contact the church office either via phone 610-384-4771 or email [trinitycoates@aol.com](mailto:trinitycoates@aol.com) to let us know you wish to pick-up consecrated wafers and for how many. We will have the packages available for pick-up on Tuesday, February 16 from 12 Noon through 7:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 11 a.m. through 2 p.m. If neither of these pick-up times work for you, we will work out another time for you.

## Volunteers Needed

Our beloved Violet Armstead has finally returned from a long stay in rehab following surgery for a femur fracture soon after a hip replacement. She is going to need a number of volunteers to take turns checking in on her a couple of times a day. If you might be willing to be one of those volunteers, please leave a message at the Trinity office (610-384-4771) or email Minnie Kirwin at [marion.kirwin@gmail.com](mailto:marion.kirwin@gmail.com)

## New!

### Contemporary Service at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb 7

Trinity is taking advantage of technology and trying some a little different. We have a small live-stream crew that is willing to experiment with a different style of worship, which is primarily about experience a different style of music. We are going live for the first time on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Like our regular Sunday worship service, the videos will find a home on our Trinity Facebook page and YouTube channel for you to check out later. This is one way we are seeking to reach new people who may prefer a different style of music. The current plan is to offer this worship experience on the first Sunday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

### Absalom Jones – Diocesan Celebration on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Held Virtually

The weekend of February 13<sup>th</sup> our diocese will celebrate the feast of Blessed Absalom Jones. The Rev. Absalom Jones was born into slavery and became the first black priest ordained in The Episcopal Church - ordained right here in our diocese. This bold and prophetic action testifies to the historic, revolutionary character of our diocese and had a profound impact on the entirety of The Episcopal Church.

Our celebration of Blessed Absalom will take place in two parts. The first will be an [online service of worship and celebration](#) on Saturday, February 13, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Rev. Canon Jordan Casson and the Absalom Jones Planning Committee will offer an engaging presentation on the legacy of Absalom Jones in our diocese followed by uplifting worship from The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. **Please register for the celebration here: <http://absalomjonesvideo.com/>**

It is my sincere hope that everyone in our diocese will attend this online service. Not only is it an opportunity to gather for worship, it is also a chance to deepen our understanding of this pioneer of racial justice and reaffirm our commitment to confronting and dismantling the sin of systemic racism. In his Petition to the United States Congress in

1799, Jones wrote, “...the extending of justice and equity to all Classes would be a means of drawing down the blessing of Heaven upon this Land, for the Peace and Prosperity of which, and the real happiness of every member of the Community...”

The second part of our celebration of Blessed Absalom continues in our churches on Sunday the 14th as I have requested that his propers be substituted for the normal readings. In this way, even more of us may find inspiration in his legacy. Through our commemoration of this saint and the ensuing work of the Loving Presence initiative, we are taking vital steps towards becoming the Beloved Community that Jesus Christ calls us to be.

Please join me in commemorating this great and beloved son of our diocese. - Bishop Daniel

### Annual Meeting – Going Virtual in March

Church of the Trinity’s annual meeting will be held in March (date to be finalized at Feb Vestry meeting). We elect members to Vestry and Convention/Deanery delegates at our annual meeting. Be thinking about who would be a good vestry member or delegate as our Annual Meeting approaches. We will be seeking nominations.

The vestry is the body within a congregation that, with the clergy, leads and manages the parish. The vestry:

- Helps to discern the vision toward which God is drawing that particular community;
- Articulates and communicates the vision;
- Holds the community accountable for its realization of that vision; and
- Keeps the mission of the Church and that of the individual congregation clearly before the parish community.
- Works on budgeting
- Establishes and enforces policies and procedures
- Establishes action plans
- Maintains property.

The deanery/convention delegates are elected to represent Trinity at our annual Diocesan Convention and vote for people in Diocesan leadership positions, the Diocesan Budget, various changes or new initiatives in our Diocese, etc. These representatives may also be called upon to attend local Deanery meetings once or twice a year.

This year we will be holding the annual meeting virtually via Zoom to ensure the safety of our members during COVID. We will also be utilizing our constant contact email service to provide the annual reports and other written materials for our annual meeting. Please keep an eye out for those emails! During the annual meeting itself, the Vestry and I would like your involvement in discussing the

questions that the Bishop presented several months ago. Those questions are regarding the challenge of our future and have been sent out in prior communications and are also included here. At our February vestry meeting we will choose a couple/few questions that we feel best address Trinity and our future. Those questions will be shared in advance of the annual meeting and during the annual meeting we will break up into small groups for you to discuss. Don't worry, the zoom host/system will automatically send you into 'breakout groups' and bring you back. If for no other reason, please join the annual meeting Zoom so that we can "see" your beautiful faces! Stay tuned for more detailed information regarding how we will vote, etc.

### **The Challenge of the Future – from the Bishop's Letter**

*The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:9*

Above all, I look at this time of COVID as an opportunity for the future. In 2021 and 2022 your diocesan staff will continue to focus on supporting our churches. In particular, the Canons will increase their commitment, focusing 100% of their efforts on churches and community. But this is also a time to learn and grow. Our church has a strong foundation, an apostolic structure that helps form our community and prayer life. However, that does not necessarily mean that our administrative systems have to operate in an antiquated fashion. We have learned so much and made progress in our use of technology in a way that no one would have dreamed possible. It has left me wondering, what else might we accomplish, if we shed our fear and look to the future that God has for us?

In my next conversations with the Trustees and with Standing Committee, I would like for us to begin to discern some essential, fundamental, and prayerful questions that will guide us through the next two years and help frame our entry into our long-term pilgrimage as a diocese. I also ask that you contemplate these questions.

1. What will the post-COVID church look like?
2. As a church, are we challenging ourselves and one another in our ministries, outreach, and evangelism? If not, how can we meet the challenge?
3. What ministries are more critical at this time than others?
4. How can we maximize the efficacy and impact of our existing ministries?
5. What existing ministries can we consolidate?
6. Are we the only entity that can carry out the work, or are there other entities that can take it on, allowing us to concentrate on our most essential ministries?
7. How can churches partner in outreach? Is it necessary to have 3 food pantries all within the same community? If they combined their efforts, could they serve more people more efficiently?
8. How can we partner with other faith traditions or private entities for outreach and ministry?
9. How do we use our campuses seven days a week? What can we do to ensure that they are centers of community life and service all the time? What can we do to open them up to organizations that lost their buildings due to COVID?
10. How can we consolidate our administrative functions at both a diocesan and church level so that we can deliver the same effective results but at a lower cost?
11. What components of the diocesan structures can be restructured and realigned? Deaneries? The budget? Our process for resolutions? Etc....

12. How can our diocesan churches partner with one another on all levels of administration and staffing so as to be able to function more efficiently?
13. How can we use the talents that are abundant among our laity to assist one another? Who will accept the challenge of the Holy Spirit to step up and reach out?
14. Do we need to start over and rebuild from the ground up?

We should also capitalize on what we have learned. How can we engage in ministry remotely without losing effectiveness, presence, or sacrificing our core identity? We must not stop but instead look to discern:

1. How can we maximize video conferencing?
2. How can we make use of technology to spread the Good News?
3. Do all the committees need to meet in person every month, or should we utilize the new technologies to reduce our footprint on the environment?
4. What is the future of office work?
5. How will these factors impact our budgets and use of space?

The fundamental question is: “what is Christ calling us to do?”

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. Ephesians 4:11-14*

## **Our Diocesan Weekly Newsletter is for You, Too**

By clicking on this link in your electronic copy of Trinity Topics: <https://tinyurl.com/yyqf375b> , you will be taken to the web page where you can sign up for the weekly newsletter from the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. There are good things going on in our Diocese, and it is heartening to know that our church in Coatesville is not alone out here in Chester County! There are several newsletters available from the Diocese, but I recommend the “Weekly Newsletter.” Note: this will NOT bring more spam into your mailbox.

## **2021 Trinity Budget**

The vestry has not yet approved the 2021 operating fund budget since we are still hoping that a few more pledges will keep us from passing a deficit budget. If you had planned on pledging, but have not yet done so, please let the Trinity office know as soon as possible. Thanks so much to those who have pledged.

Minnie Kirwin, Treasurer



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**Aaron Bruce 3-Feb**  
**Violet Armstead 9-Feb**  
**Michael Magness 10-Feb**  
**Andrew Bentley 13-Feb**  
**Martha Rutledge 14-Feb**  
**Patricia Hendricks 17-Feb**  
**Victor Shanley III 20-Feb**  
**Patricia Vogt 22-Feb**  
**Jamoca Harkins 25-Feb**  
**Kent Nation 26-Feb**  
**Laverne Cheatham 27-Feb**

**Craig & Nicole McGovern 22-Feb**

**February 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Healing Service 12noon		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Contemporary Service Live Stream 4:30 PM				Healing Service 12noon		Absalom Jones Diocesan Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day	President's Day Office Closed		Ash Wednesday Service Live Stream 7pm	Healing Service 12noon		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Vestry 1130am Zoom				Healing Service 12noon		
28						

**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-Friday: 530-730pm**

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

**Church School**

**Sundays: 9:15 AM**



