

Trinity Topics

From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

Dear Friends,

The weather is finally turning warmer, and many will be planting gardens, flowers, etc. this month after the possibility of a frost is past. Joyce Rupp, in her book, *May I Have This Dance? An Invitation to Faithful Prayer Throughout the Year* writes about gardening:

Working in a garden can be hard work. I don't mind digging out weeds and I like to gather vegetables and fruit, but I detest readying the soil for the planting. After a long, hard winter the ground can be packed solid from heavy snows or pelting, drenching rains. The soil can be difficult to turn over. It resists the hoe or the garden tiller and it may take many hours of tiring work before the earth is soft and porous.

This part of gardening is essential, however, if green shoots are to push their way through the soil. A garden that has a hard, packed surface will not be able to receive the life-giving moisture of the spring rains. The water will run off and fail to soak the soil. Earth that is turned over is essential for a garden's watering.

The human spirit is much like a spring garden. If growth is to happen, it too must be made ready. The human spirit must be opened up if God's goodness is to grow there. Open minds and hearts are ready to receive the abundant life God constantly offers.

This kind of opening up is at the heart of the Easter story. It begins with a wide-open tomb. Beside it stands a messenger of God asking compassionate women to open their inner selves, encouraging them not to be afraid. As they listen they hear a profound and startling message: "He is not here, for he has risen..." As their minds and hearts struggle to accept this tremendous surprise they are like gardens being readied for watering. The women open their hearts to the great announcement, receive the word of resurrection like thirsty soil, and hurry away to share the marvelous news with others.

In our personal experiences of resurrection, there is the element of surrender and vulnerability. We are required to let go of our own agenda. We would like to plan this

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watering and refreshing of our souls ourselves. Just as surely as we find the date for Easter on the calendar, we want to know when our hearts will be filled with joy again.

We also need to let go of our fearful questions: If I open up, will I be watered and nourished? Or will I be left open to dry out? Will I be barren and empty? Or will I be drenched and swallowed up by rains that never seem to stop? It can be difficult to let go of our insecurity. We are called to wait, to be open, expectant, and ready, believing with all our hearts that new growth will come.

God is with us, providing for us, watering our inner gardens. We will not be washed away nor will we be left dry forever. We simply must wait, in hope, with open minds and hearts. The rains will come and when they do, they will sing in our soul like an Easter alleluia.

As we enter into the resurrection stories [in church this May] let us hear God coaxing us to be open like the way a welcome rainfall coaxes green out of a thirsty, dry garden. Let us hear God saying to us:

- Open up your mind and heart
- Put aside your strong expectations
- Lay down the arms of your inner violence
- Give up your set ideas
- Turn away from your winter worries
- Let go of your oppressive fears
- Be willing to be insecure for a while
- Allow surprise to take over your heart

Easter is about openness, about God coaxing growth from the turned over soil of our spirits. God waters the gardens of our hearts. Are we open and ready to receive the seeds of grace? Will the green shoot of divine life spring up in our inner gardens?

Last Bible Study before Summer Break Monday, May 5 at 11 a.m.

Our last Monday gathering for Bible Study, before the summer break, will be on Monday, May 5th.

Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference May 12 – 14

Pastor Sherry will be out of the office for the Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at Camelback on Monday, May 12 through Wednesday, May 14th.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, May 18 at 11 a.m.

The regular monthly Vestry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 18 at 11 a.m. (after grabbing some coffee hour goodies) in the social hall.

May 2025 Community Happenings by Liz Hulse

May 2nd Bridges Out of Poverty- sponsored by 2nd Century Alliance from **9:00 AM – 12:30 PM** at **Greater Deliverance Development Outreach 800 S. 1st Ave, Coatesville.** Registration required. You can register at <https://kacsimpact.org/events/> or you can phone Clark Davis at KACs 610-925-3556 or email him at clark@KACSImpact.org

May 3rd Empower Her- 11:00-3:00 at Gateway Church, 160 Cowan Rd., Parkesburg *for a day of empowerment, education, and celebration designed to honor and enhance the well-being of women in our community! BP screenings, Community-based resources, activities for kids, free raffles. Call 610-738-2300 for more information*

May 4th Noon-2pm “Hope in a Divided World: Lesson from Dietrich Bonhoeffer” Presented by **Dan Hinkle** at Messiah Lutheran, 49 West Lancaster Ave, Downingtown. Open to the public, lunch provided. Free will offering accepted for Thistle Hills Ministry.

Sharing Hope Events: 2 special gatherings for Black and African Ancestry community members sponsored by NAMI & the NAACP, offering a safe, supportive space to talk openly about mental health and wellness. In-person on May 7,21,28, 6:00-7:30 at 744 Lincoln Hwy, 4th floor, Coatesville. Dinner provided Online May 2,9,16 6:00-7:30 Questions? Contact info@namichescopa.org or call 610-871-1405

Chester County Hospital Wellness programs for May can be found at

<https://www.chestercountyhospital.org/community-wellness-and-education>

There are events (some on zoom) with information on cardiac support, blood pressure screenings, nutrition and weight management, trauma and mental health, diabetes, cancer support and much more. Two activities under “**Senior Health**” “Physical Activity: the Arthritis Pain Reliever” (this helps me every day!) and May 22 12-1:00pm “How to Write Your Memoir”

Bikes: Coatesville Youth Initiative has a program to help those needing a bike to acquire one. If you are in need of a bike or would like to donate a bike, or if you have any questions, please contact Sammy at 610-380-0200 ext. 207 or samantha@coatesvilleyouthinitiative.org.



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Carl Croft | 2-May |
| Jill Hayes | 4-May |
| Michael Fazio | 5-May |
| Beatrix Kirwin | 6-May |
| Connor McWilliams | 11-May |
| Greg Bentley | 12-May |
| Tony Carroll | 12-May |
| Donald Carron | 16-May |
| Hailey Crane-Grubb | 17-May |
| Zoe McGovern | 24-May |
| Jack McGovern | 24-May |
| Debra Tillotson | 27-May |
| Kathleen Deets Price | 28-May |
| Beth Fazio | 29-May |
| Al Carey Sr. | 30-May |

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|---------------------------------|---------------|
| John & Minnie Kirwin | 26-May |
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Readers, Servers and Greeters for May 2025

| Date | Readers | Psalm | Prayers |
|------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5/4 | Vic Shanley | Deborah Murray | Bill Terry |
| 5/11 | Pat Bush | Minnie Kirwin | Erika Haak |
| 5/18 | Paul Shidlowksi | Kent Nation | Greg Bentley |
| 5/25 | James Gaddy | Chris Haak | Deborah Murray |

May 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | First Friday in Coatesville | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| SH Rented | Bible Study 1130AM | AA 430PM Using the Kitchen | | Healing Service 12noon | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Mother's Day | | AA 7PM | | Healing Service 12noon | | SH Rented |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Vestry Meeting 11am | | AA 7PM | | Healing Service 12noon | | SH Rented |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | Memorial Day Office Closed | AA 7PM | | Healing Service 12noon | | |

THE EPISCOPAL 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

Church School
Sundays: 9:15 AM

Healing Service
Thursdays via Zoom:
12:00 PM

Jamoca Harkins,
Parish Administrator

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 4-7 PM