

TRINITY TOPICS

AUGUST 2026

Some Non-Spiritual News

While my job is spiritual leader of Trinity, as you know, an older church comes with its share of building maintenance issues. While I would much rather talk about how cool Jesus is, or where God is working in your life, or how I think the Holy Spirit has a great sense of humor, I also do a lot of building management in my role. As we move into the fall, I'd like to give you an update on where some important building projects stand so you're aware of all the work that goes into building upkeep. All your vestry members play a role in this, but a special thanks goes out to Joe Lee, our junior warden, Joe and Pat Kirkner, who truly give their full devotion to this place, Buster Updegrove, who has pitched in on all kinds of projects, and our senior warden and treasurer, Chris Haak and Minnie Kirwin.

Basement and city codes

As you may be aware, when Trinity went through major flooding in 2021, there was substantial damage to the basement. However, when work was done, permits were not sought after by the church or its contractors. This put us into a bind when we applied for a permit for the emergency electrical work in the winter.

The diocese is paying for a consultant who is walking us through the situation with the city. In the coming weeks, we will be seeking a permit that will cover all this work and ensure the building is within code as it relates to our basement. We have had two lengthy site meetings in the last month or so, and I anticipate this will be fully resolved this fall.

Basement Water Issues

This has long plagued Trinity, including multiple backups of the basement toilets this year. We tried jetting it, ran cameras, and even had Pennsylvania American Water out in the back digging up what they thought was a trap that needed replacement (it was fine). However, we think the culprit may have been a grease trap that had not been cleaned out in 10 years. We are waiting and seeing what happens next, but since the grease trap has been cleaned out, there have not been backups.

Thanks to everyone who has shown up with squeegees and ShopVacs on this situation, ready to help!

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CHURCH OF THE TRINITY

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Sabbath day: Friday



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Some Non-Spiritual News

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Update on appliances in the kitchen

As many of you know, one of our ovens stopped working the day of the chicken BBQ! However, the oven and dishwasher have been repaired. It will take the dishwasher time to come up to temperature - it's older. As I write this, the catering refrigerator is out of service, pending the delivery of a part. In all cases, repair was a far better financial decision than replacing the appliances. That said, there is a cost to a commercial kitchen, and it is worth considering what role a commercial kitchen plays in our long-term plans for Trinity. If you know someone who is looking for a regular commercial kitchen rental, please have them reach out to us!

New Church Bookkeeper

We have hired an online bookkeeper, which is the wave of the future! There are some changes to how reimbursements work with the new service – please read Minnie’s article on the right for more details. Please remain patient - change is always hard, and we are still working out the very normal bugs that come with this sort of new process.

We have so many good things to look forward to: Rally Day, the Blessing of the Animals, a Christmas Hymn and Carol Sing fundraiser, and Breakfast with Santa. Our Paper Pantry is ready to open in the next few weeks, and we have had a wonderful summer with interns from the Coatesville Youth Initiative. I cannot wait to see what God will do next with us!

-Rev. Kristen

Reimbursement from Trinity

Some of you may make purchases for supplies or services for Trinity and then seek reimbursement. Since we have gone to a virtual bookkeeper, you have choices in how you are reimbursed. We are starting to gain an understanding of the timing for each option.

1. I can write a paper check from Trinity which should be ready in about a week.
2. The virtual bookkeeper can make an ACH payment into your bank account, which could take a week or a bit more.
3. The virtual bookkeeper could send you a check, which could take a couple of weeks.

The virtual bookkeeper uses Melio to process payments, so you could receive an email from Melio the first time a payment for you is processed. Also on the horizon is a Trinity credit card that could be borrowed for a short period of time to make a purchase. We are trying to limit the number of handwritten checks but are glad to write one if timing is of the essence. I am happy to entertain questions.

-Minnie Kirwin, Treasurer

Mutual Ministry Review

By Chris Haak

Part of the letter of agreement that Trinity has with Kristen calls for a mutual ministry review between Kristen and the parish. To begin that process, the vestry met with the Rev. Canon Jane Gober during our retreat earlier this summer. Many of you will remember Canon Jane from the discernment process that led to calling Kristen as our Priest-in-Charge last year. She also led a Sunday service at Trinity shortly before Kristen’s arrival.

Our hope is that this review and the conversations that follow will help us decide whether Trinity should call Kristen as our permanent rector. That decision will take time, care, and prayer.

During our time with Canon Jane, we completed an exercise to look at where Trinity and Kristen share similar expectations and needs. The encouraging news is that both sides named many of the same things. The vestry has a good sense of what Kristen needs from Trinity to do her job well, and Kristen has a clear understanding of what Trinity needs from her.

Kristen and the vestry each made two lists:

1. what the priest needs from Trinity, and
2. what Trinity needs from the priest.

We worked separately at first, then came together to compare what we wrote. The goal wasn’t to match our answers, but to see where our expectations lined up and where they differed.

What we found was encouraging. On the question of what the priest needs from Trinity, both Kristen and the vestry named clear communication, shared decision making, dependable administrative support, and respect for personal boundaries. Both also agreed that Trinity works best when the congregation is active and engaged, not just watching from the sidelines.

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Rally Day 2026



Our annual Trinity Rally Day event will be held on **Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 AM** at Runnymede. Rally Day is a highlight of our church calendar, where we enjoy an outdoor worship service, blessing of the backpacks, catered lunch by Triple Fresh Market, swimming, hayrides, and fellowship with our Trinity friends. We are most grateful to the Bentley family for their generous and warm hospitality.

Runnymede is the Bentley family's beautiful country farm setting and working thoroughbred farm. It's all but guaranteed that you'll have a fantastic time. Transportation from the church will be available, and accessible travel via golf cart at the farm from the parking area to the event is also available. Bring your children, grandchildren, and friends for a memorable day together!

In the event of inclement weather, we'll be moving the event to Stone Hall. The decision to move it will be made the afternoon before (Sat). It is critical that we have the contact info – email and cell phone – of everyone planning to attend so we can alert you to the change, if needed. So please make sure either Vic or Joe Kirkner has this when you sign up.

Stay tuned for more details regarding RSVP procedures and timing. See you there!

-Vic

Mutual Ministry Review

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These points show that we share a clear understanding of how Trinity can support its priest in a healthy and sustainable way. We also saw strong agreement about what Trinity needs from its priest. Both lists included spiritual guidance, consistency, empathy, patience, honesty, and a willingness to teach and stay connected with the congregation. The vestry's list closely matched Kristen's own sense of what the role requires, which tells us we're starting from the same expectations.

There were a few differences in emphasis. Kristen pointed to the need for clearer administrative structures and defined responsibilities, while the vestry focused more on steady leadership and active participation from the congregation. Kristen also named a desire for more intentional opportunities for spiritual growth, while the vestry emphasized ongoing guidance and teaching. These aren't disagreements — just helpful differences that give us direction for the next steps.

Overall, the exercise showed that Trinity and Kristen already share a solid understanding of what a healthy priest-and-congregation relationship looks like. That gives us a good foundation as we continue the mutual ministry review and our broader discernment.

Looking ahead, the vestry plans to continue this review later this year. We hope the next phase will help us build on what we've learned, strengthen how we work together, and support Trinity's ongoing discernment about long-term leadership. We'll keep the congregation updated as things move forward.

Pizza and Prayers



Have a kid in your life, ages 8-12 (approximately?). Join us for an occasional "Pizza and Prayers" gathering. We will gather on Aug. 9 for our first meeting, 4-6 p.m.! We will have a "Formation Five" with prayers, then have fun! RSVP by the morning of the meeting so Rev.

Kristen can order enough pizza! Your kids can bring friends, too! We will have some fun outdoor water games and a craft.

We hope to make this an occasional program for the kids, in addition to our regular Sunday School. It's a great way to invite grandkids or the neighborhood to come and have fun with us, and see what we are all about!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tide Over Pantry Opens

As we try to meet the needs of our neighbors, we are opening our Paper Pantry - an expansion of the Tide Over Pantry. We are starting by serving the families of Coatesville Kids to College and plan to work with other organizations to provide basic human dignity items like paper products, soap and shampoo. We will continue our twice-weekly restocks of shelf stable items in the Tide Over Pantry, as well. This is being funded with donations of money, microgrants, and goods.



Do you work in an office where we can set out a bin for collections? See Rev. Kristen! We will need occasional volunteers (limited time commitment!) to host visits from our guests using the pantry.

Interested in Purchasing Original Artwork?

Our art on the walls is from our very own Ariel Abbott. Please take a moment to enjoy her incredible talent, which will be on display for the rest of the summer in Trinity's hallway. Interested in owning one of her books? Click on the button in the weekly email to use the order form. There is a limited number, and they are only available until September.

1. **"Phoebe's Mental Health Journey"** - a comic book to support mental health awareness for youth. Moonbeam Bronze Book Award 2021 in the category of The Best Book by Author under 18-year-old & Girl Scouts Gold Award 2021.
2. **Digital illustration print: "Kabuki Otome"** - The Japanese piece. The biography: This artwork is inspired by Ariel's favorite song from the band "Gesu no Kiwami Otome" called Kabuki Otome. Kabuki is a type of traditional Japanese theatre and drama performance, primarily done by only men and characterized by dramatic acting and exaggerated poses. Ariel saw a Kabuki performance in Ginza, Tokyo, while she studied abroad, and it was one of her favorite experiences. In this piece she wanted to show a woman in a Kabuki outfit and makeup (Kumadori) since the title of the song "Kabuki Otome" means "Kabuki Maiden."
3. **Photography print: "Top of St. Peters Catholic Church"** - Elizabethtown, PA. It was performed at 30th Annual Juried Student Art Show, Elizabethtown College, PA, April 9th - 21st, 2026.
4. **Photography print: "Turn Around Girls"** - Longwood Gardens, PA. It was performed at 30th Annual Juried Student Art Show, Elizabethtown College, PA, April 9th - 21st, 2026.

Announcements

Regular CYWA food bank commitment: See Kent N. if you would like to be part of our small but regular volunteer crew every other Thursday at the CYWA. ***Reach out to Kent to participate!***

WANT PRAYER? Our prayer chain is ready! Place your request in the basket using the form on the credenza by the baptismal font. Give as little or as much information as you want: It is confidential.

Step/Sanctuary Sit and Tide Over Pantry: Did you know we need about 200 items a week for our tide over pantry? Can you help re-stock or sit in the sanctuary to meet the neighbors? It's easy, and a great way to serve our community. Ongoing needs: Items for Tide Over Pantry (shelf stable "complete" meals, shelf stable milk, bread, PB&J, cereal, canned meats and fish, hygiene items).

Women of Trinity is back in action! Join us for monthly meetings, starting August 9 after services. Future meetings are scheduled for September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. This is a great way to connect with other Trinity members and play a key role in supporting the life of the parish.

See Pat K. If you have any questions or want to join and can't make it to the first meeting.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, Aug. 16 – Pack wound care kits and other supplies for the Clare Project after services/during coffee hour.

Sunday, Aug. 23 – Safe Church training, 11 a.m. (or following worship service).

RALLY DAY WILL BE SEPTEMBER 20!

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING FUNDRAISER ON DEC. 6 (4:30 p.m.)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA ON DEC. 12

READERS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	First Readers	Psalm	Second Readers	Prayers
8/16	James Gaddy	Chris Haak	Bill Terry	Greg Bentley
8/23	Paul Shidlowski	Minnie Kirwin	Erika Haak	Kent Nation
8/30	Vic Shanley	Greg Kinsch	Deborah Murray	Pat Bush
9/6	Greg Bentley	Bill Terry	James Gaddy	Chris Haak
9/13	Kent Nation	Erika Haak	Minnie Kirwin	Paul Shidlowski
9/20	Vic Shanley	Deborah Murray	Pat Bush	Greg Kinsch
9/27	Chris Haak	James Gaddy	Bill Terry	Greg Bentley

Grant updates

Get ready for some building improvements as we spend two large grants awarded to Trinity in the past year!

With a state security grant, we are making police-recommended upgrades to our security system, including installing panic buttons, additional cameras, and “splits” to replace box air conditioning units that leave our building vulnerable in a break in. In addition, we are rekeying our doors. In all, we were awarded \$25,000 for dedicated security expenditures.

With the Huston Foundation grant, we are refurbishing our piano so it will last us another five to 10 years, repair radiators that broke and left our offices incredibly cold this past winter, and other items as the grant can cover them. This grant awarded us \$20,000 for these expenses.

You will likely see vendors in the building the next few months as work begins, and we will temporarily have to move our piano for its work to a workshop off site. These inconveniences are signs that we are maintaining our building, and that others see the work we do and support it with financial contributions.

This is all in addition to the \$19,000 from the Diocese of Pennsylvania that helped us pay for emergency and urgent electrical work in our basement in the winter, a micro grant from the Chester County Food Bank to pay for garden expansions, and countless other donations and micro grants that have helped sustain our Tide Over and open our Paper Pantry!

Grants like these are critical for Trinity. Does your employer have a non-profit or matching grant program? This is a great way to continue our on-going work!

-Rev. Kristen

AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
2 9:30 Morning Prayer Pantry Restock AA	3 Kristen Vacation (Office closed) AA	4 Kristen Vacation (Office closed) AA	5 Kristen Vacation (Office closed) Pantry restock, Sanctuary sit, 4-6 p.m.	6 Kristen Vacation (Office closed) CYWA w/ Kent OA	7 Kristen Vacation (Office closed) Kitchen Rented AA	8 NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
9 9:30 Worship Women's Group Pantry Restock Stone Hall Rented AA Pizza & Prayers 4:00 to 6:00	10 AA Kristen's official welcome as a police chaplain at Coatesville City Countil, 7:30 p.m.	11 AA	12 Pantry restock, Sanctuary sit, 4-6 p.m.	13 Healing Service Zoom, 12PM OA	14 AA	15 NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
16 9:30 Worship Wound Care Kits Pantry Restock Stone Hall Rented AA	17 AA	18 AA	19 Pantry restock, Sanctuary sit, 4-6 p.m.	20 Healing Service, noon on Zoom CYWA w/Kent OA	21 AA	22 NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
23 9:30 Worship Pantry Restock AA	24 AA	25 AA	26 Pantry restock, Sanctuary sit, 4-6 p.m.	27 OA	28 AA	29 NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
30 9:30 Worship Pantry Restock AA	31 AA					Note: Liz on family leave until September

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

John Petura	August 5
Sue Petura	August 7
Carolyn Bentley	August 24
Jacqueline Heston	August 24
Lisa Hartman	August 28
Cheryl Robinson	August 29

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Pat & Joe Kirkner	August 6
Kathy & Bill Terry	August 9

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Please check the sign up sheet in the kitchen in Stone Hall for sign ups!