

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842
703 South Main Street (office at 701) Athens, PA 18810
The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Long-Term Supply Priest

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Pentecost Season - July, 2021

From the Senior Warden

Very little has been normal in our lives since the beginning of the pandemic. Clearly, this includes our lives at Trinity. As you know, our expenses – assessments to the Diocese of Bethlehem, insurance, utilities, maintenance and upkeep, taxes, administrative costs and most of our budgeted expenses – continue with or without Sunday services. I thank everyone for hearing our plea and continuing to ensure pledges are kept current.

But, we can't plan for the unexpected: In 2020 the rectory chimney had to be rebuilt and the church boiler had to be replaced. The vestry withdrew funds from our Diocesan Investment Trust accounts (DIT) to cover the \$16,405 total. Fortunately, we were awarded grants from The Society of the Episcopal Church for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania (hereafter referred to as The Long Name Society, or LNS). Those grants covered all but \$3300 of the expense so we were able to put most of the money back into the DIT. Our investments in the DIT are not large, but we do depend on the interest earned for part of our operating budget.

We discovered this spring that there is a need for some repointing around the lower portion of the stone walls of the church. The mason who did such excellent work on the chimney has estimated around \$6,000 for repairs, which should be done soon. In addition, major leakage during a recent storm indicated the need to replace the rectory roof. We knew this roof was nearing the end of its useful life, but we were hoping it could be stretched a couple of years. The roof

and gutters were replaced in early June at a cost of \$16,350. Now, we find that the north-facing church roof will need replacement soon. We are seeking estimates. Thankfully, the south-facing roof is in good condition having been more recently replaced. To date we have drawn just under \$30,000 from the DIT to cover these expenses.

We will again apply for a grant from The Long Name Society this fall, but there are no guarantees that any funds will be awarded.

Obviously depleting our DIT funds means that we will earn much less interest – interest we use for our operating budget. To make a long story short, it would be great if we could replace at least some of the funds withdrawn from the DIT to insure there is not a shortfall of operating income.

So here's an idea. Some of us really needed that stimulus money which was part of the Covid recovery package and some of us saw it as a windfall. If you were part of the latter group, would you consider donating a portion of that to help Trinity's financial stability in the wake of all these unexpected expenses? If you can see your way clear, please make out the check to Trinity Athens marked "roof replacement" in the memo line.

I am grateful for the vestry's excellent efforts to be good stewards of the buildings entrusted to us by those who came before.

Faithfully,

Daniel Z. Gerhart
Senior Warden

Stewardship Statements

Your statement for the first six months of the year will be ready for you to pick up on July 4. Please remember, this is not a bill! The statement is for your information so that you can compare your records with ours. Your faithfulness in maintaining your pledge during this difficult time is very much appreciated.

Stone Repointing

As you read in Dan's column, there are places where our old stone church needs repointing. The process requires our mason to dig out the failing mortar from the spaces between the stones and then refill it. He began work this past week.



Sacristy Porch project

Nate has been working on this since April when he jack-hammered away the old, sunken concrete steps and did repairs to the brick around the door. He then began the mortise and tenon construction of a new porch and steps. He's nearing the end of this project and it's turning out beautifully.



From start...

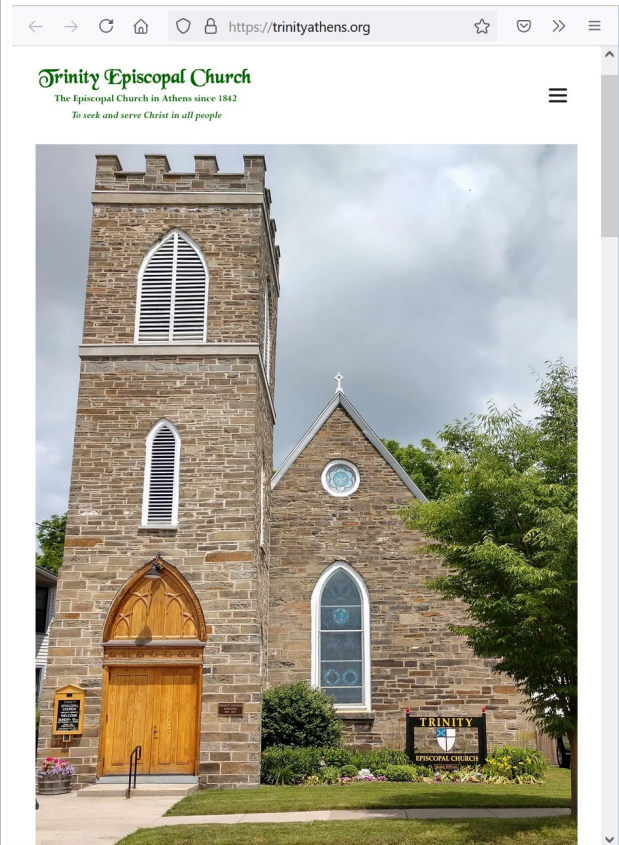
to nearly finished.



Our (New) Website

has been up for a few months now and has been looking great ... until now.

When you visit trinityathens.org you should see this:



Unfortunately, it's not loading correctly some of the time. Will you please pull it up on your phone, tablet, or computer and let me know if you can see the photo and the green logo at the top left? In the meantime I'll work with the platform host and try to figure out what's wrong. Thanks! Barbara (bcaum@gmail.com or information@trinityathens.org).

Covid-19

has not gone away. While the number of cases in our area has dropped drastically, and 59% of senior citizens are fully vaccinated, only 31% of the total population in our county is vaccinated. The new Delta variant is highly contagious and will soon be the most common strain of the virus in the U.S. While nearly all of us are protected, there are too many around us who are not; when they get sick, that allows the virus to continue to mutate and grow stronger because that's what viruses do. It's up to us to urge the hesitant to get vaccinated. It's hard, some folks just don't want to, but we need to keep trying to convince them.



Trinity Episcopal Church - July 2021

Season of
Pentecost

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Trinity Memorial Garden - June 26, 2021, with our refurbished sign. The daisies have almost covered St. Francis, so he's been temporarily moved forward.</i></p>		<p><i>Trinity</i> 7/4 Anna Markevitch and Dorothea West. 7/11 Helen and Larry McNeal. 7/18 Daye, Lloyd, and Kaatie Moreno. 7/25 Jon, Wendy, Kim and Kate Murray</p>	<p><i>Kajo-Keji</i> 7/4 St. John Litaba Parish. 7/11 St. Paul Pamoju Parish. 7/18 Sera Jale Parish, Dwani-Stra of Bethlehem Primary School. 7/25 Emmanuel Parish Kiri.</p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World</i> 7/4 The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, Bishop Nathan Ingen. 7/11 The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, Bishop Joel Atiwag Pachao. 7/18 The Anglican Church of Rwanda, Bishop Laurent Mbanda. 7/25 The Scottish Episcopal Church, Bishop Mark Strange.</p>		
		<p><i>Bethlehem</i> 7/4 St. Luke's, Lebanon, The Rev. Dr. David Zwifka, PIC; General Convention Deputies. 7/11 All Saints, Leighton, The Rev. Jane Arrington PIC. 7/18 Good Shepherd, Milford, The Rev. Van A. Bankston, Rector. 7/25 St. Paul's, Montrose, Dean Melinda Artman, Betsy Sentigar.</p>	<p>1 AA 5:30 pm</p> <p><i>Tim Cama, Paul Kelley Dan & Margaret Gerhart</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Bruce Barton</i></p>	<p>3</p>	
<p>4 Pentecost 6 P-9 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>5 AA 7 and 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Alex Maneval</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Elise Barton</i></p>	<p>7 AA 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Dave Fish</i></p>	<p>8 AA 5:30 pm</p> <p><i>Jon & Wendy Murray</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Pentecost 7 P-10 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p><i>John & Barbara Strange</i></p>	<p>12 AA 7 and 8:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 AA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>15 AA 5:30 pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Pentecost 8 P-11 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour --Vestry meets--</p>	<p>19 AA 7 and 8:00 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 AA 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Sean Bubniak</i></p>	<p>22 St. Mary Magdalene AA 5:30 pm</p> <p><i>Blake Bivins</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Justin Bailey</i></p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Pentecost 9 P-12 10:00 Morning Prayer 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>26 St. James AA 7 and 8:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 AA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>29 AA 5:30 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Ron Hunt</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>Andy Patterson</i></p>



July at Trinity

Worship is Sundays at 10 a.m. followed by coffee hour in the parish hall, which is located across South Main Street.

Our services are Holy Eucharist II with Fr. Ben's usual outstanding sermon.

Vestry meets after coffee hour on July 18.

Fr. Ben will be on vacation **July 25 and August 1** - services those Sundays will be **Morning Prayer**.

Help is needed:

- **Sign up to host a coffee hour.** You'll have help with making coffee; your job will be to provide

snacks. We'll be grateful for anything, from crackers and cheese to cake and anything in between.

- **Become a lector.** You can be scheduled to read the Old Testament lesson, or, as a Worship Leader,

the Prayers of the People, the Epistle, and, when we are allowed to again, serve the chalice at communion. If you're interested in becoming a Worship Leader (Lay Reader), training is available.

- **Altar Guild.** Those who take part in this quiet ministry set up and/or take down the altar for worship, prepare linens, polish brass (although that's usually a group event), order flowers, or arrange offerings from their own gardens, and generally make certain all is ready for worship. Training will be provided.
- **Gardening.** Our resident gardener would love some help. Maybe you have some better ideas for how our memorial garden is arranged, or maybe you like to weed (it's very therapeutic).

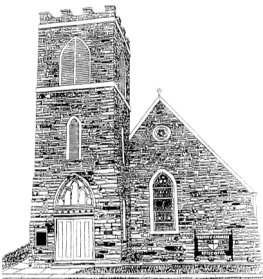
If you're interested in any of these areas or in something not on this list, speak to a member of the vestry or to Barbara, our parish administrator.

Prayer List — we are still rebuilding the prayer list after our long hiatus from corporate worship. Please add or subtract names; the list is on the back table in the church.

Birthday/Anniversary List — make sure you and your family members are listed. It is regularly updated, so please check it for accuracy — add or edit as needed.

Food Pantry items - non-perishable foods in unbreakable containers are best. We also donate items to the senior center. Everything goes to the Athens United Methodist Church and serves anyone in need.

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Pentecost Season

July, 2021

**Worship together
Sundays at 10**

To seek and serve Christ in all people