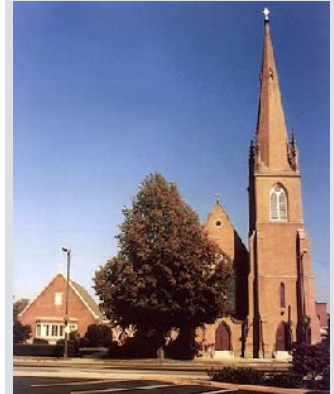


# Trinity Church Record

Volume 4, Issue 7

**SUMMER 2015**



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## Trinity Episcopal Church

### Rector's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Dr. Norman Borlaug was never one to seek fame and the accomplishment that earned him the title "The man who saved a billion lives" took place 50 years ago. That's the year Borlaug shipped the first of his new wheat seed varieties to the Indian sub-continent. Author David Macaray who was in the Peace Corps in Punjab, India, has written about Borlaug's seeds and says, "It's no exaggeration to say that Borlaug did, in fact, save a billion lives." Macaray was in India years after Borlaug's seeds were introduced, but he learned from people there what a remarkable turnaround Borlaug brought to that country of 1.1 billion people. So what happened with these seeds?

The "standard" wheat plants on which India and other places in the world had been relying to feed people had tall, narrow stalks with minimal kernels per plant. As these kernels developed, the plants became top-heavy, and many of them fell over from their own weight, rotting on the ground. The varieties Borlaug developed have shorter, thicker stalks that not only remain upright, but also produce many more kernels per plant. What's more, his wheat resisted the diseases and pests that afflicted previous varieties.

Thanks to Borlaug's seeds, India today is self-sufficient in food production, even with its massive population. Not surprisingly, Borlaug has been called the father of the Green Revolution. For his work, Borlaug received the Nobel Peace prize in 1970 in recognition of his contributions to world peace through increasing food supply. He died in 2009 at the age of 95, but continued to work to keep hunger at bay, serving as president of a foundation seeking to spread the Green Revolution.

It's not a big jump to focus where Jesus compares the kingdom of God to seed scattered on the ground which then sprouts and grows, and, when fully ripe, is harvested. It's useful, however, to contemplate the one point where Borlaug's work and the parable diverge. In the former, Borlaug had to have a deep understanding of the growing process in order to develop seeds that would prosper. In the parable, however, the sower, who likely represents Christians who testify to or proclaim their faith to others, seem to have no real understanding of the growing process — "The seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how." But that doesn't matter in the parable, for the sower trusts that harvest will come. He doesn't know how the growth occurs, but he knows that it does.

We who are followers of Jesus today need to hear this message as well. We live at a time when churches are not prospering and we may find ourselves pessimistic about its future. Is the crop going to fail? Are the seeds of faith we've spread actually growing or not? Episcopal priest and author Barbara Brown Taylor comments on this, especially related to "mainline" congregations that are in decline: "Sometimes when I visit these embattled churches, I feel almost like I'm working for hospice, visiting churches that are just scared to death they're dying. You can almost smell the sweat in the room as they fret about what in the world they're going to do." She goes on: "Even for mainline Christians who are looking into the dark, there is reconciliation and healing and intimacy and community that can take place for a religious tradition that's been on top for a long time."

Pastor and church planter Ed Stetzer, however, argues that the church isn't dying at all, but that it's going through a kind of shakeout. Here's Stetzer's conclusion: "Christianity may be losing its top-down political and cultural influence, but Jesus spoke of his followers making an impact in a very different manner. He taught that God's kingdom was subversive and underground [like the seed secretly growing of

the parable!]. He used examples like yeast, which changes things from the inside, and mustard seeds, which are small and must be planted in order to grow up and out.

This is not to debate whether the church is or is not falling on hard times. Rather, it's to hear and take confidence from Jesus' parable which tells us that the gospel seeds we scatter are growing, even if "we do not know how," and that the full grain will one day appear. We can sow the seed with confidence, anticipation and joy. The growth is happening, the harvest will come. If we do our job, we need not worry about whether God will do God's job.

***Yours in the Spirit,  
Father Bill +***

**Financial Report**

	<b>May Actual</b>	<b>May Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges	\$3,045.00	\$4,720.84	-\$1,675.84
Plate Offerings	\$17.00	\$91.67	-\$74.67
Regular NonPledge	\$505.00	\$0.00	\$505.00
Facility Use Income	\$3,627.25	\$2,670.58	\$956.67
Pastoral Sub ELCA	\$3,907.13	\$3,907.13	\$0.00
Thrift Shop Operations	\$506.73	\$300.00	\$206.73
UTO	\$197.10	\$0.00	\$197.10
Labyrinth	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Easter Offerring	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Gifts Received	\$32.00	\$0.00	\$32.00
Altar Flowers	\$80.20	\$0.00	\$80.20
Other Income	\$1,336.94	\$0.00	\$1,336.94
Interest	\$0.70	\$2.92	-\$2.22
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,390.05</b>	<b>\$11,693.14</b>	<b>\$1,696.91</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Buildings & Grounds	\$3,687.02	\$3,469.15	\$217.87
Christian Ed & Spiritual Growth	\$133.46	\$212.49	-\$79.03
Diocese	\$1,429.21	\$1,429.25	-\$0.04
Governance	\$9,626.46	\$7,818.41	\$1,808.05
Lay Staff	\$1,617.50	\$1,960.83	-\$343.33
Lay Staff Fringes	-\$2,377.91	\$329.56	-\$2,707.47
Miscellaneous	-\$20.74	\$300.00	-\$320.74
Office Expenses	\$529.42	\$541.67	-\$12.25
Pastoral Care	\$0.00	\$12.50	-\$12.50
Leadership Retreat	\$53.60	\$0.00	\$53.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,678.02</b>	<b>\$16,073.86</b>	<b>-\$1,395.84</b>
Positive/(Negative) results	-\$1,287.97	-\$4,380.72	\$3,092.75

Please note that we continue to operate in the red. While we are "under" budget, we are drawing from our endowment at a rate that isn't sustainable.

## Vestry Report

The Vestry met on June 10th. The meeting's focus was on the Transition Team progress, which is reported separately in *The Record*. This is our last meeting prior to the summer season so there was a great deal of business to discuss. We are seeking a sexton to replace our temporary sexton who is leaving at the end of June. We also voted to increase Kelly Comfort's hours to give her more time to manage the office and take on additional duties as we prepare for Father Bill's retirement. Her new title is Parish Administrator. We celebrated the wonderful new sink that was installed in the kitchen which now brings us up to code for a commercial kitchen.

The next vestry meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Trinity Room.

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## CPR/AED Recertification Class

There will be a CPR/AED Review Class on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Trinity Room between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm for those that need to recertify. The cost for the certification will be \$55.00 per person. If you are interested please call the Parish Office and reserve your spot. Trinity Church needs a minimum of eight individuals to hold this class. If you know of someone who might also be interested, please reach out to them to see if they would like to join us on this night.

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## Thrift Shop Report

The Thrift Shop is now open on Thursdays during the Wisner Market and we're seeing a great response from our customers who are happy to have another place to visit downtown. Saturdays are doing well; we're putting out new stuff every week and that keeps the customers coming back.

If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at the Shop we can always use more help, so please let me know if you'd like to help.

As always, we are taking donations of workable housewares and clothing, especially men's clothing. Summer clothing, in particular, is very welcome right now. Costume jewelry is a hot item and we are running low.

Submitted by Sue Draht

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## Offertory Counters

Kelly needs someone to help her count that week's offertory. It doesn't have to be on Monday and it doesn't have to be first thing in the morning. This process usually takes no more than thirty minutes each week. The Diocese requires that all money be handled by two people. If you can give 30 minutes of your time at some point during the months of September and/or October, it would greatly be appreciated. The Parish Office realizes that perhaps blocking out two months of time is too difficult, therefore assisting Kelly for only one month better suits your

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## Summertime Stewardship

**OUR STEWARSHIP** of time, talent and treasure are things which need not and should not "vacate" our lives during the summer months. Remember to worship wherever you are. Bring back a leaflet for Fr. Bill who always enjoys seeing what others are doing. If you have time during the summer to help a particular ministry, please call the parish office. Remember to pay your pledge. If possible, consider getting ahead before you leave on vacation.

**Fr. Bill+**

**Next Vestry  
Meeting is  
September 9th**



## Trinity History

### An Evolution of Trinity Church Part III:

#### The New Vision: Trinity as a Downtown Ministry Center

The Children's Clothing Closet, a joint effort of area Episcopal churches, opened at Trinity in the fall of 2004 to provide free clothing to children by referral from service organizations and churches. Currently volunteers from Trinity and St. Matthew's work in the shop and parishioners respond to requests for new clothing items.

For a number of years Trinity served Second Place East Homeless Shelter with representatives to the board, volunteers at the shelter, and warehousing of furniture. We now support Second Place East, Inc., which, with other area churches, operates the Help for the Home Shop at Our Father's House of Prayer Eternal. Parishioners contribute goods to stock the shelves, serve as board members, and volunteer in the shop, which provides household items to those transitioning from homelessness. We have also supported with goods and volunteer hours Saving Grace Ministries, which has purchased and renovated a home for parolees.

For two years Trinity housed the Elmira Community Kitchen. Independently, we prepared and served two Easter dinners and a third in cooperation with area Episcopal churches. We have participated in ecumenical dinners held both at Trinity and at The Park Church. Profits from these have benefited the Southside Community Center and the Hospitality Center at Elmira Correctional Facility.

The Thrift Shop, now in its second year, replaced the Youth Group Rummage Sales, continuing their ministry practice of offering clothing and household goods at very reasonable prices to residents of the Elmira Community.

A Women's Lenten Outreach Project provides no-sew blankets to the Salvation Army Safe House. At Christmastime parishioners fill the wish lists of children on the Angel Tree, also a Salvation Army ministry, and we hang hats and mittens on the Mitten Tree. In recent years these gifts have been donated to the Children's Clothing Closet.

One can see from the above that while we continue to house outside support groups such as Kiwanis Aktion Club for developmentally disabled adults and Alcoholics Anonymous, we have transitioned to a more face-to-face approach to parish ministry. We have participated in more shared efforts with other churches and in-gatherings of donations during worship have replaced budgeted line items, making the connection between the giver and recipient more personal and intentional.

Submitted by Judy Sheasley

**Fun facts about  
our church's  
history**

## Transition Team

The Transition Team had a meeting on Wednesday, June 17th with Judy Fried. Judy is from the Bishop's office and is in charge of Transition Ministry for the Diocese of Central New York. Judy shared with us a number of documents that will help us in this next year as we look at the future when Father Bill retires. The Team will meet before July to look at specific tasks that will need to be done. We will set a timeline for ourselves and a plan to get things done. The team is made up of Vestry members, members of the church at-large as well as the Wardens. This is a vibrant group who is well committed to the future of Trinity and its members.

submitted by Lisa Kelly, Transition Team chair

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## Second Place East, Inc.

Second Place East, Inc. is still counting on the individual churches that are involved with its program to donate selected good in the coming months. July's designated good is dish detergent. August's designated good is a broom and a dust pan. These goods can be of any brand name, type and size will be acceptable and can be purchased at any Family Dollar, General Dollar, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or area grocery stores. Please put the designated good in the basket by the chapel door. Second Place East, Inc. thanks everyone for their help in this mission.

Submitted by Georgia Jordan



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## Coley's New Address

Many of you have inquired on how our former sexton, Coley Perry, has been doing since his surgery. We wanted you to know that he is doing fine and is progressing well. We saw him up and walking through town in the month of June. He stopped by the Parish Office to inform us that Faith and the children have moved to North Carolina. Coley and his oldest son readied the house to be sold. Coley's new address is:

10500 Paces Avenue, Apt. 1214  
Matthews, NC 28105.

His birthday is August 21<sup>st</sup> if you wish to send him birthday greetings and wish him well on his life in sunny North Carolina!



## Labyrinth News

### A Celebration of the Life of Mary Magdalene Trinity Labyrinth Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00 pm

A celebration of the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene will be held on the Labyrinth at Trinity at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The evening will begin with an open prayer circle and a presentation of a beautiful original etching of Mary Magdalene by Charles Bird. All are welcome to bring and read a prayer or meditation for the prayer circle.



Labyrinth

This will be followed by the Reverend Jennifer Yedinak, who will lead us in reflection of Mary Magdalene's story as a follower of Christ's teachings and as a spiritual teacher to us all.

Our Joyful Celebration will be an introduction to Spiritual Dance, led by Betsy Sentigar, after which we will transition to the reflection benches for a time of silent meditation.

Wear a long dress if you have one, and bring your dancing slippers and a shawl or long scarf. This presentation will not be our traditional labyrinth walk, but instead a JOYFUL CELEBRATION and DANCE, all dancing the labyrinth celebrating Mary Magdalene, as each is able.

The evening will end with fellowship and refreshments.

Submitted by Gloria O'Sullivan and Judy Sheasley

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### Birthdays and Anniversaries and Emails

If Trinity Church missed your birthday or anniversary so far this year, please call the Parish Office and let Kelly know. We have diligently been attempting to update our records and we really do not wish to miss anyone's celebration.

Also, if you have a personal email that you do check regularly and have not given us this information, please consider to do so. We are trying to trim our budget wherever possible and the cost of postage is one area that we can do this. The Parish Office, when using a mass emailing, (the monthly newsletter is but one example), places everyone's email addresses under the "bcc" so no one has access to other individual's email addresses.

Thank you very much.

**Request from the  
Parish Office**

## Recognition Sunday 2015

The tradition of the Recognition Wreath was begun by Father Bill in June of 2000 and has become a popular annual event. At a time during the worship service, members of the Trinity who have contributed in any way to the life of the parish are invited to place flowers in a wreath of vines. The flowers represent our different ministries and the completed circle of flowers symbolizes our lives together in mission, ministry, and fellowship. Parishioners' service to the greater community is recognized as well. This year's celebration was held on Sunday, June 7th.

It is interesting to point out that we have 39 members performing a total of 17 different ministries at Trinity Church. The average number of ministries performed by each of these 39 people is 3.3, each of which repeats multiple times throughout the year. In addition to that, many volunteer their time in the community at, for example, Meals on Wheels, The Lions Club, Elmira Community Kitchen, Saving Grace Ministries, Second Place East, Inc., The Arctic League, Arnot Ogden Medical Center Auxiliary and the SPCA.

Stephen Buchholz was congratulated for his graduation from Elmira High School. Father Bill presented him with gifts from the Parish.



## Trinity Parish Directories

The new 2015 Parish Directories have arrived and will be at the back of the church beginning Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and in the Parish Office during the week. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

If you had your portrait taken, your complimentary copy has been set aside for you and will be mailed if you have not picked it up by August 1st.



## Save the Date

Vacation Bible School at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will take place this year July 12<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – July 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). The cost will be \$10.00 per child. Dinners are included each night. Sunday night registration begins at 5:00 pm and the evening festivities will end at 8:30 pm. Monday – Thursday will begin at 5:30 pm and will also run until 8:30 pm.



## Planting Day at Trinity



Trinity's annual Planting Day occurred on Saturday, May 30th. Many thanks to all who contributed to making our gardens so lovely for the summer months. Those who volunteered their time and provided flowering plants are Dan Brayer, Al and Jackie Draht, Sue Draht, Nancy Isaacs, Georgia and David Jordan, Lisa Kelly, Tom Padgett, and Mary Booth Roberts. Over the last few years we have received a good number of perennials, which continue to blossom and spread, making our task easier each year and our expenses less.

We have had ample rain so far, but as we move into warm, dry weather in July and August, we will need to water. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please consider doing your share so that we don't lose what we have worked so hard to attain.

Thank you!!

Submitted by Judy Sheasley

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## Capital Campaign

As of June 18<sup>th</sup> Trinity Church is slightly more than one-third of the way to meeting the necessary \$10,000 for our new fire alarm and security system. With the money parishioners donated towards the new boilers that was unused, plus new money graciously donated from within the congregation, we have raised \$3,657.59.



As your wardens said in the initial campaign plea: "Please consider your personal situation and prayerfully consider whether you can help us with this needed update to protect our landmark historic buildings. Any contribution you can make would be appreciated. We would like to see this project completed over the summer months. If you have the ability to make a donation, please make out your check, noting in the memo line: *Security System Update.*"

We will keep you updated as the summer progresses. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any further questions.

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## Altar Flowers



If you'd like to contribute toward altar flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for a person or event, a donation of \$40.00 is suggested. Thank you for helping beautify our worship. Please contact the office if you would like to place flowers on the altar.

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## The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group, Inc.

WHBSG will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 14th from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Mary our Mother School in Horseheads. This month's topic is "Packing for the Grief Journey".



## July Birthdays

- 1: James Callas
- 4: Kevin Nagle  
Bernadette Baldwin
- 6: William Meyn
- 8: McKenzie Snyder  
Gregory Barron
- 9: Erica Costello
- 12: Alicia Costello
- 15: Cody Carlson
- 19: Haleigh Carlson
- 20: Luther Colwell
- 21: Riley Van Deusen
- 23: Lee Ostrander
- 26: Joy Perry  
Beatrice Riggs  
Olivia Lutz
- 28: Colleen Rennie
- 29: Rev. John Humphries, Jr.  
Sabrina Macomber
- 30: Carrie Zeigler

## July Anniversaries

- 1: Melissa & Josua Church  
Lisa & John Kelly
- 7: Suzanne & John Knighton
- 10: Penny & David Allington
- 23: Margaret & James Callas
- 26: Marci & James Hilgendorf

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## August Birthdays

- 2: Molly Lutz
- 3: Joe Battisti  
Andy Spaziani
- 5: Katie Colwell
- 7: Penny Allington
- 8: Arlene Smith  
Delainey Bishop  
Jane Smith  
Thomas Rennie
- 9: Noah Lewis
- 10: Donald Bishop, Jr.
- 16: Jean Asher  
Marian Leljedal
- 21: Coley Perry
- 25: Carol Ostrander
- 26: Josua Church  
Shawn Nugent
- 27: Mother Nancy Lane  
Kyle Elston  
Shelly Bacmanski

## August Anniversaries

- 3: Joy & Matthew Perry
- 6: Kimberly & Brian Doty
- 7: Judi & Dan Brayer
- 12: Jacquelyn & Michael Brown
- 17: Joyce & James Baldwin
- 28: Nancy & Clifford Murphy  
Tara & Shawn Nugent



Date	Lector	EM	Intercessor	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Guild	Offering Counter (Monday)
05-Jul Proper 9	Jackie Draht 2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10	Shelly Bac-manski Psalm 48	Georgia Jordan	Nick Potter		Tari Buchholz Carol Ostrander	Jackie Draht
12-Jul Proper 10	Esther Thomas 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 Ephesians 1: 3-14	Sue Draht Psalm 24	Lisa Kelly	Haleigh Carlson		Jackie Draht Esther Thomas	Jackie Draht
19-Jul Proper 11	Steve Snyder 2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Ephesians 2: 11-22	Dan Brayer Psalm 89: 20-37	Jackie Draht	Steve Buchholz		Judy Sheasley	Jackie Draht
26-Jul Proper 12	David Jordan 2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Ephesians 3: 14-21	Sue Nagle Psalm 14	Esther Thomas	Nick Potter		Nancy Isaacs	Jackie Draht
02-Aug Proper 13	Lisa Kelly 2 Samuel 11: 26 - 12: 13a Ephesians 4: 1-16	Shelly Bac-manski Psalm 51: 1-13	Tari Buchholz	Steve Buchholz		Tari Buchholz Carol Ostrander	Jackie Draht
09-Aug Proper 14	Heather Lutz 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2	Dan Brayer Psalm 130	Steve Snyder	Haleigh Carlson		Jackie Draht Esther Thomas	Jackie Draht
16-Aug Proper 15	Jackie Draht 1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14 Ephesians 5: 15-20	Sue Draht Psalm 111	Esther Thomas	Nick Potter		Judy Sheasley	Jackie Draht
23-Aug Proper 16	Steve Snyder 1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Ephesians 6: 10-20	Sue Nagle Psalm 84	Lisa Kelly	Steve Buchholz		Nancy Isaacs	Jackie Draht
30-Aug Proper 17 10	Esther Thomas Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 James 1: 17-27	Shelly Bac-manski Psalm 45: 1-2, 7-10	Georgia Jordan	Haleigh Carlson		Jackie Draht	Jackie Draht

## Important Dates and Events for July and August

These events/meetings happen every week:

- Sundays—Eucharistic Service at 9:00am; UBC Adult Ed at 10:00am; Coffee Hour at 10:15am; UBC Worship at 11:00am; UBC Coffee Hour at 12:00pm
  - Mondays— Office open;
  - Tuesdays— Office open;
  - Wednesdays—Office open; AA at 12:15pm; Christian Counseling between 11:00am and 8:00pm; UBC Choir Practice between 6:30pm and 8:00pm; Children’s Clothing Closet only in August between 9:00am and 11:00am;
  - Thursdays—Office open; Thrift Shop open between 10:00am and 2:00pm
  - Fridays— Office closed; UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry at 10:30am
- Saturdays—Thrift Shop open between 9:00am and 12:00pm (except on July 4th)

Important Dates to know:

- July 8: Finance/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting at 5:00 pm in the Trinity Room;  
AED/CPR training from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Trinity Room
- July 15: Aktion Club from 5:00pm to 9:00pm in the Parish Hall
- July 19: Baptism of Cecelia Hilgendorf; Rector’s Discretionary Sunday
- July 22: Labyrinth Feast Day of Mary Magdalene 7:00pm
- July 25-August 2: Kelly on Vacation and Office is closed
- July 28—August 18: Father Bill on Vacation
- August 16—Rector’s Discretionary Sunday
- August 19—Aktion Club from 5:00pm to 9:00pm in the Parish Hall; The Record deadline
- August 30—Baptisms of Peyton Melanson and Molly Nugent

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### New Sexton Position

Trinity Episcopal Church is searching for a new sexton. This is a part-time position consisting of twenty hours per week, Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 9:00am and 1:00pm. This individual must be able to clean and maintain the buildings and grounds throughout all seasons, including minor repairs. If you know of someone who fits this bill, please have him/her submit a resume to the Parish Office.

**Important Dates  
to Remember**

**Search for a New  
Sexton**

# Trinity Episcopal Church

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Elmira, NY 14901  
Phone: 607-732-3241  
Fax: 607-732-3894  
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**Trinity Church: Serving God and  
All People in Heart, Mind and Soul**

[www.trinitychurchelmira.org](http://www.trinitychurchelmira.org)

## Trinity Staff

Rector: The Rev. Dr. William C. Lutz  
Email: [brsebastian@juno.com](mailto:brsebastian@juno.com)  
Fr. Bill is at Trinity Church on Mondays and Wednesdays and is at Emanuel Lutheran on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can always be reached at 607-725-1090.

Office Staff: Kelly Comfort  
Email: [info@trinitychurchelmira.org](mailto:info@trinitychurchelmira.org)  
Office hours are Mondays -Thursdays 9:00am-2:00pm unless other wise noted in the calendar.

Sexton: We are currently searching for a new sexton.

Organist: Sharon Reynolds

Wardens: Susan Draht and Judy Sheasley

Vestry Members: Jeanne Battisti, Nancy Isaacs, Steve Snyder, Tom Padgett, Susan Nagle and Mike Buchholz

Treasurer: Dori Riggs

Clerk of the Vestry: Shelly Bacmanski

