

# Trinity Church Record



Civility, again

I continue to be troubled and disappointed with the fare I see on television, whether it's the reporting of 'news' or programming designed to entertain. Programmers' desire to strive for the lowest common denominator seems to work overtime as they plan for our summer shows. Just in watching a commercial for a new CBS show, I was saddened to see the point of the show is for fellow contestants to concentrate on knocking down someone running the gauntlet. Of course, they must tell themselves, no one is getting hurt because it's nerf and foam.

I continue to hear echoes of Jesus saying to his disciples, "...but it is not to be so among you." He was urging them to think and act differently in a world that is about accentuating differences. There are myriad opportunities for us to tear each other down, from ignoring another's passing on the street, to the intentional trying to 'one up' each other in acquiring possessions, to our sequestration of our lives through gated communities which allow us to remain isolated from people of other economic backgrounds, ethnic groups, or races. The resulting monoculture which we expose ourselves and our children to drives even deeper wedges between us. Every encounter, every interaction seems to be one designed or allowed to result in winners and losers.

I believe many of our choices and decisions are made thoughtlessly or without malice. Yet they do matter, and resentment often results when we are cruel. What might begin as a joke or off-handed comment can easily become a way of life. Our lack of reaction to how others might feel, or even that our actions even could elicit a response from another are signs of our lack of connection to those around us.

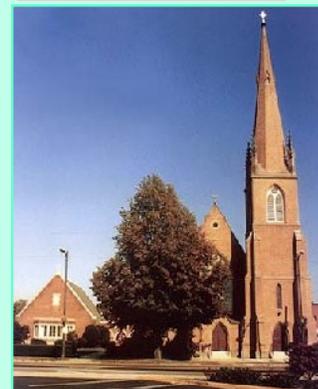
I feel like I harp on this topic over and over again. But I have said that I believe one of the main things Jesus calls us to is being intentional about our lives. Is that what I *really* meant to say? Did I re-read that email or text message before I hit 'send'? Could I have done better today? Small things add up. A parade of seemingly insignificant statements or offhand actions lead to a larger pattern of disrespect, dishonoring, and belittling. I don't know what the current way to describe things that, in years past, have been called "politically correct" posturing. But I believe there are examples we can point to as fairness for all, and seeking to address previous wrongs.

Recently, at our Episcopal Church's General Convention, one of the highlights for me was the "Liturgy of Listening" service that Bishop DeDe organized. Episcopal News Service said of the event:

*The service featured 12 stories – six from women and six from men – from victims of sexual misconduct perpetrated by someone in the church. These were among 40 stories submitted by people in May in response to a bishops' request for reflections from those hurt by the church. Each story was read by a bishop of the same gender as the victim, in first-person accounts of what had happened to that person and how the church's response had failed her or him...[At the beginning] Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said that "the church has failed her people." He said that as successors to the apostles, bishops "hold a particular responsibility to acknowledge the past and help the church move forward."*<sup>1</sup>

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This service is one of the most moving I have ever attended. The stories that were read witness to our being careless, and to intentionally looking the other way, even knowing that we are hurting people and destroying lives. And these are credible claims by people who know we have done these things in the name of the church.

“...but it is not to be so among you.”

Dear God, please forgive our need to seek security for ourselves by tearing down others. Give us courage to speak and act against the degradation and humiliation that we encounter around us. Help us to find our common bonds with each person you put in front of us daily. May we seek out your image in all your children.

Wanda+

The civility we need will not come from watching our tongues. It will come from valuing our differences. ~ Parker J. Palmer

NOTES:

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/07/05/bishops-lament-and-confess-the-churchs-role-in-sexual-harassment-exploitation-and-abuse/>

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## Trinity Gatherings at Eldridge Park

Monday, July 16

Members of Trinity received invitations to engage in informal discussions with Pastor Wanda and members of the Vestry at Eldridge Park on July 16. The purpose of these gatherings was to share ideas about how Trinity will adjust to changing times and community needs in order to be relevant and thrive in Downtown Elmira.

The response to this invitation was gratifying and encouraging as it showed the sincere interest many in the parish have in rebuilding and revitalizing Trinity Church.

If you were not able to attend, please contact Susan Nagle, Judy Sheasley, any member of the Vestry or the Parish Office, as we would eagerly welcome the opportunity to set up additional gatherings or a personal meeting at your convenience. We ask you to consider where God is working in your lives each day and share with us what is important both to you and for the spiritually healthy future of your family.

### ***Everyone's voice is important!***

The Vestry met the following day and, amid other Parish business, discussed the Gatherings and devoted the following Saturday morning to reviewing and prioritizing the ideas we received on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Our focus always will be:

“How can Trinity be a better place where all God’s people can gather with mutual respect and find their personal calling to serve God and His people? How can we reshape Trinity Church and its campus to be more useful to others and of great service to the needy community which surrounds us? “

**Please watch for future communications**

**as we move forward in this important and necessary effort.**



## Vestry Report-August 2018



The regular monthly Vestry meeting was held on July 17.

### **FINANCE**

After long delays on the part of our outside accountant, we received and have approved to submit to the Diocese the CPA Audit for 2016, which was required for the departing year of Father Bill Lutz.

The Financial Reports for July were reviewed and accepted as well.

### **WORSHIP**

In response to the difficulties the congregation is having singing new and unfamiliar hymns, Pastor Wanda is providing parishioners the opportunity to request their favorite hymns from the 1982 Hymnal. Forms are available at worship or the Parish Office.

### **OUTREACH**

#### **Free Community Lunches**

The Episcopalians of Chemung County served their fourth successful Free Community Lunch at St. Matthew's on Saturday, July 14. This barbeque lunch was very successful despite the hot weather. The next lunch we be at Emmanuel in October, date to be confirmed. All are welcome to participate.

#### **Summer Lunch for Kids**

The Vestry supported Trinity's participation in the Summer Lunch for Kids Program in Blandford Park as one way the church can reach out to serve the Community. Nancy Isaacs, Lisa Kelly, Marion Lejedal and Judy Sheasley volunteered to serve in this ministry.

#### **"The Breakfast Club"**

Beginning in September, Free Breakfasts will be served one Saturday a month during Thrift Shop hours, 9-12. This "Breakfast Club" is being offered in an effort to provide for the needs of visitors to the shop and others in Downtown Elmira. Lisa Kelly and Judy Sheasley will be coordinating this effort. If you are interested in helping out or hearing more about it, please leave a message for the wardens in the church office.

#### **New York State Historic Preservation Grant**

On July 12 the Vestry met with David Anderson of Johnson Schmidt Architects and Tom Padgett to review project detail for our New York State Grant Application. That application was completed by the architect firm grant writer with supporting submissions by Susan Nagle and Judy Sheasley. The major focus is on the church steeple and stained-glass windows and the Arnot Chapel.

#### **Parish Building Basement**

On July 14 rains caused flooding of the basement of the Parish Building. Our sexton, Paul Palmer, spent time cleaning up on Sunday. Since this was an excessively heavy rain and we had had no flooding issues since the sewer pipes were cleaned out and the city had remedied the problem with pipes under W. First St., the Vestry decided to watch the situation for the time being.

#### **Other Business**

A committee has been formed to plan for the Bishop's Visit on Sunday, September 16.

A Mid-Year Vestry Retreat will be scheduled to allow more time for future planning.

Vestry member Ben Buchholz will be entering Binghamton University in August. Haleigh Carlson will be transferring to SUNY Brockport and Stephen Buchholz will be continuing his studies at SUNY Cortland. A time will be arranged for a blessing for them before they head off to their colleges.

**Next Vestry  
Meeting  
August 14  
5:30 pm**

## Other Business

On July 21 the Vestry met to organize and prioritize the feedback we received at the Gathering in El-dridge Park. Please see a full report in this newsletter.

### Dates to Remember

|               |         |   |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Sun. July 29  | 9 a.m.  | Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 380 Pennsylvania Ave (cor. of Mt Zoar St.) |
| Sun. Aug. 5   | 9 a.m.  | Morning Prayer  |
| Sun. Aug. 12  | 9 a.m.  | Holy Eucharist, the Rev. Linda Leibhart   |
| Sun. Aug. 19  | 9 a.m.  | Holy Eucharist, the Rev. Linda Leibhart (unless Pastor Wanda is back)                   |
| Sun. Sept. 16 | 10 a.m. | The Rt. Rev. Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe Visitation at Trinity Church                      |

Faithfully submitted,  
Susan Nagle  
Judith Sheasley  
Wardens of Trinity Church

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## Thursdays at Trinity Episcopal Church

Something new and different is coming to Trinity! On the first Thursday of each month there will be a 5:30 PM worship service followed by a fellowship dinner that will be provided. It is important to note this does not replace our usual 9:00 AM service on Sundays. This is an alternative service for those parishioners who find Sunday's service difficult to attend.

This is an initiative that was suggested during our gathering conversations last month. Many of our attendees suggested a weekday worship service. ALL are welcome!

Mark your calendars for Thursdays at Trinity Episcopal Church (the corner of West Church and North Main Street):

September 6th  
October 4th  
November 1st  
December 6th

We look forward to seeing you once again!

Submitted by: Lisa Kelly

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## Worship Notes: Hymn Singing

In response to the difficulties some in the congregation are having singing new and unfamiliar hymns, Pastor Wanda is asking parishioners to request their favorite hymns from the 1982 Hymnal. Forms are available at worship or in the Parish Office. Please feel free to take one, write in your choices for hymns you would like to sing during worship, and give the form to Wanda or a member of the Vestry or leave it in the Parish Office.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Judy Sheasley at 733-7427.

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## Bishop's Visitation

Bishop DeDe Duncan Probe will be visiting us at Trinity on September 16, 2018. More details will follow as the date draws closer.



## The Altar Guild

The August Altar Guild schedule is as follows:

August 5-Nancy Isaacs

August 19-Judy Sheasley

August 12-Jackie Draht

August 26-Nancy Isaacs



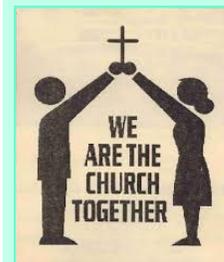
## Fellowship/Hospitality Report

I hope this finds you enjoying the summer months!!

The American Red Cross recently sent a heartfelt thanks to the people of Trinity for their generous donation of our Lenten no-sew blankets. They will be used for their emergency services.

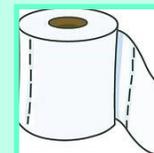
If you haven't done so, mark your calendars for Sunday, September 16th. The Bishop will be at Trinity for worship. There will be a reception following the service. The Fellowship Team will look forward to welcoming you!

Submitted by Lisa Kelly



## Second Place East, Inc.

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



## Thrift Shop Report

The Thursday Thrift Shop continues to be lucrative and is bringing in new customers every week. We'll be open thru the end of September as long as the Wisner Market is open. Our Saturday openings continue to bring a steady group of shoppers.

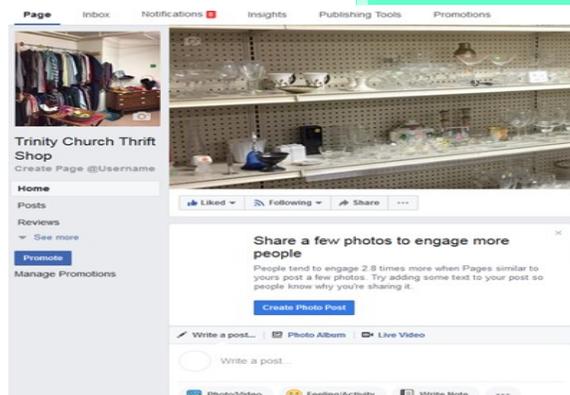
We have a new Facebook page for the Thrift Shop which I encourage you to check out and like so we can grow our social media presence. If you would share the weekly updates too, that would be helpful to us.

Schedule for August-

8/4 – Draht Team            8/18– Buchholz Team

8/11– Sheasley Team      8/25– Isaacs Team

– Sue Draht

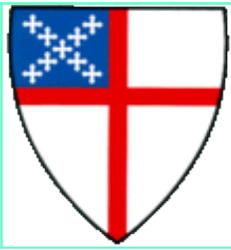


## Buildings & Grounds Report

Our grounds are looking good and hopefully the rain we've had this week will help green it up. The bushes between the chapel and the Arnot Realty building have been trimmed and look great.

We are working on the plaster issue in the sanctuary; unfortunately, our contractor is swamped with outside work right now and hasn't had a chance to give us a timeframe for repair. – Sue Draht





## Trinity History Corner

### **The Rev. Herbert L. Hannah**

One of the lesser-known rectors of Trinity Church was The Rev. Herbert Hannah, who served the church for five years, from December 1911 until January 1917. During this time, however, some significant changes occurred.

The underground passage (“the tunnel”) from the parish house to the church was constructed at a cost of \$600. In addition, a new rectory on the front lawn facing N. Main St. replaced the first rectory, which was built on the same site in 1852 and was the first building on the lot purchased in 1850. During Rev. Hannah’s tenure the Vestry began meeting monthly rather than yearly

Parish records show that while at Trinity he celebrated 575 Sunday services and 390 Weekday services. Baptisms, Confirmations and Transfers totaled 251. He also officiated at the funeral of Thomas Stewart, who was a fugitive slave and sexton at Trinity from 1866-1912. While Rev. Hannah was at Trinity, lightning struck the church, causing damage amounting to \$2614.70.

Rev. Herbert Hannah earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University and graduated from General Theological Seminary. He left Trinity to become Vicar of the Church of the Holy Communion in Philadelphia.



### August Birthdays:

|     |                 |     |                    |
|-----|-----------------|-----|--------------------|
| 03: | Joe Battisti    | 26: | Joshua Church      |
| 05: | Ginger Minster  |     | Shawn Nugent       |
| 08: | Arlene Smith    | 27: | Mother Nancy Lane: |
|     | Jane Smith      |     | Kyle Elston        |
| 16: | Marion Lejedal  |     | Shelly Bacmanski   |
| 25: | Carol Ostrander |     |                    |

### August Anniversaries:

|     |                     |     |                           |
|-----|---------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 01: | Joy & Matthew Perry | 12: | Jacquelyn & Michael Brown |
| 07: | Judi & Dan Brayer   | 28: | Tara & Shawn Nugent       |

### EOP Clothing Closet

The EOP has reached out to local churches, seeking assistance in stocking a clothing closet for those individuals who are looking for employment but don’t have appropriate clothing to wear to an interview. They are also hoping to stock prom clothing for students who want to attend a prom but don’t have a dress or suit.

We will be putting a box in the rear of the church for those donations that you may have. We’re looking for men’s clothing in the form of suits, sport coats, dress pants and shirts. Women’s clothing should be business-type that would be appropriate for an interview. — Sue Draht

### Poor People’s Campaign

The Poor People’s Campaign holds “Teaching Tuesday’s” events at Trinity every other Tuesday from 6-8 pm. These events are open to the public. We will have dinner and discussions regarding Social Justice Issues. Come with an empty belly and an open mind. Bring food to share if you can. Meeting dates and topics for August are:

August 7, 2018-Immigration  
August 21, 2018-Education



# August 2018



| Sunday                        | Monday                          | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
|                               |                                 |   | <b>1</b><br>Melissa on vacation<br>Children's Clothing Closet 9-11   | <b>2</b><br>Melissa on Vacation                       | <b>3</b><br>Office Closed                                 | <b>4</b><br>Thrift Shop Open 9-12  |
| <b>5</b><br>Morning Prayer 9  | <b>6</b><br>Melissa on Vacation | <b>7</b><br>Melissa on vacation<br>Poor People's Campaign 6-8 | <b>8</b><br>Melissa on vacation<br>Children's Clothing Closet 9-11<br>2nd Place East 11<br>Christian Counseling 11 - 8 | <b>9</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-2  | <b>10</b><br>Office Closed                                | <b>11</b><br>Thrift Shop Open 9-12 |
| <b>12</b><br>Holy Eucharist 9 | <b>13</b><br>Office Open 1-5    | <b>14</b><br>Office Open 1-5                                  | <b>15</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Children's Clothing Closet 9-11<br>Christian Counseling 11-8                           | <b>16</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-2 | <b>17</b><br>Office Closed<br><br>Deadline for The Record | <b>18</b><br>Thrift Shop Open 9-12 |
| <b>19</b><br>Holy Eucharist 9 | <b>20</b><br>Office Open 1-5    | <b>21</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Poor People's Campaign 6-8    | <b>22</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Children's Clothing Closet 9-11<br>Christian Counseling 11 - 8                         | <b>23</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-2 | <b>24</b><br>Office Closed                                | <b>25</b><br>Thrift Shop Open 9-12 |
| <b>26</b><br>Holy Eucharist 9 | <b>27</b><br>Office Open 1-5    | <b>28</b><br>Office Open 1-5                                  | <b>29</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Children's Clothing Closet Closed<br>Christian Counseling 11 - 8                       | <b>30</b><br>Office Open 1-5<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-2 | <b>31</b><br>Office Closed                                |                                    |

# Trinity Episcopal Church

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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 Reverend Wanda Copeland  
Email: [pastorwanda24@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwanda24@gmail.com)

Office Staff: Melissa Ransom  
Email: [info@trinitychurchelmira.org](mailto:info@trinitychurchelmira.org)

Organist: Sharon Reynolds

Wardens: Judith Sheasley and Susan Nagle

Vestry Members: Lisa Kelly, Sue Draht, Ben Buchholz

Treasurer: Dori Riggs

Clerk of the Vestry: Melissa Ransom

Sexton: Paul Palmer

