

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WEST PITTSTON



Our Mission Statement

Working and Praying Together
“To live and build holy community”

AUTUMN 2017

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TRINITY PARISH UPDATE

THE COMPREHENSIVE SEASONAL TRINITY PARISH UPDATE HELPS TO COMMUNICATE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT TRINITY CHURCH MINISTRIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE SEASON.

WEEKLY BRIEF *Church Updates* ARE PUBLISHED AS NECESSARY TO SHARE SPECIFICS RELATED TO PARISH AND COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS OF IMPORTANCE TO PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS.

WELCOME TO TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WEST PITTSTON

Located only minutes from Scranton and Wilkes-Barre in the residential “garden village” of West Pittston Borough, Trinity Episcopal Church is a friendly, kind community of faith where you are welcome. Established in 1883, we are a house of Christian prayer, worship and service for everyone, welcoming all who seek an inclusive community of friendship and love. In fact, living and building holy community is central to our parish mission efforts. In our gatherings for the celebration of Sunday Holy Eucharist, opportunities for ministry and service, and a wide array of community building events throughout the year we strive to mirror the relationship of love and abundance that exists between The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. There are many ways to participate and belong here. We invite you to become part of the fabric of this community, and to join us in our commitment to live faithfully as members of the Family of God, “Working and Praying Together to Live and Build Holy Community.”

Parish Vision Statement

“We are named after the Holy Trinity, a community of holy relationship. Our parish celebrates by lifestyle and deeds the gift of the Holy Spirit that the Father has breathed into God’s people through Jesus Christ.”

WORSHIP IS THE CENTRAL ACT OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Worship is the central act of our life together and the Holy Eucharist is the heart of that life. Worship in the Episcopal Church tends to be quietly reverent and dignified. The Book of Common Prayer is the norm of our services. Our uniformity of worship, while allowing for variations, serves to remind us of the universal nature of the Church. In our worship we are united with past, present and future generations of Christians. Such worship is carried out with a view to the glorification of God, not for our entertainment; thus Episcopalians are not spectators but participants in worship. Not only do we express ourselves in word but also in gesture. Generally, we kneel to pray, we stand to praise, and we sit to be instructed. To Episcopalians, worship is the most important thing we do and ultimately this reality should characterize all that we do in every area of life. Following our time of worship we are sent into the world to be instruments of God's goodness, nurture and peace. Having received the gift of bread and drink from heaven we are sent to be bread and refreshment for one another and our world.

THE HOLY WATER FONT

The Font of Baptism is positioned at our entrance. It remains a symbol of our calling and mission. It is a sign and symbol providing the holy reminder of our celebrating our calling as God's daughters and sons. Utilizing the holy water of the font at the point of entering and exiting the church by making the holy sign of the cross is a way of recalling for ourselves and giving thanks to God for having been wonderfully made as a holy people set apart to serve as instruments and members of the Body of Christ. "Remember your Baptism. Live God's Love. Answer God's call."

TRINITY'S WEEKLY E-NEWS BULLETIN. Trinity's weekly E-News Bulletin, the "Trinity Chimes" goes directly to THE e-mail box TO ALL who submit an e-mail address to trinityepiscopalwestpittston@hotmail.com. Please update your e-mail address with the parish office.

Is there someone in your family or among your friends who might be interested in the ministry, worship and events going on at Trinity? Please feel free to forward our weekly e-news bulletin message to them or invite them to email the parish office at the above e-mail address be added to the parish e-mail news mailing list.

TRINITY'S WEBSITE

trinityepiscopalchurchwestpittston.org

TRINITY'S REGIONAL OUTREACH AND RELIEF MINISTRY SITE

episcopalRELIEFnepa.org

FIND TRINITY ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Episcopal-Church-of-West-Pittston>

Trinity's MUSICare Project Featuring Music Together

Music and Movement Session for Children Infant- Age Five and The Grown-ups Who Love Them!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/MUSICare-Project-featuring-Music-Together>

MUSIC TOGETHER. Visit the national website www.musictogether.com and Trinity's website at www.trinityepiscopalchurchwestpittston.org for how parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles can make music together with their infants and children ages 8 months - 5. Trinity's AUTUMN Semester begins now! Registration forms are available in the Music Together brochure located in each pew. **Visit facebook page for details:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/MUSICare-Project-featuring-Music-Together>

MUSICare BIRTHDAY PARTIES AVAILABLE. Hold your child or grandchild's birthday party in Trinity downstairs and enjoy 45 minutes of sing-a-long fun for children and adults alike. Our MUSICARE representative is also available for parties in your home. Telephone the parish office for reservations or write Trinity Church at trinityepiscopalchurchwestpittston@hotmail.com.

VOW FOR CONSISTENT PRAYER AND WORSHIP. In our Baptismal Vows the Christian person promises “to be faithful to continue in the apostle’s teaching, in the fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and the prayers.”

CALL TO LITURGICAL MINISTRIES. Ministers are very much needed for our Sunday worship including Readers, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, Organ Assistants, Greeters and Altar Guild. Please share your time and talent on a rotating basis for one or more of our liturgical ministries. Please see Rick Logan, Senior Warden and Verger.

WEDNESDAY’S DAY OF PRAYER. Church is open every Wednesday for quiet prayer from the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Noon Day prayer is public and includes prelude reflection and postlude reflection and intercessory prayers. All are welcome for the 20 minute prayer event. **Please share the word that Wednesday is a designated Day of Prayer whether we gather at Trinity or exercise a greater investment in prayer more privately on these days.**

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS. Submit names for those in need of our concern and prayers or for specific prayer requests by telephoning the parish office to “ignite” the prayer network or by including your prayer requests in the Sunday Prayers of The People by utilizing the Parish Prayer Request Book located in the front entranceway.

PRAYERNETWORK. “Pray for one another and bear one another’s burdens.” Thank you for your participation in Trinity’s Good Neighbor “Prayernetwork” ministry. So often members of our parish and the Greater Pittston Area community express their gratitude for the prayer support provided through this ministry. Thank you for your willingness to help bear our neighbor’s burdens in this way. If you would be willing to share in this ministry please contact Fr. Major. Let us pray for and with one another.

VISIT THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ON LINE. An easy to use site with the daily Morning, Noon and Evening Prayers, daily devotions and much more is available at www.bookofcommonprayer.net.
PRAY TOGETHER. PRAY WITH THE CHURCH.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES. A full listing of ministry opportunities can be found at www.trinityepiscopalchurchwestpittston.org. Please check in with Fr. John as you discern your calling to the ministries of the Church.

GROWING PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY. Can you think of anyone that might benefit from a Sunday visit to your church? Perhaps someone you know would enjoy one of our upcoming parish life events. Personal invitations to family members and friends are the best way for them to discover welcome into a faith community and a renewed connection to God and God’s People. Offer an invitation to Sunday Holy Eucharist and/or a parish event. Someone you know. Current statistics reveal that over fifty percent of peoples not affiliated with any church would visit if personally invited.

[Note: Parish “calling cards” and parish brochures are available on the offering table for distribution.]

OUR MESSAGE: ALL ARE WELCOME. Basically, this sums up our message when it comes to our relationship with God and God’s Church. It is the message we strive to share with all. Please submit your suggestions in the Sunday offering describing YOUR IDEAS and how you might be willing to assist in growing the reign of God in our midst and expanding our ministry. Index cards are available and pen are available in the entranceway. Drop your suggestions in the offering plate as one of your gifts in support of mission and ministry

COFFEE TIME / FELLOWSHIP. Trinity hosts what has traditionally been called “ Coffee Hour” before Holy Eucharist on the third Sunday of each month, beginning at 10:15 a.m. This is an opportunity to gather before Mass to share fellowship and some light refreshments such as coffee, tea, juice, water and baked goods and fellowship with your Trinity family. Thank you to Jim Callahan and Marti Shafer-Callahan for volunteering for this parish ministry. To assist with baked good or bagels please check with Marti and Jim to schedule a food gift for this monthly meet and greet event.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS: *at Church and at Home* . With only a very brief and often sporadic time with youth on Sunday mornings we are reminded that Christian formation is something that mostly takes place between parents and their children in the home. This is why our Christian education efforts called *God's People at Church and at Home* focuses on brief Sunday lessons at Church and also on providing at Home resources designed for supporting parents who are always the first and often the best teachers of their children when it comes to sharing the Christian faith. Trinity Parish will hold age appropriate sessions every Sunday of every month beginning at 10:55 a.m. and also provide parents with ample age-appropriate resources for the week so that Christian formation can easily be scheduled around your family schedule.

A FAITH COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH. In an effort to provide youth with proper Christian formation and a faith foundation that will last a life time Trinity parish is hopeful that all parents with children will participate with the parish to make a commitment to provide regular encouragement for our youth to: **(1)** participate in church school on every Sunday of every month, **(2)** make new discoveries about their faith by utilizing their age-appropriate curriculum and Take-Home resources all through the month, **(3)** take time to pray every day, **(4)** participate in weekly Sunday Holy Eucharist, **(5)** volunteer and assist with the liturgical ministries on Youth Ministry Sunday (Family Sunday) scheduled on the last Sunday of every month **(6)** regularly share their talent and time in service to their Church and world, **and (7)** utilize Trinity's Lending Library [Must Reads For Young People]. **NOTE TO PARENTS: Youth Ministry Sunday.** Trinity Parish wishes to encourage our young people to experience ownership of the parish and discover their talents and have regular opportunity to be affirmed in ministry. Please review the Church School Bulletin Board located in the undercroft on a regular basis and register your child(ren) to volunteer and assist with the liturgical ministries on Youth Ministry Sunday scheduled on the last Sunday of every month. Please register with Church School teachers at least two weeks in advance of the date of Youth Ministry Sunday.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION WITH OUR YOUTH. Celebration of The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is open to all youth and families seeking this joyful and memorable event. Fr. Major has thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared an “age appropriate curriculum” for youth ages 5- 8. The materials are for use *at Church and at Home* for autumn and Winter and our celebration is on Trinity Sunday, next Spring. Registration is required. Registration forms are located at the parish office and at the entrance of the church.

TRINITY'S LIBRARY. **Trinity's Library is receiving a make over!** The Library located in the church proper, is now **mostly dedicated designated for our toddlers and young children** compete with “GODLY PLAY” opportunities such as “toy blocks” to be handled with pictures of creation, Noah's Arc and the animals and Story Book of Noah, a child's altar complete with chalice and pretend bread, and a model of Trinity Episcopal Church complete with our youth own painted figures of themselves . Further, there are lots of resources to either sign out and return and soon... a file of handout lessons and projects to take home as part of our Christian education efforts called *God's People at Church and at Home*. The new home for our teen and adult library is still on one of the shelves in that area. Theses resources are the ones suggested by Fr. John for all teens and adults. **If you have signed out books or are signing out books from Trinity's Library please follow directives as posted in the library areas and return within three (3) weeks. And... we have the library of the internet for lots more opportunities to be nurtured in our faith.**

MORE GOOD NEIGHBOR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

NEIGHBORCare Comfort Cooks. Home-cooked dinner portions needed for elderly and ill from time to time. Please see Fr. Major to schedule sharing your meals with elderly and ill neighbors who seldom enjoy home cooking. Frozen dinners needed too! Help stock Trinity's Feed-A-Friend Freezer with Home Cooked or Purchased Frozen Dinners. Wrap your meal, label it and date it and place it in the Trinity Freezer located in the Trinity kitchen. Neighbors and friends are very appreciative of this ministry.

TRINITY'S FOOD BANK ITEMS - Grocery Gift Cards / Cereals / Pasta and Tomato Sauce / Any Non Perishable Items. Trinity's Food Basket is located near the entrance of the church and presented with the people's offerings on the last Sunday of every month. Frozen Dinners Needed Too! Help stock Trinity's Feed-A-Friend Freezer with Home – Cooked or Purchased Frozen Dinners. All are welcome to utilize the pantry. Friends, neighbors and family members will be informed by you. Please share the word this neighborly support is available to all.

Trinity PLET: This is the “Parish Life Events Team.” Mission oriented to build community and if monies are raised we are glad and welcome all proceeds to support mission and ministry. Idea / suggestion sheets are in the entranceway and may be placed in the offering plate.

PLET EVERY FIRST SATURDAY PARISH GROUNDS “GIANT YARD SALES” : May – October. Bring own table and chairs and donate just \$10 for a space on Trinity Grounds. Must RSVP. Share the news and grow the interest a really good community builder and somewhat easy fundraiser introduced years ago by The Rickenbach family from their experience in a parish in their old neighborhood near Philadelphia. **WE ARE PLANNING ON OCTOBER if weather is still fair. Fr. John is coordinating and can be reached at 570.654.3261. Please share the word and encourage family and friends to reserve a space and / or stop by October 6th!**

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF 2017-2018 PLET : “Parish Life Events Team.”

Listen and look for news in the weeks ahead on a reorganizational meeting for our team immersed in our mission to lead the way building positive community within and outside the parish. The hope is this meeting will take place before the close of 2017 so we are off and running early on the New Year.

VESTRY : GOVERNING

Hugh Kelly – Sr. Warden
Janine Ungvasky - Jr. Warden and Vestry Secretary
Sue Barton
Jennifer Darrell
Lindsey Humphreys
Mary Jo Pavinski
Dave Rickenbach - Sr. Treasurer
Marti Shafer – Callahan - Jr. Treasurer

Fr. John Major - Rector



...a shield in the midst of life's storms....

If you or a friend or a family member is in need a friend and shield in the midst of life's various storms please contact us!

GIFT OF DIMES. The “DIME VASE” is located in the narthex. Join together to assist in the sustaining of Christianity’s mission, to give to charitable and good works by offering the biblical standard of 10 cents on our every dollar that comes to us. The dime vase serves as a reminder that the biblical standard of giving to God’s work is ten percent of all that we have been given. **Read and Reflect:** ONE WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY [Acts 4:32-37]

TRINITY’S POOR BOX. Your donations to Trinity’s Poor Box located near our Baptismal Font during the Advent Season will benefit families struggling with health problems and efforts to make ends meet. Please be generous in support of families with health care needs among us. Our financial support helps to ease the strain of various stressors. **Please be generous with gift cards and donations.**

PARISH DISCRETIONARY FUND. Any donation designated to the “parish discretionary fund” [PDF] is used to tend to the needs of those who ask our help and support. Please be generous at least once each month in supporting this fund for outreach ministries. [For Example: Please sacrifice the cost of a dinner, a new purse, a new shirt, a pizza, other discretionary purchases you make - to help grow this fund once each month]. In addition, the loose offering on the First Sunday of the Month goes to services to the needy. By growing this fund together we can support many in the Lord’s good name and visit homes with charity and love from Trinity Church, West Pittston.

MAINESOURCE CASHBACK PROJECT. If you shop at MAINESOURCE please pick up and utilize the Trinity I. D. Number that is available in purse and wallet form on the Offering Table. **EARN 5% CASHBACK for Trinity: 44049806275. Fill out a form for your personal number when you visit Maine Source. They will ask you your preferred organization [Trinity :)] .** We gathered almost \$300 this year in “kickbacks!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Continuing Christian education opportunities for adults are offered throughout the year including “The Journey,” an “at-home” bible study, seasonal, parish-based faith forums, a variety of faith enrichment courses available through the Diocese of Bethlehem and “**FAITH FORUM**” Christian education and information sheets distributed regularly published comprehensive parish bulletin. **MORE EVENTS COMING SOON!**

THE JOURNEY awaits every one of us.

A simple, brief, daily “at-home” bible study and prayerbook that helps us to remain grounded in and attentive to God’s Word, will be mailed to your home! Orders are required by December 10th.

I hope and pray that you will want to use this very good daily prayerbook that guides us to present ourselves to God every day so that we receive the grace and blessings of God’s Word to us.

It is possible to be immersed in so many things and find ourselves so busy with our agendas that a moment of prayer and making an effort to seek God’s Word may be something we delay and struggle with.

I trust that our commitment to a daily effort to pray and receive the guidance of God’s Word will be a tremendous blessing to each of us, our families and God’s Church.

Please know that I am here for you, I am on “the journey” with you and your family and friends to help and support you in any way I can.

With my continued prayers for your health, peace and every blessing, I am,

The Rev. John Major
Rector

P.S.

If you have not already done so - please remember to order your 2018 subscriptions to The Journey by December 10th ! An order form is our weekly electronic bulletin called “THE TRINITY CHIMES” and at the entrance of the church.. Participate in sharing the message of Sacred Scripture with family members and friends by ordering one or more subscriptions as a stocking stuffer. The first issue for 2017 will be available in time for Christmas! \$25 per year. A faith enrichment event every day!



Trinity Episcopal Church of West Pittston
Working and Praying Together
"To live and build holy community"

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www.trinityepiscopalchurchwestpittston.org

www.episcopalreliefnepa.org

Trinity's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Episcopal-Church-of-West-Pittston>

Music Together Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/MUSICare-Project-featuring-Music-Together>

Volunteer Missioner for Ministries and Renewal

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