



TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

[Trinity@Home](#)

[Give Online](#)

[Pledge Now](#)



RECTOR'S BLOG

The Porch



Dear Friends,

The weekend essay by David Owen, in this week's *New Yorker* magazine is all about porches. Its title, which is itself long enough to be considered an essay is "Inside Out: The magical in-betweenness – and surprising epidemiological history – of the porch." Owens points out that, during hot months in the era before air-conditioning, a porch was usually the coolest room in a house. Many, although not all homes, are now cooled by artificial climate control, and during steamy weeks, like this past one, we mostly live indoors where the temperature and humidity are comfortable.

Terry and I have an extraordinary front porch at home – one large enough so that, in Spring every year, we create a living room on it. After sweeping and washing the floor, we bring out a cushioned couch and chairs, along with some old wooden rockers we inherited from friends years ago. Because the porch faces east, it's comfortably in the shade during the late afternoon and evening hours, making it the perfect place to eat supper and read a book. A ceiling fan moves the air on still evenings and, when we run it fast enough, keeps the bugs at bay. A small children's table and chairs in one corner hearken back to the time our kids were little, and a climbing hydrangea envelopes one of the two brick pillars.

I don't have a porch here in Toledo; I have a concrete slab outside the living room doors of my apartment instead. My neighbors have done much more with their concrete slabs than I. They've put chairs and tables and plants on them – which represents an act of faith, in my

opinion, given the neighborhood. No furniture has gone missing – proof that the security firm that patrols the parking lots of the apartment complex is an effective deterrent.

Owens writes, “Porches are semi-magical spaces, intermediate between inside and outside.” The idea of a porch being an intermediate space – a space between “in” and “out.” – led the church I served in Granville to call one of its programs, “The Porch.” The program was intended to be a ministry of hospitality and healing for disaffected Christians and, for all, a non-threatening introduction to alternative views of the Christian faith. During sessions held over five consecutive Sunday evenings, participants had the chance to explore Christianity from different points of view, learn how to take the Bible seriously, but not literally, and what it would mean to live a life that incorporated the values of Jesus.

We believed then, and I still believe now, that crossing a church’s threshold for the first time is really hard for many people – especially those who have experienced any kind of trauma in a religious setting. Meeting on a “porch” was a way to lower the threshold.

Trinity may not have a specific program called “The Porch,” but it has many porch-like opportunities. Earlier this year, we welcomed people to view the solar eclipse during “Totality at Trinity.” A huge crowd came to the Plaza for the Fourth of July fireworks. Music & the Arts concert series represent another “porch.” And later this month, Toledo’s Pride observances will give this parish another opportunity to offer a space that’s “intermediate between inside and outside.”

Is there someone you might invite to the coolest room in the house.?

See you on the porch.

Blessings,
Stephen Applegate

JEEPFEST REMINDER

Toledo Jeepfest has taken over downtown Toledo through Sunday noon. Trinity will essentially be inaccessible during Jeepfest, and staff members have been working from home.

A reminder that NO SUNDAY MORNING service will be held at Trinity on Sunday, August 4. The people of St. Michael’s in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4718 Brittany Rd, have graciously offered to welcome Trinity people who want to attend their morning service at 10:00 am.

We will offer an EVENING SERVICE this Sunday at 5:00 pm at Trinity. It will be a full service with Holy Eucharist and great music.

Since Jeepfest will have Jeeps and rubber ducks – it’s a “Jeep thing” – Trinity is capitalizing on this by holding a split-the-pot raffle benefiting Trinity’s Community Breakfast program.

We’ve caught a few of the rubber ducks and crammed them into a transparent plastic container. For a \$5.00 donation, participants get to submit a written guess of how many ducks have flocked to fill the container. You can donate using cash or use our web-based donation kiosk in the sanctuary. We’ve already had a great response. This Sunday evening is the final chance to get in on the action. The winner, if someone guesses the number of ducks correctly, will be announced on Sunday, August 11!

TRINITY PRIDE



T-Shirts - Order Deadline: August 11 at midnight It’s that time of the year again when we stand out in Pride with our incredible t-shirts! Self-ordering is available at Jūpmode’s website which [you can access by clicking here](#). Cut off for ordering is 8/11 at midnight, and we will be handing them out after service by the Columbarium on Sunday 8/18. The colors you can choose from are light blue, light pink, and white to support our trans siblings. Shirts are \$23.35 and come in infant to adult sizes. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Community Engagement at george@trinitytoledo.org



Pride Kick-Off Family Picnic - Friday, August 23 5:30-7:30pm Join us for food, crafts, music, face-painting, story time for the kids, and much more. This year's picnic will be a potluck, so if you are able; bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided along with lemonade and water.

Sign up here for a beautiful evening on our plaza!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439173-friday#/>



Pride Saturday - Parade Marchers sign up here
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439274-saturday#/>

Promenade Booth - Come represent Trinity and pass out swag and love on people at

Promenade Park <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439231-saturday#/>

Hospitality at 316 Adams – Come help swing open our doors to all who need a place to cool off, use bathrooms or need cold water from 10a – 3pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439315-hospitality#/>

PRIDE DONATIONS



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE – AUGUST 2024

Parishioners and Friends of Trinity,

The search for a new rector continues to move forward! We are happy to announce that two required formal documents have been sent to the Bishop's Office and approved.

“What documents,” you ask? The Episcopal Church asks that a parish looking for a new rector submit both a Parish Profile and an Office of Transition Ministry report. The Parish Profile is our attempt to tell the outside world who we currently are at Trinity, and to do this as clearly, accurately, and succinctly as possible. The OTM report looks more at some of Trinity's history, ministry and worship style, and the skills we would like our next rector to possess. Both documents relied heavily on our parish-wide Listening Sessions that took place this past spring. Committee members also reached out and listened to members of the Trinity community who could not attend any of these sessions. Our goal was to get as complete a portrait of Trinity Episcopal as possible! To every person who participated by offering their honest answers to our questions, we are sincerely grateful.

These documents will be available online and in print to anyone searching for a rector position for a period of three months, from August 1 – October 31, 2024. During this period, your Search Committee will undergo special training in the interview process from Rev. Aaron Gerlach, our diocesan liaison, before meeting any potential candidates.

This time may seem like a quieter, less active time in the process, and in a way it is. But while there is no communal flurry of activity during these months, other preparations are being made and fertile soil tilled. As always, Search Committee members are prayerfully engaged with one another and fully reliant on the Spirit of God to bring us candidate(s) and, hopefully, that one person who will emerge as our next rector.

When November arrives, we will begin the next phase of interviewing any candidate(s) that seem like a potentially great fit for Trinity. This phase will be very quiet and completely confidential out of respect for the process, and everyone involved.

The Search Committee members: Gail Abood, Mary Beroske, Angie Carriker, Mark Dubielak, LaVonda Johnson, Karen Keune, Allen Santiago, and Suzanne Smitley remain grateful for your participation in this process AND gently ask for your prayers so that we may do our best for Trinity!

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO?

The Nominating Committee for the 208th Diocesan Convention being held November 8 & 9 in Perrysburg, are inviting clergy and lay persons to offer themselves for consideration for the slate of candidates to be nominated for elected offices in the diocese.

According to the Constitution and Canons of the diocese, the Nominating Committee will consider a variety of experiences and service. The Committee's goal is to assemble nominations that will further Christian policies of, and concerns for, fairness, justice, and inclusiveness as outlined in the canons.

Elected office holders need to be lay members in good standing or clergy canonically resident in this diocese.

Trinity has had several of its members serve on diocese committees in the past. Here are the positions for which nominees are being sought:

Trustees

- One lay or clergy (5-year term)

Standing Committee

- One lay (4-year term) and
- One clergy (4-year term)

Diocesan Council

- Two lay (3-year term) and
- Three clergy (as determined by number of votes in order below)
- Two clergy (3-year term)
- One clergy (unexpired 2-year term)

Episcopal Community Services Development Council

- One clergy (3-year term) and
- Five lay (as determined by number of votes in order below)
- Three lay (3-year term)

- One lay (unexpired 2-year term)
- One lay (unexpired 1-year term)

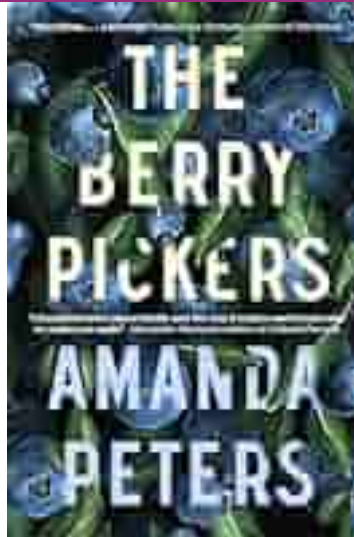
If you would like to know more about any of the positions listed above – why they exist and what they do – please contact the parish office – trinity@trinitytoledo.org, (419) 243-1231.

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE MARCH

2nd Annual Communities Against Violence March and Unity Day

Saturday, August 17 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Smith Park, 998 Dorr St. Free, open to all. [Sign up here](#). Sponsored by Sisters 4 Unity. Contact them at 567-215-0045 or Sisters4Unity419@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB



Book clubbers! We're taking a bit of a hiatus for July and August but add this to the late summer reading list so it's fresh in your mind for discussion on September 8. Stay tuned for sign up and zoom information. (*Our library has print, ebook and audio copies.)

CALLING ALL HOSTS!



Are you a born host? Do you love creating community around a table with a delicious meal? Then Parish Life wants YOU! Trinity's Pop-Up Dinners are coming back, and we're looking for hosts wanting to create fabulous dinners and host new and old friends in the Trinity Community. You can [sign up here](#), and the Parish Life Team will be in contact soon.

WHO IS JESUS ANYWAY?

Grab a snack at coffee hour and join us in the Walbridge Room as we begin to explore who Jesus is, using Diana Butler Bass' book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* as a springboard. (Here is a [video of the author introducing the book](#) if you'd like to learn more.)

These discussions are open to everyone, whether you have read the book or not, whether you can attend all the sessions or not, whether you know who Jesus is to you or you have no clue. Here are some questions to ponder for this week (Jesus as teacher; Jesus as friend):

- What has been your understanding of Jesus throughout your life? How have you seen that change over the years?
- “Jesus calls us friends. God reaches toward us, not as a fearsome master or judge, but a friend, beckoning us to reach back” (p. 16 of the book). Do you view Jesus as a friend of yours? Why or why not?
- Which of the teachings of Jesus is most compelling or attractive to you? Which teaching is most challenging or frustrating? Why?

The rough schedule for the rest of the sessions:

August 4: No session

August 11: Jesus as Lord

August 18: Jesus as Way

August 25: Jesus as Presence

September 1: Bonus session: The Universal Jesus

If you have any questions, contact facilitators Jolene Miller and Amy Saylor. Bring your questions, we'll bring ours!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PLAZA?



Sunday, August 11 @ 11:15 a.m. My Brother's Place

What's Next for the Plaza? Come help plan what our next steps will be to continue bringing our plaza to life. What furniture do we need? Could we plant one more bed this fall? Maybe hostas in the bed along the side of the Four Seagate building, which only gets shade? Other ideas? What uses do you envision for the plaza? Let's celebrate the progress we've made and the wonderful volunteers that have made it happen, and think together about what's next.

Through August 18 we are asking for donations of 8oz water bottles and hard candy for Pride! You can drop them off at our “drop off station” by the columbarium. PLEASE, no chocolate as it tends to melt in the August sun. Any chocolate donated will be considered a tithe for our Director of Operations. If you have any questions please contact our Director of Community Engagement through email at, george@trinitytoledo.org

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Sunday, August 18 1:00–3:00 p.m. Epworth United Methodist Church, 4855 Central Ave. Presentation of the City of Toledo’s Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety
Malcolm Cunningham, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (MONSE), will provide an overview of the City of Toledo's new Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety. Malcolm will host an interactive forum after the plan presentation. Many people from the community have been working on this plan over the past year, and it is bearing fruit in reducing gun violence. Come learn about the positive steps our community is taking! **Free, open to all.** [Sign up here.](#)

[Download information flyer here.](#)

Diocesan Office for Mission Peace and Justice

[Click here for the resources page.](#)

TRINITY PRAYER LIST



Did you know that Trinity has an active prayer list? If you'd like prayers for yourself or for someone you know, you can request them by contacting the Trinity office (trinity@trinitytoledo.org or 419-243-1231) or our interim rector, Stephen Applegate (in person or via email at stephen@trinitytoledo.org).

At the moment, all prayer requests are shared only with a small intercessory prayer group who, along with parish clergy, offer recurring prayers for each request. This is not a closed group. If you want to join Trinity parishioners who've committed to the practice of regularly praying for others, ask Stephen about joining the prayer team.

When a request is received, it remains on the prayer list for four weeks before it's taken off. Requests can always be renewed or submitted again. However, having an "expiration date" will prevent the list from overflowing with prayer requests that are out of date.

TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

Trinity@Home is now a live-stream of Trinity's 10:00 am in-person service with an interactive chat.

www.trinitytoledo.org/live

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Survivor shares story with Province V on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

[Episcopal News Service] Rachel Socorro is a human trafficking survivor and a co-founder of Total Life Wellness, an organization that provides support services to trauma survivors with a specialized focus [...]

Bethlehem Moravian church settlement in Pennsylvania named World Heritage Site

Editor's note: The Episcopal Church is in full communion with the the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America. [Religion News Service] Known for its original Moravian architecture [...]

Leader condemns attack on Gaza church, believed to be the world's third oldest

[World Council of Churches] World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Jerry Pillay condemned a July 29 attack on St. Porphyrius Orthodox Church in Gaza, where people have for [...]

Central Pennsylvania, Bethlehem eye vote on diocesan merger; Indiana dioceses' talks advance

[Episcopal News Service] The authorization of a series of diocesan mergers was one of the big stories at the 81st General Convention in June, when bishops and deputies celebrated the [...]