

Trinity Center Labyrinth: Thank you, Ben Brake!

This past summer Ben Brake gave a gift to Trinity Center. Ben is a former Camp Trinity camper and a child of the Diocese of East Carolina. As his Eagle Scout project, Ben created a portable labyrinth for the center. Several years ago, Ben and his mother Nancy approached Executive Director Penn Perry about the idea. What appealed to everyone was the portability of the labyrinth. At almost 30' by 30', this labyrinth made of sturdy canvas could be laid out in any of Trinity Center's meeting spaces, providing guests a new programmatic option and an opportunity for prayerful reflection. Now the labyrinth is a reality and already in use at the center. An incredible amount of effort went into both the design of the labyrinth and into its actual construction. All of us at Trinity Center are grateful to Ben, his mother Nancy, and all of the people of St. Paul's Clinton who helped Ben make his dream a reality. The portable labyrinth is a perfect example of the gift that keeps on giving.



Did you know?

The labyrinth is an archetype, a divine imprint, found in religious traditions around the world. By walking a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth, laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral around 1220, we are reclaiming a long-forgotten mystical tradition.

This labyrinth has only one path so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our life; it touches our sorrows and releases our joys. Walk it with an open heart.



Trinity Center's Vision Statement:

"Trinity Center welcomes all people to the spiritual home of Episcopalians of East Carolina, where we share God's gifts of community and hospitality in a natural coastal environment."

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Camp Trinity: Celebrates!

-Mary Beth Gay, Camp Trinity Director

What a wonderful summer Camp Trinity had!

This summer, Camp Trinity served 607 children - to do so took 20 staff, 9 session leaders, 8 nurses, 18 CIT'S (counselors-in-training), and 40 Adventurers Camp Volunteers. As always, campers succeeded in a variety of ways, on the field at sports, in the swimming pool, even during morning program. More importantly, the children of this diocese connected with each other while at camp. During meals, in cabins, while out sailing on the sound, they were talking and relating and forming Christian community. I believe that is one of this diocese's greatest gifts, both to the children and to itself, and I see the results in the many summer staff members who were once campers themselves.

Once again this summer, our Fund for Programs and Scholarships allowed us to continue to operate Camp Trinity on a need-blind basis, so that all children who obtain a place in camp are able to attend camp, and so that Christian community is available to all our children. This fund is replenished yearly by individuals and churches of the Diocese of East Carolina, and it makes possible what I consider our central ministry. This past year, we disbursed over \$29,000 out of the scholarship fund.

Lastly, I cannot forget to mention our accreditation visit. On July 24, 2010, Camp Trinity was visited by the American Camping Association (ACA) for its Standards Visit (scheduled once every three years). Developed exclusively for the camp industry, this nationally recognized program focuses on program quality and health and safety issues and requires us to review every facet of our operation. We are thrilled to report that Camp Trinity scored outstanding marks in all areas! I continue to be overwhelmed by the blessings of Camp Trinity, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the diocese by being a part of this wonderful place. To all who helped camp along its way this past summer, you have my deepest gratitude. To the summer staff of 2010 goes a special thank you; I will never forget your dedication, love, and hard work.



Road Scholar Programs at Trinity Center:

Elderhostel Inc. has made a change to their brand but not their programming. Elderhostel is now running programs as "Road Scholar". The new name is in keeping with the original mission of Elderhostel Programs, which is to offer educational programs for folks who like to take to the road. Trinity Center will again be hosting several Road Scholar Programs this year. These programs are open to folks over 50 as well as any adult traveling companions over 21. We will also hold two intergenerational programs in the coming months for families who wish to learn and explore together. The program dates are listed below. For more information about these Road Scholar programs please go to www.roadscholar.com.

Tryon Palace Christmas Through Ages, December 12-17, 2010
Down East Culture and History, & Outer Banks Animal Encounters

Using Digital Photography January 30-February 2, 2011
to Capture North Carolina's or
Dynamic Coast February 20-23, 2011

Birding On The Outer Banks: March 13-16, 2011
Coastal Forests & Island Sanctuaries

Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season, March 27-April 1, 2010
From the Estuary to the Ocean, & Gentle on My Mind

Intergenerational: April 18-22, 2010
Exploring the Waters and or
Wilds of the Outer Banks June 7-10, 2010

Sound to Sea: Sea Turtle Success!

Trinity Center's beach was home to two loggerhead sea turtle nests this summer. Both nests were identified and monitored by Sound to Sea staff. The two nests successfully hatched over 100 hatchlings each! The nests were two of over 800 loggerhead nests in NC. North Carolina was also home to two leatherbacks, over a dozen green, and three Kemp's ridley. It was a banner year for sea turtle nesting in NC.

STS staff volunteers during nesting season to walk the beach in front of Trinity Center to look for sea turtle tracks as part of the NC Sea Turtle Project. The project was created to monitor sea turtle activity along the entire coast of North Carolina. All the data collected by the project are organized and disseminated to the state and federal agencies that use the information to make management decisions. For more information about the project or about sea turtles active along our coast check online at www.seaturtle.org.



Green Sea Turtle: PKS 2010



Loggerhead Sea Turtle: PKS 2010



Green Sea Turtle: PKS 2010

Trinity Center's wish list

- Golf Cart(s)
- Basketballs, 4-square Balls, Frisbees, etc
- Digital Projector
- Pick-up Truck
- 15 Passenger Van
- Wheelchair
- Flashlights
- Portable CD Players
- PA System
- Digital Camera
- Neoprene Gloves
- Bookcases
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Small Generator
- Newer PCs with Windows XP Pro
- Flat Screen Monitors
- Paper Shredder (large)

Family Reunions over Thanksgiving 2011

If this is something that may be of interest to you, please contact Chris Grenier at 888-874-6287 ext.15 to get some general information.

Let's start a new tradition!

My Thoughts:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

It's no secret that summer is the busiest time at Trinity Center. This sixty-two acre facility on Bogue Banks with a long stretch of both beachfront property and soundfront property is busy exactly when one would expect it to be. And when Trinity Center is hopping, it takes all fifty-five staff to take care of the needs of the groups and guests.

It's always during the fall season that I think we as a staff catch our collective breath. It's not really that we have less to do, it's more a sense that we can begin to organize our work schedules and take stock of the center. We look back over the summer. We assess the demands on the facility and begin to prioritize work that needs to be done. For me, that kind of reflection often leads to contemplation of the changes I have witnessed in this center and its many ministries over the past twenty-two summers.

I feel privileged to have spent so much of my adult life at Trinity Center, and I often now feel as if I have found my life's vocation - taking care of this place that has always taken such good care of me. And while I spend most of my time trying to discern how to use our limited resources to help Trinity Center age gracefully, I'd like to once again acknowledge that at the center of my own sense of vocation is the laughter of children. It was residential programming for children that drew me here, specifically Camp Trinity and its emphasis on Christian community. Over the years, though, I have come to see Camp Trinity and our environmental education program Sound-to-Sea as partners in providing quality community-based residential programming for children.

This past summer I watched Mary Beth Gay, a former camper and staffer of mine, lead her own staff of twenty through the American Camping Association Accreditation process. I cannot describe the pride I felt as I saw Mary Beth and her staff take ownership of the accreditation summer and literally obtain a perfect score on the evaluation. For me, it felt like watching one of my former students succeed beyond her wildest expectations. Nothing could thrill me more.

Meanwhile, over in Sound-to-Sea, Mindy Furrer continues to amaze me with her own dedication to residential programming. A former STS instructor and program coordinator, Mindy has moved up through the ranks of her program in much the same way

that I did or Mary Beth did. She is now the program director of Trinity Center, and as such she oversees both our Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) program and Sound-to-Sea. Even though her position does not allow her nearly as much contact with STS as she would like, I still watch her work beyond expectation so that she can remain connected to the program that provides her sense of vocation. With the help of Suzannah Crandall, STS Program Coordinator, and a staff of dedicated instructors, Mindy makes it possible for Trinity Center to host almost eight thousand school children a year.

I do of course value the programming and hospitality that Trinity Center offers all its adult guests, but I believe that our residential programming for children is the beating heart of this center. I know that my belief in that residential programming sustains me as I struggle with the more challenging aspects of my job as executive director. I think both Mary Beth and Mindy feel similarly, and I'm so thankful for their dedication and sense of vocation.



TRINITY CENTER

I would like to make a donation to Trinity Center. Please apply my donation of \$_____ to:

- General Fund (for general use)
- Endowment Fund (restricted)
- Scholarship Fund (camp and programs)
- Employee Fund (in lieu of tips)

Please make checks payable to Trinity Center.

I wish my gift to be made:

In honor of _____

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Thank you for your gift!