

# Turtle Escape:

-Liz Millar, Sound to Sea Instructor

Sound to Sea students and instructors as of late can be seen impersonating sea turtles as they crawl through a TED to escape the clutches of an otter trawl. What's a TED? What's an otter trawl? That's just what students are learning about at STS!

Otter trawls are popular commercial fishing devices often used to harvest shrimp. These trawls, however, are responsible for catching and killing a number of other marine species as bycatch. Bycatch are animals that are untargeted/unintentionally caught while fishing. Unfortunately, much of the discarded bycatch dies as a result of being caught; sea turtles are one of these animals.

As of 1987, the United States required all otter trawls to be equipped with a Turtle Exclusion Device (TED). If a sea turtle enters a modern-day trawl, it will encounter a metal grate that will prevent it from going all the way into the net. The shrimp will go through the metal grate while turtles can escape safely through the opening in the net.

The STS staff recently finished constructing a model TED set-up, allowing students to actually experience the ingenuity of its design as they crawl through the net.



Sound to Sea Instructor reenacts a turtle escaping through the TED.

### 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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# New Programs at Trinity Center:

-Mindy Furrer, Program Director



Tryon Palace  
New Bern, NC



Beaufort, NC

This year Trinity Center will offer several opportunities for guest to come experience our restful amenities, learning opportunities, and hospitality.

From June 1-5 Trinity Center will once again host the Sacred Journey program. This five-day workshop retreat in the beauty and serenity of Pelican House offers an opportunity to listen to your life more closely through writing a spiritual autobiography. The workshop will be led by Christina Askounis, who has taught writing at Duke University for 20 years and in 2004 received a Distinguished Teaching Award. She has a M.A. in creative writing from The Johns Hopkins University. A former newspaper reporter and scriptwriter for public television, she has published a novel, short stories, and has been a retreatant at Pelican House many times herself.

Trinity Center is a popular place for family reunions and get-togethers all summer long. This year we will open our doors to families who want to gather at the beach for Thanksgiving. A delicious traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be prepared on Thursday in addition to the high qualities meals you have come to expect from our dining staff for the rest of your stay. You will have use of the living rooms and conference center to play family games, watch movies, and be together. Imagine a Thanksgiving dinner you do not have to cook or clean for. All of the family fun with none of the stress.

Come and explore Christmas at the Coast. Trinity Center will hold its first ever Christmas program from December 8-11. This long weekend program is open to families who would like to explore everything the Crystal Coast has to offer without the hassle of planning or transportation. Just get yourself to Trinity Center and we will take care of the rest! You will learn about Christmas past as you tour Tryon Palace and stroll the streets of Historic Beaufort on a guided tour of the old homes all decked out for Christmas. Take in a show at the Crystal Coast Jamboree and top it all off with a campfire sing along.

If you would like to register for any of these programs please call Trinity Center toll free at (888) 874-6287 or (252) 247-5600.

# From the Executive Director:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

Snow can be tricky for us to handle at Trinity Center. Of course snow can paralyze any community not prepared for it. Like many North Carolina counties, Carteret County doesn't see enough snow to dedicate much infrastructural support to managing a significant snowfall. If there is a significant snow event, road conditions can become treacherous fairly quickly here. And because Trinity Center is located on Bogue Banks just off the coast, we're in an even more precarious position. There are only two bridges onto and off of the island, and they arc high into the sky. Both of them can become almost impassable as they ice over, and the county will close the bridges if travel over them is deemed dangerous. At that point, Trinity Center can really seem like an island unto itself.

Several weeks ago we had just such a snow event on a Saturday. It was our third snow in four weeks, which meant that we were already in the middle of an abnormal weather pattern. The forecast was for Carteret County to get anywhere from a light dusting to a couple of inches. Instead, over the course of the entire day, we took about seven inches of snow on our 62-acre property. We had several groups on property, including three vestries from our own Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina churches.

At some point on Saturday afternoon, I stood around talking to the employees still present. Some of them were anxious about whether or not they could get home, as almost all of them had to go over one of the two bridges to make it home. At this point, we had been planning as if many of them might not be able to make it back in the morning, not knowing if the bridges would be open. The employees gathered represented several of our staffs – housekeeping, food services, maintenance, and POA (Point-of-Arrival). We decided what could be done to make our guests comfortable, we divided the tasks that needed to be performed in case employees could not make it over the bridge in the morning, and we began chasing tasks all over property. We worked together, we solved problems, and I believe that the guests on property were actually able to enjoy the beauty that the snowfall created around Trinity Center. It was a proud moment for me as executive director.

Here are some pictures of the snowfall. At some point on Sunday, I walked around and just marveled at it.



**I would like to make a donation to Trinity Center.  
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- Scholarship Fund (camp and programs)
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**Thank you for your gift!**

# A New Website: [www.trinityctr.com](http://www.trinityctr.com)

We would like to welcome all of our Soundings readers to our new and much improved website. Our hope is that you will find this website easy to navigate and full of updated information about Trinity Center and our many programs. Our web designer is Maggie Riley, former program director of Trinity Center. Maggie has worked extremely hard to bring the Trinity Center website into the new millennium. Feel free to provide feedback on your experience moving around the new website. We are always glad for your comments.

Camp Trinity and Summer Sound to Sea applications are available and ready to download on the new website! Please don't wait – both popular summer programs are filling up fast!



# Trinity Center's Shining Stars:

In December, a new program for the staff of Trinity Center began. Trinity Board Member Annie Jacobs challenged fellow board members to contribute to a fund to create Shining Stars. This program recognizes staff members throughout the year from each of Trinity Centers seven departments. The Shining Stars are nominated by department heads and chosen by Trinity Center's Executive Director, Penn Perry. Each person is honored with a certificate and a monetary gift.

The first Shining Stars are Kenny Sanders (Maintenance) and Amanda Morris (Food Services). The second set of Shining Stars are Adena Foscue (Point of Arrival) and Jennifer DeFeo (Housekeeping). Congratulations and thank you so much for the hard work you do to make Trinity a successful place!

In December 2010, we said farewell to retiring Board Members The Rev. Nathan Finnin, David Smith, Cheryl Taft, and Annie Jacobs. In February 2011 we welcomed new Board Members Jean Moore, The Rev. Mary Ogus, Dr. John Rozier, and Robert Underwood. Trinity Center Board Members serve on a four year term and are called to service by the Bishop.

Thank you, Trinity Board!



←  
2010 Board Members with Shining Stars, Kenny Sanders and Amanda Morris.



→  
2011 Board Members with Shining Stars, Jennifer DeFeo and Adena Foscue.