

TRINITY CENTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving
BISHOP

Penn Perry
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hi Friend of Trinity Center. I wonder, are you feeling like I am? Unmoored, isolated, frightened, uncertain? After all these years, and all our time together, both on property and off. After all the challenges we have faced and survived, the economic downturns and hurricanes. Here we are, all of us facing the same foe, one unseen and mostly unknown.

I want you to know that all of my prayers are with you and yours. My family is hunkered down next door to Trinity Center, dealing with many of the same issues that you are. Home schooling, both parents working (or not), unsure what the future holds. At this point, as many of you know, the center is closed, and I cannot say with any certainty when we will reopen. My employees are frightened, for their own jobs and their own families. And unlike the hurricanes we have often endured, this epidemic is not location-specific. We are just another small business, on an island off the coast of North Carolina, trying to lean forward into the same uncertain future faced by people all over our state, all over our nation, all over the world.

COVID-19 is bigger than any of us. We are, all of us, being called to make sacrifices for the greater good of humanity. I keep thinking about how this epidemic should remind us of how similar we are beneath all the strata that society creates. Whatever our ethnicity, whatever our economic status, wherever we live, whatever our jobs, male or female, young or old, we are all of us human beings. All of us vulnerable to this virus. All of us being asked to separate ourselves, one from another, to isolate ourselves in order to mitigate its spread.

It is so difficult. As much as we have moved online, to social media and social networks and electronic communication, we still all of us need community. Each other. The opportunity to gather, to talk face-to-face, to eat around common tables and play together and learn together and grow together. Can you see where I'm headed? I bet you can. On the other side of this crisis (and I do believe that we will reach the other side), places like Trinity Center will be utterly essential to the reformation of society. My guess is that all of us will be dying of a thirst for community, perhaps so desperately thirsty that we don't actually realize how thirsty we are. Restaurants, gyms, libraries, churches, and yes, camp and conference centers, all of them will be utterly necessary on the other side.

Without prayer, they won't survive. Without faith, they won't survive. Without government aid, they won't survive. Trinity Center will not make it to the other side without support. We are currently operating with no income and limited reserves. Without an immediate infusion of cash, we will shortly be unable to pay our employees or our bills. We will be unable to reopen for business once this crisis passes.

And so, in this uncertain time that we all face together, when you are so worried about your own future, I ask you to consider the future of our camp and conference center. I ask you to give. Send us donations. Click [HERE](#) to donate. Call it "Trinity Support." Donate to our Annual Fund. Give whatever you can. Any amount will help. Consider supporting us to help us make it to the other side. In return, the Trinity Center staff will do everything in our power to ensure the survival of this place that we all love, to ensure that we are ready, once this is over, to receive you, your families, your children, to offer the peace that only this specific place can provide.

See you on the other side.



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