

Trinity Shining Stars!

The Trinity Center 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 and presented at Trinity Center's quarterly board meetings.

The Trinity Center Board is proud to announce that David Puhl, Sound to Sea, and Erick Martin, Food Services, were the Shining Star recipients in May. Mickie Whitley, Administration, and James Donlon, Point of Arrival, were the recipients in September.

Congratulations and thanks to all these employees for the hard work they do to make Trinity a successful place!



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 _____

In memory of _____

Please send acknowledgment of my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please cut out and return this form to:
Trinity Center
P.O. Drawer 380
Salter Path, NC 28575

Thank you for your gift!

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."

Soundings is published by Trinity Center, the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina.

Address all correspondence to: Soundings, Trinity Center, P.O. Drawer 380

Salter Path, NC 28575, call us at (888)874-6287 or (252)247-5600, or trinity@trinityctr.com.

Editor: Mary Beth Bradberry

Executive Director: Penn Perry

Trinity Center Board Members: The Rev. Dena Bearl, Nancy Brake, Mrs. Annie Jacobs, Mr. Fred Klinck, The Rev. Caleb Lee, Adam Livengood, Joyce Loughlin (chair), Mr. Carlon Mercer, Jo Parrott, Betsy Randall, Richard Seale, The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving, The Rev. Canon Matthew Stockard, and The Rev. Thomas P.H. Warren.



Trinity Center
PO Drawer 380
Salter Path, NC 28575

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Atlantic Beach,
NC
Permit #5



Trinity Center
Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina
Fall 2014

Sweeping the Beach:

-Laura Walls, Sound to Sea Instructor

The beach is a relaxing, beautiful, and free way to enjoy weekends, family, and warm weather in North Carolina. Most beach accesses have trash cans provided for convenience, and even the hotels have trash cans conveniently located for their guests. Yet, despite the accessibility of trash bins, there is a high volume of trash found on the sand each year. Sound to Sea, Trinity Center's environmental education program, often uses trash found on the beach as part of its lessons. We discuss the detrimental effects trash has on the environment in terms of toxicity and animal consumption as well as entanglement. We tell trash stories, where students come up with creative stories of where their piece of trash came from and how it ended up at the Trinity Center beach. In the Beach Class Room we have a large fish tank full of trash that was found in just two weeks by visiting schools. We also have an activity where we look at how long certain things take to break down, especially in the ocean. All of these lessons help students understand the impact we have on the beach and the ocean habitats.



The Big Sweep Inc. is a non-profit with the goal of keeping NC litter free. Each fall volunteers from all over the state walk along waterways and pick up trash. They also record the types of trash that are picked up. Big Sweep then compiles all of this data in hopes to educate residents of the litter found in the waterways. Sound to Sea was proud to partner with this organization once again this October. Sound to Sea staff, parents and campers from our Summer Sound to Sea Day Camp, as well as Trinity Center staff, were all represented during our two mile walk. We found a lot of different trash, but the most common items found were cigarette butts, bottle caps, plastic pieces, and food wrappers. Naturally, at the hotel and condo beach accesses, we found more concentrated areas of trash, especially cigarette butts. Rivers and ocean currents certainly brought some trash onto the beach, but we found that a lot of it must have been left by beach goers. It is our hope that on your next visit to Trinity Center you help us keep our beach healthy by not littering and perhaps picking up any litter you might find. There is a big black trash can located at the top of our beach access stairs for just that purpose. Thanks for helping us protect our beaches.



Who is the Doohammer?

-Penn Perry, Executive Director & Mickie Whitley, Assistant Group Coordinator

Once again we are gathered by the murky brown waters of yonder lagoon, at that restful haven-o-havens, that paradise-o-paradises, that déjà vu-o- déjà vu, Camp Trinity. Where the sun always shines, it never rains, the mosquitoes never bite (ouch!). And the wind always blows just right. And the staff always dresses up in little white angel suits because they are so good and perfect...

Each night around the campfire, Camp Trinity campers are quieted by these words, which are ingrained in every camper's memory. After all, this preamble is part of a long-standing Camp Trinity tradition. Perhaps the primary connection between the histories of Camp Trinity and Camp Leach is the continuing saga of Danny Doohammer.

The episodic story originated somewhere in the distant past of Camp Leach, formerly one of the Episcopal camps for the Diocese of East Carolina. Birthed by some creative staff members, the Dastardly Doohammer is cross-eyed, knock-kneed, double-headed, and hobber-knocked, with a penchant for kiddie camper cuisine. He launches one pitifully unsuccessful attempt after another to capture campers for his stew, foiled each time by the good and perfect staff. Written daily by staffers, each episode serves as the centerpiece to that night's campfire, and the dramatic readings by the staff provide moments of hilarity and ingenuity. And of course, the campers are the stars of the show; in fact, each camper is mentioned in the Doohammer at least once during camp.

Danny Doo's story was already well-established (in part by our own previous Bishop Dan Daniel) when Penn attended Camp Leach from 1980-1985, and when Camp Trinity opened in the summer of 1987, the Doo was safely ensconced in the Trinity Lagoon, ready to pounce on new generations of campers. During Penn's time here, the Doohammer has plotted master plan after master plan, been pummeled into submission by staff after staff – and never once has Dan gotten his hobber-knocked hands on any kiddie campers. For the sake of the story, we're glad he keeps trying.

Camp Trinity is over for the year. The canoes and sailboats are locked up tight. Without the kiddy campers to chase, what does the Doohammer do at night?

The summer started off well with the Doohammer, lurking around Camp Trinity as usual. For the Doohammer, the next best thing to getting his hands on campers, is getting his hands on a camp schedule so he would know where kiddies were doing what and when. One of his best Master Plans this summer was to disguise himself as a snail and sneak up on kiddies during snail-counting time in the sound. Another Master Plan (thwarted by Camp Nurse Hannah) was to catapult himself into the midst of a kiddy campfire and drag all the campers into the pond. During Shark week, he even enlisted the help of his friend Bruce, the Great White Shark from Australia, who suggested Beach Day was the best time to fish for campers as the lifeguards, standing between the campers and the vast ocean expanse, wouldn't see him coming.

At one point during the last week of camp, the Doo was contemplating raiding the Sound to Sea composting bins over the winter for some tasty grub, but he decided having the STS staff after him was too much for one Doohammer to handle.

But we expect the Doo is in his Airstream trailer in the murky Lagoon and his two heads are plotting his Master Plan o' Master Plans for next year. The 2015 Camp Trinity Reunion is coming up January 2-4, 2015, and as his only chance for Kiddy Camper Stew until summer, he'll want to be ready.



Bishop Transition in the Diocese:

By the time you hold this issue of Soundings in your hand, the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina will have said goodbye to the Rt. Rev. Peter Lee, who has served as our Bishop Provisional for the past eighteen months. Bishop Lee has been instrumental in helping our diocese through this time of transition, and he has been a vocal supporter of Trinity Center. We wish him well.

Our diocese is also in the process of welcoming the Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, who was consecrated as the VIII Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina on November 8. Bishop Skirving has already visited Trinity Center a number of times, and we are really excited to welcome him and new energy he brings with him!



The Way Forward:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

It's funny. Every year when I sit down in October to write about what happened at Trinity Center over the summer, I end up working hard to remember what actually **did** happen. Summer is such a blur here. Unsurprisingly for a camp and conference center at the beach, it is our busy season. Summer Sound-to-Sea, our day camp, and Camp Trinity, our residential summer camp, are operating at full speed. In addition, our conference center is really hopping with groups and individuals looking to take advantage of our unique retreat atmosphere.

Oddly enough, it is the weather-related emergencies that I remember the most. This year Hurricane Arthur passed directly over Trinity Center early on the morning of July 4. Arthur went by as a category two hurricane with peak winds of 100 mph. In fact, Hurricane Irene did much more damage to property in 2011 when it passed close by as a category one storm with peak winds of 85 mph. Even though it was technically a weaker storm, Irene stayed over us for much longer, so that we saw effects from all four quadrants of the storm, meaning that the island was buffeted from all four directions. Carteret County did call for a mandatory evacuation of the island in advance of Hurricane Irene, but did not call for a mandatory evacuation of the island in advance of Hurricane Arthur. We followed all the same protocols for both storms – our hurricane plan is extensive and well-honed. We did evacuate the conference center in front of Hurricane Irene. On the other hand, our Sound-to-Sea Day Camp ran both the day before and the day after Hurricane Arthur passed by. In addition, we had a camp of middle school children in Camp Trinity, and we were hosting a Road Scholar event.

I know exactly when the eye passed overhead, because my wife and I were in our condo next door to Trinity Center, and our boys were asleep upstairs. We had a full camp of kids in the dorms at Camp Trinity, and they slept through the entire event. The power blinked a couple of times, but it never went out. The decision I made to keep my own children on the island was no different than the one I made to keep the Camp Trinity children on the island. Given that this was the eighth named storm I have lived through on this island in my twenty-seven years of service to Trinity Center, I was confident that we were safe here. I respected the power of Hurricane Arthur, but I also knew that it was moving too quickly to cause much trouble.

I believe the parents of Camp Trinity trust me that I would never intentionally place their children in harm's way. I believe that I have earned that trust over many years. I can honestly say that if I were even remotely concerned, I would have called for a full evacuation of Camp Trinity. We have successfully evacuated Camp Trinity twice, both times to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kinston, NC. Mary Beth Bradberry, Director of Camp Trinity, had the buses on standby and the staff prepared. If I had thought it necessary, she would have initiated the evacuation, and the campers of Explorers II would have had a different story to tell about their camp session.

We in the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina are so lucky to have this particular location for our camp and conference center. It is a unique coastal environment, and it offers such a specific retreat experience. Our island home offers challenges as well. I believe one of the most difficult aspects of my job to be the decision-making that happens around weather emergencies. I promise that I will continue to make the best decisions to protect our property, our guests, and most especially our children.

Come and visit when you can. We'd be glad to see you.

Start the New Year (on the Right) Foot!

-Mickie Whitley, Assistant Group Coordinator

We hope you will join us on January 6th, 2015, in partnership with the Resource Center for Women & Ministry in the South (RCWMS), by celebrating Epiphany on January 6th by "walking as one" and focusing on God's plans in the new year. Highlighting the metaphoric day that the Magi arrived in Bethlehem, Christians around the world focus on listening to God's Call while taking the inward path to the center. Our Labyrinth is an Eight-Circuit Renewal Canvas Labyrinth created for an Eagle Scout Project by Episcopalian family member Ben Brake, and gifted to Trinity in 2010. The Labyrinth will be located in the St. James Room and open to the public January 2-8, 2015, from 8:00AM until 10:00PM.

Morning Prayers and Eucharist Services: On weekly mornings and Saturdays, Trinity Center offers you the opportunity to join others for Morning Prayer at 7:30AM in our Julian of Norwich Chapel. The officiates at these services are volunteers from the St. Francis by the Sea congregation; the church is located one mile west of Trinity Center on Salter Path Road. St. Francis also holds Celtic Eucharist services every Wednesday at noon and has traditional services at 10AM on Sunday mornings. While visiting Trinity Center, you are invited to walk and enjoy the outdoor, beautifully landscaped Labyrinth always available at St. Francis by the Sea.

