

New Faces: Welcome Charles Park!

Charles joined the Trinity Center team this October as the new Food and Beverage Manager. He is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, and was a member of Christ Episcopal Church. He moved to Beaufort, North Carolina, in February of 1990.



Charles graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and then studied engineering at NC State University before graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, with perfect attendance. Charles also has an Associate Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Central Piedmont Community College. His post collegiate career began when he worked as a chef for Hotel Inter-Continental in Hilton Head, SC. He then moved back to Charlotte to work for Slug's Restaurants before becoming Executive Chef at Guest Quarter's Inns and Suites at South Park. His first Carteret County restaurant venture occurred when he and his wife reopened the Cedars Restaurant in March of 1990. They then created and opened the Beaufort Grocery Co. on May 2, 1991, which continues to thrive today. In addition to running this successful restaurant, Charles has also worked as the Food and Beverage Manager for the Dunes Club on Atlantic Beach, a Continuing Education Culinary Instructor at Carteret Community College from 1999 to 2012, and most recently, the Food Service Director for Aramark at Camps Sea Gull and Seafarer. He has always done something other than Beaufort Grocery because, as he says, he "likes to stay busy."

Charles has numerous culinary accomplishments and honors and is currently on the Board of Directors of Beaufort Wine and Food. He and his wife Wendy have been married for 29 years and have a daughter, Mary Margaret, who also lives in Beaufort. We welcome Charles and look forward to enjoying his culinary experience and talent! Be sure to say hello to him the next time you visit!

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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Soundings

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A Tale of A Whale: Continued from Spring 2014's issue

-Chiara Klein, Sound to Sea Instructor

If you're a puzzle fiend, there's likely nothing better than getting to assemble an entire whale skeleton. And for the staff of Sound to Sea, that is exactly what we intend to do. How, you ask? Our story begins on March 15, 2014...



In the spring of last year, a dead whale was discovered washed up on the Trinity Center beach. Under any circumstance, this would be an exciting event. But in this case it was especially exciting because it was a dwarf sperm whale, which is rarely seen. The smallest of three species of sperm whale, the dwarf sperm grows to around 9 feet – smaller than many large dolphins. It is joined in the category of sperm whale by the pygmy sperm whale (11.5 feet) and the standard sperm whale, (50-feet). All three of these whales are named and easily recognized for their protruding, elongated head, which houses their spermaceti organ. This organ is full of a once highly prized oil that becomes viscous as these whales dive to depths of up to 1,000 feet to search for their prey. The hardening spermaceti oil is thought to either allow the sperm whales to regulate their buoyancy or to act as a conductor for echolocation, which they use to locate prey and each other. The reason dwarf sperm whales are rarely seen is because they are hardly ever active at the surface, and almost never approach boats. This made the appearance of one on our shores remarkably special.



Upon discovering our whale, a very capable crew comprised of the NC Maritime Museum, NCSU Center for Marine Sciences and Technology, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, Carteret Community College, UNC Wilmington, and volunteers from the Sound to Sea staff, got to work performing a necropsy (an autopsy performed on animals). During the process, some lucky Sound to Sea staff members had a chance to get up close and personal with the inside of a whale. Following the necropsy, the bones of the dwarf sperm whale were buried back on the beach so that it could fully decompose.

It's been a year and a half since the burial, and we are hoping to dig up the bones within the next few months. Once the bones have been exhumed, the real fun starts. The process of putting a skeleton back together is called re-articulation, and it begins with unearthing the bones, which can take four to five hours, largely because all of the parts of the skeleton need to be labeled and documented. All the individual bones must then be soaked in a de-greasing solution for several weeks, dried out in the sun (in protective cages) for weeks or months, and then checked for any breakage. If any breakage occurs, metal pins and resin are used for repairs. At this point, all bones are painted with bookbinding glue to ensure they don't deteriorate over the years. Only after this extensive prep work is done can assembly start. The skeleton will be mounted onto a portable frame, with a steel rod running through the vertebrae and pieces of foam in between, representing intervertebral disks. The multitude of tiny flipper bones will be mounted on Plexiglas. Once we are sure all bones are in the right place, we will affix them with resin. We would like to make the completed skeleton portable, so that we can move it to where it can be seen by the most students.

We hope that this whale skeleton will become a fixture of Sound to Sea. We hope that thousands of future Sound to Sea campers and students will marvel at our very own whale skeleton. But we have a bit of a journey before we get there. The entire re-articulation process requires not only time, but tools and other materials, tools we don't yet have. In order to purchase or rent the equipment that we will need, we are currently raising funds through GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/soundtosea>). With just a little help, we know that we can make our whale come to life.

Volume 17, Issue 2

Camp Trinity: Camp and Faith Formation

-Mary Beth Bradberry, Camp Trinity Director

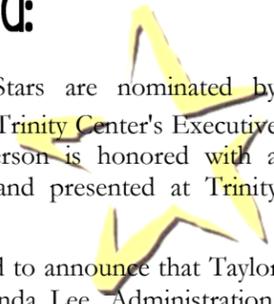
Summer camp offers students the opportunity for a refreshing perspective into their faith development. Campers get a chance to set aside their everyday schedules, comforts, and pressures to enter a community that allows them to develop spiritual practices and friendships that can last a lifetime. Daily prayer and love are knit into each aspect of camp life, providing faith formation at its finest. Children are given time and space to recognize and celebrate the simple and often ordinary joys of Christian Community. From kitchen patrol to campfire circle campers are asked to embrace community while finding themselves. Camp allows children to “unplug” from the outside world. Connections are formed through talking with one another, sharing meals with new-found friends, participating in fun games, and laughing with each other, all while building lasting relationships with God, self, and others.

Camp Trinity, as an example, invites campers to share daily in a Christian formation program that helps them grow spiritually and emotionally. Camp Trinity practices radical hospitality and provides camping experiences that are diverse, inclusive, loving, and affirming, while challenging each person to be responsible to and for the other. Campers have the chance to build and live in an intentionally Christ centered community so that each camper might gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for his or her own skills, abilities, and gifts as a child of God.

Summer camp fosters a place of growth and discernment for campers from all backgrounds. This experience allows them to come home rested, renewed, and restored in God’s love through prayers and friendship. While summer camp may feel far away, now is the time to consider “why camp matters” and how it can support children in their faith formation.



Shining Star Award:



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 Taylor Valentine, Maintenance, and Brenda Lee, Administration, 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

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Thank you for your gift!

Listening:

-The Rt. Rev'd Rob Skirving, Bishop

A few days before Hurricane Joaquin was expected to hit North Carolina, I had the chance to spend a night at Trinity Center while traveling across our diocese. Our staff was in full “hurricane preparedness mode” and shared with me all that they were doing. I’m grateful for their commitment and competence, and I am thankful that I had a little time with some of them during my short visit.



What I remember the most from that visit, however, was the short walk I took after breakfast. The heavy rains had not yet begun, but there was a light and constant rain in the air. Not enough for an umbrella, but enough to get wet! As I often do, I took a walk out to Sanders Point to be quiet for a time. The sky was overcast, the wind was blowing, and the rain covered me. I watched quietly as groups of birds called to one another while soaring through the air, diving into the water, or just rising and falling with the cresting of the waves. I was filled with curiosity about their song that morning. Did they know what weather was coming? Were they laughing at us in our growing concern and anxiety? I was reminded of these words of Jesus found in the gospel of Luke: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” (Luke 12:22-24)

As I walked away that morning, I was filled with calm about what lay ahead. For me, Trinity Center has become a place where I know that I can go to listen: for God’s song in the birds of the air; for God’s design in the sand and waves at the beach; for God’s still, small voice during times of silent prayer on the learning dock in the salt marsh.

Where do you go to listen? Do you take time to be quiet and listen every day? There is apparently a Zen proverb that proclaims “You should sit in meditation for twenty minutes every day — unless you’re too busy. Then you should sit for an hour.” Certainly Jesus took time to be quiet.

I am grateful that Trinity Center stands as a place of beauty and hospitality for the people of East Carolina and for those who come from places near and far. It can be a place of healing and a place of joy, a place of learning and a place of growth. And it can be a place for listening.

Trinity Center Thanks Anna Fay Campbell:

Trinity Center wishes to thank our good friend Anna Fay Campbell for her continuing generosity. Over the past eight years, Anna Fay has covered the cost of new mattresses for all four of our housing clusters. In 2015, Trinity Center was a recipient of a grant from the Christ Episcopal Church Trust for five thousand dollars towards the purchase of ninety-two new mattresses for all four of our dorms. Anna Fay more than matched that grant, and the mattresses were replaced in May.



Anna Fay has been deeply involved in the life of the diocese and Trinity Center for many years. She has served as a Trinity Board member three times, and she has served once as Chair of the Trinity Board. Anna Fay knows plenty about mattresses; her grandfather and his brother started a mattress business in Fayetteville, NC, and her son Mark has worked in the mattress business in both Toronto and Tennessee.



We are so grateful for Anna Fay’s support!