

Camp Trinity: Reunion!

Did you know that Camp Trinity holds a reunion weekend every January for youth grades 8-12? This January will be our 5th annual Camp Trinity Reunion! The dates for the reunion are January 12-14, 2018, and spaces will be limited. What if you've never been to Camp Trinity before? That's completely okay too! The Camp Trinity Reunion can be a great way to introduce new youth (grades 8-12) to Camp Trinity. Be sure to tell your friends!

Applications and more information for the Camp Trinity Reunion will be available by mail or online mid-November. Please contact Mary Beth Bradberry, Camp Trinity Director, with any questions: marybeth@trinityctr.com or (252) 247-5600 ext. 23. Also, be sure to "Like" Camp Trinity on Facebook for updates, information, and giveaways. Hope to see you there!

www.trinityctr.com/camp
<https://www.facebook.com/CampTrinity>



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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Sound to Sea Celebrates 25 years!

-Chris Grenier, Group Coordinator

Twenty-five years ago I came to North Carolina for the first time for the sole purpose of helping my friend BJ (Barbara Jo) White start a new environmental education program at this church conference center called Trinity Center. I had never heard of it! BJ and I worked together in Connecticut for an EE program called Nature's Classroom, and when BJ was hired by then executive director of Trinity Center Mike Morgan to launch a new coastal program, she invited me to help. And guess what?! It took off like wildfire. Sound to Sea was born.

Recently we recognized the long successful history of Sound to Sea (STS). Former staff persons, people you may recognize by the blue t-shirts we've all worn as our uniform, gathered for a hilarious, heartfelt homecoming weekend. Since STS tends to attract globe-trotting wanderers and scientific types, not everyone was able to come, but those who showed brought family and loved ones and had a wonderful time reminiscing. Current STS Staff had the perhaps odious task of teaching classes to us old-timers and our children. Good practice for them marshing with the kiddos, sitting in the belly of Katie the inflatable whale, chasing ghost crabs with flashlights, and even the Ort Report. Beach time, pool time and hanging out time. To former STS Staffers who couldn't make it, you missed a fun one.

Over 200,000 children have experienced our coast through the Sound to Sea school program since it began in 1992. Let's not forget the Summer Sound to Sea Day Camp that started in 1993 and that has probably seen 7,000 campers during its time so far. And we tallied 215 former STS Instructors since the inception. Our influence is everywhere as these people move on to teach, become doctors, do research, etc. We can certainly say that STS has fulfilled the vision of Trinity Center to share God's gifts of community and hospitality in a natural coastal environment.

I would be remiss not to give credit where credit is due. The ultimate success of Sound to Sea lies with the directors of the program over the years. The three women who have put their all into keeping the schools coming are BJ White (1992-2000), Maggie Berry Riley (2000-2008), and Mindy Furrer (2008-present). Separately, and yet together, these ladies mastered the art of filling the dorms with students, hiring and training the staff, and keeping things moving smoothly. Three cheers to them and to all who participated! Quite a legacy.

Twenty-five years later I'm still at Trinity Center, although I'm not with the Sound to Sea department any more. I'm full time in the office working with the conference center and have been for a long time. On pretty spring days I wish I could be by the water with the children looking for critters, seeing their faces when they find something new to them, but I'm stuck behind my desk. Yet I can't bring myself to look for work elsewhere. Why would I? I'm a part of this.



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Sanders Point Restoration Project:

Our Sanders Point renovation project is underway.

Our own Maintenance staff is hard at work in three areas around Sanders Point. They are replacing the lights down the path and around Sanders Point, generally cleaning up the Outdoor Chapel, and eventually repairing and replacing the benches. This work has been made possible through the generosity of two diocesan groups. Cursillo took this on as a project and has raised over \$2500 for the work, and St. James the Fisherman made a donation of \$600 in honor of their recently retired rector, the Rev. David Davis, and his wife Pat. Thanks to both groups for their support.



Migration:

-Gareth Perkins, Sound to Sea Instructor

As fall draws closer, migration is in full swing with birds, dragonflies, and butterflies traveling hundreds of miles to reach wintering grounds along the coast, towards the interior, or even further south towards Mexico and South America. At Trinity Center, our most noticeable migrants are yellow-bellied sapsuckers, green darner dragonflies, and cloudless sulphur butterflies. Animal migration is triggered by several factors including seasonal changes, food availability, and reproductive needs. During this time of year, I keep my eyes peeled to look out for these incredible travelers, allowing me to catch a glimpse of an important event in Nature's calendar.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are common winter residents to the pine forests of coastal North Carolina. While their name is certainly creative, they don't exactly suck sap. As a member of the woodpecker family, they use their sturdy, pointed bills to peck away at the tree bark to reach grubs and beetles that burrow through the wood and inner bark. They also use their bills to create small rows of holes around the trunks and branches to allow sap to flow out. Afterwards, they use their long tongues to sweep the sap out of the holes. Their preferred trees include hickories, maples, and birches. In the summer, they breed throughout most of the Canadian provinces, New England, and the upper Midwest, before migrating to the southeast in the midfall.

Insects migrate as well with some like the cloudless sulphur butterfly completing short journeys, while others like green darner dragonflies complete treks that can cover over a thousand miles over a period of weeks. The cloudless sulphur is well named with lemon yellow wings with minute white spots on the wings of females. I have found them most often when I'm walking past the Centrum on my way to class and delight in seeing them determinedly fluttering to wherever they deem they need to be at that moment. While most animals migrate with a destination in mind, sulphurs only care about reaching a warmer climate. Once that is satisfied, eggs will be laid, the adults die off and their life cycle continues.

On the other hand, the green darner dragonfly can undertake an incredibly long journey. While flying along the coast, they can travel up to 60 miles in a day. If a lone dragonfly were to fly from Moosehead Lake in Maine all the way to Trinity Center, it would only take it two weeks to travel the distance! When migrating, time is not their ally. By this time in their lives, many will have already spent up to two years living in their larval form at the bottom of muddy ponds and wetlands before metamorphosing into their familiar adult forms. Upon getting their adult bodies, they only have four to seven weeks to live before dying, so the need to migrate and breed for them is especially urgent.

I hope that this fall you will have the opportunity to look out for these creatures as they visit and pass through. Knowing a little more about their stories makes their exoduses seem all the more impressive, inspiring, and incredible and gives us a window into a world we don't often get to appreciate.

The Way Forward:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

Summer is such an interesting time on the island. Carteret County's economy is generally tourism-based, and the economy of Bogue Banks is even more so. The population swells during the summer, and since there's only one lone highway stretching the twenty-two miles of the island, you really feel the traffic. Those of us who live here year-round plan our outings according to that traffic, trying to stay away from the busy times at our favorite grocery stores and restaurants. Getting around the island can be challenging during a busy summer, which summer 2017 definitely was. At the same time, and somewhat paradoxically, we are so glad for all the visitors to the island and to Trinity Center. We're glad to share the natural beauty of both our shorelines with all the guests who come onto property, and given our location, it makes total sense that we'd be serving the most guests during summer.



What can be really challenging in the hospitality industry is working your hardest and longest hours when all those around you are relaxing and retreating and enjoying vacation. It can really test the bonds that connect all the various departments as one staff, one team bending our backs to the common task of taking care of all the people who come onto this property. When the conferencing side is full, and both our overnight camp (Camp Trinity) and our day camp (Summer Sound to Sea) are in session, that's when I see how well my staff works together as a team. And if your principles only matter when they are inconvenient, then how you do your job on that very busy day in the heat of the summer when the requests are flying fast and furious matters most.

I have to say that I emerged from this summer so proud to be a part of this staff. We all worked hard, and we all lived into the high standards of hospitality that Trinity Center demands we offer. It took every one of us, from the fifty full-time and part-time employees to the Summer STS staff to the twenty college students who comprise the Camp Trinity staff. We all needed to communicate effectively; we all needed to be patient with one another; we all needed to remember to say "Thank You" and "You're Welcome." And for the most part, we did all those things.

What that meant was that the hospitality we offered was genuine. I believe guests can discern the difference between that which is genuine and that which is forced. I have often said that if you don't want to participate in the ministry of hospitality, then perhaps a job at Trinity Center is not a job for you. I believe in the many employees of Trinity Center, and I am grateful for their participation in our shared mission. We welcome all people to the spiritual home of Episcopalians of East Carolina, and we gladly share God's gifts of community and hospitality in this natural coastal environment.

And so today, I give thanks for all the people with whom I work. I give thanks for their many and varied gifts, so willingly shared. I give thanks for their dedication to this place and the guests who visit with us here. I feel lucky to be a part of this staff.

As always, if you would like to experience the peace that can only be found here, on this island off the coast of North Carolina, in this conference center nestled within sixty-two acres of maritime forest, come and visit with us. We are always happy to receive you.

Challenge Donation:

We are almost halfway through the Challenge Donation made by Friends of Trinity, Richard and Linda Seale, to the Trinity Endowment. This challenge donation of \$50,000 was made late in 2016, with a two-year time frame for other donors to match the donation in order for it to become permanent. We still have just over a year to make the match, and currently all donations to the Trinity Endowment will count towards our goal. Please consider making an end-of-year or holiday donation to our Endowment Fund, and help us reach our matching goal of \$50,000.