

# *Destruction leads to growth...*



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# SOUNDINGS

## Trinity Center

Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Fall 2018

### The Way Forward:

Penn Perry, Executive Director

**H**i Friend of Trinity Center. I have been thinking a lot about grace lately. If grace literally means, “God’s unmerited favor or assistance,” then we cannot actually deserve grace. Grace must come upon us; it must be bestowed. I have discovered grace in so many places over the past weeks. It has revealed itself in conversations with neighbors at the grocery store, in moments of shared work around property, in the concerned faces of my children when I come home from work. Honestly, I believe it has been present all around me.



When I have struggled to feel that grace, it has been my wife who has reminded me of how many people love Trinity Center. She has been my rock, the steadying presence I have needed during this time of demolition and reconstruction. Her own moments of glad grace have helped me feel that same grace more and more as the days have passed. I have come more deeply to believe that not only will we make it through this time, but that we will also emerge stronger and in better shape than ever.

Are you surprised to learn that the words “grace” and “gratitude” share the same root? I am not. As the bones of the center have been laid bare and many of the buildings have been rebuilt, I have begun to feel incredible gratitude. I have felt gratitude for the many businesses and organizations that have had to come together to help us recover. For Mike Ellison, our insurance large loss adjuster who has worked tirelessly on our settlement. For Mike Farrell, our general contractor who has put us at the front of a long line of jobs. For the parish at St. Francis by the Sea, who have literally opened their doors to us. For my own staff, who have shown me resiliency, teamwork, and creative thinking and made me as proud as I know how to be, as proud as I ever was of any of my camp staffs.

And you, Friend of Trinity Center. Always you. You have supported us in so many ways. You have given of your time by helping us clean up property on work days. You have offered your resources through gifts of furniture, food, and equipment. And you have donated money, in so very many ways. Small donations and large donations, online and through the mail, money raised through t-shirt sales and bake sales. Your donations have helped keep the lights on, have helped pay my employees, have helped us re-open sooner. They have been a lifeline through many dark days. We still have a long road ahead of us, but you have made that road seem much shorter.

So I write now to express my gratitude. The words will not adequately convey how I feel. As always, however, I have to try. At this moment, I feel full. Full of gratitude. Full of grace.

Thank you.