

# Staunch Supporters:

Trinity Center received some exciting news recently from our friends Carl and Alicia Ragsdale. The Ragsdales are longtime members of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina and longtime supporters of Trinity Center. Carl has served as a member of the Trinity Board of Managers and as the Chair of its Finance Commission. In addition, Carl served for over three years as the Chair of the Trinity and Beyond Capital Campaign, which has now reached its first stated goal of raising one million dollars for critical deferred maintenance at Trinity Center.

Now that that first goal has been reached, all future contributions to Trinity and Beyond will build an endowment fund for Trinity Center, so that operational maintenance can be scheduled according to the yearly disbursements from the fund. As a sign of their continuing commitment to the goals of the Trinity and Beyond Campaign, the Ragsdales have added Trinity Center to their wills. They have even been willing for us to print the language used in their wills, so that others might see how easy it is to include Trinity Center in their estate planning:

"The Trustee shall distribute the following sums of cash: .....To the Trinity Center, Post Office Box 380, Salter Path, North Carolina, eight percent (8%) of the value of the trust property, as unrestricted funds."

Thanks to the Ragsdales for all the support they continue to offer this center. We hope other Friends of Trinity Center will consider including us in their own estate planning.

## 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."

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

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Trinity Center  
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Spring 2014

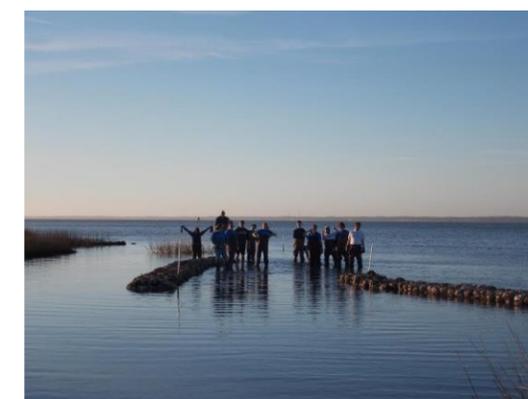
## Saving Sanders Point:

Kelli Kaelin, Sound to Sea Instructor

For many of those who visit Trinity Center, Sanders Point has become a place of special interest. Over the past few years, flooding caused by hurricanes and other storms has expedited the marsh erosion occurring at this small peninsula. Upon seeing the alarming rate at which Sanders Point was being eroded away, Trinity Center staff came together to agree on a plan to save this special place. After reviewing a proposal submitted by Sound to Sea, Trinity Center's environmental education program, it was decided that two 100 foot marsh sills with a fifteen foot gap in between would be constructed from oyster shells. Waves would be forced to break over the sill, slowing down wave action as well as erosion at Sanders Point. The gap between the two sills would ensure that fish and other marine life could move around the sill freely.

While Trinity Center and the North Carolina Coastal Federation worked together to acquire the necessary permits under the Coastal Area Management Act, Trinity Center staff and generous volunteers began to create the bags of oysters necessary to create the sill. The Swansboro Rotary Club donated 200 bushels of shells after an oyster roast and Trinity Center purchased 900 more bushels from an oyster shell recycling program. Once all of the permits were received and the oyster shells bagged, the sill was ready to be put in place. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, trucks, golf carts, canoes, and human chains were used to move all of the oyster bags to Sanders Point. That afternoon the North Carolina Coastal Federation helped to guide current and former Sound to Sea Staff, Trinity Center staff from all departments, Camp Trinity staff, and volunteers from the local community in building 150 feet of oyster sill. The following week, the remaining 50 feet of oyster sill was completed by the Sound to Sea staff.

Since the addition of the marsh sill, we have already seen evidence of the waves being slowed down as they break over the sill. As the waves slow down, sediment is deposited, building up the marsh and reducing the amount of erosion that occurs.



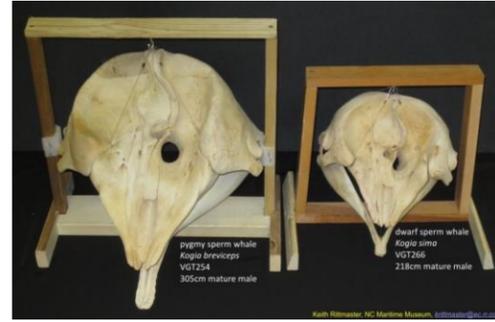
# A Tale of A Whale:

-Erin Carroll, Sound to Sea Instructor

On March 15, 2014 a dwarf sperm whale washed up on to the Trinity Center's beach. Growing up to eight feet, dwarf sperm whales are the smallest species of whales and rarely seen in the wild due to their timid nature and lack of a visible blow. This particular whale measured a little over seven feet in length and weighed approximately 452 pounds. A guest at Trinity Center found the whale and reported it to staff. Keith Rittmaster and his team at the Marine Mammal Stranding Network picked up the whale in order to perform a necropsy, which is like an autopsy for animals.

It was at the necropsy that the final identification of the dwarf sperm whale was reached. Similar to pygmy sperm whales in both range and size, there are three telling differences that are difficult to notice until on the necropsy table. First, dwarf sperm whales are missing a gland known as the gill slit gland. Second, the dwarf sperm whales have only 7-13 pairs of lower teeth, while the pygmy sperm whale may have 10-16 pairs. Additionally, the dwarf sperm whale's dorsal fin is very large relative to its size and when compared to the pygmy sperm whales. To the right is a picture comparing skulls from a pygmy and dwarf sperm whale provided by Keith Rittmaster. While both of these whales are small when compared to a sperm whale, which measures up to 68 feet, they are considered sperm whales because of the presence of the spermaceti organ.

After the necropsy was completed tissues were sent to various labs to try to determine the cause of death, while bones were brought back to the Trinity Center to be buried. The bones were wrapped in hardware cloth and then covered in chicken wire in order to prevent bones from being lost in the sand and from being dug up by foxes and other predators. The bones will remain buried for two years to undergo natural decomposition until they are clean enough to be used for environmental educational programs by Sound to Sea. On behalf of Sound to Sea and the Trinity Center, we would like to thank NC Maritime Museum, NC State University's Center for Marine Sciences and Technology, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, UNC - Wilmington, and Carteret Community College for helping us with the stranding and letting us be part of the necropsy and burial process. We look forward to the uncovering in two years!



## Naming Opportunity: Seale Pavilion

Trinity Center's pavilion now has a name. Richard and Linda Seale are members of St. Francis by the Sea and longtime friends of Trinity Center. Richard is a current member of the Trinity Board of Managers and the Chair of its Finance Commission, and Richard and Linda serve as hosts for our Road Scholar program. Richard and Linda were very generous to the Trinity and Beyond capital campaign and were offered a naming opportunity on property. They chose to name our pavilion, which will now be known as the "Seale Pavilion." The Seale Pavilion is named "in memory of Jesus, who died that we may find God's peace." Richard and Linda hope that their gift will encourage others to make positive statements in support of Trinity Center.



## Diocesan WalkAbout:

We were very happy to receive the nominees for the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of East Carolina for a night of rest and relaxation during their week-long tour of the diocese. The nominees began their walkabout of the diocese in Greenville on April 28; they concluded their walkabout in Fayetteville on May 2. They toured the diocese in a striking red charter bus. We were glad to provide our Trinity Center hospitality to the nominees and all those traveling on the walkabout.



# The Way Forward:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

Hi Friend of Trinity Center. So much has happened since the last time I wrote you. Let me bring you up to speed.

East Cluster renovations were finished on time in December. Courtesy of the Trinity and Beyond Capital Campaign, East Cluster now has a new roof, new deck, twelve newly renovated rooms, and a newly renovated living room. The rooms were put to use immediately, and guest feedback has been very positive.

Thanks to a number of persons and institutions making good on their pledges, we were also able to take West Cluster offline in February and have it renovated. West Cluster also now has a new roof, new deck, twelve newly renovated rooms, and a newly renovated living room. Two of our four clusters are now renovated, which means that twenty-four of our forty-four rooms and two of our four living rooms are now renovated.



What a huge change this represents for Trinity Center. Many of you have heard me say that Trinity Center can pay its bills and its people. What this not-for-profit business cannot do is pay for the operational maintenance necessary on this island off the coast. The Trinity and Beyond campaign is allowing us to schedule and complete all the deferred major maintenance that has built up over the past twenty-seven years. Now that the first critical million dollars has been pledged, all future donations will add to the growing Trinity and Beyond Endowment Fund. Disbursements from this endowment fund will help us continue to fund depreciation on property by performing scheduled major maintenance as necessary.

Another part of property is also looking much better. Our Sound-to-Sea environmental education staff has completed the marsh sill made of oyster shells that will help protect Sanders Point. Over the course of two days in January, Sound-to-Sea staffers and numerous volunteers created the two



separate hundred-foot runs that will lessen the force and impact of wave action from Bogue Sound. All of us are grateful for their efforts.

Meanwhile, our own Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina is deep into the search for the next bishop. The Diocesan Search Committee held interviews here in early January, and the four candidates for bishop spent the night at Trinity Center during their tour of the diocese in late April. We are so glad to be included in this process.

While we have had a difficult winter marked by variable weather and repeated snow events, we have emerged into spring looking better than ever. Last weekend, it was sunny and in the mid-70s here. Guests were happily wandering property, playing games, reading, or taking in some sun on the beach. We hope you will come and join us sometime soon.

My boys? Win and Holt are both doing fine and are well into their twos. We have not found the twos to be so terrible; in fact, Heather and I are really enjoying the boys' rapidly expanding vocabularies. They are both talking more than ever and expressing preferences on a regular basis. If you see them when you visit, feel free to ask them some questions. I'm sure they will have answers.

## Goodbye and Welcome: Transitions at Trinity Center

Arleen Oliver (right) retired from Trinity Center after 7 years as our office manager/human resources person/ head of finances. We lost a great asset. Best Wishes to Arleen as she begins her new career as Nanny to her grandchildren.

Stephanie Rudolph (left) has replaced Arleen as our new office manager. Stephanie might look familiar...she's been the registrar for our camps and other programs for years. Stephanie will gradually move from one office to the other over the next few months.

Nancy Reynolds (center) will be replacing Stephanie as our new registrar. Nancy might also look familiar...she has been a greeter in the Point of Arrival for about 3 years. She and Stephanie will be working closely over the next few months to transition from desk to desk/job to job. Please be patient with the back office while we adjust. Our guests are our top priority. We will be with you shortly.

Blessings to all.

