

Happy Retirement!

Trinity Center is losing two of its longest term and most valuable employees. Helen Rudder, Head Dining Room Attendant, and Brenda Lee, Bookkeeper, are both retiring in March.

Helen Rudder has served in Food Services since 1994. As Head Dining Room Attendant, she became well-known to the many Trinity Center guests for her excellent service and her attention to detail.

Brenda Lee has served as Trinity Center Bookkeeper for just under a decade. Brenda quickly became an integral member of the office staff. She will be remembered for her sense of humor, her meticulous record-keeping, and her pound cake.

Both employees will be greatly missed. We wish them well!



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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Trinity Center
Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina
Spring 2016

Summer Camp Opportunities: Summer Sound to Sea Day Camp & Camp Trinity

Summer Sound to Sea Day Camp:

Sound to Sea Day Camp at Trinity Center will offer ten weeks of Summer Day Camp again this summer. Sound to Sea offers full-week summer camp programs to rising 1st through 6th graders. At Sound to Sea, these youth explore the habitats on Trinity Center's 62-acre island property. They use dip nets in the sound and pond to find out more about the biology of the various creatures that creep, swim and crawl around on a barrier island. They then have the opportunity for a closer look, as we put some of the organisms we find in our five salt and fresh water aquariums. Campers also have the chance to explore the maritime forest and learn about the animals that live among the cedars, live oaks, pines and vines. In the afternoon, they use items they have collected on the trails to create all kinds of art and music. Last, no beach camp would be complete without some time on the sand. So each camp day finishes with time on the beach to play and think about the day's activities. Sessions run from Monday through Friday beginning June 13th. Campers join us from 9am until 4pm each fun-filled day!



Camp Trinity (Resident Overnight Camp):

Camp Trinity is a residential summer camp sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina at Trinity Center. Camp Trinity offers young people rising 3-12 grades an opportunity to experience camping in an enjoyable and beautiful setting along Bogue Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Camp Trinity has four dormitories, two cabins per dorm, that house eighty-eight campers each session. The camping program is administered by an experienced staff that consists of trained counselors who are responsible for the care and nurturing of: campers in their cabin life and camp activities; program staff who plan and implement the recreational program activities for campers; a certified staff of lifeguards and instructors who oversee the swimming and boating programs; and a nurse who cares for the medical needs of the campers. Campers are offered a balance of supervised group activities and individual free time. 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, sailing on the sound, playing in the pool, or enjoying a variety of sports and activities.



Currently, both of our summer camping programs still have spaces available in several of the sessions. Want to learn more about day camp? Overnight camp? Call to learn more about Camp Trinity and Summer Sound to Sea Day Camp today! Want to see what spaces are available? Our Trinity Center Registrar, Nancy Reynolds, is the registrar for BOTH camping programs. Call or email her today! 252-247-5600 ext. 17 or registrar@trinityctr.com.

Download Soundings online at www.trinityctr.com

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Dwarf Sperm Whale Excavation: Continued from Fall 2015's issue

- Lauren Jeschke, Sound to Sea Instructor

It's been two years since a rare Dwarf Sperm Whale washed up onto the shores of our beach here at Trinity Center. After its discovery, Sound to Sea staff teamed up with a crew of local scientists and volunteers to perform a necropsy. The bones were sectioned out of the body, wrapped in wire mesh, and then left to fully decompose in the sand dunes. In the meantime, Sound to Sea has been hard at work researching, planning, and fundraising to gather all the needed equipment for the whale excavation.

On January 25th, whale experts Keith Rittmaster and Josh Summers from the Marine Mammal Recovery Network joined us to unearth the bones. We first removed roots and the outer covering of soil, and then began a careful dig using shovels. After about ten minutes we began to find the mesh wire holding the bones and carefully brushed away remaining dirt with (gloved) hands. One by one, the packets of bones were unearthed and carried to a makeshift archaeology site full of various tools to help organize and document the bones. In pairs, the Sound to Sea staff focused on cleaning, aligning, labeling, and photographing the ribs, vertebrae, skull, teeth, flippers and pectorals. Every bone we looked at was an incredible learning experience, and Keith and Josh had their hands full answering our questions!

At the end of the afternoon, all of the bones had been dusted off, categorized, bagged in colored mesh, and set in a cooler. A few days later, a lengthy soaking process began in order to de-grease the bones. For the past several weeks, we have been diligently stirring the bones in an ammonia and Dawn solution that is helping to remove the flesh and dirt we couldn't get to. Soon we will be switching to a hydrogen peroxide solution, which will aid in whitening the bones and removing any remaining dirt, flesh or bacteria.

When we complete the soaking process, our next step will be to dry the bones in the sun for a few months. The bones will be held in protective cages to keep them dry and to minimize the risk of wild animals gnawing on them. Dry bones will then be weighed and assessed for any cracks or damage. All bones will then be painted with diluted glue, dried, and carefully mounted onto a portable frame. The vertebral column will be held together using a steel rod, and pieces of foam will be placed in between each of the vertebra. A resin will be used to firmly fasten the bones into place, ensuring a strong and portable masterpiece that we can't wait to share with future Sound to Sea students and Trinity Center guests!

We want to thank everyone who has donated and supported this project so far; however, we still have a bit of a journey before we are complete!

In order to finish purchasing and/or renting the equipment that we will need, we are currently raising funds through GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/soundtosea>). With just a little more help, we know that we can make our whale come to life!



TRINITY CENTER

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Thank you for your gift!

The Way Forward:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director



Hi Friend of Trinity Center. Today I want to talk to you about what kind of experiences I think Trinity Center provides. In order to do so, I first need to talk about M. H. Abrams, a noted scholar and professor in the field of English Literature. Abrams, who just died last year at the age of 102, was a Professor of Literature at Cornell for over fifty years, and he was also General Editor of the Norton Anthology of English Literature, which became the standard text for college survey courses. In addition, Abrams was a noted literary critic and the author of incredibly important works of criticism such as *The Mirror and the Lamp* and *Natural Supernaturalism*. In *Natural Supernaturalism*, he posited that most great works of Romantic poetry follow a very specific arc. The reader can always trace that arc, whether it's Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale," Shelley's "Ode to a Skylark," Coleridge's "The Aeolian Harp," or Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." I am oversimplifying, but basically Abrams calls the arc the "Romantic Spiral" – a character flies from the real world to the ideal world, often assisted by an encounter with nature, with a (usually undesired) return to the unchanged real world. Abrams asserts that the trip is not circular, because you as the character do not return to the same point you left. Instead, you as the character follow the path of a spiral – you return to the same real world, but at a higher point. YOU are different. YOU have changed.

It seems to me that Christianity has a story that follows a very similar arc. That story is called The Transfiguration. In it, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to the top of a mountain, where they encounter Moses and Elijah, and ultimately the divine. They hear God say, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." This story is often posited by theologians as pivotal, as a moment where human nature encounters the divine, where the temporal encounters the eternal, with Jesus as the connecting point.

And what do the apostles want to do? They want to set up some tents and stay there. They want to remain on top of the mountain. But they must go down the mountain. They must return to the real world, the same real world they left. But THEY are different. THEY have changed.

That's what I believe we do at Trinity Center. We provide opportunities for the mountaintop experience. Whether for our children at Camp Trinity, for school children from all over the state at Sound to Sea, for parishes and vestries of our diocese, or for the many other adults and children who hold retreats on property - that's what we do. People fly from the real world, from the mainland, up into the air over a big sweeping bridge and onto an island, and eventually into the ideal world of Trinity Center. There, assisted by the pristine maritime forest, the expanse of Bogue Sound, and the roaring Atlantic Ocean, people are transported from their daily lives into God's ideal world. They can rest, retreat, relax, recharge their batteries, and prepare for a return to the real world, but changed.

That's how we help equip the saints for ministry. And that's why I believe so deeply in the experiences we have to offer.

Trinity Center's Point of Arrival:

-Mary Malhoit, Point of Arrival Supervisor

As guests, many of you have checked in at the Point of Arrival to receive a friendly welcome, a room key, and directions. Some of you especially look forward to a welcome hug from Ms. Adena or a friendly smile from Ms. Debbie. You may have needed after hours help and encountered our nighttime staff, James, Billy or a Sound to Sea Staffer. We all look forward to serving you and assisting in making your visit enjoyable and stress free. The Point of Arrival also offers a place to hang out and read the newspaper, check your email, print your boarding pass on the guest computer, or borrow a book, game or puzzle from the Lending Library. Forgot something? Just ask, and often we have just what you need, from a toothbrush to an umbrella. Lost something? Check with us; it may have been found, or we can help you look. And don't forget the Gift Shop where you can purchase Trinity Center and Camp Trinity logo items along with books and cards written and created by local authors and artists that are friends of Trinity Center. Anytime you are in the area stop in and visit, shop, or pick up a beach parking pass. We always look forward to helping you. See you soon!



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