

Camp Trinity: Summer 2009 Success!

-Mary Beth Gay, Camp Trinity Director

Camp Trinity had another fun-filled fabulous summer! In 2009, Camp Trinity served 618 children (more than last year). To do so took 20 staff, 9 session leaders, 8 nurses, 18 CIT'S (counselors-in-training), and 40 Adventurers Camp Volunteers.

This year, we disbursed \$29,000 out of the scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund allows us to continue to operate on a need-blind basis, so that all children who obtain a place at camp are able to attend camp, and so that Christian community is available to all our children. This fund is replenished yearly by individuals and churches of the Diocese of East Carolina.

I feel so blessed to continue to be a part of Camp Trinity, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the children of our diocese. To all who helped camp along the way this past summer, you have my deepest thanks.

If you are interested in attending Camp Trinity please contact us! We will be mailing out 2010 brochures in early January, and they will be available for download on our website mid-January (www.trinityctr.com/campt).



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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Giving Back To Trinity Center: Dedicated Helping Hands



Like many other places, Trinity Center has had a year where every little bit helps, every smile matters, and every donation counts. In that spirit, we want to highlight several volunteer efforts that have helped the center continue to serve all our guests.

Jim Scott is a longtime friend of Trinity Center who has organized volunteers who want to perform manual labor around Trinity Center. On a May Saturday this year, twenty people came to Trinity Center to bend their backs to the common task of making property look better.

At one point, Susan Sizemore was another Camp Trinity camper coming up through the program. Now she owns her own small business, Watson In Homes. When she saw the ill-fitting blinds in our Beach House, Susan immediately volunteered her services. Her efforts provided us new custom coverings and greatly improved the look of the Beach House.

Anna Fay Campbell has served Trinity Center in many capacities over the years. She's been a member of the Finance Commission and the Trinity Board, she's been an Elderhostel host, and she's been a cheerleader for the many ministries of Trinity Center. Over the past four years, Anna Fay has also made possible the replacement of the mattresses in all four clusters. Because of Anna Fay's generosity, her son's business, Johnson City Bedding, has provided us with a total of forty-four double and forty-four single mattresses.



Anna Fay Campbell

Each of these people gave freely to Trinity Center in order that we might better serve the many guests who visit this property. We are thankful for their efforts, and we hope that their example will encourage even more volunteerism on behalf of the center in the future.



Susan Sizemore, Designer



From the Executive Director:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

As fall finds Trinity Center, I find myself contemplating the year that's almost over. I suppose it's a cliché now to talk about the economic turmoil of 2009, but for all of us in the hospitality industry, "The Great Recession" has produced an incredibly challenging work environment. We're working hard for all our business now, and we're providing our best service to all our guests.

In my own life, however, 2009 will forever be the year of my marriage. On an absolutely perfect Saturday in September, at the Outdoor Chapel I love so much and consider the most sacred spot, I married Heather Skinner surrounded by my closest family and friends. It was a wonderful wedding, and she's everything I ever could have ever wanted in a partner.

So a year that has been very professionally difficult has also been the happiest of my life so far. What a funny juxtaposition that has been for me. More than once, I have thought about how much harder this year would have been without the constant support and encouragement of my wife. Eventually, I've ended up considering how often it seems that God provides not what we want but what we need. I know, I know. I've found another cliché. I believe clichés often become clichés by having some basis in truth.

In that spirit, and in a year where there has never been enough money to go around, I offer you three people who have given of themselves to this center, each in a very different but similarly profound way. First, consider Jim Scott, a friend of this center who has almost singlehandedly organized a Volunteer Day in May for people who want to perform manual labor around the center. This year twenty people showed up on a May Saturday and gave freely of themselves to help Trinity Center look its best.

Then there's Susan Sizemore, who at one point was Suzie Sizemore and another Camp Trinity child coming up through the program while I worked here as a Camp T staffer. Now Susan has her own upholstery business, Watson In Homes, and this year she donated her services to make some custom coverings for some of our windows in the Beach House.

Finally, I can't forget Anna Fay Campbell, longtime Elderhostel host, Financial Commission member, and friend of this center. Over the past four years, very quietly, Anna Fay has been replacing the mattresses in our four clusters. Using her son's business, Johnson City Bedding, Anna Fay has provided new mattresses to all our guests, one cluster at a time.

Of course these are not the only people who have given freely of themselves to this center. They stand in for all the friends of this center who give back through time, money, and prayer. At a time when the easiest thing to desire is more money, they make clear that God provides not for our wants but our needs. This year, I am grateful for their gifts, I am grateful for my wife, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Trinity Center and its many ministries.



From Elderhostel to Exploritas: A New Name!

-Mindy Furrer, Program Director

Trinity Center is nestled in a 62 acre preserve of maritime forest, freshwater pond, beach and sound habitats. Along with conference guests our Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program welcomes hundreds of schools to our property for a hands-on educational field trip every year.

Elderhostel, Inc is the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning and educational travel since 1975. Their mission is to empower adults to explore the world's places, peoples, cultures and ideas, and in so doing to discover more about themselves.

With Elderhostel's commitment to life long learning and Trinity Center's beautiful space for outdoor and indoor classrooms along with the talented teaching staff from area professors and our own Sound to Sea staff; Elderhostel and Trinity Center have been a perfect fit. Trinity Center has offered Elderhostel programs since 1990, ranging in topics from maritime heritage to the flora and fauna of a barrier island.

With the changing world dynamics Elderhostel felt that it had outgrown its name. In October Elderhostel unveiled its new name *Exploritas*. To pronounce Exploritas combine "explore" with "veritas," the Latin word for truth, and you get Explor-i-tas. One exciting change has been to eliminate the age requirement. Now all adults with a desire for life long learning can enroll in the amazing programs Exploritas has to offer, appealing to a wide variety of people interested in both an educational and travel experience. Along with the new name comes a streamlined catalog for participants to choose from the thousands of programs, from "Intergenerational" learning experiences bringing together children and their grandparents to active Outdoor Adventure programs to new Service Programs.

Trinity Center is excited to offer ten Exploritas programs in 2010. These programs range in topics from environmental issues affecting our coast to digital photography to birding. To register for an Exploritas program at Trinity Center log on to www.exploritas.org or call 1-800-454-5768.

Sound to Sea In The Community

-Amy Aerni, Sound to Sea Instructor

"What's your favorite color?" and "What do you do in your free time?" are common questions asked by the over 5,000 participants that attend the Sound to Sea (STS) Environmental Education Program every year. To answer the first question, my favorite color is turquoise. To answer the second I have to brag a little about my fellow comrades. During the year, the STS staff volunteer their time and energy to several causes. Through volunteer efforts, Sound to Sea instructors quickly learn that teaching comes in all forms and the best yet subtle way is to lead by example. We volunteer because we enjoy giving back to our community and sharing our knowledge with others.

Volunteer opportunities present themselves throughout the year. One such opportunity in our community is at the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores. With so many interesting animals, you are bound to find an excited member of the STS staff sharing their knowledge.

Another volunteer opportunity presents itself every October when we spend our time collecting trash on NC beaches. The event is called the Big Sweep. This year, after covering a mile and a half of beach in front of Trinity Center, two trash bags full of garbage were taken off of the sand. A good portion of that was recycled. Our efforts combined with those of volunteers from all over NC helped over one hundred counties come closer to being litter free.

Every few months STS staff can be found helping with the Dept. of Social Services food distribution, where approximately five hundred bags of food are handed out to those in need. STS Instructor, Lara Koca, commented on her experience: "I am happy to help others. It definitely makes me feel good, but it is sad that so many need it. It also made me tired because those were some heavy bags of food."

Residents that have made the coast of NC their home take a lot of pride in the sandy shore for a number of reasons, including the fact that our beaches are a valuable nesting site of the loggerhead sea turtle. Each summer, STS volunteers walk the beach in front of Trinity Center scanning the sand for tracks and monitoring any nests laid from June through September. Volunteering with the NC Sea Turtle Program allows STS to get hands on experience with sea turtle nesting and the opportunity to share their knowledge and excitement about sea turtles with the general public.

Working with the staff at Sound to Sea has taught me a valuable lesson on giving back to my community. You don't need to look too far in your own community to find opportunities to help. Perhaps together we can all spread the New Year joy a little early. Have an excellent fall and holiday season!

2010 Dates

January 24 - 27
Using Digital Photography to Capture North Carolina's Dynamic Coast

February 7 - 10
Birding on the Outer Banks: Coastal Forests and Island Sanctuaries

February 21 - 26
Land on the Move: The Shifting Sands of North Carolina's Dynamic Coast

March 14 - 19
Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season

March 29 - April 2
The Waters and the Wild: Intergenerational

June 6 - 9
Maritime Heritage

September 7 - 10
Animal Encounters of the Outer Banks

September 26 - October 1
Exploring the Outer Banks: North Carolina's Coastal National Parks

November 14 - 17
Birding on the Outer Banks: Coastal Forests and Island Sanctuaries

December 12 - 17
Tryon Palace: Christmas through the Ages
Animal Encounters: The Wildlife Of North Carolina's Outer Banks

Have You Received Our Annual Appeal?

Trinity Center sent out over 4,000 copies of our Annual Appeal. This letter is our Executive Director, Penn Perry's, personal yearly update of how the center is doing and how we need funding help. If you did not receive our annual appeal please contact us!



**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!