

# Camp Trinity: Exciting Reports!

-Mary Beth Bradberry, Camp Trinity Director

Camp Trinity has had another wonderful and fun-filled summer! On July 25, 2016, Camp Trinity was visited by the American Camping Association (ACA) for its Standards Visit (scheduled once every three years). Developed exclusively for the camp industry, this nationally recognized program focuses on program quality and health and safety issues and requires us to review every facet of our operation. We are thrilled to report that Camp Trinity scored outstanding marks in all areas!

We also have a few exciting announcements. Camp Trinity will be offering a starter camp for summer 2017! The Discoverers I Starter Camp will be held June 5-9, 2017, and will be for campers who are rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a great way to experience Camp Trinity for the first time and the ONLY week that we allow rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grade campers to attend Camp Trinity. Like other camp weeks, it will be fun-filled and engaging, designed to get campers introduced to the world of overnight summer camp in a safe, structured, reassuring, empowering, and encouraging environment. Registration for all Camp Trinity 2017 sessions will begin in November.

Camp Trinity now has an online store! All store profits go directly into the Camp Trinity Scholarship Fund. Check out our online store here: <https://squareup.com/store/camp-trinity-store>. Camp Trinity store items will make great Christmas gifts this year!

I continue to be overwhelmed by the blessings of Camp Trinity, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the diocese by being a part of this wonderful place. To all who helped camp along its way this past summer, you have my deepest gratitude. To the summer staff of 2016 goes a special thank you; I will never forget your dedication, love, and hard work.



### 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's Turtles:

-Kelli Kaelin, Sound to Sea Lead Instructor

Female sea turtles crawl up onto North Carolina's beaches on summer nights to dig nests and lay eggs in the sand at the bottom of the dunes. The morning after a turtle nest has been laid, it can be recognized by the sea turtle tracks that are left behind, one coming from and one heading back to the ocean. Because sea turtles are endangered, their nests are closely monitored by volunteers. The beach is patrolled each morning during nesting season so that any nests laid the night before can be marked, GPS coordinates can be recorded, and a wire grate can be put over top to ensure other animals will not dig down to get to the eggs. The same volunteers remove the wire grate and monitor the nest in the late evening when it is about time for the baby turtles to emerge. The Sound to Sea staff has volunteered to monitor one mile of beach, including Trinity Center, for over 10 years.

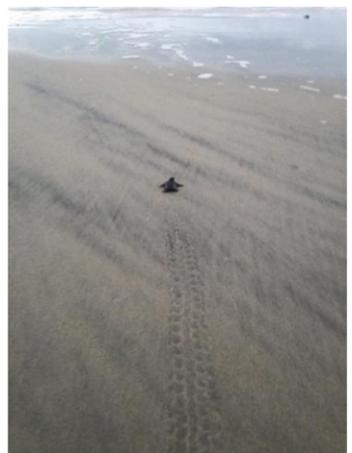
One morning in mid-July, the rest of the Sound to Sea staff and I heard about a sea turtle that had come up on the beach in Salter Path but had not laid any eggs. Jonathan, another staff member, and I decided to take a walk to see the tracks she had left behind with this false crawl. As we returned to the beach in front of Trinity Center, we looked down to see a single sea turtle track. We followed the track up to the dune and saw a large Loggerhead turtle using her flippers to dig a nest. We quickly called the rest of the Sound to Sea staff so that they could come out and share the rare experience of watching a sea turtle lay her eggs. After about two hours, the turtle finally turned around made her way back to the ocean.

The next morning, we called the Sea Turtle Volunteer Coordinator for Pine Knoll Shores, and she came with all of the necessary supplies to mark the nest location. We put on gloves and dug very gently until we came across the eggs. Once they were located, the GPS coordinates were taken, stakes with tape and an informational sign were placed around the nest, and it was gently covered with sand.

About 7 weeks later, Jonathan was patrolling the beach for turtle tracks and saw that this nest had "dropped," meaning that the loosely packed sand on top of the nest had started to fall into it. A nest "dropping" indicates that the turtles inside have started to hatch out of their eggs and should hatch sometime in the next few hours or days. The Sound to Sea staff began monitoring the nest in the evening and was able to see the babies make their way to the ocean two days after the initial drop.

A few days after the baby turtles had hatched, Sound to Sea Director Mindy, Jonathan, and I excavated the nest under the supervision of the Sea Turtle Volunteer Coordinator. In the nest we found 82 shells from turtles that had hatched successfully, four live turtles, two turtles that had not hatched entirely and did not survive, and 17 unhatched eggs. During July, two other nests were laid on the beach in front of Trinity Center and discovered by the Sound to Sea staff. These nests were monitored and excavated as well.

The Sound to Sea staff was fortunate enough to have the experience of watching a Loggerhead sea turtle nest run its course. We have been and will continue to share everything we learned during this experience with the students that come through our program and on our Facebook page.



# Centrum Renovations: Donation in Honor of Fred Rippy

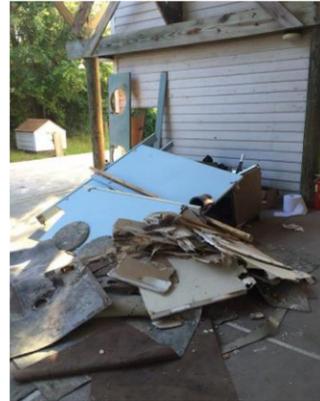
Penn Perry, Executive Director

Sometimes good can spring directly from bad. Such is the case with a gift Trinity Center received this summer from the Rippy family. Fred Rippy passed away several years ago, and his wife Jane contacted me this summer to let me know that his estate had been settled, and that he had left money to Trinity Center to be used somehow for the benefit of the camp part of property.

I have known the Rippy family for many years. They have been and continue to be a Trinity Center family. Fred and Jane were active in Happening and Cursillo; in fact, Jane still attends Happening as a mom to this day. Their children, James and Louise, attended Camp Trinity for many years during the 90s when I was a summer camp staff member.

The money from Fred Rippy's estate has already been spent in the Centrum, the hub of all camp activity. The boys' and girls' bathrooms were completely overhauled; they now have new stalls and vanities. New cabinets went into our Canteen/Pond Room, and new cabinets and carpet went into our Staff Lounge/Forest Room. Thanks go out to Mike Farrell's construction crew, who donated some of their labor. Thanks also go out to the Trinity Center Maintenance staff, who prepped, painted, and patched, and who also constructed some really nice storage cabinets.

Thanks also to the Rippy family, and especially to Fred, who never stopped thinking about this place and all the children we serve.



# Old School, Meet New School:



Camp Trinity and Camp Leach t-shirts being worn by Executive Director, Penn Perry's twin boys, Win and Holt. Fun fact: The Camp Leach shirts are original and were provided by Ed Hodges, member of the diocese and longtime Camp Leach Director. Another fun fact: Ed served as Camp Leach Director when Penn Perry attended in the early 80's, and Penn always admired him greatly.

## TRINITY CENTER

I would like to make a donation to Trinity Center.  
Please apply my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

- Annual 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!

# The Way Forward:

Penn Perry, Executive Director

Hi Friend of Trinity Center. Well, we've made it through another summer, and I feel like Trinity Center had a good summer overall. Honestly, a summer of no named storms is a good summer for us, but we have other reasons to be happy with our summer season. Renovations to East, West, and South clusters are now complete, so all the rooms we rented during the summer were newly renovated and nicely appointed. Charles Park, our new Head of Food Services, has really found his groove, and the food quality makes that clear. Guests were raving about the meals, and that always makes a Trinity Center stay just that much better.

Meanwhile, Camp Trinity completed another successful summer and another successful American Camping Association Accreditation. ACA Accreditation occurs once every three years; this was the ninth that I have gone through, and it was Mary Beth Bradberry's third as camp director. In all honesty, I have never seen the Trinity Center staff work harder to prepare camp property for accreditation, and I have never seen our staff perform better for the ACA visitors. Kudos must be given to Mary Beth, her summer staff, and to all Trinity Center staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that Camp Trinity once again passed with flying colors.

Let's not forget Sound-to-Sea Summer Day Camp. Their unique combination of environmental education and beach fun continued to provide local and vacationing parents a place for kids to learn and be entertained simultaneously. I also love the opportunity that STS Summer Day Camp provides for young children to find their feet on property. For many, STS Summer Day Camp serves as their introduction to all that Trinity Center has to offer.

We also served countless parishes, family reunions, school groups, youth groups, and conferences. In general, it just felt like a busier summer, both here on property and on the island. Whether it was the improving economy, lower gas prices, or something else completely, it just felt like we were busier than we have been in several years. Not only that, but it felt like people were happier with their stays.

I continue to believe so deeply that what we have to offer here is increasingly important in this world of ever-advancing technology. For the time that you are here, we hope that you will disconnect electronically and connect with other guests or the natural environment all around. We want you to leave feeling renewed physically, mentally, and spiritually. This summer, it felt like that happened much more often than not.

Come and visit when you can.

# Shining Star Award:

The Trinity Center Shining Stars are nominated by department heads and chosen by Trinity Center's Executive Director, Penn Perry. Each person is honored with a certificate and a monetary gift and presented at Trinity Center's quarterly board meetings.

The Trinity Center Board is proud to announce that Erin Butcher, Administration, and Debbie Novroski, Point of Arrival, were the recipients in September.

Congratulations and thanks to all these employees for the hard work they do to make Trinity a successful place!

