

From the Executive Director:

-Penn Perry, Executive Director

Spring is here, and we're ready all over Trinity Center property. The weird weather patterns of this past winter are over, and guests are out walking by the lagoon, down to the dock, and over to the beach. We've been happy to have some really nice weather this spring, and of course we're looking forward to another summer out on Bogue Banks.



We're taken advantage of the slower winter season to take care of some general improvements around property. The dining room roof has finally been replaced, and the entire conference center has new carpet. Of note, both the dining room roof and the main conference center carpet were original and almost twenty-five years old.

While there are plenty of other big repair/replace projects we could tackle if we had the capital resources, almost as important are the small sprucing projects that we can take on from within our own operation. Housekeeping spent much of the winter painting in and around the buildings, and Sound-to-Sea painted down in the dorms as well. Weeds have been pulled, trees have been pruned, and screens have been replaced. We even have a dedicated group of volunteers from St. Francis-by-the-Sea, the Episcopal church down the road, helping by planting flowers in the front entrance.

All this work is done in preparation for our busiest time of the year. Not only do we see an uptick in family reunions, parish family retreats, and other adult conferences, but both Summer Sound-to-Sea, our day camp, and Camp Trinity, our residential camp, are in full swing. It's my favorite time of year, not just because we're so busy, but because I have such fond memories of my summers spent inside the bubble of Camp Trinity. It's funny when I realize this, but I haven't spent a summer away from Trinity Center since 1987.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that it is also ACA Accreditation summer for Camp Trinity. Once every three years, the American Camping Association performs a day-long evaluation of all of Camp Trinity to make sure that we are in compliance with their exhaustive set of standards. While this is actually Camp Trinity's seventh time going through accreditation, it will be Mary Beth Gay's first time going through as the director. I know she and camp will come through with flying colors.

To all our dedicated friends and supporters, thanks as always for being such a vital part of the life of this center. To those who haven't visited us in awhile, come and see us this summer. We'll be glad you're here.

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 2010

Real-Live Dinosaurs!

Suzannah Crandall, Program Coordinator

You have raptors? You mean dinosaurs? There are dinosaurs at Trinity Center? Well, not exactly dinosaurs but yes, Trinity Center is home to five raptors. A raptor or *bird of prey* is a bird that hunts other animals and is distinguished by its keen eyesight, strong talons and hooked beak. For over 17 years, the Sound to Sea (STS) Environmental Education program has cared for and utilized the resident rehabilitated raptors for educational programming. Each raptor on property was injured in the wild and was unable to be released back into the wild after rehabilitation. The birds are strictly *education birds* and are included in regular STS school programming, Exploritas (Elderhostel), and numerous other Trinity Center conference events.

During presentations, each raptor is attached to a qualified STS staff's gloved hand and held for viewing. The presence of the live bird enables the instructor to highlight the unique characteristics of each raptor and also talk about their injuries and conservation measures.

Current birds on property include an American Kestrel (1), a Barred Owl (2), two Eastern Screech Owls (3), and a Red-tailed Hawk (4). If you are interested in learning more about raptors or would like to include the birds for your upcoming programming at Trinity Center, please contact Trinity Center Program Director Mindy Furrer.

What's New at Summer Sound to Sea?

SOUND TO SEA DAY CAMP SESSION DATES

Rising Kindergarten Camp (1/2 Week)
\$85 per participant

June 16-18: Wed-Fri 9am-12noon
Aug 16-18: Mon-Wed 9am-12noon

Rising 1st-6th Grade Camp (1/2 Week)
\$115 per participant

June 16-18: Wed-Fri 9am-4pm
Aug 16-18: Mon-Wed 9am-4pm

Rising 1st-6th Grade Camp (Full Week)
\$165 per participant
Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM

June 21-25: Icky Creatures*

June 28-July 2: We Will Survive

July 5-9: Water Wonders

July 12-16: Sensing It

July 19-23: Icky Creatures

July 26-30: We Will Survive

August 2-6: Water Wonders

August 9-13: Sensing It

* description of themes may be found online at www.trinityctr.com/soundtosea

Trinity Center will again offer day camp to local children and vacationers to our island. Sound to Sea day camp is open to school age children from rising first through rising sixth grade. Mindy Furrer, our Program Director, took a moment to sit down with a returning Sound to Sea Instructor, Travis Leftwich, to find out what is new this year.

Mindy: What keeps you coming back as a Summer Sound to Sea instructor?

Travis: The kids, that's the biggest thing. To be able to influence and inspire kids about the environment

Mindy: What is your favorite part of the Summer Sound to Sea day?

Travis: I really enjoy swim time. You get to see a different aspect of the kids watching them play and interact with the ocean. It is also great to see them all together in a big group. It is fun to see interactions between all the kids and their different personalities.

Mindy: What is new this year?

Travis: This year each week has a theme. If a camper comes multiple times in a summer there will be a different focus on the habitat studies.

Mindy: Can you give an example?

Travis: We will have a water theme. All of the classes will be focused on the type of water you might find in that habitat and how the animals survive in it. Best of all we will get to play in water with a water carnival! One of my personal favorites is the "Icky Creatures" theme. Campers get to study bugs and other things kids think are "icky" but are really very cool!

If you have any questions, please call (252) 247-5600 and ask for the Day Camp Registrar.



Faces Around Trinity Center: Cleo the Cat

If you have visited Trinity Center in the past five years you may have met our resident greeter and purrer. Cleo, short for Cleopatra as she is queen of everything, joined the Trinity Center staff in 2005. She came to us via Mother Margaret Neil, who was just beginning her Trinity Center contract and couldn't take the cat with her to her new residence. On warm sunny days you might find Cleo in the front walkway leading up to the point of arrival; often when approached she will roll over for a belly rub. On cooler days Cleo spends her time in various offices in the administration building. Several offices have a covered chair or basket which Cleo knows are hers when she needs to take a break. If you see her waiting by the door to the office be sure to stand back as she will lunge for that door with all of her feline grace. Cleo is cared for by the Sound to Sea staff. They make sure her food bowl and water dish are full and give her the love and attention she so richly deserves.

Camp Trinity : Summer 2010!

Mary Beth Gay, Camp Trinity Director

Camp Trinity is looking forward to another fabulous summer full of children! We are proud to say that we currently are full in most of our camp sessions, many of them with healthy wait-lists. This year, we have had an increase in requests for scholarship help. Our scholarship fund allows us to continue to operate Camp Trinity on a need-blind basis, so that all children who obtain a place in 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. This past year, we disbursed over \$25,000 to help more than 100 children attend Camp Trinity. If you are interested in helping keep this precious fund alive please send donations to: Trinity Center c/o the Camp Scholarship Fund.

Camp Trinity's summer will officially kick off Saturday, June 5 with our Discoverers I session. Be sure to get online and check out our website: www.trinityctr.com/campt for pictures and fun throughout the summer!

Updates to Property:



New carpet for the entire conference center!



A new roof for the dining hall!

Trinity Center Under Snow!



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 _____

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Name: _____

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Thank you for your gift!