

CAMP TRINITY AND TRINITY CENTER

The year 2020 will certainly be one we remember and not necessarily in a positive way. I don't think anyone would argue that this has been the most difficult year in Trinity Center's history.

In February, our outlook was very positive. In March we were hit with COVID-19 and had to shut down, and eventually, we had to furlough 45 employees. It was the first summer the Diocese of East Carolina did not have summer camp since we began our camping program 90 plus years ago. To top this, our longtime, much beloved Penn Perry made the difficult decision to retire. As many people have said to me, "He was the face of Trinity Center."

However, we don't have to look too far to find positives in the negative. Our Assistant Director and our Operations Manager, Mary Beth Bradberry and Stephanie Rudolph agreed to assume leadership as interim co-directors. With 10 employees, themselves included, they have managed to hold things together and begin a slow reopening process. This staff is phenomenal. They are doing every job that is being done from mowing to cleaning toilets. In spite of all their hard work, there is no way Trinity Center could survive without the financial support of the diocese. Our funds quickly diminished, and we are so grateful that the diocese has supported us since August.

When I signed on for another term as chairman of the Board of Managers at the beginning of the year, I had no idea what I would be facing. Working with Mary Beth and Stephanie has definitely been a major positive for me. I can't say enough about their dedication and love for Trinity Center.

As we begin the reopening process, we are still faced with the uncertainty of COVID-19, its increasing infection numbers, as well as severe financial struggles. We still have contracted groups on the books although many have had to cancel. We continue to actively seek individuals and small groups to hold safe retreats here at Trinity Center. We are actively planning for Summer 2021 camping programs. Camp Trinity, our residential overnight camp began registration early January and Summer Sound to Sea, our environmental education day camp, will begin registration early February.

Finally, I must thank all our supporters who have made contributions, offered prayers, and various other means of support. We are certainly far from "being out of the woods." We have three substantial projects related to our facilities that need to be completed before camp opens and the process of preparing for camp is always a costly one. As we enter the uncertainty of 2021, we seek your continued support as we struggle to try to recover and offer the hospitality and Spirit-filled environment loved by so many. Please remember we are open to individuals and small groups. Give us a call and come visit – we'd love to see you.

Submitted by,
Ed Hodges
Chairman of the Board of Managers