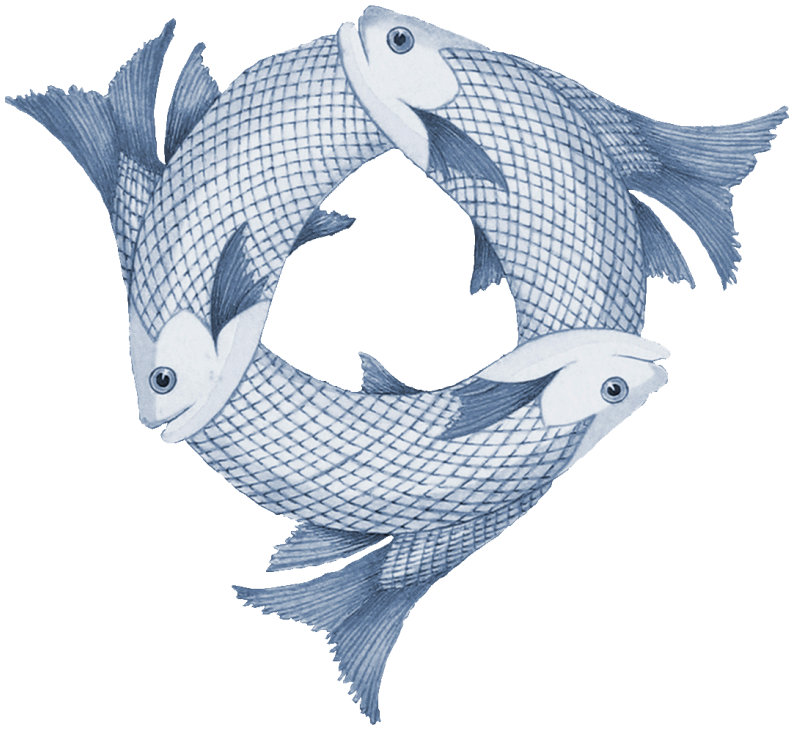
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 22, 2026



EXPLORE FAITH. EMBRACE COMMUNITY. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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THE RECTOR'S REPORT

[Text TBD — the Rector's report will be added here.]



The Rev. Scott White
Rector

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ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT



The Rev. Amy Peterson
Associate Rector

In 2026, it was a joy to collaborate in leading the people of Trinity in the worship of God through eucharists, baptisms, funerals, weddings, Bible studies, pastoral care, outreach, festivals, and so much more.

Some highlights included our retreats. Every year, attentive to the needs and composition of the new 6th grade class, we offer a confirmation class suited to them. This year, we had about ten girls and one boy, so Mike+ met with the boy, and Debbie and I took the girls on a retreat, and invited other young women of Trinity to come along. It was a sweet bonding formational experience. I also led a full-capacity women's retreat at Lake Logan, with guests Debra Rienstra and Amanda Held Opelt; and a retreat for sparking creativity with Lauren Winner.

Additional formation experiences I helped craft this year included "For the Living of These Days," a lenten dinner series highlighting saints who help us understand how to live as Christians in our own moment; and my occasional book club, which read two climate-focused novels in conjunction with the women's retreat, and the pope's encyclical about safeguarding human dignity in the age of artificial intelligence. All were well attended.

As our children and youth numbers continue growing, we continue to explore new ways to serve families. This year we initiated Children's Chapel, a more structured service replacing Children's Hour. And I drafted a job description for a full-time youth minister, a role we hope to fill in 2027. I continued to advise Debbie and Nanette as needed on curriculum and event planning.

In addition, our creation care committee continues to bring informative local speakers in, take field trips, and grow in our endeavors to make our campus sustainable and beautiful, acting as good stewards of the land with which we are in relationship.

Contributing to our wider diocesan life, I was the speaker for the clergy lenten retreat in February, and I am serving on the search committee for our next bishop.

Finally, growth continued in our connection to the literary community of Asheville; a highlight was our evening with Pulitzer Prize winning poet Marie Howe via a connection with the Collegeville Institute, which will continue in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy +

ASSISTANT RECTOR'S REPORT



The Rev. Mike Reardon
Assistant Rector

After three years here on Church Street, I continue to be grateful for the ways in which our congregation, staff, and clergy have contributed to my development as a priest, and hopefully the ways in which my particular skills as a priest have benefitted Trinity Church. I am deeply blessed to inhabit a unique role as both Assistant Rector at Trinity and Vicar at Church of the Advocate.

This past year has been one of continued professional growth and integration. I have continued to serve regularly both on Sundays and on Wednesdays, and have acted as the clergy liaison for Trinity's outreach committee. In this role, I have overseen a Habitat build, collaborated with our Church Street partners in organizing Loaves and Fishes, and served as the clerical point person for our Martin Luther King service. I served on Trinity's appreciative inquiry core team, an experience that has been formative for my own professional development and for Trinity's visioning.

I have had an opportunity to develop my skills through robust professional development. I completed a fellowship through Berkeley Divinity School called The Leader's Way during April of 2026. This has equipped me with tools for innovative leadership in my ministerial context at both Trinity and Church of the Advocate. During that same season, I led a group of Trinity and Church of the Advocate parishioners in an Ignatian retreat over the course of Lent. In September, I had an opportunity to further develop this dimension of my ministry by participating in an Ignatian Spirituality retreat at Mepkin Abbey.

I look forward to what lies ahead for us in the coming year, and to continuing in our efforts to be emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mike

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DEACON'S REPORT



The Rev. Bob Zito
Deacon

I'm in my sixth year at Trinity. On May 19th, I celebrated my 25th anniversary of ordination or Silver Jubilee. I am grateful for having the opportunity to serve the Church through these many years.

Initially, I thought it might be helpful to examine the Church's historical theology of deacons (the "diaconate" or office of the deacon) so you might understand how I try to fulfill my ministry. In the early church, bishops needed help with ministering day-to-day to the growing communities and ordained seven men for this purpose (Acts 6:1-7). The first deacons collected the alms from the community and distributed food and other needs to widows, orphans and the poor. The church was founded by bishops who traveled from congregation to congregation delivering "exhortations," while deacons cared for the day-to-day needs of the community. The qualifications for bishops and deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3. All of this has morphed and evolved into the intricate church structure we have today.

The primary role of the deacon is to act as prophet in interpreting the needs of the community: "You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world" (BCP 543). To fulfill this role, the deacon is "in the world," meaning that the deacon has a secular profession and receives no compensation from the Church. The deacon shares in the needs of the lay community by working in and making a life "in the world." Being in the world enables the deacon to better understand and communicate the needs of the world with a prophetic voice. The deacon is a transitional figure who is both in the world with the lay and in the Church along with the other clergy and religious orders. The deacon is both prophet and minister to the community through pastoral care.

Some deacons work for the church and receive compensation. Deacons outside the Roman, Orthodox and Anglican traditions are lay persons who minister to the needy.

The role of the deacon in our liturgy is rich. The Deacon of the Eucharist, along with the Celebrant, is one of the Sacred Ministers of the Eucharist. In the liturgy, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, bids and recites the Prayers of the People and Confession, sets the table, distributes and assists in communion, and dismisses the congregation. In proclaiming the Gospel, the deacon delivers the prophetic word from the holy to the world. The deacon is the herald of the Gospel. In procession, the deacon leaves the holy sanctuary, with the crucifer and acolytes, and enters the nave, demonstrating the transitional nature of the diaconal office from the holy in the sanctuary into the nave, the

world. The deacon bids the needs of the world through the Prayers of the People as chief intercessor and minister to the people. The deacon bids the Confession as leader of the lay in acknowledging the fallible nature of human creatures. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the deacon, again, as a transitional figure, dismisses the congregation and leads the congregation from worship back into the world. To facilitate this function, I stand at the door, the threshold of the church, greeting all as they leave the holy church and return into the world.

I fulfill the prophetic nature of my ministry primarily by preaching what I call pastoral sermons: “You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example” (BCP 543). My homilies are intended to be comforting in nature, extolling the goodness of God’s grace and hope.



The great news I have for this year is that The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has matured and multiplied into a robust group of men. The group meets socially once a month, usually at a brewery, and at church on the first Sunday of the month for mindful conversation. I hosted a summer gathering at my house that was well attended with terrific conversation. We had a diversity of participants. We all learned from and supported each other in that conversation. We have had several service projects involving Lake Logan and Habitat for Humanity and the parish campus for a cleaning day.

I’ve also acted as Clergy Liaison for the Congregation Development Ministry Team and been a primary contact person for newcomers. I have also led the Trinity Connect meetings.

I continue to make pastoral visits as needed.

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord and all persons.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Zito

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WARDENS' REPORT

We are delighted to confirm (what you already know) that our parish, Trinity Episcopal, Asheville, remains in wonderfully positive circumstances. Very few churches have had to bring pews back into the church, send weekly reminders on where to find additional parking and have to squeeze choir members into the chancel. These "problems" are actually a blessing as we face the challenges of managing significant growth in our parish community. We are fortunate to have such able clergy to lead us. Thank you Scott, Amy, Mike, and Bob.

We want to acknowledge our fellow Vestry members of the class of 2026 who, along with the two of us, are rotating off this month. Our thanks to Carole Hedden, Tina McGuire, and Richard Wrightson. We also want to thank those parishioners who are standing for election to the class of 2029, Stuart Bush, Randy Hall, Lang Hornthal, Michelle Koon and Tara Shields. We are delighted with this slate and feel we are leaving the Vestry in very competent hands.

In our role as Wardens, we have been involved in several important aspects of Trinity's mission.



- We organized line by line reviews of Trinity's finances for new members of the Vestry as well as conducting thorough walk-throughs of the church buildings, in order to give the new Vestry members a better sense of the financial condition of the parish as well as challenges of managing a physical plant that is over 100 years old.
- One of our goals has been to augment the transparency of the parish's finances. The initial path we focused on was to identify and separately classify capital (non-operational) work from day-to-day operational expenses. This is a work in progress.
- We participated in drafting the "Safe Church Policy" delineating vetting procedures for all levels of individuals compensated by Trinity.
- All new Vestry members completed the "Safe Church" online curriculum which trains leaders of Trinity's ministries to maintain a safe environment for children, seniors and anyone present in our buildings.
- Thanks to the extremely hard work done by Carole and Cole Hedden and Jeff Cook, the church received material insurance and other damage settlements, relating to Tropical Storm Helene, from the Church Insurance Company, the Small Business Administration and FEMA. Those funds have been aggregated and are being used to repair damage caused by Helene, most importantly to address the serious issues

pertaining to the Church's rainwater drainage system on the Aston, Lexington, and rear parking lot areas of the church.

- As Wardens we were responsible for convening the Nominating Committee and developing the slate of candidates for Vestry and Parish approval. The committee, which consists of the "senior" class of Vestry members, functioned very smoothly and completed its work consistent with the deadlines in the parish by-laws.
- We coordinated the first fellowship opportunity, a potluck dinner, for Celtic Service attendees. It was well-received and a second dinner and sing-along are scheduled for December 13, 2026.

The one area where we feel the Parish is materially vulnerable pertains to the lack of an endowed fund to support the on-going maintenance of the buildings. Although we have been fortunate to have the operating and reserve funds to repair and replace items that have broken or worn out, we fear this is not sustainable and will require monies over and above what operating funds can support. We suggest the Clergy and Lay Leadership to prayerfully consider this situation in the near future.



Craig Weeks
Senior Warden



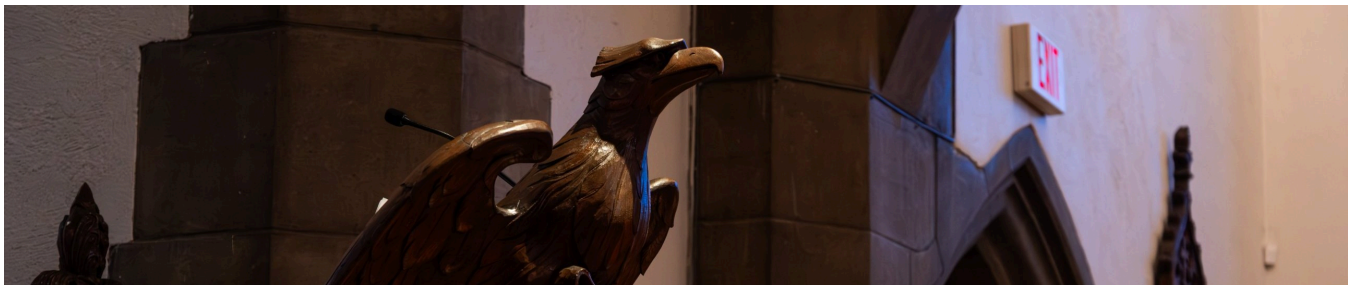
Nancy Dexter
Junior Warden

In closing, it has been our honor to serve as Wardens of Trinity Episcopal Church. We leave our posts content in the knowledge that the Parish is well run and in strong financial condition with a growing parish family dedicated to our spiritual and community development.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Weeks, Senior Warden
Nancy Dexter, Junior Warden

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FINANCE



The Finance Committee has met four times during the year to review the Financial Reports of Trinity. This past year was one of both continued recovery for the area and for the church, and anticipated growth for the church.

At September 30, 2026, the church had recorded almost $1.2 million in year to date. While this does reflect the continuing growth in the church, it is actually about thirty thousand dollars below the budgeted revenue at this point. We expect that as people make their year-end contributions and catch up on pledges, this variance will be made up. Through control of expenses the bottom line of the church is actually five thousand dollars above budget through the end of September.

Last year's decision to move the temporarily idle funds to an investment account has worked out well. The Finance Director was able to move over $100,000 to an investment account early in the year where it has been earning interest and has only had to move some back in the past couple of months to cover current bills.

This year we again underwent the Agreed-Upon Procedures engagement with our auditors and there were no exceptions found. This is excellent news and shows us that the work performed by the financial staff of the church is accurate and timely.

The committee has begun to review the 2027 draft budget for approval by the Vestry. It is anticipated that this budget will reflect continued growth of the church as we head into the new year.

The committee is composed of parishioners and staff members: Treasurer Jennifer Weidemann, Nancy Dexter, Craig Weeks, Richard Wrightson, Carole Hedden, Don Weidemann, John Carter, Scott White, Jan Hildebrand, and Robyn McNeal.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Weidemann
Treasurer

Trinity's 2026 Summary of Revenue & Expenses can be found on the next page.

2026 SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

January 1 – September 30, 2026

Accounts	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Annual Budget	% of Annual
Revenues					
Operating Income	974,482.30	1,013,922.18	(39,439.88)	1,351,896.29	72.08%
Other Income	215,858.80	208,316.34	7,542.46	277,755.00	77.72%
Total Revenues	**$1,190,341.10**	**$1,222,238.52**	**($31,897.42)**	**$1,629,651.29**	**73.04%**
Expenses					
Administration	230,160.24	215,579.79	(14,580.45)	287,439.69	80.07%
Contracted Services	21,957.07	20,250.09	(1,706.98)	27,000.00	81.32%
Admin Support	9,710.18	7,875.09	(1,835.09)	10,500.00	92.48%
Congregational Dev.	883.54	749.97	(133.57)	1,000.00	88.35%
Parish Life	32,697.93	32,249.97	(447.96)	43,000.00	76.04%
Stewardship	4,877.24	4,500.00	(377.24)	6,000.00	81.29%
Facilities and Grounds	205,654.19	192,622.50	(13,031.69)	256,830.00	80.07%
Outreach and Mission	139,588.45	176,677.83	37,089.38	235,570.60	59.26%
Worship and Music	109,028.05	122,360.22	13,332.17	163,147.00	66.83%
Education & Formation	122,666.09	132,732.81	10,066.72	176,977.00	69.31%
Parish Pastoral Staff	307,768.31	315,515.25	7,746.94	420,687.00	73.16%
Pastoral Care	298.96	1,125.00	826.04	1,500.00	19.93%
Total Expenses	**$1,185,290.25**	**$1,222,238.52**	**($36,948.27)**	**$1,629,651.29**	**72.73%**
Net Total	**$5,050.85**	**$0.00**	**$5,050.85**	**$0.00**	**0.00%**

Year to date, Jan. 1 – Sept. 30 (75% of the year). Parentheses mark revenue below or expenses above budget.

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INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



The Investment Committee was established over 14 years ago to supervise, monitor, and evaluate the investment assets of Trinity Church and to recommend an annual distribution from these assets to the church budget. We make recommendations to the Vestry regarding investment matters.

We meet four times per year to review investment performance, meet with our investment managers (Modera and the Community Foundation of WNC), and formulate recommendations for the Vestry to review and consider, such as portfolio allocation changes and improving interest returns on cash reserves. Trinity's recent property acquisition across the street at 75 Church Street was made with funds overseen by our committee, and as a committee we consider 75 Church St as part of Trinity's Endowment portfolio. This property is debt free and has a positive independent monthly cash flow.

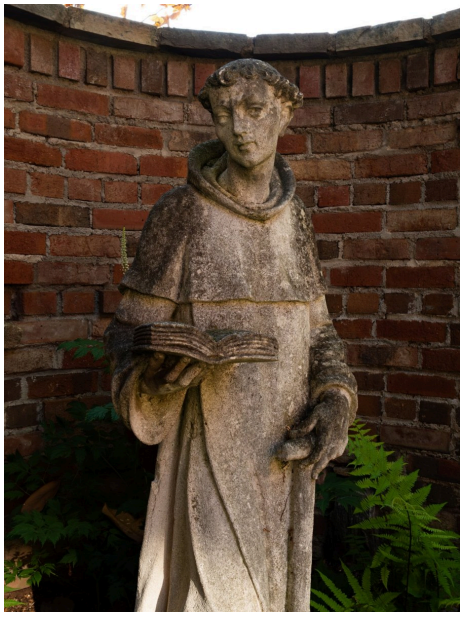
This year, our committee membership consisted of Rev. Dr. Scott White, Senior Warden Craig Weeks, Junior Warden Nancy Dexter, Treasurer Jennifer Weidemann, Finance Director Jan Hildebrand, Finance Assistant Robyn McNeal, Fred Groce, Jeff Howden, Vince Childress, Jim Gunn, and Tim Owings. I am grateful for the dedicated service of this talented group of Trinitarians.

If you would like to be part of our committee, please contact Jan Hildebrand or myself. Financial expertise is not a prerequisite for service. In fact, some of our greatest decisions have come from members who did not see themselves as finance people. As Chair, I am particularly interested in attracting additional members in the coming year who reflect the diversity of our parish in age, gender, and life experience. I sincerely hope you will join us if interested.

As of September 30, 2026, Trinity's assets included three Money Market deposit accounts, at First Citizens Bank, Self Help Credit Union, and Vanguard with combined balances of $417,154; and an operating checking account and an investment portfolio managed by Parsec Financial that is comprised of restricted, unrestricted, and Legacy assets of Trinity Church with a balance of $1.7 million.

Additionally, Trinity is blessed to be the income beneficiary of three endowed accounts at the Community Foundation of WNC with combined balances of $1.9 million.

This year our Committee worked toward bringing the assets of the Ann Perry Carr Fund under the umbrella of our committee's oversight, as Wells Fargo requested to resign as Trustee. We are in the process of receiving these funds and will invest these with Vanguard. This will save Trinity the cost of an annual advisory fee.



Trinity has received several very generous unrestricted bequests this year and over the years. One such gift is a living endowment. This endowment has been invested with Vanguard Funds, adding an additional investment manager to our portfolio. Other bequests received have allowed us to formally establish an independent Legacy gift portfolio at Modera Wealth Management.

You may be curious as to how these bequests and gifts came about. These can come from many sources, including:

- Naming Trinity in your will as you review your estate planning documents.
- Naming Trinity as a beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). These assets will avoid probate and pass to Trinity tax free.
- Gifts of cash and highly appreciated securities
- Qualified charitable contributions from IRAs for people over the age of 73. These count toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution, and such distributions are not included in your taxable income.
- Grants from Donor Advised Funds

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ASSETS HELD BY TRINITY CHURCH

Endowed & Designated Funds

	September 2025	September 2026
Endowed Funds – Permanently Restricted		
Community Foundation*	$1,436,313	$1,575,279
Community Foundation / Cannon*	240,752	264,172
Community Foundation / Patton*	80,826	89,905
Total Restricted Funds	**$1,757,891**	**$1,929,356**
Trinity Investment Funds		
Modera – Temporarily Restricted	$657,087	$643,261
Modera – Legacy Funds Permanently Restricted	716,574	844,087
Total Trinity Investment Funds	**$1,373,662**	**$1,487,348**
Endowed Fund – Not Donor Restricted		
Vanguard – Life Strategy Funds	$544,645	$625,549
Vanguard – Wellington Funds	533,647	587,540
Total Not Donor Restricted	**$1,078,292**	**$1,213,089**
Investment Totals	**$4,209,845**	**$4,629,793**
Increase		**$419,948**

**Community Foundation of WNC manages these funds. CFWNC as of 9/30/25 and 9/30/26.*

2026 has been a good year of investment performance, the fifth in the last six years.

As you enter a period of Thanksgiving and reflection on your many blessings, my Committee and I sincerely hope you will consider Trinity as you express your thanks in your giving, and in your legacy planning.

Our focus continues to be on being good stewards of the assets of the parish.

Our stewardship efforts should inspire the confidence of our parish that we are seeking to get the best possible returns on our funds, by using active and passive investment strategies.

It has been a great blessing to have served yet another year as Chair, and to have served on this committee since its inception.

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Hardy

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Shaping Our FUTURE

Since, then, we have such a hope, **WE ACT WITH GREAT BOLDNESS.** -2 Corinthians 3:12

Fall Campaign – Shaping Our Future

SHAPING OUR FUTURE 2027

As of November 10, 2026

372	$1,325,728	$3,564
PLEDGES RECEIVED	TOTAL PLEDGED	AVERAGE PLEDGE

Of the 372 pledges received:

- **221** increased for an increased amount of $116,689
- **20** decreased for a decreased amount of $18,293
- **99** stayed at the same amount as 2026
- **32** are first-time pledges totaling $53,590
- **6** dropped out due to death or moved away, totaling $19,090

Compared with last year

At the close of our 2026 campaign, we received 394 pledges for a total of $1,302,876

For this year, we hope to still receive an additional 53 members who pledged in 2026

Stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world, both for the individual and the community. Christian stewardship is the grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in light of God's purpose, as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions.

We could not do this important work each year without the help of our Stewardship Team—Scott, Amy, Mike, Robyn, Nanette, Kat, and the many members who have given their time to serve as Stewardship Circle Captains.

Our campaign process again included a two-step approach. We began with a "pre-campaign," inviting the congregation to join a leadership group by making an early pledge two weeks before the campaign began. The pre-campaign happened entirely online. 248 families participated in the Leadership campaign, pledging $939,662.

The second stage was the full campaign, which ran in October, when the Stewardship Circle Captains hand-delivered pledge packets to those who had not yet pledged. Now that the main campaign period is over, we've begun following up with those we haven't heard from.

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We always welcome pledges and have continued to receive a handful since the close of the official campaign period. The campaign's results as of November 10th are in the box below.

We are grateful to the Stewardship team and all Trinity members for their generosity in ensuring Trinity's mission and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Hildebrand & Rebecca Jenkins

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness.
2 Corinthians 3:12



Jan Hildebrand, Director of Financial Ministries and Rebecca Jenkins, Program Director

FORMATION



Engage. Think. Reflect. Question. Play. Laugh.
Challenge. Affirm. Learn. Grow.

At Trinity, we are lifelong learners because we are lifelong disciples, called to love God with all our heart, strength, and mind — from the smallest of children to the most seasoned of adults. At Trinity, there is a place for you to learn and grow closer to Christ and your neighbor, no matter where you find yourself in life. Throughout the year, we explore the heart of the Christian faith, challenge ourselves to live more deeply in Christ's way of love, and engage critically with the real-world issues that confront modern life. We have formation classes every Sunday and special topical series or featured speakers at different times throughout the year.

Children are taught through a method termed "Godly Play" based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. Children also help lead our worship several times a year through music and "Everybody Upstairs" Bible lessons.

Teenagers meet on Sunday mornings for fellowship, prayer, and study of the Bible and church tradition. They hear testimonies from adults in the church and learn from lessons planned by Debbie Cox, Nanette Popa, Kat Lomuscio, and others. They serve and play together at EYC events and summer trips. A large part of their formation comes from helping lead our worship as acolytes on Sunday mornings, and they planned and participated in leadership of the whole service on Youth Sunday.

Adult programs are varied and are co-planned by the clergy and lay members to encompass Biblical studies, theological topics, church history, and current issues. The classes are taught by the clergy, members, and special guests, all of whom bring various backgrounds and expertise to encourage questioning, learning, and growing. We also offer a number

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of retreats, both day and overnight, and bring in special guest speakers several times a year.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Our Children and Family Ministry joyfully serves children from birth through fifth grade and their families. Together, we nurture faith, build friendships, and walk alongside one another as we grow in God's love. All are welcome, no exceptions!

My name is Nanette Popa, and I have the joy of serving as Director of Children and Family Ministries here at Trinity. I am passionate about creating spaces where children feel safe, known, and deeply loved, and where families are supported and encouraged on their journey of faith. Children are full and participating members of our congregation and are treated as such.

Our program at Trinity remains strong and vibrant, continuing to grow thanks in large part to the dedication of 14 Godly Play mentors, including two teenage volunteers. We have also expanded our classroom resources to enhance response time, providing a fuller range of creative and reflective activities for children each week. Additionally, we have redesigned what was formerly known as "Children's Hour" to "Children's Chapel." Please see the heading below for more information.

Our dedicated team of volunteers makes this all possible. Every volunteer has completed Safe Church Training, ensuring that children are cared for in a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment. We always welcome new volunteers, so please reach out if you are interested in joining us!

Sunday Morning Children's Formation: Godly Play 9:30–10:30 am



One of the central components of our Sunday morning children's formation is our Godly Play classes. Godly Play was developed by the late Rev. Jerome Berryman in 1984 and has been successfully used here at Trinity for over 25 years. Rooted in the Montessori tradition, Godly Play invites children to explore Bible stories through wonder, play, and imagination. Our trained volunteer mentors present a story and lead the response time. It creates space for children to connect with God in their own way and at their own pace, and it's often just as meaningful for the adults in the room as it is for the children! We offer three Godly Play classrooms for children from potty-trained three-year-olds through 5th grade:

Godly Play 1: Three-year-olds through pre-kindergarten use the Godly Play curriculum to explore the stories of our faith through three-dimensional materials and creative response time. Through this curriculum, children become familiar with liturgy and a way to make meaning of religious language.

Godly Play 2: Kindergarten through second grade: extends the depth and scope of the stories of our faith. A deeper understanding of the stories, symbols, and rites of their faith continues their growth towards a more meaningful and appropriate participation in congregational worship.

Rite In The Middle: 3rd through 5th grades. This class continues with Godly Play, exploring more of the enrichment and extension lessons, as well as the core stories. Deeper theological reflections and connections are made with this age group. Response time encourages journaling, working with various art mediums, group projects, and continued work with the stories themselves.

Children's Chapel: We are thrilled to announce that Children's Hour has officially become Children's Chapel! Our Clergy, the Children and Families Committee, and I have worked hard to create an engaging, simple liturgy for our youngest Trinitarians.

Here's what's changing:

- Expanding the age group from potty-trained 3-year-olds through 5th grade (previously through 2nd grade).
- We will begin Children's Chapel with a developmentally appropriate liturgy, including prayers, music, and the Sunday Gospel reading in child-friendly language.
- One of our clergy will join us to lead the first part of Children's Chapel.

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- The second part of chapel will remain as before with “response time,” where we will have opportunities to make a craft, do a puzzle, read a book, or engage further with the day's lesson.

This expansion invites our older elementary kids to take on meaningful leadership roles, helping guide younger peers through prayers, readings, and worship traditions, alongside a rotating schedule of clergy who will be present for this dedicated children’s service.



Nursery: The nursery continues to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our youngest children from birth through three years old. Elyse Carabello currently serves as Nursery Supervisor. Ingrid Sanders, a longtime member of our nursery staff, was involved in a car accident this summer and is on leave as she continues her recovery. We are grateful to a dedicated group of substitute caregivers, both adults and youth, who have ensured that the nursery remains open and fully staffed each Sunday. A special thank you to Rosie Peterson, who has faithfully served in the nursery most Sundays. All nursery staff are fully vaccinated and have completed First Aid/CPR and Safeguarding God’s Children training.

Come to the Table: Learning About Holy Communion: Come to the Table is an engaging, age-appropriate program that helps children explore the origin and meaning of the Holy Eucharist. The class offers formation both for those already receiving communion and for those preparing to do so, providing hands-on instruction at the altar rail and time for thoughtful reflection.

Children in Godly Play 2 (Grades K–2) and Rite in the Middle (Grades 3–5) will participate in two special sessions with clergy, culminating in receiving communion together at the 10:45 service. We invite all children to take part as we deepen their understanding and experience of this sacred meal.

Everybody Upstairs: Everybody Upstairs takes place approximately three times a year, inviting the congregation to experience worship led by our children. During these special Sundays, Godly Play mentors and children presented the sermon in the Godly Play style, bringing Scripture to life through storytelling and wonder.

Last year’s presentations included “The Parable of the Good Shepherd,” “Jesus and the Women,” and on October 4, 2026, “The Story of St. Francis.” During that service, the youth wrote and read the Prayers of the People, with Eloise Griffin doing an especially wonderful job leading the congregation in prayer. We also enjoyed a prelude by our very own Cherub Choir, co-directed by Dr. Kevin Seal and Nanette Popa.

These services offered a meaningful way for the whole parish to witness the depth of the Godly Play curriculum and to celebrate the spiritual insight and creativity of our youngest members.

Come Join the Circle: Our summer program for children ages 3 through 2nd grade. During the summer months, our regular formation classes take a break, and we shift to a more active, play-based approach filled with creativity, movement, and plenty of cool treats. This summer's theme was "Exploring the Nature of God" which invited children to learn about the saints whose feast days we celebrated each week. Through crafts, games, and storytelling, we explored what made each saint special and how we can follow their examples in our own lives. As always, we ended each session with a refreshing treat and lots of smiles.

Godly Play Parent Pages: These resources are included in weekly emails to parents whenever they are available, corresponding to the story of the week. These pages help parents learn more about the lesson their child will hear each Sunday, allowing families to continue to wonder together about the Godly Play story at home. As parents, you are your child's first and best teachers of the faith, and these pages provide an excellent resource for reflection and conversation.

Vacation Bible School 2026: Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God!

→ **Click Here for Pictures from VBS 2026**



What an incredible four days! We moved, sang, made crafts, practiced yoga, ate snacks, learned interesting science facts, played on a water slide, and had a great time while learning about how much God loves us! This event wouldn't be possible without an incredible number of volunteers and coordinators. A special thank you to Chelsea Kennedy for crafts, Mark Davidson for science, Kaileigh Severini for yoga, and Alex Kennedy for crafty snacks.

We had 52 volunteers who did everything from decorating for VBS to leading and assisting with our groups, and helping with our craft and science areas. Also, a huge shout-out to Kat Lomuscio for making all of our posters, name tags, and all print media that looked fabulous, and to Glenn Childes for an incredible amount of setup and takedown. We had 52 children registered for all the fun! Please mark your calendar for the 2027 dates: June 21-24.

Observing The Liturgical Calendar

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- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** - Children make crafts and enjoy pancake races and other games, along with our delicious pancake meal.
- **Advent Wreath Making** - This annual celebration involves all families creating an Advent wreath from real greenery for their home, as well as taking home a Devotional Guide to mark the season.
- **Children's Christmas Pageant**-The pageant is a perennial favorite, where all children dress in costume for a beautiful retelling of the Nativity story.
- **2027 Lenten Home Project-Theme to be announced.** Families will have the opportunity to keep a Holy Lent at home with a take-home activity set. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Palm Sunday Walk with Church Street.** This year, we continued the tradition of our annual "walk" with First Presbyterian and Central Methodist. Families gather on Church Street and process with a donkey and palms to Pritchard Park for a brief service.
- **Easter at Trinity** for children involves two identical services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.). At both services, the children join the grand procession, flower a large outdoor cross, eat hot cross buns, and have their own special service in the Redwood Chapel. Sandwiched between these two services is the Easter Egg Hunt.



- **All Saints' Dinner** - We celebrate All Saints' Sunday with a special dinner, a focus on saints of the church, and a candlelight reading of the names of those interred in the Memorial Garden here at Trinity. This year, we were excited to have Becky Stone, a local performing artist and storyteller, as our featured presenter.

Other Events & Opportunities

- **Kick Off Sunday-** August 23, 2026. We had all the usual bells and whistles: A wonderful bluegrass band, Appalachia Haze, an inflatable water slide on the street, a traveling magician, a face painter, a balloon twister, fairy hair, lawn games, and Jeremiah's Italian Ice. Thank you to Debbie Cox and team for the delicious lunch. What a fun way to start the program year!
- **Club 345 -** Our junior youth group for 3rd- to 5th-graders continues to meet monthly during the academic year. Activities have included: Zip and Slip snow tubing, Well Played Board Games, Great Bird Adventure, Fake Sleepover, ACT's "Matilda", Tropical Mini Golf, Asheville Treetop Canopy Adventures Glow and Haunted Trail, and ACT's "Sound of Music". In December, we will see "Frozen" at Asheville Community Theatre.

- **Four for Families** - This ministry takes place four times a year, with the goal of gathering our families with elementary-age children and younger together for fellowship and community.
- **Cherub Choir & Children's Choir** - There are two Trinity Choir opportunities for Children. Cherub Choir is open to children ages 5–3rd grade and teaches the basics of note reading, singing technique, and counting, along with fun activities every week. The Children's Choir is open to students in 4th grade and up. They build up the skills that they learned in Cherub Choir and deepen their musical practice. Both choirs sing periodically at 10:45 worship throughout the program year, including on Everybody Upstairs Sundays and the 3:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Both choirs are co-directed by Dr. Kevin Seal, Director of Music, and Nanette Popa, Director of Children's Ministries. The choirs meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 and 4:30, respectively.



Nanette Popa
Director, Children and Families Ministry

Continuing Education- I have been lucky to have had two meaningful professional development opportunities this year. In January, I traveled to Denver, CO, for the Forma Annual Conference, which provides an intentional opportunity for networking, learning, and inspiration for those involved in formation ministry throughout the church. This year's conference theme, "Belonging & Becoming," stems from 2 Corinthians 3:18. It was a meaningful week of learning from other formation professionals and workshops, and I experienced worship specifically for young children, which helped shape our Children's Church Liturgy.

This past October, I had the privilege of traveling to Cody, Wyoming, for a retreat focused on Heart Mountain, ancestral land of the Crow Tribe and later a World War II Japanese American internment Camp.

Funded by a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming through the Episcopal Church's Racial Reconciliation initiative, this pilgrimage was truly transformative. Serving as an ambassador in the inaugural group gave me a whole new depth of insight into the layers of history held by our neighbors out west. Needless to say, we have come a long way, but still have a lot of work to do.

As organizers prepare to open the program to full congregations, I would love nothing more than to bring a group from Trinity to experience it together in the next few years.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Popa
Director, Children and Families Ministry

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YOUTH MINISTRY



Sunday Formation, Grades 6-12

Every Sunday, Trinity's youth rooms are open from 9:30 - 10:30 am as a safe space for youth to process their week and how it intersects with their faith. Youth ministry at Trinity is active, thriving, and comes in many forms, all working together to build adult faith in our students from 6th to 12th grade. Formation comes through acolyting, service learning trips, retreats, community service hours, Sunday formation hour, and Trinity EYC.

Adults who help with youth: Debbie Cox, Peter Hartwig, Kat Lomuscio, and parent volunteers.

Youth Committee

Our youth ministry team resumed quarterly meetings. The committee of 12 collaborates with the youth director to foster spiritual growth for the youth and integration into church life. They are planning on launching a survey for teens and parents to gather feedback on current offerings and what would be most beneficial going forward.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday was Sunday, May 12. Harrison White gave the homily virtually and in person. This year, we recognized 6 high school seniors and 12 college students in the service and on our website.

→ **Click Here to See Our 2026 Graduates**

Confirmation

The Rev. Amy had a confirmation weekend at Lake Logan to learn about the foundations of our Christian faith. We had Confirmation Sunday on April 26 with 13 youth confirmed.

→ **Click Here for Pictures from the Girl's Confirmation Retreat 2026**

Middle School Experience 2026



This July, six of our middle school youth set out with two adult leaders for a week of backpacking in the mountains of Virginia through Wilderness Trail Backpacking & Adventure Ministry. They hiked miles of rugged trails, cooked simple meals over camp stoves, sang in the rain, and discovered the joy of leaning on one another.

Participants: Collin and Aiden McCormick, Mason Shields, Walker Hornthal, Grey Lomuscio, Kayla Randall, and Ellen Pass
Adult: Jason Pass

→ **Click Here for Highlights from the Middle School Trip**

→ **Click Here for Wilderness Trail Backpacking & Adventure Ministry**

High School Experience 2026

Together with our partners at Education Equals Hope, we spent a week worshiping, serving, sharing meals, and building relationships with the people they met in Quito and the surrounding communities.

Participants: Will Ray, Connor Johnston, Ashe Hornthal, Sam Pass, Owen Peterson, Rosie Peterson, Mary Anderson, Everett Toombs, Sawyer Shields, Harrison White, Rose Mills, William Whisnant, and Oly Vassallo
Adults: Debbie Cox, Scott White, and Johnny Shields

→ **Click Here for Our High School Trip to Ecuador**

→ **Click Here for Education Equals Hope**

EYC

Trinity's EYC meets once a month, unless otherwise notified. This is a time for fellowship, fun, service projects, and social activities. We met monthly and did the following this year:

- Vecinos
- Big Air Trampoline
- Retro Arcade
- Church of the Advocate
- Celtic Service
- Bowling
- Crop Walk
- Pool Party



EYC Pool Party

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Palm Sunday Walk with Church Street Churches

This year, we did our annual "walk" with First Presbyterian and Central Methodist churches. Families joined together on Church Street and processed with a donkey and palms to Pritchard Park for a short service.

VBS: Rain Forest Falls

This past June was our annual Vacation Bible School. We had several youth volunteers during the week.

All Saints' Candlelight Dinner

On Sunday, November 1, from 6:15-8:00p, we celebrated All Saints' Day with a dinner, storytelling from Becky Stone, and a reading of names in the memorial garden. We have several youth help with dinner for youth scholarships.

Advent Wreath Making Event

This annual celebration involves all families creating an Advent wreath for their home, as well as taking home a Devotional Guide (Godly Play-based) to mark the season.

Sabbatical

I went on a sabbatical in May and June. Here is my reflection:

→ **Click Here for Debbie's Sabbatical Reflection**

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Cox
Director of Parish Life and Youth Ministries

ADULT EDUCATION



Sunday Formation 2025-2026

Faith formation is a lifelong process, a belief that Trinity lives out by offering a diverse, engaging, and timely slate of Adult Education opportunities throughout the year. This year, we offered one slate of classes in the Undercroft, and informal Parents in Conversations gatherings in the Clark Room.

Our theme for formation this year was “In the Image of God,” and our classes asked how the theological claim of Genesis 1:27 shapes our lives and choices today. Scott and Amy co-taught classes on “Christianity 101” and on seeing the image of God in “the other” through the Beatitudes in the fall, and The Rev. Ian Markham of VTS/GTS was our special guest speaker in November. In Advent, Dr. Tim Owings taught a class on the Matthean infancy narratives.

In January, as usual, Rev. Dr. Scott led Exploring the Episcopal Experience, a foundation-level class that examines all aspects of the Episcopal Church. It also serves as training for those new to the Episcopal Church and as a review for anyone interested. A class on the book of James, taught by April Love-Fordham, followed, and then Ed Bleynat led a class on “Reading the Bible Literately, not Literally.” Finally, Amy led “Sibling Saints,” a series about the Cappadocian church leaders of the 4th century.

Weekly Formation

The weekly women’s Bible study continued meeting through the year, both in person and online, to discuss upcoming lectionary texts, with average attendance of 10-20 women each week.

In addition, the Becoming Beloved Community book club, led by Sharon Lechner and Page McCorkle, continues to meet monthly in person and online, reading and discussing books by Black writers. Its members are deeply committed to anti-racist work and support each other’s endeavors outside the group.

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The Rector maintained a Thursday Rector's Bible Study on Zoom that was consistently well-attended, averaging 20-30 people weekly.

Special Formation offerings

In both Advent and Lent, we sent daily devotions written by Trinitarians via email.

During Lent, in order to make formation offerings more accessible to working people, we offered two opportunities on Wednesdays: a weekly Eucharist with a reflection from a parishioner, followed by lunch; and a weekly dinner where Scott or Amy offered a reflection on "For the Living of These Days: learning from the saints of history how to be faithful today." 30-40 people attended the evening groups, and 30-40 attended the lunch most weeks.

Sixty-five women attended the two-night women's retreat in March.



→ **Click Here for Pictures from the Women's Retreat 2026**



→ **Click Here for Pictures from the Men's Retreat 2026**

Amy's occasional book club offered chances for parishioners to explore the literary arts and contemporary questions, including a session on the Pope's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*.

We give thanks, especially to all those who led a formation series or offered their professional expertise and spiritual wisdom.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Peterson

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible Study (WBS) continued its weekly meetings this year for prayer, fellowship, and discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts. Averaging between 10 and 20 participants each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., both in-person and online, WBS provides a warm, engaging, and fun environment in which those gathered share their joys and prayer requests, listen for God's guidance, and enjoy each other's companionship. Conversation about the scripture text is lively, engaging, and encouraging.

Several newcomers have become regular participants in the group this year, leading to an ever-more diverse set of perspectives in our group, which is a gift. Our summer study focused on lesser-known women of the Old Testament. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of Women's Bible Study with a brunch inviting all past and present members to share recollections. In addition, we held an Advent Quiet Day at Cheryl Paben's house.

While I lead this Bible study most weeks, other clergy and lay members of the group lead on occasions when diocesan commitments require me to be at other meetings. Since 2001, WBS has been a strong, important spiritual gathering in the life of Trinity Episcopal Church, and it remains so.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Peterson

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RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY / BIBLE DISCOVERY

The Rector's Bible Study began the first week of the COVID pandemic in March of 2020. Born out of our inability to gather in person, the study is an online (Zoom) study only. Our time together is a classic Bible Study, with time for fellowship, prayer, and scripture study. We've studied Galatians, Acts, Philippians, John's Revelation, Romans, a comparative study of the Synoptic Gospels, and more.

Because of the Rector's schedule, the study shifted in September 2025. The name changed to Bible Discovery, and the class moved from an evening to a morning schedule.

Renewed interest in Education for Ministry has been expressed in the congregation. The Rector seeks to be part of the EFM leadership and has elected to support this study to assist with EFM.

God be Praised.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott White.



The Rev. Scott White
Rector

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Following a six-year hiatus, Trinity Church will once again offer an Education for Ministry class, starting in January 2027. EfM, designed and supported by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, provides a four-year curriculum for the laity that develops theological reflection skills for those who are prepared to listen for and respond to God's call. EfM helps participants discover and exercise their varied gifts for ministry in their everyday lives.

EfM is a small (6-12 participants), group-centered formation program of weekly study of the Old and New Testaments, church history, ethics, and practice in theological reflection. It is a four-year journey (running yearly from January to May; September to December). Participants will have the opportunity to take the first year of the four-year study ***or*** the new one-year program called Wide Angle. (Students taking either track meet together in one class.) This one-year program provides an overview of the four-year program. It's designed for those who can't commit to the four years or just want a taste of the EfM experience. The class will meet at the church on Thursday evenings, 6-8:30 p.m. The cost is $340 plus books (usually under $100). Scholarships are available.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Smith

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BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY (BBC) BOOK CLUB

This hybrid book study group meets on Wednesdays in the Clark Room and online. Page McCorkle and Sharon Lechner co-facilitate the group, with contributions from Barb Matthews and Susan Edwards in guided contemplative prayers and reflection.

In exploring the non-fiction and fiction works of authors who have varying identities (Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color -BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, white folks working as allies, etc.) we deepen our faith, expand our understanding of Christ's call for reconciliation, consider the role of the white dominant culture in social justice efforts, and commit to walking in the Way of Love. Most recently we read "The Color Purple," by Alice Walker and are currently discussing "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community" by Stephanie Spellers.

The group size ranges from 5 to 20 people. We welcome group members to enter into dialogue in a safe and supportive setting with other fellow Trinitarians and church leaders – to discuss questions about the text that can be challenging and uncomfortable. Because conversations invite vulnerability and challenge members to examine their our own biases and understanding of race, class, gender, and religion we set the following intentions:

OUR INTENTIONS

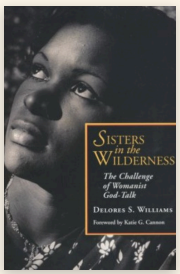
1. Building relationships, following Jesus into the wilderness, and learning together,
2. Practicing making changes where we can, no matter how big or small,
3. Committing to the work for a lifetime, making it a lifestyle choice
4. Seeking the Third Way of gentleness, creativity, and divestment of power, not only in our social justice work but in our relationships with each other.

We share our own stories of personal growth, shame, healing, and where we find hope and opportunity to embrace the larger community of faith that includes all God's children. We discuss ways we – as individuals, a group, a community, and a world – can promote social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

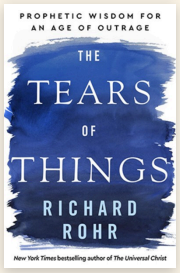
Originally started in June 2021 through a collaboration between David Henson, former Associate Rector, and parishioners, Sharon Lechner and Page McCorkle, the group specifically selects books written by BIPOC authors. Books previously read and discussed include:

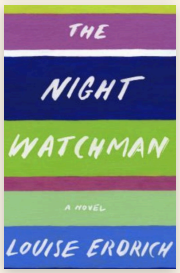
BOOKS WE HAVE READ

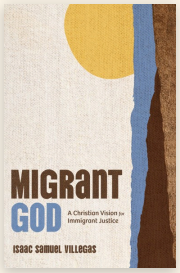
- *Jesus and The Disinherited* by Howard Thurman
- *Sisters in the Wilderness* by Delores Williams
- *I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown
- *The Cross & The Lynching Tree* by James Cone
- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Long Division* by Kiese Laymon
- *The Office of Historical Corrections* by Danielle Evans
- *Change the Game* by Colin Kaepernick
- *We Survived the End of the World: Lessons from Native America on Apocalypse and Hope* by Steven Charleston
- *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus* by Steven Charleston
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning* Catherine Meeks
- *Dear White Peacemakers: Dismantling Racism with Grit and Grace* by Osheta Moore
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *Having Our Say* by The Delany Sisters (Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delany)
- *The Tears of Things - Prophetic Wisdom in an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr
- *White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race & Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy* by Reverend William Barber
- *The Nightwatchman* by Louise Erdrich
- *Migrant God: A Christian Vision for Immigrant Justice* by Isaac Samuel Villegas
- *James* by Percival Everett
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver











If you are interested in joining us, then please contact Page McCorkle or Sharon Lechner.

Respectfully submitted,
Page McCorkle

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SECOND CHAPTER BOOK GROUP

What better way to share in our community of faith than to come together in a small group for honest conversation about a good, or not-so-good, book? We are a group of women who enjoy reading and getting together to talk about what we have read. Sometimes you read a book you may never have chosen if it was not on the “list” and it opens new horizons of thought.

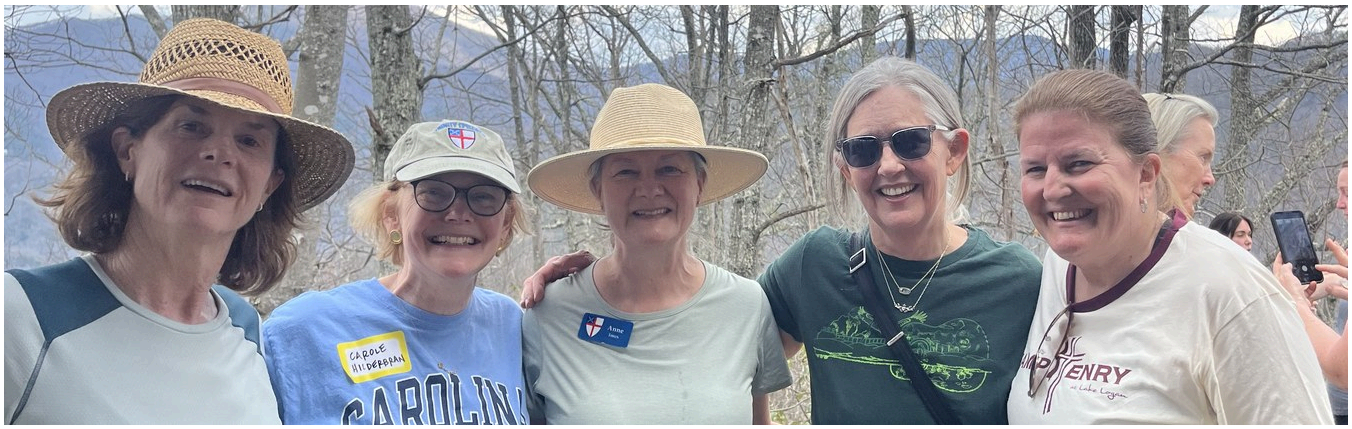


This daytime group meets six times per year on the second Thursday of the even numbered months at the church from 10-11:30AM. 2026 marks our thirteenth year of meeting to discuss a variety of fiction and non-fiction books chosen by the group that lend themselves to good conversation.

We have approximately 20 active members with average attendance being 11. Being a member of this group is a great way to meet people if you are new to Trinity. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Barbara Fotinos (bfotinos@gmail.com) for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Fotinos

LITERARY LADIES BOOK CLUB



For more than 15 years this group met in homes six times a year on Monday evenings, bringing a dish to share, for social time, dinner, and a discussion of a book. Often we have been able to snag a local author to lead us. We have chosen works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

We are now meeting at noon on the fourth Thursday with the same format. This keeps us off the road in the dark of winter and seems to work with busy schedules.

The group, which has about 40 on the roster, is open to all, of course, and it's a great way to meet other women. There are 10-15 at most meetings. We love to have new members, both newcomers to Trinity and old-timers.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin Gunnells

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WORSHIP



The Worship Team comprises lay and ordained people at Trinity and helps the Rector plan, organize, and implement parish worship.

In the Episcopal Church, the Rector has sole responsibility for leading and shaping worship in the congregation. However, liturgy cannot happen by the work of the Rector alone. A large group of dedicated individuals is needed to offer a meaningful liturgy that lifts up the presence of Jesus among us. This team seeks to work together so that the worship of Trinity Church is edifying to all.

We meet four times a year to assist the Rector with planning. The team meets to review and coordinate upcoming services, critique past services for new learning, and help cast a vision for worship at Trinity.

The worship team is an important part of paying attention to the core aspect of a Christian community–praising God. The team is invaluable to the Rector, who is charged with oversight of worship.

Respectively submitted,
Scott White

MUSIC MINISTRY





Dr. Kevin M. Seal
Director of Music and Organist

Music Ministry in 2026 at Trinity has continued to grow both in participation numbers and artistic quality. Our Cherub Choir has grown to 10 registered children, 35 adults are registered for Chancel Choir, and we have re-started the Children's Choir with 4 3rd graders. A new choir has been formed from the Chancel Choir: A smaller Chamber Choir group. This ensemble will sing for special services throughout the year, with the debut planned for the Christmas Eve late service, when they will present Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" with a professional orchestra. The Trinity Handbell Choir boasts 12 participants, and we have out-grown our rehearsal room, finding a new home in the Redwood Chapel. High School aged youth continue to participate in the Chancel and Handbell Choirs, and present solo performances on Youth Sunday. The most exciting bit of news outside of our programming and worship services is the invitation extended to the Chancel Choir to perform as choir-in-residence at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in the UK, a residency which will serve as the foundation for our July 2027 UK pilgrimage. During this trip, the choir also has performances planned at Birmingham and Southwark Cathedral, as well as St. John the Baptist church on Holland road in London. As of this writing, 33 singers, family, and other pilgrims are signed up for the trip.

At our 8:00 AM service, we continue to have a soloist to help lead music each week, drawing from our Chancel Choir section leaders and subs. At the 10:45 AM service, the Chancel Choir continues to serve admirably, and they have been sharing two anthems each week. At our 5:30 PM service, we continue to have an instrumentalist and soloist each week. Our Chancel Choir section leaders are Pam Miller and Nana Hosmer Griffin, with occasional substitution by Joanna Agnew and Elizabeth Seal. Ken Wilson continues to serve as bass section leader, and continues to forgo his stipend. Our substitutes in the

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past few months include Sharon Boone (former Director of Music), Vance Reese (former Organist), Episcopal music legend Frank Boles, and Andrew Davis, Piano.

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Music Revue in February. Dr. Kevin Seal served as the emcee for the event, and performers included a number of our youth, as well as many from Chancel Choir. The music performed was varied, from contemporary piano music, to bluegrass, to Broadway, along with everything in-between.
- A Choral Evensong service on the first Sunday of Lent
- Choral Evensong for Palm Sunday, led by the Asheville Vocal Ensemble
- Easter Vigil music led by a vocal quartet
- Easter services at 9:00 and 11:00 with choir and brass
- Youth Sunday in early May, which featured performances by a number of our youth instrumentalists and vocalists.
- A celebration on Trinity Sunday, our namesake feast day, featuring music for organ and brass
- The highlight of the year was a Bach Vespers service on the evening of Trinity Sunday, featuring a complete performance of Bach's Cantata no. 78 with a chamber orchestra, all within the confines of a vespers service. The event was well attended and highly successful.
- Dr. Kevin Seal's attendance at the Association of Anglican Musicians National Conference in Atlanta in June
- Dr. Kevin Seal remained busy professionally, doing work at Christ School, playing a recital at Holy Cross Episcopal in Tryon, NC, and playing for True Concord, a Tucson-based professional choir and orchestra that just received its third Grammy nomination. This important work helps to raise the profile of Trinity's music program nationally and within the region.
- Dr. Kevin Seal gave a lecture/presentation/performance to the Creation Care Committee on how nature has inspired composers throughout western music history.
- Chancel Choir's annual retreat at Lake Logan in October.
- Choral Evensong for Creation on October 4th, led by the Chancel Choir.
- A Halloween organ Spooktacular concert, which featured a progressive recital given at Central UMC, First Presbyterian, and Trinity. This event was attended by over 400 people, and promises to be an annual event going forward.
- 2026 Music for Advent series on Wednesdays at 12:15, followed by lunch. Musicians include Tim Owings and Leslie Welker on December 2nd, former Trinity Music Director Vance Reese on the 9th, and local string band the Appalachian Consort on the 16th.
- Lessons and Carols with choir and brass on December 20th.
- Extended Christmas Eve prelude for the 5:30 PM service.
- The debut of the Trinity Chamber Choir on Christmas Eve at the 11:00 PM service. The choir will present a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria with a professional orchestra for the prelude, which will begin at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Kevin M. Seal
Director of Music and Organist

ST. HILDA'S ALTAR GUILD



Exploring Faith: We are the ones chosen to prepare for the meeting of the people with God."

The Altar Guild continues to be the "quiet ministry" at Trinity. What we do is behind the scenes and our main role is to prepare all things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, Sacraments and Offices of the Church.

In 2026, St. Hilda's Altar Guild has 18 active members. This includes an addition of two new members. We lost three members due to retirement.

We keep up with three Sunday services and one weekday service, as well as weddings, funerals, baptisms and the additional Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services.

From 1 November 2025 to 1 November 2026 we have staffed the following:

15 funerals (including Bishop Johnson's in December 2025 and one we hosted for All Souls in June)
2 weddings
1 Blessing of a Civil Marriage
8 Baptismal Services

SPECIAL SERVICES

1 November 2025 – 1 November 2026

15	Funerals
2	Weddings
1	Blessing of a Civil Marriage
8	Baptismal Services

Even though Communion may not have been a part of these services, Altar Guild is responsible for placing the appropriate hangings and general support to clergy and families.

We are grateful that our attendance has increased at all three Sunday services, but that also brings the challenge of being fiscally responsible. The supplies essential to our ministry are: wine, communion wafers, wax candles, liquid wax and cleaning supplies. We are mindful of the rising cost of

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everything and have managed to locally source the wine which helps ease the shipping costs.

As a group, we continue to be dedicated to serving God by preparing the Sanctuary, Altar, hangings, vessels and elements for service and worship. We take our role of “holy housework” seriously. Our guild is named for St. Hilda and it is our mission to carry on her legacy of preserving the gospel of peace, being social activists, leaders and teachers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Exner
Ada Jo Foley
Bill Brackney
Anne Imes

LINEN GUILD



The Linen Guild is the part of St. Hilda's Altar Guild that launders, maintains, and cares for the Eucharistic linens used in all our services. These beautiful sacred linens include: purificators, corporals, credence table covers, baptismal towels, altar cloths and fair linens. These sacred pieces are made from white linen and embroidered with a Christian symbol in white thread.

The Linen Guild is responsible for laundering and caring for the fair linens and altar cloths used on the four altars. These altars are used for various weekly services. We also launder and maintain all the small linens used regularly during the Eucharist, weddings, funerals and other services.

Membership in the Linen Guild is not exclusive to members of the St. Hilda's Altar Guild. Anyone who has an interest and will care for the linens in a reverent, careful manner is welcome. Linen Guild members currently serve on a rotating schedule of two weeks twice a year. Members take the used linens home after the Eucharist to launder and iron them, returning them to the church the following week. The linens are stored and supplied from the Working Sacristy.

Due to the age and condition of some linens, replacements were necessary this year. The Linen Guild ordered and received six new lavabo towels. A new addition this year was small linen napkins embroidered with a cross, ordered for use during Baptisms. These napkins are presented to the candidates as mementos of their Baptism.

We are grateful to those who serve in this ministry and we welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this dedicated group. If you have time to do a little extra laundry, perhaps the Linen Guild would be a ministry you would like to join. Being part of this ministry is a labor of love. Linen Guild members, through their service, deepen their faith and their knowledge of the church and the Sacraments.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Whisenhunt

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ACOLYTE MINISTRY



Trinity's Acolyte Ministry is the largest, most active group of youth in the church. We have 42 youth and children who serve regularly – at least once a month, and sometimes more. The goal of the acolyte ministry is to serve God and his church and to enhance the worship service for all involved. Acolytes don't do or say a lot during the service, but imagine how different our service would be without the cross, candles, or banners!

Each Sunday requires a minimum of 5 acolytes- one for the 8:00 service and 4 for 10:45. Lex Fotinos, Collin McCormick, Anna and William Whisnant, and William Jones serve as the acolytes for the 8:00 service.

The majority of our acolytes are in 3rd-12th grades. We do have some adults who acolyte occasionally, when it is not appropriate to use youth, primarily for funerals, the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service, and the 6:00 am Great Vigil of Easter.

Our acolytes also serve at funerals and special services at Trinity.

Monies from the acolyte ministry budget are used for maintenance of vestments, purchase of new gloves as needed, and to purchase and engrave crosses for our acolytes.

We have two senior acolytes, Oly Vassallo and Rosie Peterson, who help with the acolytes and the Acolyte Master. We have one adult volunteer who helps with the acolytes and the Acolyte Master: Anna Whisnant.

We have two training sessions, one in August and one in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Cox

FLOWER GUILD



The Flower Guild is a group of around 30 individuals who find joy in bringing living floral and foliage arrangements to the altar each Sunday. We enjoy sharing the art of floral design as an expression of love to God and for His Creation. Most Sundays, the arrangements are given in loving tribute to friends and family. We appreciate the support of Trinitarians in making donations for memorials and tributes that help fund the florals.

The Guild members kindly serve and share our talents with enthusiasm and dedication. The Guild is organized using Ministry Scheduler Pro software which allows ease of sign up and notification of responsibilities. The call for sign-up is sent out on a quarterly basis.

Throughout the year, the Flower Guild members receive updates and information via email. Flower Guild members willingly mentor new Guild members who join the group. We have renewed and grown our floral sources list and strengthened relationships with local floral businesses who support our efforts. We continue to refine and replace container and floral supplies as needed, employing an ongoing commitment, in as much as possible, the use of sustainable products.

One important collaboration is with the Flower Delivery Team. All members understand the relationship and importance of the florals that are rearranged immediately following the service by the Flower Delivery Team members and shared with parishioners by that Team. Some members serve on both Teams.

The Flower and Altar Guilds also work collaboratively to adorn the church for the High Holy Feasts of Christmas and Easter. This past Easter, Flower Guild member Shelley Davis designed the floral celebration and the Flower Guild members worked to carry out her designs. The final arrangements were beautifully crafted to focus our hearts on the altar and express the joy of the resurrection of Christ!

In late April, a number of the Flower Guild members participated in the Art Fair by providing floral arrangements from our garden flowers. The arrangements were part of the fair's decor and expressions of the artistry of floral design.

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In early October, the Flower Guild held a *Tea and Christmas* event which gave time as a Guild to socialize and meet new members. The chair, Clara A. Curtis shared updates on new sustainable floral products and discussed the use of the current products at hand. As a Guild, we have been using new sustainable floral design products that do not contain microplastics and educating ourselves on the methods of design that reduce or eliminate the use of microplastics. Clara also shared that the chair position transitions in January 2027 to Ken Wilson and Leslie Welker as the co-chair. As is the custom of the Flower Guild, design plans for Christmas 2026 were presented by Jennine Hough who willingly took on the design process. Jennine's design focus is based on reflections of the Trinity. The Flower Guild members all selected stations that they will carry out on decoration day just prior to Christmas Eve. The Guild appreciates and welcomes volunteers to assist us with Christmas and Easter decorations.

As members of the Flower Guild, we hope that our work and designs inspire and uplift you in your worship experience at Trinity! We humbly offer these floral arrangements in service to God.

Should you feel a call to serve in the beatification of the sanctuary to His Glory and would like to join the Flower Guild, feel free to contact me, Clara Curtis, or co-chair Ken Wilson. We would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,
Clara A. Curtis, Flower Guild Chair, 2025-2026
Ken Wilson, Flower Guild Chair, 2027-2028



USHERS

The Usher Ministry continues to serve faithfully as part of the welcoming face of our church, ensuring that every worship experience begins with warmth, order, and hospitality.

Over the year, there were 40 men and women across 6 teams who served dutifully at all regular and special services. Each usher serves an average of 10 times per year during the 10:45 service.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the trust you place in us each week. As we look ahead, we invite anyone feeling called to join our ministry—there's always room for more hearts and hands.

If you would like to learn more about being an usher, please contact Jeff Imes: imesjf@gmail.com.

Respectively submitted,
Jeff Imes
Head Usher

USHER MINISTRY

40 men and women

6 teams



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CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Congregational Development Ministry Team's mission is to:

- Extend Trinity's ministry beyond our walls and out to the wider community
- Make the experience of a newcomer as welcoming as it can be
- Fully incorporate newcomers and help them move beyond membership to participation
- Encourage current members into participation

This past year we have specifically continued the following vital ministries of welcome:

- Provided Welcome Ministers at our main Sunday morning service
- Made calls to everyone submitting a Welcome Card
- Continued our Stocking Ministry to regularly restock pew cards and holders
- Held two Newcomer events
- Reignited the Trinity Connect Sunday School classes

The team needs new leadership while members of each ministry continue to lead faithfully. Welcome ministry, calling newcomers, stocking the pews, newcomer events, and Trinity Connect all continue. We look forward to a revitalized ministry and effort in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott White+



OUTREACH

We give thanks to God for the many opportunities Trinity has been given to serve our community. It is a real honor for the Outreach committee to help decide how to best utilize the charitable giving of our parish.



Our team serves two primary functions. The first is to act as prudent stewards of the budget designated by Trinity's Vestry. We award grants to various organizations we believe are most effective and efficient helping individuals in need. The second function is to promote activities to encourage others to serve one another in Christ and provide "hands on" opportunities.

In our first function, we received $85,000 in 2026 for distribution to organizations that apply for grants. Our committee has identified three priorities for grant allocations: shelter, food and children's welfare. We consider grant requests that are consistent with those priorities. This year we supported 22 charities. We deeply appreciate Trinity's Vestry and parishioners who have made our grant program possible. Please see the accompanying page for a complete list of organizations our church sponsors.

→ **Click Here for a Complete List of Organizations Our Church Sponsors**

TRINITY GRANT ALLOCATIONS

2026

All Souls Counseling Center	$2,100	Homeward Bound	$4,600
Arts For Life	$2,300	Horizons at Carolina Day	$4,100
ABCCM	$4,500	Literacy Together	$4,200
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	$5,000	Manna Foodbank	$3,800
Asheville City Schools Foundation	$4,300	Meals on Wheels	$4,400
Bounty & Soul	$4,000	Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc	$3,200
Caring For Children Eckerd Connects	$3,800	Open Doors of Asheville	$3,800
Children First Communities in Schools	$3,500	Our Voice	$3,800
Council on Aging of Buncombe County	$3,800	Pisgah Legal Services	$4,700
Eliada Homes	$3,500	Youth Villages	$3,100
Helpmate, Inc	$4,600	YWCA Child Care	$4,600

Total $85,700

Our second function is to promote direct ministry opportunities. We continue to support the following ministry activities:

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- Our “Red Bag Food Drive” collects food for needy organizations. This year we also added a fall collection for school supplies. 2026 collections will go to ARM, the Swannanoa Christian Ministry and Manna. Each drive has brought in many pounds of food and/or supplies. We all have been truly amazed and humbled by Trinity’s generosity.
- We continue to provide snacks to Creative Peacemakers. This is an after school program designed to help underprivileged children learn and practice peacemaking and mutual respect through cooperative relationships and play.
- We will partner again this year with First Presbyterian and Central Methodist to host Loaves & Fishes Alternative gift giving at Christmas. The goal is to help provide funding for 12 local ministries.
- Trinity continues to support Habitat for Humanity, and this year we participated in another Episcopal House build. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and money. Habitat is a worthy cause that enables hard working citizens to become homeowners.
- Trinity has been at the forefront of the Meals on Wheels program in Buncombe County, participating since the 1970’s with meal delivery teams. We are proud to have been a part of this very important ministry for many years.
- Every other year, we host an intergenerational event called Rise Against Hunger. 60-70 volunteers from our parish help generate up to 10,000 meals which are then distributed to those most in need here in the US or abroad.
- We also hope to continue our partnership with Children First Communities to provide Christmas gifts for children who would otherwise not have any.

In 2026 we continued to review, streamline and document the procedures to be followed in each of the above ministries. As a result of doing this, Trinity has a new Outreach procedure manual that includes a team and captain for each activity. This will help enormously especially when old members step down and new members volunteer to help.

Our committee continues to seek God’s will and the direction of the Holy Spirit in serving our community. We welcome your participation and encourage you to become involved by joining our team and/or getting involved in an ongoing Outreach activity. Please contact tegoodrich@gmail.com if you have any questions concerning the Outreach Team.

Thank you again for your generous support of the ministries of Trinity Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Goodrich

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COMMITTED TO OUTREACH AND MISSION

1	The Church of The Advocate
2	Our Diocesan Commitment
3	Discretionary Funds

Total **$147,370**

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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL MINISTRY



In 2017 the Trinity Vestry asked our Rector to explore mission opportunities beyond those of Outreach. A committee was formed to consider regional, national, and international efforts. After much study, thought and prayer, we decided to start here in NC and the Appalachian Regional Ministry was developed. It is an effort to respond to God's call to help meet the needs of our Appalachian neighbors.

THE COMMITTEE'S GOALS

1. We wanted to find an area of legitimate need,
2. where there was already a local group trying to help solve some of the problems, and
3. that same group would like our help.

The committee identified three goals: 1) we wanted to find an area of legitimate need, 2) where there was already a local group trying to help solve some of the problems, and 3) that same group would like our help. After researching the Appalachian areas, we found a group of ministers in Graham County working on the problems of poverty, and we decided to focus our efforts there.

Graham is one of the very poorest counties in the state. There is only one school in the county for students K-12 and only one grocery store. Unemployment is rampant. There are almost no jobs anymore. With almost two-thirds of Graham County a national park, their income base will never be great. Over half the children are living in poor or low-income homes and over one quarter of the children live in households that have food insecurity.

To help meet these needs, we have developed two general areas of ministry, those directed at meeting current needs and those we hope to develop to address additional needs as identified by the ministers in Robbinsville. First, as for Trinity's current efforts, a growing number of volunteers have been going out to Graham County every month to work alongside local volunteers. Together we unload a Manna food truck and repackage big boxes of fruits and vegetables into individual serving sizes so they can be given out to family members. Afterwards, our Trinity volunteers go to work in the kitchen and help

prepare a meal which is given out in the evening. Initially, we prepared food to feed 200 people. The need for food has grown so now we are serving over 300 people.



Second, we wanted to listen to the ministers with whom we work to learn about other needs. As a result, Trinity has collected books for children's reading programs, conducted multiple clothing drives for youth and adults, and conducted a collection for school supplies. We also have helped design a computer curriculum to help the elderly learn how to safely use the internet, shop online, and other social skills. This is now helping retirees connect with their neighbors and save money on items they need.

With God's help, Trinity is responding to the Vestry's call to develop this ministry and we thank the Vestry and all the volunteers who have helped make this ministry such a successful experience. The ministers in Graham County have repeatedly expressed how grateful they are for all our help. Pastor Eric Reece of the Robbinsville United Methodist Church said recently, "A great benefit was the encouragement and care Trinity brought and that is priceless." They are genuinely trying to do all they can for the poor. With our mutual prayers and support we see God's hand at work. If you are interested in helping our less fortunate Appalachian neighbors, please contact tegoodrich@gmail.com. Thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Goodrich

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PASTORAL CARE TEAM



The Pastoral Care team meets monthly to oversee Trinity's pastoral ministries, coordinate efforts to care for the parish's sick, grieving, or needy, and discuss the community's pastoral care needs and concerns. The goal is to avoid institutionalizing care, as multifaceted care is ongoing with clergy, staff, and parishioners.

The team comprises clergy and lay persons. We continue to meet on Zoom primarily. Often, our meetings last 30 to 40 minutes, and the time to travel to and from the church can add another 30 to 40 minutes for some members.

Our meal team continues to deliver hearty meals to those recovering from health issues and those amid difficult times or grief. Trinity's Encouragement ministry, led by Jennine Hough and consisting of close to a dozen people, continues to offer written cards with words of comfort, prayer, and encouragement to many of our parish members who are sick, unable to travel, or grieving. Corkie Morrill continues to host a group for caregivers of those with dementia or other cognitive illnesses.

The Flower Delivery Guild continues to touch members' lives with altar flowers. Peyton Evert oversees this ministry. They deliver to those who have experienced illness, are recovering from sickness, and have celebrated a recent life milestone. A whole host of volunteers dismantle the altar flowers on Sunday and arrange them in individual containers for delivery.

We consider our healing station at our 8:00 and 10:45 services a part of our overall ministry of care and healing. Additionally, clergy and lay Eucharistic Ministers continue to take the elements of the Eucharist to members in their homes when requested.

I am ever grateful to all those who serve on this ministry team and share with me in the pastoral care of Trinity Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott White

CAREGIVERS' MINISTRY



Thanks to Zoom, the Trinity Caregivers' Support group is able to meet every second Friday of the month. Our members are parishioners who are caring for a spouse or family member who has been diagnosed with some form of dementia.

Our group has dropped this year to thirteen participants due to the death of our co-facilitator/participant.

Respectively submitted,
Florence M. Morrill, PsyD
Clinical Geropsychologist (retired)

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ENCOURAGEMENT MINISTRY



The Committee of Encouragement Notes was formed about ten years ago. Grace Pless led the coordination for years and then Jennine Hough stepped in.

There are currently 11 people on the committee. They are Allison Manolfi, Nancy Dexter, Connie Wilson, Carol MacRae, Tom Frank, Mandie Carlson, Susan Covington, Susan Haldane, Bill Goodwin, Steve Cochran, and myself.

We learn in the monthly Pastoral Care meeting of the people who are facing surgery, have experienced a family death or crisis, are having a baby, recovering from an illness, in treatment for cancer or mental health, or other concerns and who have asked for our prayers.

For the most part, and there are exceptions, the information about a member is kept confidential by the committee.

The names of these parishioners are divided among the members of the committee and most months each person in our group writes 2-4 notes.

We also write or send a card to our homebound members of Trinity.

As of October, we have written 256 notes in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennine Hough

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



The Daughters of the King is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church or churches in communion with it. Today our membership includes women in Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Anglican churches.

As Daughters, we undertake a Rule of Life, which can be thought of as a covenant between God and ourselves. It helps us to focus on our walk with Jesus Christ. Our Rule of Life incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. Through the Rule of Prayer, daughters seek to grow and deepen their relationship with God.

We fulfill this vow by praying daily for unity in Christ's church, the spread of Christ's kingdom, God's blessings upon the members of our chapter and our clergy, and the spiritual growth of our parish. We also pray specifically for members of our parish who request prayers and for those on the Sunday prayer list in the bulletin. Our members serve in diverse roles throughout the church, including vestry, altar guild, the Creation Care Committee, Sunday school teaching, lay reading, ushers, choir, community outreach, and volunteering with the Church of the Advocate.

Through the Rule of Service, a Daughter seeks to do the will of God every day. It is the application of her baptismal vow in which she strives to be Christ's faithful servant by growing His Kingdom, participating in worship and study, and assisting clergy in the outreach and work of the church.

The Order of Daughters of the King at Trinity welcomed two new members and received one as a transfer. We also have one who is in study to become a Daughter. We often attend regional meetings hosted by different parishes throughout Western North Carolina. We hold our monthly meetings in the Clark Room, usually on the third Sunday after the 10:45 service. Our current book study is An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. We provided a scholarship for a student in Haiti to attend school. We are excited to report that our

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student graduated from nursing school this past Spring. We provided Christmas Gift bags with toiletries and other needed supplies to Transformation Village. We have provided underwear, shoes, and monetary donations for the Church of the Advocate and helped sort supplies to be distributed to the needy. We also help with breakfast and funerals, and other special events. We send out personal postcards to Trinity members for Birthdays and Anniversaries. We elected new officers this year. Susan Edwards and Barbara Matthew are the Co-Presidents. Pam Harrison-Woodrich is the Secretary, and Nancy Dexter is the Treasurer. Any interested women are invited to contact Barbara or Susan at barbaram.saic@gmail.com or susan.saic@gmail.com or at 410-259-7928. We welcome new members at any time.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McCorkle, Outgoing President

PARISH LIFE

Breakfast

Breakfast is served every Sunday in Tuton Hall at 9:00 am. The cost is $6.00. Debbie Cox and Tom Griffin, with volunteers, help with this fellowship every Sunday. On Easter Day, we provide a champagne breakfast and hire other workers to help.

Receptions

Trinity Church receptions offer gracious, abundant refreshments, thanks to many volunteers who come on short notice. Receptions generally follow funerals or memorial services, but may include weddings, concerts, and other church occasions.



Debbie Cox
Director of Parish Life and Youth Ministries

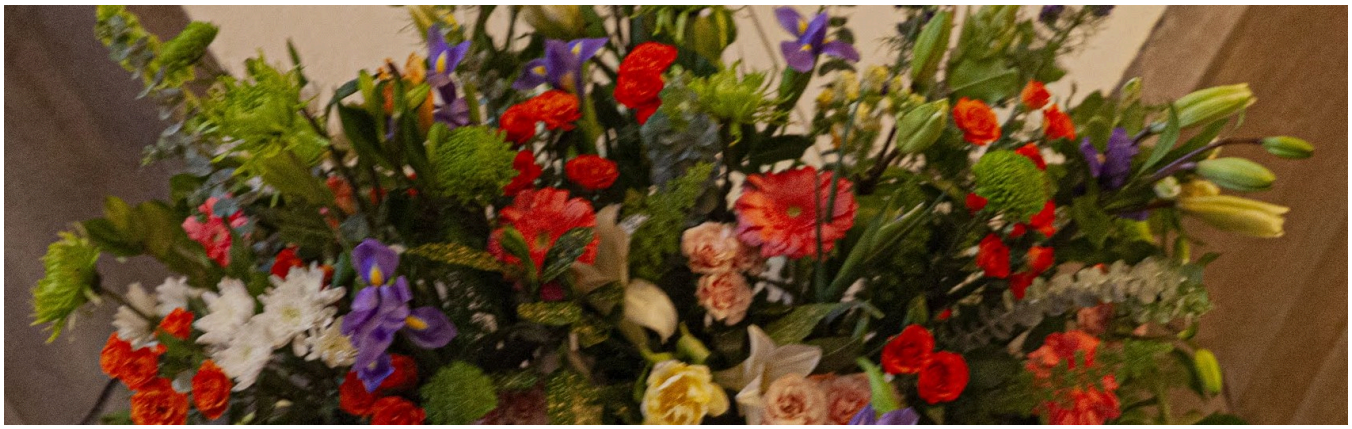
Parish Dinners

This year, Trinity held dinners on Shrove Tuesday, every Wednesday during Lent, for All Saints' Dinner, Appreciative Inquiry, and for the Music Revue. Dinners are held throughout the year. Debbie Cox prepares these dinners.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Cox

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FLOWER DELIVERY MINISTRY



The Flower Delivery Ministry was inaugurated after Easter Sunday, 2020. With a huge array of flowers intended to adorn the sanctuary, Easter was a virtual service for the first time in the history of Trinity Church. What to do with the flowers?

Ken Wilson and Pastoral Care Team-member Chris Dismukes pulled together a team of three to arrange over 60 small vases the day after Easter. Another team of three delivered to parishioners at retirement communities, nursing homes and those alone at home.

Out of this effort, the Flower Guild learned that this small gift of flowers from the altar was a symbol of God's love, and our love and support of one another. This ministry is now a part of Pastoral Care, as we think of those in need, dealing with trying times, or celebrating a milestone. If needed, we also include a meal along with the flowers.

Each Sunday, volunteers meet in Tuton Hall after the 10:45 service to rearrange flowers from the altar into smaller vases. Deliveries follow with two volunteers, each delivering 2-3 arrangements in a specific geographic area. In addition, two larger arrangements are made, one for Church of the Advocate and another for the reception desk.

Our roster of active volunteers has been limited this year. Through the ministry fair and various announcements, we have worked to recruit new volunteers. These efforts have yielded 5 additional volunteers.

Serving in the Flower Delivery Ministry brings as much joy to the volunteers as to the flower recipients. We receive many wonderful well wishes from recipients who are grateful for this small way of showing support.

Respectfully submitted,
Peyton Evert
peytonevert@gmail.com
(828) 329-8535

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT



The year 2026 introduced a slight change to the Trinity campus' overall "Facilities" (i.e., operational) considerations. Given the growth of the church as a whole, the existing Facilities Committee (made up of parishioners, select clergy, and staff, and managed in 2026 by Cole Hedden) became responsible for identifying the long-term physical needs of the church, together with proposed timelines and estimated costs for the same, for presentation to the Vestry for decisions vis-à-vis priority and cost.

The existing staff Director of Operations then became responsible for all the day-to-day non-spiritual aspects of the church's functions.

The Director of Operations, for 2024, 2025 & 2026, has also filled an attendant role of having responsibility for all matters related to the clean-up and damage repair for the church caused by Helene and the concomitant need to make applications to FEMA, SBA, Insurance and others for recompense. To date, the church has received over $309,000 from these efforts, with applications for some additional funds still pending.

Thank you.

Trinity Facilities Ministry

Our Direction: In 2026, the Facilities Team continued transitioning from reacting to the damage caused by Helene to managing our physical assets in a way that integrates day-to-day maintenance and repairs with long-term planning for future needs. A significant step in this direction was taken when responsibility for day-to-day maintenance and repairs was transitioned from the Facilities Committee to the Director of Operations, as stated above. As a result, the Facilities Committee is transitioning its efforts to the longer-term needs of the church campus with the goal of identifying as many needs as possible before failure. The last major project with FEMA, replacing the underground stormwater system on the north, east, and south sides of the church buildings, is awaiting final approvals.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS COMPLETED IN 2026

1. Roofs, Gutters, and Downspouts
2. Stormwater Drains
3. Safety and Security
4. Bell Tower Water Incursion

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Work on Long-Term Campus Sustainability in 2026

Identification of Capital repairs and improvements: The Facilities Committee has begun developing a multi-year plan to address major upgrades and repairs to the church campus, including windows, doors, HVAC systems, safety and security needs, and roof maintenance.

What's Next?

2026 has seen significant improvements, renovations, and upgrades to the facilities. The focus in 2027 will be to continue addressing required maintenance and making repairs and improvements as needed. This year's team includes Jeff Cook, Mike Smith, Adrian Vassallo, Craig Weeks, Jeff Imes, and Richard Wrightson. Scott White also actively participates.

As a reminder: every dollar of deferred maintenance will likely cost us four dollars in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Cole Hedden

CREATION CARE AND GROUNDS



In its fourth year, and chaired by Monte Gaillard, the Creation Care and Grounds committee continued educating and inspiring, while taking responsibility for upkeep of the church grounds.

Meeting about six times per year, the group's mission is

- To foster a greater awareness and appreciation of all of God's creation and its sacredness, so that we experience the love of God; and to allow love to move us to gratitude and to action on behalf of the more-than-human world.
- To create, nurture, and maintain the landscape surrounding Trinity Church, Asheville, North Carolina, with an acute sense of the genius loci (the spirit of the place) and for the betterment of the natural world.
- To set an example at Trinity that inspires and enables others to reconsider their own landscapes and lives.

In the fall, we had a potluck to kick off the program year. We heard presentations from Maria Whitehead, Senior Vice President and Director of Land for the Southeast at Open Space Institute, and we took a field trip to the Botanical Gardens to learn about native plants. In the spring, we welcomed presentations from Lang Hornthal of Ecoforesters about Helene and forest health, and Jennine Hough on the art of creation. In May, we held Rogation Day prayers at Hickory Nut Gap farm. We also hosted several grounds clean up days, and contracted with various people for help in clearing debris and caring for the grounds.

We continued to compost and to increase our use of compostable goods rather than single-use plastics. When possible, we use local farm eggs for our Sunday breakfasts and we are exploring options for local meat at our next Music Revue and Steak Night. Thanks to Lee Seabrook, we

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were a CSA pick-up site for Encompass Farm, with about fifteen Trinity families participating.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Peterson and Monte Gaillard

ART GUILD



Values: The Art Guild embraces and is anchored upon the core values of the Trinity mission statement, especially the admonition to 'make a difference'.

Vision: The Guild exists to fully support the well-defined and articulated vision that Lake Logan's Camp Henry seeks to enable for its campers, and especially to support Camp Henry attendees from Trinity Church who demonstrate need.

Mission: As such, the mission of the Guild is to provide monetary support for camper scholarships through the design, development and sale of meaningful, useful and beautiful arts and crafts objects related to our Trinity life together.

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the Guild held an Art Fair welcoming both Trinity and other local artists to sell their wares. The Fair was very successful and earned funds for Camp Henry scholarships.

On three Sundays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13), the Guild will hold Christmas Markets to sell new merchandise. Plans are also being made to hold another Art Fair in the fall of 2027. Our Guild currently has 15 members and we meet as needed and always welcome new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Cochran and Nancy Swann, Co-Chairs

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LAKE LOGAN VOLUNTEERS

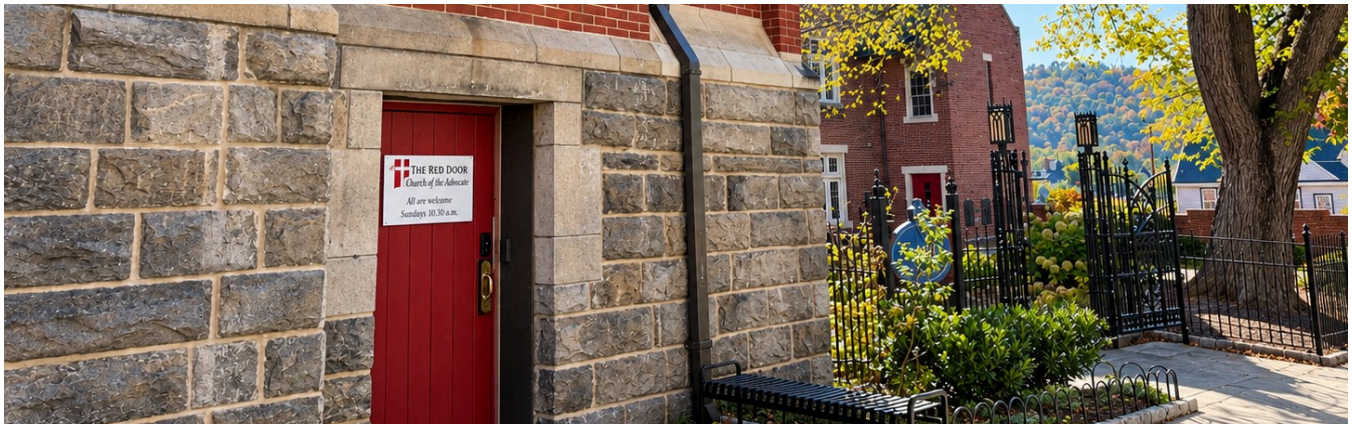


Lake Logan is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. There is a Retreat Center open year-round, Camp Henry summer camp for children, youth, and families, an Outdoor School offering year-round outdoor education, and the Cold Mountain Music Festival on the first weekend of every June.

Thursday Volunteers assist in a variety of much-needed work. All skill-sets are truly welcome. In addition, Lake Logan hosts two Volunteer Weekends each year, in the spring and the fall. Countless members of Trinity come out weekly or whenever their schedules allow. We are so grateful for each one of you!

Respectively submitted,
Carlyn Pheil and Fred Fairhead, Coordinators

THE CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE: A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR



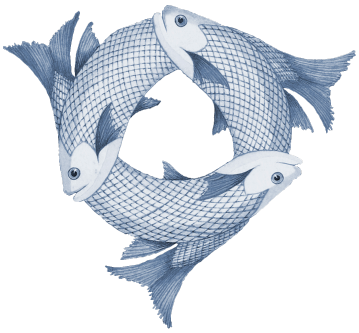
Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings to you all from the Church of the Advocate. 2026 has been a year of great vitality for our ministry. We continue to operate each Sunday from 1:00-3:00, seeing an average of 65 worshippers, serving food for 130, and operating our shoe and basics closets. Our Tuesday morning contemplative prayer service has remained intimate, and has served as a bedrock for some of the core members of our congregation.

Each of our ministries has experienced increases in both volume and cost in 2026. While 2025 saw a steadying of numbers, this year we again saw an increase. We are in the beginning stages of a relationship with Western North Carolina Nonprofit Pathways to help us strengthen our fundraising and institutional capacity so that our ministry can remain as sustainable as possible in the face of continued growth.

With Trinity Church's support, we now have a pool of over seventy volunteers who help serve coffee and snacks, prepare silverware for meals, serve meals, help clean up after our Sunday meal, and offer their hospitality. Our volunteers have made huge strides in our shoe closet, assembling a ministry team that travels out to thrift stores to purchase shoes, organize our inventory, and commit to staffing our shoe closet each Sunday.

It is with great thanks that I write to you, knowing that the success of Church of the Advocate is bound up in the success of Trinity Church. I pray that our relationship continues to be mutually beneficial, and that we may better know the whole of Christ's body by being in mutual ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mike Reardon
Vicar, Church of the Advocate



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