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God's Church, Our Story — Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville

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God's Church, Our Story

Discovery Outcomes

STRENGTHS

BELONGING	210	WORSHIP	94	CLERGY & STAFF	84	PROGRAMS/FORMATION	62	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	16
Welcoming	70	Services / Liturgy	30	Clergy Leadership	24	Adults	10	Location and History	11
Outreach	42	Music	39	Staff Leadership	23	Youth	23	Facilities	5
Community	41	General Worship	25	Overall Leadership	30	Children	29		
Inclusiveness	18			Fiscal Responsibility	7				
Social Connections	17								
Church of the Advocate	17								
Pastoral Care	5								

WISHES

BELONGING	149	WORSHIP	66	CLERGY & STAFF	80	PROGRAMS/FORMATION	100	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	56
Outreach	42	Music	28	Staffing	22	Adults	55	Earth Care	4
Church of the Advocate	30	General Worship	25	Church of the Advocate	30	Youth	13	Parking	12
Diversity	29	Services / Liturgy	13	Leadership & Support	28	Children	16	Maintenance	17
Community Connection	16					Children & Youth	16	Security	6
Welcoming	14							Building Access	13
Church Connection	13							Technology	4
Pastoral Care	5								
Inclusiveness	4								

Rev. 8.17.2026

BELONGING

Parishioner Feedback — Strengths

Strengths

Pastoral Care

- People are warm and welcoming
- Welcoming newcomers
- Diverse congregation
- Strong sense of community
- Reaching out to newcomers, particularly young families
- Hospitality (multiple comments)

Congregational Development

- Welcoming community — it is why I came back and continue to come to Trinity
- Friendships
- Members are welcoming and caring
- Warm and welcoming congregation and leadership
- Active community of parishioners
- Friendliness
- Communications (Trinity Times, weekly emails, QR codes, etc.) — always feel informed, never left out
- Invitation for all to partake, either receive communion or a blessing
- Coffee hour in courtyard
- Non-judgmental environment
- Appreciative of everyone's contribution, which is quite diverse
- Breakfast
- Strong outreach programming with the intent to meet people where they are and listen to their needs, rather than simply announcing what we plan to do
- Grants and financial support for broader community
- Red Bag Sundays
- Welcoming to people at different stages of faith journey

BELONGING

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

Church Connection

- Understanding our downtown mission
- Remain inclusive working with Church Street churches
- Continue to strengthen "Church Street" bonds
- Sharing of ideas with other parishes on Church Street
- More interactivity with our sister churches — Central Methodist and First Presbyterian
- Programs inviting clergy from other religions to receive ecumenical ideas
- Become a center for community conversation about faith
- Sharing services with neighbors
- More ways to help marginalized communities in downtown Asheville
- Keep showing our care for those less fortunate
- Continue to bring community together
- Take our passion for Trinity and share it with others
- Food trucks after church for downtown community

Community Connection

- Generosity
- Hospitality
- Continue message of love, respect, and dignity
- Continue to bring in more people — spread the word
- More Creation Care endeavors that involve the whole community
- Community support systems
- Continue faith-based effort for fairness and parity
- Political action for poor and homeless
- Habitat for Humanity
- Not getting lured into the chaos of this world
- Reach out to even more elements of the Asheville community, especially young families
- Robust engagement for people in need
- Ensure pastoral care reaches all who need it
- Care for the homebound and elderly

WORSHIP

Parishioner Feedback — Strengths

Strengths

Worship

- Eucharist and good preachers
- Traditions & liturgy of services
- Celtic service
- Lots of services & ways to serve
- Beauty and well-run services
- Politics not preached, focus on the people
- The darkest and lightest moments are done so well
- Embracing through troubled times
- Feeding the spirit
- Inspirational
- Consistency
- Good sermons
- Contemplative prayer
- Commitment to social justice (MLK service)
- Wednesday service

Music

- Choir & music
- Concerts

WORSHIP

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

Worship

- Keep the traditions of the Episcopal Church and Trinity ongoing
- Focus the service/sermon on eternal, unchanging issues to help navigate through turmoil
- Continue the weekly Wednesday service
- Year-round 10:45 service
- Keep 8 AM service
- Continue to offer many opportunities for worship
- Continuation of contemplative prayer and educational offerings
- Always keep focus on Jesus Christ
- Opportunity for one-on-one spiritual direction
- Offer instructional Eucharist
- Want Trinity to be more vocal/amplify the messages/prayers put out weekly from the Episcopal Public Policy Network
- Keep Amy's occasional book club a monthly meeting
- Varied Sunday topics for parishioners
- Mid-week service either early in the morning or in the evening (for us working people)
- Evensong on a weekday evening
- Quiet days
- Add healing to the weekly Eucharist
- More joyful and efficient worship
- Keep politics out of the Sunday sermons
- Develop monastery relationships
- Deeper practices of non-liturgical prayer & experience of God
- Opportunities to work with other denominations and faiths, to understand our differences and our common ground
- Have congregants preach on special holy days, such as Feast of the Family, single man, traditional family
- Receive a blessing when arms are crossed at communion
- Services that are less wordy and more silent
- Integrate the COA
- Library of literature relevant to Episcopalians, especially targeted to new members and also readings relevant to formation speakers
- Add information to online services: what are the hymns and readings of the week

Music

- Continue the strong leadership and excellent music program
- Grow the music program
- As much instrumental music as possible
- More advertised music events for the general public
- More opportunities for choir members who miss the Sunday formation classes
- Bell choir needs more space
- More education about mountain music that defines our Appalachian roots
- Organist so Kevin can direct
- Love the music but would also like some contemporary music too
- Hearing the congregation sing together more
- Less formal music opportunity
- Utilize other properties for music events
- More modern worship hymns
- Children's Choir

CLERGY & STAFF

Parishioner Feedback — Strengths

Strengths

- Leaders who understand the congregation and move it forward in a positive way
- Great respect for others, no factions or judgement
- Organized with strong leaders and programs
- Strong church leadership
- Steadiness of the clergy and Vestry leadership
- Organized leadership with an eye to the future
- Great systems in place — a well-oiled machine
- Well organized, well connected with great communication
- We use everyone's gifts
- Professional, knowledgeable, dedicated, cooperative
- Incredible and inspirational clergy and staff
- Depth of knowledge of clergy
- Diversity of priests' styles
- Sense of comfort and confidence in spiritual leadership
- Teaching and preaching
- Leadership by example
- Approachable priests
- Pastoral staff
- Pastoral ministry
- Ability to change and adapt
- Staff concentrates on meeting the needs of the congregation
- Welcoming attitude
- Debbie
- Glenn's ability to organize
- Rev. Mike and the Church of the Advocate
- Financial security
- Strong finances
- Sense of service and stewardship

CLERGY & STAFF

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

- Full-time Youth Director (22)
- Part-time children's support staff
- Church nurse
- Theologian in residence & scriptural education
- Additional staff to help Glenn
- Highly competent staff
- Shared leadership
- Ample clergy available to the parishioners
- All of our clergy stay at Trinity and are fulfilled and happy in their vocation
- Keep the great staff that we love and don't overwork them
- Continued emphasis on pastoral care
- Visiting clergy at Deerfield
- Priests continue to be spiritual leaders by their example
- Provide theological and spiritual leadership
- Remaining apolitical
- Have Deacon Bob preach once a month or at least once a quarter
- More administrative staff to allow clergy to focus on pastoral care
- Bring back the EfM program
- Increase staff to support a growing church
- Monthly lunches for staff to show appreciation
- Support staff in creative ways

Church of the Advocate

- More integration
- More outreach
- Expand COA beyond the walls of Trinity
- Ways for Trinity and COA to connect
- Expand resources for COA
- Help the unhoused find permanent housing
- Continue serving the homeless while maintaining safety
- More coordination with people at the COA
- More space for COA
- Be a shelter for the unhoused on cold nights
- Use one of our buildings across the street for youth/COA

PROGRAMS & FORMATION

Parishioner Feedback — Strengths

Variety of multigenerational activities (Children, Youth, Adult)

Strengths

Children & Youth

- Strong and robust Children & Families program
- Youth program
- Ways young people are included in service
- Youth program drives growth in the church
- Care for our young people
- Role playing in church
- Godly Play
- 345 Club

Adult

- Parents in Conversation
- Daughters of the King
- Trekking in the 828
- Breakfast
- Healing Ministry

PROGRAMS & FORMATION

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

Children & Youth

- Continuation and growth of youth and children programs
- Expand educational programs
- Children & Youth Choir
- More opportunities for "middlers" — kids between elementary and high school
- More visibility of teen programs and involvement
- Volunteer programs for high school children to get involved
- More childcare at times other than Sunday morning
- Opportunities to get to know the church's youth
- Structured curriculum for middle and high schoolers
- More structured service opportunities for youth & teens (food service, trash/recycling, cleanup, Godly Play teachers)
- Foster faith growth for post-college to married-with-children with intergenerational partnering
- Stay in touch with kids during their college years

Adult

- Aging in Place — Intentional Community Formation
- Continue international trips
- Adult mission trips
- More fellowship events — activities for fun
- More opportunities for conversation/connection and making new friends
- Expand involvement with Lake Logan/Camp Henry
- Parish picnic
- Parish dinners
- Theology book club
- Women's community scheduled at times convenient to working folks
- Intergenerational opportunities
- Game night
- Walking group
- Healthy fitness-oriented program (like walking after Sunday service)
- Historic & Scripture study
- Small group opportunities for spiritual understanding
- Opportunities to learn/study the Bible
- Systematic process to encourage parishioners and newcomers to become more involved in parish ministries and programs
- Retreat opportunities (Silent/contemplative; the Monastic Experience)
- Bible study in the evening
- Small group gatherings to build community and get to know others
- Progressive dinners
- Once-a-month social activities
- Supper club
- Group for people in their 40s–60s
- Singles group
- Develop programs for men, such as BOSA
- Program to attract young families
- Invite interesting speakers and preachers to enrich our programs
- Expand adult education beyond Sunday morning
- Relevant topics in discussion (ex. Lenten dinners)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Parishioner Feedback — Strengths

Strengths

- Beauty of the facility
- Central location in downtown
- Beautiful historic building
- Opportunity for evangelization downtown by parishioners

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

- Compassionate security
- Parking issues
- Safety
- Safety training for ushers and parishioners at each service
- Safe place where people feel comfortable
- Balance security with welcoming ministry on Sundays
- Find ways to make congregation safe
- More parking
- Parking issue resolution
- Parking deck with music offices on top
- Have a long-term endowment for this beautiful building
- Anticipate and plan for growth
- Resources we need to maintain the building
- Care and preservation of our historic building
- Be good stewards of our beautiful grounds
- Parishioner involvement in maintenance
- Explore creative ways to handle large attendance at certain services
- More women's bathrooms
- Our extra properties utilized in the best ways
- Accessibility and attractiveness of the building
- Make it easier for people to come and enjoy
- Multiple points of access for everyone to find their way in
- Better accessibility to Tuton Hall
- Update facilities for comfort (pews, bathrooms, AC, choir room, youth rooms)
- Access to events for older members
- More seating for choir
- Cushions for pews
- We need a cloak room
- Make the memorial garden a burial place for generations to come
- Accessible bathrooms
- Return Trinity Place to some type of mission
- Accommodate large attendance
- Wire Tuton Hall, Clark Room, and Conference room for the hearing impaired
- More integration of updated audio-visual tech
- Microphone system for the choir
- Better sound system for the choir
- Be more sustainable
- Use less plastic

MISCELLANEOUS

Parishioner Feedback — Wishes

Wishes

- More volunteerism among the congregation
- More opportunities to serve the community
- How to help newcomers find where they best can serve
- Wide range of "extra-curricular" ways to get involved
- An online "bulletin board" to share what we need or what we can provide
- Organized way for people to find what they need
- Way to connect people with needs in a tangible way, i.e., handyman work, vacation home, pet sitter
- More independence from Diocese
- Build on excellence
- Preparedness for another crisis; be a resource for community (a well or a generator)
- Capable of recognizing emergency challenges that may require new and unfamiliar ways to address
- Keep an open mind about what the future of the church should look like
- Maintain a strong foundation for the future
- Live long and prosper