

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE

2015

Expectations for Mission and Ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, by worship, word and service, to a changed and changing world. As it approaches its third century, it seeks to grow while maintaining its strong tradition of liturgical and Eucharistic-centered worship, intellectually stimulating preaching, and Christian service to its own Parish and the wider community. Our goal is a vigorous church that extends care to all its members and beyond, to everyone without discrimination, and not only to those who feel secure in their faith, but to the doubting and the disaffected as well.

We hope to strengthen our revitalized programs in Christian education for all groups, with special attention given to encouraging even more young people to attend, participate, and come to think of Trinity as a true center for youth activity and spiritual growth in their lives and in the community. The Parish values spiritually stimulating adult education, and it wishes to continue the advances it has made in recent years in the development of an enriched program for young people, especially those of middle and high school age.

As outreach expands and more members of Trinity and the community participate in Parish activities, we hope and trust that membership and attendance will rise. The Parish continues to work to extend an active and sympathetic welcome to all people.

It continues to be our hope that an open and expansive Parish life, actively welcoming all people and making available the rich liturgical and theological resources of our Anglican heritage to the religious and civic community around us will result in greater gifts by members of both time and money. We have been richly blessed by a heritage of unique spiritual and charitable gifts we can bring to the religious life of our community, and we recognize our vocation to do so. We recognize we are called to nothing less. As a practical matter, invigorated stewardship in the broadest sense continues to be a necessity, because we cannot continue indefinitely into the future to support the mission of good works we are called to undertake with the base of serious support we now have.

A Profile of the New Rector

The hopes we have for a stronger, even more committed Parish will, of course, depend in many ways upon our new rector, as they will upon us. We most want the candidate we call to be energetic, focused, adept at engaging the interest of people in matters both spiritual and practical, outgoing, and dedicated to the faithfulness, vocation and growth of this religious community. We seek a strong spiritual leader, versed in and sympathetic to the theological and liturgical riches of the Anglican tradition, able to mediate them to the

present age in our community, and a pastor skilled at providing care and counseling to those in need, who can relate well to young and old and to all of the members of a community that, while not large in metropolitan terms, is just as diverse in its social and spiritual needs as any. In our thinking at this time, the following is the order of importance of our most significant priorities, although all of them are of great importance to us:

1. Spiritual leadership, learned theology, insightful preaching, liturgical integrity.
2. Teaching and working with youth.
3. Stewardship stimulator.
4. Parish growth.
5. Pastoral care and visitation in time of crisis.
6. Counseling persons facing problems or decisions.
7. Administrative leader.

The rector must be able to make decisions, especially the hard ones, without guilt or insecurity, and at the same time be a person who strives to love and accept all people. The Parish still carries administrative responsibilities from days when it was much larger and richer, and adapting these to the present resources and abilities of the Parish community will be a continuing challenge. Therefore, the rector must be able to listen and hear, have compassion and sensitivity, and demonstrate a strong ability to administer pastoral care, deliver thought-provoking sermons and teach, train and communicate. But most important, we need someone who can love – love us as God loves us and help us to love others as ourselves – someone who needs us as much as we need a priest and pastor.

HISTORY OF TRINITY CHURCH

** * * and then came Trinity Church! Westminster Abbey and famous cathedrals have been visited since but nothing can compare to the first glimpse of Trinity Church through youthful eyes.¹*

The horns of protest during the twenty-minute jam were not able to drown out the tolling bells of Trinity. Those noble bells had been tolling while those motor cars were still buried in the Mesabi Range, and they would continue to toll long after the last of those cars was junk. But the battle of the decibels made Gibbsville, at least for part of an hour, sound like a city.²

The history of Trinity Parish is inseparably intertwined with that of the City of Pottsville, now in its third century.³ The origins of the town are in the Greenwood Forge, acquired by John Pott in 1806. There were but a few houses in the area at the time. Mr. Pott built an iron furnace, a small number of dwellings and other structures in the vicinity of the area at the confluence of the Schuylkill River and the Norwegian Creek, known for many years as “The Island”. Mr. Pott then had the original plan of the town surveyed and laid out in 1816. Deposits in this area of Anthracite coal, the foundation for the future prosperity of Pottsville’s great age, had long been known, but difficulties in the ignition of this hard substance and the lack of easy transportation to coastal markets from this rugged region caused the then remote village to develop slowly.

Momentous events were stirring, however, and they would, in several short decades, transform the tiny mountain hamlet into a powerhouse of the industrial era. In late 1824 or early 1825, the Schuylkill Navigation Company canal, which had been begun from Philadelphia and at intermediate points in 1816, was completed to Mount Carbon, just below Pottsville, and the plentiful native Anthracite finally began to find ready access to coastal markets. The canal was extended to Norwegian Street in Pottsville in 1831 and enlarged between 1833 and 1835.

The arrival of the canal in the vicinage, and the anticipatory development of the town it encouraged, set the stage for the foundation of Trinity Parish. On September 3, 1827, a meeting was held in a log cabin schoolhouse, led by the Reverend Norman Nash, a young

¹ E.L. Clifford, “Pottsville in the early days of the *Republican*,” Joseph H. Zerbey History, Pottsville and Schuylkill County, Penna., vol. 1, p. 19 (1935).

² John O’Hara, *Ten North Frederick*, Random House, New York (1955), p. 19. It is interesting that, in all of his unsentimental, early-twentieth century portraits of Pottsville in the Gibbsville stories, Trinity Church is one of the few then existing persons, places or things O’Hara identifies by its own name. O’Hara refers to “bells”, and, in 1874, vestryman Charles Baber gave to the Church a chime of nine bells, installed in the tower, which are still operable, and which O’Hara undoubtedly would have heard often during his youth and later newspaper work in downtown Pottsville.

³ This history is indebted to, and adapted from, Field, et al., *The History of Trinity Church, Pottsville, Pennsylvania*, 2005, itself relying upon a number of prior sources; the *Joseph H. Zerbey History, Pottsville and Schuylkill County, Penna.*, 6 vols. (1935); and Nolan, *Southeastern Pennsylvania, a History of the Counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Schuylkill*, 3 vols., (Lewis Hist. Pub. Co., Inc., Philadelphia, 1943).

missionary deacon from Philadelphia, and a group calling themselves “the friends of the Protestant Episcopal church.” This meeting was held to determine who in the village was interested in the formation of an Episcopal Church. At the meeting, a parish was organized “for the village and its vicinity,” and nine vestrymen were elected. It was the first church organized in Pottsville. At the time, the population of the village was approximately eight hundred souls. The parish was originally dedicated to St. Luke. Two days later, at a meeting of the new vestry, John Pott granted to the fledgling parish lot no. 4 in the plat of 1816, the location of the parish church ever since. In October of that same year, the cornerstone of St. Luke’s Church was laid, and the new church building was completed and consecrated in 1830 by the Right Reverend Henry Ustick Onderdonk, assistant to Bishop William White in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. By the census of that year, the population of the town had tripled in approximately three years, to 2,464. Reflecting the growing influence of the regional metropolis upon the little town, the early gothic revival design for the new St. Luke’s was provided by the well-known Philadelphia architect, William Strickland, architect of St. Stephen’s Church and the Second Bank of the United States in that City and, later, of the celebrated state capitol in Nashville.

The prospects of the little town were only to improve from there. Its attention to its spiritual life, however, seems to have been fitful. By 1836, when the population of Pottsville was approaching 4,000, St. Luke’s was heavily in debt (not the last time the Parish was to have this experience), pledges were in arrears, its mortgage was in default, and it suffered the embarrassment of being haled into court in a confession of judgment hearing. One contemporary explanation was that, because of the coal industry boom, “men’s thoughts were intent on securing material wealth, with little expectation for strong and healthy religious development.” Regardless, the wily parishioners of the time evaded imminent institutional demise by organizing a new parish, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which, miraculously, found itself with the same vestrymen as the beleaguered St. Luke’s, and, by mid-1837, the debts of the old organization were cleared and Trinity acquired the church property from St. Luke’s. The pioneering St. Luke’s parish is remembered today in the dedication of the chapel in the parish house.

Notwithstanding the Parish financial pitfalls of the 1830s, the fortunes of the town improved apace. In 1838, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was authorized by act of the Legislature to extend its line to Pottsville, and through railroad service was established between Pottsville and Philadelphia in 1848. For several years prior to that time, the railroad had extended only to Mount Carbon, a village approximately a mile south of Pottsville, and the latter had been served inconveniently by a local line. In the census of 1840, Pottsville’s population reached 4,345, which ranked it then among the 100 largest urban places in the entire United States. By the census of 1850, the population had reached 7,515.

Reflecting the growing prominence of the town, its enhanced accessibility, and the opening of vast mining tracts to the north and west, the county voters in 1847 directed the removal of the county seat to Pottsville from the southern market town of Orwigsburg, a location bypassed by both canal and railroad, and one that was not centrally located. A

new courthouse, predecessor to the current building on the same site, was to be erected within three years. It can be deduced that the partisans of the relocation of the county seat to Pottsville had been aggressively promoting it for some time, and that the result was widely anticipated.

The Parish grew with the town. Its building became too small for its congregation and mission. The growing town deserved a notable edifice for Christian worship, and, in short order, it got one. By 1845, the Parish was engaged in discussions about constructing a new church on the existing site. On July 11, 1847, after demolition of the old church, the cornerstone for the new was laid by the Right Reverend Alonzo Potter. The new building, to be much altered in the succeeding century and a half, was designed by the young Philadelphia architect, Napoleon LeBrun (also architect of the landmark Schuylkill County Jail in Pottsville, 1851), whose long career included such prominent work as the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Building in New York City. LeBrun's design, as originally constructed, was a large nave and chancel, with a square tower (to have a steeple that was never built), in an early English gothic revival style, heavily buttressed and with narrow lancets. The new church was built, like the ancient flint stone churches of East Anglia, of rough-hewn native stone, in this case, the local conglomerate. The building program again pushed the Parish into debt, which, when paid off, allowed the new church to be consecrated by Bishop Potter on February 13, 1853.

Between then and the beginning of the Civil War, and particularly with the coming of the Reverend Dr. Daniel Washburn as rector in 1852, the Parish began to prosper. Episcopal congregations, each of which became independent parishes, were organized by his efforts in Saint Clair and Shamokin, and Trinity itself founded and sustained two mission chapels, St. John's in Fishbach and St. Paul's in Mechanicsville, that survived into the middle of the twentieth century. The Parish maintained vigorous Sunday School activities in the entire area, and the Dorcas Society was founded by Parish women to aid those in need.

The Civil War made Pottsville flush with wealth. Anthracite coal, much of it from Schuylkill County, fueled the Eastern industrial plant that supported and gave ultimate superiority to the Union forces in the nation's fratricidal conflict. By the late 1860s, the combined forces of prosperity had created in Pottsville a proprietary, commercial and professional middle and upper class that lived in stark contrast both to the daily hardship, disease, ever-present mortal danger in the mines and emergent labor-management conflict in the surrounding mining communities and to the workaday, Pennsylvania German farm life of the areas of the County untouched by mining. Trinity was not unaffected by or indifferent to the tumultuous world at its doorstep, but its cause continued to advance. Beginning in 1868, the Church was extensively remodeled and enlarged. The chancel was deepened, the side walls of the nave cut down from LeBrun's original design and a clerestory constructed, supported by wooden arches resting on pillars, with elaborate decoration we see today that reflects contemporary fascination with the newly invented jig-saw. The new work in the interior, reflecting the high Victorian

passion for color, was and remains richly ornamented with stenciling. The result was a nave of airy and whimsical spaciousness that continues, after more than a century and a half, to delight and lift the spirits of worshippers.

A further milestone for the Parish was reached in 1885, when Charles Baber, vestryman of Trinity for 21 years and leading citizen of Pottsville, died and, in his will, deeded the cemetery that now bears his name to the Vestry of Trinity Parish, to be held in trust for the people of Pottsville. The story of the Parish search for adequate burial ground is too long and complicated to be told here, but, by the time of Mr. Baber's death, the cemetery grounds on West Market Street had grown to include the Parish's former Mt. Laurel Cemetery and various improvements added over the years by Mr. Baber, including a landmark Egyptian Revival gateway and the Chapel of the Resurrection, a striking high Victorian gothic revival structure which became the third chapel of Trinity Parish and remains a consecrated chapel of the Parish to this day. The cemetery itself is an important, rambling, imposing and enduring representative of the garden cemetery movement of the Nineteenth Century. Its collection of mature, specimen trees is outstanding.

The Parish continued to grow and expand into the twentieth century. In 1906, a large parish house was constructed immediately to the rear of the Church, and partially over old burial ground. A window was commissioned from the Tiffany Studios for the Chapel of St. Luke to be included in the new building. In 1922, the Church was again given extensive renovation. While the nave was left largely untouched, the old chancel was taken down and replaced by a soaring new choir, sanctuary and ambulatory in the "archeological" gothic revival style then popular as the result of the work of Ralph Adams Cram at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, in New York City and elsewhere. The architects of the new work were Zantzinger, Borie and Medary of Philadelphia. One more major structural revision to the Church was to take place in 1973, when a free standing altar was installed at the foot of the choir steps in order to facilitate the celebration of the revised Eucharistic liturgy.

Today, the Church has a fine set of stained-glass windows in a gothic Italianate style, created by the Philadelphia artist Nicola D'Ascenzo and his studio between the late 1920s and the early 1960s. It also contains a historic, Austin organ, opus 1040, installed in the sanctuary reconstruction in 1922. In 1998, a new antiphonal organ was installed in the gallery, in the historic 1868 organ case.

Trinity Parish is thus the steward for future generations of a beautiful and significant house of Christian worship and an important architectural record of evolving liturgical practice, theory and theology over much of American history, a holy place where the prayers of the faithful have been valid for generations. It is, however, more than a building. This beautiful place houses a vibrant, continuing and living Christian community which has persevered through boom and bust, through the precipitous decline of the coal industry, the consequent economic misfortunes and dislocations of the City and the region, through war and depression, through liturgical and theological controversy, and through massive population out-migration from the area through much

of the post-World War I Twentieth Century. Not surprisingly, the Parish and its resources have shrunk as well. Nevertheless, its ministries remain vigorous. It provides an active program of lay Eucharistic visitation to those unable to attend services in the church. Its youth program has been rejuvenated. The Parish is the largest contributor to the local food pantry and participates regularly in the City Soup Kitchen. In recent years, it has expanded the hospitality of its buildings for the regular use of community social service organizations. It participates generously in giving of humanitarian and educational aid through the New Hope Campaign of the Diocese of Bethlehem to the people of Bethlehem's companion diocese of Kajo Keji in South Sudan. It maintains an active program of high-quality liturgical and concert music. In the mid-1980s, with a bequest from the late Marion C. Price, it established and maintains a nursing ministry to the elderly in the County.

So where has this great history brought us? We are not strangers to adversity in our past. As the oldest church in Pottsville, we have shown great ability to overcome difficulties and to survive. We remain in some respects the Church as a place of prayer, refuge and civic celebration for the entire community of Pottsville. As in the past, a new rector can expect to be greeted with enthusiasm, support and an upturn in attendance and participation. The Parish is blessed with a site in an attractive and historic downtown, a central location for Parish growth, certain amenities (such as ample free parking), and an historic and beautiful church building. While the Parish is no longer as large as it once was, there is a solid core of members who are dedicated to serving God in this place and who can be expected to be of great help to our new spiritual leader. Certainly, Trinity Parish must find new ways to reach out to those, especially newcomers in Pottsville and the southern part of the County, who would find it a hospitable and challenging place of Christian encounter, worship and service. The opportunities facing the Parish are great, and its major challenge is to find ways to witness to the Gospel and hold out the grace of Christian community, in a changed religious climate distrustful of or disinterested in organized religion, to an increasingly individualized and fragmented society. Our history has shown us that with faith and hard work, challenges can be met. We look forward with hope to the future God has in store for us, trusting that, with His continued help, our Parish will thrive as a place of worship, service, community and love.

Rectors or Clergy in Charge of Trinity Parish

Norman Nash (Deacon) (St. Luke's)	1827-1828 (?)
Corry Chambers (Deacon) (St. Luke's)	1828-1830
F. Cuming (St. Luke's)	1830-1831
James DePui (St. Luke's)	1831-1836
Raymond A. Henderson	1836-1837
Alfred A. Miller	1838-1842
Jason B. Morss	1842-1846
William C. Cooley	1846-1852
Daniel Washburn	1852-1863
William P. Lewis	1863-1875
Charles G. Gilliat	1875-1884

James F. Powers	1885-1903
Howard W. Diller	1903-1947
Cyril Haynes Stone	1947-1952
Theodore Johnson	1952-1975
Paul Hannaford	1975-1979
Clifford Carr	1980-1993
James Hubbard (interim)	1993-1995
Charles H. Morris	1995-2005
Peter D'Angio (interim)	2006
James A. Rinehart	2007-2015

Diocesan Bishops Having Episcopal Jurisdiction over Trinity Parish⁴

Diocese of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Rt. Rev. William White	1827-1836
Rt. Rev. Henry Ustick Onderdonk	1836-1844
Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter	1845-1865
Rt. Rev. William Bacon Stevens	1865-1870

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (Reading and South Bethlehem)

Rt. Rev. Mark Antony DeWolfe Howe	1871-1889
Rt. Rev. Nelson Somerville Rulison	1889-1897
Rt. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot	1898-1904

Diocese of Bethlehem

Rt. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot	1904-1928
Rt. Rev. Frank W. Sterrett	1928-1954
Rt. Rev. Frederick John Warnecke	1954-1971
Rt. Rev. Lloyd E. Gressle	1971-1983
Rt. Rev. J. Mark Dyer	1983-1995
Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall	1996-2013
Bishop Provisional Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe	2014-

⁴ The Diocese of Pennsylvania was created in 1786, in preparation for Bishop White's consecration the following year at Lambeth Palace. In 1870, the Diocese of Pennsylvania, having by then numerous parishes and being far-flung, was divided, and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania erected out of the northern and northwestern portions of it. In 1904, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania was itself divided into the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Diocese of Bethlehem.

THE COMMUNITY TODAY

Trinity Parish is located in the northeastern Pennsylvania city of Pottsville. A town of approximately 15,000 citizens, with approximately 50,000 in the immediate urbanized area, Pottsville is nestled in a picturesque Appalachian mountain valley in the rugged ridge and valley topographical province. As the seat of Schuylkill County (population 145,000), Pottsville is the largest city, and it serves as the governmental, cultural and commercial hub of the area. A hospital operating in two campuses make it the regional medical center. Social, fraternal and business organizations take responsibility for the physical and cultural vitality of the community. The downtown is a visual feast of late nineteenth and early twentieth century small city urban architecture waiting for discovery and rejuvenation.

Pottsville is easily accessible to the major centers of the Northeast. Interstate Highway 81, the major transportation corridor from eastern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, bisects the County from northeast to southwest. Pottsville is a two hour drive from Philadelphia, and New York City and Washington, D.C. can each be reached within approximately three hours. Frequent commercial airline service is available at Harrisburg, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, and Wilkes-Barre Scranton airports, each an hour or less by highway from Pottsville. There is daily scheduled bus service from Pottsville to Philadelphia, to Harrisburg and points south and west, and to Scranton and points north.

Schuylkill County boasts an ethnically and religiously diverse heritage second to none. The past prosperity of its mines brought immigrants by the thousands from eastern and southern Europe, following the Irish and Welsh of generations before them, to a landscape earlier largely populated by Pennsylvania German farmers. African-Americans have also been prominent in the County's history; indeed, the very first casualty of violence in the Civil War is reported to have been Nicholas Biddle, a citizen of Pottsville who enlisted with the First Defenders and was injured with his regiment as it passed through Baltimore on the way to Washington. Today, this rich heritage continues to be invigorated by new residents from China, India, Latin America and the Middle East. Mining is a marginal industry today, although there are discussions in progress about the development of new facilities to convert the waste mining accumulations of the past into oil and other alternative fuels. Today, the economy is diverse, with agriculture, tree farming, electrical power generation and warehousing and distribution being major elements. The southern part of the County, within fifteen miles or so of Pottsville, is sprouting bedroom communities of people employed in the Interstate 78 corridor south of the Blue Mountain. A Cabela's Outfitter Store opened early in the last decade at the southernmost border of the County and touched off explosive commercial development in its environs. At one time, Pottsville and other county towns were home to several beer breweries; today, the lone survivor is D.G. Yuengling and Company, America's oldest brewery, a major attraction for visitors and a significant local employer, located within the Pottsville city limits.

With the growth in population in outlying areas, particularly in the southern end of the County, the congregation of Trinity Parish is not limited only to City residents. Housing

in the area remains reasonably priced, if not cheap, in comparison to metropolitan America.

The area has both public and parochial schools that maintain high academic standards and ratings. There is a regional campus of The Pennsylvania State University three miles south of Pottsville, at Schuylkill Haven, Alvernia College of Reading offers classes in the area, and there are several business and vocational schools. The Schuylkill Medical Center maintains a School of Nursing in Pottsville.

Pottsville offers a wide range of services to its residents. The Free Public Library boasts more than 150,000 volumes, operates a wide array of services and provides comfortable facilities. The Schuylkill Medical Center is a primary care hospital open 24 hours, seven days a week. The Crippled Childrens' Clinic, latest medical technologies and a large, diverse medical population, along with an up-to-date 911 system, also serve the population. Ambulance and helicopter services are available for emergencies and access the regional trauma center fifty miles away at Allentown. Various facilities of the Geisinger Medical System are located in and around Pottsville. Local fire companies are volunteers who are well equipped and trained.

Schuylkill County has many cultural opportunities. The Schuylkill County Arts and Ethnic Center, housed in a beautiful mansion on Mahantongo Street, embraces all of the arts from dancing, painting, and drama, to literature, history and music. A group of working artists, The Allied Artists, supports the growth of area talent. The Gabriel Chamber Ensemble, a Youth Symphony, and the Third Brigade Band offer a wide variety of concerts throughout the year. Trinity Parish itself has begun and maintains a concert series of chamber and choral music that has become an important attraction for the wider community. The Schuylkill County Historical Society is a vigorous organization that maintains an irreplaceable record of the rich and unique history of this community, an indispensable source for the historian of the American industrial era. A local access cable television station provides service, and the Wilkes-Barre public radio station and National Public Radio serve Pottsville via a translator located on Sharp Mountain. The Pottsville *Republican and Herald* publishes daily and continues the local journalistic tradition that began with the *Miners Journal* in the 1820s.

Outdoor activities abound in this region. There are thousands of acres of forested land. Hunting and fishing are popular on State Game Lands and privately managed Fish and Game associations. Hiking and bird watching can be experiences at Hawk Mountain, the first established sanctuary for the conservation of raptors. This famous reserve attracts visitors from all over the world. There are several golf courses, as well as camping and skiing facilities, all within a short distance of Pottsville. Tennis and basketball courts, ball fields, swimming pools and fitness clubs are abundant. The surrounding countryside is beautiful in all seasons.

Pottsville is an excellent example of small town America, often resulting in the return of people who have left the area. It is a tolerant and hospitable community where there is genuine concern for one's neighbor. Pottsville is a great place to raise a family.



Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery



Parish Rectory at 1318 Howard Ave., Pottsville, PA

TRINITY PARISH TODAY

“Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ.” This is the Mission Statement of the people of Trinity Episcopal Church, Pottsville. May all who worship here honor its intent. Our focus as a worshipping community is “Honoring the past as we build a strong foundation for the future, while sharing our Christian faith through service to the community.”

Regular Sunday services are held in the Church, normally a said Eucharist at 8:00 AM and a full Choral Eucharist at 10:00 AM. A weekday Eucharist is normally celebrated on Wednesdays in the Chapel of Saint Luke in the Parish House. Services on major holy days are held in the Church or St. Luke’s Chapel as appropriate. On some Summer Sundays, both services are held at the Chapel of the Resurrection in Charles Baber Cemetery, about sixteen blocks from the Church.

The Parish House contains St. Luke’s Chapel, a lounge, a large parish hall, and offices and facilities for the choir and music director. The Sacrament is reserved in St. Luke’s Chapel.

Because of its location and facilities, Trinity Church also serves as a meeting place for many local groups, and the Parish has expanded its hospitality for those purposes significantly in the last several years. The undercroft of the Church is presently underused and therefore offers additional opportunities to make Parish facilities available to the community.

Charles Baber Cemetery

Charles Baber Cemetery is comprised of a chapel and grounds of approximately 25 acres located approximately one mile from Trinity Church. It is the largest public, open space in the City and is used intensively by the people of Pottsville as a place of meditation, relaxation and recreation. The cemetery was deeded to the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church by the widow of Charles Baber in 1881. The vestry of the Parish therefore had constituted the Board of Trustees of the cemetery corporation, although the cemetery is held in trust for the people of Pottsville. The chapel was built between 1876 and 1880 and has been restored a number of times. In an effort to broaden community support for and participation in the maintenance and enhancement of the cemetery, the operation of it has been turned over to a recently newly-created non-profit, charitable corporation, in which Trinity Church is the sole shareholder. The corporation is governed by a board of seven directors, all of whom are selected by the Vestry of Trinity Parish, but three of whom are required to be community members who are not members of the Parish. The Rector serves as Chairman *ex officio* of the Board. Major capital improvements to the cemetery have been made in the last several years, and it is expected those efforts will continue.

The cemetery chapel holds the bell which hung in the first Trinity Church, and which was the first bell to call the citizens of Pottsville to Christian worship.

The cemetery remains an active burial ground, with approximately twenty interments per year. Through the cemetery, the Parish participates actively in the City's annual Arbor Day observance.

Ministries and Programs

Price Trust The Marion C. Price Trust provides for financial and social service assistance, transportation, visitation, nursing home/personal care, home information, emergency pick-up of food and medication, payment of emergency home repairs, purchase of equipment for the hearing and sight impaired, and loans of miscellaneous medical equipment according to the terms of the estate of the late Marion C. Price, in a manner that will assist older Episcopalians in Schuylkill County. There is presently a full time administrator, who is a registered nurse. Secretarial services are provided by the Parish Administrator. The Rector serves as the President of the Price Trust Board, and, with members appointed by the Vestry of Trinity Parish, constitutes a majority of the Board. The remaining members of the Board are appointed by the other Episcopal parishes in the County.

Choir Trinity has a long history of good liturgical music, which continues at high level of quality with modest resources. The parish organist is a skilled musician who carries the responsibility of selecting music with approval by the Parish Priest. For decades, Trinity has been graced with Priests of considerable musical ability and intelligent musical judgment, and the Parish expects high standards to be continued. The choir is led by a choirmaster who is a professional singer. On high festivals, the choir is sometimes augmented by instrumentalists of various types from the wider area.

Concert Series For the past several years, Trinity Parish has sponsored a concert series presenting talented vocal and instrumental musicians who are active professionally and academically in the wider region. The concerts are free, supported by free-will offerings, and attract into the Church a supportive audience from the wider community.

Staff The staff of Trinity Parish consists of one full-time priest, one full-time Parish Administrator, one part-time Sexton, one part-time organist, and one part-time choir director, as well as the staff of the Price Trust. Certain functions for Cemetery and the Price Trust are performed on an allocation basis by the Parish Administrator and the Sexton.

Coffee Hour Coffee is available in the lounge following each service on Sunday mornings to allow time for fellowship and introduction of newcomers. Occasionally, breakfast is offered.

Chalice Bearers/Lectors/Acolytes/Ushers The Parish recognizes the abilities of its parishioners and encourages their participation through these activities. Licensed Eucharistic Ministers are commissioned by the Bishop and assist in the distribution of

Holy Communion and the communion of the sick and homebound. Lectors, acolytes and ushers perform their duties on a rotating basis.

Christian Education Church school is conducted on Sunday mornings, with the children and their teachers joining the congregation at the offertory during the 10 o'clock service. Adult education is provided in Advent and Lent.

Altar Guild The altar guild prepares the church for services, launders and cares for the linens, maintains vestments and, in general, maintains the symbols of our worship activities.

Vestry The Vestry of Trinity Parish consists of two wardens and seven vestry members, elected for staggered terms. As a general practice, wardens and vestry members are required to rotate off for at least a year after serving two consecutive terms. The Vestry divides itself into various committees to facilitate its work, including stewardship, finance, cemetery, personnel, property, fellowship and renewal and evangelism.

Soup Kitchen Members of the Parish participate, along with many members of other City churches, on a regular monthly basis in the community soup kitchen run by the Salvation Army. There are, as in any urban community, poor and hungry people in Pottsville, and the soup kitchen is an essential means of extending hospitality to them. The Parish, through donations from members, is also the largest contributor to the local food pantry.

St. Clare's Society The Saint Clare's Society, begun in 2013, is a group of needle workers who meet monthly in the Parish lounge. The members work on a variety of needle work projects for personal and Parish life. Anyone is welcome to join and participate. Among completed projects are needlepoint kneelers that are used during summer months at the Chapel of the Resurrection and that adorn the chancel steps in the Church during the winter. Currently, the members are knitting prayer shawls for individuals on the Parish prayer list. The shawls are then delivered during visits by the members. The members are about to begin knitting baby blankets for the newly baptized as well. Members also have a variety of personal projects that are completed for community programs, such as Women in Crisis.

Youth ministry Trinity now has a very active Sunday school, with four children enrolled in the preschool class and thirteen school age children. The children meet at 9:45 for Children's Chapel and gather at 10:00 in the undercroft for their Sunday School class, joining the congregation at the offertory. The group is very active in worship, acting as readers at special services during the year, bringing forward the bread and wine for communion, and sharing their musical gifts with the congregation on special Sundays and during Children's Chapel.

The Sunday School focuses on outreach and involves the Parish in many of their activities during the year, such as bowling and movie nights, an end of the year cookout,

the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and the celebration of the Ascension and Pentecost. They also sponsor a Valentine's Day project to provide small gifts to children in the pediatric unit of the local hospital, give hand-made baby afghans to the newly baptized to welcome them and their families to the Parish, and, in conjunction with the Junior's Group, host the annual Veteran's Day Breakfast.

Our Junior's Group consists of 5 teenagers who meet two Sundays a month at 9:00 to explore topics related to living their faith in the world, as well as to study in-depth selected topics in Scripture. The members of the Junior's Group have been very active in worship, serving as acolytes and readers. In addition, they serve the church by assisting with Sunday School classes, preparing the annual Christmas calendar as a gift to the shut-ins of the Parish, and hosting the Veteran's Day Breakfast with the Sunday School. They have also assisted in emergency preparedness by making an in-depth video inventory of the Parish property.

The youth group consists of Parish youth from ages 10-17 and meets to enjoy fellowship and fun approximately 5-6 times a year. The composition and size of the group varies as they meet with youth from other congregations in the County to share activities when possible. In addition to enjoying events such as bowling, fall festivals, roller skating, and movie and game nights, service to others is an integral part of their activities. In the past, the youth group has collected food for needy families for Thanksgiving, visited patients at local nursing homes, collected supplies for the SPCA, and participated in the Festival of Trees. In the future, the youth group hopes to be able to assist elderly parishioners with some yard work. At the present time, the youth group's focus has been on the Parish, but it is hoping to be able to expand that focus to participation in diocesan events.

Buildings and Grounds

Trinity Episcopal Church is located in the downtown business section of Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

The nave of the Church will comfortably seat 500, with the choir and servers seated separately. Directly behind the Church is the chapel and parish house. An entrance located at the rear of the parish house provides handicapped access to the parish house facilities. Handicapped access to the Church, which is sited on a steep hillside, is afforded by way of the side entrance on Howard Avenue.

The undercroft of the Church consists of six individual classrooms, three offices, two storage closets, and two walk-in closets, as well as a large central open area.

The Parish offices, as well as the offices of the Price Trust and the Cemetery, are located in Church House, a former residence immediately across Second Street from the rear of the parish house.

The Parish maintains a rectory in the thirteen hundred block of Howard Avenue, about a mile from the Church and several blocks from the main Cemetery entrance.

As mentioned previously, the Charles Baber Preservation Trust, whose Board is appointed by the Vestry, maintains the Cemetery and the Cemetery chapel.

A municipal parking garage is located across the street from the parish house, providing ample parking, which is free on Sunday mornings.

The Parish properties are generally in a good state of repair, with little deferred maintenance.

Opportunities and Issues Facing the Parish

The Question of Outreach and Growth Integrally bound up with the importance of witness in and mission to the larger community, this is probably the single most important issue facing the Parish. Moreover, there are opportunities for outreach and growth that are not being realized. Indeed, despite the rich program we offer, there are undoubtedly many people in Pottsville and the surrounding area who do not know who we are, or even that we are here. Some of this is intransigent. The historic religious landscape of Pottsville and Schuylkill County has been largely fixed, with everyone, or almost everyone, belonging to one religious community or another by birth, family inheritance, or habit. Traditionally, everyone has, at least nominally and for generations, been “churched”. But the landscape has changed dramatically with in- and out-migration and the internet age. First of all, we have a tolerant, rich and open theological heritage that is attractive to those put off by more hide-bound traditions, and many such spiritual emigrants have enriched the life of our religious community in recent decades. Second, there has been genuine growth in the southern part of the County and along the Interstate 81 corridor by reason of our easy accessibility to metropolitan America and relatively cheap housing prices. The newcomers are not locked into the traditional Schuylkill County religious landscape, and they have a more cosmopolitan, if not uprooted, view of the world than the traditional communities we are accustomed to. These developing areas are generally within fifteen miles of the Church. They should be prime candidates for parish evangelism. A challenge for the Parish, of course, will be to accept the changes that inevitably accompany new members and growth, but we have demonstrated our resilience in the face of great changes in the past and are ready to face the future.

The Question of Finances The question of Parish finances is inextricably linked to the issue of Parish outreach and growth. The second is necessary to secure the first. At the present time, the Parish is solvent, although it draws down significantly from the corpus of the Parish endowment each year, a matter that needs continuing attention. It is possible that present contributors can be persuaded to be even more generous than they already are, but expectations from that direction are realistically limited. A better job can be done in persuading people to make end-of-life gifts to the Parish than we are currently doing. Moreover, a major responsibility of a new rector will be to encourage and support a major long-term fundraising campaign to enlarge the Parish endowment. But the most

important reform remains to increase the proportion of the Parish budget that is funded from current pledges and contributions, and it is realistic to assume that that will only occur in a significant manner with some Parish growth.

A Ministry Description for the Rector

Title of Ministry Rector of the Parish of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Accountability The Rector is accountable to the Wardens and Vestry of the Parish and to the Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Basic Function The Rector is the spiritual leader, pastor, and chief executive of the Parish and is responsible for the overall leadership of the congregation in the areas of worship, spirituality, pastoral care, and fellowship.

The Rector is accountable to the Bishop for certain disciplines and standards. They are outlined in the Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the National Church.

The Rector is responsible and accountable to the Wardens and Vestry for carrying out an effective priestly ministry and Christian witness in the Parish, in the community in which it resides, and in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Within the Parish The Rector presides at the annual meeting of the congregation as well as at the monthly meeting of the Vestry of the Parish unless there is agreement that other people will share that responsibility.

Other salaried and non-salaried people in the Parish such as any assisting priests, parish administrator, secretaries, sexton, organist and choirmaster report to the Rector, are hired and dismissed by the Rector in consultation with the Vestry, and are supervised by the Rector or his or her designee.

The Rector of Trinity Parish is also *ex officio* Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Charles Baber Preservation Trust Chair of the Board of the Marion Price Trust.

The Rector relates to other committees and commissions within the Parish as appropriate. Our present committee structure is such that each vestry members serves on one or more committees and acts as liaison between the Vestry and committee. The Rector is free to attend any meeting upon request and may choose which committees he wants to attend regularly.

Outside the Parish Duties expected of the Rector include:

The Community The Rector of Trinity Parish has historically served in a leadership role in the religious and civic life of the community. It is expected that the Rector will serve in a responsible way in this ministry. The Rector also represents the

interests of the Parish in the community and represents the Parish in ecumenical and interfaith organizations and activities.

The Diocese The Rector, along with elected representatives of the parish, represents the Parish at the District Council and the Diocesan Convention and on committees.

Ecumenical Relations The Rector will be an active, involved member in the Pottsville Ministerium and has in the past been responsible for planning and organization of an ecumenical Good Friday service.

Ministry Review The Rector agrees to participate with the Wardens and Vestry in an annual review of his or her ministry based upon agreed upon annual priorities, as well as in a review of Parish leadership programs and goals. This review will be initiated by the Wardens and the Personnel Committee of the Vestry.

Personal The Rector is encouraged to advance his or her personal growth and spiritual development by exercising a continuing education plan that is shared and agreed upon by the Vestry. Such a plan can come out of the experience and learning of the annual ministry reviews as well as from consultation with the Bishop and Archdeacon.

The Vestry does expect that the Rector will take appropriate time for prayer and personal study, and sufficient time off each week for refreshment, recreation and healthy personal and family life.

Statement of Vision of the Parish

Before we can consider where Trinity Parish wants to be in three or four years – or five or six – we must first look at where we are now and how we got there. We have had strong, gifted priests as leaders of our Parish over the last several decades. They have had different talents, but each of them invigorated the Parish, maintained its witness in worship and service, and led it to adapt to sometimes unwelcome changes with new initiatives and commitment. These efforts, together with the heritage of previous generations, have built the Parish as it is today.

At present, the Parish is generally unified, and there is a notable absence of conflict. The Parish is blessed with a core of dedicated, generous and active members who care passionately about its future. That does not mean, however, that its leadership does not number strong-willed people who sometimes disagree with each other in matter or degree concerning Parish priorities. We believe, however, that with the right leadership, these differences are constructive energizing, and that the interest behind them properly channeled can bring the Parish soundly into the future. We are, right now, a ship becalmed, waiting for the wind of the Spirit to inform us in the direction we are to go, and looking for a captain to steer this small barque in Peter's flotilla.

We know that we need someone with the administrative skills to manage the enterprise of this Parish, and someone who is not afraid to face financial realities and address them. More than that, however, we need someone overflowing with love and vigor, whose chief concern is spreading the grace, forgiveness and compassion of Jesus Christ.

We need someone with the strength of Paul and the patience of Job, who can make decisions, especially hard ones, and at the same time envelop the congregation in a warm embrace. We need someone to listen and hear – and then to lead. He or she needs to have a message, but it needs to be the message of the Gospel, and it needs to convey love by word and example. With that kind of leadership, we can meet the challenges that face us.

We envision a united Parish, with everyone working together, overflowing with love and fellowship. We expect to remain financially solvent, with many families involved on an active basis. We see a busy, happy church, increased membership, better attendance, and more emphasis on community. We will continue our witness of service to the community and the wider Church through our outreach.

5-7 Year Comprehensive Vision Plan

Worship: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to offer engaging, inspirational and intellectually and spiritually challenging worship through our liturgy, the sacraments and our music.

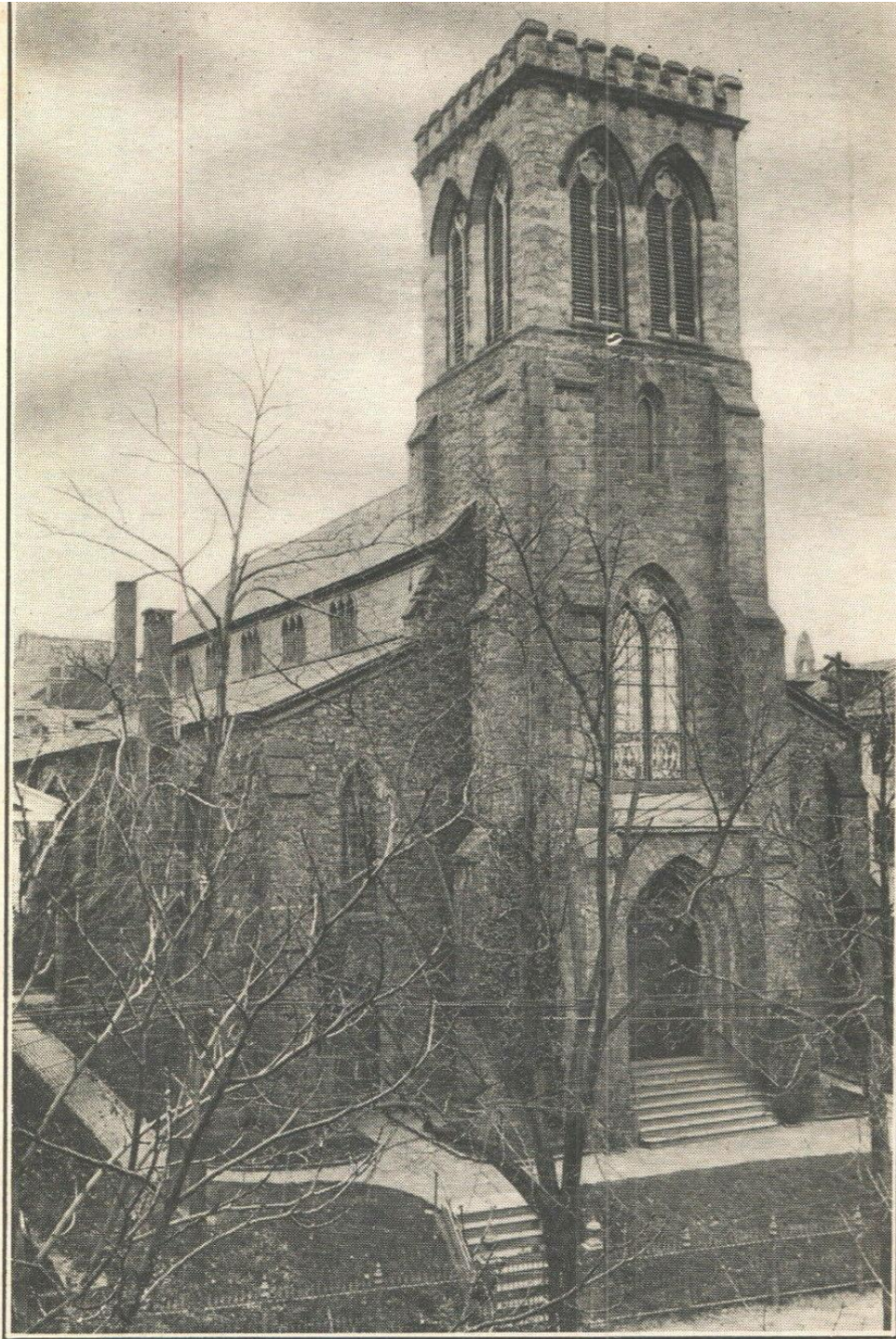
Outreach: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to be a beacon of light to the Pottsville community and Schuylkill County by continuing to grow and expand our outreach ministries through the use of our buildings and by offering more opportunities for parishioners to serve our neighbors.

Stewardship: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to continue to become the stewards that God wants us to be by recognizing that the gifts we have (our time, our talent, our financial resources) and how we give of those gifts is part of our collective and individual spiritual journey.

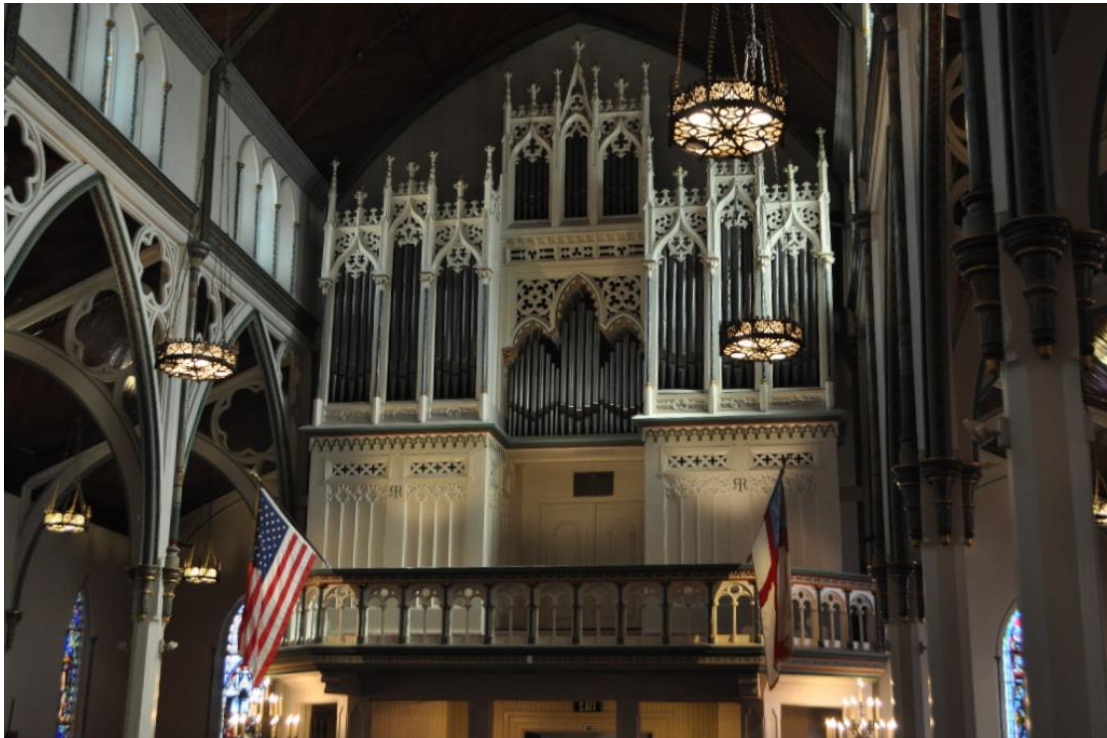
Evangelism and Church Growth: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to take a pro-active approach to church growth by inviting people to join us in worship and ministry.

Christian Formation and Discipleship: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to encourage a life-long journey of faith and discipleship through the offering of engaging and thought provoking study of the scriptures for all ages.

Fellowship: It is the vision of Trinity Episcopal Church to recognize that we are ONE church community growing together in faith and fellowship



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, POTTSVILLE, PA. 6370 P







APPENDIX

TRINITY SEARCH COMMITTEE

John Giansello, Chair

1029 East Main Street, Hegins, PA 17938

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Office Telephone: (212) 506-5217

Paul Barnwell

Kitty Murray

Jason Swick

Sara Wehr

John Curtis

Barbara Tokarz

Carol Field

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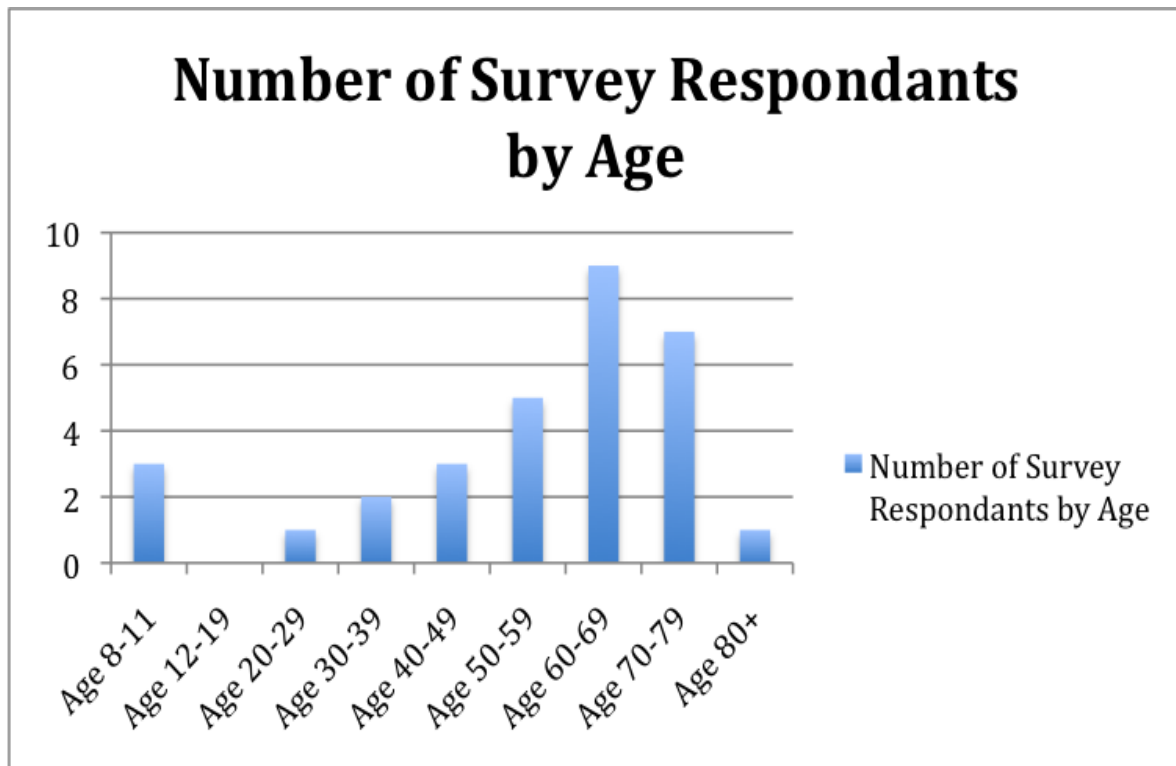
PARISH SURVEY RESULTS



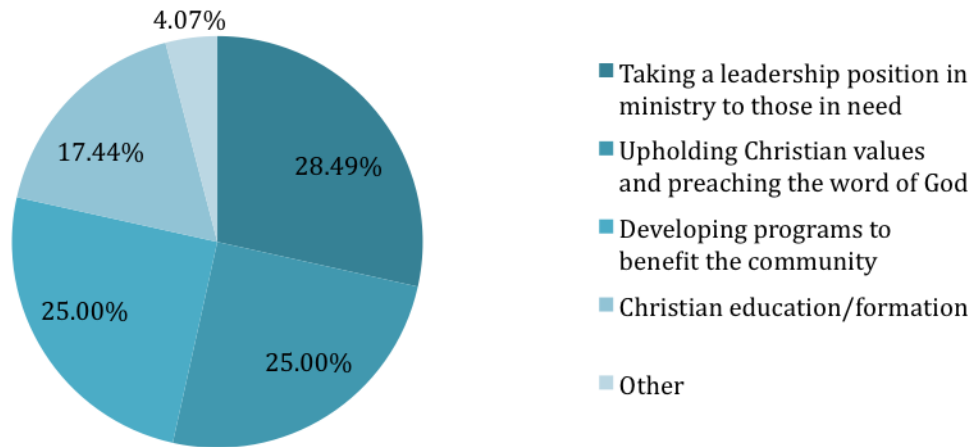
Trinity Episcopal Church

Parish Survey was conducted October 2014

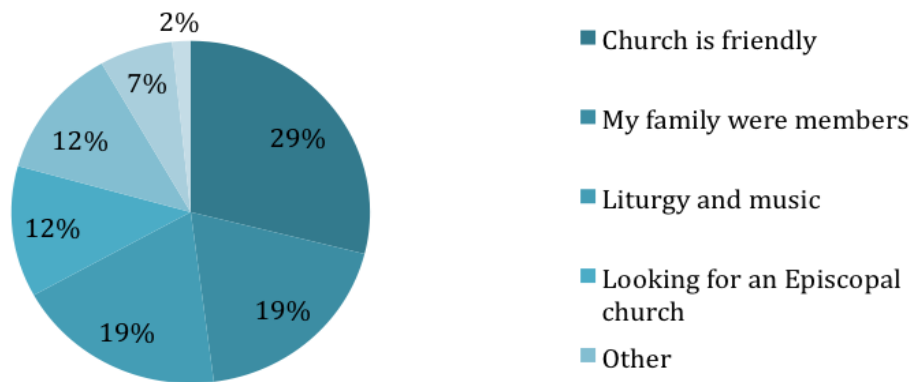
58 Members responded to the questionnaire, ages were optional. The complete summary of the parish survey was submitted to the Vestry, January 2015 and is the basis of the new church vision and mission statement.



I view Trinity's role in the community as



The reason I became a member of Trinity



Summary of survey answers:

What appeals to you the most as a member of Trinity and keeps drawing you back to church? (Ranked most important to least)

Trinity highly values the Minister and preaching, followed by a family atmosphere and liturgy and music. Less important are parish life, friendships and youth activities

What is your dream or vision for Trinity five years in the future? (Ranked most important to least)

Trinity is looking for a larger more financially secure church followed by continued outreach and Christian formation. Less important are fellowship and evangelism

Your worship preferences: (Individually graded on a scale 1-5)

Trinity favors a tradition emotionally uplifting and spiritually challenging worship. The respondents preferred the traditional service and music but many were open contemporary elements

If you had to describe Trinity in 1 word what would that be?

Comforting	Sanctity
Acceptable	Home
Nice	Welcoming
Traditional-and that's fine by me	Family
Awesome	Home
Comforting	Same
Comfortable	Nostalgic
Welcoming	Family
Great	Friendly
Sinking	Joy
Up-lifting	Uplifting
Fun	Monumental
Comforting	Thinking, inclusive
Old-fashioned	Uplifting
Loving	Amazing
Warm & soothing	Friendly
Church family	Family
Family	Comforting
Loving	Comfortable
Compassionate	Friendliness
Loving	Judgmental
Striving	Dependable
Community	
Enriching	
Faithful	
Perfect	

PAROCHIAL REPORT AND CHURCH ROLLS

Services held in 2014

Sunday Eucharists	103
Wednesday Eucharists	51
Private Eucharists	<u>123</u>
Total Eucharistic Services Held	277

Baptisms	7
Marriages	3
Burials	5

Average Communicant Attendance at each service” 78.

Communicants at special services (2014):

Palm Sunday 8:00 AM	43
Palm Sunday 10:00 AM	69
Easter Vigil	44
Easter Day 8:00 AM	51
Easter Day 10:00 AM	77
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM	147
Christmas Eve 11:00 PM	62
Christmas Day 9:00 AM	11

ATTENDANCE ON KEY SUNDAYS

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
All Sundays	80	81	81	79	78
1 st Sunday in Lent	92	77	86	81	87
Easter	157	177	185	193	172
Pentecost	85	76	74	93	155
1 st Sunday in Advent	69	67	87	85	79

MEMBERSHIP VS. PLEDGES

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Membership	242	240	246	249
Pledges	60	61	60	71
Total pledges	\$93,914	\$111,556	\$119,974	\$124,275
Total pledge/ Contributions	\$142,169	\$157,790	\$168,114	\$133,573
Other operating Income, Including Unrestricted Gifts and Contributions For Use of Services	\$23,186	\$31,771	\$17,192	\$30,365
Total Contributions	\$165,355	\$189,561	\$185,306	\$163,938

2014-2015 CHURCH (PARISH) BUDGET

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>
<u>Collections</u>		
Pledges and offerings	136,668.30	129,800.00
Income and withdrawals from investments	124,216.56	114,671.00
Fundraisers	3,866.50	_ 6,500.00
Miscellaneous	<u>10,093.10</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total unrestricted income	271,344.46	255,971.00
Comloquoy Fund	23,205.50	22,000.00
Donation for facilities use	8,001.00	2,000.00
Contributions for shared services	25,930.01	20,730.00
Other restricted	<u>11,829.93</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total restricted income	68,966.44	46,730.00
Total income	340,310.90	302,701.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Rector's salary, benefits and other expenses	87,074.77	69,515.00
Rectory maintenance and expense	8,007.06	6,510.00
Administration, office salaries and expenses	61,534.23	57,812.00
Physical plant salaries and expenses	110,941.17	103,385.00
Worship and music program salaries and expenses	39,250.14	33,015.00
Christian education	1,531.67	1,500.00
Diocesan assessment	31,579.08	28,964.00
Other parish outreach	<u>4,888.78</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total general operating expense	340,406.90	302,701.00

MARION C. PRICE TRUST

2015 Budget

RECEIPTS

Receipts are income and draws from investments.

EXPENDITURES

Grants, including nursing care, medical assistance and personal needs	\$ 5,000.00
Administrator salary and benefits	69,942.00
Office expenses	5,105.00
Special events/programs and other	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total expenditures	\$ 81,047.00

VESTRY

Norman Kauffman, Senior Warden
Kurt Kovalovich, Junior Warden
Jessica Swick, Interim treasurer
Cora Osenbach, Secretary

2015

June Bednar
Cora Osenbach
Norman Kauffman

2016

Waverly Bacon, IV
Jessica Swick
Barbara Tokarz

2017

John Giansello
Kurt Kovalovich
Albert Portland

OHSUSA:761720113.1