

December 2016
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Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



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SERVICES

SUNDAYS

7:45 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Hymns, Godly Play

5 p.m. - Evening Prayer

DAILY

7 a.m. - Morning Prayer (8 a.m. on first Saturday of every month)

A Message from our Rector

Dear People of Trinity Church,

Thank you all again for everyone's work to make our Christmas celebration wonderful once again this year. Now that we've come into the new year, our new Covenant and partnership with St. Helena's Chapel has finally begun. So far, things seem to be very smooth. The Sunday schedule change appears to have begun without a hitch, and I have been able to be with St. Helena's twice without any issues. It has also been a real pleasure to begin to work more closely with Tad Evans.

In truth, this Covenant is already bearing good fruit for Trinity, and I'd like to share two examples. First, a little before Christmas, we received a call from Brian Cogswell, a member at St. Helena's. He knew of someone looking to donate fuel oil to

churches and those in need. St. Helena's uses gas, but Brian sent him to us. We received about 700 gallons of oil saving us about \$1500 right before Christmas.

On Christmas morning, we were joined by Sue and Jerry Rudd at our 8am service. Sue and Jerry are parishioners at St. Helena's, but none of the Christmas Eve services work for them because of their family commitments. But because of the partnership, they knew they could join us.

These are two small ways the Covenant is already enriching our congregation, and I look forward to seeing more of this kind of help and collaboration.

Looking ahead, we have our Annual Meeting this Sunday following the 10:30am service. We will be reviewing our budget and electing new

members to the vestry. I hope that everyone will be able to stay for this important meeting.

We are also only a weeks away from Lent. We will have our pancake supper on Tuesday and a full day of worship on Ash Wednesday. This year for our Lent series we will be joining with other parishes in Berkshire county to study and introduction to Islam. It is becoming more and more important for us to know more about our Muslim brothers and sisters, so I hope this series will be a valuable reflection for us all.

Yours in Christ,

Trinity's 2016 Budget

There is a lot for us to be excited about in our 2016 budget. For the first time in many years, we are showing a small surplus. This is in addition to increases to our core programs.

The tables below give a high level breakdown of how we expect our finances to look for the upcoming year. This budget was approved by the vestry at the December meeting, and it will be presented in more detail at our Annual Meeting.

Most of the changes are due to an increase in the expected endowment income and savings due to the partnership. This has enabled us to increase funding for music, youth formation and outreach.

Stewardship Season

Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2016. In total we received 55 pledges totaling \$100,666.60. This is very close to our goal of \$107,000. If you haven't yet pledged, there is still time. Envelopes and cards are available in the narthex in the back of the church. A new program for electronic giving will also be rolled out in the next few months, so stay tuned.

OPERATING INCOME	2016 Budget
Plate Offerings	\$14,000
Pledges	\$107,100
Building Use	\$6,500
Undesignated Gifts	\$26,000
Designated Gifts	\$4,500
Misc. Income	\$6,600
Flowers	\$2,000
Fundraisers	\$3,000
Music	\$500
Interest	\$100
Parish Life	\$1,000
Endowment Interest	\$110,000
Income Shortfall	
Subtotal Operating In	\$274,700
ADDITIONAL INCOME	
Outreach Fundraisers	\$2,000
TOTAL INCOME	
	\$276,700

OPERATING EXPENSES	2016 Budget	% Difference from 2015
Worship	\$11,800	9%
Education	\$4,250	143%
Assessment	\$26,788	2%
Outreach	\$13,250	13%
Office & Administration	\$15,000	-12%
Parish Life	\$1,500	
Salaries	\$21,783	-18%
Rector's Expenses	\$103,469	-2%
Buildings and Grounds	\$26,500	0%
Insurance	\$12,000	4%
Utilities	\$36,000	0%
Subtotal Expenses	\$272,340	-1%
Subtotal Income	\$274,700	
Income- Expenses	\$2,360	
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES		
Outreach Pass through	\$2,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES		
	\$274,340	

The 2016 Vestry Slate

One of the most important tasks of our Annual Meeting is the election of new members to the vestry as well as the vestry officers. According to our canons (by-laws), the Vestry is composed of 9 members elected to three year terms together with the rector and officers – the Wardens, Clerk, and Treasurer. Three members are elected each year for a three year term,

and the officers are elected for a one year term. We also elect delegates to our Diocesan Convention which is the annual meeting for the Episcopal Church in Western Massachusetts.

The vestry serves both as the legal representatives of the parish with responsibility for all finances and the building. But vestry members are also

spiritual leaders in our community working with the rector to determine the best programs to help our congregation grow in Christ and extend the kingdom of God here in Berkshire County. The individuals below have agreed to stand for election at the Annual Meeting.

Senior Warden – Steve Peters

Steve has served as Senior Warden for the past year and as Junior Warden for several years before. Steve primarily attends the early service but comes frequently to the later service as well.

Junior Warden – Emily Kittross

Emily is new to leadership at Trinity, but not new to leadership in Episcopal churches having served as Junior and Senior wardens in previous parishes. Emily is also a chair of the Parish Life committee and head of the Altar Guild.

Treasurer – Eugénie Fawcett

Eugénie has served as Treasurer for many years here at Trinity, and has been a member here over thirty years. Eugénie and her husband Jim mostly attend the early service.

Clerk of the Vestry – Virginia Giddens

Virginia has also served as Clerk in 2015 and has agreed to serve again in the upcoming year. Virginia

is also active in the new Parish Life committee and primarily attends the early service.

Vestry (three year term)

Annee Goodchild

Anne is a long time member of the parish and she has agreed to stand for a second three year term.

Annee has head up the efforts of the Parish Life committee for the past few years.

Nell Van Batavia

Nell has been worshipping at Trinity for several years since she became a resident at Kimball Farms. Nell is new to leadership in the Episcopal Church but she has served on councils at her home Lutheran churches.

Dick Burke

Dick has served as delegate to Diocesan Convention for many years and is now making the transition to parish leadership. Dick is a faithful member of the Morning Prayer community and regularly attends the early service.

Vestry (one year term filling the seat vacated by George Bergen)

Dana Harrison

Dana and her family have been supporters of the Godly Play and Journey to Adulthood program for many years, and we are delighted that she has agreed to stand for the 2016 vestry.

Delegates to Convention

Delegates serve as Trinity's representatives to the Diocesan Annual Meeting.. At this meeting changes are made to our canon and the budget is approved. This is also the meeting that elects delegates to the national convention.

Dick Burke

Kate Barton

Matthew Heim

Alternate Delegates

David Pott

Noah Pott

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday this year is on February 10th.

This year we will have four services on Ash Wednesday. All services will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes.

Service Times and Locations

7:30am	Trinity Church
12:00pm	Trinity Church
5:30pm	Trinity Church
7:00pm	St. Helena's Chapel



Pancake Supper

Our annual Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday, February 9th from 5 – 7pm. We hope everyone can come out for this wonderful evening of fellowship.

Welcoming Newcomers

Over the past few months, we have seen more and more new faces on Sunday morning, and we want to make sure that everyone is included in the life of our congregation. We are having a few events to help us come together as a community.

Tour of the Church: On February 7, following the 10:30 service, Susan Dana has kindly offered to give a tour of the church building to help us learn more about our history and the history of our lovely building. Susan's presentation is amazing, and, while I'm sure it will be interesting for new people, I'm sure that there is much for us all to learn.

Introduction to the Episcopal Church: On Sunday mornings, when the rector is not at St. Helena's, the rector will lead a discussion on the Episcopal Church especially for people who may be joining from another branch of the Church. These sessions will be held between the services from 9:30-10:10am. Please see the weekly announcements or the website for specific dates.

Preview of Lent

Additional Opportunities for Prayer

Finding time for prayer can be a powerful part of our practices for Lent. At Trinity, there are many opportunities for prayer during the week, and we have a few extra during Lent.

If you are an early riser, we say Morning Prayer every day at 7am in the chapel. Morning Prayer is a service based on reading the Psalms and the Scriptures. This service is brief, lasting usually about twenty minutes. This is a wonderful way to frame the day in prayer and offer up prayers for the work that we do during the day.

On Sunday at 5pm we say Evening Prayer (Rite I) in the church. The other bookend to Morning Prayer, the evening service gives a time to reflect on the events of the day and bring the weekend to a close.

On Tuesday morning at 9am, the Holy Eucharist will be offered in the chapel.

Finally, at 5pm there will be time set aside for contemplative prayer. This is simply a time of silence when we can be still in the presence of God and try to listen for God's voice.

If there is some other way you would like to expand your prayer life, please speak to the rector.

Lent Quiet Day

Saturday, February 27

9:00am to 1:00pm

Ways of Praying

“But I don’t know how to pray!” Many people want to pray, but might not know how. For our Lenten Quiet Day, we will practice three types of prayer: lectio divina or prayerful reading of Scripture, prayer through focused meditation, and contemplative prayer. The quiet day this year will be led by the rector.

We will begin with prayer at 9am, after which we will begin our silence. Breakfast will follow the service, and there will be two more addresses during the morning. We will conclude with a simple lunch and prayers just before 1pm.

Despite the name, Quiet Days can be a lot of work. Resting in silence in the presence of God can be challenging but it is almost always refreshing as well. I hope you can make this part of your Lent devotions this year. If you would like to come, please let the office know so that we can plan food appropriately.

Flowers at Trinity

Members of the Trinity Flower Guild are privilege to arrange beautiful flowers and/or plants in our magnificent stone church, often quietly and alone. Perfect time for contemplation! Of course, at Christmas and Easter we work in a bustling group. But during the rest of the year, we traditionally fill two vases on the high altar and a vase or two on the columbarium in the chapel each week before Sunday services—except for Advent, when we use only greens, and Lent, when Episcopal churches are proscribed from having floral decorations. The silence and the joy experienced are rare opportunities in our all-too-busy, stressful world.

At Trinity, we have a tradition of adding an arrangement on the piano in honor of Mothering Sunday. During Holy Week, we create a “Gethsemane Garden” of spring plants at the foot of the chapel altar. Of course, there are palms on Palm Sunday. Some Sundays are graced with flowers kindly left by the

previous Saturday’s brides. Funerals and memorial services provide us with less exuberant, but very beautiful flowers as well. Occasionally, we put seasonal plants on the windowsills.

Currently, we have four rotating members—one to arrange the flowers for each week in a month, plus another dedicated member who covers every fifth week in the occasional five-week month. There is one consultant, and our rector also participates when he is able. Arranging time generally takes approximately one hour. The head of the Flower Guild usually orders the flowers, but we are delighted to receive donations from parishioners’ gardens in season. Monetary donations memorialize loved ones, friends, and special occasions, and requests for favorite flowers will be entertained for them. Memorial flowers are acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin. This year, we are looking specifically for a pair of urns to accommodate 6-inch

flowerpots. A bequest from the estate of recently deceased Carolyn church, who was a long-time, devoted, Flower Guild member provides the seed money for this purchase, and we welcome additional donations.

The Guild is looking for new members. It would mean we could lengthen our times of rotation, and have backup members to cover for vacations and illnesses. We would like to have interested men as well as women, and any young people strong enough to carry vases, etc. If you are considering joining this joyous, behind-the-scenes ministry, please call Ann St. Clair at 413-236-0958, or 413-822-8917 for information. Meet with us, see how we do things. We will be happy to train you. It won’t take long.

Save the Date! Sunday, April 3rd

The afternoon of Sunday, April 3rd, Bishop Fisher will be joining us for a Festival Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the Covenant with St. Helena’s. Details to come.

Outreach Focus: The Mampong Babies Home

Through the good work of our Outreach Committee, Trinity supports many valuable organizations both here in our community and our region as well as around the world. One organization we supported in 2015 is the Mambong Babies Home in our companion diocese of Kumasi in Ghana. We wanted to share a little about the work that we are supporting as a parish

Mampong Babies Home is a new ministry for Trinity. Located in Kumasi, Ghana the Babies' Home cares for 30-40 infants whose mothers have died in child birth. The mortality rate is high for new mothers and maternal orphans often die. In Ghana it is traditional for extended family to share the same responsibilities as a nuclear family. At age 4 or 5 when a child is walking and

thriving on local food, the extended family is willing to take on the care of the child.

The Babies' Home is a vital ministry of our companion diocese, Ghana. Bishop Fisher and his wife have visited the Home and the Bishop of Kumasi has visited here, most recently for the Bishop's consecration. Betsy Fisher is an especially strong advocate for these babies. The Reverend Annie

Ryder, the rector of the Episcopal church in Sheffield has been active working for the Babies Home for many years as well, so there is a local connection.

The cost of caring for one baby from birth to age 5 is \$1500. Every little bit counts and Trinity has committed \$250 from its 2015 outreach budget to this ministry.

