

# Trinity Episcopal Church

Parkersburg, West Virginia



We can't wait to meet you.

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# Who We Are and What We Seek



We are a 175-year-old downtown church in Parkersburg, made up of both old and young. Like most Episcopal parishes, Trinity includes people from diverse backgrounds. We are mostly middle class. We are conservatives and liberals. We are teachers, lawyers, administrators, nurses, doctors, parents, grandparents, community and church volunteers, actors, singers, instrumentalists, business leaders, business owners, coaches, farmers, electricians, carpenters, janitors, secretaries, factory workers, students, current and former military members, and retired folks. We were once Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, and cradle Episcopalians with a shared love of the liturgy found in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Although we hail from different backgrounds, we have selected Trinity Episcopal as our church home and beacon of hope during this time of social and political stress.

While we are concerned about our own family dynamics, we are also concerned about our community at large, as witnessed by those who volunteer to feed the poor, raise money for church and community needs, and show genuine concern for our church family. We have numerous members who serve the church as lay ministers, lay readers, Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, coffee hour hosts, vocal and instrumental musicians, altar guild members, ushers, vestry members, and trustees who help to guide the mission of the church.

Like most Episcopal churches, Trinity is getting grayer; however, unlike most parishes, perhaps, we have recently seen an exciting increase in young families and singles. Our congregation is like all others in that we hope to find a priest who can encourage more young people and families to join us. We also hope to find someone who will share our goal of finding ways to involve the youth in our church services and other ministries.

Most of us are involved in the life of the parish beyond the weekly worship services and we are searching for ways to bring the love of Christ to the Parkersburg area; therefore, we are interested in finding a priest who will help us reach out to the greater community and make our presence known in meaningful and loving ways. Additionally, since we feel it is important to enhance our relationships with other churches in the area, we seek someone who will help us build ecumenical relationships throughout the city.

We seek a man or woman who will take the membership of this church to his or her heart and accept us for who we are. We seek an individual who believes in the Gospel and preaches it consistently. We seek someone who is both a team leader and a team member, a person who values the opinions of others, who will visit the sick and those who are estranged from the church. We hope to find someone with the gift of pastoral care and a genuine sense of humor, as these qualities are essential in drawing people to Christ and to Trinity. Most importantly, we seek someone who understands that a Christ centered parish will grow. We see Trinity as a conduit to take the message of the Gospel to those who seek what they do not yet know, and we are looking a rector who understands how to take that message and share it with our parish and our greater community.



# The Ways We Worship



At Trinity, we have three weekend worship services and one mid-week worship service to meet the needs of our parishioners.

On Saturdays, the 5:30 service is based on Rite II. This service is less formal than the other two in that it features vocalists and guitar accompaniment leading the musical portion of the service. Musical selections include traditional hymns, favorite songs from church camp, and folk songs. A lay reader is an important part of the liturgy, and there is an LEM present to assist the priest with the Eucharist. Parishioners who attend this service enjoy its more casual, family-friendly atmosphere.

On Sundays, the 8:00 service is Rite I. This service does not feature any musical accompaniment. It is a popular service among those who prefer the older Rite I liturgy. Lay readers and LEMs are important participants in this service as well. Parishioners who attend this service cite the early hour and the contemplative nature as two of its draws.

Additionally, on Sundays, the 10:30 service is Rite II. This service is more formal than the Saturday evening service. The musical portion of this service is heavily reliant on our organist/pianist, who serves as accompanist and choir master. During this service, there may be as many as two lay readers and two LEMs, who assist the priest both in the reading of the Gospel and the Eucharist. A consistent feature of this service is a formal processional and recessional by the priest, LEMs, crucifer, and choir, when present.





We are fortunate to have several talented professional and amateur musicians in our church choir. The choir amplifies the service through sung responses to the *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, and Communion and also performs an anthem during the Offertory.



At various times, smaller groups of instrumentalists or vocalists present musical selections prior to the beginning of the service or during the Offertory. More recently, local high school choir directors have been invited to conduct anthems combining a select group of their students with members of the church choir. During Christmas, a formal concert precedes the Christmas Eve service and features different conductors and keyboard, wind or stringed instruments, and soloists. Easter services are celebrated with formal presentations by the church choir. Additionally, the Sanctus bells are used to amplify the approach to the Eucharist. Finally, incense is frequently used during the processional on High Holy Days. Parishioners who attend this service indicate the music and formal nature of the service are its primary virtues.

On the fifth Sunday, Trinity offers a single combined service that brings together parishioners from all three services.

On Wednesdays, Trinity provides a healing service with Eucharist.

# My Musical Journey

My musical journey at Trinity started two years ago. We had started a Saturday night service with contemporary and Peterkin music, and after attending, I decided I wanted to be part of the music program. I approached Marie, our Director of Music Ministry, and asked if I could join her and the other musicians to provide additional guitar accompaniment. Marie's enthusiastic response was "absolutely." I had never really played in front of our congregation, so this was a bit daunting. Initially, I sat on a chair behind the piano. I progressed to sitting on a stool between Bob and Lori, two of the other musicians. Eventually, Connie, another musician, joined us, so I am thrilled to have yet another person from whom to learn.

During this time, we installed a new sound system and had the ability to plug our guitars into the system. When one is amplified, people can actually hear the guitar, and for me, this was the final step in developing my confidence in this musical journey. It was with much trepidation that I started this walk down the musical path at Trinity, but I am grateful for all the encouragement I received from the Saturday night group. Even though I still tend to speed up at the end of a song, this group of musicians has welcomed me with open arms. As Marie recently said, everyone is welcome to be part of Trinity's music ministry, and for me, this has definitely proven true. I am thankful to have this opportunity.

Mark Miller



# The Ways We Serve



Just as we care for each other, we seek to care for the needs of those in our community. Strong lay leadership allows the church to support ministries in the city, state, and world. Our parishioners lead and volunteer in many ways.

- ◇ Monday Feeding Ministry: Trinity participates in a community feeding program with several other area churches. On Mondays, Trinity volunteers welcome roughly one hundred people into Trinity Hall, where we serve lunch and provide non perishable food for clients to take with them. The feeding ministry also offers valuable opportunities for fellowship among Trinitarians and between Trinitarians and members of the wider community.
- ◇ Thanksgiving Meals: Trinity partners with Jefferson Elementary, a local school, to provide between seven and ten families everything necessary to prepare Thanksgiving dinner. Parishioners donate food, and the food is delivered to each home.
- ◇ Christmas Meals and Presents: Trinity partners again with Jefferson Elementary to provide between seven and ten families food for Christmas dinner. Additionally, parishioners shop for Christmas presents for the children, and all items are delivered to each home. Trinity shoppers call each child's parent to get ideas about the kinds of gifts the children hope to receive, so the shopping is tailored to each child.
- ◇ Adopted Families Program: Trinity supports the Adopted Families Program run by our sister church, The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, to provide personal care packages to those in need.
- ◇ Trinity Book Sale: This ECW event is highly anticipated in the community and has come to be something for which Trinity is known. The annual book sale involves receiving and sorting donated books, hosting a week long book sale, and donating the proceeds to various local charities.
- ◇ Thrive Food Pantry: Trinity partners with Thrive, a community resource organization, to help provide for the needs of local families.



# Giving at Trinity

I participated in the Christmas outreach last year, which entailed contacting and shopping for gifts for a designated family. Christmas is my favorite holiday, as I am sure it is the favorite holiday of many. It is such a special time of year, and giving back is something I enjoy. I imagine Christmas for some parents is stressful, as they wish to provide a special holiday for their kids but might not have the funds. This is why the Christmas outreach is so important. It is rewarding to help brighten the holidays for families in the community. The mother of the children for whom I shopped was helpful and appreciative. I bought gifts for two boys and one girl. The younger boy wanted all things Pokemon, and his older brother wanted a special Nerf gun. The little girl was all about dolls, and I was able to purchase everything they wanted with the allotted funds from Trinity outreach. After I was finished, I simply dropped the items off at the office clearly labeled, and they were delivered. I was happy to help be a shopping elf and look forward to helping again in the future. This is one of the many ways Trinity addresses needs in our community.

Nikki Mildren



# Education



Trinity views education as a lifelong process, critical to the mission of the church. The goal of our educational program is to help people of all ages develop a deep understanding of Scripture and of church history and tradition that will equip them for life in Christ.

Our approach to Christian education focuses on the three pillars of Scripture, tradition, and reason and allows for the exploration of questions of faith and ways to live lives of faith, despite challenges presented in the secular world.

Educational opportunities at Trinity include nursery care, which focuses on wholesome play in a congregate setting for our youngest children during worship services; Sunday school classes for children from preschool age through high school age and for adults, which seek to build and grow a foundation for Christian development; confirmation classes, which prepare youth and new members to join the church by studying Scripture, the *Book of Common Prayer*, the Catechism and creeds, biblical history, and church history; Bible study, which provides adults with opportunities to develop their understanding of Scripture and scriptural issues; Anglican Studies courses, which allow for a deeper connection to the history, traditions, and pillars of the churches that make up the Anglican Communion; and life groups, which create spaces for members to explore difficult questions in their lives through a Christian lens and form meaningful connections with one another.



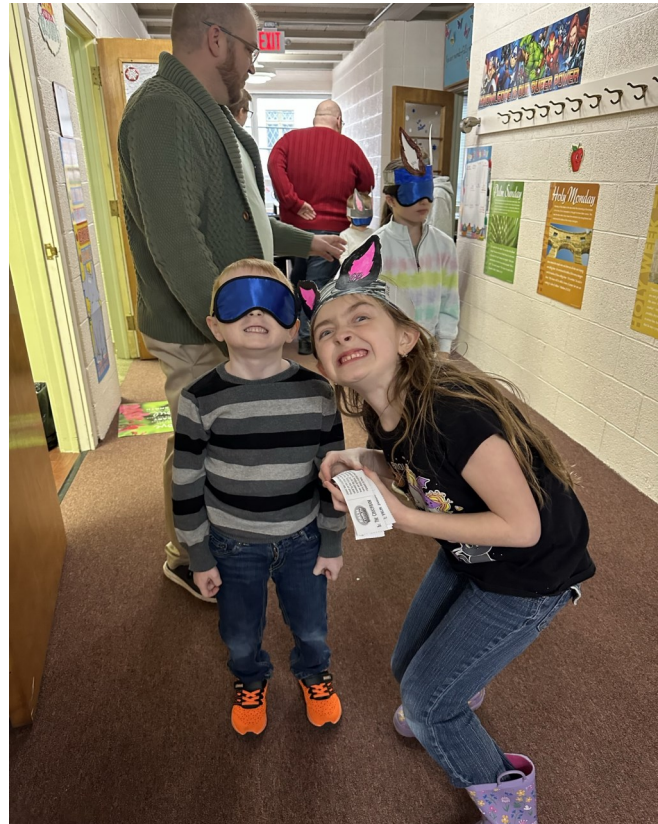


# My Education at Trinity

When my family and I started attending Trinity, one of the first things that stood out to us was the congregation's attitude toward education. During Bible studies, there was always room for more discussion. People were comfortable sharing their disagreements and asking questions. There were also multiple options available that accommodated various schedules. We were particularly impressed with the way that Trinity handled the mixed ages of the children's Sunday school. This can be a challenge, but Trinity does a great job of creating a welcoming environment for the children. Several members of the church have been very positive contributors to the children's classes, and we have seen the children grow in their faith and knowledge as a result.

Over the past few years, we have grown to appreciate Trinity's approach to education even more. Through leading the adult education class on Sunday mornings, I've found that we learn very well through dialogue and discussion, and Trinity provides plenty of opportunities for this. We have also been impressed with the way that Trinity has adapted its educational offerings to meet the needs of the congregation.

Roland Mezick





# Parish Life at Trinity



Parish life at Trinity is centered on the worship of God, in studying the Bible and our heritage, and in reflecting Christ's love through fellowship with each other and through outreach to the greater community.

## WORSHIP

- ◇ Saturday night/Sunday morning Eucharist
- ◇ Wednesday healing Eucharist
- ◇ Lenten Stations of the Cross
- ◇ Easter Vigil with First Lutheran Church

## SERVING GOD AND THE CHURCH

- ◇ Acolytes
- ◇ Altar Guild
- ◇ Choir/Musicians
- ◇ Greeters/Ushers
- ◇ Healing Ministry
- ◇ Lay Eucharist Ministers
- ◇ Mowing/Landscaping Crew
- ◇ Service Assistants/Lay Readers
- ◇ Sunday School Teachers
- ◇ Vestry/Committees

## STUDYING AND LEARNING

- ◇ Anglican Studies
- ◇ Bible Study
- ◇ Lenten Programs
- ◇ Life Study
- ◇ Sunday School (Adult and Youth)
- ◇ Vacation Bible School

## FELLOWSHIP

- ◇ Annual Lasagna Dinner
- ◇ Coffee Hour
- ◇ Congregational Picnic
- ◇ Daughters of the King
- ◇ ECW
- ◇ Movie Night
- ◇ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- ◇ St. Anne's Guild
- ◇ Tuesday Men's Breakfast
- ◇ Youth Group
- ◇ Annual Pool Party

## SERVING OTHERS

- ◇ Annual Book Sale
- ◇ Bread Ministry (Welcoming Newcomers)
- ◇ Knitting Ministry
- ◇ Monday Feeding Ministry
- ◇ Personal Care Packages
- ◇ Prayer Circle
- ◇ Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets
- ◇ Thrive and Community Resources
- ◇ Meeting Space

AA, Blennerhassett Stamp Society,

Actor's Guild, Smoot Children's Choir

# Parish Life Highlights



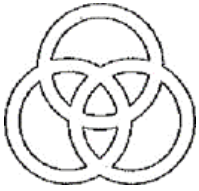
The annual lasagna dinner features food and fellowship. It offers us an evening to get together to enjoy great food and even better company. Who knew there were so many ways to make lasagna?

The Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner is our favorite way to bid farewell to all those things we plan to give up for Lent.



Each Friday during Lent, we pray the Stations of the Cross and then go out to dinner together. We try a new local restaurant each week.

# Our Stewardship and Finances



For the past few years, Trinity has conducted year-long campaigns led by the stewardship committee. These campaigns include monthly essays in the Trinity Times, our monthly newsletter, and stewardship talks led by the laity during services, culminating in the yearly pledge drive. During this time, we have averaged 71 pledges per year, resulting in over \$300,000 in pledges each year. In addition, in 2022, plate offering (undesigned non-pledge gifts) totaled over \$40,000. Admittedly, the emphasis of the stewardship campaigns has been on "treasure," but we are beginning to broaden the emphasis to include "time" and "talent." We are also beginning to stress estate planning.

Finances are strong at Trinity. We ended 2022 with over \$120,000 in the general checking account, with all bills paid and no accrued debts. We are blessed with a bequest that generates almost \$50,000 per year for building maintenance. In addition, the church owns partial interest in over 100 oil and gas wells, recently generating over \$8000 in royalties per year to help defray Christian Education expenses; five Trinity trust accounts, totaling over \$1,300,000, are managed by the diocese and are available to be used by the trustees for designated purposes, although even during the recent downturn of the markets, only \$28,000 of these funds had been utilized.

		ACTUAL				BUDGET
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>INCOME</b>						
	Pledges	\$ 291,440	\$ 304,858	\$ 322,863	\$ 309,649	\$ 330,000
	Plate/Undesignated	\$ 51,022	\$ 33,380	\$ 41,342	\$ 43,570	\$ 20,000
	Designated Gifts	\$ 88,646	\$ 43,814	\$ 43,034	\$ 21,537	
	Oil & Gas Revenue (Despard Fund)	\$ 6,409	\$ 1,015	\$ 3,794	\$ -	\$ 12,800
	Building Maintenance Fund (Ritchie Fund)	\$ 44,000	\$ 45,500	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 49,400
	From Trustees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,500	\$ 5,624	\$ 31,986
	Facility Rental	\$ 2,025	\$ 250	\$ 50	\$ 480	\$ 400
	Other	\$ 51,078	\$ 10,973	\$ 29,877	\$ 30,622	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 534,620</b>	<b>\$ 439,790</b>	<b>\$ 510,460</b>	<b>\$ 458,482</b>	<b>\$ 444,586</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
	Missionary Apportionment	\$ 63,775	\$ 63,535	\$ 70,577	\$ 68,119	\$ 68,119
	Outreach/Inreach	\$ 16,480	\$ 31,419	\$ 21,041	\$ 23,206	\$ 12,500
	Clergy (including benefits)	\$ 125,658	\$ 128,366	\$ 130,222	\$ 131,573	\$ 139,280
	Building Maintenance (incl. Sexton salary)	\$ 54,415	\$ 53,642	\$ 42,131	\$ 37,893	\$ 35,770
	Capital Expense	\$ 115,156	\$ 31,636	\$ 102,261	\$ 19,675	\$ -
	Worship (incl. musician's salaries)	\$ 40,716	\$ 28,833	\$ 24,985	\$ 27,616	\$ 45,750
	Christian Education (incl. DRE salary)	\$ 6,409	\$ 1,429	\$ 22,532	\$ 43,205	\$ 49,020
	Office (incl. Parish Admin salary)	\$ 59,512	\$ 60,373	\$ 63,307	\$ 64,740	\$ 69,490
	Utilities	\$ 21,271	\$ 17,038	\$ 16,613	\$ 20,281	\$ 21,657
	Other	\$ 42,351	\$ 13,371	\$ 45,351	\$ 13,154	\$ 3,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 545,743</b>	<b>\$ 429,642</b>	<b>\$ 539,020</b>	<b>\$ 449,462</b>	<b>\$ 444,586</b>



# Our Membership and Demographics



Age	Number	Average Attendance
0-12	14	Weekly: 94
13-17	06	Easter Weekend: 142
18-34	13	Christmas (Eve and Day): 108
35-64	32	
65 and older	113	



# Our Property



Although it is certainly true that "the Church" refers to the People of God and not to a physical structure, it is also true that nothing identifies a congregation more than the buildings where they gather to worship.



The rectory (the "house" beside Trinity) is the oldest extant building on our campus. It was built in 1863, with the third floor and mansard roof having been added in 1878. It was used as the rector's residence until 1919, then was converted into business offices, meeting rooms for youth and adults, and Sunday school rooms. In 1999, one room was converted into a chapel used for weekday Eucharist services.

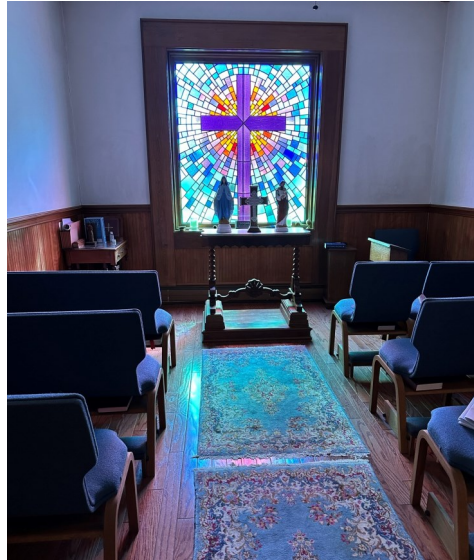
The second (and current) Church building was constructed in the Gothic style in 1879, including a flying buttress, using local limestone and sandstone. The gift of a new pipe organ in 1896 and the growth of the choir necessitated the eastward expansion of the altar and choir areas. Trevor Chapel, at the west end of the nave, was added in 1940.

Trinity Hall was built in 1881, financed in part by Sunday School children through plays and bake sales. It has been a meeting place for scores of community organizations and currently serves AA, the Blennerhassett Stamp Society, the Actor's Guild, and the Smoot Children's Choirs. It has hosted countless church dinners, bazaars, committee meetings, wakes, and wedding receptions, and it has served the church as a temporary sanctuary, a dining room for the Monday Feeding Program, and for more than 70 years, the sales floor for the annual book sale.

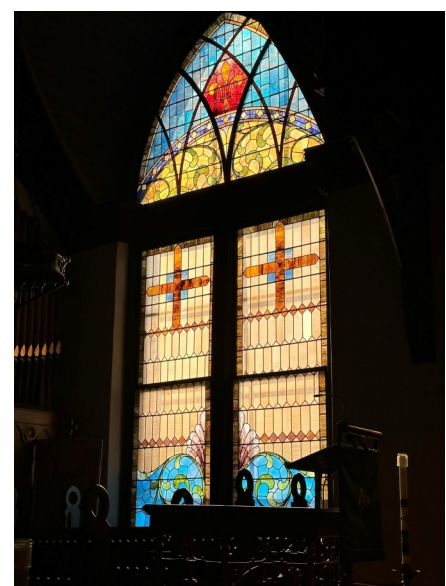
In 1894, rooms were added connecting the nave and choir areas of the church to Trinity Hall. These were used as robing rooms for the choirs and as meeting rooms for the vestry. The Parish House later served as church offices but was converted into the Memorial Library in 1964. This building is also home to the rooms of the sacristy.



After WWII, growth in membership required the construction of a new Sunday school building. Completed in 1959, the Christian Education Building has been utilized for classrooms, robing rooms, a nursery area, storage for the Book Sale, practice space for choirs, and storage rooms for landscaping equipment.



The two latest additions to Trinity's property are the Columbarium located between the nave and the rectory, and the parking lot at the northeast corner of 5th and Juliana Streets. Buildings that are between 60 and 160 years old require constant maintenance and repairs, but Trinitarians are grateful stewards of the legacy that has been left to them by earlier generations. A major cleaning and re-pointing of the stonework on the church, a job costing roughly \$1 million, was completed during the early 2000s. The bill for this job was completely paid off within five years. In addition, in the last 10 years Trinity has spent over \$500,000 on plastering, painting, and reroofing projects. These jobs were completed without strain on the budget or excessive use of the trust funds.





# Our Weaknesses



**Community Outreach:** We would like to expand our outreach to the community. We need to strengthen ties with other downtown churches as well as other churches throughout the greater region to provide support for existing programs and begin new ones; we need to strengthen our ties with the other Episcopal churches in our region to develop a feeling of community with Episcopalians, rather than solely identifying as an individual parish. Additionally, we need to establish our presence at community events.

**Pastoral care:** We see pastoral care as a role for both the priest and the laity to fill. Pastoral care is an area we hope to expand, including visitations to shut-ins, to those in the hospital, and to those who are lonely.

**Sunday School:** As our Sunday School is growing, we see the need for more Sunday school teachers. This was not an issue pre-pandemic, but we lost several dedicated teachers as a result of moving, health concerns, and a variety of other issues, and we have not been able to replace them.

**Leadership Development:** Because most of our ministries are volunteer-based, it can be difficult to address issues as they arise. We have willing volunteers to do the work, and we see the need to develop the willingness to lead.

**Church Growth:** Although we have welcomed several new families and have confirmed new members in recent years, we recognize that in order for the church to grow, we need to be visible to the community. We need to be active, engaged, and approachable. We hope to find ways to appeal to new people, particularly young people and families.

# Our Strengths



Variety: Trinity Episcopal Church offers a variety of meaningful worship services that appeal to differing preferences regarding time or day, formality, musical taste. We love the sounds of children during our worship. Our music program is growing stronger once again and includes a choir on Sunday mornings with organ, piano, and guest musicians, with guitar at our Saturday evening service.



Fellowship: Trinity values fellowship, both after worship and at other parish gatherings, including but not limited to monthly movie night, annual lasagna dinner, weekly Bible study and Sunday school classes, and annual parish picnic, annual Lenten dinners each Friday after Stations of the Cross, annual swim party, weekly life groups, and weekly men's breakfast (which is not limited to men).

Resilience: We are resilient. The pandemic presented a new set of challenges, but we offered services via Facebook Live and meetings via Zoom. Our in-person attendance is growing, and we have resumed Sunday School, thanks to the dedication of our Director of Religious Education. A lively bunch of children gather each Sunday, which is music to our ears. In the absence of an interim priest for several months, we adapted to Morning and Evening Prayer led by lay readers and welcomed opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist when a priest was available to us.



Community Outreach: Our community outreach includes a Monday feeding ministry and an annual book sale to benefit community non-profits as well as our own programming needs. We join with a local Lutheran church to provide Vacation Bible School each summer. We donate to Thrive, a community organization, and Community Resources, a local non-profit that provides help with medicine and utilities. We provide Thanksgiving dinner boxes and Christmas presents to a number of families each year. Our buildings are used by an AA group for its weekly meeting as well as by the Smoot Theater for youth choir rehearsals and performances. Our parking lot is made available to outside groups for evening performances at the Smoot Theater.





# Our Town and Region



Trinity Episcopal Church, established in 1843, is located in downtown Parkersburg, West Virginia at the confluence of the Ohio and Little Kanawa Rivers and near the Appalachian Mountains. By population, Parkersburg is the fourth largest city in the state, with just over 29,000 people and nearly 90,000 people in the Parkersburg-Vienna-Marietta combined statistical area. As one of West Virginia's most historic cities, Parkersburg is well known for the intriguing Blennerhassett Island State Park. Just off the shoreline and a short sternwheeler riverboat ride away, the island offers guided tours of the recreated Blennerhassett Mansion, narrated horse drawn wagon rides, hiking trails, and picnic facilities.



Located in the heart of downtown Parkersburg is the Blennerhassett Hotel, a premier historical landmark, which opened in 1889.



Culturally rich, downtown Parkersburg is home to the Smoot Theater, a 1926 restored vaudeville house that provides a stage for international, national, and local actors. The downtown area is also home to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, which mounts seven stage productions a year and offers the Guild Builders, a youth theater program.



In addition, nearby Marietta, Ohio offers theatrical entertainment through the Mid Ohio Valley Players at the Peoples Bank Theatre. The Parkersburg Art Center showcases national and regional works of art. Artsbridge fosters art education for the community. Discovery World on Market, an interactive museum, provides children with hands on experiences in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, while the Oil and Gas Museum and the Blennerhassett Island Museum share local history. The city also proudly hosts five annual performances by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Parkersburg enjoys a variety of community cultural festivals and events. Perhaps best known is the annual Homecoming, which coincides with the News and Sentinel's Half Marathon. This race draws international, national, and local runners. Additionally, Parkersburg hosts the annual Honey Festival, the Harvest Moon Festival, Artoberfest, Downtown Throwdown and Brewfest, the Multicultural Festival, and more. Nearby communities of Vienna and Williamstown in West Virginia and Belpre and historic Marietta in Ohio offer a variety of cultural, shopping, dining, and recreational activities, as well as beautiful city parks and diverse youth activities in sports, dance, theater, music, and 4H to name a few.

Our river location is ideal for boating, skiing, fishing, rowing, and kayaking. State parks in close proximity to Parkersburg in both West Virginia and Ohio provide ample trails for hiking, biking, and motorcycling, as well as camping, swimming, and picknicking.



Just a two and a half hour drive from Parkersburg is the home of our nation's newest national park, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. With its breathtaking fall foliage, it is best known for its whitewater rafting, rock climbing, hiking, and mountain biking. Three hours south of Parkersburg is the historic Greenbrier Resort, widely regarded as one of the finest luxury resorts around the world. Parkersburg is two to three-hours from from the major metropolitan areas of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Pittsburgh.

Wood County, which includes Parkersburg, has twenty-six public schools that serve about 12,000 students and six private schools that serve about 800 students. Additionally, Wood County offers training at the Wood County Technical Center and Caperton Center for Applied Technology. We are West Virginia's fourth largest school district and rank academically as fifth among fifty-five counties. Higher education opportunities are offered at West Virginia University Parkersburg, Mountain State College, and neighboring Marietta College and Washington State Community College.





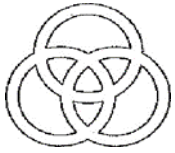
Parkersburg is home to West Virginia University Camden Clark Medical Center. In 2023, Healthgrades rated our hospital one of the best 250 hospitals in the nation. It is ranked in the top five percent of hospitals nationwide for overall clinical performance. It is also an award winning Cardiac Care Center. In close proximity in Ohio is Memorial Health System, with campuses in Marietta and Belpre. Marietta Memorial has recently partnered with Akron Children's Hospital, which is ranked by News & World Report and Newsweek as one of the top pediatric hospitals in the country, to provide general and specialized pediatric care.

The largest employers in the region include WVU Camden Clark, Memorial Health System, Bureau of Public Debt, and various manufacturing and industrial plants.



With a lower cost of living than the national average and a low violent crime rate, Parkersburg, a quiet little river town, has much to offer both in and around the area. We hope you will visit us and see for yourself what we love about our town and region.

# A Trinity Historical Sampler



Trinity's history is more than dates, vestry records, and building construction. It is the story of the people of Trinity, their service to God, their joys and sorrows, their successes and failures. Here are five such stories:

One of the first lay leaders of Trinity was Gen. John Jay Jackson, the son of John Jackson, a five-term Congressman who had married the sister of first lady Dolley Madison. After joining the army, John Jay Jackson served as a member of Andrew Jackson's staff. Afterward, he became a lawyer and a judge, was married twice and had twelve children, including a governor of West Virginia, a federal judge, and a congressman. Jackson served as a delegate to the Virginia Secession Convention in 1861, but as he was a staunch supporter of the North, he encountered some difficulty leaving Richmond alive. Serving Trinity as a lay reader and warden for over forty years, he was instrumental in calling our first rector and supplying funds for the rectory and subsequent church buildings.

In 1843, the Rt. Rev. William Meade, Bishop of Virginia, sent the Rev. Thomas Smith to start an official Episcopal parish in Parkersburg. Smith immediately began collecting money for a church building with construction beginning in 1846. Unfortunately, Smith died the next year and was granted his unusual request to be buried under the front steps of the new building saying he was "a poor sinner," who "wanted to be trampled under the feet of all who entered."

Anna Maria Smith, whose husband was the first rector, exemplifies the sheer fortitude demonstrated by many women of the time. Leaving not only the genteel life of eastern Virginia but also the graves of three children, she made the arduous journey to what was basically a frontier town while she was pregnant with her ninth child. Widowed within four years, she continued the school for girls her husband started and lived in Parkersburg for forty-two years.

After only 25 years of use, the first church building was deemed unsafe even for vestry meetings. Its replacement, the current stone Gothic structure, was consecrated in 1879. As part of the consecration services, Charles Bukey, a seventeen-year old organist from a nearby Episcopal church, was asked to play the new organ. The vestry members were so pleased with his skill, they hired him to be Trinity's organist/choir master. Bukey remained at Trinity for fifty-seven years.

In 1929, the vestry hired Joseph Waterman to serve as the 9th Rector of Trinity. During WWI, Waterman had nearly been court-martialed for baptizing a soldier in the barrack's showers, During the Flood of 1937, he paddled a canoe through the flooded nave. After WWII, in which he lost a son in battle, Waterman concerned himself with the youth of the church and the need for Sunday School rooms. Due to his efforts, the Christian Education building was completed in 1959. Waterman died in December of that year at the pulpit immediately after delivering his retirement sermon.

As a parish, Trinity has been around for one hundred eighty years. These six stories can only scratch the surface of the history of the thousands of Trinitarians who have worshipped and received the sacraments during that time. We expect Trinity to be around for another one hundred eighty years.



# Our Diocese



Formed in 1878, the Diocese of West Virginia consists of the fifty-five counties that comprise the state. The fifty-seven parishes that make up the diocese, some large churches but many small, are spread far and wide over our beautiful state, but all are filled with people with big hearts. The Diocesan Office is located in Charleston, the state capital.

The diocese has recently been blessed with the consecration of our eighth bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mathew Cowden, who not only spends much time building relationships with the laity of our state, but also is committed to being a pastor to the clergy. He has a passion for renewing Peterkin Camp & Conference Center, our church camp nestled in the mountains of the eastern part of the state near Romney.

We have much to offer in our state and in our diocese. Check out [wvtourism.com](http://wvtourism.com) and the diocesan website, [wvdiocese.org](http://wvdiocese.org), to get to know us better. We know you will like what you see, and we can't wait to meet you.





# How to Apply



If you are discerning a call to be our priest, please submit your resume, a copy of your OTM profile, and your letter of interest to the following.

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater  
Office of Transitions  
Episcopal Diocese of WV  
P.O. Box 5400  
Charleston, WV 25361  
Email: [cslater@wvdiocese.org](mailto:cslater@wvdiocese.org)

