



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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POTTSVILLE, PA
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PARISH PROFILE

2021

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 an everchanging world. As it nears its third century, it seeks to grow while maintaining its strong tradition of liturgical and Eucharist-centered worship, intellectually stimulating preaching, and Christian service to its own Parish and the community. We want a vigorous church that cares for all its members and the entire community without discrimination, and with love for all.

We hope to strengthen our Christian Education programs which have been on hold since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As outreach opportunities return, we hope to see more involvement from members of Trinity and the community.

We continue to seek an expansive Parish life, actively welcoming everyone to the rich liturgy and theology of our Anglican heritage. We are called to give our utmost to enhance our church, and in turn, the community, with our time, talent, and treasure. By these efforts, we will use our spiritual and charitable gifts to fulfill our obligation to God.

A Profile of the New Part-Time Rector (20 hours per week)

Our plans for a stronger, even more committed Parish will depend in many ways on our new rector. In no specific order, these are our priorities:

Spiritual leadership, learned theology, insightful preaching, liturgical integrity.

Teaching and working with youth.

Stewardship stimulator.

Parish growth.

Pastoral care and visitation in time of crisis.

Counseling persons facing problems or decisions.

The rector must be able to make tough decisions without guilt or insecurity. Also, the rector must be able to listen, hear, and have compassion and sensitivity. The rector also must demonstrate a strong ability to administer pastoral care, deliver thought-provoking sermons, teach, train, and communicate. Most importantly, we need someone who can love – love us and help us to love others as ourselves – someone who needs us as much as we need a priest and pastor.



A Brief History

Trinity began in 1827 as St. Luke's Church. The first building at Centre Street and Howard Avenue was started in 1827, completed and consecrated in 1830. In 1837, St. Luke's Church was reorganized and renamed Trinity. As the town and congregation grew, the first building was demolished in 1847 to make room for a larger building with a large nave and chancel. The new building was consecrated in 1853. Another remodeling and enlargement took place in 1868.

A further milestone was reached in 1885, when Charles Baber, a vestry member of Trinity and a leading citizen of Pottsville, died and, in his will, deeded the cemetery that now bears his name to the Vestry of Trinity Parish. The cemetery included more than 25 acres, a large gate, and a full Gothic chapel (The Chapel of the Resurrection), which is still used for worship by the members of Trinity Church and others.

In 1906, a large parish house was constructed to the rear of the church. It included St. Luke's Chapel, which is graced with a beautiful Tiffany-stained glass window, a parish hall with a complete kitchen, lounge, kitchenette, and offices. In 1922, the chancel of the church was taken down and replaced with a soaring new choir loft, sanctuary, and ambulatory. Our historic Austin organ, opus 1040 was also installed during the reconstruction of 1922. Beautiful stained-glass windows were added between the late 1920's and the early 1960's. A free-standing altar was placed at the foot of the choir steps in 1973. In 1998, a new antiphonal organ was installed in the gallery, in the historic 1868 organ case. Also in 1998, rewiring and painting of the nave was completed. The latest large projects included conversion of the church and parish hall from oil to gas heat, a renovation of the louvers on the tower and the repointing of all the stonework on the outside of the church. The latest was completed in 2019.

Geographic Area

Trinity Parish is located in the northeastern Pennsylvania city of Pottsville. A city of 13,000 residents, Pottsville is the county seat of Schuylkill County (population 143,000). Pottsville serves as the governmental, commercial, and cultural hub of the area.

Pottsville is easily accessible to the major centers of the Northeastern United States. Philadelphia and New York City are a two-hour drive from Pottsville. Washington, D.C. is about a three-hour drive. Airline service is available in Harrisburg (MDT), the Lehigh Valley (ABE), and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton airports (AVP). There is daily scheduled bus service between Pottsville and Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Scranton.

Schuylkill County boasts an ethnically and religiously diverse heritage. The area began with German farmers, but mining brought immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe, Wales, and Ireland. African Americans have also been prominent in the county's history. Today, this rich heritage includes residents from China, India, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Today's economy is diverse, with agriculture, tree farming, electrical power generation, warehousing, and distribution being major elements. The southern part of our county, about 15 miles from Pottsville, is home to many commuters who travel to the Lehigh Valley, Reading or Harrisburg for work.

The area has both public and parochial schools that maintain high academic standards. Penn State University has a branch campus in nearby Schuylkill Haven. Alvernia College of Reading also offers classes in the county.

Lehigh Valley Health Network has two hospitals in Pottsville. Geisinger/St. Luke's built a new hospital near Orwigsburg about 15 minutes south of Pottsville. Various facilities of the Geisinger system are found in Pottsville. Ambulance and helicopter service are available for emergencies. LVHN- Schuylkill East is a trauma center for the area. Local fire companies are staffed by well trained volunteers.

Schuylkill County has cultural opportunities. The Schuylkill County Council for the Arts is a hub for all types of art: dancing, painting, drama, literature, and music. The Allied Artists support the growth of local artists. The Gabriel Chamber Ensemble, Schuylkill Youth Symphony, and Third Brigade Band offer concerts throughout the year. Trinity Parish maintains a well-respected and well-enjoyed Concert Series that includes chamber music, organ recitals, and other varied musical offerings.

Our region is filled with opportunities for outdoor activities. Hunting is available on State Game Lands. Schuylkill County's Sweet Arrow Lake Park is a beautiful place for fishing. Hawk Mountain Bird Sanctuary is a wonderful place to visit and hike. There are several golf courses, camping and skiing facilities all within a short drive of Pottsville. Fitness clubs, swimming pools, and other outdoor sports facilities can be found throughout the county.

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 sturdy foundation for the future, while sharing our Christian faith through service to the community.” 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.

Regular Sunday services are held in the Church at 9 a.m. A weekday service is normally held on Wednesdays in the Chapel of St. Luke in the Parish House. Services on major holy days are held in the Church or St. Luke’s Chapel as appropriate. On Summer Sundays, services are held at the Chapel of the Resurrection in Charles Baber Cemetery, about 16 blocks from the Church.

Charles Baber Cemetery

Charles Baber Cemetery consists of a chapel and grounds of 25 acres located one mile from Trinity Church. It is the largest open public space in the city and is used extensively 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 the late 1800’s. 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 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 must be community members who are not members of the Parish. Our Senior Warden serves as Chairperson *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 that hung in the first Trinity Church, and was the first bell to call the citizens of Pottsville to Christian worship.

The cemetery remains an active burial ground, with 20 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, 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. Secretarial services are provided by the Parish Administrator. A Board of Directors consisting of members of the Episcopal Churches of Schuylkill County meets bimonthly. Our Senior Warden acts as President.

Music Ministry – 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. Special music is offered for key services and may include the children’s choir, the chime choir or vocal/instrumental solos by youth or other individuals.

Concert Series – 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 Parish Administrator, one part-time Sexton, and one part-time organist as well as the administrator 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.

Worship Assistants – The Parish recognizes the abilities of its parishioners and encourages their participation through these activities. Lectors, acolytes, and ushers perform their duties on a rotating basis. Chalice Bearers and Licensed Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned by the Bishop and assist in the distribution of Holy Communion and the communion of the sick and homebound. Lay Worship Leaders are trained by the Diocese of Bethlehem and lead Morning Prayer on the Sundays when a supply priest is not available.

Christian Education – The Church School children meet at 9:00 in the undercroft for their Sunday School class, joining the congregation at the Offertory. The group is regularly 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. The Church 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 our local hospital. Adult education has been provided most recently on Zoom to the members of Trinity as well as members of the other parishes in the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County. Classes are scheduled at the convenience of our supply priest.

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 three-year terms.

Soup Kitchen – Members of the Parish participate, along with members of other city churches, on a regular monthly basis in the community soup kitchen run by St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. 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.

Summer Reading Camp – The Summer Reading Camp serves up to 30 children from the Pottsville area schools who are reading below grade level. The students are divided into four age groups. Using a theme (camping, insects) the students practice phonics, reading, writing, and math skills. Along with the education, the students receive breakfast, lunch, and a healthy snack bag to take home. Teachers and helpers are members of Trinity and North Parish.

Seasonal Outreach – During the months when the churches were closed due to the pandemic, Trinity, along with other members of the Episcopal Churches of Schuylkill County, reached out to its members through the mail. Valentines were sent to all members. The Church School children made Valentine projects to share with residents of a Schuylkill County nursing home. The students also made beautiful and inspiring Easter projects filled with Bible verses and uplifting messages to send to elderly and shut ins.

Clothesline of Love – From November thru March, the Clothesline of Love hangs outside Trinity. The line contains gloves, socks, hats, scarves, and other items for the comfort of those who need them. Trinity members donate items and also maintain the line.

The Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County – Trinity has been involved in the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County for the last 6 years. The ECSC has sponsored a hospitality stand at the Schuylkill County Fair, hosts a church picnic during the warm weather, and occasionally share worship services. Members of Trinity have prepared food and delivered meals for the free Thanksgiving meal held at Holy Apostles in Saint Clair.



Buildings and Grounds

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

The nave of the Church will comfortably seat 400, 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 hall. 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 consists of six individual classrooms, three offices, two storage closets, and two walk-in closets, as well as a large multipurpose room. The Director of Music maintains an office and a music library in the undercroft. The Church School and Summer Reading Camp hold classes there.

The Parish offices, as well as the offices of the Price Trust and the Cemetery, are located in the Parish House.

The Parish maintains a rectory in the thirteen hundred block of Howard Avenue, about a mile from the Church and four 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.

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

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 the Diocese.

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 Episcopal Church.

The Rector is responsible and accountable to the Wardens and Vestry for conducting 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 meetings 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, sexton, organist, or others 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, and Chair of the Board of the Marion Price Trust.

The Rector relates to other committees and commissions within the Parish as appropriate.

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, including the Pottsville Ministerium. The Rector also represents the interests of the Parish in the community and represents the Parish in ecumenical 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.

Ministry Review – The Rector agrees to participate with the Wardens and Vestry in an annual review of his or her ministry based upon consensus annual priorities, as well as in a review of Parish leadership programs and goals. The Wardens will initiate this review.

Personal – The Rector is encouraged to advance his or her personal and spiritual development by following a continuing education plan that is 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 Diocese.

The Vestry expects 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.





APPENDIX

TRINITY VESTRY

Norman Kauffman, Senior Warden
normkauffman@verizon.net
(570) 640-3868

Albert Portland, Junior Warden
Cora Gamelin-Osenbach, Clerk of the
Vestry
Benjamin Banonis
Paul Barnwell

Lea Bortner
Janet Curtis
Cody Lewars
James Snyder

Parochial Report and Church Rolls

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Services Held | 2019 | 2020 |
| Sunday Eucharists | 51 | 52 |
| Wednesday Services | 38 | 17 |
| Private Eucharists | <u>56</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Totals | 145 | 73 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Baptisms | 2 | 3 |
| Marriages | 0 | 2 |
| Funerals | 5 | 5 |

| | | |
|--|------|------------------------|
| <u>Communicants at Special Services</u> | 2019 | 2020 (services online) |
| with Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County) | | |
| Palm Sunday | 74 | 52 |
| Easter Vigil | 42 | no service |
| Easter Day | 87 | 63 |
| Christmas Eve 5pm | 118 | 130 (only one service) |
| Christmas Eve 7pm | 35 | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Attendance on Key Sundays</u> | 2019 | 2020 |
| 1 st Sunday in Lent | 41 | 54 |
| Easter | 87 | 63 (Zoom Service) |
| Pentecost | 80 | 39 (Zoom Service) |
| 1 st Sunday in Advent | no service/weather | 17 |

Financial Information

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|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 |
| Membership | 242 | 252 |
| Pledges | 45 | 46 |
| Total Pledges | 98,128 | 103,650 |
| | | |
| Total Pledges/Contributions | 141,765 | 120,105 |
| | | |
| All revenues | 269,506 | 232,547 |
| All Expenses | 320,762 | 214,893 |
| Total Cash in Checking and Savings | 16,592 | 43,619 |
| Total Investment Account | 534,610 | 660,970 |