

## Bicentennial Celebration



The coronavirus pandemic lockdown forced many people and organizations to cancel or postpone their events and celebrations. This is certainly true for us at Trinity Church.

Last year marked the bicentennial of this parish church receiving its Certificate of Incorporation. In October of 1822, Trinity was received into union with the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Revd. David Brown, previously the Rector of St. James Church, Hyde Park, became Rector of Trinity Church in March 1823.

On Sunday, September 10, at 10:30 a.m., the parish family and our guests are invited to join together for worship and a BBQ picnic at the residence of John and Cathy Berner. A sign-up form is located in Garland Hall for your RSVP.

In addition, I thank Cathy for her work on a project to make an all-weather parish bicentennial banner that can be on permanent display for our celebration and thanksgiving.

More information about the picnic is forthcoming, but do not hesitate to speak with me or a member of vestry if you have any questions.

--- Peace, James+

### *Important upcoming dates:*

#### **Summer Worship Schedule:**

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II.

**Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, August 15, 6:00 p.m.

**Parish Picnic:** Sunday, September 10, 10:30 a.m.

### WNY & NWPA News

## **Reinventing the Church in the Genesee Region**

[www.episcopalpartnership.org](http://www.episcopalpartnership.org)

Posted: July 12, 2023

The Genesee Region Initiative, one of the partnership dioceses' signature initiatives, entered a new phase recently when the Rev. Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims, partnership canon for pastoral care and congregational support, accepted Bishop Sean's invitation to assume clergy leadership of the project.

Dempsey-Sims, who has been serving as part-time priest-in-charge at St. James, Batavia, in addition to her diocesan duties, will now devote 90 percent of her time to shepherding the initiative that began in 2017 under the leadership of the Rev. Colleen McHale O'Connor, who retired last month after 17 years as the priest at St. Mark's, LeRoy.

Of the deanery's nine churches in the three-county region between Buffalo and Rochester, only St. James has an average Sunday attendance of more than 40, and five churches have an average attendance of 15 or below. But rather than close or merge these churches, the diocesan partnership is experimenting with new ways to restore their

spiritual vitality and establish them as important contributors to the life of their communities.

“We have seen what happens when a church organization goes in and just closes churches because they can’t afford to survive,” says Dempsey-Sims, who, in her new role, will still devote 10 percent of her time to providing pastoral care to clergy and congregations in the Diocese of Western New York. “But if we believe the brand of Christianity that is the Episcopal Church is the way to go, we have to figure out a way to have a gospel presence in these communities. The only way we can do that is by pooling our resources, sharing clergy, sharing lay leadership and sharing administrative stuff like making bulletins and stuff like that. “If the church is going to reinvent itself, this is one of the ways it is going to reinvent itself.”

O’Connor was the part-time rector of St. Mark’s Church in LeRoy and St. Paul’s Church in Stafford in 2017, when she attended a meeting convened by the Rev. Barbara Price, who was then Bishop R. William Franklin’s consultant for congregational mentoring, to discuss the plight of small churches that could not afford clergy to celebrate the Eucharist or provide pastoral care. From this meeting emerged a plan for two or three priests and a deacon to rotate among the six of the eight parishes in the Genesee deanery that did not have full-time clergy, providing a regular Eucharistic rhythm to worship in the region.

“What made this model most appealing was that it built on a history of collaboration already present in the Genesee region—a collaboration that included a various times worship services, adult formation, youth activities, ministry projects and a deanery choir,” O’Connor said. The initiative was supported by a grant from the Diocese of Western New York, which reaffirmed its support in 2020, with Bishop Sean’s encouragement, through a three-year, \$20,000 grant that paid for more time from deanery-based supply clergy.

“The first iteration of the project was brilliant,” Dempsey-Sims says. “Colleen established these relationships with all these small churches and then said, ‘How about if we share some clergy?’ ... She had the relationships. Congregations in the deanery were getting communion three times a month.”

During the pandemic, however, as donations to churches diminished and the roster of parishes participating in the initiative shifted, the future of

the initiative was in doubt. Bishop Sean asked Dempsey-Sims first to take on her new role at St. James, which did not participate in the initiative at first, and then to take on expanded responsibilities.

“The reason I said yes was we need to figure out how to make projects like this work from a standpoint of structure, to show people priests from many congregations can share ministry, and that we can make it at least close to self-supporting,” Dempsey-Sims says. “And also, to get congregations to see that there are new ways to do church.”

O’Connor had long understood that in addition to deploying a small cadre of priests and deacons across the region on Sunday mornings, it was also necessary to invite people into church buildings at other times during the week. In 2013, she, the Rev. Joseph Kozlowski and the Rev. Deacon Robin Kozlowski had started an ecumenical weeknight faith sharing group at St. Paul’s, Holley, which had gone almost dormant in the long wake of the 2003 closure of a chemical plant which left the town with heightened unemployment and a Superfund site. Their effort, which has evolved into a monthly Sunday night Eucharist, followed by an ecumenical faith-sharing conversation, kept the church in the community’s eye.

Dempsey-Sims is also committed to diversifying the way the church reaches out to surrounding communities. “We have to figure out a way to be there for the lost and the lonely in our region,” she says, adding that the members of these congregations “know what the people around them want and need.”

The Rev. Diane Cox, a registered nurse who is the Genesee Region’s new faith community nurse, is part of that plan. “She goes everywhere, my absolute traveling deacon,” Dempsey-Sims says. Ordained a deacon by Bishop Sean in January, Cox is caring for people in the Genesee congregations and sparking opportunities for training, outreach and education on the health issues faced by many older parishioners and community members.

The remainder of the clergy team is spread strategically across the region. The Rev. Nancy Guenther is vicar at St. John’s, Medina. The Rev. Kozlowski continues to serve in Holley, and also at Christ Church, Albion. The Rev. Chris O’Connor is priest-in-charge at St. Luke’s, Attica and also serves at Holy Apostles, Perry. The Rev. Carmen Seufert

serves St. Paul's, Stafford. And Dempsey-Sims is priest-in-charge at Batavia and also serves at Leroy.

The Rev. Deacon Robin Kozlowski serves the churches in Attica and Holley, while the Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker serves primarily in Batavia.

Dempsey-Sims sees many strengths in the region's churches, some still waiting to be tapped. It's a matter of "igniting their creativity, pulling out the knowledge and the wisdom they have."

St Luke's, Attica was recently able to repair its long-broken HVAC system after Dempsey-Sims helped them repurpose, with the approval of the bishop and standing committee, a \$66,000 clergy housing fund the parish was not using because it did not have a full-time priest. St. Luke's is now able to host evening programs including book studies. "I believe it can be a hub for the village of Attica, which has gone through a lot of economic downturn," Dempsey-Sims says.

She has similar hopes for the undercroft of Christ Church, Albion, which sold a building it owned five years ago to an artist who has turned it into a gallery. "How can we be part of this?" Dempsey-Sims asks. "Is there a way to partner with some of these artistic groups in helping them gain a foothold?"

These potential new relationships would augment existing community outreach efforts across the deanery such as backpack and lunch programs at St. Mark's, LeRoy and the ecumenical Blessing Box ministry that St. James shares with two other local churches.

Recently, St. James teamed with St. Peter's, Eggertsville, about 35 miles west, to sell pierogis to benefit Ukrainian refugees through Episcopal Relief & Development. "Despite pouring rain they sold out in a few hours," Dempsey-Sims says. The effort earned \$3,000.

"For me the most important thing is building the relationships," Dempsey-Sims says. "Building collaborations is building relationships first. And it can't be from the top down. It needs to be relationships that begin with the congregations."

It takes time, she says. "It has to be for the long haul, not the short term. It's not something you can do effectively in a crisis." Although, she adds, "a crisis can be a real motivator."

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Trinity Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes  
July 18, 2023  
As approved at the June Meeting

**Present:** Janeil Rey, Warden; Sally Ludlum; Jennifer Wilkins; Mary Lou Vercant; Ann Sullivan; Karin Wheelock, via video conferencing; Virginia Becker, Treasurer, and The Reverend James Clement, Rector. **Excused:** Cathy Berner.

**Call to Order:** Janeil Rey called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., with an opening prayer. She presided over this meeting as Fr. Clement was delayed in attending due to a recently scheduled meeting of Diocesan Council.

**Meeting Agenda:** Approved as presented with a motion by Mary Lou Vercant, seconded by Ann Sullivan. Approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Sally Ludlum, seconded by Mary Lou Vercant, to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:**

**Finance:** Virginia Becker presented her report. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Jenn Wilkins, seconded by Sally Ludlum. Motion carried. See attached.

- **General Fund:** All monthly obligations were met in May including the Belco Elevator annual maintenance contract. A transfer of \$5,000 was made from the Snowden Lane cash account in May and another \$5,000 was transferred in early June for cash flow. If money is needed from the sub-account in July, guidance will be sought from vestry in order to take this action.
  - **Building Fund:** The balance at the end of May was \$611.09.
  - **Music Fund:** The current balance is \$29.25.
  - **Memorial Fund Report:** The current balance remains at \$3,072.28.
  - **Medical Equipment fundraiser:** A reminder that donations to the Church of the Ascension for their

outreach project should be given to our parish office by Sunday, June 25.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Virginia Becker reported.

- A new women's toilet seat was installed in the downstairs restroom.
- She plans to follow up regarding the Sunday service-time notice on the main sign at the front of the church.

### **Additional Reports: Congregational Ministries:**

#### **Parish Outreach**

- Karin Wheelock will follow up with Diane Sercu regarding plans for outreach.

**TECW -** Mary Lou Vercant and Virginia Becker reported.

- A suggestion was made by the TECW that a sign/banner should be display in front of the church to promote Trinity's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, however no one offered to take the lead on this project. Mary Lou Vercant presented an option to use something similar to the rummage sale sign, or perhaps a yard sign. An idea for a permanent sign was briefly mentioned, however Fr. Clement reminded us that a permanent fixture would require village approval.
- **Rummage Sale:** Held on Saturday, June 17, Virginia Becker reported total profits of \$945. She also shared that several customers provided positive feedback about the organization of the event and cleanliness of items.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Clement reported.

- Fr. Clement continues with his pastoral, liturgical, and office responsibilities.
- He presented to vestry a fundraising letter received by the parish for the Fredonia Volunteer Fire Department, which is received each year. Vestry will consider this matter in New Business.
- Fr. Clement also presented a letter received from Chautauqua County Rural Ministry. It is in regard to a request for items to be included in Emergency Food Pantry Bags. Janeil Rey offered to share this letter with Diane Sercu to be consider as an outreach project.

- He informed vestry of some pastoral matters within the congregation.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Bicentennial Celebration Picnic** – September 10, 2023 – Church Service and Picnic. Cathy Berner offered her house to host, and has several tables and chairs. Jenn Wilkins has at least 2 large tents, plus at least 2 small tents. Janeil Rey offered her house as a rain date on September 17. Pulled Pork, baked beans, and mac and cheese are available for the meal. Potluck desserts or other items can be offered to supplement the picnic celebration. Fr. Clement will plan to put an ad in the paper in September announcing the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church.
- **Parish Bylaws** – Conversation was had with regard to the renewal of the bylaws. Janeil Rey expressed her hope that a draft will be available by the next meeting in July. If possible, then vestry can plan for a “work” meeting in August for eventual presentation to the congregation. Vestry will review the bylaws section in Vestry handbook to confirm the overall process for approval. Fr. Clement will start the process of a draft, which will need to be reviewed by the Chancellor of the Diocese prior to a work meeting with vestry. He will conduct this work in the coming week.

#### **New Business:**

- **Fredonia Volunteer Fire Department:** Janeil Rey made a motion for the parish to make a donation in the amount of \$100 to the 2023 Fredonia Fire Department fund. This was seconded by Ann Sullivan. All approved; Motion carried.
- **Parish Audit Committee:** Virginia Becker reminded vestry that it is time for the annual parish audit, which she would like to conduct on Saturday, July 22. As required, she has a person not associated with the parish lined up to assist. She continues her search for two additional persons, which can be from the congregation. Sally Ludlum has agreed to participate. Mary Lou Vercant is interested in helping, but will need to confirm her availability.
- **Immigrant Refugee Day:** Janeil Rey noted that today, June 20, is Immigrant Refugee Day. She recently participated in a follow up session with the diocesan committee to

Dismantle Racism. She discussed a study group program that has been developed and is centered around the concept of beloved community while understanding the role of the church in racial reckoning. She also mentioned an opportunity for a parish field trip to the Underground Railroad Museum or the African American history trail. The Episcopal Migration Ministry offers different ways to provide refugee support, which might be a way to offer our support to Buffalo and Erie refugee projects.

- Diocesan E-News: Fr. Clement asked if everyone is currently receiving either one of the email newsletters from the diocese, the Leadership or General news. This is a great way to be aware of news and programs in the diocese, like those discussed regarding the Committee to Dismantle Racism. He will provide vestry with the information needed to sign-up for these newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51p.m. with a motion made by Mary Lou Vercant, seconded by Jenn Wilkins. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Jennifer Wilkins, Clerk.

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## Parish Notes



### Chancel Choir

It is our hope that the SUNY Fredonia student choristers – Anna, Bella, Trevor, and Nathaniel – can return to be with us once again during Sunday worship in the Fall and Spring terms.

In order to make this happen, we will need to raise \$3,000 (\$1,500 each semester) in donations for the Music Fund. This amount is the total expense for last year, including all student choristers for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services. This also represents a tremendous savings when compared to previous years. If you wish to make a donation, please contact the parish treasurer, Ginny Becker.

## Parish Outreach

The Chautauqua County Rural Ministry is looking for donations for **Emergency Food Pantry Bags**. Trinity Outreach is supporting this initiative for August.

Please consider donating any of the following items: canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta/sauce, canned meats, cereal/breakfast bars, mac & cheese, peanut butter/jelly, canned soup, and/or personal hygiene items. A variety of items are put in bags and made available in emergency situations. Donations will be delivered to CCRM periodically during the summer months.

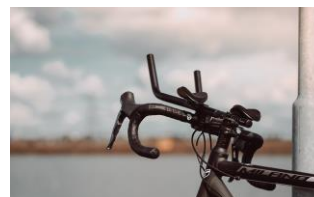
Thank you for your support!

-- Outreach Team



Congratulations to Chris Eichmann, husband of Melisa Eichmann, who flew his last flight as an International Captain on July 12<sup>th</sup>. He has retired after 36 years with Delta Air Lines.

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Congratulations to Jake Wilkins who completed the Ironman 70.3 Series – Musselman triathlon in Geneva, NY in early July.

This three-sport event included a 1.2-mile swim in Seneca Lake. Followed by a 56-mile bike ride along the shores of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Finally, finishing the day off with a 13.1 mile run through Seneca Lake State Park, downtown Geneva and Hobart and William Smith College.



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Tea at the Episcopal cottage July 18<sup>th</sup> was a well-attended and much enjoyed affair.

Thank you to all the women who provided goodies and also to those able to attend.

Added security for the grounds meant a slight detour to the Main Gate to each get a ticket allowing us to enter and exit but otherwise business as usual. They are looking forward to our visit next summer.

--- Doreen Gould



L-R: Sandi Harley (St. Luke's) Jinny Kopp, Lisa Sedlmayer, Doreen Gould, Bonnie Liener, Mary Lou Vercant.

## TECW

HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who had any part in the June Rummage Sale. To the donators who only gave clean workable items, those hauling out and returning tables and book shelves, those unpacking and arranging items, clothes inspectors and folders, those pricing items, those helping the day of the sale, the money gals, those helping to load up left overs and get them to Rural Ministry, covering the cost of the paid newspaper ad.... the list goes on.

It takes all of you to make this happen and help TECW raise \$945.00 to use in support of the Friendly Kitchen and other in church and outreach projects. THANK YOU.

We look forward to a happy repeat in October, do start setting items aside and letting friends and neighbors know.

Next TECW meeting is Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 Garland Hall.

--- Doreen Gould

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## **Lectionary Readings in August:**

[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

### Sunday, August 6

*The Transfiguration*

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Peter 1:13-21

Luke 9:28-36

### Sunday, August 14

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 14*

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 20

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 15*

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 27

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16*

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

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**Birthdays in August**

- 7 Alberto Rey
- 15 Mary Beth Liener Chin
- 16 Jeanette Adamczak
- 21 Doreen Gould
- 21 Gretchen Wheelock-Garvey
- 22 Janell Mosier
- 25 Russell Kyte
- 26 James Wheelock
- 29 Ron Sercu
- 30 Sharon Wallace

**Wedding Anniversaries in August**

- 3 Cathy and John Berner
- 13 Chuck and Kari Pierce
- 17 Lisa and Dominic Schultz
- 22 Ron and Diane Sercu

**In Memoriam**

- 8 Anita Day
- 17 Victor Jonus
- 18 Rosalie Williams
- 30 Raymond Wallace

Trinity Tidings

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467

Fredonia, NY 14063

Office: 716-679-7901

Website: [www.trinitychurchwny.org](http://www.trinitychurchwny.org)

**Parish Clergy and Staff**

The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Email: [rector@trinitychurchwny.org](mailto:rector@trinitychurchwny.org)

Donald Fellows, Supply Organist

Sara Jagoda, Sexton

**The Vestry of the Parish**

Janeil Rey, Warden

Karin Wheelock

Jenn Wilkins

Sally Ludlum

Mary Lou Vercant

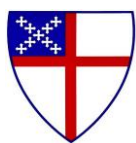
Ann Sullivan

Cathy Berner

Virginia Becker, Treasurer

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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# *Trinity Tidings*



*The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church*

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”  
Ephesians 1:2*