

Trinity Tidings

October 2024

Autumn Harvest Potluck Luncheon



Special Event: Mark your calendars! The Parish Family and Guests are invited to attend our potluck luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 27, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. This event will take place in Garland Hall.

A sign-up form has been placed on the bulletin board in the parish hall for persons to R.S.V.P, list the food items you will bring, and the number of guests who will attend. Please contact Ann Sullivan with any questions.

Diocesan Convention: Please keep me and our parish delegates in your support and prayers as we attend the 2024 Diocesan Conventions of the Dioceses of WNY and NWPA at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie on Saturday, Oct. 12. The delegates representing Trinity are: Jenn Wilkins, Jake Wilkins, and Lisa Sedlmayer.

--- *Peace, James+*

Saint James of Jerusalem: October 23

Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and Martyr, c. 62

In the Gospel according to Matthew and in the Epistle to the Galatians, the James whom we commemorate on October 23 is called the Lord’s brother. Other writers, following Mark’s tradition, believe him to have been a cousin of Jesus. Certain apocryphal writings speak of him as a son of Joseph’s first wife. Whatever the relationship to Jesus – brother, half-brother, of cousin – James converted after the resurrection. Eventually, he became Bishop of Jerusalem.

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul says that James was favored with a special appearance of the Lord before the ascension. Later, James dealt cordially with Paul at Jerusalem, when the latter came there to meet Peter and the other apostles. During the Council of Jerusalem, when there was disagreement about whether Gentile converts should be circumcised, James summed up the momentous decision with these words: “My judgement is that we should impose no irksome restrictions on those Gentiles who are turning to God” (Act. 15:19).

Eusebius, quoting from an earlier church history by Hegesippus, declares that James was surnamed “the Just”. He was holy, abstemious, did not cut his hair nor oil his body, and was continually on his knees in prayer, interceding for his people. “As many as came to believe did so through James,” says Hegesippus.

James’ success in converting many to Christ greatly perturbed some factions in Jerusalem. According to Hegesippus, they begged him to “restrain the people,

for they have gone astray to Jesus, thinking him to be the Messiah . . . we bear you witness that you are just . . . Persuade the people that they do not go astray . . . we put our trust in you.” They then set James on the pinnacle of the temple, bidding him to preach to the multitude and turn them from Jesus. James, however, testified for the Lord. Thereupon, they hurled him from the roof to the pavement, and cudged him to death.

--- *From Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2023, pg. 414.*

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Important dates in October:

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;

10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist, Rt. II.

TECW Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 5, at 9:30 a.m.

Diocesan Convention: Saturday, Oct. 12.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Fall Rummage Sale: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9:00 a.m.

Autumn Harvest Luncheon: Sunday, Oct. 27.

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Episcopal News Service

Presiding Bishop-elect discusses his initial plans for Church ‘structural realignment’

www.episcopalnewsservice.org

Posted: September 25, 2024

By David Paulsen

Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe, who will be [installed as the denominational leader](#) in a little over a month, shed additional light this week on his process and timeline for enacting organizational change in The Episcopal Church to support the church’s priorities.

In his remarks to Executive Council’s [Joint Budget Committee](#), which was meeting here to make final

adjustments to the 2025-27 churchwide budget plan, Rowe embraced the church’s call for a “structural realignment,” and he indicated that he intends to move fast.

“The realignment will be underway soon,” Rowe said, adding that he expects potentially substantial changes to churchwide operations in the first quarter of 2025.

Rowe is partly responding to a line in the 2025-27 budget plan, approved in June by the 81st General Convention, that called on the new presiding bishop to develop a plan to save \$3.5 million on staff over three years, or about 5% of the church’s total personnel costs. The budget gives no recommendation for the shape or scope of that realignment, though Rowe outlined a preliminary process for considering such changes. It will include conversations and meetings this fall with the more than 140 churchwide employees who carry out the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church at the denominational level.

Rowe, as he has said in previous remarks to church governance bodies, also emphasized to the Joint Budget Committee that more of the church’s focus and resources should be shifted to the diocesan and congregational level. “As a church, I think we understand that ministry happens on the ground,” he said. A structural realignment won’t change the church’s top priorities, identified by General Convention as including racial healing, evangelism and creation care, though “the way we put those priorities into practice is bound to change significantly,” he said.

Rowe begins his nine-year term as presiding bishop on Nov. 1, succeeding Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Planning for that leadership transition began even before Rowe was [elected and confirmed by the 81st General Convention](#) on June 26 in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the five years starting with 2023, The Episcopal Church has budgeted \$230,000 for the presiding bishop nominating process, election, transition and installation. Two separate committees are helping to guide the transition and plan for Rowe’s installation and a service of investiture, which will be [livestreamed on Nov. 2](#) from the chapel at The Episcopal Church’s New York headquarters.

Rowe was serving as the bishop diocesan of Northwestern Pennsylvania and bishop provisional

of Western New York when he was elected. Last weekend, he said goodbye to his two former dioceses to turn his focus to preparing for his term as presiding bishop.

“I’m in love with the region and with the people in it and with the congregations,” Rowe said in a [farewell interview posted to the dioceses’ joint website](#). “I’ve come to know and love them. So I’m sad to leave. And there’s also excitement and anticipation on taking on this new role.”

Rowe already has begun making staffing decisions for the transition. Vanessa Butler, his former diocesan canon for administration, will join the Office of the Presiding Bishop in an unspecified role, [according to a diocesan update](#). Rebecca Wilson, an Ohio-based communications professional and co-owner of [Canticle Communications](#), was hired by the church as a contractor to advise Rowe during the transition. She attended this week’s Joint Budget Committee meeting with him.

The church, at Rowe’s request, also is contracting with a consulting firm, [Compass](#), with experience in organizational development to help facilitate engagement with the churchwide staff this fall. Its work will help to inform the structural realignment that Rowe says will be in motion by next year. In the meantime, he asked the Joint Budget Committee not to recommend funding any new staff positions while a staff audit is still underway.

Calls for such a staff audit date back at least to June 2023, when it was a topic of discussions by Executive Council, the church’s governing body between meetings of General Convention. At that time, Executive Council was deliberating over what to do with [about \\$5 million in unspent funds from the previous triennium](#).

Executive Council agreed to use \$2 million to support research into the church’s historical complicity in the federal Indigenous boarding school system. The remaining funds, about \$3 million, were [set aside for the church’s presiding officers](#) – the presiding bishop and House of Deputies president – to “conduct strategic adaptive realignment of our institutional structures through such tools as an audit of current Episcopal Church staff and Executive Council responsibilities and an analysis of our work as a granting institution.”

Then in January 2024, the Joint Budget Committee finalized a draft proposal for a 2025-27 churchwide budget plan that included the call for a staffing realignment to [“resize” or “right-size” churchwide operations](#). That proposal was endorsed by Executive Council later that January and eventually adopted by General Convention in June, with total anticipated churchwide [revenues and expenses of \\$143 million](#) over three years.

The plan gives the new presiding bishop flexibility on the timing and form of the \$3.5 million in staff cost reductions over the next three years. Church leaders at the time expected retirements and attrition to account for much of the reductions.

Rowe spoke about his approach to that process on Sept. 23 on the first day of the Joint Budget Committee’s two-day meeting at the Maritime Conference Center in suburban Baltimore. The primary purpose of the committee’s meeting was to [determine how to allocate \\$2 million](#) that the 2025-27 budget plan set aside for General Convention resolutions that included additional funding requests. House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris also joined the discussion by Zoom. Curry did not attend.

Nearly \$600,000 was immediately diverted to closing a funding gap created by a higher-than-expected increase in the cost of the church’s denominational health insurance plan. The committee divided the remaining \$1.4 million among a range of priorities, with input from Rowe, Harris and members of the church’s executive leadership team.

In response to Rowe’s emphasis on church planting and congregational redevelopment, the committee added \$200,000 to the more than \$2 million already identified for that work in the three-year budget plan.

On creation care, Rowe affirmed the value of spending \$90,000 to establish regional creation care networks, as mandated by [Resolution BO02](#). Those networks could become a model for diocesan collaboration toward other goals, Rowe said. The committee also applied \$315,000 to help the church meet its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, as requested by [Resolution DO50](#).

Rowe, however, indicated he did not favor the funding requested by [Resolution AO21](#) to establish a creation care loan program. “At the churchwide

level, I don't think we have the capacity to evaluate loan applications for programs in our dioceses," Rowe said, adding that other church-affiliated organizations already have similar loan programs.

His largest request of the Joint Budget Committee was for \$450,000 to expand the church's work with the [Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#) and ecumenical partners on more robust churchwide data collection and analysis. That work is intended to help the church at all levels better understand current conditions and where the church and its dioceses are heading. "Good data helps dioceses make good decisions," Rowe said.

Rowe also endorsed the goals of [Resolution Do22](#), which calls for a study of the triennial meeting of General Convention, to ensure that the large, churchwide gathering "works for the church we are today." The resolution did not request a specific dollar amount, but Rowe suggested \$65,000 should be set aside for a task force to conduct a thorough study and make recommendations that could be tested in 2027 at the 82nd General Convention, to be hosted by the Diocese of Arizona in Phoenix.

[Another resolution](#) had asked the church to give \$200,000 to the Association of Episcopal Deacons. When asked about that funding request, Rowe said he believes in deacons' "vital and critical ministry" to the church, yet he wasn't convinced funding at that level was justified. Some members of the Joint Budget Committee agreed, saying there may be other ways for Executive Council to show its support for deacons.

The committee will present its revisions to the 2025-27 budget plan to Executive Council at its Nov. 7-10 meeting in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Executive Council also will vote on a single-year 2025 budget based on the three-year budget plan.

That will be the first meeting chaired by Rowe. Episcopal Church Canons assign the presiding bishop the role of chair of Executive Council, and the House of Deputies president serves as vice chair.

– David Paulsen is a senior reporter and editor for Episcopal News Service based in Wisconsin.

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Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

July 16, 2023

As approved at the September Meeting

Present: Sally Ludlum, Warden; Cathy Berner; Jake Wilkins; Jenn Wilkins; Melisa Eichmann; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused: Ann Sullivan.

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Melisa Eichmann.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Melisa Eichmann to approve the June 25, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

- Remove confirmed date of rummage sale details

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented for consideration. Jenn Wilkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Sally Ludlum. Motion carried. See attached report.

General Fund: All regular monthly bills were paid as well as invoices from Heritage Pipe Organ, USPS 1/2 year box rent, quarterly church insurance, water/sewer, Amherst Exterminators, and Department of Labor IAS. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) was transferred from the Snowden Lane cash account for cash flow in June.

Building Fund: The balance at the end of June was \$611.28.

- A donation was received in the amount of \$5,000, which was placed in this fund.

Memorial Fund: The balance remains \$3,072.28.

Music Fund: The current cash balance is \$136.37.

Buildings and Grounds: Fr. Clement reported.

- Amherst Exterminators recently treated the exterior of the building.
- Building inspection with the Village will take place in the near future. In preparation, Fr.

Clement contacted Belco and fire equipment and system will be inspected as well.

- A new leasing agreement was signed with Axiom Office Imaging for the office printer. The monthly lease expense has been reduced and the parish will own the copier when this lease agreement expires.
- Heritage Organ recently tuned the organ in the church.
- Continued conversation among vestry regarding various building needs and repairs.

Additional Reports: Congregational

Ministries:

Trinity Episcopal Church Women:

- Rummage sale date is tentatively set for Saturday, October 19.

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann reported.

- The current account balance is \$516.62.
- Donations continue to be received for altar flowers at Sunday worship services.

Rector's Report: Fr. Clement reported.

- Fr. Clement officiated the funeral for parishioner and vestry member, Mary Lou Vercant, on June 8th. He offered his gratitude to service participants and those who contributed to the reception following the service. Interment was held on June 11th.
- He officiated the funeral service for parishioner, Spencer Annear, on June 29th.
- The Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. will most likely be moved to Garland Hall during the month of August due to rising summer temperatures.
- He completed a Partnership Evaluation Survey and directed where vestry members can find this form in order to do the same.
- Fr. Clement had a wonderful break during his time away on vacation.

Old Business:

- Sally Ludlum inquired about previous conversation among vestry about welcoming new persons to Trinity. Fr. Clement recommended we continue with what we are doing.
- Melisa Eichmann recommended an article to be placed in the paper to announce the start of a new year.
- Jake Wilkins inquired about the furnace follow up. Fr. Clement will contact Gugino.

New Business:

- Sally Ludlum made a motion, Cathy Berner seconded, to congratulate Bishop Sean Rowe on his election as the upcoming Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, beginning the First of November. This vestry offers their gratitude for his service these past years as Bishop Provisional of this Diocese. Motion carried.
- Sally Ludlum requested an announcement be placed in the next newsletter regarding a need for additional donation funds to support the Choristers. Four choristers plan to return for the next academic year.
- The College Kitchen will offer a free hot dog lunch during the Farm Festival August 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. with a motion made by Melisa Eichmann, seconded by Cathy Berner. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17 @ 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jennifer Wilkins, Clerk.

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Parish Notes

Chancel Choir



Our fall worship schedule has begun and we are grateful to have the choir back to enrich our worship together!

As we have done in the past, the congregation will need to raise donations for the Music Fund - \$1,500 for each semester. This amount will enable the students to be present not only on Sundays, but also at various times, such as Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. If you wish to make a donation, please contact the parish treasurer, Ginny Becker.

TECW

TECW Meeting

Saturday, October 5, 9:30am
in Garland Hall.

IT'S HERE: **FALL RUMMAGE SALE**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19,
9am-2pm in GARLAND HALL.

Bring your contributions to Garland Hall starting SUNDAY, October 13 UNTIL NOON FRIDAY the 18th. If hall is not open, please leave in vestibule.

All items must be CLEAN, in good working order, free of pet hair, and no longer covered in garage/cellar /attic dust. We will be accepting winter clothing, shoes, boots jackets etc. Please make sure items are stain free, zippers work, no missing buttons etc.

We also are looking for holiday items, Nic knacks, bedding (no stains please and if you know size of bed please include), pillows, curtains, small furniture, clean gardening items, books (no text books) puzzles, costume jewelry, tools decorating items, children's clothing books toys ... you know the drill.

Please invite your friends' neighbors and relatives to contribute those bits they've been meaning to pass on. Share the date drop off information and requirements for items. Clean is the key word.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in Garland Hall September 29th for anyone who can help with the setup, organizing items, day of sale and clean up after. You only have an hour that's great - every hour helps. It's a great time to relax and chat with fellow parishioners.

Happy Rummage

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Lectionary Readings for Sundays in October: www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, Oct. 6

20th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 22

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, Oct. 13

21st Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, Oct. 20

22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 24

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, Oct. 27

23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 25

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

Birthdays in October

- 5 Lisa Sedlmayer
- 6 Bobbe Kennedy
- 6 Lauren Sercu
- 8 Sallie Pullano
- 9 Gloria Vento
- 12 Linda Liener
- 16 Fr. Robert Arnold
- 24 Jenn Wilkins
- 26 Emily Ivey
- 27 Kurt Maytum

Wedding Anniversaries in October

- 12 Bonnie and Fred Liener
- 23 Mary Beth and Ray Chin

In Memoriam

12 Marie Shaw
21 Clint Kennedy
21 John Parker

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
Fredonia, NY 14063
www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

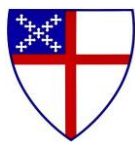
The Revd. James Clement, Rector
Email: rector@trinitychurchwny.org
Donald Fellows, Organist
Sara Jagoda, Custodian

The Vestry of the Parish

Sally Ludlum, Warden
Jenn Wilkins
Ann Sullivan
Jake Wilkins
Cathy Berner
Melisa Eichmann
Virginia Becker, Treasurer

Trinity Episcopal Church
11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
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Volume 7, Issue 10 — October 2024



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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

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