



## Trinity Tidings

March 2025

### Annual Letter to the Parish

*Printed below is a portion of the text from my letter to the congregation, as presented at our recent Annual Meeting.*

Confession of Saint Peter 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for another year of our common life, of our worship and gatherings together. Sunday coffee hours, potluck dinners, Lenten study and supper, and rummage sales continue to bind us together. I want to thank Sally Ludlum for serving as parish warden and to Ginny Becker for her dedication as parish treasurer. I also offer my gratitude to Don Fellows who has served as organist. He continues to uplift us in worship with his talent and work with the parish choir.

Central matters lie ahead for us as a congregation: The vote for continuing The Partnership with the diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania will be held in May; the process of updating the parish bylaws will be concluded; and, operating budget issues will need to be addressed.

Our faith confirms for us that there is no need to be anxious about matters of life. The Body of Christ will hold us as one as we move forward; God is present with us, and at all times.

#### From the Parish Register and Register of Services:

Transfer in: Jeff and Brenda Oldfield;  
Becky Giambra;  
Peggy Tofil.

Eighty-four (84) public Sunday services were held last year. This total includes sixty-five (65) occasions of Holy Communion and twenty-six (26) occasions of the Daily Office, three (3) of which were services of Choral Matins. Seven (7) public services of Holy Communion were held on weekdays. One thousand-one hundred and sixty-six persons (1,166) received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Other Offices and Private services occurred on nineteen (19) occasions, which include the following:

Holy Communion: 7  
Baptism: 1 – Eve Yericco.  
Holy Unction: 5  
Ministration at the Time of Death: 1  
Burial of the Dead: 5 – Dave Sherman;  
Mary Lou Vercant;  
Spencer Annear;  
Robbie Mancuso;  
Judy Reynolds.

Faithfully,  
(The Revd.) James Clement  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rector

## ***Important dates in March***

### **Sunday Worship:**

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I.

**TECW Meeting:** Saturday, March 1, 9:30 a.m.

**Ash Wednesday:** 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Lenten Program and Supper:** Wednesdays,  
March 12 – April 2, at 5:30 p.m.

**Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m.

**TECW Tea:** Sunday, March 16, 2:00 p.m.

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## **Episcopal News Service**

### **Former ACNA congregation in Texas becomes second to join Episcopal Church**

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

Posted: February 21, 2025

By: Greta Gaffin

On Feb. 8, the diocesan council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas officially welcomed [Resurrection, South Austin](#), a church planted by the Anglican Church in North America, which itself was formed by former Episcopalians who [broke away](#) from The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada in 2009 over disagreements about marriage for same-sex couples and the ordination of women.

The [second ACNA parish to enter The Episcopal Church](#), Resurrection South Austin doesn't represent a return to Episcopalianism: It was founded in 2015, years after the ACNA split, and only a small percentage of its congregants are former Episcopalians. This fits the profile of most in ACNA's pews: Though data is sparse, the churches that have prospered most seem to be those [founded since the split](#).

"It would be difficult for me to name one person who had been in The Episcopal Church," said the Rev. Shawn McCain Tirres, Resurrection South Austin's founder and rector. That includes all of Resurrection South Austin's clergy, he added.

Like many ACNA churches, it was full of people who grew up in a conservative evangelical Christian church and sought out Anglicanism after becoming frustrated with the evangelical tradition. Over time, the parishioners began to realize that the kind of Anglicanism they wanted to practice would be a better fit in The Episcopal Church than ACNA.

When the question was put to the church membership in 2023, about 120 people — 85% — voted to disaffiliate from ACNA. Some parishioners and at least one priest at Resurrection who didn't want to join The Episcopal Church founded a new ACNA church instead, Immanuel Anglican. (Requests for comment from leadership there went unanswered.)

"I'm excited," Texas Bishop Suffragan Kai Ryan said. "They have a strong ministry in South Austin, and they gather and form people in Christian discipleship. They will bring a lot of gifts," she added.

In an [essay in The Living Church](#), McCain Tirres cited ACNA's "treatment of women, people of color and sexual minorities" as key reasons for moving. "And, while within contemporary Anglican politics there's a tendency to fixate on matters of sexuality (important as they are), I want to resist this oversexualized reductionism."

In an interview, McCain Tirres further explained that his congregants "wanted rootedness and wanted to feel connected to something ancient and global" in joining the long-established form of American Anglicanism. He described the parish as "low-key high church," which broadly refers to a greater emphasis on the Eucharist and ritual, as well as more traditional music. McCain Tirres said that for him it also means making it clear the church welcomes children and their noise and desire to wander around during the service as a blessing to the community.

He said the sacramental character of The Episcopal Church has particular appeal to those who grew up in an evangelical tradition. "The good news about the sacraments is whether or not you feel it, or whether or not you believe it, God is there. That's reassuring in a world of doubts. I don't have to have it all together. The community holds me in faith even when my faith is shaking," he said.

But their parish isn't just about the liturgy. Rez, as congregants call their church, is involved with [El Buen Samaritano](#) (The Good Samaritan), a Diocese

of Texas ministry that provides services to the poor. As an ACNA church, McCain Tirres said, the parish felt it could not fully express its desire to serve those in need.

“Reverence for God without reverence for the poor doesn’t make sense in the Christian faith,” he said. “Some of the conservative evangelicals would flag that as social justice or ‘woke.’ It transgresses something fundamental to white evangelicalism,” he said, adding that some ACNA Christians had called the parish “Marxist” or “woke.”

“We’re a part of this (Episcopal) diocesan family because we found people who are doing the same things we’re doing, ministries of reconciliation without reservation,” he said.

Resurrection, South Austin’s, former diocese, the Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others, declined to comment on the church’s departure.

Tashara Angelle, a parishioner who is now a seminarian for the Diocese of Texas, said Resurrection’s care for the poor was what drew her. “We came because we loved Rez, and how they were seeking justice for the marginalized,” she said.

Angelle, who is Black, said these concerns were central to her faith. “The Black church is very involved in social justice issues, and we knew we had to be somewhere that was a priority, and part of your faith. It’s not just Rez, but The Episcopal Church, that’s a thing they care about. There’s a very spiritual side,” she said.

Over time, she said of Resurrection, “it became obvious we were moving away from the ACNA,” noting, “We felt a little bit like we were on an island.” Though the congregants didn’t know much about The Episcopal Church, she said, “There’s so much community, and it’s so stabilized, and there’s other like-minded clergy,” which was not the case in ACNA. “It feels really good to come into something that’s settled.”

Having attended Church of God in Christ, Baptist and nondenominational churches, Angelle said her own spiritual path had begun to track toward Anglicanism and the priesthood after she encountered Anglican authors, such as [Esau McCaulley](#), a Black evangelical who had become an ACNA priest. She praised McCain Tirres for supporting and developing her call to ministry,

which wasn’t an option for women in the local ACNA churches.

Joel Yu and his family had been Presbyterians until they began attending Resurrection about a year ago. “It’s a bit of an unexpected turn for us as a family that had been Presbyterian for a long time,” he said. “We wouldn’t have thought about being Episcopalian a few years ago, but we’re really excited.”

Yu said he appreciated the episcopal, or bishop-centered, polity that gives the denomination its name. While ACNA has bishops, the denomination’s structure intentionally includes more autonomy for dioceses and parishes, in order to allow for doctrinal differences. “As someone who’s been involved in nondenominational churches, it’s nice to feel like there’s some accountability and support at the diocesan level for the church and church leadership,” he said.

Parishioner Adisyn Pyles and her family had returned to the U.S. after living overseas for several years, and were looking for a church that was passionate about social justice with a developed sense of liturgy. Searching for an Episcopal church and not knowing the difference between The Episcopal Church and ACNA, she came across Resurrection and joined. She feels as if “the move really aligns with our values,” she said.

Pyles has spent her career working with women who have been sexually abused or trafficked, and Resurrection’s commitment to serving those in need, including women at a local domestic violence refuge, appealed to her. Growing up in evangelical churches, she was frustrated by what she felt was a lack of attention to a “holistic gospel.”

While a move from ACNA to The Episcopal Church is rare, McCain Tirres said, the desire for justice-oriented community is not. “Our generation is beginning to take the teachings of Jesus seriously,” he said.

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**Remember!**

Daylight savings time

2:00 a.m.

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

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## Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

January 23, 2025

### As approved at the February Meeting

**Present:** Sally Ludlum, Warden; Jake Wilkins; Jenn Wilkins; Melisa Eichmann; Ann Sullivan; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector. Attended by phone: Cathy Berner

**Call to Order:** Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m., with an opening prayer.

**Meeting Agenda:** Agenda approved with a motion made by Melissa Eichmann, seconded by Sally Ludlum.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Melissa Eichmann to approve the December 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

**Finance:** Report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Cathy Berner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Ann Sullivan. Motion carried.

- **General Fund:** All regular monthly financial obligations were met as well as invoices for USPS box rental, Church Insurance for the first quarter 2025, Fredonia water/sewer, and Forward Movement Publication.
- **Building Fund:** The balance at the end of December was \$5,611.83
- **Memorial Fund:** The balance remains \$3,072.28.
- **Music Fund:** The cash balance at the end of December was \$602.36.
- **Snowden Lane Partners:** In anticipation of financial needs for 2025, \$3,000 from the Sub Cash account was released. Also, \$30,000 in holdings from the Sub account were sold. Both were transferred to the Master Cash account. These actions were approved by the Vestry and by Lake Shore Savings.
- **Pledges for 2025:** As of the First of January, pledges stand at \$80,184. Also received were \$620 in donations. Prepaid 2025 pledges amounted to \$5,140.

**Buildings & Ground:** reported by Fr. Clement.

- Thank you to Chris Eichmann for shoveling the front steps and sidewalks of the church building. Fr. Clement talked with our snow-removal contractor about the plowing of snow in the parking lot and having someone shoveling the sidewalks on a regular basis.

### **Congregational Ministries:**

**Flower Guild:** Melisa Eichmann reported.

- Current account balance is \$380.07, following a deposit made in the amount of \$65. Invoices were recently paid to Brigiotta's for \$363.60; Fresh and Fancy for \$117.95.

**TECW:** Melisa Eichmann reported.

- The Epiphany Tea will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3:00 p.m. Jake Wilkins and Ted Lee, professor at SUNY, will discuss their recent trip to Honduras as part of the Honduras Health Mission. A free-will offering will be taken as a donation to this organization.

### **Rector's Report**

- The annual meeting is Sunday, January 26, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

### **Old Business**

- The 2025 Operating Budget was presented by Virginia Becker. Following a review by vestry and conversation, Jake Wilkins made a motion to approve the budget as presented, which was seconded by Sally Ludlum. Motion carried with unanimous approval. Vestry offered their gratitude to the treasurer for her work on this budget. The operating budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

### **New Business**

- **Parish Treasurer and Vestry Clerk:** Sally Ludlum made a motion, seconded by Melisa Eichmann, for vestry to approve Virginia Becker as Parish Treasurer and Jenn Wilkins as Clerk for this current year. Motion carried.
- **Parish Bylaw Committee:** Ann Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Cathy Berner, for the creation of a Bylaw Committee to update the bylaws of the parish, with the following persons serving: Janeil Rey, Virginia Becker, Melisa Eichmann, Jake Wilkins, and Fr. Clement. Motion carried. The committee will



hold its first meeting in February and make frequent reports to vestry during the year.

- Diocesan Convention Delegates: Cathy Berner made a motion, seconded by Sally Ludlum, to approve Jake Wilkins, Jenn Wilkins, and Lisa Sedlmayer to be presented to the annual meeting as 2025 delegates, including Ann Sullivan as alternate delegate. Motion carried.
- Vestry Election 2025: Fr. Clement and vestry officers discussed the need for stability and continuity as the congregation will face important issues this year, including an upcoming vote on The Partnership dioceses, budgetary matters, and the bylaws process. Vestry discussed Sally Ludlum and Jenn Wilkins remaining for an additional year beyond their three-year term. The congregation will approve this at the annual meeting as well. Jake Wilkins made a motion for vestry to approve this and make a presentation at the annual meeting, which was seconded by Melissa Eichmann. Motion carried.
- Parish Directory: Jenn Wilkins presented a printed copy of an updated Directory for review. A printed draft version will be made available for members to confirm details this coming Sunday.
- Ann Sullivan discussed ideas for engaging new persons attending our worship services.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with a motion made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Jake Wilkins. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Jennifer Wilkins

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## Parish Notes



A new sign-up form to host Sunday coffee hour has been posted in Garland Hall. Donations of coffee and food items are always welcome. **Thank You** to everyone for their participation in this important time of fellowship after our 10:30 service!

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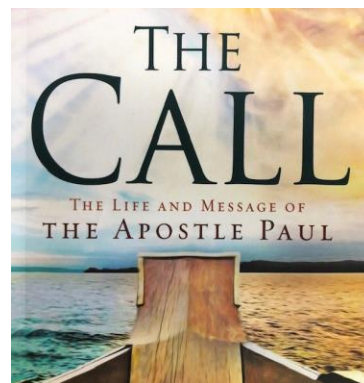
## Ash Wednesday March 5

**10:00 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes (a said service).

**5:30 p.m.** – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

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## Lenten Program and Supper: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., March 12 – April 2



Everyone is invited to join with the rector for a Lenten study based on Adam Hamilton's book, The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul.

This DVD and conversation series will take place on four Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent, beginning March 12.

We will experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary as Hamilton takes us on a journey to modern-day Greece and Turkey. We will travel with him to early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians.

A Lenten supper of soup, salad, quiche, etc., will be served as well. We will gatherer together for this four-week series on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in Garland Hall.

### The Study Sessions:

March 12: *Called to Follow Christ; Called to Go.*

March 19: *Called to Suffer; Called to Love.*

March 26: *Called to Give.*

April 2: *Called to Be Faithful.*



**Organ Recital and Reception:  
Master Class at SUNY Fredonia**

You are invited to attend a free Organ Recital at SUNY Fredonia on Sunday, March 9, at 2:00pm. Rising star organist Nicholas Capozzoli of Montreal will present an hour-long event using the full range of capabilities of the Schlicker pipe organ in King Concert Hall of the Rockefeller Arts Center. Admission is free.

The recital will be followed by an Interlude/Reception hosted by the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation. Then, all are welcome to attend a 4:00pm Master Class taught by Mr. Capozzoli featuring organ students of SUNY Fredonia. The afternoon will conclude at 5:30 pm. Admission is free! Come for all or part of the afternoon.

The event is brought to you by the Carol and Jim Boltz Endowment Fund for the Carol Hofman Boltz Recital Series, and the Buffalo Chapter and Chautauqua Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. For info: [FredoniaOrganExperience@gmail.com](mailto:FredoniaOrganExperience@gmail.com)

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**The Forty Days of Lent:** We will soon enter this penitent period of time to offer ourselves into a way of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This season provides us the opportunity to set aside time to strengthen our spiritual discipline and personal discernment with our relationship with God. May we discover the gift of God's Grace, which is freely offered to each one of us.

I invite everyone to begin an observance of a holy Lent by attending one of the Ash Wednesday services at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The liturgy for Sunday services during Lent will be Holy Eucharist, Rite One. Peace, JMC+

**TECW**

**TECW meeting on  
Saturday, March 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
in Garland Hall.**

**EPIPHANY TEA**  
(Rescheduled from earlier date)

**Sunday, March 16, 2025  
at 2:00 p.m.**

Join us as Jake Wilkins and Professor Ted Lee share their recent trip to Honduras as part of the Honduras Health Mission. The presentation is followed by a chance to ask questions and then it is time for a lovely tea. We look forward to having you join us for this event. No need for you to wear your suit or fancy hat or white gloves. Your presence and open ears are all that's needed. Please join us for this event. Any monies put into the free will offering will be donated to the Honduras Health Mission.

**UPCOMING EVENT: RUMMAGE SALE**  
on April 11-12.

Start sorting!!!  
We will need lots of hands for set up please put this on your calendar. Every hour of help goes a long way to our success.

## **Birthdays in March**

6 Audrey Parker  
12 Dominic Schultz  
17 Bernard Jakiela  
27 Todd Graves  
31 Walt Sedlmayer

## **In Memoriam**

21 David Sherman  
25 Leo Tucker  
27 Edith Tucker  
28 Bruce Graves  
30 Linda Erick

## **Wedding Anniversaries in March**

None in March

### 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

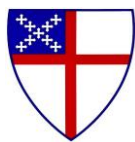
Email: [rector@trinitychurchwny.org](mailto:rector@trinitychurchwny.org)

Donald Fellows, *Organist*

Sara Jagoda, *Custodian*

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*