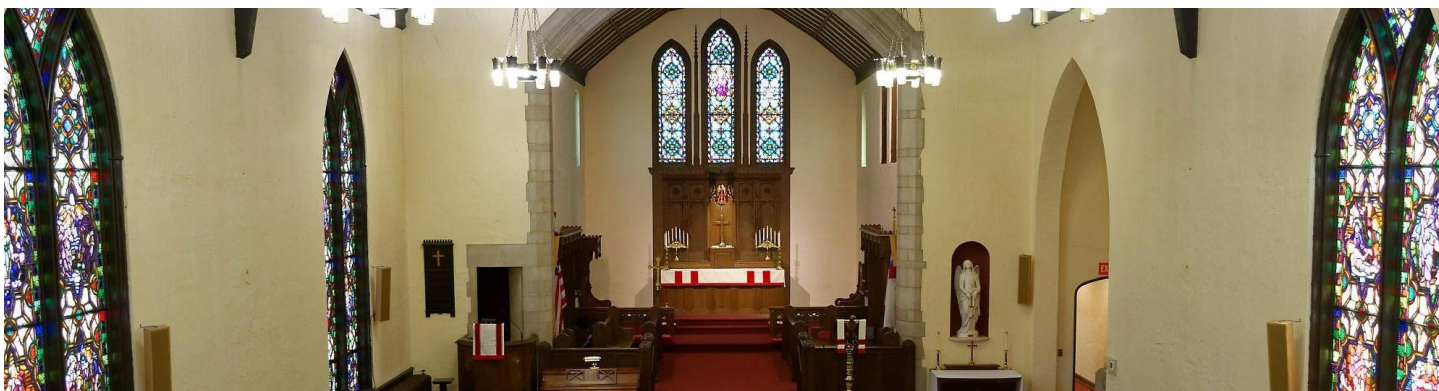




Trinity Tidings

October 2025

Parish Profile: Trinity Church

Greetings to All! As the people of the diocese enter into a process for the next bishop diocesan, you may be aware that each congregation has been asked to complete a parish profile for the search committee. Each completed profile, which is in the form of answering six questions, will also be included in the diocesan e-news each week. Below is the profile submitted for our congregation after consultation with vestry and others in the parish family.

--- Peace, James+

1. **What are some significant moments in the history of your church that have shaped its identity today?** As we live daily with an understanding that God's Kingdom is about the here and the now, we also make plans for the future and honor those persons who came before us in the history of our parish. Trinity Church was founded in August 1822 and called its first rector the following year. After many years of hard work, land was obtained on Barker Commons in the Village of Fredonia for a permanent home. Designed by John Jones, a brick Gothic Revival style building was constructed and completed in 1836 at a cost of four thousand dollars, which included a donation from Trinity Church, New York City.
2. **What makes your church unique in the region and the diocese?** Trinity was received into The Episcopal Church in October 1822, making it the fourth parish to be organized in what was to become the Diocese of Western New York. Trinity is also the oldest Episcopal congregation in Chautauqua County. During the 1850's, natural gas lights were installed in the building, making Trinity the first church in the diocese – and probably in the nation – to use them.
3. **What are the most vibrant ministries or strengths of your parish today?** We are blessed to continue the long musical tradition at Trinity, which includes an organ and choir to enrich our worship services. We also provide a venue for concerts and recitals. We are thankful for the various avenues available so persons may contribute to our parish life, including as a worship service participant, altar guild, prayer shawl ministry, or a parish event. We enjoy our coffee hours and potluck gatherings!
The women's group is an essential ministry. This group coordinates various events, such as rummage sales to raise money for outreach and the Epiphany Tea which hosts speakers to relate information about mission. Like other congregations in our region, a tea luncheon is hosted at the Episcopal cottage by the women's group each summer at Chautauqua Institution. We are pleased with The College Kitchen project that enables us to be present at community events. And we are enriched by the Christian Education presented at the parish, both Adult and Godly Play, and especially the Lenten program and suppers. We also welcome the use of our building by groups of the greater community, such as the Fredonia Knitting Group.
4. **Describe a moment in your community's life when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving you. What made that moment possible?** We know that the presence of God is always with us in relationship, including those high and low moments of our common life together. The stained-glass

windows in the nave of the church are a beloved aspect of our worship space. Depicting twenty scenes of the life of Jesus, the story of these windows also teaches us a lesson about the life of a congregation. To the delight of the congregation, these windows were installed in March 1925. But only two months later, a disastrous fire occurred that destroyed not only these windows, but also the entire interior of the building, the organ, bell, and tower. Only the stone baptismal font and a marble sculpture of an angel survived the fire. Almost immediately, plans were made for the rebuilding of the church. Yet, the structure was not just rebuilt as it was before. Many features of the building's interior and tower were redesigned for the future and a new chapter in Trinity's history. New stained-glass windows were installed in 1926.

In 2018, while preparing for the twenty-first century, the congregation was blessed to fulfill a capital campaign for a full restoration of all the stained-glass windows in the church. The memory of the fire decades ago was ever present in our minds. It was a reminder of a previous congregation who, with hard work and dedication, made a plan from the ashes to rebuild. As stewards of what has been given to us, we continue with our own dedication and work to carry onward for future congregations. Above all else, the story of the fire of 1925 recalls for us what many congregations learn from such an event: It is the people who make up the Body of Christ, the Church, and not its buildings!

5. **How does your church engage with the local neighborhood, the civic life of your community, of diocese and/or Episcopal Church-wide initiatives?** Many persons of our parish family are involved in the business and civic life of our community, including various social and education institutions. These associations allow us to engage with many parts of the community, especially when there is a request for assistance to fulfill a need. Some of these include our support of local food pantries, Chautauqua Rural Ministries and its Friendly Kitchen and Garment Gallery, the Fredonia Fire Department drive, village clean-up opportunities, and our relationship with SUNY-Fredonia.

6. **What are the hopes and dreams of your congregation for its next chapter?** As we move forward in hope: May we increase in the knowledge and the love of God, be ever thankful for those who support our parish and its mission, and continue to welcome all who seek to discover that expression of love and purpose that God has for each one of us.

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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.

Diocesan Convention: October 10-11.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Rummage Sale: Friday-Saturday, Oct. 24-25.

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Episcopal News Service

Fort Worth church purchases property for new home four years after eviction by ACNA.

www.episcopalnewsservice.org

Posted: September 8, 2025

By David Paulsen

A prominent Episcopal congregation in Fort Worth, Texas, that was forced out of its church building and rectory in 2021 over a property dispute with a group of breakaway Anglicans, is celebrating a new permanent home.

[All Saints' Episcopal Church](#) held a [groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 7](#) at the church property that it purchased from a United Methodist congregation at 6036 Locke Ave. The Methodist congregation had merged with another church and now is worshipping at another location on Fort Worth's south side. The Episcopal congregation raised \$11 million to buy and renovate the former Methodist property, with plans to move in by the end of 2026.

"The building has beautiful bones but will require extensive renovations to beautify and modernize,"

Mary Caruthers, All Saints' director of communications, told Episcopal News Service. "We are working with first-class artisans to beautify the nave, which will be a haven for traditional Anglo-Catholic liturgy."

In addition to the internal renovations, All Saints' plans to build two additions: a commercial kitchen and a space east of the nave for sacristies, choir rooms and other liturgical support.

All Saints' is "a diverse but traditional parish of over sixteen hundred members," the congregation said in a news release about the property purchase. "All Saints' is a community that warmly welcomes, strengthens faith, invites all to a deeper relationship with Our Lord, and challenges members to spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth."

The congregation was part of the former Diocese of Fort Worth, later renamed North Texas, which [reunited with the Diocese of Texas in 2022](#). Texas Bishop Andrew Doyle issued a statement congratulating All Saints' on this next chapter of its ministry.

"From its inception, All Saints' has been a testament to the greatness of God," Doyle said. "Established as a mission in 1946 with only 19 people, the faithfulness of All Saints' has remained an undying gift to its congregation and our diocese. Their exponential growth over the years, with over 1600 members today, is a harvest of steadfast and intentional discipleship."

All Saints' was one of six Episcopal congregations evicted from their worship spaces in April 2021 after the Fort Worth-based Episcopal diocese [lost a 12-year legal battle with the Anglican Church in North America](#), or ACNA.

In 2008, a majority of clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese of Fort Worth voted to leave The Episcopal Church over disagreements about the ordination of women and LGBTQ+ people. Most congregations that remained in The Episcopal Church found new places to worship after the split, but six congregations in Fort Worth, Hillsboro and Wichita Falls, Texas, remained in their buildings.

After those six were evicted in 2021, [all but one found temporary homes and resumed worship](#). All Saints' began worshipping in the chapel at All Saints'

Episcopal School, which is on a separate campus from the congregation's former church property. The school was not part of the lawsuit. An ACNA congregation moved into the church building and has begun worshipping there.

All Saints' will continue worshipping at the school until renovations and construction are completed at the new location.

"We are excited to bless this new place where they will continue to grow," Doyle said. "We remain grateful for their continued good works; yet we continue to pray for God's continued blessings. We await what is to come, in thanksgiving for their unwavering stewardship."

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

July 15, 2025

As approved at the September Meeting

Present: Sally Ludlum, Warden; Ann Sullivan; Cathy Berner; Melisa Eichmann;
The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused: Jenn Wilkins; Jake Wilkins; Virginia Becker, Treasurer.

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Sally Ludlum.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Melisa Eichmann to approve the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Sally Ludlum made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Ann Sullivan. Motion carried.

- **General Fund:** Regular monthly expenses paid, including third-quarter Church Insurance, Amherst Exterminators (2nd application), Village of Fredonia

water/sewer, and Forward Publications (Day by Day).

- Memorial Fund: Balance remains the same as last month.
- Music Fund: Current balance: \$545.36.
- Snowden Lane Partners: Transfer of cash on June 24 to General Fund.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- Thank you to the Berners for their work on the front flower beds.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild:

- Current balance is \$185.07. Since the last meeting, two deposits were made (\$220.00) and an invoice to the florist was paid (\$180.00).

Rector's Report:

- The Partnership diocese ended as of July 1, 2025. A new diocesan website has been introduced, which outlines persons on diocesan staff, etc. Fr. Clement presented vestry with a recent letter from the Standing Committee with regard to a search process for Bishop Diocesan. This letter was emailed to the congregation as well.
- In consultation with vestry, Sunday services during the month of August will take place in Garland Hall due to the summer weather conditions.

Old Business

- Autumn Harvest Luncheon: The event will take place in Garland Hall on Sunday, September 21, immediately following the 10:30 service. The church will provide the main entrée; attendees will bring a side-dish to share.
- Parish Audit: The 2024 parish audit was presented to vestry. As a member of the audit committee, Ann Sullivan spoke about the process and the report. No issues were noted. Melisa Eichmann made a motion, seconded by Cathy Berner, to accept the audit report. Motion carried. The report will be sent to the diocesan office.

New Business

- Heritage Pipe Organs: A written agreement was presented for vestry approval for the

tuning and servicing of the pipe organ through July 2028. This agreement provides for tuning twice a year and locks-in the expense of work for the next three years. Sally Ludlum made a motion, seconded by Ann Sullivan, for vestry to approve this agreement. Motion carried.

- Church Building – Front Doors: Melisa Eichmann noted that the front wooden doors of the church are in need of some work due to the full sun they receive. It has been a few years since the doors were resurfaced. Hillside Painting will be contacted to provide this work.
- Vestry will not meet in August for summer break. Financial material for the month will be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. with a motion made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Cathy. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Sally Ludlum.

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Parish Notes

Chancel Choir



Our fall worship schedule has begun and we are grateful to have the return of the Chancel Choir to enrich our Sunday worship together!

We welcome back Doreen, Fred, and the student choristers: Ashlyn, Kaitlin, Zach, and Adrian.



Thank You to everyone who attended our recent parish luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 14. An enjoyable, and relaxing, gathering was had by all!!

+ TECW+

****No TECW meeting** on October 4, 2025.

RUMMAGE SALE TIME

Friday Oct. 24, 9-3

Sat. Oct. 25, 9-12

Bring your precious items beginning
Sunday, October 19th. Items can be
Left in Garland Hall vestibule until
Thursday, October 23-10am.

Please make sure all items are Clean, have all their
parts, if clothes no rips, tears broken zippers etc.

We will be accepting fall/winter clothes, coats,
Boots, shoes, seasonal decorations, kitchen items,
Nic-nacks, lamps, linens (no stains/tears
please), children's items, clean gardening items,
small electronics that work craft items.... You know
the drill.....

A sign up sheet to help with the sorting organizing
pricing and event is found in Garland Hall on
bulletin Board. No amount of time is too small to
make a huge difference.

Thanks in advance for your items and your gift of
time.

SOCKTOBER IS HERE

It's time to bring in those NEW socks you've been
buying here and there all year. This is an annual
collection sponsored by the Northern Chautauqua
Community Foundation. They in turn give them to
those in need in our community.

Socks of all sizes and types are needed especially
with the fast approaching cold weather. Needed are
work socks, lounge socks, children's socks, everyday
mens and womens socks. The key is they need to
be NEW, still in their package. If you have odd pairs
left from sets you are not wearing donate those to
the rummage sale.

Last year we collected 151 pairs-can we match that
number this year? With YOUR help we can. There
will be two boxes for collection. One by the front
door of the church and always available is box in
Garland Hall vestibule.

Please bring your socks by MONDAY OCTOBER
27th so we can get things packed up and down to the
NCCF office.

Also, don't forget donations of pound boxes of Penne
Rigate pasta are always welcome to supplement our
monthly dinner for the Rural Ministry. They can be
left in the kitchen of Garland Hall.

-- Your TECW

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

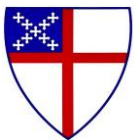
The Revd. James Clement, Rector
Donald Fellows, Organist
Sara Jagoda, Custodian

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
Fredonia, New York 14063

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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