Recreation and Re-Creation

In my few short years here, I have come to love June in Cleveland. There’s something about the perfect weather (following, of course, many months of less-than-perfect weather) that lends an energy of celebration and rest just at the time that so many of us need it. It’s time to go to the ballpark, to the Metroparks, or just out for a walk in the neighborhood.

Yet June is so much more than that, especially for people of faith. It is a season of liberation and hope, of promise and witness, when instead of simply heading to the beach we head out into the heart of our communities and houses of worship to name how God calls us to live in community.

Trinity Cathedral will kick off June – Pride Month – by joining our siblings in The Episcopal Church and all those in northeast Ohio for the annual Pride in the CLE march on June 3. Led by our LGBTQ+ fellowship, more than 35 marchers from Trinity will join with more than 125Episcopalian and our bishop coadjutor to march, sing, and celebrate the image of God in all people. To be a member of a cathedral that’s a sacred place for all people means advocating for our city and nation to be a sacred and dignified place for all people as well.

The following day we’ll observe Wear Orange Sunday in church on June 4, the day that happens to also be Trinity Sunday. Through our liturgy and the colors we wear, we will grieve the loss of so many to the epidemic of gun violence, and call for continued work to put an end to this crisis. To live in dignity and safety means that every life is sacred, and that we worship God, not the gun.

On Sunday, June 18th, in addition to Father’s Day we’ll observe Juneteenth, the commemoration of the liberation of slaves (or rather, the day that folks in Texas finally learned about their liberation). In our songs and our prayers we’ll pray for an end to racism and the sinful legacy of slavery, and hold fast to the hope that we can become God’s beloved community. On June 25 we’ll draw Pride Month to a close with a celebration of our LGBTQ+ siblings, and the gift they are to the Body of Christ.

June is indeed a month to open our windows, go outside, and bask in God’s gifts to us. I pray that it can be a time of sabbath and refreshment for you. I also hope that you will use that time of recreation to do the work of recreation, of joining with God to create a community that is more loving, more welcoming to all, and more affirming of the presence of the divine in all of God’s children.

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Mission Team Fair

Trinity will be hosting a gathering on Sunday, June 11. It’s our first mission team fair, to be held in Cathedral Hall between 9 and 9:50 a.m., between the 8 and 10 a.m. services. Find opportunities to help out in many different ministries of the cathedral, learn more about the mission team structure and meet other folks wanting to share the love of God throughout Trinity’s world.

This will also be a Sunday Schmooze day, to be held in the cathedral garden, weather permitting. Enjoy some good food and drink, not just the traditional coffee and cookies. All of Trinity’s Mission Teams will be participating:

- Worship, Art & Music
- Congregational Life
- Invite, Welcome, Connect
- Adult Faith Formation
- Diocesan and National Church Ministry
- Children & Youth Formation
- Neighborhood Partnerships
- Peace, Justice and Mercy

If you have questions, please contact Ginger Bitikofer, gbitikofer@trinitycleveland.org, or the Rev. Adrienne Koch, akoch@

Summer Sundays

Worship Services at 8 and 10 a.m.
May 28 through September 3

Adult Formation 9 – 9:50 a.m.
Children & Youth Formation 9:20 – 9:45 a.m.
June 4 through August 27

Thursday Healing Eucharist

Did you know that Trinity holds a midday service every Thursday? Join a quiet, profound service that offers a mid-week respite for worshipers. This Eucharist is open to all and, if desired, worshipers can receive a laying-on of hands and anointing for healing of themselves or others. This service is held in the chapel at 12:10 p.m.

Cool, Casual Cathedral

Not only do our service times change during the summer, the church has a more laid back, casual atmosphere. The services are just as inspiring, but you’re encouraged to dress cool and casually. Shorts are definitely appropriate, as the cathedral is not air conditioned. The seating formation in-the-round gives you new vantage points of the cathedral and also helps the congregation see one another better.
On May 17, longtime Trinity member Pam Myers and Director of Children's and Youth Ministry Eric Travis were in charge of the games for neighboring Marion-Sterling School's spring carnival. The weather held out, so everything took place outside. The kids loved the Giant Jenga game as well as cornhole, and they won tickets that could be redeemed for prizes. Other activities included a roller skating rink and a petting zoo!

We were pleased to help out in this neighborhood partnership and we're looking forward to continuing our friendship with the school and its students, including our new pen pal program, when the school year starts again in August.

Feeding the hungry... naturally!
- Over 22 tons of food donated since 2006
- Less than a mile from the cathedral
- Help feed the people of Cleveland’s Central neighborhood
- Beautify an inner city block with flowers and attractive landscaping

The difference is you!
You can be a part of ministering to the neighborhood by volunteering at the urban farm. Tasks include weeding, planting, mowing, trimming, building, prepping, harvesting, weighing, transporting and more. Visit trinitycleveland.org/urban-farm for more details or contact Scott Blanchard at sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org.

Bible Study Classes Available Online
Did you miss Professor Bob Fowler’s recent Bible study class, The Puzzle of Paul? You can still participate in the class virtually at your own pace, through videos on Trinity’s website. In fact, you can learn from several of Bob’s most recent courses, including How Matthew Elbowed Mark Aside and Became the #1 Gospel, The Lord’s Prayer Nobody Knows, and The Gospel of Mark: An Unfamiliar Gospel of an Unfamiliar Jesus. Visit trinitycleveland.org/bible-study where you can not only watch videos of each of these class sessions, but also access handouts and class materials.
1946: An Inside Look at the Documentary Film

On Sunday, June 25 at 9 a.m. in conference room A/B, the adult formation hour will be dedicated to 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture. Trinity partnered with the Cleveland International Film Festival to present this award-winning film at this year’s festival.

Research done by the filmmakers reveals that the word “homosexual” was never present in previous translations of the Bible and its origin traces back to this 1946 biblical translation.

The actual movie is still making its rounds through film festivals, from coast to coast as well as festivals in Canada, England and the Bahamas. We will watch a video featuring Sharon Roggio, director of 1946 (and herself a member of the LGBTQ+ community), to learn more about the film-making and research behind the true story and this history-changing moment. At the conclusion of the program, we’ll watch the trailer for the film. The film itself will be available after the 2022-23 film festival circuit concludes.

Summer Programming on the Book of Psalms

This summer, adult faith formation will focus on Bible study on the Book of Psalms. Starting June 4, a variety of Trinity facilitators will lead the discussion. Sessions will take place Sundays in conference room A/B at 9 a.m.

Psalms helps us express ourselves to the Lord. The book is filled with words to pray and songs to sing. The psalms remind us to remember the God who is the beginning and end of all things, to rest in His sovereignty, and to have joy in all circumstances.

Join medievalist Dr. Emily Butler (also a member of the Cathedral Choir, Trinity Chamber Singers and administrative assistant for Music & Art at Trinity Cathedral) to learn how the psalms were studied in the Middle Ages. This will take place on June 4 and August 27 and will bookend the study from the Kerygma program – Psalms: Passion, Promise & Praise. The psalms have been part of communal worship in Jewish and Christian traditions for millennia, but they were also foundational texts for medieval education and scholarly explanation. Emily will examine a few manuscripts and the notes that medieval scribes made around the psalms.

Starting July 2 through August 20, the Psalms: Passion, Promise & Praise will begin. This seven-week course, led by Trinity facilitators, shows the richness of the psalms in terms of spirituality, personal growth and worship.

Give Me a Song of Hope

On Sunday, June 18 at 9 a.m., experience a labyrinth walk and meditation honoring the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, who lived one of the most remarkable lives of the twentieth century. She was an American civil rights activist, advocate, legal scholar and theorist, author, poet, and – later in life – an Episcopal priest. Murray’s work influenced the civil rights movement and expanded legal protection for gender equality. In fact, Murray was arrested for sitting in the whites-only section on a Virginia bus 15 years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat.

To register for the labyrinth walk, please visit bit.ly/PauliMurrayLabyrinthWalk.

Thursday, June 15, Trinity will host a virtual group watch party of the film My Name is Pauli Murray, at 6 p.m. in advance of the walk that Sunday. You’ll learn more about her life, activism, passion for justice. To register for the watch party, please visit bit.ly/WatchPauliMurray. The film is 1 hour 33 minutes and you need to have access to Amazon Prime to join. If there is interest, we will organize an in-person group, too. Once you register you will be sent a link just prior to the watch party. It is not necessary to participate in both activities. If you have questions, please contact Cynthia Ries at cynthiaries@gmail.com.
Safe Church and Young People

Why it is Important

by Eric Travis, Director, Children's and Youth Ministries

The safety of children and youth is important here at Trinity Cathedral. We have a large facility with many nooks and crannies, and our building is open most of the time during the week and on Sunday. We strive to create a safe and welcoming space for all young people as well as working to prevent abuse and misconduct. One of the ways we do this is through our safe church training.

Safe Church, Safe Communities is the replacement for Safeguarding God’s Children and Safeguarding God’s People. This training helps participants to identify and respond to potential abuse and harassment. Taking the Safe Church training is of the utmost importance for adults who work with young people.

The training includes learning about healthy boundaries, inclusion, power and relationships, bullying, abuse and neglect. While it is a requirement for all adults who work with young people to take these courses, I believe that all adults at Trinity should be trained, as it is our collective responsibility to make sure our young people are safe.

If you would like more information or to sign up to take this course, please contact me at etravis@trinitycleveland.org. Additional information is available at episcopalchurch.org/safe-church, including a video featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and others. Let us continue to make Trinity a sacred (and safe) place for all people.

Save the Dates

June 25
Pride Sunday

August 27
Blessing of the Backpacks

September 3
Sunday Ice Cream Social
Schmooze

September 10
“Rally Sunday,” program year and Sunday school resume

September 23
Congregational Picnic

October 1
Solemn Eucharists resume

October 4
Brownbag Concerts resume

October 4
Choral Evensong resumes

October 8
Blessing of the Animals

Celebration of Bishops and Staff

Everyone is invited to a diocesan-wide celebration of Bishop Hollingsworth, our assisting bishops, our retiring bishop’s staff members and all their colleagues on June 17 from 2 – 6 p.m. at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights. This outdoor event, designed for all ages, will feature live music and food trucks (including the Bellwether Airstream with ice cream). Please RSVP (form.jotform.com/23103721960145) by June 8. Contact transitioncommittee@dohio.org with questions.

Trinity will offer summer youth formation for all students in Pre-K through twelfth grade. It will be offered each Sunday from 9:20 to 9:45 a.m., in between the 8 and 10 a.m. services in conference room C/D. It will be a fun time to dig deeper into faith and community.

Children and youth will join with adult facilitators for studying, storytelling, learning about the Bible and Jesus, games, crafts, activities and more.

No registration is required, just come. The chapter room will be open for parents to connect or just relax while their children are in class. Another alternative for adults is adult faith formation held in conference room A/B from 9–9:50 a.m.
Have You Taken a Trinity Tour?

Have you ever taken a docent-led tour of the cathedral? It’s a great way to learn more about the history, art, architecture, and mission of the church over time. Cathedral tours are given the first Sunday of alternating months; two upcoming tour opportunities are on Sunday, June 4 and Sunday, August 6 after the 10 a.m. service. To take the tour, you can meet at the altar around 11:15 a.m.

Darrell Lausche, one of Trinity’s newest docents, said, “Tour participants are surprised to know that the cathedral is the third physical structure in which our congregation has worshiped over its 207-year history. I love to show the stones embedded in the baptistery font that are from the river Jordan, near the Damascus Ford, the site of Jesus’ baptism. Our connection to the Holy Land continues at the high altar with the Mensa, a small stone from the quarry of Solomon and site of the crucifixion, embedded in its center. Sharing these details helps reinforce my connection to the evangelism of Jesus and his message of God’s love for all, no exceptions.”

Docent Bill DiTirro adds, “Each tour has a life of its own, depending on the audience, their interests, and their questions. We encourage guests to learn not only about our history, but about how it fits into the history of our city and nation.”

Historically Black Churches in the Diocese of Ohio

The Episcopal Church did not split over the issue of slavery as many denominations did. The division of the diocese into a northern and southern section in 1875 was due to the growth of the church across Ohio. African Americans worshiped in the existing Episcopal Church as they chose, and there are no recorded instances of problems.

Although the first “Negro” church, St. Andrew’s, Cleveland, was founded in 1890, other predominantly Black churches in the diocese have included Church of the Incarnation, 1895, located on 105th St., which later moved to Ramona Blvd.; All Saints’, Toledo 1903; and St. Augustine’s, Youngstown, 1907. Incarnation changed its name to Transfiguration and merged with Emmanuel on Euclid Ave. after Emmanuel’s membership had become primarily Black. The church was closed in 2004 and eventually demolished in 2014, but not before pipes from a Skinner organ located there were removed, donated by the Diocese of Ohio, and put into storage to eventually become part of Trinity’s Muller-Aeolian/Skinner organ, installed in 2021.

St. Paul’s, East Cleveland became predominantly Black when that neighborhood changed. It is now closed. Calgary Church at 93rd and Harvard was started by the diocese in 1982. It is now closed.

St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Youngstown, 1921, was started by Lenora Berry, a layperson with “a vision.” She wanted to organize a church for Black people. On July 28, 1907, the first meeting was held at her home. The building was labeled an historical site in 2008 by the Ohio Historical Society because it was the oldest African American congregation still in its original building in Youngstown. The church was eventually closed, propelled by the push by people moving out of the city which began in 1960. The building was demolished in 2019.

St. Philip, Akron, was founded as a mission in 1923. It was reorganized and become St. Philip’s Church in 1951 under the leadership of the Rev. H. Irving Mayson. In its early days, Sunday services were held in a room at the Akron Community Center, but with an increase in membership, and the dedicated support of the parishioners, the goal of a permanent church building was realized and dedicated in 1958. Father Mayson went on to become Archdeacon, and later, Bishop Suffragan of Michigan.

All Saint’s, Toledo, organized in 1903, is still in existence. Started as a mission by people who were very active in the community, its first meeting place was a rented hall with an improvised altar, which could be dismantled during the week. Although the congregation had been small, the membership and clergy were always actively involved in the community. It grew in membership and influence, and was accepted as a parish, rather than a mission, in 1957.

* Portions of this article are reprinted from Highlights of Black History in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.
A MESSAGE FROM VESTRY

Trinity is hiring for a new staff position, Director of Development and Community Programming. Please inform those who you think may be interested to look for it on our website.

Repairs to Cathedral Hall from water damage are complete! Also, sound system improvements and the installation of a hearing loop in Cathedral Hall were completed in April. Both Trinity Cathedral and Music & Art have passed the financial audit process for 2022, having received a clean opinion from the auditors.

The columbarium – located in the lower level – has been expanded by 66 niches. Options for accessing a niche will be shared with the congregation soon.

The current vestry goals include working towards our intention to offer caring support as needed to cultivate relationships with congregants, including those in virtual ministry. An outreach campaign is under development and details will be forthcoming.

Did you know there are committees of the vestry? The committees are made up of vestry members and at-large members. At-large members of the Music & Art board are elected by the vestry whereas at-large members of the other committees are appointed. If you have interest in serving on any of these committees, please reach out to clergy or a member of the vestry; currently there are no term limits for those roles, with the exception of the one marked with an asterisk.

Committees of the Vestry Rosters 2023

Executive Committee
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Jeff Spiess, senior warden
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, junior warden
Paul Herrgesell, treasurer

Music & Art Board
Beth Billings (chair)
Bill Fuller
Clifford Hill
Jon Logan
Mark Malloy
Wendy Miano (treasurer)
Bradley Upham
Todd Wilson, staff liaison
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

Audit Committee
Paul Herrgesell, chair (treasurer)
Melody Hart
Daniel McGuire
Ernest Petrey
Marilyn Valencia (vestry)
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Dan Hout-Reilly, controller

Finance Committee
Paul Herrgesell, chair (treasurer)
Julie Harnocz
Andrew McCollister
Daniel McGuire
Jeff Spiess, senior warden
Marilyn Valencia (vestry)
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Dan Hout-Reilly, controller

Investment Committee
Gregory Althans, chair
Ensign Cowell
Melody Hart
Paul Herrgesell (treasurer)
Steve Roberts
Ute Vilfroy
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Dan Hout-Reilly, controller

RePresentatives from KeyBank
Daniel Moore
Craig Mosier

Nominating Committee for 2023
(1 year term*)
Becky Fuller*
Karla Rivers*
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Martin Hermes (vestry)
Toni Ponzo (vestry)
Marilyn Valencia (vestry)

*At-Large Representatives are determined at the annual meeting in the prior year for a one year term.

Personnel Committee
Jeff Spiess, chair (senior warden)
Gary Benjamin
Mark Biddlestone (vestry)
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd (junior warden)
Amy Ryder Wentz
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

Property & Sustainability Committee
Dave Miano, chair
Mark Biddlestone (vestry)
Bill DiTirro
Steve Gittins
Martin Hermes (vestry)
Barbara Hermes
Diane Hexter
Corinne Wallner, staff liaison

Stewardship/Development Committee
Cynthia Ries (chair 2024)
Becky Fuller (co-chair 2025)
Luke Taylor, (co-chair 2025)
Beth Billings (vestry)
Don King
Kathy Raymond
Robert Smith
Did you know that the Muller/Aeolian-Skinner chancel organ can record and play back what the organist just played, exactly as they just played it? The instrument has a built-in sequencer, which converts notes on the keyboard, stops and pedals into computer data files. This includes any musical dynamics (the variation in loudness between notes or phrases) that the musician performs. You can think of it like a player piano that plays the music without anyone pressing the keys. This adds to the many great features of this magnificent instrument and is helpful to the organist, as they can walk around to hear the organ from various spots in the nave where the tone and balance of sound is different than at the console.