Electing a Bishop

This month, for the first time in nearly 20 years, we elect a bishop!

The election of a bishop is one of the most exciting, spirit-filled, and consequential things that we do as Episcopalians. It’s not just a responsibility; it’s truly a gift, a once-in-a-decade (or less) opportunity to celebrate our ministry while also listening to where the Holy Spirit may be calling us next.

Just how important is this? Start with what we call our church: we are the Episcopal church. That word comes from the Greek word *episcopos*, or bishop. We have chosen to organize our life of faith and practice around the pastoral leadership of bishops, faithful leaders with gifts for vision and administration who support the people of God in a particular place.

Our church raises up bishops as symbols of both unity and witness. The earliest bishops were successors to Jesus’ twelve apostles, and we recognize in our bishops today the apostolic witness of those earliest believers.

It is a big job. Our next bishop will be the pastoral leader of 80 congregations, she’ll be the pastor to the clergy and will join her sibling bishops in leadership of the wider church. Our prayer book, in the liturgy of ordination, describes in detail what that leadership means:

*A Bishop in God’s holy Church is called to be one with the apostles, proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and interpreting the Gospel. She is called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the church...to provide for the administration of the sacraments...to ordain priests and deacons...to be a faithful pastor and wholesome example...and to share with (other) bishops in the leadership of the Church.*

In this profoundly sacred time, I ask you to hold this election in your prayers. I invite you to add to your devotions this prayer, adapted from the Church in the Province of the West Indies:

*Almighty and ever living God, in all ages you have raised up faithful shepherds to pastor and guide the faithful. Increase in us the gifts of discernment and understanding that, the convention of the Diocese of Ohio, soon to meet, might know and do your will as we prepare to elect a bishop coadjutor.*

*Good Shepherd, in you we place our hope and trust: hear the prayers of your faithful people, lead us to one mind and one heart in you, and show us that shepherd who will feed and tend your flock and, in turn, give glory and honor to your name.*

Amen.

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY

At the October vestry meeting Dean Owens updated everyone on the activity related to the bishop search related to the cathedral being very involved providing support to the candidates and the wider diocese. Voting cathedral delegates to convention are Dale Murphy, Ute Vilfroy and Charlotte Nichols. Dean Owens asked vestry members to reach out to other congregants encouraging them to read the biographies, watch the individual videos provided by the three candidates and contact our delegates with their thoughts/preferences. April 29, 2023 will be the ordination and consecration ceremony of the new bishop at Trinity Cathedral having an important role.

Dean Owens reported that ongoing conversations about the future of Mather Hall are taking place with community agencies with missions that align with Trinity. He is hopeful these conversations, including the diocese, could develop into a future plan. He has been invited to several community events and has had very positive interactions with President Bloomberg at Cleveland State. The Rev. Adrienne Koch provided the prayer at her inauguration. Cynthia Ries reported for the Stewardship Committee. Pledges are being received from the congregation and it is anticipated as the campaign ends, many more will be received. On Saturday, October 29 the committee hosted a chili dinner with Todd Wilson playing music for the silent film The Phantom of the Opera. It was a time of thanksgiving and fellowship.

Paul Herrgesell provided the Treasurer’s report and stated as in the past months, monthly income for the cathedral remains above budget and expenses are well below budget. Commons income is currently slightly below budget, but expenses also remain low. In September, parking income was almost at pre-pandemic levels which is a positive trend. The Key Bank investment report reflects what is happening in the wider financial community affected by global trends causing a decrease in Trinity’s investment assets. However, the Investment Committee is monitoring our investment portfolio closely and, in consultation with Key Bank, will continue to watch and wait at this time. At the November vestry meeting it is anticipated that a draft budget will be available for review and discussion with a final version ready for December.

Mark Biddlestone reported for the Property and Sustainability Committee. The hearing loop installation is in progress for Conference Room A/B. The Stained-Glass Subcommittee met and provided a recommendation to the Property Committee, reviewed at their November meeting, before making a recommendation to vestry.

Rev. Koch reported for the Cathedral Ministries Committee and has requested that all ministry team chairs provide 2023 dates for their events. Currently she is working to ensure that all ministry groups are under the care of a specific team so that no needs/plans are overlooked. Mission teams will begin reporting to vestry in March 2023.

You can find vestry minutes at trinitycleveland.org/vestry. The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. As always, if you have any concerns, you may send them to the wardens at yourvestry@trinitycleveland.org or contact any member of vestry below.

Vestry Members
Gary Benjamin
Mark Biddlestone
Elizabeth Billings
Martin Hermes
Paul Herrgesell,
Treasurer
Diane Hexter
Audrey Hudak
Linda Lee
Dale Murphy
Cynthia Ries
Patricia Roberts,
Senior Warden
Jeff Spiess,
Junior Warden

Trinity Urban Farm Wraps Up 17th Season

The Trinity Cathedral/Charlie Comella Urban Farm has concluded its 2022 season. The final harvest was 2,420 pounds and volunteers worked a total of 743 hours. All the food was donated to families in need in our Central Neighborhood through The Friendly Inn Settlement’s free food pantry program.

Because our harvest by weight was not one of our best, we decided that there are other things we should measure to appraise the success of our season:

- We welcomed 13 new volunteers from inside and outside of Trinity, many of whom returned to work multiple times.
- We welcomed 2 volunteer groups (that have become annual regulars) from the Cleveland Clinic.
- The Daughters of the King held a special prayer walk dedicated to the memory of Debbie Hunter which concluded at the urban farm.
- We grew lima beans and black-eyed peas for the first time, based on a request from the Friendly Inn.
- We cleared brush and built 6 new beds in phase one of a small expansion. In spring 2023, we will connect these beds to our drip irrigation system.
- We amended the soil in our existing beds with 3 truckloads of leaf humus plus our own compost.

If you’re interested in volunteering at the urban farm in 2023, look for announcements starting in February in this newsletter, The Trinity Weekly and the Sunday bulletin.
THE TRINITY FORUM
DECEMBER 4
THE REV. LISA FISCHBECK

The Dean welcomes the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, founding vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is the author of Behold What You Are: Becoming the Body of Christ written to open the possibilities of liturgy and liturgical awareness, Sunday by Sunday and season by season. The discussion will explore how the wide range of liturgical expressions, from traditional to innovative, can shape our spirituality and deepen our relationship with God.

PANEL DISCUSSION:
ANNUAL DIOCESE OF OHIO CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Join Dean Owens and Trinity’s delegates and alternates to the 2022 Diocese of Ohio annual convention Sunday, November 13 at 10:10 a.m. in conference room C/D. Trinity’s delegates are Dale Murphy, Char Nichols and Ute Vilfroy. Alternates include Darrell Lausche, David Lawrence and Sandy Luther. The discussion will be about the upcoming Diocese of Ohio convention taking place November 19-20 at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown Key Tower. This year, the primary business of the convention is the election of a new bishop coadjutor, who will succeed Bishop Hollingsworth in 2023. This is the first bishop election in nearly two decades.

Hear from the delegates and alternates, ask questions and give feedback leading up to this big event. This event is in-person only. There will be no livestream or recording.

The Light Will Shine: Advent Bible Study

Join the Rev. Adrienne Koch for a five-week Advent Bible Study, Sundays at 10:10 a.m. in conference room A/B. Discover new light in traditional texts and find fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent, concluding with a special Epiphany class after the holiday.

- Nov. 20: Watchful Expectancy
- Nov. 27: John the Baptist
- Dec. 11: The Fulfillment of All Promises
- Dec. 18: The Dawning of Day
- Jan. 8: Shine, Jesus, Shine – Epiphany

We will be using the curriculum of The Kerygma Program, a non-denominational course of study and resources for Adult Bible study with proven strategies for developing and sustaining effective study groups. Kerygma’s mission is to provide studies that can increase biblical knowledge and understanding, enhance personal spiritual growth, and deepen appreciation for worship.

If you have questions, please contact Adrienne at akoch@trinitycleveland.org.

Advent Retreat: The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck

This year’s Advent retreat will be held on Saturday, December 3 and be led by the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Trinity

Keeping Advent Real: Rev. Fischbeck offers us a theologically gritty look at Advent using Fleming Rutledge’s sermons as a springboard. Rutledge is one of the first women to be ordained in The Episcopal Church and is a renowned and insightful preacher and writer. This retreat invites us to accept the invitation of Advent to confront the realities of darkness, light, and our mortal lives.

Fee for the retreat is $25 which includes lunch. Contact akoch@trinitycleveland.org with questions or scholarship opportunities. You can register for the retreat at bit.ly/AdventRetreat2022. Registration accounts for dietary restrictions.

Get Ready for the Christmas Giving Tree

Trinity members and friends will have the opportunity this holiday season to support our neighborhood children with Christmas gifts and much-needed clothing items, through the Christmas Giving Tree.

On Sunday, November 13, we’ll have a tree in the promenade with gift tags on it including clothing needs and gift requests for each child. Choose a tag and bring back your gift by December 11 (St. Nicholas Sunday). If you are unable to shop but wish to make a financial gift, look for an announcement of an online giving location on our website or send a check to Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 with Marion-Sterling Giving Tree in the memo line.

If you would like to help shop for gifts or wrap gifts, please contact Becky Fuller at sniderfuller@sbcglobal.net.
Experiencing God’s Love

by Eric Travis, Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries

I have a sticker on my laptop that says, “God’s love can’t be explained, only experienced” and I think about that saying often as I work with our young people. Experiencing God's love is as varied and unique as each person at Trinity Cathedral. Each person is welcomed and loved for who they are and just as they are, including our children.

The Children’s and Youth Ministry Mission Team is working hard to continue to have Trinity be a place of welcome, inclusion, and joy for families with children and youth by offering opportunities for our young people to be a part of our worshipping community. You may notice that our young people bring up the bread and wine during the 9 a.m. service, or that there is a soft space in the east transept for little ones to engage their hands while participating in worship. These activities, along with children's chapel, Sunday school, and youth group are the conduits through which our young people are experiencing God's love, yet they are not the only ones.

You too can be a conduit for sharing God's love with our young people. Greeting and saying 'hi' to a child is a great way to share the love of God. Having patience and grace when a child gets a little too noisy during a service is another way to share God's love with them. Getting to know a family with children and praying for them is an awesome way to share God's love. These are just a few examples of the many ways we can share God's love with the children and youth at Trinity Cathedral.

If the ways of experiencing God's love are as varied and unique as each person, then the ways of sharing God's love are just as varied and unique. I thank you for inviting me into this wonderful community and I pray that we all may increase in sharing and experiencing God's love.

YOUTH GROUP PIZZA & PAINTING

On November 13, from 1–3 p.m., the Youth Group AC (after church) will meet at The Art Palace, home of the Kings & Queens of Art at 1385 E. 34th St. Participants will be painting wooden statues to be located at Trinity's urban farm. We'll work with local artist Gwendolyn Garth, who created the statues and has an art garden of her own on the same block as the urban farm. Pizza will be served for all! Please pre-register at bit.ly/YGOuting.
Pen Pals at Marion-Sterling School

Trinity is offering a new pen pal program with our neighborhood partner, Marion-Sterling School, to encourage intergenerational relationship-building while spreading kindness through handwritten correspondence. Look for our unique new mailbox in the promenade which we will use for written letters to the students and their return mail. If you would like to be a part of writing regular letters to first and second grade students in Cleveland’s Central Neighborhood, please email markmlaseter@gmail.

Thanksgiving Dinner for Marion-Sterling Families

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful to God for our blessings and to share with others. One way Trinity does this is by partnering with Marion-Sterling School and St. Hubert’s Episcopal Church in Kirtland Hills to provide a thanksgiving meal to every Marion-Sterling family. Many of these families might not be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner without your help. Stop by the table in the promenade every Sunday in November to pick up your shopping list and your Trinity shopping bag to fill with Thanksgiving dinners. You can drop them off any time before November 20th at the front desk, or on Sundays (November 6, 13 and 20) at the table in the promenade.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) Tackles Minority Juvenile Justice

On December 6 at 7 p.m., Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) will hold a hybrid meeting consisting of 300 people live at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (8712 Quincy) and on Zoom for those who can’t attend in person. The issue is the racial disparity in juvenile justice when minority juveniles are tried as adults and sent to adult prison at a much higher rate than Caucasian juveniles. GCC wants this practice stopped or modified because it is discriminatory and tends to create adult criminals rather than rehabilitate minors. GCC member Marilyn Valencia, who attended meetings regarding the issue writes, “There are a lot of reasons to halt the binding over of juveniles to the county system. For me, it seems cruel to place a young person in an adult prison no matter the crime, since the defendant is not an adult. Further, youth should not lose access to the age-appropriate services available in the juvenile system; these youth may have greater needs and experience greater benefits from these services than other youth. If a young defendant is bound over to the adult system does that increase the presumption of guilt? Finally, it disturbs me that a youth that is incarcerated in the adult system will not have access to the same education as those in the juvenile detention system.”

If you are interested in attending this meeting contact Gary Benjamin at benjaminlawohio@gmail.com or go online and register at: us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register.

Voter Registration

GCC has been working with about 500 intermittent voters in Cleveland and Cleveland Heights to empower them with information and a desire to vote. This includes voter registration work and door-to-door canvassing building relationships with those voters.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Growing the CSU/Trinity Partnership

Cleveland State University inaugurated Laura Bloomberg, Ph.D. as their eighth president on Saturday, October 8.

The invocation was written and delivered by the Rev. Adrienne Koch, Trinity’s priest associate. It was commissioned for the investiture ceremony at the inauguration.

In You All Things Hold Together

God of many graces,
God of many names,
We call upon you, this day.
For you are the Creator
of all things,
And in you all things hold together.

Heavenly light and earthly sun,
Ohio-gray clouds and rain,
As fall leaves clatter in the chilly breeze,
You hold all things together.

In wind and wave your Spirit flows
Down the ancient Cuyahoga.

From the city of 10,000 lakes, to this city on Lake Erie,
We come from every other place,
But you hold us together.

Hear our prayer as a hymn: Jummah,
Veda, Shema;
Hear the cries and spirituals of your people.
Every color of skin, every texture of hair,
Each vibration of vocal cord and tongue.

Greasy hands in steel mills, and basement boiler rooms,
Latex gloves in surgery bays & rehab clinics,
Lotioned fingers tapping keys in offices, clutching dreams,
In you all our hands hold together.

Two men entwine fingers,
While two women kiss,
A man and a woman embrace.
Wrap around us this day,
Each child of God,
Cling as tightly as a trans chest binder,
For you see every one, love each as we are,
And in you each one holds together.

So, hold us, we pray,
In all that we are,
And in all that we are becoming.
Hover, as you did at the dawning of time;
Help us sprout new creations among us.
Bless Cleveland State, by your grace,
And its new president.
Use the people of this university,
To remind Clevelanders that through all our work,
It is you who holds us together.

Looking forward to the Holidays

For those of you who like to plan ahead, Trinity has announced its service times for the upcoming Christmas and New Year’s holidays. We’ll have an earlier service Christmas Eve as requested by some of our members.

Saturday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. Family Eucharist & Pageant
10 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Sunday, December 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
10 a.m. Eucharist with Carols

Saturday, December 31
THE BOAR’S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL
(for the first time in 3 years!)
2 p.m. (One showing only)

Sunday, January 1
10 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols

The Greening of the Cathedral

Join members of the flower guild as they prepare delightful decorations for Christmas, Sunday, December 18 from 12:30–3 p.m.
Advent Lessons & Carols

Trinity will hold a service of Advent lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption.

Lessons & Carols services in the Anglican tradition began in 1878 and were formalized as a Christmas service in 1880 by the Bishop of Truro, later Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson. An Advent version of the service – normally carried out as a procession with lessons and carols – developed slightly later at King's College and is now celebrated around the world, normally as an evening service on the first or second Sunday in the season of Advent.

Each of the readings in some way foretell the coming of Christ. The readings alternate with choral anthems and congregational hymns, and each reading is preceded by one of the “Great O Antiphons” for Advent. The choir moves gradually from back to front of the cathedral, and the nave changes from darkness to light over the course of the service.

Choral Evensong – Wednesday Evenings at 6 p.m.

November 9
The service commemorates Richard Rolle (English hermit, mystic, and religious writer), Walter Hilton (an English Augustinian mystic, whose works gained influence in 15th-century England and Wales) and Margery Kempe (an English Christian mystic, known for writing through dictation The Book of Margery Kempe, a work considered by some to be the first autobiography in the English language).

The Rev. Keith Owen (retired rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood) will officiate.

Sopranos of the Cathedral Choir
Service: Sarah MacDonald in A-Flat

November 16
Margaret, Queen of Scotland (an English princess and a Scottish queen. Margaret is also known as Saint Margaret of Scotland and sometimes “The Pearl of Scotland”.

The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights will officiate.

Choristers of St. Paul's Cleveland Hts.
Malcolm Archer: Berkshire Service

November 30
St. Andrew the Apostle (an apostle of Jesus. Brother of Simon Peter and son of Jonah.

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens will officiate. Trinity Cathedral Choir
Eckelmeyer: Trinity “Hodie: Service” written by Trinity member Judy Eckelmeyer.

This will conclude the Evensong season for Fall 2022. Services will resume on February 1, 2023.

BrownBag Concerts

Held Wednesdays at 12 noon, Music & Art at Trinity Cathedral has presented these concerts free-of-charge since 1978.

November 16
Amethyst String Quartet
A program of symphonic video game music, illustrating how classical music has influenced this billion-dollar industry

November 30
Holiday Organ Favorites
Todd Wilson and the students of the CIM Organ Studio bring us festive seasonal music played on Trinity’s two great pipe organs.

December 7
Britten: A Ceremony of Carols
The treble voices of the Cathedral Choir and harpist Jody Guinn join in Benjamin Britten’s seasonal masterpiece.

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APATT Returns to Hot Meals!

On Sunday, November 13, our A Place at the Table (APATT) Sunday lunch program will return to a hot meal served inside Cathedral Hall. Since the closures related to the pandemic began in March 2020, Trinity provided a carry-out “lunch to go” distributed through the cloister adjacent to Cathedral Hall. We are pleased to return to the program as it has been run in most of its 40 years, with hot nutritious meals served inside, providing our guests with a brief respite from the outdoor elements.

The program is seeking additional volunteers to help prepare for, serve and clean up afterwards. Members will be part of a team, serving every 6 weeks, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Trinity’s team leaders Marilyn Valencia, Paul Herrgesell and Greg Skrocki could use a few more volunteers—we already have 23 Trinity folks that are assisting this ministry but we would like to have 30. Contact Ginger Bitikofer gbitikofer@trinitycleveland.org, 216.774.0407 if you have any questions.

Cathedral Connections
Prayer Requests: Doreen Hughes, 216.774.0415, dhughes@trinitycleveland.org
Donations: bit.ly/PeriodicOnlinePayments
Space Rentals: trinitycleveland.org/facilities-use-requests
Cathedral Connections: Submit your news items by sending to sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org