

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Apalachicola, Florida



Trinity Episcopal Church is a vibrant and engaged church. We seek a rector to join and lead us as we continue in worship, spiritual growth, community, outreach, and service. Inquiries: transition@trinityapalachicola.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
79 6th Street

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Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick,
Bishop

TRINITY



APALACHICOLA

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA

Trinity Episcopal Church is a warm and friendly place where every person is treated like a member. Some describe the church as family and a place to become recentered. “Walking up the steps and being welcomed by greeters who look you in the eye makes you want to be a part of Trinity,” says a parishioner.

Known as Apalachicola’s “Historic First Church,” Trinity is one of Florida’s oldest churches. An act of the governor incorporated the church in 1837. In 1838 the Apalachicola Land Company conveyed a lot to the vestry and pews were sold to finance construction. The church structure was prefabricated in White Plains, New York, and sent by ship to Apalachicola where it was assembled in 1839.

Established in 1831, Apalachicola lies in the panhandle of north Florida in Franklin County. Our limited accessibility via Highway 98 and unspoiled beaches helped trademark the name “Florida’s Forgotten Coast” in 1992. Once a major Gulf Coast port, the seafood industry continues, along with tourism.

According to the 2020 census, Apalachicola’s population is around 2,500 and 11,000 in the county.

[Trinity Episcopal Church](#)

Located at 79 6th Street
Apalachicola, Florida 32320

For more information about
Apalachicola, visit

[Discover Apalachicola](#)



WORSHIP

Trinity is a traditional church striking a mean between high and low church liturgical practices. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Hymnal are our standards. We invite all to share in the Eucharist. For the readings we use the Scripture Text Bulletin insert from the New Revised Standard Edition of the Bible.

Trinity currently holds one service on Sunday mornings. The 10:30 a.m. service observes Rite 2 and is augmented by choir, organ, and piano. A previously held 8 a.m. service followed Rite 1 and did not include music. Attendance at this shorter service was slight, but regular.

LAY MINISTRIES

Because of our limited size, parishioners have opportunities to claim their ministries at Trinity. The lay ministries of Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Verger, Prayer Leaders, and our Music Program are included in the preparation or celebration of Trinity's worship services. A Healing Ministry is offered at the chancel rail prior to the 10:30 a.m. service.

MUSIC

The music is traditional, and the preludes are inspiring. *Wonder, Love, and Praise: A Supplement to the Hymnal 1982*, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* are also used for songs. An Evensong service traditionally kicks off Trinity's annual tour of homes event each May.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Various opportunities for spiritual growth are available in the Trinity community.

Covering a broad range of topical discussions based on selected books and readings, Monday School returned in October 2022 led by two members.

A new Bible study class taught by a parishioner on Sunday mornings focuses on the Gospels in chronological order.

What began as Bible study paired with a communal dinner for parishioners living 25 miles away, the Outback Bible Study continued to thrive through the pandemic by way of Zoom video conferencing. Anywhere from ten to 20 participants (parishioners, plus Trinity nonmembers) discuss readings from books of the Bible to other writings with a religious focus.

Normally held on an annual basis in advance of the bishop's visit, a new inquirer's class offers steps to being received or confirmed.

In the past, Trinity has offered Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year study program sponsored by the University of the South School of Theology.

A weekly Tai Chi class taught by a member in Benedict Hall seeks to offer physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits. Natural Spirituality appeals to members and nonmembers of Trinity who delve into inner work through the sharing of dreams.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Trinity's congregation is the proud steward of the Greek Revival-style church building along with two other historic structures: the Rectory (1900) and Benedict Hall (1932). For almost three decades, the Tour of Homes ministry has hosted the Historic Apalachicola Home and Garden Tour that benefits the preservation and maintenance of these historic buildings.

Located between the church and the parish hall, Trinity's Memorial Garden provides niches for the interment of ashes of deceased parishioners. A mosaic fountain, designed and created by parishioners, serves as a focal point. An ongoing project, the rear walkway is lined with bricks honoring departed loved ones.

In 2011 Trinity purchased property adjacent to the church grounds that included a house built in 1975. A substantial donation from a parishioner helped renovate the building into office space for the rector, a prayer room, a library, a reception desk area, storage, and a conference room.

STAFF

In addition to a full-time rector, Trinity's staff includes a part-time parish office administrator who provides general office support to the staff and committees, and a musician. Our treasurer is a volunteer position.

photos left to right: Trinity Rectory, Memorial Garden, our annual Home & Garden Tour



PROGRAMS

Outreach is an important part of the ministry at Trinity. Through our efforts we act as Good Samaritans for our community. The population base of Franklin County is not an affluent one, and there is much work to be done.

Penny's Worth, a thrift shop operated by the church, provides donated clothing and household goods at bargain prices. When needs dictate, such as loss from a fire, items are distributed free of charge.

As a founder, Trinity continues to provide monetary and food donations to the Food Pantry of Franklin's Promise, as well as funding and nutritional supplements for Big Bend Hospice.

Through budgeted donations and our cookie ministry, we support the county elder care council in providing weekday meals for seniors.

For the daily food needs of school-age children, we are working to provide regular funding for Backpack Buddies.

A program that came about during the pandemic, the Trinity Outreach Award provides new laptops to students who are college bound or enrolled in an alternative school receiving their high school diploma.



*photos top to bottom:
Penny's Worth thrift shop,
laptops for college-bound high school graduates,
Polar Express family event with Bring Me A Book
Franklin and Franklin County Learning Center*

Trinity Church is a venue for the Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts concert series and the Bay Area Choral Society. Several of the experienced vocalists in Bay Choral are Trinity choir members.

Benedict Hall – our principal meeting space and the meeting place of local organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous – recently received needed renovations.

Trinity's grounds are part of the John Gorrie Museum State Park. A founding member of Trinity, Gorrie is credited as the inventor of mechanical refrigeration.



*photos top to bottom:
Bay Area Choral Society
Christmas concert,
Benedict Hall during
renovation,
Trinity Market and bake
sale benefitting Trinity's
community outreach
ministry*

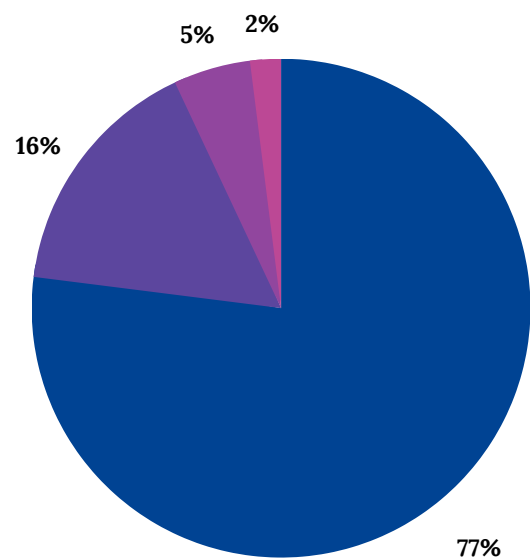




TRINITY MEMBERSHIP

Many people come to Trinity from other denominations. Except for the Methodist and Baptist churches, Trinity is the only mainline Protestant congregation in Apalachicola. For some, it can be a challenge to understand what it means to be Episcopalian. During our annual meeting, a discussion of this topic created quite a buzz. Several people expressed interest in learning more about the Episcopal Church, its doctrines, beliefs, and organization. Our regular supply priest is graciously facilitating a series of sessions to explore these questions.

We hope more inquirer's classes, as well as a group that incorporates newcomers into our ministries, will encourage attendees to take steps toward becoming confirmed communicants in good standing.



- Trinity Member 77%
- Member of another denomination 16%
- Member of another Episcopal Church or seasonal communicant 5%
- Not a church member 2%

PARISH SURVEY



Debbie Hooper



In August 2022, the New Rector Search Committee issued a parish survey – a questionnaire to serve as an update to the in-depth church survey taken in 2018. Following are the results from this survey.

Currently, Trinity has 90 active adult members and 14 active nonmembers (*support Trinity, financially but define oneself as nonmember*).

Of the 58 surveys returned, our congregants are:

60%**MIDDLE AGE & OLDER**

60% are 56-75; 33% are 76 or older; 7% are 36-55

62%**MAJORITY FEMALE**

62% female
38% male

70%**MOSTLY MARRIED**

70% are married; 9% are in a partnership; and 7% are single, divorced, or widowed

82%**FULL TIME RESIDENTS**

82% live in the area full time

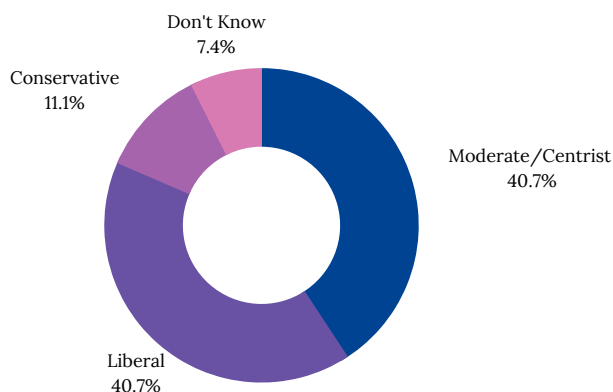
59%**REGULAR ATTENDEES**

59% weekly
34% 2-3 times a month

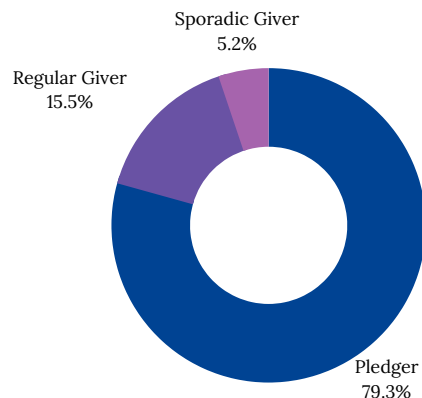
66%**LONGTIME ATTENDEES**

66%, 11-15+ years
29%, 2-10 years
5%, less than 2 years

THEOLOGICAL VIEW

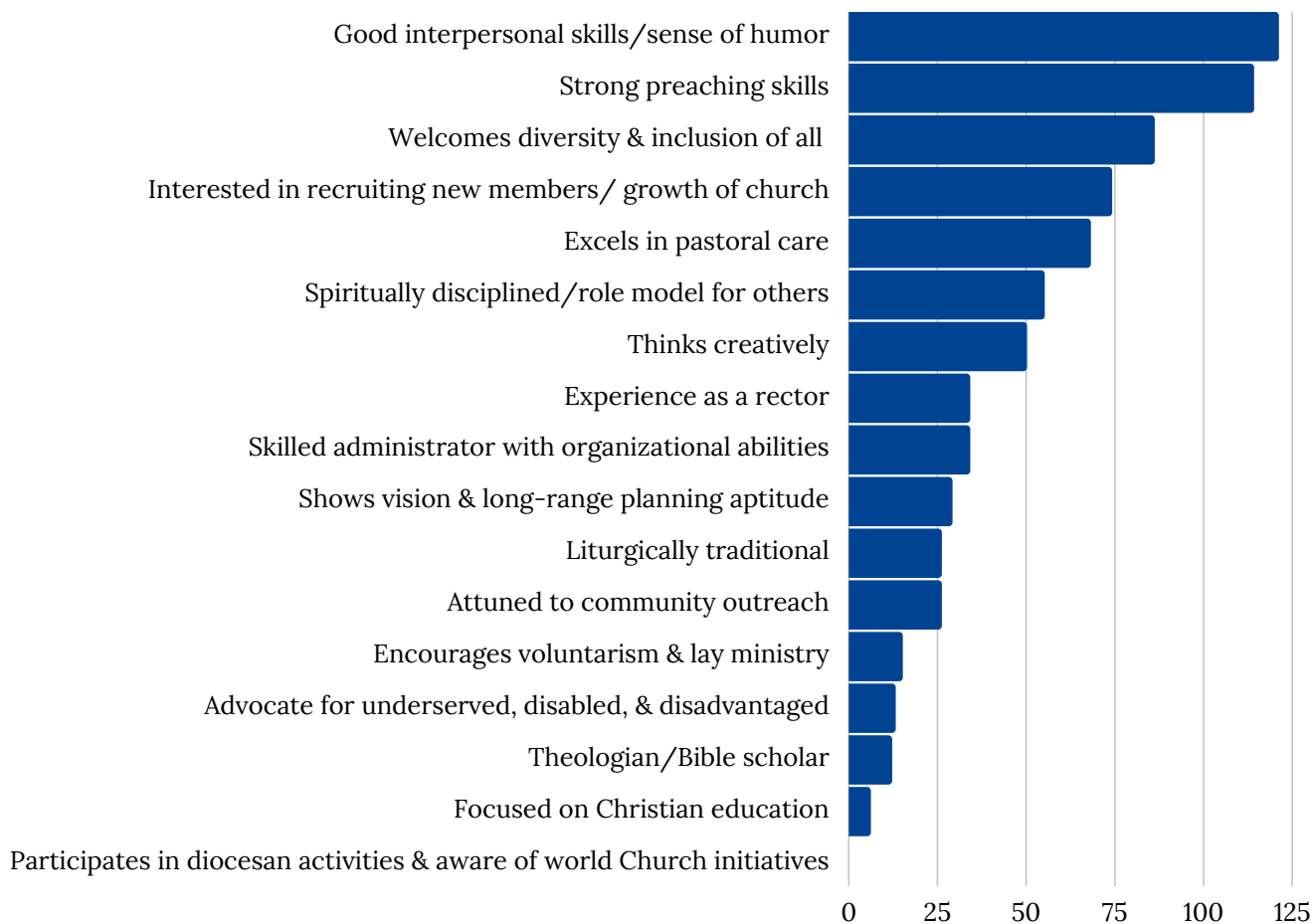


GIVING PATTERN



TOP 5 NEW RECTOR QUALITIES / CHARACTERISTICS

IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE



IN CLOSING

Our recent journey has helped us discern who we are as a congregation and who we want to be.

In preparing for a new rector, skillful parishioners helped the search committee conduct nine parish forums. Information from the survey and these small groups has helped us examine our strengths and weaknesses and discover the aspirations we hold for Trinity's future.

We realize we need more conversations, more small groups, and more social activities where parishioners can engage with one another.

Our worshipping community reflects the Apalachicola community. We have become a church with retirees, and they are still coming. How do we invite them in? How do we handle an aging congregation? How do we address wealth disparity that continues to grow in our community? A strategy with input from the whole congregation is needed.

While realizing it is not the sole responsibility of the rector to make Trinity "go," we are committed to *calling a pastor who will care for us and equip us in our ministries* for the days ahead.



Trinity Episcopal Church, Apalachicola

<http://www.trinityapalachicola.org>

