

# Trinity Episcopal Church Apalachicola, Florida



## Annual Report - 2025



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# Trinity Episcopal Church

*Established in 1837*

*The Reverend Stephen Pecot, Rector*  
*Jean Bush, Parish Administrator*

*A parish of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

## SERVICES

**Sunday: 10:30 am (Holy Eucharist)**  
**Wednesday: 8:15 am (Morning Prayer), 8:00 pm (Compline, via Facebook)**

## CONTACT

**Church Address:** 79 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320  
**Office Address:** 76 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 667, Apalachicola, FL 32329-0667  
**Church Office:** (850) 653-9550  
**Your Rector:** (850) 653-7978  
**E-mail:** [info@trinityapalachicola.org](mailto:info@trinityapalachicola.org)  
**Website:** [www.trinityapalachicola.org](http://www.trinityapalachicola.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/trinityapalachicola](http://www.facebook.com/trinityapalachicola)  
**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/@trinityapalachicola](http://www.youtube.com/@trinityapalachicola)

## YOUR VESTRY AND OFFICERS – 2025

	Term Ends	Vestry Liaison
<b>Senior Warden:</b> Jason Carter	2026	<i>Stewardship, Tour of Homes</i>
<b>Junior Warden:</b> Kerry Petty	2026	<i>Penny's Worth</i>
<b>Members:</b> Karen Kessel	2027	<i>Memorial Garden</i>
Alan Pierce	2027	<i>Worship, Flower Guild</i>
Dee Crusoe	2026	<i>Parish Life</i>
Denise Butler	2025	<i>Finance &amp; Communications</i>
Chris Presnell	2025	<i>Outreach</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Bill Zester		
<b>Clerk:</b> Susan Farmer		

## RECTOR'S 2025 REVIEW

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am reminded of a theme coursing through much of 2025 for me: Paul's teaching that we are one body with many members (I Corinthians 12:14). Our body lost some parts, portions of what make us who we are. We grieve over that. I presided over 14 funerals this year (7 members or former members of Trinity, and 7 people desiring a Christian burial). But I also rejoice at the new additions to our body of faith, with people coming back to Trinity, joining as new members, or visitors who find our church welcoming. More than a few people have said yes to a life with Christ, and they are making Trinity their spiritual home just like you.

I try to stand back and take in the sights from afar now and then. What I saw at Trinity in 2025 was a church fully breathing again. All churches held a collective breath during the pandemic and pulled in close. Some did not make it, but Trinity did. In a big way: since mid-2023, we have grown in our ministries, scope, and attendance somewhere between 25 and 30%. Sundays continue to see increased attendance. There is more engagement between Trinity and the community. With credit to the Finance Committee and Vestry, we have allowed our investments held by the diocese to grow significantly, reinvesting most or all of the yields the past several years. This creates an appropriate 'rainy day' fund when our buildings face significant repair, for example.

Maintaining the shared spaces for the use by the congregation and ensuring we can meet long-term facility demand was front and center in 2025. Much of it was invisible; let me explain. Up until last year, Trinity had deferred a significant number of repairs until the parish had stabilized on several fronts. In my view, it did in 2024, resulting in a list of tasks and capital projects long needing addressing. In 2025, we completed the backlog of projects around the campus, funded by Doss Charitable Foundation grants as well as private donations, contributions from Tour of Homes and Penny's Worth, and the general Trinity budget. A list of these completed projects is included in this report. Your Junior Warden, Kerry Petty, deserves a huge pat on the back for ensuring these projects were completed on time and within budget.

The hidden maintenance projects allow us to focus more on the external and visible aspects of our parish. It is not a time to rest on our laurels. Let's focus as a church on what the next decade leading to our bicentennial holds for us. Does a ministry need some TLC? Is there interest in bringing back or starting a ministry? Does a ministry need to change its scope or focus? I encourage each committee chair to lead their members in prayerful discernment next year to this end; I am happy to help in any way.

I am reminded daily we are one body of many members, and 2025 could have gone many different ways. We finish this year on a high note, thanks to you. Attendance is the highest in nearly 15 years, and Penny's Worth is ending its best year ever in sales. Trinity is thriving every day of the week because you care enough about God and others to donate some of who you are to this little piece of heaven along a forgotten coast. Thank you for that.

Love Big and Be Well,



The Reverend Stephen Pecot  
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church

## CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

### VESTRY

*The Vestry is a seven-member body annually elected by the congregation. Two important non-voting positions, the Treasurer and Clerk, are appointed by the rector and approved by the Vestry. The Vestry oversees, in conjunction with the rector, the temporal duties and workings of the church. Each member serves a three-year term.*

### SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

It's hard to believe, but another year has quickly passed as we say farewell to 2025. This past year saw Trinity continue with the momentum of the past two years. Our parish membership is growing, our facilities are in excellent condition, our ministries are thriving, and our financial footing is sound. We celebrate and give thanks for the wonderful blessings God has shown Trinity! Special thanks go to Father Stephen for his loving leadership, his community presence and impact, and his faithful teaching of God's love for us all. Thanks also go to you, Trinity's parishioners, for your hard work, dedication, and sharing your talent, time, and treasure. Working together, Trinity remains a special place in Apalachicola.

I also want to thank the Vestry members for their presence, participation, and patience in managing the business of the church and providing steady and thoughtful stewardship of Trinity's resources. The Vestry exists to serve the Parish, and this Vestry has faithfully continued the rich tradition of servant leadership at Trinity. I want to encourage everyone to communicate ideas, needs, and concerns with Vestry members so that we may be of best service to you.

2026 will be another year of opportunity to share God's love with each other and our surrounding community. I look forward to serving alongside each of you in the coming year. Blessings to all!

- Jason Carter



### JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

*"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ... Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." -- Romans 12:4-6*

As I began my work as Junior Warden, this Scripture became a guiding theme. It reminded me that caring for our church buildings is not the task of one set of eyes or ears but the shared effort of the whole body of Christ. Each person's perspective and gifts helped reveal what needed attention.

Early in the year, a walk-through with Stephen and Jason brought several needs quickly into view: rotted boards behind both the church and rectory, broken windows in Benedict Hall, and the need for power-washing the buildings. These were the obvious first steps.

Other improvements came directly from the insights of our congregation. A young family helped us recognize the need for a changing table. The choir shared the need for upgraded lighting, and others pointed out how lighting affects worship for those in the balcony. Members with technical skill guided us in improving the audio/visual





system to strengthen our online ministry. Concerns about sound quality led us to install acoustic panels in Benedict Hall, with additional speakers on the way for the sanctuary.

We also saw that Penny's Worth needed renewal. Fresh interior and exterior paint and new flooring have brightened the space and strengthened this important community ministry, along with three new HVACs to keep the shopping climate comfortable. We have also stabilized the foundation of this building to prevent further settling.

Finally, we have addressed many projects that were put on the back burner the past several years. These include a new hot water heater for Benedict Hall along with upgrades in the kitchen to better support church-wide events as our congregation continues to grow. As Father Stephen indicated in his comments, taking on old or deferred projects makes for more work now but enables us to respond to ongoing maintenance and meet the needs of a growing congregation.

*"From Christ the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." --  
Ephesians 4:15-16*

May we continue to grow together as one body, each offering our unique gifts for the good of the whole.

- Kerry Petty

## FINANCE

*The finances of the church are managed by the Vestry under advisement by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee's mission is to assist the Vestry and match resources with projected expenditures to meet priorities set by the Vestry.*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Zester is the Treasurer, but for purposes of organization I act as the Finance Chair. The Finance Committee meets on a regular basis and provides the necessary financial information to the Vestry. This includes a general summary of financial health and a state of the budget, presented by the Treasurer for monthly vestry meetings. The Finance Committee is responsible for development of the annual budget and presenting to the vestry prior to the annual meeting. Diocesan investments are reported quarterly.

- Alan Pierce

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship remains strong at Trinity. The Stewardship Committee (Jason Carter, Alan Pierce, and Barry Lawson) focuses primarily on the financial health of the church. Our stewardship drive in 2025 resulted in 58 pledges, which was similar to last year. Fortunately, any decrease in pledges (such as people moving away) was offset by new pledges. Though life events will take loved ones away from Apalachicola, 2025 saw an influx of many new people attending Trinity. We gain strength and confidence when people become members.

Our digital giving service, through Anedot, integrates well with our other communication efforts and allows convenient and secure online giving opportunities. We began this service back in 2024 with a choice of 3 funds to choose from. We now have 5 funds available to specify how your donation can be spent. In 2025, we have collected just over \$22,646 through this service, a three-fold increase from last year. We currently have 21 donors (up from 15 in 2024) who use this service via one-time payment or automatic recurring monthly donations.

To put this in perspective, 160 individuals gave financially at some point to Trinity this year (58 of these being pledgers). This includes regular giving, pledging, donations, and memorials. Many more give anonymously as part of the loose plate on Sundays. The Stewardship Committee will continue to do its work quietly and to help people flesh out a balance of time, talent, and treasure that speaks to the individual call of ministry.

- Jason Carter

## ENDOWMENT & GIFTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Endowment and Gifts Committee oversees the following church funds invested through the Diocese. There have been nice gains this year:

FUND	BALANCE 9/2025
<b>Endowment Fund</b> (balance now adequate to start help funding Outreach from earnings)	\$91,422
<b>Restoration &amp; Preservation Fund</b> (fund designated to cover insurance deductible \$50,000)	\$49,493
<b>Maintenance Reserve Fund</b> (monies designated for large, unbudgeted, unexpected maintenance needs & large, known, scheduled maintenance - like painting buildings)	\$61,784
<b>Herbert &amp; Pearl Marshall Fund</b> (75% of earnings in any year may be used for "religious purposes")	\$28,503
<b>Genevieve Marshall Altar Fund</b> (for altar supplies – fund to be cleared by end of 2027)	\$ 2,242
<b>Sabbatical and Transition Fund</b> (monies for sabbatical @ 7 years for current priest and for expenses of transfer of a new priest when called)	\$16,165
<b>Young Fund</b> (historically, a set amount of funds has been automatically taken as part of budgeting process – in recent years, monies only taken if and when a shortfall occurs in a given year)	\$779,757
<b>TOTAL DIOCESAN INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$1,029,366</b>

Our investments are certainly doing well. As you can see, most of the funds have specific designations as to spending. For the record, and contrary to some belief among the congregation, we do not have unlimited funds to be spent at will.

- Tom Edwards

## COMMUNICATIONS

*The goal of our communications at Trinity is to strengthen the commitment and involvement of our congregation, connect new members to ministries, and increase community involvement to sustain future viability and growth.*

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

During 2025, the Bay View, Trinity's e-newsletter continued its bi-weekly publication schedule, keeping members and friends informed of Trinity's activities. It goes out via email, along with some mail distribution, to 310 Trinity parishioners, visitors, and friends. Content includes church activities, new program initiatives, community service and entertainment opportunities, and photos of members' travel adventures and family visits, as well as the Trinity

Ten feature that showcases members in a more personal, light-hearted way. This year, we introduced a new feature – Reader Reflections – a series of offerings written by parishioners on their favorite spiritual books.

The various Special News formats allow for on-demand distribution when we have time-sensitive information to communicate, including death announcements, parishioner needs, upcoming events, and special worship services. This year, in addition to the 26 regularly scheduled Bay View emails, we distributed 7 Special News, 8 From the Rector, 3 News from Penny's Worth, and 7 Tour of Homes.

In addition to the 310 Bay View subscribers, we have built a distribution list of 794 individuals who have purchased Tour of Homes tickets, donated to the Pillars program, and/or volunteered as greeters over the past six years. This marketing tool enables us to create targeted electronic messages to those who are especially interested in our annual home tour and auction.

This year, 54% of readers accessed the Bay View on their desktop computers, while 46% read it on their mobile devices/tablets. These statistics reflect a significant shift to mobile viewing; last year the breakdown was 95% desktop/5% mobile. We enjoy a 70% 'open rate' (people who open the email), which is twice the current industry average of 35%, indicating that our readers find the e-newsletter relevant to their interests.

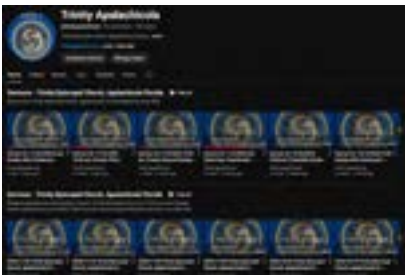
Our website, ([www.trinityapalachicola.org](http://www.trinityapalachicola.org)), serves as a basis for our external communications, and features Trinity's rich history, as well as information on worship and spiritual growth; parish and community life; and, news/special events. An average of 53 visitors/week were recorded this year (a 17% increase over last year), with 97% representing new visitors. We are beginning an update of the website, to feature major facets of Trinity life on the home page, which will more effectively showcase the vibrancy of our parish.



On The Tour of Homes website ([www.apalachicolahometour.org](http://www.apalachicolahometour.org)), ticket sales and Pillars donations were again available via the web-based store this year. Online ticket sales (392) increased by nearly 50% this year, and 17 Pillar donations were made online. During 2025, this website drew an average of 97 visitors/week. Viewership peaked on tour day (May 3, 2025) with 530 views. This is likely a result of using a QR code for visitors to easily use the website for the tour map and home descriptions.

On our Facebook page, @trinityapalachicola, we provide a community-wide presence where we promote traditional events, as well as special worship services on the liturgical calendar. Wednesday Compline and Sunday Sermons are popular video posts with both repeat and new viewers. We have 631 Facebook followers, including members, friends, and local residents. Interestingly, 68% of our followers represent the 55+ age group; 75% of all followers are women. On our Tour of Homes page (@ApalachicolaHomeTour), we have 1,900 followers, which reflects the widespread geographic popularity of this annual event. Also, the Tour of Homes Instagram account (apalachicolahometour) has 879 followers. The Penny's Worth (@pennysworthapalach) Facebook page, established in 2021, now has 289 followers, a 54% increase from last year.

In an effort to broaden Trinity's reach beyond its own walls, the Rev. Stephen Pecot continues to record and stream Sunday services and publish them via our YouTube channel (@trinityapalachicola) as well as Facebook. These videos have received 1,500 views in the last year. Stephen also offers Wednesday evening Compline via Facebook Live.





Trinity's online Church Directory, featuring photographs, as well as contact information, enables members to quickly obtain phone numbers, addresses, and emails that streamline one-on-one communication. Parishioners are finding that the mobile app and a direct computer link to the directory make the directory even more accessible, allowing users to call, text, or email directly from the member listings.

- Kay Carson

## CHURCH MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

*Spiritual growth is an important part of the Christian life. At Trinity we are constantly refining the opportunities to learn about the Bible, The Episcopal Church, and the modalities that abound which challenge and support our lives together.*

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Being a Christian is as much about what we do inside our sanctuary as what we do outside the church walls. While Christian Formation classes help us further our faith, so too are the myriad opportunities to experience God's love everywhere. This includes when we welcome newcomers to the faith through Holy Baptism, Reception, or Confirmation. But it also includes liturgies that are not part of the typical "Sunday experience". This includes community and diocesan events that help broaden our walk with Christ.

Formal catechism classes were offered twice in 2025 to accommodate an influx of those wishing to join Trinity. We are blessed! In June 2025, The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, diocesan bishop, visited Trinity and welcomed seven new members as Episcopalians (Anne Avery, Sabrina Fornes, Jennifer Keel, Kathie Leyendecker, Kathy McKendree, Warren Middlemas, and Judy Stivers). A second group began in October 2025 with nine participants (Mark Dorward, Joan Faison, David Fowlkes, Mollie Hill, Kaz Kaczmarek, Teresa Kaczmarek, Kim Miller, Amelia Wolferseder, and TJ Wolferseder). These persons will have the option to be received as Episcopalians when the bishop makes his annual visit to Trinity on February 15, 2026.



Cursillo is a diocesan-level experience offered to participants free of charge and held at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center in Fairhope, AL. Many Trinity members have attended these uplifting weekends. In 2025, Trinity sponsored two pilgrims for the Cursillos #172 and #173, held in March and September 2025. Stephen and Travis Pecot will again serve on the staff of the March 2026 Cursillo #174 weekend.

Our Sunday School program continued in 2025 with a chronological history of the Gospels (September – May, led by Jason Carter) and themes of the current week's lectionary readings (June – August, aka "Lectionary Learners" led by Landy Luther).

Much of what can and will be taught depends upon you, though. Please get in touch with Fr. Stephen about what you would like to be learning in 2026.

- Stephen Pecot

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## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) REPORT

EfM is a four-year course offered through the University of the South at Sewanee and is a fulsome experience into the Christian life. Each year focuses on different segments of the church and Scripture (Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology). If you are interested and want to learn more, reach out to Father Stephen. Several Trinity members have enrolled, completed, or taught these classes! If you have an urge to help facilitate this course with me, I want to speak with you. We can get you certified (or recertified) to be part of something exciting! Though Trinity once had a vibrant EfM ministry, the last several years has not been kind to this group of faithful students. It is my hope that an EfM class will begin once again at Trinity.

- Stephen Pecot

## WORSHIP

*The Worship Committee consists of chairpersons of the different groups that assist in our services. This includes the Altar and Flower Guilds, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), acolytes, lay readers, and music. The committee assists the rector by coordinating the schedules of all aspects of our worship service.*

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## WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

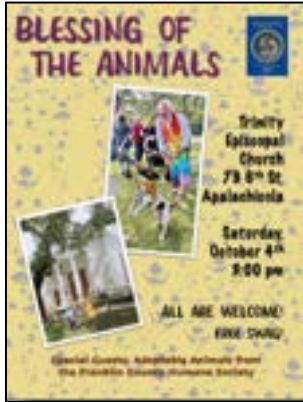
*"Here I am! Send me!" -- Isaiah 6:8*

The members of the Trinity Worship Committee are committed to serving the people of our church by assuring that the services are planned in accordance with liturgical practices as well as the suggestions of our Rector. The committee meets as needed to prepare in advance for the church seasons.

The Worship Committee is led by the rector and includes the chairs of the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Music Program, Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors. Each chair of these committees is responsible for recruiting, training, and scheduling the volunteers who participate so willingly in in these ministries. With so many of the laity involved in worship, the committee does an amazing job orchestrating the participants and their schedules. The committee is also ready to advise and assist our rector in making changes as desired.



During 2025, worship services at Trinity were held in our historic church and around the community. Each week we celebrate three services: Sundays at 10:30 am (Holy Eucharist with Communion); Wednesdays at 8:15 am (Morning Prayer with Communion); and Wednesdays at 8:00 pm (Compline, hosted on our Facebook page only). Throughout the year we celebrate various feasts and holidays. These may take us from the prayer-soaked walls into the community. On Palm Sunday, we marched around Gorrie Square. We celebrated Holy Saturday in the Memorial Garden. We held a Sunrise Service on Easter Morning at Lafayette Park along with an Easter Egg Hunt immediately after the main service. We celebrated Eucharist from a paddleboat, canoes, and motorboats in Apalachicola Bay as part of September's Season of Creation ecumenical movement.



Private Communion was offered in hospitals and homes on close to 30 occasions by Fr. Stephen, with about 140 people receiving Holy Communion and prayers for healing. While there were no home blessings in 2025, Father Stephen did celebrate the Blessing of the Fleet in early November, with four boats blessed. A private boat blessing was done in November for a couple beginning a 6,000-mile trip of America's Great Loop. About 30 animals received a blessing in Gorrie Square for October's annual Blessing of the Animals (in conjunction with the Feast of St. Francis, patron saint of animals), and over 20 golf carts were blessed in 2025 as part of Porchfest festivities (mid-October) and 25 during Tour of Homes in May.



Trinity is also called to perform pastoral services related to life events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. There were three baptisms in 2025, two being officiated by the bishop during his visit. Father Stephen married three couples at Trinity in 2025. He also renewed vows for two couples celebrating 30+ years together. Finally, Trinity celebrated the lives of seven members who died in the past year and seven non-members whose family requested either the use of the church or the priest. This continues a long tradition at Trinity where the priest serves the community, not just the congregation, during times that families draw together to celebrate and remember.



At long last, the worship services are now fully back online and far faster and more stable than ever. This was made possible through a grant from the James M. Doss Charitable Foundation as well as proceeds from the Tour of Homes. A portion of those funds were used to completely replace the current network infrastructure across the campus, upgrading to fiberoptic cable as well as new livestream equipment in the church balcony. Our videographer since 2023, Mandi Singer, now has help with David Fowlkes teaming up to ensure our worship services are made available to everyone online.

We are so very thankful to all those who volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to create and maintain a worship space open to all. That commitment is one reason we have grown about 10% annually since 2023. With all the changes the past few years (new rector along with the end of the Covid-19 pandemic), to be 30% larger as a parish (in people and budget) is a testament to all of you who live out the gospel message.

- Stephen Pecot

## ACOLYTE GUILD REPORT

Trinity has a faithful and dedicated group of acolytes that are scheduled on a rotating basis. Our acolytes this year are Travis Pecot, Susan Farmer, Rick Watson, Steve Watkins and Brant Banks. We are hoping to add at least two acolytes for next year. As the bearer of the cross of Jesus for the processional, recessional, and gospel reading, the acolyte also assists the celebrant at the altar. Our dedicated acolytes are also called on to serve at funerals and memorial services.

- Patti McCartney



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## ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to care for the altar, vessels, and linens used in each of our worship services. Our members prepare the sanctuary for worship, clean up afterwards, and ensure that all linens are properly laundered with silver and brass clean and polished. It is a quiet ministry done with reverence and respect for our sacred spaces. With the help of our very capable Flower Guild, we strive to offer a place of peace and beauty as we gather to worship God.



Ours is a small group of 7 dedicated church members who faithfully carry out the duties of this very important ministry. We always encourage others to join us. As a reminder, the Altar Guild is not restricted to women. In fact, we look forward to having Brant Banks join us in the new year.



This is a joyful and meaningful ministry, and it is open to all who wish to serve. Please contact any of our members if you are interested.

### *AN ALTAR GUILD PRAYER*

*Almighty God, grant we beseech thee, that we may handle holy things with reverence,  
and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion  
that it may rise with acceptance before thee and obtain thy blessing,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- Rennie Edwards

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## MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

The Trinity Church Choir varies the music with the seasons of the church year. Hymns for weekly services are chosen by Father Stephen, Ina Margaret Meyer, and Randy Mims. Selection is open to suggestions from the congregation of favorite hymns. Choir Practice is at 9:30 am on Sundays. We have worked hard this last year to make the musical offerings more varied and uplifting. We appreciate the kind praises and comments we have received.

Trinity's current Choir includes: Randy Mims (Chair), Susan Galloway, Shirley Taylor, Faye Jones, Ina Margaret Meyer, Gloria Austin, Rennie Edwards, Joy Tracy, Sylvia Sullivan, Jo Branch, Rick Watson, Brooks Jones, David Wolfson, and Frederick Kahler along with numerous seasonal and part-time members. Everyone is welcome to join at any time!

- Randy Mims





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## FLOWER GUILD REPORT

The Flower Guild creates altar arrangements for each Sunday of the year, excluding Advent and Lenten Sundays. The Guild also provides arrangements for church receptions and other special events.

We have four teams. Each team takes responsibility for one Sunday a month, and we alternate responsibility for any fifth Sundays. We need more members and would love to include anyone who is interested. No talent, skill, or previous training is needed.

We would welcome the opportunity to teach anyone who wishes to join the group or is interested in participating in any way. If you would like to learn, simply observe Flower

Guild members as they work. To join the group, please speak with any of our members.

Current members are: Dee Crusoe (Chair), Tara Carter, Aglaia Dolan, Sabrina Fornes, Martha Harris, Alice Leavins, Penny Marler, Ina Margaret Meyer, and Frederic Kahler.

- Dee H. Crusoe



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## LECTORS REPORT

### *"The Word of the Lord."*

This familiar refrain of the congregation in response to the Old and New Testaments readings of the day resonates in the services of the Episcopal Church. Since the sermon is often based on these readings, it is essential that the words be communicated to parishioners in a way that they are best heard. A ministry of lay readers is responsible for the communication of the selected lessons. Lectors currently serving at Trinity Episcopal Church include Brant Banks, Jo Branch, Karen Brown, Dee Crusoe, Rennie Edwards, Tom Edwards, Sabrina Fornes, Susan Galloway, Faye Jones, Kathie Leyendecker, Penny Marler, Randy Mims, Kerry Petty, Candace Springer, Bonnie Stewart, Ralph Wagoner, Steve Watkins and TJ Wolferseder.

The Prayers of the People is another lay ministry that utilizes volunteers to lead our collective prayers in worship services. Those currently serving in this capacity are Dee Crusoe, Rennie Edwards, Tom Edwards, Susan Galloway, Kathie Leyendecker, Penny Marler, Patti McCartney, Ina Margaret Meyer, Candace Springer and Ralph Wagoner.

For those ending their tenure as readers we thank Kristin Anderson, March Ard, Thomas Becknell, Patti McCartney, and Rick Watson for their service as Lectors; and Kristin Anderson, Faye Jones and Rick Watson, for serving as Prayers of the People readers.

Lectors and Readers are scheduled biannually. Those wishing to become a reader should be able to project and articulate well, and be flexible in scheduling. You may contact Candace Springer if interested in becoming a reader.

It is a privilege to serve as a Lector and/or a Prayers of the People Reader. Many at Trinity have been dedicated members of this lay ministry for years. Trinity Episcopal Church is grateful for your commitment to this important church ministry.

- Candace Springer



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## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEM) REPORT



Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest in conducting Eucharist by following the priest and serving the wine from the chalice. We also hold the Gospel book for the priest to read. We all enjoy serving in this beautiful spiritual ministry. We have recently added a second minister per service due to our expanding congregation. We rotate service weekly according to a flexible schedule. Anyone interested in this ministry please contact Gloria Austin.

Your current LEMs are Gloria Austin, Kathy Chesser, Dee Crusoe, Susan Farmer, Kirk Hadaway, Brooks Jones, Penny Marler, and Candace Springer.

- Gloria Austin

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## USHERS & GREETERS REPORT

The ushers and greeters welcome visitors to church events such as regular Sunday services as well as weddings and funerals. Along with a hearty welcome, they ring the church bell, assist people in finding a pew, distribute bulletins, coordinate foot traffic during communion, and to do whatever is necessary to support the rector and congregation in participating in a meaningful Christ-Centered experience.

We have Tom Edwards and Ralph Wagoner for the first Sunday of the month followed by Mike Barber and Chris Presnell for the second Sunday. Alan Embert and Amelia Wolferseder are the greeters for the third Sunday, with the fourth Sunday handled gracefully by the "Smiling Bonnies", Stewart and Lewis. Sabrina Fornes helps out whenever we have five Sundays in a month. New mom Jess Brisben and new baby Maple are our honorary ushers.

Tom and Ralph volunteered for several funerals this past year, and I know the families greatly appreciate their service.

- Mike Barber

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## VERGER REPORT



A verger is a layperson who serves the church in a ministry of organization, service, and welcome. Our current Verger is Brooks Jones. Vergers work under the direction of the clergy. Often a church has individuals performing many of the functions of a verger. Raising up lay leadership in a congregation through the ministry of vergers can be a blessing to a congregation and to the clergy they serve. In each parish, the verger serves at the pleasure of the rector. It is an appointed position that typically assists with the logistical details prior to a service, freeing the clergy to be available to greet parishioners, welcome visitors, and respond to pastoral concerns. Anyone interested in becoming a verger or joining the VGEC, please contact Brooks Jones at [brooksJones213@gmail.com](mailto:brooksJones213@gmail.com) or go to [vergers.org](http://vergers.org) for additional information.

- Brooks Jones

## PARISH LIFE

*The mission of Parish Life is to provide hospitality for all. The Parish Life Committee initiates the scheduling, planning, and coordination of special events such as Lenten dinner, foyer groups, potluck dinners, and the Annual Meeting. As is characteristic of Trinity, there are many people who participate and contribute to the various events, so the work is shared among many.*

### PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2025 Parish Life committee members are Dee Crusoe, Aglaia Dolan, Dot Hill, Karen Kessel, Patti McCartney, Travis Pecot, Kerry Petty, Bella Rudo, and Mandi Singer. Leaving the committee in 2026 is Patti McCartney. We welcome Anne Avery, Susan Frith, LuAnn Judson, and Colleen Zester as new members!

The year of 2025 was a busy one for Trinity's Parish Life. The increase in church attendance provided many opportunities within Parish Life activities. Hospitality Hour AKA Coffee Hour's attendance has increased, too! Each week a committee or church group is assigned to be the host for this after service opportunity for friendships to be made and fellowship. The groups within the church are Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Choir, Vestry, Tour of Homes, ROMEOS, Penny's Worth, Outreach, and Parish Life. Biodegradable products are provided through Parish Life, but groups are more than welcome to use glass plates and napkins of their choice. Thank you to everyone who has participated in making visitors and members feel welcomed following the church service. A calendar of hosts for Hospitality Hour will be on display in Benedict Hall in the Bay View newsletter, and (eventually) on our website.



Trinity's spirit was on display in October during Porchfest, where Parish Life came together to raise nearly \$1,000 for Aaron's Meals using Trinity's Holy Smoker. And Trinity was awarded trophies for the fan favorite porch and the biggest fundraiser. Earlier in 2025, Father Stephen drove the Trinity Holy Roller golf cart on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Apalachicola.

BINGO and other game nights were attended by parishioners and community members. Prizes were purchased through the Parish Life budget. This partnership benefits everyone. If you haven't attended, consider coming for an evening of laughter, excitement and fellowship! BINGO is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Many thanks to Penny's Worth and the Ilse Newell Concert Series, who generously donated gift certificates and items to be used as prizes in 2025.

Foyer Groups gathered in 2025 in homes or restaurants to get to know one another better over a meal. There will be a break from Foyer Groups in 2026.

Throughout the year various meals follow Sunday morning worship. Parish Life appreciates the people who so lovingly share their family favorites. Traditionally there are lunches on Trinity Sunday, the week of Thanksgiving, and Annual Meeting. Trinity Sunday in 2025 was especially fun with yard games, snow cones, and wonderful camaraderie.

- Karen Kessel (KK)



## OUTREACH

*The Outreach Ministry of Trinity assists in meeting the needs of vulnerable people in our local community and the natural environment they are dependent upon, primarily defined by the geographical footprint of our parish membership.*

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Historically, outreach at Trinity has also been a conduit for diocesan and national church disaster, relief, and refugee giving. Committee members serve on a three-year rotation; nominated Trinity members (6-8) are representative of the diversity of the congregation; all members and attenders are invited to participate (and lead) as volunteers in outreach projects of interest; and in addition to quarterly meetings, Outreach may hold an Annual Meeting yearly. This year Outreach participated in a Ministries Fair as their annual meeting.

Members: Jo Branch (Chair), Kathy Chesser (Secretary), Barry Lawson (Treasurer), Chris Presnell (Vestry Liaison), Brant Banks, Travis Pecot, Landy Luther (resigned) and community members at-large, Harolyn Walker and Greg Perkins. The committee established three areas of work when it was reconstituted in January of 2021 under the leadership of Martha Harris: food insecurity and material assistance, education, and environmental stewardship. A total of \$23,491.49 was distributed by year end 2025 to the following efforts through the work of the Outreach Committee and the generous donations of money, time, and energy, and in-kind contributions of the parish's members and regular attenders.

The 2025 Trinity budget allocated \$800/month to Outreach in 2025 (\$9,600/year). In addition to individual monetary donations and a 2025 tithe from the proceeds of Tour of Homes, we also received contributions from the tai chi class held in Benedict Hall and Holy Smoke Rub sales.

#### Food Insecurity and Material Assistance

- Continued monthly \$500 donation to the Food Pantry of Franklin's Promise based on organizational need and stewardship of funds. The Outreach committee was able to make an additional \$2,000 donation to help offset the increased needs of the community during the government shutdown. Trinity is a founding organization of the Franklin County Food Pantry, and with these funds in 2025, we provided the supplementary food needs for our community with 703 pounds of food and 96 pounds of Hygiene Products. These provisions are a continuing ministry of Trinity. We anticipate at least \$1,000 in additional donations for product purchase.
- Continued \$300/month to the Elder Care Community Council (ECCC) for daily meals for senior adults based on organizational need and stewardship of funds. Adaptive utensils and plates were purchased to assist people in need of assistance to help maintain their dignity and nutritional intake. The Outreach committee made a \$1,000 donation to help offset the increased needs of the community during the government shutdown.
- Continued a much-needed Emergency Fund for seniors through ECCC of \$2,500.
- Provided fresh blooms from the altar (in coordination with the Flower Guild) to accompany delivered meals, grace tables at the Center for daily meals, and serve as Bingo prizes (at least 3 times this year). Fruit, vegetables, bread, and flowers were also taken to ECCC from our Harvest Altar.
- Contributed \$1,000 to the Trinity Priest Discretionary Fund to help offset the increased community requests of assistance due to the government shutdown.





- Continued a cookie ministry for senior meals; cookies are delivered weekly by volunteer bakers and enjoyed with meals eaten at Holy Family Senior Center. Connie Finneran continues as coordinator. Eight people bake in a regular monthly slot. Nine substitute bakers fill in for five Thursdays in a month or when a regular baker leaves for the summer or needs a break. Connie Finneran has visited with people who receive the cookies in their homes, and they are thrilled to receive a treat, something that they do not often get. All volunteers supply all their own ingredients. Connie is very proud to be a part of this group.



- Raised and distributed donations of 400 bottled nutritional supplements in conjunction with Big Bend Hospice. Trinity hosted the Big Bend Hospice Coordinator for Franklin County at our recent Ministry Fair. Several Trinity members expressed interest in volunteering and were invited to the Hospice Volunteer Orientation in early November.

- Continued commitment of \$1,000 for a Patient Assistance Fund to address prescription and medical supply needs of vulnerable persons in our county at Buy Rite Pharmacy. \$501.86 has been distributed as of October 31, 2025.

- Distributed 30 Giving (formerly Angel) Tree ornaments in coordination with FCS to provide Christmas gifts including clothes, books, and games to needy school-aged children. Bob and Susan Pruitt ably coordinate the project. This is a material assistance and education project.

#### Education

- Organized a backpack drive for entering students at Franklin County School (FCS) in August 2025 (collected 80 backpacks for all ages, distributed by FCS staff). This is a material assistance and education project.

- Continued a Volunteer Reader Program initiated by Danielle Rosson, principal of FCS. In the spring, eight Trinity Volunteer Readers and one substitute read from January through April to four second-grade classes. Trinity provided four collections of different grade level picture books so that all students could have books in their hands and read together. Each month, books rotate to different classrooms. At the end of April each student took the last classroom book home.

- For Fall 2025, Trinity Volunteer Readers again covered the second grade at FCS. Five adults regularly read across three second-grade classes with two substitutes. The class with one regular volunteer reader is also supplementing adults in her classroom with invited readers from Trinity. \$500 has been allocated for grade-level book purchases for rotation in the spring.

- Continued collaboration with FCS Guidance Counselor to distribute applications for the Trinity Outreach Award for 2025 and fund a pizza supper (\$110) for a student and parent workshop on FAFSA at the school.

- Reviewed applications and awarded seven new computers (about \$2,052.57) to FCS college or technical school-bound graduates. The Trinity Outreach Award computers were presented at the FCS Annual Awards Night in May 2025 for seniors at Franklin High School in honor of Ina Margaret Myer, former Franklin County educator and longtime Trinity member, by Brant Banks.

- Worked with Ed Corps High School under the leadership of Franklin's Promise to grant funds to replace outdated classroom computers (\$740), as well as instructional supplies such as a rolling whiteboard, student notebooks, world globe, monoculars, and adaptive equipment for I-phones for monoculars (\$1,239).

- Continued to work with Bring Me a Book Forgotten Coast for resources and instruction for Volunteer Reading.

- Continued silver sponsorship (\$500) for the HCOLA African American Heritage Festival.

#### Environmental Stewardship

- Continued coordination with FCS carpentry and culinary programs to build raised garden beds.

— Jo Branch



## PENNY'S WORTH

*Penny's Worth is a thrift shop operated by Trinity since 1994. We offer the community affordable, slightly used clothing and household items. Proceeds go to Trinity's outreach programs and a variety of local charities.*

### PENNY'S WORTH REPORT

Your Penny's Worth remains widely popular and continues to provide valuable services to both the local community, surrounding regions, and visiting tourists. It is important to remember that if anyone loses their home to fire, Penny's Worth will collaborate with them to fulfill their needs.

Your Penny's Worth continues to have one of its best years (see Financial Summary) thanks to our shoppers and those who contribute donations, staff, and volunteers. We are always in need of additional volunteers. While it is work, it is also fellowship and getting to know each other better.

Our Board presently consists of Dot Hill (Chairperson); Mary Ann Siprell; Bella Rudo (Secretary); Marlene Seaborn; Shirley Taylor; and new members Aleah Stein, Treasurer; and Donnie Pitts. Following Jane Harris's resignation in October, Aleah Stein and Donnie Pitts were appointed to the Board. Kirk Hadaway resigned his position as Treasurer in November, and Aleah Stein volunteered to fill the position. We thank Kirk for his service and support. Kerry Petty serves as Vestry Liaison.

- Aleah Stein



### Penny's Worth Financial Summary January-November 2025

#### REVENUE

Sales and Other Credits	\$59,250
Designated Donations	\$16,975
Transfer for Capital Expenses	\$5,114
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$81,338</b>

#### EXPENDITURES

Contributions to Trinity Ministries	\$44,000
Heat Pumps	\$9,500
Building Repair/Painting	\$17,164
To Savings	\$1,100
Utilities	\$4,897
Other Expenses	\$4,677
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$81,338</b>

## TOUR OF HOMES

*The Historic Apalachicola Home and Garden Tour, a key community project of Trinity, is held annually on the first Saturday in May. Gardens, historic houses, and newly built homes that capture Apalachicola's rich and vibrant past are featured. Proceeds benefit the preservation and maintenance of Trinity's historic structures: the Church (1836), the Rectory (1900), and Benedict Hall (1932). In 2025, TOH also tithed a portion of its proceeds back to the community through Trinity's Outreach Ministry.*

### TOUR OF HOMES COMMITTEE REPORT

The 31st Historic Apalachicola Home and Garden Tour, held May 3, 2025, featured six homes, a pottery studio on The Hill, and the Apalachicola Community Garden. An Evensong service and reception on Friday evening kicked off the festivities. Our open-to-the-public auction, Jumble Sale, and raffle featuring a Spanish Mexican coin necklace and a custom spinning rod kicked off tour day.



Greeter gatherings were held at each home prior to tour day. Owners of our featured home, the Dr. Alvan W. Chapman House, also invited members of the TOH and Auction committees to attend their event.

Tour-goers expressed enthusiasm for the diverse array of homes and spaces featured on the tour. Homeowners reported a positive experience, with two already volunteering to assist with next year's tour.

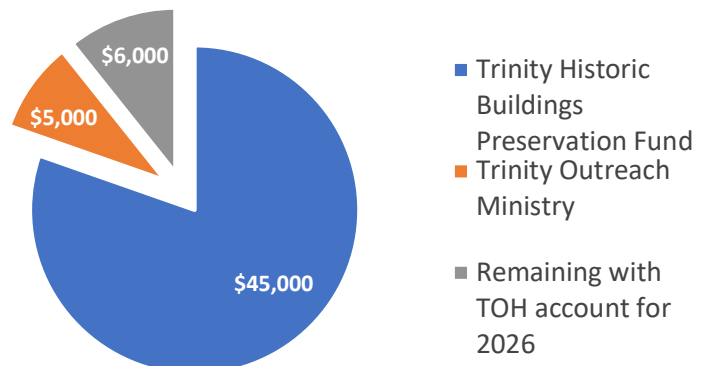


Attendees also praised the Appreciation Party, which provided a memorable conclusion to the day. Sabrina and Kai Fornes sponsored the gathering in memory of Sabrina's grandmother – a longtime member of Trinity – with additional monies provided by an anonymous donor.

#### Tour of Homes 2025 Financial Summary

Ticket Sales	\$19,745
<i>Advance Sales – 412 tickets</i>	
<i>Tour Day – 211 tickets</i>	
<i>Total sold – 623 tickets</i>	
Auction Proceeds	\$22,451
Pillar Program Contributions	\$18,400
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$60,326</b>

#### Allocation of TOH 2025 Net Funds



## Plans for 2026

Below is a memo prepared for the Vestry outlining Tour of Homes plans for 2026. The Auction Committee has been an essential part of Trinity's revenue generation, and we extend our sincere gratitude to its members and leadership for their unwavering commitment over the years.

- Sabrina Fornes and Tara Carter

Memorandum: 2026 Tour of Homes (TOH) Fundraising Plan  
To: Jason Carter, Senior Warden and Tour of Homes Vestry Liaison  
From: Sabrina Fornes and Tara Carter, Tour of Homes Co-Chairs  
Date: September 22, 2025

As we prepare for the 2026 Historic Apalachicola Home and Garden Tour, we would like to share our plans for this important annual event.

Since 2019 (with no tours held in 2020 and 2021), the Tour of Homes ministry has generated an average of \$47,400 in proceeds for Trinity. These funds are designated for the preservation and maintenance of our historic church buildings, which date from 1836 to 1932. Beginning in 2023, a portion of the proceeds has also been directed to Trinity's Outreach Ministry to help primarily meet the needs of Franklin County residents.

Tour revenue has traditionally come from three main sources:

1. Ticket sales
2. Direct donations to the capital fund (Trinity Pillar Program)
3. An auction and sale held on tour day featuring items donated by the community

The Auction Committee leadership determined that 2025 would be the final year for their management of the auction and jumble sale.

For 2026, the Historic Apalachicola Home and Garden Tour, the Pillar Program, and an auction will continue. TOH leadership is excited about revising the auction; among other ideas, plans include offering a selection of high-value items and experiences that can be managed with minimal effort.

We are deeply grateful for the significant contributions the auction has made over the years and for its partnership with the tour. The efforts of the Auction Committee and its leaders have been instrumental in generating revenue to support the preservation of Trinity's historic buildings.

We remain committed to the success of the Tour of Homes ministry and to the continued preservation of our beloved historic buildings. Thank you for your support and understanding as we adapt this event to align with our capabilities.

Net proceeds from the Tour of Homes were distributed to Trinity Episcopal Church for maintenance of the historic buildings on the campus as well as a tithe of 10% given to Trinity's Outreach Committee. A small percentage of final proceeds are retained for the Tour of Homes to begin its work early in the new year.

Finally, the Tour of Homes could not exist without its volunteers. Many subcommittees need help now and on tour day (always the first Saturday in May). We ask that you please consider becoming part of this fun and vital ministry coming May 2, 2026!



## MEMORIAL GARDEN

*The Trinity Memorial Garden remain a place of simplicity, beauty, and tranquility. Faithful volunteers keep the fountain sparkling and the plants watered and looking fresh. Other volunteers are needed for maintenance and repair.*

## MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT

All niches in the first phase of the Memorial Garden have been reserved. In 2025 we continued the work of the committee by creating a preliminary design for Phase II. I will be seeking construction estimates in early 2026 from contractors so that I can be definitive in what Phase II will cost a purchaser. Once construction costs are known, I will ask for commitments from people wishing to be part of Phase II. Phase II is intended to create sixteen niches. Each niche will hold the remains of at least two people, so a couple can be in one niche. If there is not sufficient interest, then Phase II construction will be deferred. Anyone interested in purchasing a niche should contact Alan Pierce at 850-653-5727 so that I can tabulate the interest.

The Memorial Garden Committee consists of: Denise Butler (Chair), Alan Pierce (Vestry Liaison), Dee Crusoe, Rennie Edwards, Beth Embert, Patti McCartney, and Travis Pecot.

- Alan Pierce

## OTHER MINISTRIES AROUND TRINITY

### APALACHICOLA'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Trinity has always been Apalachicola's "Community Church". As such, we take pride in ensuring there is adequate space and resources available for those who want to share in fellowship and grow together.*

Numerous groups and organizations utilize Trinity facilities throughout the year. Some of these are closely associated with Trinity members while others are primarily groups who use the meeting and performance spaces. Groups using Benedict Hall, the historic church, or the parish office in 2025 included:

- Bay Area Choral Society (Spring and Fall)
- Ilse Newell Concert Series (Spring)
- Various Peer Support Groups (AA, AL-ANON, etc.)
- The Dancing Witches (Sundays at 2 pm)
- Bridge Group (Mondays at 1 pm)
- Ukulilies Music Group (Tuesdays at 2 pm)
- Tai Chi (Wednesdays at 9 am)
- ROMEO Group (Wednesdays at 10 am)
- Dream/Natural Spirituality Group (Thursdays at 10 am)
- GFWC PHILACO Women's Club (third Thursdays at noon)
- Big Bend Hospice
- Florida Guardian Ad Litem Office
- Concurrent ACFS and Tri-Rivers meeting
- Private groups (birthday parties and receptions)

*The mission of the Helping Hands ministry is to work closely with the rector and the Pastoral Care Committee to ensure that we are meeting the needs of Trinity members and the larger community with presence, respect, and support.*

Trinity Church is blessed with many members who give of their own resources to people in need. We have always been quick to create a “meal train” when someone has been sick or in mourning. But from time to time, everyone may need some additional, temporary help along with others in the community. The need may be small, such as bringing in the mail or taking out the trash once a week. People may need meals cooked as they recover from illness, have their lawns mowed, or their medicines picked up at the pharmacy. They may need a ride to and from a doctor’s appointment. They might even just need to see another human and speak face to face.

This is why the Helping Hands ministry exists. This ministry, made of members of the Pastoral Care Committee, assists the rector with various requests that lie beyond our rector’s physical capacity to respond. While our rector has been known to mow lawns, pick up medicine, and to assist with other household duties of Trinity members and others around the community, the rector should be able to focus primarily on spiritual and liturgical needs. To that end, the Pastoral Care Committee has a three-part focus:

<b>Peer Support</b>	<b>Lay Eucharistic Visitation</b>	<b>Helping Hands</b>
Facilitated anonymous support groups for those dealing with cancer, bereavement, and long-term caregivers	Offering Home Communion and prayers through licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitors for the sick and homebound	Temporary assistance related to household (mowing lawns, taking out trash, running local errands, transportation to medical appointments)

In addition to contacting the priest or the parish office during a need, we have two email addresses you may use for assistance requests above and beyond pastoral care offered by the priest:

- [helpinghands@trinityapalachicola.org](mailto:helpinghands@trinityapalachicola.org): used for meal train, requests for household assistance (mowing lawns, taking out trash, running local errands, rides to medical appointments). Emails sent to this address are automatically routed to key members of the Pastoral Care Committee who assign tasks to volunteers.
- [prayers@trinityapalachicola.org](mailto:prayers@trinityapalachicola.org): used for prayer requests for the church, similar to a prayer chain. This email is only accessed by the priest; the sender is confidential. Those named in the request may be shared with the prayer chain, but the source is not provided.

The Pastoral Care Committee is always looking for people offering to cook meals and perform small tasks that help the community greatly. If interested, please contact the parish office. The committee consists of Fr. Stephen Pecot, Dee Crusoe, Patti McCartney, Kerry Petty, Annie Pitts, and Ralph Wagoner.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026

REVENUE			
4104 Pledge Revenue	\$191,000	4350 Interest Earned	\$1,000
4113 Regular Giving	\$55,000	4360 Other Operations Revenue	\$600
4115 Plate Offerings	\$10,000	4482 From H&P Marshall Fund	\$1,000
4315 Contribution from PW	\$45,000	4484 From Marshall Altar Fund	\$1,600
4320 Parish Event Income	\$3,000	4485 From Endowment Fund	\$3,400
4340 Facilities Usage	\$10,000	4488 From Young Fund	\$4,000
TOTAL REVENUE			<b>\$325,600</b>
EXPENDITURES			
<b>5000 OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		<b>(5300 PROGRAMMING, CONTINUED)</b>	
<b>5100 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS</b>		<b>5360 Fellowship Program</b>	
<b>5110 Utility Expense</b>		5362 Parish Life Hospitality	\$3,500
5111 Electricity	\$16,000	<b>Total 5360 Fellowship Program</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
5112 City Water	\$7,200	<b>5400 Outreach Program</b>	
5114 Water Treatment Service	\$700	5410 Priest Discretionary Fund	\$6,000
5116 Propane	\$1,200	5415 Local Outreach Committee	\$10,000
<b>Total 5110 Utility Expense</b>	<b>\$25,100</b>	<b>Total 5400 Outreach Program</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>
5121 General Maintenance	\$10,000	<b>5450 Diocesan Programs</b>	
5124 Equipment Repairs	\$5,500	5453 DCGC - Diocesan Pledge	\$27,000
5128 Pest Control	\$2,500	5454 DCGC - Camp Beckwith	\$2,000
5130 Grounds and Landscaping	\$6,000	5457 DCGC - Wilmer Hall	\$1,000
5140 Cleaning Expense	\$13,000	<b>Total 5450 Diocese Programs</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
5180 Building Insurance	\$48,000	<b>TOTAL 5300 PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$64,600</b>
<b>TOTAL 5100 BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>\$110,100</b>	<b>5800 OTHER EXPENSES</b>	
<b>5200 ADMINISTRATION</b>		5810 Annual Convention	\$1,600
5210 Office Expense	\$5,200	5890 Other Expenses	\$500
5220 Contract & professional fees	\$1,820	<b>TOTAL 5800 OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>
5263 Telephone /Internet	\$5,800	<b>TOTAL 5000 OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$200,545</b>
5264 Mobile Phones	\$1,300	<b>5500 PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>	
5267 Copier/Printer Leases	\$3,000	5512 Supply Clergy and Travel	\$1,500
5268 Printing and Reproduction	\$3,000	5514 Clergy Wages	\$70,000
5270 Postage, Delivery	\$700	5518 Clergy Travel	\$2,000
5280 Promotions	\$2,725	5520 Clergy Education	\$1,000
5299 Other Office/Admin	\$200	5522 Clergy Pension	\$16,010
<b>TOTAL 5200 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$23,745</b>	5523 Clergy Life Insurance	\$1,800
<b>5300 PROGRAMMING</b>		5524 Clergy Health Insurance	\$11,500
<b>5310 Worship Program</b>		5541 Administrator Wages	\$19,000
5312 Altar Supplies	\$1,600	5594 Employer Share Taxes	\$1,400
5314 Flower Supplies	\$0	5598 Workers' comp insurance	\$300
5316 Liturgical Supplies	\$1,000	<b>TOTAL 5500 PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$124,510</b>
5318 Christian Education	\$1,200	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OPERATING &amp; PAYROLL)</b>	
<b>Total 5310 Worship Program</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>	<b>\$325,055</b>	
<b>5340 Music Program</b>		<b>REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES</b>	
5341 Musician	\$10,000	<b>\$545</b>	
5343 Tuning & Repairs	\$1,000		
5348 Other Music Expense	\$300		
<b>Total 5340 Music Program</b>	<b>\$11,300</b>		

## CALENDAR - 2026

Please contact the parish office if you have something to add to our parish calendar.

January	February	March
<b>NEW YEARS DAY 1</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 19</b> <b>Donation Tax Letters Mailed 30</b>	<b>BISHOP'S VISIT 15</b> <b>PRESIDENTS DAY 16</b> <b>PANCAKE SUPPER 17</b> <b>(Shrove Tuesday)</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY 18</b> <b>(Two Services, Noon and 6 pm)</b> <b>DIOCESAN CONVENTION 27-28</b>	<b>Parochial Report Due 1</b> <b>DST BEGINS 8</b> <b>CURSILLO 12-15</b> <b>Lily Dedications Due 23</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY 29</b>
April	May	June
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY 2</b> <b>(Agape Supper)</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY 3</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY 4</b> <b>EASTER 5 (Easter Egg Hunt)</b>  <b>Beckwith Sunday 26</b>	<b>Evensong First Friday 1</b> <b>TOUR OF HOMES 2</b> <b>Blessing of the Golf Carts 2</b> <b>(Gorrie Square)</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY 10</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY 25</b> <b>TRINITY SUNDAY 31</b>	<b>FLAG DAY 14</b> <b>JUNETEENTH 19</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY 21</b>
July	August	September
<b>Penny's Worth Closed July</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY 4</b> <b>Wilmer Hall Sunday 26</b>	<b>Trinity Audit Prep</b>	<b>LABOR DAY 7</b> <b>Third Quarter Pledge Reminders</b>
October	November	December
<b>Blessing of the Animals 4</b> <b>(Gorrie Square)</b> <b>Trinity Pledge Cards Available 18</b>	<b>DST ENDS 1</b> <b>ALL SAINTS DAY 1</b> <b>Prayers Listed in Bulletin) 1</b> <b>Florida Seafood Festival</b> <b>Nov 6 – Nov 7</b> <b>Trinity Marketplace 6</b> <b>VETERANS DAY 11</b> <b>THANKSGIVING 26</b>	<b>Annual Report Due 1</b> <b>Annual Meeting 13</b> <b>(Hospitality Luncheon)</b> <b>Poinsettia Dedications Due 13</b> <b>PENNY'S WORTH CLOSED</b> <b>19-1st (For holidays)</b> <b>CHRISTMAS 25</b> <b>Office Closed 25-Jan 1</b>





## COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

The rector is *Ex Officio* Member of every committee and ministry and serves in a temporary capacity as Chair or Vestry Liaison in the case of vacancies. To learn more, contact the *chair* or *vestry liaison*.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Vestry

*Class of 2025*

Denise Butler

Chris Presnell

*Class of 2026*

Jason Carter, *Senior Warden*

Kerry Petty, *Junior Warden*

Dee Crusoe

*Class of 2027*

Karen Kessel

Alan Pierce

*Clerk*

Susan Farmer

*Treasurer*

Bill Zester

#### Staff

The Reverend Stephen D. Pecot, *Rector*

Jean Bush, *Parish Administrator*

#### Finance

Alan Pierce, *Chair*

Tom Edwards

Barry Lawson

Bill Zester, *Treasurer*

#### Stewardship

Jason Carter, *Chair*, *Vestry Liaison*

Bill Zester

Alan Pierce

#### Endowments & Gifts

Tom Edwards, *Chair*

Bill Zester

## COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES, Continued

### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

#### **Flower Guild**

*Dee Crusoe, Chair*

Tara Carter  
Aglaia Dolan  
Sabrina Fornes  
Martha Harris  
Frederick Kahler  
Alice Leavins  
Penny Marler  
Ina Margaret Meyer

#### **Altar Guild**

*Rennie Edwards, Chair*

Gloria Austin  
Susan Galloway  
Jane Harris  
Ina Margaret Meyer  
Frederick Kahler  
Candace Springer  
Joy Tracy

#### **Ushers**

*Mike Barber, Chair*

Jes Brisben  
Tom Edwards  
Alan Embert  
Sabrina Fornes  
Bonnie Lewis  
Bonnie Stewart  
Ralph Wagoner

#### **Acolytes**

*Patti McCartney, Chair*

Susan Farmer  
Brooks Jones  
Travis Pecot  
Steve Watkins  
Brant Banks  
Rick Watson

#### **Lay Eucharistic Minister**

*Stephen Pecot, Acting Chair*

Dee Crusoe, *Vestry Liaison*  
Kirk Hadaway  
Brooks Jones  
Penny Marler  
Candace Springer  
Kathy Chesser  
Susan Farmer

#### **Choir & Music**

*Randy Mims, Chair*

Gloria Austin  
Jo Branch  
Rennie Edwards  
Susan Galloway  
Brooks Jones  
Faye Jones  
Frederick Kahler  
Ina Margaret Meyer  
Sylvia Sullivan  
Shirley Taylor  
Joy Tracy  
Rick Watson  
TJ Wolferseder  
David Wolfson

#### **Lectors & Prayers**

*Candace Springer, Chair*

*Lector Only:*

Brant Banks  
Jo Branch  
Karen Brown  
Sabrina Fornes  
Randy Mims  
Kerry Petty  
Bonnie Stewart  
Steve Watkins  
TJ Wolferseder

*Prayers Only:*

Ina Margaret Meyer

*Lector and/or Prayers:*

Dee Crusoe  
Rennie Edwards  
Tom Edwards  
Susan Galloway  
Faye Jones  
Kathie Leyendecker  
Penny Marler  
Patti McCartney  
Ralph Wagoner

#### **Verger**

Brooks Jones

## COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES, Continued

### PARISH MINISTRIES

#### Penny's Worth

Dot Hill, *Chair*  
Kerry Petty, *Vestry Liaison*  
Aleah Stein  
Donnie Pitts  
Bella Rudo  
Marlene Seaborn  
Mary Ann Siprell  
Shirley Taylor

#### Outreach

Jo Branch, *Chair*  
Stephen Pecot, *Acting Liaison*  
Barry Lawson, *Treasurer*  
Kathy Chesser, *Secretary*  
Brant Banks  
Chris Presnell  
Warren Middlemas  
Travis Pecot  
Carrie Kienzle  
Greg Perkins, *Community-At-Large Member*  
Harolyn Walker, *Community-At-Large Member*

#### Pastoral Care

Stephen Pecot, *Acting Chair*  
Dee Crusoe, *Vestry Liaison*  
Patti McCartney  
Annie Pitts  
Ralph Wagoner

#### Memorial Garden

Denise Butler, *Chair*  
Dee Crusoe, *Vestry Liaison*  
Rennie Edwards  
Beth Embert  
Patti McCartney  
Travis Pecot  
Alan Pierce

#### Communications

Kay Carson, *Chair*  
Alan Pierce, *Vestry Liaison*  
David Fowlkes  
Mandi Singer

#### Parish Life

Karen Kessel, *Chair, Vestry Liaison*  
Dee Crusoe  
Rennie Edwards  
Dot Hill  
Kerry Petty  
Travis Pecot  
Patti McCartney  
Bella Rudo  
Mandi Singer  
Anne Avery  
Luanne Judson  
Susan Frith

#### Tour of Homes (from 2025)

Sabrina Fornes, Tara Carter, <i>Co-Chairs</i>	Jason Carter, <i>Pillar Program, Vestry Liaison</i>
Toni McIntosh, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jo Branch, <i>Tickets</i>
Ginger Lawson, Kathy Rushmore, <i>Auction</i>	Kay Carson, <i>Advertising &amp; Website</i>
Carrie Kienzle, <i>Homes &amp; Gardens</i>	Tara Carter, <i>Booklet &amp; Outreach</i>
Kerry Petty, <i>Hospitality</i>	Mandi Singer, <i>Photography</i>
Bella Rudo, <i>Greeters</i>	Chris Presnell, Donna Knutson, <i>Set-up/Grounds</i>
Joy Tracy, <i>Evensong Service</i>	

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By Shirley Taylor, Trinity Parishioner

Trinity Episcopal Church has been holding services in the original building for more than 175 years. Starting in 1835, services were first held in homes. The Church was organized in 1836 when Florida was still a United States Territory, and Andrew Jackson was serving as the Nation's seventh President. Construction of the Church began in White Plains, New York where the building was of cut-to-measure white pine. It was disassembled and shipped in sections by sailing vessel down the East Coast, around the tip of Florida, and up the Florida Gulf Coast to its destination in Apalachicola. Finally, it was reassembled with wooden pegs and hawsers. It is considered one of the first prefabricated buildings in Florida.



Completed in 1838, and now on the National Register of Historic Places, Trinity Episcopal Church is believed to be the sixth oldest building in Florida and the second oldest church with an active congregation. The Greek Revival architecture style features large Ionic columns. In the early days, an 1840 hand-pumped Erben tracker organ provided music for parishioners. This organ is still in use but has been updated. It now uses electricity for the blower that supplies wind to the bellows.

A charter to “incorporate the Episcopal Church in the City of Apalachicola” was signed into law by the Governor of the Territory, Honorable Richard Keith Call, a communicant of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, on February 11, 1837. Among the founders and first vestry members were Colin Mitchell, John Gorrie, and Alvan Chapman. Gorrie, a nationally recognized figure was a physician credited with the invention of the ice machine, a forerunner of modern refrigeration and air-conditioning. Chapman was known for his work as a botanist. The Church was consecrated on February 15, 1841 by Bishop Henry Otey, of Tennessee, and The Reverend A. Bloomer Hart served as its first rector.

The exterior of the building today is almost identical to its original appearance. However, in 1921 and 1922, the addition of the sanctuary significantly enlarged the building, allowing space for the choir and an altar recessed from the nave. A middle aisle was created at this time. The once flat-roofed bell tower has been modified in the years since construction. The first bell was melted to make cannon during the Civil War, along with cushions and rugs used for blankets and clothing.

In its long and colorful history, Trinity Episcopal Church has embraced changes while revering its heritage. Efforts at keeping abreast of the restoration needs of the historic church and grounds remain a constant challenge.





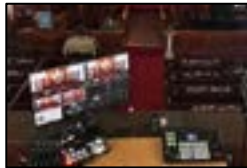


## HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS AROUND TRINITY IN 2025



### HISTORIC CHURCH (1836)

- New HVAC system (two 5-ton units)
- Installed livestream equipment, 4k PTZ cameras (Doss Grant)



- Erben organ repaired and tuned with service technician, on 3-yr schedule



- Replaced several areas of rot on back exterior

- Cleaned, restored, and rewired portico chandelier



- Replaced lighting in choir area, rewired dimmer switches to LED circuits, and raised balcony chandeliers, all for better visibility

- Sealed attic to prevent birds accessing building
- Yamaha piano tuned twice
- Power-washed building and sidewalks
- Mounted additional fan in choir area
- New shelving and tables for the flower room



### BENEDICT HALL (1932)

- New HVAC system (two 2-ton units, one 3-ton unit)
- Rewired kitchen to accommodate times of heavy power usage



- Installed acoustic panels around top perimeter of interior walls (Doss Grant) to improve speech intelligibility with large gatherings



- Replaced 21-yr-old water heater with new Rinnai tankless water heater, and disconnected old heater

- Installed permanent fencing in alley to protect propane tank and water heater from vehicles



- Replaced both refrigerators, both ovens, and one dishwasher beyond service life with new models



- Purchased baby changing table, supplies for bathroom
- Repaired attic fan for future summer use
- Replaced broken window panels in front door, rm 101 and swing door in kitchen
- Power-washed building and sidewalks
- Installed 4k TV in great room, connected to internet

## HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS AROUND TRINITY IN 2025, Continued



### PENNY'S WORTH

- New HVAC system (three mini-splits)



- Repaired localized rot around bay windows



- Painted exterior and interior



- Removed carpeting, laid down new flooring and fully sealed



- Added internet connectivity and credit card reader



### PARISH OFFICE

- Removed tree debris from storage shed after ice damage



- Installed underground fiberoptic network cable between office, Benedict Hall, and church along with full-coverage mesh WIFI

- Power-washed building and sidewalks

- Installed vapor barrier to control humidity in crawlspace

- Migrated to financial system QuickBooks



### G.H. MARSHALL RECTORY (1900)

- Replaced several areas of rot on exterior



- Power-washed building and sidewalks

- Began replacement of yard plants not suitable for the site and soil type

- Expanded brickwork in backyard to back fence



This is your church.

The prayer-soaked walls are sealed with serenity, hope, and hospitality through the gospel message of love. For many people, this is their spiritual home.

I pray to God that 2026 will be everything you wish, and that you continue grow into Christ's love for you. But when 2026 is difficult, know that your fellow Trinity members stand with you, and you will not be alone. You are loved, so do something in 2026 that reflects that gift back into the world.

Thank you for being you.

*Stephen +*