

INTRODUCTION

Table of Contents

Agenda

Church Staff

Rector's Address to the 2024 Meeting

Parish Statistics, 2024

Senior Warden Report

Junior Warden Report

Nominating Committee Report

Nominees for Parish Leaders



Annual Meeting Report Table of Contents

Introduction Section

Table of Contents.....	2
Rector's 2024 Address	3
Agenda.....	5
Parish Statistics.....	6
Church Staff	
Michelle Heitman	7
Ashley Bunton	7
John Hawn	7
Betty Bowen.....	7
Erika Jackson-Essiem	7
Tamsen E. Whistler.....	8
Senior Warden Report	9
Junior Warden Report	9
Nominating Committee Report	11
Vestry Nominees.....	11
Nominees for other Parish Leaders.....	13

Faith Section

Worship Committee.....	19
Acolytes	19
Worship Leader Scheduling.....	20
Music Ministry	20
Altar Guild.....	21
Christian Formation	22
Adult Forum and Special Events.....	22
Christian Formation for Children and Youth	22
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	23
Small Group Ministry.....	23
Confirmation	24
Stewardship.....	25
Electronic Media	
Facebook	27
Live-Stream Worship.....	27
Electronic Mass Media	27
Web Minister	28
Outdoor Sign	28

Compassion Section

Episcopal City Mission.....	29
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	28
Share-A-Meal.....	29
Healing Ministry	30
Pastoral Care Ministry.....	30
Martha Guild	30
Trinity Beloved Group.....	31
Laundry of Love.....	31

Community Section

Lindenwood International Students	35
Green Thumb Squad	35
Giving Garden	36
Memorial Garden	36
ROMEO	37
Program Endowment Fund	38
TEA Fund	38
ACE Fund	39
Jackson Kemper Convocation	39

Finance Section

Balance Sheet	
Acting Treasurer's Report	
Slide Presentation	

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B, RCL TWO
Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Charles, Missouri
Annual Parish Meeting: Sermon & Rector's Address
January 28, 2024

For several years after I first arrived as your rector, I preached a sermon at the Eucharist and gave a separate address on the state of the parish, as it were, in the business portion of the Annual Meeting. After a few years, our Vestry and I decided that reflecting on Holy Scripture and reflecting on the year past for our worshipping community belonged together. Last year, we returned to a sermon separate from the address. This year, back by popular demand, we return to the hybrid practice, sermon, and address, as one.

Today is The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany in Year B, the Year of Mark. As I mentioned last week, Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, almost certainly written first, and Mark the Evangelist packs a lot of action into a few pages. We've met John the Baptizer, dressed in camel's hair, and eating bugs, calling the people to repent, baptizing them, and announcing the coming of one more powerful than he, one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. In v. 9, Jesus shows up for his baptism. In verse 10, he comes up out of the water, and the Spirit descends like a dove. In verse eleven, the voice speaks from heaven, and only Jesus can hear it. Immediately, in vv. 12 & 13, the Spirit drives Jesus into the desert. Satan tempts him; angels serve to him. In v. 14, John is arrested, and Jesus starts to proclaim, "The kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the good news."

Jesus moves FAST. The gospel story moves fast! We read vv. 16-20 last week. Jesus called Simon and Andrew. They dropped their nets and followed. Jesus called James and John. They also dropped their nets and followed, leaving their father sitting in their boat with the hired help. All that has already happened, and we are just half-way through Chapter One!

Jesus and his shiny new disciples arrive in Capernaum, the town where Peter lives. They go to the synagogue to worship on the sabbath; Jesus sits down and starts to teach. He does not refer to scripture scholars, as the scribes typically do when they teach. Instead, he simply astounds everyone by teaching as if he knows what he's talking about. He does not say, "Rabbi Jonathan says this, or Rabbi Gamaliel says that." Jesus speaks; others listen. Right here, we see a challenge to the religious leaders—by not citing higher authorities, Jesus is challenging theirs. While everyone is wowed by Jesus' interpretation of Holy Scripture, a man with an unclean spirit appears. The man doesn't say anything, but the demon does: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God!"

The unclean spirit is correct, but it's apparent that only Jesus understands his shouts as words. "Shut up and get out," Jesus orders. The spirit convulses the man, cries out, and is gone. The congregation is wowed once more. They were amazed, the bible tells us, and they wonder to each other, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority?"

In the first part of this passage, Jesus teaches with words; in the second, he teaches with actions. In both cases, he teaches "with authority." He brings scripture alive to the hearers; he commands, and the demon obeys. Although the people respond with astonished admiration, telling all their friends and neighbors what they heard and saw in the synagogue that sabbath day, there's an undercurrent here that will grow more obvious in Mark very quickly. (Everything happens quickly in this Gospel.)

Something else we note in this short passage: The unclean spirit calls Jesus, "the Holy One of God." The unclean spirit is the first one in Mark to recognize Jesus for who he is. And the name, Holy One, the demon gives him marks Jesus as different from anyone else. As one biblical commentator points out, "Jesus' ministry is devoted to 'touching' and being 'touched.' He touches "unclean" people, the sick, the outcast, the blind, the deaf—all people considered by the religious authorities and everybody else, to be sinners. Their sin has made them sick—and if not their sin, then the sin of their parents or grandparents. Touching unclean people made the one who touched also unclean, if only temporarily. (Remember "Cooties? This is far more serious, but the idea of instant contagion the same.) Ritually clean + ritually unclean = ritually unclean.

Only with Jesus, things work the opposite way. The commentator again: "In touching and being touched by the outcast and oppressed, holiness [itself] is redefined. Holy is no longer that which is set apart from brokenness, but that which reaches out to brokenness and makes it whole."

I would add to the scholar's description, *that which reaches in*, as well. Jesus changes the equation. In him, clean + unclean = clean. Holiness is no longer out of reach—it's right here with us and among us and touching others through us. In the words of our opening hymn, *God is here!*

God is here! That's the message of Jesus in word and deed. "The kingdom of God has come near; the reign of God is at hand." Jesus speaks the words—he teaches and preaches. Jesus acts the words—he heals the sick, casts out demons, walks on water, multiplies loaves, raises the dead. He calls his disciples out of their old lives and into the new life. Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, is, himself, the nearness of the reign of God.

So how do we know this? And what do we do with what we know?

I think Trinity Church in St. Charles has been working out and living into faithful responses to these questions since 1836, the better part of 188 years. And we're still here, because God has a mission that Jesus Christ has called and continues to call us to share. We are here, because the Holy Spirit drives us into the wilderness of human pain and fear and loss. We are here, because we know what it means to fail, to fall, to repent, to turn, and to take a new path. We are here, because we are working out and living into what it means that God is with us, that the reign of God is near, that Jesus Christ is here.

Look around you. Say hello to the person on your right and your left, the person in front of you and behind you. If you do not know each other's name, please go ahead and introduce yourselves. I'll give you a couple of minutes. When you make those introductions, say who you are and one reason why you're here today. Hi, I'm somebody. I'm here today because. How about you??

A few days ago, as I was trying to put my thoughts together to write this address, I could hear the insistent hum of large fans drying out the floors and walls in the parish hall, kitchen, and hallways downstairs. Yes, four years after a pipe burst on Ash Wednesday night, flooding the elevator shaft, drowning the sump pump, raining through the ceiling in the lower hallway, and thank God, taking out the smoke alarm in the elevator shaft and bringing the fire department, another pipe burst directly below the first one, and on a Wednesday evening, no less!

This time, the water did not all pour down the elevator shaft—much of it ran into the parish hall, where it spread from one end to the other and covered half the kitchen, too. Because the water had somewhere to go, the sump pump was able to keep up with what did pour into the elevator shaft, so elevator is fine. If you have a few minutes sometime, I can regale you with the tale of finding the main water shut off for the building—Keith and Regina Dowling share in that tale. Jacob Taylor and I can describe splashing around a bit getting the furniture out of the water and the water out of the building. He is a top-notch user of long-handled squeegees! I'm pretty good at moving furniture. We made a good team.

I called Church Insurance. There's more damage than I thought. We can, however, use the parish hall and kitchen today, so all is not lost. All is never lost, no matter how underwater, as it were—we seem to be! The Year 2024 has started with a bang, in more ways than one, but the Year 2023 did NOT end with a whimper.

You will see in the Annual Report statistics for our parish:

[Review 2023 & Interpret Statistics Page in Annual Report](#)

The Creation Story in Genesis 1:1 – 2:4 begins with a deep void into which God speaks, “Let there be light.” God creates everything about the world and the cosmos day by day, concluding with the creation of humankind in God's image—every human being, no matter how different is created in the image of God. God gives the human beings a special role. The word often translated, “dominion” is better translated, “stewardship.” God gave humankind stewardship over the earth; and God saw that it was very good. There was evening and morning, the sixth day—and then, on the seventh day, God rested from the work of creation, hard work, even for God.

Stewardship is an awesome responsibility, and one we human beings often take too lightly. In the church, we tend to narrow the concept of stewardship to a few weeks in the fall—the Every-Member Canvas or the Stewardship Campaign. In those few weeks, we invite people to share their Wealth, Wisdom, and Work—their Treasure, Time, and Talent. We thank people for the gifts they offer for the coming year; we invite them to share the time and talent they've offered. And then, we stop using the word stewardship to describe the rest of what we are called to do. We speak instead about revenue and expenses (and expenses), broken pipes and aging furnaces, bulletins,

We are called to be stewards of creation, stewards of the earth, stewards of our buildings, stewards of all our resources, stewards of our children, our elders, our history, and our future. Stewards cultivate and care for, plant and nurture—not only Wisdom Work and Wealth, Time, Talen, and Treasure, but all the gifts God has given us to share God's mission in the world.

At the same time, it is difficult to keep a big picture in front of us when we are dealing with—reacting to—whatever is most pressing in the moment. Your Vestry and those who were to be the Stewardship Team spent more time dealing with the present than almost anything else. When many things converged in our October and November meetings, we realized that we were talking about stewardship, year-round stewardship, of all the resources God has given us. Our building is a resource. A parking lot is a resource. Heaters and air conditioners, and water pipes are resources. Wealth, Wisdom, and Work are resources—and we need to take care of the big picture, not lose the forest for the trees. Grow in Appreciation. Grow in Grace. Grow in Gratitude. Grow in Love. If we go where Jesus goes, we will be headed in the right direction. Trinity Grows! Amen.

Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, Missouri
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
In-Person and Live-Streaming from the Nave
January 26, 2025
AGENDA

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Order

Prayer for the Parish Family (*BCP 817*)

Appointment of Secretary:

Introduction of Confirmands for 2025:

Eric Hayes, Rosie Harlow, Richard Middleton V, Shawn Galbreath, Melissa Galbreath, Bonita Tracer

9:40 a.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:45 a.m. Recess for Food, Fellowship, & Questions in the Parish Hall

11:40 a.m. Reconvene with *Prayer for A Church Meeting (BCP 818)*

05 m **The Year 2024 in Pictures**

05 m Notes from the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting

15 m **Vestry Report:** Phil Jeffery

Introduction of Nominees:

Vestry: **Melissa Galbreath, Shawn Galbreath, three-year terms; Richard Middleton IV, one-year unexpired term; Phil Jeffery, one-year special term**

Further Nominations for Positions Listed Below:

TEA/ACE Funds; Program Development Fund: Nominating Committee: One 3-yr term; each

Distribution of Ballots for In-Person Attendees; Explanation of Voting Process on Zoom

Voting for Nominees

10 m **Timeline for the Rector's Retirement:** Graceful Exit Support Team

10 m Requiem or Renaissance

05 m **Committee Reports, by Title**

05 m **A Minute for Music:** John Hawn

05 m **Stewardship Report: Trinity Grows!** Rebecca Jones, Jacob Taylor, Tamsen Whistler

10 m **2024 Treasurer's Report:** Jacob Taylor

10 m **2025 Parish Budget** (Presentation & Discussion): Jacob Taylor and Finance Committee

05 m **Senior Warden's Remarks:** Phil Jeffery

05 m **Junior Warden's Remarks:** David Westfall

10 m **The Epiphany Star:** Rebecca Jones

03m ***Hymn 516 Come down, O Love divine"***

05 m **Recognition of Vestry and Staff**

01 m **Results of Parish Elections**

Closing Prayer, Hymn: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*, and Adjournment

2024 PARISH STATISTICS

Number of Services & Service Attendance

Total Online Attendance: 1425	Total In-Person Regular Attendance: 3397
Total Special Service Attendance: 1557	Total Weekday Daily Offices: 23
Total Special Services: 38	Total Number of Worship Services: 221
Total In-Person Sunday Attendance: 3342	Total Online Weekday Attendance: 90+ (The + is FB Live)
Average Sunday In-Person Attendance: 67	Average Sunday online Attendance: 9
Total Sunday Attendance, In-person & Online: 4822	
Total Private Holy Communion Services: 43	

Membership Information Recorded in 2024

Baptisms – 1

Adult Jerry Franklin Aehle, Provisional Baptism; daughter Karen Kupka, son Steve Aehle Day of Pentecost, May 19, 2024 TEW

Confirmations, Receptions, Renewal of Baptismal Vows – 0 Bishop's Visitation set for 3/30/2025

Marriages — 0

2024 Deaths, Burials & Memorial Services Recorded in Trinity Church Parish Record Book - 11

Services held at Trinity Church, and with the Rector presiding, unless otherwise noted

Mar 23	Shirley Nan Haynes Memorial Prayers *TEW/EAB (Old Hickory Golf Club)	Aug 11, 1940—Mar 10, 2024
Mar 25	Barbara Canty Gossow *TEW/EAB (St. Peter Cemetery, St. Charles)	Sep 9, 1935—Mar 19, 2024
Apr 03	Timothy Farrar, Jr. *TEW/EAB (Trinity Church & Garden)	July 4, 1945—Mar 21, 2024
Apr 10	Mary Ann Steinmeyer *EJE (Memorial Park Cemetery, STL)	1935—2024
Apr 27	Barbara Willis Ritter *TEW/EAB (Trinity Church & Garden)	May 28, 1932—Apr 1, 2024
Jun 11	Robert Allen Blattman *TEW/EAB (Trinity Church & Oak Grove/St. Charles)	Nov 6, 1942—May 208, 2024
Aug 30	William Thompson Cramer *TEW (Pittman/ Eternal Peace, Wentzville)	Sep 11, 1944—Aug 20, 2024
Sep 21	Mary Joyce Goodding Gibbs *TEW (Wilson Mortuary, Salem MO)	June 15, 1940—Aug 25, 2024
Nov 20	Bernard Scott Seeck Memorial Prayers *TEW (Trinity Church)	July 23, 1953—Aug 27, 2024
Dec 11	Mildred Eleanor (Eppley) Wooldridge *TEW/EAB (Trinity Church)	June 8, 1928—Nov 29, 2024
Dec 23	Mildred Eleanor (Eppley) Wooldridge *TEW (JBNC Committal Service)	" "

***TEW** = The Rev. Tamsen E. Whistler, *Rector*

***EAB** = The Rev. Elizabeth A. Bowen, *Deacon*

***EJE** = The Rev. Erika Jackson-Essiem *Assisting Priest*

JBNC = *Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery*

Church Staff



Michelle Heitman is our Parish Secretary. She has been with us at Trinity for 9 years and, in addition to the weekly bulletins, produces newsletters, weekly parish-wide email announcements and information, updates the website, and helps to manage our Facebook page. Michelle and her husband, John, have been married for 37 years. Their son, Alex, became a father in November, and the Baptism for his son Nathaniel was held here at Trinity on 1/12/25. Michelle and John are active in the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), which focuses on life in Medieval times.

Ashley Bunton is our babysitter. She staffs the Parish Nursery each Sunday from 7:45 AM until after the second service. She brings a love of children and a long connection with our church—her grandmother, Rosemary Perkins, was our babysitter for more than thirty years. Ashley herself spent some Sundays in the Nursery with her grandmother. In addition, Ashley's cousin, Tiffany, also Rosemary's granddaughter, was our Nursery Attendant after Rosemary retired. As required by the Diocese of Missouri, Ashley has completed "Safe Church" training. She is a college student, majoring in early childhood education, but took a semester off in the fall of 2018 to earn some more money for school. She is a pre-school teacher in the Orchard Farm School District's Early Childhood Center. Ashley provides a safe, warm environment for our children, ages 0 – four.



John Robert Hawn

As I write this I am reflecting on the nearly 20 years working with you as your Minister of Music, the many programs the many friends made and the spiritual journey still in the making, and I know that I am blessed by you.

I have worked for the St. Louis Public Schools for four years, moving into a music teaching position this school year through a special program of the board.

I hold an Associate of Arts Degree from the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, A bachelor of Science Degree from the university of Arkansas-Pine Bluff and an EFM Certificate from the University of the South-Sewanee Tennessee.

Elizabeth Bowen (Betty) is our "officially retired Deacon" (March 9, 2014), but then, who retires from living out the Gospel! Betty continues to help where needed in our Worship Services and continues to preach on Maundy Thursday and whenever the need arises. Betty is committed to her 'Servant Ministry' because that is the ministry of a Deacon; she continues to help with the Share A Meal Program and is now an Honorary Member of the GIVING GARDEN. Betty encourages others to look outside the church to offer Love, Hope and Hospitality to those in the St Charles Community, such as to the international students at Lindenwood University, and the Share A Meal Program when Trinity serves lunch 4 times a year to those in need. Betty saw the need for people to get together to share stories about their faith and so became the birth of a Small Group Ministry which is now going into its third year; and has had a successful turnout with all the Studies. With the help of Father Michael, Lori Cooper and Carolyn Stuhlsatz, there is now a Prayer Ministry at Trinity. Betty continues to serve as Deacon to the Bishop on his visitation to Churches without a Deacon. Betty is also serving on two Committees in the Diocese – The Church Architecture & Allied Arts, and the newly formed Gathering Space Feasibility Taskforce. As she tries to slow down and after 16 years as Deacon, Betty has stated that while there is breath in her body, she will continue to serve God where needed.



Erika Jackson-Essiem (until September 2024)

The Rev. Erika Jackson-Essiem is a native of South Bend, Indiana, who moved to the St. Louis area in 2021. The Rev. Erika is a mother of two, and grandmother of three. She graduated from Boston University School of Theology and Virginia Theological Seminary, She also attended Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA before it closed in 2017. Rev. Erika enjoys reading, knitting, and coloring, in addition to spending time with her dog, Frankie. The Rev. Erika lived in St. Louis for four years, and enjoyed exploring STL. She served at Trinity Church in St. Charles from June 2023 to Sep 2024, and loved being with the people of Trinity. She preached on the 2nd Sunday of the month, supplied for the Rector occasionally, and for congregations around the diocese. In Oct 2024, The Rev. Erika accepted a position as the Interim Rector at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Aptos, CA. She can walk to her office in ten minutes and to the beach in twenty.

Tamsen Whistler

On May 1, 2025, we at Trinity Church will have been together as Priest and Parish for thirty years! On January 26, I will preside at my 29th—and final—Annual Parish Meeting as your Rector. Thank you for almost three decades of shared ministry! Thank you for inviting me and my husband and son into such a warm and loving community! Thank you for allowing me to walk with you in good times and bad, hard times, painful times, confusing and scary times, and times of so much joy! Thank you for letting me share in births and deaths, Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony, Confirmation, Unction, Reconciliation, Ordination, and at the heart of everything, celebration of the Holy Eucharist, week by week and year by year. Thank you for putting up with me and my faults, for challenging me, disagreeing with me, supporting me, arguing with me, growing, learning, and sharing common ground. Thank you most of all for your love, your faithfulness as a Christian community, your commitment to following Jesus Christ, remembering always, that the Trinity for whom this faith community is named, is bigger, more gracious, more merciful, more complex, and most of all more loving than we ever deserve.

The photo of my husband Robert Brown (Bob) and me, our son, Wilson Whistler-Brown (Will), and his wife, Chelsea Branson, was taken on Christmas Day 2024. It's a simple photo, but it holds so much of who we are as a family, and who we have been as part of Trinity Church, and what that has meant to us. When we arrived, Will was 16 months old and about two feet high. In this photo, he's almost 31, one-year-married, and standing about 6'4" next to Chelsea, who is exactly a foot shorter. (Just for the record, I am almost two inches taller than my daughter-in-law, but her shoes have much thicker soles!) For many years, Bob and I have been celebrant and worship leader for the 11 AM Christmas Day service, and for much of that time Will was the Acolyte. They were in St. Charles for a quick Christmas visit with Chelsea's family, our family, and a few friends. They arrived with two checked bags, one big one for most of their clothes; another one full of containers of cookies and candies they had made in the few days before they came to visit. Our dining room table was covered! They took trays of their treats to every place they went—and we still have some to nibble.

At the beginning of 2024, Bob was a fifth grade teacher at St. Cletus School, with classes also in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade social studies and sixth grade science. In April, he was invited by the principal to take charge in August of the school library and the STEM focused "maker space" housed in the library. Bob does not use the term, librarian, because he does not have a degree in Library and Information Science; he is the "Library Teacher." As such, he sees and works with every child in the school, but does not grade many papers, and lessons plans are less complex than they were for him as a classroom teacher. He does miss the day-to-day involvement with a small group of students, but he is enjoying the challenges of working with the children in the maker space, reading stories, teaching students how to use the resources the library offers, introducing new books and classics, and the two half-days off that come with the library position. He expects to continue teaching at St. Cletus for the 2025-26 school year, and then we will see what the future brings. He still intends to return to the St. Louis Zoo as an engineer on the Zooline Railroad, the "Zoo Train."

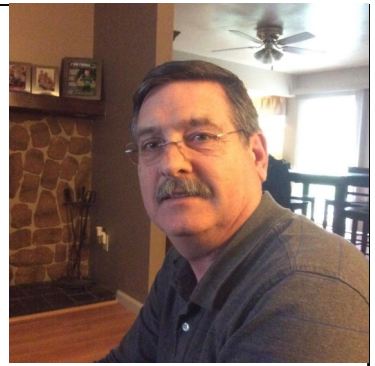
I spent the year 2024 in "regular" parish ministry, pastoral care, preaching, working with our Vestry, annoying and collaborating with our staff, thinking creatively and not, and "taking [my] share in the councils of the church" (BCP 531). I served for a second year as chair of the Nominations Committee for Diocesan Convention, was appointed acting dean for Jackson Kemper Convocation by the Bishop; elected acting President of the St. Charles Ministerial Alliance in October, and in July, served for my eighth (and last) time as a Deputy from the Diocese of MO to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The last of these extra roles will end in February. I also completed a three-part, 90-hour course in Interim Ministry Training. In November, Bob and I went to California to celebrate my sister's 70th birthday. In addition to both my sisters, their husbands, and children, we were joined by Will and Chelsea, all three of our Whistler first-cousins, spouses, most of their children, and two of Bob's first-cousins at a weekend birthday celebration and/or at Thanksgiving dinner. Most powerful for me was to watch the second-cousins, our grownup children, enjoy being together, and how many traits and interests they share.

As I close this last "rector bio," please know that Trinity Church is an indelible part of me and part of our family's life. In February 2025, I will celebrate 40 years of ordination as a priest. On May 1, I will have served as your Rector for 30 years! On June 15, Trinity Sunday, we will share our final Sunday morning Eucharist with me as your Rector. That day also will be my 41st ordination anniversary as a Deacon, my time in active parish ministry come full circle. Lastly, on August 26 at 4 PM, we will have a retirement service and a party! Many blessings and much joy! —TEW



Senior Warden Report to the 2025 Annual Meeting for the Year 2024

I would like to start by thanking God for the all of the blessings we have received this past year! For our Clergy, Tamsen our Rector, Betty our Deacon, and Erika our Associate Priest who has moved to California, for the Care, Support, Love and Spiritual Guidance they tirelessly give to the Vestry, Staff and most importantly the members of Trinity Episcopal Church, our family. I would like to thank Trinity's Staff, John our Minister of Music, Michelle our Office Administrator, Ashley our Nursery Attendant and Jacob our Treasurer for their dedication to Trinity and the Trinity Family. For the outstanding job they do with little recognition and not enough praise. What would we do without them? I would also like to thank all the ministry chairpersons, the members of all the ministries here at Trinity! I will not begin to name them all. Finally, I want to thank the Vestry of Trinity for their love and dedication to the members of Trinity.



What a year we just completed! 2024 the New Business as Usual! Well, that is what I said last year! In person and Virtual Church Services every week! Morning Prayer on Facebook Live, Evening Prayer and Complin on GoTo Meeting or ZOOM. Vestry Meetings in person and via Zoom, Weekly Staff Meetings both in person and virtually. I guess you could say we are Experts by now! Not really, but we are getting used to it and we can see the advantages of technology as we know it. We have a full staff of volunteers who lend their talents to make these things possible, and I would be remiss if we did not thank them as well.

The Vestry has three primary roles: 1) To Administer Funds, 2) To Maintain Buildings, 3) To Choose Leadership and Representatives. Included in these roles are to facilitate Communication, to give Leadership in Parish Programs, Ministries, and Worship and To Pray for the Parish and Its Leadership.

The year 2025 will bring us a new challenge. A challenge that we very fortunately have not been faced with in 30 years. Our beloved Rector, The Rev. Tamsen E. Whistler will be retiring. Tamsen has been with Trinity for 30 years and we will miss her more than we can imagine. Tamsen, by the request of the Vestry and the permission of Bishop Deon K. Johnson, will be staying with us in 2025 and will be leaving at the end of Summer minus a short sabbatical. We consider ourselves Blessed to have this gift from Tamsen and Bishop Deon.

I look forward to 2025 with mixed emotions! I am happy for Tamsen and prayerfully anticipating the challenge in finding a new Rector. The Vestry and the Requiem or Renaissance Team will communicate with our Trinity Family on a regular basis. We want you all to always be as informed as possible.

May God Bless you all and keep you safe always!

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Jeffery

Senior Warden, Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, MO

Junior Warden Work in 2024

Actions in 2024

Burst pipe in the elevator hallway restroom, parish hall that flooded the room, including the kitchen, and went under the doors at each end of the room. Dramatic action that Tamsen described in her Annual Address last year—Jacob wielding a squeegee. We can share lots of details, but the bottom line is that with many delays the project was completed Dec 31. The results are great! We have new floors in the parish hall, kitchen, and hallways. John Hwan spent a couple of days cleaning everything so that the room is functional again.

After several requests for additional handicap-parking spaces, David Westfall, David McCune, and Phil Jeffery got the materials together, and David Westfall put them in (twice), the second time in the snow.

Several weeks after our first pipe burst, we discovered that one had also burst in the “catacombs”, flooding altar guild storage containers and ruining some wreaths, other Christmas decorations, and some vestments.



Ongoing Actions for 2024 and 2025

- During a summer heatwave, one of our oldest air conditioners died. It needed to be replaced, as well as the heater that is connected to it, and new vents needed to be built. That was a significant unexpected expense, but not one we could put off. We spent the money, hoping that we would find a way to make up the difference. The Bishop, Stading Committee, and Canon for Finance and Administration, Desiree Brattin arranged for an emergency grant from the White Fund and replaced the money we had spent on the HVAC system.
- Light-replacement project: Some fluorescent light fixtures have been replaced with LEDs; others are in line for replacement. In the meantime, those that still have working ballasts will get available replacement bulbs.
- Parking lot lights are an ongoing issue. David has purchased some LEDs intended for outdoor use and will experiment with them when he gets a chance. That project will require a second person, as a ladder is involved.
- Snow removal—or the lack thereof. We fired our snow-removal person, because his charges were very high, but we did not have another one lined up. David, Jacob, Phil, and Jim Kendall have all been involved sharing names of people to help. We think we have someone!
- Exit Lights: Most of our exit lights need to be replaced with ones that contain LED emergency spotlights for dark hallways in case of a fire. We've identified what to purchase; now we just have to do that.
- Custodial company—we want to assess the work that is being done and left undone, and need someone other than the Rector to supervise the team from Corvus, a difficulty, because they need to come at night.
- Steps from the area near the labyrinth up the to level of the stairwell door behind the elevator tower and steps to the Memorial Garden. Looking into whether Boy Scout Troop 763 can help.
- Rain gutters—what we have are easily clogged and rusting, dripping at the corners on either side of the Reception Area door, creating hazards. They are also sized for a home, not a steep commercial roof.
- Parking lot: We need to have the cracks filled again and the parking lot resealed. We have an offer from the company who did the work to years ago that we need to discuss.
- Pantry Door: We need vents put in to ensure air circulation in the pantry, now that we have a new upright freezer. Keith Dowling will cut the door and install the vents, but moving the door is a two-person job. In the meantime, we have noticed paper goods disappearing, as the pantry cannot be locked. Parishioners have resorted to storing paper supplies off-site, but that is not convenient for them or anyone else.
- Chair foot repairs: We have a large number of chairs in the parish hall missing one or more sliders at the bottom of their legs. John Hawn has researched and purchased replacement feet. But we will need tools and time to do so, the sooner the better. We do NOT want the sharp-edged chair legs ruining our brand-new floor!
- Pantry rearrangement and improved storage shelves—hope springs eternal. We discussed this some time ago with leaders of Troop 763, and they are not sure they have the skills needed.
- HVAC in the church: Only one side of the church is receiving heat right now. That means our new heater is doing double duty. In 2025, we will see what we can do to address this issued—it is the second-oldest heater, of course—now the oldest.

NOMINEES FOR PARISH LEADERS

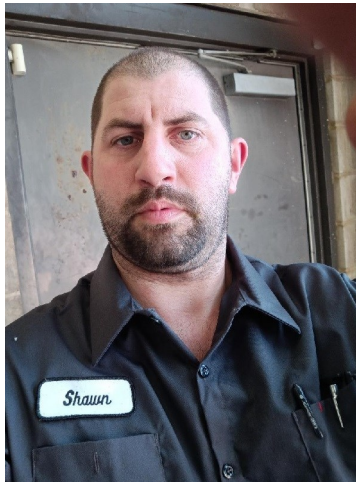
Nominating Committee

Chair: Usually the person elected at-large whose term is about to end

Vestry:

The Vestry, with the Rector, is the governing body of a parish church. Trinity's Vestry meets on the Second Thursday of the month, generally excepting July. Diocesan Canons: "The

Vestry shall take charge of the property of the Parish; attend to and regulate all its temporal concerns; provide for the support of the Rector, and, in the case of the Rector's death, resignation or removal, supply, with the Bishop's advice and consent, the Rector's place as soon as possible. The Vestry shall also assist the Rector in the proclamation of the Gospel, the public worship of the Congregation, the nurture of persons of all ages, the alleviation of human suffering and promotion of justice ... "



My name is **Shawn Michael Galbreath**. I was born on January 10, 1986, in Granite City, IL. From there my mom and I moved to Edwardsville, IL where she met my stepdad. I'm the oldest of 2 half siblings. I graduated from Edwardsville high school in 2004. I graduated in 2010 from Lewis and Clark community college in Godfrey, IL. Studying in automotive technology. I'm an ASE certified mechanic. In October 2015 I married my best friend love of my life Melissa Galbreath, and also became a step dad. As for my religion background, when I was a young kid my mother and I attended a Baptist church. In 2002 my whole family started attending St. Andrew episcopal church. In 2009 I was baptized at St Andrew episcopal church. After I moved to Missouri in 2015 my wife and I were attending a Catholic Church. My wife and I have been attending trinity church for about 2 years now. I'm very excited to join vestry, and help the church make decisions.

My name is **Melissa Galbreath**, and I was born on September 1st, 1981 in a small town called Kenton, KY. right outside Louisville, KY. I am the middle child of 3 kids and I was raised/baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. I went to catholic school through 4th grade then attended PSR through 8th grade. I have made my First Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church. I also sang in the choir with my father while in grade school.

Growing up, my family was very religious and we attended church every Sunday and on every holiday. I played 8 years of softball and 4 years of basketball through CYC. I ended up marrying my first husband in the Catholic Church, and we welcomed our beautiful daughter Haley in September 2007. After he and I got divorced, I met and married the love of my life Shawn Galbreath in October 2015. We were attending the Catholic Church, but about 2 years ago we joined Trinity.

Upon joining Trinity Church, I have always felt welcomed and accepted by the whole congregation and by Reverend Tamsen. That is a feeling I never felt in the Catholic faith. And because of the very warm welcome, I have grown to love my Trinity family.

Therefore, I am excited to be joining Vestry so I can help make the correct decisions for the church and community I have grown to love.



NOMINEES FOR PARISH LEADERS, Vestry

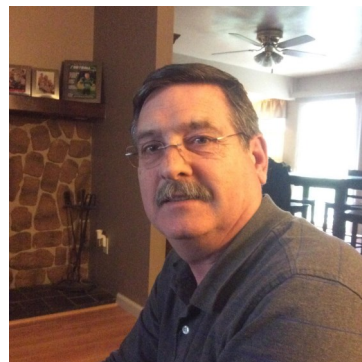


Richard T. Middleton

I was born in Jackson, Mississippi. I graduated from Murrah High School, Jackson, MS. BA in Political Science from Xavier University, New Orleans, LA. Ph.D. in Political Science from University of Missouri. JD from St. Louis University School of Law. Dr. Middleton is a former member of the board of directors of Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants as well as the board of trustees for the ACLU of Eastern Missouri.

Phil Jeffery

I was brought into this world on January 8, 1957 (Elvis Presley's 22nd Birthday) in Provo Utah. I was blessed with wonderful parents, Theron (Jeff or Colonel) and Bonnie Jeffery. Dad was a career Military man of 30 years and Mom was a career Military wife and mother. I was also blessed with an older brother Theron Bruce Jeffery who is 2 years and 8 months my senior. Yes! I am an Army Brat in every sense of the word! Although I was born in Utah, being in the Army we did not stay at one duty station for very long. I believe the 4 years we live at Fort Sheridan, Ill, just north of Chicago was the longest we were stationed anywhere prior to dad's retirement here in St. Charles. We lived in Utah, Virginia and Hawaii before I was 3 years old. We lived in Hawaii when it became a State in August of 1959. We also lived in New York (Fort Hamilton), Chicago (Fort Sheridan) and Ely Minnesota prior to moving to St. Charles.



My parents were raised in the Methodist Church in Northern Minnesota, however, during the early days of Dad's military career he was introduced to the Episcopal church and we attended Episcopal Churches whenever possible. I was Baptized at the age of 8 in a Military Chapel in Brooklyn NY at Fort Hamilton by a Lutheran Chaplain. Upon moving to St. Charles in 1970 we joined Trinity St. Charles. I attended Confirmation Classes at Trinity St. Charles and was confirmed at the Cathedral in St. Louis. Both of my parents were very active at Trinity. Mom was on the Altar Guild (chair of the guild for many years) a member of the ECW and sang in the choir. Dad was the assistant treasurer, on the men's club, on the Vestry, a Lay Reader and Eucharistic Minister. Dad was also the church handy man and carpenter as well as locksmith. I to was very active in the church through High School and into my adult years prior to moving to Pennsylvania in 1991. I had just turned 19 when I served on my first Vestry here at Trinity St. Charles.

I graduated from St. Charles High School, attended UMSL however did not complete my degree. My first wife Claudia and I were married at Trinity and both of our daughters, Jennifer and Kristin were baptized at Trinity. I worked in the Restaurant Business for nearly 20 years beginning at Noah's Ark where I started in 1972 as a Busboy and worked my way up to Food and Beverage Manager when I left the Ark for Old Country Buffet in 1988. I left OCB in 1991 and moved to Pennsylvania to go into business with my brother who is the owner of Ye Olde Clock Shoppe, in New Freedom, PA. In 1995 I began driving a School Bus for Laidlaw Education Service, and quickly became a Driver Trainer, and in 2001 I became a Location Manager. In 2008 Laidlaw was purchased by First Student, Inc and in 2016 I returned to St. Louis as the Senior Manager for First Student for the City of St. Louis. In July of 2018 First Student and I parted ways. After moving to Pennsylvania, I attended St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in York, PA.

Claudia and I were separated and divorced in 1993. I met Paula in May of 1994 and we were married at St. John the Baptist in November of 1994. In 2004 Paula and I helped to plant St. Benedict's Episcopal church in Shrewsbury PA, a mission of St. John the Baptist. Paula and I were very active in the ministries at St. Benedict's. In 2008 there was a division at St. Benedict's, which eventually led to its closing. This caused us to look for another Episcopal Church. The Good Lord led us to St. James' Episcopal Church in Parkton, MD just south of the PA/MD border. We felt very welcomed at home at St. James'. We became very active and between the two of us were on almost every committee. We both served on the Vestry multiple times, I was both the Senior and Junior Warden, and for a short time was both simultaneously.

Upon returning to St. Charles in 2016 we returned to my home church, Trinity St. Charles. Paula and I have 4 beautiful adult daughters between us. We have 8 grandchildren, 4 boys and 4 girls. Our first granddaughter, Taylor Lynn Williams, died at birth. Damon is 20, Connor, Caleb and Reid are 18, Aubrey is 15, Paisley is 13 and Luna is 10. Taylor would be 19. We currently live in O'Fallon, MO and my mother, Bonnie Jeffery Curnow 94 years old lives with us

(Nominees for Parish Leaders, Convention Delegate, continued)

Diocesan Convention Alternate: One person, term expiring at Annual Meeting

Alternates to Diocesan Convention is expected to attend all the Convocation meetings and other gatherings expected of Convention Delegates, so as to be prepared to vote on issues at the Diocesan Convention in the event that a delegate is unable to attend.

Program Development Fund Member-at-Large: One person, term expiring at Annual Meeting

The Endowment for Program was established by two families in 199x to establish new programs and/or enhance existing programs. In grants from the interest earned, the fund has supported a variety of efforts, including establishing the parish library, hosting speakers, sending young people to summer camp, and, most recently, the community garden irrigation system.

TEA/ACE Fund Member-at-Large: One person, term expiring at Annual Meeting

The TEA Fund—Trinity Educational Assistance Fund—was established approximately 10 years ago. Its purpose is to provide small grants to active parishioners under age 26 for post-secondary education or training. The ACE (Adult Christian Education) Fund provides adults small grants for such things as spiritual retreats, books for courses of study and similar programs. ACE Funds are not intended to be used for tuition for established programs, but may be used for books, art supplies, or other parts of the spiritual journey. The ACE Fund has an application process. The TEA Fund is awarded by the committee.

At the Annual Meeting we will invite nominations from the floor for each of these offices.