



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

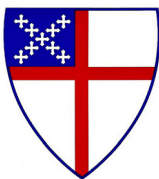


***COME  
DISCOVER  
WITH US!***

# **THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

## **EPISCOPAL**

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## **PARISH PARKING**

Parking is available directly across Union Street in our private lot. To gain entrance, parishioners may obtain a magnetic key from the parish office.

For those who have difficulty ambulating, there are five additional parking spaces available for use on Sunday mornings across from our circle driveway.

Should our lot be full, parking is also available on the street or in the nearby public garage on High Street which is free on Sunday mornings.

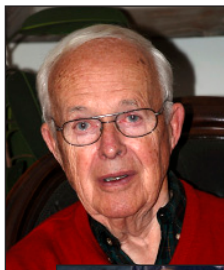
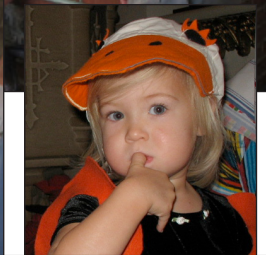


## TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR PARISH VISION .....	1
WEEKLY SERVICES .....	2
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH .....	3
HOLY TRINITY MINISTRIES .....	5
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS .....	9
WEST CHESTER AND VICINITY .....	11

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Church of the Holy Trinity is to be a visible and vibrant body of Christ open and welcoming to all. We are committed by our faith in God to nurture each other on our life-long journey of discernment, and to be dedicated to healing, witness and service so that all who enter our doors may discover a deeper relationship with God through Christ Jesus.*





# OUR PARISH VISION ...

## WHO WE ARE:

The Church of the Holy Trinity is a dynamic parish eager to continue our journey as the Body of Christ in this place. Nourished by firm faith, blessed by the grace of God, and inspired by our rich heritage of beautiful, life-giving worship and sound teaching, we yearn to be who God wants us to be and to continue serving each other, our community and the larger world as God leads us.

We are united in faith, but we are also different from each other in many ways, and from our differences we derive our greatest strength. We are elderly, we are young, and in our middle years. We are families and single people. We are newcomers and long-time members, traditionalists and people who like innovation. Our political views differ widely. We represent a rich ethnic heritage and come from different faiths and customs – yet we come together to hear the good news of God's love.

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***“...AND FROM OUR  
DIFFERENCES WE DERIVE  
OUR GREATEST STRENGTH.”***

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The journey is challenging, but it is also very exciting. There is a sense of optimism and hope as we welcome new worshipers, including young families with children, as well as college students and empty nesters. These individuals and families are sharing their energy, developing new ministries, and moving into leadership roles in the parish. Countless loyal parishioners, imbued with the Holy Spirit, continue to pour their love into Holy Trinity, contributing tirelessly to the work that keeps a parish going.

We are a people who are deeply committed to Christ and to learning how we may better serve God in every aspect of our lives, as individuals and as a parish. With these resources, Holy Trinity – already a truly special community of believers – is becoming an even brighter beacon of Christ's love and fellowship in the West Chester area.



## WEEKLY SERVICES

We offer two worship services on Sunday mornings and a Wednesday morning service in the Chapel of the Ascension located off our courtyard.



### **SUNDAY 8:00 A.M. –**

#### ***RITE I HOLY EUCHARIST***

*(Summer schedule is 7:45 a.m.)*

For those who prefer a quiet, contemplative service, there is no music at this service. The one-hour service features the traditional Rite I Holy Eucharist and a sermon.

### **SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. –**

#### ***RITE II HOLY EUCHARIST***

*(Summer schedule is 9:00 a.m.)*

This more contemporary Rite II service includes music by the Chancel Choir as well as participation from the Handbell Choir once a month. Along with music, this service offers worship that is meaningful and accessible to all ages.

### **WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. –**

#### ***HEALING SERVICE***

This Rite II service includes a Litany for Healing and anointing with oil. The service is held in the Chapel of the Ascension.

# **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Episcopal Church has its roots in the Church of England. Like all Anglican churches, the Episcopal Church is distinguished by the following characteristics:

## **PROTESTANT, YET CATHOLIC**

Anglicanism stands squarely in the Reformed tradition, and considers itself just as directly descended from the Early Church as the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox churches. Episcopalians celebrate the “Mass” in ways similar to the Roman Catholic tradition, yet do not recognize a single authority, such as the Pope of Rome.

## **BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

Unique to Anglicanism is the Book of Common Prayer, the collection of worship services that worshipers follow. The first Book of Common Prayer was compiled in English by Thomas Cranmer in the 16th Century, and since then has undergone many revisions for different times and places.

The present prayer book in the Episcopal Church was published in 1979. Many other worship resources and prayers exist to enrich our worship, but the Book of Common Prayer is the authority that governs our worship. The prayer book explains Christianity, describes the main beliefs of the Church, outlines the requirements for the sacraments, and in general serves as the main guidelines of the Episcopal life.

## **SCRIPTURE, TRADITION, AND REASON**

Episcopalians believe that every Christian must build an understanding and relationship with God’s Word in the Bible, and to do that, God has given us intelligence and our own experience, which we refer to as “Reason.” Based on the text of the Bible itself, and what Christians have taught us about it through the ages, we then must sort out our own understanding of it as it relates to our lives.

## **LITURGY AND RITUAL**

Worship in the Episcopal Church is said to be “liturgical,” meaning that the congregation follows service forms and prays from texts that don’t change greatly from week to week during a season of the year. This sameness gives worship a rhythm that becomes comforting and familiar to the worshipers.

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

In spite of the diversity of worship styles in the Episcopal Church, Holy Eucharist always has the same components and the same shape.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

We begin by praising God through song and prayer, and listen to as many as four readings from the Bible; usually from the Old Testament, a Psalm, the Epistles, and the Gospels. The psalm is sung or recited by the congregation.

A sermon interpreting the readings appointed for the day is preached. The congregation then recites the Nicene Creed (written in the Fourth Century and the Church's statement of what we believe). The congregation then prays together for the Church, the World, and those in need. We greet one another with a sign of "peace."

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Standing at the table which has been set with a cup of wine and a plate of bread or wafers, the priest raises his or her hands and greets the congregation saying "The Lord be With You." The congregation then recites the Eucharistic Prayer which tells the story of our faith from the beginning of Creation through the choosing of Israel to be God's people, our continual turning away from God, and God's calling us to return.

The presider continues with the story of the coming of Jesus Christ and the night before his death on which he instituted the Eucharistic meal (communion) as a continual remembrance of him.

The bread and wine is blessed and the congregation recites the Lord's Prayer. The priest breaks the bread and offers it to the congregation as the "gifts of God for the People of God." The congregation then shares the consecrated bread and the wine.

## ALL ARE WELCOME

All baptized Christians—no matter age or denomination—are welcome to "receive communion." Episcopalians invite all baptized people to receive, not because we take the Eucharist lightly, but because we take our baptism so seriously.

Visitors who are not baptized Christians are welcome to come forward during the Communion to receive a blessing from the presider.

At the end of the Eucharist, the congregation prays once more in thanksgiving, and then is dismissed to continue the life of service to God and to the World.

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*Taken from the Visitors' Center of the Episcopal Church website (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/visitors>)*





# HOLY TRINITY MINISTRIES

## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Worship ministries include the **Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, and Ushers**. Volunteers for these ministries that support our worship enrich the parish life of Holy Trinity. These largely anonymous, behind-the-scenes ministries give their members a time-honored way of contributing to the Body of Christ.

The **Music Ministry** at Holy Trinity, with a rich tradition dating back to its former Men and Boys Choir, has renewed its musical identity and standards. The Chancel Choir combines adults of all ages and musical backgrounds into an inspiring group led by our Minister

of Music. In conjunction with the Handbell Choir and the Children's Choir, the music program is tailored to ensure that the musical offering coincides with the weekly liturgy and overall mission of the church.

## FAITH MINISTRIES

Our spiritual journey as Christians is nurtured by many ministries which support our members' faith and allow us to share God's gifts with each other.

**Children, Youth & Family Ministry:** Christian formation begins at baptism and is "a lifelong journey of discernment." On Sunday mornings September through June from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., classes are held for children aged 2 through high school. Modernization of the lower level classroom area has created a bright cheery environment for learning. The classroom area is accessible by elevator or the central stairway.

**Journey to Adulthood** is designed for young people in grades 6 through 12 to affirm, celebrate and speak to the developmental tasks of adolescence, especially in areas of self, spirituality, sexuality and society. The theological



underpinnings of the journey from childhood to adulthood that are emphasized in *Journey to Adulthood* are (1) the goodness of the gift of creation and our partnership with God; (2) the development of the whole person; (3) the liturgical celebration of rites of passage; and (4) the task of the community in this important ministry.

**Adult Christian Education** opportunities are rich and varied at Holy Trinity. Through **CAFÉ (Christian Adult Formation and Education ministry)**, a devoted group of men and women with diverse educational backgrounds plan programs for the year around a theme. The theme gives clergy and lay people an opportunity to teach and grow in faith with their fellow parishioners.

**Second Thursday Study Group** explores topics centered on Biblical life-lessons as pathways to individual spiritual growth. Members of the Holy Trinity clergy or an occasional guest speaker serve as guides and moderators.

**Education for Ministry (EfM)** has been active at Holy Trinity since 1985. This four-year program is designed for lay people willing to make a serious commitment to study, prayer, and theological reflection. Sessions are held during the school year for two and a half hours each week. Members of Holy Trinity who have graduated from the program remain a valuable resource for those who aspire to greater understanding of Christian theology and history.

The **Prayer Chain** supplements the traditional church prayer list to give those in need of prayer the extra comfort of knowing a group of faithful servants prays for them daily.

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Strengthening social ties from within, ministries in this area are a critical part of the fabric of Holy



Trinity, giving many a chance to serve in ways they are most comfortable. These ministries bring camaraderie, fun and good food.

**The Women of Holy Trinity** invite all women of the parish - from pre-teens to grandmothers, stay-at-home moms, women who work, and those retired - to come together for fun, fellowship and volunteer opportunities through bi-annual parish-wide outreach projects and one spiritual in-reach event each year.

The **Men's Breakfast Group** has met for more than 20 years on the third Saturday of each month for food, fellowship, and Bible study.

**Barrels for Haiti** supports the Sisters of St. Margaret (Port au Prince Convent) in their work in Haiti by sending shipments of food and supplies, and holding craft sales of Haitian cottage industry. Their emphasis is on Foyer Notre Dame Nursing



Home, an everyday “Door Ministry” distribution of food as well as scholarships and supplies for students.

The **Trinity Stitchers** is a knit and crochet group that participates in the prayer shawl ministry by providing prayer shawls and lap robes to those in need of physical or spiritual comfort, regardless of their faith affiliation.

**Sarah’s Circle**, a quilting group, meets each Monday for fellowship and quilting over a brown bag lunch. Their quilts are sold at a Christmas Bazaar with proceeds going to parish and community projects that support women and children.

**Stephen Ministry** trains lay people to use their spiritual gifts as Christian friends who listen, care, pray, support and encourage others in troubled times. This ministry supplements the clerical resources available to support those in spiritual need or other difficulty.

The **Human Relations Task Force** works to address issues that interfere with and diminish the relationships we have with each other. The mission of the Task Force is to promote the personal dignity of all people and to eliminate any barriers

that prevent each person from reaching their full potential, and each person from being able to experience the closest of human relationships. Barriers include racial and cultural discrimination, bias and intolerance.

The **Welcoming Ministry** is an on-going ministry for welcoming and incorporating new people into Holy Trinity. Everything they do is to ensure that “All Are Welcome.” Welcome booklets, which contain helpful information about our church community, are presented to newcomers, and special welcome events are held periodically.

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Reaching out to those in need has always been a strength of Holy Trinity. The ministries detailed here are supplemented by many outreach efforts listed elsewhere. When needs arise, Holy Trinity responds.

The **Catacomb Closet** - a thrift store open every Friday to serve those less fortunate - is run by a dedicated group of volunteers who collect, sort, organize and price donated items weekly. They also coordinate spring and fall rummage sales and





a sale of Christmas items each November. Donated items may include clean, usable clothing, jewelry, toys, games, and housewares. Proceeds support various outreach activities.

The **Outreach Ministry** organizes, supports, and sponsors a diverse number of activities benefiting the community. These include the church Food Cupboard that distributes food for needy families and the annual Red Cross blood drive.

The **Thanksgiving Food Basket** provides for community members who are in need of assistance. Families who contact the church office receive a Thanksgiving food basket. Generous contributions of non-perishable food and monetary donations by members of our congregation fund this outreach.

**Adopted Families** is a ministry that provides assistance to families in our community through prayer and caring support at Christmastime. Names of families are received from the social workers in the West Chester Area School District. Adopted Families provides a

wish list that is used to provide each child with a toy and two items of clothing. Each family also receives a complete Christmas dinner. Funds to purchase these items come from Catacomb Closet proceeds, Women of Holy Trinity, and the generosity of Holy Trinity parishioners.

For more than 20 years, every Friday our Parish Hall doors open wide to provide hospitality through a nutritious meal to those whom God sends to us; always with a welcoming smile and a nonjudgmental atmosphere. The **Friday Night Supper** ministry provides volunteers with the opportunity to honor Christ's call to serve the neediest in our community in God's name.

A Spring Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, supported by West Chester area businesses, is held each year to fund the Friday Night Supper program and expand other community outreach projects.

**Assisting the Community Together (ACT) in Faith** is an interfaith ministry that seeks to support our neighbors in need by facilitating communication, coordinating support, and supplementing resources beyond the reach of

existing social services. ACT in Faith is a major outreach ministry for Holy Trinity and the church has committed office and operations space for this interfaith group.



**ACT IN FAITH**  
OF GREATER WEST CHESTER





## ***BUILDINGS & GROUNDS***

Founded in 1835, the Church of the Holy Trinity has been part of the evolution of West Chester from a pre-Civil War village to a prosperous Philadelphia suburb. Through the years, Holy Trinity has been a Christian community, serving residents of West Chester, the Episcopal Church, and the larger global community through the arts, outreach and spiritual nurture. You cannot miss Holy Trinity as you travel through town - it occupies two-thirds of a block; its distinctive red doors and octagonal narthex, or entry, are familiar landmarks to those who live here.

Holy Trinity history is replete with ministries, musical performances, and an open door tradition that has welcomed numerous organizations over the years. Music is a central theme woven into our fabric—from the former Men & Boys Choir that

performed annual concerts in the borough and traveled nationally and internationally for more than 100 years, to youth orchestras, ballet, folk concert workshops, Irish music concerts, chamber choral groups, and shared services where we are blessed with the voices of neighboring church choirs.

The Holy Trinity property is located at the corner of High and Union Streets in the borough of West Chester. It includes the main sanctuary and the connected parish house. The current church building's cornerstone was laid on July 3, 1868. Its serpentine stone - indigenous to Chester County - was obtained at nearby Brinton's Quarry. Holy Trinity remains as one of the few early significant architectural works in West Chester and one of only a handful constructed of this native stone.

Holy Trinity's church buildings were designed by one of its rectors, Rev. John Bolton. Bolton was a major influence in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century sacred stained glass window design. In fact, he and his brother William are credited with designing the earliest stained glass in America. Within Holy Trinity's sanctuary are prominent stained glass artworks: "The Three Holy Women," crafted by John LaFarge in 1890 as a memorial to Rev. Bolton's wife and daughters; "The Adoration of the Cross," one of the first stained glass windows produced by Louis Tiffany; and "The Star of David," made by the Willet Stained Glass Company.

The distinctive octagonal narthex, designed by West Chester architect Edward Kirkbride, has served as the main entry into the church since it replaced the demolished bell tower in 1981. In the mid-1990's, this structure was enhanced by local liturgical artist Beverly Wirth who created and installed the contemporary rose windows.

Our history includes three devastating fires: the first in 1877 damaged part of the sanctuary; the second occurred in 1957; and the third in 1987. After each, Holy Trinity persevered to rebuild the church.

Holy Trinity's history would not be complete without stories of resistance, struggle, reconciliation and growth. In 1966 the Diocese of Pennsylvania determined that Holy Trinity and Ascension Church, a small yet thriving mission church serving

African American residents, were to be joined as one parish. The merger precipitated a spectrum of reactions in both congregations: some welcomed it, some met it with dismay and resistance. This event is significant because the merger was an opportunity for growth and different life experiences that we embrace.

We recognize that our life as a Christian community has been enriched as a result of the merger. The 1960s were years of strife and upheaval in the nation, years of uncertainty and change, years of a different way.

In 2016, we celebrated the gifts that have flourished here since the merger with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our joined parishes.

An extensive parish construction project was completed in 2015 that included the reconfiguration and renovation of the lower level classrooms, Catacomb Closet, and ACT in Faith spaces as well as the installation of an elevator that provides easy access to these areas.



# WEST CHESTER AND VICINITY

## THE BOROUGH

The Borough of West Chester, originally called Turks Head, was created in 1692 from lands granted by King George II to William Penn. Since 1786, West Chester has been the county seat of Chester County, and from its Quaker beginnings has enjoyed a proud reputation for hospitality, social justice, education and religious tolerance.

The entire downtown district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Within the borough limits you will find 11 parks and more than 3,000 buildings dating to the colonial period.

Noting West Chester's small town charm and cosmopolitan tastes, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* named West Chester "...one of the world's most perfect small towns." The area was also named as one of the "Best 100 Places in America to Live." West Chester's downtown offers a fine selection of restaurants, boutique, gift, clothing and antique shops, and entertainment.

## CULTURE

West Chester offers an abundance of leisure activities. The West Chester Department of Recreation sponsors a lively summer Growers Market and a variety of events from "Swinging Thursdays," gallery walks, the Restaurant Festival, wine tastings, ski and theater trips and sporting events. Other groups spon-



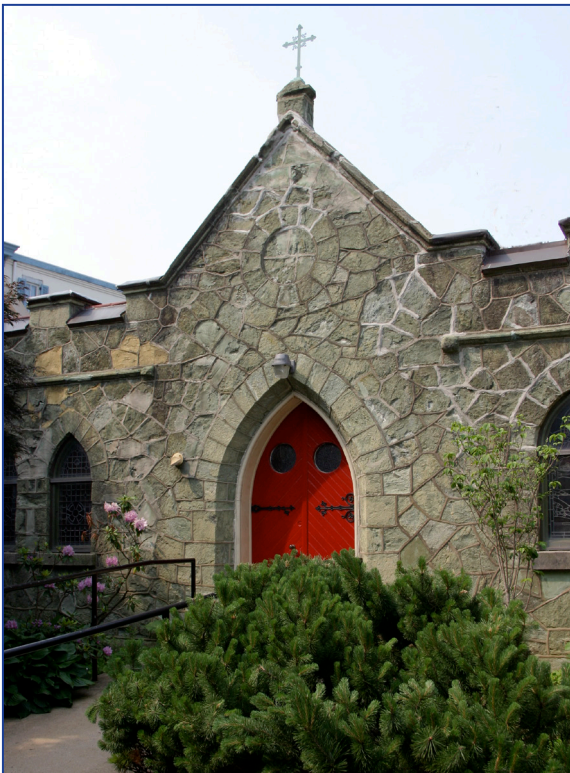
sor events such as an antiques show, a Fall Film Festival, and the Chester County Hospital May Festival.

Philadelphia, with its cultural and sporting attractions, is only 25 miles to the east. To the south are the verdant hills of the Brandywine Valley which offer a wealth of pleasures including the famed Longwood Gardens, Winterthur Estate and gardens, and the Brandywine River Museum.

West Chester is about equidistant to the shore communities of New Jersey and Delaware. Washington, DC and New York City are approximately 130 miles south and north.

## PARISH GOALS

- Encourage, build & celebrate church community
- Build a sustainable infrastructure for new and existing ministries
- Inspire total stewardship, encompassing people, treasure and facilities
- Elevate youth and outreach ministry to higher priority



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