

# Trinity Episcopal Church

Kirksville, Missouri June 2010

[www.trinitykirksville.org](http://www.trinitykirksville.org)

*Mission: We are an inclusive community of faith, strengthened by joyful hearts and engaged minds.*

## Who We Are

Trinity's congregation is changing. About half of our members began attending Trinity in the past ten years. Another thirty percent began attending ten to twenty years ago. And about twenty percent have been with Trinity for more than twenty years. In addition to these members, Trinity serves students from Truman State University, A.T. Still University, and Moberly Area Community College.

People who have been with Trinity for more than twenty years have a wealth of knowledge. They remember the growth of daughters and sons as well as turning points in congregational history. In contrast, some college students may not tend to be concerned with history, but have a lively sense of Trinity's social justice commitments, such as our choice to be an Oasis congregation.



**Bishop Smith with confirmation class, October 2008.**

To understand Trinity's people, we asked ourselves, "What drew us here?" A long time member and a first-time visitor may be drawn by a love of music. A faculty member and a retiree may be drawn by their love of the words of scripture. An energetic child and a busy professional may be drawn by

the comfort of a circle of friends. People need a space to share what is deeply important to them, to share what speaks to them from the wealth of God's creation. In our congregation, genuine care for each other and a shared love of liturgy and worship provide an essential touchstone for each of us.

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## Our Goals

- Practice more active hospitality in our interactions with visitors and new members.
- Provide better care for each other.
- Develop a stronger children's and youth program.
- Become more intentional regarding outreach and mission.
- Develop and offer new worship and gathering opportunities.
- Continue to address our property issues at the church and the vicarage.
- Work productively with our geographic location and the rural nature of our region.



## Supporting Our Worship—Music

The cornerstone of our music program is congregational singing, inspired by a choir known throughout the Diocese of Missouri. The purpose of the music is to bring us all closer to God and to each other, and the variety and depth of the music demonstrate many ways of doing that. Most of the hymns we sing are from the *Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, but we also use music from a variety of other sources and traditions. Hymns are chosen by the vicar and the choir director, and favorite hymns may also be suggested by worship participants.

Trinity's active music ministry includes contributions from a string ensemble and a brass ensemble. Many unique events throughout the year provide opportunities for musical offerings. For example, we have recently sung the Bach cantata, *How Brightly Beams the Morning Star*, as well as large portions of Handel's *Messiah*. This past Easter, we premiered a work by a student composer. We encourage talented musicians, composers, and arrangers from the church membership and the wider community to see Trinity as a place where their gifts can be offered for the glory of God.



**A string ensemble playing at our service at Thousand Hills State Park ("the lake").**

## Supporting Our Worship—Preparation

The members of Altar Guild are part of one of the oldest ministries at Trinity. They assist in setting the table for the Eucharistic feast and portraying the various church seasons. Altar guild members share an interest in the liturgy, in textile and needle arts, and flower arranging. They are responsible for the care and preparation of the altar, linens, candles, and flowers.

We also have bakers who have provided homemade bread for our Sunday morning Eucharist. Currently two people provide this for us, but they would love to have others join in this effort.



**Kerrin Smith offers home-baked bread.**

## Supporting Our Worship—Lay Leaders

Lay leaders during worship service include acolytes, chalice bearers, intercessors, and lectors. Acolytes vest for worship and carry the processional cross. They also assist the priests at the altar.

Chalice bearers (Eucharistic ministers) assist the priests at the Eucharist by serving the consecrated wine and are licensed by the Bishop.

Part of the liturgy each week is to pray for the church and the world. Volunteers

take their turns on various Sundays.

Each Sunday a volunteer is scheduled to read the designated portions of the Old and New Testament. The lector also leads us in the reading of the designated Psalm.

Recently we have begun a lay preaching ministry and already have one licensed lay preacher. A small core of people has taken up the challenge of working on new worship and gathering opportunities, including Taize-style worship.



**Licensed lay preacher Maria Evans delivers a sermon.**



## Supporting Our Worship—Sunday School

Trinity adopted the *Godly Play* curriculum for young children in 2007. Parents and other volunteers have enjoyed working with the children using its framework. Who wouldn't want to spend time with a child who says, "Craft time is when we get to look deeply into our thoughts and make what we see in our minds about the [Bible] stories"?

One of our goals is to develop a stronger children's and youth program. We hope to continue to strengthen the *Godly Play* program for young children and to encourage the participation of adult church members who are not

parents. However, as the age range of the children increases, and as we attract more families to our church, our creative volunteers will consider additional options.

We want to make better connection with Diocesan programs to help serve older children and youth. And we need to develop our own single-event programming for those older children and youth.



**Children learn to participate in Sunday worship.**

## Supporting Our Worship—Hospitality

Hospitality begins with the smiling person who greets members and visitors alike—our beloved Lola Lampe. It continues with worship participants who extend the peace of God to people surrounding them. A volunteer will invite visitors to write their names in our guest book and indicate whether they'd like to receive our e-newsletter.

One of our goals is to practice active hospitality with visitors and new

members by more openly valuing their interest in Trinity and by offering opportunities for involvement that they perceive as appropriate. We are aware of the dominant number of faculty and students in our congregation, and we want to be especially careful that we make people who are not in those groups feel comfortable with us.



## Supporting Our Worship—Nursery

Each year, we hire a caregiver to gently guide our youngest children as they play and rest while parents attend the Sunday morning service. In 2009, we added another caregiver for children who graduated from the nursery and are transitioning to the worship service. Parents play an active role in the care of their children and sometimes substitute when a caregiver is ill or gone. Parish members who are not parents are also

recruited to help, especially during the summer months.

We also provide nursery care during activities that do not occur on Sundays. We know we need to be more reliable about providing this kind of care so parents can feel confident that their young children will be welcome when they wish to attend a regular church activity or a special event.



**Lola, our superb greeter, gets to know our newest baby.**



## Book Club

Membership in the “book club” varies from book to book. Depending on the book and the discussion leader, it may take two to five sessions to explore the text, often with the assistance of specific discussion questions or guides from the leader. Any adult at Trinity can propose a book and/or volunteer to be a discussion leader, including clergy.

We typically have four or five of these each year, and each session draws between half a dozen and a dozen participants, depending on individual schedules and levels of interest. Discussions are usually scheduled by the

leader and participants—some have been held on Sundays after coffee hour; others over an evening meal at a local restaurant. In the past year, many of us have read at least one of the following books: *A Wing and a Prayer* (Jefferts Schori), *Green Christianity* (Wallace), *The First Christmas* (Borg and Crossan), *Serving and Giving* (John-Roger and Kaye), *The Last Week* (Borg and Crossan), and *Radical Hospitality: Benedict’s Way of Love* (Homan and Pratt).



**Scott Alberts leads discussion of *Serving and Giving*.**

## Canterbury Club

Through Diocesan funding, Trinity provides a small stipend for a peer minister. Trinity provides support for Canterbury Club as part of campus ministry. Last year, members gathered at the vicarage for Bible study on Sunday evenings, often preceded by a simple supper from a parish member. The Club has been hosted at the homes of parish members. Canterbury Club members often assist with regular parish activities.

There are several active campus ministries in Kirksville, including Campus Christian Fellowship, Catholic Newman Center, Baptist Student Union, Campus Crusade for Christ, Lutheran Student Fellowship, Flame Ministries/Wesley House, Hillel, and the Muslim Student Association, among others. Our group is typically three to ten students; we believe we have the opportunity to grow.



**Canterbury Club at Activities Day at Truman State University**

## Kirksville Interchurch Ministry

We donate annually to Kirksville Interchurch Ministries (KIM) for those ministries defined in KIM guidelines as those “best done in unity.” These include support for the Salvation Army and the Christian Community Food Depot, and Food 4 Kids. Each week, worship participants bring donated food to the Sunday service which is then taken to the Food Depot. During July of each year, Trinity members volunteer to provide

lunches for children in need at the local parks as part of the Food 4 Kids program. Our long-time representative to KIM attends bimonthly meetings and encourages us to continue contributing to these community-wide efforts. Our clergy are also involved in KIM activities.



**Priest Associate Carrol Davenport wearing chasuble made by parishioner Nancy Rosenberg.**



## Outreach

The first Sunday of each month, plate offerings are designated for community charities. This spring we began a year-long effort to help foster families in Adair County. During Mardi Gras week, the choir hosts a red beans and rice affair to support victims of natural disasters (Hurricane Katrina, earthquake in Haiti). Summer brings our annual involvement in the summer food program for kids who need lunches. Through our December Mitten Tree, we provide mittens, hats, scarves and gloves to the Salvation Army for distribution to youngsters. We also help purchase gifts and wrap for children

who have recently been or are currently sheltered, so that they too can offer gifts to loved ones. There are always ideas for outreach and volunteers who step forward when a potential project tugs on their hearts. For example, we hosted Waters of Hope riders in 2009.

Our goal to become more intentional regarding outreach and mission involves engaging more actively in our community, working more closely with other churches in our area both individually and through KIM, and building on the style of quiet evangelism that seems to work best for us.



**Waters of Hope riders enjoy breakfast at Trinity.**

## Fundraisers

For more than 25 years, Trinity members have gathered in the undercroft on two Lenten Saturdays to create the much-coveted Trinity chocolate Easter eggs. We make and sell from 300 to 500 eggs, generating at least \$1,000 for Trinity. Our busy transition year in 2010 meant that this effort was not organized. We hope to repeat its traditional success in future years.

The newest fundraiser is the annual plant sale. Perennials and annuals are sold to the public in the churchyard or at the Farmer's Market.

We know our biggest fundraising challenge will be a capital campaign to address property issues at the church and vicarage. We are keenly aware of the need to make our building more accessible.



**The Easter egg crew at work!**

## Communication

Five to six Trinity newsletters are distributed to approximately 100 e-mail addresses and nine postal addresses each year. A typical newsletter includes a message from the vicar, an update from the senior warden, announcements about coming events, a reflection from a member, as well as appropriate photographs and illustrations. In between issues, emails and telephone contact spread the word about parish news—

weddings, births, and funerals.

Our interim pastor instituted a weekly e-newsletter to provide more formal means of frequent communication with the congregation.

Recently we have made more information available on our website. Lenten meditations were offered online to our members this past spring.



**Joanne Harwood and Bob Reed eat barbecue and visit.**



## Stewardship and Care for Each Other

We strongly desire to use our time, talents, and treasure for the work of the Spirit. We begin that work in caring for each other—balancing outreach and in-reach, supporting each other with prayer and works, preventing burnout among our members, and sensitizing ourselves to feelings of inclusion and exclusion among us. We extend ourselves to our community and our world, with a deep sense of gratitude for the time, talents, and treasure we have been given.

As the number of pledges has decreased slightly, the average amount of pledges has increased. We understand that in a time of transition, there will be some decline in membership.

Year	Pledging units	Amt pledged	Avg Pledge
2006	35	\$60,010.00	\$1,715
2007	34	\$64,560.00	\$1,899
2008	33	\$62,560.00	\$1,896
2009	36	\$81,350.00	\$2,260
2010	30	\$76,387.00	\$2,546

## Parish Finances

Our plate and pledge income has risen steadily since 2001, from approximately \$40,000 then to over \$90,000 in 2009. As a mission parish in the Diocese, we receive Diocesan aid. Our goal is to reduce this amount each year until we become self supporting. Our worship attendance has risen from an average of about 40 in 2001 to an average of about 60 in 2009. Our number of pledging units has decreased slightly in the past few years, from 35 in 2006 to 30 in 2010. Our 2009 budget, 2009 actuals, and 2010 budget are shown below.

	Category	2009 Budget	2009 Actuals	2010 Budget	%
<b>INCOME</b>	Pledged & Plate	\$84,650.00	\$90,443.46	\$81,787.00	80.18%
	Diocesan Aid	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$16,520.00	16.19%
	Misc	\$4,400.00	\$5,921.74	\$3,700.00	3.63%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$108,050.00</b>	<b>\$115,365.20</b>	<b>\$102,007.00</b>	100.00%
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
	Clergy	\$63,900.00	\$64,361.30	\$58,580.00	55.85%
	Building	\$13,500.00	\$12,473.93	\$17,300.00	16.50%
	Music	\$9,200.00	\$9,469.44	\$9,200.00	8.77%
	Outreach	\$14,800.00	\$16,014.13	\$14,550.00	13.87%
	Worship	\$4,200.00	\$3,199.16	\$3,100.00	2.96%
	Misc	\$2,450.00	\$2,699.98	\$2,150.00	2.05%
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$108,050.00</b>	<b>\$108,217.94</b>	<b>\$104,880.00</b>	100%
2009 end of year accounts					
Checking	\$16,832.00				
Savings	\$34,397.00				
CDs & Investments	\$34,000.00				
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>\$85,229.00</b>				

## Qualities We Seek in a Vicar

We seek a vicar who is able to:

- Motivate us, spiritually inspire us, teach us
- Get to know us as individuals, care for us, stand with us in times of need
- Establish a campus presence and explore relationships with various types of students attending the three campuses in Kirksville
- Develop lay leadership in peer ministry and adult learning
- Build strong complementary relationships with a beloved associate priest, an active laity, and the Diocese
- Help us be better stewards of our parish resources, including our buildings, finances, and our time and talents

*It also helps if you walk on water (and can turn water into wine)...Seriously, it really helps if you have a sense of humor!*



**We're ready to work with you!**

## Brief History of Trinity

Trinity was founded in 1870 and the church was dedicated in 1873. This first church was damaged by fire in 1907. Rev. Putney requested Diocesan funding to match local pledges for a new church in 1915. The church was consecrated in 1917 and uses the design principles advocated by the Cambridge Camden Society for rural Episcopal churches. Added American Craftsman details help the church blend with neighboring homes.

Trinity declined in mid-1920 and the Diocese authorized closure in 1928. The

building was deconsecrated and put up for sale. Because of the Great Depression, there were no buyers. Community members talked with the Right Reverend William Scarlett who reopened the church in 1939. We have been an active mission church ever since.

The current altar was built and installed in the early 1980s. The sacristy was remodeled in 2003; the nursery and narthex were refurbished in 2004. We are currently concerned about handicapped accessibility.



**Congregation in churchyard on Palm Sunday.**

## Brief History of the Diocese

The Diocese was founded in 1841 to serve nine congregations throughout the state of Missouri. After the Civil War, the diocese grew to 51 congregations and 40 missions. In 1886, the Diocesan Convention approved splitting it into eastern and western sections. The current Episcopal Diocese of Missouri is the eastern section, comprised of 47 congregations in 54 counties, headed by the Right Reverend George Wayne Smith. Diocesan offices

are in St. Louis, adjoining Christ Church Cathedral.

Since the early 1900s, the Diocese has addressed compelling social issues, including homelessness during the Great Depression, social reform and prison ministry in the 1930s, and civil rights issues throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Social issues continue to be debated vigorously in recent years, including internal issues such as the use of the new

Book of Common Prayer, the ordination of women, and the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members.

The diocese also has a strong history of international cooperation. Currently, our companion diocese is the Diocese of Lui in southern Sudan. Similar relationships with the Diocese of Puerto Rico and the Diocese of Nigeria were successful.



## Our Community: Features

Kirksville is a rural town of just over 17,000 people. It adjoins three large conservation areas in northeast Missouri. The area offers several recreation opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast, such as swimming and boating at Thousand Hills State Park, hiking and biking, hunting and fishing. The city manages indoor and outdoor swimming pools at the Aquatic Center, open year round. A local YMCA, a cardiac rehab and fitness center, and student recreation centers at Truman State University and A.T. Still University also serve the community. The city and interested citizens are currently planning for a walking/biking trail that would run from city center to Thousand Hills State Park.

Northeast Regional Medical Center (109 beds) serves the area through 70 active physicians, including specialists in over 30 areas. Kirksville is also home to the founding college of osteopathic medicine, A.T. Still University. Kirksville R-III school district has an early childhood center, primary school, elementary school, middle school, and high school, as well as an area technical school.

The cost of living is approximately 26 percent below the U.S. average. Housing is generally perceived as affordable. The median cost of a three-bedroom home is \$105,000.



Along the trail at Thousand Hills State Park (photo by Tim Barcus).

## Our Community: Demographics

Kirksville's population is less diverse than the U.S. population, with approximately 93-95 percent of Caucasian origin, and small numbers of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians. Poverty levels, both individual (30%) and family (14%), are higher than the U.S. average.

The average household income is reported differently by various sources; the highest is \$44,227 per year, still lower than the U.S. average. Adults in the area are more highly educated than the U.S. average. Fourteen percent have advanced degrees and eighteen percent are college graduates.



For more information, go to:  
[www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com);  
[www.kirksvillechamber.com](http://www.kirksvillechamber.com);  
[www.truman.edu](http://www.truman.edu);  
<http://www.atsu.edu/kcom/index.htm>

## Our Community: Church Environment

According to Claritas and Percept, the Kirksville area is slightly higher than the national average in the percentage of people who are somewhat involved in church activities (34%) and strongly involved in church activities (35%). Most households (86%) have a denominational or affiliation preference, slightly above the national average. Overall church style preferences in worship, music, and architecture are split between traditional and contemporary.

Church outreach program preferences that exceed the U.S. average include sports and/or camping programs, twelve-step programs, food pantry/clothing resources programs, and spiritual retreats. There are approximately 35 Christian churches.

Each year, over 6,000 students are welcomed to the area-graduate students seeking degrees in osteopathic medicine and areas of the liberal arts as well as undergraduate students attending Moberly Area Community College and Truman State University. Many students explore various denominations while in Kirksville.



Hope to see you here!

