

The Message

The Newsletter of

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - Little Rock, Arkansas

A House of Prayer for All People

Summer 2021

Looking to the Future

by The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Dean and Rector

Last year, when it became obvious that the pandemic would last longer than two weeks, church leaders of many denominations began to wonder about the impact an extended shutdown would have on the church. We knew that weeks and months of not being able to gather in person would affect our communities. Had we adequately prepared for, and formed practices to worship at home? We had to learn how to care for one another when we couldn't be together. Now, perhaps seeing the beginning of what life will be like post-pandemic, we're still wondering if we'll be able to (or want to) return to our pre-pandemic ways.

It seems we have entered a new stage of the pandemic. The rising COVID cases, due to the Delta variant, mean we must continue many of our protective protocols. This is important to shield our children, immuno-compromised parishoners and those who cannot receive the vaccine. We will continue to wear masks during worship and maintain social distance, and for now, we will continue the distribution of bread only communion. At the same time, we are

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Seeking Stability

by The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry, Subdean

As I take in all that is happening: the pandemic, leadership transitions, discerning church and ministry post-pandemic at Trinity, I find myself thinking about the vows people make upon entering a monastery. Though these have varying particulars across denominations and religions they share concepts of stability and transformation.

Geography and place matter in the monastic tradition. Monks take a vow of stability – to stay. Additionally, there is a vow related to transformation – fidelity and obedience to God. In our Christian perspective, as we follow Jesus our Shepherd and Model, change and risk are involved for us personally and for the church.

The monastic life is about staying put and about risking for the sake of the Kingdom of God. I feel those kinds of things are in the air at Trinity these days. I'm not saying we are a monastery, but in our religious and spiritual life we share similar values and commitments. These can inform us, motivate us, and remind us of the centrality of God in our lives.

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Trinity Cathedral Staff

Dean and Rector

The Very Rev. Amy
Dafler Meaux

Clergy

The Rev. Deb Cooper
The Rev. Canon
Dr. Lisa Corry
The Rev. Susan Payne

Lay Staff

Jack Dowling
Joe Harris
Mary Penick Hodges
Dawn Howe
Ricky Parks
Dr. Colin MacKnight
Wyamon Stokes
Jeanie Toombs

ECEP

Christy Poindexter

The Vestry

Senior Warden
Neal Lea
Junior Warden
Tom Fennell
Treasurer
Herschel Cast
Clerk
Lisa McNeir
Member-at-Large
Susan Borné

Steve Bethel

Tom Clark
Terri Erwin
Sarah Henry
Harold Joyner
Susan Mehlberger
John Milwee
Melissa Whitfield
Jennifer Wilson-Harvey
Mary Margaret Wippo
Marcia Wayland

Chancellor

Clarke Tucker

Transformation, Transition, Adjustment

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looking into various formation opportunities in the fall, hoping to offer hybrid, virtual, and in-person options. This need for multiple modes of access is just one of the impacts of the pandemic on how the church gathers.

The Cathedral has begun to discern and imagine the future of its ministries. In the fall of 2020, we started an architectural assessment of our property. Since then, Sarah Bennings and her team from Polk, Stanley, Wilcox have done more than assess the property. They have spent time with various ministries learning how the property promotes or hinders ministry and mission. While Sarah's team was doing its work, a Mission Strategy committee explored how to deepen our relationships with our neighbors, the Little Rock community, and the Diocese. This includes the possibility of sharing our space with community partners, growing ourselves as a resource for the Diocese, and enhancing our ongoing ministries of music and education.

On August 7th, the Mission Strategy committee will gather with a broad array of Cathedral lay leaders. The purpose of this retreat is to clarify each ministry area and its priorities. We will present our work to the Parish for feedback on August 29th. The buildings across Spring Street, along with Chancellor's Hall, will be available for members to tour and learn about potential uses. All of these priorities and feedback will be used to the benefit of our Master Plan and Missional Strategy.

What will ministry at the Cathedral look like post-pandemic? There is great potential for energized ministry for our members, and with our community and Diocesan partners. This is a time for discernment, connection, and growth. I hope you will join us, sharing your gifts, passions, and vocations, as the Cathedral moves into the future.

Seeking Stability

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We at Trinity are staying and moving forward for God. The church is in transition: ministry through the pandemic and beyond, staff changes, discovery of our own fidelity to values and practices, and as we move forward, we seek both stability and transformation.

We are moving toward "regular" church and programs this fall after an 18-month hard stop. It was jolting to stop so suddenly, and I'm sure starting again will feel the same. In September, we will resume adult formation and youth programming, grow our pastoral care practices, and strengthen and honor our connection to the Early Childhood Education Program. Some of this will look the same, some will be different but look the same, and some will look different, as we seek stability, fidelity, and obedience in our Christian commitment.

I would love to hear from you if you are interested and available to volunteer for 1-2 hours per month on Sunday mornings for the youth program, or if you have specific needs or ideas for formation, either personally or for us as a church.

I look forward, by God's grace, to moving forward together for the sake of God's kingdom.

Seeking stability & transformation together,

Lisa+

From the Choir Loft

by Dr. Colin MacKnight

I'm thrilled to be here at Trinity Cathedral and in Little Rock. The staff, choir, and parish have been so welcoming and supportive, and I'm grateful to everyone who has helped Marilyn and me with our move from The Big Apple to La Petite Roche. As Marilyn says, our transition has been "nothing but green lights!"

While big changes like this are always exciting, this new chapter is doubly so as Trinity and the country finally emerge from a long period of limited activity. Musicians have been especially impacted by the effects of shutdowns, and I deeply sympathize with those of you – adult volunteers, children, bell ringers, and others – who have been unable to participate in Trinity's music program the last year and a half. I'm hopeful that we are approaching the time when this will no longer be the case. Until then, I'm indebted to our octet of professional singers, not only for their keen musical ability, but for their deep commitment to Trinity Cathedral over the last 16 months.

I'm so excited to worship, make music, and grow with all of you. Please take a moment to say hello. You may have to introduce yourself a few times, but I'm eager to get to know you, hear your hopes for Trinity's music program, and deepen our relationships with God together.



The Message

A newsletter about life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Send correspondence & address corrections to:

The Message, 310 W17th Street, Little Rock, AR 72206

Tel. 501-372-0294 Fax: 501-372-0416 email info@trinitylittlerock.org www.trinitylittlerock.org

Mid-Year Budget Report

by Herschel Cast

Dear Cathedral Parishioners,

The following mid-year financial update is offered to keep you informed on the financial condition of the Cathedral. Dean Meaux and the Vestry feel strongly that a well-informed parish is a necessity especially during the present difficult period.

Please refer to the following table that compares our actual income and expenses through June 2021 to the same period in 2020 and to the full year 2021 budget.

Our 2021 income is below the same period in 2020 for a few important reasons:

- Income for 2020 reflects a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$141,000 (reflected in the Total Other Income line). We did not apply for a similar loan in 2021.
- Little Rock Preparatory Academy was still utilizing our Spring Street classroom buildings during the first part of 2020, producing income of about \$51,000.
- At midyear, pledge income for 2021 is about 52% of total budget which is acceptable. Even though pledges are about \$90,000 behind the same period last year, we remain confident that we will achieve our pledge goal by year end.
- Contributions are only about 55% of the same period in 2020, but hopefully as we return to worship in the cathedral, this component of our income will also increase.

On the expense side, 2021 is higher than this time last year primarily in salary and benefits. This reflects our increased staffing levels over the same period last year as Dean Meaux establishes her leadership team. These changes were well understood and are reflected in the 2021 budget.

The 2021 budget does reflect a negative cash flow for the year; however, our cash balance is sufficient to manage this situation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the cathedral's finances.

Herschel Cast
Treasurer



Mid-Year Budget Report

Accounts	YTD Actual June 2021	Annual Budget 2021	YTD Actual June 2020
Revenues			
Operations Income			
Total Pledges	\$661,612	\$1,265,000	\$753,552
Contributions	\$18,754	\$30,000	\$30,096
Plate offerings	\$5,907	\$5,000	\$5,741
Reimbursements	\$38,478	\$63,300	\$31,413
Other Income			
Total Other Income	\$2,570	\$251,300	\$144,641
ECEP Rental	\$20,729	\$50,000	\$18,437
LRPA Rental Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,971
Total Operations Income	\$748,052	\$1,664,600	\$1,034,855
Expenses			
Operations Expenses			
Outreach/Inreach	\$4,108	\$19,400	\$4,684
Diocesan Support	\$74,167	\$150,000	\$76,002
Consulting Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liturgy	\$1,993	\$6,000	\$1,871
Music	\$7,391	\$19,100	\$4,022
Ministry - General Pastor	\$8,673	\$76,550	\$25,449
Special Music Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Adult Formation	\$1,178	\$4,000	\$208
Youth Formation	\$101	\$16,700	\$489
Children's Formation	\$1,476	\$15,250	\$1,242
Communications	\$19,990	\$34,160	\$21,288
Buildings and Grounds	\$218,740	\$422,800	\$204,435
Trinity Properties Expenses	\$23,005	\$0.00	\$19,944
General Office	\$22,875	\$46,700	\$19,591
Finance	\$8,705	\$18,400	\$306
Continuing Education	\$2,010	\$12,500	\$1,170
Salaries	\$322,994	\$754,895	\$154,981
Benefits	\$108,222	\$220,104	\$49,759
PPP_Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,539
PPP_Utilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,735
PPP_Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121,065
Total Operations Expenses	\$825,637	\$1,816,559	\$731,788
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Youth and Children News

Fall Plan For Upper Elementary Through High School

We are excited about next steps with late elementary age children and youth for the fall! As I've been in touch with many about being volunteers, I hear your excitement as well!

We will begin to do things a bit differently this fall. We will be on-ramping 4th and 5th graders toward youth group. What this means is that each week all 4th through 12th graders will meet briefly together in Upper Mitchell house with music (Thanks to Jack Dowling and his wonderful guitar skills), nugget lesson, and sharing. From there we will split off into three groups based on both age and development: 4th and 5th graders, 6th through 9th graders, and 10th through 12th graders.

Our content will be lectionary based utilizing "Teen Text" – a resource for junior high and high school students - seeking to help "youth connect the text on the page with events in their daily life" (progressivechristianity.org/resources/teen-text-teen-curriculum). This resource is highly regarded in our diocese and widely used across denominations. Additionally, it is easily adaptable to developmental age groups. The value of it in our context is its approach – it continues what children are accustomed to through

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Teen Text does not simply provide an answer but "stimulates the learner to grapple eagerly and passionately" with scripture and today's ups and downs

I have been recruiting people to volunteer once a month on a Sunday for an hour. So far, the response has been very positive!

Pragmatically, outside of the formation hour, I will supply all volunteers with an overview resource and supplies to facilitate small group discussion, reflection, and/or craft. Preparation outside of class would be no more than 20-30 minutes.

Please let me know if you are interested in jumping in with us on this endeavor!

Lisa+



clockwise from top: Vacation Bible School group photo; Rev. Lisa with VBS kids; teen helpers ready to serve ice cream; VBS prayer for the Earth.

An Invitation to Acolyte Training

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to become acolytes. We will hold training for new acolytes on Saturday, August 21 beginning at 9 a.m. We will finish with lunch. Youth will learn how to carry banners, torches, crosses and assist clergy at the altar. This is a vital ministry of the Cathedral. For additional information, please contact Otis Howe at otis.howe3@gmail.com or 501-690-4297.



Blessing of the Backpacks and ECEP

Backpack blessings will take place during the announcements at the service on August 15. Students and teachers can come up and get tags for their backpacks and clergy will say a prayer for them and the school year. Special prayers will also be offered for the Early Childhood Education Program.



Image by Elle Mognet

Nursery Help

We are currently searching for an additional caregiver for our parish nursery. Hours are Sunday mornings (9:30-11:30 during the summer/8:30-12:30 during the school year) and occasional evening meetings. If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Dawn (501-588-3661 or dhowe@trinitylittlerock.org).



top: Sharing love with a furry friend; bottom: ECEP chapel time

top and bottom: ECEP kids watching the crane move the chiller.

Ministry Partners

*Flower Delivery Ministry is blooming at Trinity Cathedral
...and it begins in God's garden*

The flower guild is a well-oiled machine of dedicated volunteers who assemble the beautiful floral arrangements that grace the sanctuary every Sunday and add floral beauty to special events all through the year. Each week flowers are lovingly selected and creatively arranged to enliven and enrich our worship experience. Every Sunday the flowers behind the altar are imbued with the prayers of clergy and congregation as we participate in the liturgy. The flowers are a part of our prayer and our praise. But did you know that when the Sunday service is over the flowers have more work to do?

The flower delivery ministry team takes over after the service. The beautiful bouquets are carefully disassembled and then reassembled into small floral arrangements to be delivered out into the world to persons on the prayer list, those who are sick or in need. Some go to folks in long term care, or who are home-bound and even to persons outside of the church in need. On the Fourth of July, arrangements with American flags were delivered to the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock. We have also delivered to hospitals, nursing homes, and UAMS Longevity Center entrances.

Each and every week throughout the year, 10 or more small arrangements are delivered by the team. The

flowers carry the prayers and blessings of the church with them and are shared as a reminder to the recipients, "you are loved, you are remembered, and our prayers are with you." Sometimes the vase is left on a doorstep or at the reception desk and sometimes the deliverer also visits and extends the ministry of the flowers even further.

This ministry brings a connection to the church and its people. Recipients find great joy in knowing that the church loves them and they feel connected. The flower ministers have learned that some people pass that joy on to those around them. It is with grateful hearts that our team has been given the opportunity to carry on this ministry for so many years. You can help, too! With 10 bouquets a week – you can do the math – we go through over 500 vases a year! That is a lot of small vases! The team would like for you to search your cupboards for small vases we can use for this ministry. We are a bit picky about what we need. It is a Goldilocks situation, not too big or too small. Bud vases are too small for our purposes and tall or wide vases are too big. A vase about the size of a four-cup canning jar is just right. Please contact Carolyn Hartstein for clarification, carolharts@att.net. Vases can be left neatly in the Flower Sacristy or in the Cathedral office. Thank you!



Lisa Thorpe deconstructing an arrangement to make a ministry vase.



Carolyn Hartstein puts the finishing touches on a vase.

The flower delivery ministry team is headed by Carolyn Hartstein, assisted by Glory Alipit, Sally Fittsizer, Jean Harper, Jan Murphy, Marti Thomas and Lisa Thorpe. The group is exploring ways to expand its ministry beyond flower delivery. Stay tuned for more information.

"I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5

Ministry Partners

A Home Away From Home

by Bobby Walker

The Harrison House is a temporary lodging facility that provides a much-needed resource for patients and their family members from all Little Rock metro hospitals. I became involved with the house in 2005 after my kidney transplant. It was perfect timing and a perfect match. The Harrison House is one of my ministries and I would love to share it with you.

Our community focus since opening in 1973

is supplied with two washers and two dryers, and two bins each for our guests to store their supplies. There's a living room for guests to get on the internet, to visit, or to watch our big screen television.

Because of the demand for services like ours, we receive requests from all over the country from people seeking temporary housing while visiting local hospitals. The Harrison House has helped over 10,000 patients



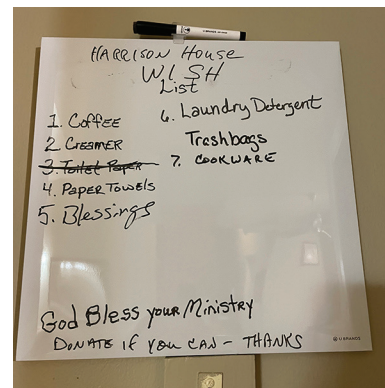
is to increase kidney awareness, educate the public on organ, tissue and eye donation, and to provide a safe and clean place for patients.

We also accept cancer patients and their family members. Our cancer patients are here for chemotherapy, receiving radiation, or a stem cell transplant.

The house has eight bedrooms with televisions for our guests, a manager's apartment, a large kitchen fully supplied with pots and pans, drinking glasses, plates and bowls, eight refrigerators and dining tables. The pantry



Bobby Walker in his office at Harrison House - Harrison House wish list



- HARRISON HOUSE
WISH LIST
1. COFFEE
 2. CREAMER
 3. Toilet Paper
 4. Paper Towels
 5. Blessings
 6. Laundry Detergent
 7. COOKWARE
- Trashbags

God Bless your Ministry
DONATE IF YOU CAN - THANKS

since our opening in 1973 and many are returning patients.

Our cost for an overnight stay is \$10 per person per night.

We accept monetary donations, paper products, cleaning supplies, all sizes of sheets and pillows and other bedding. If

you would like to cook a meal for patients, please let me know a day or two in advance.

If you would like to come by for a tour contact Bobby Walker. 501 749-5728

Trinity's Mission

The mission of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is to proclaim the Word of God by sharing our gifts, ourselves, and our properties through ministry to each other, our neighbors, and our community as we serve God and represent the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral



1884 Legacy Society

Ensure Trinity's Future, Leave a Legacy

Planned giving is a thoughtful way to play an important part in the long term success and growth of Trinity and to help assure that its mission will continue to grow for generations to come.

You may become a member of the *1884 Legacy Society* by including Trinity in your estate plan, or by making an endowment gift during your lifetime.

Your gift, regardless of size or type, will build a sustaining legacy for our beloved Cathedral. For more information, contact Jane McMullin, janes21@swbell.net.

New Face at the Front Desk

Meet Reta Dean, our new front desk receptionist. Reta comes to us by recommendation of Diane Turner and is excited to work alongside other Trinity staff to create a welcoming experience for visitors.

Previously she worked for the State of Arkansas in the Bureau of Legislative Research, where she met Diane. A native of Paris, Reta has 3 sons, 4 grandchildren and 2 dogs. She enjoys teaching Sunday School at First Baptist Church in Sherwood.

Reta will work Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come say hello and introduce yourself.



Will, Clara, Wade, Mary Starr and Rachel Brock

Every Member Canvas Team

We are excited to announce that Wade and Mary Starr Brock have agreed to head up the Every Member Canvas effort beginning in the fall. Mary is assembling an intergenerational team that will include her mom, Frances Mitchell Ross and others. They will bring their great love for the Cathedral to this important effort.

Cool Air Returns to the Cathedral

Thanks to your help

The close of July has brought a flurry of activity to replace the damaged air-chilling unit that cools the Cathedral. With all the dedicated work we will return from our exodus to Chancellors Hall far sooner than expected.

There was big excitement on Thursday, July 22 when 17th Street was closed for a couple hours to allow the giant crane to lift the old unit up and over the Parish House and move the new unit gently into place.

The team from Middleton Mechanical Services has been very attentive and mindful of our desire to return

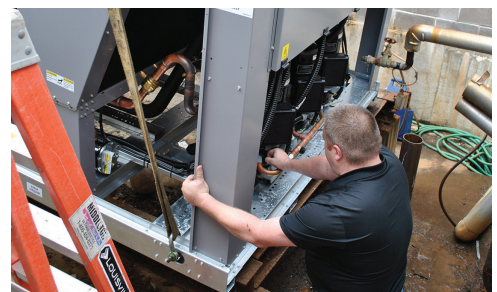
to the Cathedral for worship by the first of August.

Parish members have been very generous in support of this project. To date, just over \$19,100 has been raised to meet the \$30,000 challenge grant. If we can complete the match, the project will be fully funded without having to access cash reserves designated for economic uncertainty.

If you would like to participate, you may send a check to Jeanie Toombs, or make an online donation via Realm.



Out with the old...
In with the new!



Join us August 22 following the 10 a.m. service for a much belated welcome reception for the Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux.

