



Trinity Episcopal Church

Anderson, Indiana

Who We Are

Trinity is a Eucharist-centered parish with Rite I celebrated every Sunday at 8 a.m. and Rite II, with music, celebrated every Sunday at 10 a.m. Our fondness for the richness of the Episcopal traditions is evident as the crucifer leads the choir down the center aisle, with the vergers escorting the clergy. The solemnity of the Eucharist is punctuated by sanctus bells. On special celebrations, such as Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, incense drifts up to the beamed ceiling.

Indicative of the warmth possible within a traditional style, the sermon is usually delivered informally in the midst of the congregation.

We enjoy a highly participatory liturgy. The laity participates in Sunday worship as ushers, greeters, chalice bearers and lectors. A mixture of youths and adults serve at the altar as acolytes. A dedicated Altar Guild lovingly prepares the altar itself. Our choir is all volunteer, led by a talented organist/music director who is a professor at Ball State University.



"The beauty of Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Trinity is very special to me. I wouldn't miss it for the world. In fact, one year I checked myself out of the hospital so I could attend."



Above, the church is beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Mission Statement:

Trinity Episcopal Church is a people whose mission is first and foremost to worship God. Therefore, we will promote spiritual growth for ourselves and others, and spread the Gospel by Thought, Word and Deed.



"I'll always be thankful for the caring and compassion we experienced while our newborn was in intensive care out of town. Church friends took turns preparing picnic dinners for us, so there would be one less thing to worry about as we hurried to the hospital each evening."

By the Numbers

The Diocese of Indianapolis is comprised of 48 congregations. Outside of the three Lilly Endowed churches in our capital city, one of which is our cathedral, Trinity Episcopal Church in Anderson is considered one of the better recognized when it comes to membership, worship, attendance and budget.

The average number of communicants in good standing over the past three years is 273. On average, 133 parishioners attend Sunday Eucharist services, which are closely divided between our 8 a.m. Rite 1 service and our 10 a.m. Rite II service. The Wednesday night service has an average of 49 attendees throughout the year.

Like many long-serving parishes throughout the country, we are experiencing an increase in the request for private communion to our shut-ins. We average 96 private communions per year. There is minimal fluctuation in attendance during the different seasons of the year at Trinity. During spring, we average 122 Sunday attendees, while in the summer weeks we have around 109 each Sunday. The fall season garners an average of 115 parishioners each Sunday.

It should be noted that we currently have three endowments totaling over \$810,000 in assets. Our average revenue over the past three years equals \$184,171, while our parish operations average \$146,122, not including salaries.



As a result of a parish-wide survey conducted this past winter, we learned much about the demographics of our congregation. (Eighty active adults completed the survey.)

- The average years of attendance at Trinity Episcopal Church is 31 years.
- 40 percent have worshiped as Episcopalians since birth.
- The average age of an adult is 61 years.
- 77 percent have attended some college, with an average of 4.5 years of post-high school study.
- 85 percent have annual income of \$35,000 or higher.

Mission and Outreach

Our outreach ministry is a very important part of who we are. Trinity currently provides assistance to the following organizations as a part of our Mission and Outreach program:

Alternatives, Inc. – a shelter for abused women and children. This shelter provides a home for abused women from throughout Madison County and surrounding communities.

Anderson Christian Center – This shelter accommodates between 20 and 30 homeless men and women from Madison County and surrounding communities.

Saint John's Children's Clinic – A ministry of the local Roman Catholic hospital, the Children's Clinic provides medical, dental and vision services for children through age 18 whose parents cannot afford care.

"Being at Trinity Church is like having a weight lifted from my shoulders. I am greeted with a smile, look up at the altar and the stained glass window containing the Cross and Crown, and I know I'm in a place of the Lord."

Stepping Stones Shelter – A shelter for veterans who are homeless or dealing with substance abuse, it provides shelter and care for men and women who have served our country. There are between 20 and 35 who occupy this shelter.

In-As-Much Kitchen – This private food ministry provides free lunches and dinners for anyone who cannot afford food. The site serves between 35 and 50 individuals each day.

Saint Jude's Children's Ranch – A ranch for children with terminal or debilitating diseases, it provides nature experiences for children from all walks of life.

United Thank Offering – This is an offering by our parishioners to provide money for grants by the Episcopal Church.

Thanksgiving Meals – Trinity Episcopal Church, in partnership with the neighboring First United Methodist Church, provides meals on Thanksgiving Day for anyone who would not have a holiday meal. More than 150 meals are either served to individuals in our fellowship hall or delivered to homes.

Tsunami Relief Fund – This is an opportunity for our parishioners to financially support those who were ravaged by the recent disaster.

Samaritan's Purse – Our parishioners donated gifts for 25 children through Operation Christmas Child. The purpose of Operation Christmas Child is to share the joy of Christmas and the love of Jesus Christ with suffering children around the world.

Trinity Church is currently looking into integrating more community needs into its Mission and Outreach by providing community dinners, financially assisting low income families, assisting neighborhood schools with educational needs, and sponsoring scout units.



Above, Trinity Church invited those living in the surrounding downtown neighborhood to a free picnic on Trinity Sunday. At left, Trinity Church raises money for outreach by selling strawberry shortcakes and ice cream at local festivals.



At left, Trinity Church members staff the annual rummage sale in the fellowship hall.

History

In 1890, the Rev. Knickerbacker III Bishop of Indianapolis commissioned the Rev. McGlone to investigate the possibility of a mission at Anderson. A charter was granted in 1890 to Trinity Church as Anderson joined several gas-belt congregations scattered throughout neighboring central Indiana cities.

One of the guiding lights who shared the mission vision was Mrs. George Sefton, who walked the streets of Anderson enrolling the names of Episcopalians in order to form an official parish. Services were first held in 1889 in the old Presbyterian Church on Ninth and Jackson streets. The congregation was formally organized in 1891 at the Doxey Opera House on Meridian Street. After other moves, the parishioners finally decided to move to the present site on Eleventh and Delaware streets. The congregation was led by Senior Warden Thomas W. Wright.

Groundbreaking for a new church building took place in 1909 with a consecration in 1911. During the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Henry Harris, the mortgage was burned in 1918. The major problem for Trinity was not having a resident clergy. In 1938, with the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Ivor G.

“Trinity has given me a feeling of family. It has filled a hole in my faith that I have been searching to fill. I also like the small-church atmosphere.”

Hyndman, came a turning point and growth for the parish. Another momentous step came on May 17, 1947, at the 100th Annual Convention when Trinity made application to become a parish effective by 1950. This status was not achieved, however, until the 118th Annual Convention, when Trinity became a nationally recognized parish on May 1, 1955.

Trinity continued to grow, first under the Rev. George A. Burns and, then, the Rev. David Laird Barclay. The parish built the Memorial Parish Hall in 1966-67.

Growth continued under the Rev. Richard Halladay and the Rev. M.A. McClure, whose ministry spanned 26 years, the longest of any of Trinity Church’s priests. Trinity Community Services opened in 1984 and several additional outreach ministries were instituted, including the sponsorship of a Bosnian refugee family in 1998. A new organ was dedicated in 1997, with Dr. Marilyn Keiser as guest organist. Four new stained glass windows for the parish hall were blessed in 1998. Trinity Church took a leadership role in bringing the Irish youth program, the Ulster Project, to Anderson in the summer of 2003.

Trinity’s first deacon was the Rev. James Carter, whose service began in 1982. The Rev. Charles F. Conover became the second deacon in 1992. Trinity’s second parishioner to enter Holy Orders, the Rev. David Bell, served at Trinity in 1998. The Rev. Norman L. Morford served as interim rector from 1998 until 2000, when the Rev. Raymond Bradley became rector. He retired in 2004.



Anderson, Indiana

Anderson is located in the heart of Indiana, the Crossroads of America. Beautiful Victorian homes, churches and public buildings are vestiges of Anderson's prosperity during the late 1800's natural gas boom. Anderson evolved into an industrial community in the 1950s and '60s. Strategically located along the Interstate 69 corridor, Anderson is poised for a new exciting era. Interstate 69 also provides easy access to the state capital, Indianapolis, only 31 miles away. Indianapolis is a world-class city offering professional sports, museums, an international airport and a wide variety of activities.

Anderson can boast of its own cultural gems. The Paramount Theatre and Ballroom is the nucleus of our beautifully restored downtown. The historic theater was lovingly restored with great community support. It hosts a wide variety of stage shows and Big Band performances, and is the home of the Anderson Symphony Orchestra. The Anderson Fine Arts Center, located in the refurbished Carnegie Library Building, offers juried art displays and variety of art classes and programs. Beautiful Mounds State Park preserves prehistoric earthworks along the White River while providing recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking and camping.

Entertainment options are as varied as the community. Enjoy everything from ballet and theater to stock car racing and live horse racing.

The cost of living in Anderson is well below the national average.

Anderson is blessed with quality education through good public and private schools. Anderson Community Schools is nearly ready to open its third new state-of-the-art elementary school. Anderson University has marvelous facilities and advanced degrees in business, music and theology. Purdue University Statewide Technology Center is adjacent to the Anderson University campus. Ivy Tech State College is expanding its Anderson campus and continues to grow rapidly. Just 19 miles away are the many opportunities offered by Ball State University.

"Why do I attend Trinity Anderson? It's the warm atmosphere in the chapel itself, even when no one is around. There is the welcoming congregation filled with the Spirit."

Anderson's historic Paramount Theatre has been lovingly restored and serves as the center of downtown activity.



Where are we going

More than 10 years ago, Trinity Church set a mission of worshipping God, promoting spiritual growth and spreading the gospel by thought, word and deed. Over the years there have been times when we achieved that as individuals and as a church. But our honest evaluation today is that we are not living up to that standard consistently. Therefore, we have re-examined our strengths and weaknesses and thought hard about what we believe the ministry of Trinity Church should be. As a result, we have established the following set of goals and have dedicated ourselves to reaching them under the leadership of our new Rector.

- Position our church for growth, especially in regards to attracting families with children. As a predominately mature parish, we have plenty to offer younger families. We are developing new avenues for programming and participation that fosters a greater sense of membership.
- Strengthen the fiscal stability through stewardship. We are working toward a year-round stewardship philosophy and are looking for ways to enhance our planned-giving potential.
- Enhance spiritual growth by expanding our educational and prayer opportunities for all ages.
- Broaden our community outreach, including innovative ways for individuals to be personally involved, locally and within our diocese.

"There is a feeling of "coming home" when I walk through the doors. Trinity embraces my heart and soul."



Above, members of the youth group relax at Waycross, the diocese's camp and conference center. At left, children from the Pre-K class interact with their Sunday School teacher.



Coffee, tea and cake were served at a reception celebrating those who were baptized on Pentecost Sunday. Many people were involved behind the scenes to make the event successful.



Below, many pitched in during a garden clean-up in the spring.





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