

A SACRED PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



TRINITY
CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
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TRINITY CATHEDRAL

by the
Numbers



9,921

Sunday
Worshippers

1,428

Pounds of
Food Donated

175

Services
at the Cathedral

640

Easter
Attendance

534

Christmas
Attendance

299

Communicants
in Good Standing

51

Weekly Outreach
Beneficiaries

171

Households
Pledged

594

Adult Learners

85

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A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

“Legacy is history. It is a faithful regard of the past and those who came before us. Legacy is also what we leave for those who’ll come after us.”

Cathedrals in the Storm

In my sabbatical travels this summer, I encountered churches that reminded me what a living, vibrant cathedral can look like, in spite of—perhaps because of—the adversity it has gone through.

One of those churches was Dom Tower in Utrecht, the tallest church structure in the Netherlands and far and away the most recognized symbol of the city of Utrecht. I’d visited the city not for the cathedral but for the even nerdier theme of bike infrastructure, where every street, from cobbled medieval alleys to modern roadways, was packed with people who chose bikes as their primary means of transport. I rented a bike and let myself get lost. It was healing and freeing.

But I couldn’t seem to get away from cathedrals, because right there at the center of the medieval city, which itself was the center of a modern city, was the Dom Tower and Domkerk, the cathedral of the city of Utrecht.

Utrecht was once the northernmost Roman outpost, and grew from a military garrison to the seat of the bishop. The church went through stages of major growth—including construction of the tower and a massive nave—until a tornado in 1674 plowed through it and divided it, literally, in two, leaving behind the crossing, which remains today as an active church, and the 112-meter-tall tower.

The tower remained standing and became the focal point of the city. Indeed, the fact of the storm, what it destroyed and what it didn’t, stands as a testament to what a cathedral is and can be: imperfect, vulnerable, steadfast, visionary...and also a cradle for new life.

Trinity Cathedral knows a thing or two about storms. The pandemic was a storm that will continue to impact churches, Trinity included, for many years to come. Churches and non-profits are experiencing the greatest storm in a century, seeing giving and attendance patterns change dramatically. Many churches today are balancing the twin storms of a clergy shortage and rising maintenance and healthcare costs. For many, this will mean a careful look at how we carry out our ministry in the years to come.

The second cathedral that surprised me was St. Martin’s in the Italian walled city of Lucca, where my family stayed for

several days. From the labyrinth in the stone by the wall and the modern altar within, to the transept repurposed as an art restoration studio and the achingly beautiful stained glass and textiles, St. Martin’s was a place alive with the spirit. In fact, it was so alive that we were asked, politely, to be discreet in our sightseeing. The church was beginning to gather that afternoon for a service of ordination for several Franciscan priests.

Legacy

Looking to the great cathedrals of the past, in particular those which are places of faith and discipleship today, has me thinking about the question of legacy. A cathedral is a church with a vital connection to both the ministry of the past and to God’s activity in the future. Yet we must also remain attentive to who we are and the work God calls us to today. Legacy threads through it all.



Dom Tower in Utrecht, Netherlands

Legacy is history. It's the priests and deans and bishops and vestry and ministry leaders who have led us, as well as the story of all the people who have filled the seats (and pews) through the ages. It's the story of a changing city and how we responded to those changes. It's the prophetic witness we've offered in turbulent times, and the hospitality we've shown to the most vulnerable. It's the seeds of lifelong faith Trinity plants and nurtures in all of us. It's the generosity and faith of past generations, and the generosity and faith that we bring alongside that.

History isn't just the good things that happened to us. The pandemic, and how we responded, will always be a part of our history, just as the tornado that razed Domkerk's nave gave the Utrecht cathedral a brand-new identity, one that turned out, in time, to be profoundly generative.

Legacy in 2025

This past year has been a time to consider the question of legacy and sustainability. We've taken a close look at the financial health of our endowment, upon which we are now relying more heavily to meet the capital needs of a cathedral that is now more than a century old. The life-cycle needs of Trinity Commons, which, at 25 years old, is reaching a stage when heat pumps and automation systems are requiring costly replacement, have also led to careful planning around stewardship and resources.

In the months leading up to 2025, we gathered a capital campaign committee to discern our needs and our capacity for major projects that could transform and enliven the ministry of Trinity Cathedral. We started with the stained-glass window restoration, which we've known for years is a near-term priority.



Labyrinth at Saint Martin's Cathedral in Lucca, Italy

Other possibilities came into focus and often fell by the wayside, but one thing constantly rose to the surface: the renovation of Cathedral Hall.

Our discernment, which included public forums and focus groups, has led us to pursue the redevelopment of this historic space to its place at the heart of our campus, through renovations and upgrades, as well as transformed pathways inside the Commons and through the external garden. Once completed, Cathedral Hall will be able to better serve the community, congregation, and Diocese of Ohio as a large-group program space, dining room, reception hall, liturgical and performance space, and retreat center.

We began incremental work on stained glass restoration several years ago. We believe that Cathedral Hall renovation is also vital to our ministry today and in the years to come, and have continued to progress in planning with the architecture firm Marous Brothers, commissioning design and construction documents to get us started. We do not yet have a formal construction schedule, but will share that when we do.

Endowment

A gift from those who built the cathedral, the endowment has been an engine for ministry throughout the past century. It is what sustained Trinity Cathedral through radical city and congregation changes in the mid-century, and it resources our ministry today. Trinity's congregation is faithful and generous, but we still rely greatly on the endowment. For every \$1 in congregational giving, we look to the endowment for approximately another \$3 to \$4.

Put another way, our \$24 million endowment is an incredible asset. Yet, for us to meet our current capital and ministry needs and do so at a best-practice 5% draw, we would need the endowment to be about \$40 million.

That's a big number! We must take it seriously, but let's not panic. We believe that we can respond to this challenge in ways that will ultimately make our ministry more sustainable and robust.

As our capital campaign considered major projects, the need to tend to the endowment was abundantly clear to us. Any capital projects, however necessary, need to be embedded in a larger conversation about the endowment. This year, we launched the Trinity Legacy Circle, inviting folks to consider a legacy gift (in a will or trust) or to let us know about gifts already planned. I am pleased to say that in our first year, we can recognize more than \$4 million in legacy gift commitments.

If we can think in terms of long-term horizons, in decades and quarter-centuries rather than in months or years, and if we can make legacy planning an ongoing part of our ministry, then

we can change the story of the endowment and our relationship with it.

Yet a primary focus must always be on our ministry today. The people of Trinity, and the people we serve, are our true endowment. The endowment exists to make ministry possible, not the other way around. The people of God and the faith we cultivate together are the true legacy of Trinity Cathedral.

Legacy Today & Tomorrow

If the roof leaks, it's poor stewardship to postpone the repair to save a few dollars today. The same can be true, within reason, with regard to how we sustain the congregation of Trinity and carry out our ministry.

This year, we welcomed the Rev. Megan Allen-Miller in an expansion of our clergy staff. With the coming retirement of Ginger Bitikofer, we established the position of Priest Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Outreach to join the clergy team of Dean and Canon. Trinity's congregation has begun to grow again after the pandemic, and signs of life—from stewardship growth to a vibrant newcomer ministry—are all around us. We engaged in a nationwide search for a priest associate, leading to the call of the Rev. Megan Allen-Miller in October. Megan is a gifted priest and pastor with robust experience in community outreach, and we've already begun to see the benefits of a deepened clergy presence.

Transitions and Cultivation

Following our discernment around the endowment, stained glass, and Cathedral Hall, we look forward in 2026 to officially beginning the faithful work of fundraising. Our committee is currently in initial stages, as we explore giving capacity and lay the framework for a campaign that is as much about building relationships and enthusiasm as it is about raising money.

This annual meeting comes at the time of one of Trinity's most significant transitions in years: Ginger's retirement. This has led to several staff changes. We've hired a third priest (Megan) instead of a lay associate and shifted Eric Travis's work to focus more on congregational life and outreach. In many ways, though, we'll look to congregational volunteers to be the church, to be the hands and feet of Christ in the church and in the world. I've been thrilled to see, with Ginger's retirement coming, how well Trinity folks have done this in the past year. Keep it up!

A Legacy of Presence

What is legacy? Legacy is history. It is a faithful regard of the past and those who came before us. Legacy is also what we leave for those who'll come after us, from worship and witness to congregational health and financial sustainability.



Saint Martin's Cathedral in Lucca, Italy

Yet legacy also plays a vital role in the present. It is who we are today. Our capacity to speak openly and creatively about our challenges is our legacy. Our love for one another and our care for the wider community are our legacy, too.

Hope is our ultimate legacy. Hope doesn't simply turn us towards the future. Hope is the orientation that is our present reality. In faithful relationship with those who came before and with those who'll be drawn into this sacred place in the years to come, hope keeps us anchored, faithfully and creatively, in the generative and grace-filled reality of God's love for the world.



The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

Congregational Life

Current Members: Rebecca Miller & Dan McGuire

Vestry Representative: John Chapman

Staff Liaisons: Ginger Bitikofer & Eric Travis

“ To continue in the apostles’ teaching and companionship, in the breaking of bread and carrying out the work of the Good Shepherd by supporting the flock at Trinity Cathedral through the joys and hardships of life.”

Throughout the year, the Congregational Life team offered a wide variety of gatherings that brought people together in meaningful ways. In March, the LGBTQ+ Fellowship group sponsored a **Cozy Winter Fun Day**. About 30 people gathered on a Saturday afternoon to play board games, share a potluck lunch, and enjoy a relaxed knitting circle.

That same month, Trinity celebrated Shrove Tuesday with its annual **Mardi Gras Celebration**. Roughly 40 people enjoyed a chicken-and-waffles dinner, made possible by lots of hands-on help. The evening included crafts, games (like hide-and-seek in the cathedral), music, and the tradition of burying the Alleluias as Lent began.

Each Friday during Lent, the **Trinity Friars** visited a different church-sponsored fish fry around the Cleveland area, combining fellowship with a bit of friendly culinary exploration. To close the season, Trinity hosted its own **fish fry** in April, welcoming more than 100 people to share a meal and community together.

The **Trinity Trekkers** group gathered regularly for hikes, bike rides, kayaking,

and other adventures designed to meet God in nature while building community. Highlights included walks at Daffodil Hill and Lake View Cemetery, a wildflower walk at Squire’s Castle, outings in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Rocky River, and a Holy Hike with Eucharist at Acacia Reservation alongside hikers from St. Paul’s in Cleveland Heights and Church of the Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst. The year concluded with a Winter Solstice Hike in December.

Summer brought the **Congregational Picnic** at West Creek Reservation in Parma, where more than 50 people shared a meal and then enjoyed a special tour of the Watershed Stewardship Center led by member Barbara Hermes.

In June, Trinity also participated in **Pride in the CLE**, marching alongside 14 other Episcopal churches and staffing a diocesan booth with Bishop Anne Jolly. The booth—complete with a Plinko game, church swag, and opportunities for prayer—offered joyful welcome.

The **LGBTQ+ Fellowship** group continued its active year with a summer potluck cookout in August.



Volunteers for A Place at the Table

Groups also toured the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in October, and enjoyed seasonal events, including Advent wreath making in November and a December visit to the German Central Christkindlmarket.

Finally, **A Place at the Table** (APATT) faithfully served a hot lunch every Sunday. Volunteers hosted a special picnic for guests in June, shared festive treats and gifts in December, and expanded winter outreach by distributing hygiene and clothing supplies. In 2025, the ministry also began recruiting and training additional kitchen helpers, strengthening this vital expression of care. ❖

A PLACE at the TABLE

by the Numbers

❖ **3,595** meals shared

❖ **2,349** neighbors served

❖ **45** average served weekly



Advent Wreath Making



LGBTQ+ Cookout



Pride in the CLE Booth



Soldiers & Sailors Monument Visit



Trinity Friars Fish Fry



Trinity Trekkers Kayaking

Peace, Justice & Mercy

Current Members: Lois Annich (chair), Gary Benjamin & Mike Waters

Vestry Representative: Marie Curry

Staff Liaison: Bernard Owens

“ To be the light of Christ to the city by cultivating opportunities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God as individuals and as the Congregation of Trinity Cathedral.”

To begin the year, members of the Peace, Justice & Mercy ministry joined faith leaders and community members from across Cleveland at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church for an intergenerational conversation inspired by **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*** Hosted by Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), the gathering featured a panel of local church leaders—including Dean Owens—in dialogue around racial equality, economic justice, education, and housing.

The ministry also responded to urgent community needs. Following a devastating fire at Cleveland’s **Rainbow Terrace Apartments** that displaced more than

100 residents, the team organized an emergency donation drive. The Trinity congregation generously contributed household essentials and hygiene supplies, supporting the 44 households that lost everything. Trinity Cathedral also hosted a meeting between displaced residents and city officials, creating space for listening, advocacy, and connection during a time of crisis.

The cathedral community also offered a prayerful witness to gun violence prevention through worship and conversation. On **Wear Orange Sunday** the sermon coordinated with the Guns to Gardens display, thanks to the leadership of David and Gayle Cratty. Later, a **Dean’s Forum** with Marjorie Harris-Taylor, producer of Ideasstream’s podcast *The Story of We: Keep Your Head Up*, explored how gun violence impacts Cleveland residents and how it is shaped by broader social determinants of health, inviting deeper reflection on the lived experiences of neigh-



Social Justice Team Meeting

bors just beyond the cathedral’s doors.

In partnership with Cleveland Votes, Peace, Justice & Mercy helped host a **Reverse Town Hall** on October 17, where community leaders spoke while candidates for local office listened. Trinity was invited to host the event in recognition of its facilities and its longstanding leadership and trust within the community.

Trinity continues to discern its call to racial justice through a **Racial Justice Rule of Life**, with a monthly Rule of Life Circle gathering for prayer and reflection focused on inner work, worship and liturgy, systems and structures, and transformative relationships.

Peace, Justice & Mercy also partnered with NEOCH (Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless) to host **Homeless Help 101** and, together with the Dean’s Discretionary Fund, contributed \$500 to AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe) in support of asylum seekers and refugees at risk due to racial profiling. ♣



Homeless Help 101

Community Partnerships & Outreach

Current Members: Natalia Leslie, Paul Herrgesell & Corrine Wallner

Vestry Representative: Cynthia Ries

Staff Liaisons: Megan Allen-Miller & Eric Travis

“ To support the flourishing of the city through outreach and the development of reciprocal relationships of support with geographic neighbors, especially in Central, Midtown, and Campus Districts, just as God came to be in relationship with us.”



Marion-Sterling Christmas Tree Donations

Over the past several years, the Neighborhood Partnerships mission team at Trinity has poured its heart into building strong and meaningful relationships with local organizations and community leaders. We also spent time reflecting on the power of language.

While the word “outreach” carries a history shaped, at times, by paternalism and the harm of “helping” without listening, the call to reach beyond ourselves with generosity and faithfulness remains central to who we are as a cathedral community. To better reflect both our commitment to partnership and our call to extend care beyond our walls, we are excited to share that this mission team has a new name: **Community Partnerships & Outreach**. While the name

has changed, our commitment to nurturing relationships rooted in mutuality, trust, and genuine friendship remains at the heart of this mission team.

A cornerstone of this ministry is Trinity’s **Urban Farm**, an innovative garden promoting sustainable practices and local stewardship. Volunteers gather on Saturday mornings in season to plant, water, weed, and harvest, producing fresh, organically-grown produce for partner organizations.

In 2025, the farm donated 1,428 pounds of food to **The Friendly Inn Settlement** and **Cleveland State University**. Over its 20-year history, the Urban Farm has donated nearly 47,000 pounds of pro-

duce. Trinity members also support the Friendly Inn’s food pantry through regular stocking and volunteer efforts. This year, the need grew significantly due to interruptions in SNAP benefits, making these contributions all the more vital.

The mission team also works closely with **Marion-Sterling School**, located less than a mile from the cathedral, supporting students from Pre-K through 8th grade. Programs include school supply drives, mitten trees, Thanksgiving baskets that benefited about 100 families, and Christmas gifts shared with around 250 students.

Through **NEOCH (Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless)**, volunteers also supported a temporary shelter that opened in January 2026. In the coming year, A Place at the Table will join this mission team to broaden community engagement

Together, these initiatives reflect Trinity Cathedral’s dedication to compassionate service, and building reciprocal, lasting relationships with our neighbors. ❖



Urban Farm

Faith Formation

Current Members: C. Eric Funston & Allison Hauserman

Vestry Representative: Toni Ponzo

Staff Liaisons: Adrienne Koch & Eric Travis

“ To guide people of all ages to Jesus and into Christlikeness through sacred conversations, scripture, study, practice, prayer, and belonging.”

Faith Formation at Trinity Cathedral supports spiritual growth at every age, helping people deepen their relationship with God, one another, and the world.

Adult Faith Formation continued to thrive this year with the introduction of the **ChurchNext** curriculum, selected for its accessible video format and ease of use for both facilitators and newcomers.

Offerings included Bible studies on Exodus, classes on Episcopal Tradition (such as “Spirituality of the BCP”) and embodied-spirituality activities, including labyrinth walks and Anglican rosary-making. One particularly meaningful session explored the **Book of Revelation** in conversation with the social and political climate of the time, focusing less on end-times imagery and more on awakening to God’s kingdom in the present—helping participants find grounding and hope amid division and uncertainty.

The year concluded with a class on **Handel’s Messiah**, using the Kerygma curriculum to explore the theology and scripture woven throughout this beloved work.

Emeritus professor and local biblical scholar, Bob Fowler, also contributed a well-received series on the **Gospel of**

John, featuring concise videos that continued to engage participants beyond Sunday mornings.

Dean’s Forums drew strong participation throughout the year, engaging cultural and political realities while creating space for conversation, reflection, and hope. Highlights included *Portraits of Homelessness* with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries; a forum with priest and author Ian Morgan Cron on the spirituality of the 12 Steps; a discussion on Politics in the Pulpit following the end of the Johnson Amendment; and a special Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday forum featuring Joe Graves.

Cathedral Circles further enriched adult formation, including **Sacred Space**, the **Gift of Years**, **Crossing the Political Divide**, the **Divine Feminine Spiritual Path**, and **Daughters of the King**.

Faith formation geared towards children focused on welcoming them to the congregation. For children through third grade, **Godly Play** offered a gentle, story-centered approach that invited curiosity, wonder, and reflection. Students in grades four through eight participated in **Disciples and Dragons**,



Labyrinth Walk During Holy Week

a creative, fantasy role play-inspired program where participants collaborated, problem-solved, and stepped into biblical stories together. High school students gathered for **Coffee and Conversations**, an informal setting where youth discussed real-life issues and current events through a Christian lens, connecting faith to everyday life.

Faith Formation also extended beyond the classroom through community-building events that foster connection and service. Children and youth helped host events like an **Easter Egg Hunt** and **Pancake Breakfast**. October’s **Boo Bash** brought together more than 40 volunteers to welcome neighbors from the Marion-Sterling community with food, games, and hospitality.

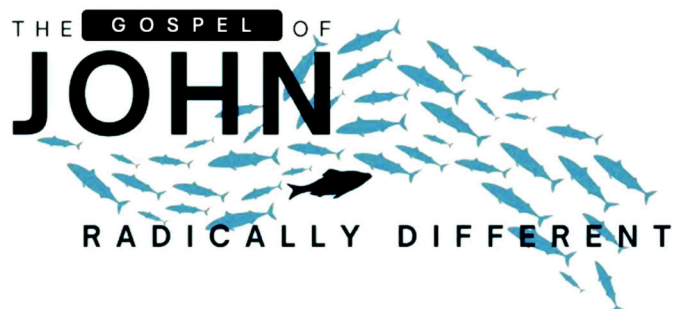
A highlight of the year was the late-July **youth mission trip to Detroit**, where three youth and two adults partnered with Rippling Hope to help refurbish homes and community spaces. Seeing young people joyfully serve others with no expectation of personal gain was a powerful expression of faith in action. ✝



Youth Mission Trip to Detroit



Children's Church



Gospel of John Class with Bob Fowler



Dean's Forum with the Rev. Megan Allen-Miller



Christmas Eve Family Pageant



Youth Easter Egg Hunt

Invite, Welcome, Connect

Current Members: Mike Graska, Jeff Ackroyd & Karen Hall

Vestry Representative: Audrey Hudak

Staff Liaisons: Megan Allen-Miller & Ginger Bitikofer

“ To go and make disciples of all nations by cultivating intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging; and to renew Trinity through a continual process of welcoming and celebrating new relationships.”

Trinity's Invite, Welcome, Connect mission team is at the heart of creating a warm, hospitable community where newcomers and long-time members alike feel at home. As Ginger prepares to retire, the Rev. Megan Allen-Miller will assume responsibility for this ministry in 2026, continuing its mission of fostering meaningful connections across the cathedral.

This ministry emphasizes that hospitality is not just about words, but the feeling of genuine welcome. It's work is rooted in the call of Romans 15:7:

“ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

By inviting newcomers into the life of Trinity, the team helps them find their place in a vibrant community of faith. Trinity's wide range of programs—from Bible studies and worship services to hiking groups and the Urban Farm—offers

opportunities for learning, growth, and fellowship, fostering a sense of belonging and connection for all.

This year, the ministry **welcomed over 80 newcomers** and guided 30 individuals in becoming new members. Newcomer brunches in April and October provided an inviting space to get acquainted with Trinity and its programs. The mission team encouraged members to wear name tags, greet visitors, and extend personal invitations to programs and events, helping newcomers integrate fully into cathedral life.

Hospitality extends to **Coffee Hour**, a cornerstone of community building. Twenty new volunteers joined this year, keeping refreshments and fellowship flowing between services. Serving on a Coffee Hour



Coffee Hour Gathering

team requires only one Sunday every four to six weeks, making it a simple yet impactful way to reach out, connect, and welcome others.

Through these efforts, Invite, Welcome, Connect ensures that every person entering Trinity feels known, valued, and embraced, reflecting Christ's love and strengthening the cathedral's community for generations to come. ✿



Ushers Greeting on Sunday

Diocesan & National Ministry

Current Members: Dale Murphy, Yvonne Harrold & Lynette Williams

Vestry Representative: Diane Hexter

Staff Liaison: Bernard Owens

“To support the larger mission of the Episcopal Church through promotion of diocesan and national history, programs, and causes, for we are all one body in Christ.”

Throughout the year, clergy and lay leaders represented Trinity at key diocesan gatherings, including the **Diocesan Convocation** in early 2025 and the **Diocesan Convention** held in Wooster in November.

Trinity was also present at significant moments in the life of the Diocese, including the final service of **St. Luke's Church in Niles, Ohio**, offering prayerful support during a time of transition.

Trinity shared its gifts with neighboring congregations across the Diocese. The Cathedral Choir and Dean Owens served as choir and preacher for the **150th Anniversary Evensong at the**

Church of the Ascension in Lakewood—a congregation originally established by Trinity—marking a meaningful moment of shared history and celebration.

Fr. Eric Funston, retired priest and Trinity mission team member, also invested in leadership development by completing the **College of Congregational Development** in August, deepening Trinity's capacity for thoughtful ministry and growth.

As the seat of the Diocese, Trinity Ca-



150th Anniversary of Church of the Ascension

thedral hosted several important diocesan services and events this year. These included the **Absalom Jones and Barbara Harris Celebration** in February, the **Diocesan Renewal of Vows** during Holy Week, the **Great Vigil of Easter**, and the **Ordination of the Diaconate of the Rev. Barb Reszko** in June.

Worship at Trinity was further enriched through shared services with visiting choirs from across the diocese. The choirs of **Harcourt Parish** in Gambier and **Christ Church** in Hudson joined the Cathedral Choir on multiple occasions, strengthening bonds through shared prayer and song.

We also hosted the **Cleveland Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival**—its 63rd presentation year. A special highlight was the Boar's Head Brass, who were back for the first time since before the pandemic. The Elizabethan cast brought the pageant vividly to life, and the celebration concluded with a beloved tradition—a delicious mince pie baked right in Trinity's kitchen. ♣



Renewal of Vows During Holy Week

Worship, Art & Music

Current Members: Bob Smith, Ned Vogel & Juliette Regnier

Vestry Representative: Beth Billings

Staff Liaisons: Shiloh Roby & Emily Butler

“ To create opportunities for transcendent encounters with God through worship, art, and music; faithfully balancing church tradition and innovation.”

Worship, Art & Music at Trinity Cathedral continued to flourish as a vital expression of prayer, beauty, and community—within our walls and beyond them.

The **Trinity Cathedral Choir** played a central role in this ministry, singing a special Choral Evensong at Church of the Ascension in Lakewood on September 21, as part of that parish’s 150th anniversary celebration.

We also deepened relationships with neighboring churches through shared music-making. **Guest choirs** from Harcourt Parish in Gambier and Christ

Church in Hudson joined us for Evensong, sometimes singing independently and sometimes alongside our own choir, with hospitality and fellowship strengthening these musical partnerships.

Evensong itself continued to evolve at Trinity. We began inviting the congregation into the choir stalls, creating a more intimate worship experience that reflects the long-standing traditions of



Love Is Love Cabaret

Evensong in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

The newer **Expansive Evensong** also settled into a rhythm, anchored by beloved musical traditions such as Taizé, shape-note, and Celtic music. These services featured a discussion-centered sermon with congregational participation and reflection questions to help online visitors prayerfully engage.

The **Cabaret: Love is Love**, held in February 2025, was our first joint fundraiser supporting both Music & Art—a 501(c)(3) community arts organization presenting over 40 free concerts and events annually—and the cathedral’s worship music ministries. Building on its success, a second cabaret—**Lucky in Love**—is planned for February 13, 2026.

Trinity was honored to have commissioned new music from renowned composer **David Hurd** in celebration of the ministry of retired music director Todd Wilson, with hopes to premiere this work in the coming year.



Expansive Evensong



Cleveland Celtic Ensemble

Participation remains at the heart of Trinity's musical life. Our **All Y'all Choir**—an open, pick-up choir requiring no prior choral experience—returned this summer with an open invitation for anyone willing to brave the heat and sing. Two spring Sundays are planned in the coming year on February 8 and April 12, with summer dates to follow.

Through **WAMderings**, the congregation was invited to discover the sacred in new places by attending worship and musical offerings at other churches in the area. Recent experiences include a Taizé service at St. Ignatius High School,

Evensong at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights and Church of the Saviour (UMC), and the O Antiphons service at Trinity. Looking ahead, we are planning a special Evensong at Trinity on April 20, 2026, sung by a choir from Church of the Saviour while their sanctuary undergoes renovation.

At its core, Worship, Art & Music (WAM) serves as the congregational connection to Trinity's artistic life—drawing people into worship, fostering collaboration across traditions, and creating space where faith is deepened through sound, sight, and shared experience. ♣



Messiah Sing

MUSIC & ART *at Trinity*



4,800

Guests in Attendance

17

Brownbag Concerts

13

Evening Concerts

\$612

Average Cost of
Brownbag Concert

\$919

Average Cost of
Evening Concert

\$5,500

Cost to Produce
Messiah Sing Concert

Property & Sustainability

Committee Members: Dave Miano (chair), Mark Biddlestone, Bill DiTirro, Bruce Elliott, Martin Hermes, Barbara Hermes, Diane Hexter & Corrine Wallner

Staff Liaisons: Jon Silvis & Bernard Owens

In 2025, Trinity continued its commitment to the careful stewardship of its historic campus while addressing critical maintenance needs and planning responsibly for the future. Work completed during the year, along with projects currently underway, will guide priorities for 2026 and beyond.

Significant progress was made in the restoration of **historic stained-glass windows**, including the completion of major windows in the east and west transepts, selected nave windows, and windows in the third-floor Youth Area. Work is currently underway on the Vesting Room windows, with additional historic windows—including the Shelley, Roberts, and Ascension windows—identified for the next phase of restoration.

An **exterior façade assessment** program is planned to inform the scope of



Replacing Stained Glass in Vesting Room



Repairs to Exterior Stone Work

future projects and help prioritize repairs. **Masonry repairs** were completed at Church House, including tuckpointing and stone replacement, as well as stone repairs associated with stained glass work in the third-floor Youth Area of the cathedral.

An **investigation into cracking** within the cathedral was completed in 2025, with professional recommendations calling for ongoing monitoring by Trinity staff. Planning and investigation are also underway for **cathedral marble floor repairs**, and preparations have been completed for refinishing six **cathedral wood doors**.

Sealant replacement on the **Euclid Avenue stone steps** was completed to protect the masonry and extend the life of the steps. Additional preservation efforts include planned repairs to the **Church House “Oriel” window** and preparations

to address leaks in the west basement wall through exterior waterproofing.

Plumbing upgrades planned for the year include the addition of a drinking fountain with water bottle filler. Ongoing evaluation of **mechanical systems** continued, with a focus on repair of heat pumps, and planning for future replacement of ventilation units, building automation controls, and overall energy efficiency.

Electrical improvements expanded the use of LED lighting in selected interior spaces, and malfunctioning pole lights in the East 22nd Street Garden were repaired and lamps replaced, restoring the lighting system to full operation.

Finally, **site and grounds** priorities include planned courtyard paver replacement and parking lot surface restoration. ❖

Cathedral Ministries

Vestry Representatives: Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Audrey Hudak & Marie Curry

Staff Liaison: Adrienne Koch

The Cathedral Ministries committee is charged by the vestry to support, strengthen, and sustain the work of Trinity's mission teams. As a central hub for best practices, the committee helps ensure that ministries are well-led, well-supported, and actively engaged in the life of the cathedral.

A core responsibility of the committee is leadership support. This includes recruiting and equipping mission team leaders, defining team structures, maintaining mission team rosters, and providing the tools leaders need to be effective.

One of the main ways the committee helps support lay leaders is through planning and facilitating two key gatherings every year—the Vestry Retreat and the Mission Team Retreat.

In March, the team planned a **Vestry Retreat** at Bellwether Farms. Together, leaders prayed the daily office, explored vestry and clergy commitments to a personal and collective racial justice rule of life, established a 10-year financial prior-



Vestry Retreat at Bellwether Farms

ities strategy and continued Capital Campaign planning, closing with Eucharist.

This year, the committee decided to move the **Mission Team Retreat** from the fall to the spring to allow the teams to plan more effectively for the year ahead. As a result, the Mission Team Retreat

was hosted in May. The event brought together mission team leaders, vestry representatives, and staff liaisons—around 40 to 50 people. The group worked to review goals from the previous year, set new goals, encourage cross-collaboration, and clarify roles and responsibilities.



Mission Team Retreat

The committee also played an important role in communication and engagement. It maintained the rosters for mission teams, and oversaw the calendar for Sunday Schmooze events, helping each mission team invite the wider congregation into their work. Mission Teams now take turns hosting a Sunday Schmooze once a month, followed by a report to vestry the following month.

Through coordination, encouragement, and strategic planning, the Cathedral Ministries committee helps Trinity's mission teams flourish and ensures their work is visible, connected, and impactful within the community. ♣

Stewardship

Committee Members: Becky Fuller (co-chair), Marcia Milter (co-chair), Elizabeth Billings, Peter Igel, Kathy Raymond & Robert Smith

Vestry Representative: Cynthia Ries

Staff Liaison: Cheryl Williams

Stewardship is how we faithfully care for the resources entrusted to us—our financial gifts, our ministries, and our sacred spaces—so that the life and mission of the cathedral can flourish.



The **Annual Pledge Drive** launched on September 28, with a delicious continental breakfast kick-off. This year's theme was *Growing & Giving*, with Psalm 1:2-3 as a scriptural reference:

“...but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do they prosper.”

Over the course of the four-week drive, several members of our cathedral

family—Elizabeth Billings, Toni Ponzo, Ben Kurak, Dave Miano, and Darrell Lausche—shared their stewardship stories and the importance of Trinity in their faith journeys. In total, **171 households made pledge commitments totaling \$434,998**—exceeding our goal of \$430,000!

We are deeply grateful for all the pledging households, for every dollar committed, and for every person who helped make our drive a success along the way. On October 25, the committee hosted a special **chili supper and hymn singing** in celebration and gratitude for the wonderful participation.

On October 4, more than a dozen volunteers gathered for the annual **Fall Spruce-Up**, coordinated by the Stewardship Committee. The day combined cleaning and community-building as volunteers cared for the piazza, windows, vestibules, chapel altar area, and green spaces along E. 22nd Street, helping make the cathedral more beautiful and welcoming.

Our annual pledge drive supports our operating expenses, as does an endow-



Fall Spruce-Up

ment we are blessed to have to support our ministries. In February, the **Trinity Cathedral Legacy Circle** was launched to acknowledge the generous individuals and families who have made current or planned gifts to the endowment—supporting the cathedral now and for years to come. You can join by including Trinity in your will, trust, IRA, annuity, or other planned gift, then documenting your gift with our Development Office by completing and returning a Planned Gift Intention Form. If you have made a planned gift, we'd like to thank you by inviting you to join the Legacy Circle.

In April, the cathedral hosted a Dean's Forum, **Legacy Planning and End-of-**

Life Care, where Dean Owens was joined by Dr. Jeff Spiess and Cheryl Williams to discuss important end-of-life issues, including funeral planning, pastoral care, and planned giving. In November, Marie Curry, the Rev. Dr. Eric Funston, Ute Vilfroy and Amy Wentz presented a Dean's Forum, **Funeral and Estate Planning**. Both forums were very well attended and provided information on funeral planning guides, wills, trusts, and advance directives.

Through our new partnership with **FreeWill**, you can now create your legal will—entirely free of charge—in 20 minutes or less. It's a simple, thoughtful way to protect your loved ones and assets, and ensure your wishes are honored. An opportunity is provided to include a planned gift to Trinity, should you wish.

In 2025, Trinity Cathedral's leadership continued careful discernment around

Capital Campaign planning. The vestry appointed a Campaign Committee with members including Ted Andrews, Bill DiTirro, Bill Fuller, Paul Hergesell, Dave Miano, Howard Lewis (co-chair), Pam Meyers, Mary Ann O'Riordan, Cynthia Ries (co-chair), and Jeff Spiess. They also engaged Marous Brothers Construction to move forward with the development of a proposal relative to Cathedral Hall renovation.

At the beginning and end of the summer, the **architects hosted town hall**

information sessions to share design ideas with congregants, and to hear questions, concerns, and ideas from stakeholders who use the hall and kitchen areas regularly. The information sessions, along with a broad survey, invited feedback from those who are served—such as groups who rent our space and our A Place at the Table clients—and those who provide ministry and service. The Vestry has now formally received a scope



Cynthia Ries & Cheryl Williams

design proposal from the architect and is in an evolving conversation regarding anticipated next steps.

Clearly, the cathedral stewardship story is unfolding in new and flourishing ways. If you have an interest or expertise in any of the facets of stewardship included here, or others, please let us know. ♣



*Marilyn Valencia & Elizabeth Billings
at Stewardship Supper & Hymn Sing*

Get Involved

Make a
Pledge Online
by Easter



Request a
Planned Gift
Intention Form

Create a
Legal Will
Using FreeWill



Contact the
Development Office
development@trinitycleveland.org

The transformative and life-giving ministries of Trinity Cathedral are made possible by the inspired and effusive generosity of our donors. Thank you for your gifts and for trusting us to wisely steward them as we grow in faith, living love in action and preserving sacred space for all, to the glory of God.

This list reflects contributions made by January 12, 2026.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ❖ Chuck Abookire | ❖ Carolyn Brunelle | ❖ Daughters of the King |
| ❖ Jeff Ackroyd and Kim DeNero-Ackroyd | ❖ Paul and Susan Bunner | ❖ Dena Davis |
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- ❖ The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch and Melanie Giovannone
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- ❖ Clint and Hillery Needham
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- ❖ Karen Neilsen
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- ❖ James Nicks
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- ❖ Cynthia Ries

If your name is missing from this list or misspelled, please let us know.

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- ❖ Frank and Elizabeth Jefferson Young
- ❖ Christine and Mark Zust

Legacy Circle

Founding Members



- ❖ Tom Anderson and Rosalie Tyner
- ❖ Ted Andrews and Bruce Holloway
- ❖ Victoria Ashley
- ❖ Rob Bauer
- ❖ Gary Benjamin and Melody Hart
- ❖ Elizabeth Billings
- ❖ David and Gayle Cratty
- ❖ Dawn Detgen
- ❖ Christopher Faiver
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- ❖ Ute Vilfroy
- ❖ Mark Weinle and Michael Washko
- ❖ Michael and Catherine Wells
- ❖ The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams and Mrs. Lynette Williams

Finance

Committee Members: Melody Hart (treasurer, co-chair), Marilyn Valencia (co-chair), Andrew McCollister, Daniel McGuire & Jeff Spiess

Staff Liaisons: Bernard Owens & Dan Hout-Reilly

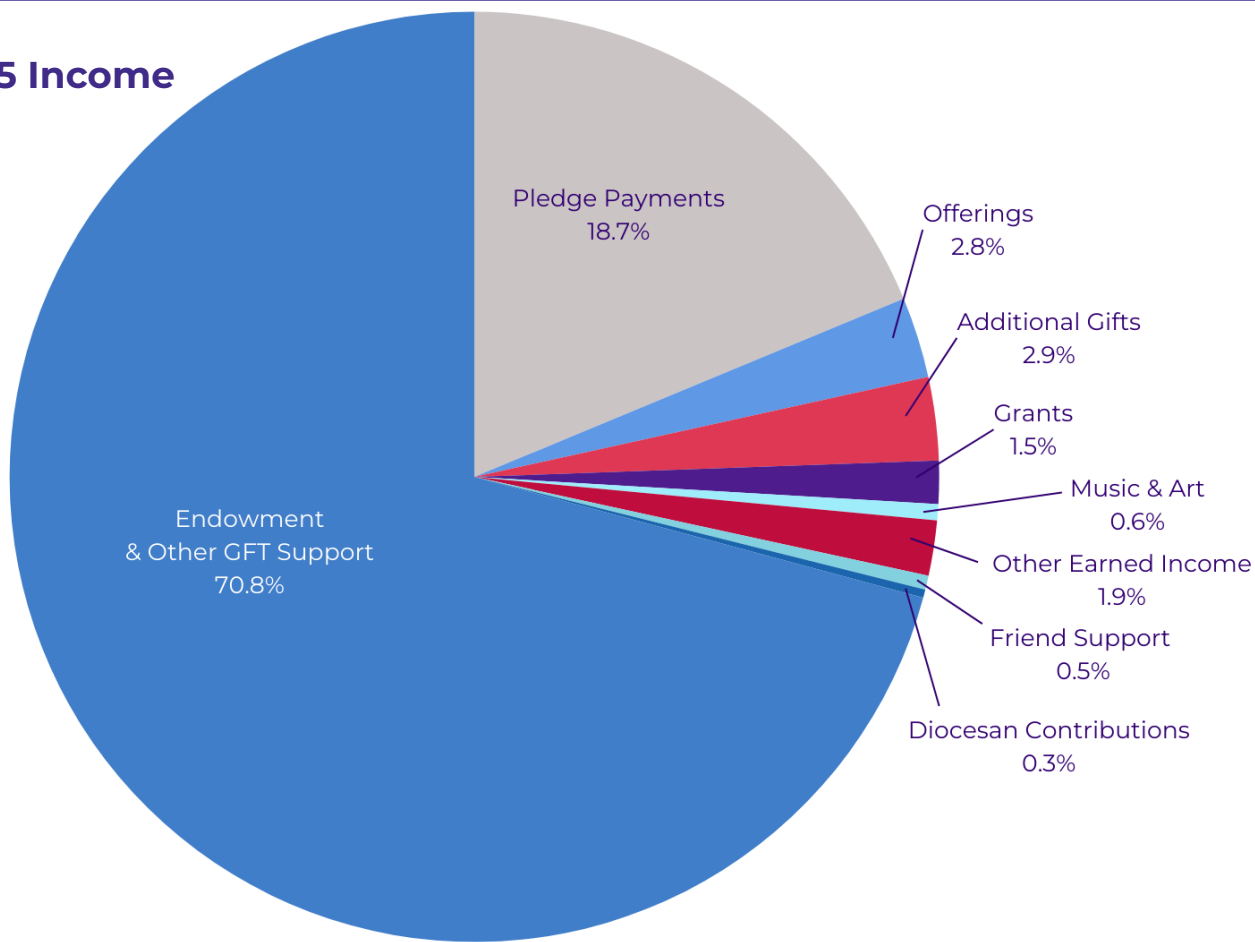
OPERATING ACTIVITIES 2025 (UNAUDITED)

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Pledge Payments	\$400,345		
Offerings (w/ Easter & Christmas)	\$60,004		
Additional Gifts	\$61,813		
Total Congregational Support	\$522,162	Worship & Liturgy	\$435,420
Total Grants	\$31,945	Spiritual Formation	\$134,612
Music & Art at Trinity Shared Services	\$12,000	Congregational Care	\$146,987
Other Earned Income	\$40,796	Civic & Community Outreach	\$163,945
Total Earned Income	\$52,796	Music & Art at Trinity	\$53,774
Friend Support	\$10,475	Total Outreach & Mission	\$217,719
Diocesan Contributions	\$6,150	Diocesan Assessment	\$261,287
Total Friends/Corporate Support	\$16,625	Trinity Commons, Net	\$200,822
Endowment & Other GFT Support	\$1,513,090	Property (Cathedral)	\$174,901
Total Income	\$2,136,618	Administration	\$564,870
		Total Expenses	\$2,136,618

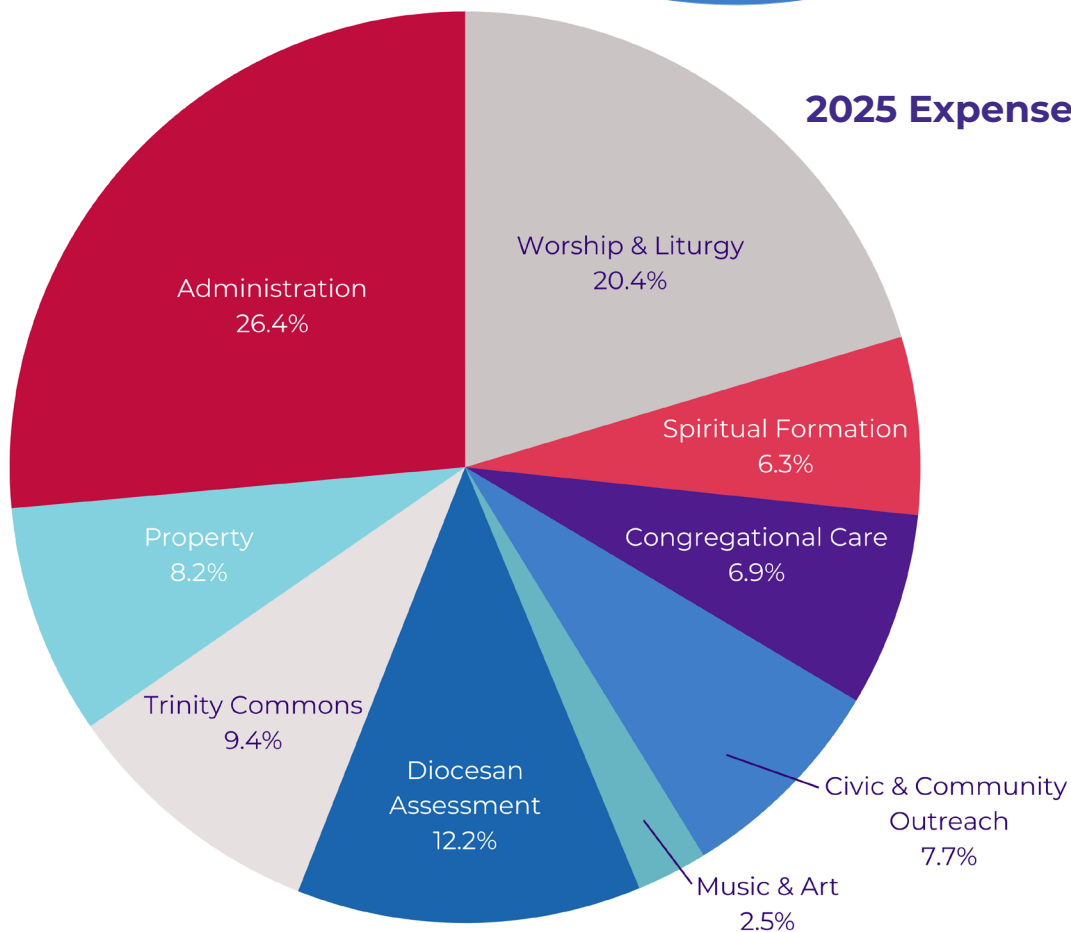
ENDOWMENT & GENERAL TRUST FUND		
Endowment (12/31/2024)	\$22,237,493	
Other Funds (12/31/2024)	\$972,071	
Total Endowment & GTF Assets (12/31/2024)	\$23,209,564	
Contributions	\$25,000	
Withdrawals for 2025 Operations	(\$1,513,090)	-6.93%*
Withdrawal for Capital	(\$81,000)	-0.37%*
Investment/Income Gains	\$3,341,507	14.40%
Net Change in Value	\$1,772,417	7.64%
Endowment (12/31/2025)	\$23,898,925	
Other Funds (12/31/2025)	\$1,083,056	
Total Endowment & GTF Assets (12/31/2025)	\$24,981,981	

*of trailing 20 quarter average balance at September 30, 2024.

2025 Income



2025 Expenses



People at Trinity Cathedral

Staff as of December 31, 2025

CLERGY

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens, IV
Dean

The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch
Canon for Mission & Transformation

The Rev. Megan Allen-Miller
Priest Associate

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly
Bishop of Ohio

PROGRAM STAFF

Ginger Bitikofer
Associate for Congregational Life & Membership

Lisa Galek
Communications Manager

Dan Hout-Reilly
Controller

Sam Hubish
Livestream, Video & Website Consultant

Doreen Hughes
Executive Assistant to the Dean

Brandon McCreary
*Sound Technician**

Eric Travis
Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Cheryl Williams
Development & Community Programming Consultant

FACILITIES STAFF

Melvina Blair
*Hospitality Coordinator**

Terence Hunter
Building Steward

Aundre Lindsay
Building Steward

Aretha McCreary
*Hospitality Coordinator**

Dan Senger
*Hospitality Coordinator**

Jon Silvis
Operations Manager

MUSIC STAFF

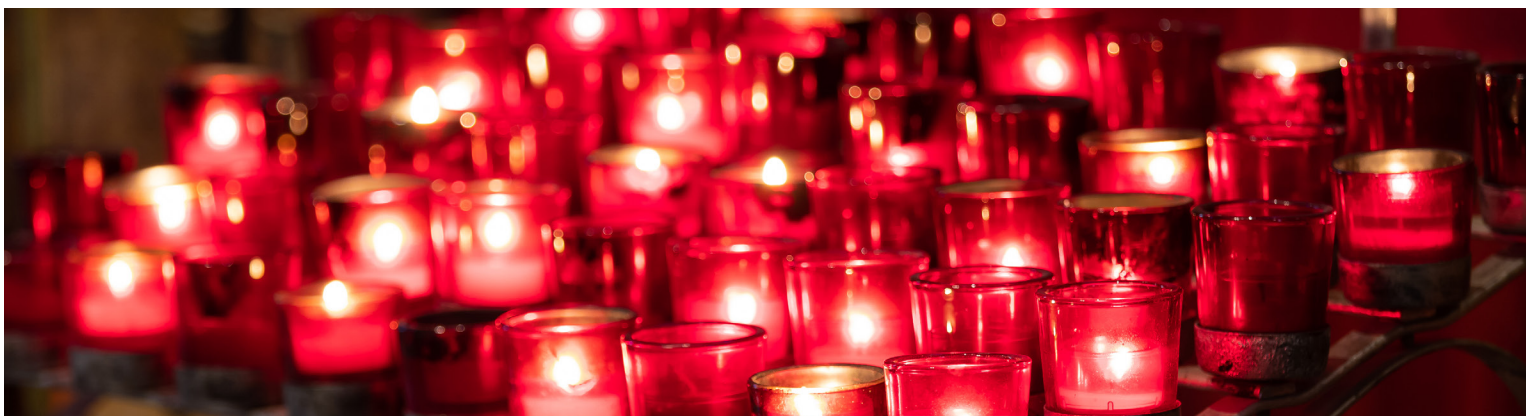
Emily Butler
*Music & Art Program Manager**
*Cathedral Music Administrative Assistant**

Craig Gahnz-Kuhar
*Music Associate**

Owen Metz
*Organ Scholar**

Shiloh Roby
Director of Music

* Denotes part-time positions



Vestry Members

The Vestry serves as the legal representative of the cathedral. Its members are elected at the Annual Meeting. They work with the clergy to guide the church's mission, oversee property and finances, and support the effective leadership and stewardship of the congregation.



Jeff Spiess
Senior Warden



Elizabeth Billings
Junior Warden



Mark Biddlestone



John Chapman



Marie Curry



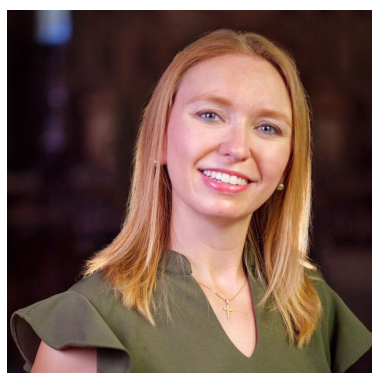
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd



Martin Hermes



Diane Hexter



Audrey Hudak



Toni Ponzio



Cynthia Ries



Marilyn Valencia

Representatives Elected by Vestry:

- ♣ Darrell Lausche, *Clerk*
- ♣ Melody Hart, *Treasurer*



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