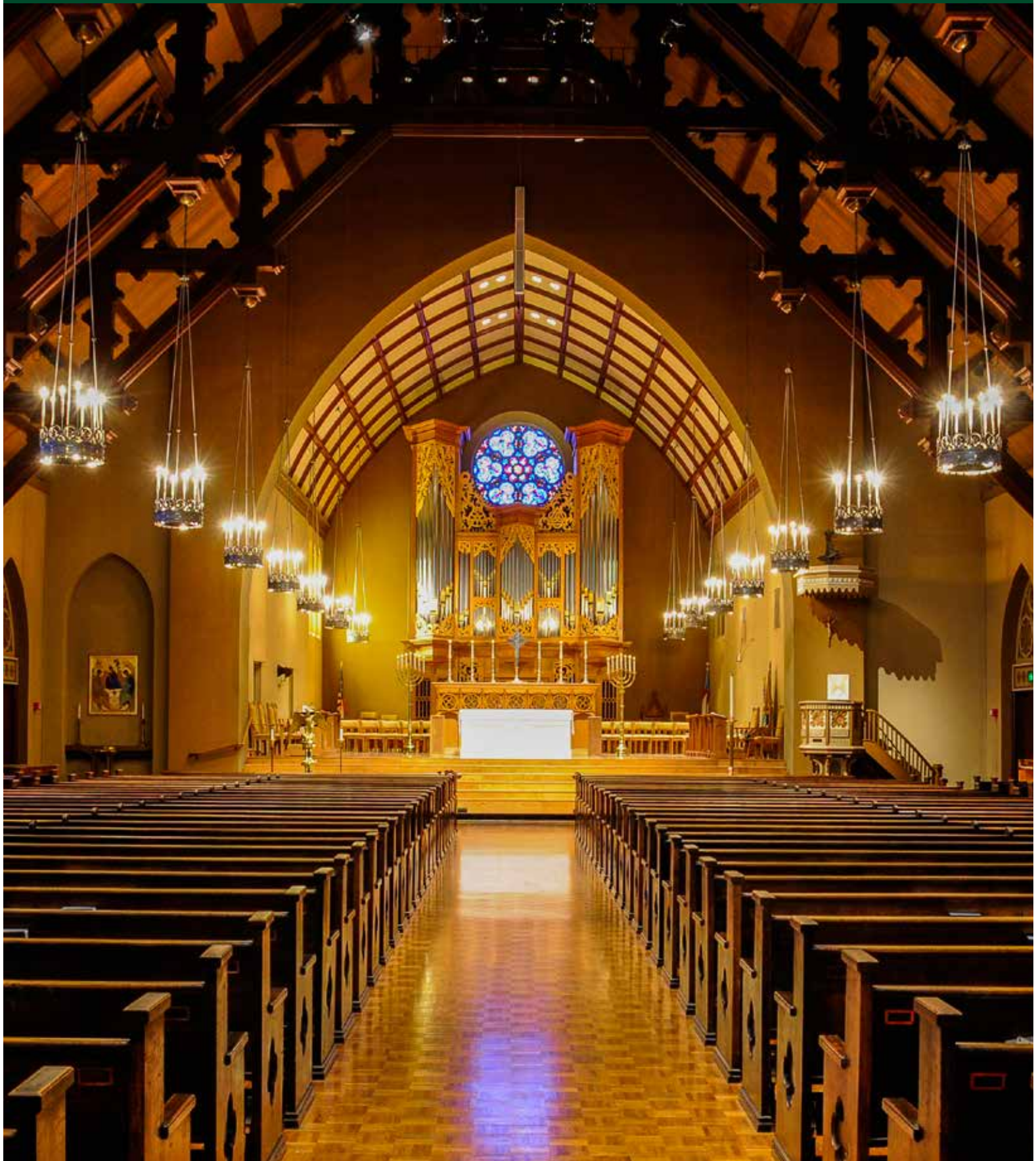


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL PORTLAND, OREGON

DEEP BEAUTY. INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY. HOLY COMPASSION. UNCOMMON WARMTH.





Trinity Episcopal Cathedral recognizes and honors those who stewarded this land for many generations before us: the Multnomah and Clackamas bands of the Chinook peoples. The Chinook Nation continues to thrive today, and Trinity endorses their work to achieve federal recognition.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This document began as a parish profile created during the Dean Search process, shaped through extensive listening, reflection, and collaboration by a dedicated profile committee.

Their work offered a thoughtful and honest portrait of this cathedral community – our ministries, values, challenges, and hopes – and we are deeply grateful for the care and discernment that went into the creation of the parish profile. We are pleased to share the profile more broadly as a way of honoring that work and celebrating the life we share at Trinity.

As we look ahead to Trinity's 175th anniversary as a parish in 2026, this profile also serves as a reflection on who we are in this moment, grounded in a long and evolving history of worship, service, and community in the heart of Portland.

For this publication, sections that pertained specifically to the Dean Search have been omitted, allowing the profile to stand as a portrait of our common life rather than a recruitment document.

This profile is offered alongside the 2025 Annual Report Supplement, which provides leadership reflections, ministry highlights, and a 2025 financial report, as well as the Holy Cow survey results.

These supporting documents can be found on the website at trinity-episcopal.org/annual-report

TRINITY AT A GLANCE

In 2025...

Years Trinity has served
the Portland community:

175

Average Sunday Attendance
(in person):

352

Average Sunday Attendance
(online):

89

Lunches served each week to
our hungry neighbors:

750

Total pledging households:

670

New members added:

103

Events on the Trinity campus:

3,800

Love and support of God:

Infinite





"I love that there are so many ways to pray here at Trinity...worship, service, singing, the labyrinth, contemplation, poetry, art, learning, community. It's a place where you can make and re-make your relationship with God."
 – Rev'd Shana McCauley

"There's vibrancy, a profound sense of welcome. Trinity never sleeps. There's always somebody there – the food ministry right alongside the world class music."
 – Alison Kelley,
 Search Committee 2025



"I love Trinity. My values align with this place."
 – Heather Swearingen,
 Vestry 2022-25

"Trinity is truly the most welcoming church I've joined. I'm grateful for all the opportunities I've had."
 – Cathy Sutton, Verger



OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

These are derived from the September 2025 survey of 482 respondents.

AGE (survey respondents)

9% 35-44
 9% 45-54
 14% 55-64
 66% 65+

ETHNIC ORIGIN

93% white
 1% Hispanic
 2% Asian
 4% multi-ethnic

EDUCATION

92% college graduates
 62% with graduate degree

LENGTH OF TIME IN PARISH

5% under one year
 5% 1-2 years
 14% 3-4 years
 22% 5-10 years
 10% 11-15 years
 13% 16-20 years
 33% over 20 years

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

1% under \$20K
 8% \$20-35K
 7% \$35-50K
 10% \$50-70K
 17% \$70-100K
 23% \$100-150K
 26% \$150-300K
 8% \$300K and over

Trinity is a regional church rather than a neighborhood church. Most members live in Portland. Others come from a five-county area. About 32 percent drive 10+ miles to church.



Worship is our foundation at Trinity. The soaring beauty of the music, the reverence of the liturgy, and the profound spirituality of the nave bring many people to tears. The excellent preaching challenges and inspires us.

Our worship traditions are an important reason that Trinity continues to grow in membership and community.

Trinity's services are founded on the liturgical practices of the Episcopal Church, the Book of Common Prayer 1979, and the Hymnal 1982.

STATE-OF-THE-ART STREAMING

Every Sunday at 10:00 am, three technicians run multiple cameras, ceiling and body mics, and a sound mixing system to stream every element of the service – creating an immediate, beautiful, and reverent experience for those worshipping online participants. Online viewers can see the choir, the organist, and – on Easter and Christmas – the brass and timpani players behind the altar.

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAYS

- 8:00 am Chapel Service
(Rite I; no music)
- 10:00 am Cathedral Service
(Rite II; Adult Choir, Choristers, and organ)

WEDNESDAYS

- 5:45 pm Weekday Eucharist in Kempton Hall
(Rite II; anthem sung by the Choir School)

FIRST SUNDAYS

- 10:00 am Intergenerational Service in Kempton Hall (Rite III; St. Cecilia Choir & piano)
- 5:00 pm Choral Evensong in the Cathedral
(sung by the Cathedral Choirs)



DEEP BEAUTY: *Music & Art*



Music is what draws people to Trinity and what keeps them coming back. Ninety three percent of those surveyed said the quality of the music is outstanding.

Trinity's Canon for Music, Dr. Katherine Webb, is a celebrated conductor, organist, and published composer. She leads musicians of all ages to offer beautiful and reverent works from centuries of sacred music for both worship services and concert performances.

The auditioned 50-voice Trinity Choir, made up of both amateur and professional musicians, is known for excellence within and outside the Cathedral congregation.

The Trinity Choir School offers free, high-quality music education for 22 singers in grades 2-12. The young singers join the adult choir to lead worship twice a month, as well as monthly services of Choral Evensong.

The Cathedral's concerts and services enjoy a robust local following and national attention via livestream. The concert series, which often features Trinity's Rosales organ, is supported by several generous endowments.

"I'm a professional organist and have worked for 28 years as church music director. The quality and professional level of music at Trinity is some of the best I've ever experienced."

– Paul Flyger, Trinity choir member 2017-2022

"I think Trinity music means kindness because when I go there everybody is kind."

–Maxmillian, age 9, Trinity Chorister

"Trinity music is good for the soul. It is where one can feel at peace while connecting with God through sung prayer."

–Ryker, age 12, Trinity Chorister



DEEP BEAUTY: *Music & Art*



Curated art exhibits in the Kempton Hall gallery feature local artists in printmaking, calligraphy, and painting.

Trinity also embraces visual and literary arts, with several curated art exhibits a year in our Kempton Hall gallery, book study, a Visiting Writers series, writing workshops, and art classes.



The cathedral was veiled in darkness and the flames projected from the organ for Dante in the Dark, a live reading of Dante's Inferno for the 2025 Portland Book Festival.

*Listen to the adult choir singing
a Herbert Howells Magnificat*



DEEP BEAUTY AT A GLANCE

- MUSIC
 - Cathedral Choirs
 - Concert Series
 - Choral Evensong
- ROSALES ORGAN
- ART EXHIBITS
- LITERARY ARTS
- VISITING WRITERS SERIES
- FLOWER GUILD

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY: *The Center for Sacred Learning*

Trinity is a “Magi Church,” according to our survey – rational, intellectual, powerful, searching. We love books and are curious about everything. More than 60 percent of our members have graduate degrees. We love talking about stuff like Hymnals 101 and noncanonical gospels and the Council of Nicea.

And yet – unusually for a Magi church – over 68 percent of Trinity members surveyed agreed that “My spirituality is really the basis of my whole approach to life.”

The Center for Sacred Learning provides these seekers with opportunities to learn in community.

Trinity unique five-month-long Catechesis class offers a deeper understanding of the Episcopal Church and the central way we gather as a community: the Eucharist. Every year, more than 50 adults participate in Catechesis, in person as well as online, those new to Christianity as well as those who are life-long Episcopalians. The Nicene Creed, the Book of Common Prayer, discernment, and Baptism are just a few of the topics offered by clergy and lay presenters from across the Diocese over the course of 17 weeks.

The class culminates in a student-run Eucharistic service in the Cathedral. Graduates can be baptized, confirmed, or accepted into the Church by the Bishop on Trinity Sunday in the Cathedral or in their own parish when the Bishop visits.

With our excellent online capability, parishes from miles around can participate in Catechesis as well as our many Wednesday night classes. Last year the Center offered 25 classes over seven terms.



“As a newcomer to the Episcopal Church, Catechesis solidified my desire to make this Church my spiritual home. The structure - walking us through the service - was a wonderful way to help lots of things make sense and cover so much information.”

– Catechesis participant

“The labyrinth brought me in here. It’s laid into the very floor. It said to me, ‘we’re going to let you be alone with God and we won’t tell you what to think.’”

– David Mitchell, Spiritual Formation Commission



INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY: *Children & Youth Education*



"I love that Trinity gives so much to the community and to the poor."

– Kip, age 8

"I like going to Godly Play—how different people tell the same story different ways."

– Eleanor, age 11

"I'm proud of reading at Church of the Commons."

– Andrew, age 7

"Trinity is a gentle place to be a parent."

– Trinity parent,
at listening sessions

Trinity is blessed to have many families with children attending and participating in every part of our community life. Children and youth serve as outreach volunteers, choristers, acolytes, lectors, and more.

Children ages three years old to fifth grade spend the first part of the 10:00 am service in Godly Play before joining their parents for communion. We offer baptism instruction for parents and confirmation class for youth. Our intergenerational service, Church at the Commons, attracts a robust congregation every first Sunday.

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AT A GLANCE

THE CENTER FOR SACRED LEARNING

- Sunday Morning Forums
- Wednesday night classes
- Contemplative practice
 - Saturday Mini-Retreats
 - Meditation & chant groups
 - Labyrinth walks
- A Benedictine Community

CHURCH AT THE COMMONS

(monthly intergenerational service)

CHILDREN & YOUTH EDUCATION

- Godly Play
- Baptismal classes
- Confirmation instruction

HOLY COMPASSION: *Outreach*

Trinity is located in the heart of Portland, and the housing and hunger challenges of every urban area happen at our front door. Hunger Ministries is our flagship program, serving 500 guests weekly at the daily walk-up pantry and a hot meal to 250-300 guests every Wednesday. Each year we prepare a Thanksgiving meal for hundreds of guests in Kempton Hall and at local shelters.

Trinity Outreach also partners with 15 local nonprofits to serve our housing-insecure neighbors, and we join forces with diverse faith communities to offer housing assistance and advocacy for social justice. Trinity youth help out at Williams

Plaza, a nearby public housing apartment complex for seniors and people with disabilities.

We recently supported the establishment of a tiny house village on the campus of St. Andrews in North Portland, in partnership with their congregation and local nonprofit WeShine.

We glean 27,000 pounds of food every year from restaurants, coffee shops, and grocery stores.



HOLY COMPASSION: *Wednesday Community Meal*



A pianist offers live music to guests at our weekly Wednesday meal.

"It's a beautiful church and everybody's just friendly. The food never fails. We can kid around with the servers. They all know my name."

– Guest at the Wednesday meal

"Personal service, a nice hot meal and a warm face, beautiful piano playing – it's just really lovely to be able to share this."

– Sandra Cress, server

"Trinity's Wednesday lunch is the most radical hospitality I've seen in Portland."

– Nancy McAuliffe, server



HOLY COMPASSION AT A GLANCE

- **HUNGER MINISTRIES**
 - Trinity Food Pantry
 - Wednesday Community Meal
 - Gleaning
 - Thanksgiving Meal
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
 - WeShine tiny house village
 - Family Promise
 - Refugee Team
 - Community partnerships

UNCOMMON WARMTH: *Radical Hospitality*

Trinity has long sought to extend uncommon warmth to anyone who wants to worship with us or engage in other ways – no matter who they are, what they believe or who they love.

Within our community of 1,500 individuals, Trinity embraces many small groups: LGBTQ+ Friends, contemplative practice, outreach volunteers, antiracism and grief groups, book clubs, choirs, Catechesis, altar and flower guilds.

We have an active pastoral care team who provide home Eucharist, handwritten cards of support and congratulations, and hand-knitted prayer shawls.

“Many have found a home here after being marginalized or alienated by misogynistic, narrow, or homophobic faith traditions. We celebrate our queer community on staff, in the pews, in the clergy, and leadership. It’s not that ‘we’ welcome ‘them.’ We are all us.”

– Celia Wagner, choir member



UNCOMMON WARMTH AT A GLANCE

- **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**
- **SUNDAY MORNING HOSTS**
- **WELCOME CENTER VOLUNTEERS**
- **NEWCOMERS TEAM**
- **CATECHESIS**
- **LGBTQ+ FRIENDS**
- **FACEBOOK COMMUNITY GROUP**

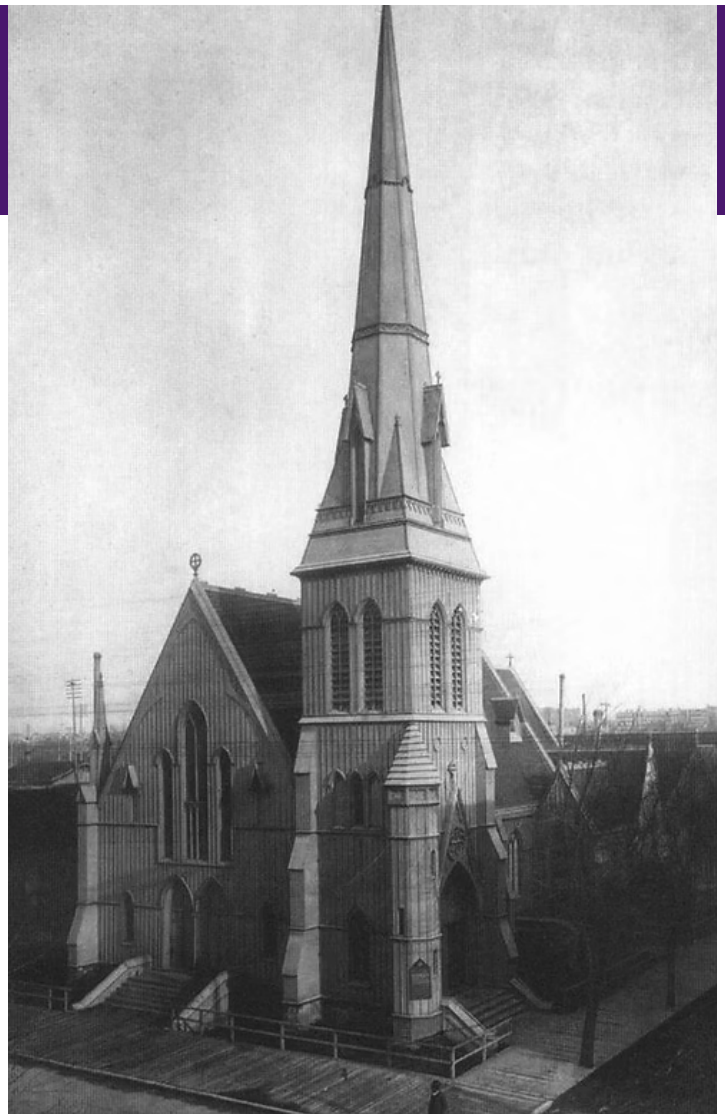
A HISTORY OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

“MAY THE LITTLE ONE BECOME
A THOUSAND.”

– *From the journal of Rt. Rev. Thomas Scott,
on the night of Trinity’s 1854 dedication*

A LIGHT ON THE FRONTIER

Trinity was established in 1851 as the first Episcopal mission to the Oregon Territory. Founding members led their own services until they could call their first rector (1853) and raise their first building (1854). That first band of rugged, faithful Episcopalians quickly established values and patterns that have continued to shape Trinity across the past 175 years: welcoming and adaptive lay leadership, a commitment to beauty in worship, and a deep engagement in the educational and spiritual formation of their young city.



WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE

As Portland expanded rapidly, Trinity’s laity developed a remarkable capacity to welcome newcomers and discern emerging civic needs. The Trinity Women’s Guild (1872) led much of this work, helping to found Good Samaritan Hospital (1875) and establish many schools.

This pattern of hospitality continued into the 20th century as Trinity elected women to all leadership positions, affirmed and advocated for LGBTQ+ Christians, and opened its doors to the Episcopal Church of Western Oregon through its consecration as Diocesan Cathedral (1993).

In 2025, Trinity’s congregation maintains that its top priority is “to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.”



BEAUTY IN WORSHIP

Trinity's devotion to liturgical beauty can be traced to 1873, when the parish celebrated the completion of its second building by hosting its first public organ concert and forming a well-regarded choir that included professional musicians.

Music at Trinity has flourished ever since, most recently through the installation of our internationally acclaimed Rosales organ (1987), which draws the world's finest organists to our sanctuary. Trinity currently fields an annual concert series, six choirs, and a vibrant choir school. In 2025, Trinity ranked in the 93rd percentile nationally for congregational vitality in worship and music.



EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

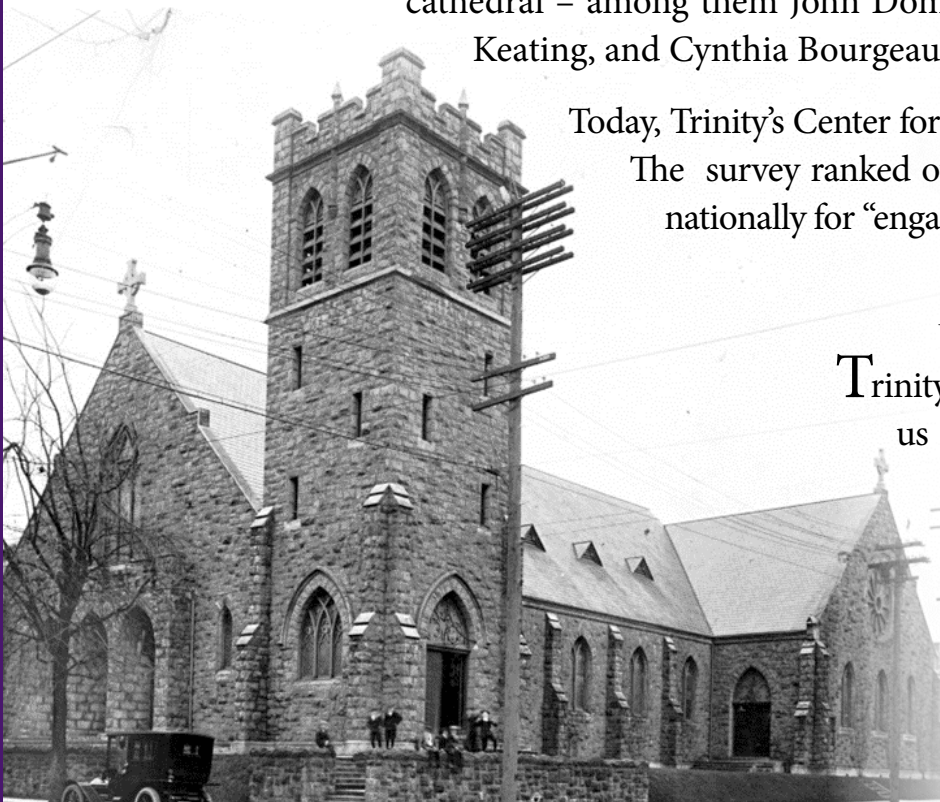
Trinity's early educational mission was central to its identity. Trinity founded Bible study groups, men's fellowships, a school for girls (1869; now Oregon Episcopal School), a neighborhood Sunday School (1873; now St. Mark's), and a Chinese mission school (1892), established in response to the "barbarous and dishonorable" treatment of Chinese immigrants to Portland.

A century later, Trinity called its first full-time Christian educator (1992). Trinity's Center for Spiritual Development (1998) brought nationally recognized teachers to the cathedral – among them John Dominic Crossan, Marcus Borg, Thomas Keating, and Cynthia Bourgeault.

Today, Trinity's Center for Sacred Learning continues this legacy. The survey ranked our congregation in the 97th percentile nationally for "engagement in education."

NEW FRONTIERS

Trinity's 175-year legacy uniquely positions us to continue to be a light on these contemporary frontiers. We seek a Dean who will help us discern how Trinity's distinctive values can best carry forward the light of Christ with the same bold faith of those early pioneers.





“By developing the more relational, emotional and structural aspects of their common life, Magi cultures like Trinity add the stability that will help provide sustainability over the longer term.”

- Holy Cow Consulting

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GROW?

We’ve told you what we cherish and hold up as what defines Trinity – our profoundly moving liturgy, our breathtaking sanctuary, the world-class music, deep and abiding intellectual curiosity, radical welcome and inclusivity, and our robust ministries of compassion in the heart of the city. We want our new Dean to be as passionate about these as we are.

And there are plenty of ways for us to grow. We hope our new Dean will help us become more:

- **CONNECTED.** One of the top three priorities for Trinity members in the survey was to create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships. We’re a large and established congregation that longs to be even more relational. Members especially mentioned a longing for greater pastoral care. We’re looking hard at ways we can make sure no one in our parish is alone when they need support.

- **REGIONALLY ENGAGED & INFLUENTIAL.** We love to be challenged in our thinking and action, from the pulpit and in the community. This is what our founders were saying when they established Trinity and called it “a light on the frontier.” Trinity is well-positioned to speak out and influence local and regional conversations about social justice and to better serve the diocese.
- **FINANCIALLY GENEROUS.** The survey found that the rate of giving is very low as a percentage of household income (just 0.5%) compared to other churches. In the past couple of years, annual giving has fallen short of expenses, and we have taken extra measures to balance our budget. We hope to become a church where members’ love and belief in this community and their longing for Trinity to thrive inspire them to give generously.

RACIAL JUSTICE WORK AT TRINITY

As the world turns, so does Trinity.

Trinity is a primarily white church, and its lay leaders are mostly white.

In July 2020, the Trinity Vestry issued a statement in response to the murder of George Floyd. Less than a year later, the Antiracism Task Force was established in accordance with Vestry's statement.

In 2021, the Vestry and Antiracism Task Force called upon the Mission Institute to examine the effects and dynamics of race and racism at Trinity and assess the interest among the congregation to engage in this work.

The Institute reported that 90 percent of Trinity's lay leaders are white compared to 70 percent of the broader Portland population. The audit also found that Trinity's lay leaders were less likely to agree that racial justice should be foundational to Trinity's work and ministry than the congregation as a whole.

Trinity struggles when it comes to work relating to racial justice. The Task Force completed a report and recommendations and the Vestry put policies in place to encourage contracting with people from underrepresented communities. Many Trinity leaders are working to understand how supremacy culture impacts us all, and they are dedicated to making things happen.

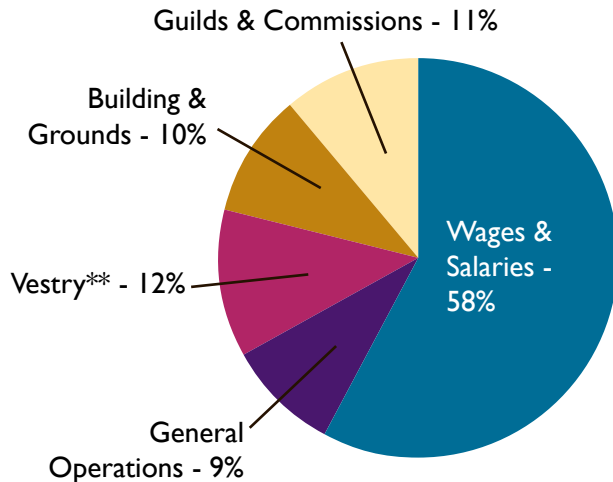
And as Trinity leans into this work, we are asking ourselves how this can be done without tokenizing nonwhite members of the community?

An Antiracism Steering Committee is currently working on how to engage our congregation in the work of racial justice – and perhaps healing. We hope for a Dean that can lead us down this road.

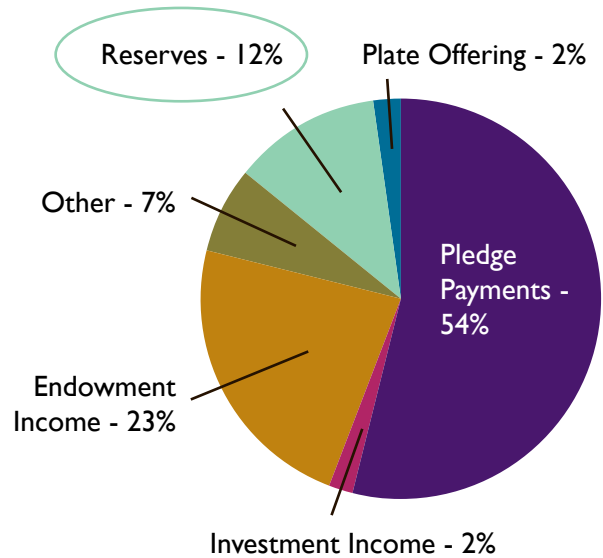
TRINITY'S FINANCES

Trinity's expenses for the fiscal year July 2025 through June 2026 were budgeted at \$2.77 million. Trinity's revenue for that same time period came to \$2.4 million.

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



REVENUE SHORTFALL



In order to balance, we had to dip into our reserves for \$327,000, about 12 percent of the total budget. This is represented by the light green area in the pie chart above.

Next year promises to be even more challenging. Like many nonprofits and small businesses, we received federal pandemic relief funds beginning in 2020. Our relief funding totaled \$543,670; we spread it over five years ending in June 2025.

We want to fund Trinity without dipping into reserves. To help shore up pledge and endowment funds, our Interim Dean is helping us discern church-based economic enterprises we might start that are consistent with our mission, such as day care, senior centers, or thrift shops.

On a very positive note, as of November 30, 2025, Trinity has \$16,877,857 in investment assets with no debt.

*More information is available
in the 2024 Annual Report*

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

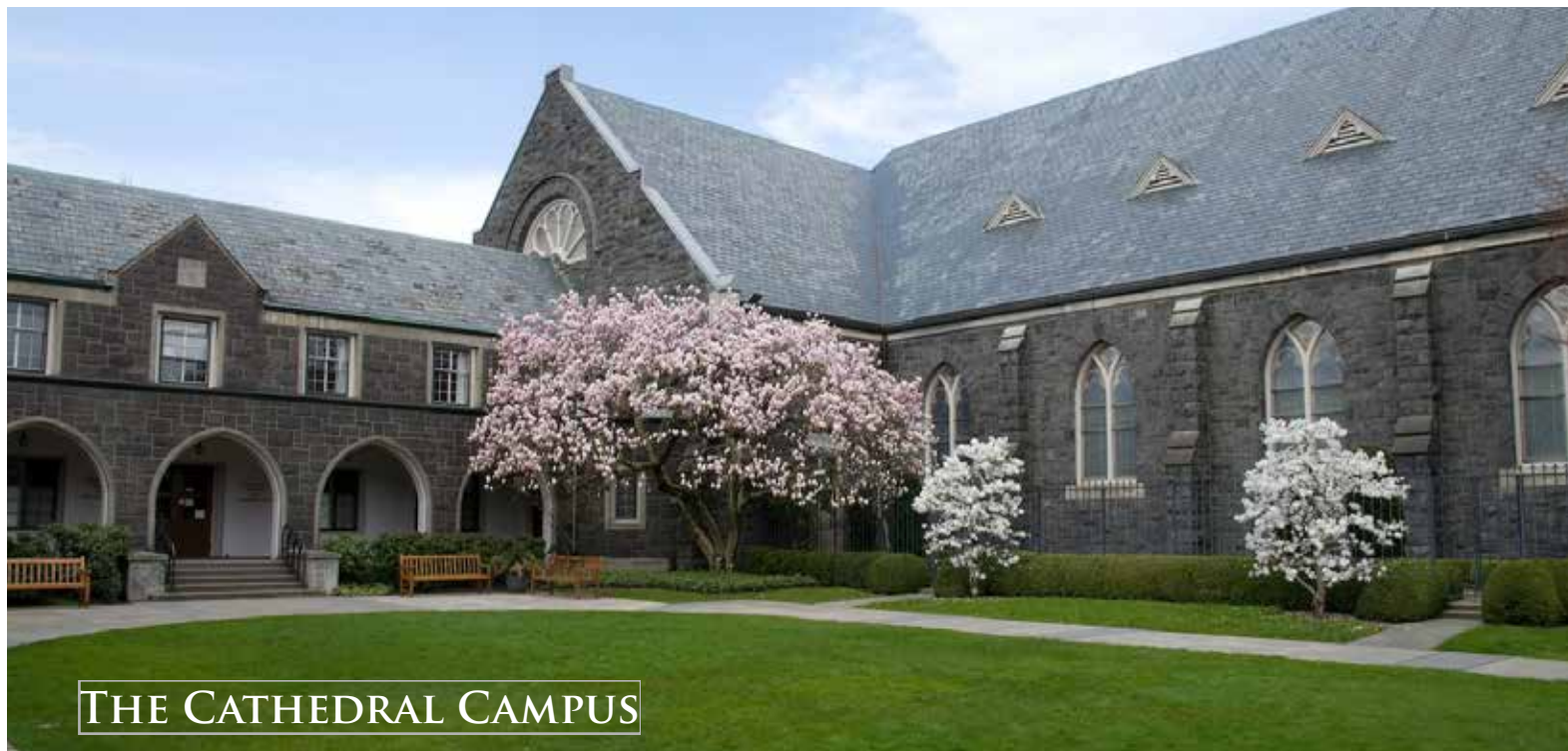
The survey found that Trinity members' giving, compared to other churches, was very low as a percentage of income (0.5%). This is something we continue to prayerfully explore as a community.

Trinity's 2026 Annual Giving Campaign began in October 2025, with a goal of \$2.2 million.

	PLEDGE PAYMENTS	PLEDGING UNITS	MEAN
2020	\$1,528,498	702	\$2,177
2021	1,477,028	751	1,967
2022	1,559,210	776	2,009
2023	1,516,742	729	2,081
2024	1,603,530	722	2,221
2025*	1,467,491	670	2,190

* as of 12/25

**includes Diocesan Program Assessment and miscellaneous Vestry expenditures



THE CATHEDRAL CAMPUS

Trinity Cathedral's campus spans just over an acre in the heart of the city in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Portland.



A labyrinth is laid into the floor in Kempton Hall, where Trinity also hosts many events including the weekly sit-down lunches offered by our hunger ministries. The commercial kitchen in Kempton gets constant use.



The sanctuary, completed in 1906, seats 740 people and features the Rosales Organ.



Barclay's (Children's) Library



The chapel, used for memorials and Morning Prayer, holds 80 people.



OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS – RENEWING OUR SACRED SPACE

Our current capital campaign addresses pressing needs and serious renovations to our historic buildings and grounds. Thanks to early supporters, we have pledges of \$3.7 million, of which \$2.1 million has already been received. We are now expanding the appeal to the whole congregation, with a stretch goal of \$6 million.

The roof and seismic improvements to Kempton have already been completed at a cost of \$1.2 million, with the slate roof expected to last for 125 years or more.

Trinity's buildings get a lot of use. They will be used even more as we begin to explore alternate income streams like rentals. We want to keep them in good repair. Many more improvements are still planned: restoring our iconic red doors, pulpit stairs, courtyard, memorial garden, and further structural improvements to Kempton and its spaces.



In September 2025, Interim Dean Brendan Barnicle donned a safety harness and climbed onto Trinity's new roof to bless it from "on high."

