

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2024

PARISH PROFILE



1900 Dauphin Street
Mobile, Alabama 36606



www.trinitymobile.org
trinity@trinitymobile.org



WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Nestled in the heart of Midtown Mobile, Trinity Episcopal Church is an open-minded, loving parish within the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. While theologically very diverse, our devoted membership is worship-focused and we gain much from our time spent together within the context of the Liturgy. Big-hearted, resilient, and uniquely charming, Trinity strives to be a humble outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven by sharing the Good News and walking the Way of Love.

We chose to engage Holy Cow! Consulting to provide an in-depth congregational assessment of our parish during this time of transition. The results of this assessment tell us that we are looking to connect more with each other and with our community and that we are looking for a leader who will meaningfully invest in parishioners, both in terms of pastoral care and by encouraging leadership and spiritual growth. Ideally, through strong worship and deep fellowship, our new rector will showcase the love that we have for each other so those who are seeking a church home may find us and feel welcome.

WHO WE ARE

We are delighted to share information about our Trinity family with you and are thankful you are reviewing our profile. Trying to distill what is most salient about our special parish down to a few pages is a challenge. Our hope is that this summary captures our spirit, our history, and our hopes for our future. As all parishes hope, we hope to grow, but we don't mean that only in the context of membership. We want to grow nearer to God, to one another, and to our community. We hope that our next rector will encourage and nourish development of lay leadership, expansion of meaningful programming, and build energy within our parish.

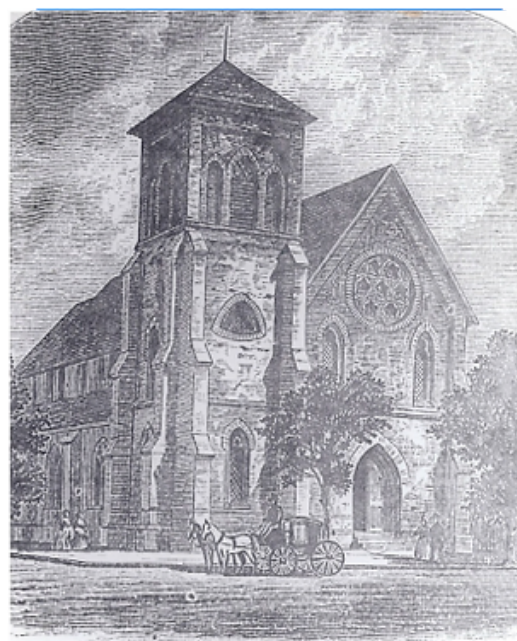
Our immediate neighborhood and nearby downtown Mobile has had an amazing resurgence in the past 25 years. Our area is filled with thriving businesses and busy residents, many of whom walk or drive by our beautiful campus daily. We are proud of our rich tradition and history dating back to 1845. We are blessed with a history impacted by many members of our parish who have been members for over 20 years combined with a recent increase in new members over the past four years. No matter our stage of life or family structure, whether cradle Episcopalians or recently confirmed, we cherish our liturgy and its rich tradition and deep meaning.

We look forward to learning more about you, and sharing about our past, present, and hopes for the future!



PARISH HISTORY

Founded in 1845, Trinity was the second Episcopal church to be established in Mobile. Started as a free pew church that was open to all, the congregation worshipped for eight years in rented space until the Gothic Revival style church was erected at the corner of Jackson and St. Anthony Streets in downtown Mobile.



Trinity Church—Mobile, Alabama.

In 1929, following the westward growth of the city, the parish prayerfully determined to relocate to its current address at 1900 Dauphin Street. Worship took place in what was known as the Trinity Junior Parish House until 1945, when the downtown church building was moved brick by brick and rebuilt in precise and loving detail at its present location.



Since that time, Trinity has been impacted by two major natural disasters—Hurricane Fredric in 1979 and the Christmas night tornado in 2012—and of course by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through faith and resilience, we emerge from each challenge stronger and more deeply rooted in the power of community.



Photos of parishioners adorn the pews during a live-streamed service during the pandemic.

Buildings and Grounds

Trinity boasts a beautiful and historic Gothic Revival style sanctuary and a large two-story parish house. Irving Hall serves as a large meeting and dining area for parish functions. With an elevated stage at the north end of the hall, we can host plays, pageants and concerts.



On the east side of the property is "The Meadow," where all are welcome to walk the labyrinth and explore our community garden.

Trinity's Memory Garden

Between the church and the parish building, the Memory Garden is a place for quiet meditation and the final resting place for the ashes of many parishioners and friends of Trinity.



Worship

Worship is the heart of our life together as Episcopalians and exploring the richness and depth of our liturgy is something that the members of Trinity hold very dear.



Holy Eucharist is celebrated at our Sunday and Wednesday services and Compline is offered on Tuesday evenings in Schroeter Chapel. Rite I and Rite II are both used on a rotating schedule for our Sunday services.



In July of 2022, Trinity hosted a special community service of Evening Prayer for the unity of our Church and in our culture and the world around us. As part of this service, attendees were invited to light a prayer candle in our Lady Chapel. The response to this small offering was so overwhelmingly beautiful that it has become an important part of our Sunday service.



A faithful group of lay eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, Flower Guild and greeters assist at all Sunday and special services. Our children typically worship with us for all of the service or for the Holy Eucharist portion. A nursery for our children is offered from birth to age five during both worship and Sunday School.



Parish Demographics

	Members	Communicants	Attendance	Baptisms	Confirmation
2019	318	224	95	3	8
2020	298	224	86	4	0
2021	306	232	63	5	10
2022	314	265	71	4	6
2023	315	273	105	5	5

The staff at Trinity consists of a full-time parish administrator and part-time parish steward, finance administrator, and organist. A parishioner provides lawn care services to keep the grounds, including the Labyrinth, well-kept and inviting. During the week, volunteer Office Angels assist in the parish office.



While many of our parishioners have worshiped at Trinity for decades, a focus on digital outreach helped us see growth during the pandemic. Our congregation is comprised of families who live within walking distance from the church, those who travel from different cities entirely, and everything in between.

Age	Below 19	19-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
	0%	3%	1%	12%	14%	22%	47%
Tenure	Under one year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	Over 20 years
	0%	6%	9%	17%	8%	9%	52%
Distance to Church	Under 4 blocks	5-8 blocks	1-2 miles	3-4 miles	5-9 miles	10-15 miles	Over 15 miles
	6%	6%	26%	13%	18%	15%	17%
Attendance	None	1-4 times	Once per month	Twice per month	Three times a month	All but 4 weeks	Every week
	1%	7%	15%	14%	34%	14%	14%

Finances

Trinity’s pledge history appears below. While the number of pledges has fluctuated over the past five years, the average pledge per household has increased over that same period by almost 20%. We have implemented on-line pledging and social media communication. Trinity leaders continue to approach stewardship using this intentional method which will benefit us in the future. We are hopeful that the transition to a new rector, church attendance and pledging will continue to increase, strengthening our budget and programs.



Click the image above to hear from our parishioners on the importance of giving.

	Pledge Units	Total Amount	Average Amount
2019	94	\$316,185	\$3,363
2020	93	\$309,778	\$3,330
2021	78	\$288,346	\$3696
2022	78	\$300,300	\$3850
2023	80	\$318,862	\$3,985



Our Vestry and Finance Committee is working faithfully for a brighter future. We are following best business practices per The Episcopal Church.

- The parish has no debt.
- The endowment funds, as of May 2024, are \$116,229.
- We are not dependent on endowment income for operating expenses.

	2022	2023	2024 Budget
Total Operating Income	\$395,772	\$418,388	\$381,000
Total Operating Expense	\$348,231	\$391,578	\$393,722
Operating Gain / Loss	\$47,541	\$26,810	-\$12,722

	2024 Budget
Pledges	\$329,000
Plate/Special Offering	\$14,000
Other Income	\$23,000
Non-pledge	\$15,000
Total Income	\$381,000
Salaries and Benefits	\$208,500
Utilities	\$34,260
Repair and Maintenance	\$15,750
Parish Programs	\$12,875
Outreach	\$22,650
Property Insurance	\$83,652
Total Expenses	\$393,722

Service and Outreach



Trinity has long sought to serve our community and our fellow parishioners by:

- Weekly delivery of altar flowers to parishioners.
- Lay eucharistic visitors bringing communion to the sick or homebound.
- The Order of the Daughters of the King meeting monthly for study and providing prayers for the parish and the needs of families and friends.
- Construction mission trip to the Dominican Republic.
- St. Anne's Guild delivering Books for Kids.
- Providing presents for the Wilmer Hall Christmas Angel tree program.
- In the past, our members served dinner monthly at a homeless shelter for women through McKemie Place.
- Neighborhood clean-ups.



Service and Outreach

Most Mondays of the year, Trinity opens its doors to provide groceries to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Donations from the parish and volunteers keep the food pantry stocked and open. Simple staple foods and seasonal produce grown in the community garden are offered.



Our annual canned food drive helps position us to give a little extra help during the holiday season.



Parish Life and Ministries



Fellowship has long been an important aspect of Christian life at Trinity. In the past, a lay-led parish life council organized and coordinated opportunities for deeper community, such as supper clubs, sharing faith dinners, various small group activities, book clubs, and larger parish celebrations such as a parish picnic at Camp Beckwith.

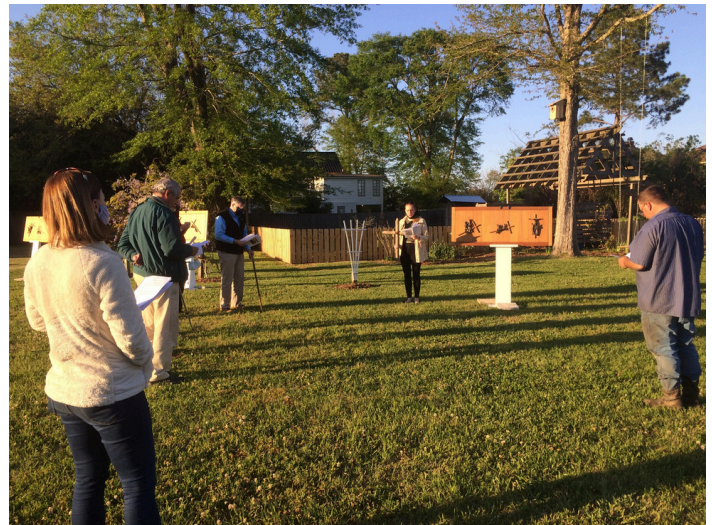


Like many churches, the pandemic affected the momentum of many of our regular programming. While we have worked diligently to get back to spending more time together outside of worship, we look forward to rebuilding a robust set of programs to create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships given the pace and schedule of busy lives and families.



Parish Life and Ministries

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Animals
- Joyful Night Christmas Pageant and potluck
- Wednesday Night Lenten program
- Stations of the Cross in the Meadow
- Easter Egg Hunt
- St. Anne's Guild
- Silent Auction Fundraiser
- Men's Cooking Team
- Sunday hospitality (coffee hour)



Christian Formation

Trinity offers Christian formation for all ages on Sunday mornings. Adult formation classes are lay-led and discussion based. Godly Play, a Montessori-based method for children's Christian education, is offered during the worship service for children in Pre-K through 4th grade.

An Inquirers Class is offered once a year for all who are interested in receiving confirmation and opportunities for intergenerational learning are sprinkled throughout the liturgical seasons.



Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast



The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, though officially formed in 1970, traces its origins to an Episcopal presence of over 175 years. The Diocese was constituted from the southern portion of the Diocese of Alabama and the western portion of the Diocese of Florida.

Our Diocese is comprised of 60 worshipping communities stretching from south Alabama to northwest Florida. Our largest population centers are Mobile and Pensacola but this diverse region also includes the farms and forests of the interior counties, and the beaches along the coast. For more information on the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, please visit www.diocgc.org.

Our Mobile Community

Mobile (pronounced mo-beel) is located in South Alabama along beautiful Mobile Bay. Founded over 300 years ago, Mobile boasts picturesque live oak lined streets, historic architecture, and is steeped with rich heritage, including the first Mardi Gras celebration in the United States! Our vibrant downtown and midtown areas have recently undergone a major resurgence and growing industries are bringing many new residents. Trinity is located on one of Mobile's main arteries, Dauphin Street, in midtown Mobile. Our campus is just a few miles from downtown and our neighborhood is filled with thriving businesses and active neighbors, many of whom walk or drive by our beautiful campus daily.

In Mobile we thrive on our traditions but welcome new ideas and people with open arms in hopes of sharing our love of Mobile with them. We think a lot of our big little Port City!





CHALLENGES

**CARING AND UPKEEP OF
HISTORIC BUILDING**

**ATTRACTING NEW AND
YOUNGER FAMILIES**

**REENERGIZING
CONGREGATION**





STRENGTHS

**FAITHFUL, LOVING, AND
WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

**WORSHIP-CENTERED AND
THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE**

**GREAT LOCATION IN THE
HEART OF REVITALIZED
COMMUNITY**





We are grateful for the gifts and strengths of our parish, and we look forward to calling a rector who can help us grow through our challenges. If you would like to discern this call more deeply with us, please submit your application today.

Application should be submitted to The Rev. Canon Ashley Freeman (ashley@diocgc.org). Your packet should include your OTM Profile, Resume, and Cover Letter.