

HOLY TRINITY PROFILE

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT US

Holy Trinity is a thriving parish in downtown Greensboro, N.C. Inspiring worship services are the cornerstone of our life together. We have a true desire to grow in faith, a strong call to care for one another, and a real heart for outreach. We pray for a Rector who will be a partner in our journey to know Christ and make him known.

OUR MISSION

We seek to know Christ and make him known, through an inward journey of faith and an outward journey of service, giving thanks to God in all things.

Who We Are

We believe that every person is a beloved child of God. We are open, accepting, and forward thinking. Friendships forged at Holy Trinity are deep and multi-generational. We would like to have more diversity in the congregation, but we are proud of the progress we have made.

Worship

Time together in worship is a special part of our identity. Our gothic-style sanctuary, built in 1950, seats 375. All Saints Chapel, which was built in 1922, holds 80 people. We celebrate a traditional Rite II Eucharist on Sundays, have a contemplative service Wednesday evenings, and offer special seasonal services throughout the year.

Our rich music ministry is led by an especially talented choirmaster and includes three age-group choirs for children and several choirs for adults accommodating a range of music skills. Every service is marked by inspiring music appropriate to the setting. Two of our Sunday services include a string quartet and the Wednesday evening service features Taizé music.

We have been blessed with extraordinary preaching that makes the Gospel relevant to our lives and current events, illuminates the Scripture within its cultural context, and invites reflection and change. As one parishioner said, sermons “give you an ‘ah ha’ moment; may move you to tears; and stay with you all week.”

Formation

Holy Trinity provides space and opportunities for everyone, young and old, to question, discern, and deepen their spiritual development. There are covenant groups, local and international pilgrimages, and thought-provoking Sunday morning classes for all ages including Godly Play for children; Feasting on the

Word for tweens and teens; and classes such as The Church in the New Millennium, Waking Up White, and History Behind The Headlines, for adults.

Our vibrant Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) averages 50 tweens and teens on Sunday evenings. Throughout the year there are service opportunities and retreats; pilgrimages; and a mission trip to Glory Ridge, a non-denominational camp in the mountains of North Carolina.

Holy Trinity's campus is home to Second Breath Center, a servant leadership school founded by our former Rector more than 25 years ago; Sacred Garden Bookstore; and Holy Trinity Day School, a community preschool that opened in 1954. Our labyrinth and meditation gardens are open 24 hours a day.

There is more information in the current [Christian Formation brochure here](#).

Pastoral Care

Through simple presence and concrete action, we support each other in times of pain and times of celebration. In addition to the personal ministry of our priests, we offer pastoral care through an intercessory prayer group; a ministry to welcome newly born or adopted children; lay persons trained through Community of Hope International; the delivery of rearranged altar flowers on Sundays; and a parish nurse provided in partnership with the local hospital system. Parishioners can join groups that knit prayer shawls, deliver meals, write condolence notes, host funeral receptions, and take the Eucharist to people who cannot attend church (just to name a few).

Outreach

Individually, parishioners have a long history of community work, from serving on local non-profit boards and city council, to tutoring in the schools and serving meals at Urban Ministry. As a parish, we support projects to: feed and pray with people in a downtown park every Sunday, repair homes in one of North Carolina's poorest counties, deliver Meals on Wheels, and collect food for a variety of ministries. We yearn to expand our outreach and provide hands-on opportunities for parishioners to grow in this outward journey of service. A more complete list of current outreach opportunities is in our [Growing In Faith Through Service](#) booklet here.

The Numbers

During the school year, we hold three services on Sundays (8, 9, and 11:15 a.m.) and during the summer, two services (8 and 10 a.m.), with an average total attendance of nearly 500 people. The Wednesday night Stillpoint contemplative service has an average attendance of 70. There are special services throughout the year, such as an Easter vigil and four Christmas services. There are currently 2,400 baptized members on our rolls – a number that has grown each of the last four years.

Capital Giving: In 2017, the vestry approved the “Capital Gifts Initiative, Generation to Generation” campaign to raise \$6.5 million to update the current parish house including the addition of a sprinkler system for our day school and Sunday school spaces; create a new covered outdoor space that seats about 200 people; add a covered entrance to the sanctuary; add parking; and address certain maintenance needs. The campaign surpassed its goal and raised \$6.7 million. All of the new construction has been successfully completed, but the maintenance on buildings dating from the 1920s, 1950s and 1960s remains an ongoing issue. Current proposed capital projects suggest that we may need in excess of an additional \$500,000 to protect our physical structures, due to issues that subsequently have been discovered.

Annual Giving: Pledging is the parish's major source of income; other sources include unplanned gifts, plate offering, and a distribution from the Holy Trinity Foundation. The Foundation has invested assets of \$1.5 million, approximately half of which is unrestricted, and is governed by a separate board of directors comprised of parishioners and Vestry members.

The 2020 Annual Giving Campaign set a goal of \$2 million and received pledges of \$1.7 million from a total of 515 pledging units, which is down from the previous year, but in line with the preceding years. Though it will be a challenge, the Vestry is committed to a balanced budget.

Overall, Holy Trinity has a stable financial history and has been blessed with designated funds that have been available to help cover specific expenses. Until the recent capital campaign – when we took out a

bridge loan to cover construction costs as pledges are paid through 2021 – Holy Trinity had been debt free for nearly 30 years.

Staff: In addition to our Interim Rector, the staff currently includes one part-time and two full-time Associate Rectors, a full-time parish administrator, and a staff of 13 full-time and part-time people.

Where We Are

Holy Trinity has deep roots in downtown Greensboro. Through several moves since its founding, the parish has always chosen to be in the center of the city. The first building on our current site was completed in 1922. Since then, we've acquired all the other properties on our city block (except one) and used the land and buildings to reflect both our inward journey of faith and outward journey of service.

The main buildings – sanctuary, chapel, offices, and Parish House – are bustling night and day with parishioners at worship, dinner, and choir practice; taking a class; or attending events. Many community groups use the campus for meetings, including the UNC-Greensboro Emeritus Society, League of Women Voters, National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), and Fisher Park Neighborhood Association. During the work week, the Parish House is home to Holy Trinity Day School, founded as a preschool in 1954 and offering a half-day program for children ages 3 months through pre-kindergarten. The school is at capacity with 106 enrolled children.

Two buildings on our block are part of the Fisher Park Historic District, a recognized national historic district. One houses the Holy Trinity Music School offering lessons in piano, violin, and guitar. The other is home to Second Breath Center (formerly The Servant Leadership School) and Sacred Garden Bookstore, a store and gathering place for parishioners and the neighborhood. For many years, this building was Holy Trinity's Share-A-Home, providing group living for the elderly.

All youth activities, including Sunday morning classes and Sunday night EYC gatherings, happen in the Youth House, which is newly renovated and was decorated by the youth and youth advisors.

We also have an outdoor stone labyrinth, columbarium and resurrection garden, and meditation garden.

A 2017 capital campaign provided funds to renovate our block. In the process, we removed several older buildings whose age and condition prevented them from being used effectively. Those buildings had a rich history as the site of a housing ministry that provided homes to people coming out of poverty or fleeing unrest in countries like Vietnam, Syria, and Afghanistan and disasters like Hurricane Katrina. One also had been the start-up location for The Mustard Seed Clinic, serving people without access to healthcare.

Two local non-profit organizations grew out of Holy Trinity's outreach work. The Barnabas Network, which collects gently used furniture and gives it at no cost to people in need, grew out of our work with housing issues. Higher Ground, a resource center for people living with or affected by HIV, had its start in the 1990s with a group of clergy, including Holy Trinity's, who wanted to establish a way for faith communities to get involved in the local HIV crisis.

Life in Greensboro

Greensboro is the third largest city in North Carolina, with nearly 300,000 people. The combined population of the statistical area of Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and High Point is 1.7 million. The area, originally home to native Americans, saw the first European settlers in 1750, when Quakers migrated from Pennsylvania. The city was created as the Guilford County seat in 1808 and named for Gen. Nathanael Greene, who led American forces in the 1781 Revolutionary War Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Today, Greensboro is home to seven colleges and universities, the Wyndham Golf Championship, and a number of cultural sites including the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, where the sit-in movement began on Feb. 1, 1960.

We enjoy four distinct seasons, and it's a short drive east to the coast or west to the mountains. A strong public education system and a variety of charter and independent schools – including Canterbury School, a PreK-8 Episcopal day school – offer educational options.

Our walkable downtown has a minor-league baseball park, a cultural arts center, theaters, galleries, parks, shopping, dining, and a 3,000-seat performing arts center set to open in March 2020. The Downtown Greenway, a four-mile paved walking loop around downtown, borders our campus. A robust arts culture, more than 90 miles of trails and greenways, relatively light traffic, moderate cost of living, and diverse neighborhoods contribute to the great quality of life in Greensboro.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.visitgreensboronc.com/> Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau

<https://greensboro.org/about-greensboro/> Greensboro Chamber of Commerce

https://issuu.com/ohenrymag/docs/greensboro_relocation_guide_2020 O. Henry Magazine

Where We Came From

Holy Trinity, Greensboro's first Episcopal congregation, has been an active parish for more than 150 years. In 1869, a group of lay people met, elected a vestry, and picked the name St. Barnabas. The cornerstone for the church was laid May 31, 1871, at the corner of what is now Friendly Avenue and Greene Street – the current heart of downtown Greensboro.

In 1891, a group left St. Barnabas to form St. Andrews mission, which became a parish in 1893. In May of 1910, the two parishes consolidated as Holy Trinity. In 1919, Holy Trinity bought our current property on Greene Street and Fisher Avenue and in 1922 completed a much-needed parish house. Famed architect Hobart Upjohn designed the three-story building that included an assembly hall and offices. The congregation worshipped in the original sanctuary until 1930, when the parish house assembly hall became today's All Saints Chapel.

Holy Trinity thrived in the years after World War II, raising money to build the current sanctuary, which was completed in 1950. Clergy and laity worked to lay the foundation for the beautiful worship services we enjoy today and to embellish the interior of the sanctuary with handmade needlepoint kneelers by women of the parish and extensive wood carvings throughout crafted by a parishioner.

Like Greensboro, Holy Trinity grew during the 1950s and 1960s. Rectors worked closely with the capable lay leadership to capitalize on growth and enthusiasm. The current parish house was completed in 1963.

In the 1970s and 1980s, lay leadership strengthened and outreach became a major focus. The first woman was elected to the vestry in 1970. We welcomed our first female priest in the mid-1990s.

In the last 30 years, Holy Trinity continued active outreach programs, several of which grew into non-profit organizations and community resources. The Servant Leadership School, now known as Second Breath Center, has facilitated the spiritual development of parishioners and community members, even hosting national retreats. Holy Trinity's pilgrimage program grew out of this and welcomes those who want to deepen their faith and view life through a different lens.

Through the years, Holy Trinity has been instrumental in helping start other Episcopal churches in Greensboro. In 1954, 40 Holy Trinity families left to start a mission which became St. Francis. Holy Trinity helped establish All Saints in 1959; St. Barnabas in 1967; and Church of the Holy Spirit in 1983.

In our 100-plus years, we have had 11 Rectors, the last two with tenures of about 23 years each.

Where We Are Going

Our Hopes

In a recent sermon, one of our Associate Rectors said, “Discipleship is about following Jesus into the world and participating in God’s mission there, all the while living in such a way that points to the goodness and righteousness of God. It’s living in the world, in these earthly kingdoms as if the Kingdom of God has already arrived. It’s living as if you believe all this Jesus stuff is true.”

This is who we aspire to be. This is where we want to grow:

Outreach: Holy Trinity helps others through the gifts of our time, talents, and treasure, and we have been the genesis of ministries that grew to serve the entire city. We also have been very focused on our inward journey of faith and are eager to expand our outward journey of service. We want to help people identify their skills and apply them in helping others. We want to start new efforts outside the walls of the church; engage more members in hands-on work; solve community problems; and make personal connections with those in need. We want to walk with others as Jesus did.

Diversity: Despite making strides in the last 30 years to incorporate a variety of people, we still look a lot alike. We want to be more intentional in developing relationships with and welcoming people of different races, nationalities, ages, backgrounds, sexual orientation, and economic status. We want to understand the challenges every person faces and celebrate the gifts each person offers.

New ministries: Support for lay leadership can energize us to explore a variety of new activities: offering more support groups, collaborating with other downtown churches and Episcopal parishes, opening our space to feed the hungry, starting a singles ministry, offering more classes, committing to environmental sustainability – the needs are many and the energy is there. Situated on the edge of downtown Greensboro, Holy Trinity can take advantage of our location to reach out to a growing number of young center city residents and to those in need.

Stewardship: Our dream is that we all see that abundant life comes from giving of yourself from the heart. We want to make giving faith-based, have more members participate in annual pledging, increase the church budget, and achieve fiscal and organizational transparency. When asked about the future, one parishioner said, “I hope we are planning exciting ways to put all the money we raise to good use: worship, music, outreach, Christian education, welcoming new members, staff, and never having to worry about more money coming in.”

Community Building: We are a big church that feels like a small church. “No matter what your stage, age, or lot in life, there is a sub-group of Holy Trinity to which you feel you belong, woven into the larger fabric of the whole congregation,” a parishioner said. We can build on this by offering more ways to connect. That could mean more fellowship events, pilgrimages, small groups, outreach, and social opportunities – we are open to the possibilities. We genuinely love each other and want to expand the circle so that everyone feels a part.

Spiritual practices: We are all in different places on our spiritual journey, but as disciples of Christ, we hope for continuous spiritual growth. We want to provide a variety of ways for people to continue to grow in faith. We can build on a strong Christian formation program for adults, teens, and children; strengthen our weekday preschool; and expand our pilgrimage ministry, labyrinth use, and EYC program. The Second Breath Center, housed on our property, is a tremendous resource.

Young Families: Young families are the future of the church. We want to be part of the fabric of everyday life for families with children and teens – not just a place to be on Sunday. We’ve made a start with events like family-friendly Wednesday night dinners and children’s activities, a fellowship group for men younger than 50, a scout troop, and trunk or treat at Halloween. The youth mission trip fills our 50-person

limit and regularly raises more than \$30,000 outside the church budget for supplies to repair homes in the state's poorest county. There's a lot to offer, but we can do more.

The Rector We Seek

Almighty God, we ask your guidance and blessing as we seek a Rector for Holy Trinity Church; be present in our deliberations and make us aware of your will for us. Guide us and our parish in the days ahead. Prepare that person that you have in mind for us to receive your call. And keep us all mindful of our calling to serve your purpose and to witness to your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

We pray for someone who:

Will deepen relationships: In parish meetings, community and fellowship came up consistently as central to our life together. We hope for someone who enjoys deep personal connections and actively seeks them and who truly wants to know parishioners. At Holy Trinity, we develop meaningful, multi-generational friendships, and we want the same for our Rector. We want him or her to be one of us in every sense. As one parishioner said, looking into the future, I want to say of the Rector "that we shared a meal and told stories and laughed together."

Is open and authentic: A parishioner wrote that our Rector should be "real, authentic, and honest, whether that's comfortable or not." We appreciate that Rectors are human and hope to find someone who will share their strengths, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities as we grow in faith together. We have been blessed by exceptional preaching and respond to sermons that include heartfelt, personal stories that relate Scripture to real life. We hope for someone who is comfortable with fiscal and organizational transparency.

Works side by side with us: We want to do more in the world and hope for a Rector who will be in the trenches with us, serving food to hungry people in a downtown park, repairing roofs with young people at a mission camp in the mountains, walking beside us on a pilgrimage. Holy Trinity's talented parishioners are eager to participate, so we hope our Rector will facilitate new ministries and support lay leadership by recognizing the talents of younger and older members alike.

Is fully present: Priests who have been present during life's happiest and saddest events have left a mark on nearly every one of us. Whether celebrating a baptism, offering last rites, visiting a hospital, providing counseling and spiritual guidance, or simply being there, our priests have truly been pastors. One parishioner noted "I would say the most beneficial ministry I've experienced has been with one of our priests. He has been so helpful encouraging me at probably my most difficult time in my faith. His openness to my questions and struggle has been instrumental to my faith."

Will build community: We are open, accepting and forward thinking and want to increase diversity and membership. We hope our Rector will build on that by helping us discover any blind spots, look for ways to make people feel connected, and reach out to the community as a leader and a resource for issues facing our city. "We want a Rector who looks for opportunities of spiritual growth, one that has true compassion for others, one who builds a safe, loving space for all," a parishioner said.

Is a spiritual leader: We want a Rector who is grounded in love and will foster an environment in which the presence of the Holy Spirit is palpable. We envision someone who is a true servant leader, can help us see things in new ways, deepens our worship experience, leads by example with integrity, and still strongly feels his or her original call to ministry.

Our ultimate hope is that God will send us someone who will know and be with us, love us, build us, feed us, and walk with us.

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