

April Chimes 2024



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TRINITY CHURCH
A. D. 1920
VICTORY MEMORIAL

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector's Column

“Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So, she said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’ But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.’”

Ruth 1:14-16



Dear Friends,

In the 1950s, the Episcopal Church experienced a pinnacle of membership enrollment globally. The international phenomenon that is the Episcopal Church added 1.4 million members in the nine years leading up to 1959, reaching an all-time peak of 3.4 million members. Members of the church in the United States who lived during that time and who are still alive today may recall large Sunday school classes, multiple active church guilds and ministries, confirmations of several people from every congregation, and massive new building programs.

Unfortunately, since that time to this mainline Christian faith traditions have experienced tremendous decline in membership. For example, by the mid-1990s, overall membership in the Episcopal Church had dropped to around 2.5 million. By 2010, membership was below 2 million. Every year in the last decade is more of the same – annually losing approximately one hundred thousand members. Following the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, the Episcopal Church reported 1.68M in 2021, dropping to 1.58M in 2022.

In 2009, the Episcopal Church reported that 725,000 people on an average weekend attended services across the United States. Numbers held relatively steady from 2011, down to about 700K. However, from that point forward, weekly attendance began dropping at a faster rate - typically a decline of about 3% per year. Church attendance dropped 11% from 2019 to 2020. Then in 2021, weekly attendance was down 40%. Attendance recovered somewhat in 2022, when the Episcopal Church reported a weekly attendance figure of about 373,000 - an increase of 27% from the prior low of 2021. Yet, in spite of the decline in membership and attendance, churchwide plate and pledge income was effectively unchanged from 2018 to 2022 at \$1.3 billion and up 6% since 2013.

We need to recognize the reality of declining membership in order to change our collective expectations from those of the heydays of the 1950's to truth of today's challenges that all our congregations across are facing. Most parishes are experiencing increasing costs associated with older building maintenance and utility use while also experiencing a decrease in available finances from income and pledges. Our congregational statistics are somewhat reflective of global and national trends in our church, though we have maintained actually very stable membership since 2011, even experiencing very modest growth balancing those who have moved or died over the years. Our operating costs have increased annually, and though our total pledge figures have increased, our overall income has not kept pace with cost of living increases.

Strategic planning for the years ahead will include revisiting and renewing our congregational vision and mission. In the awareness of the context of trends in membership and finances, we know that we do not stand alone in this work. Our diocese and the entire Episcopal Church walks beside us on this journey of our full community, with Christ leading us all of us into deeper trust and faith.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rachel+



From Father Allen Hicks

I think we might be finally able to slow down for just a little bit and catch our breath from everything we have been doing for the past 4 months. When you think back, we went into Advent and all of the associated activities leading up to Christmas and the New Year. Then it seemed like we barely blinked, and we were plunging into Lent and all of the activities leading into Holy Week - the busiest week of the year for our church family. Yes, we still have Pentecost coming up - but we can handle that.

Time for all give a collective, whew . . . and then move into the rest of our year. Now is the time to re-center ourselves, take a bit of our time for ourselves, and give our bodies a chance to re-charge. Yes, we have a lot we want to get done this year but now we have the time to slow down just a bit and enjoy the ride. Take time to enjoy the friends we have here at the church and the times we spend together. Busy times can bring stress and sometimes that stress can impede our friendships and harm our relationships. Now is the time to repair, heal, forgive, and be forgiven. Let us move into the balance of our year renewed, refreshed, and joyful.

All that being said, I will be out for approximately 3.5 weeks in the middle of this month. I am taking my own advice and Chris and I are taking a cruise out of San Diego, through the Panama Canal and ending up in Fort Lauderdale. It will be good to get away for a bit. I will look forward to seeing you when I get back.

Blessing to you and yours, now and forever,

Fr. Allen



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Schedule of Services

Sundays

8:00 AM

**Spoken Rite I-Eucharist Service
In Person and Live Streamed**

10:00 AM

**Spoken Rite II-Eucharist Service
In Person and Live Streamed**

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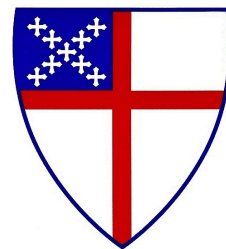
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April 2024 Calendar :

Monday, April 1, 2024: Church Office is closed.

Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Church Office is closed.

Saturday, April 6, 2024: Prayer Shawl ministry at 10 AM

Sunday, April 7, 2024:

2nd Sunday of Easter at 8 & 10 AM

Daughters of the King meeting at noon

Evensong at Trinity at 5 PM

Sunday, April 14, 2024:

3rd Sunday of Easter at 8 & 10 AM

Altar Guild meeting at noon

Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Business Group Zoom meeting at 5 PM

Sunday, April 21, 2024: 4th Sunday of Easter at 8 & 10 AM

Sunday, April 28, 2024:

5th Sunday of Easter at * & 10 AM

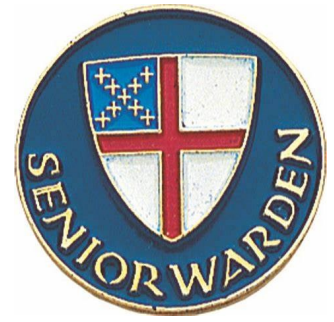
Vestry meeting at 12:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

TRINITY CHURCH DINNER/AUCTION

It is Easter! He is risen, and all things are made new.



I am writing this during Holy Week and contemplating the road ahead – from the final gathering with His disciples to the Passion and Crucifixion to the three days in the tomb to the Resurrection. I hope you all accompanied us on that walk, as I think our church brings Holy Week to life very well. I have found Easter to be far more meaningful when I attend the other Holy Week services.

So, what is made new? We look around at our natural world and see the springtime buds, nesting birds, and warmer weather. During Easter season we do not utter the Confession of Sin or receive Absolution during services, as a reminder that God has already forgiven our sins.

I like to think that we are given new eyes, to take a fresh look at our lives and our church. Recently, I was listening to some of our newest members on the Vestry and realizing what rich experiences they bring with them from other churches, experiences that can deeply benefit Trinity. Years ago, I read a book called “Radical Hospitality,” which suggested that church members not only welcome visitors and new members into the church’s established way of doing things but also allow the visitors and new members to change the ways of the church. It’s called “radical” because it is so difficult to let go of our ways and embrace something new. As I’ve told some of our newer and younger members, this church is not a start-up!

The pandemic restrictions caused many of us to hunker down and focus on the basics of what we knew, just to keep going. Yes, Trinity embraced livestreaming and, for a time, congregant groups checking on each other, but a small group of people kept the church going. We owe them our thanks. But now, we have an opportunity to re-invent and re-imagine ourselves, and given the national and regional statistics on church attendance, we need to do so.

In this issue of the Chimes, you will read that Trinity is moving ahead with a major capital project despite the added difficulties of inflation. There are also efforts to address our operating expense deficit by reducing costs where we can. Your Business Group and Vestry will be addressing that concern this month, as part of our pledge to examine our budget and expenses on a quarterly basis. If you have ideas about that, we welcome your input. There is no easy solution.

We have also started to talk about new ways of promoting a sense of belonging to the church, that stage that goes beyond welcoming and inclusion. If you have struggled to feel like you belong, I’d like to hear from you. If you have ideas about how to promote a sense of belonging, I’d like to hear those, too. We are also working on how the congregation can be more involved in care for those in need, supplementing pastoral care from our priests.

You will hear more about these efforts in the months ahead. You may be asked to be part of something, such as a planning project or a new venture. I encourage you to bring your treasury of ideas, talents, and experiences to the work of re-imagining Trinity for our future, as we continue to do our best to manifest God’s love in the world.

Blessings,
Eileen Bernat, (425) 293-2717, efbphd@aol.com



Hi!

A big thank you to all those who turn out for Spring Cleaning on March 23rd. I apologize for not being there myself. You got a lot accomplished, and I appreciate your service.

I'm asking members of the congregation to please pay attention to the condition of our building. If you see something that needs to be fixed or cleaned, please let me know. I want to get a Building & Grounds Team set up so we can address the concerns you have brought up.

If you are interested in participating, I can be reached at 425-530-3686 or wheeler.michelle@me.com.

Thank you,
Michelle Wheeler

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow Parishioners,

Here is a snap shot of the ending February numbers.

Account	February 2024 Actual	February 2024 Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to Date Budget
Pledge Payments	\$ 25,846.93	\$ 26,149.41	\$ 49,615.93	\$ 52,298.82
All Other Income	\$ 4,908.53	\$ 4,606.05	\$ 6,064.99	\$ 9,212.09
Total Income	\$ 30,755.46	\$ 30,755.46	\$ 55,680.92	\$ 61,510.91
Total Expenses	\$ 33,609.08	\$ 39,350.64	\$ 76,885.11	\$ 78,701.28
EIDL Loan Transfers	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 0.00
Surplus/<Deficit>	\$ 2,026.12	\$ 8,595.18	\$ 9,204.19	\$ 17,190.37
Cash in Bank	Feb 1, 2024	\$ 194.79	Feb 29, 2024	\$ 11,561.84
Comments:	Income for February was very close to budget Expenses were 8.5% less than budgeted High month end cash is balance for payroll taxes due first week of March			

March, at this time appears to be not as equitable as February. Expenses at present, are aligning with the budget on average for the quarter. The present Income flow for the quarter is falling short of budget expectations and will become a bigger concern as the year progresses.

The vestry and business group have decided that this year the budget will be reviewed quarterly. The business group will be meeting in the third week of April to discuss the budget. We will look at which numbers are up or down for the first quarter of 2024. Any changes, additions, or revisions will be presented to the vestry. The May chimes will recount, good or adverse, any adjustments, if needed to the budget.

Pledging helps the business group see, with confidence, a solid number of what moneys the church could be receiving. Then reviewing expenses our budget is adjusted to determine our future solvency. Good or bad the numbers are then presented to the vestry for further ideas and then announced to the congregation.

The numbers of you attending services on Sunday has been increasing since last Thanksgiving. A 10% increase in attendance has been noted. As we are leaving the pandemic behind it has been decided to rekindle some of our worship service traditions. The presentation of the gifts at the Eucharist is one such tradition. If you would like to participate let the ushers know as you enter; it is their duty to choose the element bearers for the service.

“Holy God, lover of our souls, we come before you as people created by and for love: Gather us in this time to hear again your word of love, to renew our trust in its breadth and depth. In the sacrifice of your love for us, may we find renewal and be your love in the world. Amen.” Daily Prayer for All Seasons, p. 92

Jarman Minar - Treasurer



Endowment Fund

ENDOWMENT FUNDS REPORT

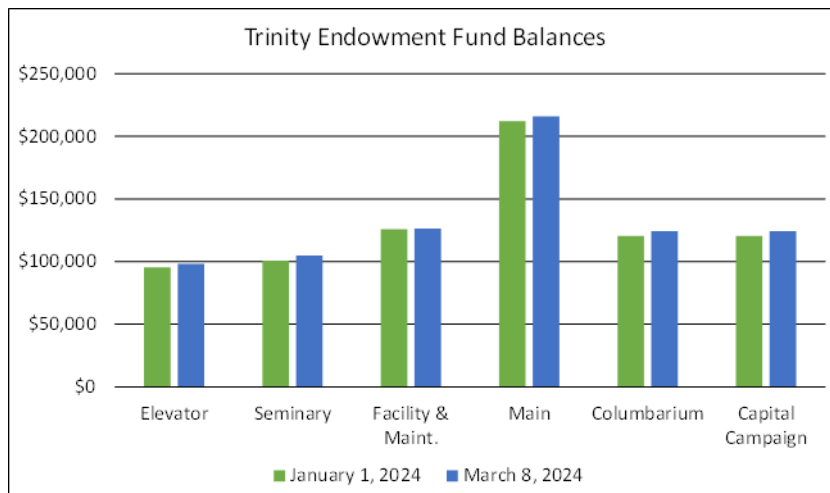
Trinity Endowment Funds

The total balance of the Trinity endowment funds on March 8, 2024 was \$794,188, up from \$775,067 on January 1, 2024 and up from \$727,190 on January 1, 2023. The total balance in the endowment funds as of March 8, 2024 was 2.5% higher than on January 1, 2024 and 9.2% higher than on January 1, 2023.

So far this year, approximately \$6,095 has been withdrawn from the endowment funds for use by the church. About \$2,945 or 48% of this amount was withdrawn from the Main Endowment Fund and \$3,150 or 52% was withdrawn from the Facilities & Maintenance Fund. Approximately 5% of the Main Endowment Fund balance is contributed to Trinity’s operating fund each year and up to \$9,000 can be withdrawn annually from the Facilities & Maintenance Fund for facility maintenance and improvement expenses. According to the Endowment Committee Bylaws, certain amounts can be withdrawn annually from the endowment funds for various purposes.

As of March 8, 2024, there was \$124,341 in the Capital Campaign Endowment Fund. This is only a portion of the total funds retained from the recent capital campaign. In addition to the amount in the Capital Campaign Endowment Fund, as of February 29, 2024, \$202,136 is currently held in the Capital Campaign checking account.

The amounts in the endowment funds are invested with UBS Financial Services, Inc., and our UBS financial advisor is in Everett. A combination of equities (42%), fixed income (36%), other investments (19%) and cash (3%) make up the investments for our funds. The overall investment strategy is considered “Moderate” risk by UBS. The balances in each of the endowment funds on January 1, 2024 and March 8, 2024 are shown in the following chart:



(continued on next page)

The Endowment Committee meets quarterly with the UBS financial advisor to review the status of the endowment funds and determine if any changes should be made in the investment strategy.

If you would like more information or if you would like to make direct contributions to any of the endowment funds, contact any of the members of the Endowment Committee: John Heberling (Chair), Betts Bell (Recording Secretary), Kevin Mack (Secretary), Don Stapleton and Linda Gabourel. Lorraine Dietel (Vestry representative), Jarman Minar (Trinity Treasurer) and Pastor Rachel (Rector) are non-voting members of the Endowment Committee. Evie Beard also participates in the Endowment Committee meetings.

John Heberling, Chair



Endowment
Fund

RENOVATION UPDATE



The Renovation Team has good news and bad news to report this month. First the good news: to our surprise, **the city building permits have already been approved for our project!** This happened more quickly than we had anticipated. At their meeting on March 24, the Vestry voted unanimously to move ahead. We will now ask Lee Driftmier, our architect and project manager, to begin solicitation of bids by contractors.

The bad news? **We do not have enough funds to pay for even the scaled-back version of our renovation, which consists of much-needed upgrades to the HVAC systems in our buildings.** This is not a cosmetic project. We are attempting to prevent a catastrophic failure of the ancient steam boiler by updating our systems not only for ourselves but for future generations. The Vestry feels that we would be remiss in our stewardship responsibilities if we did not undertake this vital work.

The Vestry deliberated at length about how to make the finances work; they courageously decided to take a leap of faith and move forward, funding the project with money on hand from the Capital Campaign and loans from our own endowment funds if needed.

As a backup, they expect to proceed with a loan application to the Diocese, but due to our current financial situation of operating on a deficit budget, Trinity may not be able to qualify for a loan. (See the Background article below for more information on the history of a possible loan.)

How can you help?

If you made a pledge to the Capital Campaign, please be sure that your pledge is up to date. We will need every penny of it and more.

If you are able, please consider extending your pledge for an additional year.

If everyone who pledged initially does that, we will have the funds we need. We understand this is a big ask, and we will be speaking to the congregation about it directly in the weeks to come. Contact Parish Administrator Dianne McCormack in the church office (425-252-4129) about how to make an additional commitment.

If you are new to Trinity, please contact the church office to find out how to join us in pledging to the campaign. We need everyone to be part of this huge effort in order to be successful.

The Vestry and Renovation Team thank you all for your support, both financially and through your prayers. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact any Vestry member (they have red ribbons on their name tags) or Renovation Team Chair John Heberling. We can do this!

John Heberling, Renovation Team Chair
Carol Bartley, Renovation Team Communications



Capital Campaign and Renovation Background

If you are new to Trinity or if you just need a refresher on the history of our renovation, please keep reading.

We actually began in 2018 when preliminary architectural plans were prepared by our architect Lee Driftmier and his team. At the time, we had hopes of a complete renovation that would include installation of an elevator, remodel of Rogers Hall, new HVAC systems, and additional bathrooms. Those plans are still our dream, and you can see them on renderings that are displayed periodically in Rogers Hall.

We approached the Diocese to discuss a loan to help with the project. Back then, the Diocese was making low-interest loans available to congregations for projects like ours. After meeting with their financial committee and presenting our plans, we had assurance from them that a future loan application would be favorably received. However, there was no loan commitment on the part of the Diocese at that time.

In 2019, we were hit with a major setback in the form of a storm which flooded the lower level of the church. All resources had to be directed to the effort of restoring that portion of our building and the renovation initiative was put on pause.

We were hoping to begin the Capital Campaign in spring of 2020, but the pandemic shut down the country, the church, and any possibility of continuing at that time. Again, plans were put on pause.

In late 2021, we hit restart and finally began our Capital Campaign. We did indeed complete a successful campaign which to date has received nearly \$500,000 in pledges to be paid over a three-year period, 2022 – 2024.

The costs of the renovation skyrocketed, unfortunately, partly due to the effects of the pandemic. We soon realized that an elevator, long a dream of the congregation, would simply not be possible, as retrofitting one into our historic building is prohibitively expensive. (Hence the installation of the stairlift, currently under construction.)

We have scaled back the project several times, trying to fit what we hoped to do into the budget available. Right now, we are down to the absolute minimum... replacing/upgrading the HVAC systems. The current plan calls for replacing the ancient steam boiler with a new hot water boiler to heat the downstairs, the Guild Room and the kitchen; adding four HVAC units on the roof of Rogers Hall to heat and cool that space; adding a packaged unit in the back staff parking lot to heat the sanctuary. That unit could also provide air conditioning to the sanctuary at a later date, when we are able to fund the necessary electrical upgrade.

(continued on next page)

Back to the issue of a loan from the Diocese as a funding source. We have recently approached the Diocese again and have learned that they are no longer making the type of loan we were hoping to obtain. They now are charging market rates and using the same qualifying criteria as banks, which with our deficit operating budget does not look favorable.

That's a thumbnail sketch of where we've been and why we are now looking at relying on internal funding for the HVAC project. The Vestry and Renovation Team will continue to work on pulling together a combination of existing Capital Campaign funds, Trinity endowment funds, and (we hope) extended pledges to the Capital Campaign to realize our goals.

Carol Bartley, Renovation Team Communications





Hello Trinity Family,

We are now in the Easter Season. The season celebrates Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead. It began with the Great Easter Vigil and the lighting of the "new fire" (pascal candle) and lasts through the Great Fifty Days until Pentecost.

The color of the season is white, Festal White. These hangings are very, very old. These you will notice on the "floating Altar" where the "elements of the Eucharist" (sacramental bread and wine) are consecrated by our priests. You will also see them on the ambo (pulpit) and on the altar in St. Luke's Altar.

The Chasuble that Pastor Rachel wears at this time was made in 2000 and stoles (the fabric worn over the shoulders) in 2002. They were sewn by Marge Bissell, embroidered by Marie Bond using brocade purchased from the Diocesan Altar Guild and white silk donated by Marge Bissell -- invaluable vestments made by invaluable members. We are so blessed.

I would like to give a big shout out to all the people that came and help polish brass. It was a big job along with other duties of splitting palms for Palm Sunday and putting candles in drip holders for Easter Vigil and the usual Altar Guild duties to be performed.

A special item was noticed when they were polishing the Ewer (the large pitcher used to carry water to the baptismal font). The engraving on it reads "Presented by Barbara Ann Phillips, Granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Fratt, First Child Baptized in this church May 22, 1921. What a special thing to learn and be shared among those of us there. It was fun.

It was a big job along with other duties of splitting palms for Palm Sunday and putting candles in drip holders for Easter Vigil and the usual Altar Guild duties to be performed.

Thank you also to everyone that contributed to the Easter flower and instrumentalist funds. It's such a wonderful way to remember or honor someone dear.

I wish you all a blessed Easter season.
Kathy Crosby, Altar Guild Director



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry or shawl group is made up of a group of crafters that knit or crochet shawls in three variations. Each shawl is blessed on the altar during a Sunday service and the intended recipient of the shawl is prayed for while it is being made. Our traditional shawls are about 2' x 5' and we do a lap style shawl or "rug" that is shorter and wider than the regular shawl. For those that are mostly bedridden or just prefer more of a throw blanket, we make those in a 3' x 5' size. If shawls are not found in the Narthex they are stored in the Guild Room closet and are available freely to anyone for the asking. We also knit or crochet simple hats for the Episcopal Ministry to Seafarers and for Hand in Hand Foster Care Agency.

A popular option for a smaller project is the small pocket prayer shawls. These are knit on smaller needles and are only 3" x 5" in size. These have all the benefits of the regular shawls and are also blessed on the altar at a Sunday service. Our meetings are on the first Saturday of the month and last for about an hour. We have patterns and lots of donated yarn. If you would like to learn to knit or to crochet, we can help you with that. Bring size 8 knitting needles for hats or pocket prayer shawls, size 11 or 13 for shawls. If you prefer to crochet, bring a J or K size hook. Our next meeting is April 6 at 10 am in the Guild room. Please feel free to join us!

Barb Linvog, chairperson

Leadership Team

Vestry

Daniel Bauer (class of 2024)
Gwen Gentry (class of 2024)
Eivind Nilsen (class of 2024)
Lawrence Sylvester (class of 2024)

Eileen Bernat (class of 2025) - SENIOR WARDEN
Bill Walker (class of 2025)
Richard McGee (class of 2025)
Joe Rochon (class of 2025)

Kathy Crosby (class of 2026)
Lorraine Dietel (class of 2026)
Debi Schmidt (class of 2026)
Michelle Wheeler (class of 2026) - JUNIOR WARDEN

Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates 2023

Diocesan Convention 2024: there will be two Diocesan Conventions in 2024. The first will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024; the purpose will be to elect a Bishop for the Diocese. The second will be held in-person on Friday and Saturday, October 25-26, 2024.

Convention Delegates

Kathy Crosby (class of 2024)
Gwen Gentry (class of 2024)
Jerry Carson (class of 2025)
Carolyn Carson (class of 2025)

Convention Alternates

Morgan Crosby (class of 2024)
Lawrence Sylvester (class of 2024)
John Heberling (class of 2025)
Betsey Mullen (class of 2025)

Endowment Commission Members

John Heberling, Chair (2023-2025)
Betts Bell (2023-2025)
Kevin Mack (2022-2024)
Don Stapleton (2022-2024)
Linda Gabourel (2023-2024)



April Birthdays:

Diana Baird	4/8
J. J. Nason, Jr.	4/8
Eileen Bernat	4/9
Jason Baker	4/9
Clara Boyett	4/12
Sharon Lake	4/23
Blu Turner	4/13
Gwen Gentry	4/14
Sue Hayden Brown	4/16
Rev. Walt Knowles	4/16
Doug Lathom	4/16
Cedar Baker	4/17
Duff Mason	4/20
Barb Linvog	4/21
Dennis LeMaster	4/22
Bob Moore	4/26
Viggo Bauer	4/26
John Palmer	4/28
Jeffrey Miller	4/28
David Cunningham	4/30
Oscar Andrews	4/30

April Anniversaries:

Dannie & Kathleen LeMaster	4/4 (63 years)
Dave & Adele Erbeck	4/5 (54 years)
Derrick & Rachael Olsen	4/13 (12 years)
Dustin & Dantzel Cenatiempo	4/26 (16 years)
CJ & Blu Turner	4/26 (50 years)

OUR CORE VALUES

(Vestry Retreat 2016)





CONTACT Us

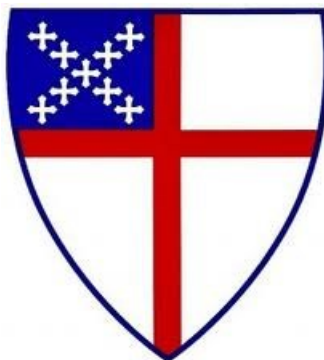
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