

# TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE WOODLANDS · TEXAS



Rooted in the inclusive love of God through the rich tradition of Episcopal worship,

Trinity is a vibrant and welcoming community. In the spirit of humble reverence,

we strive to nurture and support each individual on their faith journey.

Our mission is to create a sanctuary where everyone feels valued, accepted,

and empowered to live out their faith in love and service to others.

## Who We Are

At Trinity we are more than a congregation, we are family. We embrace all people - wherever they are on their spiritual journey. We seek to reflect the love of Christ in our church, in our community and in the world. We are passionate about helping those in need and serving in our ministries. We foster a sense of belonging and support each other. We are a warm, accepting, loving and welcoming parish.

Trinity was designated a "Transformational Church" by our outside consulting firm *Holy Cow!*, making us one of only 15% - 20% of churches with that designation. We also rank highly on the dimension of being ready for ministry. We are proud of our church's commitment to providing a supportive environment for training new curates on their path to leadership, something our former rector prioritized with the strong support of the congregation.



1,363  
FAMILIES

294  
AVERAGE SUNDAY  
ATTENDANCE IN PERSON

140  
AVERAGE SUNDAY  
ATTENDANCE ONLINE

\$1.8M  
2025  
ANNUAL BUDGET

80+  
MINISTRIES

50+  
ANNUAL  
RETREAT ATTENDANCE

84  
STUDENTS  
IN DAY SCHOOL

22  
TEACHERS AND  
ADMINISTRATORS

2ND  
RANKED BEST CITY  
TO RAISE A FAMILY



EASTER SUNDAY 2025



## Trinity’s History

The history of Trinity Episcopal Church parallels the growth of The Woodlands township. George Mitchell, an Episcopalian from Houston and developer of The Woodlands, encouraged Bishop Milton Richardson to charter a church in Grogan’s Mill, the oldest village of The Woodlands. The diocese selected Fr. Robert Gibson, then Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, to lead the formation and growth of the mission. The diocese purchased a vicarage in 1976, and Fr. Gibson oversaw Trinity’s early growth with support from local Episcopalians and Woodlands residents.

Trinity held its first service on Thanksgiving 1976 and was accepted as a Mission of the Diocese of Texas in January 1977. As Trinity grew, finding new space was critical - and with parishioner donations, support from the diocese, and

fervent prayer, we purchased our first building at 3333 S. Panther Creek Drive in 1978. This was our facility until 2000, when Trinity moved to its current location at 3901 S. Panther Creek. Our current building was purchased from The Woodlands Methodist Church. Shortly after purchasing the campus, Trinity was affected by the split of Episcopal churches ongoing in Texas and nationwide. Some parishioners, and the church’s rector, chose to join the Anglican Mission in America. This was a challenging period in our history, but Trinity emerged from that period stronger than ever.

Today, Trinity Episcopal Church has grown to become one of the larger churches in the diocese, with 1,363 families and average Sunday attendance of 294 in person and 140 online. Trinity’s annual budget for 2025 is \$1.8 million.

# Trinity Sunday Worship

Parishioners often comment on the beauty of our 8 am service, the first of the day. Steeped in the Rite I tradition and without music, the service elicits a reverent and deeply meaningful spiritual experience.

Shortly after the 8 am service, the choir arrives and various lay ministers including vergers, lay Eucharistic ministers and acolytes vest and prepare for the 10 am Rite II worship service, which we also stream online. Music is an integral part of worship at Trinity and is one of our greatest strengths. Our Director of Music carefully selects the hymns and choir music to enhance the connection to the Gospel readings and other lessons. She and our Music Assistant and Principal Organist frequently include instrumental accompaniments performed by parishioners and youth or by musicians in the broader community. Our talented Bell Choir often plays during the prelude or offertory. Under Micki's guidance, and with generous donations by our parishioners, Italian-crafted organ pipes were installed in Trinity's sanctuary in 2024 - adding to the beauty and richness of our services.



The final service on Sunday is Rite II with music at 5 pm. A perfect service for parishioners who have traveled during the day or prefer to worship in the evening, or enjoy a more meditative engagement of worshipping God.

Trinity benefits from strong involvement from laypersons in our services, including:

- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (chalice bearers)
- Eucharistic Visitors, who take communion to parishioners who are ill or unable to attend Eucharist
- Acolytes, including Crucifers, Servers, Torchbearers, and Thurifers
- Lectors
- 8 Vergers

During the week, Trinity's parishioners are active in mid-week services and events. There are multiple layperson-led Bible study groups. Books written by various theologians are selected for these engaging and popular meetings. Daily worship is offered online by our clergy for Daily Devotions, Morning Prayer and Compline. Each of these offerings reaches our local parishioners, the community, and our parishioners who are traveling. Our clergy also lead special studies through the year such as Bible studies and Biblical literacy classes. Year round we have additional devotional studies and classes devoted to developing spiritual practices such as Centering Prayer and specific devotional studies related to the liturgical season. Additionally, we have a vibrant Education for Ministry group on campus as well, facilitated by a priest, and *Rite of Reconciliation* available year-round.

# Trinity Outreach and Community Engagement

Trinity has a rich history of answering our baptismal call to go forth into the community and the world to serve our neighbors. We have a long tradition of outreach and community engagement exemplified by many activities including:

- Strong involvement from prior rectors with the community, including our latest rector's service on the board of directors of Interfaith of The Woodlands.
- High levels of parishioner participation in outreach ministries.
- Frequent collaboration and partnership with other local and national faith-based organizations.

Parishioners are enthusiastic about volunteering in community service organizations, and Trinity has established a formal Community Engagement Committee to facilitate and channel this enthusiasm. Outreach ministries and community partners host an annual ministry fair shortly before Christmas time called the "Angel Gift Market", which helps to help fund our community engagement ministries.

The emphasis on community engagement was clear in the results of the *Holy Cow!* survey. Some of our congregation's priorities include:

- Expanding ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society.
- Working to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building and strengthening coalitions with partners.
- Implementing a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Creating more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (inside and outside the church).



## Trinity Episcopal Day School

Trinity Episcopal Day School ("TEDS") is an early childhood program serving children 12 months old through "junior kindergarten" and is truly an asset to our parish and our families. TEDS was established in 2002 to nurture each child in mind, body and spirit within a dynamic learning environment that inspires a love of learning and strong spiritual and moral values.

TEDS and Trinity deeply value the mutually supportive relationship between the school and the church. Our associate rectors lead chapel services for TEDS students twice a week, and serve as chaplains to the families, staff, and students at TEDS, invested in the spiritual growth and fullest life of each person. Priests also lead chapel education in each classroom, and chapel services for the TEDS students, staff, and families. TEDS is accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools. TEDS is housed in two buildings on the Trinity campus - with enough space for a traditional curriculum as well as classes in music, Spanish and STEM offerings, and even a library. With 84 students led by a team of 22 teachers and administrators, enrollment at TEDS is robust - having rebounded from a decline during COVID. Families are enthusiastic, and 96% of current students have chosen to return for the 2025-2026 school year.

TEDS is closely aligned with Trinity's mission and values. Our Head of School works closely with teachers in developing a comprehensive curriculum, targeted year-end outcomes and a scope and sequence for all areas of instruction. Faculty and staff are committed to meeting the needs of our students and families and ensuring delivery of a high-quality education.

TEDS is very proud of the active parent participation in its many annual events including the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, Houston Rodeo Days, and Night at the TEDS Museum. Strong collaboration between staff, parents and the parish has made TEDS an outstanding school that serves as an example to others around the diocese and the state.



# Family and Youth Ministries

Trinity's family and youth ministries are some of the most popular at our church.

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AND NURSERY

During the 10 am Sunday service children 3-8 years old are invited to participate in Children's Chapel in the Children's Ministry Building. The children sing songs, say simple versions of the adult prayers we say in church, read the Children's Bible version of the Sunday scripture readings, have a mini children's sermon and enjoy fun activities. Trinity also provides a nursery for children aged 0-3 years during the 10 am service.

## TEENS 'N TRAINING

Trinity's 4th-6th graders meet one Sunday a month for food, fun and fellowship.

## YOUTH COMMUNITY

Trinity is dedicated to building a strong youth community, demonstrated by our many opportunities for young saints to participate in church functions, ministries and groups. On Sunday evenings up to 35 youth in grades 7-12 gather from 6-8pm for dinner, games, Bible study and Compline. Nine enthusiastic and dedicated adults lead the youth in small group Bible studies.



## CAMP ALLEN

Trinity had more than 35 children and adults participate in summer camp at Camp Allen as campers (grades 3-10) counselors (grades 11-12), college staff or adult staff in summer 2024. Summers at Camp Allen are always a very fun time learning about God in the piney woods of Southeast Texas, and always an impactful week where the Holy Spirit is truly felt. Many Trinity parishioners plan to return in 2025.

## YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

Last year Trinity youth led a holiday toy drive to benefit Interfaith of The Woodlands. They also sponsor a child named Jumbe in Zambia through the organization Family Legacy, providing him with food and a Christian education. The youth made Chitenge wrapped coasters and sold them at the Angel Gift Market to help raise donations to support Jumbe.

## Family and Youth Ministries



### GOOD FRIDAY

For many years now Trinity youth have planned and led a service on Good Friday. They play beautiful music as parishioners enter the sanctuary and prepare their hearts for worship. Following the service, parishioners are guided through interactive stations set up by the youth.

### OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Other wonderful youth programs at Trinity include the acolytes program, the youth choir, a summer camp featuring music, dance and drama, and a close affiliation with the Scouts.

### TRINITY MOMS

Trinity moms of all ages meeting weekly for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. It's a wonderful, welcoming group that truly values caring for one another.



### TRINITY PARISH RETREAT

In fall 2024 Trinity had a parish-wide retreat for the first time in over a decade. Over the weekend of November 15-17, over 50 Trinitarians of all ages met at Camp Allen for a joyful time of spiritual and community renewal, focusing on Isaiah 43:19, "See I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up: do you not perceive it?" There were games, scavenger hunts, hikes, arts and crafts, a talent show, s'mores over a campfire, and outdoor Eucharist at the Stone Chapel. We plan to make this an annual Trinity tradition, and this year's retreat has already been scheduled.

### NEWCOMER MINISTRY

In 2024 Trinity welcomed over 120 first-time visitors and accepted 45 new members. Newcomers are welcomed by volunteer greeters each week and are offered a welcome folder with information about Trinity and the Episcopal Church. Newcomers are also invited to our Butler Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats after every 10 am service.

### MUSIC PROGRAMS

Music is one of our crown jewels at Trinity, due in no small party to heavy involvement from youth and family. Sunday services frequently include performances by our Trinity Orchestra – with parishioners as young as the 7th grade – as well as our children's choir, the Trinity Choristers.





## The Woodlands, Texas: Natural Beauty and Community

The Woodlands has been rated one of the best places to live in America and the second-best city in America in which to raise a family. With a population of around 120,000, The Woodlands is known for its parks, highly rated schools, and family friendly environment.

Nestled in the heart of Southeast Texas, The Woodlands is a vibrant community that offers a wonderful blend of natural beauty, modern amenities and a strong sense of shared community. This master-planned township, located just north of Houston, has rapidly become a sought-after destination for families, professionals and retirees.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located in a beautiful part of The Woodlands, surrounded by lovely wooded grounds in the Village of Panther Creek. The church is next to a community park with a pool, a small lake, and pickleball courts.

At The Woodlands Town Center, a waterway flows through a bustling array of shops and restaurants, within walking distance to The Woodlands Mall and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion for live music and events. The Woodlands

Pavilion is one of the top performance venues in the country, and the Arts Council and similar organizations as well as The Woodlands Arts Festival provide enrichment to the community.

Residents enjoy outdoor activities ranging from hiking and biking to fishing and boating, plus over 220 miles of interconnected trails and 151 meticulously maintained parks. Woodlands residents are committed to preserving the environment, and have dedicated 28% of the 28,500 acres to green spaces, forest preserves, lakes and parks, and also work to ensure that every home is within a stroll to nature's beauty. The Woodlands is the world's largest master-planned community to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) precertification.

A number of local hospitals – including a dedicated Children's Hospital – are located in The Woodlands. In addition, The Woodlands is located just a short drive from the Texas Medical Center, which houses two of the 2024-2025 best rated hospitals and second best rehabilitation center in the country. Medical facilities in The Woodlands are truly second to none.

### EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Beyond its natural appeal, The Woodlands is known for its highly rated schools. Families with children will find The Woodlands an ideal place to call home, thanks to its exceptional educational institutions. These include top-rated public schools in Conroe, Tomball and Magnolia Independent School Districts, as well as excellent private schools, such as The John Cooper School.

The Woodlands is also home to higher education institutions, such as Lone Star College and The University Center, providing residents with a wide range of educational opportunities. World-class universities like Rice, Texas A&M, University of Houston, and Sam Houston State are within an hour's drive.

### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The sense of community in The Woodlands is truly remarkable. Residents take pride in their township and actively participate in various community events and initiatives. The Woodlands Township organizes numerous events throughout the year, including festivals, farmers markets, and holiday celebrations, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and belonging among residents.

The Woodlands, Texas is a happy and friendly community that blends nature, modernity and a strong sense of togetherness. With its stunning landscapes, top-notch amenities, exceptional education and vibrant community spirit, The Woodlands offers an outstanding living experience to all its residents.



## The Rector We Seek

- Is comfortable supporting a theologically and politically diverse congregation.
- Is enthusiastic about children and youth ministries, and supportive of a robust partnership with Trinity Episcopal Day School.
- Is a gifted teacher and shares our passion for education and Christian formation at all ages.
- Is a dynamic and engaging preacher who makes the Bible come alive for our congregants.
- Is a collaborative and resilient leader who is comfortable working closely with lay people in church management.
- Is a visionary leader who is passionate about growing the church but also supports gradual growth.
- Views our diversity in thinking and opinions as spiritually enriching, expressing the many aspects of a unified whole.
- Engages us and enriches our lives through inspirational teachings and worship.
- Is experienced with community outreach and enjoys fostering connection and growth.
- Shares our joy for mutual ministry.
- Provides reassuring and enriching pastoral care for our parishioners.
- Honors and appreciates the diversity of our congregation, and fosters unity instead of any kind of political message or partisanship.



## Feel Called to Serve?

Contact  
Episcopal Diocese of Texas  
Transition Minister

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