

Trinity Episcopal Church



Courtesy of Mike Sleeper, www.MikeSleeper.com

Marshfield, Massachusetts

2023 Parish Profile



*Trinity
Episcopal
Church*

Marshfield

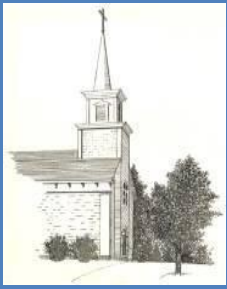
Massachusetts

*We are a
community
deepening our
spiritual life
together,
so that we can
love as God loves
with J.O.Y.*

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This profile is offered to prospective candidates for Priest-in-Charge interested in learning about our parish and what we seek in a new Priest-in-Charge. Interested candidates may contact the Search Committee at:

Trinity Episcopal Church
Priest-in-Charge Search Committee
229 Highland Street Post
Office Box 388
Marshfield Hills, MA 02051
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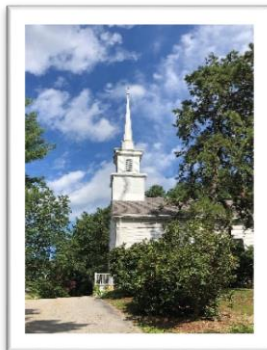
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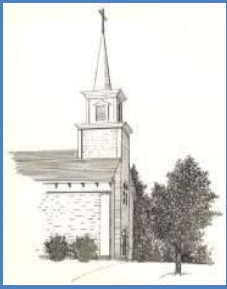
WE ARE TRINITY: a small, strong congregation where nearly everyone is engaged in at least one or more ministries. From altar guild to Eucharistic ministers to Eucharistic visitors, we are devoted to deepening our spiritual life together. Although one may consider us small, our congregation is big in our commitment to our church. For example, we have four active altar guild members, three Eucharistic ministers, six Eucharistic visitors (that we re-started after Covid), several ushers, a flower guild group, a few acolytes, and a community engagement group that meets monthly before the service to discuss the needs of our community. We also have many volunteers who support the beauty of our grounds and maintain our Resurrection Garden, where the ashes of many former parishioners have been interred. As Trinity Episcopal Church owns Steeple School, a very popular Pre-School with certified outdoor classrooms, we are particularly interested in always keeping the grounds beautiful. Every year we engage with the High School Seniors to support us in beautifying the Parish property. This year was a great success, with many high school seniors and their parents. Many of us had fun engaging in these combined efforts. Most of our group ministries, if not all, have rotating leadership, and the leaders train new members. We support each other in these ministries.

Trinity's congregation encompasses the young, the old, and everyone in between, and we care deeply for one another. About 40 families strong, our parishioners come from Marshfield and the surrounding South Shore towns.

We are a loving congregation in which everyone strives to meet the needs of our families, parish, and community. Our strong sense of community is reinforced every Sunday through worship and fellowship, building our connections, and



welcoming new faces. We enjoy Coffee Hour in our parish hall after the Sunday service to catch up on life while enjoying coffee and treats. As a congregation, we are not afraid to get our hands dirty, roll up our sleeves, and work. While willing to embrace change, we want to do it thoughtfully and respectfully, balancing a congregational sensibility with the Anglican tradition.



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OUR WORSHIP is the center of our life together at Trinity. We are focused on "deepening our life together so that we can love as God loves - with J.O.Y., "Jesus, Others, and You." Sunday service is celebrated at 9:30 a.m. throughout most of the year. Since the pandemic, we have modernized our church by adding two screens, Wi-Fi, and two computers so parishioners can participate in our services from home on Zoom. All those who cannot make it to church on Sundays during vacation or who have health concerns can join the service via Zoom, and all of us to stay in touch.



We are discussing the possibility of offering an alternate worship service to meet the needs of families with children in sports and parishioners who may work on Sunday mornings. The "*Book of Common Prayer*" is the primary source used in our worship services. Like our church, our choir is small, yet their voices fill the church with a "joyful song," we feel fortunate to have such a professional and experienced organist/choir director to lead us in the music.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: the opportunity for our congregation to build a foundation of faith, develop a relationship with God and understand what it means to be a Christian in the Episcopal Church. Trinity offers many ways for parishioners to grow in their faith. In May 2023, we ran confirmation classes for seven confirmands after the Sunday service, and Bishop Alan Gates officiated this very festive celebration..



Last summer, we hosted a one-week Vacation Bible Camp with a paid teacher and many volunteers, including the youth of our church. We would love to start a new Sunday School program that could run from September through May and hire a Sunday School Director to engage the children to experience God in their lives and hear their faith stories. Opportunities are presented throughout the year for

adult congregation members to explore their faith and build their relationship with God and our community. Venues include focused discussion groups, morning prayers, and bible studies. In the past (before Covid), the Sunday School children presented a Christmas Pageant, which, without fail, used to delight all who attended the Christmas Eve service. The last Christmases, we all enjoyed a combined traditional family service.





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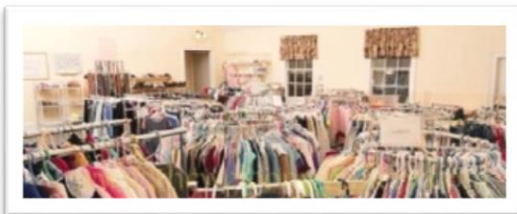
FELLOWSHIP: 'When we break bread together, we create companions' ... we create relationships that nourish us. Nowhere is this more evident than on Sunday mornings at Trinity. After we gather at the communion rail, our Fellowship Team invites

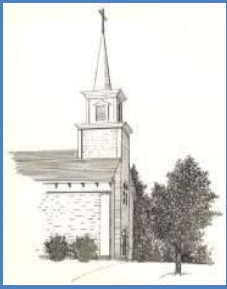


everyone in attendance to meet in our parish hall to have coffee, juice, and a sweet treat. At the same time, we enjoy each other's company in an informal, relaxed setting. Throughout the year, occasions arise, such as a Bishop's visit, honoring confirmands or graduates, and the Fellowship Team is there to help organize whatever the occasion demands. The team is also responsible for providing brunch at our annual meeting, lunch on "clean-up" Sundays, and planning various other special events such as our annual barbecue, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and our well-attended Advent Dinner. Gathering and getting to know one another better strengthens our relationships and makes Trinity a stronger family. We exemplify this through our Women of Trinity Church and our men's group, which each gather monthly on the first Friday evening at separate parishioners' homes, and our Trinity Lunch Club, which meets monthly during the week at a local restaurant.



PASTORAL CARE and OUTREACH: There are abundant opportunities for individuals in our congregation to exercise their time, talent, and treasure to help and empower each other and the greater community. Members of Trinity Church volunteer and support community organizations in various ways, such as donating funds, collecting and distributing food and clothing, and volunteering their time and talent. Some of the organizations which continually benefit from Trinity's assistance are The Marshfield Food Pantry- through direct donations and 'piggy backing' with A Simple Gesture; Trinity Knitters' who knit beautiful prayer shawls for those in need of care and healing; Sowing Seeds, receive clothing and gift cards, The McKinney-Vento Foundation of Marshfield homeless support program receives monetary & gift card donations as does the Marshfield Community Christmas. The Boys and Girls Club of Marshfield benefits from our contributions to their community outreach and the Marshfield COA. Our Farmer's Market raises money year-round to help all of these programs. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those unable to attend Sunday Services.





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PASTORAL CARE and OUTREACH continued Trinity continues to explore ways to expand our visibility and reach within the community.



Our participation in Marshfield's Farmers Market allows us to earn funds to contribute to our ministries and increase our presence in the community. We hope that our new Priest-in-Charge will want to explore ways to "try on

something new" as we become a more outwardly focused congregation. Foremost, we hope all we do reveals God's love to our community.



OUR HISTORY

The First Trinity Church of Marshfield (1745-1783) - Many historians say colonial Marshfield was a "Town of Tories." There is no doubt that many English immigrants settled here in the 17th and early 18th Centuries and brought with them a Church of England tradition. But alas, there were few Anglican churches in Massachusetts before 1800.

In 1745, Trinity Church was first established and met in a simple wooden structure near Ferry and Grove Streets in the Centre Marshfield village to meet that need. Today nothing but the burying ground remains of this edifice.

The first vote on a motion for independence at the 1775 Marshfield Town Meeting was evenly split (for and against) rebelling from English control. By the end of the meeting, Marshfield voted to join the rebellion.

But during the Revolutionary War, many Tories left eastern Massachusetts for Nova Scotia or returned to the British Isles, decimating the Diocese of Massachusetts, including the Episcopal Protestant Society in Marshfield, the 10th Episcopal parish established in Massachusetts.

Little evidence is found to indicate that Trinity Church was doing well as a parish church from 1783 to 1826. The church doors may have been closed for a time. If so, local Episcopalians probably worshipped in the nearby communities of Hanover, Cohasset, and Duxbury, although the travel times to these towns took most of the day by horse and carriage.

Phoenix Rising (1826-1853) - During this period, a village several miles north of Marshfield Centre, now called Marshfield Hills, became the most desirable village in Town. Trinity parishioners disassembled the first church building and used the timbers as the backbone for a Queen-Anne-style structure of the new church on Main Street in Marshfield Hills. Several very prominent families of Marshfield with Episcopal roots purchased pews in the 1826 church sanctuary.

Sadly, this rebirth did not last longer than 30 years. Then for dwindling attendance and perhaps from competition from other Protestant churches, the church vestry decided to close Trinity and sell the structure to the Town in 1853.

Ironically, before the end of the 19th century, Baptists, Unitarians, and Congregationalists built a church in Marshfield Hills village. By 1900 this oversupply resulted in a need for consolidation or closure due to declining attendance.

Phoenix Rising Again (1916-present) - The Trinity Episcopal Mission began with occasional services in the homes of a few families in the North Marshfield, Marshfield Hills, and Sea View villages and nearby Scituate. Services were conducted by visiting priests from the Diocese perhaps once or twice a month.

Soon the women of the Mission purchased a decommissioned Town of Marshfield elementary school (an 1857 Greek Revival-style wooden one-room, double-entrance school building) located on the north side of Summer Street in Sea View Village. Services were then held there in the converted schoolhouse by visiting Mission priests.



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In 1915, Elders of the Second Baptist Church offered the healthy Trinity Episcopal Mission their abandoned church building and several acres of land on Highland Street for a dollar. Mission Archdeacon Herbert Johnson spearheaded the project to reconfigure the old Baptist Church into the suitable Episcopal sanctuary it now is. The growing congregation supported this investment, and a need for a parish hall was evident before long. The abandoned old Sea View Schoolhouse/ Sea View Mission Chapel building was moved to Highland Street to serve this purpose in 1948.

The thriving Trinity Church of Marshfield became quite popular and grew in congregants. During the second half of the 20th century, the parish hall was expanded, a kitchen and a church office were added, a rectory was built, and a church school building was constructed. Our history shows that the Episcopalians in Marshfield won't give up when times get tough.

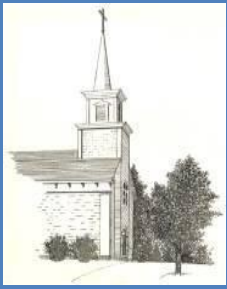
OUR CAMPUS

Located directly behind the Church is Johnson Hall. After the move to Highland Street in 1948, an addition was made to the former schoolhouse, and it was renamed Johnson Hall in honor of Archdeacon Herbert L. Johnson, priest-in-charge of Trinity Mission. The hall houses the rector's office, the parish kitchen, a large multi-use room, and a stage. This building is utilized by community groups such as AA and Al-Anon, and here the church hosts coffee hour, receptions, and many other activities. Johnson Hall is where fellowship, education, and community outreach abound.



The Christian Education Building, located behind Johnson Hall, is home to Steeple School of Trinity Church. Steeple School was founded in 1963 to fulfill the Marshfield community's need for a kindergarten-nursery school. When it was established, there was no public kindergarten program in Marshfield. The school was first located in Johnson Hall until 1969 when it was moved into the then-new Christian Education Building. In 1969 enrollment was at 250, and by 1972 enrollment reached 275. The Steeple School Board of Directors comprises members of Trinity Church. The school has five classrooms, two offices, a large common room, and a small kitchen area and holds morning and afternoon preschool classes for three and four-year-old children. An extended care program is also offered each afternoon. We are delighted to note that Steeple School continues to provide a quality preschool program for children of Marshfield and its surrounding towns. It offers one of the best programs available anywhere and has a certified outdoor playground.





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OUR CAMPUS continued West of the church is the rectory, built in 1975. It has a two-story floor plan with three bedrooms, a study, two baths, and a two-car garage. It has been updated several times with new windows, refinished hardwood floors, and an updated kitchen.

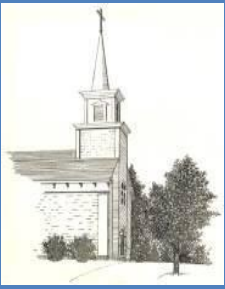


OUR TOWN OF MARSHFIELD: is situated on the South Shore of Massachusetts, halfway between Boston and Cape Cod, and easily accessible from Route 3. The Scituate Commuter Rail Station is three miles from the Rectory, allowing for easy access, without traffic, to Boston and all the museums, professional sports teams, theaters, restaurants, the Symphony, and the amazing history around every corner. We have beaches, but we have Boston, too! Marshfield is a town of tremendous geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic diversity. With 18.5 miles of sandy shoreline, its population swells from 30,000 to approximately 45,000 in the summer.

Among the largest towns in the commonwealth regarding the land area, it offers many views, properties to explore, and settings to paint. Ten areas of town are so well known that they appear on state maps, and five have their own post offices. Each area has a distinctive character perpetuated by its residents. Marshfield Hills (where Trinity is located), North Marshfield, and Marshfield Center are heavily wooded, hilly, and dotted with old farm estates along its winding roads. Seaview, Rexhame, Fieldston, Ocean Bluff, Brant Rock, and Green Harbor face the Atlantic Ocean and are backed by the town's three rivers. The marshlands surrounding the rivers provide a backdrop for homes in Marshfield proper. Because it lies along the coast, Marshfield enjoys a climate that is milder in the winter and cooler in the summer than that experienced in the inland suburbs. Marshfield residents are proud of their excellent school system, with five elementary schools, a middle school, and a state-of-the-art high school.



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OUR FINANCES: Like the finances of many churches today, they continue to present challenges to our parish community. Our income in 2022 was \$188,189, with expenses of \$197,789. The deficit was due to the capital expenses in replacing the parish hall kitchen floor, repairing exterior trim, and repaving portions of the driveway and parking area of the church complex. In 2022, the draw from our endowment funds was \$29,312, or just under the recommended 4% draw. Of the \$29,312, \$26,894 was spent on the above capital improvements. Our church is fortunate enough to have two endowment funds worth a combined total of \$707,822 at the end of 2022, giving us the ability to present a balanced budget. Income from pledges covers 37% of our operating expenses, and if we include additional plate offerings, that figure rises to 40%. Our budgeted income and expenses for 2023 present essentially the same picture. As of April 30th, 2023, our endowment funds totaled \$752,941. Our combined assets exceed \$1 million when we include Steeple School's balance sheet, and together with Steeple School, our cash on hand is over \$300,000.

Going into 2024, with the expectation of hiring a full-time Priest in Charge, we expect to use more of our endowments to balance our operating budget. We believe it is essential to hire a full-time Priest-in-Charge to lead our parishioners to reach out to those in our Marshfield community seeking an open and inviting faith community. As a congregation, we are investing in Trinity's future.





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OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE: In keeping with our mission statement to deepen our spiritual life together, our goals looking towards the future include:

- Building upon the Summer Bible Camp Program developed and offered for the first time in August 2022.
- Finding new ways to deepen our relationship with our community engagement groups, Sowing Seeds, Marshfield Food Pantry, The Marshfield Boys' and Girls' Club, Marshfield Community Christmas, the Farmer's Market Cookie sales funding our outreach programs, the Council on Aging and The McKinney-Vento Foundation of Marshfield which serves the homeless children in Marshfield.
- Developing new opportunities for engaging in youth and adult formation.
- Exploring alternate worship opportunities, including mid-week service offerings, to enable more people to attend worship.
- Developing a year-round stewardship program that creates opportunities to concentrate our energies on small programs or projects that strengthen our commitment to being good stewards of God's many gifts.
- Welcoming and embracing change.

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY: The Priest-in-Charge we seek will be a priest who ...

- Possesses good preaching skills.
- Will build upon our positive relationship with our Steeple School families.
- Is enthusiastic about being visible and increasing our involvement in other community organizations.
- Assists in creating and guiding the congregation in developing a year-round stewardship program.
- Can implement and utilize social media.
- Cares deeply about the environment.
- Can empower the gifts and passions of the congregation.
- Be receptive to an open exchange of ideas and feedback.

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