Trinity Episcopal Church
Statesboro, Georgia
2020
Dear Rector Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church. The following Parish Profile reflects a thoughtful process involving our entire parish family. In it, we hope you see a portrait of a parish inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve God’s family, seeing the face of Jesus in every person. Christian and Southern hospitality merge to make us a welcoming, warm parish of both newcomers and long-standing members as we seek to serve our wider community. Trinity sees love as an action verb and seeks a leader to work with us as we expand into the fullness of that love.

We welcome your application and look forward to a shared process of discerning God’s call.

In God’s love,
The People of Trinity Episcopal Church, Statesboro
WHO ARE WE?

We are a Christ-centered community seeking to do God's will and to follow the Spirit in prayer, faith, action, and hope. Trinity Episcopal is a blend of long-time members and newcomers, life-long Episcopalians and those new to the Episcopal Church. We are the spiritual home of young-adult and mid-life singles, families with toddlers, teens and college students, as well as many active seniors. We each work to renew, strengthen, and empower each other as we try to walk Christ's path.

At Trinity, we celebrate questions. By embracing ambiguity, uncertainty, and mystery, we allow space for God to direct our hearts. We believe that the Gospel challenges us to work towards goals of social justice and environmental stewardship. Through word, deed, and action we seek to spread the relentless compassion of Christ throughout our community and the wider world.

We strongly believe that welcome without exclusion is at the heart of the Gospel. We are an inclusive congregation, seeking and serving God in all persons.
WHERE ARE WE?

Statesboro is the county seat of Bulloch County, Georgia and was created by legislative act on December 19, 1803. The town hit its first growth spurt in the late 19th century, but the city's direction was not sealed until December 1906 when a committee of dedicated citizens became the top bidder in the state for the First District Agricultural and Mechanical School. After many iterations, this school eventually became Georgia Southern University, the largest university south of Atlanta. Since that time, Statesboro has been a quintessential small college town, providing cultural, social, educational, and athletic offerings to its residents.

Statesboro and Bulloch County also enjoy a mild climate. Though it can get warm in the summer, the annual average high temperature is 60 with the average low around 40. This allows residents to enjoy recreational activities year-round. We are located approximately 45 minutes from two state parks that offer hiking, biking, and kayaking, and about 80 minutes from the beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Statesboro also offers two hiking and biking trails that begin at or near the center of town.

http://www.eaglesneststatesboro.com/
Located in southeast Georgia, Statesboro is within easy driving distance of Savannah, Augusta, Atlanta, Charleston SC, and Jacksonville, FL. In addition to Georgia Southern University, the major employers are Ogeechee Technical College, East Georgia Regional Medical Center, and Briggs and Stratton.

For a town of just over 30,000 people, Statesboro offers many cultural amenities. The area is home to both the Averitt Center for the Arts, a community theater and arts organization, and the Performing Arts Center, a venue at Georgia Southern which features student performances and national shows. Georgia Southern also has a Wildlife Education and Raptor Center, a Botanic Garden, and a museum. Every Saturday morning, from April until Thanksgiving (with a Shopping by Lantern Light event the Tuesday before Thanksgiving), the Mainstreet Statesboro Farmers Market convenes downtown with seasonal food and craft offerings from local farmers and vendors. We also have an active Downtown Development Authority which brings festivals and other events to draw people downtown.
Bulloch County has been growing steadily for the past decade. The last population estimate for the county is 77,296, with 31,667 living in the City of Statesboro. This is a 10% increase from what the population was in 2010. Trinity is located just southwest of the city limits of Statesboro, an area primed for growth with the addition of a major grocery store in the near future. It is expected that once the grocery store and the area immediately surrounding it are developed, much of the area surrounding Trinity will likewise be developed thereby creating much potential for church growth.
HOW DO WE WORSHIP?

The Sunday schedule at Trinity has two Eucharistic services. The 8:15 Rite I Service with traditional language provides a quiet, contemplative experience. While generally less attended than the later service, those who go to the Rite I Holy Eucharist find it to be a centering and critical part of their worship experience.

The 10:30 Rite II service uses modern language and powerful music to bring the congregation together in Christ's love. Trinity's music is highly valued by the church, and members donate toward scholarships to fund student participants in the vocal and handbell choirs. As a result, Trinity fosters relationships with Georgia Southern students who might not otherwise attend structured religious meetings. Many members of Trinity volunteer their time and talents in these choirs, while others contribute to special musical performances throughout the year on cello, flute, and piano. Trinity is blessed to have an incredible organist whose work breathes joy into the organ pipes and stirs the building itself to worship.
While the two Sunday services are different, they are united in their accessibility and friendliness. Helpful guides in the bulletin keep the traditions and ritual accessible to newcomers and visitors unfamiliar with an Episcopal service. The passing of the peace is a time for members to leave their seats and travel around the pews, greeting friends with hugs and handshakes and welcoming newcomers with genuine enthusiasm. This joyful exchange is a critical part of what makes Trinity such a tightly-knit community. Another moving element of each service is when individuals come to the altar after communion for a blessing or intercessory prayer. Parishioners old and young, male and female, stand up as they are able and gather around to lay hands in support. In this ritual the members of Trinity Episcopal draw close to Christ: through acknowledging, serving, and nurturing the divinity in each other.

The coffee hour between Sunday services connects the attendees of the 8:15 and 10:30 services during the school year. Trinity offers spiritual education classes for children, youth, and adults during this time as well. In the summer months, however, the two meetings combine for one Holy Eucharist at 9:30. At 5:30 on Wednesday evenings, Trinity conducts a weekly informal Eucharist. Additionally, special services are part of each church season: for example, Lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass at Christmas and daily services during Holy Week, with Maundy Thursday dinner, Good Friday services, Easter Vigil, and Easter morning worship.
WHAT DO WE LOOK LIKE?

Trinity Episcopal Church is a welcoming and diverse community. Our parish is composed of varied generations, ethnicities, and backgrounds. Trinity has an average of seventy-five individuals attending two services each Sunday. Statesboro is a college town, and our church community reflects the value of education. Most of our adult parishioners have college degrees and many have graduate degrees. Our members range from newcomers to individuals who have called Trinity their church home for more than twenty years.

Trinity is the only Episcopal Church in Statesboro, and as a result, we have parishioners that live within blocks from the church and some that travel fifteen miles. Trinity Episcopal Church is very active in our community. In fact, sixty percent of our parishioners are involved in church activities beyond worship.
As a church community in a college city, we are active with the Georgia Southern University Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM). The ECM has an average of 12 students meeting weekly, though at times attendance is closer to twenty. Trinity welcomes these students at all of our worship and outreach activities. The church hosts an ECM student dinner yearly.
Rebecca’s Cafe

Rebecca Murray, one of our parishioners, was a driving force behind the founding of Rebecca’s Café in 2010 with the help of Trinity and the Statesboro Food Bank. Rebecca’s Café serves free meals to upwards of 80-100 people two days a week.

Rebecca’s Cafe has grown immensely since its opening, when they served only eight people. Ten years and 50,000 meals later, Trinity along with our ecumenical partners take turns cooking, serving and cleaning up monthly.
Loving Hands

Loving Hands is an outreach sewing and needlework ministry to carry out God’s mission of love locally and internationally.

- 30 dresses sewn for the Angel Gown program provides burial garments at no cost to families who have lost a baby. The gowns are sewn from wedding dresses donated by our parishioners.
- 95 dresses and 30 pants sewn and mailed to the Little Dresses for Africa Program distributed to vulnerable children throughout the continent.
- 18 knitted caps for babies & children for the Union Mission, Magdalene House (Savannah, Georgia).
- 40+ knitted caps and many prayer shawls for cancer patients.
Creation Care

Trinity acknowledges with gratitude God’s gifts of creation and seeks to guard them through good stewardship. We actively recycle both office and kitchen materials, monitor our energy use with updated technology, and seek to show respect for the environment through sustainable, intentional practices.

In February, Trinity planted seven new trees on the grounds in support of the Diocesan Creation Care Commission's mission to plant 222 Trees by 2022.
Other Ministries

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Bread Guild
- Building and Grounds
- Choir
- Christian Education including EYC and ECM and EfM
- Adult Education
- Christian Yoga
- Flowers and Flower Delivery
- Handbell Choir
- Lay Servers
- Lunch Bunch
- Moveable Feast
- Visibility Committee
Among the settlers arriving with Georgia founder James Edward Oglethorpe in 1733 was a clergyman from the Church of England. The Diocese of Georgia was established in 1823 and by 1907 had grown so much that it was divided geographically and the Diocese of Atlanta was created.

Today, the Diocese of Georgia spans the southern portion of the state from the rolling farms and piney woodlands in the west to the marshes and coastlands of the east. We are home to 70 parishes and missions diverse in size, theology, liturgical style, wealth, and race. Forty-one congregations hold parish status, and the remaining twenty-nine are missions. We also maintain several chapels throughout the Diocese. Thirty-four of our congregations are located within twenty miles of cities within populations of 40,000 or more, and the other forty congregations are situated in the suburbs, county seats, and rural towns.

Our bishop-elect, The Reverend Frank Logue, will be consecrated May 30, 2020. Approximately one-hundred-fifty clergy are canonically resident in the Diocese of Georgia at any given time. Included in the active clergy are more than thirty non-stipendiary vocational deacons, who serve in the Diocese under the guidance of the Bishop. Most of the clergy in the Diocese serve in parishes and missions; some serve as school, hospital and hospice chaplains or in other non-parochial ministries expressing their special gifts.

HOW TO WE FIT INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?
Priests of the Diocese of Georgia are expected to participate in convocational clericus meetings (monthly through most of the year), clergy conferences and the diocesan convention. Clergy are also called upon to serve on various diocesan boards, committees, and commissions as part of their service to the larger church.
WHAT IS OUR STORY?

Beginning (1907)

Statesboro’s Episcopal congregation began as a mission in 1907, when the Reverend J. Herbert Woodward came here to baptize a baby girl, Susan Elizabeth George, into the Episcopal faith. Woodward held occasional services until 1909, and he was succeeded by a series of traveling priests.

Through World War II, two Georgia Teachers College faculty members, Thomas B. Stroup and Ronald J. Neil, kept the mission going by holding morning prayer services at the college. In 1945 a retired clergyman, came to serve communion once a month, but Professor Neil continued to read on other Sundays.

“Trinity Episcopal Church Celebrates 100 Years” by Loretta Brandon, Statesboro Herald
https://www.statesboroherald.com/local/trinity-episcopal-church-celebrates-100-years/
Trinity Church at Northside Drive and Lee Streets
(1953-1965)

In 1952 the Bishop gave $2,500 to build a church, and Ronald
Neil and his wife gave the ground for the building. The church
was consecrated on Trinity Sunday in 1953, and the name Trinity
Episcopal Church was officially adopted.

In 1954 the Reverend Robert E.H. Peeples—better known as
“Father Bob” to his congregation—became vicar. The first
Canterbury Club in Georgia was organized for college students,
and the church acquired a rectory on Groover Street. Enlarged
with a parish hall and Sunday School rooms, by 1957 the church
included 29 communing members. In April 1964 the growing
church decided to sell the Lee Street property, and planning for a
new building began.
Trinity Church on Chandler (1965-2000)

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40 (KJV) The next Trinity Episcopal Church was built on Chandler Street adjacent to the Georgia Southern College and consecrated on September 19, 1965. The In-as-much School for underprivileged children was developed in 1968 by a group of the community’s concerned citizens. The school provided a hearty breakfast, kindergarten, snacks, dental care, and medical care for more than 25 children each year. The school was also supported by proceeds from “The Bargain Box,” a thrift store organized by the Episcopal Church Women. The In-as-much School ended in 1976, when kindergarten became part of the public school system.

In the 1970s Trinity members presented “Wonderful Wednesdays,” a summer activities program for children ages three to 16, and the “Trinity Players,” presented several musicals. The Rev. William Connor Noble, who served from 1970 to 1972, worked with the Methodist chaplain at Georgia Southern to produce a radio show for college students.

In February 1990 Trinity Mission became Trinity Parish, having achieved its financial independence.
Trinity Church on the Bypass (2000-present)


Trinity also has a history of successfully supporting seminarians, among them Bishop-elect Frank Logue and the Rev. Lonnie Lacy, who was ordained here in 2006.
WHERE DO WE WORSHIP?

- Rector’s Office
- Gallery - Formal reception area
- Library - Special meetings
- Chapel of the Holy Family (cry room) - Prayer groups
- Sanctuary - Worship
- Parish Hall - Fellowship, Activities, Meals
- Kitchen - Pantry
- Choir/Acolyte Vesting Room
- Priest’s Vesting Room
- Nursery
- Children’s Classroom
- Youth Room (EYC)
- Children’s Playground
- Memorial Garden with Columbarium
- Labyrinth
- Future Pavilion
WHO IS OUR TEAM?

The Reverend Charles Todd
*Interim Rector*

Deacon Steve Darby
*Deacon*

Jessica Keeley
*Parish Administrator*

Cait McDaniel
*Director of Youth Ministries*

Sarah Hancock
*Music Director*

http://www.trinitystatesboro.org/about/staff/
HOW DO WE MANAGE OUR MONEY?

The overall financial position of Trinity is based on pledges, open plate giving, and special purpose offering. Its Endowment Fund is nearing the $100,000 mark and supports a number of outreach and mission programs. Our diocesan stewardship is at the pledge level of 10% as required by the Diocese of Georgia.

We have recently launched a capital campaign for a Memorial Pavilion.

Rector’s Compensation
We are prepared to offer a total compensation package commensurate with that offered by parishes of similar size and giving ability within our Diocese.
WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Trinity Statesboro is looking for a future spiritual leader who can capitalize on our parish’s strengths of hospitality and radical welcome better serve our diverse local and regional community. The future spiritual leader will have a growth mindset, including strategies to engage several types of budding populations in the Statesboro area such as students, families who may or may not be associated with Georgia Southern, and retirees in order to sustainably grow our membership.

It is important to us that our new spiritual leader value diversity and inclusion, be engaged in social justice ministries, be able to communicate with candor to the members, and cultivate a spirit of synergy and trust among our members and ecumenical partners.

We pray for a leader with a servant’s heart, a passion for pastoral care and an affinity for identifying and nurturing the spiritual gifts of future ministry leaders, both lay and clergy.
HELPFUL LINKS

Trinity’s Website:
http://www.trinitystatesboro.org/

Trinity’s Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEpiscopalStatesboro/

Trinity’s Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/trinitystatesboro/

Georgia Southern University Welcome Page: https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/

Downtown Statesboro Development Authority: https://statesborodowntown.com/

Statesboro Convention Center and Visitor’s Bureau: https://www.visitstatesboro.org/
THANK YOU!