The Mission Of Trinity Parish
To Make Christ Known
With Love and Compassion

Parish Profile 2019
Who We Are

Trinity Episcopal Church is proud to be one of the earliest Episcopal congregations in Iowa, the first church established in Muscatine County, and the single Episcopal church serving Muscatine, Iowa. Our current church building, with the cornerstone laid in 1851, in on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the first worshippers congregated in 1839, Trinity has been a cornerstone of God’s love and grace in the Muscatine community. From the earliest days of generously sharing our worship space, we have grown to a church of active ministry; several outreach programs that Trinity birthed have gone on to become Muscatine traditions.

We are proud of our tradition of welcoming all who come through our doors. Anyone is welcome at our Communion table, no matter their ethnicity, identity, gender, or creed. With our enlarged parish hall and newly renovated sanctuary, we are dedicated to preserving our beautiful, historic church as a place of refuge, welcome, and healing for all God’s people. And with our generous endowments and willing hands, we are dedicated to active ministries that leave a footprint on Muscatine stretching far beyond the walls of our building.

You Are Welcome Here!
2019

Revival with St Paul’s Durant

Ash Wednesday

Piano Dedication Recital

Annual Parish Meeting
Who We Seek

We are in prayerful search of a full-time rector who will help us grow in love and faith as we pursue our mission to make Christ known with love and compassion.

We seek a shepherd who will inspire us in worship, guide our vision, help us reach and welcome new members, and support our lifelong learning along with our care for others. Our ideal rector will be a confident preacher/teacher, a strategic leader, and a caring pastor with gifts for education, managing change, and healing. We seek a leader who will guide us in our spiritual growth and partner in our many and varied ministries, including the faithful stewardship of our financial resources.

We will be especially grateful for someone with the energy and vision to cultivate lay leaders and inspire involvement and community; who will be willing to innovate to adapt our worship to accommodate the people we most desire to reach; and who will maintain the high level of quality and spiritual content in our worship services that we have come to enjoy and rely upon. We hope for a shepherd who will teach us, care for us, be a model for resolving conflict, and be a catalyst for bringing to the community the kinds of innovative ministries that our church is known for. In return, we will do our best to make our parish a warm, welcoming home for the person who wants to join our path and be part of our future.
Trinity History

Trinity Episcopal Church began in 1839 as services held in the home of Matthew Matthews. In 1841, the congregation built what would be the first church in Iowa and the earliest church in what became Muscatine County. Legend has it that the bishop sailed the Mississippi from the church in Dubuque to the church in Keokuk for a couple of years before he discovered Trinity existed. With the cornerstone laid in 1851, the current historic building was completed in 1853 and housed the convention that organized the Diocese of Iowa. The Diocese of Kansas began at Trinity as well when Bishop Vail was consecrated here in 1864.

With the call of Rev. Paget in 1886, Trinity grew along with the city of Muscatine, adding Sunday school rooms, building a Chapel on East Hill, and launching missions abroad. After a fire destroyed the neighboring Great Opera House in 1945, the church bought the land and built the current parish hall, completed in 1955.

The 1960s began a period of social action. Rev. Six led Trinity’s congregation to offer space for a migrant health clinic, Indian missions, a group home, Planned Parenthood, Head Start, and a Voluntary Action Center. Outside the church, Rev. Six was instrumental in building the Clark House, which provides income-based housing for senior citizens.

This active outreach continues with Trinity’s status as a Jubilee Ministry. Inside the church, renovations have included bringing the former East Chapel within our nave and establishing a columbarium for cremains. A refurbishment of the parish hall in 2013-14 make it a comfortable space for church celebrations as well as community meetings, family gatherings, parties, and other events. Included in this undertaking was the addition of a handicapped accessible entrance, and the E. Bradford Burns Library. These compliment an earlier renovation from the late 1990’s of the kitchen, and a handicapped accessible restroom installation from 2010.

An extensive renovation in 2017-18 improved building drainage and construction, preserved the historic slates of the roof, and brought out the beauty of our sanctuary, ensuring that our church building will remain an accommodating place for generations to come.
Our Liturgical Life

We hold a weekly worship service at 10 a.m. every Sunday that follows Rite II and makes use of *The Book of Common Prayer*. We follow the three-year lectionary cycle. Our worship music includes traditional hymns and occasional performances by our choir, and the use of our beautiful organ, a newly restored grand piano, and an electric keyboard allows our music to be varied and beautifully amplified by our sanctuary’s natural acoustics. We welcome all to God’s table.

Every so often we vary traditional worship services in the sanctuary with celebrations in the Parish Hall, for instance the annual blessing of the animals for the Feast of St. Francis. We enjoy a Palm Sunday procession, Maundy Thursday service, and Easter Vigil during Holy Week and a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. During Lent we hold a weekly Stations of the Cross journey and this year we also instituted Presiding Bishop Curry’s The Way of Love curriculum and offered “Ashes to Go” along with a day and evening service on Ash Wednesday.

At different times we hold weekday discussion or Bible study groups that end with sharing the Eucharist. We have also had success with Breaking Bread—meeting for conversation and the Eucharist in a public restaurant, or someone’s home—and in Family Table, a more informal evening worship centered on a meal and meant to accommodate kids particularly. At least once a year we plan an outdoor service with our neighboring Episcopal church of St. Paul’s in Durant, usually in a park shelter by the Mississippi River, with the goal of bringing the natural world into our worship.

We occasionally experiment with morning or mid-day worship or prayer services. We have in the past done off-site retreats—we’ve held two women’s and one men’s retreat at St. Mary’s Monastery in Rock Island—and our recent revival meetings, dinners, and parish retreats have integrated an evening compline service as well. While we have a deep affection for the traditional liturgies of the Episcopal Church, we are open to finding new ways to gather and worship in ways that can bring the message to all.
Trinity Outreach

Trinity Episcopal Church Muscatine has a long history of outreach in the Muscatine community and the surrounding area. A grant program was in place for many years. Among other projects it enabled a nurse to become a Nurse Practitioner to help in the woman's health outreach clinic that was housed in Trinity's basement. AA meetings, NA meetings, GA meetings, Boy Scout Troop 128, Girl Scouts, and Head Start also met in our building for many years.

Until approximately 2 years ago, the 3 story building next to the church was a bequest used for outreach. The upper floors were low rent housing units. The ground floor housed many start up nonprofit programs. The last program was a Jubilee Committee initiative to provide a safe, accepting, fun place to learn and socialize for youngsters who are provided services from other agencies. That program is now housed elsewhere with a community board to supervise its ongoing contribution to those in need. This program recently celebrated its 6 year anniversary.

Over 20 years ago a group of Trinity people lead by our Deacon recognized a need for a Saturday meal program in Muscatine. Loaves and Fishes continues to serve a hot meal each Saturday to anyone who chooses to participate. This program has also become a broader community program with its own board of directors and volunteers each week from various churches and service organizations.

In January, 2016 the Trinity Jubilee committee began a local Laundry Love program. This program provides a means for people with low incomes to wash and dry their clothes and bedding without cost. Volunteers provide greetings, quarters, soap and dryer sheets along with camaraderie and smiles. Since its beginning we have helped provide this service to over 4,000 people. One of our Jubilee members is the driving force behind this program.

Trinity’s vestry is very supportive of the outreach programs. Our designation as a Jubilee Center is well earned. We provide many ongoing services to the people of Muscatine and the surrounding area. Trinity sponsors a room at the homeless shelter, provides supplies to the domestic violence shelter and a school locker project, gives Christmas baskets to seniors, and does many other short term projects.

As a Jubilee committee our goal is to be the answer to someone’s prayer. We take this responsibility very seriously and are grateful for the opportunity to meet this goal.
Trinity has partnered with Senior Resources in the Medical Lending Closet since 2009. Equipment is accepted, stored, and distributed by Senior Resources. Trinity assists with publicity and communication.

Each year Trinity “adopts” 3-4 seniors in need and generously fills their wish list (and more)! It is our joy and delight to deliver gifts for Christmas.
Youth Formation at Trinity

Trinity Church offers active guidance and formation opportunities for youth from infants to age eighteen. We send our teens to diocesan-wide gatherings like youth camp and ski trips and involve them in church life through annual events, seasonal celebrations, and service opportunities. Youth participate in worship by performing our annual Nativity Pageant, bringing pets for blessings on the Feast of St. Francis, and singing in the kid's choir. We offer confirmation classes and acolyte training to help our young worshippers actively affirm and grow in their faith.

Our Godly Play classes take place during Sunday 10 a.m. worship and provide a time for kids in K through 5th grade to join together in conversation, fellowship, and activities based on the lesson. The Sparkhouse curriculum provides our volunteer teachers with materials that interpret the lectionary lessons in ways appropriate for each age level. Godly Play corresponds to the school year, running through fall and spring semesters. Our nursery is staffed each Sunday with a trained, caring professional who plays with and supervises our littlest worshippers.

Trinity strives to be family friendly by including kids in traditional worship and by offering other, informal gather opportunities through Breaking Bread, meetings often held in someone's home, and at a monthly Family Table service that offers discussion, fellowship, and craft activities for people of all ages. We believe and act on Jesus's command to let the little children come to Him, and to learn from them how we might enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Finance

The financial picture of Trinity Church Muscatine for 2017 appears below. As with many parishes, increasing costs along with flat or declining income and numbers is an ongoing concern. We certainly feel blessed to be able to enjoy a newly refurbished sanctuary and parish hall that is debt free. In addition to our pledge and smaller miscellaneous income sources, we are very blessed to be able to use the income from three trusts, and income and principal (with the consent of the parish) on the fourth trust. We also have three agency investment accounts, two of which are restricted and one unrestricted. Our largest expense is personnel and the operation of our historic building. After refurbishing the sanctuary and parish hall in recent years, we have no remodeling projects planned.

Receipts

Pledge/Giving Income $49,578
Trust income used $138,647
Renovations $141,573
Total all revenues $329,798

Expenses

Personnel/Operations $203,997
Outreach $13,302
Miscellaneous expenses $40,816
Diocese Assessment $15,000
Total all expenses $273,115

Stewardship

Over the past 25 years, our stewardship efforts and practices have been traditional in nature. The standard approach to annual pledge campaign/giving has been faithfully undertaken. Sometimes having the amount of trusts given to our parish by our "saints" of old can be considered a mixed blessing.

The management of our funds over the years has been faithfully undertaken by our finance Committee and The Generations of Saints Planned Giving program, reporting to Vestry and clergy. Many in our parish family give of their time in our varied outreach programs. We appreciate their gifts and ministries and we continue to encourage and support their efforts.
Our City

Muscatine, a town of around 24,000 people, has a unique history due to its location along the Great Bend of the Mississippi. The east-west flow of the river created a bed for mollusks that furnished the pearl buttons that put Muscatine on the map in the late 19th century. This history can be viewed in detail at the National Pearl Button Museum. Other historic places around Muscatine include the restored Pine Creek Grist Mill and the nearby Old Stone Church, where Trinity’s pastor has traditionally led an interfaith Christmas service each December.

Muscatine is home to several major businesses and industries, including HNI Corporation, Kent Corporation, Bayer (formerly Monsanto), Heinz, Stanley Consultants, and Raymond. The Muscatine Community School District offers a high school, a middle school, and six elementary schools, with an early childhood center under construction; Ss. Mary & Mathias school provides private instruction through grade 8. Trinity UnityPoint Muscatine staffs a local hospital as well as smaller clinics around town, including urgent care. Muscatine Community College, part of the Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, offers quality instruction at its campus in Muscatine and satellite campuses throughout Muscatine County.

The Muscatine Journal began print in 1840 and famously featured occasional contributions from Mark Twain, who lived in Muscatine in 1854. A local radio station, KWPC, supports community events through its live and online programming and a weekly newspaper, The Voice of Muscatine.

Muscatine boasts its own symphony orchestra, an art center, a world-class soccer complex, an arboretum, a municipal airport, an agricultural learning center, and an environmental discovery center. The area is rich in recreation areas, from riverside campgrounds administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which also oversees Lock & Dam No. 16, to state parks including Wildcat Den and Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area. The Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge is not far away. The Muscatine Parks & Recreation Department manages several city parks, newly extended walking and biking trails, the municipal golf course, and an aquatic center open during the summer months. Muscatine was certified as a Blue Zones community in 2014.

A growing riverfront hosts a marina, a city park and playground, and reception facilities, and a revitalizing downtown includes several kinds of restaurants, one-of-a-kind shops, and the brand-new Merrill Hotel and Conference Center. Recent improvements to the city include a pollinator park, a dog park, and a new facility for the Musser Public Library. We are home to wineries, breweries, art galleries, a film festival, and the renowned Muscove melon.

Within easy reach are the colleges and universities, hospitals, and cultural offerings of the Quad Cities and Iowa City, the U.S.’s only UNESCO City of Literature, consistently ranked one of the best cities in the U.S. In the future, Muscatine hopes to become an international port on the Mississippi and to extend our relations with China; President Xi Jinping’s 1985 visit to Muscatine established a friendship between Iowa and China preserved in the Sino-U.S. Friendship House.

Muscatine is a place to live and thrive, and a wonderful place to raise a family. Twain made note of the sunsets, but Muscatine has more to offer every hour, year-round.
The Mission Of Trinity Parish
To Make Christ Known
With Love and Compassion
muscatine-trinity.org