



The Trinity Times

June 2025



*The
newsletter
of Trinity
Cathedral of
the Diocese
of New
Jersey*



Inside this issue:

Spring worship photos	4
May Vestry meeting highlights	7
Creation Care Corner	8
A successful Spring clothing closet!	10
Car Seat Safety session - June 18th	13



From the Bishop's Desk

Dear members of the clergy of the Diocese of New Jersey,

As many of you have heard, we are facing a difficult legal challenge at Christ Episcopal Church, Toms River. The mayor and township council of Toms River have begun proceedings to impose an eminent domain ordinance on the Christ Church property. This appears to be a response to the church's vital outreach ministries.

If the eminent domain action were to go forward, it would remove a congregation from their home of 160 years and end many essential ministries that offer support to those in need in the Toms River community and beyond. In addition, I am deeply concerned about the potential precedent for municipal, state, or federal control of faith communities. Eminent domain should never be used to control a church's faithful ministries.

We are responding on a number of levels, and I am grateful for the support and assistance of the Presiding Bishop and his staff. Christ Church has started a petition to show public support for the congregation in opposing the eminent domain ordinance. Please read the petition and sign if you are able to do so. Please also consider sharing the petition on social media and with your congregations. If you wish, you can share my Facebook post. (Ed. note: the petition can be found at [Change.org](https://www.change.org) – simply type “Christ Church” in the search bar on the website. The Bishop's Facebook post has been shared on the Cathedral's Facebook page and can be found there.)

We know that public opinion matters to the mayor and township council and this petition will strengthen our response. Please help Christ Church and the Diocese of New Jersey as we work to respond to this unjust and harmful action.

Faithfully,

Bishop Sally French

The Right Reverend Sally French
13th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

Please turn the page for the text of the Change.org petition for Christ Church, Toms River

The following is the text of the Christ Church, Toms River petition on Change.org:

The Issue

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, less than 24 hours before a scheduled Toms River Township Council meeting, a concerned community member alerted the leadership of Christ Church, Toms River, that the church property had been added to a proposal for an eminent domain ordinance. The mayor of Toms River is attempting to claim the 11-acre downtown church property, to be used as a recreational center and community park. Despite widespread community opposition, the motion passed its initial reading at the meeting on April 30.

This action is unjust. It comes while the congregation is seeking municipal permission to build a homeless shelter on their property as an extension of the church's many ministries and programs that serve and support those in need in the Toms River community. If the eminent domain ordinance goes forward, Toms River will lose a vital source of support for vulnerable residents.

Christ Church is a large and active congregation with a longstanding commitment to outreach and community support, especially for those in need. Together, the people of Christ Church participate in more than 20 essential ministries that support the Toms River community and beyond. These offerings include feeding and clothing programs, multiple 12-step groups, and more. Christ Episcopal Church has been part of Toms River for 160 years and has a long history of service and outreach.

Now, the congregation of Christ Church, Toms River needs your support. Please sign our petition to tell the mayor and township council that people matter more than pickleball courts. Eminent domain should never be used to control a church's ministries. We stand together with the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, and The Episcopal Church, to oppose the unjust actions of the Toms River mayor and township council.

The church is not for sale. People matter more than Pickleball. We stand with Christ Episcopal Church, Toms River, New Jersey.

This request comes from the Clergy and Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, Toms River, New Jersey, with the support of the Bishop of New Jersey.

Help Protect Christ Church Property & Community Outreach: <https://gofund.me/5ca67c08>

(Please visit [www.Change.org](https://www.change.org) and type "Christ Church" in the search bar to find this petition; it costs nothing to sign.)



For the Weary Prophets



O Holy One,
Keeper of tears and witness to injustice,
I come to You not with answers,
but with ache.
I am tired, Lord.
Tired of the cruelty masked as law,
Tired of silence that blesses oppression,
Tired of watching Your children,
queer, brown, immigrant, poor
be trampled underfoot
while the empire sings its anthem.
I do not belong in this world,
not the way it is
and maybe that is my prayer.
Let me not belong.
Let me remain a misfit of mercy,

a holy dissenter,
a thorn in the side of systems
that crucify Your love daily.
Make my loneliness
a sanctuary of courage.
Make my grief
a well of living water.
Help me remember that You, too,
were despised and rejected,
a man of sorrows,
familiar with grief.
You, too, were undocumented,
imprisoned,
executed by the state.
So let me not numb myself,
but feel.
Let me not turn my eyes,
but see.
Let me not give up,
but rise.
Make my soul stubborn
and soft,
bold and broken,
a mirror of the Gospel

that dares to say:
Love is still stronger.
Be near tonight, O God,
to every aching heart.
Be near to mine.
And in the quiet,
remind me:
I am not alone.
I am not alone.
I am not alone.
A men.

The Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca



Spring Worship at Your Cathedral



Many thanks to our Clergy, choir, musicians, Lay Eucharist Ministers and guest Clergy from around our Diocese for leading our worship during Dean John's sabbatical!





We enjoyed a Happy Mother's Day together!



Highlights of the May 2025 Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting

Eight of the fourteen members of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry met via Zoom on Tuesday evening, May 20, at 6:30 pm. Senior Warden Gil Williams presided and called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and offered the opening prayer. The main agenda items were as follows:

Financial Summary. Treasurer Ron Zilinski was absent from the meeting and provided via email a financial summary of the Cathedral's operations through April. Income, at \$279k, was 84% of the budgeted amount; while expenses were \$319k, 112% of the budgeted amount, driven by higher property and maintenance expenses as well as insurance fees.

Investments. Canon Paul Cooper presented a summary of the Cathedral's investments through April, which totaled \$2.497M, 2.1% less than at the end of 2024. \$892k of the total is invested in *Diocesan Investment Trust* (DIT) funds, \$1.006M of the total is under the management of the trustees of the *Dean Adams Trust* (DAT), and \$504k is in a Wells Fargo brokerage account. This April, the Cathedral was informed about a \$93k gift in PSEG stock by the estate of Jane Ramsdell which makes up the balance of our endowment.

Property & Maintenance (P&M). Gil reported for P&M Chair Mike Raab and shared that the heater in the men's restroom was leaking and has been repaired, and repairs to the entry ramp from the parking lot are in the planning stages. P&M are investigating the Cathedral microphones and sound system to improve their performance.

Food Pantry. Gil reported for Lourdez Hernandez and shared that about 130 families were served at the most recent Saturday distribution, and thanks all volunteers for their assistance.

Fund Raising. Junior Warden Margaret Nartey shared that the Parish Dance is scheduled for June 7 but may have to be rescheduled if sufficient tickets are not sold.

Social Justice/ Episcopal Community Services (ECS). Lourdez Hernandez recently led a successful clothing drive at the Cathedral and donated extra items to the Eastern Service Workers Association.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be that of the Major Chapter on Monday, June 9, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Closing Prayer and Blessing. Althia Muse offered the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Chinweze Ahaghotu. 28 May 2025.

Creation Care Corner

We are pleased to announce a new Diocese of New Jersey Creation Care webpage at <https://dioceseofnj.org/justice/care-of-creation/>

As well as highlights of Creation Care work in the diocese, you will find links to resources under the four broad categories of Pray, Learn, Act, and Advocate. These include inspiring Creation Care prayers and liturgies, links to educational and awareness material, and ways we can act and advocate for a more eco-friendly lifestyle. Please check it out!



Mission Statement

Mindful of our responsibility to be active stewards of God's creation, and to open hearts and minds to heal our spiritual disconnection with "this fragile earth, our island home", the mission of the diocesan Creation Care Ministry is to

- Share our passion for environmental stewardship and invite others to join us.
- Spread awareness of ecological concerns, especially those related to climate change, eco-justice, land, sea and air pollution, and loss of wildlife habitat.
- Support and encourage reasonable action and eco-friendly lifestyle changes for individuals, families, parishes, and the diocese.
- Become a diocesan resource for Creation Care materials that assist us to Pray, Learn, Act, and Advocate.

"Why we care about God's Creation"

"House of Bishops 2022 Statement" – [HERE](#)



Upcoming Events

- Farm Sanctuary visit – May 17th – [Download flyer with registration details](#)
- Diocesan Creation Care Forum – Save the Date: September, 2025.



Pray, Learn, Act, Advocate:

Pray

- Prayer from in the House of Bishops
- Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation from the 78th General Convention
- Intercession and Thanksgiving from the New Zealand Prayer Book, Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption.
- Season of Creation Liturgies
- Various prayers for Creation:
 - Creation Waits with Eager Longing
 - A Creation Prayer of Confession
 - A Prayer for our Time and for the Earth.

Learn

- EPA - Climate Change Indicators
- EPA - Greener Living
- Earth Day 2025
- Children's Creation Care Zine

Act

- Congregational Green Assessment
- Things we can do to make a difference at home
- Sustain Island Home Carbon Tracker
- Suggestions for "greening" your parish
- Link to Trinity Cathedral Creation Care page

Advocate

- Link to Creation Justice Ministries
- Sign up for EPPN Action Alerts
- Advocacy Activity Guidelines from the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Altar Guild Shop Update –



Don't forget your Dads & Grads!



**Stop in for nice gift ideas! Featuring Ball Caps,
Golf themed picture frames, Mugs, Jewelry & Devotionals!**

**The Shop will be open Sunday, June 1st & 15th
After the 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Services**

The Shop will be closed in July & August, but if you
would like something, contact Lucy Adams at
trinitycathedralags@gmail.com or leave
a message in the Cathedral Office.

WANTED

**The Trinity Cathedral Food Pantry
needs reusable grocery bags.**



Strong, clean, new or gently used bags would
be appreciated. Leave bags in collection bin
going into Cathedral. Need more information,
contact Lourdez (Cookie) Hernandez or Lucy Adams

Tré' Devon Lane Foundation

Supporting other families during these difficult times.

GRIEF Support Group

SATURDAY

June 14, 2025

10:00am

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Church

801 West State Street Trenton, NJ

Please use parking lot in the rear

Please bring a photo of the
person you lost

For more information please contact Regina at
609-209-2500





SPRING/SUMMER CLOTHING CLOSET WAS A SUCCESS!



by Lucy T. Adams



"I needed clothes and your clothed me..."

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have contributed to the Spring/Summer Clothing Closet that the Cathedral held recently! Community members were invited to come shop for free. Many in our neighborhood have benefitted from your support. Special appreciation to Joyce Spears, Lourdez (Cookie) Hernandez, Al Shaw, Tyree Bodiford, Kevin Taylor, and Keith Adams for their assistance with this event. Extra donations were given to another church in need in Trenton. A win, win for all and we also helped the environment! Watch for details for the Fall/Winter Closet.



	<p>Are you ready for some fun? Do you like helping out? If yes, then we <u>need you</u> on July 3rd to assist with a picnic that the Cathedral is hosting for <u>our</u> Urban Promise summer campers and their families!</p> <p><u>We need</u> greeters, food servers, game players, set-up, & clean-up crews. There's something for everyone to do, even if it's not a physical task. Contact Lucy Adams or Larry Spears today or leave a message in the Cathedral Office.</p>
---	---

SAVE THE DATE!



The 21st annual Bishop George E. Cuncell Memorial Golf Outing & Pickleball Tournament will be held on Monday, October 13, 2025. In 2024, we focused on celebrating the milestone anniversary of the outing. And while we were pleased to generate over \$35,000 in income, We continue to believe the event has serious growth potential and will continue our efforts to mine the possibilities.

We need to spread the word amongst potential golfers and pickleballers, find new sponsors and advertisers, and obtain prizes for our after-tournament dinner reception. We would very much like to add a couple of additional members to the committee. If you believe you have skills that speak to any of the areas described above, we'd love to connect with you. You don't need to be a golfer, or even have knowledge of the game. We need organized, outgoing people with a love for Trinity Cathedral, who would be willing to solicit prospective sponsors, ad buyers, and auction items. Are you that person? If you would like to learn more about how we organize the Cathedral's biggest annual fundraiser, please call the office and speak to Patrice D'Angelo. It's always a fun time!

isles
PRESENTS



Cooking with Chef Pearl!

**HEALTH-FOCUSED MENUS &
FUN COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS**

Join us for **FREE** plant-based cooking classes and demonstrations led by Chef Pearl Thompson. Learn how to create delicious, health-focused meals that you can easily recreate at home!

What's Included:

- **HEALTH-FOCUSED MENUS** that are easy to make at home.
- **FREE DINNER-AND-A-Movie EVENT** featuring topics of environmental interest.
- **RAFFLE PRIZE** at each event!

When:

- **COOKING CLASSES:** Second Tuesday of each month, from March 11, 2025 to December 2025 • 5:30 — 8 pm
- **DINNER-AND-A-Movie EVENT:** Last Tuesday of each month, from March 25, 2025 to December 2025 • 5:30 — 8 pm

Where:

- **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL**
801 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618



SPACE IS LIMITED!

Registration for each event is required.

TO REGISTER: Use the QR code or email ocaldwell@isles.org or call 609.341.4704

(Given the popularity of these events and limited seating, we ask that you **do not** register for all 16 workshops. To ensure as many residents as possible can participate, we recommend signing up for **two workshops in the same month.**)

Sponsored by



Isles.org • dioceseofnj.org/ecs



TRINITY CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF NJ



Trinity Cathedral Academy Pre-School

Join us for a Community Gathering on Child Safety!

What: An information session on
New Jersey Car Seat Law
and child safety

When: Wednesday, June 18, 2025
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Where: Trinity Cathedral - Synod Hall
801 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
(609) 392-3805

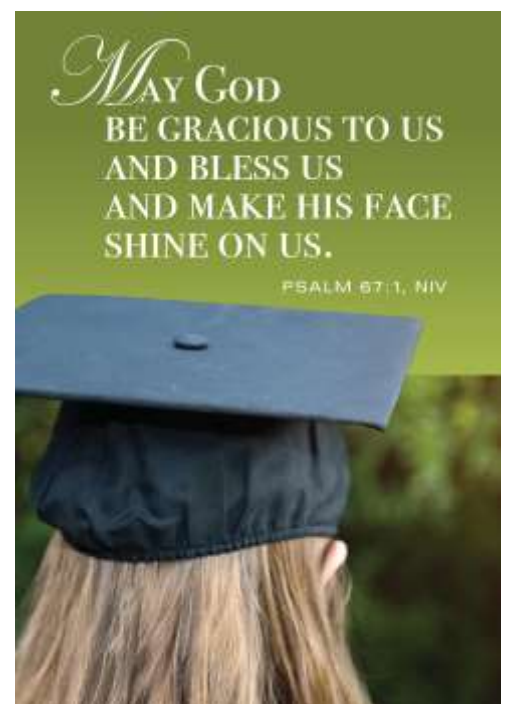
Lunch
Educational Materials
Baby supply giveaways
Win a free car seat!

Sponsored by:





Trinity parishioner Leilani Bennett-Wilson recently graduated from Conwell Eagan Catholic High School. In the fall she will be attending Coastal Carolina to study behavioral neuroscience with a minor in psychology. Here she is with proud mom Amy Wilson and brother Timothy. Congratulations, Leilani!





1	Rev. Dr. John & Rosemary Luttrell	Anniversary
2	David Collins	Birthday
4	Christian White	Birthday
4	Fay Manicke	Birthday
4	Wipson Joseph	Birthday
5	Marsha Perry	Birthday
6	Kemdi Opara Jr.	Birthday
6	Christine Mitchell	Birthday
6	Nancy Hood-Boczar	Birthday
7	Judith M. Thompson	Birthday
7	Tracey Hopkins	Birthday
7	Isaac Garret Sinclair Newman	Birthday
9	Tarlow Miller	Birthday
9	Sharon Tejeda	Birthday
9	Gregory & Roseann Cooper	Anniversary
10	Josephine Khoury	Birthday
10	Azubuike Onyenwe	Birthday
10	Susan R. Ince	Birthday
11	Belinda Whiteman	Birthday
11	Joe D'Angelo	Birthday
12	Helena Gongar	Birthday
13	Angela Opara	Birthday
15	Anthony Wootson	Birthday
16	The Very Rev. Rene & Andrea John	Anniversary
17	Erica Warner	Birthday
17	The Very Rev. Rene John	Birthday
17	Susan Zitofsky	Birthday
17	James & Lynn Palmer	Anniversary
18	Rosemary Luttrell	Birthday
22	Lawrence Gustin	Birthday
22	Desiree Kirmale-Prouty	Birthday
23	Kelly Castellon	Birthday
24	June Perfater	Birthday
24	Naomi McMullan	Birthday
25	Cyrus Ketter, Jr.	Birthday
27	Timothy Thorne	Birthday
27	John & Tammy Gibson, Jr.	Anniversary
29	Caitlin M. Palmer	Birthday
29	Althia & Naeem Muse	Anniversary

1	Zachary McMullan	Birthday
1	Karen Russo	Birthday
3	Therese (Terry) Cooper	Birthday
4	Alan S. Rudolph	Birthday
5	The Rev. Canon Dr. Noel Amadi	Ordination An-
6	Rev. Carol Gilbert	Birthday
6	The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell	Birthday
7	Comfort Sparks	Birthday
7	The Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge	Birthday
7	Imani White	Birthday
11	The Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge	Ordination An-
11	Tom & Georgianna Aiken	Anniversary
12	Helena Gongar	Birthday
13	Susan Valentine	Birthday
13	Chinweze Ahaghotu	Birthday
13	Hasaan White, Jr.	Birthday
14	Ade L. Collins	Birthday
14	Winifred Daniels	Birthday
15	Suobo A. Richards	Birthday
19	Elizabeth Fineberg	Birthday
20	Michael Khoury	Birthday
20	Raphael Nartey	Birthday
21	Willie & Cynthia Coleman	Anniversary
22	Araminta McIntosh	Birthday
23	Manuel and Sharon Tejeda	Anniversary
23	Ifie V. Richards	Birthday
25	Ruth Perry	Birthday
25	Bynum Petty	Birthday
26	Gordon Goode	Birthday
26	Elizabeth Nidweski	Birthday
26	Bobbie Powell	Birthday
27	The Rev. Canon Dr. Noel Amadi	Birthday
27	Laurus Ketter	Birthday
30	Leilani Marie Bennett-Wilson	Birthday

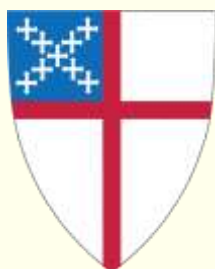
Please join in sharing good wishes for our fellow parishioners on their special day!



Trinity Cathedral

Of The Diocese of New Jersey
801 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

Phone: (609) 392-3805
Fax: (609) 392-2305
www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org



Worship Schedule:

Sundays: 10:00 am - Rite II
In-person and livestreamed

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday:
8:30 am - Rite I
In-person only

Wednesdays: 12:10 - 12:45 pm
Healing Eucharist
In-person only
(on break through August)

Please go to
www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org
for information on how to join us
via livestream!

Our Vision:

A visible agent of God's love, joyfully embracing all people.

Our Mission:

God is here. Jesus loves you.

We are a welcoming, diverse community sharing God's love, spreading the Gospel and caring for all people and God's Creation. Come join us.

CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Sally Johnson French, Bishop
The Very Rev. René Rory John, Dean
The Rev. Cn. Dr. Noel J. Amadi, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. John Luttrell, Priest Associate
The Rev. Cn. Bruce Montgomery, Priest Associate
The Rev. Chris Cox, Deacon
The Rev. Carol Gilbert, Deacon

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Patrice A. D'Angelo, Administrator
Dr. Kerry Heimann, Director of Music
Fay Manicke, Associate Director of Music
Al Shaw, Sexton
Tyree Bodiford, Associate Sexton

THE ACADEMY PRE-SCHOOL STAFF

The Rev. Lynn H. Johnson, Administrator
Tossa Thorpe, Administrative Assistant