



# THE TRINITY TIMES

May 2026



The newsletter of Trinity Cathedral of the Diocese of New Jersey



## Greetings from the Dean

Beloved,

May is here, bringing new beginnings for our ministry and fresh opportunities to advance the Kingdom of God. I pray that our life together will be fruitful as we grow more fully into our calling as the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of New Jersey and for the city of Trenton. I am grateful for this season and excited for the future we will share.

In these first weeks of May, I have been sharing something of my own story. I am a child of the Deep South, having grown up in Charleston, South Carolina. Like many of us, our origins shape our identity and influence who we become, for good or ill. Although I have lived in many different parts of this country, my upbringing remains deeply woven into my life—in the food I enjoy, the music I love, the way I move through the world, and the traditions my family has passed down.

May is a significant month in many ways. It includes beloved observances such as Mother’s Day and Memorial Day, graduation ceremonies, and for me it also marks the birthday of my beloved spouse. As the fifth month of the year, May signals a change of season—spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also a month rich with tradition.

One tradition associated with May is the Maypole. This centuries-old custom appears in many cultures around the world. I first learned about it through my mother after she spoke with an elderly member of one of my former congregations who, like us, had roots in Charleston. Listening to their conversation sparked my curiosity, and I asked my mother to tell me more.

Traditionally observed on May 1, the Maypole often appears at spring festivals, school celebrations, camps, and community gatherings. In its familiar form, participants dance around a tall pole while weaving long ribbons into a bright braided design. Once especially popular in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s, this joyful custom has seen renewed interest in recent years. Simple though it is, it beautifully marks the awakening of spring.

As theologian Jaroslav Pelikan wrote, *“Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.”* He added that traditionalism is what gives tradition a bad name. In Pelikan’s view, tradition is living and dynamic. Like the Maypole tradition, it can travel across cultures and generations while still speaking meaningfully to the present. The same is true of the Church. Traditionalism, by contrast, is rigid and stagnant—the unthinking repetition of actions simply because “that’s how it has always been done.”

As inheritors of the Christian tradition, we have received a rich and holy heritage. Through the centuries, that tradition has been carried to people of many cultures, races, ethnicities, and languages, proclaiming the gospel to a broken and weary world.

You, the beloved people of Trinity Cathedral, have also inherited a blessed tradition—one

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shaped over nearly a century by the wisdom and faith of those who came before us. We honor and cherish that heritage with gratitude. At the same time, we must not become bound to traditionalism. If we do, we risk turning this living inheritance into a museum piece rather than allowing the gospel to speak with relevance and power in our own day.

I look forward to sharing in the traditions of our Cathedral and continuing the work entrusted to us by those who came before. Together, we can move faithfully through the present and into a hopeful future, engaging the past while keeping, in Pelikan's words, "a living faith."

Faithfully,

**Dean Lee+**

**The Reverend Canon Terence Alexander Lee+, M.Div.**

## **Highlights of the April 2026 Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting**

Eight of the Twelve members of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry, along with Bishop Sally French, met via Zoom on Monday evening, April 20, at 6:30 pm. Senior Warden Gil Williams presided and called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Bishop French offered the opening prayer. The main agenda items were as follows:

*Financial Summary.* Treasurer Ron Zilinski presented a financial summary of the Cathedral's operations through March. Income, at \$259k, was 27% of the budgeted amount; while expenses were \$254k, 26% of the budgeted amount. Property and maintenance expenses have totaled \$69k to date. As budgeted, \$100k has been drawn down so far from our Cathedral investments to manage operating cashflow.

*Investments.* Ron also presented a summary of the Cathedral's investments through March, which totaled \$2.605M. \$995.6k of the total is invested in *Diocesan Investment Trust* (DIT) funds, \$1.037M of the total is under the management of the trustees of the *Dean Adams Trust* (DAT), \$473.4k is in the Wells Fargo brokerage account, and the remaining \$98.4k is a bequest by the estate of Jane Ramsdell in PSEG stock. The Cathedral still has not received an estimated remaining \$109k bequest from Dr. Fred Rogers' estate.

*Property & Maintenance (P&M).* Gil reported for P&M Chair Mike Raab and shared that routine maintenance on the Cathedral boiler was completed last month for about \$4k. Repairs for the gutter damaged in the February winter storm were also completed for about \$2,600. Bernard McMullan is clearing out the Chapel loft and recently installed new shelving.

*Food Pantry.* Gil reported on behalf of Lourdez Hernandez and shared that the Food Pantry recently distributed about 110 community bags. Volunteers are needed for bagging at 4pm the Thursday prior to the Food Pantry distribution (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month).

*Fund Raising.* Junior Warden Margaret Nartey shared that the Cathedral Fashion Show is scheduled for 6pm on May 9 and will feature a commemorative booklet for the Mothers and Mother figures in our lives. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$12 for children.

*Old and New Business.* Alison Smith was unanimously selected to join the Vestry as the replacement for retired Canon Dr. Paul Cooper. John Gummere shared that the Cathedral is investigating upgrading our camera surveillance system with the \$2,500 *Sacred Space Safe Access* grant we received from the Diocese and the Episcopal Community Services of New Jersey last year.

*Next Meeting.* The next meeting will be that of the Major Chapter on Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

*Closing Prayer and Blessing.* Canon Dr. Phil Lewis offered the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Chinweze Ahaghotu. 14 May 2026.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Just as an FYI, please note that I'll be taking a sabbatical break during the summer months. The primary reason is to support my wife, Hilary, as we minister to her dying brother, (Andrew McDonald), and manage his affairs. This will require multiple visits to the UK in the coming weeks and months. Please keep Andrew and Hilary in your prayers during this difficult time.

Pentecost (May 24th) will be my last Sunday before officially starting my sabbatical on Saturday May 30th. I will return to the Cathedral on Sunday August 30th. My hope is to take a hard break from Cathedral affairs, which is a polite way of saying, "I probably won't reply if you E-mail me!" I will make arrangements to cover my organizational duties while I'm away, and I may call on one or two people to help out in that respect.

Finally, let me thank Dean Lee and Bishop French for graciously granting my request for time off. Their strong and ongoing support of my deacon ministry at Trinity Cathedral is very much appreciated, and I look forward to "hitting the ground running" when I return in the fall.

In Christ,

*Deacon Chris*

The Reverend Christopher Cox

## Meet Our New Vestry Member

Alison Smith has joined our Vestry to fill out the unexpired term opened up after Canon Paul Cooper's retirement. Get to know Alison and say "Hi!" this Sunday ...

"I grew up in Connecticut, the oldest of five kids, and learned to push boundaries early. Attended UConn where I played rugby and polo and served as a Board director in student government.

I received a BS in Civil Engineering and accepted a management trainee position with Conrail's engineering department. I lucked out here as my boss insisted that I start as a trackman and work my way up through machine operator, and foreman before being allowed to bid on that first management job. My positions grew in responsibility, and I moved to New Jersey Transit serving as Superintendent of Operations and then

Deputy General Manager of the Engineering Department. Then hired by Amtrak as their Chief Engineer, responsible for the planning, design, maintenance and construction of all areas of the infrastructure – Track, Signals, Communications, Bridges and Buildings, and Electric Traction. In this role I was both the only woman and the youngest ever Chief Engineer of a Class I railroad. We built a department that rose from unranked to fourth in the world for efficiency and effectiveness; built our funding from \$230 million/year to just under \$1 billion and grew rapidly and successfully to get the money in the ground. The work allowed Amtrak to cut 15 minutes from the schedule while improving our on-time performance from under 40% to over 95%, which added \$350 million in annual revenue.

Married with two children, our son is an Army vet who served with the 82nd Airborne and now works at Princeton University as a plumber. Our daughter is currently serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the Coast Guard as a Search & Rescue helicopter pilot.

I have recently begun art classes and joined Trinity's choir, both of which bring me a lot of joy.

I am good at raising funding and would like to help Trinity continue the amazing work it does in the community."



### Altar Flower Sponsorships

Did you know that we rely on gifts from parishioners to provide altar flowers for our Sunday worship? Those who wish to remember the joys and sorrows of life (birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, etc.) contribute funds to create the arrangements for the Cathedral or Chapel altar. (Exceptions: Advent and Lent, when no flowers are present.) A message can be placed in the bulletin to announce who you are honoring. Please contact the office about providing altar flowers, well in advance of the date requested, or speak with Rev. Cn. Art Powell, our Flower Guild Chair.



Did you know the we host virtual Rosary Devotions each week? Rosary Devotions are conducted by the Society of Mary (SoM) via Zoom (phone access also available) every Thursday at 8:00 pm. If you would like to participate, please E-mail Erica Warner at [vassose@aol.com](mailto:vassose@aol.com) and she will send you guide sheets with the Zoom link (and telephone number if needed) so that you can join us virtually in these devotions. We'd love to see you there!

## Trinity Altar Guild Shop Update -



Father's Day & Graduation Gifts & Cards  
Episcopal Shield logo Ball Caps & Aprons



Bibles, Books of Common Prayer, Devotionals & More!

Jewelry for all ages and prices! **Many on sale, too!**  
Mugs, Grill Master plaques, unique art pieces & more!

**SHOP WILL BE OPEN SUN., MAY 17th**  
**SUN., JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> After Services**



Don't know what to give that special someone?  
How about an AGS Gift Certificate?

Need something after hours? Contact Lucy Adams  
We accept cash, checks, & cards



On Sunday, May 3 we welcomed The Very Reverend Terence Alexander Lee on his first Sunday as Acting Dean of Trinity Cathedral. His wife, the Reverend Dr. Violet L. D. Lee (who is the Chaplain and Religion/Philosophy Teacher at the Lawrenceville School) and son Noah also joined us for worship and a reception in Synod Hall (daughter Gabrielle is away at school in North Carolina.) We look forward to getting to know the Lee family and furthering the ministry of Trinity Cathedral together! (Photos courtesy of Lee Whiteman.)





On Sunday, May 10th we celebrated our mothers, grandmothers and mother-figures - thank you for all you do!

Recently, Bobbie Powell, Cn. Clara Gregory and Lucy Adams attended the Black Maternal Health Conference sponsored by Central Jersey Health Consortium. This year's theme was "The Movement Continues; Advocating for the Unheard Voices of Black Mothers, Fathers, and Families". This informative conference was packed with several inspiring speakers on the disparities, the improvements made towards the infant and maternal mortality rates, and the work that still needed to be done. It is our hope and prayer that the Cathedral family can be a voice for the families in our community.



Bobbie Powell, Cn. Clara Gregory & Lucy Adams

## Sunday Coffee Hour

*Every Sunday following the 10 AM service in Synod Hall*

### Why do we have Coffee Hour?

Each Sunday we leave the Eucharist with these words: "Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!" **A big ask!**

### So what does this have to do with Coffee Hour?

Along with the weekly Holy Eucharist, Coffee Hour is a place of comfort where we can take the time to increase love for each other as a church community, and find the nourishment - for body and soul - to carry that love out in to the world. It is one of the ways we refill the reservoir that often becomes depleted during the week. It is where we greet each other and build relationships, share our delights and our sadnesses and offer support, and yes, have fun! It is also where we welcome new people and get to know them beyond just a handshake.

**The Sunday Eucharist and Coffee Hour are both integral parts of the Sunday morning experience; one follows seamlessly after the other and complement each other. You are invited to make coffee hour part of your Sunday refreshment!**

*If you feel able, salads, breads, fruit are always enjoyed by all. Bring your favorite!*



## WISH LIST



We are working on expanding the Cathedral's Baby Care Pantry Ministry. Many baby products are not covered by any assistance programs. We can help the new parents in our community with these items.

Each visit is also given a book to encourage reading along with parent/child bonding.

### Diapers & Pull-ups

Baby Wipes

**NEW Car Seats**

**NEW Car Booster Seats**

**Baby Clothes (Newborn to Toddler)**

Baby Bath Wash & Shampoos

**House Safety Items; cabinet locks, etc.**

Crib Sheets & Blankets

**Monetary Donations**



**For More Information contact Lucy Adams or the Cathedral Office.**

On Sunday, April 26 Bernard McMullan hosted the dedication of the display of the Cathedral's historic altar rail kneelers. Hand-embroidered many years ago and eventually decommissioned when they began to fail from use, they were cleaned, preserved and installed as a permanent exhibit. We enjoyed remarks from Kate Graves, the artist responsible for the work done to bring these cushions back to life, and Reverend Dr. Peter Bridge blessed the display. The nine kneelers are adorned with unique images reflecting the symbol of a disciple, a saint, or liturgical image. Some have yet to be identified; feel free to take a look at the display - perhaps you can help decipher some of the ones we are missing! Many thanks to Bernard for leading the efforts to raise funds for this project, and for actually doing much of the work on the installation. What a unique addition to our Cathedral!





# TRINITY CATHEDRAL FASHION SHOW 2026



Many thanks to all who contributed to making our Fashion Show such a success: those who set up and decorated, our models, our musicians and DJ, all who placed ads in our Booster Book and purchased tickets, those who made delicious food to share and most of all, our mothers and mother-figures! A very special thanks to our Junior Warden, Margaret Nartey, who chaired the organizing committee and went over and above, once again, to make it an enjoyable time of fellowship for all! (Photos courtesy of Lee Whiteman and Lucy Adams)





## Tea Time with UrbanPromise Trenton

UrbanPromise Trenton invites you to our Tea Time event on May 30, 2026, from 11AM to 2PM in the Fellowship Hall of Central Church. For \$40, your attendance helps celebrate the growth and achievements of our young people, including graduating high school seniors and rising freshmen.

We will also take time to honor outstanding volunteers whose dedication strengthens our programs and supports our mission throughout the year.

This gathering highlights the transformation made possible through community generosity. As you enjoy tea and a light meal, you'll hear stories of resilience, hope, and opportunity from the youth whose lives are shaped by your partnership.

Please join us on May 30th!



<https://urbanpromisetrenton.org/events/>

Scan the QR code  
or use the link to  
Register or Donate

**SAVE THE DATE**

Trinity Cathedral Presents  
**22nd Bishop George E. Councill Memorial GOLF OUTING**  
Monday, October 12, 2026

**Mercer Oaks Golf Course**  
725 Village Rd W, West Windsor Township, NJ 08550  
For more information visit [www.trinitycathedralnj.org](http://www.trinitycathedralnj.org)

*Tre' Devon Lane Foundation*  
Supporting other families during these difficult times.

**GRIEF Support Group**  
**SATURDAY**  
May 9, 2026  
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

**It's Time for our Urban Promise  
Neighborhood Summer Camp  
Kick-Off Picnic  
Sponsored by Trinity Cathedral!**

**We need your help!**



Last year we had over 100 campers and their families participate in this event. It was a great way for the Cathedral family to connect with our neighbors! **YOU** can help make this event happen by making a donation as we **do not have** grant money as we did last year to put this picnic on.

**NEEDED:**



- **Money** to purchase burgers, hot dogs, etc.
- 2 large bottles each of ketchup, mustard, & relish
- 3 large seedless watermelons
- 120 individual-size bags of chips
- 1 large package of napkins
- 4 bags of ice
- 2 large cans of powdered lemonade mix
- Greeters, food servers, set-up & clean-up crews  
(Set-up start at 11:00 am)



There's something for everyone to do, even if it's not a physical task. If you'd like to be a part of this fun event on **July 2nd**, contact Lucy Adams or leave a message in the Cathedral Office.





1	Matthew McDermott	Birthday
1	Nanette R. O'Brien-Blake	Birthday
1	Kumeiwo Ngwayah	Birthday
2	Debbie Raab	Birthday
4	Lauretta Ketter	Birthday
4	Samuel Richards	Birthday
5	Mary Hopkins	Birthday
6	Lawrence Monte	Birthday
9	Carolyn Ford	Birthday
10	Barbara Tweh	Birthday
10	Zoe Ahaghotu	Birthday
12	The Rev. Chris Cox	Birthday
17	Regina Zilinski	Birthday
17	Ron & Regina Zilinski	Anniversary
17	Ekele Onyenwe	Birthday
21	Dr. Paul Cooper	Birthday
21	Diane Nancekivell & Tom Baskett	Anniversary
22	Brenda Whiteman	Birthday
22	Sam Stephens	Birthday
23	Robin Bridge	Birthday
23	Ariana Jakub	Birthday
23	Vallerie M. Samuels	Birthday
25	Bernard McMullan & Sam Stephens	Anniversary
25	Robert C. Gibson	Birthday
26	Aweon A. Richards	Birthday
26	Melani A. Lewis	Birthday
26	Sally L. Fineburg	Birthday
26	Kurtis Perry	Birthday
26	Junius Ketter	Birthday
26	Cyrus & Lauretta Ketter	Anniversary
27	Thelma Tunstall	Birthday
28	Evangeline T. Smith	Birthday
28	Patti Castellon	Birthday
29	Hillary K. Sopko	Birthday
29	Tammy J. Samuels	Birthday
30	Keith Adams	Birthday
31	Janice Borrella	Birthday
31	Nathaniel McMullan	Birthday

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 Tejada	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 Kirmales-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

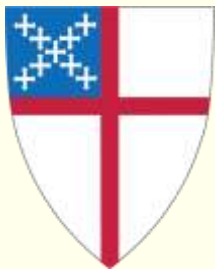


*Please join in sharing good wishes with our fellow parishioners on their special day!*

# Trinity Cathedral

Of The Diocese of New Jersey  
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Trenton, NJ 08618

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[www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org](http://www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org)



## 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.

## 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**

**Please go to**  
**[www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org](http://www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org)**  
**for information on how to join us**  
**via livestream!**

## CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Sally Johnson French, Bishop  
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. Christopher Cox, Deacon

## CATHEDRAL STAFF

The Very Rev. Terence A. Lee, Dean  
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

Tossa Thorpe, Administrative Assistant