

The Many Ministries of Trinity

While Trinity may be considered to be a family sized parish, our policy has been to serve, or minister to as many people in need as is within our capability. We may join with other Episcopal churches to support the needs of the community and we work with churches of other denominations in an Ecumenical spirit of mutual support. Through the transition process, we have begun to explore our ministries through the lens of a “missional approach,” which combines a renewed commitment to “forming disciples” through Bible Study, book studies, adult forums, children and youth formation, and ministry experiments which help us to discover where and with whom we are being invited to join God in the local communities we serve.

Ministries within Trinity:

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others”
(Philippians 2:4)

Trinity is a parish that is compassionate – nonjudgmental and inclusive of all people and reaching out in care to help those who are vulnerable, struggling, or suffering. Ministries within Trinity are those activities that require direct involvement by parishioners and include ministries to those within the worshipping community.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. At Trinity, we maintain a Lending Library of spiritually themed books to enrich the lives of our parishioners. We support a Bible Study class which meets weekly to discern the application of the Bible’s teachings to everyday life. Our Men’s Group meets monthly for food, fellowship, and a discussion of faith based topics. The Church School has been restructured into a “Village Model” in which teens and older children serve as mentors to the younger children and our coffee hour Adult Forums are held on a regular basis to involve parishioners more fully in the life of the Church.





A form of lay ministry in the church is one of **LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS**. Our Altar Guild prepares the chapel and the main sanctuary to insure that all the items needed for worship are present. The Acolytes serve as Crucifers, Candle Lighters, and Torch Bearers. Lectors read the lessons and lead the Prayers of the People. Eucharistic Ministers assist in administering the Consecrated Elements at the Holy Eucharist and Eucharistic Visitors take the Consecrated Elements to those unable to be present in church. Worship Leaders conduct public worship at a local nursing home and our Ushers greet newcomers and longtime parishioners alike as they arrive for services.

A new ministry at Trinity, **CARING CONNECTIONS**, has been formed to encompass Pastoral Visits by the Rector to those parishioners with a special need, our Prayer List which is used during the Sunday Holy Eucharist and which may be accessed through Trinity's website, our Healing Ministry which is offered every week, and the Card Ministry whereby parishioners are sent cards recognizing such events as birthdays, anniversaries, and illness.



WORSHIP is of course the primary ministry of any church. Trinity's worshipping liturgy is typically "broad church" with Rite II being the normal Service Format except that when there is a fifth Sunday, Rite I is used. Other liturgical resources such as the Book of Occasional Services are used for selected services and the Eucharistic Prayer and Prayers of the People may vary from week to



week. The Music program adds to the spirituality of each service by selecting hymns that are favorites from the *1982 Hymnal* and from *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. A small choir enhances monthly services and hand bells as well as additional musical instruments accompany the organ during Festival Eucharistic services. Children's Ministry at Trinity includes a monthly service at which the children play key roles to include giving the sermon and assisting at the altar.

Ministries outside of Trinity:

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” (Colossians 3:12)

Trinity, as a compassionate parish, also reaches out to those not yet a part of the worshipping community. We see our neighborhood as our parish and we reach out to our neighbors to experience God through worship and the life of Trinity forming nurturing community partnerships.

SPIRITUAL PARTNERSHIPS in the community take many forms ranging from “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday at busy commuter locations, a Blessing of the Animals at the Feast of St. Francis with many local neighbors bringing their animals for a blessing, support of the local community “Jingle Bell Run” road race where hot chocolate and blessings are dispensed, and warm weather celebrations of “Mass on the Grass” when the Sunday service is held on the front lawn with parishioners and neighbors alike invited to celebrate the Eucharist.



There are numerous opportunities for Trinity to become involved in **PARTNERSHIPS TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS**. We contribute financially and “hands on” to the Community Suppers and Food Pantries supported by the Greater Bridgeport Episcopal Ministry Network as well as the local Trumbull Food Bank. We support the local Clothing Drives, Giving Bags & Baskets at Christmas and Easter, contribute to Halle’s Hope, make Quilts for Babies

and help to provide food for Thanksgiving Meals ensuring a complete dinner for over 230 families. A new and successful activity to support the local food pantries was the sponsorship of a Beatle’s Tribute Band concert which filled the church to near capacity, generated financial support to three organizations as well as a large supply of non-perishable foods for the Trumbull Food Pantry.

In the spirit of **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**, Trinity opens its doors to various groups and activities that support the goal of Trinity which is to “Restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” We host a Korean Presbyterian Church, Al-anon and Alateen Support Groups, Family Matters which is a play school program for children in need, and a Music Together class which periodically works with the Church School younger children to develop their musical skills. We also participate in the Interfaith Programs that are sponsored by the Trumbull Interfaith Council.



Trinity also sponsors several **OTHER PARTNERSHIPS** that may be held both inside and outside of the church but serve to bring the wider neighborhood community together in support of the various missions of the church. The Nichols Improvement Association annual Jingle Bell Run begins in front of the church with church members serving refreshments and encouragement to the participants.

A committee of parishioners is considering the possibility of some new events that might attract an expanded audience as many of our traditional events are now occurring on dates where there are many competing activities taking place. These events have included a Fall Craft Fair with many tables rented by craftsmen as well as food and game booths operated by parishioners, the St. Nicholas Fair and Bake_Sale with many Christmas treasures for sale as well as baked goods, and several Concerts.