

# PARISH PROFILE OF *HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

WENONAH, NEW JERSEY



## Our Mission Statement

Our congregation's mission, inspired by Jesus' mandate to love and serve one another, is to create a supportive community where people are able to develop and nourish their relationship with God through worship, education and fellowship.

## Our Vision

Our vision is that of a thriving spiritual community that loves and takes care of each other, as well as extending our programs beyond our own doors. We will grow as individuals and as a church family. We are looking for an approachable and engaging rector to encourage and lead us in our efforts.

## Our History

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was consecrated on December 17, 1977, bringing together members of three small missions in Wenonah (All Saints), Mantua (St. Barnabas), and Woodbury Heights (St. Peter's). The predecessor churches dated as far back as 1874. Stained glass and other furnishings from the predecessor churches were incorporated into the new structure to blend the old with the new.

Each of the churches, including the current Holy Trinity, operated as a mission within the Diocese of New Jersey, receiving diocesan aid to balance the annual budget. As the congregation grew and the pledge base expanded, the church in 1997 petitioned the Diocese for full parish status. After completing three years of self-sufficiency, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Wenonah was accepted as an independent parish at the Diocesan Convention in March of 1998.

In the past twenty years, the church prospered under the direction of the Reverend Edmund W. Zelle, growing into a strong church with a congregation that represented over 26 different zip codes. During that period, the focus shifted from our own self sufficiency to supporting a number of external ministries that centered on improving the lives of neighbors in need.

In addition to a full-time Rector, our congregation supports 3 part-time staff positions: Music Director/Organist, Administrator and Sexton.





### INSPIRING YOUTH PROGRAM

We are very proud of our youth involvement in multiple ministries. However, in the last few years, there has been a lack of focus on their needs and limited program opportunities. Despite this, we have a small but committed group of young people. This commitment included, at their own initiative, holding their own cottage meeting to discuss their view of our future and desired activities. We recognize that we need to implement an active and rewarding program of fellowship and mission for our youth.

### CONTINUING GROWTH

Over the past 20 years, our congregation has grown from a small mission to a stable and financially self-supporting church. As our dedication to our ministries increases, interacting with and inviting others to Holy Trinity to participate and help is vital to our growth efforts. We also feel that we need to promote to the outside community the many good works we are doing. We are committed to exploring strategies to attract new membership.

### ENHANCING MISSION EFFORTS

We put our faith into action with a number of missions that we support with volunteer efforts from all age levels of our community. Despite being a small congregation, each year we have seen an increase in participation by our members. Helping others has been such a positive experience that there is a robust desire to expand the available mission efforts and participation.

### INCREASING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our community enjoys spending time together. Creating more social and faith-based activities was strongly expressed by all age groups. We also recognize the advantages of initiating more ecumenical occasions to share spiritually and meet members of the wider community.



## Our Key Programs

### MISSION

We have a number of mission programs that we currently support: Kitchen of Hope, Family Promise(Interfaith Hospitality Network), Sunday School Heifer Project, prayer shawls, ECW sponsored projects (Blankets and Tools, Church Periodical Club, United Thank Offering, etc.).

### YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Our youth contributions include being acolytes, lay readers, choir and bell choir members, Christmas pageant performance, Passion reading and Liturgical dance. Additionally the youth are involved with many of our other missions.



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have a devoted Sunday School staff that ensure a comprehensive program is available for our young people. We have occasional adult education programs. We recognize that the education programs are a priority that needs to be reviewed and enhanced for both youth and adults.

### FUNDRAISERS

The major fundraisers are our Chicken Barbecue and the ECW sponsored Bake/Yard Sale and Soup Sale. Not only do these programs raise a significant amount of money, they offer important opportunities to participate socially together. The majority of our parishioners help with these projects.



### MUSIC

Our adult choir practices weekly to enhance the 10 AM service. In addition to our youth choirs, we also have an intergenerational bell choir that performs monthly. The congregation participates with selections from The 1982 Hymnal and a collection of folk hymns. We also enjoy special occasions with guitar preludes, guest participants, trumpets at Easter and other opportunities to enliven our worship.

**SUNDAY 8:00 AM** Rite I Eucharist, full sermon  
Quiet and contemplative, all ages attend

**SUNDAY 10:00 AM** Rite II Eucharist, full sermon  
Music is an integral part of the worship at the 10:00 service.

One Sunday a month is designated Family Sunday, where the youth choir performs, the children read the first lesson and lead the psalm, and one of the older youth serves as Eucharistic Minister. The sermon is addressed to the youth in front of the altar.

**SATURDAY 5:00 PM** Rite II Eucharist  
Joint services with Holy Nativity Lutheran Church – we alternate hosting every other week.

### **TUESDAY MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER**

Currently conducted by one of our Lay Worship Leaders

Our worship is exceptionally “kid-friendly.” Young parents with little ones appreciate that they need not head for the door when their baby cries or their toddler explores.

We are Eucharistically-centered, broad church and flexible. We do not need perfection during the service and are comfortable with occasional mishaps. Our congregation is represented by many backgrounds and is open to new and different liturgical styles. At Holy Trinity, all are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

During the services, special blessings and prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, or other occasions are offered. Sharing the Peace is a special time where the love of our church family can truly be felt and witnessed in the exchange of handshakes, hugs and well wishes.

A Coffee Hour is hosted weekly after the 10AM service and monthly after the 8AM service. It is a time where we come together to enjoy refreshments and great conversation.

We are also committed to our home-bound members by administering Communion through our Rector and Eucharistic ministers.



Our desire is for a succinct sermon that gives a clear Christian message applicable to everyday life. We have diverse viewpoints and generally prefer sermons that do not include partisan political sentiments, which can be divisive. We are used to an 8-10 minute homily expressed in simple and direct language.

## Our Challenges

Creating positive and uplifting experiences for our youth to thrive is a critical and immediate need.

While currently fiscally sound through careful stewardship, we foresee that increasing time, effort and costs of our facilities and various programs will require attracting new members to our church family and increasing commitment from the current congregation to Holy Trinity.

All aspects of pastoral care will continue to be of high importance. We need our shut-ins and lapsed members to know they are still cherished, those who are sick or in the hospital to be comforted and all who are in crisis to receive spiritual counsel. An inclusive program of identification and follow-up should be established.

We are looking for a loving partnership with our new rector and the family of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to address our future challenges together and help us continue to do God's work.



## Our Rectory

Located adjacent to the church, the rectory is a charming home with high ceilings, original trim, wood floors and pocket doors. It is a spacious house with a parlor, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, and powder room on the first floor.

The second floor offers 4 large bedrooms and a full bath. Additional storage space is available with a basement, attic and one car detached garage. Plenty of street parking is also available.

Kitchen and baths are all newly renovated, including new appliances and fixtures. Recent upgrades include central air conditioning, heating and energy efficient windows.

The property is located one block from the park/town square, and close to the library and local businesses. The excellent elementary school, noted for small class sizes, is only a few blocks away. The regional high school is less than 3 miles from town.



## Our Location

Wenonah is the quintessential small town, a tree-lined community of 2,300 residents, consisting primarily of single homes in a 1.1 square mile.

Numerous social and civic organizations entice its residents. There are extensive volunteer activities to participate in.

The local Fourth of July celebration is not to be missed! There is also a Fall Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting to bring residents together.

The town has easy access to the major corridors serving Philadelphia and is only a short 20 minute drive from the city. Public transportation is also available.

Some seashore points are only an hour commute away.

Budget Year	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
<b>Operating INCOME</b>		
Pledge and Plate	140,774	130,716
Fundraisers	4,272	5,000
Other Sources	9,127	9,600
Excess Income rollover		7,113
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>154,173</b>	<b>152,429</b>
<b>Operating EXPENSES</b>		
Clergy and Personnel	90,053	112,302
Operations	16,105	13,700
Outreach	1,280	2,070
Building	23,230	23,036
Other (Fair Share)	16,392	15,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>147,060</b>	<b>166,108</b>
Excess Income	7,113	(13,679)

**GENERAL BUDGET NOTES:**

While our congregation contributes generously to a variety of outreach projects, these donations are not included in our budget.

**FISCAL YEAR 2015 NOTES**

Clergy expenses were significantly reduced based on two factors:

- Health expenses were covered by the prior rector’s spouse employer health plan
- For three months of this year, we used supply priests between our prior fulltime rector leaving and the appointment of an interim rector

**FISCAL YEAR 2016 NOTES**

Reduction in the pledge budget was primarily due to the death of several parishioners and some families moving out of the area. A budget of \$70,000 has been approved for major rectory renovations. This budget is funded from our investment savings and not reflected in the above figure.

