

NOVEMBER 2017



the

BANNER

GIVE THANKS

with a

*Grateful
Heart*

Contemporary Evensong | Consecration Sunday | Jingle Bell Rock

11 North Monroe Avenue • Wenonah, NJ 08090 • www.holytrinitywenonah.org

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November Calendar

Un-Orthodox: Old-School Heresy, Modern Twist

Sundays, Nov. 5 & 12, 2017 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall.

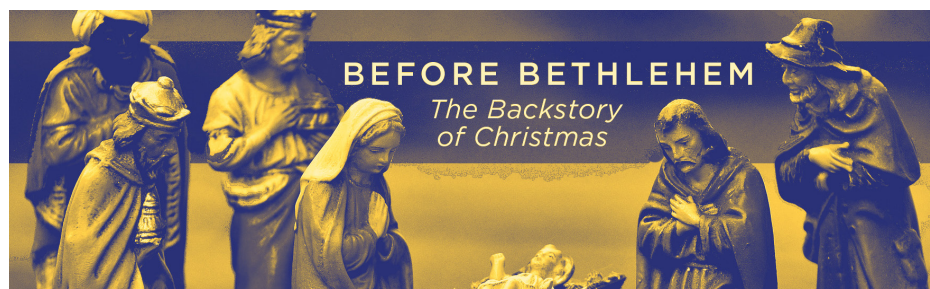


Join us at 9 AM on Sunday mornings as we get (UN)ORTHODOX. The history of the Church has been a lot more punk rock than you'd think. Breaking rules. Bending tradition. Breaking stuff. But those same old songs have been remixed for the modern world. Come and see how UNORTHODOX the Church still is; but see how those beliefs are not as new as people think. Taught by the rector, Ben Maddison. All adults are welcome!

Nov 5 "I Fought the Law...": Pelagianism & M.T.D
Nov 12 "I Wanna be Sedated": Gnosticism & Sylvia Brown

Before Bethlehem: The Backstory of Christmas

Sundays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2017 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall.



Between Malachi and Matthew, there were 400 years of silence. The Israelites were left wondering what God was up to and how the plan would take shape. Now, we all know what God was up to in a little town called Bethlehem (if not, I suggest you don't skip church on December 24), but what was happening before Bethlehem? What was going on in the world into which Jesus was born? In this three-week study, we'll look into the history, religion, and culture that preceded Jesus' birth. Consider this the prequel to Christmas.

Dec 3 A Messy 400 Years: Political Fights & Religious Battles
Dec 10 The Prophecies Fulfilled: Finding the One Foretold
Dec 17 Herod the Great: A Foil for Jesus

FROM THE **RECTOR**

The Rev. Ben Maddison
Rector

When television shows are running low on their budget—having spent it on explosions, and lasers, and gigantic hordes of computer-generated zombies—a production crew will often resort to making an episode that requires no new sets, no new characters, and takes almost zero effort to make. You can think of this as the television equivalent of wearing a black shirt, taping a paper plate to your chest, and going out for Halloween as a panda.

These episodes are called “bottle episodes.” The name comes from the original *Star Trek* series. When their budget was used up on battling giant reptiles or having Scotty beam-up one-too-many cast members in a single episode, the producers would write a “ship-in-a-bottle” episode. It would only involve the main cast, and would only be shot on the set of the USS Enterprise (or a neighboring set they could sneak onto.)

Think of *Seinfeld’s* “The Chinese Restaurant” (season 2, episode 11). Or any sitcom episode where the “gang” gets stuck in an elevator, a ski lodge, or a high school basement.

If you need another example—look no further than your annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Stuck in a room with all of your family’s main characters—and some on the periphery who were willing to show up in the episode for a stipend

America’s Annual ‘Bottle Episode’

From the Cleavers to the Dunphys, everybody’s got one.

of turkey legs and dry stuffing—the American Thanksgiving Table is our annual bottle episode.

We laugh at family stories. We argue with one another. Someone gets frustrated and stews in the kitchen. Thanksgiving is always a confluence of all that is best and worst about each of our families.

And, as if we need more of an excuse for our lives to resemble a sitcom, we’ll often break from our inter-character feuding and development, for a liturgy of, “What are you thankful for this year?” We go around the table and name the things we are thankful for.

For some families, this tradition is easy; for others, less so. When surrounded by all the history and characters of one’s family, it can be difficult to play the role you are cast into—whether you are a Screech or Zach Morris.

“Give thanks for a grateful heart... because God’s given Jesus Christ his son.”

So go the opening lines of the classic 1993 praise and worship song, “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.”

A song that, for some unknown reason, still gets played at your local Community Thanksgiving Service.

No matter what our families are like, how our year has been, or all the myriad thoughts and anxieties, fears and pain that come with America’s Annual Bottle Episode, we can give thanks with a grateful heart because of one sure and certain truth—that no matter who you are, what you’ve done, or where you find yourself, we have a God who loves us and wants a relationship with us.

This is no passing fling; God goes to extraordinary lengths to get to us. He sent his Son into the world to sit at our Thanksgiving dinner tables. He sent his Son into the world to

be stuck in our bottle episodes. God sent Jesus Christ to free us from the same, boring bottle episode and invite us into the wider reality of God’s unconditional grace and love.

This Thanksgiving, as I sit around the family dinner table—having just argued with my brother about tax policy and sparred with my sister about the meaning behind the year’s best indie movies—I will have a lot to be thankful for:

For Holy Trinity, for its people, its love, and its hospitality.

For our staff, vestry, and volunteers, who give so much of themselves for the life of the church.

For all of you who have invited Ashley and me into your hearts and lives.

For all the best times we’ve shared in the past year; and all the worst.

For everything that is coming next; and all that we have yet to even begin to imagine.

But above all, I give thanks to God—with a full, and grateful heart—for the redemption of the world through his Son, Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.”

Because I know that no matter what this year’s bottle episode brings—episode 11, season 30—I know that God loves me, forgives me, and empowers me to share that love with others.

This year, may your family’s bottle episode be humorously typical; and may you know, as you go around the table giving thanks, that God loves you more than you could ever believe or imagine; that no matter what your Thanksgiving is like—that God gives thanks for you.

In Christ,

And walk in *Love*

A "Walking in Love" Story

by Rhoda Miller

"The church is not a building! The church is not a steeple! The church is not a resting place! The church is the people!"

This beginning verse of a children's Bible School action hymn is how I think of Holy Trinity, a welcoming body of Christian people walking together in the love of Jesus. The priests and laity of this church have kept me rooted for almost 50 years.

Love abounds at Holy Trinity. It is truly evident in the way we care about and serve one another, and in the way we reach out to those in need beyond our church family through IHN and Kitchen of Hope. I have witnessed this love countless times in our church children -- in the beautifully designed cards they have made for shut-ins, in their singing for the residents of Manor Care, as they fought to push Marla in her wheel chair and provide her with treats, and as they trimmed a tree for an elderly parishioner.

There is also no shortage of examples of the love spread by the adults of Holy Trinity, who are the mentors and role models for our young people. Holy Trinity members make meals for one another, visit the sick and shut-ins, pray for each other, attend/support plays, concerts and sporting events of our youth, etc. .

A few years ago I was overwhelmed with the offers of help with rides to Philadelphia when Gar was in the hospital and later that year when unexpected meals arrived for many days after my

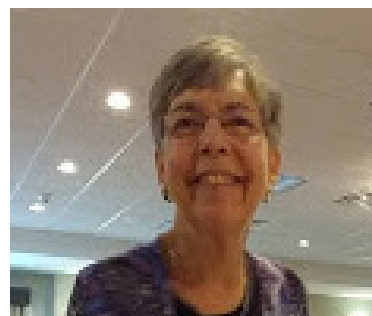
surgery -- all from our church family. Yes, love does abound here.

I realized how much our daughter Susan valued her church family when she was making her wedding guest list. Near the top were Holy Trinity people, including her youth group leader, Sunday School teachers, other adult role models, and the priest who served Holy Trinity when she was growing up.

I am thankful that Gar and I found a church 48 years ago where we have been able to grow in faith, worship God, and walk in love with the congregation of Holy Trinity. I will never forget the members whose faith inspired me along the way and the friendships of the Holy Trinity people who have since moved or passed away.

My hope is that this place will continue to flourish long after we are gone. Through a yearly stewardship commitment to a generous pledge of time, talent and treasure, we can ensure that Holy Trinity will be here for future generations.

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together."



Rhoda Miller is a long-time member of Holy Trinity. She is active in many ministries including Kitchen of Hope, Sunday School teaching, and the Episcopal Church Women.

Consecration Sunday

Let's celebrate and give thanks for all that is happening at Holy Trinity.

STEWARDSHIP 2018: *And Walk in Love*

Since mid-October, we have been hearing from members of Holy Trinity about how they have “Walked in Love” at Holy Trinity. From long-time members, to newcomers, the stories all hit on similar themes.

To “Walk in Love” at Holy Trinity has meant radical hospitality. It has meant being with each other, as a church family, in the best times and the worst times. It has meant volunteering time, energy, talent, and gifts to the various ministries and mission of Holy Trinity. The stories have been powerful—thank you to all who shared.

And we aren't done yet! We have one more event to celebrate and give thanks for Holy Trinity.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY & BRUNCH

Consecration Sunday is a day we set aside, at the end of our stewardship campaign, to thank God for Holy Trinity, for all our blessings, and to celebrate our church—as captured in the stories of parishioners.

On Sunday, November 19 we will have a **Combined Service** at 9 AM. Our rector, Ben Maddison, will close our campaign by speaking about “walking in love”, and then inviting the return of pledge cards.

At 10:30 AM, immediately following the joint service, we will host a **Consecration Brunch**. Please RSVP as directed by your invitation. Lunch will be a time of fellowship and thanksgiving.

We look forward to seeing you at this event!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, November 19, 2017

One Service		Brunch		Everyone's Invited
9 AM		10:30 AM		Please bring your pledge card

Be sure to RSVP for the Consecration Sunday Brunch on November 19 at 10:45 AM.

You can RSVP by signing up on the Narthex table, calling the church at 856.468.0295, by emailing the church at info@holyltrinitywenonah.org, or by RSVPing online at bit.ly/consunbrun17



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Presents

Contemporary Evening

Classic Liturgy; Modern Style

Featuring Bryan Broughton

November 12
5:00 PM
Holy Trinity Church
Free & Open to All

A free-will offering will be taken to support the ministry and work of Kitchen of Hope.



It's Pageant Time!

Its hard to believe the Christmas pageant is upon us.

It's hard to believe, but we're already working on this year's Christmas Pageant! It is called *Is This The Star I See Before Me?* and is funny and charming and thoroughly delightful. Much to Father Ben's delight, it is also filled with pop culture references (notice the title, which is not exactly "pop culture" but is certainly a familiar phrase)! The character of "Stella" makes a return from the pageant of two years ago, although she is not exactly the same "Stella" (her father named her after the previous one!).

The pageant will be a part of the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve. There will be speaking roles, non-speaking roles, and we will also need a few readers. While the speaking roles will not have too many lines, they will need to be memorized.

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, November 26, after the 10:00 service. All of the rehearsals will be on Sundays from that day through December 24, at 11:30, and we will once again feed



lunch to the kids who will be participating. On Sunday, December 24, there will be one service in the morning, at 9:00, which will be followed by the greening of the church, and the costuming of the pageant participants. Then we will do one last run through, and send everyone home to relax before the 5:00 service.

A signup sheet will appear in the narthex in the next week or two. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Semmes-Thorne (856/223-1992, semmesth@comcast.net). We always need some adult assistance as well, so if you are interested in helping out with costumes, props, or angel wrangling, please let

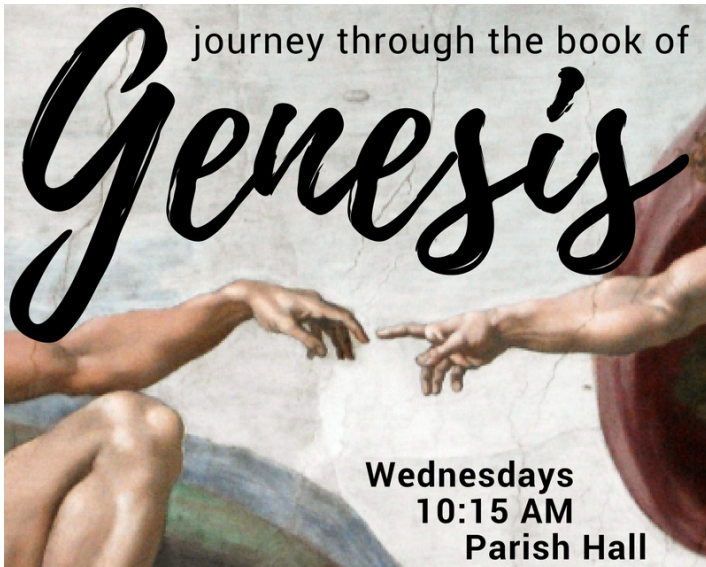
Melissa know! And please plan on attending the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve: it will be a wonderful pageant and service!



Mrs. Melissa Semmes-Thorne
Senior Warden

FROM THE **WARDENS**

"From the Wardens" is a monthly column from our elected wardens. Typically, it touches on important information for the parish.



STUDY

Interested in the Bible but don't know where to start? Looking to go deeper but scared to go on your own? This is the class for you. Our rector, Ben Maddison, will be teaching through the book of Genesis. We will dive deeply into the words, history, and meaning of the text, and we might also have a little fun! Join us—everyone is welcome—Wednesdays at 10:15 AM.



WORSHIP

Join us Wednesdays at 11:30 AM for a service of Holy Communion. This spoken service will be held in the All Saints Chapel. The service is about 30 minutes and includes a brief homily. The service is casual and open to everyone.

Due to the annual Clergy Conference and Thanksgiving, the Rector's Bible Study and Wednesday Eucharist will take a break on November 15 & 22

They will return Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Wednesdays at Holy Trinity

Study and worship that feeds the mind and soul.

HOLY TRINITY **HTSM** STUDENT MINISTRY

Mid **WEEK**

6-12 Grade / 6-8 PM / Parish Hall

November 8

If you would like to get involved or would like more information, contact Ben Maddison at rector@holytrinitywenonah.org.

HTSM: MIDWEEK

6 PM in the Parish Hall

Join the HTSM youth group for MIDWEEK! Food. Fellowship. Formation. Fun. It's a time to hang out, build friendships, and talk about faith. It's a casual meeting with dinner generously provided by volunteers. It meets in the Parish Hall from 6 to 8 PM.

Midweek will break in December, so that the youth can participate in "Jingle Bell Rock" (pg. 9). We hope everyone will join us!

Midweek returns Jan. 10, 2018.

A SPECIAL **ADVENT OFFERING**



Jingle Bell Rock

A Family Advent Extravaganza!

Wednesday Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13
6-8 PM

Join us as we remember the reason for the season with some beloved, classic Christmas songs. Fun for the whole family and appropriate for all ages. A three-week event. The program begins with a potluck dinner at 6 PM.

NOV 29

It's Beginning to Look
A Lot Like...Advent

DEC 6

All I Want for
Christmas is You

DEC 13

WARNING: Santa Claus
is Coming to Town



Ben, Aaron Zimmerman (Ben's former rector), and Bp. Stokes greeting parishioners as they leave the Celebration of New Ministry on October 28.



Joanne Hutchison chats with the Rev. Antoinette Tackett of St. Luke's in Woodstown, at the lovely reception following Ben's installation.



Ben bends down to offer a blessing for one of our four-legged neighbors, while Gar and Rhoda Miller look on during the Blessing of the Animals.



Ben, Joanne Hutchison, Rhoda Miller, Phyllis Joslin, Susan Cassidy, and Rita Curry honored Rhoda at the ECW's Women of Honor Luncheon.



The Holy Trinity Dance Ensemble performing at the Celebration of New Ministry. The dancers did an amazing job interpreting the Romans reading.

Parish Snapshots

Pictures capturing life inside and outside of Holy Trinity.

Have a picture you want to see here?

We love receiving photos of Holy Trinity members and friends. If you have pictures you'd like to share, send them to:

info@holytrinitywenonah.org

CHRISTMAS

at Holy Trinity

Advent 4

December 24

9:00 AM - Joint Service of Holy Communion
10:30 AM - Greening of the Church
10:30 AM - Final Pageant Rehearsal & Costuming

Christmas Eve

December 24

5:00 PM - Family Service with Pageant
11:00 PM - Festive, Midnight Service

Christmas Day

December 25

10:00 AM - Spoken Service with Carols

Outreach Updates

Holy Trinity is a church that listens to God's call to love our neighbor and tries, with God's help, to share that love with those in need.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Holy Trinity partners with Family Promise – Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Gloucester County. IHN is a national program that aids families experiencing homelessness.

By volunteering to be a host site for IHN's overnight guests program, Holy Trinity helps offer a temporary home for families in need.

Volunteering with IHN includes providing meals and other needs, offering fellowship and company to the families, providing rides to-and-from Family Promise offices, as well as being a host site for up to four families.

Holy Trinity has been partnering with Family Promise for over four years, and has been a host site for almost three years. It is an important way that we participate in God's mission to those in need.

If you would like to get connected to IHN, or find out ways you can volunteer, email Sean Garvin at ilvmaine@comcast.net.

IHN will return one more time this year:

December 10-17

We are always in need of Shop-Rite gift cards, if you are looking for another way to help!

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

KOH	November 10 & 11
IHN	December 10-17

Kitchen of Hope (KOH) Pantry

KOH is a ministry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Glassboro, NJ. KOH is an outreach of love and compassion, providing free food, school supplies and winter coats, hats and gloves for needy families. Members of Holy Trinity bring in non-perishable foods for distribution at the Kitchen of Hope. On the second Friday and second Saturday of the month, Holy Trinity members deliver food to St. Thomas and help pack bags.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL REQUEST

KOH will be collecting food for a Thanksgiving dinner - turkey, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, vegetables etc. Thanks for your past generosity!

*Be sure to come to our **Contemporary Evensong**, another opportunity to fellowship and to support Kitchen of Hope! (See pg 8 for details)*

Ministry Updates

News and important information for ministries important to you.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

We thank everyone for their contributions helping to make Fr. Ben's installation reception a warm and welcoming event. It isn't often that an opportunity like this comes along, and once again, our Holy Trinity family showed its unfailing generosity. Now it's back to business!

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and the month for our fall United Thank Offering outreach collection. Look for the blue envelopes and boxes, and spread your thankfulness around the world. This is a wonderful activity for children as well.

Though the weather is becoming more challenging, our winter soup sales more than make up for it. A variety of soups (in limited supplies) will be sold monthly following each church service during these chilly times. Dates and soup selections will be made available at the appropriate times.

Please join us at 7:00 pm on Monday, Nov. 13th, to help with these and other plans being discussed.



Remember that November is one of two times a year that money is collected for the United Thank Offering.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings.

Envelopes will be available in the pew racks starting Nov. 1. Checks made to Holy Trinity ECW.



Men's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who came out to the All Church Brunch. It was a great success! We ate, laughed, and fellowshiped with one another. We hope you'll keep an eye out for our next event.

Thank you to all the men (and other volunteers) who made it possible.

Music Ministry

We are always looking for a few more folks to join our choir, especially for the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas Eve.

Choir Rehearsal takes place Thursdays at 7:30 PM

Children's Choir (and Hand Chimes) takes place Sundays at 11:30 AM



*...and walk in love, as Christ loved us
Ephesians 5:2 (RSV)*

These are the familiar words of the offertory sentence, said before we turn our attention to the Lord's Table and offer our gifts of bread, wine, and tithes. We offer our gifts—our time, talent, and treasure—to the church, in thankfulness for the grace and love that God shows us in Christ Jesus. Annual Stewardship is a joyful and generous response to God's gracious gift to us.

Since last month we have been hearing from parishioners about how they have seen and been touched by Holy Trinity's "walking in love" through its various ministries and work. We'll give thanks for that journey, and look to 2018 for the new ways God is calling us to walk in love.

On **November 19**, we will host a **Consecration Sunday Brunch**, following a combined service at 9 AM. Be sure to RSVP for brunch at bit.ly/consunbrun17. Pledge cards will be available in the Narthex starting October 15; please return them by Nov. 19 or fill out an online pledge form at bit.ly/htecstewardship2018.

Stewardship & Financial Updates

Faithful Christian service means open and transparent financial accounting and contributing to the work and mission of the church.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2017

Operational

Checking	\$ 27,713.57
Gift Card	\$ 1,737.43
	<u>\$ 29,451.00</u>

Non Operational

Memorial	\$ 3,979.80
	<u>\$ 3,979.80</u>

Investments

DIT	\$135,188.46
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Operational YTD Totals

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$120,110.50	\$118,676.08	\$ 1,434.42
Expenses	\$125,746.88	\$114,699.77	\$ 11,047.11
Net Difference	-\$ 5,636.38	\$ 3,976.31	\$ 9,612.69

Total Assets	\$168,619.26
Total Liabilities	-\$ 43,000.00 (Mortgage)

November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

IMPORTANT DATES

11/12 5:00 p Contemporary Evensong to support Kitchen of Hope
 11/13 7:00 p ECW Meeting, *Parish Hall*
 11/19 9:00 a Consecration Sunday (One Service)
 11/19 10:30 a Consecration Sunday Brunch
 11/21 6:30 p Vestry, *Parish Hall*
 11/28 6:30 p Lectors Meeting, *Parish Hall*
 11/29 6:00 p Advent Potluck: Jingle Bell Rock, *Parish Hall*
 Advent fun for the whole family!

NEXT MONTH

12/6 6:00 p Advent Potluck: Jingle Bell Rock, *Parish Hall*
 12/10 to 12/17 Interfaith Hospitality Network Week
 12/11 7:00 p ECW Meeting, *Parish Hall*
 12/13 6:00 p Advent Potluck: Jingle Bell Rock, *Parish Hall*
 11/19 6:30 p Vestry, *Parish Hall*
 12/24 9:00 a Advent 4: Joint Service
 12/24 5:00 p Family Christmas Eve Service with Pageant
 12/24 11:00 p Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 12/25 10:00 a Christmas Day Service
 12/26 6:30 p Lectors Meeting, *Parish Hall*



11 N. Monroe Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090
www.holytrinitywenonah.org
(856) 468-0295

**A PARISH OF THE
DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**

The Rt. Rev. William
"Chip" Stokes
XII Bishop of New Jersey

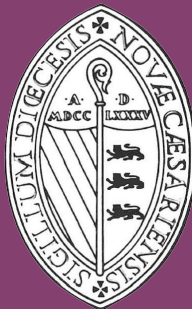
HOLY TRINITY'S STAFF

The Rev. Benjamin B. Maddison
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Lisa Carlamere
Parish Administrator
admin@holytrinitywenonah.org

Fran Szczepanski
Sexton

Margie MacWilliams
Director of Music



*Holy Trinity is a diverse community, proclaiming the
Good News of God's grace to everyone.*

HOLY TRINITY'S VESTRY

Melissa Semmes-Throne
Senior Warden

Steve LoCasto, Jr.
Junior Warden

Mark Sienkiewicz
Treasurer

Corrin Sellen
Clerk

Tina Sheehan

Sean Rodwell-Simon

Gary Henderson

Susan Cassidy

Colleen Green

Alice Nowak

HOLY TRINITY'S SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I | 9:00 AM Sunday School | 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist, Rite II