

# Community Conversations 2022

## Key Themes

Compiled by sr. warden Jessica Smith  
Response by clergy & staff

### Desire for Community Events

These were items frequently mentioned:

- Meals, meals, meals!
  - ◊ Progressive Dinners
  - ◊ Round Robin Dinners
  - ◊ Potluck Events
- Outdoor Eucharist
- 10:00am Summer Services
- Day Trips
- Youth Events

**Meals:** Before the pandemic we did Sunday Suppers, managed by Caroline Crain, for those who wanted to take part in small group dinners. We hope to restart those, or something akin to that, in the new year. Potluck dinners accompany the monthly Taizé service, quarterly Game Nights, and various other one-off events like the Pipe Organ Tours and Church Down Under events.

**Outdoor Eucharist:** We are looking in to what this might look like for the new year. Perhaps a service on the promenade a few times a year. If you have input and would like to be involved in planning and assisting, please let a member of staff know.

**Summer Service:** Having one service for the summer sounds appealing for staff, certainly, but we know that attendance decreases with fewer choices of service times. At the moment, there are no plans to move to one 10:00am service in the summer.

**Day Trips:** We have scheduled many day trips over the years, including day trips to museums in OKC and AR. As we find our footing post-pandemic, we hope to get

some more trips on the schedule. Do you have ideas? Share them with us!

**Children & Youth Events:** Each Sunday School class, beginning in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, plans a monthly outing. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to have our traditional lock-ins for the older classes but class outings have continued. We typically also have Legos and Looms events for young families to get together for lunch and fellowship. Throughout the year we also have all ages events such as Advent Family Fest, Epiphany Procession, Vacation Bible School, Boo Bash, Kiddie Mini Market, and Breakfast with Santa.

Children and youth programs are in full swing for 2022. This year the Rite-13 class started with a trip to shuffles to play board games and have lunch, the J2A and 4Ward classes have gone out for lunch, been to an escape room and a haunted house, respectively, and both have gone on pilgrimage to St. Louis. Both classes will go on Pilgrimage in 2023—4Ward to Costa Rica and J2A to Canada. The Spaghetti Dinner was run by youth to support the Urban Adventure. Youth have also volunteered for the parish picnic and boo bash, as well as with Transpire, and the Social Justice Commission this year. Confirmation classes for older youth have just wrapped up, as have communion class for children.

On the Calendar for children and youth in the coming months:

Advent Family Fest - November 27

Breakfast with Santa - December 3

Kiddie Mini Market – December 4

J2A Bake Sale – December 11

Christmas Pageant – December 24

Epiphany Procession—January 8

**Directory:** Sadly, the company that was working on our pictorial directory went under as a result of the pandemic. It was unfortunate but all attempts to reach the company and it's owners has failed. We are actively looking for a new pictorial directory company.

A simple directory should come out every 12-18 months. We are currently working on a new directory and hope to have it out soon. Please make sure you regularly update your information, either by filling in one of the yellow contact information cards on the welcome table in the Great Hall, or on our website at [TrinityTulsa.org/connect](http://TrinityTulsa.org/connect).

# Request for Various Committees

## These items were frequently mentioned:

- Social/Events
- Liturgy
- Stewardship
- Missing People
- St. Vincent Volunteers
- Personnel Committee
- Provide Training & Support for Committees

**Social/Events:** Program staff aim to provide a minimum of one social activity for adults per month. We would love to have volunteers willing to plan and run events.

Currently on the calendar for adults:

- Kirking of the Tartan—November 6
- Evensong Reception—November 6
- New Comers Luncheon—November 9
- Taizé Potluck Dinner—November 13
- Evensong Reception—November 20
- Barn Quilt Painting—November 22
- Advent Family Fest – November 27
- Lessons & Carols reception – November 27
- Christmas Market – December 4
- Christmas Cabaret—December 16

**Liturgy:** We have a list of interested individuals and hope to begin discussing liturgy in the coming months. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please let staff know.

**Stewardship:** This is an important committee. This year's campaign is underway, Chaired by Barbara Woltz, but we welcome interest in next year's campaign. Please speak with a member of staff.

**Missing People:** The clergy and staff are continuously contacting parishioners we have not seen, or who may need special attention. You are an important part of

pastoral care! We invite you to check in on parishioners and make sure to let us know if someone really needs a check in from staff or clergy. If you are interested in chairing a new committee to address this issue, please let a member of staff know.

**St. Vincent Volunteers:** Registration is open to anyone and can be found on the website. Emails are sent out to those who express interest in specific areas. You may sign up for as many areas of interest as you like. The more you sign up for, the more invitations to participate you will receive. If you would like to receive more volunteer opportunities than you have so far, you may re-register and include more areas of interest. Register on [TrinityTulsa.org](http://TrinityTulsa.org).

This year, St. Vincent Volunteers have participated in:

- Campus clean-up
- Providing rides to church and events
- Set-up and clean-up of Fall Harvest Dinner
- Oiling pews and cleaning in the church
- Housekeeping assistance for families in crisis
- Meals for those in crisis, the ill and homebound
- Food for parishioner funerals/services

**Personnel & Compensation Committee:** AJ Smith is the chair of this new committee and work is underway.

**Provide Training & Support for Committees:** Most committees of the church should be led by lay members of the church. Please consider where you can make a commitment to help run a committee.

## Interest in Classes

### These items were frequently mentioned:

- Bible Study
- How to Be an Episcopalian
- Women's Group/Guild
- LGBTQ+ Class
- Refresh of Youth Program
- Youth Collaboration
- Attract more families

**Bible Study:** We provide at least one bible study option in each 6-week class rotation. We have just wrapped up a 6-week class with parishioner Dr. Erica Mongé called *Reading Psalms Ethically: Ethics in the Psalter*. Still in session is a class, facilitated by parishioner Caroline Leithner, called *Superheroines of the Bible*. New bible study classes will be forming soon.

**How to Be an Episcopalian:** Mo. Cheryl's Life at Trinity class, for established Parishioners and new parishioners, alike, is ongoing. Newcomers to the class may join any time. The class takes place on Sundays in-person at 10:00am, or Tuesdays by zoom at 7:30pm. You may register online at [TrinityTulsa.org/connect](http://TrinityTulsa.org/connect).

**Women's Group/Guild:** Daughters of the King is a national women's service group that meets once a month to plan activities and service to the church and community. The Daughters hosted their first English Tea on October 1st. You may get involved by contacting parishioner Sharon Kelso at [Allen-Sharon.Kelso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Allen-Sharon.Kelso@sbcglobal.net). If you would like to start another women's group, please let us know and we will gladly support your efforts!

**LGBTQ+ Class:** We have had several informational classes for people who want to learn and understand LGBTQIA+ issues over the years. Two recent classes had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We hope to get some more on the calendar for the coming months.

**Youth Program:** We provide classes for children and youth from age 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We follow the [Godly Play](#) and [Journey to Adulthood](#) curricula. Both are nationally recognized programs, with the latter being a product of Church Publishing Incorporated—the publishing arm of the national church. If you have suggestions for

other curricula, please let us know!

Becky is continuously looking for new ways to innovate, along with other youth ministers across the country. The pandemic hit children and youth programming hard as several events had to be cancelled and attendance has been low. We encourage you to get your youth involved.

**Youth Collaboration:** Youth input is *always* welcome! If your young person has ideas, please encourage them to speak up.

**Attract more families:** We know that aging congregations experience stunted growth, so welcoming young families is vital. The Church Down Under remains one of our biggest entry points in to the church, especially for young families, as does our more relaxed Rite II service at 9:00am. In 2022 to date, 79% of our growth was families with children 18 years or younger. But we always want to attract more families. If you have ideas, please share them with us!

# Request for clear, consistent communication

## These items were frequently mentioned:

- Provide information through a variety of mediums
- Communicate changes early and often
- Implement consistency across platforms
- Establish & implement a social-media-post review process
- Actively manage reposts
- Avoid reactive social media posts
- Include member information in Trinity Life
- Pick the medium of your choice & stay informed!
- Vestry members' photos in the Great Hall

## Provide information through a variety of media:

Information is provided via several platforms, including digital and print media.

- Our website (TrinityTulsa.org) is updated at least once weekly with the newest information,
- Enewsletter (eTidings) goes out every Thursday afternoon. If you are not receiving the enewsletter, subscribe to it on our homepage.
- Facebook and Instagram posts are scheduled for several days a week.
- TrinityLife comes out three times a year (summer, Christmas, and Easter)
- Sunday News is wrapped around the bulletin each week
- TV in the Great Hall scrolling the latest events
- Events are promoted in the live stream
- Chalk board at the top of the southwest entrance stairs with day's events
- Clergy make announcements during services

In response to feedback we received through the community conversations, we have implemented a video round up of events at the top of the enewsletter, and have set up a link.tree (a system of providing access to multiple links where only one link can be published) on Instagram to make registering for events simpler.

**Communicate changes early and often:** We try our absolute best not to change dates, time, etc. to avoid confusion. However, sometimes changes are unavoidable. We typically notify the parish about changes in the Sunday News, enewsletter, clergy announcements and social media if there is plenty of time. If it is urgent we will send out information by email, as well as social media. At times, we may unintentionally

miss a post that was pre-scheduled, or simply make a human error, and conflicting information may be displayed. *If you notice an error, please let us know so we may change it in a timely manner!*

**Implement consistency across platforms:** All information disseminated begins with Sunday News. That information is copied directly to the enewsletter, and social media Posts, website art, and TV art are created from those same details. We do our utmost to prevent lack of consistency. If you notice inconsistency or errors, please let us know so we may remedy these errors as quickly as possible.

**Include member information in Trinity Life:** The parish record is included in each issue of TrinityLife and in the annual report. This includes baptisms, transfers in, transfers out, and funerals. We typically also include births (if we have infants who have not been baptized yet), confirmations, deaths (If we did not perform the funeral but the deceased was our parishioner), and how people joined, if not by transfer. On rare occasions there has not been enough room to fit the parish record in TrinityLife and it is saved for the following issue.

**Vestry members' photos in the Great Hall:** In response to the suggestion from the Community Conversations, a new Vestry bulletin board has been put up in the Great Hall at the top of the ramp to the narthex. This bulletin board also includes a list of responsibilities for each staff member so it's easier to figure out who to contact for what.

## Desire for Investment in Staff

### These items were frequently mentioned:

- Staff training
- Consider staff position for events
- Consideration of staff salary increases
- Repair staff communication with volunteers
- Ongoing conversations about staff needs

**Staff training:** Some staff attend the Episcopal Forma Conference annually, as allowed by the budget. This conference is the best way for staff to learn best practices, stay informed of trends and necessary changes. It also provides the opportunity for collaboration across Episcopal Churches. ACS, the database system we use for parishioner management and finances, also offers limited free trainings annually. Staff have also attended free training sessions about things as varied as Active Threats and Sex Ed, hosted by the Tulsa Health Department. There are some fantastic training programs staff would welcome.

**Consider staff position for Events:** On October 23rd, the vestry voted to bring our part-time housekeeper, Lora, back on a full-time basis. She began her 40 hour week schedule on October 24th which has already greatly improve staff's ability to manage events.

**Consideration of staff salary increases:** The Personnel and Compensation Committee made a recommendation that the vestry approve raises, to be added to staff salary as of January 2023.

**Communication with Volunteers:** Trinity staff are so appreciative of all our volunteers! Volunteers are essential to our parish and we want to be respectful of your time. If you have questions, please reach out to us. We welcome your questions to help keep us on track.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to engage us in the process of growth. May we all seek to serve Christ and the kin-dom and offer ourselves to God's service.