

As part of our “For All the Saints” stewardship campaign this year, we’ve asked a number of parishioners under the age of 50 to reflect on their lives and Holy Trinity Parish. The two questions were:

1. What does Holy Trinity Parish mean to you?
2. What ministries of HTP are close to your heart and why?



Jordan M. Baxter

I have grown up knowing only one church, and I stand by the statement that it is truly the best community out there. I’ve attended services in other churches, and I always think to myself, “this church is cool, but it’s not Holy Trinity”. Maybe it’s because we allow our youth to serve as acolytes, maybe it’s because the leadership of our parish are so innovative that worshipping at Holy Trinity is accommodating towards everyone’s needs, or maybe it’s because we have the world-famous Holy Trinity Chili Cook-off. Regardless of age, gender, or sexuality engaging at Holy Trinity is designed for everyone, and our congregation accepts those who are new to engagement. To observe this consistency through nearly 23 years of my life, I can confirm that we live by our mission statement that is opening our hearts to God, and opening doors to our community.

Such consistency can be further observed in our youth program here at Holy Trinity, which is, in my biased opinion, the best program we have. I have been in the youth community since Godly Play, all the way through to the Young Adult Christian program. Through every step of the way, I have seen friends leave to move away from the church, but I have also made new friends that have come into our church too. Being introduced to a new group of kids or teenagers can be a terrifying experience, but my fellow veterans and I model after what we see in church, which is to accept everyone because that is what Jesus did. With every addition to what became our family, the closer we all became to one another. Inside our family, there are differences in opinions, and what our youth program does a great job with is respecting others’ opinions and not let that impact how we view each other. That very lesson becomes relevant not only in the church community, but in every community out there.

I want to highlight three individuals who have shaped the youth program to what it is today. The first is Father Greg Tallant, who spends time with the youth and makes himself approachable and accessible to all youth. The second is Mary Martha Penner, a graduate of the youth program herself, who has kept the program engaging in absence of youth ministers, and who has challenged the minds of the youth to think deeper about their faith. Finally, the acolyte program would be nowhere if it were not for the late Tommy Lowndes. While few youth may argue that his curriculum for acolyte training was pointless, a vast majority of youth would say that he had a significant impact on their Christian life. An individual that was so dedicated to teaching us how a church functions, while answering the “why” question (usually it started with “liturgically”), helped all youth form the analytical church mind. None of us would be who we are today if it weren’t for these individuals.



Jason and Jaimee Hingerton

We'd been living in East Atlanta for a few years before we began looking for a church home. We started the search in the usual Millennial way, by pulling up Google maps and searching "Episcopal Church". A few popped up in the area and we attended each a couple times to get a sense of what was around. Nothing really stuck from that first attempt. Probably another year went by, and we tried again. The second time through was what it took, and we

landed at Holy Trinity.

What made it work that time is anyone's guess. Maybe it was with Fr. Greg's sermons. He has an ability to tie the lessons of the week into something challenging in our world, and maybe make you just a little uncomfortable in the way that says you're being pushed a bit to grow spiritually. We found that to be something especially meaningful. Maybe it was the welcoming nature of the congregation. Maybe it was Fr. Greg's weekly invitation to "quietly worship and slip out if that's your thing" that made it ok to adjust at your own pace.

Since then, we've found a fantastic community to participate in, and plenty of ministries to become a part of. Contributing through the ministries of ushering, lay eucharistic ministry, and the building itself have been quite a rewarding experience. In addition to the satisfaction in knowing you are contributing just a little bit to others being able to comfortably experience Holy Trinity in their own ways, the friends made along the way in participating in those ministries will never be forgotten.

Holy Trinity has been for us a welcoming church home that has provided numerous opportunities to show love through the gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Eventually we too will be able to share with the newest members of the church stories of what had happened in the last 30 years like so many of you have shared with us. Until then we look forward to seeing you all at the next opportunity!



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