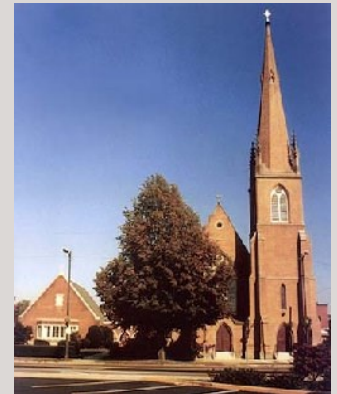


Trinity Church Record



NOVEMBER 2016

Volume 5, Issue 9



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Dear God's Beloved

Below you will find my sermon from October 30th. I know many of you were present to hear it. However, I wanted to offer it again as fodder for our ongoing thoughts and prayers. I also want to say, for those who were not present, or who have been away from the main news of Trinity lately, that we continue to discern how God is calling us to live within the buildings with which we have been entrusted.

I ask your prayers and wisdom as we seek to listen to who God calls Trinity to be in this time and place. As always, I stand ready to engage you in these and all conversations about our common life.

*Your servant in Christ,
Wanda+*

A House Shared is...a Different Kind of Home

Our house has had its share of visitors. One day, my late husband Tom came to me and asked how I would feel if he invited his best friend, Dick Cushing, to come and live with us after his painful divorce. Dick and Tom had gotten to know each other through Cursillo, and had remained best friends through job changes, Tom's divorce, and the death of Dick's first wife, Gloria. In fact, it was Gloria who encouraged Tom, Dick, Tom's brother Ron, and their friend Paul to purchase the sawmill Tom operated.

My first reaction to Tom's request was, "Of course." But Tom insisted that we really think about it. In our marriage of about 15 years by then, we had had three different people stay with us for differing periods. After a short consideration, the answer was still, "Of course."

Soon after, Dick and his possessions moved into our house. He stayed in one of our three bedrooms—the one next to ours, and most of his boxes were safely tucked in our basement storage area. I'm not sure what I really expected of Dick's stay, except that I knew he wouldn't be at our house all the time as he had children spread across the country and wanted to spend time with each of them. Unlike previous times we had 'boarders', the bedrooms were now all on one level and right next to each other.

This seemed to matter a whole lot more when Dick met a wonderful lady, Maggie, from Australia and began dating her. They soon married, and when they visited, it was Dick and Maggie. Now when they shared kitchen duties, it was a bigger mess. When they watched TV, it seemed to be when I wanted to watch something else. When I wanted to be loud in the early morning, they were still sleeping. They did not stay in their bedroom, but squatted wherever they wanted. It was hard not to get irritated by their presence and their habits. I felt disenfranchised in my own house.

About a year after they married, Dick was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given six weeks to live. We were all stunned. Dick began by calling all his physician buddies to explore cutting-edge treatment options, and started a round of visiting the children and grandchildren in case it was his last time. Dick died six weeks later almost to the day at the home of his daughter in town.

I share this story to say I understand firsthand what it is like to share space with someone. I believe Jesus calls us to share, to give—from the store we have—to others. I have a very large and long-standing egalitarian streak within me, and I always thought how cool to share my home with others. Then there's the reality. Living with others is very difficult. It is so easy to become set in our ways, comfortable with our patterns and rhythms. We do so in families because we are forced to in our families of origin, and we figure the advantages outweigh the downsides in families of choice.

Relationship with others necessarily requires ambidextrousness—using skills for daily tasks that are just not so practiced and natural for us. We feel most comfortable when we share with others from the store that doesn't impinge on us—excess money, time we would have frittered away, goods we are done with. Jesus reminds us continually that is not true sharing or giving of ourselves.

We are currently sharing our physical plant with the United Baptist congregation. We have opened our house to a group of fellow Christian pilgrims who are trying to ascertain what it means to become one congregation merged from two, and now without a building to call home. We invited them to share our space, not really knowing what that would look like. It seemed like a reasonable solution for us both—they get a physical place to be and invite newcomers; we get some financial respite.

We are currently in a place where we are chafing under their acceptance of our invitation. We might have thought, 'Boy, ain't that swell of us to be so generous and nice to these poor Baptists.' Now, they sit in our chairs, eat our food in the refrigerator, and don't leave the TV room when we want them to. I wonder what part of our invitation we thought they would not really accept.

I believe God has given us a real chance to learn here. We can understand that there are real consequences to every action. We can get some understanding of what it means to be without a church building—as the earliest Christians did. We can begin the process of really listening—to what we find important as a community, and to the deepest needs of another. We can finally get a sense that we have to fundamentally start doing things differently if we are going to fulfill our Christian mandate.

Or we can choose not to. We can choose to be legalistic, miserly, unintentional, and hostile. We can feel that we have gotten the short end of the stick in life and be bitter. We can feel put upon. We can look to this situation as only what we can get out of it.

Jesus calls us to radical hospitality—to really seeing the other as worthy of our best. Jesus calls us to push beyond barriers that keep us comfortable, and enter into life with a zest that forces risks. Jesus reminds us that following him means tomorrow will NOT look like yesterday. Jesus calls us to be open and honest about our relationships with others, working to find resolution to those things that feel like injustices. Most importantly, I believe, Jesus calls us to live as people who make decisions with all the facts and faith we have, and then to move on as people forgiven and forgiving.

I have been so pleased at how thoughtful our vestry has been as we continue our discussions about our common life with United Baptist Church. We have to be as clear as we can about our values and our priorities, and do the best we can to own and communicate them, and then we have to realize that life is also about compromise. Through compromise, we will never get what we think we want. However, we often find ourselves blessed in ways we never could have imagined. That has certainly been my experience as I have opened up my life and my home to others.

This process of being Christian is difficult, jarring, and revelatory. But we have been proclaiming for most of our lives that it is the best thing in our lives. Now may be the time to live into this as never before.

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Emmanuel Episcopal Church on the Southside of Elmira will be hosting a chicken and biscuit dinner on Saturday, November 12th from 4:30 – 6:00. The dinners will be \$7 each. Their congregation hopes you can join them.



Thrift Shop Report



Two of our long time volunteers, Carol Van Deusen and Lisa Kelly, have offered to open the shop on Thursdays from now until Christmas. We will be open from 9AM to noon every Thursday (except Thanksgiving) from November 3 to December 22. Our Christmas room is set up and ready to go; we have lots of clothes to sell.

Donations are still crucial to our lifeblood. If you have any donations you can bring to us, we are so grateful. Kitchen items and linens, especially towels, are hot items for us.

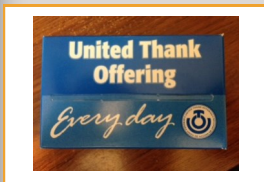
Thank you to Carol and Lisa for adding hours to our operations. Hopefully we'll get some good traffic.

Sue Draht

UTO INGATHERING

November 13, 2016

"GOD GAVE YOU THE GIFT OF 86,000 SECONDS TODAY, HAVE YOU USED ONE TO SAY "THANK YOU?"*



The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the entire church. Its aim is to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. The prayers of thanksgiving begin when we recognize and give thanks for our many blessings and challenges. This thankfulness can lead to generosity through our UTO participation. Our gifts are spread throughout the world in grants for widely varied, much needed projects. With grateful hearts and a discipline of giving in our daily life in Christ, our UTO offering is a tangible outpouring of our commitment to God and the Anglican Communion.

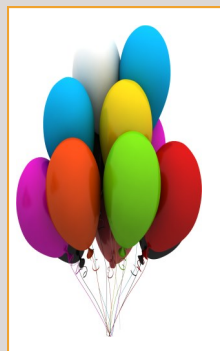
With thanks to everyone,

Joy Perry, UTO Chair

*William A. Ward

November Birthdays

3:	Damian Briggs	16:	Trista Briggs
9:	Tari Buchholz	18:	John Knighton
13:	Jeanne Battisti	23:	Esther Thomas
14:	Michael Brown	27:	Judy Sheasley
15:	Emily Brayer		



Buildings & Grounds Report

We had a busy Dumpster Week, as our Dumpster arrived on October 17th. Leaders of various teams went through their areas and successfully straightened, sorted and threw out what needed to be tossed. It was a great opportunity for us to evaluate what we keep and what should be gotten rid of as we clean our Worship House.

Many thanks to Judy Sheasley, Lisa Kelly, Carol Van Deusen, Jackie Draht, Mike & Tari Buchholz, Jeanne Battisti, Nancy Isaacs, Tom Padgett, Al Draht, and Susan Nagle for their assistance. Lisa and Carol straightened out a couple of our closets, Jackie and her team worked on the sacristy, Mike & Tari reviewed the kitchen equipment, Nancy cleaned out the stage area and the Children's Clothing Closet, and Judy did a purge of our expired pantry items. Tom and Al were the "muscle" and helped dispose of the furniture in the garage, among other chores.

It's always a good feeling to be neat and tidy and this was a great time to reevaluate and dispose of "stuff"! Thank you to all.

We've got to finish our straightening of the sexton's closet. We have discovered that we're missing some basic tools that we should have on hand. Instead of a Salvation Army family tree this year, we thought we'd do a "Tool Tree" with items needed to properly stock our sexton's closet. In the next few weeks, the tree will be set up in the back of the church with items that we need on tags. Select a tag, bring the item into Trinity as your donation! The items don't need to be brand new; if you have extras at home that are usable, that's perfectly fine too. For instance, we don't have a hammer in our tool chest. Worse than that, we don't have a tool chest! Let's get our own house in order so we can function and accomplish some basic maintenance chores.

Sue Draht

Altar Guild

On September 14th, the Altar Guild met with Wanda to discuss our duties and learn of any new ones Wanda would like done by our group. We also exchanged ways to get rid of stains on the linens (such as wine, lipstick, oil, and candle wax). Wanda requested at this time that the Sacristy closets be cleaned out so that she could store her robes and the acolytes robes there (a work in progress).

We also talked about several "special" services coming up, including: Wanda's Installation on October 13th, All Saints' Day on November 6th, the Baptism of two children on November 20th, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, and the New Year's Day service, which will be Lessons and Carols.

In all, it was a very informative and productive meeting, and we look forward to working with Wanda to help make our church services run smoothly.

I thank all those who attended the meeting. And, as always, we welcome new members!



Fellowship/Hospitality Team News

Early fall was quiet for us. However, as the weather got cooler, we have gotten busier! We hosted about fifty people for Wanda's Installation and Welcoming Ceremony reception. A joyful crowd enjoyed the dessert reception! Susan Padgett and Sandra May joined the team for this event. We look forward to working with them many more times in the future! The team welcomed members of our church family who do not always get to come to church for our annual Fall Festival Luncheon. Everyone enjoyed beef stew soup and the homemade pies were a hit. These special Trinity members are always with us in mind and spirit and in our prayers. We will welcome them again for our Holiday Happening Luncheon on December 8th. We will host a special event for our youngest Trinity members after the Blessing of Feet on September 30th. Doughnuts promise to help with the celebration of Halloween! Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13th. There will be a special coffee hour that day. Wanda will not be rushing off to St. Matthews that day. We are going to take advantage of having this extra time with her! All these events are possible because of our wonderful team: Carol Van Deusen, Judy Sheasley, Nancy Issacs, Jeanne Battisti, Jackie Draht, Joy Perry, Tari and Mike Buckkholtz. Thank you!

Vestry Report

At the October Vestry Meeting plans got underway for a Blessing of Feet ceremony at 9 a.m. worship on Sunday, October 30. At this time our young people (in costume if they wish) will be blessed before they set out door-to-door on Halloween. The service will be followed by light refreshments and a time of seasonal craft-making.

On Sunday, November 13 we will enjoy breakfast together following worship. We will be blessed to have Pastor Wanda with us for this time of fellowship as she will not be rushing off to St. Matthew's that day!

The Vestry determined that Trinity will not participate in Hope of Christmas this year. It was clear from new communications distributed to participants by the Hope of Christmas organizers that their beliefs as Christians are ideologically incompatible with the more progressive stand taken by the Episcopal Church.

It was decided that instead of the Salvation Army Angel Tree this Christmas, the names of items on Trinity's Wish List will be hung on the tree for us to choose. These will be small to smallish items needed to fill in some gaps in our inventory of things such as tools, kitchen supplies, etc. As a result of Dumpster Day on October 22, what we no longer use or need has been taken away and what we are missing has become clearer.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Brayer and Judy Sheasley
Wardens

Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group, Inc.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 8 from 7:30 – 9 at St. Mary our Mother School in Horseheads. The topic will be "Coping with the Holidays, 2".

Next Vestry
meeting is
November 9th
at 7 pm



Luther and the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, Catholic monk, professor, and priest wrote his 95 'theses' to the Archbishop of Mainz, and days later tacked them to the front door of his local church, All Saints', Wittenberg. Luther's theses were, in fact, arguments against the then-practices of the Roman Catholic Church, especially regarding indulgences. These practices supported a Church-held theological stance that one could purchase plenary indulgences from a priest to reduce or eliminate temporal punishment of a loved one in purgatory. Say, if someone committed certain sins in life, and was unable to repay or repair the damage—through works of mercy—in their lifetime, they would be sent to purgatory to 'work off' the remainder of their punishment. So that they could be released to heaven, a loved one would pay money to the church priest in the form of an 'indulgence' whereupon the soul of their loved one would be released to heaven. This led to the popular saying, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."

This practice led to increased income for clergy and their churches, and was approved at the highest levels of the Church. This became particularly rampant in 1515 when Pope Leo X granted a plenary indulgence intended to finance the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In other words, the Church was using the hope of believers that they were doing a good thing on behalf of their loved one as a way to pay for a new church.

Luther, along with many in the Church, believed that one's salvation could not be bought, while alive or, by another, after death. Rather, one's ultimate determination of salvation was based on one's faith and the value of the life one lived.

Scholars say Luther's intent was to have academic discussion about these points of church doctrine, and the pastoral concerns caused by them. Such debate never formally occurred, although there was certainly a lot of conversation and discussion that occurred as a result. Luther was ultimately stripped of his position and defrocked as a Catholic priest. But the legacy he began on 'All Hallows' Eve' remains with us.

Luther's effect on the Church was deep and wide. Among his contributions:

- He translated the Bible from Latin into German so that people could read it in their own language. This set the stage for English translations as well.

- He developed the belief that salvation is through one's faith alone, not the result of good works, nor by the edicts of the Pope or other Church officials.

- He stated that the Bible alone (*sola Scriptura*) is the only source of God's revelation and the highest authority available to a Christian—which undermined the authority and teaching of church leaders at the time.

- He married, setting that as normative for Protestant clergy.

- He opposed a separate class for clergy (sacerdotalism), proclaiming the doctrine of the "priesthood of all believers".

- He wrote several hymns, including the standard, *A Mighty Fortress is our God*.

In later years, he turned strong hostile feelings toward the Jews, recommending that their houses and synagogues be burned, their money confiscated, and their liberties curtailed. Since renounced soundly by all parts of the Church, these views encouraged later adherents such as Richard Wagner and Adolph Hitler.

The year, which begins this October 31st, is seen as the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Our church has significantly branched out and diversified in belief since 1517 and many have put a lasting stamp on our development to date, but we begin with this single monk and scholar, Martin Luther.

Trinity History Corner

Robert Barry Coffin ("Barry Gray") (1826-1886)

Miriam Whitcher was not the only author associated with Trinity Church.

When Trinity Church was built in 1855, the clerk of the Vestry was Robert Barry Coffin. For thirty years Coffin wrote sketches and short stories under the pen name "Barry Gray." Many of his writings were collected and arranged for use in popular book form. The best remembered are "Matrimonial Infelicities," "Cakes and Ale at Woodbine," "My Married Life at Hillsdale," and "At Home with Cooper." His first literary connection was with the Home Journal for which he wrote from 1853-1865. He was also art critic of the Evening Post. As a sketch writer he was humorous. The serious side of his literary character was displayed in writing on gastronomic subjects. In his day he associated with Charles Dickens, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and many other famous authors.

Coffin was born in Hudson, NY, July 21, 1826, the great-grandson of Alexander Coffin, one of the thirteen proprietors of Nantucket who made the settlement of Hudson in 1783. He received a classical, though not collegiate, education and in 1852, with his younger brother opened a bookstore in Elmira. He moved to New York City in 1858 to succeed Thomas Bailey Aldrich as assistant editor the Home Journal, and in 1862 accepted a position in the New York Custom House, which he held until shortly before in death at his home in Fordham, NY on June 10, 1886. He left a wife and one son. His only daughter had died previously.

Coffin was counted among the "Bohemian" writers of 19th Century America, a group of which Mark Twain considered himself a part. This group gathered at Pfaff's Beer Cellar, a German bar on New York City's Broadway. His obituary, titled "Old Barry Gray Dead," in the New York World read in part, "Deep down in the fat and ancient Pfaff's cellar," Gray used to "hold high wassail with the Bohemians." Gray was remembered as "one of the brightest of that brilliant and witty company [of Bohemians]." He is lauded as "one of the keenest of the company, and his wit was never dull." He was well-known for the "razor-edged repartee in which he engaged with some of the foremost Bohemians."

Ecumenical Taizé Communion Service

An ecumenical Taizé communion service will be held Thursday, November 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Lady Chapel at Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira.

Silence, simplicity, singing. An unhurried pace, time to reflect, ancient icons, dimmed lighting and candles. Brief Bible readings, no sermon, no announcements, no distractions; in fact, as few words as possible. These are what make up a Taizé Communion Service. This is an ecumenical gathering, and everyone is welcome.

Fun facts about
our church's
history



Second Place East, Inc.

Second Place East, Inc. is still counting on the individual churches that are involved with its program to donate selected good in the coming months. November's designated good is deoderent. These goods can be of any brand name, type and size will be acceptable and can be purchased at any Family Dollar, General Dollar, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or area grocery stores. Please put the designated good in the basket in the back of the church. Second Place East, Inc. thanks everyone for their help in this mission.



Thanksgiving Labyrinth Walk & Food Collection

All are invited to share in this special walk of love and gratitude that will take place on Friday, November 18th at 7:00 pm. Remembering our many blessings in gratitude as we walk, pray and share this Thanksgiving season.



'Imagine filling an empty Basket at the labyrinth entrance with Thanksgiving Food!'

Walk & Dessert Fee: A donation of any size of non-perishable foods for the Southern Tier Food Bank.

"It is solved by walking." - St. Augustine

November's Ministry Schedule

	November 6, 2016	November 13, 2016	November 20, 2016
Lector/Intercessor	Shelly Bacmanski	Dan Brayer	Haleigh Carlson
EM	Joy Perry	Susan Nagle	Cody Carlson
Acolyte		Nick Potter	
Ushers	Al Draht and Carol Van Deusen	Judi and Dan Brayer	Lisa Kelly and Carol Van Deusen
Altar Guild	Tari Buchholz and Carol Ostrander	Jackie Draht	Judy Sheasley
Counter	Joy Perry	Joy Perry	Joy Perry

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed Diocesan Regional Budget Mtg in Utica 6 pm	2 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Children's Closet 9 - 11 2nd Place East 11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 AA 12:15 Budget Mtg 5 UBC Choir 6:30	3 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12 UBC Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:30 Diocese Regional Budget Mtg 6 pm Binghamtpn	4 Happening Weekend Office Closed	5 Happening Weekend Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12 Feldenkrais Method 10 - 11
6 All Saints' Sunday Happening Weekend Coffee Hour 8:30 Holy Eucharist 9 UBC Adult Ed 10 UBC Worship 11 UBC Coffee Hour 12 Daylight Savings Ends	7 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30	8 Office Closed Finance and B&G mtg 5	9 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Children's Closet 9 - 11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 AA 12:15 Canterbury Way 2 - 4 UBC Choir 6:30 Vestry 7	10 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12	11 Office Closed for Veteran's Day Diocesan Convention	12 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12 Feldenkrais Method 10 - 11 Diocesan Convention
13 UTO Sunday Coffee Hour 8:30 Holy Eucharist 9 Stewardship Breakfast with Wanda 10:15 UBC Adult Ed 10 UBC Worship 11 UBC Coffee Hour 12	14 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Painting of the Chapel	15 Office Closed Painting of the Chapel continues	16 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Children's Closet 9 - 11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 Elmira Area Clergy 12 AA 12:15 Aktion Club 5:30 UBC Choir 6:30 Painting of the Chapel continues	17 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12 Painting of the Chapel continues	18 Office Closed Painting of Chapel continues Thanksgiving Labyrinth Walk 7 The Record Deadline	19 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12 Feldenkrais Method 10 - 11
20 Coffee Hour 8:30 Holy Eucharist with Baptisms 9 UBC Adult Ed 10 UBC Worship 11 UBC Harvest Dinner 12	21 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Decorate Chapel for Historic Tours 9	22 Office Closed UBC Executive Board 5:30 Ecumenical Thanksgiving service 7	23 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Children's Closet 9 - 11 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 AA 12:15 UBC Choir 6:30	24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	25 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Thrift Shop Open 10 - 1 Watching Children for Black Friday 12 - 5	26 Thrift Shop Open 9 - 12
27 Coffee Hour 8:30 Holy Eucharist 9 UBC Adult Ed 10 UBC Worship 11 UBC Coffee Hour 12	28 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30	29 Office Closed	30 Office Open 8:30 - 2:30 Christian Counseling 11 - 8 AA 12:15 UBC Choir 6:30			

Financial Report for
2016

	September Actual	September Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Pledges	\$ 2,119.00	\$ 4,166.67	\$ (2,047.67)
Plate Offerings	93.00	41.67	51.33
Regular NonPledge	1,440.00	333.34	1,106.66
Facility Use Income	2,236.00	2,236.00	-
Thrift Shop Operations	503.28	433.34	69.94
Labyrinth	(24.16)	(8.33)	(15.83)
Gifts Received	5.00	-	5.00
Altar Flowers	(254.08)	-	(254.08)
Interest	0.29	0.65	(0.36)
Endowment Fund	3,251.00	-	3,251.00
Total Income	\$ 9,369.33	\$ 7,203.34	\$ 2,165.99
EXPENSES			
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 2,189.35	\$ 2,614.80	\$ 425.45
Christian Ed & Spiritual Growth	529.45	279.16	(250.29)
Diocese	1,671.14	1,433.14	(238.00)
Governance	3,095.41	3,155.43	60.02
Lay Staff	2,520.00	2,520.00	-
Lay Staff Fringes	262.56	351.10	88.54
Miscellaneous	-	66.67	66.67
Office Expenses	506.45	544.76	38.31
Pastoral Care	40.00	8.33	(31.67)
Total Expenses	\$10,814.36	\$10,973.39	\$ 159.03
Pos/(Neg) results	\$ (1,445.03)	\$ (3,770.05)	\$ 2,006.96

**Financial
Report**

Please note that we continue to operate in the red. While we are “under” budget, we are drawing from our endowment at a rate that isn’t sustainable and the diocese requires us to only take from the endowment no more than 7%.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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E-mail: info@trinitychurchelmira.org



**Trinity Church: Serving God and
All People in Heart, Mind and Soul**

www.trinitychurchelmira.org

Trinity Staff

- Rector: The Reverend Wanda Copeland
Email: pastorwanda@trinitychurchelmira.org
- Office Staff: Kelly Comfort
Email: info@trinitychurchelmira.org
Office hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30am-2:30pm unless otherwise noted in the calendar.
- Organist: Sharon Reynolds
- Wardens: Judy Sheasley and Judi Brayer
- Vestry Members: Jeanne Battisti, Nancy Isaacs, Jim Hilgendorf, Tom Padgett, Susan Nagle and Mike Buchholz
- Treasurer: Dori Riggs
- Clerk of the Vestry: Shelly Bacmanski
- Florist: Zeigler's Florists
- Cleaning Service: A-1 Cleaning Company

