

# The Message

The Newsletter of

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - Little Rock, Arkansas

A House of Prayer for All People

Pentecost 2023



## Inside

The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux  
Tornado Relief  
Youth Ministry  
News From the Choir Pews

Little Free Pantry Update  
Tower Bell Festival  
Anatomy of a Text Scam  
and more...

## A Capacity to Serve

by The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux



*The tornado came through Little Rock on March 31st. In the days following, we began to comprehend the damage. Innumerable displaced people, damaged buildings, so many and so much of our lives rearranged.*

*The tornado left timbers from a house in Little Rock in the shape of a cross on the shore of the Arkansas River.*

On the eve of October 20, 2022, I could not imagine the many ways our Bliss Party would bless us. Of course, there was fellowship and fun: I have very fond memories of that night (and I hope you do too)! In the weeks to come, we would also realize the capacity of our generous community: that evening, we raised over \$130,000 to benefit our neighbors. Up until recently, though, we had not determined how we would allocate those dollars. The Vestry had just begun these discussions at our March meeting. For these reasons, the Cathedral was ready to allocate \$26,000 to tornado relief within 24 hours of the tornado. What an absolute blessing!

### The Message

A newsletter about life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Send correspondence & address corrections to:

The Message, 310 W17th Street, Little Rock, AR 72206

tel. 501-372-0294 fax: 501-372-0416 email: [info@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:info@trinitylittlerock.org) website: [www.trinitylittlerock.org](http://www.trinitylittlerock.org)

Since then, our Vestry has approved distribution of another \$50,600 to:

- Life Skills for Youth, for scholarships for their summer program
- El Zocolo ministries, for two years of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- St. Francis House towards their new roof

Discernment towards these gifts was led by our faithful and hardworking Matthew 25 committee. This committee has done the incredible work of getting to know a variety of ministries in Little Rock. Each of these ministries does more than serve: they empower and encourage people, from children to adults, as they journey through a variety of life experiences. Again, it is because of the generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasure that we are able to make these contributions. What an absolute blessing!



The ministry of Matthew 25 and Bliss is more than fundraising or fund-giving. The ministry of Bliss raises our awareness of the many passions and gifts of our community. Through each of these, we discern the diversity of our community. As Paul writes, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). The point is that we all bring a unique set of talents, passions, and human experiences to our community; and, our community is a glimpse of the kin\_dom of heaven on earth. God, then, inspires us to offer our gifts to our community, including sacrificial giving. The work of Matthew 25, then, is to discern how our gifts minister in the wider community.

I am deeply grateful to Jerry Shurgar and all those who serve on the Matthew 25 committee. Their leadership brings us to places where our gifts and the community meet. This includes making sandwiches for

Stewpot, birthday cakes at Dorcas House, and breakfast at the Salvation Army. Each of these ministries and many more help us respond to Jesus’ call to care for the hungry and thirsty, the naked and sick, those in prison, and the stranger (Matthew 25). The heart of our committee is the call to serve; and they guide us well.

The challenge, for me, is to keep my eyes on Jesus. I wonder: do I love God with my whole heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37)? To love: this fully implies a high and deep level of trust and intimacy. I wonder: do I trust God’s will for myself, the people I love, the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, the stranger? I confess

that part of myself that believes I know best for my life and everyone else’s. Of course, what I know to be true I know because of God’s grace and mercy. When I am tempted to follow myself, I practice turning myself towards Jesus.

This means finding a way to seek Christ in my neighbor with the mercy and grace God gives me.

Living this way, for me, demands I trust God’s will as revealed in Jesus with my whole life.

The ministries of Bliss and our Matthew 25 Committee are two examples of our immense capacity to serve. All that is required of us is attentive discernment to the places and people where God is calling us. Of course, discernment comes through relationships with God, one another, and our community. Thanks be to God: we are already doing that work! Therefore, let us pray for confidence in God’s grace and mercy: that all we do continues to glorify Christ and God’s redemptive will for all of creation.

Peace be with you,

Dean Meaux

## A Day That Changed Little Rock

by Jerry Shurgar

*Friday March 31, 2023 2:28 PM, the winds came but we never made it to OZ.*

The city was rocked by a 164-mile-per-hour tornado that slashed a swath through neighborhoods like a giant mower. In the aftermath, people in the stricken areas struggled to pick and cut their way out of homes and businesses to assess the damage. Some people had to have debris sawed away before they could be lifted out of their homes, streets were impassable, essential services were disrupted, and in those first terrible moments, the stunned victims of the storm seemed to be on their own.

Dean Keller once said, "If I'm ever in a tornado and I see a group of men coming down the street, I hope they are Baptists with their chainsaws." Very quickly, the Baptists did indeed appear, but so did many other people, seemingly coming out of nowhere with their saws, ropes, muscle and hope.

The innate goodness of humankind shone forth as people helped people with whatever was needed. Food, water and iced drinks were in abundance like in the parable of the loaves and fishes. All evening in the wake of the tornado, people helped the less fortunate until the quiet settled and the lack of street lights cast the devastated neighborhoods into complete darkness.

As the next day dawned, people once again began arriving to help. Some were with faith-based organizations, others were clubs, but most were just individuals who wanted to do whatever they could to help, and that's what they did. Children made peanut butter sandwiches and filled their little red wagons as they brought them to the workers.



The Trinity vestry immediately designated 10 percent of Bliss monies to disaster relief.

Half of that would go to the Bishop's fund to help deal with the tornado destruction at Wynne, while the other half would be administered by Trinity's Matthew 25 Committee, which held an emergency meeting and went to work.

An assessment revealed that water, food and clothing were already flowing into the disaster centers. What was lacking, for those people who were able to remain in their homes, was cleaning supplies.

So under the committee's direction, industrial-strength plastic tubs were obtained and filled with those vital cleaning supplies. Many of these tubs were taken directly into the devastated neighborhoods and handed out to the residents. Others were given to a local disaster relief center for distribution.

While a tub filled with cleaning supplies might seem like a mundane thing, the storm-battered recipients said these were exactly what was needed, and they quickly put the supplies to work.

After a call went out to the parish for more cleaning supplies, more tubs arrived at the church. These, too, were taken to the disaster relief center as well as being distributed in the hard-hit neighborhoods.

Although the disaster relief center eventually said they didn't need any more clothing donations, when they were asked, "How about underwear?" the answer was a resounding, "Yes!" So Trinity Cathedral held an

### The Matthew 25 Committee

Mary Wilson  
Brooks Wolfe  
Christy Kalder-Jameson  
Vicki Keck  
John Stephens

Sissi Brandon  
Sarah Henry  
Sandra Cook  
Michael McNeely  
Belinda Shults

Jennifer Wilson Harvey  
Lara Schock  
Ellon Cockrill  
Felton Rhodes  
David Turner

Steve Bethel  
Lynn Parker  
Jerry Shurgar

“Undie Sunday” and collected a significant quantity of new undergarments that were immediately delivered to the disaster relief center.

Trinity swiftly stepped forward in response to the disaster center’s calls, responding within 24 hours—the fastest of any organization—to the center’s appeal for cleaning supplies. When storm debris blocked streams within the city and subsequent heavy rains caused homes to flood twice in one week, Trinity parishioners immediately provided gift cards to families affected by the flooding, in an unexpected but very welcome gesture.

When a local Lions’ Club also collected hundreds of dollars’ worth of cleaning supplies, then realized that they weren’t sure what to do with the gathered goods, someone told them, “Take it all to Trinity.” As soon as the supplies landed at Trinity, a Matthew 25 Committee member loaded them up and delivered them to a disaster center.



The term “rapid response” became the mantra of the committee, because

in times of crisis, people don’t need studies or board meetings or application processes; they need help, and they need it right now. Your Matthew 25 Committee showed that Trinity is more than just “checkbook Christianity”; it’s a place of action.

There’s still much to be done, of course, and the committee’s future plans include helping to organize a reforestation and greening of the city. Untold numbers of trees and shrubs were stripped bare or lost to the storm, creating a nightmarish landscape, but the sight of new trees and vegetation will help ease the trauma and aid the healing process for many individuals who are experiencing PTSD and deep grief.

The Matthew 25 Committee will also continue to explore how Trinity can improve its disaster preparedness and response. More information will be available as plans are developed.

## Additional Matthew 25 Committee Outreach Activities

The Matthew 25 Committee has been busy in other ways as well. Among its activities:

\* Dorcas House has received a complete renovation of a bedroom to make it habitable for a mother with several children.

\* Funds were provided to Life Skills for Youth to provide scholarships for young people to attend the summer and fall academic school and life skills programs. LSY serves more than 600 students from underperforming schools, and provides education and training to help them reach their potential as students and human beings.



Steve Bethel and Brooks Wolfe present a check to the leaders of Life Skills for Youth

\* El Zocalo Immigrant Center received much-needed funding to help pay for instructors in the center’s “English As A Second Language” courses for adults.



Christy Kalder-Jameson at El Zocalo

\* Gaines House will receive funds to help with much-needed repairs.

## Live a Spirit-Filled Life

by Emma Mitchell

“REDDDDDDDD is for PENTECOST!!!” This lyric comes from a children’s song about the colors of the liturgical year. I learned it at Camp Mitchell from the late Jeannie McCabe who often invited young people into their faith journey through creative expression - color, songs, art, clay. I find it impossible to not sing it loudly and obnoxiously whenever Pentecost rolls around.

But Pentecost is more than just the day we all wear red and embrace flame imagery in church. Pentecost is when we take delight in the work of the Holy Spirit and its essentialness to our thriving as a Christian people. As we wrap up the school year with graduations, confirmations, final sport games and band concerts, I wonder how we might use Pentecost (the day and the season) as a time to reflect?

Where have you seen the Spirit at work this year in your family? In your community? On the playground? Outside on a hike? At play rehearsal? In the car on the way to school? Who (or what) showed you that God is ever-present and moving in your life today?

Looking ahead into summer, full of camps, pool days, and upcoming vacations, how do you hope to see God’s presence around you? Where will you look for signs of the Spirit at work? How will you stay ever mindful of God’s love in the world in the midst of long, hot summer days?

Pentecost calls us to notice all those moments, big and small. And to sing out those moments, loudly and obnoxiously, so that others may hear and see just how rich a Spirit-filled life can be.



*Scenes from our last Koinonia on May 17. This time of food, fellowship and worship will resume on September 6.*

## Youth Ministry Job Opening

The Episcopal Youth Collaborative (EYCollab) ministry is hiring a part-time assistant youth minister, beginning September 2023. The EYCollab is a youth ministry shared by St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. EYCollab provides supportive opportunities for 6th-12th graders to grow, learn, and serve in their community/communities of faith. The EYCollab Minister works alongside church staff to assist in the development of program content and provides a welcoming, consistent, and caring presence week-to-week. To learn more and apply, visit [eycarkansas.org/eycollab](http://eycarkansas.org/eycollab).

# Ceremonies and Celebrations

## Confirmations



*Bishop Benfield with the confirmands: Alex Wayland, Palmer Flanagan, Maggie Wippo, Marion Milwee, Mary Eleanor Felton, Harper Bennings, Serena Utter, Kate Faulkner, Brady Brown, Will Brock, Lance Hewett, and Christopher Epperson*

Congratulations to the youth and adult confirmands who renewed the promises made for them in baptism on Sunday, May 21 during the Bishop's final official visit to Trinity Cathedral. We are proud of the commitment they showed in pursuing this next step in their journey of faith and excited for their continued participation in the church.

## ECEP Graduation



Eight students from the Cabin Room graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program on May 17. Now it is off to kindergarten.

The ceremony included some musical numbers performed by the graduates, a blessing, and an address by ECEP Director, Christy Poindexter.

These students are part of the group that comes to a special ECEP chapel service on Thursday mornings. We will miss their exuberant singing.

**CENTRAL CONVOCATION  
SUMMER SCHEDULE  
2023**

**PRESENTED BY:**

  Episcopal Youth Collab 

**AUGUST 9**  
Games at Allsopp Park  
6 - 7:30PM

**JULY 20**  
Christmas in July!  
Ice Skating at the Arkansas Skatium w/ White Elephant Gift Exchange  
6 - 7:30PM



# Vacation Bible School

## Many Parts, One Body

During the first week of June, about 75 campers enjoyed a spirit-filled week learning about the five senses through music, art, storytelling and games. They also went to a session in the cathedral each day where they learned how our senses are an important part of our liturgical life together.

The weather was about as perfect as one could ask for in Arkansas in June. The mornings started out cool and clear, perfect for our outdoor gatherings. The rain that greeted us Friday dampened the pavement, but not our spirits, and did not keep us from ending the week with an ice cream social.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made this great week possible.



## Take What You Need, Leave What You Can

by The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry

Those two decorated and re-purposed newspaper boxes outside of the parking lot on Spring Street, we have likely all been calling them by different names – Little Food Pantry, food donation boxes – or some may not be aware of them at all. Together they are technically called *The Little Free Pantry*.

Trinity became a registered mini-pantry location in 2020 shortly after the pandemic restrictions were in place with full force. It is a simple ministry that demands our eyes be on Jesus amid our daily pressures and schedules while being aware of need around us.

We began this ministry for two reasons. In the height of the pandemic, when we could not gather or be involved in things outside of the house, this was a way to be active, and the Little Free Pantry allowed us to help those struggling financially to put meals on the table.

The Little Free Pantry began here for all to participate by dropping off food that help complete meals: rice, beans, pasta, canned vegetables, paper products, etc. This seemed to work for a while as people also inquired about doing things differently: Helping the homeless, providing more structure for those wanting to participate, etc.

We have come from a good place and are seeking to reboot this ministry. With our eyes on Jesus we seek to go forward with an attitude of flexibility and adaptability.

First, a reminder about what the Little Free Pantry is. This comes from their founder, Jessica McClard:

*We are not an organization, and we are not a nonprofit. We are neighbors. We don't have a lot of time, and our budgets are nearly maxed. But we see our neighbors' daily struggles and feel called to do something in a way that reflects our shared values—compassion, generosity, and trust.*

Jessica McClard launched the grassroots mini pantry movement in May 2016 in Fayetteville, AR, when she planted the Little Free Pantry Pilot, a wooden box on a post containing food, personal care, and paper items accessible to everyone all the time, no questions asked. By August 2016, the movement was global. Throughout the US and internationally, the grassroots mini pantry movement continues growing and moving.

As a registered member of the Little Free Pantry movement, we tie to their commitments of seeking to help people complete meals that face food insecurity. This means a couple of things for us as stewards of this ministry: first we do not focus on grab and go food for the homeless and second once we put the food in the box, we let go of how it is used and by who. A beautiful spiritual practice for us: service and letting go of control.

As we tether to these two commitments, we have learned some lessons the last few years. We need to do some signage so people who want to help know what to do and people who need help know where to go. Also, the location where the current food boxes are may not be ideal. Currently there is some discussion about moving

them to a location where more of us would pass them as we come and go from the church. And lastly, as they are often empty, meaning food is being taken for use, we would like to put one larger pantry box out that has food visible and allows for more space to place donations. We can also explore more structure for donations while continuing to esteem individuals participating as they see need.

The Little Free Pantry website provides great information to help orient to this ministry: [littlefreepantry.org](http://littlefreepantry.org).

If you are interested in helping in our next steps of signage, placement, and a larger pantry please contact Lisa Corry ([lisa@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:lisa@trinitylittlerock.org)).



*Bert Parker and Ken McRae take a moment to add items to the Little Free Pantry.*

## From the Choir Pews

by Dr. Colin MacKnight

The big news from Trinity's music program is that we have a new Associate Director of Music! Celina Kobetitsch moved to Little Rock from Leipzig, Germany and is off to a great start. Creating and filling this position were necessary steps in the music program's growth and upward trajectory, so I'm very glad that she is with us. To learn more about Celina visit <https://www.celinakobetitsch.com/about>.

The Trinity Choir (and several guest singers and non-singers) is also gearing up for its residencies at Lichfield and Southwark Cathedrals this July! The music for these residencies includes a choral mass setting, a set of Preces and Responses, three Magnificats and Nunc dimittises, and five anthems, totaling nearly an hour and a half of music. I'm not only looking forward to the act of making music in these beautiful spaces, but also witnessing and enjoying the choir's growth after this week of intense singing. If you would like to contribute to this trip, please let me know!

On a more personal note, I am excited to be competing in the Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition for two weeks in June. Longwood Gardens is mainly known as one of the world's premier botanical gardens, but it also houses one of the largest – and most unusual – organs in the world in its ballroom. The Longwood Competition is open to organists 30 years and younger and boasts a \$40,000 first prize,

the largest of any organ competition. This is my third time competing; the previous two times (2016 and 2019), I received third prize. As previously mentioned, the Longwood organ is truly a unique instrument. It combines classical and theatre organ sounds, including what is (as far as I know) the largest compliment of percussion sounds on any organ in the world. For these reasons, this competition emphasizes repertoire in which the organ endeavors to imitate the power, subtly, and variety of a full orchestra. The competition will be live-streamed, so those of you who would like will be able to see and hear this fabulous instrument. For more information, visit this link <https://longwoodgardens.org/events-performances/events/international-organ-competition>



Last, as we wrap up the 2022/2023 program year, it is a great time to consider joining one of our music ensembles. For children in grades two and up, there are the children's choirs; for high school and college students, there are the choral scholarships (which include a stipend!); and for adults, there is the Trinity Choir and the Trinity Handbell Choir. If these interest you, please don't hesitate to reach out to Celina ([celina@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:celina@trinitylittlerock.org)) or me ([colin@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:colin@trinitylittlerock.org)). There is something for everyone!

Yours,  
Colin

### Upcoming Music Events

July 15-24: UK Choir Tour, residencies at Lichfield and Southwark Cathedrals

August 6 at 5 pm: Choral Evensong for Feast of the Transfiguration  
Bishop candidate Meet-and-Greet from 3-4:30 pm  
Reception to follow the service

September 10 at 4 pm: Weekly Choral Evensongs resume for 2023-2024 season

October 13-15: Weekend with Connor Lidell  
Friday, at 7 pm: Voice recital with Connor Lidell  
Sunday,: Connor Lidell conducts at the Choral Eucharist and Choral Evenong

October 27 at 7 pm: Screening of *The Navigator* (1924), featuring Buster Keaton with improvised organ accompaniment by Jason Roberts

Trinity Cathedral Music Department presents

# CHORISTER CAMP

AUGUST 7-11 | 9:00 - 12:30 P.M.



Open to rising 1st-8th graders in Central Arkansas. Spend a week learning to sing and read music, making new friends, and having fun!

## DETAILS & REGISTRATION:

[TRINITYLITTLE ROCK.ORG/CHORISTERCAMP](https://trinitylittlerock.org/choristercamp)

- Open to participants of any faith background or musical ability!
- Cost \$50; Lunch provided daily
- Questions? Contact Celina Kobetitsch at [celina@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:celina@trinitylittlerock.org)



## Tuneful Tutelage At Trinity

By Sandy Miller Hays



The Trinity Ringing Society hosted the 2023 “Seven Towers Festival” April 27-30 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, attracting change ringing enthusiasts from the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, California, Washington, D.C., and even British Columbia, Canada.

Change ringing is a church tradition that dates to the era of King Henry VIII of England, and is the ringing of musically tuned tower bells in continually changing order to produce melodic cadences. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral’s bell tower is one of only 45 bell towers in the United States.

The Seven Towers Festival takes its name from seven specific bell towers, those located at St. James Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas; St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church and St. Thomas Episcopal Church, all in Houston, Texas; First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana, Arkansas; St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

But this year’s festival, the first in several years due to

disruption by the COVID pandemic, cast a significantly wider net, with participants from Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville, South Carolina; Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; Toronto, Canada, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Participants, who ranged in change ringing skills from relative beginners to “old pros,” took part in training sessions of varying complexity from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday, and treated Trinity congregants to extended bell performances from 9 a.m. until the start of the 10:30 service on Sunday, April 30, resuming at 11:30 a.m. and ringing into the afternoon.

The training sessions were led by Trinity ringers Dick Dearnley, Scott Stricker, William Hronas and Porter Brownlee, as well as visiting ringers Candace Higginbotham of Shreveport, Remica Gray of Texarkana, Allen Nunley of Houston, Faith Magwood of Victoria, British Columbia, Meredith Morris of Washington, D.C., Linda Rankin of Bradford, Pennsylvania, and Bob Aldinger of Hendersonville, South Carolina.

But the festival wasn’t all work and no play. The participants enjoyed delicious dinners on April 28 and 29 in Morrison Hall, organized by Trinity Tower Captain Julie Keller with hands-on assistance and baked goodies from Trinity ringers Mary Wilson and Sandy Miller Hays, as well as guest Donna McDonald; a guided tour of the River Market District led by Trinity ringers Dick Dearnley and Porter Brownlee on Friday night; a wonderful box lunch on Saturday, and the serendipitous treat of a free concert in Trinity Cathedral on Saturday night, when the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Choir performed Gabriel Fauré’s much-loved “Requiem,” which he composed in 1888 as a prayerful lament in response to his father’s recent death.

Participants also received a “goodie bag” packed with Little Rock memorabilia, including a specially commissioned bell-shaped ceramic dish, to make their stay in Little Rock even more memorable. The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for change ringers to not only sharpen their ringing skills, but also to make new friends while making a joyful noise in the heart of Little Rock.

## Anatomy of a Text Scam

by Jack Dowling

You would never ignore a message from someone important to you like a family member, your boss, or your priest, right? That's exactly what scammers are counting on.

Trinity parishioners have been receiving strangely worded texts, seemingly from Dean Meaux. It is a quick message saying she needs assistance, but is going into a meeting so don't call. Those who respond to the text then get a message requesting gift cards be purchased. This is a variation of the "boss text" scam.

Gift card scams are fraudulent schemes where scammers trick individuals into purchasing gift cards and providing the card details or PIN numbers. These scams exploit the popularity and ease of use of gift cards as a form of payment.

To protect yourself from text and email scams, consider the following precautions:

*Be Cautious of Unsolicited Requests:* Be wary of unexpected calls, emails, or messages asking for gift cards or for personal information like account logins.

*Verify Requests Independently:* If you receive a request for gift cards, independently verify the legitimacy of the request. Often these text messages convey a sense of urgency, but your safety is always more important. Take the time to contact the organization or individual directly using their official contact information to confirm the request, even if the text asks you not to.

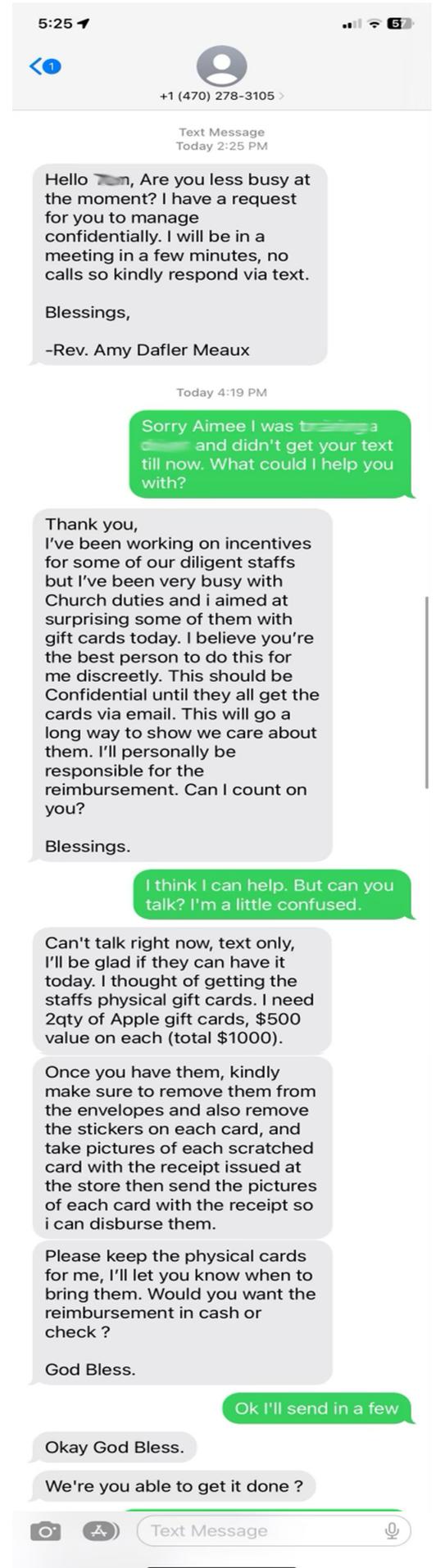
*Don't Share Gift Card Details:* Never provide the details of gift cards, such as the card numbers, PINs, or codes to anyone you don't know or trust. Once that information is given, the money is lost to the scam.

*Report Scams:* If you encounter a gift card scam or suspect other fraudulent activity, report it to the Federal Trade Commission ([reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)).

Remember, clergy and staff will never contact you by text to purchase gift cards. Stay vigilant and skeptical of any unsolicited requests for gift card payments to protect yourself from falling victim to these scams.

*The image on the right is from screen shots one of our parishioners shared with us. You can see that once the initial text was answered the gift card solicitation began.*

*Take note of the language in the bogus text. We all know Dean Meaux to be a straight talker and a skilled preacher. The author of these messages uses strange phrasing and odd word choices.*



## Bishop Candidate Meet-and-Greet

After more than nine months of prayer and discernment, the Standing Committee and Bishop Search Committee are pleased to share the following slate of candidates for the 14th Bishop of Arkansas:



The Rev. Canon John T. W. Harmon  
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church,  
Washington, DC



The Rev. Mary Vano  
Rector, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church,  
Little Rock

As a part of the bishop search process, the Transitions Committee has scheduled meet-and-greet sessions with the two candidates for bishop. Trinity will host a session on Sunday, August 6 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The Q&A Session will be live-streamed to our YouTube channel and childcare will be provided.

To submit questions for the Q&A sessions, fill out the form, accessible through the QR code on the left at the bottom of this page, by Friday, July 14. Questions will not be taken from the floor.

Our choir will present a Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Transfiguration at 5 p.m. followed by a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres.

The diocesan website has each candidate's biography, resume, and responses to the written questions that were part of the process. You can read that information by scanning the QR code on the right.

Submit a Question for the  
Candidates



Learn more about the  
Candidates





The 1884 Legacy Society wants you to know that eligible IRA owners who are required to take a minimum distribution from their IRA can make a qualified charitable distribution.

Donating your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to charity can have several advantages:

*Tax benefits:* By donating your RMD directly to a qualified charitable organization, the donated amount is excluded from your taxable income. This means you can potentially lower your overall tax liability. However, it's essential to consult with a tax professional or financial advisor to understand the specific tax implications in your situation.

*Fulfilling philanthropic goals:* Donating your RMD allows you to support causes and organizations you care about. It gives you an opportunity to make a positive impact and contribute to charitable efforts that align with your values and interests.

*Supporting your community:* Charitable donations help support various programs and initiatives that benefit society. By contributing your RMD to a nonprofit organization, you can help address critical needs, support education, fund medical research, provide disaster relief, or aid other social and environmental causes.

*Simplifying your finances:* Required Minimum Distributions are mandatory withdrawals from certain retirement accounts, like Traditional IRAs and 401(k)s, once you reach a certain age (beginning in 2023, that age is increased to 73 – note: those who turned 72 during 2022 are covered by the “old rules”—i.e. since they turned 72 in 2022, their first RMD is due for 2022). By donating your RMD directly to charity, you can simplify your financial planning and avoid the need to receive and manage the funds personally.

*Potential to maximize impact:* If you have sufficient income and don't rely on your RMD for living expenses, donating it to charity ensures the funds are put to good use. Nonprofit organizations often have expertise in utilizing donations effectively, ensuring that your contribution makes a meaningful difference.

Remember, it is important to consult with a financial advisor or tax professional who can provide personalized advice based on your specific circumstances. They can help you evaluate the potential advantages and any limitations associated with donating your RMD to charity.

Are you interested in learning more about the 1884 Legacy Society,  
or joining its membership by making a planned gift to Trinity?  
Visit [www.trinitylittlerock.org/legacy](http://www.trinitylittlerock.org/legacy)

### Trinity's Mission

The mission of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is to proclaim the Word of God by sharing our gifts, ourselves, and our properties through ministry to each other, our neighbors, and our community as we serve God and represent the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas.



# TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
*A house of prayer for all people*

310 W. 17th Street  
Little Rock, AR 72206-1492  
Office: 501-372-0294  
Fax: 501-372-0416  
[www.trinitylittlerock.org](http://www.trinitylittlerock.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72206-1492  
PERMIT #1633

**Address Service Requested**

## Trinity Cathedral Staff

Dean and Rector  
The Very Rev. Amy  
Dafler Meaux  
Clergy  
The Rev. Deb Cooper  
The Rev. Canon Dr.  
Lisa Cory  
The Rev. Susan Payne

## Lay Staff

Kristine Barbaree  
Reta Dean  
Jack Dowling  
Joe Harris  
Mary Penick Hodges  
Dawn Howe  
Celina Kobetitsch  
Dr. Colin MacKnight  
Emma Mitchell  
Ricky Parks

## ECEP

Christy Poindexter

## The Vestry

Senior Warden  
Steve Bethel  
Junior Warden  
Mary Margaret Wippo  
Treasurer  
Grant Wallace  
Clerk  
Melonese Clarke  
Member at Large  
Kelly Wassell

Susan Allen  
Jack Harvey  
Josh Hill  
Christoph Keller  
Grady McCoy, IV  
John Milwee  
Lara Schock  
David Turner  
Marcia Wayland

Chancellor  
Clarke Tucker

## Connect With Us Digitally

Visit our website: [www.trinitylittlerock.org](http://www.trinitylittlerock.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TrinityCathedral](https://facebook.com/TrinityCathedral)

Instagram: @trinitylittlerock

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/TrinityLittleRock](https://www.youtube.com/c/TrinityLittleRock)

Tag your photos with #trinitylittlerock when you post about the Cathedral to be part of the conversation.

## Save Paper, Go Electronic

This newsletter is available in digital format on our website and by email.

To go paperless and help preserve our resources, email [communications@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:communications@trinitylittlerock.org).

