

A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear People of Trinity,

Trinity Cathedral is a beacon of faith in Little Rock and a source of vitality and strength for the Episcopal Church throughout Arkansas. Our worship is beautiful, welcoming, and warm. Within one community, we value and embody diversity in people, perspectives and ideas. With flair, we celebrate the arts. With sleeves-rolled-up commitment, we engage the world. Young and old, we pray, we think, we serve and in doing so our minds are tuned to faith in Christ, our memories to hope, and our attitudes to love.

Over the past year we have been engaged in cathedral wide strategic planning process. It began with careful listening concerning what we value in our church. “Beautiful worship,” “caring community,” “spiritual formation,” “artistic expression,” “community engagement,” and “cathedral identity” were answers that emerged, each one fleshed out and colored in.

For each of those six values, we now have set a goal. For each goal, we have developed plans. For example, our fourth core value is described as follows:

Artistic expression, through glorious music, inspiring spaces, colorful and fragrant flourishes, and memorable performances. For that value, we have set this goal:

Goal: Create and publicize to the parish, neighborhood, and ECEP parents, an innovative and festive summer Sunday afternoon worship, music, and food festival—beginning this June.

From that, the idea of “Summer Sundays on Spring Street” was born, fleshed out, and colored in with prayers, bluegrass music, deviled eggs, watermelon, and contemplative experiences with children and dogs warmly included in the mix. [Camp Mitchell alums will come to town, guitars in hand, along with Three-on-a-String for our culminating event.] Please look at the schedule, choose some afternoons to come, and bring a friend!

That is only one example. A synopsis of each value and goal is included with this letter. What we ask of you is your participation! It is you who will “flesh out and color in” these values. It is you who provide the warmth and welcome, and the sleeves-rolled-up engagement with the world. You will make these summer afternoons friendly and festive. Come this fall, you will find a host of pathways open for your own or your children’s spiritual enrichment—“minds tuned to faith, memories to hope, and attitudes to love.” Look for a path that seems promising to you, and take a stroll.

In all this ways that opening description will become more and more deeply who we are.

For the Cathedral,

Chris

To learn more about our Strategic Plan come to the Dean’s Class on June 10th in Morrison Hall. We will discuss, “What’s Next at Trinity? Our Goals and Strategies to Reach Them.”

SYNOPSIS OF VALUES AND GOALS

CORE VALUE #1

Beautiful worship in the Anglican tradition, in an atmosphere that feels welcoming and warm.

Goal: Increase average Sunday attendance to 350 by end of 2019, with special emphasis on young adults, including families with children.

Note: Fulfillment of our other goals will bear strongly on success with this one. It might be taken as a measure of their success. Specific strategies for the attraction of people to church will also be developed in due course.

CORE VALUE #2

Caring community that values diverse people, perspectives and ideas.

Goal: Creatively foster interpersonal connections that strengthen feelings of community to such an extent that Sunday attendance becomes second nature.

Note: Community building is a concern for special emphasis. A broad-based task group will start the process by brainstorming and implementing ways to help this happen.

CORE VALUE #3

Spiritual formation for all ages: lively programs in attractive spaces that open pathways deeper into faith, hope, and love through common study, prayer, and action.

Goal: For both adults and children our goals are to foster awareness of and involvement in spiritually enriching activities.

Note: By August 12, we will produce two booklets, one each for adults and children, showing a rich variety of activities and guiding them into full participation.

CORE VALUE #4

Artistic expression, through glorious music, inspiring spaces, colorful and fragrant flourishes, and memorable performances.

Goal: Create and publicize to the parish, neighborhood, and ECEP parents, an innovative and festive summer Sunday afternoon worship, music, and food festival—beginning this June.

Note: Summer Sundays on Spring Street kicks off June 10!

CORE VALUE #5

Community Engagement: strong partnerships with other groups and churches for the vitality of Little Rock and the common good.

Goal: Establish a Bethel-Trinity Covenant Steering Committee, charged to plan and implement four partnership activities over the next twelve months including: (1) a reading and discussion series; (2) a covenant renewal service that includes events at both sites and a walk between; (3) an activity purely for fun and fellowship; (4) as a service project: an activity or special event we jointly sponsor for the greater Little Rock Community. It could be a speaker, a symposium, or a musical performance.

Note: Committee will be announced by June 1st.

CORE VALUE #6

Cathedral identity, as a beacon of faith in Little Rock and source of vitality and strength in worship, community, formation, expression, and engagement for the Episcopal Church throughout Arkansas.

Goal: Establish a partnership between Diocese and Cathedral to explore together possibilities for more effective use of Cathedral House and other spaces on the block for purposes of Diocesan development and outreach.

Note: This goal pertains to facilities on campus, and points toward improvements in access, visibility, and . . . restrooms.