

# **Honoring Our Sacred Space: A Spiritual Workbook**

**Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth  
Capital Campaign 2017  
May 21 - June 4, 2017**



*Almighty God, source of all good gifts, we are grateful for our many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and desire to be faithful stewards of your bounty. Help us to step forward in faith and guide our hearts into generous giving so that Trinity Episcopal Church may remain a house of peace, safety, renewal, and outreach to the Glory of your name. Amen.*

## **Honoring Our Sacred Space: A Spiritual Workbook**

Trinity's rector is famous for giving us spiritual homework. And aren't we amazed at what we discover about God and ourselves when we actually do that spiritual deep dive? Here is an opportunity for us all to dig deeply into the spiritual components of Trinity's capital campaign. We hope not only to "renovate" portions of our beloved facility but also to "renovate" our hearts and spirits during the two-week active campaign, from May 21 – June 4.

This exercise has two parts.

**Part I** offers guides for daily meditation on the spiritual opportunities this capital campaign offers to us. Add these meditations to your daily prayers from May 21 to June 4. Light a candle. Sit in silence with God. Take notes.

**Part II** encourages you to try your hand at expressing these spiritual insights in creative new ways. Write a simple poem or an original collect, or paint a vibrant image, about this stewardship event in the life of Trinity.

### **Part I: Daily Prayer During the Capital Campaign**

#### **1. Daily Meditations**

Using the model of the Trinity Lenten Meditation booklets, several lay members of Trinity's congregation have shared their personal reflections on a spiritual aspect of the capital campaign. We also have included some challenging questions as opportunities for digging deeper. Consider adding these meditations to your own daily prayer time. Maybe jot down notes or write in your journal.

The meditations are included in printed booklet form, for distribution at the campaign kickoff event on May 21, and also will be distributed daily on social media from May 21 – June 4.

Some of the writers are longtime lay members of Trinity; others are newcomers, whom you may not have even met. Together they present a rich image of the variety of those who share a love of Trinity's sacred spaces and support the effort to honor those spaces. Together they challenge us to pray about and ponder this question: How might God be using this building renovation time to renovate our hearts and spirits?

Many thanks to our own spiritual guides for this homework project:

Brandy and Josh Bacon

Karen Barlow

Leigh Cariker

Chris Holt

Christa McClary

Scott Millican

Kathryn Poyner

Margie Ranc

Karen Shepherd

Gail Smith

Priscilla Tate

Kathleen Wells

It is our hope that these beautifully personal meditations will feed our spirits and serve as a welcoming invitation to participate in Trinity's capital campaign together.

## **2. Campaign Prayer**

Also include the campaign prayer in your daily prayer time. Know that your voice will join others at Trinity who are raising this campaign up for God's blessing:

"Almighty God, source of all good gifts, we are grateful for our many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and desire to be faithful stewards of your bounty. Help us to step forward in faith and guide our hearts into generous giving so that Trinity Episcopal Church may remain a house of peace, safety, renewal, and outreach to the Glory of your name. Amen."



## **DAY 1: Sunday, May 21, 2017**

How is God leading Trinity in this Capital Campaign? I can tell you that a few of us have felt the call to do a capital funds drive for some time. As a lay leader over the past five (5) years – managing the Operating Budget and supporting Christa who has responded to HVAC breakdowns and repair bills and filed numerous claims on our Church Insurance policy's Boiler and Mechanical coverage, over several years in a row – this will get your attention.

The planning process has been intentional, and as a result our church family is well informed and supportive that now is the time to act and make improvements to our infrastructure. I know God has been present in Vestry meetings, in Building and Grounds discussions, in our interaction with Architects and Engineers – all leading to this time. While an energy-efficient building is not a ministry, it does enable our ministries. And when we can re-direct thousands of dollars from system maintenance and utility bills to new and expanded work to build His Kingdom, we are being faithful stewards of the gifts that previous generations of Trinity's members have provided.

In the 35 years that I have been attending Trinity church, we have had no significant debt. What a blessing that has been! For my part, I am aware that God has guided our process for selecting a Campaign Consulting firm, in identifying members willing to serve on the Steering Committee and to take a leadership role, and in the partnership we have in the Trinity Episcopal Church Foundation. I may have had a role in the Second Century Fund drive in 1990, but I was a first-time vestry member and Senior Warden, and whatever was accomplished then to support renovations to the nave and installation of the J. W. Walker pipe organ I assure you was faith in action. This campaign is no different. I may be older and a bit wiser, a few more miles into my spiritual journey, but undertaking a Capital Campaign is still an act of faith, and the Lord is a steady companion along the way.

God has a plan for Trinity and its people. My prayer is that this campaign will bring us closer together as a faith community and help us realize the great potential that we have for ministry and service to our neighborhood. Thanks be to God for the unexpected blessings that will result from this effort.

Leigh Cariker,  
Capital Campaign Co-Chair

## DAY 2: Monday, May 22, 2017

“Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

When I retired, one of the first things I did was to invite myself into a group of folks who had been gathering the papers and objects which sum up the history of Trinity church since its beginning in 1893. The archives committee is still hard at work assembling, cataloging, and storing, but once in a while we take a field trip.



This winter our destination was the Lipscomb Avenue site, just south of Magnolia Street, which was our church home from the 1920's until the move to Bellaire Drive South in 1948. Trinity sold the building to the Panther Boys Club (now the Panther Boys and Girls Club, part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Worth). Today the building primarily serves disadvantaged youth through educational and recreational activities.

Being shown around that building which was home to Trinity was nearly a spiritual experience. Upstairs, now used for storage of, among other things, second-hand clothes to be given to needy kids, we could look eastward through the clear glass window toward Fort Worth and try to envision the missing rose window which didn't survive the trip to the “suburbs.” Downstairs and looking to the ceiling of the nave, we noticed the wooden braces which support lights. They look very much like the beams which are presently in our church and also in the parish hall. On Lipscomb, they now look down on a basketball court. Serving as seating in the room which mainly features billiard and foosball tables are a couple of Trinity's old pews. As we left, we walked along the side of the building and onto the grass to examine the 1920's cornerstone, and under each of the windows there are still bits and pieces of stained glass.

Buildings are not churches—people are the church—but Lipscomb can't help but be a sort of metaphor. If our Trinity family does wish to follow Micah's admonition to “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God,” we can be happy to say that even our long-ago abandoned building is still trying.

Karen Shepherd,  
Capital Campaign Committee

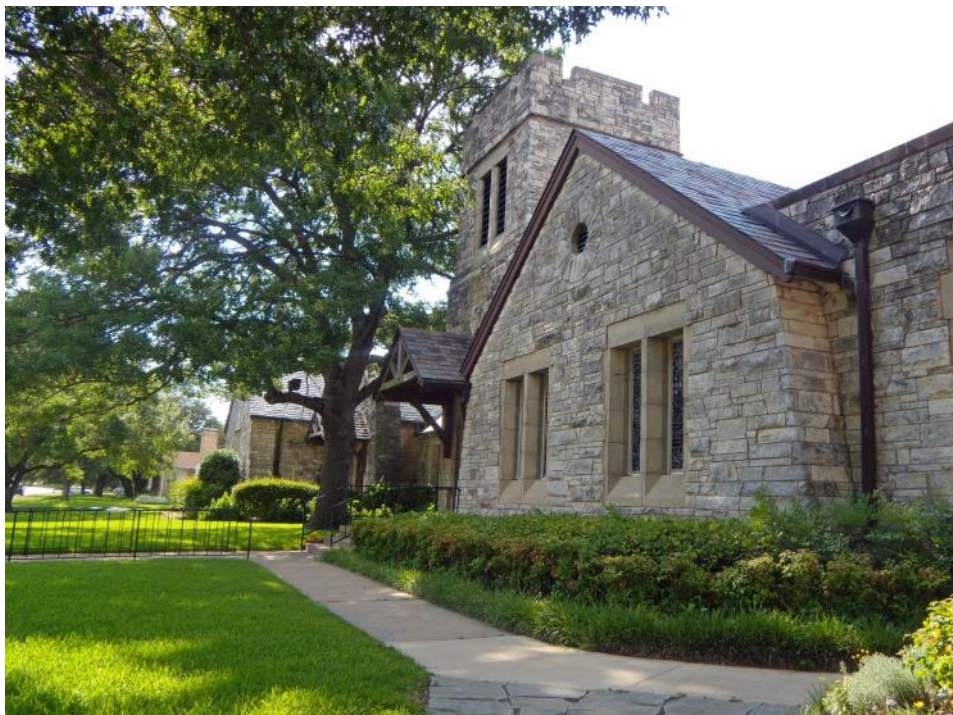
### **DAY 3: Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

I am a relatively new member at Trinity, transferring my membership from another church a few years ago as a result of moving to Fort Worth. Trinity has quickly become a place of hope and worship for me; part of His plan for me "to give me a future with hope." I am so very thankful that God has blessed me with this community of faith. It is a special place and I know that God is using it to His glory in these turbulent times.

As we enter into this capital campaign, my hope is that each of us takes time to reflect on the abundant blessings He has provided through this congregation and this clergy over the past years. The physical structure is in need of help so that we can continue providing a place of hope, safety and worship to those that God is sending our way. And I am confident that His will is being accomplished here each and every day.

Gail Smith,  
New Vestry Member



## **DAY 4: Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Consider these questions. Jot down your ideas and responses.

What is “sacred space?” Give five (5) examples of places—anywhere on Earth or beyond--that are sacred to you. Why are they sacred?

---

---

---

In what ways can I “honor our sacred space”?

---

---

---

Identify three (3) areas of Trinity’s physical plant that are sacred space for you. Why are they sacred? (Maybe go take photos of these sacred spaces! And consider posting your photos to the campaign wall in the Parish Hall!)

---

---

---

Identify three (3) times you felt closest to Christ while on the grounds of Trinity Episcopal Church? How were those events sacred? How did Trinity’s physical plant contribute to the spirituality of those moments?

---

---

---

[Re-read the liturgy for the Dedication and Consecration of a Church, beginning on page 567 of the Book of Common Prayer.] What can I do to continue to bless and consecrate the sacred space at Trinity?

---

---

---

## **DAY 5: Thursday, May 25, 2017**

Being basically a service oriented person, I am often hesitant to be on committees whose goal is to raise money. When asked to help raise funds for the Trinity Church building, I immediately thought of the wonderful memories that my entire family has had in this building.

We have participated as readers, cell group, EFM, acolytes, Trinity Travelers, vestry, bells, EYC, greeters, Saturday night suppers and foyer dinners.

My sweet husband's parents were members at Trinity. His sisters were married here. His brother and sister-in-law are current members. He was a cradle Trinity Episcopalian. Our children were baptized and confirmed and married at this church. Their children love this church. Jim was buried here.

The loving relationship with God and the people of Trinity are, of course, the heart and soul, but this building houses these precious memories and is truly a sacred space.

Karen Barlow,  
Capital Campaign Committee



## DAY 6: Friday, May 26, 2017

### Finding Sacred Spaces

Much of my joy in worship comes through the senses . . . the sound of a sanctus bell during communion, the smell of incense swirling from the sensor back and forth down the aisle, a flash of sunlight through stained glass, the tang of sacramental wine spreading through my mouth, the touch of kind hands. All for me are outward and visible signs bringing inward and spiritual grace.

When I arrived at Trinity last December I was drawn to its long, grey stone building, solid and sturdy, surrounded by tall trees. Inside, the massive brown beams and bright jewel-toned windows were bold and surprising. At Trinity I have heard hymns I sang in my Episcopal girls' school long ago and hymns my Baptist grandmother sang from her rocking chair. I have enjoyed watching elderly folks and sleepy toddlers welcomed at the altar. Trinity services are a comfortable combination of "high and low;" it is accessible and welcoming.

I am pleased and eager to support Trinity Episcopal Church. I am grateful to be a part of its congregation and share its sacred spaces.

Margie Ranc,  
New Member of Trinity



## DAY 7: Saturday, May 27, 2017

Our capital campaign is not just about an old building in need of repairs. It's about our church family and relationships. It's about having a space to meet and grow spiritually and encourage one another and pray together and grieve with each other. Trinity is the place where our little children meet God and ask the hard questions. It's our place of peace in the midst of a chaotic world. We want our sacred space to be safe, inviting and, yes, in the Texas summer, cool enough to breathe in! Trinity is not just bricks and mortar. It's the heartbeat, the center of where we come together to share our lives and hopes and dreams and sorrows on our spiritual journey.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. I think it will take our village to raise up our building so that it can be our sacred space for many more years.

Kathryn Poynor,  
New Vestry Member



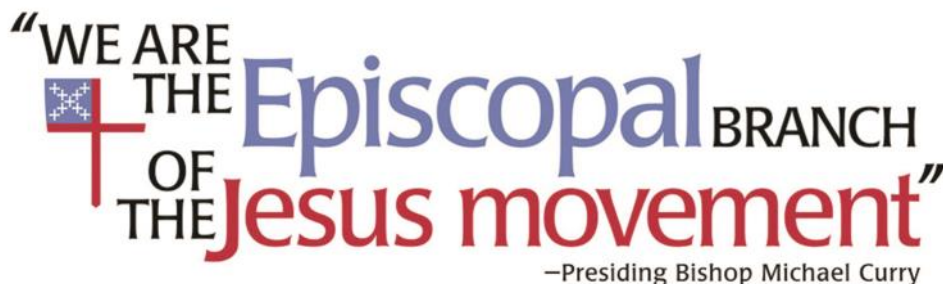
## DAY 8: Sunday, May 28, 2017

What a joy it has been to edit this marvelous little spiritual aid, to see the love that is directed to support Trinity's outreaching ministry, and to focus on the spiritual components of our capital campaign. To explore the role of Trinity's building as yet another sacred tool available for God's ongoing creation. To dig deep and gain new insight on how even a hidden, unglamorous HVAC system is a critical and holy part of the fundamental infrastructure that we, with God's help, are privileged to offer in sacred hospitality as a holy refuge and a fertile environment for the Holy Spirit to do her work.

I feel so honored to be asked to help meet this capital need at Trinity. But, being recently retired, can I really afford to make a pledge to the campaign, in addition to maintaining my annual pledge to Trinity? Well, let's see. I finally purchased a new car this year, I am going on two vacations this year, I regularly feed my book addiction, and there are all those dozens of really cute shoes in my closet . . . . Yes, I am awash in abundance. More important, a pledge to this campaign will affirm a central priority—the central priority—in my life. And, yes, I can and will do this—joyfully and gratefully.

Join me and so many others in celebrating that, by God's grace, we each have “enough” to ensure that Trinity's physical space remains as a welcoming beacon of God's light and love on Bellaire Drive South and beyond—the Trinity branch of the “Jesus Movement.”

Kathleen Wells,  
New Vestry Member and Capital Campaign Committee



## **DAY 9: Monday, May 29, 2017**

Your turn again:

How does my checkbook and credit card statements for last year reflect my identity as a child of God, made in the image of God? Where was God in those transactions?

---

---

---

How does my calendar for the past year reflect my identity, as a child of God, made in the image of God? Where was God in those activities?

---

---

---

As I plan ahead for the next three years, how is my personal budget a moral document, reflecting my spiritual priorities?

---

---

---

What will it take for me to have “enough” so that I can give back as generously as I would like to give to God’s work through Trinity?

---

---

---

How might God be inviting me to stretch and grow spiritually during this capital campaign? What am I supposed to learn from this moment in my spiritual path?

---

---

---

## **DAY 10: Tuesday, May 30, 2017**

Trinity is my sacred space; each time I enter the nave, visit the columbarium, and kneel in my pew, I am surrounded by “the blessed company of all faithful people.” Many of my life’s most important moments occurred here, beginning with being welcomed on the first Sunday I attended in 1971: my son’s confirmation, my daughter’s wedding, my granddaughter’s baptism, my being licensed to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and the most recent, my dear Gary’s funeral and interment in the columbarium. The nave echoes in my memory with special words from clergy who have ministered to me and my family here, music played and sung gloriously, prayers offered, the sounds of both laughter and sadness, the blessings offered for birthdays and anniversaries. I support the Capital Campaign because I pray for Trinity to remain long after I am gone to become a sacred space for those not yet among us and as a testament to all those who have gone before.

Priscilla W. Tate,  
Member



## DAY 11: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

### My Sacred Place

When we think about our church, the building itself, we have so many emotions. Brandy was confirmed here, we were married here, we baptized our baby here, we cried for lost loved ones here, we have tried to make sense of things here, we have made friends here, and we feel at home here. A sense of comfort and stability washes over us every time we enter these doors. We believe it's vital that we keep our sacred place open, comfortable, and ready to receive all who seek peace in the body of Christ and the fellowship of this congregation. It is critical that the building itself gives everyone the aura of comfort and a place to focus on exactly what they came for and what they need. Prayerfully, we as members of this church family, hope that the capital campaign will preserve our sacred space at the present and in the future when others will find us, seeking a place to worship and belong.

Brandy Bacon,  
Member

Josh Bacon,  
Vestry Member



## **DAY 12: Thursday, June 1, 2017**

During the past two years, I have prayed many times for Trinity's HVAC system.

I have prayed that the building will be cooled or heated for a wedding, Easter Sunday, Mother Stephanie's ordination, and for Sunday mornings when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. I have prayed that on a Sunday morning, I won't be greeted with a plumbing problem in a restroom or the kitchen. I have prayed that all who enter Trinity will be safe and comfortable. I have prayed that all systems will be "go" on special occasions or when two or three are gathered in his name.

Today, I pray that all who are asked to contribute to the Capital Campaign will hear and understand the words that an excessively large part of our yearly pledged funds are budgeted for HVAC repairs. Wouldn't it be wonderful to use those funds for our outreach programs, children's programs, and to maintain other areas that need attention? I pray that utility savings and a greener facility will speak to all who are asked to contribute to the Capital Campaign.

As it states in the Building and Grounds Ministry statement, we exist to provide stewardship of our property, to make it safe and inviting, a beacon to all, and to inspire others to care for God's gifts to us. I will continue to pray for a successful Capital Campaign that will assure that Trinity and all who enter her doors will see another 125 years.

Christa McClary,  
Junior Warden



## DAY 13: Friday, June 2, 2017

It's your turn again:

How is a church building a spiritual tool? What other tools has God used throughout history to help the build His Kingdom?

---

---

---

How is Trinity's physical plant a spiritual tool?

---

---

---

How do I care for other tools that are important in my life, e.g., my house, car, yard, tool box, clothes, computer, sewing tools, and writing tools? How do I honor my body, that other sacred space, which is also God's temple?

---

---

---

How could a stable HVAC system enable Trinity to live more fully into its mission and ministry?

---

---

---

How might tending to the hidden infrastructure of our church facilities be holy work? How might God want to "renovate" my heart and spirit as we work on Trinity's building over the next year?

---

---

---

## **DAY 14: Saturday, June 3, 2017**

When Michelle and I think of Trinity we see a sacred place that has opened its arms to us without hesitation or exclusions. Coming from houses of two differing faiths, it was important that we felt welcomed but also allowed to respond and grow on our own spiritual pace. Trinity allowed just that.

Even though we continually deal with the heavy burden of student loan debt, we wanted to make a sacrificial commitment by pledging to the Capital Campaign. We wish to always help Trinity in any way that we can.

Chris Holt,  
Vestry



## **DAY 15: Sunday, June 4, 2017**

Fellow parishioners, we are entering into an exciting and pivotal time for our church. As I look at our parish today, I see one that has grown its ministry so much over the last few years. We are truly achieving our goal of being a place that looks beyond our doors into the larger community and helping our brothers and sisters in need, whether they happen to belong to Trinity or not. That is evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in all of us! Since I have become Senior Warden, I have been privileged to see up close the work being done by so many of you that furthers our spiritual commitment to our parish, and to God. It is very easy to see the love that so many of you have for Trinity.

The Capital Campaign currently underway is aptly named “Honoring our Sacred Space.” It is sacred and dear to all of us, and that is why it is vital that we take care of the gift of our physical building that God has given us. I hope you will join my wife Pam and me in pledging your financial support to this important phase in the life our church and its ministry.

Scott Millican,  
Senior Warden



Now, with God’s help, write your own spiritual reflection about what you have learned from participating in the capital campaign. . . .

## **Part II: Hands-On Creative Homework**

Now for the really fun part! For those who want to stretch a little, here is a “capital” opportunity to express spiritual insights you have gained through this campaign, in sacred forms that have been used for centuries.

Here’s how:

1. **Prepare:** Embrace the Daily Reflections in this workbook and the Daily Lectionary readings during the campaign, with particular focus on the spiritual aspects that the capital campaign awakens in you. Consider using Lectio Divina or another Bible study tool.
2. **Create:** Then, create your own original work that reflects a spiritual aspect of “Honoring Our Sacred Space.” The form of the writing, art, photography, music or any other form of expression is wide open. It can be whatever you and God decide best expresses the opportunity of “Honoring Our Sacred Space.”
3. **Share:** You don’t have to share your work with anyone or even tell anyone that you have taken on this creative challenge! It can be your and God’s secret! But for those who want to share all this creativity, we can meet and consider later whether or how to share our inspired work with the rest of the congregation. This exercise may be the start of a gloriously creative spiritual journal, or an annual spiritual poetry contest, or who knows what else? If you are interested in getting together to share our creative work, contact Kathleen Wells at [kathleenwells1@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenwells1@yahoo.com).

**Read on for suggestions! Turn to page 20.**

### **Suggested forms and (where to find examples):**

- ♦ Poetry, in any form, e.g., haiku, free form, sonnet, etc. (Kathleen Wells)
- ♦ Script or short story
- ♦ Reflections (Forward Day by Day or reflections of our guest spiritual guides in this workbook)
- ♦ Psalms (Psalter at Book of Common Prayer, pp. 582-808)
- ♦ Collects (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 159-261)
- ♦ Prayers of the People (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 383-393)
- ♦ Other prayers (Campaign Prayer and Book of Common Prayer generally)
- ♦ Song, chant, anthem, or other musical work, with or without lyrics, vocal and/or instrumental, e.g., original lyrics set to one of the forms of the Doxology, to another familiar tune, or to a brand new melody
- ♦ Litanies (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 58, 101, 836-837)
- ♦ Liturgies (Book of Common Prayer generally) create a worship service to “Honor Our Sacred Space”
- ♦ Prayers and Thanksgivings (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 814 -841)
- ♦ Visual art in any medium, e.g., Crayola, colored pencils, chalk, charcoal, oil, sculpture, woodwork, or computer-generated graphic art, etc.
- ♦ Photography
- ♦ Handwork, needlework, or other textile items, e.g., knitted, crocheted, quilted, cross-stitched, or embroidered

**And, to jumpstart your creative juices, here are alternative ways to refer to some of the key spiritual concepts in this capital campaign:**

**KEY WORD: Renovate**

fix up  
modernize  
clean  
overhaul  
refit  
refurbish  
rehabilitate  
remake  
remodel  
repair  
restore  
revamp  
revitalize  
revive  
spruce up  
update  
cleanse  
do  
face-lift  
reactivate  
recondition  
reconstitute  
recreate  
reform  
refresh  
rekindle  
renew  
resurrect  
resuscitate  
retread  
retrieve  
revivify

spruce  
do up  
gussy up  
make over  
expand  
enlarge  
repurpose  
reimagine  
reconfigure  
rearrange

**KEY WORD: Honor**

esteem  
respect  
admire  
defer to  
look up to  
appreciate  
value  
cherish  
adore  
reverence  
revere  
venerate  
worship  
put on a pedestal  
fulfill (an obligation)  
keep (an agreement)  
fulfill  
observe  
keep  
obey  
heed

follow  
carry out  
discharge  
implement  
execute  
effect  
keep to  
abide by  
adhere to  
comply with  
conform to  
be true to  
live up to



## **Creative Space for Your Reflections**

## **Creative Space for Your Reflections**

## Trinity Episcopal Church

[www.fortworthtrinity.org](http://www.fortworthtrinity.org)  
3401 Bellaire Drive South  
Fort Worth, Texas 76109  
817-926-4631  
[trinity@fortworthtrinity.org](mailto:trinity@fortworthtrinity.org)

