A Letter from the Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a blessing it is to be a part of Trinity Church in the City of Boston in 2016.

Signs of the Spirit are all around us. Majestic beauty and resonant history surround us in our worship, through liturgy, music, art and architecture. The growing participation in classes and Bible study groups is evidence of our companionship in faith as we seek to know Christ and care for one another. And our thirst for justice is manifest in the widening scope of the Trinity Boston Foundation and the increasing number of parishioners who are tutoring young people, feeding the hungry, housing the displaced, and advocating for equal opportunity.

This energy burgeoning in our life calls us into a deeper life in Christ, to new life-giving ways of building God’s Kingdom.

In response, our comprehensive $25 million campaign, How Firm a Foundation: Trinity for the 21st Century, aims to strengthen the core ministries of our church. Together, we can attend to our building’s structural needs, enhance its abilities to support our community’s life, and help ensure its care in perpetuity. At the same time, we can increase the capacity of our healing outreach programs to help us engage fully in the work of building God’s Kingdom in Boston and beyond.

Please read about our goals for this campaign. Imagine with us how these efforts can strengthen and grow God’s vibrant church. Pray about how you might participate, as we recommit ourselves to spreading Christ’s love now and in the years to come.

We are blessed to be a blessing. And we have holy work to do.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd
Rector
Do you remember the first moment you crossed the threshold into Trinity? Was it Christmas Eve or Easter morning, or a rainy day when life had dealt you a blow greater than you thought you could bear? Can you recall what you felt in that first moment?

The soaring space, richly painted surfaces, and luminous stained glass windows of Trinity's interior were born out of uncertainty, risk, and vision. In the 1870s, facing a crossroads in its life, our congregation took a risk on a team of passionate and mostly unproven young men. Together these visionaries built a masterpiece, one of the primary achievements of American architecture.

Within this sanctum, sublime music from the organ and choirs, poetry of the Psalms, and inspiration of Scripture and preaching intertwine in our worship. Transcendent moments abound, when we are lifted from the particularities of our lives and feel the power and majesty of God’s presence. It is no wonder that lines stretch around the block to experience Christmas and Easter at Trinity.

Today, we are the stewards of all that our building makes possible, not just the grandeur of our nave, but our Parish House, Forum and Commons that teem with activity seven days a week. As the heirs of this gift first given by the generation of the 1870s and renewed faithfully in the years since, we are called to ensure that our building will continue to beckon, comfort, and uplift generations to come.

The first goals priority of this campaign is to repair the exterior walls, roof, stained glass and west porch; upgrade electrical and other outdated systems; and attend to safety issues. Once all of this is achieved, and if funds are available, we are also eager to renew and preserve interior paint and murals.
An Historic Gift and Opportunity

Last year, a group of parishioners who choose to remain anonymous made a gift of historic proportions—$27 million—to endow the long-term preservation and maintenance of Trinity’s building.

In 2027, when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building’s dedication, proceeds from this investment in Trinity’s future will become available to secure the church’s capital needs.

If we can address Trinity’s current capital needs now and in the years leading up to 2027, the new endowment will ensure the building’s future.
“While what first brings us to the building may be its outward beauty and grandeur, what keeps us coming back is the power it holds to renew and affirm our own spirit and our own faith in a higher power. It is that spirit which inhabits and animates this church, making it so much more than a beautiful icon.”

Artist James Robbins (2005)
A New Chapel

The Liturgical Study Group of 2014-15 put the need for a smaller worship space at the top of its priority recommendations. Our sanctuary can often seem too big for a small funeral, a renewal of marriage vows, or noonday worship in the style of Taizé. A smaller, more flexible space will open up opportunities for a range of prayer and worship experiences. Happily, the relocation of Trinity’s shop to a welcome center in the narthex frees up that to be transformed into just such a chapel.

We look forward to dedicating the chapel in February 2017, when we celebrate the 140th anniversary of Trinity’s consecration.
“But if the church... will speak and act fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace, it will enkindle the imagination of humankind and fire the souls of the people, imbuing them with a glowing and ardent love for truth, justice, and peace.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Knock at Midnight”

How do we, as individuals and as a faith community, live out our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being? What sets our souls on fire?

All ministry at Trinity flows from the altar—the flaming heart of God’s love—and our outreach and social justice ministries are no exception. The 2014-15 Mission Task Force imagined Trinity as “a vibrant community of Christians, prayerfully, generously, and directly engaged as agents of God’s love in Boston and in the greater world.” This campaign affirms this call, and envisions investments that build up Trinity’s capacity to realize it.

Currently, the outreach ministries of our parish and the Trinity Boston Foundation (TBF) are growing in size and impact. Parishioners serve with Pine Street Inn, Rosie’s Place, College Behind Bars, and other organizations. A leadership team works with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) to advocate for issues such as housing, criminal justice reform, health care, and education. Joint parish/TBF ministries include tutoring students and creating a library at the Dever and McCormack Schools in Dorchester. Due to the dramatic growth of TBF’s core programs, the Foundation now directly serves more than 500 youth and families each year and affects the lives of 10,000 more.

To expand this work, we must equip a growing corps of outreach volunteers with training, relevant technologies, and staff support to enable them to serve with and for the people of our parish, city, and world.

Part of the holy work of this campaign is to make investments that grow volunteer engagement and leadership across parish outreach ministries and the Trinity Boston Foundation; sustain, strengthen and deepen TBF programs as a key expression of Trinity’s commitment to youth; and maximize the use of our facilities for hospitality, ministry, and as a convening center for events addressing the needs of Boston and beyond.
A Prayer for Our Campaign

Loving God, creator of all that we have and all that we are:
build in us, we pray, a firm foundation for our common life in you.
Stir in us a generosity to preserve and renew Trinity Church
at the heart of our city;
grant us compassion to walk with those
who suffer and those who seek you,
and a joyful faith in the future that rests in you.
Prosper the work of our campaign, gracious God;
and open our hearts to give, to receive, and to serve;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
our hope and true home.
AMEN
For more information, please contact Trinity’s Stewardship Office:

Adam Dawkins, Director
617-536-0944 x342
adawkins@trinitychurchboston.org

Hailey Robison, Assistant Director
617-536-0944 x306
hrobison@trinitychurchboston.org