

Position Available

[Trinity Episcopal Church](#) is offering a full time position. Interested candidates should send a resume and OTM profile by October 6, 2017 to The Reverend Vicki Zust at vzust@episcopalwny.org.

Vicki serves as Bishop's Assistant for Ministry Development for the Diocese of Western New York.

Background

[Trinity Fredonia's](#) membership level is currently 217 Baptized members with an average Sunday attendance of 54. We offer a talented Choir, and a loving Nursery and Church School program.

The history of our church is deeply rooted in the Early American settlement of Chautauqua County. On August 1, 1822, the Trinity Episcopal Parish was officially recognized. "Trinity Church is the fourth oldest parish in the Diocese of Western New York and in fact is older than the Diocese. It is the oldest Episcopal church in Chautauqua County." (Geiben) In 1835 the first Church, a Gothic Revival building had been erected. In 1859 Trinity was lighted by Natural Gas, the first church to do this. (Fredonia is home to the first Gas Well.)

In 1925 the Church caught fire, leaving considerable damage. Undaunted, the parishioners set about rebuilding with plans from Architect, Paul Mann, and in 1926 the new Church with its beautiful stained glass windows was dedicated by Bishop D. L. Ferris. Over the years, through the generosity and support of the congregation, many upgrades and additions have taken place and have kept Trinity current and well suited for many functions and ministries.

Our most recent capital campaign was completed in 2009. This created up-to-date kitchen facilities, as well as, a handicap access entry, elevator, and an open floor community area for meetings and events such as our rummage sales, Bible Study, ECW, Outreach and other Church sponsored social gatherings. An upcoming capital project involves the restoration of our cherished stained glass windows.

Source: (Geiben) <http://trinityfredonia.com/news-blog/about-us/>

Area

[Fredonia's](#) origins date to 1798 and it was declared a village in 1830. Located in [Chautauqua County in Western New York](#), just off the I-90 and near the shores of Lake Erie, it is approximately halfway between Buffalo, NY and Erie, PA. Fredonia is surrounded by a strong farming community, including dairy farms, grape vineyards, and wineries. With a population report of 11,230, as of the 2010 census, the village covers an area of 5.2 square miles. Bordering on the city of Dunkirk, we have parishioners from several neighboring towns and villages.

Barker Commons, centered in the heart of Fredonia, is a lovely double park that hosts many events, especially during the summer months. The 1891 Fredonia Opera House, the Barker Library, Village Hall, Post Office and [Historical Museum](#) along with restaurants and shops and several churches, including Trinity Episcopal, surround the Commons.

Fredonia has an excellent [school system](#), one of the highest ranked in the county. Many opportunities for recreation are available in the village and surrounding area. Activities include swimming, baseball, soccer, and ice hockey. Several of these services are provided through the college.

The [State University of New York at Fredonia](#) is recognized throughout the area for its high academic standards as well as for outstanding art, music and theatrical productions. The 1891 Fredonia Opera House is also a significant cultural asset, serving as a year-round performing arts center. Nearby is the [Chautauqua Institution](#) on beautiful Chautauqua Lake. It offers summer programs of concerts, lectures, plays and religious services.

With all of its small-town charm, Fredonia has a wealth of educational and cultural opportunities, where friendliness and caring for others abound.

Gifts and Skills

Trinity is a community of faithful and faith filled people who are committed to living out the Kingdom of God in Fredonia. We are a parish family who supports one another in good times and times of challenge. We are generous givers of our time and treasure. We are diversely gifted with many talents including music, academics, stewardship to name a few, but mostly our strength lies in our love for God and one another and our willingness to work to keep our faith community sustainable and thriving.

Our incoming priest will be able to relate to different generations of parishioners. This could include engaging in social media, as well as, face to face with others.

Trinity's rector will bring to the fold spiritually inspired, Bible-based sermons that make relevant God's word in our world, as well as promote Christian education opportunities at every age. Our treasured music program will be embraced both in the traditional litany and through public offerings of recitals and concerts.

We are a clergy-centered parish. With that understanding, our incoming priest will encourage and work with laity to live the ministries God calls each of us to in the everyday life of the church. The priest will work in a leadership role collaboratively with the vestry to maintain stewardship. A readiness to provide and promote pastoral care is a strength. The new rector will utilize technology and social media along with traditional forms as tools to promote Christ in our lives.

An approachable demeanor, sense of humor, kindness, and willingness to listen is key. It is necessary to have strength of character and the desire to grow with us as we discern our mission for the next phase of Trinity Fredonia.

Hope for the Future

Our hope for Trinity is that it grows and welcomes new members while retaining the traditions and family-like feeling we value as a parish. We hope to invite and engage others to join with us. We want to maintain the excellent music program we have while developing other aspects of our ministry, particularly offering relevant spiritual education for all stages of life. We would like to attract young families and reach out to college students to balance an aging population. We are united by our faith and would value a pastor who could help us to grow in our understanding of our faith in relation to contemporary life. We hope to have the opportunity to work with other churches to build programming in areas where we may have few people to support a specific program, for example youth group. We also want to become more intentionally welcoming to new members and to long term members, who we may not know due to attending different services or being at different stages in life. We want a priest who will attend to the pastoral care needs of the parishioners and who will help us to become a stronger community of faith.