

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH GAINESVILLE TO CELEBRATE 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Before the University of Florida was established, and the Gainesville population was only 269, there was Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. One hundred and fifty years later, this Gainesville religious institution will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary on the exact date it was incorporated—January 20, 2018.

“Holy Trinity is honored and excited to come together in January for a Saturday evening reception in the courtyard that has hosted memories and occasions for so many here in Gainesville,” said the Reverend Fletcher Montgomery, Rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. “It’s not every day that an organization—regardless of purpose—can celebrate 150 years. This speaks to the vibrancy and richness that Holy Trinity offers our community.”

While Holy Trinity is known for many things, it is most distinguished by its rich history. Gainesville namesakes, such as Shands and Haile, once worshiped in the pews of this church. And while these families still hold a legacy in this town, so does Holy Trinity.

“This will be a year we remember and honor the past and those that made the church what it is today, while also looking toward a promising future,” said Carolyn Horter, historiographer for Holy Trinity.

Many remember the infamous date of January 21, 1991, when an arsonist destroyed the historic 1907 church building at 100 NE First Street. As a result, more than 750 worshippers gathered together to attend a service in the ruins. As the rebuilding began, so did the excitement for Holy Trinity.

“What some would think of as a dark time for this church, Holy Trinity parishioners looked toward the light, came together like never before, and trusted their faith that this parish would flourish once again. And it did,” said Horter.

Now Holy Trinity serves thousands of people through its ministries such as the Streetside Breakfast program, Lunches for Grace Marketplace, Cuba Companionship Ministry, and its renowned Music Series (just to name a few). The Shop at Holy Trinity donates its proceeds to the church’s many outreach ministries. In 2014, it opened a new facility for the Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville, continuing a tradition of providing first-class preschool education that began in the 1970s.

“Throughout its long history, Holy Trinity has lived its faith by serving the Gainesville community. As the congregation and community begin a year-long celebration commencing in January, we are hopeful that the excitement and momentum will continue for years to come. Hopefully another 150 years,” said Montgomery. Holy Trinity welcomed its 30th Rector, the Rev. Fletcher Montgomery, on December 1, 2017.

For historical information and digital timelines, please visit

<http://www.holytrinitygmv.org/150th-anniversary/historic-productions.aspx>.

The January Kick-off Event details can be found here: <http://www.holytrinitygmv.org/150th-anniversary/save-the-dates.aspx>

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