

Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 7

July 1, 2023

New Member Sunday - June 4, 2023

We are grateful to God as we welcome the newest members of the Trinity Downtown Family. Pastor Dorn and Pastor Lonnie were privileged to get to know them during the Faith Discovery class. This group is very diverse in age, life stage, professional life, and giftedness. Each person is a unique gift and precious addition to our growing family.

Over the summer, we want to welcome and support them as we assist them in transitioning and integrating into our family. This happens by welcoming them to our Bible studies, gatherings, and ministry teams. Our staff will be working to support our new members in their assimilation process. Please assist the staff by identifying simple ways in your own congregational life to invite them in and welcome them. Getting involved and integrated into our congregation life is what will help them feel welcomed, seen, and appreciated. Join us to that end!



New members received:

Zeke Cevallos

Erik & Jessica Christenson and
children, Addison and
Jacob

Ray Corbett

Richard Davisson

Beverly Duke

Jerod & Lupita Fields and
daughter, Allison

Ryan & Emilie Hoffart and son,
Bentley

Marty & Lynn Meyers

Ryan & Jennifer Nietzsche and
children, Ruth and Clark

PB Perea

Eric & Kathryn Sparks and son,
Carter

Ted & Barbara Turner

Rachel Ullmann

Alex Zimmerman

Hymnal Marathon - August 12

Organist, Benjamin Kolodziej will play through all 635 hymns in the Lutheran Service Book live from Trinity Downtown on Saturday, August 12 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Playing on Trinity's 50-rank Holtkamp/Reuter organ, Kolodziej will play a creative introduction and one stanza of each hymn with this endeavor ending about 7:00 p.m. that evening. The church will be open for anyone to drop in and listen live or you may listen throughout the day as we live stream this marathon on Trinity's [YouTube](#) channel and on our [website](#).

The hymnal, containing a treasury of the Church's songs, deserves to be explored and sung that its hymns might edify, comfort, encourage, and provide the Word of God to all, and this event serves to draw attention to our heritage of sacred song.

Benjamin Kolodziej is the organist/choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas and is the organist for the Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University. Kolodziej recently published a book, *Joyful Singing: A Story of Lutheran Sacred Music in Texas*.



Giving Memorial and Honorarium Gifts Made Easier!

Trinity Downtown now has Memorial Gift packets and Honorarium Gift packets which will make it more convenient to give a gift in memory of someone or honor of someone. The packets will be located in the Gathering Space, Narthex and Foyer.

To use the packet, simply complete the In Loving Memory or In Loving Honor card, place in the provided envelope and mail or give to the family of the deceased or the person being honored. Then complete the information on the addressed remittance envelope, insert your gift made payable to Trinity Downtown and mail or give the remittance envelope to Trinity Downtown.

In Loving Memory

To the glory of God
and in loving memory of

A gift has been sent to
Trinity Downtown

To carry on
Christ's life-giving ministry.

From _____

Memorial Card

In Loving Honor

To the glory of God
and in loving honor of

A gift has been sent to
Trinity Downtown

To carry on
Christ's life-giving ministry.

From _____

Honorarium Card

Thank you for your kindness in remembering/honoring
your loved one with your donation to the
ministries of Trinity Downtown.
Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated.
God bless you!

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Make checks payable to: Trinity Downtown

\$ _____

☐ Home Treasury

☐ Music Ministry

☐ Youth Ministry

☐ Harms-Behnken Missions Fund

☐ Capital Campaign

☐ Other _____

☐ In Loving Memory of: _____

☐ In Honor of: _____

Remittance Envelope

The Houston Lutheran Chorale Presents “One Nation Under God” On Independence Day

The Houston Lutheran Chorale, under the direction of Steve Bayless, will present its Independence Day concert at Trinity on July 4th at 4:00 p.m. The Chorale invites everyone to join them in celebrating our freedom at this free concert (free-will donation appreciated). Bring your own picnic to enjoy after the concert and watch the City of Houston fireworks display from Trinity's parking lot.

The following are some thoughts from Steve Bayless which were published in the Spring edition of the *HLC Newsletter*:

“The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time...” - These words, written by Thomas Jefferson almost 250 years ago before the writing of the Declaration of Independence, still ring true for us today. So many people forget that all things are of God and all things come from God. God gave us all life and gave us all liberty, at the same time. The freedoms that we enjoy, those that have been hard-won by those that have come before us, cannot be taken for granted. Our nation's quest for independence was born of our desire to self-govern and the freedom to make the choices and mistakes that we felt were right for ourselves, regardless of what the king says. We sought the freedom to worship the God of our choosing, the one true God, and not have to worship as a part of the Church of England, thereby the king.

In this season, when we celebrate the birth of our nation, we celebrate those freedoms. We celebrate our freedom to speak out against the government without fear of retribution, we celebrate the right to worship the one true God and thank Him for those freedoms that He gave us when He gave us life.

Forever we will be grateful, first to God for the gifts of grace and life and then to those who have fought for our rights to live a life of freedom, in this great country.



Membership Report

The following are the changes to membership approved at the June 2023 Governing Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP IN

Transfer

- Ryan, Emilie and Bentley Hoffart from Fishers of Men LCMS - Sugar Land, TX (05/24/2023)
- Beverly Duke from Fishers of Men LCMS - Sugar Land, TX (05/24/2023)

Baptism

- Crosby Roderick Drum (05/28/2023)

MEMBERSHIP OUT

To Glory

- Patsy Lewis (05/28/23)

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.956.1899
Mike Gilmore	mdgilmore85@gmail.com	713.569.2371
Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Chris Sonneborn	csonneb@gmail.com	713.854.8692
Mike Sterling	nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

6 Ways to Experience More Peace Today

"A study showed that in 1968 it took 15 hours to record one hour of pure nature without the ambient sounds of airplanes, cars, and other manufactured reverberations. As of the year 2005, it took more than 2,000 hours of recorded time to yield the same hour of pure nature sounds."* **Can you even imagine what it would take today?!**

This striking quote spells out something we already know – finding silence requires intentionality. Stillness, quiet, and rest don't just happen; we have to make space for them, now more than ever.

Here are six practical ways to build more margin into your life and create room for greater peace:



1. **Set limits.** Overbooked schedules edge out time for rest. Create rules and structure around the time you spend looking at screens, fulfilling commitments, and even working.
2. **Declutter.** Excess stuff in your space brings excess clutter to your mind. Organize and simplify your home to enjoy greater rest.
3. **Solve a problem that's been bothering you.** It's easy to procrastinate solving issues that cause us stress but dealing with them brings relief.
4. **Adjust your family rhythms.** What drains your energy, adds stress, or robs you of family time? What could you change to create more time with loved ones? Could you plan to travel, serve, play, or give together?
5. **Practice the Sabbath.** The Jewish tradition of Sabbath means to denote a particular expanse of time as set apart for rest. Worship, contemplation, prayer, and simply taking a nice, long exhale can all help us pause and reconnect with God and ourselves.
6. **Plan for the future.** Have you created an estate plan? Roughly 70% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will; many avoid the process because they feel overwhelmed or assume they have many years still to prepare. The process of creating or updating a will can be surprisingly simple, and it creates immeasurable peace of mind.

God's design is that we would work **from** our rest, not work until we collapse into it. Maybe that's why man's first day on earth was one to rest – God's sending us a message, loud and clear.

*Quote from *Quiet: Hearing God Amidst the Noise* by AJ Sherrill

Above information used by permission lhm.org.

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety, or are so tired that you're ready to give up, Trinity Downtown has a ministry that might be right for you.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, highly confidential care and prayer support to people experiencing a crisis, facing a long-term challenge or simply going through a tough time. While Stephen Ministers are NOT trained to assist those (of any age) suffering from serious mental health challenges, they CAN provide a listening ear to those experiencing anxiety.

If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors, or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.

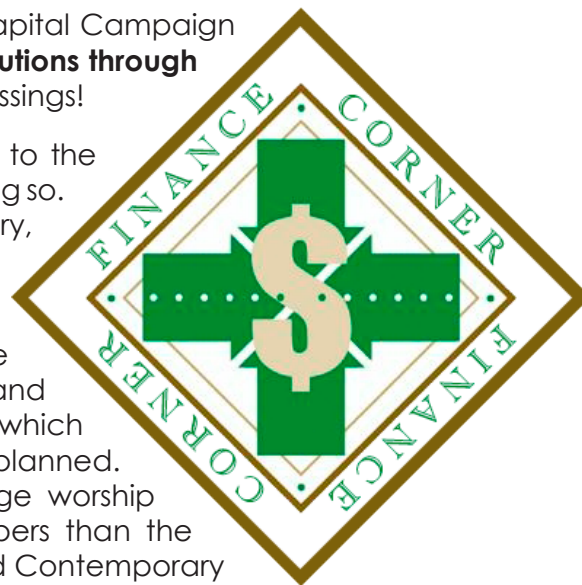
Finance Corner - July 2023

[Jesus said] give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38 ESV

I am happy to report that contributions to our Magnify Capital Campaign continue apace even in the summer months. **Total contributions through the end of May were \$609,500.** Praise to the Lord for His blessings!

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to make a pledge to the Magnify Capital Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may record your Magnify pledge online [here](#).

Tithes and offerings for the month of May were 17% lower than our monthly budget, and expenses in May were just a bit lower than budgeted. So far in 2023, our tithes and offerings are 11% under budget, with YTD total revenues (which includes miscellaneous income) \$47,514 (or 7%) lower than planned. YTD expenses remained 1% lower than planned. Average worship attendance in May was 388, which is 35 more worshippers than the same period in 2022, when we offered both Traditional and Contemporary services. Compared with May of 2022, attendance at the *Traditional* service increased by 103 worshippers!



Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for May:

May 2023 Summary		
	In-person	Online
Average Worship Attendance	235	153
	Adults	Students
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	127	46
	Actual	Budgeted
Contributions		
May 2023 tithes and offerings	\$129,061	\$155,000
Year-to-date 2023 tithes and offerings	\$639,743	\$715,000
	Received	Pledged
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 05/31/2023	\$609,500	\$755,538

Trinity Downtown's ministries (and costs) continue unabated in the summer, so your faithful, ongoing giving is even more important during these months. Your continued generosity in helping us "make up" for our deficit can make a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God continues His work among us.

Honored to serve you,
Ron Lacy
CFO

Trinity Families!

Wow, did June fly by! Our middle school mission trip was absolutely amazing and we got to experience so much growth in our students over the week both personally and in their faith! Our theme was "Everything for the King. Everything for the Kingdom." and we explored what it means to really let Jesus be king of your heart and life; as well as what it really means to give up everything for our neighbor. We served at Houston Food Bank, Star of Hope, Houston Furniture Bank and Trinity Downtown Sack Lunch Ministry. It truly was beautiful to see our nine students and Trinity Klein's twenty students and a total of sixteen chaperones (adults, junior chaperones and young adult chaperones) grow together in the Lord. Check out some pictures below! Our high school mission trip is returning July 2nd so look for details in the August edition of *Trinity Today*!



EVERYTHING
FOR THE KING

MARK 12:29-31

EVERYTHING
FOR THE KINGDOM





July looks forward to our shareholders dinner on July 14th at 6:30 p.m. If you gave \$100 or more to our shareholders fundraiser please RSVP for the shareholders dinner by clicking the link <https://trinitydt.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/224/responses/new> or from the email you recieved as a shareholder or directly by emailing me at hdavisson@trinitydt.org. We look forward to sharing insights about this summer with you all!

We will also have a youth sleepover "Lock-in" the 14th of July starting at 9:00 p.m. with pick up on the morning of the 15th! Our Children's Ministry will have a family bowling event on the 23rd of July and I am really looking forward to it!

We have an action packed summer in ministry and I am truly grateful for all of it!

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Magnify Campaign Update

- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. While we continue the fulfillment phase of the campaign, we also begin to focus on how we can use our renovated space to bring others into our Trinity community through both worship services and other community outreach events, including performances and concerts.
- Pledges through May 31, 2023 totaled \$756,000, exceeding our pledge goal. Praise the Lord for the generosity of this community. We are also pleased to report we have received gifts totaling \$609,500 which puts us at 81% of our goal. We are grateful to the Lord and our Trinity family for your generosity and response to this request.
- The Magnify campaign will continue through the end of 2023, but almost all of the costs associated with the Sanctuary refresh have already been incurred. We have been able to fund these up-front payments by "borrowing from ourselves" using Trinity's cash reserves.



Magnify Capital Campaign Team,

Jim Hill
Campaign Chair
jimhill77027@yahoo.com
(713) 409-5640

Betty Berg
bettyberg@gmail.com
(281) 455-5426

Rick Berg
oldhippie@gmail.com
(281) 455-5413

Deena Buford
dlbuford@prodigy.net
(713) 594-2879

Reggie Buford
rcbuford@prodigy.net
(713) 594-2879

Dag Calafell
dodiggitydag@gmail.com
(713) 560-0371

Rachel Calafell
rachel.calafell@gmail.com
(832) 389-8998

Katherine Gilmore
Communication Director
kgilmore7@gmail.com
(713) 476-1225

Karen Mattern
Fulfillment Director
power4211@yahoo.com
(713) 501-1530

Ross Mattern
Fulfillment Director
rm11926@yahoo.com
(832) 332-9019

Jim Schulien
jeschulien@gmail.com
(214) 551-5828

Wendy Schulien
Wlschulien@gmail.com
(214) 551-5826

Kris Sonneborn
Campaign Coordinator
krissonne@yahoo.com
(832) 659-8259

Pastor Lonnie Gonzales—2023 Recipient of The Rev. Dr. George Beto Christian Leadership Award

On May 10, 2023, it was announced by Concordia University Texas and Dr. Donald Christian that Pastor Lonnie Gonzales is this year's recipient of **The Rev. Dr. George Beto Christian Leadership Award**. This award is given to individuals who have demonstrated a high and unusual interest in advancing Christian education, by using in a special way the talents with which the Lord has endowed them.

In gratitude, the University will recognize Pastor Lonnie as a celebrated alumnus of Concordia University Texas Class of '95 who has used his gifts and calling as a pastor to lead and impact the lives of others with the Gospel specifically by serving the local church in the Greater Houston Area as a local pastor of beloved congregations such as Fishers of Men Lutheran Church from 2000-2005, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church from 2005-2018, City Director of LINC Houston from 2018-2022, US Army Military Chaplain from 2012-2020, and now at Trinity Downtown. The Award will be presented to Pastor Lonnie on the evening of August 20, 2023 in Pearland, Texas.

In addition, Pastor Lonnie was appointed by the Board of Regents for Concordia University Texas to be one of its newest members of the Board. He will begin his 4-year term of service to the University beginning August 2023.

From Pastor Lonnie, "This Award is a testimony of how God can make a way of service to God and others from an inner-city kid of Houston to a leader in his community. Trinity Downtown is a big part of my story that helped me mature and aspire for service. I am grateful for so many who have poured into my life, so this award is a testimony for all the people in my life who loved and strengthened me through their service in ministry. Thank you, my Beloved at Trinity Downtown!"



Trinity Archives/Foyer Display

Trinity's archives collection has been enhanced by the donations of historic school and church programs, commemorative coin and plates, paintings, and vintage memorabilia. We appreciate all donations to the archives collection including those from Sharon O. Alexander, Estates of Mel and Lil Hohle, Jim and Jane Suchma, the Estate of Gertie Wottrich and anonymous donors.



Trinity members and guests have enjoyed viewing the foyer cabinet display concurrently with the Magnify Campaign. The cabinet showcased a portion of Trinity's archives collection that highlighted 143 years of Trinity's school and church ministries.

Questions regarding donations to the archives or personal displays in the foyer cabinet can be directed to Ruth Stoerkel at fws1pub@earthlink.net or leave a message at 713.686.1910.

2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey
(Vice chair)
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder/Sec.)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org. Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

Nursery (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds - Room 233

Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds - Room 232

Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade - Kingdom Hall (basement)

Casa 'de Oracion Spanish (all grades) - Room 209

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Encountering Jesus

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Feeling a bit overwhelmed or stressed out? In this class, we'll look at some encounters between Jesus and people meeting Him for the first time. Believe or not, all of these folks are either stressed out or desperate. Find out how these encounters turn out and be comforted by how Jesus responds to these folks. Discussion-oriented.

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person (Spanish Speaking)

Participants are encouraged to join this study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him.

Liturgical Arts

Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday.

Pastor's Study - Scripture De Jour

Led by the Pastors - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

Pastor Dorn and Pastor Lonnie will be hosting a Bible Study each week through the summer months with a Bible Scripture of the Week selected by the teaching Pastor. We hope to stimulate conversation and discuss developing meaningful relationships guided by the Scriptures and the Spirit.

The Bible Alive ... God In Action

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost



or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

The Gospel According to John

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual **(On hiatus until August 27th.)**

The Apostle John wrote his Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." In our day when the good news of Jesus is a stumbling block or just plain foolishness for many people, the Gospel according to John will serve well to deepen and strengthen our faith in Jesus as the Christ. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at pbdorn6@gmail.com if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

United in Christ - A Study of Ephesians

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

In Ephesians Paul reminds us that "by grace you have been saved through faith" and then how "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand."

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09>
Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

The Sermon on the Mount

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual (In person the last Wednesday of the month)

Wednesday Women's Bible Study will continue through the summer looking carefully at the *Sermon on the Mount* and Jesus' familiar words from Matthew 5-7 about what it means to be part of His kingdom. Join us to explore Old Testament references to help us gain a deeper understanding into the context of His words.

We will continue to meet on zoom each Wednesday evening and will get together in person on the last Wednesday of each month for fellowship. All women are welcome!

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Bill Fischer, Pastor Black and individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.

Save the Date!

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

Organist

Daryl Robinson



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
2:30 PM

Daryl Robinson has earned international acclaim from critics and audiences alike being described as an artist with . . . "a driving muscular poetry underpinned by nimble technique and nuanced sense of style. . ." (*Choir and Organ*) and possessing "... flawless technique and rhythmic verve. . ." (*The American Organist*).



STAFF DIRECTORY

SENIOR PASTOR

Michael P. Dorn713.229.2940
mdorn@trinitydt.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF OUTREACH

Lonnie Gonzales713.229.2905
lgonzales@trinitydt.org

VISITATION PASTOR

Donald G. Black713.229.2917
dblack@trinitydt.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MISSIONS

Greg Finke281.844.7644
finkeonthemove@aol.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ron Lacy713.229.2970
rlacy@trinitydt.org

DIR. OF ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Trinity Garrett713.229.2937
tgarrett@trinitydt.org

DIR. OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Mary Voigt713.229.2922
mvoigt@trinitydt.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Haley Davisson713.229.2910
hdavisson@trinitydt.org

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING

Roseann Gamez713.229.2962
rgamez@trinitydt.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Pam Schroeder713.229.2944
pschroeder@trinitydt.org

CONTRIBUTIONS MANAGER

Angela Avant713.229.2963
aavant@trinitydt.org

HOSTESS (MONDAYS - THURSDAYS)

Stefanie Bowman713.229.2950
sbowman@trinitydt.org

HOSTESS (FRIDAYS)

Sarahai Flores713.229.2950
sflores@trinitydt.org

*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving
Love With All People Now!*

www.trinitydt.org

Trinity Downtown
800 Houston Avenue • Houston, TX 77007

713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **July 17** for articles to be published August 1, 2023.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.