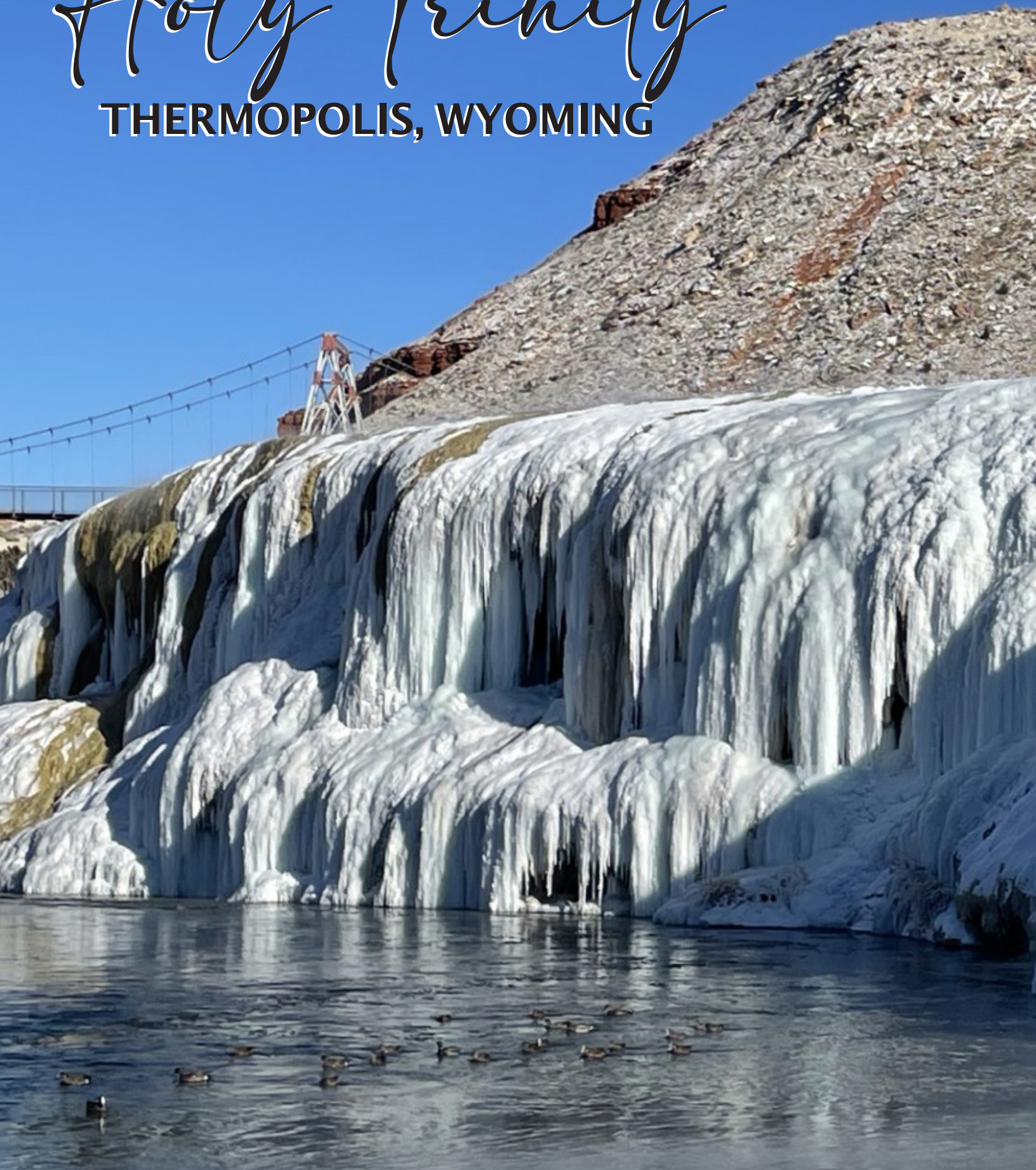


PART-TIME RECTOR SEARCH

Holy Trinity

THERMOPOLIS, WYOMING



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“The church has been a safe place to me where everyone is accepted and welcome no matter their interpretation of God.”

Welcome

At Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, we are excited for the future that God is shaping for us. We have evolved from a traditional rector-led church into a vigorous shared ministry model church. This model celebrates the gifts of all God's people, empowering lay and clergy alike to follow Christ's teachings to serve others. We are deeply committed to

outreach in our community through programs that support families, care for the vulnerable, and partner with local organizations to meet the needs of our neighbors. We believe that a new priest will find that our shared ministry congregation practices its faith, serves with joy, and is dedicated to make a lasting difference in the lives of those around us.



Our history

Holy Trinity began due to the work of five local women along with a missionary priest who frequently visited from the Wind River Reservation in 1903. With the appointment of the first Episcopal bishop of Wyoming, a guild was formed to raise money to build our church in 1910. These monies included a quarter from a gambler who stated, "No child could be expected to stand the sorrows of this earth without a religious training." The church continued to expand its physical presence by building a rectory in 1958. A parish hall was added in 1969, providing both a place for Sunday school and a hall for many community activities, including a social gathering place for community youth. The use of the hall was a seed for the beginning of many community outreach programs. One special program was People to People (a Sunday noon meal prepared and delivered to shut-in and low-income families) which began in 1982 and has

expanded over the years. In 2009, after much study, prayer and conversation, we chose to become a Shared Ministry congregation. The choice to do shared ministry involved a discernment process to determine two members to begin locally-based seminary training. Others members were identified to receive training as Lay Ministers, Preachers, and Pastoral Care providers. In 2016, Reverend Ron and Audrey Philips began The Help Center, a downtown outreach program which provided coffee, conversation and access to available resources for those in need. The county recently provided the Help Center with a building that houses most of our shared ministry outreach programs. Our shared ministry congregation continues to explore the available gifts of members to be accessed for ministries related to worship, fellowship and outreach to those in need.

Our Vision

We will continue to demonstrate all are welcome to God's grace and goodness within our walls and beyond.

Life in Thermopolis

Living in Thermopolis, Wyoming, means living in the heart of the Mountain West. The community offers a unique blend of small-town charm, natural beauty, and a slower pace of life that many people find deeply rewarding. Nestled in the scenic Bighorn Basin and surrounded by rugged mountains and wide-open spaces, Thermopolis provides residents with a daily connection to nature. The town is famously home to Hot Springs State Park, which boasts the world's largest mineral hot spring, which offers both relaxation and therapeutic benefits year-round. Whether you're soaking in the warm waters or exploring the colorful terraces and trails, the park is a local treasure that never gets old. Beyond the hot springs, Thermopolis also offers a strong sense of community. With a population of just under 3,000, it's the kind of place where neighbors know each other, kids can safely ride bikes around town, and local events bring people together. There's a pride in small-town values, from supporting local businesses to volunteering for community causes. The local schools are well-supported and provide a close-knit environment for students, making it an ideal place to raise a family.

Outdoor enthusiasts find plenty to love in Thermopolis. Whether it's fishing along the Bighorn River, hiking the nearby Wind River Canyon, or hunting in the surrounding wilderness, there's no shortage of year-round activities. Despite its rural setting, Thermopolis still offers the essentials—grocery stores, healthcare services, and local dining—without the chaos of a big city. Life in Thermopolis might be quieter, but it's full



of genuine experiences, natural wonders, and a warm community spirit that make it a truly great place to live.

Hot Springs County has a history of excellence in healthcare including the passing of a bond issue to build a new addition to the hospital, really a new facility. Our medical community supports rural medical education and has been fortunate to retain several new physicians. We have specialists who hold clinics in our hospital and thereby negating the need to travel out of town for top-notch care.

“Holy Trinity has provided a home for my family, providing comfort, peace, education and love for one another”

Worship, Music and Spiritual Nurture

We are a shared ministry church and every part of worship (music, liturgy and spirit) is impacted by our approach to ministry. Because of shared ministry, many gifted parishioners are engaged in services. We pray that all who are engaged in these ministries are responding to God's calling.

We are a welcoming church, encouraging all who come to participate as the Spirit moves them. We have members who provide a children's homily. Many members read the lessons. All are welcome to take communion and if one needs assistance going to communion, someone will provide an arm. Our prayer fence is available to the community and prayer requests can be made at any time for anyone.

Our liturgy takes many forms. Liturgy for Sunday morning makes use of the Book of Common Prayer, as well as many other sources, such as a member-composed Sanctus and the diocesan approved Wyoming Eucharistic Prayer. Each service is led by a trained Worship Leader and many of the sermons are delivered by trained members of the church.

During Fall and Winter a separate monthly service in the Celtic tradition enables everyone who desires to attend a quiet, meditative service and enjoy a meal together. The service is Celtic in that it is spiritual, from this place and focused upon hospitality.

Presently, our Sunday choir is a small but dedicated group and we frequently count on the angels to fill in as needed. We practice weekly and before every service. We have piano and organ accompaniment, and occasionally other instruments that include guitars, mandolin, flute and percussion. A variety of music and cultural offerings shape the spiritual atmosphere of our church services. We draw music from a range of sources that includes Church Publishing Hymnals.



“This model celebrates the gifts of all God’s people, empowering lay and clergy alike to follow Christ’s teachings to serve others.”

Pastoral Care

We put our heart into everything we do. As a congregation we provide physical and spiritual care for those in time of trouble. This work includes providing food, personal items, prayer, sacraments, being present and listening. It is done through many members being aware and responding to needs in both the congregation and the community. We ran a booth at the Pride Festival reaching out to people who are often marginalized by other churches. We do a lot through our outreach ministries (described below). We also help keep our older members engaged in worship, our social life and by doing activities in the community that are too numerous to mention. Pastoral care and the Outreach Ministries in our opinion are nearly the same.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach is not something we do outside the church—it is a part of us in mind and spirit. Each element of our outreach has grown from commitments made by lay and clergy. An early form of outreach ministry came from what is known as, People for People. The Philips Help Center gradually grew into yet another form of outreach and sharing the Spirit with the community. Both the Help Center and People for People generated the school Backpack Program that provides children with weekend meals. All of these ministries include multiple ways to provide community members with food, and each offers a strong response to Jesus' injunction to "feed my people." Outreach engagement in our shared ministry model means that each effort draws help from everyone in the congregation, with some leading, some supporting and most participating.



The Philips Help Center was started by Father Ron Philips and his wife Audrey, and it has received support from Holy Trinity in many ways. The idea here is to offer hospitality with a warm greeting, cookies and coffee. The center is dedicated to meeting the needs of anyone who walks through the door whether that means food, energy assistance or just a trusting friend. Most of the center's financial needs are met through fund-raising and generous donations. The staff also help people access funds from other sources, including state and federal programs. The Philips Help Center helped shape a new 501(c)3, which is The Learning Center of Hot Springs County. The Learning Center provides a home for the Youth Alternatives program (supported by the County), as well as providing tutoring and testing for HSET (High School Equivalency Test). The Center is also associated with Central Wyoming Community College.

Unplug, our Celtic tradition service, is an effort to provide spiritual outreach to the community and it is aimed at those who seek an alternative form of worship—one that is unplugged from the routines of life that entrap us all. The service is derived from the traditions of Celtic Christianity and it is formed around three focal points. One focal point is hospitality and that entails welcoming, holding the service outside the formality of the sanctuary, and providing a meal. Another focal point is an emphasis on the spiritual rather than the institutional—we pay attention to the spirit through quiet, candlelit darkness and being fully present. Finally, the service has a focus on what is here and now; or, what is indigenous to this place. Mostly, the service relies on local sources of music, thought and prayer, which includes our tribal brothers and sisters.

Education

Throughout the years, Holy Trinity has had a strong education program for youth, children and adults. Our goal is that our children will know they are loved by God and the congregation. In addition, we provide opportunities for them to contribute to the vibrancy of our worship and fellowship. The number of children and youth ebbs and flows through the years. Presently, we have approximately 7 children and youth in attendance. Over the years, we have provided varying Sunday school or Wednesday school approaches. During Covid, we provided a zoom Sunday school which occurred right after the church service. Presently, one of our mainstay teachers does a children's sermon each Sunday that she has written based on the gospel of the day. We all appreciate this and benefit from her offerings. Our youth are invited to learn more about the Episcopal church through Confirmation lessons and the option to become a confirmed member of the church.

Adult Education has occurred through Bible studies and book studies led by the priest and most often are aligned with the church calendar. Recently, a retired priest led confirmation lessons for adults wishing to be confirmed or baptized. The lessons were open to all and were regularly attended by 20 or more congregants. During Lent, we also enjoyed a book study, *Your Untold Story*, by Bishop Owensby. We have had a series of



workshops to help people learn about the Celtic tradition and the various roles each person can take in our Celtic tradition service, Unplug.

Stewardship and Finances

At Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, the annual stewardship drive takes second-place behind how we mobilize and act when needs arise. In addition, our approach to stewardship is rooted in gratitude, transparency and the belief that every member has unique gifts to share. We recognize that as our demographics and ministry model have evolved, our financial and service needs have changed. While we don't emphasize the financial part of stewardship, our finances are strong. The fruits of our stewardship are found in the many ministries we support and by the fact that we can easily count over 40 members being engaged at one level or another, which is no small sum in a small church.



“We put our heart into everything we do.”

How to Apply

“Holy Trinity is ready to welcome a priest who feels drawn to shared leadership, genuine community, and the beauty of the Mountain West. Could that be you?”



“Holy Trinity has been my extended family for more than 25 years...”

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