



SHAPED BY FAITH

***Narrative Profile Exercise
West Branch Convocation***

Our Saviour, Montoursville

Our Saviour is very community oriented parish. The Lenten Soup sale and lunch that we hold every lent not only is a fund raiser but is a community event that brings people together from the Montoursville. The worship at Our Saviour is fairly middle of the road. We love our organ and music. One of the strengths of Our Saviour is that we are truly a family, and have a strong desire to be a witness to Christ's love. Despite our financial challenges we give monthly to a program that helps children named Firetree Place. An area that we would be seeking to gain energy in is children's Christian education and youth activities.

Good Shepherd, Upper Fairfield

The Church of The Good Shepherd, Upper Fairfield, was established in 1875 by Dr. John Henry Hopkins, then rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and Susan Coleman Hall, Beginning under the sponsorship of St. James Parish in Muncy, Pennsylvania. Dr. Hopkins was the composer of the Christmas Carol "We Three Kings." For a time, Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport held a "Pilgrimage Service" once a year to maintain the parish as a church.

A near tragedy on July 23, 1965 thrust the church into the spotlight when an Allegheny Airline plane narrowly missed the church when the craft crashed and skidded into a pine grove just down the slope from the church building. Forty persons walked away from the plane in a miraculous escape from death or serious injury. The Glory of the Lord" was certainly shining the day of the plane crash. The church was also struck by lightning in the 1890's. When neighbors and parish members replaced the burned roof, changing it from its original pointed style to its present design.

The beautiful "Statue of the Good Shepherd," which stands in the nave of the church, was brought from Walsingham, England in the 1970's by The Rev. William R. N. Haire,

The Church of the Good Shepherd is a little church with a big heart. A heart that only keeps beating because of the wonderful parish members inside its historical walls. We work together to care for the church itself and to do God's work to the best of our ability. If something needs done whomever is most able usually just volunteers as everyone is happy to help in any way they can. Taking care of the church grounds or building, working the rummage sales or bakes sales, financially supporting the church, supporting or praying for those in need, donations to the food pantry, any way we can contribute we see it all as a service to God. God has blessed us with a church family that sticks together. We enjoy worshipping together. We enjoy the peaceful location of our church. It seems to sit outside the troubles of everyday life. It is a place quiet enough you can actually listen to that voice with in. It's a place to recharge. A place you can not only hear God but see him. You can see him in the hills all around you, in the rich history of the church building, and in the work of the big hearted church family of the Good Shepherd.

Loyalty, fellowship, communion and commitment and love amongst our parish members who worship each Sunday is what keeps our doors open for worship each Sunday....God Bless each and every one.....

Christ Church, Williamsport

Christ Church is an open and affirming congregation whose members find their strength in the traditional, dignified, worship. We are community focused and have a “doors wide open” policy. Various support and community groups use this space as their own to conduct, trainings, fundraisers, concerts, meetings, and fun events. (Al-Anon; Nar-Anon; LGBT support groups: Alphabet Soup and West Branch Pride, A.V.P.- Alternatives to Violence Project; SKILLS; Silent meditation Group) Serving is heavily emphasized. We operate a feeding ministry which includes a 24-food pantry, Christ’s cupboard, and offer a monthly free meal to the public serving 120 meals on average. Meals are also delivered to local elderly high-rise apartments and home bound community and parish members. Quarterly for one week, we support Family Promise of Lycoming County and host, feed, and transport homeless families for one week. Music and music ministry are important facets of life at Christ Church. Each semester, we welcome 8 Choral Scholars from our next-door neighbor, Lycoming College. These music and performance majors bring vitality and youth to our worship and have created a strong working relationship with the College. Students are also exposed to sacred music and worship and invited into the life of the parish.

Quarterly, we offer special music offerings/concerts to the public. Possible ministry partners would have a strong sense of discipleship and participate fully outside of Sunday mornings.

Christ church does not currently have a Sunday school program and has very few children in the congregation. We would love to collaborate in children’s ministry. Christ Church always boasted a very large boys’ and girls’ choirs so a shared children’s music ministry has long been a dream of parishioners. Although lay leadership is strong at Christ Church, strong lay ministry needs to be developed in greater depth.

Trinity, Pro-Cathedral, Williamsport

Values Matrix: Dignified Worship, Belonging, Music, Hospitality

Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport is in the heart of the historical district. This says where we are, but not who we are. We have a long history in Williamsport, but embrace current social issues. We accept all who wish to worship God regardless of race, sexual identity or social class. We value a Dignified Worship, with a sense of Belonging and Hospitality. Several members are “all in” committed to supporting the church and most are openly loving toward all who enter the doors.

Music is important to Trinity, with a 10:00 a.m. formal liturgical service, including a full pipe organ in a beautiful, holy space which can accommodate up to 350 people comfortably. We also have a choral scholar program which enhance Sunday services and special services throughout the year.

Our 8:00 a.m. service is spoken in the intimate chapel space. The air conditioned chapel is used in summer for the late service. It also has an organ.

The building is put to good use by parishioners and the community at large. We have a large parish hall, well-equipped kitchen (and great cooks!), full gym, and many Sunday school classrooms. Community use of our space includes support groups, sport groups, blood drives, Oxford Manor House (residential living spaces for women in recovery), and Epic Percussion.

Trinity has bible study groups, Pastoral and Care Coordinators, Eucharistic Ministry Teams, and our youth participate in an Ecumenical Youth Group. We also have an established growth fund with ongoing programs to add to it.

Trinity continues to evolve and our ministry now reaches out and partners with the community as well, including a food blessing box, Habitat for Humanity, use of the rectory for what has just become Trinity Manor Oxford House.

We are seeking new faces: people excited about working together to serve the community and share God's message of Love; an increase of vitality

coming from the enthusiasm of others in partnership. With additional worshippers, we could have additional mission work, adult enrichment, larger youth programs and choir. We are ready to try children's ministry in a new way.

We would love to join in ministry as the Spirit calls us to in various degrees of relationships.