



# Welcome!

## Celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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This is the historic Trinity Episcopal Church. The parish was founded in 1875 by three families whose faith led them to start a church in Wheaton. Seven years later, they commissioned this beautiful building.

Our church is an example of the Carpenter Gothic style which was popular in the 1880's for small churches and homes. The chapel has adapted Gothic elements, such as pointed arches, a steep roof, exposed beams, wainscoting, and other wood elements. Rather than plaster walls, the oiled walnut walls are celebrated with the diagonal planks and stained finish.

This building was the original 1882 church, but due to the growth of the parish in the 1950's, the members decided to build a larger church to the south of the property. This church became known as Trinity Chapel, the name we use today.

Trinity Chapel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

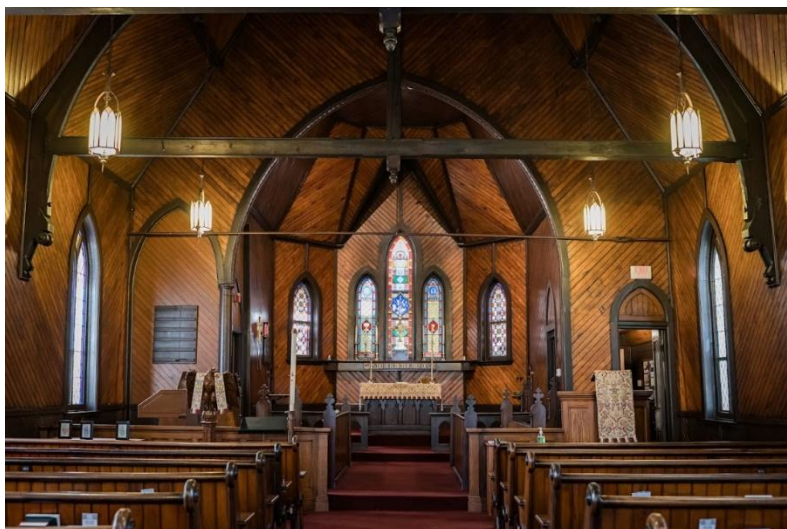
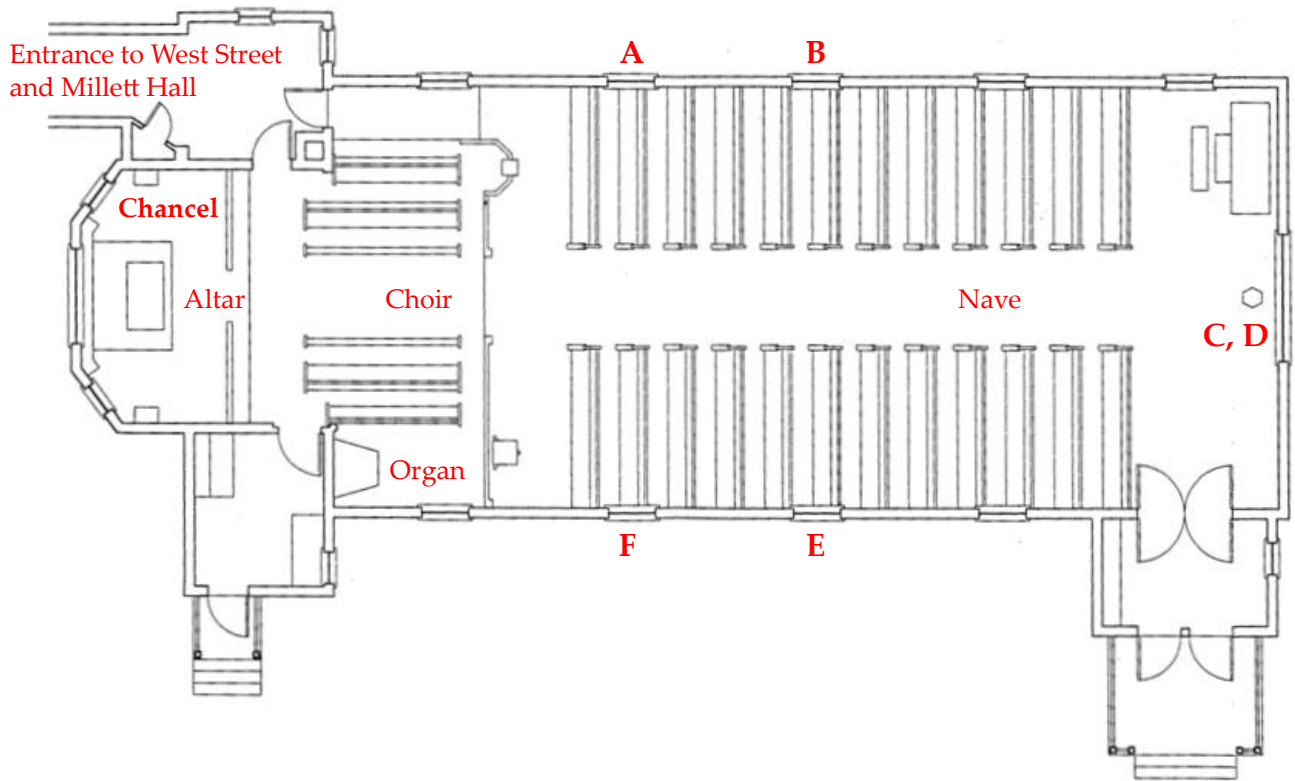


Photo: Jana Blue Photography

# Trinity Chapel Floorplan



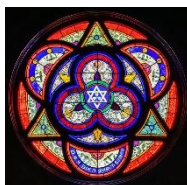
Chancel Windows



A Resurrection Angel Window



B Easter Lily Window



C Rose Window



D Great West Window



E Memorial Window



F Centennial Window

Like any family history, we occasionally learn new information about the early families in our church and new information about the windows and structure of the chapel. This information is current to our anniversary in 2025.

# Center Chancel Window (abt. 1882)

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This window is a group of three lancet windows behind the altar depicting the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. The Center panel features a lovely painted representation of grapes and wheat. The overall design includes colorful geometric shapes in contrast to the painted floral details.

The chancel window was a gift of J. S. and Fannie Peironnet. The Peironnets were early members of the Trinity mission church. Mr. Peironnet was a prosperous lumberman in Peru, IL before he came to the Chicago area to begin an investment firm. James served as the second mayor of Wheaton from 1893-98 and again in 1901-04.

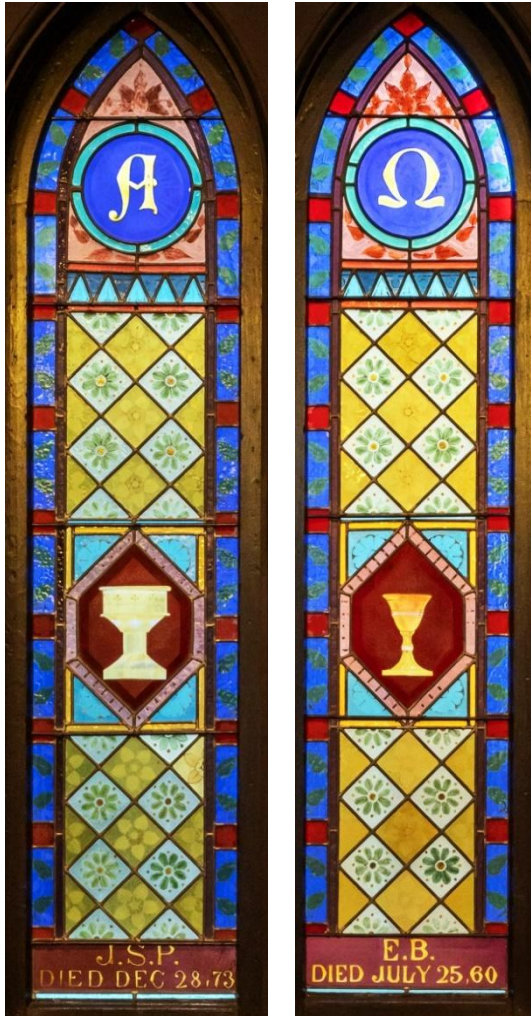
Their daughter, Margaret Peironnet Rathje (d. 2009) was a life-time member of Trinity and two of her children, the great grandchildren of James and Fannie, are current members of Trinity: Lois Rathje Boecker and Justice S. Louis Rathje.



Photos: Jeffrey Ross Photography



# Side Chancel Windows (abt. 1882)



These two windows behind the altar depict the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. The Left panel features the Greek letter “A” – Alpha meaning “the beginning”. Below is a baptismal font. The Right panel has the Greek letter “O” – Omega signifying “the end”. In the center of the panel is a chalice – a cup used for communion.

At the bottom of the two panels are the initials and dates for whom the windows were donated. On the left, JSP 73 is for John Stephen Peironnet’s father. The letters EB 60 on the right panel are for an unknown member of the family, perhaps a member of Fannie Peironnet’s Baker family.



The chancel windows were donated by J. S. Peironnet and his wife, Fannie S. Baker Peironnet.



# Resurrection Angel (abt. 1910)



South Wall, Nave

Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

Featuring a beautiful angel, this window is constructed in a style made famous by the Tiffany studio in New York, incorporating art nouveau influences popular at the turn of the century. The opalescent (milky and semi-transparent) glass in shades of brown and ochre compliment the tones of the wood walls and accents throughout the chapel. Note that the angel's halo is made with clear, pale-yellow glass, and it glows brighter than the opalescent glass in the remainder of the window.

The window was designed by a well-respected local artist, Christia M. Reade of Lombard. A talented artist in several media, Reade was known for carrying her stained-glass work through from design to installation. After studying in Europe, she returned to Chicago to open a studio across the street from the Institute of Art where she had studied. She produced exquisite jewelry, watercolors and stained glass. With an eye for detail and color, the beautiful Drummond window is considered one of the better-known windows that she produced.

This window was a gift from the Drummond family honoring Judge Drummond. The Great West Window was given by Judge and Mrs. Drummond.



# The Easter Lily Window (unknown)

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North Wall, Nave

Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

This beautiful window features an Easter lily – a symbol of Christ’s resurrection. The All-Seeing Eye or the Eye of Providence in the upper third of the window, is a symbol that depicts an eye that represents God's watchful eye over humanity. The All-Seeing Eye has roots in Greek classics and has been referenced in alchemy, astrology, kabala, and Freemasonry. And one last symbol, in Christianity, the triangle is a symbol of the Trinity.

This window is dedicated to the memory of the parents of Fannie Peironnet. We don't have a record as to whom the initials belong. If you look carefully, the first initial is an "A". The glass cutter began the letter off center, so there are two left sides to the letter making it look like a "W".

Trinity lore has it that children who misbehaved during the service were seated in the row below this window so that God could keep an eye on them!



# The Trinity Window (abt. 1882)



Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

This beautiful window, often referred to as the “Rose Window” for its color and shape, is found at the top of the East wall. What appear to be three chalices (cups for communion wine) connect the outer forms to the center circle which features a six-pointed star and a clover leaf in its center. The six-pointed star, sometimes called the “Star of David”, has been identified as signifying the unity of heaven and earth, and the conscious and unconscious. This star is also called “the Creator’s star” because the six points of the star each represent a day in creation.

Other Trinity symbols are:

- The three interlocking rings – the Borromean rings – appear twice
- The large triangle that has a 3-leaf cluster in each corner which makes smaller triangles
- Small leaf clusters through the background have 3 leaves
- There are three gold “arrowheads” and six purple fan shapes



William Frederick Arrindell Shearson was a prosperous corn merchant who came to Wheaton from Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. He and his wife, Marion, had 4 children. Their youngest son, Edward, founded the Shearson investment banking and brokerage company. Marion Shearson is listed as the donor of this window, but the person to whom this window is dedicated is unknown. The window above is from Trinity Anglican Church, Cambridge.



# Great West Window (abt. 1882)

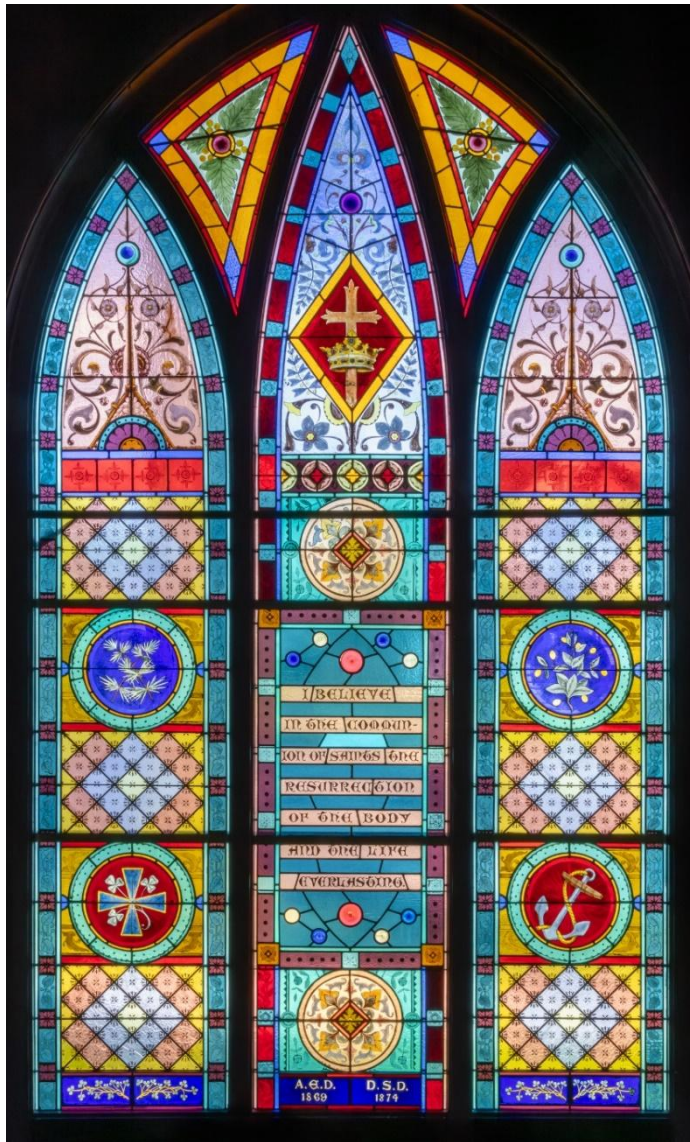


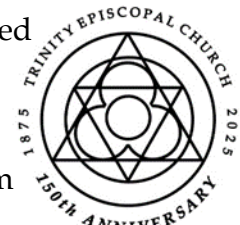
Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

Despite its name, this window is on the geographic East wall opposite the altar and below the round “rose” window. It is also referred to as the Drummond Memorial window. The window is composed of three lancet panels

contained within a single, Gothic-shaped space. It is inscribed with “I Believe in the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the Body and the life Everlasting,” as well as other references to the Trinity. Subtle leaf vine patterns suggest the energizing, renewing power of nature. Other images include a crown encircling a cross which represents heavenly reward after suffering earthly trials; a mustard seed plant – potential in faith; olives and branches – peace and prosperity; shamrocks with their three leaves symbolizing the Trinity and a cross; and an anchor which was an early symbol for Jesus and terrestrial and eternal hope.

Judge Thomas Drummond, a noted federal court judge, married Delia Amanda Sheldon and together they had 8 children.

One daughter, Ann Eliza, died in 1869. A second daughter, Delia, died in 1874. This window is dedicated to them



## Memorial Window (unkno



North Wall, Nave

Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

This simple memorial window almost goes unnoticed as it is a variation on the original windows in the Chapel. A descending dove was inserted at the top of the arch. A round insert was added to the center of each lancet, with the left insert depicting a delicately colored butterfly, a symbol of resurrection. The Maltese cross on the right includes letters whose meaning is not clear. In the bottom ribbon of color are the initials J. S. and the date 1854.



## The Centennial Window



South Wall, Nave

Photo: Jeffrey Ross Photography

The Centennial Window celebrates the first one hundred years of the parish. The left panel depicts a figure of a minister and parishioners in the early years of the church. The Rev. Frank Hobart Millett, the longest serving rector of Trinity, was the model for the priest and he represents all the priests who have served Trinity. In the lower right panel, the figures are from the 1975 celebration. The figure on the left is The Right Rev. James W. Montgomery, Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago. On the right is The Right Rev. Quintin E. Primo, Jr., Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago. The Most Reverend Arthur Michael Ramsey, the 100<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury is shown in gold robes, holding his crozier (staff). Archbishop Ramsey came to Trinity during the centennial celebration.

This window was a gift from Sarajane and Frederick Ockerland in 1975. The Centennial Window not only commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the chapel, but it also was given in celebration of the Ockerlund's own wedding anniversary. They had been married in the chapel 25 years earlier.

The window was designed by Karl Hackert Studios in Northbrook, Illinois and was made in Innsbruck, Austria.

