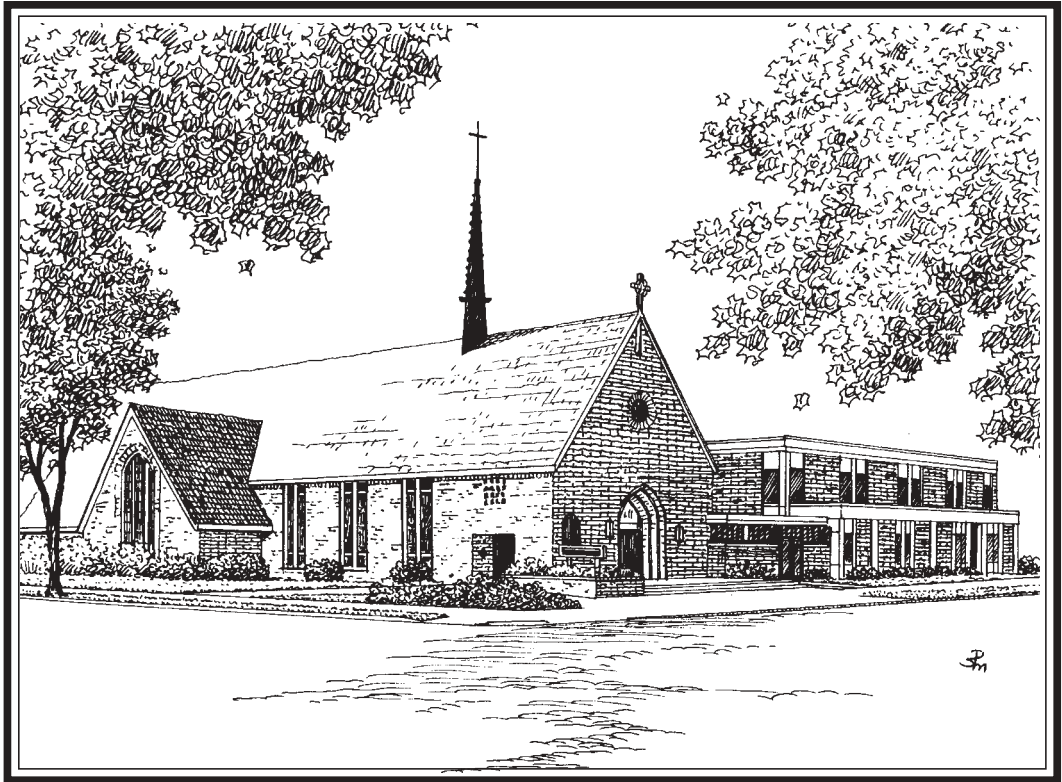


A Brief History of Trinity Cathedral Church



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A Brief History of Trinity Cathedral

In the year 1849, the first Episcopal services in Sacramento were held in a blacksmith's shop at 3rd and K Streets, conducted by The Rev. F. S. Mines of Trinity Church in San Francisco. The following day, a parish was organized under the name of Grace Church. Five years later, The Rt. Rev. William Ingraham Kip arrived in San Francisco as the first Bishop of California. In 1874 the Missionary Jurisdiction of Northern California was formed, and John Henry Ducachet Wingfield was elected Bishop, making his episcopal residence in Benicia. Three years later, St. Paul's parish was established to replace Grace Church, which had become unable to deal with its construction debt.

The history of Trinity Cathedral began in 1897. At that time, St. Andrew's Mission was founded at 23rd and K Streets. Five years later, under the direction of Bishop William Hall Moreland, Trinity Church was built behind to the Bishop's house on the corner of M and 26th.

The first vicar was *The Rev. Francis Claire Bowen* who unfortunately lost his eyesight and was forced to retire two years later.

Bishop Moreland's passion was to build a great Cathedral in the English style and he even had plans drawn for a massive Gothic structure which would have occupied the site of the present Cathedral. While his dream did not materialize during his lifetime, a large Cathedral House was built through the donation of an East Coast family. In 1909 ground was broken and one year later the building was opened.

Known as the **Thomas J. Emery Cathedral House**, it occupied the site of the present Great

Hall until it was judged structurally unsound and torn down in the 1960s.

In 1910, Bishop Moreland designated Trinity Church as the Pro-Cathedral of the newly created Diocese of Sacramento, and appointed the *Rev. John R. Atwill its first Dean*. Not everyone at Trinity shared the Bishop's enthusiasm, however, and two years later most of its members signed a petition requesting that Trinity be made a parish. The Bishop was not pleased and refused to cooperate, creating a situation where the vestry and many in the congregation resigned their membership. The Bishop, however, was firm, and Trinity remained as Pro-Cathedral.

During the 1920s, the Bishop was still trying to promote his idea of a great Cathedral in spite of continued opposition, part of which was based on the fact that two of the clergymen involved in the plan were "Englishmen and Ritualists." When Bishop Moreland retired in 1933, he had not been able to realize his dream, but he had planted seeds that would bear fruit later on.

The years of the Great Depression were difficult ones for the new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. A. W. Noel Porter. Trinity Pro-Cathedral and St. Paul's both had serious financial problems. The Bishop's solution was to merge the two, designating St. Paul's as **Christ Church Cathedral**. For a short period, the two clergymen, Canon *W. H. Hermitage* of St. Paul's and *E. S. Bartlam* of Trinity, served on alternate Sundays with the Bishop officiating when there was a fifth Sunday in the month.

The Pro-Cathedral became **The Bishop's Chapel**, and was renovated in 1937 when regular services

were held on Sunday evenings, featuring what was reported to be an outstanding boys' choir. During the Second World War, The Bishop's Chapel became a center for servicemen and their families; it was used for weddings and memorial services as well as for private prayer. The Cathedral House, then known as "Graystone Lodge," housed and entertained servicemen. Some of our present Trinity members recall being a part of the many activities that took place there.

In 1946, Trinity became a parish, but did not return to its Pro-Cathedral status until 1948. During this period, *Ven. Rex A. Barron* served as rector and then dean. Following the death of Archdeacon Barron, *The Rev. J. Nelson Brockmann* was called to become Dean in 1951, and from his time until the present, Trinity has continued to grow. During the tenure of the *Very Rev. Miller M. B. Sale* (1953-57), Bishop Moreland's dream for a "real" Cathedral began to take shape in spite of tremendous fiscal difficulties which resulted in the loss of property which is now occupied by St. Luke's Medical Building.

The present Cathedral Church was dedicated October 23, 1955, but its future was clouded as both the Cathedral and the Diocese suffered financial problems which were to occupy much of the episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Clarence R. Haden (1957-1978). Dean Sale was followed by the brief ministry of the *Very Rev. Charles A. Myers* (1958-59). *The Very Rev. Malcolm McClenaghan*, Dean from 1959-65, provided sound management ensuring the future of Trinity as a Cathedral Church.

His enthusiastic ministry brought needed renewal to the congregation and inspired growth. Under his leadership, both Trinity and Pioneer Houses, retirement facilities for the elderly, were constructed. His successor, the *Very Rev. J. Ogden Hoffman*, led the Cathedral into a building project which

resulted in a two-story Cathedral House to replace Graystone Lodge, which was in danger of falling down.

During the ministry of *Dean Charles Howard Perry* (1974-86), Trinity truly began to fulfill its destiny as a Cathedral for the Diocese of Northern California. The interior of the church was completely redone, the sanctuary enlarged, stained glass windows added to the nave, and a fine pipe organ installed.

The Eighth Dean of Trinity Cathedral, the *Very Rev. Donald G. Brown*, was installed in 1987, and under his strong leadership the Trinity 2000 Building Program was completed in 1991 adding the Great Hall to the Cathedral complex. Today, Trinity Cathedral is growing both in size and program, fulfilling the "Cathedral Idea" that was advanced by Bishop Moreland at the beginning of the century.

During 1997-98, Trinity Cathedral celebrated its 100th anniversary. We have come a long way from St. Andrew's Mission to Trinity Cathedral in the Capital City of California.

In January 2005, Dean Brown retired and The *Very Rev. Anthony Thurston*, retired Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Portland, Oregon was appointed Interim Dean through November when Bishop Lamb assumed this responsibility.

The *Very Rev. Dr. Brian Baker* was elected Dean in April 2006. He was installed on June 11, 2006, becoming the Ninth Dean of Trinity Cathedral.

*This history was compiled by
The Rev. Canon Grant S. Carey
Canon Precentor of the Cathedral*

A Timeline of History

- 1849 First Episcopal Services in Sacramento.
- 1897 St. Andrew's Mission was founded. *The Rev. Alfred George, Missionary.*
- 1900-03 Reorganized by Bishop Moreland. The new church, named Trinity Church, was built and consecrated under the direction of *The Rev. Francis Clare Bowen, Deacon.*
- 1909 Ground was broken for the new Cathedral House September 13th.
- 1910 Cathedral House was opened September 23, and was named the Thomas J. Emergy Cathedral House.
- 1909 *The Rev. George E. Swan, vicar, becomes Archdeacon of the Diocese.*
- 1910 Trinity was designated as Pro-Cathedral.
- 1910 The first Dean was appointed by Bishop Moreland: *The Very Rev. John R. Atwill.*
- 1912 Trinity petitions unsuccessfully to become a parish.
- 1913-17 *The Rev. Isaac Dawson and the Rev. J. T. Shurtoff were vicars.*
- 1920-34 *The Very Rev. Ernest S. Bartlam was Dean.*
- 1934 Trinity merges with St. Paul's to become Christ Church Cathedral.
- 1934 January 7th, Trinity becomes "The Bishop's Chapel."
- 1937 Trinity Church was renovated; the Boys Choir began.
- 1941-45 Cathedral House served as a home for servicemen.
- 1946 Trinity becomes a parish.
- 1948 Trinity was reconsecrated as Pro-Cathedral.
- 1948-51 *The Very Rev. Rex A. Barron was Dean.*
- 1951-53 *The Very Rev. J. Nelson Brockmann was Dean.*
- 1953-57 *The Very Rev. Miller M. B. Sale was Dean.*
- 1954 Ground was broken in September for a new church building.
- 1955 The cornerstone of the new Trinity Cathedral was laid May 30th.
- 1955 The new Cathedral was dedicated October 23rd.
- 1958-59 *The Very Rev. Charles A. Myers was Dean.*
- 1959-65 *The Very Rev. Malcolm McClenaghan was Dean.*
- 1966-73 *The Very Rev. J. Ogden Hoffman was Dean.*
- 1973-74 *The Rev. Judson Leeman was Priest-in-Charge.*
- 1974-86 *The Very Rev. C. Howard Perry was Dean.*
- 1986-87 *The Rev. Canon Kent McNair was Priest-in-Charge*
- 1987 *The Very Rev. Donald G. Brown, became Dean.*
- 1988-91 Trinity 2000 Building Program completed; Great Hall built.
- 2005 *The Very Rev. Anthony Thurston, Interim Dean*
- 2006 *The Very Rev. Dr. Brian Baker, became Dean*

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