

2024 Trinity-Hannibal Convention Ministry Report

If you recall, last year you saw a photo of a yellowwood sapling we had planted at Trinity-Hannibal that had been vandalized but re-sprouted. We talked about it being a metaphor of the revival of our small parish. This year, our yellowwood tree has been quietly growing more roots and becoming more anchored into the ground—growing OUT more than UP.

Again, our little tree metaphorically describes where we've been in ministry in 2024. Our food ministry with the Blessing Box continues to flourish—and we have a growing number of people in the Hannibal community who have been supplying it on a regular basis—two teenagers, in particular, and the Hannibal Fire Department.

The bankruptcy of the river cruise line that brought tourists to visit our historic church building effectively ended that ministry suddenly, but we found a new way to serve less than a block away, at our seasonal Farmer's Market in Hannibal's Central Park. As it turned out, there was a need to be able to sign people up to use their SNAP benefits at the Farmer's Market. Several of our parishioners took the training to be able to work the table that provides this service. Trinity now has a regular spot in the rotation of volunteer organizations doing this work; additionally, some of our parishioners volunteer on weeks other than our assigned weeks.

Although we have not completed our scattering ground for ashes yet, and we didn't make the cut for the 2023 New Ventures in Ministry grant, we are continuing with the project on our own, and have forged a relationship with a local funeral home to scatter indigent remains upon request. Once we complete our scattering ground, we will have a place that those who can barely afford to cremate a deceased loved one can lay them to rest—the ministry of the presence of a place to remember them.

Undaunted, we are presently looking at providing some basic car care four times a year for our neighbors who can barely afford to keep their cars running. In 2025, we hope to provide the ministry of "Back Alley Car Care"—four events in the year where anyone can drive up our alley and we will check their oil, fluids, and tire pressure, topping off what needs topping off. We also hope to partner with a local quick oil change shop to provide coupons for a basic oil change for our visitors who need it.

As we grow deeper roots in our community, partnering with these various entities, our hope is that the little tree that is Trinity-Hannibal will continue to grow and thrive! If you'd like to contribute to any of these ministries, we can be reached through our Facebook page or our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/trinityepiscopalhannibal>

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—Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Maria Evans