# 2020 Annual Parish Meeting January 31, 2021



Growing in love of God and neighbor

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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Sunday, January 31, 2021 1:00 pm

# **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Opening Prayer
- 3. Appointment of the Clerk and Parliamentarian; Review Rules for Electronic Meeting
- 4. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
- 5. Elections
  - a. Qualifications
  - b. Report of the Nominating Committee
  - c. Further Nominations
  - d. Polls open for 30 minutes
- 6. Treasurer's Report for 2020
- 7. Presentation of Approved 2021 Budget
- 8. Results of Election
- 9. General Organization and Committee Reports, received by title
- 10. Announcements and Thanks
- 11. Necrology
- 12. Benediction
- 13. Adjournment

# Trinity Church, Moorestown MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL MEETING January 26, 2020

- I. Call To Order
  - The Reverend Emily Mellott called the  $182^{nd}$  annual meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Trinity Church parish hall.
- II. Opening PrayerMother Emily opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. Appointment of the Clerk and Parliamentarian Shelley Lippincott was appointed Clerk, and Lori Rapuano was appointed Parliamentarian.
- IV. Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting Lorraine Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Joan Reid seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- V. Elections (Please refer to pages 7, 8, and 9 of Annual Report for the biographies of candidates.) The state dictates the polls must be open for thirty minutes. The Diocese sets the qualifications for Vestry membership, and Mother Emily read the qualifications. A Vestry person must be
  - a communicant in good standing of Trinity Church 18 years of age or older
  - a regular attendee during past year and currently a giver of record
  - a person who accepts the principle of tithing and agrees to work towards it Candidates: Elizabeth Louie for Warden (2-year term)

Vestry Candidates: Audrey Henry, Christopher Norris and Amy Paglione (3-year term)
Delegates to Diocesan Convention (for 1-year term): Bob Litsinger, Lenny Shepherd and
Robert Winzler

Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Nancy Matthews and John Murray There were no nominations from the floor. The polls were open from 12:40 p.m.-1:16 p.m.

# VI. Financial Report:

Nancy Matthews gave a very brief introduction to the upcoming Capital Campaign. She stated that later in the meeting Bruce Velzy and Lorraine Ryan, co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee, will give details of the campaign. Mark Mann then gave the financial report for 2019. He referenced the Treasurer's Report on page 10 of the Annual Report. He stated that our Actual Income was approximately \$762,000, and we budgeted about \$722,000. Of that \$762,000, \$46,000 was pass-through money that was collected and then immediately was paid out. In the \$793,000 budgeted expenses, a \$71,000 deficit was anticipated to be funded from the Endowment throughout the year; however we had to take out more than we anticipated. We used \$82,755 from the Endowment. We budgeted \$478,000 for pledges and received \$448,629, approximately a \$29,000 deficit. Money received from the plate offering was about \$10,000 more than we budgeted. For Property expenses, we budgeted \$99,500, but spent \$105,009, due to increases in costs. A parishioner asked how much money is currently in the Endowment. Mark, referring to the Endowment Committee Report on pages 41-43 of the Annual Report, stated that currently the account contains about \$2.87 million. He noted that each year we try not exceed the budgeted draw, but unfortunately sometimes what is needed does exceed that amount.

# VII. Presentation of Approved 2020 Budget

Anne Sweet discussed how the committee arrived at the 2020 budget. She said the committee met in November and discussed every line of the proposed budget. The Budget Committee then presented the final budget to the Vestry on November 10, 2019, and more discussion ensued. Anne highlighted the \$30,000 increase in the Youth line item, to fund a Youth Leader. We are thankful for the faith and commitment of parishioners that has led to an increase in pledges this year. This increase will go toward funding a Youth Leader. The hope is that during the first half of 2020, those in charge will narrow down the exact nature and requirements of the Youth Leader position. They also will determine how that person will work in coordination with Christine Andonie, Sunday School Director. Nancy Matthews noted that the \$30,000 is expected to fund a part-time position for the second six months of 2020. Parishioner Lisa Yeh asked about the 2019 Actual being lower than the 2019 Budget. Nancy Matthews answered that the 2019 Budget included the numbers for anticipated pledges, and in 2019 we had a shortfall of about \$30,000. The 2020 Budget is pledge commitments in hand. Mother Emily thanked Anne Sweet, Mark Leis and Nancy Matthews for their very hard work. All applauded.

# VIII. Results of Election

The Polls closed at 1:16 p.m. Walt Belfield moved to have one vote elect all who agree to stand for election. John Murray seconded the motion. All approved with no abstentions. The motion carried.

- IX. Capital Campaign Report - Bruce Velzy and Lorraine, Capital Campaign co-chairs Bruce Velzy noted that it is unusual to have a Capital Campaign on the Annual Meeting agenda. Ninety years ago Trinity's current church, chapel, parish house and rectory building were constructed and gifted to the parish by Eldridge Johnson. Sixty years ago we made repairs and improvements to our facility, including constructing the adjoining classroom building. Now we again have the opportunity to address the physical requirements of Trinity to make it more accessible, welcoming and better suited to our current needs. The three phases of the Capital Campaign are Discernment, Study, and Ask. To start the Discernment phase, beginning in February parishioners will be encouraged to attend smallgroup gatherings to give input into what they see as the physical and spiritual needs of Trinity Church. Facilitators, who have been trained by Maurice Seaton from the Episcopal Church Foundation, will lead these small groups. At this stage only ideas and opinions will be solicited. During this phase, parishioners will not be asked for money. The results of these meetings will narrow down exactly what the Capital Campaign projects will be. The committee wants to hear each parishioner's voice and God's voice. Small-group meeting sign-up sheets will be available online or through the church office. Bruce and Lorraine passed out a Capital Campaign brochure and asked parishioners to contact them with any questions or comments.
- X. General Organization and Committee Reports, *received by title*Mother Emily noted that all of the committee reports are printed in the Annual Report. She reminded everyone to read and vote for their favorite report. By acclamation, all reports were accepted as written. Mother Emily thanked all who submitted a committee report.

#### XI. Announcements

Nancy Matthews explained her reasoning for choosing to use the china dishes as opposed to paper products. She noted we are being good stewards of our resources trying to reduce the amount of trash produced. By using the china, we will not fill several large trash bags with paper goods as we have in years past.

# XII. Resolutions of Appreciation

Mother Emily thanked the church staff: Vernon Williams, Geri Trost, Lauren Evans, Nancy Johnson, Christine Andonie, Maris Williams, Franshely Rivera, and Tom Pitman for their commitment, skills and support. She thanked all who prepared for the Annual Meeting including those who wrote reports, those whose work led to the meeting, those who gave their time by attending the meeting, those who cooked and all in attendance who will help clean up. She stressed that all of these parishioners are the ministry of Trinity. Mother Emily introduced Kyle Cuperwich and noted that he is halfway through his ordination process. She introduced Carol Rodgers, a Deacon-In-Training, who will be with us for about six months. Mother Emily thanked all who are involved in lay ministry. She also thanked Kristina Van Name and all of those involved with Renewal Works. Mother Emily expressed her gratitude to the youth leaders and to all of those involved with Christian Formation. She also thanked Kevin Berry for launching the popular YAC Pancake Breakfasts. Lastly, she thanked Vestry members for their spiritual perspective and faith, and she thanked Vestry members and officers who were completing a term: Liz Louie, Warden; Audrey Henry, Stella Horton, and Amy Paglione, Vestry; Mark Mann, Treasurer; Shelley Lippincott, Recording Secretary.

# XIII. Necrology

Mother Emily read the names of those who have died this past year. All said the prayer on page 52 of the Annual Report.

# XIV. Hymn

Parishioners sang a capella the Hymn 488, printed in the Annual Report..

#### XV. Benediction

Mother Emily gave the prayer and blessing.

# XVI. Adjournment

Walt Belfield made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Lippincett

Shelley W. Lippincott

Clerk

#### **CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION**

# Warden - two year term

# **Nancy Matthews**

I have been a member of Trinity since moving to Moorestown in 2004, but I have been a "Trinitarian" for much of my life, having been baptized, confirmed and married at another Trinity Episcopal Church. I have been honored to serve one term as a warden, since 2019, and four years as a vestry member, from 2015 to 2019. I was the vestry representative on the discernment committee for the rector search process in 2016. One of my passions for Trinity is the Christian Formation program. I taught Sunday School to pre-K/kindergarten and in the Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood program for many years. I have enjoyed supporting our Christian Formation staff in their quests to offer a well-rounded educational program to our young people. As a warden for the past two years, I have spearheaded the preparations for the capital campaign, championed the welcoming process for new members, initiated a racial reconciliation initiative, and assisted the rector in many other ways. In my professional life, I am a business and marketing executive with the American College of Physicians in Philadelphia. I have an MBA from the Wharton School at U Penn, and 30+ years of experience in corporate marketing, finance and business development. Given my professional background, I am committed to helping Trinity continue to fulfill its mission while maintaining a sound financial foundation.

# Vestry - complete unexpired one year term

#### **Don Smith**

My name is Don Smith I started attending the 7:45 service at Trinity about seven years ago. For the last three years I served as an Usher at that service and most recently at the eight am service. I was part of the Renewal Works team and a member of the group that brought you the Book of Common Prayer treasure hunt. As a member of the Vestry I am excited about this next chapter in my Trinity Church life.

# Vestry - three year term

# Sally Campolucci

I'm an original Jersey girl, born and bred. I went to college at Wheaton College, MA where I majored in political science. I began my brief teaching career at Beauvoir, the elementary school of the National Cathedral Schools in DC. My career as a teacher of four-year-olds began with imparting the diplomacy of the sandbox and sharing blocks! My late husband, Roger was at Georgetown Law school and when he graduated, we moved to Princeton, New Jersey. We became "corporate Gypsies" as he joined RCA and later Boeing. We came back to the area when he became ill in 2004. We have two daughters in the area. Mary Beth lives in Marlton with her cat, Brady; Laura and her husband, Michael Harsche are in Mount Laurel with my 4 grandchildren. It's good to be here. I joined Trinity Church about 5 years ago. It has been a wonderful and welcoming spiritual home. I am a chalice bearer and a member of the altar guild, both of which I have found to be rewarding. I'm also a regular volunteer at the food pantry at St. Matthew in Moorestown. I am honored to be asked by Mother Emily to represent you on the Vestry. It is a privilege, especially as I am a recent member of the congregation. I email and text and return phone calls if a message is left! Thank you for the privilege of your confidence in me.

#### Kisha Mann

Kisha Mann's spiritual journey began as a young person in Chester Township, Pennsylvania. Her faith was cultivated in strong Protestant traditions as a member of Methodist, Baptist and Non-Denominational churches. Most recently, she has been a parishioner of Trinity Episcopal Church since the Fall of 2016. While at Trinity she has served on the Flower Guild, as a lay reader, participant in the MLK commemoration services and member of the J2A teaching team. In her professional life Kisha is employed as the Administrator and Director of Human Resources for B&J Pets and Aquariums, Inc. Her education includes a B.A. degree in Communications from Temple University. Kisha is an artist at heart who enjoys creating jewelry, painting, writing poetry and music. From 2014 - 2016 Kisha was also the front woman of the nationally touring Christian rock band Never Forsaken out of Vineland, NJ. Kisha and parishioner Mark Mann were married here at Trinity Episcopal Church in October 2017. As a wife and step-mother, she currently resides with her husband in Cinnaminson, NJ.

# Jeff Wojcik

Susan and I moved from Audubon, Pa to Medford NJ back in 2014 to be close to one of our children who recently married and bought a house in Cherry Hill. We soon looked for a new church and found a beautiful building in Trinity Church, Moorestown. Both Susan and I like being active and soon started to join various activities within the Church. Susan joined the Choir while I volunteered for various roles during the church services; usher, chalice bearer and doing a number outreach programs. I have always felt I wanted to get more involved and to give back on all the good that has come my way. As we got to know more people at Trinity the beauty of the building was replaced by the friendship and spiritual connection of the people we met. We knew we found a home at Trinity. In May 2019, I was Received into Episcopal church and was later asked to help in the Youth program by being one of the leaders for the J2A Youth Group. In 2020 I was winding down my professional carrier which has been all within the Pharmaceutical Biotech Industry, working for a number of Pharmaceutical companies and ending up in a consulting role for a small consulting firm that help company be more efficient and effective in their commercial processes. My organizational and process skills have served me well during my career. As I transitioned into retirement, my style was to remain active and work on areas that I now have time to address. I am an avid golfer and pickleball player, pretty much anything that keeps me moving, and with four grandchildren that will not be hard to do. I continue to look for volunteer opportunities and ways to give back to others who need it. I look forward to being part of the Vestry and supporting Trinity as it continues to change and grow in these challenging times.

# Diocesan Delegate - one year term

# **Bob Litsinger**

Bob is a graduate of the Swanee Education for Ministry program, and has provided leadership in four previous parishes. When Bob and Sandie moved to New Jersey in 2008, they found a church home at Trinity. Sandie and Bob were both very active at Trinity the first few years, but Sandie's health limited and eventually prevent participation. Bob was glad to return to active participation at the end of 2017. Since returning Bob has been a Diocesan Representative, Sunday School teacher, a Discipleship for Episcopalians group coach, active in the RenewalWorks process, as filled a short-term vestry role, and is a liaison to the vestry of St. John's Maple Shade. He serves as chalice bearer, lay reader and as part of the tech guild. He continues to provide a weekly Evening Prayer service for Trinity plus now does some Evening Prayer services for St. Mary's in Hadden Heights. To the extent possible he works with the Diversity Committee and Outreach Committees. He is currently continuing study at the New Jersey School for Ministry. When not participating at Trinity he fills is time working as a Database Developer for HealthAdvocate and with family life, cycling, yoga, weight training, jogging, travel and visiting with friends.

# John Murray

My name is John Murray and my wife Janet, daughter Emily and I have been members of Trinity Episcopal Church since 2001. Over the past 20 years I have been active in the Men's Club and have served as President. I was part of the Discernment Committee to call Mother Emily. I have served two separate terms on the vestry. My family and I live in Moorestown. In my spare time I enjoy fishing and golf. I am currently employed at RMI as a V.P. Product Manager. I have just concluded a three year term on the vestry and would like to become a Diocesan Delegate because I am interested in serving Trinity Church on a different level and have always been interested in attending Convention. Thank You.

#### Kristina Van Name

Kristina Van Name has been a member of Trinity since 2002. Both her children, Connor and Kaylee, have been an active part of Trinity since their birth. She is a faithful member of the Trinity Choir and a lay reader. Last year, Kristina helped coordinate on Basic Bible Study on Thursday evenings. She plans to restart it this winter on Monday evenings. Kristina facilitated the Renewal Works Committee that helped explore our parish's spirituality and help plan what we can do to help our spiritual growth. She participated on the Parish Committee on Ministry who helped Kyle Cuperwich with his path to being ordained in the Episcopal Church. Kristina served on the discernment committee that helped bring Mother Emily to us and the organ campaign committee. She also serves on the Trinity Preschool Board as secretary, where both her children attended preschool from the 2.5 year old program through PreK.

Alternate Diocesan Delegates: Julie Bathke, Linda Carson and Bruce Lovejoy

TREA	SUREF	≀'s R	REPORT
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			2020	2020	
	2021	2020	Revised	Original	2019
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<b>BUDGET</b>	BUDGET	<u>ACTUAL</u>
INCOME					
Pledges	\$ 499,000	\$ 490,532	\$ 475,000	\$ 499,400	\$ 448,629
Plate	48,500	71,332	40,000	65,000	55,324
Building Use	8,000	4,480	6,500	13,000	10,660
Prior Year Pledges	3,500	3,935	3,935	3,500	6,708
Christmas/Easter	11,200	5,733	5,373	11,200	11,408
Preschool allocated expense	6,000	7,000	6,000	12,000	12,000
Outreach Income	_	19,630	-	-	17,682
Budgeted Distribution from Endowment	150,000	93,723	150,000	150,000	150,000
Special Offerings		40,366	.=.		28,947
PPP Grant*	97,600	-	80,000	-	-
Other Income	18,000	10,967	7,161	18,500	20,243
Total Income	841,800	747,698	773,969	772,600	761,601
EXPENSE					
Worship	1,000	759	1,000	1,000	694
Music	23,912	23,654	32,575	32,575	32,302
Education and Spiritual Development	6,500	1,290	7,000	7,000	3,766
Outreach	_	20,630	-	_	17,682
Stewardship/Evangelism/Parish Life	4,000	295	1,000	4,000	2,878
Youth	4,000	419	4,000	34,000	3,604
Administration	31,650	28,390	33,150	32,350	27,283
Property	106,400	102,414	99,500	102,500	105,009
Capital Improvements	10,000	32,179	29,980	29,980	59,130
Diocesan Assessment	93,500	86,000	86,176	86,000	80,000
Salaries/Benefits	534,140	493,990	499,375	499,375	483,061
2020 Technology Upgrade	-	25,402	-	-	-
2020 Tech Upgrade Special Offerings	-	(10,490)	-	-	NOTE IN THE PROPERTY.
Special Offerings Transmittal	. <del> </del>	40,366		-	28,947
Total Expenses	815,102	845,298	793,756	828,780	844,356
Net Loss before additional funding	26,698	(97,600)	(19,787)	(56,180)	(82,755)
Add'l Funding from Endowment for Operations	70,902	-	19,787	56,180	82,755
Net Profit (Loss)	\$ 97,600	\$ (97,600)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

<sup>\*</sup>We received a \$97,600 Paycheck Protection Program Loan in May 2020.

At the time of the budget revision, we expected \$80,000 of the loan to be forgivable and become grant income in 2020.

As of the end of 2020, the forgiveness process was not available.

We currently expect the full amount of the loan to become grant income in 2021.

Below are highlights and some of the major items of discussion during this year's budget planning meeting.

# 1. Budgeted Income:

a. The draft estimate was decreased by \$28,400 spread across 3 Line Items to represent the current state of the situation during the COVID pandemic.

Reduced plate income \$16,500
 Reduced Building use \$5,000
 Preschool Allocation \$6,000

- b. Pledge Income of \$499,000 reflects Geri Trost's best estimate based on actual pledges received, plus anticipated pledges from members who have pledged previously.
- c. Budgeted Distribution from Endowment \$220,902 (Additional 70,902). This represents a distribution of about 7.1% of the current Endowment Balance which is higher than the recommended 6% distribution, but in-line with our recent history of 7.45 % withdrawal rate. It was reported the average growth of the Fund has been about 7.14% per year since about 2015.

#### 2. Total Expenses:

a. The draft estimate for Total Expenses was reduced by a Net amount of about \$14K after decreasing and increasing some of the Line Items from last year's budget.

Diocesan Assessment \$7,000
Salaries/Benefits \$34,765 (\$30K was moved from Youth)
Property/Capital (\$16,080)
Music (\$8,663)

- b. The proposed 2021 Budget for Diocesan & General Church has an increase of almost \$7K (\$93,500) in line with our accepted plan to reach our assessed goal of \$113,500 for 2021 in the future that was worked out with the Diocese.
- c. The revision to Compensation Mother Emily proposed to the budget committee that rather than hiring a part time youth specialist (which the Vestry committed to for 2020, then postponed to 2021 because of the pandemic), that she look for an Assistant Rector with significant gifts in youth ministry, and then seek to hire a more affordable part time staff person to provide leadership in another key area (such as pastoral care and outreach/community ministry) that will be reduced or displaced in the Assistant's portfolio by the focus on youth ministry. This value also represents an increase of an additional 1.5% in Staff Compensation (\$3.5K)
- d. Capital Expenses were reduced by moving potential items to the Capital Campaign.
- e. The Music budget was reduced to reflect last year's actual expenses based on reduced services.

A Payroll Protection Program Loan of \$97.6K was received in 2020. When we revised the budget for 2020 we expected \$80,000 of the loan to be forgiven. The portion of the loan that is forgiven becomes grant income. The bank had not given us the ability to apply for forgiveness in 2020 as we originally expected. We now expect the entire loan to be forgiven in 2021.

#### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

At this time last year I was inviting you to think about building for the future and we began a discernment phase for a capital campaign to strengthen our buildings and our welcome to all. We had an excellent response to that discernment phase; we were getting preliminary bids on capital work, we were continuing to build up the spiritual strength of this congregation with studies and fellowship and welcoming initiatives and...suddenly we found ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, our bishop called for the immediate suspension of in-person worship and parish activities to help prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus, so we offered our first ever online Sunday service on March 15, 2020. Over the following days, weeks, and months, we learned to worship together while we are physically apart. We prayed together in front of our computers, phones, and televisions, and by conference call. Our choirs sang together from their own homes. We studied the Bible together, discussed books and celebrated friendship, attended children's chapel and Sunday school classes, shared wisdom and made decisions in Vestry, Outreach, and other committee meetings, and had essential spiritual conversations and built friendship and support through video and phone calls - and, for part of the year, in very small, carefully masked and distanced groups. We responded to the pain of our nation and community with a new Racial Reconciliation initiative. We have lived the life of the church online and at a physical distance, we have been the Body of Christ in this challenging time, and God has been present with us, guiding and strengthening our community.

There has been much to grieve this year: the loss of many people precious to us and the missing opportunities to grieve together at a death; the particular spiritual boost of hearing ourselves sing and pray in a great chorus of the voices of God's people, the joy of easy connections and conversation at coffee hour or around the church, and all the other changes of these days. The losses we feel now can show us where God has been present and active in our lives and our community for years or decades, and I believe that God grieves with us in these losses, and reaches out in love to heal our hearts and find new ways to connect to us in this changing time.

So, as we masked up and stayed apart to help care for and protect all God's people, there is also much to celebrate. We have welcomed new people to the Trinity community through our online worship, and stayed connected with the far-flung Trinity "alumni" community around the country, too. New friendships and community have been built in our telephone service, and through supporting one another in the difficulties of this year. Because of our new audio and video equipment in the church, our worship services will sound clearer and reach further when we are back together in the pews, as well as right now!

Truly, when I look back at this year at Trinity, I see an overwhelming tide of rising to the occasion, of gifts of time and talent, heart and spirit, too many to name. But I'd like to name a few, as a picture of our year together. (Buckle up, this is going to be a long Rector's Report.)

Our online worship presence grew and adapted over the course of the year, thanks particularly to Vernon Williams, who developed previously unknown talents as a videographer and video editor, as well as a sound editor, recording artist, and director of virtual choirs, so that we could experience the beauty of worship that nourishes our spirits in the online world. And to Christopher Norris, who

learned everything we needed to know about audio and video and streaming for worship, managed many details of getting equipment selected and installed, and continues to advise and adapt to make sure our live-stream quality is the very best it can be. Wesley Blackburn, Bob Litsinger, Nancy Matthews, and Jeff Wojcik took on the brand new ministry of Trinity's Tech Guild to manage the camera and stream for each individual service. Our limited in-person worship this summer and fall owes a great deal to Liz Louie, Nancy Matthews, and the teams of Vestry members who sorted out seating and spacing, cleaning and preparation, following the guidance of the Diocese of New Jersey, and to the ushers, cleaning volunteers, and other leaders who have invented or re-invented their worship leadership to help us gather as safely as possible. I am deeply grateful to each of them, including the ones who don't like to be thanked.

Meanwhile Trinity's commitment to spiritual growth wasn't stopped by a pandemic. Christine Andonie re-invented Sunday School for the online world, and made sure that we could all connect to God non-digitally as well, with the Flat Jesus and Flat St Nicholas home spiritual activity mailings. Our Rite 13 and J2A leaders have worked hard to make the internet a place of spiritual growth for our youth, and have continuously adapted within our pandemic limits to make physical connections as well. Maris Williams gathered our children and their parents to develop our understanding of the Christmas story through a spectacular and unique online pageant. Julie Bathke took our adult bible study online for Sunday mornings, I enjoyed exploring the Gospel of Matthew online with you in the spring, and Wes Blackburn and Sarah Senno started online adult and youth book clubs, all keeping the spirit stirring during lockdowns and distance. Nancy Johnson has led the Preschool first online and then back to careful in-person learning to help us share the love of God with all the children and families who count on the Trinity Preschool community. I'm so appreciative of the creativity and commitment of each of these leaders, and all of you who have supported them and engaged with this growth in new ways.

Nor did our planning for the future stop. Bruce Velzy and Lorraine Ryan, as our Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, moved our March discernment meetings online and brought helpful feedback and the hopeful energy and enthusiasm of participants back to the Vestry in April. After a pause to assess how the pandemic has affected Trinity, your Vestry has opened the next exploratory phase for a campaign, and are hopeful that we'll be ready to hit the ground running with our campaign to build Trinity's future in early 2021. Meanwhile, Mark Leis and Nancy Mathews, with David Donachy, continued to work with contractors to get cost estimates and an increasingly clear understanding of our essential structural work and our potential welcoming work in our buildings. And Tom Pitman has disinfected everything, while keeping up with current maintenance and the care our buildings need while we aren't filling them with people. This mostly-behind the scenes work is incredibly valuable to the health of our congregation.

Also largely behind the scenes, our Vestry worked generously and faithfully together to adapt our budget and congregational planning to the new realities of 2020, and took on the careful and complex work of safely re-opening our space to regular use. Their work and mine was made much easier by a Paycheck Protection Program loan which helped ensure our staff could focus on ministry throughout the pandemic, and we owe that to the dedication of Geri Trost in shepherding both the church and the preschool through all of the constantly changing details of applying for the loans, applying the funds properly, and now working through the process to have these loans turned into grants. Our Consecration Sunday team invented creative new ways to engage in the spirituality of giving, and

launched a delightful drive-through celebration on Consecration Sunday in the fall. Many of you also increased your giving, or sacrificially found ways to continue to support Trinity at any level while experiencing job and income loss this year. For many of us, giving financially was the most hands-on ministry we could turn to for much of 2020. I don't underestimate the holy faithfulness of this work, and hope you won't either: when it feels like there is little you can do, whatever you can do is spiritual and essential.

That's been shown dramatically in the generosity with which our congregation responded to the challenges issued by the Outreach Committee. When our regular rummage sales were suspended, the Outreach Committee found creative ways to help us meet the needs of the partner organizations those sales usually support, and the people of Trinity substantially exceeded both the challenges offered. In addition to this support for the education, housing, emergency support, and nurture of our neighbors in need, Outreach leaders also directed us in hands-on work of breakfast service in Camden, and sandwich making and supply collection for the Cathedral Kitchen, St. Paul's, and the Christian Caring Center. Thank you, and thanks be to God.

I'm particularly aware of my appreciation for our Deacon, Leslie Mazzacano, too, and not just because she's announced her retirement for this coming February. Leslie has poured her generous heart into making sure that our care for one another, and especially for the homebound and sick, can't be stopped by the lockdowns that protect our health. She's also been ensuring that the Trinity congregation is feeding and supporting families whose need just increases during these difficult times, has been supporting our youth and children's leaders, been a powerful spiritual support to several groups in this congregation, has cheerfully supported your rector and our worship volunteers through the constant changes in worship, and held the Moorestown Ministerium together so that our local clergy can support each other in God's work. While I can't express how much I'll miss Leslie, I am excited to learn what God has in store for her in the next season of her ministry, and for us as we call a new clergy leader to join our work.

It's been a year of learning and discovery for me, too, as your rector. I now know infinitely more than I ever expected to know about audio technology and video editing - all now as much a part of worship leadership as knowing where to turn in The Book of Common Prayer. I've enjoyed sharing the exploration of the Prayer Book with you this year, too, in videos, meetings, emails, our Book of Common Prayer Treasure Hunt, and phone worship.

I've learned a little more website editing - and have become increasingly grateful for Lauren Evans, who manages our website and our communications, which have become especially important this year.

I've also learned more than I ever planned to know about disease transmission. This summer I was asked to serve alongside public health professionals, community leaders, and other priests, on the Diocese of New Jersey Re-entering, Re-opening, Re-imagining Task Force, which prepared the guidelines for congregations to return to limited in-person worship and activities, and continues to review plans and support congregations in re-envisioning worship, fellowship, and ministry for pandemic conditions. I appreciated the knowledge and resources gained there when working with the Wardens, Vestry and staff to make Trinity's plans and decisions around worship and congregational life.

I've learned how much I appreciate your voices, by their absence and presence in worship, and in phone calls I've come to treasure this year. And I've learned how powerfully the presence of God - and of you, God's people - can be felt in prayer and worship even when we are physically separated.

As I look back through the adventures, challenges, and opportunities of 2020, there are so many more people and gifts I am thankful for that I'd use up all the paper in our office just printing a few of these reports. (It's good most of you are getting this electronically!) I am grateful beyond words for every single one of you who has prayed with us online or by phone; prayed for us offline; dropped off pantry items; led a meeting; made an informal phone call to someone else in the congregation; sung, read, or led in worship or chapel or classes in these new ways; expressed your support through a donation; led one of Trinity's committees, fellowship groups or ministries through endless adaptation; shared God's peace with someone you don't see in worship; and found new ways to do things that keep us connected.

Thank you all for the incredible gift of sharing this journey with me. It is a joy and honor to be your rector, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us, together, as we welcome 2021 and take the next steps forward in faith.

The Reverend Emily A. Mellott Rector

# **DEACON'S REPORT**

From a meditation book "Jesus Always" by Sara Young

March 30, 2020

I am the light from on high that dawns upon you to give to those who sit in darkness. Sometimes your circumstances are so difficult and confusing that you feel as if you are surrounded by darkness. ... At times like this, you need to look up and see My Light shining down upon you. ...let go of problem-solving efforts for a while. Cease striving and know that I am God.

This past year of 2020 was one of stay at home, reflecting, cooking, trying to stay connected, learning how to "zoom," learning how to record from home. It was a time of doubt and fear. It was a year of listening to God. Even if it felt like sitting in darkness, God was with us. We all have our stories to tell of our time alone in our "pod" of family.

My pod consisted of my husband and oldest grandson, Tyler who came home for "spring break" from college and never went back until August. John continued to work at the South Jersey Food Bank, so he became the outside person, doing all the shopping and errands.

Then in the summer so we could see each other having a Sunday gathering with Christine, Omar and the boys in their backyard, social distancing help us cope.

In March when we went on lock-down Mother Emily and I thought it would be important to reach out to parishioners who might be living alone, living in skilled nursing facilities and other vulnerable parishioners. I gathered names, address and phone numbers and a group of us reached out to these parishioners to make sure that they had contact with their families and our Sunday School children sent cards and letters to them. I have stayed in touch with many of them and once we were allowed outside visitation to the Evergreens, Brandywine and Medford Leas I would make plans to visit these parishioners.

Then in the summer worshiping in the cemetery and seeing each other even from a distance was comforting.

In the fall, we carefully came inside to worship again. Taking all the necessary precautions to make it safe to be together. I still visit as often as I can to the facilities, but it is hard since it is done by appointment only so that makes it difficult as family members also must make appointments so they only allow so many visits but if I can go at least once a month I try.

Now as Christmas approaches, we are still in a pandemic world but still worshiping together to celebrate the birth of the Newborn King.

Here are some of the highlights of a rather different year but still one of God's will being done.

# Lay Ministry/Outreach

Our MLK Day of Service that we had in January was another successful service of making "Birthday Bags." We hosted and organized to bring children, youth and our parish family together along with the other Churches in Moorestown to make 50+ Birthday Bags. These bags consisted of everything a struggling family would need to give a child a birthday party. Cake, icing, party favors, paper goods and most of all love. We had 23 young children and teenagers from St. Matthews Lutheran church, confirmation class participate.

The bags were donated to Catholic Charities in Delanco and are given out to families who come there for assistance. This special day of service is an important part of our life here at Trinity. We are taking God's love out into the world. We are showing others that as Jesus has taught us, we are to love and serve the poor, the needy, the widowed, the orphan. This ministry also shows our children and youth how to give back to the community and reinforces the ministry of Dr. King, Jr. They leave after this event mindful of those in need and how God works to help those in need through us.

This year when I dropped off the bags at the Catholic Charities new facilities, I met one of the coordinators and found out that there is a greater need for "baby" items like diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, etc. So, for 2021 we will be donating "Baby Bags."

When the pandemic hit and we went on lock-down I knew that there would be a great need out there as families were struggling with no jobs, no money coming in so I contacted the families that we have helped over the years especially at Christmas and let them know that I would open our pantry once a week on Wednesday for 2 hours and they could come and get food. I also purchased gift cards. We also had families who have just come by for food and were so grateful that we were open.

In early January I had already started planning our fifth annual Christmas in July, booking a venue (Basking River), booking buses to take us there. But when the pandemic hit, and we went into lock-down not knowing what the summer would bring we decided not to do the outing as we could not social distant on a school bus or at the river. So, we decided to still have Christmas in July but with gifts for the kids that they could use in their own backyards, and activities they could do at home. We collected all types of games, activities, coloring books, etc. and filled 40+ backpacks that we gave to the children. Along with gift cards for the parents to Wal-Mart for new school supplies whatever that would look like come fall for back-to-school.

And this past Christmas we had 18 families that we adopted, 17 from last year and a new family this year. It is so wonderful how we here at Trinity embrace these families and give and give out of our abundance. Here are some of the thank you sentiments I received:

"With tears I write this my angel that God has blessed me with from the dark and pain he sent someone to show me love and care."

"We thank you so much for all that you do. This year has been full of change and it makes us happy to know that there are still great and kind-hearted people in this world like you and your team."

I cannot express MY GRATITUDE to all of you for your outpouring of love and mercy that you show to these families and the support you give to me in my ministry of serving the wider community.

On a personal note, it will be so hard to say good-by to this family that has been such an important part of my life and ministry for the last 17 years. It is also hard to express all the emotions and feelings I have. I have had a group of great co-workers and a parish who treated me like family. But this year has also been a time of great reflection for me and God has been telling me to rest. God also has me doing other ministry that I believe will occupy my future after I rest.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Deacon. God's blessings to you all in this New Year.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Mazzacano, Deacon

# WARDENS' REPORT

On Tuesday, March 10, the Vestry held its monthly meeting in the Parish Hall. By that time, events and business trips were starting to be cancelled due to the spread of COVID, and the extent of other closures was difficult to anticipate. Three agenda items that night required quite a bit of discussion: whether to cancel church services for the upcoming Sunday, whether to cancel capital campaign discernment meetings, and how to continue to conduct the business of the church if we couldn't meet in person. The vestry decided to postpone the upcoming discernment meetings; and Mother Emily suggested that we pass a resolution to allow the vestry to conduct business and take official votes by conference calls, if necessary. As for cancelling church services, the consensus was not to take that step yet. However, by Thursday night, the world had changed, and on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, church, and just about everything else in NJ, was closed for in-person gatherings.

Despite everything thrown at us this year, by the grace of God, Trinity is thriving! Attendance at worship appears to be as strong as ever. Trinity's average Sunday attendance for the past several years has been 185, and the number of views of our service recordings on YouTube suggest that we are maintaining or exceeding that number (numbers are harder to track on Facebook and the church website, where many people are now watching the live-streamed worship). The very first service that Mother Emily and Vernon Williams recorded on their iPhones and compiled on their computers was on March 29, when 297 people watched on Youtube. Even in the doldrums of August, one week had 146 views. The beautiful Easter Day Eucharist, filmed mostly in the cloister garden on Mother Emily's iPhone, had 474 views. And by Christmas, our enthusiasm for virtual worship had not waned. The Christmas pageant had 411 views, and the Christmas Eve Eucharist, 378 views. Anyone who watched the Christmas videos would have to agree that our spiritual and music leaders have become video production experts as well!

Most other aspects of our parish life are thriving as well. Children and teenagers are Zooming in to Sunday School classes and children's chapel, often attending at higher numbers than when we could meet in person. Adult education programs have expanded. Donations of money, food, volunteer time, and gifts continue to pour through Trinity to those in need. We have taken on new challenges in response to society's injustices and imperfections. And pledge income is holding steady for 2020 and 2021, with 10 new households pledging for 2021.

The primary problem we face is that we miss each other. We miss casual conversations after church, intergenerational worship and gatherings, volunteering together to help others, and singing. We can't fix these problems now, but just think of the celebration we will have when we can get together again!

In addition to helping Mother Emily sustain the church, the vestry has focused on several new and ongoing concerns this year, some of which are described elsewhere in this annual report. A few highlights from the vestry's work:

- In February we approved a formal policy for serving alcohol at church events (just in time to stop having church events!).
- We have closely monitored the church finances, adjusting the budget in expectation of reduced income; approving the application for a federal PPP loan/grant; and opening a Line of Credit to take advantage of very low interest rates to fund major building maintenance and safety improvements before the capital campaign resumes.

- We have continued the work on the capital campaign, to the extent possible, especially refining the list of proposed projects and getting cost estimates for each.
- We planned for many aspects of outdoor worship and inside worship, and equipped the sanctuary with a new camera, upgraded sound system, and improved lighting benefitting both remote and in-person worship.
- And we have supported Deacon Leslie's efforts to maintain contact with members of the congregation who may be isolated, particularly by the reliance on web-based communications.

Throughout this year, the children's choir anthem "I am the church" often rings in our ears. Vernon and Mother Emily have included that anthem several times in the virtual services, but if you don't recall it, the lyrics are: "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.... The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people." As you read through this annual report from 2020, celebrate the hard work and creativity of Mother Emily, Deacon Leslie, Vernon Williams, and the other staff members, vestry members, Sunday School teachers, and other volunteers who have risen to the occasion to keep Trinity strong. We thank God that we are a church together.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Louie and Nancy Matthews, Wardens

# Spiritual Growth and Formation

#### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION - ADULTS**

# Sunday Adult Bible Study - Julie Bathke

In a way, the pandemic has been a blessing for the Sunday Adult Bible Study Class. Now that we meet via Zoom, we no longer have to compete with Coffee Hour. After a false start trying to offer class at 8:00 am (I know, what were we thinking!), we've found that 12:45 on Sunday afternoon works well. That allows us plenty of time to take all the time we want for discussion. We are usually finished by 2:00 and, often, find ourselves sticking around for more conversation not always related to the section of scripture we are studying. This is another non-anticipated blessing - we have time for the fellowship we all miss so much.

This "academic year" we are studying the Gospel of Mark. In the spring and early summer of 2020, we completed our study of Genesis begun in 2019.

The class moves slowly with an emphasis on deep reading of scripture, understanding of historical context, use of extra-biblical sources such as commentaries and the work of biblical scholars. We often read the same passage in multiple versions of scripture and someone always directs us to the footnotes.

Sound daunting? Don't worry. The teacher provides most of the background material for the class to use as reference and points of discussion. If you join the class you will discover we laugh a lot. The study is serious; we don't take ourselves seriously.

The class is structured to allow people to come and go as needed. And while there are no perfect attendance pins to be awarded at the end of the year, absences won't go on your Permanent Record.

# **Evening Bible Studies**

In May and June, Mother Emily offered a study of Matthew's gospel on Zoom, covering highlights and specific characteristics found in Matthew's story of Jesus that distinguish it from the other gospels. The group read segments of the gospel each week, spent time responding to and discussing a specific story or passage from that segment and how it connected with our own faith, and discussed the unique characteristics of Matthew's gospel, and concluded each meeing by praying together the short nighttime "Daily Devotion" from The Book of Common Prayer (page 140).

On Thursday evenings from January into March, Kristina Van Name led a "Basic Bible Study" exploring short passages from the stories of Genesis. No prior knowledge or experience of Bible Study is needed for this group, and it is easy to join for one evening or more, any time. That group went into hiatus in March, and is resuming online on Monday nights, reading from the Gospel of Mark, in January 2021.

#### **Lenten Studies**

During Lent, members of several "Friends with Jesus" groups led a "Discipleship Sampler" on Sunday mornings, offering a chance for accessible spiritual conversations, and to try out the Discipleship for Episcopalians resource, which helps us reflect on how our faith in God and relationship with Christ shapes our everyday lives, and learn how to grow spiritually, starting wherever we are.

On Wednesday evenings, Mother Emily led a study of the book Joining Jesus on His Mission designed to help us get better at spotting what God is up to in our lives, and the people around us, and respond to God's presence.

Both of those studies were interrupted by the suspension of in-person activities in mid-March, though the Joining Jesus group study guides were distributed by email for those who wished to continue on their own.

# Racial Reconciliation and Healing

The Trinity Racial Reconciliation and Healing group began in late summer and early fall of 2020. The group of people who have become part of this intentional journey build on the strong work, already in place, of the God's Diversity Committee at Trinity.

For some the journey began with participation in the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge. Information about the Challenge can be found on the Trinity website. Some group members had been doing their own reading on the subject.

The work of the group continues now with monthly small group discussions around Carol Anderson's book White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide. With questions to guide us, we read and discuss one chapter each month. Recognizing injustice, seeing the harm it has done to our country, admitting the hurt it has caused to our church, our society, our neighbors, and to ourselves and our relationship with God is not an easy journey. However, it is one we promise to take in our baptismal vows when we say we will strive for justice and peace among us all.

The Racial Reconciliation and Healing group allows all of us to do the work God has given us to do.

# **CHRISTIAN FORMATION - CHILDREN**

In a year filled with collective loss, uncertainty, and unchartered ways of life, I am blessed to say that my ministry sustained me. God challenged me to emerge from my anxiety and do His work. We needed to provide options for our Sunday school families to remain engaged with their church family. The show needed to go on despite government shutdowns. How would that work?

Prior to quarantine, we were engaged in our weekly offerings of education and fellowship with consistent attendance. All was familiar. Chapel leaders creatively led the children in prayer, lessons, and songs. Sunday school teachers provided spiritually enriching learning activities for their classes. Children attended monthly pancake breakfasts with the J2A, and the congregation. We were blessed to have parishioners speak to the children during Black History Month. Lenten activities such as Jerusalem Marketplace and our Easter egg hunt were on the horizon.

Upon shutdown, our Sunday school program needed to adapt. Thank you, God, for technology! I began recording weekly chapel videos for children to watch at home. This required me to let go of any insecurities I had in order to sing, teach, and pray my heart out each week on camera. As a preschool teacher, speaking to children comes naturally, but the thought of adults watching these videos was truly intimidating. Through my calling within the church, and God's guidance, I was able to persevere through my stage fright and record chapel videos until our "return" to Sunday school in September.

Enter Zoom. Oh my! We began offering weekly Sunday school on Zoom to those interested. I flubbed my way through the first few months. Despite rehearsing prior to our meetings, there were hiccups, but with help from our super savvy children, I have finally achieved a working knowledge of Zoom. Who knew it was so difficult to share my screen WITH sound?? Our weekly meetings are attended by roughly 1 l children. Their enthusiasm renews my spirit. Have a chuckle. Some of our weekly prayer requests have included: Curios George aka Georgie, Grandparents, family members, pets, the world, toys and pizza. The children are a splendid reminder of God's love and presence in our lives.

In order to maintain a connection between our older and younger children, we launched "All-in Sundays." On the first Sunday of each month, our Sunday school children are joined by the J2a and Rite 13 during our 9:00 Zoom session. During these sessions, the J2A and Rite 13 have led us in chapel, and teachers have taught lessons to the group. This is an ever-evolving effort, and I am grateful for the teachers of both groups for their participation.

Since there are a significant number of families choosing not to participate in zoom Sunday school, I post our weekly lessons on the website for home use. I have also sent mailings and materials to the congregation with "connection' as our goal. Families enjoyed Flat Jesus and Flat St. Nicholas as a reminder they are not alone during this time.

It should also be noted that we managed to provide a very special "Welcome to Communion" celebration for our very patient first graders this summer. This year, our first graders will be meeting monthly for their lessons with Mrs. Stacy McBride. As the weather improves, we will explore options for safe outdoor gatherings with the class. Until then, we will Zoom.

While reflecting upon the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the commitment and support of our church leadership, staff, and vestry. Thank you for your encouragement as our Sunday School program adapted to quarantine, for assisting with mailings, and for making our "Welcome to Communion Celebration" happen for our first graders. Additional thanks to our special guests along the way, Mother Emily, Deacon Leslie, Nancy Johnson, and Nancy Matthews.

I would like to close with a very special thank you to Deacon Leslie for her guidance. I will miss Deacon Leslie dearly at church but am truly blessed to call her my Mother-in-law and friend. Enjoy your retirement, Grammie!

Respectfully submitted, Christine Andonie

# **CHRISTIAN FORMATION - YOUTH**

I continue to oversee and plan the Journey to Adulthood Curriculum that covers the Rite 13 (seventh & eight grades) and the J2A class (ninth & tenth grades). Both classes this year are in their second years of two-year programs. Rite 13 is still led by teachers Jasmine and Rafael Declet along with Scott Hart.

Our J2A class is also in its second year of two years as these youth begin their journey toward confirmation in the Spring of 2021. We have committed teachers: Libby Curran, Kisha Mann, John Murray and Jeff Wojcik.

When the pandemic hit in mid-March and we went on lock-down these two classes did not miss a beat so to speak. They picked up with weekly "zoom" meetings on Sunday mornings and continued their curriculum.

We had a slightly different youth Sunday in May and we had several youths do the readings for our virtual Sunday Service and for our telephone service. Since we cannot have more youth participate, we did not have one in the fall. We hope to have one again in the Spring of 2021 depending on the circumstances at the time.

We were supposed to have a retreat this past fall but because of the pandemic it was canceled. Both classes are preparing for the Rite 13 ceremony and J2A confirmation in 2021 but dates have not been confirmed so stay tuned.

Both classes have continued to also help with outreach activities making PB & J Sandwiches in the spring and just this last December. They also have contributed to the Outreach for Camden Cathedral Kitchen donations.

Both classes have tried to meet in person. Rite 13 met at Rosary Garden next to St. John Neuman Church in October. In November, the J2A class did a hike in Rancocas State Park.

I want to thank the youth, the teachers, and the parents for supporting the youth and their continued spiritual growth and education.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie Mazzacano, Dcn.

#### YOUTH GROUP

Trinity's Youth Group is looking forward to getting back to normal!

Here is the plan:

Perhaps as soon as February/March Leader of the group, Maddie Cook has committed to bringing back our "Pancake Breakfast". Stacks has agreed to host the breakfasts with a "Give-Back" like the "Iron Hill Give-20"

Ideas include Weekend Pizza parties and Game night - once back to "normal"

GAME NIGHT!- The Youth Group Room now has a foosball table, and a Bluetooth stereo system that we are going to use during "Game-Night".

We also have an "old school" slot car track for ready to be set-up for "Race-Night."

Again once back to normal - The Y.A.C. continues to support our community with our  $2^{nd}$  Sunday Pancake Breakfasts, and collecting laundry detergent for "at risk" families.

Please keep an eye out in the Trinity Bulletin's and e-mails for these activities where your child ( $10^{th}$  grade and up) can participate and fellowship with others their age at Church.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Berry Youth Group Mentor

# Worship

# **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)**

Eucharistic Ministers exercise an extraordinary ministry for their local community of faith by bringing communion on Sunday to parishioners who are unable to attend services. This ministry allows those who are visited to participate in the sacred life of the Church. The EM's are handling the outward visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace received in the Body and Blood of Christ. By being commissioned at the end of the worship service to go out to give the Holy Eucharist to the shut-ins, they continue the communal act of worship and include those members they visit in the embrace of the entire community of the faithful, in the certainty that they remain an important part of our parish family.

BUT---starting this past March we had to stop all visitations not only by the clergy but with our Eucharistic Ministers as well. For the first two months the EM's would call the person they were supposed to visit and just check in with them. I continued that connection calling every other week. If I was not able to speak with them, I would send a card.

When the weather started getting nicer and facilities allowed outside visits, I started going to the facilities to visit. I did not feel comfortable putting our EM or our parishioners in compromising situations and having different people visiting so I was the constant in the visitations. When possible, I would visit parishioners in an outdoor setting through the summer. In the fall when we started indoor worship, I have tried to take communion to some of the parishioners but have not been able to do so on a consistent basis.

This past year we have had four faithful Eucharistic Minister, Jeff Wojcik, Ellen Kurtz, Priscilla Knapp, Harry Wind.

We are looking to do "Spiritual communion" over the phone with the Eucharistic Ministers and parishioners that we have identified as shut ins starting in January.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Mazzacano, Deacon

#### **ACOLYTES**

I am responsible for the scheduling and the training of the acolytes that serve at all three services on Sunday as well as special services at Christmas and Easter and our Evensongs. An acolyte is a person who helps with religious services. They help keep the service flowing in a very reverent, and respectful manner. This ministry gives the youth of our church the opportunity to serve God as well. It also builds confidence in our youth as they are seen by the congregation performing their duties at the services. Serving God and being an active participant in the service it helps build their relationship with God and the clergy, who very much appreciate their assistance.

BUT AGAIN, starting in March of 2020 when we went virtual the Acolytes no longer had duties since we were recording from our homes. In the summer when we were recording in the church it was limited to just the clergy and Vernon who was doing the taping. In the fall when we went back to inside worship, we are still limited to the number of participants and so our acolytes are not part of the worship at this time.

We do hope that our acolytes will once again be an integral part of our worship services and they won't have forgotten how to perform their duties .

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Mazzacano, Deacon

#### LAY READERS

Since the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic, lay readers have been especially important in helping Trinity to maintain a degree of normality in church services. During the early weeks of the shutdown lay readers either recorded themselves at home or were recorded reading in church. During the summer, lay readers read at the live services in the church yard. With the advent of live-streamed services, the lay readers have been reading to both a live and online congregation. Telephone services have been an another area in which lay readers have participated.

Given the concerns regarding the pandemic, many members of the congregation, including the lay readers themselves, have not felt comfortable reading at a live service. Recording at home or reading at the telephone service have kept the church family together. Hearing God's word has given comfort to so many.

As we move towards an easing of restrictions, hopefully we will return to "services as normal" and the lay readers will play an important part.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Dighton Layreader Chairperson

#### FLOWER GUILD

What are two people from the Church congregation doing each Saturday morning in preparation for the Sunday services? They are arranging the flowers to be placed on the altar for the Sunday service. People enjoy the beauty of flowers and those who get to work with them enjoy a therapeutic value in creating something that enhances the Sunday services. The Flower Guild would like to share this pleasure with more parishioners. It is a chance to do something enjoyable and contribute something to the Church without a huge commitment of time. The Flower Guild is comprised of 19 members who, on a rotating basis, create floral designs for Sunday services. There are six leaders who have the responsibility of planning the design and purchasing materials and the leader and member work together on an arrangement. A member's name comes up 3 or 4 times a year. It is a 1-2 hour commitment to work on Sunday flowers and all are asked to help, as their schedule permits, with Easter and Christmas decorating.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Ruff

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Unprecedented - is probably the best way to describe our experiences in 2020, whether they be our family life, our workplace, our church, our community. The 13 members of the Altar Guild have kept touch with one another through electronic media during this past year. All the members of the Altar Guild had gathered February 1, 2020 in the Parish House for a special brunch provided by Deacon Leslie where we celebrated our ministry together and planned for the coming year. Little did we know that within little more than a month we would be locked down in our homes and "church" as we knew it would be drastically changed for 11 months (and counting).

Our workforce of 13 women became one person who responded to the call from Mother Emily to perform a portion of our duties. Most of the Altar Guild work was put on hold and Mother Emily or Deacon Leslie did what needed to be done for the virtual services. When we moved to an in-person service, 4 members took turns performing the curtailed setup or cleanup activities of the Altar Guild. Only one person could be in the Sacristy or Sanctuary so we had to work alone. Not what we were used to or preferred, as I said a year ago, we are party people and enjoy each other's company.

A personal note of thanks to the "surrogate" Guild (Mother Emily and Deacon Leslie) and to our members Helen Anderson, Gayle Celantano and Joan Willet who soldiered on during the shutdown. Tom Pitman was his usual helpful self when we needed a bit of muscle during setup.

When we move to the "new normal" our procedures will have to be revised and our workforce may be changed. Anyone who might be interested in joining us in the future can notify the office and we will add you to the roster. Until we meet again in person and celebrate our shared ministry, God bless and keep you safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Perinchief

#### MUSIC

This most unusual year in Trinity's music ministry can be roughly divided into three parts. The first part, from January through early March, was full of the usual choirs and events. The church was closed during the second part from late March through August, which featured prerecorded video services with virtual choirs. The third part started in September and is continuing with recordings of the quartet for our live-streamed services.

# January to March

Some of the highlights of the first few months of 2020 include:

- Piano recital in the Parish Hall by Matthew Eng, student at the Eastman School of Music
- Service of Choral Evensong sung by the Canterbury Choir (youth, grades 4 and up)
- Hymn sing featuring the newly acquired Lift Every Voice and Sing hymnal
- Service of Choral Evensong sung by the Trinity Choir
- ► Two Lenten organ recitals followed by soup luncheons in the Parish Hall

# March to September

The prerecorded online services featured organ music recorded either at church or on the practice organ in Vernon's basement, and virtual choral music in which each choir member recorded their part individually, and then all the parts were blended together digitally. Both the Trinity and Canterbury Choirs contributed several anthems to this endeavor. Preexisting recorded performances of the Carol and Canterbury Choirs were also included in several service videos.

# September to December

Our live-streamed services are able to include live organ music. In order to include choral music while singing is prohibited in church, our quartet of section leaders meets on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall, masked and distanced, to rehearse and record anthems that are played over the sound system on Sunday mornings.

During Advent and Christmas some special service videos were created.

- Advent Lessons and Carols with the Trinity and Canterbury Choirs
- ► Christmas Eve with the Trinity and Canterbury Choirs as well as the Trinity Brass quartet. An extended prelude of carols, brass music, and choir anthems preceded the AnteCommunion service.
- ► An ingenious Virtual Christmas Pageant featuring a talking donkey. The pageant was developed by Maris Williams in collaboration with the youth (actors), parents, and Mother Emily. All the parts were recorded separately and then edited together.

The closing down of the choirs and music program has been an enormous loss for all involved. We look forward to getting back to making music and enjoying our choir community in 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Vernon Williams

# Serving God in the Community

#### **OUTREACH COMMISSION**

We never thought we would be watching services at Trinity from the comfort of our own home in our jammies! (Admit it..you have all done this at least once!) And at the beginning of the pandemic, remember shopping and then washing everything in our bags of groceries. (Not to mention the toilet paper crisis!) But all said and done, isn't it a wonderful thing to have the comfort of home and bags of groceries during this tragic year?

But for those who were already economically depressed, food insecure and lacking affordable housing, this year has been and continues to be traumatic. Most who were just able to make ends meet and then lost income are now not able to pay bills, stock up on food and keep up with their housing and other costs. The influx of people and families on to an already challenged system is unprecedented.

At our last in person Outreach meeting in early March, like everyone else, we did not realize how different and challenging this year would be. We decided not to put up the Spring Rummage Sale posters fearing that our second largest fund raiser might be cancelled. After the "shut down" in the spring, the growing number of people in need was very apparent. We realized that we needed to continue to support the vital organizations dealing with needs far greater than were ever anticipated. With our buildings shut down and social distancing in place, how could the Outreach Commission not only meet the obligations to all the organizations we support but give more?

Prayer and the workings of the Holy Spirit were alive and well at Trinity! Amazing things started to happen as "undesignated" donations kept coming into Outreach! Then a wonderful anonymous parishioner presented us with a challenge. They would match up to \$2000 of anything donated to replace the proceeds from the cancelled Spring Rummage Sale. So the "Replace The Rummage Sale Challenge" was on! Through our website, Facebook, announcements and word of mouth, our Trinity family and friends not only met the \$4,000 challenge but exceeded it raising \$6,635...plus the \$2,000 total \$8,635! Money that went right out into the struggling community!

It was clear by the end of the summer that The Fall Rummage Sale was not going to happen but that the need for funds was even greater than ever. One of our most energizing zoom meetings was us brain storming about ideas for another virtual fund raiser. Thanks to Deacon Leslie and others "The 12 Wishes of Outreach - Light up the Trinity Outreach Tree" was launched virtually along with a little tree placed in the cloisters shining bright for our community to see that things were still happening at Trinity. And again our prayers were answered! Our wonderful Parishioners and friends exceeded the goal of \$4,000 donating \$5,770!

So even though 2020 has been a tragic year for so many reasons, for Trinity it was amazing as your donations to the Outreach Commission exceeded the yearly totals of the past three years with funds totaling \$20,630.33!

Our 2020 funding supported the organizations listed below. Please see their links on the Outreach Web Page and read more about them and their ministries.

- Sacred Heart Church Camden Christmas food baskets
- Children's Education at Sacred Heart School virtual/hybrid learning continues
- Sponsoring a Child at Camden Forward School Urban Promise virtual/hybrid learning continues
- St Vincent De Paul Housing and bill paying assistance
- Christian Caring Center Food and Housing assistance, Code Blue shelter
- The Interfaith Hospitality Network temporary to permanent housing
- Food Bank of South Jersey
- Good Counsel Homes a safe haven for mothers and babies program
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Interaction and Camp Faith Outreach programs in Camden
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors assistance with food in Moorestown area
- Scholarship for a Child to attend Trinity Pre School
- Deacon Leslie's Discretionary Fund

Thank you to all of you who donated and helped with the virtual fund raising efforts especially Lauren Evans for her work to maintain the Website and the Outreach page and Wesley Blackburn for his creativity and graphics.

Without any idea of what this past year would bring, at the end of last year's report I wrote "that my hope for 2020, as always, is that God grants all of us the means, knowledge and ability to continue his work to help others".

I am so very thankful that He did!

I hope and pray that His help continues into 2021 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted Barbara Benton

#### GOD'S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

"Ultimately, America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity." - Robert Kennedy
"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization." - Mahatma Gandhi

American resolve and faith were challenged this year on so many fronts. A raging pandemic kept us apart and forced us to learn a new way of being, relating and sharing. The disturbing video of George Floyd, the unarmed black man dying in police custody, sparked protests across the nation and galvanized Americans of all races to march in support of creating a new order to ensure racial justice and equity for all. The members of the God's Diversity Committee also renewed their commitment to realizing Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of the "Beloved Community" as a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings.

Perhaps our most important activity this year was a collaborative one initiated during this past summer when several of us met virtually with Trinity lay leadership and clergy to plan a response to the murder of George Floyd. The result was the formation of a "Racial Reconciliation and Healing" group, open to all members of Trinity, that would examine our history, seek to understand racism and its insidious pervasiveness, and explore ways of atoning and creating a new antiracist order. After reviewing several documentary movies, many current books, YouTube lectures, and a variety of other planned activities, the group agreed that the best beginning would be with Dr. Eddie Moore Jr.'s "21 Day Racial Equity Challenge" and the Episcopal Church's "Sacred Ground" curriculum, both of which include films, articles, short lectures, poems and podcasts. We knew that our ideas would evolve once we began meeting with other congregants. In addition to completing the "21 Day Challenge" materials in late October, our small group of participants has also discussed the powerful documentary "Driving While Black: Race Space and Mobility in America" based on the book by Professor Gretchen Soren. We are currently reading Professor Carol Anderson's White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide, the disturbing, unsparing examination of shameful efforts to subvert progress of Black Americans since Reconstruction. Our goal is to meet monthly to continue learning about our past and sharing our hopes and visions for a more just and inclusive society.

Despite the persistence of the pandemic which forced us to alter our plans for several educational programs and events, we nevertheless managed to celebrate diversity in many ways. We began the year by observing Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on January 20, 2020. In place of a sermon, the preface from April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America by Michel Eric Dyson was read at each service by Dr. Stella Horton (7:45 a.m.), Kisha Mann (9 a.m.) and Alexia Shepherd (11:15 a.m.). The prayers of the people on that day were adapted from Dr. King's Thou, Dear God: Prayers That Open Hearts and Spirits.

During Black History Month, the members of the Committee honored African American religious leaders, Bishop Richard Allen, Rev. Howard Thurman, Congressman John Lewis and Rabbi Alysa Stanton by preparing brief biographies which were published in the Parish Notes. The Rev. Wenda Clark was our guest preacher on February 16th. Her sermon which touched on the extreme adversity suffered by African Americans during the 250 years of slavery, the 90 years of Jim Crow and the

struggles for equality during and since the Civil Rights Movement, used Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" as a metaphor for Christ's saving love and redemption to all of us. At the end of her sermon, she sang her own version of this classic song transforming it into a powerful prayer for peace and strength through Jesus Christ, our Lord. On February 23rd, we all shared an afternoon of joy, conducted by Vernon Williams and hosted by our Committee for a "Lift Every Voice" Hymn Sing. During this musical afternoon, we explored the riches of our new hymnal, "Lift Every Voice and Sing II," learned a bit of its history and the backgrounds of several of its composers from Mother Emily, Ronnie Hughes, Deacon Leslie Mazzacano and Maris Williams and ended our celebration with a reception for food and fellowship.

Throughout the year, we recognized the contributions of a diverse group of Americans. During March, Women's History Month, the members of the Committee celebrated the following religious leaders by preparing biographies of for the Parish Notes: Sister Joan Chittister, Julie Schonfeld, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rev. Sally Bingham and Bishop Vashti McKenzie. During May, Asian Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, we similarly recognized Catholic theologian Peter Phan, virologist and physician David Ho, author Adeline Yen Mah, architect Maya Ying Lee, and women's suffrage advocate Mabel Ping-Hua Lee. In July, members honored the life and legacy of John Lewis. A brief tribute to Hispanic Americans for their many contributions to American culture and a request for prayers for this community that has been especially challenged by Covid-19 was published in the Parish Notes during Hispanic Heritage Month. Finally, during Native American Heritage Month in November, the Committee paid tribute to Indigenous Americans by describing Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori's pastoral letter of May 2012, repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and the Episcopal Church's efforts to engage in the challenging work of reconciliation and repentance for the shameful exploitation and subjugation of the earliest Americans.

We wish to thank Mother Emily Mellott for her unwavering support in helping us fulfill our mission; Deacon Leslie Mazzacano for her endless enthusiasm and hard work; Vernon Williams for generously sharing his talent and creativity with us; and the members of the God's Diversity Committee for their insights, diligence, good humor and loving hearts. These special people make our work joyful and rewarding and we could not hope to succeed without them. As we enter a new year, we invite all members of Trinity to join us as we continue to seek a more equal society and do as Christ commanded us - to love God with our whole hearts and souls and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Respectfully submitted, Veronica Hughes Anne Dalesandro Co-Chairs

#### **PRESCHOOL**

January 2020 started off as any other normal January with snowman crafts and a chapel service celebrating Epiphany. We continued with our all-school movie day watching "Stranger in the Woods" which is a beautiful animal story filmed on a nature reserve in Canada and ended the month with an all-school Super Bowl Party. The following month brought Valentine's Day parties and learning about the presidents. We kicked off March with the largest Scholastic Book Fair to date where grandparents were invited to join the children at school and then silence. Now what do we do? I quickly sent out an all-school email to the families letting them know that the teachers would be in touch with them soon.

Not being trained in online teaching, the teachers did their best to connect with the children and were able to engage the children in their lessons. This was hard on all of us, mostly the children. I continued the weekly chapel services via YouTube and I constantly watched updates from Gov. Murphy and checked on emails from the State in hopes of reopening the preschool. Unfortunately, that did not happen. A bright spot for the teachers was when the parents and children were able to do a drive by in June. The teachers gathered up all the children's work that was left behind in March and they were able to hand it off to the children at the drive by in the church parking lot. This was a fun, festive day that gave us all a bit of closure.

And the watch continued through August. While prepared to open I waited on pins and needles to see if in fact we could do so. When I knew that we were opening things happened quickly. My staff and I were re-certified for First Aid and CPR and participated in numerous hours of training going over new policies and cleaning procedures. We opened with fairly low numbers due to the concern of the parents, but we opened! I did not realize how down I was, for when school started, and the excited children returned my heart was full again. September also brought the State inspector to make sure we were following all the new procedures. We passed our inspection, and he was most impressed with our plexi glass dividers on all the tables in the classrooms.

The preschool day was certainly different with the new guidelines, and I am pleased to say that we all adapted well. How proud I am of all the children and their ability to keep their masks on for two and a half hours. The activities changed some but were just as much fun for all. Not able to visit the pumpkin farm, the cemetery was changed to a pumpkin field and with the help of a few parents decorated for Halloween. The children were able to pick their pumpkins, one class at a time, out our own back door. Such fun! The all-school Thanksgiving feast was held in the individual classes. Still fun! The Christmas concerts and pageants were recorded and placed on YouTube for the parents to keep forever. The Christmas season ended with a chapel service in front of a decorated fireplace and Santa had left some gifts for all the good girls and boys at Trinity.

As the school year progressed the enrollment increased. I feel we will be just fine. Especially this year, I cannot thank Mother Emily, the Preschool Board, the Vestry and Wardens for their undying love and support.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Johnson

# Caring for God's Gifts

#### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

In preparation for a potential Capital Campaign to address Trinity Church's building needs, the Vestry formed a Capital Campaign Committee. In February and March 2020, this Committee conducted 12 discernment meetings to capture the thoughts, attitudes, ideas, concerns and vision for Trinity from as many parishioners as possible. These meetings were conducted in-person and online and about 100 parishioners participated.

The attendees at these discernment meetings expressed a deep love for, and commitment to, Trinity, and an interest in improving what needs to be improved, while preserving what makes the church special, i.e. architecture, character, history. They showed a strong interest in continuing efforts to appeal to families with children, young people, and to engage with the community to foster growth. There was a broad agreement that accessibility be addressed, both for the members and to make the church buildings available and useful for activities that might attract outside groups, or enable the growth of ministry opportunities.

The Committee was prepared to move forward towards a second phase, to evaluate the feasibility of a capital campaign, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vestry accepted the Committee's recommendation in April 2020 to pause the campaign until the economic consequences of the pandemic could be better assessed.

In December 2020, the Committee recommended to Mother Emily and the Vestry that Trinity restart the feasibility phase of the Campaign to see if the campaign should continue in 2021. To that end, Trinity hired fundraising consultants, CCS Fundraising, to evaluate whether to take further steps in the Capital Campaign. Starting in late December 2020, CCS interviewed a cross-section of parishioners on a one-on-one basis to gather information and make a recommendation to the Vestry whether to commence the next step in the Capital Campaign, which would involve reviewing our priorities, establishing a realistic campaign goal, and begin planning for soliciting donations to repair, preserve and enhance Trinity Church's buildings. It is anticipated that CCS will make a recommendation in late January or early February 2021 on whether to proceed with the fundraising portion of the Capital Campaign.

Lorraine Ryan and Bruce Velzy Capital Campaign Co-chairpersons

# **PROPERTY COMMISSION**

Our church home and grounds provides a place for all who want to worship, reflect, enjoy nature and so much more. The commission members and I strive to facilitate repairs and maintenance of this property.

The following projects were completed in 2020:

- 15 stones were used to replace the bottom stones of our columns next to the memorial garden.
- several sidewalk squares were removed and replaced on West Second Street.
- decaying wood was replaced and painted at the bottom of the porch.
- decaying wood around a few of the chapel windows was replaced and painted.
- repairs to the inside of the bell tower were completed.
- the unhealthy tree between the entrance and exit to the parking lot was removed.
- the slab on Main Street where the tree uprooted was removed and replaced.

For 2021, there are two projects in the pipeline:

- replace stair treads on the stairs leading from the glass double doors to the lower floor.
- install a fire rated door in the church office.

Many thanks to Tom Pitman who works tirelessly to keep our buildings and grounds in as best shape as possible. Mother Emily's advise and guidance are most appreciated as is the bookkeeping expertise provided by Geri Trost.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Murray <u>jmurray721@gmail.com</u>

# ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE Committee Members Roy A. Shubert (Chairman) David Fletcher Mark Mann

# **Purpose**

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is five-fold:

- To assume financial responsibility for the physical assets of the parish and to provide a permanent source of funds for their maintenance and preservation from Endowment Fund income and appreciation.
- To contribute to the parish programs as determined by the Vestry a portion of the investment income not required for the above objective.
- To ensure the preservation of the purchasing power of prior gifts to the fund by adherence to a prudent investment policy.
- To provide a source of contingency funds for use in the event of a major financial emergency.
- To recognize and record the terms of grants and bequests that specify the purpose for which principal and/or income may be directed.

# Objective

To achieve a growth of income and principal on investments that will preserve the real purchasing power of the fund, while providing a predictable and constant cash flow while adhering to sound investment guidelines.

# **Highlights of Operations**

After a very good year 2019 ending with a gain of 17.5%, we got off to a good start in 2020 and then came the news of a 'China' virus that initially appeared in Washington and then on a cruise off the coast of Japan. In mid-March, many states went into a lockdown and the stock market had its largest and fastest downfall in history with the S&P 500 losing nearly 35% by the fourth week March since the last week of February. The only big 'winners' in the months to come were cloud computing (Zoom, and other web-based "meeting" options), streaming services like Roku and Disney+ along with e-commerce like Amazon and others with big ramp ups in home delivery of necessities. Toilet paper and cleaning supplies became scarce as many people hoarded supplies early-on and suppliers were cleaned out and needed time to ramp up production to meet the shortages. Almost every other business saw sharp declines if they were allowed to stay open and those that had to close (theaters, sporting events, restaurants and museums to name only a few) suffered billions in losses over the coming months. Broadway reported that it was losing nearly \$35 million each week it stayed dark (included local restaurants, hotels and related retail as well as theater sales).

As we entered the summer season, things seemed to improve somewhat and portfolios were rising again despite the troubled economic situation nationwide. Major sports such as Basketball, Hockey and Baseball were playing in 'bubbles' or in open stadiums without any fans. Meanwhile, Wall Street kept the upward trend and companies that were quick to adapt to 'stay at home' workers were the ones that rose steadily. By April 15, our portfolio had recovered and was down just over 9% since 12/31/19 and by the end of August we were actually positive by about 4% before gaining another 4.7% in the last four months.

For 2020 the Endowment Fund had a net gain of about 8.7% net of fees. This was somewhat below the blended benchmark index return for our portfolio which was about 10.5%. The total equity portion of our portfolio remained at about 68% with the allocation to US stocks at 76% and international stocks at 24%, slightly different than 2019 figures. Our fixed income allocation stayed relative even at 27% and cash was 5%.

Our Endowment income consisted of interest and dividends amounting to about \$50,300, down about 16% from the 2019 figure due mostly to much lower yields on fixed income and more growth oriented equity positions which tend to pay low or no dividends. The net realized and unrealized gain for the entire Endowment Fund was about \$309,900, or 11% of our beginning of year portfolio value. The Fund contributed \$93,179, or about 3.25% of our beginning of the year balance, towards the church's operations, mainly the areas of property and utilities and our annual diocesan payment. Our normal target for support of operations is 6%, or about \$172,000. The funds received from the PPP Program and also our reduced expenses in some areas lowered the required contribution from our Endowment Fund towards operations.

Following is a summary of the Endowment Fund for 2020:

Balance 12/31/19	\$	2,870,658
Additions:		
Interest/dividends	\$	50,297
Net realized & unrealized gain	\$	309,847
Withdrawals/deductions:		
Used toward church property/expenses	(\$	93,179)
Portfolio management expenses	(\$	18,028)
Balance 12/31/20	\$ 3	3,119,595

#### Outlook for 2021

- The rollout of the Corona virus vaccines in late December and the recently promised enhanced delivery over the next 3-6 months coupled with continued mask wearing in public and social distancing as well should help stem the spread until we achieve 'herd immunity' or there is sufficient coverage to allow reduced impact of the virus on those who may become infected
- The new Administration in Washington is moving forward with an aggressive economic agenda which includes additional stimulus, increased unemployment coverage and more loan programs together with trying to control the virus spread as it does so. Meanwhile, stock markets are heading higher as a result of perceived better times ahead gaining nearly 2.75% in the first three weeks of 2021. It is likely to be well into the year before we can see a 'new normal' so time will tell if the economy will continue the rebound we have seen in the past 6 or so months. The resolution of the unemployment situation seems to be the biggest hurdle.
- Federal Reserve policy should keep interest rates relatively stable throughout the year despite the recent rise in the 10 year Treasury rate from around 65 bps to over 120 bps recently. New Treasury Secretary Yellen (a former Fed Chair) has experience and will likely work closely with the Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell, to insure things stay on course.

- Equity returns which have had two solid years of double digit returns will likely be lower for this year and stock selection and asset allocation will be key to achieving returns above the predicted mid single digits (6-7%) while fixed income yields will likely continue to be on the low side (2-4%).
- Recommendations sign up and get your vaccine; keep using masks in public coupled with social distancing; support local businesses; exercise 3-4 times a week (to keep those pounds off while snacking more at home!) and invest wisely when the opportunity presents itself..

Respectfully submitted, Roy A. Shubert, Chairman

#### **GARDEN ANGELS**

Everyone knows how the impact of the pandemic has created shortages in consumer goods. From tissues to baking supplies and a whole rash of items including seeds for gardening. People have taken a step back to find simple safe ways to be productive and finding enjoyment as well. Gardening has been a safe haven and a source of pleasure for many this past year.

The Gardens at Trinity, thanks to past volunteers, provided many with an area of visual wonder. The experience of "coming to church" on Sundays and strolling through the cloister garden after service is unparalleled. Unfortunately this experience has been lost for many recently. The perennial nature of most plants have given us the opportunity to indulge in their beauty once we can resume our daily or weekly visits to church.

As volunteers or Garden Angels at Trinity we can contribute to the physical beauty of our church and at the same time renew our souls by working with the gifts that God has bestowed on us. We meet in hope of fellowship, some exercise, and knowing our efforts are enjoyed by many. While we did not meet this year, the coming season should provide opportunities to participate in our mission. If interested, please contact either the church office or me directly.

Ken Chojnacki Garden Angels Chairperson kenchojnacki@gmail.com.

# **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

The Consecration Sunday approach to stewardship which we have followed over the last four years at Trinity focuses on the spiritual dimensions of financial giving: inviting us to consider our own need to give as we grow in our relationship with God. This approach integrates with our focus on spiritual growth throughout our congregational life, as part of our commitment to discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ.

This whole program is designed to be part of our worship life, including the opportunity to make our giving commitments for the year as an act of worship, followed by a festive meal that celebrates the generosity of the whole congregation. Pandemic conditions made that usual approach impossible, so our Consecration Sunday team offered new and creative ways to reflect on our giving, make our commitments, and celebrate the spiritual gift of generosity at Trinity.

Personal reflections on stewardship by individual parishioners were offered in October and November not only in our live-streamed worship services, by in print, by mail and on our website. These reflections are an important part of helping us all, as a congregation, consider the impact our giving has on our spiritual and family lives and help prepare all of us to respond to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

We asked all Trinity parishioners to commit to participating in worship by telephone, live-stream, or in person on Consecration Sunday, so that we could all be together in this spiritual work (and so that we wouldn't have to call every household for a pledge!). A packet for Consecration Sunday participation was mailed to every Trinity household, and on November 8, parishioners completed our Estimate of Giving cards as an act of worship during each of our services.

A festive drive-up celebration followed, in perfect sunny weather, as Trinity families and individuals brought their Estimate of Giving cards to the church, waved to one another and had a chance to greet members of the Consecration Sunday team, and receive a special Trinity car magnet in celebration. Other Trinity households returned their Estimate of Giving Cards online or by mail.

As of December 31, 2020 a total of 148 giving units completed Estimate of Giving Cards. 71 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. This is a 15.8% increase in giving from these households above last year. A total of 12 new giving units (households who did not make a giving commitment for 2020) completed Estimate of Giving Cards. Total giving from all households completing a card is \$472,466. Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive approximately \$24,000 from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but have not completed a card yet. Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$51,500 during the coming year from that source. This gives us an estimated total of \$548,000 in giving for 2021, a 1% increase over 2020, and an increase of 6.4% over our revised budget expectations for 2020. (The Vestry revised the 2020 budget in the late Spring, taking into account the effects of the COVID pandemic on the economy and on members of our congregation.)

During this difficult year, when many in our congregation and community are suffering financially, the consistent giving of our community, and your response to our Consecration Sunday program whether you were forced to reduce your commitment or were able to maintain or increase it in response to God's gifts - has shown the powerful spiritual and congregational strength of Trinity in these unusual times.

Many thanks to the creative and dedicated 2020 Consecration Sunday Team: Amy Paglione, Julie and Michael Bathke, Sarann Foster, Lisa Yeh, Nancy and Jim Johnson, Sarah Senno, Linda Carson, and Joan Dighton!

#### PLEDGE COUNTERS

The volunteer counters are grateful for the past leadership and guidance of lead counter Robert Holston. "May Bob rest in peace in God's embrace, united again with his beloved Pearl."

Seven very dedicated volunteers worked in weekly rotating teams comprised of four members until in person counting was suspended nine months ago due to Covid-19.

The counters suggest a small committee be formed to assess how the current processes of electronic and mail in pledge contributions is functioning and the extent to which any in person counting would be needed after Covid-19.

Respectfully submitted, David Fletcher Pledge Counters Chairperson

#### PLEDGES FROM 2020

The congregation thanks all of our generous donors throughout 2020. Special thanks goes to all those who made a pledged commitment to help sustain Trinity Church in 2020:

Kathleen & Thomas Adams

Ferrill Alderfer Helen Anderson

Herbert & Barbara Anderson Omar & Christine Andonie

Jeff & Cathy Bailey

Frederick & Elizabeth Baldt William & Mary Barker

Michael & Julia Bathke

Elizabeth Beatty Walter Belfield Barbara Benton Kevin Berry

Wesley Blackburn

Carole Blair Diane Blinn

John & Elizabeth Brennan Patrick & Nancy Brennan Daniel & Heather Briggs David & Teresa Britton

Jane Bucci

Michael & Lauren Bulboff

Thomas & Fabiene Brown

Cecilia Campolucci

Jean Capece

Len & Wendy Carber Cathryn Carroll Linda Carson Gayle Celentano

Donald & Nancy Chambers Ken & Aimee Chojnacki Donald & Simone Cochrane

Sherry Conklin

William & Beth Cook Robert & Robin Crowl Lewis & Lowry Curran

Benjamin Davies

Rafael & Jasmine Declet Ned & Denise Dempsher Joan & John Dighton

Thomas Dodd

David & Carol Donachy Joseph & Debra Donnelly David & Karen Douglas Robin & James Dryden

Craig Ebner & Steven Butler Frank & Katherine Ellison Wayne & Kathleen Farren

Sarah Fawcett-Lee Kevin & Beth Field David Fletcher

Peter & Claudia Fletcher

George Flynn

Don & Sarann Foster James & Geraldine Fox Richard & Alberta Fuller Barbara & James Gattinella

Glenn & Lisa George

Robert & Elizabeth Gorman

**Todd Gunderson** 

Timothy & Patricia Hadden

Christine Hallam

Scott Hart & Amy Sprague Richard & Sandra Hay

Audrey Henry Susan Hogan

Alexander & Carol Hoinsky

Stella Horton

Eric & Dorothy Hoversen Matthew & Erica Howard Veronica & William Hughes Lois Janney & Bill Rose Loretta Johns Lill & Bob Lill James & Nancy Johnson Kevin & Jeanette Kates

Priscilla Knapp Peter Knerr Ellen Kurtz

Mark & Suzanne Leis Shelley Lippincott Robert Litsinger

Brian & Cynthia Kerr

Gregory & Elizabeth Louie Bruce & Beverly Lovejoy

Pauline Lyons

Mark & Kim Malatesta Mark & Kisha Mann Chris & Nancy Matthews Kathryn Matusheski Leslie & John Mazzacano Joseph & Barbara McDonnell

Emma McElliot

Thomas & Cathy McGarry David & Deborah McGeorge

Joan McKeon Joan Meader

Stephen & JoAnna Meader

Emily Mellott Abigail Merk Margaret Mikuta Daniel & Dawn Miller Robert & Maureen Moorer

James & Anne Morley & Dalesandro

John & Janet Murray

Polly Murray

Len Nasielski & Beth Stewart Alex & Jessica Norman

Christopher & Christine Norris

Jayne Oasin

Michelline Ormerod Adam & Amy Paglione Dennis & Suzanne Parker Peter & Rose Marie Parker Edwin & Hollis Pearson

**Esther Pearson** 

Anthony & Kathleen Perez

Judith Perinchief Jeanette Peterson Nancy Phillips Thomas Pine

Michael & Rebecca Pollock John & Barbara Potter Steven & Gabrielle Preller

Sandra Rapp

David & Lori Rapuano

Joan Reid

Harry & Victoria Rice Nelson & Doreen Rivera

Charles Robinson

Henry & Caroline Rossell Lorraine Ryan & Joseph Tufaro

John Salmon

Gerald & Susan Satkofsky

Patricia Scheerbaum Cecilia Schmidt

Michael & Michelle Seaman

Todd & Sarah Senno Nanette & Steven Sheerin

Lenny Shepherd Roy & Lydia Shubert

Lynn Sloane Donald Smith Geraldine Smith

Michael & Megan Smith Craig & Amy Snodgrass Matthew & Tammy Solitro Kathryn Staudenmayer

Jerry Steinberg
Beverly Stevenson
Steven & Anne Sweet
David & Susan Taylor
Ronald & Norene Taylor

Elizabeth Thomas

Herbert & Jean Thomas

Tiffany Thornbar

Joseph & Suzanne Tibbels

Daniel Topolski Angela Torban

Michael & Kristina Van Name

Bruce & Sharon Velzy

Kathleen Veston

Richard & Rachel Vojir

Carolyn Weeks Mick & Julie Weeks Jackie Whitfield Joan Willett

Cora & Elvy Williams Rick & Jocelyn Williams Vernon & Maris Williams

Robert Wilson

Harry & Diana Wind

Robert Winzler

Jeff & Susan Wojcik James & Eva Wolfe

Elsa Wood Lisa Yeh

Steven & Jennifer Yocum

We give thanks to God for all of our generous donors. If you thought you had made a pledged commitment for 2020, but don't see your name above, please contact Geri Trost at (856) 235-0811 or at gtrost@trinitymoorestown.org, so that we can correct our omission. Thanks!

# Growing in Relationship

#### WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Trinity welcomed at least 4 new households at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020. As a "welcoming" activity, people new to Trinity within the past 2 years were invited to a newcomers'-focused capital campaign discernment meeting, which included a tour of the parish hall and church school building, and an informal discussion of the history of our buildings. As these parishioners were looking at our buildings through fresh eyes, they had several new suggestions to improve the buildings and provide a more welcoming environment. One suggestion was to build a "little library box" to create a connection with people walking down Main Street, and during the pandemic Don Smith was kind enough to build this for us and donate it to the church. We have adapted our welcoming process to be on the lookout for visitors and newcomers during pandemic-era church, but most activities have been put on hold. However, our past efforts seem to be working in that the stewardship campaign for 2021 included 10 new pledging households.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Matthews

#### **ONLINE CALENDAR PARTY AUCTION**

In March when the COVID-19 Pandemic required quarantine around the world, our Calendar Party team stopped preparations for the May 3 fund raiser. Luckily, Doreen Rivera, Maris Williams, and Alexia Shepherd completed more than forty raffle baskets around that time.

The Trinity staff and CP committee decided to try an online auction to generate as much as possible of the amount usually raised for Trinity (@ \$5,000) through the basket raffles. We had no idea what to expect but hoped for @ \$2,000 since our live Calendar Party displays around 100 baskets each year, and we offered only 43.

Our final proceeds were \$4,706.66, more than we made with the regular auction in 2019! This remarkable success came about through many generous donations in addition to generous bids for baskets, for which we are exceedingly grateful.

Many thanks to Lauren Evans, who set up the online auction on Trinity's website, and Vernon Williams for much help with photography and email communications to the congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Maris Williams

#### MEN'S CLUB

Typically the Men's Club meets the first Saturday of the month at 7:30am. There are no Men's Club meetings during the months of July, August and September.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Mid-March we were only able to meet in January, February and March.

Our January meeting did not include a speaker but we met and had some wonderful fellowship at our Breakfast.

Our February Meeting had Men's Club member Bill McBride speak on tracking bird migration in and around the military installations in NJ. It was an excellent presentation that everyone enjoyed! He also brought some of the instruments that he uses for his work which were quite fascinating as well.

At the March meeting Jim Alexander gave a wonderful presentation on the history of railways in the Garden State. It was really fascinating to hear and see how the railroads evolved of time in New Jersey.

From April on, The Men's Club like so many of Trinity's committees went silent and remain so at the writing of this report.

As we turn the corner to 2021 our hope is that we will be able to once again meet in person and continue the fellowship that makes the Trinity Men's Club Thrive!

2020 also saw some changes in the core of the group that help make the Men's Club the success that it is.

First was the passing of Bob Holston who for many years was a rock in the group as he started out being the point man in the dining room. Later when Father Philip retired he took on the daunting task of finding and securing speakers for our meetings. He will be greatly missed but we know he is looking down from Heaven making sure that the tables are set just right!

Another mainstay in the club Eric Hoversen relocated to Florida with his family to continue with the relocation of his family business Comarco. Eric took over as the leader of the Men's Club and was responsible for coordinating speakers once Bob Holston could no longer do it. He also was a vital part of the kitchen crew making sure the Bacon got into the oven on time! We all miss him dearly as his infectious smile and positive attitude always brightened our breakfasts.

In closing, I want to thank all of the members of the Men's Club who help prepare, set up, tear down and make this group a wonderful part of the Trinity Episcopal Community. We pray that we may once again meet in person and enjoy our fellowship again.

Respectfully Submitted, John Murray and Eric Hoversen

# **NECROLOGY**

We offer our prayers for the following members of our community who have died since the last Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Kathleen Adams

Junetta S. Mehl

John Durkin

Harold Montague

Frances D. Ernst

Jane R. Ollivier

Philip J. Flanders

Barbara Phelan

Robert E. Holston

Nancy Sutter

Anne LeDuc Herbert D. Thomas

Samuel E. Lippincott Jean E. Thomas

Joan R. McKeon

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# THE VESTRY OF TRINITY CHURCH

Elizabeth Louie (Warden)
Nancy Matthews (Warden)
Joan Dighton
Audrey Henry
Mark Leis
Robert Litsinger
John Murray
Christopher Norris
Amy Paglione
Joan Reid
Anne Scheideler Sweet



# TRINITY CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Emily A. Mellott, Rector
The Reverend Leslie G. Mazzacano, Deacon
The Reverend John F. Salmon, Jr., Assisting Priest
The Reverend Canon Jayne J. Oasin, Assisting Priest
Mr. Vernon H. Williams, Organist and Choirmaster
Mrs. Geri Trost, Financial Administrator
Mrs. Lauren Evans, Programs Administrator
Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Preschool Director
Mrs. Christine Andonie, Sunday School Director
Mrs. Maris W. Williams, Director of Cherub and Carol Choirs
Ms. Franshely Rivera, Nursery Caregiver
Mr. Thomas Pitman, Sexton