

# Annual Report 2022

with documents for the  
Annual Parish Meeting  
January 29, 2023



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
207 West Main Street  
Moorestown, New Jersey  
856.235.0811

E-Mail: [trinity@trinitymoorestown.org](mailto:trinity@trinitymoorestown.org)  
Website: [www.trinitymoorestown.org](http://www.trinitymoorestown.org)

## CONTENTS

AGENDA .....	4
Minutes Of 2022 Annual Meeting.....	5
Candidates For Election.....	8
Warden: 1 Year Term .....	8
Vestry: 3 Year Term .....	9
Diocesan Deputy – 1 Year Term .....	10
REPORTS.....	12
Rector’s Report.....	12
Associate Rector’s Report .....	15
Wardens’ Report.....	16
WORSHIP .....	17
Music .....	17
Lay Readers .....	19
Eucharistic Visitors.....	20
Tech Guild .....	20
Altar Guild.....	21
Flower Guild.....	21
Evening Prayer .....	22
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FORMATION.....	22
Sunday Adult Bible Study .....	22
Monday Basic Bible Study .....	23
Youth Christian Formation.....	24
Childrens Christian Formation .....	25
Serving God In The Community .....	26
Outreach Commission .....	26
God’s Diversity Committee.....	27
Earth Care Ministry .....	29
Preschool .....	31

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP .....	32
Welcome Committee .....	32
Parish Life.....	32
Trinity Page Brigade.....	33
Trinity Book Club.....	33
Men’s Group.....	34
Caring For God’s Gifts .....	35
Endowment Committee .....	35
Bequests.....	38
Stewardship Commission .....	39
Pledges From 2022 .....	41
2022 Budget Report.....	43
Treasurer’s Report .....	46
Capital Campaign And Projects Committees .....	47
Property Commission .....	49
Garden Angels .....	49
NECROLOGY .....	50

---

## *AGENDA*

---

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Appointment of the Clerk and Parliamentarian
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 2022
7. Presentation of Approved 2023 Budget
8. Results of Election
9. General Organization and Committee Reports
10. Announcements and Thanks
11. Necrology
12. Hymn
13. Benediction
14. Adjournment

---

## *MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING*

---

January 30, 2022

The meeting was held by zoom videoconferencing and telephone conferencing.

1     Call to Order

The Reverend Emily Mellott called the 184<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

2     Opening Prayer

Mother Emily opened the meeting with a prayer.

3.    Appointment of the Clerk and Parliamentarian

Priscilla Knapp was appointed Clerk, and Lori Rapuano was appointed Parliamentarian.

Mother Emily reviewed the rules for holding the meeting electronically, and appointed Jeff Wojcik; Kristina Van Name, Bob Litsinger, and Christine Andonie to assist as Zoom Meeting Managers. Polling procedure was explained by Mother Angie and practice votes were taken.

4.    Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Lisa Yeh, seconded by Michael Bathke and passed unanimously by electronic and voice vote to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting and the minutes of the Special Parish Meetings on 9/26/2021 and 12/26/2021.

5.    Elections: (Please refer to pages 9-12) of the 2021 Annual Report for biographies of Candidates) the state dictates that the polls must be open for thirty minutes. The Diocese sets the qualifications for Vestry membership. 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 the past year and currently a giver of record; a person who accepts the principle of tithing and agrees to work towards it.

Candidates: Liz Louie offered to continue as Warden for two years; John Bradley, Don Smith and Lisa Yeh are candidates for three year Vestry terms.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, a one year term, are Bob Litsinger, Abigail Merk, and Kristina VanName. Alternate Delegates to the Diocesan Convention are Julie Bathke and Jim Morley.

As there were no further nominations, Jeanette Peterson made a motion to elect the slate of officers. Abby Merk seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by electronic vote with the Zoom poll and voice vote to be taken at the end of 30 minutes.

6. Treasurer's Report for 2021 (Please refer to page 46 of the Annual Report)

Scott Hart reported that pledging was \$48,000 lower than estimated. Plate contributions were about \$8,000 higher, which made a \$23,000 drop in income or about 3%. Almost all expenses were under budget or \$66,000 for about 9% drop in expenses. \$177,934 was taken from the endowment fund. In response to a question as to whether Property expenses could be broken down into smaller categories, Scott explained that water, fuel, electricity, insurance, grounds, and maintenance are all shown on the budget under Property. Scott also explained that the cash from the PPP loan taken in 2020 was approved as a grant in 2021. Jeanette Peterson asked why capital improvements were included in the budget and it was explained that there is a line item in the budget to cover ongoing capital expenses not included in the Capital Campaign. It will be smaller now because the Capital Campaign work will take the burden off the annual budget.

7. Presentation of Approved 2022 Budget (Please refer to page 43) of the Annual Report)

Nancy Matthews explained that pledging units were down from 149 in 2021 to 134 in 2022. However, there are 17 new pledging units. She explained the need to reconnect with lost parishioners. Expenses are \$174,331 higher because of an increase in salaries and benefits, music, property and the Diocesan assessment. Nancy presented a graph showing the gap between income and expenses which grew until 2016 and was beginning to close when the pandemic hit. Income dropped 6%, but she expects a slight increase this year. Kristina Van Name asked what plans are being made to increase income and Nancy reported that there was a group of parishioners making plans to address that when the pandemic hit us.

The budget has been approved by the Vestry and is now presented at the annual meeting. Carolyn Weeks thanked Nancy for her presentation.

Stella Horton asked about the 212 W Second Street property and was advised that it was part of the sexton's remuneration. It is being renovated and the new sexton will move in.

The question was asked whether there should be a Capital Campaign budget showing income and expenses and Nancy said that income is shown in the Annual Report. (See Page 47) Mother Emily noted that the vestry reviews and approves every expense as it comes in, and next year's Annual Report will include an income and expense

statement for the Campaign. Anyone who wants this year's initial statement should contact the office.

8. General Organization and Committee Reports

Mother Emily noted that all of the committee reports are printed in the Annual Report. She thanked all who submitted a committee report and noted that in the midst of this difficult time, there is a fullness of ministry going on. Lisa Yeh thanked everyone who contributed a report.

Mother Emily thanked Nancy Matthews and Liz Louie for going above and beyond the call of duty being wardens. She complimented them on their creativity, wisdom and leadership. She also thanked the whole vestry for being steadfast and creative.

She thanked Bruce Velzy, Lorraine Ryan and all the volunteers who worked on the Capital Campaign, all who donated to it, and the Capital Projects Team; Mark Leis, John Dighton, Chris Norris, Jeff Bailey, Dave Donachy and Don Smith and noted that Don Smith is going to lead the Property Committee.

She thanked the Altar Guild for adapting to the pandemic and especially Judy Perinchief, who is leaving and Gail Celentano and Helen Anderson for taking over leadership of the Altar Guild.

She also thanked Chris Norris and Vernon Williams for their work on the tech team and the tech group, Jeff Wojcik, Bob Litsinger, Harry Wind and Nancy Matthews.

She thanked Lori Rapuano for her work as Chancellor and noted that Lori's work made it possible to hold these electronic meetings.

She thanked Libby Curran and Priscilla Knapp for their work on the food pantry and all who donated food and gift cards. She also thanked Dixie Dipietropolo for all her volunteer services.

Mother Emily also thanked everyone who has called and checked in on fellow parishioners and noted that it makes a big difference in the lives of those who get called.

Carolyn Weeks thanked Mother Emily, Mother Angie and the music staff.

Mother Emily announced that barring any change in the numbers of cases, the church will again have in-person worship from the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. Pre K to 5th grade will have in-person classes for the first time since March 2020.

9. Results of the Election

The 30 minute waiting period having passed, those voting by Zoom poll and voice vote voted 100% in favor of electing the slate of candidates as presented.

10. Necrology:

Mother Emily read the names of those who have died this past year, and led the meeting in prayer. (See page 54)

12. Benediction

The choir sang the closing hymn by remote streaming and Mother Emily gave the benediction.

13. Adjournment

Lisa Yeh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. It passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Knapp, Clerk

---

***CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION***

---

**WARDEN: 1 YEAR TERM**

**Nancy Matthews**

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of Trinity since moving to Moorestown in 2004. I have been honored to serve two terms 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. I taught Sunday School to pre-K/kindergarten and in the Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood program for many years. As a warden I have helped to coordinate both the fundraising and the project planning 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 strategy 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: 3 YEAR TERM**

### **David Douglass**

I have lived in Moorestown since 2017, and regularly attending Trinity since 2019. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, and as an adult have regularly attended 4 different churches in New Jersey and Long Island NY. I have been married for 35 years to my wonderful wife Karen, and we have two grown children, Catie and Winter, who are relentlessly determined to avoid giving us grandchildren. I currently work in Moorestown at Denton Vacuum as head of marketing and R&D, where we make some of the production equipment used to manufacture your high-tech devices. For fun I like to be outdoors, preferably in a boat, or hiking in the mountains. I also like to make my own beer and mead, and I'm happy to share if you are adventurous (the blueberry mead I started making after moving here is particularly delightful). My future plans include owning a winery in central Virginia. Karen's future plans include NOT owning a winery in central Virginia, so I think we all know how that is going to work out.

Over the years I have been involved in church in various ways, including youth ministries, ushering, and musical contributions, but have so far never served on vestry primarily due to an extensive amount of work related travel (at St James I missed the harvest festival 10 out of 13 years by conveniently being on the wrong continent. The sr. warden kept track). That does not seem to be an issue currently, so I am able and happy to commit to serving on vestry at Trinity. As someone whose professional life has been about continual change, I hope to bring some different perspective and tools as we navigate the next stage of Trinity's life.

### **Joe McDonnell**

Hello. I'm Joe McDonnell. My wife Barbara and I have been parishioners here at Trinity for about 8 years. We had been members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Medford for many years before moving to Cherry Hill, where we are happily semi-retired. Barb and I both grew up in South Jersey. We have three grown children and two small grandchildren and are fortunate to see them all on a frequent basis. I am looking forward to serving on Trinity's Vestry.

### **David Shaw**

Dave and his wife Jane began attending Trinity in 2020, and have been active members of the choir since the resumption of choral worship in 2021. Originally from Canada, Jane and Dave lived for a number of years in both Mechanicsburg PA, and Edina MN, before moving to Collingswood NJ in 2020 to be closer to their son and daughter-in-law – who are expecting their first child in March! Trained as a mechanical engineer, Dave spent much of his career in manufacturing systems design and operations management. More recently, his work involves organization effectiveness consulting with a global medical device

manufacturer. Dave and Jane enjoy sailing on the Delaware River, listening to a wide variety of live music, and visiting their daughter who lives in Prince Edward Island Canada. “Wherever life has taken us, church has been an important part of our life – allowing us to connect quickly and deeply in a new community. We feel blessed to be part of the Trinity family!”

## **DIOCESAN DEPUTY – 1 YEAR TERM**

### **Abigail Merk**

Abigail Merk is one of the staff singers at Trinity Episcopal. Upon accepting the job in 2017, it was evident that this community would change her forever. Her role in the Trinity Choir as soprano section leader allows her opportunities for both musical and spiritual growth with God. She is answering a call to become more involved in the diocese and the Episcopal Church on a broader scale. She is trying a bit of everything (as much as a pandemic will allow) in her new, additional roles as lector and chalice bearer.

Abby spends a lot of time thinking about how lucky she is to have the people who ‘make’ Trinity what it is in her life. Something she loves to do is write about faith, have conversations, and hear people’s stories. Beyond the walls of Trinity, Abby takes pleasure in running, singing classical music, attending Bible studies, and examining her life through a lens of prayer and discernment.

### **Kristina Van Name**

Kristina Van Name has been a member of Trinity for over twenty years. Both her children, Connor and Kaylee, have been an active part of Trinity since their birth. Kristina has served as a deputy for the church three times in the past. She was a faithful member of the Trinity Choir before the pandemic and very much enjoyed singing with them this Christmas Eve. Presently on Sunday mornings, she is facilitating 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in exploring God, Jesus, our church, and their own beliefs. She is also a lay reader. Each week, she looks forward to Monday Basic Bible Study in guiding and learning with the group. This fall, she participated in the book study - “Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church,” and now is a member of the Trinity Growing Young cohort which hopes to identify and work with our strengths and find and create opportunities to grow. Kristina is leading a Parish Committee on Ministry for Abigail Merk. The PCOM’s role is to walk alongside someone who is journeying toward ordination, and is the Church’s presence in listening and defining what that call may be. She also serves as the chair of the Trinity Preschool Board, where both her children attended preschool from the 2.5-year-old program through PreK.

### **Lisa Yeh**

I have been a member of Trinity since 2009. I live in Marlton and have a daughter, Annika, who was baptized and confirmed at Trinity and is currently in high school. During my time

at Trinity, I have enjoyed participating and volunteering in many ways. I was honored to serve on the vestry from 2016-2018, and to return to the Vestry in 2022, and lead the Finance/Stewardship/Endowment commission during those years.

Prior to that, I helped with teaching Sunday school for several years and helped revise the Sunday school program to more productively engage the elementary school kids. More recently I have been involved with the older kids Youth program and was a co-teacher for J2A. I have also enjoyed participating in other ways at Trinity through the years including as a lay reader, rummage sale, Blueberry Festival, discernment facilitator for the Capital campaign, and hand bell/summer choir. Professionally, I have a BS in chemistry from the University of Illinois, a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley and recently retired after working 11 for 30 years as a research scientist for ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Company. I supported fuel and lubricant product quality including emissions reduction, fuel economy, and specification setting, worked closely with refineries on manufacturing initiatives, and am co-inventor on 26 patents. An outside activity that I'm particularly proud of is organizing an annual weekend outdoor camp for adopted Chinese-American kids living on the East coast complete with archery, boating, and Chinese cultural activities, and serving as past president of Families with Children from China of South Jersey. Hobbies include going for hikes and long walks, playing piano, reading, travel, and spending time with family and friends. I would be honored to serve Trinity as a deputy to the diocese.

### **Alternate Diocesan Deputies:**

#### **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, and has filled a short-term vestry role. He services as liaison to the vestry of St. John's Maple Shade on behalf of Trinity and the Diocese. He is currently continuing study at the New Jersey School for Ministry. That has precluded current participation in the Diversity Committee and Outreach Committees. He is active in worship serving as a 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 Evening Prayer Zoom services sponsored by the New Jersey School for Ministry.

Prior to his retirement last year, he worked as a database developer and has prior experience in administration in healthcare and legal firms. Family life, cycling, yoga, weight training, jogging, travel and visiting with friends rounds out current activity.

### **Bob Winzler**

I am a native of Connecticut and graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. My career has been in the employee benefit and health and life insurance business. Following graduation, I spent the next six years working in Manhattan before moving to Cinnaminson I was a Regional Manager for Canada Life Assurance Company and then established RG WINZLER & ASSOC ITES in Cherry Hill. With Trinity, I have served 2 terms on the Vestry, ushered for several decades and served multiple terms as a diocesan delegate. I am married to my wife, Lydia, a former human resources specialist, and have a daughter Holly Mulderig who is a public relations consultant. I also have a granddaughter, Clare, a sophomore at Towson and a grandson, Timothy, a college prep senior honor student.

---

## ***REPORTS***

---

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

In the years before seminary when I was occasionally guiding sea kayaking and other outdoor trips, on almost every outing something would not go as planned. We got into the habit of saying to clients and other guides “Well, that’s why we call it “adventure travel!” And we’d laugh together, and see the gifts that come right along with the challenges in a new, changing environment.

I’ve thought of that often in 2022, because we had plenty of “adventure” at Trinity this year. Worship and activities repeatedly pivoted on short notice because of changes in Covid conditions and precautions – or changes in our volunteer availability, or what was going on in our buildings. And of course, every project we undertook in our capital campaign projects and routine property care took an unexpected turn or three. Every time I thought I knew what was coming next, it was time to change our plans again! I’m immensely grateful for our Property Committee, and especially chair Don Smith, for their persistent, thoughtful, essential work in managing major capital and other projects through all the bumps, turns, opportunities, and changes; and to the vestry, wardens, ministry leaders, and staff who stayed committed to finding our way toward unity, care, faithfulness, and joy every single time Covid or the building work changed our plans and our possibilities.

And like any adventure trip – where the waves or the wind or the wilderness keep sending you places you hadn't planned to go – we found gifts along the way. Over and over this year, I discovered the resilience, love, humor, and faithfulness of our congregation, leaders, and staff. As the hot weeks of summer went on and on without air conditioning, as we went through multiple different ways of worshipping together (and together-while-apart), while we watched Covid case data to find out if we could eat together yet, your responses to me, to one another, and to the changing and challenging situations were generous, caring, and flexible. Leaders of Outreach, Music, Youth, and fellowship ministries like the Men's Group consistently modeled that generous flexibility and I give deep thanks for each and all of you.

I took a few side adventures of my own this year in the life of the church beyond Trinity. I completed two years of service on the diocesan Covid-19 Re-opening, Re-entering, and Re-imagining Task Force this fall. Over the summer I served as one of the Diocese of New Jersey's deputies to a pandemic-rescheduled-and-shortened General Convention of The Episcopal Church which created new initiatives in racial reconciliation, broadened ongoing work to make the structures of the church more responsive to contemporary realities, and set a new understanding of how we understand and adapt our Book of Common Prayer and other worship resources, all of which will gradually and in small ways benefit our life together as Trinity. I also had the opportunity this year to help launch a platform and gathering to network hope-filled, creative, mission-minded lay leaders, which I believe will be a strong gift to the future of the whole Episcopal Church.

In our shared adventures as Trinity, just as on my kayak-and-camping adventures I had before seminary, in 2022 the value of the "little things" shone brightly. A very simple meal in a wilderness campsite is often more nourishing to spirit and body than a five-course gourmet feast. So too, for Trinity this year, a simple coffee or lunch *together* in our parish hall often had more welcome, friendship, celebration, and spiritual nourishment than a white-tablecloth banquet. I'm particularly grateful for the leadership of our wardens, Liz Louie and Nancy Matthews, who among uncountable other ministries and tasks that have kept Trinity stable, moving forward, and healthy, have persistently worked to ensure we have opportunities to share food and fellowship that strengthen our community. It's not just food, either. Singing full-voiced hymns, worshipping in a reasonably climate-controlled church, or having predictable Sunday schedules have never been so vividly a blessing as they have been this year.

Like many adventures, too, this year – and the past several years – have changed us, and given us things to ponder as we go forward. In essentials, we're the same faithful, generous, Trinity community we were before we'd ever heard of Covid-19. And we're also a different community, changed by the changes in the world around us. Some of us have grown stronger and closer in our faith and in our Trinity relationships, some of us have found it harder to feel the connection to God and to our siblings in faith at Trinity. Some of us have experienced both by turns, or both at the same time! We're now a congregation that includes

the full membership and participation of people who aren't and won't be physically in our worship services, and we'll keep thinking in new ways about inclusion, growing and changing as we shape ourselves to that reality. We end 2022 just on the verge of becoming an accessible worship space for wheelchair users and others with limited mobility. Our ways of working together, our ways of worshipping, the ways we identify with this community, won't ever be exactly the same as they were before this part of our adventure started. But they can be richer, truer, and stronger.

The adventures of 2022 have also brought us to a new viewpoint and perspective on our life together. You'll read elsewhere in the Annual Report about the clarity with which our budget suggests we need to re-imagine how we fund our ongoing congregational life and ministry. I'm deeply grateful for our Vestry, who are committed to directly addressing this challenge and call to try new things, and take on what may be significant changes as we build more sustainable ways of funding and *being* church and welcoming, faithful community in 2023 and beyond. Please join me in praying for the Vestry as they lead this work in our new year, and also in taking part in imagining, creating, and supporting new fundraising, community-building activities, and in new volunteer opportunities that are likely to emerge.

There's so much to celebrate as we look back at the adventures of 2022 – so many “snapshots” of glorious or funny or successful or inspiring moments in this journey. We've loved, grieved, grown, prayed, and learned together in so many different ways. We completed several major projects in the work of our Campaign for Trinity, working to build our congregation stronger and more welcoming for all. The image of an *enormous* crane in our parking lot, lifting a new air-conditioning chiller over our building, surges with delight and adrenaline every time I see it in my mind or on a screen.

Other “snapshots” from the year that fill me with joy are:

Our teens standing behind a table of bacon and pancakes they cooked for us as our pancake breakfasts returned, and the bright walls of the new Youth Room decorated by our youth during their October lock-in;

full choir stalls and a festive parish hall as our Evensong services returned over the course of the year;

sun shining on gatherings around the fountain in our garden as we celebrated “Shrove Sunday”, Vernon Williams' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as our Music Director, rites of passage, and the gift of ordinary Sundays;

a busy festival atmosphere in our parking lot for the Earth Day Native Plant celebration hosted by our newly established Earth Care Ministry;

brand new and long-established folks at Trinity sharing laughter and so much food at our September Parish Picnic in the park;

multiple Zoom screens of faithful discussion and prayer from business meetings, Evening Prayer services, Sacred Ground racial reconciliation conversations, and bible and book studies, online by necessity or by a commitment to inclusion, all year long;

and many, many one-on-one moments of comfort, laughter, insight, planning, hope, wonder, and love that I've shared with you in the pews, the parking lot, the offices, hallways, parish hall, and "virtual" spaces of Trinity this year.

The gifts of this adventure – this year of 2022 and this congregation of Trinity – are far too many for me to number and name in a "Rector's Report" that is (as every year) already longer than I meant it to be. As soon as it's printed, I'll wish I had thanked more people, recalled more opportunities, challenges, or changes, pointed out just one more "sight" to see along our way. You'll see some of the wonders and adventures, ordinary and extraordinary, of our shared journey in the other reports in this booklet. I'm grateful for every single person who has led, participated in, or benefited from the ministries described here. I cannot thank our wardens, vestry, and the leaders and volunteers of every single ministry on and off these pages enough. I'm continually grateful for the resilient, collaborative, generous staff of Trinity who go above and beyond their job descriptions over and over – and glad to welcome Kevin Moore, our Sexton and Property Manager, to the team as of January 2022.

And, as I think every year at this time (and most Sundays and a remarkable number of weekdays in between), I'm so profoundly grateful and delighted that God has called me to be with you: to be your rector and share in the joys, concerns, hopes, challenges, wonder and love of our life together as God's people at Trinity. With my whole heart: Thank you, all of you.

Blessings,  
Mother Emily Mellott

## **ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT**

In our Christian life, we are called to see and seek out where God is creating new life and renewal in the midst of our often chaotic world. This can be true in various ways throughout our lives and ministries, and I believe that this was God's call to us this past year as we began to reimagine what our common life looked like in this new season. I was filled with hope and excitement as I saw new things happening and revitalization in our ministries.

As I detail in the youth report, many new and exciting things were happening in our youth ministry. I remain truly grateful for both the dedicated volunteers and the resilience of our youth as we planned, re-planned, and experimented throughout the year.

This year, I was excited to discover a new resource on baptism which has reinvigorated the preparatory conversations I have with families preparing for the sacrament. I was also

blessed to lead two adolescents and one adult member of one of our newer families through the preparation process and welcome them into the body of Christ.

2022 was also a year of renewal for our outreach ministry. In addition to the renewal of some of our more traditional activities, like the rummage sale, we experienced renewal through the dynamics of change. Through conversations with many of our food pantry regulars, we noticed a shift in the needs of our community. So, we decided to shift along with the need. In the summer, we switched from a traditional food pantry to a household goods pantry. We now supply our neighbors with toiletries, personal care products, and necessary cleaning supplies which are not covered by any governmental gap filling programs. We also transitioned to a new method of organizing our Christmas giving program which allowed greater flexibility and participation by all members of the parish community.

Throughout all the shifting and reimagining, the constant that I experienced was the way in which trinity loves – love of God (through our worship and prayer), love of self (through our fellowship and care of each other), and love of neighbor (through our care of those in our surrounding community). This love is what anchors us and will help to guide us on the journey of the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mother Angie Cipolla  
Associate rector

## **WARDENS' REPORT**

Dear Trinity congregation,

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the return of the in-person Annual Meeting and potluck lunch!

Reflecting on the past year at Trinity, it was once again a year of change and activity, with flexibility and creativity required from many of us. The wardens and vestry have spent a lot of time helping Trinity adjust to the changes in our community and discussing the property improvements undertaken primarily through the capital campaign. Many of these initiatives are described throughout this annual report.

Each month seemed to offer either the resumption of favorite activities, including in-person Sunday School, Choral Evensong, indoor coffee hour, the rummage sale, and much more; or the launch of something new, such as two Earth Care Ministry events and the Fall Cookout (apologies to the many other things not mentioned but absolutely part of our fabric!). We are



growing our youth programs, reconnecting with our community outreach programs, and welcoming new people to Trinity.

As we begin to understand the “new normal”, we realize there are many lingering effects of the pandemic that create challenges for Trinity. As you will read in the budget report, and can often see in the pews, we are a smaller congregation than we were in 2020, and this presents serious financial challenges. We also have fewer people volunteering or participating in activities. It may be easy to see the “glass half empty”, but we choose to rely on optimism and see “the glass half full”. The glass is full of baptisms, youth choirs singing anthems, newcomers seeking a faith community, and buildings growing stronger and more welcoming for all!

What hasn’t changed is that Trinity continues to be a place to fulfill many aspects of spiritual and personal growth. In the coming year, we invite you to connect with Trinity in new ways, contributing your strengths and talents as we journey together to create a new way forward in living our mission.

As the wardens, and leaders of the vestry, we are committed to communicating with transparency and listening to all of you. We welcome your input and help. Please pray for us and consider ways YOU can renew your commitment in 2023 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Matthews and Liz Louie

---

## ***WORSHIP***

---

## **MUSIC**

In 2022 things finally began to return to normal. Though the process is ongoing, we made a lot of progress and are hopeful for the future. Of particular note was the rebirth of the youth choirs.

### **Early 2022**

In the month of January our services were online only and the Coventry Choir, our quartet of section leaders, provided the choral music. This month also saw the culmination of some problems with the setup of our new audio system, and for a couple of weeks parts of the services were inaudible. The good news is that to correct these setup issues, the audio company sent one of their best engineers who fine-tuned all the microphones in the entire system, creating the far superior sound quality that we still enjoy today.

## **The Choirs**

As the year progressed, the choirs gradually got back into full swing, and we restructured the youth choirs.

**Trinity Choir** – The Trinity Choir currently has 14 singers, including 6 sopranos, 4 altos, 1 tenor, and 3 basses. In addition to singing for 10 a.m. Sunday services, this congenial and dedicated group sang three services of Choral Evensong, Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week Services. At the end of the spring season, the choir sang a service of Evensong instead of a concert, a change which is likely to become permanent. Everyone was overjoyed in the fall finally to be rid of masks during rehearsal. By year’s end, masks were still worn while processing in and out of services.

**Coventry Choir** – The Coventry Choir continues to provide vocal and musical leadership for the Trinity Choir, as well as singing motets and anthems on its own from time to time. Our current staff singers are Abigail Merk, soprano; Caroline Voyack, alto; Aaron Krasting, tenor; and Joseph Aromando, bass.

**NEW! St. Cecilia Choir** – For years, the senior youth choir was the Canterbury Choir that included grades 4-12. The wide age range worked because the older girls mentored the young singers. With the breakdown of our “farm system” in the past few years, we decided to create a new choir of older girls, from grades 7 to 12. The choir is named for the patron saint of music and made its debut on Easter. In the fall, various schedule conflicts caused the St. Cecilia Choir to get a late start, but it sang for Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve and has an active schedule in the spring of 2023, including a service of Choral Evensong. The current class of four choristers is exceptionally talented, and a joy to work with.

**Carol Choir** – As 2022 began, the only functioning youth choir was Maris’s Carol Choir which by Easter had grown to five choristers. Since the new St. Cecilia Choir begins with the seventh grade, the Carol Choir was expanded to include grades 2-6 and now has seven members. This choir is also unusually talented and enthusiastic, which bodes well for the future!

**Cherub Choir** – Maris’s Cherub Choir for choristers in grades K-1 started back up in the fall with three very committed young choristers. After Christmas they were joined by one more singer and are now four singers strong, though at times they sound like eight!

## **Piano Accompanist**

Gina Park continues as accompanist for the Carol Choir. Though still in high school, Gina plays at a high technical level and with great sensitivity. We are lucky to have her on the staff!

### **Lenten Organ Recital Series**

For the first time since 2019 we had a complete series of five Lenten recitals. Attendance was good, even without the traditional soup luncheons afterward. Since attendance at the luncheons had been declining for some years, we are planning to continue offering recitals only in 2023.

### **The Return of Receptions!**

The fall of 2002 saw the welcome return of receptions following our special events. Many thanks to Maris, Dixie DePietropolo, Alberta Fuller, and the wardens for their dedication to these pleasant fellowship opportunities.

### **New Music Classroom**

In the fall, the classroom at the bottom of the stairs became the new home of the Cherub and Carol Choirs. The room works very well for music and gives the choirs a sense of having a space of their own. We plan to repaint and decorate the room for music by the fall of 2023.

### **Thanks**

As always, we are grateful for Mother Emily's appreciation of the value of music in the life of the parish, and for her support, not to mention her participation in the choir at times! Many thanks to our choral librarian, Susan Wojcik, who diligently takes care of the choir and its music on a weekly basis. Also, many thanks to those who donated to the Friends of Trinity Music, despite the lack of dedicated fund raising efforts in 2022.

As the music program continues its recovery, we are grateful for all the choristers and parents who make the choirs possible, and for the Trinity community which supports our efforts in countless ways.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vernon and Maris Williams

## **LAY READERS**

Lay readers participate in the regular Sunday services and special services throughout the year, with readings from Scripture and leading Prayers of the People. The ministry is special because it is an opportunity for the laity to play an important role in regular church services. Some of our readers have been on the schedule for several years but we also have teens who have recently joined the reader pool. As a reader, it is satisfying to feel that one is participating in the church's ministry both in person and to a wider congregation who rely on the live streamed services.

The list of lay readers is never closed so new members are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Dighton

## **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS**

Eucharistic Ministers serve the parishioners who are unable to attend services by taking communion to them. This allows them to participate in the Church service and the life of the parish. Along with communion, Eucharistic Ministers also bring thoughts and prayers from other parishioners, news of parish life and parishioners to the shut ins. I always leave a visit feeling that I have made a difference in the day of the shut in. They are always so welcoming. A report of the visitation is given to Mother Emily, so if there is follow-up needed, she or Mother Angie can provide that.

Presently there are three Eucharistic Ministers, Jeff Wojcik, Liz Louie and Priscilla Knapp. We are serving three shut in parishioners. If this is a ministry you think you would enjoy, or you know a shut in who would benefit from a visit, please notify the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Knapp

## **TECH GUILD**

The Trinity Tech Guild was established in September 2020 to support the technical needs during the Sunday services as the pandemic forced services to be conducted virtually. Since then, this small group of volunteers have been behind the scenes each Sunday providing outreach and fellowship to our home-bound congregation through our live streaming 10am services. Each Sunday a tech support person is assigned to power on the system and operate the camera for the Sunday service. The tech support person also is there to monitor the microphones and make any sound adjustments as needed during the service.

The current members of Tech Guild:

Nancy Matthews  
Bob Litsinger  
William McBride  
Harry Wind  
Jeff Wojcik

We are always looking for new members who feel comfortable operating a laptop computer and / I-Pad.

All camera settings are preset and just need to be activated doing specific parts of the service by the tech support person in the back of the church. There is also specific easy to learn operating instructions for powering-up and shutting down systems at the beginning and end of the service. No heavy lifting is required. Training and guidance are provided by the group for all new members until they feel comfortable operating the system.

Any questions or interest in volunteering, please contact Jeff Wojcik:  
Phone: 610-945-4004, Email: woj5@aol.com

### **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild assists our priests by providing the backdrop and implements used in the Holy Eucharist, baptisms, weddings, funerals and special services for holy days. Current members are Helen Anderson, Sally Campolucci, Wendy Carber, Gayle Celentano, Priscilla Knapp, Carolyn Weeks, Joan Willett and Inez Tokashiki (trainee). New members are always welcome. Usually we work about an hour on a Saturday or Sunday on a rotating schedule. Although this is important, we have a good time working together and we support each other. The Altar Guild hopes our work helps make worship at Trinity truly meaningful for the entire congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Celentano

### **FLOWER GUILD**

How would you like to spend two hours on a Saturday morning, once every two months, sharing fellowship with another parishioner one-on-one with beautiful flowers.

Arranging flowers is a wonderful way to block out all of life's cares, even if only for a little while. It is hard to let the world encroach while you are creating an arrangement. No experience is required, just the will to take that time for yourself to learn a new skill and at the same time contribute to Trinity.

The Trinity Church Flower Guild is 15 men and women strong, who create the beautiful floral arrangements each Sunday and the wonderful displays that are part of the joy at our Easter and Christmas services. We would love to have you as a member!

## EVENING PRAYER

The first Book of Common Prayer created under the direction of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and published in 1549 broke precedence with the full reliance on priests led Morning, Evening and Eucharistic services the Catholic church. Those services were retained for use in the Church. However, Cranmer added simpler services suitable for and intended for use by families and lay groups in a new section called Daily Offices. The services were modeled after those used in monasteries and nunneries and include Morning, Noonday and Evening Prayer as well as a night service called Compline. It was his hope that people would use these services for prayer every day.

There are those who do one, more or all of the full Daily Office every day, but that is difficult in our modern social context. Our Tuesday weekly Evening Prayer provides an opportunity to use the Daily Office service once a week. It is based on a Evening Prayer with some substitution of components of Compline from the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer

The service is done over Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday. The first few minutes allow for some social interchange. The service is “shared,” that is to say opportunities to do part of the service, and during the interchange assignments are determined and provided. The service is generally over by 7:30 but there is an option to stay to listen to a few performances of hymns.

You can join the [Evening Prayer via the Zoom Link](#) which is also provided on the church website. You will see some people you know from Trinity and some from other churches as well. The group is friendly and will be happy to see you.

Peace to all,  
Bob Litsinger  
856-571-0008 | bob.litsinger@gmail.com

---

## *SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FORMATION*

---

### SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

During the first half of 2022 the Adult Bible Study class completed an in depth study of the Gospel of Luke. The group met on Sunday afternoons, via Zoom, to discuss, share, read, reflect, and, yes, socialize. The group is small, but welcoming and always open to new “students.”

In June, I stepped down as leader. In October, Bob Litsinger took over as leader and the group continues with a study of the book of Acts.

Respectively Submitted,  
Julie Bathke

## MONDAY BASIC BIBLE STUDY

Basic Bible Study meets online Mondays from 7 to 8pm. No knowledge or preparation is needed. We continue to use readings chosen from “The Path: A Journey Through The Bible” which uncovers the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people.

Some stories we explored and discussed were:

- The covenant God made with Abraham continued through his two descendants: Jacob the trickster and Joseph the dreamer. God used even the bad things that happened in Joseph's life for good.
- Moses' stories:
  - Through the burning bush God revealed his name to Moses: “I Am Who I Am.” God called Moses to lead his people to freedom.
  - Moses dividing the Red Sea. Miriam, his sister, singing and rejoicing afterwards.
  - As the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God gave them the gift of the Law, written on two stone tablets. The tablets taught God's people about how to live holy and faithful lives, and they continue to teach us today.
- The story of Joshua, Moses' successor, who finally led the people into the land that God promised them. But what the people find isn't quite what they had expected.
- The Judges that God sent to weigh truth and justice. They were not perfect people, but they tried to listen to God and to lead God's people faithfully. We read about: Ehud (who killed Eglon in the bathroom!), Deborah, Samson, and others.
- The stories of Ruth, Hannah, Samuel and Eli. Hannah and Ruth give things up in order to love and serve God. They both find, not resentment, but joy in offering those things to God.
- The story of Samuel, born to faithful Hannah, who grows up to be prophet and priest to kings. The people of Israel were determined to have a king, so God sent them Saul. But, Saul failed to follow God's commands. Next, God sent them David, a man after God's own heart. David was Jesse's son, who was Ruth's grandson.
- The rise of King David. In spite of his faithfulness, David is far from perfect, and his actions will have repercussions.

Besides reading the Bible, we enjoy looking at how artists have interpreted these stories. For Moses and Samson we even looked at movie clips and images. For Samuel, Saul and

David's stories we thoroughly enjoyed looking at images from the Morgan Picture Bible, or Crusader Bible. <https://www.themorgan.org/collection/Crusader-Bible>

Top Reviews from Trinity Parishioners:

"I enjoy the maps and art work about the lands we are studying as we read through scripture. Artists present the scripture as an interesting interpretation of the story. Visuals bring a better perception of what we study." - Kathy

"I have been surprised how much I have enjoyed reading and talking about the Bible with you guys. I have learned a great deal and have found it's helped my own spiritual growth." - Wendy

"Bringing together other individuals perspectives and interpretations of the readings paired with the artwork depicting the readings as well has significantly broadened my perspective/view and understanding of the scripture readings." - Frank

"What we discuss at Basic Bible Study not only brings me joy and makes my community bigger, but it also draws me closer to God through rich, holy, (and even humorous) conversations with friends." - Abby

"Most importantly we enjoy each other's company - getting to know each other and learning together." - Kristina

**Please join us any Monday evening you are free! We would love to have you!**

## **YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

2022 was a year of rebuilding momentum for the youth ministry. Rite 13, J2A, and 4Ward continued to meet both virtually and in-person through the spring and in the fall were able to transition to be fully in-person again. At different times during the year, both our Rite 13 and J2A groups were able to volunteer with our outreach ministry to help those in need at St Paul's in Camden. Our 4Ward youth met monthly for service projects ranging from collaborating with the earth care ministry to pancake breakfast to creating care packages for members of our community serving in the armed forces.

The youth group began its monthly gatherings, beginning with a virtual Mardi-Gras party in February and transitioning to in-person events as Covid numbers improved. Although weather and other complicating factors caused cancelation of our fall kick-off event in September, the youth group held a fun and successful lock-in in October, where we painted our new youth room and explored the concept of what it means to be family through our



relationship with Jesus. We have a solid core group of youth attending monthly and are excited to continue building relationships as we grow in our faith.

Throughout the year, the youth leaders and I met regularly to discuss where we were and where we thought we needed to be heading. We ended the 21-22 program year with an intensive 3-day leader's retreat where we all thought, prayed, and dreamed about where God is leading our youth ministry. We realized that our current youth ministry model may not be meeting our needs as well as we might hope. We agreed to embark upon a year of re-envisioning and planning and signed up to be a part of Fuller Youth Institute's 2023 Growing Young Online cohort. This cohort will help us to focus our planning on sustainability and becoming more effective in our ministry with and for our youth. We are looking forward to the new opportunities and vitality this cohort will help us achieve.

The success of our youth programs is thanks in great part to the dedication of our amazing youth volunteers – Jasmine Deplet, Rafael Deplet, and Scott Hart for Rite 13, Carolyn Weeks (22-23), Jeff Wojcik, and Lisa Yeh (21-22) for J2A, Kevin Berry and Sarah Senno for 4Ward, and Beth Brennan (21-22), David Douglass, Lexi Shepherd (22-23) and Sue Taylor (21-22) for our Youth Group.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mother Angie  
Associate Rector

## **CHILDRENS CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

### **Exciting news:**

Our Welcome to Communion instruction began on 1/8/23. Led by Holly Pearson, there are eight children in the class. Holly's enthusiasm is infectious. I encourage you to peek into her classroom behind the stage. We are further blessed to have Kristina Van Name leading our Upper Elementary students. Kristina's class is our most regularly attended, with roughly fourteen students. Many of her students sing in the choir and some acolyte. I am grateful for Kristina's dedication. Our nursery has been covered by Lauren Ramirez, with Christine Norris filling in as needed.

On Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Stella Horton will be leading a presentation on the Underground Railroad. Sunday school will take place in the chapel that day. Stella has presented in the past, and we are thrilled to host this event again.

### **Challenges:**

Attendance has been a challenge but seems to be gradually improving. Most children attend when the children's choirs perform.

Volunteerism has been another challenge. I've created a new sign up and provided information for Sunday school parents who expressed an interest in teaching or helping. I will also communicate Sunday school news regularly via our weekly email and Facebook, in the hopes of increasing both attendance and volunteerism.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Andonie

---

## ***SERVING GOD IN THE COMMUNITY***

---

### **OUTREACH COMMISSION**

2022 presented many challenges to the work of the Trinity Outreach Commission. Even as we still met on Zoom due to new variants, we were hopeful that we could return to normal "pre covid" fundraising. We soon realized that the opportunities for this were going to be in short supply as the demand to help others only increased. As prices for food, housing, gas and utilities went higher, our incomes stretched thinner. Low-income folks were hit the hardest and we saw the vital Organizations that we support struggle to meet increasing demands. As all household budgets were challenged by these price increases, it affected what we could expect from our fundraising attempts. Early in the year we met with a counselor from the Diocese. She helped us to focus on what was important, what was working, letting go of what was not and trying new things.

The Trinity spirit of giving and caring for others was in abundant supply and helped us along the way. We successfully brought back the "Pew Envelope" donations which focuses on a different organization that we support each month. The food pantry has given way to a pantry for toiletries and household items badly needed in our community.

In February Gabrielle Preller and I met with the J2A group and shared with them the realities of those struggling to get by with low incomes, the homeless and how the Outreach Commission works to support the organizations that help them. Focusing on what was important to the teachers of Sacred Heart School and Urban Promise School in Camden, we collected school supplies requested by them to help meet their needs in their classrooms this fall. Throughout the year, "hands on" outreach support continued.

Sandwich making and donations for The Cathedral Kitchen were coordinated by Bruce Velzy. Gabrielle Preller and Liz Louie continued the monthly breakfasts and PBJ sandwich making for St. Paul's in Camden. Our Parish family embraced The Christmas "Giving Tree"

making sure local families in need had gifts for their children. We all looked forward to the return of the fall rummage sale. A semblance of normalcy, it was fun to work on a project together along with others who donated and helped out. But sadly, even after everyone's hard work, the rummage sale did not bring in as much as we had hoped for, and we ended up donating a lot of goods and clothing to the Urban Promise store.

So for 2022, monetary funds came in about the same as 2021 at \$9,831.00. We certainly learned a lot about "Supply and Demand" and realized that life in general appears to be moving towards a "new normal". We know that we will need to adapt the best we can, try new things and with God's help continue to be supplied with Trinity's spirit of giving and caring so that we can meet the demands of reaching out to help those in need. Thank you to all who have donated and helped support The Trinity Outreach Commission over the past year. Please consider joining us and adding your energy and ideas towards helping others. We meet at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday evening of each month in the Parish Hall. Check out our bulletin board and webpage on Trinity's website for more information.

Respected Submitted  
Barbara Benton

### **GOD'S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

***“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”***  
***“Instead of separation and division, all distinctions make for a rich diversity to be celebrated for the sake of the unity that underlies them. We are different so that we can know our need of one another.”***

***Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)***  
***South African Anglican Bishop and Theologian***

Perhaps an unexpected benefit of an openness and receptivity to diversity is the gift of friendship with so many people we may never have had the opportunity to meet and get to know.

In a recent essay, “Why Jesus Loved Friendship,” (New York Times, December 23, 20022) Peter Wehner, a writer and Trinity Forum fellow, explores the meaning of Jesus’ command to his disciples that they love one another: “...love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Among the several theologians and religious leaders Wehner interviewed to explain Jesus’ command, the two most compelling are Renee Notkin, co-paster of Union Church in Seattle, and John Swinton, an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and a professor at the University of Aberdeen.

Pastor Notkin believes that “As friends of Jesus, we love one another – and that includes people different from us. In fact, no one can be an ‘other.’ because in Christ we belong to one another.” Professor Swinton reminds us that “The friendship modeled by Jesus is for ‘the outsider,’ the socially marginalized...The gift of friendship shows and reminds people that they are valued and indeed valuable individuals.”

Since its inception in 2016, the God’s Diversity Committee has sought to bring awareness of a variety of social justice issues to our congregation, either through coffee-hour discussions, guest preachers, documentary films and during these past few “pandemic years,” short written entries in the weekly Parish Notes. We have learned about the challenges of realizing our founders’ vision of liberty and justice for all and shared the stories of visionaries and leaders who never stopped believing that the dream of true equality was within reach. Obstacles were temporary because the goodness in human nature always eventually prevails. While this Committee’s rewarding work continues to invigorate our members intellectually and spiritually, perhaps the greatest gift we have received is the growing friendships with each other. And it is these friendships with all their warmth and laughter that have sustained many of us during the past few years of Covid restrictions. Most important, it is through these friendships that we are reminded that there are simple yet powerful ways to fulfill Jesus’ command to love one another. It is hoped that as we return to a more “normal” full parish life, our Committee will once again be able to explore surprising ways to grow in friendship through a fuller understanding of the wonderful diversity of our neighbors.

We began the year with a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In place of a sermon on January 16, 2022, Mercedes Deplet, a member of Trinity’s Youth Group, read an excerpt from Dr. King’s last address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, entitled “Where Do We Go From Here?” Mother Emily added a brief introduction linking the address to one of the day’s Biblical readings and the Prayers of the People, were adapted by members of the Committee from Dr. King’s book, **Thou, Dear God: Prayers That Open Hearts and Spirits.**

During the past year, we once again celebrated men and women, from diverse backgrounds and orientations for their outstanding contributions in theology, human rights, social justice, law, literature, and the arts. Most of these men and women are truly unsung heroes whose contributions have been less often acknowledged. Such truly remarkable Americans recognized by the God’s Diversity Committee included: Claudette Colvin, a 15 year-old high school student who was arrested in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person nine months before Rosa Parks committed her brave act of protest against Jim Crow Laws; Florence Price, a little known African American composer whose works have recently had a renaissance; Rev. Diana Akiyana, the first Japanese American to be ordained an Episcopal priest and bishop; Gurbir Singh Grewal, the first Sikh American to be appointed attorney general in New Jersey and in the United States; Louise Blanchard Bethune, the first American woman to become a certified architect; and J.

Charles Jones, a civil rights and fair housing advocate who organized some of the largest lunch counter protest of college students across the South.

Every Sunday during June, which is Pride Month, we invited the Trinity community to join us in prayers of thanksgiving for the courage and perseverance of the LGBTQ+ community. Also, in the June Parish Notes, we briefly described the history of the celebration of Juneteenth, the belated announcement to all slaves in Texas in 1865 that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed them two years earlier. We also provided a list of Juneteenth programs and activities in Burlington and Camden counties.

During Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month, after acknowledging the perennial challenges limiting these groups' access to full realization of the American dream, we invited the congregation to join us in prayers of joy, celebration, atonement and restoration, most of which were adapted from liturgies prepared by Hispanic and Indigenous Episcopalians.

In closing our annual reflection of the previous year, we wish to thank Mother Emily Mellott and Mother Angela Cipolla for their continued support in helping us fulfill our mission and for their guidance and enthusiasm as we undertake new initiatives. We are deeply grateful to Vernon Williams for generously sharing his talent and creativity with us and for the many ways he helps us celebrate the richness of human life through music. His selections for Black History Month were especially beautiful as were the Coventry Choir's rendition of "We Shall Overcome" and Abby Merk's exquisite solo, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" during Dr. King's celebration. Finally, we greatly appreciate the members of the God's Diversity Committee for their insights, knowledge, good humor and loving hearts. These special people make our work joyful and rewarding and we could not hope to succeed without them. Best of all, they have given us their friendship which remains the greatest gift.

Respectfully submitted,  
Veronica Hughes  
Anne Dalesandro  
Co-Chairs

### **EARTH CARE MINISTRY**

Trinity's Earth Care Ministry ("ECM") was formed at the beginning of 2022 and has met approximately monthly since then. The committee is chaired by John Bradley and Lori Rapuano and is open to all parishioners. Through this ministry, we seek to deepen our spiritual and physical relationship with all of creation and participate in the proper stewardship of the earth's resources. Highlights of our first year included the following:

- **Lenten Green Eating Challenge:** The ECM encouraged parishioners to consider reducing their meat consumption throughout Lent because of the environmental benefits of adopting plant-based diets. ECM members wrote background materials on the environmental impact of meat consumption and nutritional considerations, which were posted on Trinity's website, along with tips and vegetarian recipes. Some twenty households participated in the challenge and the supporting materials remain available on the website.
- **Native Plant Celebration:** On April 24, in celebration of Earth Day, the ECM collaborated with the Native Plant Society of New Jersey to host a Native Plant celebration at Trinity. The event included a native plant sale by several vendors; a lecture by Dr. Randi Eckel; a home garden tour of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey's local chapter leader (who lives down the street from Trinity); the planting of nine new native plants in Trinity's cloister garden; and an opportunity for children to pot native plants to take home. The event was open to the public and attended by approximately 160 people, in addition to 20 volunteers. We raised \$500 at the event from donations, a bake sale, and sales of Berry Hotel Brand Coffee and Tea. The money will go towards renewing Trinity's gardens with native plants.
- **Energy Conservation Event:** During coffee hour on November 6, the ECM hosted two outside speakers for a presentation about practical ways individuals and congregations conserve energy to help address climate change. Approximately 25 people (a mix of Trinity parishioners, GreenFaith members, and other community members) attended the event.

In March, the ECM also gave a short presentation and organized an environmental-based trivia game during coffee hour, and also had a discussion with the high school youth at a 4Ward meeting to discuss their interests around service and other activities focused on environmental stewardship. The ECM has also been working with the Property Committee to research the possibility of solar panels for Trinity as a way of moving away from reliance on fossil fuels for Trinity's energy needs.

In 2023, the ECM hopes to sponsor additional educational events; continue our work with the Property Committee to decrease the church's carbon footprint; strengthen our collaborations with the GreenFaith Circle of Southern New Jersey; and work with the new Diocesan Creation Care Committee. We invite other interested parishioners to join us at an upcoming meeting!

Respectfully submitted,  
John Bradley and Lori Rapuano

## **PRESCHOOL**

With the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted for preschools, it is exciting to be able to bring back some of our activities that we haven't been able to participate in. Last January we were able to re-introduce lunch bunch to all the classes. Even though the children had to stay in their own classrooms, they were thrilled to be able to stay and have lunch with their teachers. In September, it got even better! The children were able to mix with the other classes, making this a perfect opportunity to bring back the enrichment classes, some of which are: Arts & Science, Little Bakers, Music, Karate, and our exercise class with Coach Pat. This also allowed us to open a new enrichment class that we had been preparing for prior to Covid-19. It didn't take long for our new "Building Club" to fill up. It's just wonderful to hear the children laughing and having fun while learning new skills and to have a sense of normalcy.

The teachers and I took on a challenge in the early part of 2022. We completed two educational courses. The first course was Health, Safety & Child Growth and Development: Basic Requirements for Licensing which was eight hours and the second two-hour course was Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect: Mandated Reporting in Early Care & Education. These courses needed to be completed for the teachers to receive a \$1,000.00 Hiring and Retention Bonus Grant. They were also eligible to receive an additional \$1,000.00 before Christmas. I also applied for the NJ ARP Stabilization Grant. The school was awarded \$30,000.00 and received \$20,000.00 which was used for the Playground Shade Structure, updating the Preschool Website, and replacing some equipment. In February I will need to re-apply for the last \$10,000.00.

As always, thank you for the support of the Clergy, the Vestry, the Preschool Board, as well as the Preschool & Parish Families. We are blessed to be working with so many wonderful people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Johnson  
Preschool Director  
856-235-1840

---

## ***GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP***

---

### **WELCOME COMMITTEE**

As in person parish life has started to return with such activities as Sunday school, coffee hour and the rummage sale, opportunities for new parishioners to feel “at home” in Trinity have increased. Protocols established by the Welcome Committee have aimed to aid this process. Thus, newcomers were invited to join Vestry members during coffee hour - an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and to learn about different church activities. Similarly, newcomers received phone calls inviting them to attend the Parish Picnic. Hopefully, opportunities for newcomer participation will increase in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Dighton

### **PARISH LIFE**

“What can I do?”, “How can I help?”, “How do I find out about things?” ANYTHING THAT SPEAKS TO YOU AND JUST ASK!! Parish Life reflects the many activities/offerings that Trinity has to offer- we are the church TOGETHER! Some of the 2022 highlights include:

- Continuing to make sandwiches (monthly or quarterly) for our Outreach community partners
- Our first Annual Parish Picnic at Laurel Acres Park in Mount Laurel. Save the date for the second Annual on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details as we get closer!
- Return of the Re-imagined Rummage Sake – person power for the treasure hunt!
- Coffee or punch hours following both services – get to know or catch up with each other!
- Parish Hall Sing-a-long and carpool caroling – Fa La La La La ing to our homebound family
- Pancake breakfasts – BACON! And Youth!
- And continued support for various collections and special requests...Apologies for the many other things I have omitted, no malice, just bad memory (with a promise to keep a list this year!)

As we launch into 2023 and the challenges and opportunities that it brings, i/we invite you to step in and step up to help us create the events and environment that say “Welcome!”, “Please join us!” and “bring your ideas and energy!”



Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Louie

### **TRINITY PAGE BRIGADE**

The Trinity Page Brigade meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm via zoom. We have an optional Facebook group. The Facebook group allows us to share additional interesting information about the book. We decide as a group what our next book is each month. We also try to have discussion questions posted/emailed out the night of the discussion. As you can see from this year's selections, this group really enjoys historical fiction.

January: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah; brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it

February: *Call Your Daughter* by Deb Spera; set in the 1920s, about the power of family, community, and ferocity of motherhood

March: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee; follows a Korean family who immigrated to Japan during the 20th-century

April: *Death and the Penguin* by Andrey Kurkov, a Ukrainian author; takes place in 1996 and 1997 in Kyiv, a bleak, satirical work with surreal elements and dark humor

May: *The Woman They Could Not Silence: The Shocking Story of a Woman Who Dared to Fight Back* by Kate Moore; a true story of a forgotten woman whose journey sparked lasting change for women's rights and exposed injustices that still resonate today.

June: *Revelations* by Mary Sharratt; illuminates the intersecting lives of two female mystics — Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich

July/August: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell; a fictional account of Shakespeare's son

September: *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler; readers are shown how and why Jews and Christians read many of the same Biblical texts differently.

October: *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield; a gothic suspense novel

November: *The Heart* by Maylis de Kerangal; follows a heart transplant over 24 hours, as life is taken from a young man and given to a woman close to death.

We hope you join us sometime this year and invite a friend or two!

### **TRINITY BOOK CLUB**

Trinity's Book Club has been in existence since 1999 and is comprised of Trinity parishioners. It meets on the 3rd Friday of every month throughout the year at 1pm in the

Parish Hall's Reception Room. The following remarks were prepared by Dr. Stella Horton and they are shared by other Book Club members.

"We read remarkable works of varied authors. Some books are heart pounding and may transport the reader to new perspectives all because of the author's words. Some authors may influence the reader to shift the course of their life by stirring something profound within the reader, Some authors have influenced members to understand and be more empathetic toward others who may have different opinions from theirs. Therefore, we are able to explore the world or events through an author's words, and as readers may become open to the experiences of others. This allows us to break out of our comfort zones. This opportunity also helps to support our relationship with God and others. We view these opportunities as God working in each of our lives which ultimately allows us to continue to grow in faith and love.

Books we read range in subject from historical fiction, biographies, fiction, non-fiction, autobiographies to thrillers. and the list goes on. Members suggest books to read and volunteer to lead the discussions and design questions relative to the book. The discussions may relate to our own shared personal experiences. The type of questions that may lead to discussion include: What emotions or feelings did the author invoke in you from the story? Does the book cause you to make any changes that you can apply in your workplace, if applicable, your profession, your home, at church or in your social or political life?

With the onset of Covid-19, our active membership was challenged, and we were unable to continue with face-to-face meetings. Now that we are back to in person meetings, our active membership has been reduced to a committed, faithful few. However, we still meet on the 3rd Friday of each month. We encourage and invite those interested to join us as we continue to grow in faith, love and knowledge. In our intentional community of Trinity's Book Club, we find companionship and inspiration. So again, join us and receive the benefit that reverberates from powerful ideas from the many compelling characters.

Our discussions are nourishing to the spirit, vibrant, respectful and heartfelt. We frequently challenge each other to consider the big questions of our relationships with family, friends, God and others".

## **MEN'S GROUP**

After another pause in the first quarter of 2022 for the Covid-19 Omicron variant surge, the Men's Group resumed its usual programming with monthly breakfasts and speakers. Speaker topics included security risks to utility infrastructure, the mechanics and acoustics of our church organ, Web 3.0 and the Metaverse, and the recent chess cheating controversy

between World Champion Magnus Carlsen and 19-year-old American Grandmaster Hans Niemann (who says chess is boring?).

Since we were unable to host our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for the parish, we improvised by distributing "Shrove Sunday" Cupcakes after services on the last Sunday of Epiphany. Most recently, we organized an Active Shooter Training session for the parish, presented by two detectives from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

We look forward to continued fellowship and speakers in 2023. We are also happy to be resuming the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, in partnership with Trinity's youth.

Faithfully yours,

Rafael Declet  
Bruce Lovejoy  
Roy Shubert  
\*Trinity Men's Group\*

---

***CARING FOR GOD'S GIFTS***

---

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

**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 three years of high returns on the S&P 500 index (over 17% for 2019, just over 18% for 2020 and about 28% for 2021), this past year started out with a double digit loss of about 12% by early March and after a brief rebound in late March to a negative 2% by month's end, the S&P fell another 20% by mid-June. Volatility continued through the summer and early fall with the index down about 24% by early October. After a brief rise in November, the index fell again in early December and finished down just over 18% for the year. Usually, fixed income/bonds are the safe haven but not in 2022. The US Aggregate Bond index started out much the same as the S&P 500 but kept going down until about mid-June when it was down 12.5%. After a brief recovery, it continued the downward trend and by late October was down over 16% year-to-date. As the Federal Reserve continued to raise interest rates in an effort to combat inflation, the bond index did recover some to end the year down nearly 13%.

The Federal Reserve interest rate which stood at 0-0.25% at the start of the year, was increased 6 times starting in March as a way to combat rising inflation. By December, the rate stood at 4.25 to 4.50%. These increases have had an effect on reducing inflation which was virtually non-existent through most of 2020 with rates ranging from near zero to a high of 2.5% with an average of just 1.12%. In 2021, rates began to rise more steadily and by March, 2022 were above 8% which is when the Federal Reserve commences their rate hikes. The inflation rate briefly went above 9% in June, 2022 before beginning a decline and stood at about 6.5% by year end. A few variants of the Corona Virus surfaced in early to mid-2022 prompting the tweaking of the vaccines which were made available by September in an attempt to slow the transmission and prevent serious complications for those who were vaccinated and got the extra shot.

The mid-term elections resulted in a swing of the House of Representatives to the Republicans but it is a very narrow margin. While the stock markets seem to like a 'divided government' (at least one chamber of each party), this is not always best for the people as important work either does not get done or takes too long to have a positive impact needed now. While a number of businesses have returned to 'normal,' this is a new normal as many workers are continuing to work from home.

The Infrastructure bill which passed both the House and Senate is expected to provide much needed funds for nearly all 50 states resulting in job creation and a need for materials in the building and construction areas for roads, bridges and related infrastructure projects. Some of those dollars are already finding their way into local projects.

As a result of the very volatile year in the markets and rising interest rates and inflation issues, the Endowment Fund suffered its first loss in many years dropping 18.2% net of fees which was slightly worse than the benchmark index return for our portfolio composition of a negative 16.5%. The total equity portion of our portfolio remained at about varied between 65-67% with the allocation to US stocks at 77% and international stocks at 23% of the equity portion, about a 6% swing from 2021 in favor of less US equity than international equity. The lower slant to US equities vs. International equity holdings proved correct as the S&P 500 index lost a bit more than the broad International index. Our fixed income allocation at year end rose slightly to 26% and cash remained at about 7%.

Our Endowment income consisted of interest and dividends amounting to about \$58,800, up about 7% from the 2021 figure due mostly to higher dividends or our equity positions. The net realized and unrealized loss for the entire Endowment Fund was about \$599,000, or 17.5% of our beginning of year portfolio value. The Fund contributed \$363,000, or about 10.6% 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 \$206,000.

Following is a summary of the Endowment Fund for 2022:

Balance, 12/31/21	\$ 3,428,134
Additions:	
Interest/dividends	\$ 58,803
Bequests	\$ 13,989
Withdrawals/deductions:	
Net realized & unrealized (loss)	\$ (598,915)
Used toward church property/expenses	(\$ 362,912)
Portfolio management expenses	(\$ 20,932)
Balance, 12/31/22	<u>\$ 2,518,164</u>

**Outlook for 2023**

- Inflation will continue to be an issue with near-term forecasts of between 4 and 6% with some things coming in higher such as food, rents and energy prices.

- Interest rates will likely continue to go somewhat higher in the early part of the year as the Federal Reserve continues to keep inflation under control but are expected to taper off later in the year assuming inflation continues to decline. The short-term rates (2 to 5 years) continue to exceed 4.2% while the 10 year rate has fallen below 3.75% recently.
- In the event of a recession, it is not likely that it would last very long. Since 1950, recessions have ranged in time from 2 to 18 months with the average being about 10 months. In addition, stock markets generally begin to recover before the recession ends.
- Dividends will play a larger role in the period ahead. In the past 6-7 years, growth in investments during the bull market was king with dividends in a lesser role. In the past 10 years or so, dividends accounted for less than 20% of total return but historically they have averaged nearly 40% of total return and during the 1970's accounted for nearly 70%.
- Sectors which should do better in the near-term are energy which will likely pay higher dividends as well as increase stock buybacks. Also, as a result of funds from the Inflation Reduction Act, renewable energy projects are likely to enhance companies in the industrial sector and also provide companies in manufacturing businesses with lower energy costs and thus, higher profits.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roy A. Shubert, Chairman

## BEQUESTS

*Many parishioners have participated in Trinity worship and events for many years and would like to help provide for Trinity's future through their estate planning. We encourage everyone to consider their own circumstances and whether an enduring gift to Trinity would be appropriate. If you are so inclined, we would be most grateful, as these gifts through the years have contributed significantly to help sustain our work. Please consult your lawyer to add Trinity Church to your Will when you are ready.*

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

We would like to honor the individuals named below for remembering Trinity in their wills. In the past several years, the people below have made financial gifts to Trinity Episcopal Church through estate/will planning. We are very grateful for these gifts. All bequests go into

Trinity's Endowment fund, unless otherwise specified.

**Thomas Whisonant** and his wife Martha were active members of Trinity Church.

**Enid Pitman** was born in England in 1925 emigrated to the United States and spent many happy years in Niagara Falls where she met her beloved husband John and started their family. After moving to Moorestown in 1953, she joined Trinity Episcopal Church and began volunteering throughout the community. Enid was a member of the Altar Guild and Church Women United.

**Helen Louise Waller** and her husband Admiral R. R. Waller were parishioners of Trinity Church.

**Anne LeDuc** was a long-time member at Trinity Church. Anne served on the Vestry at Trinity, was an active member of Trinity's Outreach Commission, a valued member of the Christian Education Committee at Trinity, she attended the St. Anne's Guild and in her last few years, she enjoyed attending Trinity's Book Group. Anne coached girls' field hockey, swimming, lacrosse, basketball among other sports during her long career. After retiring she owned and managed the Chalfonte hotel in Cape May, NJ.

*Trinity expresses our gratitude for the above bequests. We truly appreciate all of our parishioners and pray for those who have passed on. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.*

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

After nearly three years of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, we are finally getting back to normal and relieved and joyous to be able to do so. In this year's stewardship drive to fund Trinity's 2023 operating expenses, we focused on becoming aware of and appreciating our many blessings, both individually and collectively. There are so many things to be thankful for, and it is regenerating and uplifting to pause and reflect on them. Collectively, many at Trinity are feeling blessed by the beautiful church and property and successful capital campaign, the renewed vibrancy and sense of community and fellowship that many of us feel at Trinity as we resume in-person worship and activities, and abundance of uplifting and purpose-filled activities from music to education to outreach.

Personal reflections highlighting blessings by individual parishioners were offered in October and November in our live-streamed worship services and in print by mail and on our website. These reflections are an important part of helping us all, as a congregation, to consider our many blessings and how we share and receive blessings from others in the

Trinity community, and the impact our giving has on our spiritual lives and the vibrancy of Trinity Church.

Mailings went out to the entire congregation at the end of October launching the stewardship campaign and asking everyone to consider their blessings. Other useful information and a pledge card were also included. A request was made to consider a step up in percentage given. Pledges were requested to be returned to Trinity by November 13, 2022.

As of December 31, 2022, Trinity has received a total of \$391,246 from 122 pledge cards. 50 of these pledges increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. This is a 10% increase in giving from these households above last year. A total of 17 new giving units (households who did not make a giving commitment for 2022) completed pledge cards. These two pieces of good news are countered by the loss of 29 households between 2022 and 2023, a loss of 22% of our 2022 households. Five years ago, the number of pledge cards returned was over 200, and now we are down to 122 pledge cards. And, while 50 pledges increased their giving, many did not, and overall giving per household was nearly flat between 2022 and 2023, while inflation was not flat. Total giving from all households completing a card is \$391,246. Adding estimates for households who have not yet completed a card and for loose offerings gives an estimated total of \$464,000 in giving for 2023, which is about \$9,500 lower than 2022 actual.

Thank you for all the generous financial commitments made by parishioners for 2023 and the increase in giving from so many families. Welcome to all the new households. Thank you for sharing your blessings with us. Thanks also to the many volunteers who shared their stories and blessings: Abby Merk, Kristina Van Name, Jeff Wojcik, Lisa Yeh, and Sally Campolucci.

Another stewardship activity in 2022 was an educational effort related to planned giving options. While common methods of giving to Trinity include cash, check, and on-line, there are many other options available to donors. Some of these provide significant tax advantages, such as the use of appreciated securities, donor advised funds, and qualified charitable distributions. Other options can add to the Trinity endowment and help provide for the long-term health of Trinity after we're gone, through bequests and charitable gift annuities. An in-person workshop summarizing planned giving options, how they provide tax advantages, and how to set them up, was given on October 15 and a virtual workshop was given on October 26. The Trinity website was also updated to serve as a resource for planned giving options, including several references from the Episcopal Church Foundation.

Despite the relative success of this campaign, Trinity continues to face financial challenges. The decline in membership and heavy reliance on our endowment are concerns, and the vestry will be considering ways to increase ongoing financial stewardship throughout 2023 as part of our approach to the budget. We will also continue to seek assistance and support



from all of the congregation as we continue on this journey of making Trinity an even more blessed and joyful church community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Yeh

### **PLEDGES FROM 2022**

The congregation thanks all of our generous donors throughout 2022. Special thanks goes to all those who made a pledged commitment to help sustain Trinity Church in 2022:

Ferrill Alderfer  
Helen Anderson  
Herbert & Barbara Anderson  
Omar & Christine Andonie  
Thomas & Laura Bader  
Frederick & Elizabeth Baldt  
William & Mary Barker  
Michael & Julia Bathke  
Elizabeth Beatty  
Barbara Benton  
Kevin Berry  
John Bradley & Camille Introcaso  
John & Elizabeth Brennan  
David & Teresa Britton  
Thomas & Fabiene Brown  
Michael & Lauren Bulboff  
Cecilia Campolucci  
Len & Wendy Carber  
Cathryn Carroll  
Linda Carson  
Gayle Celentano  
Donald & Nancy Chambers  
Angela & Jenna Cipolla  
Donald & Simone Cochrane  
William & Beth Cook  
Robert & Robin Crowl  
Lewis & Lowry Curran  
Marguerite Daubert  
Benjamin Davies  
Rafael & Jasmine Declet

Janet deVry  
Joan & John Dighton  
Thomas Dodd  
David & Karen Douglass  
Robin & James Dryden  
Craig Ebner & Steven Butler  
Wayne & Kathleen Farren  
Sarah Fawcett-Lee  
Kevin & Elizabeth Field  
Peter & Claudia Fletcher  
George Flynn  
Don & Sarann Foster  
Richard & Alberta Fuller  
Barbara & James Gattinella  
Glenn & Lisa George  
Jeffrey Gola & Linda Cecil  
Robert & Elizabeth Gorman  
Jennifer Gotthelf  
Todd Gunderson  
Christine Hallam  
Scott Hart & Amy Sprague  
Richard & Sandra Hay  
Susan Hogan  
Stella Horton  
Veronica & William Hughes  
James & Nancy Johnson  
Jeffrey & Nancy Johnson  
Kevin & Jeanette Kates  
Priscilla Knapp  
Peter Knerr

Mark & Suzanne Leis  
Loretta Johns Lill & Bob Lill  
Shelley Lippincott  
Robert Litsinger  
Gregory & Elizabeth Louie  
Bruce & Beverly Lovejoy  
Mark & Kisha Mann  
Edward & Jan Marcinkevich  
Chris & Nancy Matthews  
William & Stacy McBride  
Francis & Susan McCormick  
Joseph & Barbara McDonnell  
Thomas & Cathy McGarry  
Michael & Dawn McGee  
David & Deborah McGeorge  
Stephen & JoAnna Meader  
Emily Mellott  
Abigail Merk  
Daniel & Dawn Miller  
Maureen Moorer  
James Morley & Anne Dalesandro  
John & Janet Murray  
Polly Murray  
Christopher & Christine Norris  
Adam & Amy Paglione  
Edwin & Hollis Pearson  
Esther Pearson  
Anthony & Kathleen Perez  
Jeanette Peterson  
Edward & Linda Pfister  
Thomas Pine  
Don & Janice Powell  
David & Lori Rapuano  
Joan Reid  
Harry & Victoria Rice  
Brian & Helen Richards  
Charles Robinson  
Lorraine Ryan & Joseph Tufaro  
John Salmon

Gerald & Susan Satkofsky  
Cecilia Schmidt  
Michael & Michelle Seaman  
Todd & Sarah Senno  
David & Jane Shaw  
Nanette & Steven Sheerin  
Roy & Lydia Shubert  
Donald Smith  
Gerri Smith  
Michael & Megan Smith  
Craig & Amy Snodgrass  
Joseph & Kathryn Staudenmayer  
Jerry Steinberg  
Beverly Stevenson  
David & Susan Taylor  
Ronald & Norene Taylor  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Corinne Thompson  
Joseph & Suzanne Tibbels  
Daniel Topolski  
Angela Torban  
Michael & Kristina Van Name  
Bruce & Sharon Velzy  
Kathleen Veston  
Scott Wallace  
Carolyn Weeks  
Jackie Whitfield  
Joan Willett  
Cora & Elvy 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 2022, 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!

## **2022 BUDGET REPORT**

The budget approved by the vestry for 2023 shows an unusual negative balance of \$233,108; this gap will need to be filled by withdrawing funds from the Trinity endowment above and beyond the \$150,000 "budgeted distribution", or the withdrawal recommended by the endowment committee. The total draw of \$383,108 represents 13% of the projected endowment balance at the beginning of 2023.

**The vestry has grave concerns about the recent budget deficits which require us to draw large sums from the endowment to balance the budget.** While our Endowment Committee recommends a withdrawal rate of 6%, since 2017 the annual draws have ranged from 6% to 11% (with the exception of 2020, when the PPP grant from the US government helped cover our costs).

### **Income:**

Trinity's income comes primarily from pledge and plate donations (50%) and withdrawals from our endowment (42%). Smaller income sources are fundraisers and the preschool. Total income is budgeted to increase by \$19,602\*, but this is primarily due to a "stretch goal" to generate \$25,000 from fundraisers that have yet to be determined. Pledge income is budgeted to decrease by \$9,501 vs. 2022 actuals, but it could end up lower by an additional \$19,000 given the pledges made as of the end of 2022.

Trinity's congregation has been getting smaller each year. We have experienced the decline in church membership that most mainline Protestant churches have seen for many years, and the pandemic years have been particularly challenging. In 2020 we had 177 pledges vs. 122 for 2023; to have lost about 1/3 of the pledges in 3 years is devastating to our finances. Looking back 10 years, in 2013 we had 280 pledges. In last year's budget presentation we stated that we hoped the positive momentum our congregation was experiencing before the pandemic would return, and the vestry thought it premature to reduce our programs in the face of lower pledge income. However it is now clearer that the pandemic has severely changed church attendance, among many other aspects of society, and we don't know what "recovery" will look like and how long it will take.

Another income problem is that our income sources outside of pledge and plate are currently very limited. As promised last year, several vestry members did create a

committee to explore increasing sources of income, which began with the planned giving education effort. However, the vestry recognizes the need to do more, as explained below.

### **Expenses:**

Trinity's expenses are budgeted at \$920,123 for 2023. The major expense categories are staff (66%), diocesan assessment (11%), and property (13%). This is an increase of \$39,800\* vs. last year's actuals, or 4.6%, primarily due to cost-of-living increases for staff.

From 2016 through 2021, expenses only had modest annual changes of -2% to +3%, then in 2022 expenses increased by 20%. By 2022 we began to see the full impact of the changes in staff over the past several years. In 2020 and 2021 we had open positions and some staff working part-time as a result of the pandemic, so staffing expenses were lower than normal. Comparing 2019 and 2023 payroll expenses, we have increased by about \$42,000 *above the annual cost of living increases*, as a result of having to pay higher salaries and benefits to replace staff.

The question the Vestry is facing is whether, in the face of a smaller congregation size, we can continue to afford the full range of programs and staff we have had in the past.

### **The Vestry's plan:**

The vestry approved the 2023 budget with the provision that we collectively work to increase income from a variety of sources in 2023, and lay plans for substantial income growth in the coming years. As noted above, the budget includes a placeholder of \$25,000 in income from undetermined sources as a "call to action" for income growth. The Vestry has adopted a structured plan to investigate new income sources. The opportunities to increase income may include:

- Increased pledge and donation incomes (more members, more engaged members)
- More use of the buildings for revenue
- Substantial fundraisers, now that gatherings are not restricted by COVID
- Increasing income from the preschool

The vestry needs help from the entire congregation to enact plans to increase income in these areas. In February we will be creating workgroups for each of these areas, and if you have ideas or want to work on one of these teams, please talk to the wardens or members of the vestry. We'll need everyone to join in making the plans a reality, so please be ready to say yes when invited to take part, and volunteer if you see something you can help with and haven't been specifically asked.

Without substantial growth in income from pledges and other sources, Trinity will be facing the difficult question of how to reduce expenses in order to build a more balanced budget with sustainable draws on the endowment in the future.

The major controllable area of expense is staffing, but the majority of vestry members felt that we could not make staffing decisions through the budget review process in December that could be implemented in time to substantially change the 2023 budget. However, unless income trends reverse, we will have to consider changing or reducing programs and the related staff expense in preparation for the 2024 budget. The Vestry has a plan to evaluate options for and implications of reducing or revising those expenses, and may be able to begin adjustments this year if it becomes appropriate.

We will need the congregation to work together to make adjustments in our programs and support one another if we are forced to cut program and staffing expenses.

While all of this is likely to be a difficult and complex process for our congregation, we are planning for sustainable strength, and the process may lead us to new opportunities to grow.

*\* Note: These numbers exclude budget items that equal out between income and expenses, such as outreach, offerings directed to other organizations, and sabbatical grant and expenses.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Matthews  
Warden

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	2023 <u>BUDGET</u>	2022 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2022 <u>BUDGET</u>	2021 <u>ACTUAL</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
Pledges	\$410,000	\$415,457	\$460,000	\$461,728
Plate	54,000	58,044	52,000	56,389
Building Use	7,000	7,510	6,000	3,620
Christmas/Easter	8,000	6,987	10,000	5,905
Preschool allocated expense	15,000	12,000	12,000	11,000
Outreach Income	-	9,831	-	9,911
Budgeted Distribution from Endowment	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Special Offerings	-	10,078	-	11,606
Sabbatical Grant/PPP Grant	6,515	-	-	97,600
Other Income	36,500	10,900	15,500	10,728
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>687,015</u>	<u>680,807</u>	<u>705,500</u>	<u>818,487</u>
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>				
Worship	2,750	1,852	2,750	2,759
Music	31,262	29,969	31,262	16,854
Education and Spiritual Development	6,500	1,529	6,500	1,856
Outreach	-	9,831	-	9,911
Stewardship/Evangelism/Parish Life	4,000	413	4,000	457
Youth	4,000	1,966	4,000	842
Administration	33,400	34,812	33,400	26,244
Property	118,200	122,928	106,500	101,899
Capital Improvements	5,000	689	5,000	-
Diocesan Assessment	102,500	101,625	102,000	93,000
Salaries/Benefits/New Employee Expenses	605,996	578,027	606,223	483,393
Special Offerings Transmittal	-	10,078	-	11,606
Sabbatical Expenses	6,515	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>920,123</u>	<u>893,719</u>	<u>901,635</u>	<u>748,821</u>
<b>Net Loss before additional funding</b>	(233,108)	(212,912)	(196,135)	69,666
<b>Add'l Funding from Endowment for Operations</b>	233,108	212,912	196,135	27,934
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 97,600</u>

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND PROJECTS COMMITTEES

The Campaign for Trinity began gathering pledges in 2020, with some pledges extending over a 5-year period from 2021 to 2025. The total amount pledged is \$1.5 million.

Total Income Received as of 12/31/2022 \$781,595

Total Expenditures as of 12/31/2022 \$618,181

Expense categories:

Projects \$493,431

Fundraising \$107,750

Community Outreach Grants \$17,000

The capital projects committee has had a very busy year completing a number of projects to strengthen Trinity’s buildings and make our spaces more welcoming for all. We have four members of the congregation supervising projects (many thanks go to Don Smith, John Dighton, Chris Norris, and me), with additional input from other members of the property committee, the rector, and the vestry. While we celebrate the accomplishments, our experiences have taught us that almost every project takes longer than expected, and that many projects end up being more complicated than originally envisioned.

We are so thankful for the support of the capital campaign donors who are funding all of this important work. We appreciate the congregation and staff bearing with us during the long hot summer when we went without air conditioning for 8 weeks while waiting for the contractor to do their job. And we appreciate the congregation’s understanding when the accessible ramp into the church didn’t work out as planned and had to be rebuilt. The cost of reworking the ramp added about \$2,000 to the cost of that project, but the project was still significantly less expensive than the original planning estimate from 2020.

In order to provide a complete record of how the capital campaign funds are being spent, shown below are all of the projects completed to date and their costs. Also noted are the projects planned for 2023.

<b>2021</b>	<b>Cost this year</b>	<b>Status</b>
Fire-rated stairwell	\$46,542	Complete
Rebuild cloister garden walkway	\$11,671	Complete
Repairs to 212 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	\$36,623	Partial
Fundraising consultants and expenses	\$107,012	Complete

Cost estimator and property survey	\$13,518	Complete
<b>2022</b>	<b>Cost this year</b>	<b>Status</b>
Complete Repairs to 212 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	\$54,449	Complete; \$91,072 total
Replace air chillers (provides A/C to sanctuary)	\$123,195	Complete
Replace obsolete controller system for heat and A/C	\$18,500	Complete
Identify and address cause of water leaks in school building	\$86,620	Complete
Repair broken windows, and scrape and paint rusted frames throughout school building	\$4,000	Complete
Replace air conditioners and mounting units in preschool	\$10,802	Complete
Build accessible ramp into sanctuary	\$20,559	Partial; completed Jan. 2023
Renovate landscaping in front of church; replace landscape lighting & bluestone walkway	\$24,195	Complete
Refinish doors in sanctuary. Repair damaged door hinges and modify doors for fire safe exits in church	\$15,545	Complete
Deposits for Fire Alarm System & Sprinkler	\$25,808	Not complete
Architect and Engineering Fees	\$5,404	
Fundraising expenses	\$739	
Donation to Episcopal Community Services	\$17,000	
<b>2023 Plans</b>		
Finish accessible ramp into sanctuary		Expected completion by 1/29/2023
Create accessible seating in sanctuary		Completed Jan. 2023



Install fire suppression system under church

In planning phase

Upgrade fire alarm system throughout buildings

In planning phase

Begin design phase for Parish Hall renovations  
and accessibility

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Matthews

### **PROPERTY COMMISSION**

The Property Committee was concerned with our annual energy costs of \$40,000 and committed to an energy upgrade provided through PSE&G. We replaced 140 fluorescent light fixtures and countless light bulbs throughout our buildings with energy efficient LED fixtures and bulbs. Our gas operated steam boilers were replaced with 97% efficient gas operated hot water boilers. The entire cost of this project was \$315,785.31 and we received a grant from PSE&G for \$252,628.31; our portion of \$63,157.08 is financed by PSE&G for 60 months interest free and the estimated energy savings should cover most of our costs.

### **GARDEN ANGELS**

Change is sometimes very difficult, more so for some than others. The physical plant of Trinity Church is changing! From new walkways and landscaping to the not so visible heating and cooling. The gardens at Trinity are part of that change. Thanks to parishioner Cecilia Schmidt, a landscape architect, and the property committee, the new landscaping looks great while providing beauty and support of wildlife. As a Garden Angels we can facilitate and beautify the evolving new garden areas. We gather when we can to plant flowers, weed established perennial areas, and provide seasonal highlights.

The most recent pandemic has magnified the allure of outdoor activities such as gardening. As a potential volunteer you can take the enjoyment of horticulture and apply your skills to help keep Trinity Church looking great. Why not consider helping this worthwhile endeavor? We gather typically on a Saturday morning for an hour and intermittently when needed during the week when schedules permit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Chojnacki

---

## NECROLOGY

---

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

Dorothy Mary Connell  
Benjamin Davies  
Doreen Derlin  
Thomas Dodd  
Judith Williams Dorsey  
Edith Henderson  
Thomas Johnson  
Phillip B. Krejsa  
John "Dan" Pitman  
Henry "Hank" Rossell  
Richard Say  
Rachel Vojir  
Richard Vojir  
Eva Lotta Wolfe

*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*

\*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*

### HYMN 688

*Ein feste Burg*

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side,  
 do - us; we will not fear, for God hath willed  
 bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe  
 the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?  
 his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,  
 through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederic Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46. Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

## **THE VESTRY OF TRINITY CHURCH**

Elizabeth Louie (Warden)

Nancy Matthews (Warden)

John Bradley

Sally Campolucci

Audrey Henry

Kisha Mann

Christopher Norris

Amy Paglione

Don Smith

Jeff Wojcik

Lisa Yeh

## **TRINITY CHURCH STAFF**

The Reverend Emily A. Mellott, Rector

The Reverend Angela Cipolla, Associate Rector

Mr. Vernon H. Williams, Organist and Choirmaster

Mrs. Kate Stefanko, Office and Communications Manager

Mr. Kevin Moore, Sexton

Mrs. Geri Trost, Financial Administrator

Mrs. Christine Andonie, Sunday School Director

Mrs. Maris Williams, Director of Cherub and Carol Choirs

Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Preschool Director