

The 2023 Annual Report of Trinity Episcopal Church

Presented at the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

January 28, 2024: The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Psalm 133:1



Trinity Episcopal Church
organized 1872 in the Diocese of New Jersey

“To know Christ and to make the Lord known, with joy, faith and service.”

Annual Meeting Agenda for January 28, 2024	3
2023 Leadership	3
Ministry Index	4
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 22, 2023.....	5
Cumulative Record of Church Services in 2023	7
Rector	8
Senior Warden	9
Junior Warden	11
Acolytes.....	14
Altar Guild	14
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors	14
Music Ministry.....	15
Online Daily Offices	16
Online Compline	16
Ushers.....	16
Confirmation Class.....	17
Sunday School.....	17
Trinity Men’s Group	17
Trinity Women’s Group	18
Women’s Bible Study.....	18
Episcopal Church Women (ECW)	18
Fellowship Hours.....	18
Fellowship Luncheon	19
Outreach Committee	19
Ministry of Space	19
Ministry for the Imprisoned.....	20
Stephen Ministers	20
Land Acknowledgment	20
Counters	21
Stewardship Committee.....	21
Property and Finance Committee	21
Status of the 150 th Anniversary Societies	22
Trinity Church Endowment Fund	22
2024 Proposed Operating Budget.....	23
TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL.....	25
Summary of the 2023 TEDS Budget.....	26
NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES FOR VESTRY AND DELEGATES	27
THE LITURGY OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	30
Appendix: 150 th Anniversary Account.....	32

Annual Meeting Agenda for January 28, 2024

- Prayer for a Church Meeting
- Appointment of Secretary, Appointment of Ballot Counters
- Review and Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Review and Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda
- Presentation of Slate of Candidates by Casey Woodruff, Chair of the Nominating Committee
- Elections
- Address of Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden
- Address of Thomas Kaercher, Junior Warden
- Address of Rev. Andrew Kruger, Rector
- Review of Fiscal Year 2023 and Presentation of the 2024 Annual Budget by Dave Roberts, Treasurer
- Address of Nancy Ditzel, TEDS Director
- Declaration of Polls Closed and Election Results
- Commissioning of 2024 Junior Warden & Vestry, Diocesan Convention & Northern Convocation Delegates
- Announcements, Acknowledgements & Adjournment
- Blessing and Dismissal

2023 Leadership

STAFF

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| • Rector | The Rev. Andrew David Kruger |
| • Director of Music & Organist | Anthony Joel Rafaniello |
| • Office Manager | Marion Nechuta |
| • Parish Financial Administrator | Linda I. Kurdilla |
| • 150 th Anniversary Treasurer | Mary Testori |
| • Verger | Anthony Francis Vitale |
| • Sunday School Coordinators | Kate DiFonzo, Marion Nechuta & Jennifer Cammarota |
| • Archivist & House Control | Nancy Noonan |

VESTRY LEADERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Senior Warden | Casey Jonathan Woodruff (2023–2024) |
| • Junior Warden | Thomas A. Kaercher (2022–2023) |
| • Clerk of the Vestry | Peter Waldron |

VESTRY MEMBERS

2023-2025	2022-2024	2021-2023
Dr. Kathleen Annarelli	Gerry Caprario	Dr. Patrick Milas
David L. Burnett	Kate DiFonzo	Mike Junod
Jim Willix	Holly Ives	Peter Waldron

VESTRY APPOINTMENTS

Financial Secretary	Carol Beier (appointed December 2022)
Treasurer	David Roberts

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Delegates	Gerry Caprario, Bernhard Kolbe, Marion Nechuta
Alternates	Carol Beier, Holly Ives, Tony Vitale

NORTHERN CONVOCATION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Delegates	Vicki Cooney, Gwenn Cuozzo, Marion Nechuta, Dr. Beth Rees, Jim Willix, Stephanie Willix
Alternates	Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Ralph Bianchini, Susan Caldwell Nelson, Tony Vitale

Ministry Index

Ministry/Committee	Reason to Join	Contact Person & Number
Trinity Men's Group	Come and enjoy fellowship and discussion around the Word	Terry Nechuta 908-956-5848
Women's Bible Study	Come and experience friendship with God and one another	Nancy Miller 908-233-9707
Trinity Women's Group	Read, discuss and inwardly digest the Scriptures in fellowship with other women	Carol Beier 908-578-3473
Stephen Ministry	Invite a Stephen Minister to join you on your journey	Fr Andy Kruger 609-933-5227
Episcopal Church Women (ECW)	Fellowship with other women from Trinity and support various church functions and causes	Holly Ives 908-277-2821 Doreen Taylor 908-313-8829
Sunday School Class	Planting the seeds of Faith in the lives of our young people	Kate DiFonzo 973-896-4805 Jennifer Cammarota 908-499-6325
Confirmation Class	A safe space for the young people of our parish to ask explore the hard questions of the Faith	Marion Nechuta 908-451-4498 John Beier 908-578-9799
Outreach	We are Christ's hands and feet; and eyes and ears	Marion Nechuta 908-451-4498
Choir & Handbells	"Those who sing, pray twice." – St. Augustine	Anthony Rafaniello 860-205-7143
Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Administer the Chalice of life & bring the Scriptures to life	Bonnie Gentesse 908-377-4344
Ushers	The front line of welcoming at Trinity.	Heather Burnett 973-495-2535 Dave Burnett 908-591-2331
Acolytes	Lift High the Cross & Shine the Light of Christ	Fr. Andy Kruger 609-933-5227
Altar Guild	Work behind the scenes for God's greater glory	Carol Beier 908-578-3473
Building and Grounds	Help maintain the beauty and functionality of our inheritance	Tom Kaercher 908-591-0962 John Zebrowski 908-358-4254
Stewardship Committee	Stewardship is the privilege and cost of discipleship	Peter Waldron 908-917-0298
Counters	Ensure accurately recorded giving	Marion Nechuta 908-451-4498
Fellowship Luncheon	Join us for Feasting and Fellowship and interesting speakers	Susan Olszewski 908-591-5370 Tom Kaercher 908-591-0962 Bonnie Gentesse 908-377-4344
Fellowship Coffee Hour	Our Sunday worship is incomplete without true fellowship	Marion Nechuta 908-451-4498 Holly Ives 908-277-2821 Susan Olszewski 908-591-5370
Ministry of the Imprisoned	Minister to those who are incarcerated and discover that you are serving Christ himself	Casey Woodruff 908-868-4915
Junior Youth Group	Connect with young people from Episcopal Churches in our area	Kate DiFonzo 973-896-4805 Fr. Andy Kruger 609-933-5227
Land Acknowledgement	Explore the history of the land on which we worship	Fr. Andy Kruger 609-933-5227
TEDS	Strengthen the ties between church and school	Nancy Ditzel 908-295-6204

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 22, 2023

1-Prayer for a Church Meeting Fr. Andy Kruger began the meeting with a prayer at 11:42 AM.

2-Appointment of Secretary, Appointment of Ballot Counters

Fr. Andy appointed Linda I. Kurdilla as Secretary, and Susan Olszewski and Irene Telerico as Ballot Counters.

3-Review and Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Nancy Ditzel made a motion to approve; Dave Burnett seconded; unanimously approved.

4-Review and Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

Stephanie Willix made a motion to approve; Dave Burnett seconded; unanimously approved.

5-Presentation of Slate of Candidates (Amanda Sommers Guerrasio, Nominating Committee member)

- Amanda (substituting for Tom Kaercher) presented the names of those running.
- Sr. Warden: no nominations from the floor. Casey Woodruff proposed by the committee; elected by acclamation.
- Diocese Convention Delegates/Alternates and Northern Convocation delegates/alternates: no discussion and no nominations from the floor; elected by acclamation.

Diocesan Convention

- Delegates: Gerry Caprario, Bernhard Kolbe, Marion Nechuta
- Alternates: Carol Beier, Holly Ives, Tony Vitale

Northern Convocation

- Delegates: Vicki Cooney, Gwenn Cuozzo, Marion Nechuta, Dr. Beth Rees, Jim Willix, Stephanie Willix
- Alternates: Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Ralph Bianchini, Susan Caldwell Nelson, Tony Vitale

6-Address of John Beier, Sr. Warden

- Thanked everyone for their support over the last 4 years.
- Challenges; rely on parish.
- Good position today: balanced budget proposed.
- Look to the future.
- And support one another and the parish.

7-Address of Dave Burnett, 150th Anniversary Committee Chair

- Privileged to chair the 150th Anniversary Committee
- History book was a labor of love
- Thanked each committee chair by name.
- Thanks for making the church what it is today.

8-Address of Tom Kaercher, Junior Warden (presented in absentia by the rector)

- Fr. Andy thanked Tom Kaercher for all he does with the buildings and for being proactive.
- And also thanked to Ray Berry and John Zebrowski who do so much for the church.

9-Address of Rev'd Andrew Kruger, Rector

Emphasized the growing Eucharistic and Baptismal identity of the parish as an excellent foundation from which to explore Sabbath which will be the focus of the next several years.

Thanks were extended to:

- Tony Vitale for annual report and weekly bulletins.
- Anthony Rafaniello for all choirs and chairing staff meetings while rector awaited his green card early in the year.
- Marion Nechuta (and team today) for keeping office organized.
- Dr. Beth Rees who created the logo whilst on Vestry and for serving as Sunday School co-superintendent.
- Bob Vogel who finished his 1-year term on the Vestry.
- Nancy Ditzel as TEDS Director.
- Dave Burnett as Chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee
- Linda Kurdilla as her last year as Clerk of the Vestry and Vestry member
- John Beier for his 4 years as Sr. Warden.

10-Review of Fiscal Year 2022 and Presentation of the 2023 Annual Budget by the Property & Finance Committee

- John Beier presented the balanced budget for 2023 which was unanimously approved.

11-Address of Nancy Ditzel, TEDS Director

- 2022-2023 year: 116 children in daytime, 42 children in aftercare. The numbers predicted for 2023-2024 year: 90 children in daytime; 56 children in aftercare.
- Had an Open House last week in December 2022.
- Good year financially and were able to buy a new bus.
- Thanks to John Witherington with his help for the trash and thanks to John Zebrowski and Ray Berry for their help keeping TEDS running smoothly.
- Value the good relationship between church and school.
- Nancy thanked the Board of Directors and the support of the Vestry and Trinity Church.

12-Declaration of Polls Closed and Election Results

- 12:25 PM: A motion was made by Stephanie Willix to declare the polls closed, seconded by Sophie Beier.
- New vestry members elected for 3 year terms (2023-2025): Dr. Kathleen Annarelli, Jim, Willix and Dave Burnett.

13-Commissioning of 2023 Warden & Vestry, Diocesan Convention & Northern Convocation Delegates

- Fr. Andy gave the Examination to all new members.
- Linda Kurdilla presented the new members for commissioning:

14-Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Fr. Andy reviewed the 150th Anniversary Ministries:

- Organ ministry: money received to cover work.
- Vestments: almost done
- Buildings: review again to prioritize
- Outreach: – ERD – Need \$3-4,000 [*Does the Outreach Committee need it to donate to ERD? -ed.*]
- Trees: trees are physically in but the cost has not been covered yet

15-Blessing and Dismissal Time ended: 12:45 PM

2023 Annual Parish Meeting Attendees

Kathleen Annarelli	Fran Witherington	Piper Ross Ferriter	Summer Conceicao
Antonio DiFonzo	Carolyn Dittmar	Patrick Milas	Nancy Noonan
Christy Barone	Denise Alvarez	Hannah Barone	Gwenn Cuzzo
Susan Olszewski	Ralph Bianchini	Richard Poland	John Witherington
Doreen Taylor	Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini	Kate DiFonzo	Victoria Cooney
Joann Breuer	Peter Waldron	David Burnett	Stacey Cooney
Edward Tyjewski	Daniel Rivera	Mary Ellinger	Mary Testori
Gerardo Caprario	Anthony Rafaniello	Anthony F. Vitale	John Beier
Cincy Concannon	Bonnie Gentesse	Robert Vogel	Carol Beier
Ray Berry	Ruth Uhde	Nancy Vogel	Amanda Somers Guerrasio
Nancy Ditzel	Mary Cheress	Cynthia Kolby	Alan Force
James Willix	Irene Telerico	Marion Nechuta	Marilyn Force
Stephanie Willix	Linda I. Kurdilla	Maureen Frydlewicz	Ron DeVelde
	Casey Woodruff	Holly Ives	

Cumulative Record of Church Services in 2023

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MONTHLY SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	516	364	676	826	632	454	329	284	403	553	544	799	
YEAR TO DATE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	516	880	1556	2382	3014	3468	3797	4081	4484	5037	5581	6380	6380
MONTHLY AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	103	110	169	165	158	114	82	71	101	111	136	160	
YEAR TO DATE AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	103	91	120	132	137	133	122	117	115	114	116	120	120
# OF SUNDAY SERVICES	9	8	8	8	10	7	8	4	6	10	8	8	
TOTAL SUNDAY SERVICES	9	17	25	34	42	49	57	61	67	77	85	93	93
WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
TOTAL WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	7	8	9	9
DAILY OFFICE SERVICES	50	48	64	47	53	50	46	51	50	52	53	46	
TOTAL DAILY OFFICE SERVICES	50	98	152	199	252	302	348	399	449	501	554	600	600
OTHER SERVICES ATTENDANCE	588	966	669	805	632	517	440	597	484	622	738	441	
TOTAL ATTENDANCE, OTHER SERVICES	588	1554	2223	3028	3666	4183	4623	5220	5704	6326	7064	7505	7505
BURIALS & MEMORIALS	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	8
BAPTISMS	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
MARRIAGES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SUNDAY OFFICE	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	52
CONFIRMED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RECEIVED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rector
Rev. Andrew David Kruger

No annual report can effectively communicate everything a parish does within a year. There are countless acts of ministry that go unnoticed, and many efforts that fail to receive thanks. Suffice it to say, I am grateful for every member of our church who works to make Trinity so vibrant and healthy. The Book of Common Prayer defines the mission of the Church as restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Catechism goes on to assert that this mission is pursued by prayer, worship, Gospel proclamation, and the promotion of justice, peace and love. Our shorthand for this at Trinity is, “To know Christ, and to make the Lord known with joy, faith and service.” An annual report is an opportunity for us to pause and assess how we are doing with living into our stated mission. Thus, it will be both helpful and instructive to read the entirety of these reports with our mission statement in the forefront of our minds as a constructively critical ‘lens.’

Average Sunday Attendance

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
85	102	103	114	86	81	106	120

Eucharistic worship is *par excellence* the way in which we come to know Christ and to make the Lord known. It is therefore most appropriate that the Sunday eucharist receives our best energies and generates our most engaged participation. The bump in our average Sunday attendance (see above) is a good sign of Trinity’s dedication to authentic and excellent eucharistic worship bearing fruit. Obviously, Sunday worship does not happen in a vacuum – it requires skilled and dedicated leaders at every level.

Our diocese has undergone significant and smooth leadership transition with the election of our new bishop, The Rt. Rev. Sally French, who was elected to be 13th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey on January 28, 2023. Bishop French has set about improving diocesan structure and organization with her characteristically clear and transparent style of episcopacy.

Our parish is blessed with extraordinarily dedicated and faithful wardens. Casey Woodruff’s legal skills and theological background continue to be of tremendous value in reviewing our parish insurance and enriching our sabbatical journey. Thomas Kaercher continues to spearhead extensive building and campus upgrades, both planned and emergent, which will serve the parish for generations to come. The Vestry, supported by the Property and Finance Committee, have proved to be both wise and courageous stewards of Trinity’s financial resources, neither shying away from spending money to secure a vibrant future for the parish, nor spending our savings frivolously. With the dissolution of the 150th Anniversary Committee at the end of 2022, the fund-raising societies are now managed and overseen by the Vestry and Property and Finance Committee. It is a great joy to see these societies making a difference in our worship with the installation of the festival trumpets and the new choir robes this past year.

We, as a parish, are exceptionally blessed with professional and volunteer staff members. Anthony Rafaniello’s gifts of worship and music, Marion Nechuta’s gifts of service and organization, and Tony Vitale’s gifts of faith and word processing all coalesce every week at our Wednesday staff meeting promoting excellence in worship and vitality in parish life. Carol Beier, Linda I. Kurdilla, Peter Waldron, Dave Roberts and Mary Testori work tirelessly to ensure that all matters financial are handled with confidentiality, accuracy, and timeliness. Without their work and commitment our ability to do ministry efficiently would be severely hampered.

Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS) is our biggest and most complex outreach ministry, and Nancy Ditzel's leadership in this endeavor remains steadfast, versatile and efficient. The promotion of Shanequa Ely (formerly a TEDS teacher) to Curriculum Coordinator has been a particularly positive leadership development. Her creativity, collegiality, and dedication to TEDS has been both a great support to Nancy and has enriched the school overall. I'm grateful to the Board of Directors who give of their time and expertise to ensure the flourishing of TEDS. The weekly prayer services, which I lead for staff and students, afford us unique opportunities to make Christ known in our community.

There are many leaders who ensure that Trinity is a place where Christian service and formation happens, yet another way of speaking about knowing Christ, and making the Lord known. Trinity is truly a place where the 'priesthood of all believers' is taken seriously as witnessed by the lay leaders who volunteer to lead Sunday school, Confirmation, bible study, and outreach projects to name but a few. Since growth in our ministry to young people has been prioritized by the Vestry many times in the past several years, it was particularly heartening to see the beginnings of a junior youth group forming this past year. This joint venture between the parishes of Trinity, St Paul's, All Saints and Holy Cross is one that I hope it will continue to grow in the future.

Having read the entirety of the reports this year, I am staggered by the breadth and depth of all that we do here at Trinity. It is entirely appropriate for us to join in celebration with the Psalmist and sing, "Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation" [*Psalm 111:1*]. There is indeed much to give thanks for, and I do not want to understate this reality; however, the temptation to be diverted or distracted from our primary purpose is ever present, and the need for divine light and vigilance is vitally important. The preparations we are making for my sabbatical, and the plans for the parish's sabbatical are providing opportunities to take seriously our interior lives and the undergirding culture of our parish. I am very grateful to the Sabbatical Committee for leading us in this work of pausing to look below the surface in order to propel us into a richer and more focused personal and corporate spiritual life. Amen.

Senior Warden Casey Woodruff

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I want to start out by thanking my Trinity family for entrusting me with the responsibilities of Senior Warden. I like to say that Trinity is a "special place." It is an honor to serve as Senior Warden of this special place, where my sons and I are so deeply fed in so many ways.

The reason Trinity is such a special place is because we have so many amazing people doing so many amazing things to advance God's Kingdom. While there are far, far too many to mention individually, several deserve special thanks. Dave Roberts brings not only a wealth of financial knowledge to his role as Treasurer (pardon the pun), but also great practicality, and a deep love for Trinity: we are blessed by his long-standing service.

Marion Nechuta wears too many hats to mention, but the time she spends in the office handling administrative matters is a gift to Father Andy, to the Wardens and Vestry, and to all of us. Tony Vitale works behind the scenes tirelessly (if you've gotten his 3 AM emails, you know!), and as a result we enjoy beautiful Sunday service bulletins that greatly enhance our worship. And of course, our perhaps biggest outreach effort – Trinity Episcopal Day School – opens its doors to the greater community five days a week. Sitting on the TEDS board allows me to see Nancy Ditzel in action. TEDS would not remotely be what it is without Nancy's capable leadership.

In his Senior Warden report for last year's Annual Meeting, John Beier wrote: "Our Junior Warden, Tom Kaercher, has been a dynamo of activity." The Junior Warden is traditionally responsible for building and grounds issues, and last year Tom tackled an incredible number of projects in those areas, both planned and emergent, that were significant in both scope and importance. Tom is thorough and knowledgeable in so many ways. The work on our campus that Tom oversaw in 2023 will benefit Trinity for years, if not generations, to come.

If ever you forget what a gift our Music Director Anthony Rafaniello is, you need only attend any other church to see how lucky we are to have a musician and a teacher of his caliber. The growth and musical strength of both the adult and children's choirs are a testament to the excellence Anthony brings to everything he touches, and to his character as a devout Christian.

And then there is Father Andy. I know that each of us can point to any number of things that we love about him: his preaching; his liturgical knowledge; his pastoral care; his quirky South African phrases; his friendship. I am so glad that he, Heather, and Edward have made a home here. By now, you will have heard about Father Andy's upcoming sabbatical in the summer of 2025. And you may be experiencing some quite-natural concern about it.

Please know that the Vestry and, more specifically, the Sabbatical Committee, have been working for many months on extensive plans for Father Andy's sabbatical. We are very happy that Father Jack Zamboni (former rector of St. Francis, Dunellen) has agreed to serve as our supply priest during that time. Many of you know Father Jack, and I am confident that we will all be excited and renewed by his deep spirituality. In addition, many other preparations are underway to ensure that our communal life as a parish family not only continues but thrives.

Sabbatical is a time of refreshment and renewal: not just for Father Andy, but for Trinity Church, as well. At its annual retreat last August, the Vestry spent more time than at past retreats in silence, prayer, and contemplation. We listened for where God was calling us, as individuals and as a congregation. We tried to discern our deepest desires for Trinity, and to find that which makes our collective heart sing.

That process continues, as you heard at the recent sabbatical forums, with the full involvement of the congregation. I hope that you are as excited as I am by the unique opportunities that sabbatical offers, and that you find ways to connect more deeply with Trinity, whether by entering into new worship, service, or leadership opportunities.

Much was accomplished in 2023: glorious organ trumpets; a long-overdue junior youth group; weekly Sunday night candle-lit Compline; an updated AED/defibrillator training; an extensive insurance policy review; festive fellowship events; generous outreach programs; and so much more.

And I am confident that with all the amazing people here at this special place we call Trinity, we can continue to accomplish even more in the years to come. I am equally confident that we will find this time of sabbatical to be for us a time of refreshment, of renewal, and of drawing into deeper connection with God, with ourselves, with each other, with "the other," and with all of creation.

Junior Warden

Thomas A. Kaercher

I have been honored to serve as Trinity's Junior Warden. I am extremely grateful to the many people who have done so much to help me do this job. Chief among them are Ray Berry and John Zebrowski, who are the most knowledgeable people about our buildings and their condition, and have, for several years, been giving generously of their time and talents to maintain them. They have both been very gracious in supporting me as I managed various building and grounds issues. Their expertise is invaluable and I consult with them on every major issue that comes up. They both take the initiative to complete maintenance and repairs that need to be done, sometimes in emergencies. Frequently they will let me know that there was a problem that they diagnosed and repaired. It makes my job very easy. In addition, both John and Ray have made time to come meet with the architect, contractors, and inspectors to discuss and follow-up on work projects and also to review and provide input on estimates and proposals for major projects. Their work projects are listed below.

There are several other people who have done a lot to help with the buildings and grounds. Thanks to Anthony Lagarra who works alongside John most Thursday mornings during the year to do minor repairs and routine maintenance. Marion Nechuta, who volunteers as office manager and is involved in so many ministries at Trinity has helped me so much. She has opened up the buildings for contractors and waited for them to finish their work and alerted me about issues that I need to take care of. Linda Kurdilla pays all the bills for our vendors and contractors and alerts me about any questionable building-related bills. Thanks also to Nancy Noonan, who manages our hall rentals and Trinity's relationship with the Health Department. She led the effort to clean the kitchen and resolve the outstanding inspection items enabling the kitchen to pass the Health Department inspection. Nancy Ditzel kindly alerted me to issues in TEDS that need to be addressed and let me take contractors through TEDS to obtain quotes and to schedule repairs. Thanks also to Father Andy, Casey Woodruff, the Vestry, and the Property & Finance Committee for their support and counsel on the many projects we have taken on this year. Thanks also to Sydney O'Hagan, my predecessor, for leaving me a vendor contact list and always finding time to take my calls and answer my questions. I also give special thanks to Calvin Woodruff, who chose to dedicate his Eagle Scout project, installing a split-rail fence, as a lasting improvement to Trinity. The new fence will help keep young children safe while they play in the area between TEDS and the Rectory. Lastly, I thank all of you for your generous financial support to Trinity, which has made my job much easier because, when issues have come up, we have had the money to take care of them.

2023 Building and Grounds Ministry Project Summary List

The following list is a summary of all of the building & grounds projects and repairs I am aware of. (It probably isn't complete because frequently Ray, John, and Anthony take care of issues as they come up and let me know later). It is impossible to calculate the thousands of dollars they have saved Trinity by not having to hire contractors to do the work they have done.

John and Anthony did a total of approximately 185 work hours provided over 39 site visits in 2023 resulted in the following:

- HVAC filter changes - 24
- Air conditioning units covered/uncovered/window AC's in/out - 17 events
- Church downlights & body lights replaced - 11 & 6 respectively
- Church/Sherlock/Witherington/TEDS door repairs - 8
- TEDS Exterior door refinishing - 1
- Church gutters cleaned - 2 times
- Church pews anchored to floor
- Bleach/scrub portions of church exterior
- Holly tree Christmas lighting & removal
- Exit light battery changes - 9

- Replacing stage lights - 4
- Camera sign installation - 8
- Witherington piano pedals lubricated
- TEDS ceiling tiles replaced - 31
- TEDS floor tile repaired - 5
- Demolitioned abandoned men's room & closet under stage
- Replaced electric hand dryer with paper dispenser in Witherington men's room
- Cut seagrass, planted 3 trees & trimmed bushes
- Repaired the lock on Father Andy's office door
- Gathered estimates, prepared contractor recommendation for Vestry, and oversaw the work to redirect the Sherlock Hall sump pump discharge pipe
- Painted the masonry repairs to the Sherlock and Witherington Hall foundations
- Oversaw the TEDS asbestos review
- Created two new window locks for TEDS
- Procured and installed an exterior drain cover

In addition, Ray Berry did the following work items in 2023

- Repaired the wooden dedication sign for the Sherlock Hall kitchen
- Replaced hot water faucet in the Witherington Hall bathroom
- Repaired, then replaced the lockset on the Sherlock Hall bathroom
- Fixed the stationery door in TEDS
- Repaired the railing on the back porch of 215 North Avenue rental property
- Traced non-working exit lights in Sherlock Hall to a circuit breaker that had been turned off
- Sprayed weed killer in the Memorial Garden to maintain weed control
- Evaluated electrical problems in the Rectory and determined an electrician was needed to make repairs
- Repaired two table legs in Sherlock Hall
- Repaired church pew torches and corrected poorly installed torch brackets on the pews
- Performed Spring start-up and Fall shutdown of the Memorial Garden sprinkler system
- Replaced two sprinkler heads and rebuilt the sprinkler control for the Memorial Garden sprinkler system
- Corrected a problem with the railing outside the North Avenue fire exit from the Sherlock and Witherington Hall foyer so the door will open easily without any obstructions
- Repaired one of the high altar candlesticks
- Vacuumed out sewer water from the Witherington Hall basement after the sewer line back-up and informed the contractors about an underground oil tank in the path of the new sewer line
- Gathered and disposed of three full garbage cans of black walnut seed balls from the Memorial Garden
- Opened and closed the Memorial Garden for ash interments during the year

In addition, here is a list of other projects completed in 2023

- New roofs, gutters, and gutter screens were put on Sherlock Hall, Witherington Hall and 215 North Avenue including a 40-year manufacturer's extended warranty
- Cleaned Rectory gutters and installed gutter screens
- Repaired and repainted ceilings in rector's office and the Guild Room after the Witherington Hall roof was replaced
- Removed and replaced the Rectory's west-facing foundation exterior covering
- Patched and repaired exterior foundation problems on Sherlock and Witherington Halls

- Negotiated a new lease with the tenants at 215 North Avenue, increasing rent by \$100/month bringing the rent to \$3,100/month or \$37,200/yr.
- Replaced all the lighting fixtures in the TEDS hallways and classrooms, replaced all the bulbs in the church chandelier uplights and round flush-mount fixtures, and replaced most of the 1'x4' ceiling fixtures in Witherington Hall and the Sherlock Hall kitchen as part of the campus-wide LED lighting upgrade.
- Power-washed the church exterior walls
- Engaged Monmouth Heating and Plumbing to do seasonal HVAC maintenance and repairs on the church, TEDS, Sherlock and Witherington Halls, and the Rectory.
- Engaged Baker Bros. to do lawn maintenance, snow removal, and Spring and Fall clean-up
- Purchased a new microwave for the Rectory
- Had Able Electric repair some electrical problems in the Rectory and install a new LED ceiling fixture
- Contacted five contractors to solicit bids for the 150th Anniversary project of installing a new door and ramp between Sherlock Hall and the TEDS playground and refurbishing the Sherlock Hall rest rooms; we received two proposals
- Solicited an estimate for tree work to remove the Centennial Ash on North Ave, a mulberry tree at the Rectory, the black walnut tree in the Memorial Garden, removing three other trees behind the shed and Rectory back fence, and trimming four other trees around the campus
- Engaged Reynold's Plumbing to resolve a sanitary sewer back-up in the Witherington Hall basement which ended up requiring installation of a new sewer-line from Witherington Hall to the sewer main in Hamilton Avenue
- The Peregallo Pipe Organ Company installed 49 new organ trumpets as part of the 150th Anniversary Worship Society.

2024 Plans

2024 got off to a big start with the completion of the tree work project. Ultimately, we had five major trees removed, two scrub trees removed, three trees trimmed and all tree stumps ground down to prepare the areas for planting.

Looking ahead to additional Building & Grounds projects for 2024, it is difficult to know exactly what lies ahead because we don't know what emergencies will arise during the year. I can say with a fair degree of certainty that we will do this:

- Complete the rest of the Campus-wide LED lighting upgrade which will replace all fixtures on the main floors of TEDS, Sherlock and Witherington Halls and the exterior doorway fixtures in Sherlock and Witherington Halls; the project has been held up waiting for delivery of the new exterior fixtures.
- Install the new doorway between Sherlock Hall and the TEDS playground and refurbishing the Sherlock Hall bathrooms; construction plans to be completed sometime during the summer, working around TEDS' Summer camp.
- Regrade and resurface the parking lot behind the church. John Zebrowski has developed a plan to both improve the drainage off the lot and to better protect the parking lot surface. We have met with the Cranford Township Engineers to coordinate our planning for the parking lot with their plans to resurface and improve the drainage on Hamilton Avenue.
- Paul Trader, a parishioner & trained horticulturist, offered to create a landscaping plan which will both beautify the campus and make it more eco-friendly. It will be reviewed by the Vestry and, as funds allow, will be implemented.
- Aside from those, we will look to do additional capital improvement projects as money allows.

Thank you again for giving me the honor of serving as Junior Warden. We are all so blessed that for 150 years former parishioners have built, maintained, and cared for our buildings and grounds so they are here for us today. Those of us in the Building & Grounds Ministry are dedicated to ensuring they are here for generations to come. I invite anyone who has the time to come and help maintain our buildings & grounds. It is very rewarding and we can always use the help.

WORSHIP

Acolytes

Coordinator: Rev. Andrew Kruger

The Acolyte Ministry was strengthened in 2023 by further training and especially by the implementation of a new system of rotating acolyte teams. There are three teams of three acolytes each, as follows:

- Team 1: Emma Willix, Leo DiFonzo, and Michael DiFonzo
- Team 2: Kate O'Hagan, Eliza Rivera, and Jane O'Hagan
- Team 4: Sarah Burnett, Aiden Hosler, and Jackson Hosler

Team 1 is assigned to the first Sunday of the month, team 2 to the second Sunday of the month, and team 4 to the fourth Sunday of the month. The third Sunday is typically a children's service and any acolyte that is not in the children's choir may arrive early and acolyte. In the same way, when there is a fifth Sunday of the month any of the children may acolyte.

Several Acolytes who are of Sunday school age, or who have offered to be youth assistants, have been encouraged to acolyte for the entrance procession, then go to Sunday school with the other students, and return to acolyte for the concluding procession. This system seems to be working well with better clarity for parents and better participation from acolytes.

Altar Guild

Coordinator: Carol Beier

The Altar Guild prepares the church for the weekly celebration of the Eucharist, as well as for holy days, weddings, and funerals. It also cares for the altar linens, vestments, vessels, and candles. When one walks into the church and see the colors of the altar hangings, the light of the candles and the gleaming brass, that's all the work of the Altar Guild. Altar Guild members cherish the time spent in quiet reverence and in fellowship, preparing and beautifying the church for worship. It is particularly moving when families with children work together. Typically, the Altar Guild works together after the services setting up for the next week. New members are always welcome to join the team. To experience the joy of serving God in beauty, dignity, and reverence, please contact Carol Beier (908-272-7491 or jcsbeier@verizon.net).

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

Coordinator: Bonnie Gentesse

Trinity offers opportunities for parishioners to be involved in the Liturgy by participation as Lectors (reading the lessons and praying the Prayers of the People), Eucharistic Ministers (assisting the Rector during the worship service) and Eucharistic Visitors (who bring Communion to the sick or homebound). They are licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese. All are welcome to join this Ministry.

Lectors: Cynthia Kolby, Toru Ishiyama, Maureen & Darrell Frydlewicz, Sarah & Dave Burnett, Bonnie Gentesse, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olszewski, Marion & Terry Nechuta, Bernard Kolbe, Christy Barone, Dan Rivera, Cindy & Tom Concannon, Carol & John Beier, Catherine Strawder, Heather Prince-Kruger, Linda I. Kurdilla, Casey Woodruff, Peter Waldron, Mary Testori, George Surles Jr., Mary Cheress, Joseph Erdody, Cheryl Pantina, Piper Ross Ferriter, Tony Vitale, Beth Rees, Joanna Li, Dan Lack, Denise Alvarez Behnke, Laszlo Arvai, Dave McFall, and Brandon Frumolt & Samantha Kaplan.

Junior Readers: Eliza Rivera, Matthew Rivera, Emma Willix, Calvin Woodruff, Michael DiFonzo, Aiden Hosler, Katherine O'Hagan and Jane O'Hagan.

Eucharistic Ministers: Cynthia Kolby, Tom Kaercher, Mary Testori, Bonnie Gentesse, Bernhard Kolbe, Dan Riveria, Dave Burnett, Christy Barone, Stephanie Willix, Carol Beier, Dan Tobia, Karen Lack, Joe Erdody, and Casey Woodruff.

Eucharistic Visitors: Tom Kaercher, Cheryl Pantina, Stephanie Willix, Casey Woodruff, and Bonnie Gentesse.

Lector/LEM Advent Dinner: Paused during Covid, the tenth dinner in the series was resumed on Friday, December 8, 2023 and co-chaired by Stephannie Willix. 31 attendees enjoyed good food and fellowship. Proceeds of \$150 went to the Trinity Scholarship Fund.

Music Ministry

Anthony J. Rafaniello, Director of Music & Organist

*Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvelous works. [Psalm 105:1-2]*

Trinity's Music Ministry continued to flourish and grow in 2023. The bedrock of our music program is the Trinity Adult Choir, which sings faithfully at the 10 AM service during the academic year. The commitment and dedication each singer demonstrates in their service through music is praiseworthy, and uplifts the entire parish. The choir has learned a number of new anthems over the past year and continues to rise to the new musical challenges presented to them. Singers in 2023 included Denise Alvarez, Laszlo Arvai, Abigail Behnke, John Beier, Sophie Beier, Joyce Cieslak, Cindy Concannon, Carolyn Dittmar, Brandon Frumolt, Vicki Goralski, Samantha Kaplan, Thomas Kaercher, David McFall, Mary Beth McFall, Terry Nechuta, Scott Nelson, Ellen Temple, and John Zebrowski.

The Trinity Handbell Choir presented music throughout 2023, including on Easter, Ascension Day, and Trinity Sunday. Handbell ringers included Denise Alvarez, Christy Barone, John Beier, Sophie Beier, Madeleine Brennan, Carolyn Dittmar, Michelle Freeland, Maureen Frydlewicz, Thomas Kaercher, Amy Robinson, Luke Robinson, and Fran Witherington.

After restarting in the fall of 2022, the Trinity Children's Choir continued in 2023, providing an opportunity for the children of the parish to actively participate in the liturgy and raise their voices together in song. The Children's Choir sings at the Intergenerational Service on the third Sunday of the month during the academic year. Choristers: Henry DeVelde, Antonio DiFonzo, Leo DiFonzo, Michael DiFonzo, Jane O'Hagan, Katherine O'Hagan, Dylan Rees, Eliza Rivera, Sophie Strawder, Tristan Strawder, and Emma Willix. Special thanks to Tony Vitale, along with a rotating group of Cranford High School choir students who have been assisting with the Children's Choir during the past year. Consider joining the music ministry in 2024:

- The Trinity Handbell Choir meets on Wednesdays, 7-7:50 PM in the church.
- The Trinity Adult Choir meets on Wednesdays, 8-9 PM in the church.
- The Trinity Children's Choir meets on Sundays, 11:30 AM-12 PM in the church.

We continue to present unique worship opportunities through the use of Taizé chant. Two such services occurred in 2023, one for the Feast of the Presentation on February 2, and another on the First Sunday of Advent on December 1. Special thanks to instrumentalists Cynthia Kolby on flute and Calvin Woodruff on alto saxophone, and to vocal soloists Brandon Frumolt and Samantha Kaplan for their musical contributions to those services. Trinity also continues to host musical events for the greater Cranford community, including performances of the Cranford High School Madrigal Choir, in June and December. More musical events and concerts are being planned for 2024.

The two major projects from the parish's 150th anniversary fundraising efforts, which supported the music ministry, came to fruition. First, over the summer, new choir robes were purchased to replace the old robes, which were nearly 25 years old.

Second, in December, we welcomed a resounding addition to the organ with the installation of the Festival Trumpet en Chamade. The craftsmen from the Peragallo Organ Company installed the pipes on December 12 and 13, and our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service was their debut. The pipes project horizontally from the organ case, and unlike the other organ pipes that speak vertically, the Festival Trumpet en Chamade delivers its powerful, brilliant sound directly into the church space. This addition to the instrument marks a significant milestone, as it completes the organ as it was intended when it was rebuilt 13 years ago during the church renovation.

The choir robe purchase and the addition to the organ would not have been possible without the generous support of the donors who contributed to our 150th Anniversary projects in 2022. Their dedication and commitment to maintaining and enhancing Trinity's worship experience is a testament to the importance music holds in our liturgical life. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who made contributions, great and small.

Online Daily Offices

Leader: Rev. Andrew Kruger

The Monday through Friday Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer continue to be well supported. The rector typically leads only on Wednesdays (although attending most other services). The majority of services are led by lay people, and gratitude is extended to Cheryl Pantina, Arlene Fricke, Bonnie Gentesse, Carol Beier and Tom Kaercher. The significance and benefit of these daily prayer services cannot be understated. They continue to offer spiritual sustenance and opportunity for connection throughout the week. The dynamic online intercessory prayer list offers comfort and consolation to so many people and helps us to remember to give thanks for healing on a regular basis. We continued to remember our loved ones – in whose memory Easter and Christmas flowers were donated – during Easter Week and Christmas Week. The times are 8:30 AM for Morning Prayer and 5 PM for Evening Prayer.

Online Compline

Leader: Bonnie Gentesse

A Contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace. Compline is the final liturgy of the day. Prayers are read from the Prayer Book and petitions for the sick and those in need are said. This short (10 minute) midweek service strengthens our prayer life. For the past 8 years, Compline is prayed every Thursday night at 8 PM.

Ushers

Coordinators: Heather, David and Sarah Burnett

Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]

Trinity's ushers are the first people to welcome visitors and greet parishioners. The ushers represent the church and are called to be ministers of hospitality who care for the church and love our neighbors as ourselves. Their friendliness, warmth and generosity offer fellowship to the whole Trinity family. Their multi-tasking duties include greeting, providing helpful information, distributing bulletins, collecting the offering, being attentive, preparing for communion – and bell ringing!

Gratitude is extended to the following dedicated and diligent teams: Serving at 8 AM are Ray Berry, Ralph Bianchini and George Surles. Serving at 10 AM are Maureen Frydlewicz, Darrell Frydlewicz, Holly Ives, Linda I. Kurdilla, Joe Erdody, Dan Rivera, Kavita Medanki, Stephanie Willix, Jim Willix, Emma Willix, Eric Bursack, Doreen Taylor and Nancy Ditzel. Serving at funerals and weddings are Ray Berry and John Witherington.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Confirmation Class

Co-Leaders: John Beier, Marion Nechuta & Dr. Elizabeth Rees

Confirmation Class consists of students from grades 5 through 7; 14 students currently meet once a month on the first Sunday of the month in Witherington Hall, 5:30 PM-7 PM. In September, parishioner Beth Rees joined in teaching the students. In June 2023, Aiden Hosler, Gabriella Negron and Michael DiFonzo finished their three-year cycle of classes. The expectation is that Bishop Sally French will confirm them along with the five students in the class of 2024.

This past year, students took an in-depth look at the services of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as the Nicene Creed and other prayers. Biblical study is a key component of the course; for example, Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings for the first Sunday of the month were discussed and their pertinence to today. The Taizé service in Advent was an enjoyable experience for the students to experience a service with icons, music, prayer and candles. Gratitude is extended to parents for getting children to class and helping with their assignments.

Sunday School

Co-Superintendents of Sunday School: Kate DiFonzo & Jennifer Cammarota

On the third Sunday of the month, Sunday School students participate in an intergenerational worship service where they serve as ushers, acolytes, and readers of the lessons and prayers of the people, as well as taking up the gifts and basket for St. John's Episcopal in Elizabeth. Gratitude is extended to Bonnie Gentesse for her help in organizing the readers.

"Whirl" is the name of a new curriculum started in the Fall; children watch a video with animated characters teaching a lesson drawn from the Old Testament and New Testament. There are crafts or projects that follow the lesson as well as handouts. As usual, the season of Advent is spent in preparation for the annual Christmas Pageant at the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve service. This year it was under the direction of Catherine Strawder and Kate DiFonzo, with the help of parents and youth volunteers.

Jennifer Cammarota is the new co-superintendent this year; gratitude is extended to Beth Rees for her years of service as the previous co-superintendent and teacher at Sunday School. Gratitude is also extended to the parents who teach or serve as an aide; that participation helps the Sunday School be successful in bringing the stories of the Bible and the meaning of our faith into the lives of the children.

Trinity Men's Group

Coordinator: Terry Nechuta

"As iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance." [Proverbs 27:17]

The Trinity Men's Group has met for over 16 years, once a month on the first Saturday of the month from 8 AM to 9 AM for a light breakfast, fellowship, encouragement and prayer. The group prays that God's spirit will speak through each other to each other. Bible study and discussion during 2023 focused on the Book of Revelation, characters in the Bible, and the "Disappearance of God" (in Deuteronomy 32:20). The agenda for 2024 includes the Lectionary for Sundays, the Jewish roots of Christianity, and the lives of two estranged wives of the Old Testament, Leah and Michal. No preparation is needed except to show up.

Trinity Women's Group

Coordinator: Carol Beier

The Trinity Women's Group meets on the second Monday of the month from 7 PM to 8 PM on the Trinity online platform to explore scripture and other topics from a woman's perspective. Women of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to join for learning, discussion and fellowship.

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Nancy Miller

The year 2023 continued as a "virtual" one for Women's Bible Study which meets online on Thursday mornings, 10-11 AM throughout the year (with breaks for summer and Christmas). The year ended with the completion of reading and studying the Gospel of John, which is a special favorite of the group's leader, before a brief study of Mary Magdalene, one of Christ's followers who stayed with Him through the Crucifixion.

Prayer is an important part of their time together, rejoicing in God, giving thanks for healings they have witnessed, and for the blessings of God in the lives of relatives, friends, and members of the Church. Journey through the Bible with current members Mary Cheress, Mary Ellinger, Arlene Fricke, Carol Fricke, Mary Ann Friscia, Vicki Goralski, Maryann Maniscalco, Marion Nechuta, Susan Caldwell Nelson, Susan Olszewski, Cheryl Pantina, Ruth Uhde, and Nancy Miller.

PARISH LIFE

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Co-Presidents: Holly Ives & Marion Nechuta

The purpose of the ECW is to be involved and provide participation in the many ministries of the church, such as the Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Choir, Bells, Counters, Ushers, and in the many projects of Outreach. In 2023, recipients of the ECW Scholarship were graduating seniors Hannah Barone and Allison Gluck. Doreen Taylor is the new co-president this year, resuming her previous role; gratitude is extended to Marion Nechuta for her wisdom and service during her term.

Fellowship Hours

8 AM Coordinator: Susan Olszewski

10 AM Co-leaders: Holly Ives and Marion Nechuta

Fellowship Hour after 8 AM and 10 AM services offer a time to gather with friends for coffee, tea, and 'goodies' (especially when they are homemade). Couples, families and friends are invited to sign up to host a particular Sunday or contact a leader for questions about the process. Thanks to all who volunteered to be a host or contributed as a group this past year.

Fellowship Luncheon

Bonnie Gentesse, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olszewski

Post-Pandemic, the Fellowship Luncheon for the most part resumed its monthly gatherings. Luncheon date and time have shifted slightly to the second Thursday of each month, 12:30-2 PM, in Witherington Hall. The team includes Susan Olszewski, Tom Kaercher, Bonnie Gentesse, Cynthia Kolby, Cathy Rossi, Susan Nelson, Ruth Uhde, Irene Telerico plus many more.

It is open to parishioners and friends available to meet mid-afternoon on weekdays and provides a time to socialize as well as to listen to invited speakers on wide-ranging topics of interest. Probably the most popular event of 2023 was when Mary Testori and Vicki Goralski spoke on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2023, and what they saw and experienced there; Mid-Eastern food was featured to celebrate the event.

Susan Olszewski hosts, along with a small army of others. Tom Kaercher arranges for speakers. Average attendance has been between 22 and 35, including several from outside the parish; known attendees are called in advance to inform them of time, food, and topics. Many of those attending chip in to help with set-up and clean-up. A small fee is collected to cover food costs.

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee

Chair: Marion Nechuta

All members of the parish are welcome to help in an existing project or to suggest one they're passionate about. The Outreach Committee maintains three primary projects.

- St. John's Episcopal Church in Elizabeth – The parish assembles sandwiches and food bags on Saturday before the third Sunday of the month, along with food items for their pantry, then delivers them on the following day after services.
- Seamen's Church Institute – In February, toiletries are collected for their "Christmas at Sea" project which gives seamen a gift for Christmas (most seamen are away from home and families during Christmas; this gift brightens their day). This past December, parishioners went to assemble ditty bags and learned about Port Newark and the Institute.
- Cameroon Orphan – Trinity sponsors Musaga Richards, an orphan at the Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon, West Africa through the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, NJ. The money helps feed, clothe and educate her.

Secondary projects include raising funds or collecting supplies for:

- AIDS Foundation for Children – this organization helps children with HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- Cranford Family Care – Thanksgiving dinners with turkey and all the trimmings were assembled and donated.
- Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) – This ministry of The Episcopal Church leverages the expertise and resources of Anglican and other partners to deliver measurable change in three signature program areas: Women, Children and Climate. This year, they provided disaster relief to Maui, Hawaii because of the fires.

Ministry of Space

12 Step Programs

Trinity is host to 3 recovery groups which meet in-person: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has an open speaker on Tuesday night at 7 PM; DAA (Drug Addicts Anonymous) is Thursday night at 8 PM; and AA women's open step meeting on Friday at 12 noon.

Ministry for the Imprisoned

Submitted by Casey Woodruff

"I was in prison, and you visited me." [Matthew 25:36]

Trinity's Ministry for the Imprisoned seeks to honor Jesus' call to remember and minister to our incarcerated sisters and brothers. That work has taken several forms over the years, including another successful toy drive to provide gifts to children who have an incarcerated parent, and whose holidays might not be as joyful as they could be. Now that COVID restrictions are allowing volunteers to once again go into correctional institutions, the Ministry is working to engage with an area chaplain to explore ways to minister directly to people who are currently detained in correctional institutions. Those called to working with this most vulnerable population should contact Senior Warden Casey Woodruff (908-868-4915 or woodruff5073@gmail.com).

Stephen Ministers

Leader: Rev. Andrew Kruger

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one caring ministry that takes place in over 12,000 congregations worldwide. Stephen Ministry equips and empowers lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people struggling through a difficult time in life, e.g., experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or other life crisis.

Stephen Ministers and care receivers typically meet weekly until the crisis is past; their discussions are completely confidential. The caregivers have completed 50 hours of training, then meet once a month for continued training and development. Trinity's team of Stephen Ministers has shrunk over the years and regular meetings were discontinued in 2022; however they maintained their ministry and the rector calls them when needed. Active Stephen Ministers during 2023 were Linda I. Kurdilla, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olszewski and Bonnie Gentesse.

Land Acknowledgment

Rev. Andrew David Kruger

The 80th General Convention (2022) of The Episcopal Church passed the following resolution, "Resolved, that The Episcopal Church commits to ensuring that all public gatherings and worship of The Episcopal Church, its boards, commissions, committees of the same, will, before the 81st General Convention, implement land acknowledgement liturgies and prayers to begin any public meetings or worship held in North America."

In recognition of this resolution the rector invited all interested parties to attend a series of meetings to explore how Trinity might respond to the trend toward making Land Acknowledgments. At the first of these meetings several working groups were established with the goal of better understanding the history of both local and national interactions with First Nations people. Dave Burnett, Casey Woodruff, Terry Nechuta, Vicki Goralski, and Thomas Kaercher presented their findings at the most recent meeting. The process of exploring this history has in and of itself been instructive and helpful. The research will form the basis of how the committee chooses to respond in the year ahead.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Counters

Coordinator: Marion Nechuta

Counting is done after the 10 AM service. Counters are organized in teams of 2 or 3 and rotate every 4 weeks. This past year Christy Barone and Doreen Taylor joined the teams which include Vicky Cooney, Carolyn Dittmar, Vicki Goralski, Holly Ives, Linda I. Kurdilla, Irene Telerico, Nancy & Bob Vogel, Peter Waldron, Stephanie & Jim Willix (and their helper Emma); substitutes are John Beier and Tom Kaercher.

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Peter Waldron

The Stewardship Committee consists of Peter Waldron (Chairperson), Mary Testori (Vice-Chairperson), Carol Beier, Andrew Kruger, Dan Lack, Dave Roberts and Casey Woodruff.

Prior to the start of the 2023 Stewardship season, members of the committee met to discuss strategy, and Mary Testori reviewed Project Resource Training Workshop materials, which helped to inform and support the 2023 Stewardship theme of “*Rooted in Abundance*” as taken from the Book of Jeremiah. At this time, it was decided to move to a rotating chairperson structure, both to lessen the load on any one committee member and allow for multiple fresh perspectives and ideas.

In September of 2023, committee members met to draft the annual stewardship letter and pledge cards and decided upon a three-week Stewardship season taking place in October. In this year’s annual letter, parishioners were asked to reflect on how stewardship is above all rooted in our faith and love for God and is fed by a grateful recognition of God’s abundant blessings and gifts. Several parishioners also contributed their deeply personal reflections on stewardship in the form of Ministry Minutes.

While overall pledge totals were down by a small percentage in 2023 from their all-time historical highs, the committee expects to receive a few late pledges that should bolster the final total amount and put the church in a continued strong position heading into 2024. In particular, the committee was encouraged by seeing certain parishioners either convert from being identified givers to first-time pledgers or make fairly significant increases to their existing pledges. Special thanks are also extended to Carol Beier, who in her time as Financial Secretary has done a superb job both with the pledge recording process and her contributions to the Stewardship process as a whole.

Property and Finance Committee

Chair: Casey Woodruff

The Property and Finance Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss and review Trinity’s property and financial issues. Treasurer Dave Roberts prepares a profit and loss statement, which is shared with the Committee. The report is then sent to the Vestry. The Committee acts, in large part, as a subcommittee of the Vestry. It allows financial and property issues to be explored in greater detail, and then passed on to the Vestry for its consideration and any formal action. This allows for a more in-depth analysis of important issues, with all final decision-making resting squarely with the Vestry. The Committee consists of de facto members (Rector, Senior Warden and Junior Warden) and additional members appointed by the Wardens in consultation with the Rector. The Senior Warden chairs the Committee which currently consists of Denise Alvarez, Carol Beier, Ralph Bianchini, Tom Kaercher, Andrew Kruger, Linda Kurdilla, Dave Roberts, Mary Testori, Peter Waldron, Casey Woodruff.

Status of the 150th Anniversary Societies

SOCIETY	prior to 2022	2022	2023	2024	2025	Cumulative	Goal
Worship	\$10,608	\$9,426	\$20,731	\$5,000		\$45,765	\$51,876
Cornerstone	0	\$40,750	\$58,800	\$46,550	\$20,550	\$166,650	\$484,654
Greening	\$1,350	\$750	\$4,170	\$0	\$0	\$6,270	\$7,100
Outreach	\$1,825	\$2,500	\$5,250	\$0	\$0	\$9,575	\$10,000

5 people signed up as members of the Legacy Society

See Appendix for 150th Anniversary Account

Trinity Church Endowment Fund

The Trinity Endowment Fund is invested with the Diocesan Investment Trust, account #1503

Previous Year End Balances

12/31/2017	\$178,331.74	12/31/2020	\$334,998.92
12/31/2018	\$203,924.23	12/31/2021	\$422,615.02
12/31/2019	\$296,320.01	12/31/2022	\$389,751.92

2023

Date	Shares	Share Price	Description	Deposit	\$ Balance
12/31/2022	6,136.859	63.51	Beginning Balance		\$389,751.92
1/12/2023		65.86	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
2/8/2023		67.20	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
4/27/2023		66.08	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
6/21/2023		68.04	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
8/21/2023		67.58	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
10/23/2023		63.80	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
11/27/2023		68.61	TEDS Debt Service	\$1,000.00	
Dividends			Dividend Purchases	\$13,204.97	
12/31/2023	6,437.929	71.91	Year End Balance		\$462,951.47

Endowment: The dividend ‘yield’ was approximately 3.3%. The overall gain in the DIT investment was +13.23%. For comparison, last year, “The dividend ‘yield’ was 2.92%. The overall decline in the DIT investment was -17.32%.”

Edward Jones: This account is available so that when a parishioner donates shares of securities, Trinity can receive them. During 2023, the Vestry moved \$100,000 out of the Money Market Account (to be used for the 150th Anniversary projects) into this account to earn more interest. Also, the Vestry invested \$10,000 into a CD to help funding for Fr. Kruger’s sabbatical. Last year the balance was: \$88,644.33. At the end of 2023, the balance is \$223,557.46.

Bank Accounts: The Money Market Account is reserved for use of the 150th Anniversary projects. The year-end balance is \$27,829.24. The Operating Account ended the year with a balance of \$48,968.33.

2024 Proposed Operating Budget
Financial Resources for 2023 that Direct the Mission of Trinity Church, Cranford

	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2024</u>
Income			
1010 · DONATIONS			
1011 · PLEDGES			
1011-02 · PLEDGES-CURRENT	193,295	204,000	209,000
1011-04 · IDENTIFIED GIVERS	21,362	7,200	9,000
Total 1011 · PLEDGES	214,656	211,200	218,000
1012 · HOLY DAYS/FEAST OFFERINGS	3,544	4,200	3,821
1016 · LOOSE PLATE	7,126	4,200	4,500
1017 · WEDDINGS/FUNERALS	3,900	1,800	3,600
1018 · SUNDAY SCHOOL	-	24	24
1019 · UNITED THANK OFFERING	-	60	60
Total 1010 · DONATIONS	229,227	221,484	230,005
Total 1020 · FUND RAISING	4,172	7,300	5,200
Total 1030 · GIFTS/GRANTS	5,748	5,040	5,040
1040 · RENTS & LEASES			
1040-01 · 12 STEP PROGRAM	1,450	1,200	1,200
1040-03 · 215 NORTH AVENUE	36,600	36,000	37,200
1040-04 · GENERAL HALL RENTALS	250	120	240
Total 1040 · RENTS & LEASES	38,300	37,320	38,640
1090 · Outreach & Misc. Pass Through	5,872	3,600	3,600
Total Income	283,319	274,744	282,485
Expense			
2000 · HUMAN RESOURCES			
2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED			
2002 · RECTOR	78,778	100,514	103,540
2006 · STAFF			
2007 · PARISH ADMINISTRATORS	-	-	-
Total 2007 · MUSIC LEADS	8,612	8,720	9,043

Total 2008 · MUSIC DIRECTOR	25,244	22,015	22,714
Total 2006 · STAFF	33,856	30,734	31,757
Total 2010 · MISCELLANEOUS	2,450	4,380	4,460
Total 2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED	115,084	135,628	139,757
2019 · ADMINISTRATION	17,169	17,076	16,756
2030 · MINISTRIES			
2031 · WORSHIP	13,847	6,780	10,044
2032 · FORMATION	1,814	840	1,440
2034 · PARISH LIFE	3,713	900	1,500
2035-07 · MISCELLANEOUS/PAY THROUGH	5,392	3,600	3,600
Total 2035 · OUTREACH	7,179	5,820	5,820
Total 2030 · MINISTRIES	26,553	14,340	18,804
2040 · BUILDINGS			
Total 2041 · RECTORY	6,259	6,420	7,440
Total 2042 · CHURCH BUILDINGS	159,323	60,840	59,648
Total 2043 · RENTAL EXPENSES	10,580	12,600	12,240
Total 2040 · BUILDINGS	176,161	79,860	79,328
2057 · ECW EXPENSES	600		
2080 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	855	-	-
2100 · DIOCESE			
2021 · CONVENTION/COUNCILS	-	420	420
2022 · FAIR SHARE	27,000	27,000	27,000
2023 · WIDOWS AND ORPHANS	-	120	120
2024 · BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	-	300	300
Total 2100 · DIOCESE	27,000	27,840	27,840
Total Expense	363,422	274,744	282,485
(Deficit) or Surplus	(80,103)	(0)	(0)

TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Executive Director: Nancy Ditzel

Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS) realized meaningful revenue increase in its fiscal 2023, with near-record tuition receipts and high enrollment. Offsetting this, the school had challenges in retaining teachers and needed to significantly increase staff hourly rates to attract new hires.

TEDS aftercare program opened with a full roster of 62 students. Our Aftercare supervisor oversees the children's homework for completeness and provides rotation of activities until students are picked up. Forty-five students enrolled in summer camp in 2023. Some extracurricular programs included a puppet show, a visit from the dogs of The Seeing Eye®, a therapy horse and a K-9 unit. Morning sessions consisted of academics, with arts and crafts in the afternoons.

Shanequa Ely was promoted from kindergarten teacher to TEDS Education Director in February 2023. Ms. Ely has been a huge asset to TEDS and the dynamics at the school have improved since her promotion. Her goal as Education Director is raising TEDS to a higher level of learning and keeping TEDS as the best school in the regional preschool community. She works closely with the staff to keep the curriculum on-target and at the same time makes coming to work fun and enjoyable. Ms. Ely is in the process of obtaining her master's degree in Preschool education and curriculum and I am grateful for her collaboration.

Importantly for the school's K-wrap and after-care programs, TEDS purchased a new bus to transport students for approximately \$90,000. This is shown in the operating account and results in a loss for the year. Without this purchase, the school would have realized a profit of approximately \$20,000. Please note that owning our own buses is much less expensive than leasing through a bus service; for example, in 2019, TEDS spent \$111,000 in leased buses.

Looking to 2024, operations are expected to be weaker than 2023, because several sets of parents had work schedule changes that necessitated removing their children from the school, which reduced TEDS' revenue in the Fall. Most of these vacancies have been filled for the Spring 2024. Additionally, Cranford Public Schools continues to expand its full-day kindergarten offerings. The AM K-wrap class was cancelled in September due to lack of enrollment, and the PM K-wrap class is smaller than normal. The public school system is expected to offer full-day kindergarten to all resident students by FY26, and we are therefore planning to offer more Pre-K classes to compensate for the lack of kindergarten students.

Gratitude is extended to the TEDS Board of Directors for their support and assistance. I am very fortunate to work with very dedicated Board members. Thank you to the Vestry for their support. Personally, thank you Father Andy for all that you have brought to TEDS, especially the children's chapel, the staff chapel, our weekly meetings, and your support and encouraging words throughout the year. I am truly blessed to work with all of you.

Staffing

- Administrative staff consists of the Executive Director/Nurse, an Education Director, and one administrative assistant who also teaches art classes to her PreK-4 and kindergarten classes.
- Eleven teachers and nine teacher assistants and one substitute.
- Aftercare staff consists of one aftercare supervisor and nine assistants.
- One gym teacher.
- Two part-time bus drivers, no substitutes.

Special Events in 2023

- PreK-4 Graduation on June 12
- Kindergarten Graduation on June 14

- Back to School Night on August 17
- Pumpkin Patch on October 26
- Halloween Parade on October 31

Goals

- Install new fencing around the playground
- Increase lighting and cameras around the perimeter of the campus
- Enhance the summer program
- Install door in Sherlock Hall directly to the playground
- Continue to work with local law enforcement and Emergency Management to increase security throughout the campus.

Summary of the 2023 TEDS Budget For Fiscal Years ending August 31

	2021	2022	2023
OPERATING ACCOUNT			
BEGINNING BALANCE	93,456	166,155	124,436
INCOME			
Enrollment/Tuition	518,239	861,605	1,005,178
Camp	68,866	62,890	56,094
Donations/Fundraisers	18,258	5,284	4,555
Credits, including PPP	123,946	10,399	32,384
TOTAL INCOME	729,309	940,178	1,098,211
EXPENSES			
Payroll	564,605	684,006	959,884
Supplies	3,986	7,761	22,345
Bus Expenses	4,320	14,130	97,671
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	572,911	705,897	1,079,900
Phone/Utilities	16,834	19,270	16,703
Copier/Computer	3,552	4,897	7,265
Advertising	998	1,146	3,607
Janitorial & Maintenance	26,123	36,044	47,152
Snow Removal	-	1,210	840
Professional Fees	5,454	4,037	3,772
Extracurricular Activities	310	1,034	1,425
Other Expenses, Including COVID Related	20,461	3,934	6,393
Returned Checks/Reimbursements	400	3,928	11,061
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES	74,132	75,500	98,218
NET REVENUE (LOSS)	82,266	158,781	(79,907)
Debt Service	10,000	2,500	35,000
Transfers (to)/from Savings	433	(198,000)	86,924
ENDING BALANCE	166,155	124,436	96,453

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES FOR VESTRY AND DELEGATES

Presented by the Nominating Committee

Casey Woodruff (Chair)

Sarah Burnett, Bernard Kolbe, Elizabeth Lack, Susan Olszewski, Stephanie Willix

Nominee for Junior Warden (one 2-year term) 2024-2025

Tom Kaercher started coming to Trinity Church in 2001 and joined the parish in 2002. Tom led the communications efforts for Trinity II. He has served as Junior Warden since January 2022. Tom served on the Vestry from 2008 to 2010 and from 2020 to 2022. He is a member of the Property and Finance Committee. Tom serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and Stephen Minister. Tom is in the choir and bell choir and is on the Altar Guild and the Outreach Committee. He is one of the planners of the Trinity Fellowship Luncheon program. He wrote and disseminated press releases to the local media for Trinity activities from 2006 to 2020. In 2016, Tom served on the Discernment Committee to search for Father Andy and worked with Nancy Noonan to plan and oversee the renovations to the Rectory. He served on the Operation Warm Heart team. Tom was the co-chair of the Trinity Green Team. He was a member of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee serving as the chair of the Communications Team and was a member of the 150th Anniversary Events Committee. Tom is a regular participant in the Men's Group and at Morning and Evening Prayer. Tom spent two decades at AT&T and Lucent Technologies and retired in 2001 as a Senior Manager in Strategic Marketing Communications. Blessedly, his early retirement enabled him to have the time to care for his mother after her stroke. Tom would be honored to serve again as Junior Warden.

Nominees for Vestry (three 3-year terms) 2024-2026

Denise Alvarez was raised in the Dutch Reformed Church, where she actively participated in that church's many activities. She and Jim Behnke were married there in 2005. In 2012, their daughter, Abby, started attending TEDS, and Denise met Nancy Ditzel and other members of the church. Her family started regularly attending Trinity in 2014; since then Denise has served as a Sunday School teacher, Christmas Pageant leader, Handbell and Adult Choir member, Property & Finance Committee member and TEDS Board member. Denise also volunteers as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's troop and is the Treasurer for the Cranford Service Unit 48. She was recently appointed to the Shade Tree Commission of Cranford Township, which seeks to restore many of the town-owned trees and advise residents on tree care. A 1994 Rutgers College graduate and Cap and Skull Member, Denise has worked in the banking industry for over 30 years. She currently works as a Director of Corporate Credit Underwriting and Portfolio Management at First Citizens Bank.

T. Patrick Milas joined Trinity Church in 2019. He enjoys Trinity's Sunday worship, music and fellowship with his wife Piper and young daughters Maeve and Esme. Patrick currently serves on the Commission on Reparations for the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and the Vestry at Trinity Cranford. He also enjoys the Trinity Men's Group and has led an adult education course at Trinity. Patrick served on the Archives and History Committee for the 150th Anniversary Campaign and has represented Trinity at Diocesan Convention. Before coming to Trinity, Patrick served on the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Bordentown, NJ, and as a Eucharistic Visitor in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. He teaches research at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and directs the Gardner A. Sage Library & Archives. Patrick chairs the Anglican and Episcopal Denominational Group of the American Theological Library Association.

Karina Moscoso is a cradle-born Episcopalian; she lives in Roselle Park with her husband and twin 9-year-old girls. She is a senior project manager for a contract furniture company in NY; she has worked in the industry for over 20 years. Her father was The Rev. Servio Moscoso (1950-2019), an Episcopal priest for over 35 years, serving the last five years at our sister parish, St. John's Episcopal in Elizabeth. After months of mourning, she and her husband were on a visit to Trinity, where they were greeted by Marion Nechuta, who knew her father. They felt a sense of being home, at ease and welcomed by everyone. They had found a place that felt like a church community, a place to worship, and a home for the girls to continue their Christian journey. They have been attending Trinity since March 2023 and the girls have made friends who follow the same beliefs they do. She believes God has a path for them and that path has led them to Trinity Church in Cranford.

Peter Waldron has been a member of Trinity Church since 2017. During this time, he has served as a member and secretary of the Vestry and Property & Finance committees, as chairperson of the Stewardship committee, and as a Counter and Lector. A lifelong New Jersey resident, Peter lives in Cranford with his wife Christine and daughter AJ. He is employed as an actuary and in his spare time he enjoys spending time with family, jogging, learning guitar and studying languages.

Diocesan Convention (3 delegates, one-year terms)

John Beier has held various positions in the parish, including serving on the Vestry and as Senior Warden. He has attended the Diocesan Convention in past years. John is eager to attend the convention and participate in the processes.

Joseph Erdody is 60 years old, single and employed at Wawa Inc. as a shift supervisor. A cradle-born Episcopalian whose experience with Trinity Church started in 1963 when he was baptized at 6-weeks-old. Almost five years ago, he returned to Trinity and has become quite active in volunteering, including becoming a Eucharistic minister, lector and usher. He serves on the Outreach Committee and the Land Acknowledgment Committee. Last year he was confirmed here, which he calls "one of the proudest and emotionally uplifting moments of my life." He is eager to play a part in parish leadership where he can contribute ideas and energy into helping Trinity grow to full potential within its congregation as well as within the community.

Bernhard Kolbe had joined the Episcopal Church with a belief in the transformative power of the word and sacraments, emphasizing their role in inspiring constructive engagement within both the congregation and the wider community. Within Trinity's congregation and denomination, he has been part of a committed effort to embody these principles. As an educator within the Public and Catholic School systems for the past three decades, he actively engages in various activities within the church, including the Trinity Men's Group and centering prayer, balancing his involvement with his professional commitments. His enthusiasm for deepening his understanding of the Church and exploring its capacity to fulfill its mission is evident, showcasing his eagerness for continuous learning and growth.

Marion Nechuta has been a member of the parish since 1985. She is presently teaching Confirmation Class with John Beier and Beth Rees. Since 2012, she became the Committee Chair for Outreach and continues to serve in that position. She is co-leader of Fellowship Hour with Holly Ives. She is enjoying her position as Office Manager of this parish. She and husband Terry have two children, Erich and Danielle.

George W. Surles Jr. has been attending Trinity Episcopal Church for the past 10 years; he has been a resident of Cranford for more than twenty-two years. He recently became a lector at the 8 AM Sunday Eucharist, a Rite I service which he attends regularly; in addition, he serves as an alternate usher during those services. According to him, "Trinity is a very special place; the parishioners, not to mention our beloved priest, Father Andy, make attending church here a most rewarding and spiritually satisfying experience."

Northern Convocation (6 delegates, one-year terms)

Courtney Maier Burbela was baptized, confirmed and has been a member of the Episcopal church all her life. She has specialized in marketing fine art organizations for over 30 years. Both strategic and creative, Courtney builds brands, fosters partnerships and stimulates business. She has worked both internally and as a consultant with galleries, auction houses and art service companies to introduce new avenues of business through strategic alliances and partnerships. Courtney is a graduate of Foxcroft School and holds majors in Art History and Painting from Lehigh University.

Vicky Cooney has been part of Trinity since 1989; she has 4 adult children who were all confirmed here and served as acolytes. Over the years, she has taught Sunday School, been a counter, and served on Northern Convocation. She is employed by the Morris Union Jointure Commission as a teacher assistant working with students with ASD. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, most especially her grandsons James and Ryan.

Gwenn Cuozzo is a cradle-born Episcopalian who was baptized here at Trinity in December 1955 and has worshipped here throughout her life. She married Gerry at Trinity nearly 42 years ago; their family is blessed to include two children and their spouses, and three wonderful grandchildren (not to mention their crazy chocolate lab Angie). Prior to retirement, she worked for many years as secretary to the Principal at Cranford High School. In past years, she served on the Stewardship Committee, as a counter, in a vacancy on the Vestry, as a Northern Convocation delegate, and on the Trinity II Bridge Team as Financial Secretary for the building campaign. She welcomes the opportunity to represent Trinity as Northern Convocation delegate this year.

Karen Lack was born in London, England and emigrated to the United States in 1985, becoming a member of the Episcopal church that same year and a US citizen a few years later. She currently lives in Westfield since 1988 and married to Simon Lack; they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. She worked full-time as a teacher at St. Paul's Episcopal Day School in Westfield for 19 years. She and her family have been members of Trinity church for 2 years; she currently serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

Marion Nechuta See above, Diocesan Convention.

Doreen Taylor has been an active member of Trinity for over 28 years along with her daughter Brittany. During that time, she has served on the Vestry and is currently an usher, a counter, a member of the Outreach Committee, and ECW. She is a retired Elementary School teacher.

Tony Vitale has been a Trinity parishioner for the last 25 years and is the Verger of the parish; he has been a member of the choir, member of the Vestry (twice), Junior Warden, and acolyte master. He brings a variety of talents, including familiarity with the Diocese (serving on the Committee on the Diaconate since 2010) and the national Church (he was formerly an editor for Church Publishing – publisher of the BCP and Hymnal 1982).

Jim Willix is a lifelong parishioner of Trinity; he married Stephanie at Trinity in April 2004 and their daughter Emma is an acolyte. He is currently on the Vestry, as well as being a counter and usher; he has served on the Northern Convocation in the past. A firefighter and an EMT for over three decades, he is currently a Quality Manager and Associate Certified Entomologist with Bowco Laboratories in Woodbridge.

Stephanie Willix has been a parishioner of Trinity since 2003, she married Jim soon after on April 24, 2004. She is a eucharistic minister, an usher, and a counter; their daughter Emma is an acolyte here. She has been in emergency services for almost 30 years; currently a police dispatcher for Kean University (for over 15 years), in Garwood, she is a full-time crossing guard, on the Garwood first aid squad for 24 years and the Garwood Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for 3 years.

THE LITURGY OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Prayer for a Church Meeting

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with those who take counsel in this Annual Parish Meeting
for the renewal and mission of your Church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right,
and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Annual Parish Meeting

Here follows the business of the Annual Parish Meeting.



Once the Agenda is completed and the election results announced, then follows the Commissioning of Junior Warden, Vestry, and Delegates.

The Examination of Wardens, Members of the Vestry, and Delegates

The Presider says

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

The Presider asks

Are you prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of your duties, to exercise your ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Candidates I believe I am, with God's help.

Presider You have been called to a ministry in this congregation.
Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God,
and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates I will, with God's help.

The People stand.

The Commissioning of the Junior Warden and new Members of the Vestry

Senior Warden I present these individuals to be admitted to the ministry of the Vestry in this congregation.

People **The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.**

Presider I am your servant; grant me understanding:

People **That I may know your decrees.**

Presider Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you _____ as Junior Warden,
and you _____, as Members of the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church Cranford.

The Commissioning of Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention and Northern Convocation

Senior Warden I present to you _____ duly elected as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention
to be commissioned for their ministry.

Senior Warden I present to you ____, duly elected as Delegates to Northern Convocation to be commissioned for their ministry.

People **Call a solemn assembly, gather the people, assemble the elders, and sanctify the congregation.**

Presider Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

People **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who by the Holy Spirit presided at the council of the Apostles to guide them in all knowledge and truth: Be present with the Delegates. In the passions of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them clear minds; and in the moments of decision give them courageous hearts. Guide them in all things to seek only your glory and the good of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Delegates.

Blessing

BCP 366

The Presider blesses the People saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

BCP 366

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Appendix: 150th Anniversary Account

Date	Description	Income	Expense	Account Balance
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$55,572.23	<i>(\$44,629.83)</i>	\$71,710.24
03/26/22	*Beginning Balance*			\$60,767.84
04/08/22	interest	\$1.38		\$60,769.22
05/05/22	interest	\$1.50		\$60,770.72
06/17/22	reimbursement for Mardi Gras		<i>(\$323.79)</i>	\$60,446.93
06/17/22	Octave Evening Song Fee - Music Director		<i>(\$600.00)</i>	\$59,846.93
06/17/22	Octave Evening Song Fee - Guest Priest		<i>(\$200.00)</i>	\$59,646.93
06/17/22	Octave Evening Song Fee - Guest Priest		<i>(\$200.00)</i>	\$59,446.93
06/17/22	interest	\$1.54		\$59,448.47
06/22/22	Octave Evening Song Fee - Guest Priest		<i>(\$200.00)</i>	\$59,248.47
06/29/22	Thomas N. DiGiorgio (upgrade plans)		<i>(\$4,750.00)</i>	\$54,498.47
06/29/22	interest	\$1.46		\$54,499.93
07/06/22	Octave Evening Song Fee – Susan Nelson		<i>(\$300.00)</i>	\$54,199.93
07/06/22	reimburse Tom Kaercher for 150 th advertisement		<i>(\$89.00)</i>	\$54,110.93
07/07/22	Harland Clarke (reorder checks)		<i>(\$15.05)</i>	\$54,095.88
07/15/22	Octave Evening Song Fee		<i>(\$200.00)</i>	\$53,895.88
07/15/22	Thomas DiGiorgio (balance of construction plans)		<i>(\$4,000.00)</i>	\$49,895.88
07/19/22	interest	\$1.34		\$49,897.22
08/01/22	Donation for Worship Society	\$500.00		\$50,397.22
08/01/22	Octave Evening Song Fee - Guest Priest		<i>(\$200.00)</i>	\$50,197.22
08/21/22	Thomas DiGiorgio (50% construction documents)		<i>(\$3,800.00)</i>	\$46,397.22
08/25/22	Donation for Greening Society	\$250.00		\$46,647.22
08/31/22	interest	\$1.26		\$46,648.48
09/16/22	Wit & Intellect Publishing LLC (church book)		<i>(\$478.00)</i>	\$46,170.48
09/21/22	Donation for the Worship Society	\$500.00		\$46,670.48
09/26/22	Township of Cranford (raffle license)		<i>(\$20.00)</i>	\$46,650.48
09/30/22	interest	\$1.15		\$46,651.63
10/04/22	Donation for the Cornerstone Society	\$24,000.00		\$70,651.63
10/04/22	reimburse for 150 home visits/color printing		<i>(\$1,338.03)</i>	\$69,313.60
10/18/22	BK Private Dining & Catering LLC - Gala deposit		<i>(\$3,021.00)</i>	\$66,292.60
10/18/22	Weaving Printing - Dinner invitations		<i>(\$338.84)</i>	\$65,953.76
10/26/22	Raffle - November 12		<i>(\$20.00)</i>	\$65,933.76
10/28/22	I.Designs, LLC (50% deposit)		<i>(\$900.00)</i>	\$65,033.76
10/30/22	Donation for the Cornerstone Society	\$250.00		\$65,283.76
10/30/22	Donation for the Worship Society	\$300.00		\$65,583.76
11/01/22	interest	\$1.69		\$65,585.45
11/05/22	Thomas DiGiorgio - retainer for 150 th construction		<i>(\$2,500.00)</i>	\$63,085.45
11/12/22	reimburse Elizabeth Broccoli for 150 th gala supplies		<i>(\$268.63)</i>	\$62,816.82
11/14/22	CM Almy for silk cathedral cope		<i>(\$3,462.90)</i>	\$59,353.92
11/14/22	Weaver Printing – 150 th Anniversary magnets		<i>(\$422.00)</i>	\$58,931.92
11/15/22	BK Private Dining & Catering LLC - Balance due		<i>(\$4,769.40)</i>	\$54,162.52
11/21/22	(3) excess Tax Fees		<i>(\$27.00)</i>	\$54,135.52
11/21/22	reimburse Sydney O'Hagan for 150 th wine		<i>(\$172.43)</i>	\$53,963.09

11/21/22	Thomas DiGiorgio - Balance due on work completed		<i>(\$1,400.00)</i>	\$52,563.09
11/21/22	reimburse Trinity Church for 150 th book printing		<i>(\$1,614.00)</i>	\$50,949.09
11/21/22	reimburse Linda Kurdilla for Gala tips/gratuities		<i>(\$2,880.00)</i>	\$48,069.09
11/21/22	Deposit for magnet sales	\$50.00		\$48,119.09
11/21/22	Deposit for 50/50 from Gala Dinner	\$680.00		\$48,799.09
11/21/22	Deposit for 150 th Anniversary donation	\$150.00		\$48,949.09
11/21/22	Deposit for Trinity History Book sales	\$1,380.00		\$50,329.09
11/21/22	Donation for the Worship Society	\$538.00		\$50,867.09
11/30/22	interest	\$1.43		\$50,868.52
12/01/22	reimburse Katy Bursack 150 th gala supplies		<i>(\$1,259.41)</i>	\$49,609.11
12/06/22	Donation for the Outreach Society	\$1,000.00		\$50,609.11
12/06/22	Donation for the Worship Society	\$500.00		\$51,109.11
12/06/22	Donation for the Outreach Society	\$500.00		\$51,609.11
12/14/22	reimburse John Witherington-for display expenses		<i>(\$16.69)</i>	\$51,592.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Worship Society	\$500.00		\$52,092.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Cornerstone Society	\$1,000.00		\$53,092.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Greening Society	\$500.00		\$53,592.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Outreach Society	\$500.00		\$54,092.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Greening Society	\$50.00		\$54,142.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Worship Society	\$500.00		\$54,642.42
12/16/22	Donation to the Cornerstone Society	\$15,000.00		\$69,642.42
12/16/22	Thomas DiGiorgio (final construction payment)		<i>(\$4,200.00)</i>	\$65,442.42
12/19/22	Reimburse Trinity Church for children's pizza at Gala		<i>(\$86.65)</i>	\$65,355.77
12/19/22	Transfer from regular account (play/6/12 envelope)	\$4,350.00		\$69,705.77
12/27/22	Donation to the Worship Society	\$1,000.00		\$70,705.77
12/29/22	Deposit for Trinity History Book sales	\$60.00		\$70,765.77
12/30/22	interest	\$1.48		\$70,767.25
01/02/23	Donation to the Outreach Society	\$500.00		\$71,267.25
01/02/23	Donation to the Worship Society	\$1,000.00		\$72,267.25
01/03/23	reimburse Dianne Pecoraro for 150 th decorations		<i>(\$557.01)</i>	\$71,710.24
01/24/23	Donation to the Greening Society	\$60.00		\$71,770.24
01/10/23	Donation to the Worship Society	\$500.00		\$72,270.24
01/10/23	Donation to the Greening Society	\$500.00		\$72,770.24
01/31/23	Donation to the Worship Society	\$50.00		\$72,820.24
01/31/23	Donation-to Worship Society-wire	\$3,000.00		\$75,820.24
01/31/23	Wire transfer fee		<i>(\$15.00)</i>	\$75,805.24
01/31/23	Interest	\$1.84		\$75,807.08
02/01/23	Wire Tran- Donation to Worship	\$10,000.00		\$85,807.08
02/01/23	Wire transfer fee		<i>(\$15.00)</i>	\$85,792.08
02/08/23	Donation-ACH to the Worship Society	\$250.00		\$86,042.08
02/08/23	Donation to the Worhsip Society	\$100.00		\$86,142.08
02/15/23	Donation(s) to the Cornerstone Society	\$6,650.00		\$92,792.08

02/15/23	Donation(s) to the Worship Society	\$3,500.00		\$96,292.08
02/21/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$50.00		\$96,342.08
02/21/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$60.00		\$96,402.08
02/24/23	Deposit to Peragallo Organ Co.		(\$9,860.00)	\$86,542.08
02/28/23	Interest	\$2.05		\$86,544.13
03/03/23	Deposit for Pitcher for Font		(\$250.00)	\$86,294.13
03/03/23	Harland Clarke (reorder checks)		(\$16.05)	\$86,278.08
03/03/23	Donation to the Worship Society	\$100.00		\$86,378.08
03/14/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$60.00		\$86,438.08
03/14/23	Donation fr. Choir member for Robe	\$200.00		\$86,638.08
03/20/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$50.00		\$86,688.08
03/20/23	Donation to Cornerstone Society	\$15,000.00		\$101,688.08
03/21/23	Donation to Cornerstone Society	\$500.00		\$102,188.08
03/22/23	Donation fr. church member for Robes	\$638.83		\$102,826.91
03/28/23	Donation to Outreach Society	\$250.00		\$103,076.91
03/31/23	transf fr. reg.acct.-choir robe-donation	\$310.00		\$103,386.91
03/31/23	Interest	\$2.35		\$103,389.26
04/12/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$100.00		\$103,489.26
04/12/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$60.00		\$103,549.26
04/20/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$50.00		\$103,599.26
04/25/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$2,000.00		\$105,599.26
04/28/23	Interest	\$2.56		\$105,601.82
05/05/23	Hot Sand (Pitcher/Balance		(\$250.00)	\$105,351.82
05/17/23	C M Almay-Choir Robes		(\$2,679.00)	\$102,672.82
05/23/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$100.00		\$102,772.82
05/23/23	Donation to Cornerstone Society	\$1,950.00		\$104,722.82
05/31/23	interest	\$2.67		\$104,725.49
06/06/23	transf fr. reg. acct. -cornerstone	\$100.00		\$104,825.49
06/12/23	transf fr. reg acct.-Worship	\$100.00		\$104,925.49
06/14/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$1,000.00		\$105,925.49
06/14/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$60.00		\$105,985.49
06/20/23	Donation to Outreach Society	\$2,500.00		\$108,485.49
06/21/23	Donation to Worship Society	\$50.00		\$108,535.49
06/22/23	Invoice#34227543-CM Almay		(\$496.80)	\$108,038.69

06/29/23	transf.fr. reg. acct.-Worship	\$500.00		\$108,538.69
06/30/23	Interest	\$2.62		\$108,541.31
07/03/23	Donation to Greening Society	\$120.00		\$108,661.31
07/03/23	Donation towards worship(Vestments)	\$500.00		\$109,161.31
07/03/23	Donation towards worship (Organ trump)	\$2,000.00		\$111,161.31
07/03/23	Donation towards Cornerstone Society	\$5,000.00		\$116,161.31
07/03/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$500.00		\$116,661.31
07/03/23	Donation towards Outreach Society	\$2,000.00		\$118,661.31
07/24/23	Donation towards Cornerstone (TEDS)	\$25,000.00		\$143,661.31
07/31/23	Interest	\$3.15		\$143,664.46
08/02/23	Donation towards Cornerstone	\$500.00		\$144,164.46
08/02/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$60.00		\$144,224.46
08/31/23	Interest	\$3.67		\$144,228.13
09/13/23	Donation towards Cornerstone Society	\$100.00		\$144,328.13
09/14/23	Donation towards worship (Organ trump)	\$200.00		\$144,528.13
09/14/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$60.00		\$144,588.13
09/18/23	transferred funds to Edward Jones Invest		(\$90,000.00)	\$54,588.13
09/22/23	Donation to ECS (complete donation)		(\$7,925.00)	\$46,663.13
10/02/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$60.00		\$46,723.13
10/02/23	Donation towards Cornerstone Society	\$250.00		\$46,973.13
10/02/23	Interest	\$2.54		\$46,975.67
10/10/23	Invoice#34547243-C.M. Almy		(\$1,106.40)	\$45,869.27
10/31/23	Interest	\$1.17		\$45,870.44
11/14/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$70.00		\$45,940.44
11/30/23	Interest	\$1.13		\$45,941.57
12/07/23	Donation towards Cornerstone Society	\$250.00		\$46,191.57
12/11/23	Donation towards Worship Society	\$500.00		\$46,691.57
12/11/23	Donation towards Cornerstone Society	\$3,500.00		\$50,191.57
12/11/23	Donation towards Greening Society	\$500.00		\$50,691.57
12/11/23	Donation towards Outreach Society	\$500.00		\$51,191.57
12/18/23	Trans.to reg. Opera. Acct. for *vestments		(\$1,162.97)	\$50,028.60
	Footnotes * \$14,000 extraordinary donation and \$20,000 for Festival Trumpets for organ held in EdwardJones.			

