

# The 2020 Annual Report of Trinity Episcopal Church

Presented at the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting

January 24, 2021: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, and believe in the good news.’

Mark 1:15

## Trinity Episcopal Church

Founded 1872 in the Diocese of New Jersey

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

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## Annual Meeting Agenda for January 24, 2021

- † Opening Prayer
- † Appointment of Secretary
- † Appointment of Meeting Managers
- † Review and Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- † Review and Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda
- † Vote on Approval of By-Laws
- † Presentation of Slate of Candidates by Nominating Committee Chair (Sydney O'Hagan)
- † Elections and Declaration of Results
- † Address of the Rector
- † Address of the Senior Warden (John Beier)
- † Address of the Junior Warden (Sydney O'Hagan)
- † Address of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair (Dave Burnett)
- † Review of Fiscal Year 2020 and Presentation of the 2020 Annual Budget (Dave Roberts)
- † Address of the TEDS Director (Nancy Ditzel)
- † Commissioning of 2020 Warden & Vestry
- † Commissioning of 2020 Diocesan Convention & Northern Convocation
- † Announcements, Acknowledgements & Adjournment
- † Blessing and Sending

### 2020 Leadership

#### STAFF

† Rector	The Rev. Andrew David Kruger
† Director of Music & Organist	Anthony Joel Rafaniello
† Parish Financial Administrator	Linda I. Kurdilla
† Parish Office Manager	Marion Nechuta
† Verger	Anthony Francis Vitale
† Sunday School Coordinators	Marion Nechuta & Dr. Elizabeth Rees
† Archivist & House Control	Nancy Noonan
† Intern	Sophie Beier

#### VESTRY LEADERS

† Senior Warden	John Beier (2019–2020)
† Junior Warden	Sydney O'Hagan (2020–2021)
† Clerk of the Vestry	Linda I. Kurdilla

#### VESTRY MEMBERS

Dr. Patrick Milas * (2018–2020)	Ron deVelde (2019–2021)	Tom Kaercher (2020–2022)
Marion Nechuta (2018–2020)	Holly Ives (2019–2021)	Linda Kurdilla (2020–2022)
Charlie Roberts (2018–2020)	Casey Woodruff (2019–2021)	Dr. Elizabeth Rees (2020–2022)

\* Dr Patchett resigned from the Vestry in mid-2020 and Dr. Milas served out the remaining months of Dr. Patchett's term

#### VESTRY APPOINTMENTS

† Financial Secretary	Sarah & Richard Gregory
† Treasurer	David Roberts

#### DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Delegates	Carol Beier, Bernhard Kolbe, and Dr. Patrick Milas
Alternates	Sophie Brennan, Holly Ives, and Linda Kurdilla

#### NORTHERN CONVOCATION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Delegates	Christy Barone, Vicki Goralski, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Marion Nechuta, Jim Willix, Stephanie Willix
Alternates	Ralph Bianchini, Holly Ives, Linda Kurdilla, and Tony Vitale

## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes for Sunday, January 26, 2020

### **Opening Prayer:**

Meeting began at 11:40 AM with a prayer by Fr. Andy. Fr. Andy announced we have a quorum. Those eligible to vote are defined by the bylaws as: baptized, 16 years or older, attend church regularly, and make regular contributions to the church.

### **Appointment of Secretary and Ballot Counters**

Fr. Andy appointed Linda Kurdilla as Secretary. Counters will be Sarah and Richard Gregory, Vicky Cooney, and Carol Beier.

### **Review and Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda**

Fr. Andy made a motion; Dave Burnett seconded; unanimously approved.

### **Nomination Committee**

**Junior Warden:** Since Sydney O'Hagan is the only candidate, Fr. Andy made a motion to vote her in. Jim Willix seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Vestry:** New candidates for all offices were asked to stand. Fr. Andy made a motion to vote Charlie Roberts in to fill the 1-year Vestry position left by Lisa LaGreca. Stephanie Willix seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Presentation of Slate of Candidates (polls open for 30 minutes)**

No other candidates for Diocesan or Northern Convention, so all candidates will have a position either as delegate or alternate.

### **Review and Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- † Unanimously approved.
- † correction: Nancy Noonan is house control (not housekeeping)
- † Page 6 - "Confirmed" line should total 3 (not 0)
- † Fr. Andy made a motion to approve; seconded by Dave Burnett; unanimously approved.

### **Address of the Rector**

Fr. Andy thanked those vestry members stepping down as well as the staff.

- † Lisa LaGreca, Dan Rivera (website and publicity), and Linda Kurdilla.
- † Thanked the office staff: Tony Vitale, Marion Nechuta, and Linda Kurdilla
- † Nancy Noonan for her help with house control and keeping vestry minutes in the archive room.
- † Mary Lou Stevens (organist)
- † Sarah & Richard Gregory (Financial Secretary)
- † Dave Roberts, Treasurer
- † Dianne Pecoraro – Sunday school superintendent
- † Al Lehmkuhl – Jr. Warden
- † Vestry and Sr. Warden

### **Address of the Senior Warden (John Beier)**

- † Thanks to Al for his time.
- † Growth: new faces/families; folks leaving
- † Fr. Andy: PIC to "Rector"

### **Address of the Junior Warden (Al Lehmkuhl)**

- † Thank you: John Witherington, Ray Berry, Joe Bardzilowski, Linda Kurdilla, Marion Nechuta, John Beier
- † Major accomplishments: 215 porch

### **Address of the TEDS Director (Nancy Ditzel)**

- † September, 2012 – TEDS had 24 students. This year, TEDS has 145 students.
- † This September, they are already full with 172 students registered.
- † June - 2 buses were purchased; thanks to parish, vestry, TEDS Board; Dave Roberts & Denise Alvarez (financials)

## **Review of Fiscal Year 2019 and Presentation of the 2020 Annual Budget**

- † Dave Roberts fielded questions about the 2020 Annual Budget
- † Dave Roberts-financials - history of Chester the Mouse
- † Surplus \$6,000 - AK promotion
- † Endowment: excess stocks or "sold-in" - tax benefit
- † TEDS repayment
- † Dividends 3%
- † Diocesan Trust: 18% up
- † Adopt 2020 budget: Fr. Andy, Dave B. unanimously approved.
- † Motion to adopt the annual budget was made by Fr. Andy, seconded by Dave Burnett, unanimously approved.

## **Declaration of Polls Closed**

At 12:03 PM, Dave Burnett made a motion to close the polls; Nancy Noonan seconded; unanimously approved.

## **Q&A period**

- † Holly - recycle 1 & 2
- † Ray Berry - directory - next few weeks
- † TV: Prayer book (1979 BOCP) summer months: use liturgy from around the world
- † John Witherington : endowment fund history - TEDS accomplishments
- † Fr. A: 150th update - Dave B; events happening over the next few years; 6 sub-committees
- † Fr. A: piano renovation: Susan donated her fees (from playing Christmas Eve) to the 150th fund
- † Darryl - 7 loaves of love left
- † Sydney: Warm Heart - next 2/9/2020 (3rd night)
- † Bonnie - Soups 2/2/2020 \$3.50 small; \$6 large container
- † Dave Burnett: Page 8 - Sunday attendance
- † Fr. Andy - thanks to choir leaders
- † Dave Roberts - thanks Heather Prince Kruger: medical insurance under Princeton Univ. coverage: saving \$24-28k
- † Fr. Andy: Thanks to Bonnie for scheduling fundraisers, etc.
- † Fr. Andy: Thanks to Marion and group for today's breakfast

## **Election Results**

- † Junior warden: Sydney O'Hagan
  
- † Vestry members:
- † 3-year term: Tom Kaercher, Beth Rees, and Linda Kurdilla
- † 2-year term: Ron DeVelde
- † 1-year term: Charlie Roberts
  
- † Diocese Convention: *Delegates*: Carol Beier, Bernhard Kolbe, and Patrick Milas. *Alternates*: Sophie Brennan, Holly Ives, and Linda Kurdilla.
  
- † Northern Convocation:
- † *Delegates*: Christy Barone, Vicki Goralski, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Marion Nechuta, Jim Willix, and Stephanie Willix. *Alternates*: Ralph Bianchini, Holly Ives, Linda Kurdilla, and Tony Vitale

## **Commissioning of 2020 Warden & Vestry**

The new Junior Warden and vestry members were commissioned by Fr. Andy.

## **Commissioning of 2020 Diocesan Convention & Northern Convocation**

Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention and Northern Convocation were commissioned by Fr. Andy.

## **Announcements, Acknowledgements & Adjournment**

Fr. Andy motion, Dave Burnett 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved.

The meeting ended at 1:26 PM.

## **Blessing & Sending** at 1:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda I. Kurdilla, Clerk of the Vestry

## Cumulative Record of Church Services 2020

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE	468	480	492*	343	413	334	206	344	298	307	479	297	
YEAR TO DATE ATTENDANCE	468	948	1440	1783	2196	2530	2736	3080	3378	3685	4164	4461	<b>4461</b>
MONTHLY AVG SUN. ATTEND.	117	120	98	86	83	84	52	69	75	77	96	74	
YTD AVG SUN ATTENDANCE	117	118	111	105	100	97	91	88	87	86	87	86	<b>86</b>
# OF SUNDAY SERVICES	7	8	10	7	10	8	4	9	8	7	12	7	
TOTAL SUNDAY SERVICES	7	15	25	32	42	50	54	63	71	78	90	97	<b>97</b>
WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST**	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
TOTAL WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST	0	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	<b>6</b>
DAILY OFFICE SERVICES	39	29	36	36	35	44	46	44	48	58	44	50	
TOTAL DAILY OFFICE SERVICES	39	68	104	140	175	219	265	309	357	415	459	509	<b>509</b>
OTHER SERVICES ATTENDANCE	225	335	395	698	712	583	691	596	618	593	609	791	
TOTAL ATTEND OTHER SERVICES	225	560	955	1653	2365	2948	3639	4235	4853	5446	6055	6846	<b>6846</b>
BURIALS/MEMORIALS	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
BAPTISMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
MARRIAGES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
SUNDAY OFFICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
CONFIRMED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
RECEIVED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

\* On March 13, 2020 Bishop Stokes closed all church buildings in the Diocese of NJ. On Sunday, March 15, Trinity's services moved on-line. On-line service numbers are calculated on the number of devices that join for the service and not the number of people who participate. For example one device may serve a whole family.

\*\* Here the title Eucharist includes on-line Services of the Word with Spiritual Communion.

# LEADERSHIP REPORTS

## Rector

Rev. Andrew David Kruger

### **Introduction**

2020, the year of a global pandemic, what an extraordinary time to have lived through! Typically, I write a report that is organized thematically. This year I will write chronologically, following the liturgical seasons of 2020, in order to preserve the history of our theological thinking and acting during the pandemic.

### **Lent**

On Friday, March 13, 2020 — less than 48 hours before the Third Sunday in Lent — Bishop Stokes closed all church buildings in the Diocese of NJ. Massive decisions needed to be made and communicated to the whole parish in next to no time at all. The two biggest decisions were: What liturgy (Morning Prayer or Spiritual Communion) and what on-line platform (Facebook, YouTube, Zoom) do we use?

I quickly dismissed the possibility of Morning Prayer on Sundays in order to preserve the strong emphasis on Resurrection which Eucharistic worship offers. The Southern African Prayer Book (*An Anglican Prayer Book 1989*) includes a short liturgy for ‘Spiritual Communion’ which became the blueprint for our Sunday liturgy.

The history of ‘Spiritual Communion’ lies in the understanding that the inability to physically receive and ingest consecrated Bread and Wine does not inhibit the grace the sacrament offers. Of course, the understanding was that spiritual communion was being offered to one person and not to a ‘community’ bound together across cyberspace. That’s a conundrum that we have had to grapple with. In retrospect it seems to me that the pandemic was exactly the right context for its right and proper use.

With the liturgy taking shape I moved to the more daunting task of choosing an on-line platform to host our services. Authentic liturgy and worship are always interactive, live and alive. With that mantra echoing in my head I quickly dismissed streaming platforms and any notion of pre-recorded material.

I had heard of Zoom and my wife, Heather, had used the service for some of her meetings for Grad School. Heather’s recollection of Zoom’s capabilities convinced me that it was best available option and got us closest to something resembling authentic worship. Heather wrote up a quick guide to downloading and using Zoom which I mailed to the parish, hoping and praying that we would have an on-line congregation for the Third Sunday in Lent.

Over the next several weeks parish life was systematically transitioned onto our on-line Zoom platform. The Daily Offices, all meetings, the Lent Course and of course Sunday worship services were all adapted for an on-line environment. It’s hard to understate the effort required to both establish and sustain parish life in this way. However, there was and continues to be a significant sense of a gratitude for the technology that makes this connection possible.

### **Easter**

Initially there were hopes that everything would be back to normal for Easter but it became increasingly clear that pandemic life was not going to end any time soon. The Three Great Days of the Triduum with their distinct rituals presented fresh challenges, after all how do foot-washing and the Easter fire translate to on-line worship?

Ultimately I offered some aspects of the Triduum on-line and created resources for families and individuals to observe rituals like the Agapé meal and Easter fire at home. On Easter Sunday we joined Episcopalians around the country and tuned into the live broadcast of the Easter Day Eucharist from the Washington National Cathedral.

It was during the Easter season that I first began to feel the real pastoral weight of the pandemic with several parishioners sick and the first COVID-19 related death in the parish. I became acquainted with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was required of me whenever administering last rites in a high risk environment. Trying to connect with a gravely ill person through the barrier of a mask, visor, gown and gloves will remain etched in my heart as one of the most difficult experiences of my vocation. Not to mention the heartache of trying to console family members who were barred from visiting their loved ones and had to say 'goodbye' over the phone.

The Coronavirus restrictions left many bereaved families inclined to wait out the pandemic before having a funeral. My pastoral advice to grieving families was always to have an immediate memorial service on-line followed by a committal of the mortal remains when that became possible. The Church does not typically permit a memorial service until after a funeral has taken place, but the extraordinary situation created a pastoral demand that required breaking with this expectation. Even now as the pandemic continues to rage there are interments that are yet to take place and I'm glad that those bereaved families had at least some ritual to process their grief immediately after the death of their loved one.

With Heather expecting our first child in early June, I turned my attention to training parishioners to lead the on-line Daily Offices while I was away on paternity leave. Edward arrived a little earlier than expected on May 20 and the work of creating a lay led self-sustaining Daily Office was only just completed in time for his arrival. These on-line Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer have been a real light in the midst of the darkness providing both much needed contact with each other and with God. I am so grateful to those who lead and host this vital and sustaining ministry: a real silver lining as a result of the pandemic. Sophie Beier was kind enough to begin her summer internship at Trinity sooner than expected with Edward's early arrival. Most significantly Sophie assumed the Zoom hosting duty from Heather and long after her internship concluded has remained faithful to creating the Sunday Worship slides and ensuring the smooth running of on-line services.

### **Season After Pentecost**

The Diocese of NJ's Task Force issued guidance for phases of re-opening on June 5, 2020. Following that report Trinity's Re-entering, Re-opening, and Re-imagining (RRR) Committee was constituted and began the work of completing a detailed questionnaire for submission to the Diocese before being approved to hold in-person services. The RRR Committee submitted a staggered plan that gradually moved us from outdoor in-person Morning Prayer (August) to outdoor in-person Eucharist (September) and finally indoor in-person Eucharist (October onwards). These in-person services were offered at 8 AM while the 10 AM on-line service has remained constant during the pandemic.

The RRR Committee worked extremely hard to implement the Diocesan protocols that included pre-registration, mask wearing, 6 feet of physical distancing, designated 'seating', and equipping our HVAC system with FPR 10 filters to name but a few. In addition a new sound system was required for the outdoor services, this was paid for by several very generous parishioners. The very first outdoor in-person service was an interment held in late July which afforded the RRR Committee the first opportunity to implement the new protocols. The service took place in the Memorial Garden and on Hamilton Avenue — after the Township instructed me to apply for a 'block party permit' in order to close the road: the service was a success and provided paved the way for similar creativity in the future.

Part of the protocols authorized by Bishop Stokes instruct priests to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion in one kind: bread alone. This is not a decision that Bishop Stokes took lightly as it touches on centuries old theological debates. The principal rubric for Holy Communion in the *Book of Common Prayer 1979* notes that: ‘Opportunity is always to be given to every communicant to receive the consecrated Bread and Wine separately.’ (BCP p. 407)

Certainly that rubric would hold pride of place in ordinary circumstances, but once again we found our theology stretched during the era of the pandemic. The Prayer Book seems to anticipate that this principal rubric may not always be possible; in the rubric concerning the administration of Holy Communion to the sick, the rubric reads “it is suitable to administer the Sacrament in one kind only” if the sick person is unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine (BCP, p. 457). This rubric sets a precedent for the reception of Holy Communion in one kind, but only under extraordinary circumstances. A global pandemic is just such an extraordinary circumstance.

When the pandemic started Trinity’s Music Director, Mary Lou Stevens, took a leave of absence and our section leaders Brandon Frumolt and Samantha Kaplan led the singing aspects of our on-line worship. Then on September 24 we officially bade farewell to Mary Lou Stevens but hope to see her back as a supply organist some time in the future. On the same day I was able to announce the appointment of Anthony Rafaniello who resumed his old position of Director of Music and Organist at Trinity. With corporate singing suspended due to the aerosol transmission of the Coronavirus, Anthony wasted no time in reviving the Trinity Bell Choir, elevating our virtual music and offering instrumental music at the 8 AM in-person services.

### **Advent & Christmas**

One of the highlights of the Advent season was the distribution of Advent wreaths to every household in the parish. Wreaths made it as far as Kentucky and Georgia because our on-line community has included worshippers from out of State. The Sundays in Advent began with the lighting of the appropriate candle on the Advent wreath, and every household was encouraged to light their candle at this point in the service. ‘Going to Church’ on-line tends to encourage passive spectators rather than active worshippers, and the lighting of Advent wreath candles afforded each household the opportunity to participate more actively in the liturgy.

At the beginning of the pandemic all baptisms were suspended indefinitely. As the months rolled by several people remembered the era before the current 1979 BCP when baptisms were routinely conducted as private ceremonies. Understandably that recollection prompted questions about whether I would conduct a private baptism. With my own son being on the list of baptismal candidates waiting to receive the sacrament I certainly understand some of the urgency of those seeking baptism. However throughout the pandemic I have advised patience and reminded myself and the parish that Baptism is initiation into the body of Christ and therefore demands the consent and promises of support from the parish for the baptismal candidate. The Diocese released guidelines for baptism during a pandemic and during Advent the Vestry approved the planning of conducting baptisms during the 2021 Easter Season.

As Christmas approached, the desire for singing Christmas Carols corporately asserted itself, the Diocese loosened the prohibition of congregational singing provided that the congregation is masked, outdoors and distanced by 6 feet. The service that best suited those restrictions is an outdoor Service of Lessons and Carols. Several committees were appointed and worked concurrently to bring this service to life. We received permission from the Township to close Hamilton Avenue, beautifully decorated the ramp which became an elevated platform from which the lectors read and created a wonderful nativity scene as the primary sign and visual focus. Members of the Cranford High School Madrigals joined us as we raised our voices in tune with the organ that was ‘piped’ outside via the new sound system. Not even the miserable rainy weather was able to dampen the joy of singing together again for the first time in many months!

## Conclusion

As I wrap up this lengthier than normal report, I'm staggered by just how much we were able to achieve as a parish and how modern technology helped to keep us connected. Many people have worked extremely hard and I'm so grateful to all of you for your faithfulness, understanding and commitment to building God's Kingdom even in the midst of a pandemic.

As I compiled the Average Sunday Attendance table (below) I couldn't help but feel a little disheartened by the apparent decline. Of course the on-line service numbers are calculated on the number of devices that join for the service, and not the exact number of people who participate, which means that the number of people attending on a Sunday is in reality higher than reflected in the table.

Average Sunday Attendance						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
99	85	102	103	114	86	

Nevertheless there is no doubt in my mind that the pandemic has disrupted some of the momentum we were enjoying as a parish, while at the same time forcing us to learn new skills at an exponential pace. The 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the parish in 2022 affords us the perfect opportunity to re-energize our common life and carry forward the ways in which we have been forced to grow as an on-line community.

May God grant us rest in the midst of pandemic fatigue, and the vitality to continue building the Kingdom of God here in this place. Amen.

### Senior Warden

John Beier

It has been an extraordinary year for Trinity Episcopal Church. One that has challenged us and forced us to adapt almost every aspect of what we do as a parish. At the same time, the need for what the parish provides – solace, community, outreach, and care for the poor – is greater than ever. Through it all, we have risen to the challenge.

In March, Trinity responded quickly and creatively to the health crisis. When it was necessary to suspend in-person services, Fr. Andy and Heather Kruger used technology familiar from Heather's academic career to set up live on-line services, accessible through the church website. The following Sunday, on-line worship services, sourced and paid for from Zoom Video Communications, Inc. began, first from Fr. Andy's office, and soon after from the Church building.

These on-line services have helped us to keep worshipping together and maintain our community connections. For many, during times of isolation and quarantine, these services have become the most important hour of the week.

The Vestry also established a call list, to regularly call and check in on each member of the Congregation, which has been an important mechanism in maintaining our connection to one another.

Following the guidance of the Diocese of New Jersey, Trinity has been slowly returning to in-person services. A local Re-entering, Re-opening, and Re-imagining Committee (RRR) was established under the leadership of the Junior Warden, Sydney O'Hagan, to establish the procedures necessary to meet safely. The priority was always to protect our most vulnerable members.

Outdoor services resumed over the summer, and limited services were moved indoors in the fall. Through it all, the 10 AM Sunday service has remained the center of our parish worship.

Trinity's ministries have continued to thrive in 2020. The Outreach Committee, under the leadership of Marion Nechuta, has responded to the extraordinary needs of the neighboring communities with increased support for local food banks, and continuing support for St. John's in Elizabeth. Other food collection efforts have been organized, notably by Sydney O'Hagan. These efforts were needed to meet the increasing needs of so many people who have suffered from unemployment.

The education ministries have also grown and prospered. The Trinity Men's Group, led by Terry Nechuta, and the newly re-instituted Trinity Women's Group, led by Carol Beier, have met on-line, and offer opportunities for learning and fellowship. Nancy Miller leads Bible Study on-line on Thursdays, and Beth Rees is working with a dedicated group of volunteer teachers to continue on-line Sunday School.

The Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS) continues to operate, with reduced enrollment, to meet the needs of the Parish and the surrounding community. Nancy Ditzel has worked tirelessly to establish the procedures and set up the facilities necessary for TEDS to operate safely.

The offices of the church continue to operate on an all-volunteer basis. Tony Vitale perseveres to do great work producing both the weekly paper bulletins and the on-line version necessary for on-line services, as well as the Annual Report. Sophie Beier has become indispensable as she formats the on-line services and manages them as the web host. Linda Kurdilla continues as the volunteer bookkeeper, keeping day-to-day finances on track. Marion Nechuta has been working as an administrator in the offices in Witherington Hall, helping us keep regular hours, and Nancy Noonan continues to work in the Archive Room, gathering information for next year's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations.

The work of all these people, and of others too numerous to mention, have brought us through this extraordinary year. We end the year with a vibrant and growing congregation, a stable financial situation, and renewed hope for the future. It is my hope that all these good things continue in the coming year. As last year was the Year of Baptism, this year is the Year of Eucharist, and I earnestly look forward to the day when we can all meet together to celebrate. We will surely face many challenges between now and then, but I know we will overcome them, each and every one.

**Junior Warden**  
Sydney O'Hagan

The pandemic has created unique and exceptional challenges to Trinity Episcopal Church in the year 2020. The church, the clergy, the vestry, numerous and extraordinary volunteers, and parishioners have met these challenges with thoughtful guidance and extreme fortitude. The church should feel pride in its proven commitment to maintaining a strong community when we were physically far apart.

In September, along with Father Andy, Ray Barry and John Zebrowski, we spearheaded a 'Fall Mulch and Clean-up Day' to lay mulch, remove dead or dying plants, pull weeds, and care for new growth in the Memorial Garden and parish campus. Volunteers were solicited from the parish, and many individuals, including 12 young adults, came to the clean-up effort on September 19, which was a great success.

John Zebrowski headed up the project of replacing the roof at TEDS. John solicited the bids, made recommendations on the proposed bids and projects, and oversaw the entire project. I cannot overstate the value of his expertise and commitment to this project. As Junior Warden, I had absolute faith that the project was being completed with absolute precision at the most affordable price point.

John Zebrowski also continued to devote countless hours to Trinity Church during his weekly “maintenance” visits to the church.

For 2020, there were 41 separate maintenance visits that John Zebrowski was personally was involved in. Anthony Lagarra also participated in 16 “missions” for a total of 192 hours of volunteerism. Here is a snapshot of some of the completed work:

- Exit Light fixture - 1 new install & 12 batteries replaced
- Air handler filter replacements - 11
- AC condenser units (cover/uncover) 6 units,
- Window AC units (install/remove) 2 units
- General maintenance (Church) - 8 events
- General maintenance (TEDS) - 8 events
- Asbestos management activities (TEDS) - 2
- Shingle roof & trim replacement (TEDS) project
- Door & gate repairs/adjustments - 2
- Landscaping - 14 events
- Gutter cleaning - Summer (75% of church)
- Reglazed Hobbie window, scraped & repainted 14 church windows
- Exterior light timer adjustments - 13
- Light bulb replacements (LED, CFL, halogen & incandescent) 4 (down from 18 in 2019 due to adoption of LED lighting)

The pandemic related activities include:

- Install HDMI data cable from Witherington into church
- Outdoor worship space layout & grass painting
- Adjusting fresh air intake to church HVAC
- Installed highest grade filters compatible with 6 HVAC units
- Installed floor-to-ceiling curtain in TEDS' director's office

In March, outgoing Junior Warden Al Lehmkuhl completed a painting project at the church property at 215 North Avenue, East. The property had not been painted in many years and was in dire need of painting on both the first and second floor, and also the newly completed porch. The cost of the project was \$7,200 and was completed by Hugo Villatoro.

Trinity Church’s tenants at 215 North Avenue, East suffered a severe financial burden as a result of the pandemic. The church waived 2.5 months of rent to help them get back on firm financial footing. As long-time tenants who have faithfully paid their rent on-time for years, it was our honor to extend a helping hand to them. Since the waiver of rent, they have returned to paying their rent in a timely manner.

As Junior Warden, I rewrote their lease agreement to correspond with the most current requirement under NJ landlord/tenant law. The lease contained an incremental increase in rent to cover rising property taxes on the property. I also made sure the lease was signed and executed in a legally-prescribed timeline.

The Vestry agreed to allow the tenants to have a dog in the home. The tenants asked to have a puppy as a companion to their autistic son who was having extreme difficulty with the isolation that comes with virtual learning. I wrote a new provision for the contract to permit the dog and tenants paid an additional security deposit before acquiring the puppy (“Huck”).

The property at 215 North Avenue, East required some maintenance and repair in 2020, including repair to an electrical outlet, a running toilet, and lack of heat. After an inspection from Reynold’s Plumbing, it was recommended that the boiler be replaced. After soliciting several bids, Trinity Church contracted with Monmouth Plumbing and Heating to have the boiler replaced. It was replaced at a cost of \$8,550 and the unit and its exhaust were brought entirely up to code.

The landscaper for Trinity Episcopal Church is in the process of being replaced. He has done substandard work on the property in the past two years, and during the December storm he failed to come to the property until after it had been snowing heavily for 24 hours. Bids were solicited from four different companies and met with individually to show them the property. These bids will be presented to Father Andy, Senior Warden Beier and the vestry soon.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of Trinity Episcopal Church.

## Re-entering, Re-opening, and Re-imagining

Submitted by Andrew Kruger

The creation of a committee on “Re-entering, Re-opening, and Re-imagining” (RRR) was required by the Diocese and the members were appointed by the rector. The committee consists of Andrew Kruger, Sydney O’Hagan, Holly Ives, Linda Kurdilla, Nancy Ditzel, Casey Woodruff, John Zebrowski, and Anthony Rafaniello.

Over several meetings committee members familiarized themselves with the Diocesan protocols required for reopening churches and church schools and submitted Trinity’s plan for a staggered return to in-person worship starting with outdoor services in August and September and then returning into the building in October. Bishop Stokes approved Trinity’s plan on July 19, adding, “I am grateful to you and the leadership of Trinity Church for the faithfulness, conscientiousness, patience and diligence you have shown throughout this crisis.”

Below is a list of the most significant safety measures that were put in place by Trinity’s RRR Committee:

- † Mask wearing is required on church property at all times.
- † Temperatures will be taken at the door and those with a fever will be asked to participate in on-line worship.
- † Every participant is required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building.
- † Our HVAC system will be set to allow for the maximum amount of air exchange and be equipped with FPR 10 filters which eliminate virus carriers.
- † Strict 6 foot distancing measures, using the blueprints, will be implemented and seating will be clearly designated.
- † These physical distancing measures have reduced the capacity of the church from 236 people to a maximum of 47 people for indoor services.
- † Traffic flow will be limited to entry through the narthex double doors and exit through the crossing side doors.
- † Bishop Stokes has instructed all parishes to offer Communion in one kind (Bread alone) to limit potential exposure from the common cup.
- † Communicants are required to sanitize their hands prior to reception of Communion, and then move past the presider before removing their mask to consume the Bread.
- † Communicants leave immediately after communion and do not return to their seats, thereby limiting potential person to person contact.
- † Thanks to the new headset microphone, purchased together with the outdoor sound equipment, Fr Andy is able to preside without removing his mask.
- † We have access to the TEDS Ryobi One Chemical fogger which cleans surfaces with a virucide should we have consecutive services.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Chair: David L. Burnett

*The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been commissioned by the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church to prepare for the parish’s sesquicentennial in 2022 and looks forward to a celebration of faith, parish community, and civic life in Cranford. There are six subcommittees:*

### *Liturgical*

In 2020, the Liturgical Committee presented a number of programs to explore our baptismal identity in the Year of Baptism, and we will be doing the same in 2021 with the Year of Eucharist. Additionally, the committee has a retreat planned for Holy Cross Monastery from May 13–15, 2022. Members of the Liturgical Committee: Casey Woodruff, Chair; Terry Nechuta, Tony Vitale, Cynthia Kolby, Carol Beier, and Anthony Rafaniello.

### *History/Archival*

The History/Archival Committee will write and publish an historical narrative of Trinity from 1972-2022, using vestry minutes and other documents as primary sources. To date, both a first and second draft for the years 1972-2016 have been completed and are ready for final review and edit. Our goal is to have a published book, with pictures, by Trinity Sunday, 2022. The Committee's second goal is to have an ongoing Remembrances and Recollections link on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section of the Trinity Church website. Parishioners, past and present, have already begun to share their memories of people and events and are encouraged to continue to send short snippets or longer reminiscences to Fran Witherington or any other member of the committee. Members of the History/Archival Committee: Fran and John Witherington, co-chairs; Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Nancy Ditzel, Arlene Fricke, Vicky Goralski, Linda Kurdilla, Patrick Milas, Nancy Noonan and Irene Telerico.

### *Events*

While the pandemic has kept us apart for most of 2020, the 150<sup>th</sup> Events Committee hosted a Fall and Winter virtual Bingo event to bring us together for fun and fellowship. As we await safer times for all of us to be physically together as a parish family, the Committee will look to arrange more virtual or socially-distanced gatherings, such as another Reverse Progressive Dinner, to help us celebrate our history and enhance our fellowship in 2021. Members of the Events Committee: Dianne Pecoraro and Elizabeth Broccoli, co-chairs; Eric Bursack, Katy Bursack, Bonnie Gentesse, Beth Rees, Fran Witherington, Joyce Cieslak and Amy Robinson.

### *Advertising and Communications*

In 2020 the team supported the other 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary subcommittees in communicating to the parish. Currently a feature story about Trinity's 150-year history is under development. During the anniversary year, the team will expand its focus to communicating to the public about historic links between Trinity and Cranford and to invite the public to join us for key anniversary celebrations. Communications Team Members: Tom Kaercher, chair; Courtney Burbella, Eric Bursack, Stacey Cooney, and Dan Rivera.

### *Buildings and Renovations*

The Building and Renovations team look forward to preserving, renovating and enhancing our physical plant to ensure that it is safe, functional and sustainable for future generations of parishioners and neighbors. Among the projects in focus include reimaging the narthex, as well as enhancing Lois's Kitchen and Sherlock Hall. Members of the Buildings Committee: John Beier, chair; Ray Berry, Art Patchett and Ralph Bianchini.

### *Fundraising*

The founding members of Trinity Episcopal Church were committed to ensuring this church and its community would thrive 150 years after its creation. The Fundraising Committee is determined to honor their vision and do our part in creating a sustainable economic future for our church. Our goal is to raise funds to ensure Trinity Episcopal Church, its church community, and the surrounding community as a whole will continue to flourish for the next 150 years. As of December 31, 2020, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund is \$62,345.90. Members of the Fundraising Committee: Sydney O'Hagan, chair; Father Andy and Linda Kurdilla.

## **WORSHIP**

### **Acolytes**

Coordinator: Stacey Cooney

This ministry dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Acolytes add dignity to the sacred ceremony of the services by assisting the priest in leading the congregation through the service and setting the table for communion at the Altar. When full in-person services resume, we aim to have at least three acolytes serving each week at the 10 AM service so that a full processional might be achieved. At that time, acolytes will again begin to connect for training a couple times per year and will be encouraged to attend diocesan events, if available.

In 2020, three acolytes joined Father Andy and Stacey for the Annual Acolyte Festival at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton for a day of workshops and youth fellowship.

As with all ministries, there will always be a need for new members. The ministry is open to all young people. Please give prayerful thought to having your family be a part of this sacred ministry once the in-person services resume in full. Contact: Stacey Cooney (cooneystacey@gmail.com)

## Altar Guild

Coordinators: Carol Beier & Sophie 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, vessels, candles, and vestments. When you walk into the church and see the colors of the altar hangings announcing the liturgical season, the light of the sanctuary candle and the gleaming brass, that's all the work of the Altar Guild.

Altar Guild members cherish the time spent in quiet reverence, 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 service but now, due to the pandemic, we are signing up for weekly shifts.

If you would like to experience the joy of serving God in beauty, dignity, and reverence, please contact Carol Beier (908-272-7491) or Sophie Beier (908-967-1322).

## “Call-in Compline”

Leader: Bonnie Gentesse

A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace, Compline is the final church service of the day. Prayers are read from the Prayer Book and petitions for the sick and those in need are said. This short (10 minutes) midweek service strengthens our prayer life. For the past 4 years; Compline is prayed every Thursday night at 8:00 PM; since the pandemic, the service has moved from a phone-in line to the Parish's on-line Zoom platform.

## Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

Coordinator: Bonnie Gentesse

Trinity offers opportunities for parishioners to be involved in the Liturgy by participation as Lectors (reading Lessons and Prayers of the People) and Eucharistic Ministers (assisting the Rector during Communion and taking Communion to the sick). They are licensed by the Diocese. All are welcome to join this Ministry. Please see Bonnie Gentesse if you are interested.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic our “appreciation” dinner was cancelled. However, we thank you and appreciate all our dedicated Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors who read and assist at every Liturgy and Service.

Gratitude and blessings to our Eucharistic Ministers: Cynthia Kolby, Dave Burnett, Tony Vitale, Tom Kaercher, Sarah Gregory, Bernard Kolbe, Terry Nechuta, Pat Cameron, Vicki Goralski, Christy Barone, Stephanie Willix, Casey Woodruff, Bonnie Gentesse and Charlie Roberts.

To our Lectors: Maureen & Darrell Frydlewicz, Sarah Gregory, Dave Burnett, Bonnie Gentesse, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Tom Kaercher, David Robinson, Tony Vitale, Terry & Marion Nechuta, Bernard Kolbe, Cynthia Kolby, Christy Barone, Diane Pecoraro, Daniel Rivera, Sydney O'Hagan, Cindy Concannon, Carol & John Beier, Max Bursack, Justin Bursack, Catherine Strawder, Victor Broccoli, Heather Prince-Kruger, Linda Kurdilla, Casey Woodruff, Paolo Cammarota, Megan Trusdell, Peter Waldron, Antonio DiFonzo, Debbie & John Wisniewski, Susan Olszewski, and Cheryl Pantina.

## Music Ministry

Anthony J. Rafaniello, Director of Music & Organist

“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.” – *Psalms 98:1*

As the pandemic hit the United States in March of 2020, our world was turned upside down. Musicians quickly learned that their work, especially singing, is one of the most dangerous activities during a viral pandemic, spread by respiratory droplets. And since March, organizations from the local church choir all the way up to major international cultural institutions have been forced to close their in-person operations, threatening their sheer existence, and forcing them to completely rethink the ways they practice, express, and share their art form. Yet even in the challenging times of the 2020 pandemic, we continue to find new and innovative ways to praise God in song, through technology, ingenuity, and creativity.

As our worship moved on-line, our music-making moved into our homes. Our choir section leaders, Brandon Frumolt and Samantha Kaplan continued leading us in song, sharing modified anthems and Taizé chants from home each Sunday, even as they welcomed their daughter, Phoebe on July 16. Thanks to instrumentalists Mary Lou Stevens, Susan Caldwell Nelson, and Cynthia Kolby for sharing their talents over the course of the past year during our on-line services. With the choir unable to meet and sing in person, we explored various ways to join our voices together, including the creation of a virtual anthem during the Easter season.

As the weather warmed and the scientific community began to learn more about the virus, we were able to worship outdoors in-person. Thanks to the generosity of several parishioners, we were able to purchase a portable sound system to use for our outdoor, in-person 8 AM services during the summer. Several members of the congregation learned how to set up and run the system. When we moved the 8 AM service back into the church for the fall, we were able to use the organ to accompany our worship, even though we were restricted from singing.

The 2020 Christmas celebrations brought more opportunities for innovative music-making. Members of the congregation joined their voices together in a [virtual singing of “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”](#) and the children of the parish, with instruction from Kate DiFonzo, sang their own [virtual rendition of “Go Tell it on the Mountain”](#) at the end of the on-line Christmas Pageant.

The handbell choir was able to meet in person during the fall season, following strict social distancing guidelines and protocols, and prepared several pieces which were [recorded for Christmas](#). The members of the handbell choir included Christy Barone, Emma Barone, Hannah Barone, John Beier, Sophie Beier, Carolyn Dittmar, Michelle Freeland, Thomas Kaercher, Amy Robinson, and Fran Witherington.

The highlight of our Christmas celebrations was the outdoor Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve. Using our new portable sound system, we were able to “pipe” the organ outside to the socially distanced congregation, where members of the Cranford High School Madrigal Choir were also on hand to lead the carols. For the first time in nine months, we were able to sing together, live and in-person. We eagerly await the day where we can once again regularly sing with each other without the risk of viral infection.

We thank Mary Lou Stevens for her service as Trinity’s Interim Music Director and Organist for more than a year. On Sunday, September 24 we celebrated and bid farewell to Mary Lou, thanking her for her musicianship and her deep faith. We wish her well in her retirement.

It is my honor to return to the position of Director of Music and Organist, as of October 2020. My first tenure at Trinity ran from June 2013 to October 2017, when I left to focus on my full-time job as the Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts for Cranford Public Schools. After three years in that position, I decided to return to the classroom, teaching music at Cranford High School, which provided the opportunity to serve again at Trinity.

Despite significant challenges and obstacles, our long tradition of music-making at Trinity continues. As we continue to endure the darkness, sickness, and isolation of the pandemic, we will work to continue brightening and enlivening our worship, and our lives with music, experimenting with innovative ways to “sing to the Lord a *new* song.”

## Ushers

Coordinator: Linda Kurdilla

Ushers are an essential part of the church experience. As the “face” of Trinity Church, they are the first and last people you see at church, but this year was an *unusual* one. We started out the year with regular services; but, due to the pandemic, we closed the church for regular worship in March and relied on the on-line screen-sharing service for video communication.

The Reentering, Reopening, and Reimagining Task Force (RRR) started meeting June 18 to discuss going back into the church. After consulting with the Diocese, we started planning for outdoor services on the North Avenue lawn. Outdoor usher training was held on July 25. On August 2 we had our first outdoor service. There was a new procedure for ushers (arrive early to set up; dots on the ground for 6-foot spacing; position hand sanitizer stands; set up signs for entry/exit; take temperatures, check in attendees; bulletins; collect pledges; guide people for communion; and put everything away afterwards).

After submitting our plan for indoor worship to the Diocese, we held indoor usher training October 15. We then began 8 AM services inside the church on October 18. The 8 AM indoor service/10 AM on-line service continued for the rest of October, November, and December. The year finished up with an outdoor Lessons & Carols service Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM followed by a 10 PM on-line service. On Christmas Day, there was a 9 AM indoor on-line service.

We gratefully thank all those who participated in training and ushering during 2020: Christy Barone; John, Carol, & Sophie Beier; Ray Berry; Dave, Heather, & Sarah Burnett; Eric Bursack; Nancy Ditzel; Darrell & Maureen Frydlewicz; Vicki Goralski; Sarah & Richard Gregory; Holly Ives; Linda Kurdilla; Patrick Milas & Piper Ferriter; Dan Rivera; Jim, Stephanie, & Emma Willix; Deb & John Wisniewski; and John Witherington.

And special thanks to Fr. Andy, Marion Nechuta, Anthony Rafaniello, and Casey Woodruff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes; and to Ray Berry who built a beautiful outdoor nativity creche for Christmas Eve.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Sunday School

Co-Superintendents of Sunday School: Marion Nechuta & Dr. Elizabeth Rees

2020 may be divided into 2 parts, before and after March 20. In the beginning of 2020, there were three classes. Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten in one class, students in Grades 1 through 4 in another, and students in Grades 5 through 7 attended Confirmation Class (a three-year program encompassing the Old and New Testament, the Prayer Book, history of the church, Confirmation and much more).

During the first part of 2020, students from the first two classes, along with their teachers and aides, met at the beginning of the 10 AM Sunday service in the church; after receiving a blessing from Father Andy, they proceeded to Sunday School and returned to Church during the Communion. The younger students (5 years and younger) used a first-floor classroom of the TEDS building while the students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> used a second-floor classroom.

After the pandemic hit, Fr. Andy taught the children through his sermons, as well as inviting them to send in a picture to be displayed during the Sunday on-line service. Sunday School was on hiatus during the summer months and returned in September. In September, Sunday School and Confirmation Class used the TEDS tents to have classes outside. By the beginning of November and the onset of colder weather, classes were switched to virtual.

Sunday worship on the third week of the month is designated as a Children's Service and the students participated by taking up the gifts, ushering, serving as acolytes, and reading the lessons and prayers of the people. After the services went on-line, students read lessons and prayers of the people virtually. Thank you to Bonnie Gentesse for her help in organizing the readers.

The Christmas Pageant was virtual and it was a wonderful success. Thank you to all the parents and students who participated, and to Brandon Frumolt for putting together the video. And a big thank you to all the volunteer teachers and aides for their faith and commitment in teaching the students of the parish.

## Men's Group

Coordinator: Terry Nechuta

Since 2006, the Trinity Men's Group has gathered for fellowship, encouragement and prayer centered around the Word. The bible study of the Minor Prophets continues from last year, but all topics (e.g., happiness, the pandemic) are open for discussion. God's spirit speaks through each other to each other. "As iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance." – *Proverbs 27:17*

In February 2020, the second annual Men's Retreat at the Community of St John Baptist in Mendham, NJ was a great success. Unfortunately, closings due to COVID-19 restrictions are preventing a repeat in 2021.

The group meets throughout the year, once a month on the first Saturday of the month, from 8 to 9 AM. The reason for the early start is simple – in the beginning, the men all had Saturday projects and jobs during the week. This way they could meet early and then start cutting the grass. Come and enjoy fellowship and discussion around the Word. Meeting virtually means no more light breakfast, but it is especially easy to drop in and visit; no preparation is needed. *Agape* Contact Terry Nechuta (908-956-5848).

## Women's Bible Study

Leader: Nancy Miller

The year 2020 was a sketchy one for Women's Bible Study, due to Nancy Miller's health issues, the pandemic, and Clint Miller's illness and subsequent death. The change from in-person to on-line created effort on everyone's part getting used to their laptops and the on-line platform. Despite that, all three of Paul's missionary trips, as presented in the Acts of the Apostles, were covered. The review and discussion of the Book of Acts will be completed in 2021.

In addition to study, prayer is an important part of our time together, rejoicing in God, giving thanks for healings (and we have seen them), and for the blessings of God in the lives of relatives, friends, and members of the Church. We meet on Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM on Trinity's on-line platform.

Please join Diane Baldwin, Mary Cheress, Mary Ellinger, Arlene & Carol Fricke, Mary Ann Friscia, Vicki Goralski, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Marion Nechuta, Susan Caldwell Nelson, Susan Olszewski, Cheryl Pantina, Ruth Uhde, and Nancy Miller as we journey through the Bible. (The women still miss JoAnn Lehmkuhl and her many provocative questions.)

## Women's Group

Coordinator: Carol Beier

The Trinity Women's Group, a counterpart to the long-established Trinity Men's Group, meets on the second Monday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 PM (currently on the Trinity on-line platform) to explore and discuss scripture. It held its inaugural meeting in September and since then has covered the Fall of Jerusalem from the Book of Jeremiah, the Babylonian Exile from the Book of Lamentations, the Return from Exile from the Book of Nehemiah, the Infancy Narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and the Epiphany from the Gospel of Matthew.

Women of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join for learning, discussion and fellowship. For information, please contact Carol Beier (908-272-7491).

## PARISH LIFE

### Fellowship Hour

Co-leaders: Holly Ives and Marion Nechuta

Up until March, parishioners volunteered as hosts, graciously providing coffee and light snacks to enjoy along with fellowship. This small act of fellowship provides our parish the opportunity to know and love each other. Informally known as 'coffee hour' but meaning more than treats, after March it had a whole new meaning. In its place, parishioners were invited to join a breakout room after the 10 AM on-line service. It was an opportunity to meet up with our Trinity friends. Where 2021 will take us, no one knows.

### Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Co-Presidents: Holly Ives & Marion Nechuta

Activities were limited, nonetheless the women of the parish were kept busy "behind the scenes."

- † February: Trinity's Annual Soup Sale, coordinated by Bonnie Gentesse, raised a profit of \$562 which went to the ECW Scholarship Fund. The soup team made 12 different varieties of soup and chili; small and large containers were sold.
- † February: The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a success. Coincidentally, that day coincided with the yearly anniversary celebration of the Tuesday night meeting of AA; crisis was averted due to the combined efforts of both groups and a lot of love and Christian charity.
- † March: Semi-Annual meeting cancelled due to the State of Emergency declared on March 12.
- † May: Mother's Day Flower Sale, hosted by the ECW, raises funds for the ECW Scholarship Fund. Geraniums of many types and varieties are sold; orders are taken in advance and flowers delivered the weekend before Mother's Day. This event has proven to be a great fundraiser, as well as providing beautiful flowers that are enjoyed well into the autumn season. Susan Olszewski is the contact and managed to sell \$550.75 of flowers this year for the ECW Scholarship Fund.
- † The ECW Scholarship Committee met on-line and awarded scholarship fund money to Erica Knapp and Charles Roberts.
- † Bonnie Gentesse was selected as the representative from Trinity Cranford to be honored at the tri-annual "Women of Honor" luncheon scheduled for October 2020. Unfortunately the luncheon celebration had to be postponed until October 2021.

## Fellowship Luncheon

Joseph Bardzilowski, Bonnie Gentesse, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olszewski

Until March 12, 2020, a luncheon was held in Witherington Hall from Noon to 2 PM on the first Thursday of every month. This Luncheon was open to parishioners and friends, and was a time to socialize as well as to listen to invited speakers on wide-ranging topics of interest. An average of between 25–35 were in attendance, including several attendees from outside our parish. Susan Olszewski, Bonnie Gentesse and Joe Bardzilowski hosted the event; Tom Kaercher arranged for speakers, and all attending (especially the Women’s Bible Study) chipped in to help with set-up and clean-up. An optional \$5 fee was collected to cover food costs. We hope to continue with the Fellowship Luncheon once it’s safe.

## **OUTREACH**

### Outreach Committee

Chairperson: Marion Nechuta

Trinity is a “One Congregation” committed to helping the Episcopal Church achieve the Millennium Development Goals by collecting for the Episcopal Relief and Development projects (e.g., Animal Project, Share of Well, Care for Moms and Newborns and Disaster Relief). We also collect for the “Cristosal Foundation” an organization that helps people in El Salvador. The year started off with making bread for our Loaves of Love sale at the annual meeting, raising funds for St. Clare’s in Elizabeth who help children with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses. In February, we collected for Seamen’s Institute for their “Christmas at Sea” project.

Then came the pandemic and priorities had to change. We maintained helping St. John’s money to purchase food. We were able to pay for our sponsorship of our one Cameroon orphan as well as getting a matching grant from the diocese. We collected food for our neighbors in Cranford and were able to help with food and money for CROP Walk. An exciting development has been the addition of a new subcommittee, under the leadership of Casey Woodruff, focusing on ministry to the incarcerated. This sub-committee mobilized the parish to participate in a gift drive to give holiday presents to children with an incarcerated parent; we collected well over 100 gifts. We maintained our connection with “Operation Warm Heart” (a project that houses and feeds 14 individuals during the winter months) by donating the collection from the Lessons and Carols service to this ministry. Any one at any time is welcomed and encouraged to join Outreach.

## Communications

Submitted by Tom Kaercher, Vestry

Trinity’s PR activities are intended to build and expand a positive awareness of Trinity in the community-at-large by creating and distributing press releases about our ministries and activities to the area media outlets; newspapers, on-line outlets, and TV35. These are passive forms of communication because the placements ultimately rely on the media outlets having available space and willingness to publish our activities. The Coronavirus and its resultant limits on most in-person activities severely limited the opportunities for PR activities to the general public after early March. We did announce our on-line service schedule and invited the public to join us. Then in December we invited the public to join us for our outdoor Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve.

On a more positive note, Trinity made some communications infrastructure upgrades to both deal with the pandemic limitations and also to position Trinity for ever-increasing electronic communications in the future. Father Andy quickly moved our services on-line in Mid-March by working with John Zebrowski to run an Ethernet cable from the church office to the church. Anthony Rafaniello continued to refine the on-line platform to successfully include music and singing. In addition to Sunday services, the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer were also moved on-line and had noticeably increased participation.

Trinity purchased an outdoor audio system to be able to hold socially-distanced outdoor in-person services by mid-Summer. The system was also used for the outdoor Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service. The WiFi footprint was expanded by adding Mesh networks to both the church building and Sherlock Hall. This greatly increased our capability for on-line activities across the campus as well as enabling in-person attendees to access service bulletins and reports through their electronic devices. Lastly, Father Andy purchased a new iPad to be able to hold hybrid services including both in-person and on-line participants.

TrinityCranford.com continues to be Trinity's face to the on-line world. It has become more important than ever during the limitations for in-person worship and activities. Thanks to the Dan Rivera's leadership, Jim Behnke's photographs, and the many content contributors it is a true credit to the parish and is continually improving. One of the newest features is the Remembrances and Recollections section from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archival Committee.

Lastly, special thanks to Father Andy and Tony Vitale for their work on preparing both the weekly email blast and the Sunday bulletins, which are the two primary internal communications vehicles for keeping the parish informed about parish activities and events.

### Stephen Ministers

Leader: Father Andy Kruger

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one caring ministry that takes place in over 12,000 congregations world-wide. 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- experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. Stephen Ministers and care receivers typically meet weekly until the crisis is past. Their discussions are completely confidential. Stephen Ministers meet twice a month for continued training and development. All of our Stephen Ministers have completed 50 hours of training. To date over 30 parishioners have been ministered to by our Stephen Ministers.

Due to the pandemic Stephen Ministers did not meet their care receivers in person, but communicated via phone or on-line. Active Stephen Ministers during 2020 were Joe Bardzilowski, Linda Kurdilla, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olszewski and Bonnie Gentesse. Anyone interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or being assigned a Stephen Minister should contact Father Andy.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Stewardship Committee

Chair: Peter Waldron

Thanks to the hard work of the stewardship committee and the wonderful generosity of the parish, our number of pledgers remained constant, and our forecasted giving has held steady. This is of incredible significance given the challenges faced by our parishioners in the midst of a pandemic. Particular thanks are extended to Sarah and Richard Gregory who have done a superb job of overseeing the pledge recording system.

The Committee met several times in August and September to discuss our annual stewardship letter and pledge cards. This year's theme was: *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* In the annual stewardship letter, parishioners were asked to reflect how they are being called to respond to God's faithfulness. Several parishioners also contributed their reflections on stewardship in the form of Ministry Minutes. Revised pledge cards were distributed in October along with the pledge letter and report.

The Stewardship Committee consists of Richard Gregory, Sarah Gregory, Mike Junod, Linda Kurdilla, Andrew Kruger, Dave Roberts, Peter Waldron.

## Trinity Church Endowment Fund

Endowment Committee: David Burnett, Chair; John Witherington, David Roberts

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

### Previous Year End Balances

12/31/2015	\$88,685.36
12/31/2016	\$127,330.56
12/31/2017	\$178,331.74
12/31/2018	\$203,924.23
12/31/2019	\$296,320.01

### 2020

DATE	SHARES	SHARE PRICE	Investment/ REINVEST	Description	DEPOSIT	\$ Balance
12/31/2019	4,939.490	59.99		Beginning Balance		\$296,320.01
1/17/2020		61.16		TEDS Debt Service	\$1,300.00	
2/12/2020		61.49		TEDS Debt Service	\$1,300.00	
3/23/2020		42.19		TEDS Debt Service	\$1,300.00	
Dividends			185.11	Dividend Purchases	\$10,490.80	
12/31/2020	5,197.811	64.45		Year End Balance		\$334,998.92

**EdwardJones:** This account is available so that when a parishioner donates shares of securities, Trinity Episcopal Church can receive them. At year end, the balance was \$52,933.58 (last year it was \$36,989.69).

**Bank Accounts:** The year end balances were: For the Money Market Account, reserved to be used for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, the balance is \$62,345.90. For the Operating Account, the balance is \$151,328.37. This does NOT reflect a pending payment for Fr. Kruger's Pension and Housing allowance.

### Counters

Coordinator: Marion Nechuta

Carol Willix coordinated the counters over the past several years and we give thanks for her ministry. Following Carol's departure to Florida, Fr. Andy appointed Marion Nechuta to coordinate the Counters. However, during the pandemic, in-person worship was suspended, and it was not possible to schedule counters to be in close contact to do the weekly recording duties. Therefore, parishioners were asked to mail pledges to the church. Linda Kurdilla and Holly Ives volunteered to fill in for the counters by recording and depositing pledges each week. Their service to the parish has been invaluable and heartfelt thanks is extended to them. The pledging system ensures the confidentiality of each parishioner's pledge with only Sarah Gregory, our Financial Secretary having access to pledge information.

Before the pandemic, counters were organized in teams of three and rotated every five weeks. This system will be reinstitute as soon as we return to in-person services at 8 AM and 10 AM. Many thanks to our counters: Joann Breuer, Vicky Cooney, Carolyn Dittmar, Eleanor Doherty, Vicky Goralski, Irene Telerico, Nancy & Bob Vogel, Peter Waldron, Stephanie & Jim Willix (and their helper Emma), and John Witherington. Also, to our substitutes, Carol and John Beier.

New members are always welcome, contact Marion Nechuta ([marionnechuta@yahoo.com](mailto:marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or 908-451-4498).

**2021 Approved Operating Budget**  
 Financial Resources for 2021 that Direct the Mission of Trinity Church, Cranford

	<u>2020</u> <u>Actual</u>	Annual Budget	<b>2021</b>
<b>Income</b>			
1010 · DONATIONS			
1011 · PLEDGES			
1011-02 · PLEDGES-CURRENT	177,450	166,800	180,000
1011-04 · IDENTIFIED GIVERS	21,566	18,000	8,000
Total 1011 · PLEDGES	199,016	184,800	188,000
1012 · HOLY DAYS/FEAST OFFERINGS	1,731	4,500	4,500
1013 · TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL	-	-	-
1016 · LOOSE PLATE	1,106	4,500	1,500
1017 · WEDDINGS/FUNERALS	2,450	1,500	2,000
1018 · SUNDAY SCHOOL	2	24	24
1019 · UNITED THANK OFFERING	0	60	60
Total 1010 · DONATIONS	204,304	195,384	196,084
Total 1020 · FUND RAISING	11,704	12,200	10,300
1030 · GIFTS/GRANTS			
Total 1030 · GIFTS/GRANTS	3,884	3,920	4,156
1040 · RENTS & LEASES			
1040-01 · 12 STEP PROGRAM	450	2,400	1,200
1040-03 · 215 NORTH AVENUE	30,100	34,800	34,800
1040-04 · GENERAL HALL RENTALS	-250	1,000	100
Total 1040 · RENTS & LEASES	30,300	38,200	36,100
1090 · Outreach & Misc. Pass Through	6,003	3,500	3,500
Total Income	256,195	253,204	250,140
<b>Expense</b>			
2000 · HUMAN RESOURCES			
2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED			
2002 · PRIEST-IN-CHARGE			
Total 2002 · PRIEST-IN-CHARGE	64,765	74,540	75,736
2006 · STAFF			
2007 · PARISH ADMINISTRATORS			
Total 2007 · PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	5,360	9,043	7,751
2008-10 · SALARY	9,231	18,600	19,000
Total 2008 · ORGANIST	9,937	20,023	20,454
Total 2006 · STAFF	15,297	29,066	28,204
Total 2010 · MISCELLANEOUS	5,215	4,400	5,160
Total 2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED	85,276	108,006	109,100

2019 · ADMINISTRATION			
Total 2019 · ADMINISTRATION	16,599	21,060	17,820
2030 · MINISTRIES			
2031 · WORSHIP			
Total 2031 · WORSHIP	10,492	7,620	6,660
Total 2032 · FORMATION	843	2,200	1,380
2034 · PARISH LIFE			
Total 2034 · PARISH LIFE	1,885	1,780	1,780
2035-07 · MISCELLANEOUS/PAY THROUGH	5,565	3,500	3,500
Total 2035 · OUTREACH	8,847	5,240	6,920
Total 2030 · MINISTRIES	22,067	16,840	16,740
2040 · BUILDINGS			
Total 2041 · RECTORY	5,057	6,430	5,580
Total 2042 · CHURCH BUILDINGS	76,174	63,708	62,000
Total 2043 · RENTAL EXPENSES	26,378	11,840	12,380
2044 · CHURCH PROPER	-	-	-
Total 2040 · BUILDINGS	107,608	81,978	79,960
2057 · ECW EXPENSES			
2057-02 · SCHOLARSHIP	700	-	-
2057 · ECW EXPENSES - other	1,122	-	-
Total 2057 · ECW EXPENSES	1,822	-	-
2080 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE			
Total 2080 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	-	-	-
2100 · DIOCESE			
2021 · CONVENTION/COUNCILS	42	600	600
2022 · MARKS of MISSION	24,000	24,000	25,200
2023 · WIDOWS AND ORPHANS	-	120	120
2024 · BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	-	600	600
Total 2100 · DIOCESE	24,042	25,320	26,520
3000 · CUSTODY ACCOUNTS			
Total Expense	257,438	253,204	250,140
(Deficit) or Surplus	(1,243)		
(Deficit) or Surplus	(1,243)	0	(0)

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

## Director's Report

Executive Director: Nancy Ditzel

At last year's Annual Parish Meeting, I announced that Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS) for the first time had a full roster with a waiting list in each age group. However shortly after, by order of Governor Murphy TEDS closed its doors due to the pandemic. This has been an unprecedented year for all of us including TEDS. After being closed for one week we decided to go to remote learning for those who wanted to participate. Ms. Pam Muhammad, our Education Director quickly put together a remote learning curriculum. Thirty-eight students participated. Fr. Andy continued a virtual chapel with the students during this time.

Shortly after closing, I applied for a PPP Loan and received \$120,000. This was used for payroll so we could continue with remote learning. Summer camp was canceled. In August, the State Office of Licensing notified all preschools of restrictions for reopening. TEDS reopened in September with a decrease in enrollment. Due to restrictions, we were unable to use our busses, which eliminated our aftercare program for grades 1-5. TEDS purchased 2 large tents which were placed alongside Hamilton Avenue and enclosed with construction fencing. We also purchased portable HEPA filters for each classroom. As an added measure the entire school is fogged with a disinfecting, sanitizing solution every weekend. The tents will be used in the fall and spring for classes outside. The tents have also been made available for parish functions. They have been used by Sunday School, Sandwich Sunday, Confirmation class, and various other parish meetings.

September 2021, TEDS will celebrate its tenth anniversary. With Fr. Andy's assistance a virtual tour of TEDS is available on the TEDS website. Registration for the 2021-22 school year is open and we have received many applications. Hopefully, some or most of the restrictions will be lifted and normal operations will resume.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish for their support, donations, and assistance especially John Zebrowski for the work around the facility, John Witherington for assistance with garbage and recycling.

Thank you to the Vestry for replacing the Kiamie Building roof while we were closed due to the pandemic and for your continuing support. To TEDS Board of Directors, past and present, thank you for your support, and all your hard work. Most of all, thank you Fr. Andy for all you have brought to TEDS and Trinity Church. The students have enjoyed chapel, virtual and in-person. Your continued support for TEDS is greatly appreciated.

### **Staffing**

- † Administrative staff consists of the Executive Director/Nurse, an Education Director and 1 administrative assistant.
- † 10 teachers, 9 aides
- † Aftercare staff – 2 teachers and 2 college students

### **Special Events**

- † Annual Tricky Tray – Canceled due to the pandemic
- † Drive by TEDS Kindergarten Graduation – June 18, 2020
- † Virtual Parent Orientation – August 20, 2020
- † Back to School Night – Canceled due to the pandemic
- † Annual Christmas Program – Canceled due to the pandemic

### **Goals for 2021**

- † To continue and enhance academic education
- † An extended school session during July and August to assist students with academics lost during remote learning.

## Summary of the 2020 TEDS Budget

<b>Income</b>			
	Enrollment/Tuition	\$467,832	
	Summer/ Camp	\$803	
	Donations/Fundraisers	\$10,321	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$478,956</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	Payroll		<b>\$572,542</b>
	Supplies	\$8,957	
	Bussing	\$4,352	
<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>			<b>\$13,309</b>
	Phone/Utilities	\$19,247	
	Copier	\$6,280	
	Advertising	\$911	
	Maintenance	\$1,672	
	Snow Removal	\$650	
	Professional Fees	\$3,275	
	Extracurricular activities	\$5,670	
	Events/Fundraisers	\$3,659	
	Other Expenses	\$17,189	
	Returned Checks	\$25,296	
<b>Total Undirect Expenses</b>			<b>\$83,849</b>
NET REVENUE (Loss)			<b>(\$23,046)</b>
Debt Service			<b>(\$3,900)</b>
Transfer from Savings			\$74,070
Transfer to Savings			<b>(\$27,070)</b>
PPP Loan			120,000
			<b>(\$48)</b>
<b>Operating Checking Account Balance</b>			<b>\$38,166</b>
<b>Savings Account</b>			
	Beginning Balance	\$82,767	
	Deposits	\$56,470	
	Interest	\$37	
	Transfer to Checking	<b>(\$74,070)</b>	
	Ending Balance		<b>\$65,204</b>

## NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES FOR VESTRY AND DELEGATES

### **Nominee for Senior Warden (one 2-year term)**

**John Beier** is standing for a second term as Senior Warden of the parish. Five years ago, he had returned to Trinity (in his first time here, he was Secretary of the Vestry from 1996 to 1998). While attending the Church of the Holy Comforter in Rahway, he was Secretary from 2002 to 2005; he also taught Sunday School and was on the Vestry and Search Committee, finally working on the merger with St. Paul's in Rahway from 2006 to 2010. He attended Trinity Church in Woodbridge from 2010 to 2018 and was on their Vestry for one year in 2013, Search Committee in 2015 and delegate to Northern Convocation. Back in Cranford, his whole family are active participants in many areas of the parish. He is a Senior Property Manager for the Federal Government and offers a wealth of experience and wisdom. John and his wife Carol live in Cranford; their daughter Sophie has become indispensable in the church's on-line services. He loves farming and singing.

### **Nominees for Vestry (three 3-year terms)**

**Mike Junod** his wife Trina joined Trinity Church in 2016 after moving to Garwood. They have two sons - Theodore and Troy. Theo was baptized at Trinity Church in 2017. Mike has been a member of the Stewardship Committee since 2018. Mike and Trina completed premarital counseling at Trinity Parish in Bergen Point prior to relocating to Garwood. Mike is originally from southeastern Pennsylvania where he previously served as a volunteer income tax preparer and GED math tutor. In his free time Mike enjoys playing baseball with his sons, losing singing contests to his wife, and fixing old cars. Mike is excited to be a part of Vestry.

**Dr. Patrick Milas** joined Trinity Church in 2019. He enjoys Trinity's worship, music, and fellowship with his wife Piper and daughter Maeve. Before coming to Trinity, Patrick served on the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Bordentown, New Jersey, and as a Eucharistic Visitor in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. He teaches research at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and directs the Sage Library & Archives. Patrick chairs the Episcopal Denominational Group of the American Theological Library Association. At Trinity, he now serves on the Vestry, as well as the Archives and History Task Force for the 150<sup>th</sup> Campaign. Patrick would be humbled and delighted to continue serving on the Vestry.

**Peter Waldron** has been a member of Trinity Church since 2017. "In that time, I have found a spiritual home, meeting many great people and becoming involved with the Stewardship Committee, and also serving as a counter and reader. Everyone has made my family (my wife Christine, my 11-year-old stepson Everett and my 3 year old daughter Alexandra "AJ") feel so welcome! I'm a lifelong New Jersey resident, and I work as an actuary for a reinsurance company (yes, I'm a bit of a math geek!). In my spare time, I like music, the outdoors, learning languages, and spending time with my family. Growing up, I was raised Roman Catholic but my father was Episcopalian, so I always had a deep appreciation for the Church and its values. As time passes, I would love to keep getting even more involved with Trinity Church and want to work hard to help guide and be part of the next 150 years of its wonderful history."

### **Nominee for Vestry (one year remaining of a 3-year term)**

**Cheryl Pantina** writes: "I would like to thank the Vestry nominating committee for my consideration of joining the board. As you may know, I served on the Vestry of St. John's in Elizabeth during the 1990's and feel my experience at St. John's and the following affiliations would complement the vestry. I am currently retired, having been a public servant with county government for over 31 years, ending my career as the Workers' Compensation Administrator, for a workforce of 2,500 employees."

† Past Board Member & Supervisory Committee Member, Union County Employees Federal Credit Union (2000-2015)

† Past Committee Person and Treasurer of the Union County Commission on the Status of Women (2010-2017)

† Past Member & Secretary, Union County VocTech High School PSO (Academy of Information Technologies, 4 years)

† Past Treasurer, Boy Scouts of America Troop #4 in Elizabeth, NJ (6 years)

### **Diocesan Convention (3 delegates, one-year terms)**

**Holly Ives** was born and raised in Cranford and was also baptized and confirmed at Trinity Church. She has been active in the Vestry, ECW, Breakfast with Santa, and TEDS Board. In the past, she has been a Diocesan Convention delegate, Northern Convocation delegate, and Service Auction committee member. She is currently co-president of the ECW. Holly is enjoying retirement after working as a registered nurse at Overlook Hospital for over 35 years.

**Bernhard Kolbe** was received into the Episcopal Church and believes that the word and sacraments should lead to positive action in the congregation and community. Trinity's congregation and denomination certainly has tried its best to continue to demonstrate these values. A teacher in the Elizabeth School system (he has taught there for the past 30 years), he participates in the Men's group, centering prayer and any functions as time allows. He is eager to learn more about the Church and the ways it can fulfill its mission.

**Linda Kurdilla** was born and raised in Cranford and baptized and confirmed here at Trinity Church. Linda currently serves as the Secretary of the Vestry and is the financial administrator of the parish; in addition to scheduling the ushers and a host of other responsibilities, she is currently a Stephen Minister as well as a member of the Altar Guild, ECW, Breakfast with Santa committee, and Ushers. Previously she served as Senior Warden of the Vestry, past President of the ECW, Diocesan Convention delegate, Northern Convocation delegate, Discernment Committee member, Counter, and Service Auction committee member. Linda has been the Executive Assistant/Office Manager to the CEO of a mortgage company for over 25 years.

### **Diocesan Convention (3 alternates, one-year terms)**

**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).

**Carol Beier** has been back at Trinity for four years but has been a baptized Episcopalian since 1983. A regular worshipper and leader of on-line Morning Prayer, she participates in the life of the parish as a lector, eucharistic minister, counter, coordinator of the altar guild, and is always a willing participant in parish endeavors that call for creativity. Carol is a trust and estates attorney with a small firm in NYC.

**Sophie Brennan** has been a member of the parish since 2019 and lives in Cranford with her husband Ron DeVelde and two children Madeleine (11, who is enrolled in Trinity's confirmation class) and Henry (5, who attends Sunday School). She is a Scientific and Medical Writer with Merck and has been with the company for 13 years.

### **Northern Convocation (6 delegates, one-year terms)**

**Christy Barone** is a lifelong Episcopalian and has been a member of Trinity for approximately 25 years where she has served on the Vestry, the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee, as a Counter, and delegate to Northern Convocation. Most recently Christy has been a Eucharistic Minister, Sunday School teacher, and Bell Choir member. Christy lives in Springfield and her 3 children have been raised in Trinity. Christy works for PSE&G as a Customer Service Manager.

**Ralph Bianchini** has served as warden, vestry member, and delegate to the Northern Convocation. He is currently an usher and a member of the Trinity Men's Group. He retired after many years of working for AT&T and the Middlesex County Probation Department. And of course he's been married to Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini for 35 years (they were married on July 19, 1985 here at Trinity Church).

**Holly Ives** was born and raised in Cranford and was also baptized and confirmed at Trinity Church. She has been active in the Vestry, ECW, Breakfast with Santa, and TEDS Board. In the past, she has been a Diocesan Convention delegate, Northern Convocation delegate, and Service Auction committee member. She is currently co-president of the ECW. Holly is enjoying retirement after working as a registered nurse at Overlook Hospital for over 35 years.

**Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini** is a lifelong member of Trinity Church. She was formerly a warden, vestry member, Northern Convocation delegate, and a member of the TEDS Board of Directors. Lynn has also served on the Altar Guild, Stewardship Committee, and was a member of the Handbell Choir. Lynn is currently a Lector, Usher, Counter, member of the Women's Bible Study, and member of the ECW. She retired from AT&T after 32 years and has been married to Ralph Bianchini for 35 years (July 19, 1985 here at Trinity Church).

**Linda Kurdilla** was born and raised in Cranford and baptized and confirmed here at Trinity Church. Linda currently serves as the Secretary of the Vestry and is the financial administrator of the parish; in addition to scheduling the ushers and a host of other responsibilities, she is currently a Stephen Minister as well as a member of the Altar Guild, ECW, Breakfast with Santa committee, and Ushers. Previously she served as Senior Warden of the Vestry, past President of the ECW, Diocesan Convention delegate, Northern Convocation delegate, Discernment Committee member, Counter, and Service Auction committee member. Linda has been the Executive Assistant/Office Manager to the CEO of a mortgage company for over 25 years.

**Marion Nechuta** has been a member of the parish since 1985. Currently the Co-Superintendent of Sunday School, where she has taught for 30 years, she is presently teaching Confirmation Class with John Beier. In 2012, she became the Committee Chair for Outreach and continues to serve in that position. In addition, this past year she became co-leader of the ECW. A former Junior Warden, this is the last year of her current term on the Vestry. She and her husband, Terry Nechuta, have two children, Erich and Danielle. For the past 15 years, she has been employed by the Roselle Park School District as a cook, organizer and shipper of meals for the students.

### **Northern Convocation (3 alternates, one-year terms)**

**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).

**James Willix** works as a Service Supervisor for Viking Termite and Pest Control. He has been employed there for 12 years. Jim has been a member of Trinity Church for almost his whole life. He was an acolyte here as a child and currently serves as an Usher and counter. He is married to Stephanie and they have one daughter, Emma. He is a graduate of David Brearley High School in Kenilworth and the Union County Fire Academy and Union Hospital EMS Academy. He is a life member of the Garwood First Aid Squad, where he served almost a decade as President. Jimmy enjoys the great outdoors, gardening and camping.

**Stephanie Willix** works as a Police Dispatcher at Kean University. She has been employed there for almost 12 years. Before that she worked Emergency Medical Services in Bayonne and Jersey City for 15 years. Stephanie joined Trinity in 2003 after getting engaged to Jimmy. Her childhood parish was Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church in Bayonne. Jim and Steph were married in Trinity Church on April 24, 2004 and have been attending together ever since. Jim and Steph have one daughter, Emma. Steph currently serves as an Usher, counter, LEM/Acolyte and elf for Breakfast with Santa. Stephanie is a graduate of Holy Family Academy in Bayonne and the Union Hospital EMS Academy. She is also a life member of the Garwood First Aid Squad where she served for almost two decades as Secretary. Steph does not enjoy the great outdoors, gardening or camping.

# Summary of the By-Laws Committee

Members: Carol Beier, Casey Woodruff

November 13, 2020 The following is a summary of the changes proposed:

THROUGHOUT: typos, capitalization consistency, article headings, reorganization of sections under new articles

## ARTICLE I:

- adds requirements for keeping of records, financial and otherwise
- adds requirement for bi-annual audit

## ARTICLE II:

- removes language suggesting vestry member need not be communicant
- defines "communicant in good standing"
- eliminates certain dated requirements for voting
- parishioners not eligible to vote may speak at annual meeting
- tellers to count votes

## ARTICLE III:

- new article
- rector's role/final authority over staff

## ARTICLE IV:

- adds role of wardens
- defines quorum for vestry
- prohibits paid staff member's family from vestry
- sets limit of one immediate and two extended family members on vestry at given time
- adds non-voting youth member of vestry
- adds election of clerk of vestry
- adds election of treasurer
- broadly defines membership and function of standing/special committees
- allows for nominations from the floor at annual meeting
- general schedule for vestry meetings
- provision for calling special vestry meetings

ARTICLE V: -- review of bylaws every five years rather than every two



## By-Laws of Trinity Church, Cranford NJ

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 24, 2021

### ARTICLE I – GENERAL

**Section 1** Upon adoption by the Parish, these By-Laws shall become effective immediately and shall govern the Parish thereafter superseding any and all previous By-Laws thereof.

**Section 2** The full corporate name of the Parish is Trinity Church Cranford, New Jersey. Parish agreements must be signed by the Rector or both Wardens, sealed, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry using the full corporate name of the Parish.

**Section 3** Throughout these By-Laws, all references to "Rector" shall include either a Rector or Priest-in-Charge. All references to "Diocese" shall signify the Diocese of New Jersey.

**Section 4** Record books, minutes, deeds, documents, and other papers and records belonging to the Parish shall be kept at the Parish office or such other place as the Vestry may authorize. Upon request to the Clerk of the Vestry, any parishioner may have access to such documents except for personal correspondence files of the Parish staff, personnel records, and any privileged matters.

**Section 5** Parish financial records must be kept in accordance with requirements set by the Diocese. Parish accounts must be audited every two years by a committee consisting of no fewer than three people none of whom shall be Vestry Members, members of the Finance Committee, or spouses of any such people.

**Section 6** The fiscal year of the Parish shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

**Section 7** The Vestry authorizes a corporate seal for sealing documents. The seal must bear the full corporate name, the words "Corporate Seal," and the year "1872". The seal must be kept at the Parish office in the custody of the Clerk of the Vestry. The corporate seal shall be as follows:

[SAMPLE IMPRINT]

## ARTICLE II – PARISH MEETINGS

**Section 1** The Annual Parish Meeting shall be held on the Fourth Sunday of January in each year.

**Section 2** The Annual Parish Meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year and for conducting any other business which may be properly brought before the Annual Parish Meeting as required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of New Jersey, and the Statutes of the State of New Jersey. Notice of the time and place of the Annual Parish Meeting shall be given by the posting of a notice in open view on the doors of the Church at least 14 days prior to the Annual Parish Meeting and such notice shall also be read by the Rector or officiating minister at each service of worship on the two Sundays preceding the Annual Parish Meeting.

The qualified voters shall elect such Vestry Members and other officers who shall be communicants in good standing (having received Holy Communion in or from the Parish at least three times during the previous 12 months).

**Section 3** Special meetings of the Parish may be called by the Rector at any time; or if there be no Rector, by the Wardens upon the same notice as prescribed in Section 2 above. The notice shall specify the object for which the meeting is called, and no vote shall be taken upon any question not specified in the notice. Special meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as the Annual Parish Meeting but the votes may be counted and declared forthwith upon any question except the election of Wardens and Vestry Members.

**Section 4** Voters shall be baptized; at least 16 years of age; shall adhere to the Episcopal Church and to no other religious body; shall be regular attendants at the services of this Parish (meaning those who are more frequently present than absent unless for a good cause); and shall be regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish. If a voter is challenged, the Rector shall certify to the regular attendance of each voter from his or her observations; and the Financial Secretary and/or the Rector shall certify that each voter is a regular contributor from the financial books and records of the Parish.

No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible for office in more than one Parish in this Diocese.

Parishioners not eligible to vote may attend and speak at Parish meetings in accordance with the rules for the meeting.

**Section 5** At the Annual Parish Meeting, the qualified voters shall elect by ballot (by a majority of the votes cast to serve for the appropriate term) from among the voters in the Parish: (a) three Deputies and three alternate Deputies to the Diocesan convention, (b) six Deputies to the Northern Convocation, (c) a Warden or Wardens, (d) three Vestry Members, (e) and such additional Vestry Members so as to bring the total of the Vestry to nine members plus two Wardens as provided for in these By-Laws (all of whom shall be communicants in good standing having received Holy Communion in or from the Parish at least three times during the previous 12 months). The Clerk of the Vestry (or any other parishioner eligible to vote appointed by the chair) is the secretary of the meeting who enters the proceedings in the minute book of the Vestry and signs the minutes together with the chair.

**Section 6** The chair appoints three or more tellers to act at any Parish meeting. Each teller must act with strict impartiality. The tellers receive all votes and ballots, count and tabulate all votes and ballots, determine the result, and do anything else necessary to conduct the election or vote with fairness to all parishioners. The tellers must make a report in writing of any matter determined by them.

**Section 7** At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Rector shall preside with the right to vote in any closed ballot. If there is no Rector in the Parish, or if the Rector is absent, the Warden with the most seniority shall preside. If that Warden is absent, the other Warden shall preside. If neither the Rector nor either of the Wardens is present, the Vestry shall appoint one of the Vestry Members to preside.

**Section 8** Robert's Rules of Order shall apply where otherwise not specified.

### ARTICLE III – THE RECTOR

**Section 1** The Rector has exclusive charge of the worship and of all things affecting the spiritual interests of the parish subject to the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the Canons of the Church, and the godly counsel of the Bishop. It is the Rector's duty to give orders concerning the worship of the Church. The Rector is at all times entitled to access to the church for purposes of worship, religious instruction, and other purposes authorized by the Church. The Rector has spiritual direction and control of all Christian education, Parish schools, and other educational and charitable associations connected with the Parish; and if the Rector is present, presides with the right to vote at all Parish and Vestry meetings. The Vestry may take no action (a) affecting the personal rights of the Rector, (b) relating to the sale or other transfer of Church investments, or (c) relating to selling or mortgaging real estate owned by the Church unless the Rector is present at the meeting. The Rector must enter into a Letter of Agreement with the Vestry setting forth mutual responsibilities subject to the approval of the Bishop. To the extent anything in said Letter of Agreement is inconsistent with these By-Laws, the Letter of Agreement shall take precedence.

**Section 2** The Rector has final authority to employ or discharge any employee of the Parish provided that the Vestry has sole authority to determine salary or any other compensation of employees.

### ARTICLE IV – THE VESTRY

**Section 1** The governing body of this parish shall consist of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry Members which shall be known collectively as the "Vestry." The Wardens and Vestry Members provide leadership in the Parish, ensure that Parish funds are expended properly, elect the Rector, and provide for the Rector's maintenance. Under the Rector, the Wardens and Vestry Members protect church property and provide for all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the administration of the Sacraments and Ordinances of the Church.

**Section 2** There shall be two Wardens, one of which is to be elected at each Annual Parish Meeting for a two-year term. It is highly desirable that nominees for Warden shall have had previous experience as a Vestry Member in this Parish. In the event that a Warden is unable to complete his or her term, the Vestry may appoint one of its members to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Parish Meeting.

**Section 3** There shall be nine Vestry Members. There shall be three Vestry Members elected at each Annual Parish Meeting for terms of three years each. Any additional unexpired vacant terms shall be filled by election at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Section 4** A quorum shall consist of: (a) the Rector, one of the Wardens, and a majority of the Vestry; or (b) the Rector, both Wardens and one less than a majority of the Vestry; or (c) the Rector and two-thirds of the Vestry. Unless otherwise required by these By-Laws, the Vestry acts on the affirmative vote of a majority of those present. A vote on any matter shall be by roll call upon the request of any two members.

**Section 5** No Parish paid staff member nor member of a paid staff member's household may serve on the Vestry, nor shall more than one member of a household or two members of an extended family serve on the Vestry concurrently.

**Section 6** No person elected as a Warden or to the Vestry shall succeed himself or herself in such office more than once except in the case of a Warden or Vestry Member having been appointed to complete a vacant or unexpired term of less than two years. That person shall not be disqualified from serving two full successive elective terms. A Warden shall not be permitted to run for a position as Vestry Member until a period of one year has elapsed after his or her term as Warden has expired.

**Section 7** The Vestry may appoint a parishioner eligible under Article II, Section 2 hereof, to fill any unexpired vacant term of a Vestry Member to serve from the date of appointment until the next Annual Meeting at which time an election shall be held to fill such vacant office.

**Section 8** The Rector may appoint a Youth Member of the Vestry. The Youth Member shall serve for a one-year term that may be renewed without limit. The Youth Member does not have the right to vote, shall not count in determining a quorum, and is not subject to the provisions of Article IV, Section 5.

**Section 9** At the first regular Vestry meeting following each Annual Parish Meeting (or in the event of a vacancy), the Vestry shall select one Vestry Member to be the Clerk of the Vestry. The Clerk of the Vestry is responsible for distributing proposed minutes of Vestry meetings to members of the Vestry by the Thursday before the next regular Vestry meeting, has such other duties and responsibilities prescribed by law (and as the Vestry may determine), and may be removed from office by majority vote of the Vestry.

**Section 10** At the first regular Vestry meeting following each Annual Parish Meeting (or in the event of a vacancy), the Vestry shall elect a member of the Parish to be the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall not serve as both Treasurer and Vestry Member concurrently. The Treasurer shall attend all Vestry meetings in order to advise the Vestry on financial matters. The Treasurer does not have the right to vote. The Treasurer has such duties and responsibilities as the Vestry may determine and may be removed from office by the Vestry.

**Section 11** The Rector and Wardens appoint members of the Property and Finance Committee, the Endowment Committee, and such other standing and special committees as the Vestry may establish with such duties as the Vestry may by resolution prescribe. Membership on Vestry committees is not restricted to members of the Vestry. The Senior Warden shall chair the Property and Finance Committee. The Rector and one Warden are ex officio members of all committees but their absence does not prevent there being a quorum.

**Section 12** In the event that a Warden or Vestry Member is absent from meetings more times than present during a six-month period, the Vestry may call for the resignation of said member in order that the Vestry may function in the most efficient manner possible; and the Vestry may fill the vacancy so caused by appointment by motion as provided in Section 7 hereof until the next Annual Parish Meeting. If the member does not resign, the Vestry may remove that member by majority vote, having given prior notice of the vote to the member.

**Section 13** The Vestry shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the Parish and shall adopt rules and regulations for the necessary and proper conduct of its meetings and the management of Parish affairs provided that they are in conformance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Statue of New Jersey, and the Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

**Section 14** Regular Vestry meetings are held monthly at a time and place to be determined by the Vestry without notice other than announcement at the prior meeting. Parishioners may attend and observe regular Vestry meetings except when the Vestry goes into executive session. Executive sessions may be called for by any Vestry Member and must be approved by a majority of the Vestry Members present.

Special Vestry meetings may be called by the Rector, or by both Wardens, or by a majority of the Vestry at any time upon 24 hours' notice to the Rector, both Wardens, and all Vestry Members in person or by direct telephone conversation. Notice of any special meeting shall include the subject matter of said meeting.

**Section 15** The Warden shall chair the Nominating Committee in the first year of his or her term. If that Warden is unable to chair the committee, the Warden in the second year of his or her term shall appoint one of the members of the Vestry to serve as Chairperson. The Rector shall propose the names of persons to serve on the Nominating Committee at or prior to the October meeting of the Vestry. At least a majority of the Nominating Committee shall be composed of parishioners not currently serving on the Vestry or as Warden.

Upon confirmation of its membership by the Vestry, the Nominating Committee shall canvass the congregation for eligible candidates for each position to be filled at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish. The Committee shall publish the list of nominees at least 14 days prior to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting by any parishioner eligible to vote. Such nominees must be present at the meeting and must certify their willingness to serve if elected.

## **ARTICLE V – AMENDMENT AND REPEAL**

**Section 1** These By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voters present at any annual or special meeting provided that a written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been provided to the congregation at least one month prior to such meeting; and that a written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been posted on the front door of the Church at least 14 days prior to such meeting; and that the notice shall have been read by the Rector or officiating Minister at each service of worship on the two Sundays preceding such meeting.

**Section 2** These By-Laws shall be reviewed and updated at least every five years beginning in 2020. The Rector shall appoint a committee chair and persons to serve on an ad hoc Parish By-Law Review Committee at or prior to the October meeting of the Vestry in the year of the review. The Committee will present its recommendations for changes along with enabling amendments to the Annual Meeting for ratification with two-thirds majority necessary to approve each amendment.

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# Trinity's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1872 – 2022

Honoring our Past ... Living our Baptism Today ... Serving Future Generations



The Rev. Andrew David Kruger, Rector

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