

# The 2016 Annual Report of Trinity Episcopal Church

Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting  
January 22, 2017: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”***

*Philippians 4:13*

## Trinity Episcopal Church

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**Founded in 1872**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Trinity Episcopal Church follows the call to love God and serve His people.**

**We welcome all, without exception,**

**with the intent to build a community of Faith which strives**

**“To know Christ and to make Him known, with joy, faith and service.”**

### **Annual Meeting Agenda for January 22, 2017**

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Deacon’s Address**
- **Appointment of Secretary and Ballot Counters**
- **Review and Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Agenda**
- **Nomination Committee**
  - **Presentation of Slate of Candidates (polls open for ½ hour)**
- **Review and Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes**
- **Wardens’ Address**
- **Review of Fiscal Year 2016 and Presentation of the 2017 Annual Budget**
- **Declaration of Polls Closed**
- **Election Results**
- **Commissioning of 2017 Vestry**
- **Announcements & Acknowledgements**
- **Adjournment**
- **Closing Prayer**

# 2016 Leadership

## STAFF

Deacon	The Rev. Clive Oscar Sang
Director of Music & Organist	Anthony J. Rafaniello
Verger	Anthony F. Vitale
Seminarian	Allison Burns-LaGreca
Sunday School Coordinators	Dianne Pecoraro & Marion Nechuta

## VESTRY LEADERS

Senior Warden	David L. Burnett (2015-2016)
Junior Warden	Joseph P. Bardzilowski (2016-2017)
Clerk	Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini

## VESTRY MEMBERS

- Holly Ives (2014-2016)
- Lisa LaGreca (2015-2017)
- Al Lehmkuhl (2016-2018)
- Marion Nechuta (2015-2017)
- Nancy Noonan (2015-2017)
- Dr. Arthur Patchett (2016-2018)
- Dianne Pecoraro (2016-2018)
- Tony Vitale (2014-2016)
- Carol Willix (2014-2016)

## VESTRY APPOINTMENTS

Financial Secretary	Joan Cornell
Treasurer	David Roberts
Youth Vestry Member	Sarah Roberts

## DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Joan Cornell, Tom Cornell, Linda Kurdilla; alternates Kenneth MacRitchie, Robert Vogel

## NORTHERN CONVOCATION DELEGATES

Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Ralph Bianchini, Holly Ives, Tom Kaercher, James Willix, Stephanie Willix; alternates Linda Kurdilla, Ken MacRitchie, Liz Morenko, Doreen Stromko, Irene Telerico, Robert Vogel

## Trinity Episcopal Church—Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

**Sunday, January 31, 2016**

NOTE: Re-scheduled from January 24, 2016, at the direction of the Diocese due to blizzard.

Mother Stephanie Shockley opened the meeting with prayer at 11:29 AM. Jim and Stephanie Willix were appointed official ballot counters. Motion to approve the minutes from the 2015 meeting was made by Arlene Fricke and seconded by Linda Kurdilla.

Deacon Clive Sang welcomed the parish to the 2016 annual meeting.

Dave Burnett, Senior Warden, announced that Joan Cornell would continue as Financial Secretary, David Roberts as Treasurer, and Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini as Clerk of the Vestry for the year 2016.

A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Linda Kurdilla and seconded by Tom Kaercher.

Dave Burnett, Senior Warden, made a motion to extend Joe Bardzilowski's term as warden for two years. Ray Berry seconded this motion. Unanimously approved.

Dave Burnett declared the polls open at 11:41 AM (polls remain open for ½ hour). The slate of candidates was presented and Dave asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were not.

Dave thanked Ralph Bianchini for serving on the vestry for six years, Mother Stephanie for providing stability to Trinity during this transition, and Deacon Clive for his continued pastoral care over the past months.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Roberts)

- 2015 ended with a deficit of 19K
- \$30,000 was spent for the paving of the sidewalks on the church grounds, new steps for the rectory at 1A Hamilton, and new railings.
- The Endowment fund received three anonymous gifts this year.
- As of December 31, 2015, seventy families have submitted pledges totaling \$140,000. Al Lehmkuhl asked the congregation to consider pledging if they have not.

Joe Bardzilowski informed the congregation about the town meeting regarding the TEDS parking lot and the approval process. Dr Arthur Patchett thanked Nancy Ditzel (TEDS Director) and Joe Bardzilowski for all of the work they have dedicated to the parking lot project.

Dave Burnett thanked John Zebrowski for heading up the masonry project.

Polls were officially closed at 12:11 PM.

John Witherington praised TEDS, Korine Dankowski (former director), and Nancy Ditzel for doing such a great job running the school.

Arlene Fricke thanked Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music and Organist, for all he does for Trinity.

### **The results of the election were:**

**Vestry** – three year term: Al Lehmkuhl, Dr. Arthur Patchett, Dianne Pecoraro

**Diocesan Convention** delegates: Joan Cornell, Tom Cornell, Linda Kurdilla. Alternates: Ken MacRitchie, Tom Kaercher, Bob Vogel

**Northern Convocation** delegates: Ralph Bianchini, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Holly Ives, Tom Kaercher, Stephanie Willix, Jim Willix. Alternates: Ken MacRitchie, Doreen Stromko, Linda Kurdilla, Bob Vogel, Irene Telerico, Liz Morenko

The installation of the Vestry, Diocesan Convention delegates/alternates, and Northern Convocation delegates / alternates took place immediately. Arlene Fricke made a motion to adjourn and Darrell Frydlewicz seconded. Meeting ended with prayer by Deacon Clive at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Clerk of the Vestry

## CUMULATIVE RECORD OF CHURCH SERVICES 2016

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE	326	352	458	394	370	309	283	169	337	415	352	513	
YTD ATTENDANCE	326	678	1136	1530	1900	2209	2492	2701	3038	3435	3787	4950	<b>4950</b>
MONTHLY ASA	81.5	88	114.5	99	74	77.25	56.6	42.25	84.25	83	88	128	
YTD AVG SUN ATTENDANCE	81.5	84.75	95	96	91.4	87.65	84.4	72.3	83	80	81	85	<b>85</b>
MO. SUNDAY SERVICES	7	8	8	8	10	8	5	4	6	10	7	9	
TOTAL SUNDAY SERVICES	7	15	23	31	41	49	54	58	64	74	81	90	<b>90</b>
WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL WEEKDAY HOLY EUCH.	0	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
MONTHLY COMMUNION	326	398	569	394	370	309	283	169	336	409	347	507	<b>507</b>
YTD COMMUNION	326	724	1293	1687	2043	2352	2635	2844	3180	3589	3936	4950	<b>4950</b>
MONTHLY PRIVT COMMUNION	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	10	4	2	
TOTAL PRIVATE COMMUNION	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	26	28	38	42	44	<b>44</b>
MONTHLY ATTEND OTHER SERVICES	28	59	192	30	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	<b>15</b>
TOTAL ATT OTHER SERV'S	28	87	279	309	355	355	355	355	355	355	355	370	<b>370</b>
MONTHLY OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
TOTAL OTHER OFF /PRIVATE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
HOUSE BLESSINGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
RECONCILIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
BURIALS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
BAPTISMS	1	0		3		3				1			
MARRIAGES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
MONTHLY DAILY OFFICE	2	1	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL DAILY OFFICE	2	3	7	9	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>13</b>
SUNDAY OFFICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</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>

### **Deacon's Report** **Deacon Clive Oscar Sang**

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ,

Trinity Church is a testament of what can be accomplished with faith, trust in each other, and the will to support each other on our Christian journey.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to Mother Stephanie whose dependability and leadership in worship made our tasks so much more manageable. Knowing that she was always there gave us the opportunity to focus on the

other issues that needed our attention. She was not just our supply priest, but a member of the Trinity family eager to offer whatever support was needed, especially beyond our Sunday services for any weekly activity that required her services.

The steady hand of our Wardens, the Vestry, and staff kept things under control and met the challenges as they occurred. Our special thanks to Allison, Linda, and Tony, whose administrative skills kept the Church office functional. All the ministries of the church stepped up to maintain the spirit of a church family throughout the year as we never missed a beat (thanks to Anthony).

We also had the support of Bishop Stokes and the Diocesan staff as they led us through the discernment process by tempering our eagerness to forge ahead with sound advice and counsel. We were always well supported by the parishes and clergy of the Northern Convocation, although behind the scene they stood ready in case there was a need at Trinity.

My personal thanks to all our parishioners, especially our Stephen Ministers whose dedication to service was astounding. They provided the Christian caring to our members when needed, and when we frequently met, this caring attitude was extended to the needs of the church by always providing valuable discussions, support, and volunteering.

In retrospect, 2016 was a year of many celebrations at Trinity Church. We welcomed several young families; and, thanks to the administrators and teacher volunteers, the Sunday School experienced a successful year. Our weekly Wednesday Evening Prayer Line, Monthly Fellowship Luncheon, Trinity Men's Group, Women's Bible Study were among the activities that maintained the enthusiasm and inspired us along our journey. And to cap off the year we are blessed to welcome our new Priest-in-Charge Rev. Andrew David Kruger and his wife Heather.

My sincere thanks for the opportunity to continue to serve in the capacity of Deacon for another year and to share in the gifts that we receive through our worship, caring and service in the name of Christ.

It is my wish and prayer that we will move forward in 2017 with strength and courage to meet whatever new challenges we will encounter. As we open our doors to the world, through the grace of God, let us continue to be the welcoming church that so many are seeking in order to worship and praise and offer thanksgiving. May God continue to shower his blessing on us.

Yours in Christ, Deacon Clive

### **Senior Warden Report**

David L. Burnett, Senior Warden

Like many of you, I started 2016 with a sense of cautious optimism for Trinity Episcopal Church. I did not know what God's plan would be for Trinity over those next twelve months. However I knew that our love and support for each other, along with our faith in Jesus Christ, would keep Trinity moving in the right direction.

I had good reason to be optimistic. Following Mother Gina's departure, the spiritual leadership of our parish has been in excellent hands throughout 2016. With Mother Stephanie graciously agreeing to serve as our long-term supply priest, Trinity's liturgical and sacramental needs have been steadfastly met without interruption. Despite her full-time ministries in New York City, Mother Stephanie not only commuted every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist at Trinity, she also worked with our church leadership throughout the week arranging the liturgy as well as baptisms, funerals, and other events. (As you may recall, Mother Stephanie celebrated 8 baptisms at Trinity in 2016!) And of course Deacon Clive has provided a constant pastoral presence to Trinity all year, whether leading our Stephen Ministry, our Wednesday night prayer line, or making home and hospital visits. We all have enjoyed Deacon Clive preaching at least once a month, not to mention him performing the occasional emergency Deacon's Mass in Mother Stephanie's rare absence. Deacon Clive also represented Trinity beyond our campus in 2016, serving with distinction on the Cranford Clergy Council and several Diocesan committees in addition to being the national treasurer of The Union of Black Episcopalians. Trinity has been truly blessed to have Mother Stephanie and Deacon Clive leading us in prayer throughout 2016.

Following the January 2016 Annual General Meeting, Trinity's year of discernment and transition began in earnest. The February 2016 Congregational Conversation, led by the Canon Cecelia Alvarez, was very well attended. The Congregational Conversation gave all of Trinity's parishioners the opportunity to answer several key questions pertaining to the characteristics and qualities we wanted to see in our next Priest-in-Charge. Thereafter, the Discernment Committee was commissioned in March 2016, led by Dianne Pecoraro as Committee Chair. Thanks to Dianne's fantastic leadership, organizing eight (admittedly) strong-willed and opinionated personalities, the Discernment Committee was able to perform its exhaustive work in a focused, comprehensive, and yet prayerful manner.

Despite 2016 being a year of discernment and transition, I am happy to report once again that almost all of our programs, plans, and ministries continued uninterrupted with your help and support. Trinity's parishioners continued to enjoy our monthly Fellowship Thursday lunches, as well as our monthly Men's Group led by Terry Nechuta and our Women's Bible Study led by Nancy Miller. As another example, Marion Nechuta and the Outreach Committee continued our commitment to St. John's in Elizabeth with our monthly Sandwich Sundays. We again enjoyed our Lenten Fish Fry in March, as well a full complement of Holy Week events including our Maundy Thursday Agape Meal celebrated by Mother Stephanie and Deacon Clive. Later in the year, the Lehmkuhls again organized a very successful Progressive Dinner in November. And our annual Breakfast with Santa was once again a tremendous fundraiser starting the Christmas season, led by coordinators Arlene Fricke, Debbie Buli and Bonnie Gentesse.

In consideration of Trinity's discernment process, our 2016 finances were also the subject for cautious optimism. Trinity's finances have been summarized in great detail by our treasurer Dave Roberts as part of this Annual Report. Thanks to Dave's experienced oversight and guidance over Trinity's balance sheet, along with the work of Trinity's Finance Committee and Vestry, Trinity's projected budget deficit for 2016 was reduced to roughly \$10,000.00 down from an average of approximately \$27,000.00 in several prior years. (As Dave Roberts reports, Trinity Church ended 2016 with a surplus.) While Trinity's 2016 finances obviously benefited from a smaller payroll this year, the 2017 budget anticipates being balanced for the first time in years while still expensing a full-time Priest-in-Charge.

Given the state of Trinity's 2016 finances, and also thanks to the generosity of many individual donations, we were able to undertake many necessary repairs and renovations to our aging Rectory. The renovations included much-needed plumbing work, bathroom refitting, replacement of all of the windows, floor refinishing, painting, as well as a completely renovation of the kitchen. Nancy Noonan and Tom Kaercher deserve considerable thanks for the time and efforts in leading the Rectory renovations.

In keeping with the topic of Trinity's finances, I want to give thanks to Al Lehmkuhl, Holly Ives, and all of the members of the New Consecration Sunday team for a tremendous effort in our 2016 stewardship campaign. This is the first year that Trinity Church instituted the New Consecration Sunday (NCS) program, commencing with a sermon from Diocesan CFO Phyllis Jones and a gala luncheon on November 20, 2016. As a result of the team's efforts and NCS, Trinity's pledging increased 8%, favorably impacting our bottom line and making our balanced budget a reality. And, most importantly, I want to thank all of you who pledged and donated to Trinity Church in 2016. Your ongoing financial commitment to our church makes all of our ministries, programs, and fellowship possible.

My sincere thanks also extend to all of Trinity's staff, whose countless hours over the past year help make our ministries seemingly run effortlessly. Our music director Anthony Rafaniello quite simply works nonstop, balancing his full time employment at Cranford High School leading their music and choral groups along with his commitment to Trinity. Anthony is well loved and well respected not only at Trinity, but as a leader in the Cranford community. We are tremendously fortunate to have Anthony leading our music program at Trinity, and I know we have great music ahead in 2017 with our newly-restored bells for the Bell Choir (along with the new bell chimes donated by Arlene Fricke). Our Verger, Tony Vitale, works tirelessly in the church office throughout each week to produce our bulletins, email blasts, and special correspondence. Also, as many of you know, Linda Kurdilla has been volunteering in the church office over these past six months providing bookkeeping and office management after our prior Parish Administrator Allison Burns-LaGreca was accepted at GTS and became our seminarian. Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my Junior Warden Joe Bardzilowski for his work and leadership at Trinity Church. Joe is a constant presence during the week at Trinity, and doggedly works with limited resources to keep our physical plant beautiful and operational. I am grateful to Joe as a partner in our Warden's ministry, and I consider him to be a very good friend.

I would also like to extend my thanks to director Nancy Ditzel and the Board of the Trinity Episcopal Day School for a tremendous 2016. Thanks to Nancy and the Board's skilled efforts, Trinity has been at full enrollment all year and enters 2017 in its best financial shape since its inception. Enrollment for September 2017 is already at 50%. TEDS is recognized as one of the best schools for early childhood education in Cranford thanks to Nancy and her excellent staff.

Of course my review of 2016 would not be complete without acknowledging our new Priest-in-Charge Father Andrew David Kruger. After months of training, writing, evaluating, interviewing – and most importantly praying – Trinity's Discernment Committee recommended Father Andy to the Vestry in November 2016. After being unanimously endorsed by the Vestry, and enthusiastically supported by Bishop Stokes and the Diocesan staff, Father Andy and his wife Heather were introduced to the parish on December 4, 2016 at our monthly Warden's Forum. Father Andy's biography has been included in this Annual Report, so I do not need to reiterate his experience and qualifications in my remarks. That said, I know Father Andy brings a number of gifts to Trinity that include a strong understanding of our liturgy, a personal approach to pastoral care, and a sharp intellect (not to mention and great sense of humor and humble demeanor). Needless to say, I am very excited for Father Andy to begin his ministry at Trinity in the coming weeks.

At the end of the day, I want to thank each and every member of Trinity Episcopal Church for your commitment to our parish in 2016. Despite more than a year of discernment and transition, Trinity has not experienced the typical decreased-attendance of other parishes but rather welcomed more new young families and congregants throughout the year. To this end, I am very grateful that we have all taken up the work at Trinity that God calls us to do. As we begin 2017 with a new Priest-in-Charge, I am reminded that our Baptismal Covenant requires us to continue this work and not rest upon our accomplishments. We are blessed with many shepherds at Trinity, all of whom are called upon to lead our many ministries with our time and talent. This work does not end with the hiring our new Priest-in-Charge. Rather, the work continues and must be renewed as we look forward to 2017 and beyond. I am very optimistic that we will meet this responsibility, not only to move Trinity Episcopal Church forward for future generations but also to do God's work "out in the mission fields."

Respectfully submitted,  
David L. Burnett, Senior Warden, Trinity Episcopal Church

### **Junior Warden's Report: Building & Grounds**

Joseph P. Bardzilowski, Junior Warden

Our parish campus is being well-maintained, looks good, and is in a state of good repair. The Memorial Garden, our lawns, and walkways also look great. Gutters have been cleaned and screened, LED exterior lights have been installed, and a list of chores (listed below) have been completed by volunteers who continue to take pride in our physical plant and appearance.

A preventative maintenance program for our church, TEDS, Sherlock Hall, and Witherington Hall continues to be implemented by volunteers and outside vendors. Our rental property on 215 North Avenue is also being well-maintained and may need upgrades in the future.

Routine maintenance activities performed include:

- light bulb replacements (interior & exterior)
- regular adjustment of security lighting timers
- HVAC vent & filter cleaning
- landscaping (plantings/shrub removal/weeding/installed landscaping fabric/cutting ornamental grasses)
  - Spread 25 yards mulch over Memorial Garden & church areas
  - Spread 30 yards mulch in TEDS playground
- winterizing (6) AC condenser units & (3) window AC units
- painted safety stripes on masonry landings/stairs
- litter pick-up, general cleaning of work areas

Repairs performed:

- prep & painting steel sign pole
- unisex bathroom molding & fixture repair
- re-hanging interior doors (Sherlock & Kiamie buildings)
- church sheetrock repair of Gospel side corner
- oak bracing for original oak choir pew
- repointing old church brick basement wall
- asphalt sidewalk patches near playground
- replaced exterior light fixture for Trinity signage
- installation of new sound system for Sherlock Hall

Known 2017 small projects should include:

- repainting select art-glass window frames (especially on North Avenue side)
- installation of aluminum shielding over church drip edge molding gaps
- cleaning of gutters
- painting of utility area in church basement
- removal of old/broken baptismal font wheel base

The list of suggested improvements for the Rectory was reviewed and the Rectory has been completely renovated and is ready for Reverend Andy and his wife Heather. House Control continues to coordinate the various spaces that we have available on our campus. In addition to liturgical uses, we provide space to AA and 4-H, as well as renting space for outside and special events.

#### Parking Lot Project

An expanded parking area is being proposed adjacent to the Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS). Primarily the proposal is made for the added safety and convenience of children attending the school. In addition to improving TEDS' facilities, the new lot will reduce parking and traffic congestion on Hamilton Avenue. In their current form, the plans are for a paved lot with parking spaces for 16 cars and added landscaping consisting of 4 shade trees and about 100 bushes and shrubs. There will be overhead lighting and an underground retention basin able to hold and gradually release water from normally heavy rain storms. These plans were drawn up in the spring of 2015 by Harbor Consultants Inc. of Cranford and submitted to the township's Development Review Committee on September 25, 2015. They were favorably reviewed by the Cranford Fire and Police Departments and suggestions were made and incorporated from the township's Maser Engineering Group.

Details of these plans and reasons for their approval were first presented to the Zoning Board of Cranford on November 9, 2015 by Joe Bardzilowski (Jr. Warden), Nancy Ditzel (TEDS Director), Tony Gallerano (Harbor Consultants) and Joe Triarsi (Trinity's lawyer). Objections and concerns were raised by a lawyer for neighbors George and Anne Steinbach. Additional Zoning Board review meetings were held on April 11, 2016, September 12, 2016 and December 5, 2016 with more concerns, alternate plan suggestions, and zoning variance objections presented also by a lawyer on behalf of the neighbor Rita LaBrutto. No decision has yet been made by the Zoning Board and another hearing is planned for sometime in February 2017. Trinity's expenses for this project to date total \$47,786 and have been paid from a fund set up by Art Patchett. Currently contributing to oversight of this project are David Burnett, Joe Bardzilowski, Art Patchett, John Witherington, and Tom Kaercher.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, treasure, and talent to keep our property in such great shape. John Zebrowski, Ray Berry, John Woolsey and Anthony Lagarra are primarily responsible for all of the above listed work and much more that has not been listed. John Witherington is responsible for making sure that our garbage and recycling is properly collected. Tom Kaercher and Nancy Noonan coordinated the Rectory project. Nancy Noonan and Lynn Bianchini coordinate the usage and rental of our halls and other available spaces. I am very grateful for the professional manner that this dedicated group performs their chores week in and week out. Thank you.

## **Discernment Committee**

Dianne Pecoraro, Chair

The Discernment Committee was officially commissioned in March 2016. The Committee members (Joe Bardzilowski, David Burnett, Nancy Ditzel, Tom Kaercher, Linda Kurdilla, Lisa LaGreca, Dianne Pecoraro and Bob Vogel) quickly began working together to prepare the documents requested by the Diocese (namely the Office of Transition Ministry portfolio, the Transition Ministry Conference website form and the profile for Trinity Church) in order to begin Trinity's search for a Priest-in-Charge. These documents encompassed the thoughts provided by parishioners at the Congregational Conversation with Canon Cecilia Alvarez. Once all of these documents were uploaded to the Diocese's database and Trinity's website, the Committee met with Canon Alvarez on May 10, 2016. At this meeting, Canon Alvarez provided the Committee with resources for interviewing the candidates.

In early August, the Committee began scheduling phone interviews with the candidates. As the pool of candidates was narrowed, the Committee then conducted in-person and Skype interviews. The Committee also contacted the references for the candidates and was able to hear the candidates preside over a service and preach.

After many months of work and prayerful consideration, the Discernment Committee selected Rev. Andrew David Kruger as its candidate for Priest-in-Charge. The Committee then invited the Vestry to meet Rev. Kruger and his wife one evening in November. Prior to the "Meet and Greet", the Vestry was provided with a packet of information including Rev. Kruger's resume, candidate portfolio, and questionnaire.

At a special Vestry meeting on November 19, 2016, the Discernment Committee officially recommended Rev. Andrew David Kruger to the Vestry as the candidate for Priest-in-Charge for Trinity Church, Cranford. Following a presentation by the Discernment Committee and discussion with the members of the Committee and Rev. Kruger, the Vestry unanimously voted to elect Rev. Kruger as Trinity Church's next Priest-in-Charge.

### **Selection of the new Priest-in-Charge**

The Rev. Andrew David Kruger

We are very happy to announce that Reverend Andrew David Kruger has been elected to be the next Priest-in-Charge at Trinity Episcopal Church. The Vestry unanimously approved the Discernment Committee's recommendation of Rev. Andy, following the committee's comprehensive prayerful search. Bishop Stokes and the diocesan staff enthusiastically support his selection. Our new pastor is from South Africa; he was ordained an Anglican priest in November 2011. He has broad experience in intergenerational pastoral care, youth ministry, and parish growth. Prior to starting at Trinity, Rev. Andy will be returning to South Africa to move out of his current rectory and complete the US immigration process. We expect him to start at Trinity sometime in February.

## **WORSHIP**

### **Acolytes**

Vicki Goralski & Tom Kaercher, Coordinators

The Acolyte ministry dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Acolytes add dignity to the sacred ceremony of the services by assisting the priest at the Altar. The ministry is open to youngsters Grade 4 and up. Training, fellowship, and fun are provided. We would like to have at least four acolytes serving at 10 AM services so that a full processional might be achieved. As with all ministries, there is a need for new members. For 2017, we are planning a recruiting and training session in the first quarter of this year. Please give prayerful thought to having your family be a part of this sacred ministry.

Acolytes: Bobby Barone, Emma Barone, Hannah Barone, Salvatore Brown, Samantha Cieslak, Sarah Gluck, Allison Hosler, Stephanie Michael, Anna Roberts, Charlie Roberts, Sarah Roberts.

## **Altar Guild**

Heather Burnett, Coordinator

Trinity Altar Guild prepares the altar for all Sunday services, holy days, baptisms, weddings, funerals and special services. Our mission is to work together to prepare Our Lord's table for the Holy Eucharist and other services. We train each other for what is required for each celebration. We have three teams – each consisting of new and experienced Altar Guild members who serve quarterly. The Altar Guild also has its own manual instructing us on the correct way to prepare the altar, whether it be different frontals, caring of linens, flowers, vessels, vestments, or anything else that has to do with the church's services. Our three teams encourage families to serve together to share this ministry between generations. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact, Heather Burnett.

The dedicated Altar Guild consists of the Burnett family, Pat Cameron, Gwen Cuozzo, Arlene Fricke, the Roberts Family, the Gentesse Family, Tom Kaercher, Linda Kurdilla, Catherine Rossi, Eudora Kombo, Victoria Henry and Jeremy Henry, the Broccoli family, and Marion Nechuta.

## **Lay Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors**

Bonnie Gentesse, Coordinator

Thank you to all of our dedicated Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and Lectors who read and assist at every Liturgy and Service. This year we had our 6<sup>th</sup> Advent Dinner. The Trinity Ushers joined us for the event. Evening Compline from the Book of Common Prayer was read. A delicious pot luck dinner was followed with fellowship. Trinity offers opportunities for parishioners to be involved in the Liturgy by participation as Lectors (reading Lessons and Prayers of the People) and Lay 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.

Gratitude and blessings to our LEM & Lectors: Carolee Gardiner, Cynthia Kolby, Bonnie & Joe Gentesse, Dave Burnett, Tony Vitale, Tom Kaercher, Sarah Gregory, Allison Burns-LaGrecca, Bernard Kolby, Pat Cameron, Vicki Goralski, Deacon Clive Sang, Maureen & Darrell Frydlewicz, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, David Robinson, Terry & Marion Nechuta, Christy Barone, Diane Pecoraro, Al Lehmkuhl, Daniel Rivera, Sydney O'Hagan, Cindy Concannon, Lisa LaGreca, Paola Cammarota, Victor & Elizabeth Broccoli, Brandon Strawder, Sal Brown, Max Bursack, and Justin Bursack.

## **Music Ministry**

Anthony J. Rafaniello, Director of Music and Organist

**Trinity Choir** The choir is a committed group of parishioners striving to enrich the liturgy through music at the 10 AM worship services, as well as at other designated services throughout the year. Rehearsals are normally held from 8:00-9:15 PM on Wednesday evenings in the church. The major Church Festivals of 2016 included additional volunteer vocalists which allowed for the singing of more demanding repertoire. We are grateful to many Cranford High School choral students and alumni who join us on these occasions. We hope to continue drawing upon the talent in our community to augment our choir. New hymns and anthems will remain a part of the choir's repertoire. We strive to honor our musical past as well as forge the musical future of the church, singing works of recent, living composers. All are welcome to join this group of dedicated singers.

The members of the choir during 2016 included John Beier, Patricia Cameron, Carolyn Dittmar, Arlene Fricke, Vicki Goralski, Thomas Kaercher, Albert Lehmkuhl, Nancy Miller, Carolee Stewart-Gardner, Justin Witwick, and John Zebrowski.

**Handbell Choir** 2016 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trinity Handbell Choir. The bells were dedicated on Sunday, December 14, 1986. In celebration of the anniversary, the vestry approved the refurbishment of the bells (a maintenance process that is recommended every 15 years by the manufacturer, Malmark) since Trinity's bells have never been refurbished. On January 6, 2017 members of the bell choir will deliver our bells to the Malmark's factory outside of Doylestown, PA. The bells should be completed and returned by the

late winter. The Trinity Bell Choir received the generous donation of 3 octaves of Malmark hand chimes in memory of the deceased members of the Fricke Family. The chimes replace a smaller classroom set that was deteriorating for which replacement parts were no longer available. The new chimes were dedicated on September 18, 2016 and were played for the first time on October 9. The bell choir continues to grow in members and has become an intergenerational ensemble comprised of members that include original ringers from 1986 as well as children and families who are new to ringing. The bell choir will continue to present new and varied repertoire in 2017.

The members of the handbell choir during 2016 included Christy Barone, Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini, Ralph Bianchini, Elizabeth Broccoli, Victor Broccoli, Jennifer Cabrera Cammarota, Joan Cornell, Carolyn Dittmar, Michelle Freeland, Arlene Fricke, Allison Gluck, Thomas Kaercher, Amy Robinson, Christian Robinson, Luke Robinson, and Fran Witherington.

**Other Musical Events** On June 5, 2016, Trinity Church hosted the Cranford High School Madrigal Choir's Spring Concert program. Parishioners, parents, and members of the community packed the church for the concert. We hope to maintain a positive relationship with the performing arts programs at Cranford High School and continue to host concerts and musical events in the church.

### **Prayer Chain**

Tony Vitale, Coordinator

Once the Parish Office is alerted to a critical issue such as a surgery, illness, or life-changing event, the prayer chain is contacted and begins immediate prayer. A small group of parishioners has volunteered to pray as a group for those in need. A name is submitted to the parish office, and the lead person of the chain is contacted. If you are called to this wonderful ministry, please email Tony Vitale if you would like to join in intercessory prayer. Those who pray: Diane Baldwin, Julie Buchholz, Allison Burns-LaGreca, Pat Cameron, Joan Cornell, Korine Dankowski, Arlene Fricke, Bonnie Gentesse, Vicki Goralski, Sarah Gregory, Cynthia Kolby, Linda Kurdilla, Clint & Nancy Miller, Marion & Terry Nechuta, Tony Vitale, Deacon Clive Oscar Sang.

### **Prayer Line**

Deacon Clive Sang, Coordinator

Deacon Clive has arranged a prayer gathering that takes place via telephone conference on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 PM and lasts approximately 15 minutes. To join in, all you have to do is dial the following number and enter the access code listed. Bring your cares, concerns, and special intentions. Let us gather in prayer and thanksgivings with compassionate faith. The phone number is 641-715-3580 and the access code is 344-506#.

### **Ushers Ministry**

Darrell & Maureen Frydlewicz, Coordinators

Welcoming Trinity congregants, old and new, our Ushers continue to be a vital part of services. In 2016, the key to this ministry's continued success, as always, was teamwork. We are grateful to all who stepped-up and helped sort out scheduling conflicts. At September's Annual "Roundup Sunday" we welcomed Elizabeth and Victor Broccoli, Denise and Jim Behnke, and alternate Sal Brown to our group. These additional participants have allowed us to expand from nine to eleven teams, and reduce the workload of all teams. Our junior ushers Emma Willix and Sarah Burnett, continue to assist their parents and are a welcome addition to the Children's services as well as fostering our youths' interest in ministry. We always welcome the return of Janemarie Buli who assists her mother, Debbie, at the 4:30 Christmas Eve Service.

Parishioners are encouraged to consider participating in this crucial stewardship ministry as individuals or families. Training is quick and easy. Thank you to all of our dedicated ushers, who continue to represent the best of Trinity: Ray Barry, Denise and Jim Behnke, Ralph and Lynn Bianchini, Elizabeth and Victor Broccoli, Sal Brown, Debbie and Janemarie Buli, Dave, Heather and Sarah Burnett, Eric Bursack, Tom Cornell, Darrell and Maureen Frydlewicz, Joe Gentesse, Tom Kaercher, Linda Kurdilla, Lisa LaGreca, JoAnn Lehmkuhl, Dan Rivera, Doreen Stromko, Jim, Stephanie and Emma Willix, John Witherington.

## **Verger's Report**

Anthony F. Vitale, Verger's Guild of America

In September 2015, the Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor appointed Tony Vitale as Verger of Trinity Church (he is also a member of the Committee on the Diaconate for the Diocese). Appointments for verger are for life; however, he or she serves at the pleasure of the rector (or priest-in-charge).

At Trinity, the Verger conducts the arrangements of funerals, baptisms, weddings, and Holy Feast Days. At certain services, the Verger may vest and process as needed at the discretion of the presiding celebrant. The Verger works behind the scenes with the celebrant to serve the presiding celebrant's needs. Additional duties include audio recording and posting, production and distribution of weekly bulletins, email blasts, and website maintenance.

In 2016, the parish welcomed eight new members to the parish during Sunday services, including the baptisms of Christian William Piazza (January 10), Charlotte Geraldine Miller (April 3), William Michael Gardner & Elizabeth Renanne Broccoli (April 24), Kylie Lynn Kowalski & Elliott Cayton Broccoli (June 5), Callie Elizabeth Blanton (June 12), and Harrison Campbell Guerrasio (October 30). At the other end of life, Murray H. Ross returned home to the Lord in a service on December 3. There were no weddings.

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

### **Sunday School**

Marion Nechuta & Dianne Pecoraro, Co-Superintendents of Sunday School

This year, we have continued using the "One Room School House" program. This program encompasses Pre-K through Fifth Grade. The program teaches students the Old Testament Stories, Christmas Story, New Testament Stories, and Easter Story.

The Sunday School uses two classrooms in the TEDS building: one is for our younger students downstairs (5 years old and younger), and the second is for the older students upstairs (first through fifth grade). In addition, students in sixth through eighth grade who are studying towards Confirmation meet twice a month on Sundays in the loft in Sherlock Hall. In total, we have 36 children involved in Sunday School and Confirmation classes.

In the Confirmation class, we are using the curriculum "Encountering Christ in the Episcopal Church". This curriculum will give the students an overview of the Old and New Testament. They will also be learning about the Prayer Book, sacraments, history of the church, prayer, and Confirmation. The date of Confirmation will be determined based on the Bishop's availability in 2017.

Marion Nechuta, Sydney O'Hagan, Kavita Medanki and Jennifer Cammarota are the teachers and helpers for the younger students. Christy Barone teaches and Vicky Cooney and Bobby Barone are helpers for the Confirmation class. Dianne Pecoraro, Denise Alvarez Behnke, and Amy Robinson rotate teaching the older students with the help of parents, including James Behnke, Heather Burnett, Sue DeMarco, and Kristin Smith as aides. As the Sunday School has grown, we have been fortunate to have more parents and teenagers join us as teachers and aides.

This Spring, we will start our Communion Class with the help of Joyce Cieslak teaching. We will be using the curriculum "This Bread and This Cup." This class will help our second graders be prepared and understand the Eucharist. On June 4, we plan to have a service celebrating their understanding of the Eucharist and invite the congregation to join. Every third Sunday of the month, the students participate in the Church Service. We have them take up the gifts, usher, sing, acolyte, and read the Lessons and Prayers of the People. This is an extension of the Sunday School, which teaches the students about our service and faith. We plan on continuing this as a teaching tool in their growth of faith.

We would like to thank our teachers for their faith and commitment to teaching our students. Also, we would like to thank the parents and teenagers who assist as aides for their help and dedication.

## **Trinity Men's Group**

Terry Nechuta, Coordinator

The Trinity Men's Group meets throughout the year once a month on the first Saturday of the month from 8 to 9 AM. For over ten years, the group has met for a light breakfast, fellowship, encouragement and prayer in a format of discussion and light bible study.

Last year concepts of the Afterlife and Heaven as presented in the scriptures were examined. Currently it is examining the Holy Spirit, but all topics are open. No preparation is needed, simply show up. For information please see or call: Terry Nechuta (home: 908-245-1892; cell 908-956-5848).

The group prays that God's spirit will speak through each other to each other. "As iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance." *Proverbs 27:17*

## **Women's Bible Study**

Nancy Miller, Leader

The Women's Bible Study group has been meeting since 2002. As situations change, those attending have as well. Death has taken its toll and some ladies have left to reside closer to their children. We miss them greatly.

You will find us on Thursday mornings in the Witherington Conference Room at 10 AM; the meeting lasts until 11:30. We enjoy fellowship as we gather. Thanks to Susan Olszewski for the tea and coffee and others, as well for goodies.

Each session begins with prayer. Over the years, we have prayed for the needs of others, our own needs, and the needs of the church while (or by) praising God and offering thanks for answers. Discussions are lively and interesting.

At the beginning of 2016, we continued studying The Book of Hebrews in the New Testament, which we had started in 2015. The 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter on Faith was especially meaningful. After taking time to look at subjects for Lent and Holy Week, the Pentecost Event and an Ascension Day service, we finished Hebrews by June.

Then we took our summer break. I was looking for a new focus for the fall and I came across a paper called PRAYERS of the MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH. The lives of these particular "Mothers" looked interesting. All those listed lived in the Medieval era (different time, different place) but in their own way they influenced the spiritual world of their time, the church and the lives of not only women, but the hierarchy including abbots, monks and (yes!) Popes. And some created an awareness and condemnation of the corruption in the Church.

Our first sessions set the stage in which these women lived. We studied what it meant to live as a woman and the challenges and opportunities in the medieval world. We then centered on six individuals chronologically, starting with Hildegard of Bingen. Listening to her music added authenticity to her life story.

From there we looked at Clare of Assisi (and a photo of the relics of her blonde curls, shorn when she became a nun). Shorter looks were paid to St. Francis (as per Clare) and St. Agnes of Bohemia and her brother, King, St. Wensislav (St. Agnes started a chapter of the "Poor Clare" nuns in Bohemia). To finish out the year 2016, we looked at the current spread of the Orders of Poor Clares, who are still active and prospering.

In 2017, we go back into the medieval world with a study of the Women's Lay Movement (the Beguines and their organization and works), starting with a significant one, Mechtilde of Magdenburg. Next, another Beguine (Gertrude, the Great), then one more recognizable (Julian of Norwich), and ending with another beguine (Catherine of Sienna). All interesting women.

Our group includes: Diane Baldwin, JoAnn Lehmkuhl, Joan Cornell, Vicki Goralski, MaryAnn Friscia, Mary Cheress, Eudora Kombo, Susan Olszewski, and Nancy Miller.

## **PARISH LIFE**

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

Holly Ives & Doreen Stromko, Co-Presidents

In 2016, the ECW met on May 21 and October 22. Activities during the year included:

- February: Helped with the Soup Sale coordinated by Bonnie Gentesse which raised money for the ECW Scholarship Fund. Donated gift basket to the TEDS Tricky Tray event.
- April/May: Helped with the annual plant sale coordinated by Susan Olszewski which raised money for the ECW Scholarship Fund.
- June: Awarded ECW Scholarship Fund money to 1 high school graduate: Matt Hosler.
- November: Helped with the New Consecration Sunday luncheon.
- December 3: Helped with the annual "Breakfast with Santa" event and donated a gift basket for the basket raffle.
- December 17 & 24: Wrapped gifts at Barnes & Noble and raised \$355 for the ECW Scholarship Fund.

As always, we thank the women (and men) of Trinity Church who work at these events and give so generously of their time and talents.

### **First Thursday Fellowship Luncheon**

Deacon Clive Sang, Joseph Bardzilowski, Bonnie Gentesse, Tom Kaercher, Susan Olzsewski

The "First Thursday Luncheon" has been a very successful event. We average between 25-35 in attendance. Lunch is provided by the "First Thursday" committee and a \$5 donation is asked to be put towards the cost of the food. The lunch is followed by a speaker or entertainment. It provides a time for parishioners to socialize and catch up with parish news. All are welcome.

### **Fish & Chips Dinner**

Bonnie Gentesse, Coordinator

Trinity held its second "Fish & Chips Dinner" on March 11, 2016. It was a great success! Our chefs were Deacon Clive and Peter Burbela. A profit of \$1,178.11 went to our Operations Fund of the Church. THANK YOU to all of the Trinity Fish Team who made this event so successful .

### **Progressive Dinner**

JoAnn & Al Lehmkuhl

The Progressive Dinner was held on Saturday, November 5. We had a good attendance of 54 parishioners. The evening began at two appetizer/cocktail houses, followed by dinner at seven different homes, then the night ended at Church where dessert and coffee were served. A special thanks to those who opened their homes for the festivities.

### **Youth Ministry**

Allison Burns-LaGreca, Youth Director

Daniel Burns is currently serving on the Diocesan Youth Council representing Trinity Episcopal Church Cranford. He has attended the MLK day of Service, Happenings, and the Province II in Lakewood NJ. He was featured in a Diocesan write-up based on his experiences. Daniel will be serving the church at large and will represent Trinity at the nationwide Episcopal Youth Event located in Oklahoma this year. If you or your children are interested in the diocesan Youth Council, please feel free to contact Allison at at 551-697-6133.

# **OUTREACH**

## **Outreach Committee**

Marion Nechuta, Chairperson

Trinity is a “One Congregation” meaning that we have committed to helping the Episcopal Church achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Besides our three main projects, we continue to collect for the Military (toiletries and candies); participate in the Crop Walk in Cranford run by the Church World Services (an organization that helps feed the poor).

At Thanksgiving we put together baskets of food for Cranford Family Care (an organization that feeds people in need here in Cranford).

This past year we were able to send a donation to help the Haitian people after the devastating Hurricane Matthew.

Our three ongoing projects are:

1. Feeding the poor and homeless at St. John’s in Elizabeth which the congregation helps every third Sunday of the month making sandwiches and serving at St. John’s.
2. Sponsoring two Cameroon Orphans (Daniela and Musaga) through the Good Shepherd Home in Mendham. The money helps our orphans get food, clothes, medicine and education.
3. Helping the Seamen’s Institute in Port Newark through knitting of hats and scarves. We have two dedicated women knitting (we are always looking for knitters). Also, collecting trial-size toiletries, calendars, popcorn and fronts of Christmas Cards for their “Christmas at Sea” project. This year we hope to be able to have a bake sale to collect for a monetary donation as well.

Today at the Annual Meeting, we will be selling loaves of bread for the project “Loaves of Love” which helps children at St. Clare’s in Elizabeth who have HIV or AIDS.

In this upcoming year, we will be collecting shoes for “Soles for Souls” Project as well as expanding to two more projects with the Episcopal Relief and Development (helping moms and newborns and restoring the forests).

We want to thank the congregation for all their help making these projects a success. We meet the second Sunday of the month and all are invited to sit in and listen to what we are doing or join.

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Arlene Fricke, Debbie Buli, & Bonnie Gentesse, Coordinators

Our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual “Breakfast with Santa” was held on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Santa Team volunteers served a delicious pancake breakfast, set tables, took photos with Santa, sold raffle tickets for the baskets, sold entrance tickets and 50/50’s, did face painting, sold fresh evergreens and grave covers, donated food and supplies, donated beautiful baskets, counted money, sold jewelry and cleaned up afterward.

Each child received a box of crayons and a placemat to color. We have a new “Breakfast with Santa” sign on the front lawn. The big crowd produced the big profit; the net profit was \$5,287 (the most ever!). This money went to the Church operating fund. (Much needed).

Thank you to all of our Santa Helpers and Santa who made this event a success: Arlene Fricke, Debbie Buli & family, Bonnie & Joe Gentesse, Ray Berry, Bob Vogel, Cathy Russo, Carol Willix, Doreen Stromko, Joann & Al Lehmkuhl, Susan Olszewski, Stephanie & Emma Willix, Ruth Uhde, Allison & Lisa LaGreca, Marion Nechuta, Anthony Rafaniello, Jamie & Nick Buli, Joyce Cieslak, Samantha Cieslak, Linda Kurdilla, Holly Ives, Barbara & Sarah Gluck, Irene Telerico, Tom Kaercher, Jane Michael, Lynn & Ralph Bianchini, Dave Burnett, Bobby, Emma, & Hannah Barone, Susan & Toru Ishiyama, and to everyone who donated supplies, money, and baskets for the success of the breakfast. Thank you, thank you!

## **“The Ministry of Space”**

Trinity Church is not only a house of worship for its parishioners but also home to groups who use “our space” to conduct their own special ministries. The parish is utilized by various neighborhood enhancing and individual support group organizations. These groups meet on our campus as part of Trinity’s outreach to the community.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** The Tuesday night meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous has been meeting in the exact same space of over 60 years, in Sherlock Hall since not long after the Kiamie Education Building was built. Any member of the parish who thinks he or she might have a problem with drinking is welcome to the open speaker meeting. The parish is invited to the group’s 61<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Tuesday, February 28 at 8 PM; huge amounts of food and fellowship will be served along with a speaker sharing his or her experience, strength, and hope. (Submitted by Tony Vitale)

**4-H** is the nation’s largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering 6,000,000 young people in the U.S. During the sixth year of 4-H at Trinity, the Dog Lovers Club organized and ran the first annual ‘Union County Dog Day’, held in Union, NJ and raised \$5,500 for the Friends of Union Township Animal Shelter. The twelve members also visit elderly/nursing homes for Halloween and Christmas bringing cookies and singing carols. Children from third grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join; no dogs are required, just an interest and love of our canine family. The group meets from 10 AM until noon every Saturday. (Submitted by club leader Bryan Johnson)

### **Stephen Ministers**

Deacon Clive Sang, Coordinator

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in the over 12,000 congregations that use the Stephen Series system nationwide, in Canada, and 28 other countries. Stephen Ministry equips and empowers lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people, referred to as Care Receivers, 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.

Trinity’s Stephen Ministry program is led by Deacon Clive, who completed the week-long Stephen Leader training program in 2013. He then delivered the 50-hour Stephen Ministry training program. On Palm Sunday 2014, the following people were commissioned as Stephen Ministers:

Joe Bardzilowski  
Joe Gentesse  
Bernard Kolbe  
Susan Olszewski

Pat Cameron  
Vicki Goralski  
Linda Kurdilla  
Bob Vogel

Bonnie Gentesse  
Tom Kaercher  
Terry Nechuta

Stephen Ministers are given assignments as caring opportunities became known to Deacon Clive. Deacon Clive conducts monthly continuing education sessions with all the Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers also meet twice a month to discuss the progress of their assignments, without revealing any confidential information, and to support each other through the process.

For 2017, the education sessions and small supervision groups will continue. We are hopeful that more people will choose to avail themselves of the Christian-caregiving that our Stephen Ministers are willing and able to provide. Anyone who would like to do so should contact Deacon Clive.

### **Public Relations / Marketing Communications**

Tom Kaercher, Coordinator

The purpose of Trinity’s Public Relations/Marketing Communications activities is to build a positive awareness of the parish and our activities in Cranford area. Once again in 2106, Trinity did not have an advertising/marketing communications budget. PR activities have been focused on creating and distributing

press releases to the area newspapers, online media outlets, and the local cable TV station. These constitute passive forms of communication because the placements ultimately rely on the media outlets having available space and time to publish our activities. Each press release contains a statement about Trinity and its historic place in the Cranford community, our service schedule and about TEDS and its program offerings as well as information about the event in question.

Efforts have been made to cultivate good relationships with the editors by submitting articles with associated photographs that respect the particular outlet's space and time requirements and are as publication ready as possible to maximize the probability that the release will be published in its entirety and in the time-frame we request. Follow-up phone calls are made to editors to verify receipt of the release and to request placement. The editors have consistently been very kind to Trinity; almost always promoting or events in the specific issue requested and frequently publishing our press releases in their entirety along with the associated photographs, which helps draw the reader's eye to the story. Ideally, Trinity Public Relations would be in position to promote at least one activity per month in the local media. The value of this approach is that even if the public doesn't choose to come to a particular event, over time they will associate Trinity as a positive force in the community with a steady stream stories about Trinity.

The media outlets we submit press releases to are:

**Newspapers**

The Courier News  
The Cranford Chronicle (which is sadly no longer being published)  
The Star-Ledger  
The Suburban News  
The Union County LocalSource (formerly The Eagle)  
The Westfield Leader

**Online**

Cranford.com  
Cranford Patch  
MyCentralJersey.com  
NJ.Com

**TV**

TV35

The specific Trinity events and activities we promoted in 2016 were:

**Services**

Ash Wednesday  
Holy Week schedule of services  
Blessing of the Animals  
Christmas Service Schedule

**Trinity Activities**

Breakfast with Santa  
Outreach – Loaves of Love sale  
Outreach – Cristosal Fundraiser  
Outreach – CROP Hunger Walk  
Outreach – Charity Jewelry Sale for Cameroon Orphans  
Outreach – Ice Cream Fundraiser for Cameroon Orphans  
Outreach – ERD Clean Water Project  
Outreach – ERD Animal Project  
Outreach – Seamen's Church Institute collection drive

**TEDS Activities**

TEDS Tricky Tray

For 2017, Trinity Public Relations will look to promote as many activities and events that can be targeted to the public as possible through a closer collaboration with the Outreach Committee. Additional promotional activities, such as publicizing the speakers and programs we have as part of the Fellowship Luncheons and TEDS activities with the children, will be considered for 2017.

If any budget money can be found for Public Relations/ Marketing Communications in 2016, the priority should be to purchase video recording and editing equipment, so we could record and edit our services, programs, and special events.

TV35's Sunday schedule is playing videotaped services from community houses of worship one week in arrears. We are missing an opportunity by not being able to submit our services for broadcast. In addition, we would be able to video tape our education sessions to create a library of classes that could be used within the parish and could also be made available through the Trinity Cranford website or on YouTube.

Special thanks go to Nancy Noonan, who has graciously served as parish photographer for the last several years and has supplied many of the photographs that have been distributed with our press releases. Additional thanks to Bonnie Gentesse and Christy Barone for Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Eve Pageant photos. Lastly, thanks to Deacon Clive and the team leads for the various events and activities who have supplied the information for the press releases.

### **TrinityCranford.org and the Internet**

Tony Vitale, Coordinator

Our parish website, TrinityCranford.org, is the congregation's face to the outside world. Comprising an immense amount of information, it also documents every single worship service, often with audio recordings. The parish is also on Facebook and has a presence on Yelp.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **Counters**

Joan Cornell & Lisa LaGreca, Coordinators

Here is a group of unsung heroes who quietly tuck themselves away to carefully attend to the treasure and gifts that our parishioners give so generously each week. This important part of Stewardship is critical in keeping things running smoothly. Our Counters carefully track attendance, pledges and special offerings weekly. Once completed, this is then recorded into our Monthly Budget. Our Counting Teams are scheduled on a rotating basis every 5 weeks. We welcome all new or existing parishioners, if interested please speak to Joan Cornell or Lisa LaGreca.

Counters: John Witherington, Gwenn Cuozzo, Joan Cornell, Joe Gentesse, Lisa LaGreca, Bob and Nancy Vogel, Nancy Miller, Vicky Cooney, Vicki Goralski, Doug Knapp, Carolyn Dittmar, Doreen Stromko, Irene Telerico, and Stephanie & Jim Willix with the help of Emma.

### **Stewardship Committee**

Holly Ives & Al Lehmkuhl, Co-Chairpersons

New Consecration Sunday was our Stewardship program this year which offered a fresh approach by focusing on the spiritual benefits of the giver rather than the need to pay church expenses. The 2017 budget will be created based on the anticipated pledges.

Letters explaining the chain of events (posters announcing "NCS: It's Coming," testimonies by parishioners, and an explanation of the "Grow One Step" method) were followed up by our guest leader, Canon Phyllis Jones, providing orientation and training to the NCS team and preaching on New Consecration Sunday before the parish luncheon.

Co-Chairs: Holly Ives and Al Lehmkuhl. Committee members: Denise Behnke, Ralph Bianchini, Eric Bursack, Maureen Frydlewicz, Linda Kurdilla, John Zebrowski.

## Trinity Church Endowment Fund

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

### Previous Year End Balances

12/31/12	\$67,065.45
12/31/13	\$47,292.08
12/31/14	\$52,490.55
12/31/15	\$88,685.36

### **Summary of Monthly Statements 2016: Account Number 0000001503**

DATE	SHARES	SHARE PRICE	Investment/ REINVEST	Description	DEPOSIT	\$ Balance
12/31/2015	1901.895	46.63		Beginning Balance		88,685.36
7/20/16		45.91	+26.138	Transfer from Operations	1,200.00	89,685.36
10/14/16	2249.719	46.35	+258.9	TEDS Debt Service *	12,000.00	104,274.48
11/6/16				TEDS Debt Service	1,283.00	
11/6/16				Anonymous Gift	1,000.30	
11/14/16	2521.085	46.85	+231.4	Lillian Dorian Bequest	10,000.00	118,112.83
11/16/16	2548.365	47.03	+27.28	TEDS Debt Service	1,283.00	119,849.61
11/28/16	2575.297	47.36	+26.9	TEDS Debt Service	1,283.85	121,966.07
12/6/2016	2652.444	48.17	+68.154	TEDS Debt Service *	3,283.00	127,768.23
12/31/16				Dividends for the year	4,116.00	
12/31/16	2661.592	47.84		Year End Balance		127,330.56

\* TEDS debt service: 2 gifts to TEDS (\$10,000 and \$2,000)

\*\* TEDS debt service: (\$2,000 from Merck Match; \$1,283 monthly transfer)

### **EdwardJones**

This account is used to accept shares of donated securities to Trinity Episcopal Church. At year end the balance at EdwardJones was \$9,678.86.

## 2017 Approved Operating Budget

### **Financial Resources for 2017 that Direct the Mission of Trinity Church, Cranford**

#### **Income**

	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1010 · DONATIONS			
1011 · PLEDGES			
1011-02 · PLEDGES-CURRENT	147,483.67	150,000.00	164,400.00
1011-04 · IDENTIFIED GIVERS	10,850.57	10,000.00	10,200.00
Total 1011 · PLEDGES	158,334.24	160,000.00	174,600.00
1012 · HOLY DAYS/FEAST OFFERINGS	2,345.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
1013 · TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL	0.00	0.00	0.00
1016 · LOOSE PLATE	3,922.74	4,000.00	4,000.00

1017 · WEDDINGS/FUNERALS	0.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
1018 · SUNDAY SCHOOL	68.06	50.00	100.00
1019 · UNITED THANK OFFERING	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total 1010 · DONATIONS	164,670.04	171,650.00	184,800.00
Total 1020 · FUND RAISING	19,731.64	8,500.00	10,000.00
1030 · GIFTS/GRANTS			
Total 1030 · GIFTS/GRANTS	2,923.07	300.00	1,800.00
1040 · RENTS & LEASES			
1040-01 · 12 STEP PROGRAM	3,262.50	1,500.00	2,000.00
1040-03 · 215 NORTH AVENUE	31,800.00	31,800.00	31,800.00
1040-04 · GENERAL HALL RENTALS	350.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 1040 · RENTS & LEASES	35,412.50	35,300.00	35,800.00
1090 · Outreach & Misc. Pass Through	3,234.00	0.00	3,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>225,971.25</b>	<b>215,750.00</b>	<b>235,900.00</b>

## Expense

2000 · HUMAN RESOURCES			
2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED			
2002 · PRIEST-IN-CHARGE			
Total 2002 · PRIEST-IN-CHARGE	4,377.00	47,683.52	70,653.00
2006 · STAFF			
2007 · PARISH ADMINISTRATORS			
Total 2007 · PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	8,175.42	21,530.00	10,765.00
Total 2008 · ORGANIST	15,891.97	18,515.80	18,520.00
Total 2006 · STAFF	24,067.39	40,045.80	29,285.00
Total 2010 · MISCELLANEOUS	15,450.00	5,200.00	6,900.00
Total 2001 · COMPENSATION RELATED	43,894.39	92,929.32	106,838.00
2019 · ADMINISTRATION			
Total 2019 · ADMINISTRATION	13,987.63	16,000.00	15,900.00
2030 · MINISTRIES			
2031 · WORSHIP			
Total 2031 · WORSHIP	5,590.54	6,000.00	5,700.00
Total 2032 · FORMATION	1,078.01	2,200.00	2,200.00
2034 · PARISH LIFE			
Total 2034 · PARISH LIFE	1,711.56	600.00	600.00
Total 2035 · OUTREACH	4,927.89	1,820.00	5,820.00
Total 2030 · MINISTRIES	13,308.00	10,620.00	14,320.00
2040 · BUILDINGS			
Total 2041 · RECTORY	40,238.49	6,100.00	6,300.00
Total 2042 · CHURCH BUILDINGS	51,476.81	67,440.00	59,340.00
Total 2043 · RENTAL EXPENSES	9,320.96	11,750.00	11,450.00
Total 2040 · BUILDINGS	101,036.26	85,290.00	77,090.00
2057 · ECW EXPENSES			
2057-02 · SCHOLARSHIP	800.00	0.00	0.00
2057 · ECW EXPENSES - other	2,440.70	0.00	0.00

Total 2057 · ECW EXPENSES	3,240.70	0.00	0.00
2080 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE		0.00	0.00
Total 2080 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00
2100 · DIOCESE			
2021 · CONVENTION/COUNCILS	459.50	500.00	500.00
2022 · FAIR SHARE	20,300.00	20,000.00	20,500.00
2023 · WIDOWS AND ORPHANS	0.00	120.00	120.00
2024 · BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	0.00	600.00	600.00
Total 2100 · DIOCESE	20,759.50	21,220.00	21,720.00
3000 · CUSTODY ACCOUNTS			
Total Expense	196,226.48	226,059.32	235,868.00
<b>(Deficit) or Surplus</b>	29,744.77	(10,309.32)	<b>32.00</b>

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Nancy Ditzel, Director

Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS) successfully continuing the implementation and growth of our preschool. TEDS currently has 134 students which includes 23 students from grades 1-5 enrolled in our Aftercare program.

In September 2016, 4 additional classrooms were opened for new students (including 14 from Osceola Preschool in Clark, which closed its doors in mid-August). In late August we received approval from the State to use the Choir Room on the second floor as a classroom for those students.

I would like to thank the TEDS Board of Directors, the Vestry, and Dave Roberts for all their support especially during this time of transition. Also thank you to John Zebrowski for all his hard work around the entire campus.

One person alone cannot manage all the work necessary, all of you (including the parishioners) have helped made TEDS what it is today.

The following provides highlights of 2016

### **School Programs**

- 7-week Summer Camp for ages 2½ – 5 years of age; 58 children were enrolled per week.
- Summer Enrichment Program grades 1-5 averaged 15 students per week.
- Extracurricular activities include gym, music, yoga and Spanish.

### **Community Outreach**

- Blessing Bags: 40 gift bags were filled with toiletries, books, pictures, etc and delivered to patients at Cranford Hall Nursing Home for Thanksgiving.
- Food collection for Cranford Family Care for Thanksgiving.
- Toys for Tots: 7 large bags filled with toys were delivered to the Cranford Fire Department and were distributed by the U.S. Marines to families in need.

## Staffing

- Administrative staff consists of a Director and two part-time administrators.
- Teaching staff consists of a Curriculum Coordinator (who is also our K-wrap teacher), one full-time Kindergarten teacher, four full-time Pre-K teachers, two teachers for four-year-olds, three full-time teachers for three-year-olds; and one teacher for 2½-year-olds with one full-time and one part-time aide to assist. There are two full-time aides and three part-time floating aides.
- The Aftercare Program has eleven additional teachers overseeing and supervising homework from 3pm-6pm.

## Special Events

- Tricky Tray 2/16
- Clothing Drive 5/16
- Kindergarten Graduation 6/16
- Parent Orientation for 2016-17 school year 8/16
- Yankee Candle Fundraiser 10/16
- Pumpkin Patch 10/16
- Halloween Parade 11/16
- Toys for Tots 12/16
- Christmas Program 12/16

## Goals for 2017

- To enhance summer program
- To enhance science program

## **TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL - SUMMARY 2016 BUDGET**

Beginning Cash Balance 1/12016

**\$12,114**

### **Income**

Enrollment Fees/Tuition	622,999
Summer Camp	29,944
Events/Extracurricular activities	8,230
Donations/Fundraisers	38,587

### **Total Income**

### **Expenses**

#### **Payroll**

**\$467,187**

Supplies	14,581
Bussing	77,370

<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>		<b>\$91,951</b>	
Phone/Utilities	14,905		
Copier	3,443		
Advertising	3,644		
Maintenance	15,405		
Snow Removal	730		
Training	4,863		
Extracurricular Activities	8,196		
Events/Fundraisers	8,672		
Other Expenses	3,953		
<b>Total Indirect Expenses</b>		<b>\$63,811</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			
<b>NET REVENUE/(LOSS)</b>			<b>\$76,811</b>
Transfer from Savings to Ck		\$8,888	
Transfer from Ck to Savings		(\$20,000)	
Net Transfers			(\$11,112)
<b>Debt Service Payments</b>			<b>(\$19,133)</b>
<b>Net Changes to Checking Account</b>			\$46,566
<b>Operating Checking Account Ending Balance</b>			<u>-</u>
	31-Dec-16		<u>\$58,680</u>
<b><u>Savings Account Balance</u></b>			
Beg. Balance	\$2,174		
Transfer from Savings to Ck	(\$8,888)		
Transfer from Ck to Savings	\$20,000		
Deposited Directly to Savings	\$14,924		
			<u>\$28,210</u>
<b><u>Additional Information:</u></b>			
<b>Special Matching Donations</b>			
Donations	\$12,000		
Match	\$12,000		
Used for Trinity Church Debt Service	(\$14,000)		

# **NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES FOR VESTRY AND DELEGATES**

## **VESTRY MEMBER NOMINEES**

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

**David L. Burnett** was born in Toronto, Canada, and received his B.A. from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in 1995. He graduated from Seton Hall Law School in 1999. David is currently employed as an in-house counsel attorney for Chubb NA. David's practice includes a wide variety of insurance matters including commercial litigation, products liability and subrogation. David and Heather Burnett became members of Trinity Church in 2007. Their daughter Sarah Abigail Courtney Burnett was born in 2009 and baptized at Trinity. David was first elected to the Vestry in 2011. David also currently serves as a lay reader/LEM, usher, and also worked on the 2016 Trinity Discernment Committee; he has been Senior Warden since 2015.

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

**Elizabeth Broccoli** is originally from Oxford, Ohio. She moved to Cranford in 2014 and joined Trinity Church in 2016. She currently serves as a lector, usher, and member of the Bell Choir. Elizabeth has been married to Victor Broccoli, whom she met on the first day of law school in New Orleans, since 2010. Victor is an attorney at the Mark Law Firm. They have one son, Elliott, who was born in 2015. Both Elizabeth and Elliott were baptized at Trinity Church. Elizabeth works at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she counsels students who are applying to law school and administers pre-law programs.

**Linda Kurdilla** was born and raised in Cranford and baptized and confirmed here at Trinity Church. She currently serves as Stephen Minister, Usher, Altar Guild member, Diocese Convention Delegate, New Consecration Sunday committee member, and member of the Discernment Committee for our priest-in charge. In the past, she has been Vestry member, Vestry clerk, Senior Warden, ECW President, Counter, Northern Convocation Delegate/Alternate, coordinator of the ECW Scholarship Fund, and a member of the discernment committee for our aspirant to the priesthood. She has been the executive assistant to the CEO and President of a local mortgage company for over 20 years.

**Daniel Rivera** currently serves Trinity Church as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Usher, and Lector. He and his wife, Kavita, were both confirmed at Trinity Church and have been married for 12 years. They began attending Trinity Church with their twins (Matthew and Eliza) in 2014 and the children were baptized at Trinity Church in 2015. Daniel and his family have lived in Cranford since 2011 and the children are in Kindergarten attending TEDS. He has previously worked as a Project Manager in the Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Banking Industries working on Web and Mobile Device efforts.

## **DELEGATES FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION (3 delegates + 3 alternates)**

**Joan Cornell** is a cradle Episcopalian who has been a member of Trinity church for 61 years. She is a homemaker after retiring from a nursing career. She has been Financial Secretary for the past 27 years. She has served as Diocesan Convention delegate and is currently a member of the ECW and Outreach Committee. She and her husband Tom have been married 62 years; they have three children and three grandchildren

**Tom Cornell** has been an Episcopalian for 81 years, and member of Trinity church for 61 years. He has served on the vestry and been both junior and senior warden, and served as a Diocesan Convention delegate. He and Joan have been married 62 years; they have three children and three grandchildren. He retired from NJ Bell in 1991.

**Linda Kurdilla** was born and raised in Cranford and baptized and confirmed here at Trinity Church. She currently serves as Stephen Minister, Usher, Altar Guild member, Diocese Convention Delegate, New Consecration Sunday committee member, and member of the Discernment Committee for our priest-in charge. In the past, she has been Vestry member, Vestry clerk, Senior Warden, ECW President, Counter, Northern Convocation Delegate/Alternate, coordinator of the ECW Scholarship Fund, and a member of the discernment committee for our aspirant to the priesthood. She has been the executive assistant to the CEO and President of a local mortgage company for over 20 years.

**Kenneth MacRitchie**, a life time Episcopalian, is an attorney and accountant currently serving as a member of the Diocesan Investment Committee. Ken drafted our Endowment Bylaws and has served on our Endowment Committee for many years.

**Tony Vitale:** A Trinity parishioner for the last 22 years, Tony Vitale is the Verger of the parish; he has been a member of the choir, member of the Vestry (twice), Junior Warden, acolyte master, and is currently involved in our website. He brings a variety of talents, including familiarity with the Diocese and the national Church (he was formerly Editor for Church Publishing, Inc., publisher of the BCP and Hymnal 1982).

### **DELEGATES FOR NORTHERN CONVOCATION (6 delegates + 6 alternates)**

**Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini** has been a lifelong member of Trinity Church. She is a former vestry member and a former warden. Lynn retired from AT&T after thirty-two years, and has been married to Ralph Bianchini for thirty-one years. Lynn currently is on the Board of Directors for TEDS; she has served on the Stewardship Committee and Altar Guild, and is a member of the Handbell Choir, as well as being a Lector, Usher and Counter.

**Ralph Bianchini** has served as warden and is a former member of the Vestry. Formerly employed by AT&T for many years, he is currently a child support probation officer for Middlesex County. And, of course has been married to Lynn Kiamie-Bianchini for 31 years.

**Holly Ives** was born and raised in Cranford and was confirmed at Trinity Church. She has been active in the Vestry, ECW, and Breakfast with Santa. She is currently co-president of the ECW. Holly has been a registered nurse at Overlook Hospital for over 30 years.

**Linda Kurdilla** was born and raised in Cranford and baptized and confirmed here at Trinity Church. She currently serves as Stephen Minister, Usher, Altar Guild member, Diocese Convention Delegate, New Consecration Sunday committee member, and member of the Discernment Committee for our priest-in charge. In the past, she has been Vestry member, Vestry clerk, Senior Warden, ECW President, Counter, Northern Convocation Delegate/Alternate, coordinator of the ECW Scholarship Fund, and a member of the discernment committee for our aspirant to the priesthood. She has been the executive assistant to the CEO and President of a local mortgage company for over 20 years.

**Kenneth MacRitchie**, a life time Episcopalian, is an attorney and accountant currently serving as a member of the Diocesan Investment Committee. Ken drafted our Endowment Bylaws and has served on our Endowment Committee for many years.

**Doreen R. Stromko** has been a member of Trinity Church for over 20 years. She has served on the Vestry. She is currently co-chair of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), an usher, counter, member of the Outreach Committee, and a helper at Breakfast with Santa. Doreen is a 4th grade teacher in Elizabeth.

**Tony Vitale:** A Trinity parishioner for the last 22 years, Tony Vitale is the Verger of the parish; he has been a member of the choir, member of the Vestry (twice), Junior Warden, acolyte master, and is currently involved in our website. He brings a variety of talents, including familiarity with the Diocese and the national Church (he was formerly Editor for Church Publishing, Inc., publisher of the BCP and Hymnal 1982).

**Jim Willix** is a life member of Trinity Church. He is currently an usher and counter. He has been a delegate to Northern Convocation for the past several years. He works as a pest control technician for Viking Termite and Pest Control out of the Mountainside office.

**Stephanie Willix** began attending Trinity Church in 2003 prior to being married to Jim Willix on April 24, 2004. She is currently a counter and usher, and assisted in the Sunday School. She has been a delegate to Northern Convocation for the past several years. She works as a police dispatcher for Kean University in Union.

**Appointed for Clerk of the Vestry: Linda Kurdilla**  
**Appointed for Financial Secretary: Joan Cornell**  
**Appointed for Treasurer: Dave Roberts**

# The Commissioning of Vestry Members, and Delegates to Convocation and Convention

## The Examination

*The Celebrant says*

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

*The Celebrant asks*

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

*Candidates: I believe we are, with God's help.*

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

*Candidates: I will, with God's help.*

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

*Candidates: I will, with God's help.*

## The Commissioning **Wardens and Members of the Vestry**

*Sponsor:* I present these individuals to be admitted to the ministry of the Vestry in this congregation.

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

*Celebrant:* I am your servant; grant me understanding;

*People: That I may know your decrees.*

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

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

## **Delegates to Diocesan Convention & Northern Convocation**

*Warden:* I present to you \_\_\_\_\_ duly elected by the people and clergy of this diocese as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, to be commissioned for their ministry.

*Warden:* I present to you \_\_\_\_\_ duly elected as Delegates to Northern Convocation to be commissioned for their ministry.

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

*Celebrant:* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

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

*The Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

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

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