



## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report of 2018 – for the Annual Parish Meeting February 3, 2019

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## **RECTOR'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2019**

Dear Trinity Buckingham Faith Family,

January 22, 2019

It is hard to believe I am writing my fourth annual report as your rector. Let me share briefly what I see when I look back at the year that has passed so quickly by.

### **Trinity Trimesters**

We continued the practice we began in 2016 of organizing our common life into trimesters and meeting together as a whole community three times per year: 1) at our Annual Meeting at the end of January (or early February), 2) at Pentecost, (May/June) and 3) for the celebration of Trinity's birthday in late October. The idea is to provide more people with more points of entry into (or exit from) our many ministries. Newcomers and long-timers alike can choose to learn more about and engage in any of the church's many ministries every four months.

At our **Annual Meeting (January 28, 2018 last year)**, we conduct the legal business of the parish: we elect new vestry members, representatives to the Deanery and to Diocesan Convention, and approve the budget we need to sustain our ministry and mission for the coming year. Last January we also talked about Spiritual Growth at Trinity.

Please join me in thanking our vestry for their time and talents in 2018, especially departing Accounting Warden Amy Conoscenti:

2019—Amy Conoscenti (Accounting Warden) Paul Harar, Jon Marino, *Mark Barnard (d. 6/24/18)*

2020—Elisabeth Goggin (Secretary), Dom DeCaprio (Rector's Warden), Dave Huddy, Meg  
Dennis

2021—Bob Kinney, Bonnie McCabe, Joe McLean, Don O'Hara

Our **Pentecost Meeting (May 20, 2018)** centered on communication. We spent time considering the various ways we communicate with one another and communicate to the outside community who we are and what in the world we are doing for God's sake. Our invaluable parish administrator Cynthia Goode is the face and voice of Trinity to the many people who phone or stop by the office each day. Cynthia also devotes time and care to our weekly electronic newsletter, and printed Trinity Trumpet. Media Communications specialist Caroline Oakes, though no longer living in Bucks County, continues to devote 15 hours a week to our website, Facebook page, and slides for our television monitor, as well as creating fliers, leaflets and trifold brochures chock full of information about all the opportunities for worship, ministry and mission here at Trinity. Lauren Gillen generously volunteers her time and creativity in editing our print newsletter *The Trinity Times*.

Our **Happy Birthday Trinity Meeting (October 28, 2018)** was devoted to talking about our identity and priorities: Worship, Outreach and Welcome (WOW!) We launched our 2019

Stewardship Campaign and asked members prayerfully to consider making a financial pledge to Trinity in order to sustain the many ways we nourish one another and nourish the world all year long.

### **Fellowship and Food**

Coffee Hour  
Seniors Who Care lunches  
Episcopal Church Women

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
Corned Beef Dinner  
Veterans Dinner  
Trimester Fellowship brunches

### **Worship and Prayer**

Sunday Worship (8, 9:15 and 10:15)  
Sunday Server ministries  
Wednesday Eucharist  
Morning Centering Prayer (T & Th)

Special seasonal liturgies (*eg. Holy Week, Longest Night, Epiphany Pageant*)  
Monday night Peace Vigil

### **Education & Formation**

Tuesday's "The Fizz™" Bible Study  
Book Group  
Sunday School  
Education for Ministry

Steve Mann's Faith and Science series  
Quiet Days  
Sunday Faith Forums  
Confirmation Class

### **Rentals**

Weddings, birthdays, baby showers, retirement parties  
Community groups  
Anna P's catering

### **Music and Arts**

Choir & Hand Bell Ensemble  
Jazz & Joe  
Handweavers of Bucks County

### **Pastoral Care**

Community of Hope, International  
Prayer Chain Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Monday Mailings to the homebound

### **Outreach**

Community PeaceMeal  
Trinity Buckingham Academy  
Code Blue Shelter  
ECW Fall & Spring Sales  
Lambertville Centenary Church Lunches  
Bread Ministry  
Doylestown Shelter

United Thank Offering  
Bucks Housing Group Apartment  
Community meeting space  
Free the Girls (Human Trafficking)  
Layettes  
ABC Quilts

In particular, we talked about the importance of caring for our property as a resource for all we do, and the vital role that our exceptional staff plays in creating uplifting worship, supporting our social justice work and extending our welcome to all who enter our doors. I am blessed to work in partnership with Matthew, Gina, Martha, Cynthia, Caroline, and Dani.

### **Hellos and Good-byes**

Here are some of the things that were new in 2018, as well as some ministries and relationships that changed or ended:

Our **9:15 am Children of All Ages service** continues to bring visitors to Trinity every month. Many of these visitors make Trinity their church home, and they have jumped into worship, outreach and welcome with both feet. WOW! Whether it is First Sunday service projects or making and serving dinner to our Code Blue guests, we are so blessed by the energy and community-mindedness of our Children of All Ages families.

As these (new) families seek to live and to raise their children in the hope and truth shown us in Jesus Christ, they are challenging Trinity Buckingham to reimagine Christian Formation for and with children. Our **Sunday School** and VBS, overseen so faithfully by Sallee Lord and nurtured by dedicated and loving volunteer teachers for over a decade has been in transition this year. I expect the transition to continue in 2019 as our CoAA families shape and assume leadership of new programs of spiritual nurture for the future.

At the same time, a group of 17 teen-agers, many of whom were loved and taught by Sallee and the Sunday School crew have reached confirmation age. Since May they have been meeting for monthly Confirmation Classes with me and other adults to explore the baptismal covenant, worship, play, serve, question and grow into young adult members of the church. God and Bishop willing, they will be confirmed on April 14, 2019 when Bishop Gutierrez visits Trinity. **Confirmation classes have replaced Youth Group** this year. I don't know whether and how this community of teens will wish to continue gathering at Trinity after they are confirmed.

Bishop Gutierrez's *last* visit to Trinity was in May of 2018 to commission the first chapter of **Community of Hope, International**. Comprised of pastoral care givers from Trinity Buckingham, Trinity Solebury, St. Philip's New Hope and Good Shepherd Hilltown, members completed a 14-week course and continue to meet together monthly for prayer and mutual support as they serve their parishes and communities in ministries of pastoral care.

**Education for Ministry** returned to Trinity after a several year hiatus this fall. On Monday mornings an EfM alumni group made up of parishioners from Trinity Buckingham, Trinity Solebury, St. Philip's New Hope, St. Paul's Doylestown, St. Andrew's Yardley and Doylestown Presbyterian meets in Reed Chapel for an in-depth study of the New Testament. The seat cushions are still warm when a new Education for Ministry group (also from several Bucks parishes) arrives in the afternoon. This group is studying the Old Testament and talking about what it means for us to live faithfully in a multicultural world. Liz Oliver (from St. Philips) and I have had the fun and privilege of co-mentoring both of these groups.

During Advent we began a **Monday Night Vigil for Peace** in Historic Trinity church. For a half hour each Monday night at 6 we light candles and keep vigil, share hopes, prayers, music and listen to the heartbeat of God in attentive silence. I love the witness of the "little white church on the corner" as she prays during the evening rush hour for the peace of the world, the community and every human soul.

In June 2018 we said good-bye to **Trinity Buckingham Academy's director**, Stephanie Elliot after a decade of loving and creative and leadership, and we said hello to Alison Rose, who stepped seamlessly from teaching kindergarten at TBA into the role of interim director of the Academy. The TBA board is pleased that Alison has accepted their invitation to become the Academy's permanent director at the end of this school year. (June 2019)

2018 saw the **arrivals, births or baptisms** of a new Bradbury, Camille Carr, Omed DeMaura, Aila Jaedicke, Rilynn Overington, Ellie Ann Pokropski, Annalise Prasto, Leo Siliani and Blake Smith.

And we **commended 9 souls to the eternal care of their Creator** this year. Sitting Vestry member Mark Barnard died in June. Mark helped us to a master plan for maintenance and development of our property and streamlined our accounting and financial communications process. His dedication and steadfast support of God's work at Trinity will continue to bear fruit and guide us all. I miss Mark's quiet humor, faithful counsel and "can do" spirit. We also miss Rae Russell's tiny but mighty love for others, especially the Seniors Who Care and ECW, Ken Kitson's gentle spirit and beautiful artwork, Dave King's care for our gardens, and Ken McConeghy's mentorship of young people. We bade goodbye to long-time Trinity members Barbara Kennedy, Mae Pechal and Mildred Grove this year, as well, and Rose Grant and Jimmy Novell's love lives on among us in daughter Debbie and wife Jane.

**The Rev. Matthew Simpson was ordained as a vocational deacon** in June, and Trinity was blessed to have him assigned to us by the bishop this year. Matthew's prophetic voice sounds from the pulpit and in faith forums and at coffee hour and through his insistence that we consider all our ministries in the light of how they involve or impact those who live in poverty and on the margins.

With Danielle Badiali at the helm, **the rentals of Faith Hall, Faye Kitchen and Historic Trinity** really took off this year, providing both income and vitality during the times that our church community is not using our building.

### **Finances and Stewardship**

We began a conversation about the financial health of Trinity Buckingham in October of 2018. Over brunch at the October Trimester Meeting, the stewardship committee, chaired by Marty Gillen, and the vestry talked with the parish about giving and pledging trends, and about the percentages of our budget devoted to program, people (staff) and property.

We will need to continue to talk seriously this year about what it costs to **sustain our WOW** (worship, outreach and welcome) and plan for the future. The actual cost of our ministries and programs, of caring for our aging property, of justly compensating our excellent staff, and of sharing in the mission budget of the Diocese of Pennsylvania is more than we currently receive in member contributions and rental income.

We spent approximately \$21,000 more in 2018 than we brought in, and our 2019 budget projects a deficit of the same amount, despite the Vestry's working hard to find ways to cut our expenses. We covered the deficit this year with savings and memorial gifts, but clearly this trend is not sustainable.

The vestry and I believe that the 370 people who called Trinity, Buckingham their spiritual home in 2018 and value Trinity's WOW should be able to financially sustain our ministries of worship, outreach and welcome. So we will be talking more about financial stewardship in the coming months. And if it turns out that we are *wrong* about the ability of our members to sustain our ministries, we can expect to start having some deep and prayerful conversations about future changes to the quantity and quality of our ministry and mission.

Despite our financial challenges, it has been a good year, and I am looking forward to the one that is unrolling in front of us. Trinity is a vital part of God's reconciling ministry in the world, and I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your Rector. I cheer for you and pray for you every day.

In faith, hope and love,  
Nancy+

### **Trinity by the Numbers**

And here is a look at Trinity Buckingham in terms of numbers and statistics: Once again I offer the caveat that "membership" is hard to define in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and attendance and membership figures are neither the only nor the best indicator of a church's vitality nor a measure of how faithfully we are following Jesus.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Active members over the age of 16:</b>	290	292
<b>Active member under the age of 16:</b>	83	62
<b>Members moved to inactive in 2018</b>	12	39
<b>Moved/transferred in 2018</b>	2	13
<b>Deaths</b>	8	3
<b>Births/Baptisms</b>	9	4
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	373	354
<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>	172	
<b>PLEDGES (as of 1/21/19)</b>	91	98
<b>AVERAGE ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Program year</b>	97	99
<b>Summer</b>	109	109
<b>8 AM</b>	56	61
	20	23

<b>9:15 AM</b>	30	27
<b>10:15 AM</b>	51	65
<b>Christmas attendance</b>	316	316
<b>Easter attendance</b>	312	283

**Baptisms: 5**

Aila Serophina Jaedicke  
Rilynn Louise Overington  
Ellie Ann Pokropski  
Leonardo Robert Siliani  
Blake Albert Smith

**Deaths: 10, funerals at Trinity 8**

*Barbara Kennedy 3.11.18 longtime former member*  
Elizabeth Rae Russell 4.1.18  
Michael Jimmy Norvell 4.6.18  
Mildred Elizabeth Grove 5.17.18  
Kenneth Kitson, Jr. 5.16.18  
Rose Rogers Grant 4.13.18  
C. Mark Barnard, III 6.24.18  
Mae Pechal 7/15/18 *service held at Salem UCC*  
David King 10/30/18  
Kenneth McConeghy 12.11.2018

**No Confirmations or Receptions in 2018**

## RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

Welcome to our annual meeting for 2019! I trust that everyone has had a peaceful and enjoyable holiday. Although this winter hasn't brought us much snow, yet, it has been very wet and certainly cold enough. Our volunteers who staff Code Blue were busy last month hosting our many guests for many very cold nights. We thank them for their time and dedication.

Today we anticipate 4 candidates for vestry so I'm looking forward to having a full vestry of 12 members this year. Last year the vestry changed the manner in which we handled or "managed" ministries and projects. Instead of assigning only one vestry member to lead or manage each ministry or project, we chose to do so with multiple members. That arrangement seems to be working well. It makes it easier for us to accomplish our tasks and in less time.

This year we will continue to hold congregational meetings every 4 months which falls in line with the church seasons. This allows us to get together more frequently as a church family to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns. The vestry is always open to hearing your feedback and looks forward to conversations with everyone.

A few major issues that the vestry has been dealing with are balancing our budget and the disposition of Pierce Hall. The budget has become most challenging this year since our campus is aging and additional maintenance and repairs have routinely come up. There were heating repairs to the office/lobby area. There was also some water damage in the sacristy which necessitated plumbing repairs, replacing some flooring, wallboard, cabinets and carpeting. At this time the rectory roof must be replaced which will be done in the spring. So our expenses keep adding up! Additionally, Pierce Hall continues to age and cost us significant resources every month. It may be time to replace it completely. More to come on that subject shortly. On a more positive note, we did finally install exterior directional signs!

I am happy to report that Faith Hall rentals continue to grow. The additional revenue really helps our bottom line. Anna continues to rent Fay Kitchen space for her catering business which has also grown. However, that brings added maintenance for Faith Hall as well. We do want to keep her appearance fresh for upcoming events and future rentals.

So many good things are happening at Trinity! The new families who have found us last year have made Trinity their spiritual home and have since joined in our fellowship in Faith Hall every Sunday morning. There are activities taking place on this campus every day!

In closing, I'm looking forward to working with the new vestry and having another enjoyable and productive year at Trinity. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Peace, *(Dom De Caprio)*

# ADMINISTRATION

## FINANCE REPORT

Trinity's 2018 financial results were in line with expectations. Through careful cost management, the anticipated deficit of \$59,000 was actually \$21,000. The balance sheet's overall decline attributable to the recent markets as well as the deficit of 2018

### **Key financial factors for 2018:**

- Plate and pledge income was \$273.8K representing a 5% decline Year Over Year.
- Rental income remained a big factor in offsetting extra expenses. Under Dani Badiali, property rental income increased 33% versus 2017, to \$28.2K.
- Office administration expenses continue to be low during 2018, the result of Cynthia Goode's continued excellent management. While nearly all administrative and Worship expenses were held under budget, Buildings and Grounds outspent 2018 budgeted amounts due to unforeseen issues such as the heat in the sanctuary, hard winter storms in March and faulty water heaters.
- Fundraising by all groups at Trinity raised \$4.7k for 2018
- Significant memorial gifts during 2018 also significantly reduced the deficit
- The Vision 2020 program incurred minimal expenses of less than \$2k during 2018 for additional signage as Vestry has examined Pierce Hall options
- Total assets on our balance sheet declined from \$521.9K to \$500K.
- The various REIT endowments where the Fay monies were invested have all converted to stock and been liquidated for movement into a balanced fund in 2019
- The Vision 2020 monies are all invested in interest bearing instruments pending their usage

Trinity has experienced an increase in usage of electronic payment options available for donations and events during 2018 to include accepting all major credit cards as well as direct deposit donations thru our bank, Univest. During 2018, it was expanded for the Academy and we continually look to expand this functionality in 2019

Trinity is budgeted to run an operating deficit of \$23,557k in 2019. Absent an unforeseen surge in Plate and Pledge and/or Gifts, this will necessitate continued careful expense management, increased fund raising and further parish-wide discussion of our ministries and priorities. Without additional income, Trinity will be forced to use some of the reserves.

2018 saw an unexpected change in the Accounting Warden as we lost Mark Barnard early in 2018. The continued support of Dave Romero and Mary Beth Perisho was unwavering during the year and very much appreciated. Thank you for your support. *(Amy Conoscenti & the Finance Committee)*

### **2019 Stewardship Campaign Report for January 2019 Annual Meeting**

We ended our **2019 Giving Campaign** with 90 pledges representing \$241,583 exceeding total dollars pledged in 2018 by \$2,222 or 1%. Total dollars pledged for 2019 is the second highest amount pledged in the past five years reflecting the positive energy and commitment to this church by parishioners. The average pledge of \$2,695 is the highest it has been in the past eight years.

We continue to make improvements to the giving process at Trinity Buckingham including;

- Providing all active Trinity parishioners with a box of monthly or weekly giving envelopes to enable the giver to keep track of their giving. All giving parishioners will continue to receive a quarterly statement reflecting your giving to the church by using the envelopes provided by the church.
- On-line and/or electronic giving continues to grow at Trinity. Givers can give online or have their giving set up electronically by automatic withdrawals from bank accounts. Visit the church website or contact Amy Conoscenti or Marty Gillen to learn more about giving on line and/or automatic recurring withdrawals.

<b>Trinity Buckingham 2018 Pledge Data as of January 23, 2018</b>							
<b>Trinity Buckingham Pledge Data as of January 21, 2019</b>							
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Total # pledges</b>	<b>90</b>	98	95	104	102	97	116
<b>Total amount pledged</b>	<b>\$241,583</b>	\$239,361	\$240,207	\$246,187	\$241,080	\$245,196	\$269,920
<b>Avg annual pledge</b>	<b>\$2,684</b>	\$2,442	\$2,528	\$2,367	\$2,363	\$2,528	\$2,327
<b>Avg weekly pledge</b>	<b>\$52</b>	\$47	\$49	\$46	\$45	\$49	\$44
<b># increased pledges</b>	36	24	56	28	22	NA	NA
<b># stable pledges</b>	31	30	18	42	49	NA	NA
<b># decreased pledges</b>	14	32	11	12	13	NA	NA
<b># new pledges</b>	9	12	10	20	12	8	8

Your pledge not only supports the operating budget of Trinity Buckingham, it also supports more than fifty ministries, including those listed below, and critical to the church and community we live in:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adult Education/Formation | Peace Meal                |
| Bible Study               | Prayer Shawl group        |
| Blankets                  | Rummage Sale              |
| Bread Ministry            | Seniors Who Care          |
| Buildings and Grounds     | Soup Kitchen              |
| Centering Prayer          | Sunday Morning Ministries |
| Choir                     | Acolyte                   |
| Church Growth and         | Altar Guild               |
| Evangelism                | Greeter                   |
| Code Blue                 | Intercessor               |
| Coffee Hour               | Lay Eucharistic           |
| Community Meal            | Minister                  |
| Confirmation              | Lector                    |
| Counters                  | Usher                     |
| Doylestown Shelter        | Sunday School             |
| Episcopal Church Women    | Trinity Buckingham        |
| Faith Hall Rentals        | Academy                   |
| Hand bells                | United Thank Offering     |
| Healing Ministry          | Vestry                    |
| Jazz n Joe                | Worship Planning          |
| Layettes                  | Wedding/Funeral Guild     |
| Mid-week Eucharist        | Website and Facebook      |
| Mission Trips             | Youth Ministries          |
| Music and Arts Committee  |                           |
| Newcomers' ministries     |                           |
| Newsletter/Trinity Times  |                           |
| Nursery Care              |                           |
| Office Help               |                           |
| Pastoral Care             |                           |
| Prayer Chain              |                           |

We are grateful to the following families, couples, and individuals who have made a commitment to financially support Trinity Buckingham in 2019. *Pledges are welcome year-round. Pledge packets are available in the narthex and in the lobby.*

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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Badiali	Kroberger, Jeff & Barbara
Bernhardt, Deborah	Lancaster, Amy
Bittner, Mr. & Mrs. Gregg	Lasala, Jerry & Meryl
Bockin, Sandra	Lord, Robert & Sallee
Boyle, Kim	Mann, Dr. Steve
Bradbury, Mr. & Mrs. Richard H.	Marino, Mr. & Mrs. Jon
Brooks, John & Ruth	Marx, Natalie Welker
Cagenello, Bradley	Massias, Paulette
Cannon, Joan	May, Mr. & Mrs. John
Carbo, Heather	McBride, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel
Carr, Thomas	McCreary, Mr. & Mrs. Terence
Christiansen, Dan & Janice	McCabe, Sean
Conoscenti, Mrs. Matthew	McCabe, Barry & Bonnie
Cook, Patricia	McLean, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Copeland, Mrs. James	Mennin, Felicia
Crooke, Elizabeth	Metzner, Doris
DeCaprio, Dom & Janet	Mochel, Mr. & Mrs. Tobias
DeMaura, Stephen	Noveske, Joan
Dennis, Kyle & Meghan	O'Hara, Jennifer & Don
Dilliplane, Rev Dr. Nancy & Steve	Oliver, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Downs, Stephen & Carol	Parker, Karen
Eastwood, Jane	Perisho, Ray & Mary Beth
Erk, Fred & Mary Lou	Perry, Meg
Ewing, Jay & Morley	Prasto, Julianne
Fielder, Linda	Proctor, Rose Marie
Fuchs, Al & Pam	Robinson, Nancy
Gilbert, Tom & Erin	Romero, David & Deanna
Gillen, Marty & Lauren	Sadowski, Wayne & Kathi
Goggin, Keith & Elisabeth	Sanders, Jim & Charlotte
Good, Elaine	Seckinger, Charles
Gordon, Dr. Regina	Silcox, Ann
Grant, Deborah A.	Simpson, Matthew
Gross, Bernadette	Slim, Elizabeth
Guidry, Steve & Marjorie	Snyder, Suzanne
Hansen, Lue	Stalker, Stacy
Harrar, Paul & Kelly	Taylor, Beth
Henry, Mr. & Mrs. James	Trunzo, Carol
Huddy, Dave & Dina	Unger, Jill
Jerman, Diane	Vesely, Linda
Kiel, Woody & Jo	Wanzer, Mr. & Mrs. Eric
King, Judy	Welker, Joanne
Kinney, Bob & Kay	Whelan, John & Doris
Kitson, Betty	Wielehowski, Kevin & Julie
Koshy, Shane & Carla	
Krauss, Jorden & Judith	
St. Claire, Kyle, The Rev	
Struble, Stanley & Barbara	

A special thank you to Caroline Oakes, Media Communications Assistant, for producing the first annual Trinity Giving booklet and to Pastor Nancy Dilliplane for her joyful advice and encouragement to the 2019 Giving Campaign.

To whom much is given, much is expected. We thank you for supporting God's work at Trinity Buckingham. (*Marty Gillen*)

## **MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT REPORT**

### **Website Homepage (The “Online” Red Front Door — So Important!)**

#### Effective Homepage Format

These days a church's homepage truly is a church's online “red front door,” acting as both a welcome to those who are new to the church and as a resource to the people of the church.

Trinity made a significant change in its website format two years ago, and this more visual, more interactive — and importantly — more *mobile-friendly* format continues to bring real value to Trinity's online “red front door.”

***Note:** We have received very positive feedback about Trinity's homepage from other churches, both in and out of the diocese, and from members as well as clergy of those churches. What has been particularly noted is the ease with which they are able to learn what is currently happening at Trinity (with just one scroll or two down the page or mobile phone screen) while at the same time getting a sense of how warm and welcoming Trinity is.*

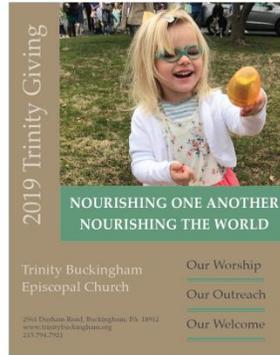
#### Where Are Trinity's Website Visitors From?

Many online visitors come to Trinity's homepage independently, after learning about Trinity through a friend or a local press article, say, or through their own “local church” Google search for what they're specifically looking for — a church with children-oriented services, or churches who feed and shelter homeless, or churches who emphasize social justice action (as examples).

According to Trinity's Google analytics, other visitors to Trinity's website arrive via links from Trinity's event posts posted on Trinity's Facebook page.

### **Stewardship Booklet**

This year Trinity published a very informative and easily readable 8-page Annual Giving booklet to enhance the parish's practical and spiritual understanding not only of giving in general, but also of Trinity's vision and focus for the years ahead.



## **Newcomer Bags**

In early 2019, Trinity will begin offering Newcomer Bags to newcomers to Trinity. Newcomer bags are brightly-colored turquoise bags filled with a welcome letter, brochures, booklets, a Trinity newsletter, and welcome pew cards (newly designed this year) – all providing a glimpse of Trinity’s “Worship, Outreach and Welcome.” The bag also includes a flyer entitled *Top Ten Ways to Know What’s Happening at Trinity*, a recent Newsletter article on Trinity’s parish communications.

**Note:** *If you see someone carrying a bright turquoise bag at Coffee Hour, please consider it an invitation to you to introduce yourself and Trinity to Trinity’s newcomers. ☺*

## **Parish eNews Emails**

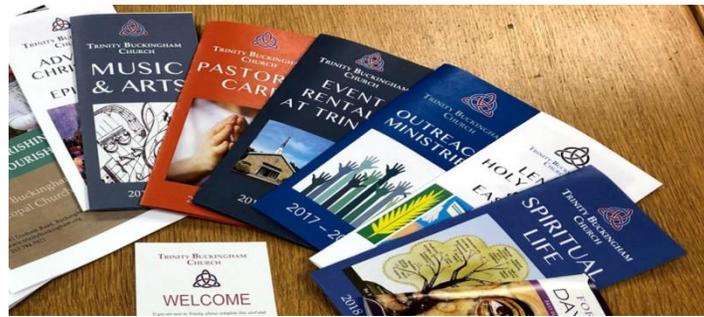
Trinity’s Parish Administrator Cynthia Goode creates and sends out a **weekly** Trinity eNews email (via a clean, crisp, and colorful Constant Contact design) which highlights all current events at Trinity and provides links to Trinity’s homepage for upcoming events, sermons, and special worship times.

This email is sent to those who have signed up to receive Trinity’s eNews in their inbox. Please contact the office to receive this important weekly email if you are not yet receiving it, as ***Trinity’s weekly eNews is THE primary and most effective way to stay updated with current Trinity news.***

## **Brochures, Booklets and Cards**

2018 Trinity brochures were created and distributed to the parish with outlines and overviews of Trinity ministries and liturgical events –

- **Outreach Ministries**
- **Lent/Holy Week/Easter 2018**
- **Spiritual Life**
- **Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018**
- **Event Rentals at Trinity**
- **Pastoral Care**
- **Trinity Newsletter**
- **Welcome Pew Cards**



## **Social Media**

Trinity’s online spiritual community continues to grow at a steady pace. The number of followers of Trinity’s Facebook page has grown from **65** followers three years ago to more than **350** in January 2019, and **some Trinity Facebook posts are now being seen by over 1,300 people online.**

***Note:** According to Trinity’s Facebook Analytics, a significant number of Trinity’s Facebook followers are not members of Trinity, and they live as far away as Belgium, Nigeria and the Philippines!*

If you are on Facebook but are not yet a “follower” of Trinity there, please go to Trinity’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/trinitybuckinghamchurch](http://www.facebook.com/trinitybuckinghamchurch) and click the “LIKE” button (*found under the large photo of Trinity, not just under an individual post*) so you will be able to be a part of Trinity’s online spiritual community and receive Trinity’s posts on your Facebook feed.

And if you see a post you’d like to be seen by more people, please click the SHARE button under that post rather than the post’s LIKE button, because then the post will be sent to all of your Facebook friends so they can see the post too.

## **Local Press Coverage**

I continue to draft and send press releases to local and diocesan press publications, and these releases are then placed, as is, as articles in those publications. These articles (many full-length) promote Trinity events, and develop and enhance recognition of Trinity as a church leader in the local community.

***Note** – Unlike paid advertisements, these published articles provide effective publicity for Trinity at no charge and are more effective than paid advertisements because they are written in “third-person” rather than as a promotion.*

## **Trinity Monitor**

Re-locating Trinity's large-screen publicity monitor from Trinity's front lobby to the Day School Hall has proven to be an important and effective move, as important information can now be more easily seen and absorbed by passers-by.

Slides for events are updated weekly to keep the parish updated on Trinity's ministries and activities.

## **Newsletter**

Trinity Times editor Lauren Gillen continues to masterfully navigate the new online newsletter platform we began using two years ago. Thank you, Lauren! Trinity will continue to publish two to three seasonal newsletters each year to enhance the Trinity news distributed through weekly eNews, the Trumpet Sunday news, ministry brochures and in-house bulletin board flyers.

## **Sanctuary Main Hall Bulletin Board**

The large blue bulletin board located in the Sanctuary Main Hall is now dedicated solely to events and publicity directly related to Trinity. Be sure to stop by to take a good look on your way to or from the church sanctuary. Thank you! *(Caroline Oakes)*

## **FACILITIES AND RENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT**

The word on Trinity's attractive rental spaces is definitely out and going strong in Bucks County and beyond! In other words, we have had a very busy 2018 event year here at Trinity Buckingham!

In looking back over the calendar for this year, we did a total of twenty-six (26) private rentals in Faith Hall alone. This does not include the numerous monthly and ongoing rentals in Reed Library or some of the beautiful weddings that took place in both Historic Trinity and the Main Sanctuary. We successfully rented Pierce Hall to different educational programs throughout this past year as well. We worked closely with Temple University to provide a space for their Independent Reading Program for K through 8 children over the quiet summer months and hosted Girl Empowerment courses and Harry Potter Workshops with Whimsy Kids both in the summer and this past fall.

The revenue from our rental spaces on campus; Faith & Pierce Hall, Main Sanctuary and Historic Trinity, and the Reed Chapel was \$28,189.30 at year end close of 2018.

Some of 2018 revenue has gone to repair the confection oven fan and our main restaurant grade ovens, as well as the cleaning of the large restaurant grade refrigerator.

We also had all of our chairs in the entire facility steamed cleaned and they are back to looking fresh again.

Over this past year great strides were made on the keeping of Faith Hall and Fay Kitchen organized and clean. The Facilities Cleaning Checklist, food labels and Kitchen Protocol regulations implemented last year really helped keep everyone focused and working together to maintain our facility. As a result, Fay's Kitchen successfully passed the PA state inspection for another year.

A Thank You goes out to the ladies of the ECW who generously replaced our large coffee maker station and bought new covers for our china rolling carts.

There has also been very little confusion with multiple ministries and private rentals scheduled each week as to who is occupying the space and what needs to be brought into the space for the different events. Keep it up team!

With regards to marketing our spaces, I have worked alongside of Caroline Oakes to create a new tri-fold brochure featuring new and updated event photos that showcase our gorgeous rental spaces and Sanctuaries here at Trinity for potential clients. If you have a moment, please take a look at them and always pass a few on to anyone who is thinking of throwing a special event in the coming year.

In closing, a special thank you goes out always to the parish event team for filling in when I cannot be present to oversee an event and an especially BIG Thank You to Kim Boyle, a parish member, as she has graciously oversaw recent events and has handled some challenges with such poise and professionalism.

Remember to always think of Trinity to help you celebrate your next BIG life event! Our calendar is filling up fast! *(Dani Badiali)*

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

As with all our ministries, 2018 was a busy year for the care and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Countless regular maintenance events and minor repairs occur throughout the year. Here is a recap of some of the more major items:

### **Grounds**

- Conducted a major pruning/ mulching and cleanup around the entire property (volunteer labor)
- Pruned and took down a few large trees for safety- more to follow in 2019 (professionally contracted)

- Installed new custom made signs around the property (professionally contracted)
- Installed new roof shingles and replaced rotted sheathing and studs in Academy shed at rear of parking lot. (volunteer labor)
- Cut back overgrown brush and added new stone to the path from Trinity through the woods to Family of God Church next door. (Eagle Scout volunteer project)

### **Main Church**

- Added new supplemental electric heater in the Sacristy (professionally contracted)
- Replaced cabinetry/ sheetrock walls and repaired leaking pipes inside the wall in the Sacristy under insurance policy (professionally contracted)
- Replaced failed circuit board on heater for office/ front vestibule area.

### **Faith Hall**

- Replaced worn/ damaged baseboard around entire perimeter of the hall (professionally contracted)
- Steam cleaned all upholstered chairs (professionally contracted)
- Stripped and refinished floor (professionally contracted)

### **Major 2019 plans**

- Replace roof on Rectory (professionally contracted)
- Repair and reseal paved surfaces/ restripe markings. (professionally contracted)
- Repair steps and iron railings in front of Historic Trinity.

Thank you to the volunteers who donated many hours of labor to keep our property looking loved and well-cared for. Thank you to Jim Sanders who responds almost weekly to a call to diagnose, repair, replace, build or mend something at Trinity. Thanks also to Cynthia for coordinating with contractors and volunteers to complete maintenance and repair events. *(Dave Huddy)*

## **NOURISHING EACH OTHER**

### **ACOLYTES**

Trinity has 6 (Youth) and 2 (adult) active acolytes whose responsibility is to assist the priest or minister with the liturgy. Acolytes (altar boys/ men/girls or women) have been assisting Christian services since 250 AD. Initially they were a clerical order. It was not until the 1980s that girls were permitted to be acolytes. The word acolyte means “follower” or one who helps. Acolytes perform a number of functions before, during and following the service.

- ❖ When acolytes first helped with the service they carried candles in religious processions. Now they can do other duties such as “assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches", assisting a deacon or priest with set up and clean up at the altar at the Holy Eucharist, swinging a censer or thurible [13] or carrying the incense boat, handing the offering plates to ushers, and many other tasks as seen fit by the priest or acolyte warden.”\*

Acolytes are an important component in the worship service and they are of great help to the priest or minister.

Fresh faces are always welcome to become acolytes (**age 10 and older including adults**) in support of this important ministry!

Active Acolytes in 2018 were: Sarah Goggin, Josh Huddy, Connor Bannon, Helena Badiali, Jerry Lasala, Joanne Welker, Maddie Wanzer and Than Wanzer.

Acolyte Coordinators are: *Mr. Eric Wanzer and Ms. Jill Unger*

\* Wikipedia/Acolytes/Christian Denominations-Anglican Church

### **ALTAR GUILD 2018**

Trinity Altar Guild is composed of volunteers who prepare the Eucharist and care for the altar for all services, Other tasks include polishing the silver and brass, laundering the linens, planning and ordering flowers, seasonal decorating-planning, execution and removal, hanging banners and altar frontals, sewing and mending linens. Members also prepare bouquets from the altar flowers for delivery to the sick, shut-ins, or others as directed by the Rector.

This year I have had the welcomed help with these tasks from Joanne Welker, who has been sharing the job as co-chair. I am so grateful for her assistance and suggestions for the smooth functioning of the Guild. We have just finished the renovation of the Sacristy from the water leak. It resulted in some extensive renovation, new cabinetry and a new rug. This gave us an opportunity to sort and organize items in those rooms. We thank Jim Sanders for his oversight of this project and the very nice result.

We give a heartfelt Thank You for all who have stepped forward to serve this year and especially those who are new to this ministry. I would like to encourage new members to participate in this very needed service. Training is always available even if you can only serve occasionally. This is a needed skill so that the services can run smoothly.

Volunteers are always welcome following each service and it will give you some exposure to the workings of the Altar Guild. We do hope to expand the membership participating in this valuable service. (Joanne Welker and Meg Perry)

Pat Cook/Jane Eastwood (Flowers)  
Jo Kiel  
Mary-jo May  
John Brooks  
Ruth Brooks  
Morley Ewing  
Doris Metzner  
Joan Noveske  
Marjorie Guidry

Sue Snyder  
Bonnie McCabe  
Judy and Peter Krauss  
Jill Unger  
Janet De Caprio  
Judy King  
Joanne Welker  
Jerry and Meryl LaSala

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Sunday School**

January 2018 - December 2018 was a pilot program year for us. Due to various outside activities taking place on Sunday mornings, our attendance was very low. Teachers would prepare lessons only to find that no children came. So, we instituted Super Sundays which took place the first Sunday of each month from September 2017- May 2018 from 6:00pm - 7:45 pm. We did this hoping that the youth who could not attend in the morning would be able to attend in the evening. The program was designed around a Vacation Bible School curriculum with every activity, including snack, relating to the lesson for that day. Our curriculum was called Maker Fun Factory. Pastor Nancy taught the lessons for Advent and Lent. Those children that attended Super Sunday loved it. We also had four of our older youth come out to help. They too enjoyed the program and were an asset to the teachers. As for attendance we would average 5 - 10 children each month. During the rest of the Sundays in each month, we began a curriculum entitled "all-in-one Sunday School". The program is set up so that children of all ages are in one classroom. It is Bible based with a lesson followed by various activities to reinforce what was presented.

Last June, our teachers met with Pastor Nancy to evaluate the year and it was discussed that maybe we should discontinue Super Sundays due to the amount of needed preparation for the lessons, music, art, games and snack. In the meantime, the parents of children from the 9:15 am service liked the idea of Super Sundays but felt it was too late for their children so they started to do community service projects on Super Sunday mornings.

In September of this year, Bob Kinney held a meeting for all parents, teachers, and interested adults to discuss the future of our Sunday School. It was then agreed by parents and Sunday School teachers that we would not have Super Sundays at night, but would do Community projects on the first Sunday of each month during Sunday School time from 10:00 am until approximately 10:45 am. This allows children that might attend the 10:15am service to attend Sunday School and go to Church for communion. (Sunday School is held at 10:00 am - 10:45 am all the time). We also we're able to continue using the "all-in-one Sunday School" curriculum this year too as we did not complete the series last year. This helped our Church financially as well. With this series, we only need one teacher and one person to help out as opposed to 5-6 teachers preparing lessons and having 5-6 helpers each Sunday. As an extra bonus, we can continue to use this curriculum up until and including December 2019.

The following people have been responsible for the education of our children during the past year: Amy Bannon, Meghan Dennis, Shayne Dougherty, Leslie Jaedicke, Rich Jaedicke, Sallee Lord, Jeanette Maleshevski, Ken Maleshevski, Natalie Welker Marx, Natasha Massias, Natalia Massias, Paulette Massias, Julianne Prasto, Ada Quinn, Sue Snyder, And Julie Wielehowski.

#### Sunday School Calendar of Events - 1/18 - 12/18

January	Epiphany Pageant
February	Create Valentines for Trinity Shut-ins, Nursing Home Residents, and Armed Serviced Members along with those Veterans in the Delaware Nursing Home.
March -	Lenten Project: Collected toiletries for the Homeless in Doylestown
April.	Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:15 am service
May.	Mother's Day Cards
June	Last day of Sunday School and Parish Picnic
July	Joint Vacation Bible School with the Family of God Lutheran Church
October	First day of Sunday School; made chocolate chip cookies for our Community Meal
November	created Veteran's Day Cards and sent them to the Veterans Multi Service Center in Philadelphia; began collecting socks, toiletries, health bars and fruit for Sock Kits for the Homeless
December	Made Advent Wreaths and Potato Soup in a Jar that would only need hot water for the Homeless

The past year has been fun and all of our teachers and helpers have enjoyed working with the children. Seeing the children's smiling faces while they are playing a game regarding their lesson, making a craft, doing a community project, or asking questions

about the lesson that was discussed is so heartwarming. Plus we know the message of our Lord is received by them and we are helping them with their spiritual growth. Thank you for all of your continued support toward our Christian Education at Trinity Buckingham. (*Sallee Lord*)

### **GREETERS/USHERS**

Welcoming visitors is an important ministry and is one of the first steps in bringing new members into Trinity. Stationed in the narthex before each service, the Greeters and Ushers recognize newcomers, answer their questions and invite them to join us at coffee hour. We present each visitor with a lapel ornament as a way to recognize and welcome them. Each visiting family is given a folder of information about the parish. The ushers continue by participating in the service.

8:00 a.m. Greeters/Ushers in 2017 were: Dom De Caprio, Bernadette Gross, Gary Hattal, Jo Kiel, Betty Kitson, Mary-jo May, John May, and Charles Seckinger.

Both greeters and ushers at the 8:00AM service have been reduced dramatically this year and we sure could use additional volunteers. Please consider helping out.

10:15 AM greeters in 2017 were: John Brooks, Heather Carbo, Lauren Gillen, Marty Gillen, Steven Guidry, Deborah McLean, Joe McLean, David Romero, Mike Shovlin, Eric Wanzer, Nancy Wildermuth and Paul Wildermuth. (*Bernadette Gross/Gary Hattal/Steven Guidry*)

### **LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS**

Trinity Church is fortunate to have a group of dedicated parishioners who assist at the altar during worship services. Chalice Bearers serve the communion wine. Chalice Bearers at 8:00 a.m. serve as Acolytes, while those at 10:15 a.m. are also Psalmists. Readers read the appointed lessons to the congregation, and also serve as Intercessors who offer the Prayers of the People. Our heartfelt thanks go to the parishioners who served in 2018.

*If you have an interest in serving as a Liturgical Assistant, please contact Rev. Nancy.*

### **MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT**

Our year was typically a busy one for the Trinity musicians - the Trinity Choir and Handbell Ensemble, Martha and Gina. This year for the first few month of the fall, we

also had some young musician who came to sing before the 9:15 service. They did so well that they sang by themselves for the Epiphany Service in January. Once again, Children and adults did a wonderful job spontaneously telling to story of Jesus' birth. They were given costumes etc. minutes before the service.

Our schedule of activities included: planning, leading, rehearsing, attending & participating in services, and learning new songs, hymns and anthems. Recently, we showed up to sing for our Code Blue guests. We had a good time and so it seemed did out guests. We do our best to enrich the musical life of Trinity Buckingham. The choir rehearses on Thursday evening, from 7:30 – 8:45 in the fall and spring and in the winter at 9:15 Sunday mornings.

The Trinity Handbell Ensemble practices on Sunday mornings after the 10:15 service. Playing as part of this ensemble is great fun. It is truly a team sport. People are always welcome to come by when we rehearse. We play as often as we can and average about once every six weeks.

All are welcome to join the choir or handbell ensemble. Reading music and/or rhythms, although certainly not required, is an asset and helpful skill for both singers and ringers. It is especially helpful when reading handbell parts.

Many thanks to our devoted Trinity musicians for sharing their time and talents!

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Regina Gordon, Minister of Music ~ Martha Dudich, Organist

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care is one of the biggest parts of Trinity's ministry of Welcoming. We are *all* commissioned to care for one another at our baptism, and so we are *all* responsible for caring for those in need within and without the parish.

In May of 2018, Bishop Gutierrez commissioned a chapter of **Community of Hope, International**. Deacon Matthew Simpson started the program as part of his diaconal training and received a United Thank Offering Grant to establish the chapter at Trinity Buckingham.

Based on a foundation of Benedictine spirituality and a contemplative approach to attending to God's call and receiving one another, Community of Hope, International provides a 14-week teaching series to better prepare members for their ministries of pastoral care, as well as how to care for their own souls and spirits as pastoral care givers. The CoHI chapter continues to meet monthly to provide ongoing support for our

various ministries. Members of the 2018 CoHI group came from Trinity, Buckingham (Joanne Welker—coordinator, Natalie Welker-Marx, Peter Oliver, Victoria Oliver, Marty Gillen, Aida King, Nancy Dilliplane and Matthew Simpson) and from St. Philip's New Hope, Good Shepherd, Hilltown, and Trinity Solebury. A new cohort is beginning in February 2019. Lay members of the CoHI team from Trinity Buckingham, along with the rector and deacon, visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners and pray regularly for those on our prayer list.

Other pastoral care ministries at Trinity Buckingham include: the Prayer Chain, weekly prayer basket offerings, Prayer Shawl group, Seniors Who Care, members who serve as chaplains at Doylestown Hospital, the weekly sending of bulletins, sermons and newsletters to the homebound (thank you, Jo Kiel), and an informal network of members who from time to time make phone calls, pay visits, take flowers and meals to those who experience illness, grief, caregiver stress, and acute challenges to their daily lives. Some of their reports follow. (Nancy Dilliplane)

### **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

What is the Prayer Chain Ministry? This is a simple ministry requiring only the conscientious effort of holding up to God those names given to us for intentional prayer. The only requirement is one of confidentiality. Information shared must be kept confidential. We pray for those who are sick, dying, distressed or have any other needs that require our intercession.

At this time Trinity's prayer chains are comprised of 15 Intercessors. They make up the chain that responds to our prayer requests.

At the recent meeting of the Prayer Chain Intercessors it was determined that a change was needed in how we respond to prayer requests.

While we know that God knows our needs before we ask, we believe that when we pray, we intentionally align ourselves with God's healing light and love, and individuals and the community itself are drawn towards healing and wholeness. The names and concerns for which we pray are held in strict confidence among the Intercessors.

#### **How to submit a name to the Prayer Chain:**

- Fill out a prayer request card found in the rear of the church and leave in the office
- Email [office@trinitybuckingham.org](mailto:office@trinitybuckingham.org) or call the office at 215-794-7921

*We will pray for the person or concern for a month. If you desire prayers for a longer duration, please resubmit your concern along with an update at the end of the month.*

## **How to join the Prayer Chain Ministry as an Intercessor:**

Contact Nancy Dilliplane+. This is a ministry you can do in your own home and on your own time. Members plan to meet quarterly for prayer, fellowship, and mutual support.

This is a simple way to serve our church family in their time of need without leaving your home. We welcome your participation.

Our current intercessors include: Patty Bradbury, Heather Carbo, Carol Downs, Linda Eichhorn, Lauren Gillen, Lue Hansen, Woody Kiel, Bonnie McCabe, Mary Beth Perisho, Meg Perry, Barbara Torok, Donna Wisnom, Deborah McLean and Jacquelyn Moore.  
*(Bernadette Gross)*

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry makes and distributes prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, afghans for veterans and wedding shawls. In 2018, twenty two handmade items were given out. Our group meets on the last Friday of the month at 12:00 noon in Reed Chapel. New members are always welcome. If you know of anyone needing any of these items, please contact Karen Parker (267-629-9125) or any member of the group.  
*(Karen Parker)*

# **NOURISHING OUR WORLD**

## **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Outreach at Trinity is as varied as our congregation. We take seriously Jesus's message to care for those in need. Please read the following reports and consider how you might help. Our youngest members from the 9:15 service now do an outreach project on the first Sunday of the month, a good example for us all.

### **ABC QUILTS**

Ten little "love and comfort" quilts were constructed by women of the parish, displayed in the narthex for Mother's Day and then delivered to Philadelphia to be given to at-risk babies in hospitals and foster homes. *(Elizabeth Mae Crooke)*

### **BLANKET SUNDAY FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

In February, parishioners donated \$880 to provide about 140 blankets for the CWS disaster relief program. During 2018, CWS distributed over 174,000 blankets and disaster kits to needy individuals throughout the world. Over 128,000 of these were

distributed in the US and Puerto Rico in response to recent Hurricanes, including Florence, Michael and Maria. Additional blankets and kits were sent to Haiti, Syria and Serbia. To learn more about their good work by visiting [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org). (*Amy Conoscenti*)

### **THE BREAD MINISTRY**

With the generous baked goods donations from local businesses Panera Bread, Weis Market and Giant, Trinity's Bread ministry expanded its outreach recipient base in 2018 to include: A Women's Place, the Presbyterian Church Sunday Food Ministry, and Code Blue. Our ministry delivers routinely to nine locations and hopes to identify more beneficiaries.

The ministry group has been exceptional with special thanks to Dave Romero and Steve Guidry for organizing our monthly schedules. The monthly schedule allows us to make changes quickly when conflicts occur due to other important personal considerations.

Presently our volunteer crew includes: Pat Cook, Al Fuchs, Tom Gilbert, Marty Gillen, Keith Goggin, Cynthia Goode, Debbie Grant, Steve Guidry, Jayne Jones, Bob Kinney, Natasha Massias, Tom Reed, Dave Romero, and Barbara Struble.

Bread is delivered to the following organizations:

- Bucks County Housing Group Larder
- Centenary United Methodist Church
- Central Bucks Senior Center
- Church of the Living in Dublin
- Doylestown Women's Shelter
- Fisherman's Mark Lambertville
- Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
- Living Hope Community Church
- Morrisville Presbyterian Towers
- Meals on Wheels of Central Bucks
- New Britain Baptist Church Larder
- Community PeaceMeal
- CODE BLUE

Again, my heartfelt thanks to the bread ministry group.

Lord bless us with content. (*Al Fuchs*)

## **CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAMBERTVILLE WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS**

2018 will mark the last year that Trinity provides casseroles and servers for this weekly luncheon on a regular basis, unless a new leader for the program takes over and gets in touch with Muriel, the redoubtable hostess. Through the Joyous Band, we prepared about 100 casseroles per year and 3-5 servers at the six luncheons in which we participated. We will continue to send bread regularly to this worthy program, which is sustaining itself well into its second decade of operations. *(Peter Oliver)*

## **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES**

Again this year, Trinity members selected tags from the trees, bought and wrapped gifts, and returned them to church. Forty gifts were delivered to Tabor Services. Trinity and Doylestown Presbyterian share support for apartment five at the Doylestown Family Shelter. The two churches supplied the gifts for the family currently in the apartment, parents and five children. *(Bonnie McCabe)*

## **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

July is a busy time for vacations, camp and summer fun. As we are celebrating the nice weather, we forget that many people depend on food pantries to supplement their purchased food. Trinity collects shelf stable food during July to help insure that the shelves at the pantries remain full. This year 216 pounds of food was delivered to the New Britain Baptist Food Larder. About the same quantity was delivered to the Family Services Association in Langhorne. *(Bonnie McCabe)*

## **CODE BLUE**

As this is written, Trinity is in the midst of our eighth season of hosting overnight homeless and hungry guests in cooperation with the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless (on whose board Lynda Vesely serves as an irreplaceable liaison). 2019 is proving a difficult year for our guests and a record level of 18-24 men and women (with a peak of 27) have been sheltered, given three meals, and provided clothing and other services during the month of January. Trinity parishioner participation in the program, often through the cheerful service of delicious home-prepared dinners and ice cream, has risen substantially this year, Trinity can rejoice as we make this community-building project of help to and fellowship with our neediest neighbors a defining part of our mission in Central Bucks County. *(Peter Oliver)*

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH LUNCHEON – “COMMUNITY PEACEMEAL”**

The second year of this meal in Faith Hall continued to draw a substantial community of 12-15 workers and 60-80 guests through the twelve months of 2018. Conducted as a joint project of the local EPIC (“Episcopal Parishes in Community”), the meal is a chance for fellowship, explicitly including IDS patients and their families, the indigent

and needy of the neighborhood, and parishioners enjoying a meal prepared by professional chef Paul Licitra of St. Philip's. All are encouraged to join us from 3:00 to 5:00 on the first Sunday of the month. *(Peter Oliver)*

### **DOYLESTOWN FAMILY SHELTER**

Trinity Church continues to support the Bucks County Housing Group's Doylestown Supportive Housing Shelter (BCHG). The ECW and individual members provide financial support, non-perishable foods, household products and volunteer hours to assist the families living in Apartment 5, one of six apartments at the shelter. During 2018, Apartment 5 hosted one family of six, a family of five and is currently hosting a family of four.

Upon arrival families are given a Welcome Basket that consists of linens, towels, cleaning supplies and a dinner. Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner expenses are shared with another family from another church. Christmas gifts are also provided by church members and ECW. *(Barbara Struble)*

### **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)**

We have a small but very successful group of women who have enjoyed another year of fundraising, fellowship and charity work. We had several meetings at which we planned our Fall and Spring Sales. Our June gathering was at the Perisho house at which we enjoyed a great pot luck dinner. In December we went out to lunch and then toured the Byer's Choice collection.

Our two fundraisers were very successful. At these we sell clothing, jewelry linens, gifts, books, kitchen items, furniture, and some seasonal decorations. Lunch is also available. Thanks to all the women who work so very hard to organize the weeks before the sale and who work the day of the sale. This year, our profits were given to the New Britian Larder, FISH, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, Jazz & Joe, BARC, GAPS, Episcopal Church Services, Meals on Wheels and Welcoming the Stranger.

Our group also does other outreach work. Elizabeth Crooke has chaired the ABC quilts, Blanket Sunday and Layette Sunday for many years. Bonnie McCabe has chaired the Christmas Giving Tree and the Christmas in July food drive. ECW also supplies the coffee hour needs.

All women in our church can be a part of this organization. No dues, just friendship and the desire to help others. And it is a great way to get to know our church ladies.

Mary Beth Perisho is chairman, Elizabeth Crooke is the Secretary and Rose Marie Proctor is the treasurer. *(Mary Beth Perisho)*

## **LAYETTE SUNDAY**

On Mothering Sunday during Lent parishioners donated infant garments and blankets. These donations were assembled into sixteen layettes and delivered to Child Home & Community (CHC) in Doylestown to be given as gifts to young mothers who complete the CHC parenting program. *(Elizabeth Mae Crooke)*

## **THE MUSIC & ARTS**

2018 was a year of programs planned to include a variety of art forms and performances including a dance troop, Art Exhibit, Trinity Players production and nine Jazz & Joe Performances.

### **2018** featured:

- \* Nine Jazz & Joe performances including the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Jazz & Joe Concert. The group was expanded from a quintet to about a dozen players.
  
- \* In February – We hosted the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance and Charlie Rutan, Piper. Helena Badiali, daughter of Dani & Stephen Badiali was one of the dancers. They stepped high and lively. We had an enthusiastic audience.
  
- \* In April the Trinity Players, ranging in age eleven to ninety, offered a program entitled Monologues, Melodies and Scenes.
  
- \* While the Trinity Players were busy in the sanctuary, the church hosted our first art show featuring the photographs of photo artist Janice Fiore Her compositional technique is one of layered images... hard t describe and beautiful to see.
  
- \* Two young, local instrumentalists joined our Trinity musicians on Christmas Eve. They performed flute/cello duets and provided some additional instrumental color for several of the choral pieces. (Lizzy Jones, Flutist and Lucy Silbaugh , cellist) We want to say a very special thank you to our singers and ringers. They are generous about their time and energy at a very busy time of the year. Thanks to each of you!

Note: The founding Music & Arts Committee's vision for our Music & Arts program involved a two-track endeavor: one which sought to enhance worship through the arts and one which sought to reach out to the greater community in general through the arts. It was hoped that such offerings would include both professionals and members of Trinity Church. We have kept to this vision.

Jazz & Joe is the backbone of our Music & Arts program. It helps to support everything and costs us almost nothing. The bottom line this year was a profit of about \$2400. We also received a special donation from former parishioners of \$500.

Our audiences are loyal and devoted averaging 60 to 90 people depending on the time of year. At least 75% of the audience comes from the community. We ask for a donation of \$5 per performance. *If you have not heard a J & J performance, what are you waiting for?*

**J & J Schedule: Feb. 21, Mar. 14, April 11, & May 9 (Faith Hall 7:30)  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Jazz & Joe BarBQ (Sunday afternoon)**

### **SENIORS WHO CARE (SWC)**

Seniors Who Care is a group from Trinity who participate regularly in many ministries serving various needs of the congregation both spiritually and socially. Members are involved in the choir, ECW, the prayer chain ministry, Jazz & Joe, ushers and greeters, readers, pastoral care, casseroles for Lambertville, code blue volunteers and the prayer shawl ministry. We can be found wherever there is a need.

The group comes together socially once a month to enjoy fellowship by going out to lunch. Look for our notices in the Sunday Bulletin and/or the Trinity Times announcing coming events. All are welcome. Plan on joining us 😊 (*Bernadette Gross*)

### **TRINITY BUCKINGHAM ACADEMY (TBA)**

Trinity Buckingham Academy is an outreach ministry of Trinity Buckingham Episcopal Church, providing high quality, affordable pre-school education with a spiritual basis. The academy offers flexible programming to try to meet a variety of parent needs – before school, lunch time and after school programs in addition to its regular instruction time. This fall we will be offering kindergarten enrichment programs in the afternoon. Our academy is one of the few pre-schools earning a certification from the state department of education and has been acknowledged as a welcoming place for children with special needs as well as the general population of pre-schoolers.

There has been an increase in the number of school families who have decided to make the Church their worship home, and we hope that this will continue. Enrollment, outside of the discontinued full kindergarten program has held steady.

This year saw the retirement of long time director Stephanie Elliott and welcomed her replacement Alison Rose who had previously taught our kindergarten class. Our faculty continues to be an amazing group of creative, collegial women dedicated to their young charges.

**We welcome** parishioners who might like to join the governing board of the school. Just make your interest known to Pastor Nancy.

*The Trinity Buckingham Academy Board of Directors*

Elizabeth Fielding Oliver, President, Meghan Dennis, Nancy Dilliplane (*ex officio*), Stephen Downs, Sallee Lord, Peter Oliver, Natalie Welker-Marx. TBA Parent Representatives: Lori Spotts, Julia Levy, Debbie Olivastri, Laura Florek, Erika Gogola and Kati McKiernan

**TRINITY - BUCKS DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES**

The five-county Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and its 135 congregations are divided into eleven deaneries. The 7–congregation Bucks Deanery, which includes All Saints’, Fallsington; Church of St. James the Greater, Bristol; Church of the Holy Nativity, Wrightstown; Church of the Incarnation, Morrisville; Church of the Redeemer, Andalusia; Emmanuel Church, Quakertown; Good Shepherd Church, Hilltown; Grace Church, Hulmeville Redemption, Southampton; St. Andrew’s Church, Yardley; St. James’ Church, Langhorne; St. Luke’s Church, Newtown; St. Paul’s Church, Doylestown; St. Paul’s Church, Levittown; St. Philip’s Church, New Hope; Trinity Church, Buckingham, and Trinity Church, Solebury, is the second largest deanery, numerically in the diocese.

The clergy and three elected lay members of each church meet together four times per year to worship, share news and resources and learn more about the business of the larger diocese. The Deanery meeting is chaired by the dean, who is elected from the clergy for a three-year term. The Buck’s Deanery’s dean in 2017 was the Very Reverend Michael Ruk, rector of St. Philip’s, New Hope. Each deanery elects one clergy and two lay delegates to the 33-member Diocesan Council which conducts certain diocesan canonical business, including acting for the convention when it is not in session. Free will offerings are taken at meetings and have been used to support ministries within the diocese. Most recently funds were given to support Code Blue and Community PeaceMeal. In 2018, Trinity, Buckingham’s representatives were Marty Gillen, Judy Krauss and Kathi Sadowski.

**TRINITY DEPUTIES TO THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Trinity’s 2018 elected deputies to the Diocese were Dom and Janet De Caprio and Jill Unger; alternate was Joanne Welker. On Saturday, November 10, Dom, Janet, Jill,

Joanne, Rector Nancy, and Deacon Matthew attended the 235<sup>th</sup> annual Diocesan Convention held at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 23 S. 38<sup>th</sup> St.

This was an especially busy Convention with both traditional and new sessions. In addition to the usual annual business matters, e.g., resolutions (seven passed this year), budget report, there were several short videos on ministries and initiatives in the Diocese. In his Convention address, Bishop Gutiérrez outlined 10 inspiring ideas for the Diocese over the next few years.

One of many Convention highlights was the presentation of more than 300 Blessing Bags for the homeless. The bags included the wool beanies donated by Trinity and St. Phillip's parishioners in a drive organized by Deacon Matthew.

Also, of local interest, The Very Rev. Michael (Mike) Ruk, dean of the Bucks County deanery, and rector of St. Philip's, was elected to Standing Committee for a five-year term.

A recap of Diocesan Convention, including Bishop Gutiérrez's address, committee reports, resolutions, election results, photos, videos, and the 2019 Diocesan budget, is available on the Diocesan website at <https://www.diopa.org/news/convention-2018-recap/> (Janet De Caprio)



## **UTO -United Thank Offering**

***“Put gifts into the blue box with thanksgiving, prayer and generosity.  
Take blessings out of the blue box for grants extending  
the Church's faithfulness to God's mission”***

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings – a spiritual discipline. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. The ministry is 130 years old, founded in 1889.

Daily prayers of thanks are given and money is placed in the Blue Box. The money becomes an **outward and visible sign of thanks to God**. *“Our change changes lives”* Every coin placed in a **Blue Box** is considered a designated gift to the United Thank Offering and must be used for that purpose only.

**Ingatherings** are generally held in the spring to represent new growth and in the fall to represent harvest times. During 2018's campaigns, **\$2,033.18** in thanksgivings via coins, bills and checks were collected. We look forward to another set of campaigns this year in May and November.

For additional information on United Thank Offering, please visit <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering> (Judy Krauss)