

# TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



## **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Annual Parish Meeting February 2, 2020**

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## **RECTOR'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2020**

As I write this reflection, a small bulldozer is toiling away outside my office window, filling in and smoothing out the last of the ridges and ruts along 413 where Pierce Hall once stood.

On a rainy Sunday in October 2019 we gathered for the last time in Pierce Hall, said our prayers, thank yous and good-byes as we decommissioned a building that for the last 70 years had housed Sunday School classes and kindergarten, hosted vestry meetings and square dances, sheltered youth groups and rector's offices, 12 step programs and 4H meetings.

Although the removal of Pierce Hall was some ten years in the making, it was a bitter-sweet moment for a parish more used to building and adding than to tearing down—a visible, tangible reminder that Trinity is no longer who we once were.

But today, as I look out into the empty space, I see openness. I see beauty. I see possibility. What, I wonder, will God do in the space that has opened up as a result of our letting go of something from the past that no longer serves us?

It is true that Trinity is no longer who we were, even as recently as 10 years ago. There is some loss in that. But this open, beautiful, possible space, invites us to explore more fully who we are *now*—the Trinity church God is calling us to be for a new decade. Unobstructed by Pierce Hall, the spire of Trinity Buckingham stands for all to see, pointing future-ward, pointing God-ward.

Who are we *now*? That's a question that we are going to explore together this year. Answering that question will be the main work of the Vestry, and we'll explore it as a community, in small groups, and at our three annual parish meetings, beginning today at our Annual meeting, and at our Pentecost Celebration on May 31, 2020, and at our celebration of Trinity's birthday on October 25, 2020.

Whatever God is calling us to, I am sure that our discernment of who we are now is going to be **WOW!** **W**orship, **O**utreach and **W**elcome are always top of the list whenever we gather to talk about what we value in our common life, and I am sure they will be part of our future, as well. (*Nancy+*)

### **2019 through the rear-view mirror**

As much of the 2019 year in review is covered elsewhere in this report, I will simply note some of what I see as the past year's highlights:

#### **Worship**

- The **Children of All Ages** service is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and going strong. Although attendance at 9:15 ranges from 4 to 44, worship is always joyful, noisy and welcoming, and visitors are frequent.

- Liz Oliver and I began piloting **Pajama Vespers** on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7. These seasonal gatherings include dinner, a story, activities and crafts, and a candle light procession to the sanctuary where we share evening prayers together. Everyone is invited.
- Speaking of attendance, although overall parish membership remains steady, **Sunday attendance is declining**. A function, perhaps, of the many things that compete for our time on Sunday mornings.
- Begun in Advent of 2018, Historic Trinity was open every Monday evening throughout in 2019 to pray for peace. The **Peace Vigil** didn't really capture the hearts or imaginations of the parish, so I have decided not to continue it in 2020. Historic Trinity will remain open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays for Centering Prayer**.
- The Wednesday morning Eucharist came to an end this fall as several of its regular attenders gave up driving. In its place, I will be celebrating **Eucharist on the first Wednesday of each month at Ann's Choice**. Even if you don't live at Ann's Choice you are invited to join us and have lunch following.

## Outreach

Trinity continues to amaze me by “punching above its weight class” in terms of her involvement in outreach and social justice ministries.

- **Code Blue** is a large-scale undertaking offering safe, warm overnight accommodations and a hot meal to those who lack adequate shelter every night in January when the temperature falls below 26 degrees. Although the shelter is managed by the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless, many Trinity parishioners have been trained as shelter volunteers. Many more cook and serve meals. What a way to be the heart and hands of Christ in our community!
- **Community Meal** provides food and fellowship to the Central Bucks community on the first Sunday of every month. It, too, is a big undertaking that enriches the lives of many.
- **Jazz and Joe** brings upwards of sixty people through our doors every month, and stands as a reminder that we are called to care not just for the bodies of our neighbors, but for their souls and spirits as well.
- Trinity hosted the **Memorial to the Lost** in April 2019 with colorful t-shirts stretched along 413 bearing the names of those whose lives have been lost to gun violence in Bucks County. We talked about responsible gun ownership and sensible gun legislation.
- Hardly a week goes by that Trinity is not doing something to serve someone in need—from layettes to blankets, from bras to apartment supplies, from money for hurricane victims to Christmas gifts for needy children, from bread pick up to dropping off canned goods, Trinity takes its commitment to love and serve Christ in all people and to uphold the dignity of every human being seriously.

## Welcome

When Trinity members talk about what Trinity means to them is the welcome they receive and the relationships they have with other members of Trinity always tops the list. Welcome and hospitality

pervade all areas of parish life. Among them: Fellowship, Spiritual Formation, and Pastoral Care. Most of these ministries have reports elsewhere in this booklet.

### **Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel!**

I want to thank our Vestry for their faithful leadership. My thanks, especially, to Dom De Caprio who is stepping down after 5 years as Rector's warden, and to Elisabeth Goggin, who has completed six years on the Vestry, four of them as Vestry secretary. (Elisabeth will continue to hold the role of secretary of the corporation for the church.)

Thanks as well to Meg Dennis and Dave Huddy who are rotating off the vestry after a three-year term. And thank you to continuing vestry members Marty Gillen, Paul Harar, Bob Kinney, Mary-jo May, Bonnie McCabe, Joe McLean, Don O'Hara (Accounting Warden) and Peter Oliver.

I am grateful to Ray Perisho for assuming the non-vestry role of Assistant Accounting Warden, and to Dave Romero, our treasurer. Shout outs to Meg Perry and JoAnne Welker and all those who give their time and talent to the Altar Guild. Thank you to Jill Unger and Eric Wanzer and our team of adult and teen acolytes. Thank you to Jim Sanders who is always at the ready with a ladder, a screw driver or a paint can. I can't begin to name all the volunteers who in their baptismal ministries serve Trinity's ministry and mission in so many ways. Many of your reports are contained in the body of this Annual Report document. You are the Church, and it is my great privilege to share ministry with you.

It is likewise my privilege to work with an outstanding, dedicated and talented staff: the Rev. Matthew Simpson, deacon; Regina Gordon, minister of music; Martha Dudich, organist; Cynthia Goode, parish administrator; Dani Badiali, rentals coordinator; Caroline Oakes, communications specialist; Alison Rose, director of the Trinity Buckingham Academy and the TBA teachers; Liz Oliver, family ministries facilitator; and Fran Cagle, nursery care provider.

Together, let us walk into the hopeful, beautiful, inviting possibilities that God is opening up for us.

### **Identify the 3 areas of your "WOW"**

**How do I Worship?**

**I engage in the following Outreach:**

**How have I been welcomed/Who have I welcomed?**

# 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. The numbers I have recorded at the end of 2019 represent my best count of active members of the Trinity community. They do not map one-to-one with 2018’s numbers, so please don’t use a calculator to correct my math! I also offer this observation: attendance and membership figures are neither the only nor the best indicator of a church’s or of how faithfully we are following Jesus.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Active members over the age of 16:</b>	272	290	292
<b>Active member under the age of 16:</b>	72	83	62
<b>Members moved to inactive in 2018</b>	25	12	39
<b>Moved/transferred in 2018</b>	4	2	13
<b>Deaths</b>	3	8	3
<b>Births/Baptisms</b>	2	9	4
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	344	373	354
<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>	147	172	
<b>PLEDGES (as of 1/22/20)</b>	83	91	98
<b>AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE</b>	94	97	99
<b>Program year</b>	100	109	109
<b>Summer</b>	43	56	61
<b>8 AM</b>	18	20	23
<b>9:15 AM</b>	23	30	27
<b>10:15 AM</b>	53	51	65
<b>Christmas attendance</b>	308	316	316
<b>Easter attendance</b>	265	312	283

**Baptisms: 1**

Isabella Costantini

**Weddings: 2**

Regina Gordon & Carol Grey  
Chris Ewing & Maureen Harding

**Deaths: 3**

Anna Silcox, Donald Bruschi, Sally Swanson

**Funerals/Burials: 4**

Mary Grove, John Phillips, Joanne Phillips, Anna Smith

**Confirmations and Receptions:**

Chris Bannon, Connor Bannon, Maddie Bannon, Brooke Dougherty, Faye Gilbert, Lily Gilbert Sarah Goggin, Jack Harar, Josh Huddy, Gianna Jaedicke, Austin Stalker, Maddie Wanzer, Meghan Dennis (R) Elisabeth Goggin (R)

## RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

Welcome to our 2020 Annual Meeting! Winter temperatures were late in arriving, but the cold has set in and our Code Blue volunteers were prepared to host our guests for the past five weeks. We thank them for their time and dedication to this ministry.

What happened at Trinity in 2019? A few highlights.

With thanks to Rev. Nancy Dilliplane our 9:15 Sunday worship continues to be popular, attracting families with young children. This service, along with activities led by Family and Children's Ministries Coordinator, Mrs. Liz Oliver, is a ministry with potential for growth at Trinity.

Perhaps the most dramatic event was the recent demolition of Pierce Hall, a plan that started with the 2013 launch of the 2020 Vision campaign. Pierce Hall was named for Reverend Roderic Pierce who retired in 1966 after nearly 20 years as Rector of Trinity.

For many parishioners, the loss of Pierce Hall, was emotional. However, I think most of us will agree that the removal of Pierce Hall has opened our expansive campus and provides greater visibility of our 1965 church from routes 413 and 202.

More about ongoing and new activities at Trinity in 2019 are described by others in this Annual Report.

We have three enthusiastic candidates running for 4 Vestry seats this year (Are you the fourth?). A full Vestry plus the Rector allows us to manage our parish. Current and new Vestry members will soon attend a joint retreat. This will help ensure continuity in preparing for 2020.

Now for some "not so nice" news. As you may already know, Trinity has been running a deficit budget for the past few years. During this time, our maintenance responsibilities have increased as our campus ages. As you may also know, during this time our pledging and service attendance have continued to decline. This trend is not sustainable. Fortunately, our kitchen and Faith Hall rentals have provided additional income to offset some of our deficit.

As many of you may not know, we pay an *annual parish assessment* to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (DIOPA). Despite running deficits, we have paid our obligation every year. For 2020 our assessment is \$15,089.00 which is accounted for in our budget. Trinity's annual support to the diocese has been approximately 3.5% of our normal operating budget.

For many years we have not made an *annual pledge* to the diocese, similar to our annual pledging to Trinity. In DIOPA, the average giving by a worship community to support the diocese, is 5.9%. The Episcopal Church reports the average giving to support the diocese is 13%. From this data, we see that Trinity is below the local and national levels of diocesan support.

Our bishop, The Rt Reverend Daniel Gutiérrez, has asked that we discern our responsibility to diocesan pledging. The goal for each worship community will be 10% of our normal operating income. For Trinity, that is currently about \$34,300.00. Meeting this goal would be accomplished over the next several years.

To start meeting our diocesan pledging responsibility, the Vestry has included \$3,500.00 in the 2020 budget. Please analyze your finances and be as generous as you can in supporting Trinity.

I have enjoyed being your Rector's Warden these last several years. I've completed six years of continuous vestry service and now I must "roll off." I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2020. God bless! *(Dom De Caprio)*

## ADMINISTRATION

### FINANCE

*(To be presented and made available at the Annual Meeting)*

### STEWARDSHIP

We ended our **2020 Giving Campaign** with 86 pledges totaling \$246,384 or 98% of the \$250,000 target for the 2020 campaign. ***Total dollars pledged and the average pledge of \$2,864 are the highest in the past seven years. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!***

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 Don O'Hara or Marty Gillen to learn more about giving on line and/or automatic recurring withdrawals.



## Trinity Buckingham 2020 Pledge Data as of January 22, 2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Total # pledges</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>90</b>	98	95	104	102	97
<b>Total amount pledged</b>	<b>\$246,384</b>	<b>\$241,583</b>	\$239,361	\$240,207	\$246,187	\$241,080	\$245,196
<b>Avg annual pledge</b>	<b>\$2,864</b>	<b>\$2,684</b>	\$2,442	\$2,528	\$2,367	\$2,363	\$2,528
<b>Avg weekly pledge</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$52</b>	\$47	\$49	\$46	\$45	\$49
<b># increased pledges</b>	48	36	24	56	28	22	NA
<b># stable pledges</b>	28	31	30	18	42	49	NA
<b># decreased pledges</b>	6	14	32	11	12	13	NA
<b># new pledges</b>	4	9	12	10	20	12	8
<b># lost pledges</b>	12	13	12	20	18	20	37

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  
 Bible Study  
 Blankets  
 Bread Ministry  
 Buildings and Grounds  
 Centering Prayer  
 Choir  
 Church Growth  
 Evangelism  
 Code Blue  
 Coffee Hour  
 Community Meal  
 Confirmation  
 Counters  
 Doylestown Shelter  
 Episcopal Church Women  
 Faith Hall Rentals  
 Hand bells  
 Healing Ministry  
 Jazz n Joe  
 Layettes  
 Mid-week Eucharist  
 Music and Arts Committee  
 Newcomers' ministries

Newsletter/Trinity Times  
 Nursery Care  
 Office Help  
 Pastoral Care  
 Prayer Chain  
 Peace Meal  
 Prayer Shawl group  
 Rummage Sale  
 Seniors Who Care  
 Sunday Morning Ministries  
     Acolyte  
     Altar Guild  
     Greeter  
     Intercessor  
     Lay Eucharistic Minister  
     Lector  
     Usher  
 Sunday School  
 Trinity Buckingham Academy  
 United Thank Offering  
 Vestry  
     Worship Planning  
 Wedding/Funeral Guild  
 Website and Facebook

We are grateful to the following families, couples, and individuals who have made a commitment to financially support Trinity Buckingham in 2020. *Pledges are welcome year-round. Pledge packets are available in the narthex and in the lobby.*

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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Badiali  
Bernhardt, Deborah  
Bittner, Mr. & Mrs. Gregg  
Bockin, Sandra  
Boyle, Kim  
Bradbury, Mr. & Mrs. Richard H.  
Brooks, John & Ruth  
Cagenello, Bradley  
Cannon, Joan  
Carbo, Heather  
Carr, Thomas  
Christiansen, Dan & Janice  
Conoscenti, Mrs. Matthew  
Cook, Patricia  
Copeland, Mrs. James  
Crooke, Elizabeth  
DeCaprio, Dom & Janet  
DeMaura, Stephen  
Dennis, Kyle & Meghan  
Dilliplane, Rev Dr. Nancy & Steve  
Downs, Stephen & Carol  
Eastwood, Jane  
Erk, Fred & Mary Lou  
Ewing, Jay & Morley  
Fielder, Linda  
Fuchs, Al & Pam  
Gilbert, Tom & Erin  
Gillen, Marty & Lauren  
Goggin, Keith & Elisabeth  
Good, Elaine  
Gordon, Dr. Regina  
Grant, Deborah A.  
Gross, Bernadette  
Guidry, Steve & Marjorie  
Hansen, Lue

Harrar, Paul & Kelly  
Henry, Mr. & Mrs. James  
Huddy, Dave & Dina  
Jerman, Diane  
Kiel, Woody & Jo  
King, Judy  
Kinney, Bob & Kay  
Kitson, Betty  
Koshy, Shane & Carla  
Krauss, Jorden & Judith  
Kroberger, Jeff & Barbara  
Lancaster, Amy  
Lasala, Jerry & Meryl  
Lord, Robert & Sallee  
Mann, Dr. Steve  
Marino, Mr. & Mrs. Jon  
Martinez, Dianne  
Marx, Natalie Welker  
Massias, Paulette  
Massias, Natasha  
May, Mr. & Mrs. John  
McBride, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel  
McCreary, Mr. & Mrs. Terence  
McCabe, Sean  
McCabe, Barry & Bonnie  
McLean, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph  
Mennin, Felicia  
Metzner, Doris  
Mochel, Mr. & Mrs. Tobias  
Noveske, Joan  
O'Hara, Jennifer & Don  
Oliver, Mr. & Mrs. Peter  
Oswald Family  
Parker, Karen  
Perisho, Ray & Mary Beth

Perry, Meg  
Prasto, Julianne  
Proctor, Rose Marie  
Robinson, Nancy  
Romero, David & Deanna  
Sadowski, Wayne & Kathi  
Sanders, Jim & Charlotte  
Seckinger, Charles  
Silcox, Ann  
Simpson, Matthew  
Slim, Elizabeth  
Snyder, Suzanne  
St. Claire, Kyle, The Rev  
Struble, Stanley & Barbara

Stalker, Stacy  
Swidorski Family  
Taylor, Beth  
Trunzo, Carol  
Unger, Jill  
Vesely, Linda  
Wanzer, Mr. & Mrs. Eric  
Welker, Joanne  
Whelan, John & Doris  
Wielehowski, Kevin & Julie

A special thank you to Caroline Oakes, Trinity Minister of Communications, for producing the second annual Trinity Giving booklet and to Pastor Nancy Dilliplane for her joyful advice and encouragement to the 2020 Giving Campaign.

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

## **PERSONNEL**

Like any church or other non-profit organization, the largest part of our budget pays the salary and benefits of our staff: the gifted people employed to help us carry out our ministry and mission in the world.

Nancy is our fulltime priest. Although she performs many other tasks at Trinity, her main role is to help the laity carry out *their* baptismal promises to worship, study, share the gospel and serve others. The rector's job is to be a priest (to preside at worship), pastor (to care for the spiritual needs of the congregation) and teacher (to preach and offer Christian education).

Matthew is a vocational deacon who serves Trinity and the Bucks Deanery at the Bishop's pleasure. Trinity contributes to his continuing education, his mileage expenses and some other expenses he incurs in the course of his ministry of bringing the church out into the world, and making the needs of the world known within our red doors. Vocational deacons do not receive compensation for their ministry, so Matthew also works full time as a nurse.

Cynthia is our half-time parish administrator. She supports all areas of our common life and is the cheerful voice that answers the phone and greets visitors at the door. Cynthia handles much of the day-to-day parish office and financial operations, attends to campus wide issues such as well compliance testing and reporting to the PA Dept of Environmental Protection, managing vendor relationships, coordinating ongoing facility maintenance and special unexpected issues such as this year's gas leak at Historic Trinity, sewage leak outside Pierce Hall and termite invasion in Reed Chapel to name just a few of the things she does. Cynthia is often the front line in speaking to those seeking assistance and steers them to available community resources. She watches the parish calendar and facilitates communications between ministries, produces the weekly Trumpet and Trinity E-News, and is eager to support you.

Regina Gordon, our music director chooses music to enhance our weekly worship and special worship services. She directs our choir and hand bell ensemble. She oversees monthly Jazz n Joe concerts and semi-annual Faith and Arts offerings.

Martha Dudich is our organist. She accompanies our choir, plays in the hand bell ensemble, provides gorgeous preludes and postludes and accompanies our congregational hymn singing on Sundays. She plays for weddings and funerals. Martha is a fine liturgist and preacher in her own right.

Danielle Badiali is our rentals coordinator. In her 15 hours per week she works with the individuals and groups who rent our spaces (like Faith Hall, Fay Kitchen and Historic Trinity church) for parties, showers, weddings, meetings and receptions. She manages contracts, billing and rental accounts and spends time marketing our spaces for future rental income.

Caroline Oakes is our staff person for communications. In an electronic age, nearly all visitors and newcomers to Trinity learn about us on-line. Caroline keeps our Website fresh and posts happenings and responses to world events on Facebook. She also creates the slides for our electronic monitor and posters for bulletin boards and content for our weekly electronic newsletter. The annual stewardship booklet, Trinity Times newsletter (edited by Lauren Gillen), seasonal tri-fold brochures for education, outreach, and other ministries, including the Trinity Buckingham Academy are Caroline's creations, as are press releases and the banners than hang on our gate from time to time.

Alison Rose is the director of the Trinity Buckingham Academy. Her compensation, like that of her staff of teachers and aides, is covered by tuition and other program

contributions. The TBAcademy is a ministry of Trinity Buckingham Church, and Alison is therefore part of Trinity Church's staff.

Liz Oliver was hired with grant money to provide Sunday School lessons from September to May and to network with young families to support theirs and their children's faith lives. Liz has introduced seasonal Pajama Vespers and helps coordinate outreach projects.

Fran Cagle is our professionally trained Nursery Care provider. On Sunday mornings and at special parish events, Fran is there to keep our youngest parishioners safe and loved so that their parents and grandparents can be freer to devote time to worship, education, fellowship and outreach.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

2019 did not hold a large number of "major" projects, but the considerable amount of regular maintenance events and minor repairs that occur throughout each year continued as per usual. The biggest and most noticeable project was the razing of Pierce Hall. The majority of the work has been completed but there are a few pending items, including final grading of the ground and replacement of the front sign hard wired lighting with an alternative method. Below are a few items of note for 2019:

### **Historic Trinity**

- Repaired front steps and iron railings. (professionally contracted)
- Began repair of chimney on exterior, and interior wall damaged by leaks. (professionally contracted)
- Pruned hedges around front of entire property. (Volunteers)

### **Main Church Building**

- Steam cleaned carpets. (professionally contracted)
- Termite treatment with a multi-year warranty was installed around the perimeter. (professionally contracted)
- Sanctuary overhead lights were replaced. (professionally contracted)
- Stripped and refinished floors in classrooms and bathrooms. (professionally contracted)
- Hedges around front of building were pruned. (Volunteers)

### **Faith Hall**

- Stripped and refinished floors in hall and kitchen (professionally contracted)

## **Rectory**

- Replaced roof and repaired chimney masonry and interior walls damaged by leaks. (professionally contracted)
- Repaired steps and iron railings in front of Historic Trinity. (professionally contracted)

Thank you to the volunteers who donated many hours of organization, planning and labor to keep our property and facilities maintained. A very special thank you to Jim Sanders who responds almost weekly to a call to diagnose, repair, replace, build or mend something at Trinity. The amount of money in labor expense his efforts save Trinity is easily over a thousand dollars every year. Thanks also to Cynthia Goode for coordinating with contractors and volunteers to complete the ever-increasing maintenance and repair events. *(Dave Huddy)*

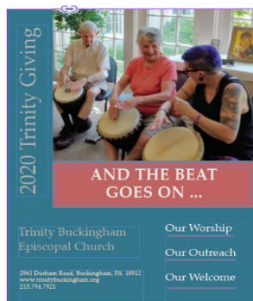
## **MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT REPORT**

### **Website Homepage (The Online Welcoming Red Front Door)**

These days a church's internet 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. [www.trinitybuckingham.org](http://www.trinitybuckingham.org)

### **Stewardship Booklet**

An informative and 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. A big thank you to all those Vestry members who contributed to making this year's numbers and message clear and concise and informative!



### **Parish eNews Emails**

A weekly Trinity eNews email highlights all current events at Trinity and provides links to Trinity's homepage for upcoming events, sermons, and special worship times.

## **Brochures**

Brochures are created and distributed to the parish with outlines and overviews of Trinity ministries and liturgical events. Check the brochure rack and around the church to find each of these brochures, and Trinity's ministries will be at your fingertips.

## **Facebook**

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 four years ago to more than **365** in January 2020, and **some Trinity Facebook posts are now being seen by over 1,300 people online.**

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 SHARE button under posts you like so the post will be sent to your Facebook friends.

## **Local Press Coverage**

I draft and send press releases to local and diocesan press publications to promote Trinity events, and to develop and enhance recognition of Trinity as a church leader in the local community. 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**

Trinity's large-screen publicity monitor in the Church's side entrance (the preschool entrance hall) is an effective way to convey important information that can now be easily seen and absorbed by passers-by. I create and update slides weekly to keep the parish updated on Trinity's (and other churches') ministries and activities.

## **Newsletter**

Trinity Times editor Lauren Gillen continues to masterfully navigate the new online newsletter platform we began using three 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 Sunday Trumpet Sunday, 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 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. *(Caroline Oakes)*

## **RENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT**

With another year at its completion, Trinity's rentals are continuing to grow at a strong and steady pace. Over this past calendar year, a total of thirty (30) private rentals was held in Faith Hall. We also hosted numerous monthly and ongoing rentals in Reed Chapel Library and some beautiful spring & fall weddings took place in both Historic Trinity and the Main Sanctuary.

The revenue from our rental spaces on campus; Faith Hall, Main Sanctuary and Historic Trinity, and the Reed Chapel was \$17,711.00 at year end close of 2019. Fay Kitchen brought in an additional \$15,184.25 thanks to our amazing resident chef, AnnaP Catering. AnnaP plays a crucial part in helping make staff aware of what needs to be maintained in Fay, as well as assists with getting our kitchen to passing standards for the yearly PA State Inspection. The rental total for 2019 was \$32,895.25.

With the rigorous 2020 event calendar ahead of us, I am growing our Event Team here at Trinity and I am happy to say that we are now five women strong! Currently on the team is Kim Boyle, who has been with me for the last two years. Kim has been a critical team player, stepping in when I am not available to oversee an event, as well as comfortably running events on her own. In January Kim Laughlin, Fran Cagle and Linda Vesely also joined the team.

An Event Team meeting will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month after the 10:15 service to review upcoming event coverage. We welcome any one to join us if you are interested in supporting Trinity's rental ministry while making some extra spending money. If I "peeked" your curiosity, please reach out to me directly.

Other exciting news is that through a generous donation from the William and Doris Oliver Foundation, Faith Hall will be moving forward in adding a new AV sound and projector system. Our church can use this system for gatherings such as our Annual meeting, book/movie club videos on DVD or wireless, as well as allow additional rental revenue options for wedding and memorial events to showcase a couples or individual's life memories. Thank you again for this wonderful addition to our hall. Look for this wonderful project to be underway soon!

In closing, I want to give a BIG Thank You to ECW for their ongoing support and to the ENTIRE PARISH for working hard to adhere to Faith Hall and Fay Kitchen cleaning protocols. Our church is a very vibrant and exciting hub of positive ministry work combined with our very busy and growing private rentals. I feel that 2019 was generally seamless with everyone doing their part to pitch in and keep our blessed spaces clean.

Remember to always think of and promote Trinity spaces to help celebrate your next BIG life events! Our calendar fills up fast, so don't wait! *(Dani Badiali)*



# NOURISHING EACH OTHER

## ACOLYTES

Trinity has 7 (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 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."\*

\* Wikipedia/Acolytes/Christian Denominations-Anglican Church

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! If you are interested, we, Pastor Nancy, Jill Unger or Eric Wanzer, would love to hear from you.

Active Acolytes in 2019 were: Sarah Goggin, Josh Huddy, Ewan and Rachel Swidorski, Helena Badiali, Jerry Lasala, Joanne Welker, Maddie Wanzer and Than Wanzer. (*Mr. Eric Wanzer and Ms. Jill Unger*)

## ALTAR GUILD 2019

Trinity Altar Guild is composed of volunteers who prepare the Eucharist and care for the altar for all of our services. Other tasks include polishing the silver and brass, laundering and ironing the linens, ordering flowers, seasonal decorating, and hanging the banners and altar frontals.

Rev. Nancy purchased a beautiful refillable oil Paschal Candle this year for Historic Trinity. The next time you are over there, please take a look at this lovely addition to our church.

We give a heartfelt Thank You for all who have stepped forward to serve this year. We

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 our church 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 ministry. *(Meg Perry and Joanne Welker)*

Pat Cook/Jane Eastwood (Flowers)  
Mary Jo May  
Morley Ewing  
Joan Noveske  
Marjorie Guidry

Sue Snyder  
Judy and Peter Krause  
Jill Unger  
Janet De Caprio  
Natalie Welker-Marx  
Jerry and Meryl LaSala

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Children**

At our Pentecost All Parish gathering Trinity honored Sallee Lord for a decade of loving service as Sunday School Coordinator. We also said thank you to the men and women who gave of their time and talent to teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for so many years: Amy Bannon, Shayne Dougherty, Stephen Downs, Dina Huddy, Leslie Jaedicke, Rich Jaedicke, Jeanette Maleszewski, Ken Maleszewski, Natalie Welker Marx, Natasha Massias, Natalia Massias, Paulette Massias, Ada Quinn, Sue Snyder, and Natalie Welker-Marx.

Sallee reprised her popular “special blessings” Communion education lessons this fall, inviting children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older to reflect more deeply about the Holy Eucharist.

Children’s spiritual and religious education is in transition at Trinity. The Children of All Ages service (aka the 9:15 service) has created an energetic community of new families with children under age 12. In September 2019, Liz Oliver became Trinity’s Family Ministries Facilitator, offering a Sunday School lessons at 10 am. Liz has also introduced seasonal Pajama Vespers—dinner, activities, stories, crafts and finally candle-lit prayers in the church. Children (and adults) come in their pajamas and go home to bed.

2019 was the second year that Trinity partnered with Family of God Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School. This year’s VBS was a Mission to Mars and Beyond, where

children explored the bible verse: Glory to God whose power at work in us can do far beyond all that we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20). **VBS dates for this year are: July 6-10, 2020.**

## Youth

On Palm Sunday Bishop Daniel Gutierrez confirmed *Chris Bannon, Connor Bannon, Maddie Bannon, Brooke Dougherty, Faye Gilbert, Lily Gilbert, Sarah Goggin, Jack Harar, Josh Huddy, Gianna Jaedicke, Austin Stalker, and Maddie Wanzer*. It was a special celebration that concluded a year-long confirmation class led by Pastor Nancy that explored the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, the Church, and our baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in everyone.

## Adults

Opportunities for adult spiritual nurture and education abound at Trinity.

- Our Tuesday morning **“Fizz” Bible Study** explores the lessons for the upcoming Sunday’s worship service.
- **Sunday Faith Forums** follow the 10:15 am service and are facilitated by Diana Martinez and Pastor Nancy. In 2019 our topics included “Jesus was an Episcopalian” by Chris Yaw, *What Wondrous Love*—an exploration of Holy Week in word and art, *Making Sense of the Cross*—a DVD series with the Rev. Dr. David Lose, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church*—a DVD series with the Rt. Rev. N.T. Wright; and an Advent series on Repentance, Faith, Holiness and Love. Coming up: A nine session exploration of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s *The Way of Love*.
- **Lenten Series:** Dr. Steve Mann led his popular Faith and Science series on Wednesday nights in Lent. In 2019 we watched and discussed Simon Schama’s PBS series *The Story of the Jews*.
- **Education for Ministry** is alive and well at Trinity. On Monday afternoons in Reed Chapel members of 5 Bucks Deanery Episcopal Churches meet to study the Old and New Testaments and engage in lively theological reflection.
- An **Efm alumni group** also met on Mondays in the mornings, also comprised of members of several different Bucks churches. We explored the New Testament in the spring, and in the fall took a deep dive into the Gnostic texts discovered at Nag Hammadi in the 1940s.

## **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.

8:00 a.m. Greeters/Ushers in 2017 were: Amy Conoscentie, Dom De Caprio, Paul Harar, Gary Hattal, Betty Kitson, Mary-jo May, John May, and Charles Seckinger.

10:15 AM greeters in 2017 were: 10:15 AM greeters in 2019 were: Heather Carbo, Lauren Gillen, Marty Gillen, Marjorie Guidry, Steven Guidry, Deborah McLean, Joe McLean, David Romero, and Eric Wanzer. (*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 schedule of activities is similar from year to year. It includes: planning, leading, rehearsing, attending & participating in services, and learning new songs, hymns and anthems. Leading and helping Jazz & Joe continue bring people from communities in Bucks and Montgomery counties to Trinity for some great Jazz with a good cup of coffee (or tea) and some goodies to go with it.

Our Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings, and briefly on Sunday morning before the 10:15 service and sings for the 10:15 services. The Handbell Ensemble rehearses on Sunday mornings after the 10:15 service. It plays for holiday services and throughout the year providing offertory anthems, preludes and other music for services.

Both the Choir and Handbell Ensemble rehearse on a regular schedule from January thru mid-June with time off in July and August. We return to our schedule in early September thru December.

Holidays such as Christmas and Easter would simply not be the same without the special, beautiful music that goes with those holidays. Just imagine the Christmas Eve

service without singing some of the great Christmas hymns we all know will be part of that service.

We welcomed a new choir member a few months ago. Her name is Ellie Swidorski. She is a fifth grader who also plays the violin and is both our newest and youngest member.

All are welcome to join the choir and/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!  
*(Regina Gordon, Minister of Music ~ Martha Dudich, Organist)*

### **PASTORAL CARE**

The care we provide to one another in times of illness, mourning, crisis and life's transitions is key to who we are as a Christian community. 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 outside of the parish.

Pastor Nancy makes visits to members who are hospitalized or in nursing care, as well as to those who are home bound. She would welcome others to join her in carrying the love of Christ and Trinity, Buckingham to those who cannot be with us on Sundays.

This fall Pastor Nancy began celebrating Eucharist with Trinity members who make their home at Ann's Choice. We meet (usually) on the first Wednesday of each month in the private dining room at Liberty Commons at 11 am and then share a lunchtime meal. Please join us!

Community of Hope, International, a Benedictine community of support for pastoral care givers meets monthly at Trinity. (See the report that follows for more information)

Prayer Shawl ministry also meets monthly to stitch their prayers and love into shawls and lap robes and baptism blankets. (A report follows)

The Prayer Chain ministry prays daily for individuals commended to their care by members of the community. (A report follows)

A group of volunteers (among them JoAnne Welker, Natalie Welker-Marx and Kim Boyle) send bulletins, sermons and a weekly newsletter to our homebound members. Our sincere gratitude to Woody & Jo Kiel who attended to this caring ministry for so many years.

And of course, there is a large and informal network of members to make phone calls, pay visits, take flowers and meals and provide rides to those in our parish family who are in need.

### **Community of Hope International (COHI)**

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 spirits as pastoral care givers. The COHI chapter meets monthly to provide ongoing support for our various ministries.

Members of the 2019 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.

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. *(Joanne Welker)*

### **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

For the past twenty years Trinity Church has had an active Prayer Chain Ministry. Bernadette Gross has been the Coordinator for the majority of this time. Thank you to Bernadette for all of her years of service. She worked diligently to keep the chain instrumental in prayers for those who have needed them by organizing the Intercessors and keeping them up-to-date with prayer requests. In January 2019 Patty Bradbury assumed responsibility for this ministry.

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

At present there are fourteen Intercessors on three different chains. In the past year they have prayed on a regular basis for ninety-four individuals. Prayer requests may be submitted at any time to Patty Bradbury (pabradbury@verizon.net), to Pastor Nancy or to the Trinity Office.

We are always looking for anyone interested to join this ministry. Please contact Patty Bradbury with any questions you may have or to join the group. *(Patty Bradbury)*

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry makes and distributes prayer shawls and lap robes to those who are going through troubling times. We also give out wedding shawls and baby blankets to those who are celebrating these life changing events. The Diocese of Pa. has a Veterans Ministry and we make and donate afghans to them. In 2019 twenty nine handmade items were given out.

Our group meets on the last Friday of the month at 12:00 noon in Reed Chapel, and we always have a great time. Our membership is not limited to church members, so come and bring a friend. If you would like to join us or know of anyone in need of one of these items, please contact Karen Parker (267-629-9125)

## **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 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.

*There is a current need for delivery of bread to Fisherman's Mark in Lambertville on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. If you can lend a hand with one of these dates or wish to be on call as a volunteer please contact the office.*

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

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

In November our Giving Tree was decorated with forty six gift tags, each representing a wish for a Christmas gift. The wrapped gifts were delivered to Trinity and then taken to Tabor Services and to our family living in apartment five at the Doylestown Family Shelter. *(Bonnie McCabe)*

### **CHRISTMAS IN JULY FOOD DRIVE**

Some of our neighbors in Central Bucks County depend on the local food pantries to supplement their weekly groceries. During the summer months as people are traveling and enjoying the warm weather, the food supplies run low. By having a summer food drive Trinity helps to ensure that there is plenty for those in need. *(Bonnie McCabe)*

### **CODE BLUE**

The Code Blue program to shelter, feed, and serve our neediest neighbors is now in its ninth season, operating in Faith Hall during the month of January. Fortunately for our guests, it has been a temperate winter through the middle of the month, and the shelter has been open approximately half of the nights, serving 7-9 on average, with a peak of 13. This is approximately half of last year's level.



Parishioners are taking an ever more active role in the ministry, cooking and serving dinners and breakfasts and providing bag lunches when the guests leave in the morning. The demand for Code Blue will predictably continue for many years and Trinity is each year improving in our hospitality- making our guests feel welcome and comfortable.

Since 14 workers are needed for each Code Blue night, Trinity will need to continue to increase our efforts in partnership with Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless and other area churches in years to come. We hope that additional parishioners will take the required training to join in this program. *(Peter Oliver)*

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

Our feeding program on the first Sunday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 had a successful 2019, with 30-50 guests served an elegant meal prepared by Chef Paul Licitra of our EPIC partner St. Philip's, New Hope. Parishioners worked in the administration of the meal, preparation and clean-up, and most importantly in the fellowship of breaking bread with our needy neighbors. Many of those attending have come to both Peacemeal and its preceding program for AIDS patients in the Bucks County area for a number of years. This is another successful program of service and fellowship in the Outreach program of Trinity. *(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 2019, Apartment 5 hosted a family of seven 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)**

How fortunate we are to have an active women's group in our church! So many churches are not as fortunate. Our focus at Trinity with our group is fellowship, fundraising and charity. At our Spring Sale we made a little over \$3800. And our Fall sale netted \$2900.

With these monies, we donated \$500 to Close the Gap. Also receiving donations from ECW was Habitat for Humanity, New Britain Food Pantry, Doylestown Fish, Episcopal Relief and Development, Welcoming the Stranger, Pro-Act, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We also keep the coffee hour supplied.

During the year we have a few meetings sharing lunch and good times, and planning our fundraisers. Always in June, we meet for a pot luck dinner to end the year and to decide who receives our donations. In December, several of us enjoyed a lunch and a wonderful Christmas show at the Bristol Riverside Theater.

All women in our church are welcome to join us. No pressure, just good times along with helping our church family.

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

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Trinity provided funds for the 2019 Faith Built House for a young family. The church donated \$800, some came from the profits of the ECW spring sale and the rest from a basket raffle. Work on the house has started but at this time we haven't been notified about the dedication.

### **LAYETTE SUNDAY**

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

### **MUSIC & ARTS**

2019 was a year of programs planned to include something old (in this case familiar), something new and something Russian.

#### Something Familiar

Nine Jazz & Joe performances including the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Jazz & Joe Concert. The group was expanded from a quintet to about a dozen players for the 500<sup>th</sup> celebration.... And there was a great crowd. The church was nearly full.

Upcoming Winter/Spring 2020 Dates:

February 12, 2020, March 12, 2020, April 16, 2020, May 14, 2020

BarBQ & You – June 21<sup>st</sup> (4:00 – 7:00)

### Something New

A group of 25 of us went off the church campus and ventured to the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival near Allentown to see “Crazy for You”, a musical. It was a great production and we had a great time. Stay tuned. This season looks terrific too! You will be hearing about it.

### Something Russian

We were very pleased to host *Lyra* a quartet of singers from Russia. They sang a very informative and impressive concert of Russian sacred music and Russian folk music with commentary about each piece. Our audience was awed with the music and singing and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to visit with our guests. Ray and Mary Beth Perisho billeted the quartet.... many thanks to them. *(Regina Gordon)*

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

While all of Trinity’s seniors care and participate regularly in many ministries serving various needs of the congregation both spiritually and socially, the monthly fellowship luncheon was on hiatus this year, during Bernadette Gross’s transition to her new home at Ann’s Choice. Any one interested in restarting and coordinating the lunchtime outings is invited to contact the office.

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

Trinity Buckingham Academy is an outreach ministry of Trinity Buckingham Church, providing a high quality, affordable, faith-based program for local families. We offer flexible options to try to meet family needs – Sunrise (before school drop-off), Lunch Bunch and Afternoon Enrichment classes. We are one of the few pre-schools that is both licensed by the Department of Education and approved by the Department of Human Services, and we are acknowledged as a leader in the community. We have a special welcome for children with special needs as well.

With the addition of a Families Ministry Facilitator who also serves on the Academy board, we hope to bring the church families and school families together with the hope that some school families may find our church their spiritual home as well. Under the direction of Alison Rose, we continue to innovate, adding a yoga program this year in addition to our other offerings. We are blessed with a wonderful, warm, creative and underpaid staff. *(Liz Oliver & Alison Rose)*

### **TRINITY - BUCKS DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania encompasses 5 counties and is made up of 133 congregations which are divided into eleven deaneries. The Bucks Deanery 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. At 17 churches, Bucks is the second largest deanery, numerically in the diocese.

Bucks deanery clergy meet at a different church each month for fellowship and to share news and concerns. Three or four times per year, the clergy and elected representatives from each parish meet to worship, share news and resources and learn more about the business of the larger diocese. Trinity Buckingham's representatives in 2019 were Judy Kraus, Kathi Sadowski and Jill Unger. The Deanery meeting is chaired by the dean, who is elected from the clergy for a three-year term. The Bucks Deanery's dean is the Very Reverend Michael Ruk, rector of St. Philip's, New Hope. Free will offerings are taken at meetings and have been used to support ministries in the southern, central and northern parts of the deanery. The central Bucks funds went to support Code Blue and Community PeaceMeal.

Each deanery elects one clergy and two lay delegates to the Diocesan Council which conducts certain diocesan canonical business, including acting for the convention when it is not in session. The Bucks Deanery representatives to Diocesan Council are the Rev. Marlee Norton (Grace, Hulmeville and St. James, Bristol), George Pollit (St. Philips, New Hope) and Dave Dixon (Incarnation, Morrisville).

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

Trinity's 2019 elected deputies to the diocese were Dom and Janet De Caprio and Joanne Welker; alternate was Jill Unger. On Saturday, November 2, Janet, Joanne, Rector Nancy and Deacon Matthew attended the 236<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention held at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 23 S. 38<sup>th</sup> St. in University City. More than 400 people attended the Saturday session.

The theme of the 2019 convention was "The Year of Living Fearlessly in Jesus Christ." The diocese created a video (< 1.5 minutes in length) to show this theme in action. It is available on [YouTube](#).

In addition to the usual convention business, Bishop Gutiérrez provided a thought-provoking, transparent, and data-supported introduction to the 2020 budget presentation. "With prayer and hard work," the diocese was able to erase a projected \$873,000.00 deficit at the beginning of 2019. Interventions included selling property,

eliminating 2.5 FTE staff positions, and relocating diocesan offices (aka Church House) from Philadelphia to [Norristown](#).

Additionally, although we are one of the richest [111 dioceses in The Episcopal Church](#), Bishop Gutiérrez reported that, “The Diocese of Pennsylvania [DIOPA] has not met our full obligation to The Episcopal Church since 2007.” The Bishop explained that, “Across the Episcopal Church, the average giving to the diocese is 13% of the church’s normal operating income. In our diocese, it is 5.9%.” (Rector Nancy reports that Trinity’s annual giving to DIOPA is approximately 3.5%.) The goal is for each parish to work towards supporting the diocese at 10% annually. The Bishop’s budget introduction is available on pages 55-58 of the [Agenda and Convention Booklet](#).

Convention was exceptionally upbeat with several choral presentations and a closing “rock-the-house” musical number by the choir of the [Free Church of St. John](#) in the Kensington neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Nearly everyone was dancing, including Bishop Gutiérrez. A recap of the 2019 Diocesan Convention is available on the [DIOPA website](#). (*Janet De Caprio*)



#### **UTO -United Thank Offering**

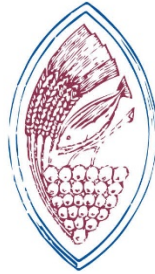
***“Put gifts into the blue box with thanksgiving, prayer and generosity.***

***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.

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



Sharing Gods love  
and serving God's people  
With Christ in our hearts and  
God's work through our hands.



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