

# 2021 Trinity Giving



WE'RE ALL IN THIS  
TOGETHER

Trinity Buckingham  
Episcopal Church

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LOVING GOD

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LOVING OUR  
NEIGHBOR AS  
OURSELVES

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# WHAT'S MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN CORONAVIRUS ? ... GOD'S LOVE AT TRINITY BUCKINGHAM!



The year 2020 was a year that none of us could ever have anticipated, with a global health crisis that closed our buildings — our church, our school, and our parish hall — for public gatherings from March through September.

But we are all in this together.

Yes, the church buildings may have been closed, but the church was not closed, because, as the song says,

**WE ARE THE CHURCH !**

And the church, now as always, is charged to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

And we did just that. Take a look through these next pages to see how we have been church and how we are all in this together . . .





**TOGETHER WE LOVE GOD  
WITH ALL OUR HEART,  
SOUL, MIND & STRENGTH**

## **LOOK WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER**

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We loved God on **Facebook** —

we gathered virtually every Sunday for  
**Sunday Worship & Morning Prayer**,  
and for Healing Services  
to lament the sins of systemic racism and inequality;  
and we gathered virtually on every Tuesday and Thursday  
for **Centering Prayer**

We loved God on **YouTube** —

with Pajama Vespers, Godly Play stories,  
and Sunday Gospel Reflections

We loved God on **Zoom** —

with Wednesday morning book groups, Wednesday evening Compline,  
and Tuesday Morning Fizz™ Bible study (doubled in size!)

We loved God through the **U.S. Mail** —

sending Palm Crosses, Easter cards, and print resources for at-home worship and  
spiritual growth during Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost

We loved God on our **Church Grounds** —

with paint brushes, ladders, saws, and weed-whackers

**TOGETHER WE  
LOVE OUR  
NEIGHBOR  
AS OURSELVES**



## **AND WE'VE DONE THIS TOGETHER —**

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We loved our neighbors on **Zoom**  
with Weekly Sunday Coffee Hour and Over-the-Hump Day Fellowship  
Forums about dismantling systemic racism and addressing police brutality

We loved our neighbors in the parking lot  
with the **Christmas in July Food Drive and the August Bike Drive**

We loved our 100-year-old neighbors with a **birthday drive-by**  
and we loved our pre-school neighbors with an end of the year  
**graduation drive-by** delivering summer activity packets

We loved our less-than-100-year-old neighbors in the mail with **cards & letters**

We loved our neighbors with **twice a week e-blasts**

We loved our neighbors with bi-weekly online **Trinity Good News**

We loved our neighbors through the mail with gift cards and generous  
donations to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**

We loved our neighbors with yarn and needles —  
the **prayer shawl ministry** stays strong even when apart

We loved our neighbors in the **beauty of holiness** —  
the grass grew where Pierce Hall once stood, revealing a church,  
classrooms, and a fellowship hall that wait expectantly for the day  
when we can gather in safety once more



**TOGETHER THIS  
IS WHAT  
WE DO AND  
WHO WE ARE**

## **AND THIS IS WHY WE HAVE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGNS DURING A PANDEMIC :)**

**The Church sets aside time each fall to give thanks** for the love that surrounds us, connects us, and flows through us. During our Annual Giving Campaign, every person and every household that calls Trinity “home” is invited to make a financial pledge to support, sustain, and grow the ministry of Love at Trinity Buckingham.

We hope the content of this booklet will provide some information and inspire you to recommit yourselves to Trinity Buckingham and to our many ministries of loving God and loving our neighbors. What will you give this year, in the name of Love?

### **Here are some numbers from 2020 reflecting Trinity members’ pledges and other revenue —**

Number of households calling Trinity home .....	148
Number of pledges made .....	86 (58% of the households calling Trinity home)
2020 Operating Budget .....	\$343,400
Total Money Pledged in 2020 .....	\$246,384 (as published in 2020 Annual Report)
Other Income (rentals, memorial, Christmas/Easter, Sunday) .....	\$ 23,938 (projection by year end)
<b>Total Money Pledged and Projected Other Income .....</b>	<b>\$270,322</b>

**TOGETHER  
WE OFFER  
TIME, TALENT &  
TREASURE**



## **TOGETHER WE BRING GOD'S LOVE, HEALING, JUSTICE, GRACE, MERCY, FREEDOM, AND PEACE**

When we realize ALL we have done together this year, even though we weren't together in the same way, the church was certainly far from closed! And even though we cannot imagine exactly what the coming year will hold — many things may never be quite the same again — we can say with confidence that God's future is wide open and full of hope and promise.

And that's why we are once again asking you to support God's future at Trinity Buckingham with your time, your talent, and of course your treasure.

*As I was checking on my finances recently, I discovered that I had a surplus of funds — a little surprise! Speaking with other seniors, I discovered that things were the same for them. It didn't take a long time to realize we weren't spending as much money during the last six months. We weren't going to shows, movies, restaurants — not by choice — but because of COVID.*

*As a new vestry member, I am more aware of parish financial planning and needs. To name just a few things, I now realize that we won't receive the special offerings from Easter and Christmas, and that Faith Hall rentals are or will not be coming in as usual. Even though most of us have been keeping up with our pledges, Trinity will have less income than expected in 2020, and maybe even in 2021. So, will you join me in trying to help compensate for this by giving a little extra to ensure that the church is still there for those who come after us?*

— Vestry member RoseMarie Proctor

We recognize that the economics of COVID-19 may have caused you hardship. If that's the case, we want to know how we can help. But if you, like some of us, find your bank account a little more flush because you haven't been eating out, or going to performances, or travelling, maybe you can share with the church.

And, although this is never easy to talk about, we encourage you to remember Trinity in your will. If Trinity Buckingham has been a blessing to you during your life, what better legacy to leave than a gift to assure that future generations can continue to enjoy Trinity's many gifts and blessings.

Finally, maybe this is the year you will make your pledge via automatic deductions from your bank account. It is super easy, and can bring real peace of mind!



## TOGETHER THE POWER OF PLEDGES CHANGES LIVES

### TOGETHER LET'S TAKE A LOOK BEHIND AND AHEAD

Last year we determined that loving God and loving our neighbor in the ways we wanted to would cost \$343,400. Although this budget is comparable to other churches our size (approximately 400 members), unlike many of those churches, Trinity does not have an endowment to sustain our ministries — we rely on the financial support of our members.

73% of our income comes from pledges from our members, 10% of our income comes from renting our buildings, and 8% comes from special offerings, especially at Easter and Christmas. The remaining 9% comes from investment income and miscellaneous contributions.

Yes, we did save a little money during the COVID building closures: We sure didn't print many bulletins. The lights and AC didn't run much. We didn't pay for gas mileage, or regular cleaning or substitute clergy or supply organists. We didn't need to have the carpets cleaned or the linoleum floors stripped and rewaxed this year.

But we still spent money: We spent money for the lawn and landscaping service, for insurance and taxes, for water testing and pest control, for the copier contract, and the website, and Constant Contact (the eblast newsletter), and postage. We continued to pay our staff, who have been working hard —albeit differently— all these months. (We did receive 2 ½ months-worth of help from the government Payroll Protection Program that helped pay our staff from mid-April through the end of June).

And, because of the virus, we have been unable to rent our spaces since March, and we did not receive the plate income from our usual full house at Easter. Nor do we expect to realize Christmas Eve income this year. These alone represent a loss of more than 18% of our annual income. And we don't know when we will safely be able to have a full house or rent our spaces again. What's more, some of Trinity's households do not pledge, preferring instead to put checks or cash in the plate when they attend worship, but since we did not worship in person for six months this year, that is a loss of operating income, too.



# TOGETHER WE MAKE LOVE HAPPEN



## HOW OUR TREASURE HELPS LOVE HAPPEN

So the bottom line is, even though church has changed, it still costs money to do all the things we want to do to be able to love God and love our neighbor.

How did we spend our revenue this past year? It cost \$343,300 to love God and love our neighbors at Trinity Buckingham this year:

\$ 84,650	for property (building & grounds, property insurance & taxes, utilities)
\$ 195,815	for staff
\$ 15,089	for our share of the cost of diocesan ministry
\$ 41,625	for worship, outreach, programs, and supplies

As is true for most churches and other non-profit organizations, our greatest expenses are at the same time our greatest resources — our property and our staff.

**Our property** allows us to love God in worship, and is the place from and in which we can love our neighbors. We have done much of our loving virtually this year, but all of us look forward, in hope, to the time when our sanctuaries, our classrooms, and our fellowship hall are once again filled with people. Our property is a wonderful resource for God's love in the world. Together, we can maintain and develop the gift of our property.

**Our other essential resource is our staff.** All of them have responded with grace and creativity to the challenges of the pandemic. Who would have imagined in January that our rector would become a televangelist? Or that our website and facebook page would become sacred spaces? Or that Zoom gatherings would keep us connected? Or how the bi-weekly eblasts and snail mailings would nurture our souls and spirits? Together, we can show our ongoing gratitude for our staff.

**Program** costs, supplies, and outreach account for the rest of our expenses. And every one of those dollars is dedicated to loving God and loving our neighbors. This includes the cost of Sunday School, and Pastoral Care, and Outreach ministries like CodeBlue and Community PeaceMeal. It also includes the cost of housing the Trinity Buckingham Academy, and 4H, and Scouts, and AA, our commitment to the ongoing study of scripture, and our witness for social justice. A growing percentage of our operating budget is dedicated to the ministry and mission of the diocese. Together, we can extend God's love in ever widening circles.





# TOGETHER WE ANSWER SOME BIG QUESTIONS

## HOW DO I DECIDE HOW MUCH TO PLEDGE?

The answer to this question will be very particular to you and to your life circumstances, and ideally will become clear to you through prayer with God. Some information about current giving patterns at Trinity Buckingham may also be helpful to you in your discernment —

### HERE IS TRINITY'S 2020 GIVING PATTERN

Annual Pledge	# of families/individuals
\$8,000 – \$40,000 .....	4 ( 5%)
\$4,000 – \$7,999 .....	9 (10%)
\$2,000 – \$3,999 .....	23 (27%)
\$1,000 – \$1,999 .....	25 (29%)
\$1 – \$999 .....	25 (29%)

Median Pledge ..... \$2,864 (a 7% increase from 2019)

Annual Pledge Range ..... \$52 – \$40,000

### CALCULATING YOUR PART

Some find it helpful to have information like this to consider “weekly” thinking. If you can set aside X dollars per week, your contributions make ministry possible.

Thinking Weekly	
\$ Per Week	Annual Pledge
\$10	\$520
\$20	\$1,040
\$30	\$1,560
\$40	\$2,080
\$50	\$2,600
\$60	\$3,120
\$80	\$4,160
\$100	\$5,200
\$200	\$10,040

# TOGETHER WE SHARE IN GOD'S DREAM



## HOW WILL WE CONTINUE TO GROW IN GOD'S LOVE IN 2021?

### LOVING GOD

In 2021, whether in-person or virtually, we will continue to offer inspirational worship, thought and action-provoking sermons, and spirit-refreshing music on Sundays and throughout the week.

*Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to give God thanks and praise in worship, and to encounter God in word spoken, bread broken, and wine poured out.*

### LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES

In 2021, whether in-person or virtually, we will continue to care for our neighbors, our members, and our planet as best we can within and outside our walls.

*Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to love and serve others the way Christ loves and serves us.*

In 2021 we will continue to support the in-person and virtual ministry of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

*Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to reach neighbors beyond Bucks County, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to respect the dignity of every human being.*

God is not waiting for us someplace in the future, when the pandemic is over and we can get back to the business of church. God is with us in the midst of these challenges and changes, and we are the church through it all.

Together, we can proclaim to the world that God's love is here and now and more real than ever.



## **TOGETHER WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE**

### **HOW DO I MAKE A FINANCIAL PLEDGE TO SUSTAIN AND GROW TRINITY'S MINISTRIES?**

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Anyone and everyone who calls Trinity Buckingham their spiritual or church home is invited and encouraged to make a pledge. A pledge is a promise to contribute a specific amount of money to Trinity (determined by you and God) over the course of the 2021 year. (If your circumstances change, you may revise your pledge at any time).

Between November 1, 2020 and November 22, 2020 we encourage you to spend time in prayer giving God thanks for all of God's blessings in your life and asking God to help you discern the amount of your pledge to sustain the many ministries of Love at Trinity Buckingham.

Complete a pledge card, and send it to the church, or place it in the special pledge box on Sunday, November 22nd.

Your pledge will be recorded by Trinity Buckingham's annual giving chairperson and the treasurer, and you will receive a letter of thanks for your pledge.

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### **WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

We encourage you to have conversations with any vestry member or with Nancy, our rector. You may also connect with Marty Gillen, Rector's Warden, at 267-454-8222.

Trinity Vestry Members are Marty Gillen, Paul Harar, Bob Kinney, Jerry LaSala, Mary-jo May, Bonnie McCabe, Joe McLean, Don O'Hara, Peter Oliver, RoseMarie Proctor, Joanne Welker, and Kevin Wielehowski.





What else can be said about 2020 other than “wow, what a year this has been.” The coronavirus has uprooted our daily lives. What was normal is no longer normal. However, through it all we have found ways to adjust, to stay in touch with one another, and to continue to worship virtually. Trinity Buckingham is a special place. I think I can speak for Pastor Nancy, our staff, and the Vestry by offering a very big “THANK YOU” for supporting the church in all the ways that you do. We don’t know what 2021 will bring, but we do know Trinity Buckingham will be here for you. +Peace

— Marty Gillen, Rector’s Warden

