

2022 Trinity Giving



YOU PRAYED FOR IT,
YOU GOT IT!

Trinity Buckingham
Episcopal Church

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FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

TRUST

AT TRINITY CHURCH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE & TRUST ARE *VERBS*

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 Faith, Hope, Love, and Trust 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 Faith, Hope, Love, and Trust?



Be careful what you pray for—you might just get it!

As the Sundays after Pentecost unfurled across August and September, we, the members of Trinity Buckingham, prayed some pretty rash and bold prayers.

We implored God to increase our *faith*.

We prayed together for more *hope*.

We petitioned God to grow the *love* in our hearts.

We whispered our longing to *trust* more fully in God's merciful presence.

And God said some pretty rash and bold things to us, in return. "If any want to be Jesus' disciples, they should deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him in the way of self-giving love." (Mark 8:34-35)

God whispered back, "Faith that lacks works is neither live-giving nor life-saving." (James 2:14-17)

It turns out that faith, hope, love, and trust aren't nouns—things God can give us directly. *Faith, hope, love and trust are verbs*—things that we do, together with God, in the company of others. In order to *have* increased faith, hope, love and trust, we must *do* faith, hope, love and trust.

God increases our faith by sending us out to be faithful to our baptismal promises. God makes us more hopeful by sending us out to provide hope to the hopeless. God grafts love in our hearts by sending us out to love our neighbors as ourselves. God strengthens our trust by trusting us to follow Jesus and take part in the salvation of the world.

It's time once again for Trinity Buckingham's Annual Giving Campaign. Time for us to imagine what our faithing, hoping and loving will look like in the year ahead. Time for us to take a closer look at all that God has entrusted to our care. Time to make a promise to support Trinity's operating budget in the coming year.

FAITH



Worship is the cornerstone of life at Trinity Buckingham.

The COVID-19 virus has challenged us this year to get creative with our thanking and praising. Despite being distanced and masked, we have returned to our beloved sanctuary to sing and pray and break bread together.

Summer pick-up choirs rocked the house. Our audio visual equipment has allowed those at home to tune in in real time, or watch a recording of Trinity's worship at a time that suits them. Morning Meditation goes live on Facebook every Tuesday and Thursday. Vespers, with reflections by parishioners, took place on Zoom in Advent and Lent.

Pastor Nancy leads Pajama Vespers by the fireplace on YouTube. The Children of All Ages service takes place in the parking lot, sometimes with the resident fox looking on. Parishioners offered one another holiday cheer during the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Fizz Bible Study on Zoom has allowed us to stay connected with several Trinity parishioners who have moved from the Buckingham area. The first Wednesday Eucharist at Ann's Choice has started up again.

Pandemic or no pandemic, Trinity does faith every day.

HOPE



Although the realities of the global health crisis have changed how we reach out to those in need, Trinity continues to do hope.

The Christmas Giving Project, Christmas in July, the bike drive, the blue jeans drive, the gift card drive, and multiple ways to provide support to those near (St. James School, Philadelphia) and far (Afghanistan, Haiti, and New Orleans) provided us distanced ways to offer hope to others.

The Code Blue shelter moved to Our Lady of Guadalupe in January, but parishioners continued to help staff the shelter and drive the van and cook meals.

Community PeaceMeal and the Bread Ministry have paused during COVID, as has the ECW rummage sale. New ministries of hope await our active discernment.



LOVE

More than anything else, it is our care and concern for one another that makes us who we are.

We've missed one another these last 18 months. On the first Sunday we reopened the building following a long quarantine, the joy in the air as smiling eyes met above colorful masks was palpable.

We've been staying in touch with phone calls and cards and on Zoom and through church mailings and emails and videos. Our prayer chain ministry has never been more active. We've continued to share one another's joys and sorrows. The Trinity Buckingham Good News has been a bi-monthly treat. We're celebrating First Sundays as All Trinity Sundays and coming together (as this stage of the pandemic allows) across generations and worship service times to share fellowship and stories and to learn and laugh together.

The Trinity Buckingham Academy is in full swing, as full as it has been in years as parents discover their little ones are loved and taught love in a safe and healthy environment.

Trinity Buckingham has a great big heart, just filled with God's love, and it grows bigger all the time as we turn to one another in friendship and fellowship.



TRUST

The Annual Giving Campaign is all about trust.

Just as we trust God to sustain our lives, God trusts us to sustain God's work in the world. God trusts that we will keep on faithing, hoping and loving in the coming year and the years to come.

To help us, God—and those who have faithed, hoped and loved in this place before us, on whose shoulders we now stand—have entrusted to us beautiful grounds, holy spaces for worship and light-filled spaces for gathering. We have also been entrusted with a gifted staff to resource, lead and assist us in all our works.

Make a pledge this year and watch your faith, hope, love and trust increase!

**WITH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE
& TRUST, WE OFFER TIME,
TALENT & TREASURE**



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

The last year and a half were certainly not what anyone could have expected. But Trinity Buckingham is still the Church. With Christ in our hearts and his work in our hands we are ever and always sharing God's love and serving God's people.

No one knows for sure what 2022 will bring, but we trust that God will show us the way. And that is why we are asking you to support Trinity Buckingham with your time, your talent, and of course your treasure.

**Here are some numbers from 2021 reflecting Trinity members'
pledges and other revenue —**

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of households calling Trinity home | 148 |
| Number of pledges made | 84 |
| 2020 Operating Budget | \$287,800 |
| Total Money Pledged in 2020 | \$247,129 |
| Other Income ** | \$ 40,671 |

** The gap between pledged income and operating expenses is filled by interest income, memorial gifts, rental income and plate offerings at "full house" services like Christmas and Easter. The pandemic has severely limited what we will realize in rental income and plate offerings this year.

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!



**WITH FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE & TRUST
WE CHANGE LIVES**

HERE'S A QUICK LOOK BEHIND TRINITY'S NUMBERS FOR 2021

Our 2021 budget was an austerity budget—we made many cuts due to the reality of the ongoing pandemic. Nevertheless, we still determined that it would cost \$287,800 for Trinity to continue loving God and neighbor this year.

Unlike many churches of Trinity's age and size, we do not have a large endowment. 86% of our annual operating budget is funded by parishioner giving—pledge income.

The remaining 14% comes from Christmas and Easter offerings, investment interest, and rental income. And due to the ongoing pandemic, income from Christmas and Easter and rentals has been greatly reduced. This means that we need your pledge more than ever!

Unlike 2020, when we were completely virtual for much of the year and saved some money on the costs associated with using the buildings, in 2021 we have been open for in-person gatherings most of the year. The gatherings may be much smaller, but the cost of utilities and cleaning is the same as when we were operating at full capacity.

And it still costs money for lawn mowing, landscaping, and snow removal; 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; for internet service and the A/V streaming services that allows us to broadcast our Sunday services.

And of course, whether we are in-person or virtual, we still spend money on personnel. Our staff has been working even harder, and with fewer volunteers due to the pandemic. The payroll protection plan grant we received in 2020 was not renewed in 2021. As a result, we have had to furlough some staff, and reconfigure and eliminate other staff positions.

We will see a small increase in rental income this fall, as we are once again renting our spaces for small events, but we will receive nowhere near the \$30,000 in rental income that we counted on prior to COVID.

And, because of the virus, for the second year in a row we have not had our usual full house at Easter or Christmas, nor the income from the offerings at those services. As well, since some of Trinity's members prefer not to pledge, but do make a Sunday morning offering, with fewer people at worship, we have not realized that unpledged income in 2021.

WHEN WE FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE & TRUST
TOGETHER, GREAT
THINGS HAPPEN!



GIVING OF OUR TREASURE IS ALL ABOUT TRUST

Even though faith, hope, and love are verbs, there is an essential noun that helps them increase: And that noun is ... MONEY.



So we thought you should know how we spent our money last year:

Faith, hope, and love cost Trinity Buckingham \$287,800 in 2021.

- \$ 89,800 for property (buildings & grounds, property insurance, taxes & utilities)
- \$ 172,019 for staff
- \$ 18,600 for our share of the cost of diocesan ministry
- \$ 22,730 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, our technology and our staff.

Our property provides us a place to increase our faith through worship. It provides us a place from which we can reach out with hope to those who need it, and it provides us a place to gather, deepen our love for one another, and extend love to others. God trusts us to continue to care for our buildings and grounds by pledging our time and money.

Our technology—be it our website, our Facebook page, our computers, our printer, our phones, our air-conditioning and heating, or our new audiovisual equipment—allows us to faith, hope and love within and beyond our red front doors. God trusts us to make a pledge in support of technology as a tool for our mission of reconciling with God and one another.

Our staff works tirelessly alongside us to support Trinity's ministries of faith, hope and love in the world. As our faith community has aged and/or become busier in our daily lives, our capacity for volunteering has diminished. More and more it is our talented and committed staff members who we rely on to do the work we once did ourselves. God trusts us to care for our staff and to compensate them justly.



WITH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE & TRUST 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 2021 GIVING PATTERN

| Annual Pledge | # of families/individuals |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$8,001 – \$40,000 | 5 (6%) |
| \$4,001 – \$8,000 | 7 (8%) |
| \$2,000 – \$4,000 | 31 (37%) |
| \$1,000 – \$1,999 | 27 (32%) |
| \$1 – \$999 | 14 (17%) |

Median Pledge \$2,942

Annual Pledge Range \$30 – \$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 |

WITH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE & TRUST WE SHARE IN GOD'S DREAM



HOW WILL FAITH, HOPE, LOVE & TRUST INCREASE IN 2022?

Faith — In 2022, we will trust in God and do more faith. In-person and virtually, we will continue to offer inspirational worship, thought and action-provoking sermons, and spirit-re-freshing music on Sundays and throughout the week.

Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to worship in our beautiful sanctuary, to livestream our services and to worship together on Zoom and Facebook.

Hope — In 2022, we will trust God and do more hope. In-person and virtually, we will continue to give hope to our neighbors, our members, and our planet by caring for all in need. And we will extend hope farther by continuing to support the in-person and virtual ministry of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to give hope to others near and far the way Christ gives hope to us.

Love — In 2022, we trust in God and will do more love. In-person and virtually, we will share fellowship, deepen our relationships with one another and extend welcome and hospitality to all people.

Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham enables us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Trust — In 2022, God is trusting us more than ever to be good stewards of the resources we have been given to help us increase our faith hope and love, namely our buildings & grounds, our technology, and our staff.

As we act together in faith, hope and love, God's future, in which we trust, comes ever nearer. Your financial support of Trinity Buckingham makes it clear that God's trust in us is not misplaced.



**WITH FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE & TRUST
WE RESPOND TO
GOD'S LOVE**

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

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 2022 year. (If your circumstances change, you may revise your pledge at any time).

Between October 15 and November 21, 2021, 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 21.

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.

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, Barbara Kroberger, Jerry LaSala, Peter Oliver, RoseMarie Proctor, Sara Swidorski, Lynda Vesely, Joanne Welker, Natalie Welker Marx, and Janet Zimmerman.



We bring this year's stewardship leaflet to a close with enormous thanks. Thanks to each of you for your generous support of Trinity in 2021. Thank you for continuing to pray for the church and its members. Thank you for continuing to volunteer your time and talents in the service of Christ's work in the world. And, of course, thank you for your pledge in support of our 2022 operating budget.

— In faith, hope, love, and trust,



Janet Zimmerman and Natalie Welker-Marx
(Stewardship Co-chairs)