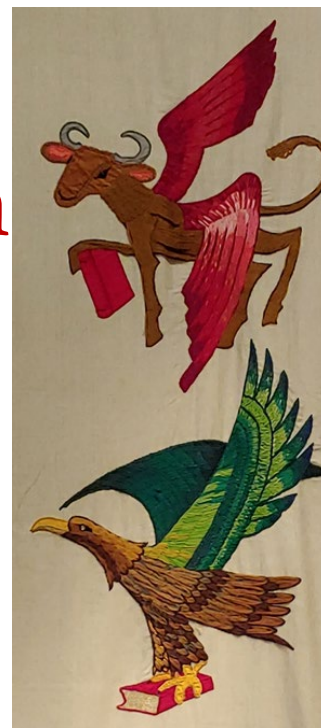




Trinity Buckingham Church

Annual Report for 2021



February 6, 2022
9:30 am



TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH & ACADEMY
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BUCKINGHAM, PA 18912
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Trinity Episcopal Church, Buckingham PA
Annual Meeting February 6, 2022
Agenda

- I. Call to order (Nancy Dilliplane)
- II. Appointment of Secretary for the annual meeting—Sara Swidorski
- III. Prayer & Listening Hearts guidelines (Nancy Dilliplane)

Prayer for the Parish: Almighty and ever-living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity Buckingham for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Guidelines for being with one another today:

- 1. Take time to become settled in God's presence.
- 2. Listen to others with your entire self (senses, feelings, intuition, imagination, and rational faculties).
- 3. Do not interrupt.
- 4. Pause between speakers to absorb what has been said.
- 5. Do not formulate what you want to say while someone else is speaking.
- 6. Speak for yourself only, expressing your own thoughts and feelings, referring to your own experiences.
- 7. Avoid being hypothetical. Steer away from broad generalizations.
- 8. Do not challenge what others say.
- 9. Listen to the group as a whole—to those who have not spoken aloud as well as to those who have.
- 10. Generally, leave space for anyone who may want to speak a first time before speaking a second time yourself.
- 11. Hold your desires and opinions — even your convictions — lightly.

From Grounded in God, Revised Edition (Farnham, Hall, and McLean, Morehouse Publishing)

- IV. Recognition of outgoing vestry members:
Paul Harar, Kevin Weilehowski (resigned), Jerry LaSala (resigned)
- V. Appointment of Judges of Election: Bonnie McCabe and Diana Martinez
- VI. Elections: (Joanne Welker)

VESTRY

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
○ Barbara Kroberger	○ Lynda Vesely	○ Peter Oliver*
○ Joanne Welker	○ Sara Swidorski	○ Natalie Welker-Marx
○ RoseMarie Proctor	○ Janet Zimmerman	○ Marty Gillen*
*2 nd term		

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

- Dom De Caprio
- Joanne Welker
- Janet Zimmerman (De Caprio)
- Natalie Welker-Marx (alternate)

DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES

- Kathi Sadowski
- Jill Unger
- Al Fuchs

- VII. Stewardship, Budget and Finances (Janet Zimmerman, Peter Oliver)
- VIII. Property and Vision 2020
- IX. Time and Talent (Joanne Welker)
- X. Parish Conversation (Members of the Vestry and Nancy)
- XI. Motion to adjourn
- XII. Closing Hymn

RECTOR'S REFLECTION, January 2022

Dear Trinity Family,

This is the second Rector's Report on the life of our faith community that I have written during pandemic conditions. So much has changed, it is difficult to know where to start. Perhaps, therefore, I will begin with what has *not* changed: **God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.**

At our baptism God names us "Beloved", seals us with the Holy Spirit and promises to be with us, no matter what. And at our baptism, with God's blessing soaking into our skin along with the water and holy oil, we agree to this covenant: we are beloved in order to be loving. **We are blessed to be a blessing to others.**

That much is unchanged. We are loved and we are called.

Nor has this changed: **The members of Trinity Buckingham are good, loving, faithful people.** We love God and care deeply for one another. We care about the church.

What *has* changed—and it was changing even before a pandemic disrupted our lives on all levels—is *how* we, as individuals and as a church, carry out our call to bless and love. We are not the church we were 20 years ago, 10 years ago or even 5 years ago. Nor, frankly, should we be, because creation is always moving into God's future and the church must move with it. The church—not just Trinity, Buckingham, but the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church—is changing and *must* change in response to the realities and needs of a changing world.

This is a time of discernment for Trinity. The ways of being church that many of us grew up with—a full sanctuary with a robust team of lay ministers on Sundays; a large choir; Sunday School and Youth Group; active pastoral care, finance, property, fellowship, education and outreach committees—are, increasingly, a thing of the past.

I have heard your longing for a return to that past, but more than that, I have heard your longing for a church full of *newer, younger, other people* to lead worship, swell the choir, visit the lonely, ill or grieving, keep the books, care for the property, coordinate fellowship, education and social justice ministries. Because we are fewer in number, we are growing older, we have "been there, done that" as lay ministers of God's reign in the church and the world for decades. It's time for a younger generation to take over! Believe me, I understand that longing. But, I have some bad news. I'm afraid there is just *us*.

For the most part, our children have grown, and left the area, or left Trinity. They did not stay to carry on the ministries of the church they were raised in. And the newer, younger, other people who *have* come to Trinity have come to a different church than the one we long for. There have, in the last decade, been few active vital ministries for new folks to join, to be mentored in, to help shape or to assume leadership of.

Certainly 22 months of pandemic have not helped. One might argue that in last two years there *has been* nothing besides limited worship to take part in. But that is not precisely true. There have actually been quite a few virtual offerings of fellowship, pastoral care, spiritual growth and social justice during quarantine, but few older or newer members chose to take part in them. And that's something we'll need to talk about going forward.

But for right now, friends, what I really want to say is: We are it. Those of us who have taken the time to read this annual report, those of us who are attending the annual meeting in person, those of us who, because of health concerns or other circumstances are joining virtually this morning. ***We are Trinity Buckingham church. It's just us.***

I know it's not what we hoped for or expected. And maybe it's not fair. But this is the hand we've been dealt. We are the ones who are here. ***The present and future of Trinity Buckingham, with God's help, belongs to us. Not to the wished-for others who are not here.*** As Martha said in her fine sermon a few weeks ago—we are the ones who are anointed to fulfill God's word TODAY, not tomorrow, not some day.

And that's not bad news at all. Take a look around. Look at the faces of those we have grown, grown up, grown older and grown old in the faith with. We have sung with one another, given thanks with one another, praised God with one another, cared for one another, neighbors in need with one another, raised funds with one another, interceded for one another, shared bread and wine and pancakes and corned beef with one another, pulled weeds and bagged clothing with one another. Just us. The good, loving, faithful people of Trinity Buckingham. Who better to discern the present and future of Trinity with? Who better to work side by side with in the ongoing work of reconciling the world?

And yes, we *are* fewer in number and we *are* older. And yes, many of us *have* given years of active ministry to the church and would prefer to be retired. But we, fewer, older, weary folks are God's handiwork, and in God's hands we have plenty of life left. ***We are still beloved and we are still called.***

We—the members of Trinity as we are and where we are today—are the vessels that hold the wine of God's blessing. We can wring our hands and talk about who's to blame that we aren't what we were, and lament that Trinity's wine has run out. We can continue to wait

for newer, younger, other people to bring different vessels for God to work through. **OR we can take this moment in time and offer who we are and what we have to be transformed by our loving God for this moment in history.**

This is a time of discernment for Trinity. God isn't calling us to be who we used to be. God isn't calling us to discern a mission for other people to fulfill. So we need to start with who we are right now, and what moves our spirits and what breaks our hearts and what spurs us to action. We need to discern how we will use the resources of time, talent and treasure that we have to use in this moment.

This is a time of discernment for Trinity. And so, **I'm asking you to engage...with me, with the vestry, and with one another. We need to come together, in small and large groups, in person and virtually, in prayer and in conversation to discern what part of God's work in the world is *ours* to do *today*. And also what part of this work is *yours*.**

If it's **worship**, you, not other people, are going to need to come to worship, when and as the state of public health make that possible. Or give a Zoom Vespers or Morning Prayer a try. And not just come, but share in proclaiming the word and leading the prayers and welcoming people and following up with visitors and setting the table and washing dishes.

If it's **outreach**, you, not other people, are going to need to take part in reimagining what Trinity's outreach and social justice ministries might look like now. It might be resuming the bread ministry. It might be a return to Community PeaceMeal. The Code Blue Shelter has moved permanently to Our Lady of Guadalupe in January, but maybe Trinity is called to address the lack of affordable housing in Central Bucks as our part in ministering to and with our un-housed neighbors. And you'll need, not just to imagine those outreach ministries, but to take an active part in carrying them out.

If it's **pastoral care**, you, not other people, are going to need to come together regularly as people called to caring ministries, to pray for and visit and call and send cards and meet the short term and long term needs of those who are ill or lonely or grieving.

If it's a ministry for and with **children and youth and their families**, you, not other people, will need to become teachers and mentors. And if you *have* children and teens, you will need to speak about what programs and ministries you actually need and desire, and help shape those programs and ministries when they are offered.

If you have a heart for caring for the **property and buildings** that have been entrusted to us by Trinity Buckingham's previous generations, then you, not other people, will need to form

an active property committee and discern ways of maintaining, improving and preserving our physical plant.

If you wish to see Trinity on a stable **financial** footing today and in the future, you, and not other people, will need to continue to pledge, continue to support the costs of operating as a parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. You will need to tend to the weekly work of managing our investments, growing our endowments, making financial decisions and seeing to the ongoing financial operations of the parish.

On the other hand, maybe God is calling us and you to none of these things. **Maybe God has something entirely new in mind for the members, buildings, and money that we have.** What that might be, I don't know. This is a time of discernment for Trinity. Not the rector's discernment, not the vestry's discernment, not other people's discernment, but our discernment together, each and every one of us.

If this all sounds like a lot of work, you're right! But I do trust that, as the song says, "if you believe and I believe and we together pray, the Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free." **We, together, are called to talk and pray and act and then talk and pray and act some more. It's going to take all of us, and yes, it is going to take time and work.**

This may not be what you hoped or wanted to hear this morning—a call to re-engagement, hard work and ways of being church that may be very different from what we have known, from what we have asked for or from what we have yet imagined.

And if you are saying "thanks, but no thanks!" Well, that's a discernment, too. If you prayerfully discern that you are *not* called to be part of reimagining what it is to be church, and *not* called, according to your abilities, to be an active participant in Trinity's existing or emerging ministries, and *not* called to invest in Trinity Buckingham with your resources of time, talent or treasure...that's ok. That is a good and honest discernment. You are still beloved. And maybe your calling is elsewhere. But we, your priest and your vestry and the other members of your faith community, need for you to *tell* us that is what you've discerned. Because it is quite difficult to know about your thoughts, feelings, needs or other callings if you don't share them.

God's people are blessed to be a blessing, beloved to love. We know what that has looked like in the past. We do not know what it will look like in the future. But, my brothers and sisters gathered here today, there are none besides us who can discern God's call to Trinity in the present.

I want to end with a word of hope. Because I AM hopeful. Not that we will be again what we have been, not that other people will come and make us what we once were, but that *we* will be something new—a new expression of God’s love and blessing in the world according to how we are called TODAY. I am hopeful because we have one another and we have a God who loves us and who calls us to be love in the lives of others. (Thanks for that phrase, Martha!)

I think it is a story of hope that St. Luke is telling today about the fishermen who have gone out of their boats after a night of unfruitful fishing. Peter and the others have cleaned their nets and are ready to go home. That’s it. No fish. They are tired and discouraged. Their future doesn’t look real promising if this keeps happening. Then along comes Jesus. Jesus tells the tired, discouraged, skeptical fishermen to go back out into the deep water and to let down their nets one more time. And when they do what he tells them.... the abundance of fish threatens to break the nets and swamp the boats. If that’s not a story of hope and transformation, I don’t know what is.

I have hope because I trust in the One who calls us to row out into the deep again and let down our nets one more time. I trust in the faithfulness of a loving Creator who has never withdrawn Divine love and companionship from creation. I am hopeful because I believe that God loves and companions creation in a special and intentional way through the community of the baptized—the Church. One, holy and catholic, yes, but also **THIS church, Trinity, Buckingham. As it is...as we are...today. I believe that the Church—this church—exists and will continue because God loves us and the Holy Spirit empowers us and we belong to Christ and the world needs us.**

There is more to come. I’m going back out into the deep water and letting down my nets once more. Are you coming?



RECTOR’S REPORT

In the past, the Annual Report has contained reports from various ministry leaders. Of course, 2020 and 2021 have not been “usual” years, and ministries, if they have been able to happen at all, have not been happening in “usual” ways, so what follows looks less “usual” and is instead my (Pastor Nancy’s) broad brush-strokes recap of the year.

Worship

2021 opened with the church in quarantine once more. Although we had been able to return to limited in-person worship from September through November 2020, at the beginning of Advent, the rising COVID numbers necessitated a return to virtual worship. Fortunately, this time, we already had the audio-visual system in place in the sanctuary to be able to livestream and pre-record worship from the sanctuary. A small team of rotating lay worship leaders and I led Morning Prayer on Sundays, accompanied by Martha and the occasional soloist. In-person worship with (bread only) Eucharist resumed just prior to Easter with both a traditional service, with music, in the sanctuary and a Children of All Ages service held outdoors in the parking lot.

Come fall, with a majority of the congregation now vaccinated, lower COVID numbers, we honored the request of many parishioners to resume worship at 8 am.

Sunday services have been supported by a small crew of faithful lay welcome and worship leaders, altar guild and audio/visual ministers.

To the delight of all, the choir returned, first as pick-up choirs during the summer and fall, and then as a dedicated seasonal choir for Advent and Christmastide. The handbell ensemble also enriched our worship in the fall and early winter.

Attendance at the Children of All Ages service dropped dramatically beginning in June when school ended and has not picked up since. Factors include unvaccinated children, weather and the overwhelming demands on families during pandemic. At this point, it is unclear whether the Children of All Ages service will resume or not. I offer a “Pajama Vespers” service on YouTube (every Sunday since April ’20), with bedtime prayers, songs and stories and teaching about Jesus and the church. With an average of 9 views each week, my best guess is that, during the pandemic, Pajama Vespers *is* church for many of those who formerly attended CoAA.

In terms of the 8 am and 10:30 am services, attendance has averaged 10 at the 8 am service and 30 at the 10:30 am service since September 2021. Between 25 and 50 people “attend” services virtually on the website and Facebook.

Morning Meditation/Morning Prayer is once again taking place in-person in Historic Trinity on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 am, having been livestreamed on Facebook from April ’20 through September ’21.

The Ann's Choice worship service returned this fall on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 with Trinity members who reside in the Ann's Choice community. Other members of Trinity are always welcome to attend.

Personnel

The Payroll Protection funds that enabled us to keep pre-COVID staffing in 2020 ran out at the beginning of 2021, making it necessary to furlough Regina Gordon (music director) and Danielle Badiali (facilities/rental coordinator) for the first three quarters of 2021. We made the very difficult decision to reconfigure our music and worship ministry, resulting in the end of Gina's position after nearly four decades of faithful service to Trinity. A wonderful celebration of Gina's ministry took place December 12, 2021.

Dani returned to work overseeing rentals, though with reduced hours, in September. Also in September, Martha Dudich was hired as the Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality: a newly configured position supporting worship, music and spiritual formation.

Trinity continues to be blessed by our unfailingly cheerful and compassionate parish administrator, Cynthia Goode, by the crucial behind the scenes website and social media communications of Caroline Oakes and by Alison Rose, whose unending hard work as the director of the Trinity Buckingham Academy has secured licensing by both the Department of Education and Health and Human Services, and substantial grant funding this year and last.

Fellowship

During most of 2021 the ongoing pandemic put the kibosh on most social gatherings and food fellowship. Virtual coffee hour on Zoom came to an end due to lack of attendance. The Trinity Buckingham Good News newsletter put out by Marty and Lauren Gillen was joyfully received as a means of keeping us up to date on one another's lives, as well as cards and phone calls among parishioners. The few live fellowship events that did take place were sweetly refreshing, including a celebration of Jane Eastwood's 100th birthday in April, the celebration of Regina Gordon's ministry in December and First Sundays, beginning in September, the report of which is below.

Pastoral Care

One of the ministries that has been going strong all through the pandemic is the Prayer Chain. Coordinated by Patty Bradbury, and updated monthly, three teams of parishioners and friends of Trinity pray daily for those in need. Though not meeting in person, the Prayer Shawl ministry has knit and crocheted their prayers for healing and comfort into shawls,

blankets and lap robes. Pandemic restrictions eased at hospitals and nursing facilities and retirement facilities enabling me to make some pastoral calls and bring communion when requested to the ill and homebound. Pastoral Care is a ministry in need of more and regular lay participation.

Spiritual Growth

The Fizz Bible continues on Zoom each Tuesday morning at 9 am. Because of the on-line format, Trinity members who have moved from the area have been able to stay connected and study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. New members are always welcome. No experience or familiarity with the Bible necessary!

EfM (Education for Ministry) meets on Monday afternoons, sometimes in person and sometimes on Zoom, as the state of the pandemic dictates. Seminar members come from 4 Episcopal parishes in the Central Bucks region. We'll soon be registering a new class for the fall. Speak to Pastor Nancy if you would like to know more.

Children's education has mainly been in the form of the Children of All Ages service and Pajama Vespers (in person and virtual) for the last several years. Due to insufficient numbers and the ongoing pandemic, there has been no dedicated youth ministry this year. Children and teens are always welcome at worship and the (re)development of children and youth programming will grow out of the needs of those who attend.

First Sundays

At their late-summer retreat, the Vestry decided that after more than a year of pandemic we needed to invest in rebuilding Trinity's sense of ourselves as a community. We began a series of First Sunday events designed to bring members from all three worshipping congregations (8 am, CoAA, 10:30 am) together for worship, fellowship and a program of spiritual formation. In October we celebrated St. Francis and Creation; in November, Diana Martinez taught us about the church year with pictures of Trinity's paraments (altar hangings) and stories of those who created them; in December we had Stations of Advent, and in January, we celebrated Epiphany with over 50 Nativity sets on loan from Trinity parishioners. Despite new COVID variants, attendance at each was nearly 50, and "a good time was had by all." We look forward to a time when public health conditions will allow even more of us to renew relationships, pray, give thanks, eat and laugh together. Stay tuned to see what First Sundays will bring in 2022.

Trinity by the numbers

Several factors have made it difficult in recent years to get a clear picture of Trinity's membership. The first is a question of what membership actually means in the twenty-first century. Is it baptized and confirmed Episcopalians? Is it those who identify Trinity as "my church" even if they do not attend worship or participate in programs and ministries? Is it those who contribute to the church financially? Who, exactly, is a member of Trinity?

The second thing that has made counting members difficult is, of course, the pandemic. There are so many people we simply haven't seen in almost 2 years!

One measure of membership has always been average Sunday attendance. Before COVID, Trinity's average Sunday worship attendance, across all three services was about 75, not including Christmas and Easter. Since March 16, 2020 the largest number we have had at in-person worship was 58, and the average is 33. Another 35 or so attend on-line, which suggests that attendance is holding steady.

So, my best guess at membership numbers uses these criteria: A member of Trinity is someone who has attended worship at least once since 2019, or who attends virtually (and has let us know), and/or has participated in a ministry or program at Trinity; and/or has supported Trinity's operating budget; and/or regularly opens the weekly e-blast; and/or has communicated with me, a vestry member or the church office.

By that criteria, in 2021 the members of Trinity, Buckingham number 211 adults (over the age of 16) and 47 children (under the age of 16), representing 123 households.

Since 2020:

- 7 adults were removed from the rolls because they moved from the area
- 4 members died (Elaine Good, Frances Calkins, Joanne Fulcoly and Gregg Bittner) *(We also grieve the loss of John Whelan, Karen Hoyt, Dennis Zak)*
- 5 people asked to be removed from our rolls
- 40 were moved to inactive status (i.e. they have not met any of the above criteria since 2018 or earlier.

Thank you

I wish to offer my thanks to Trinity's many dedicated volunteers, to our dedicated and hard-working staff, and especially to this year's vestry:

Paul Harar, Barbara Kroberger, Jerry LaSala, Peter Oliver, RoseMarie Proctor, Sara Swidorski, Lynda Vesely, Kevin Weilehowski, Joanne Welker, Natalie Welker-Marx, and Janet Zimmerman

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane, Rector January 30, 2022



LAY ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain. So begins an old Easter hymn, perhaps far from our minds as we gaze upon frozen winter landscapes in a time of seemingly endless sickness, anxiety, frustration, separation and loss. Yet I look back on the ways we have been united in and sustained at worship - accompanying one another in prayer and in praise from the sacred spaces of our homes or the Trinity sanctuary - and green blades have continued to rise and flourish.

How we have made such “joyful noise,” lifting hearts and spirits, *holding the Christ light in the nighttime of our fears*, as another treasured hymn suggests. Some sang a new song, trying out the pick-up choirs that supported our worship through the summer and fall. Walls of the Gordon Choir Room reverberated as the “music station” for our Advent First Sunday service, with rousing appeals to *Come, shape our hearts anew*, and the whispered realization *While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humor fray, God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day*. Steadfast veterans of our choral and handbell ensembles enhanced worship through Advent and Christmastide and look to safely returning for Lent, Holy Week and Eastertide.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, the old Easter hymn continues, *love is come again like wheat that springeth green*. May Trinity's good work and worship spring ever green (no coincidence, the liturgical color brightening the sanctuary in these days) - brought to life with your active, intentional presence, your unique gifts, your essential spirit, your abiding care.

Martha Dudich
Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality



TRINITY BUCKINGHAM ACADEMY (TBA) REPORT

TBA was happy to offer our full program to families for the start of our 2021-2022 school year. We offer before school, lunch bunch, kids club and kindergarten enrichment alongside our traditional preschool, jump start and pre-kindergarten classes. Programs were adjusted to adhere to health and safety protocols as set forth by the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Human Services. TBA students wear masks inside the building and use the expansive space of Faith Hall for eating snacks/lunch at a safe distance from one another.

Our staff and students have done a wonderful job staying safe and healthy! We started the year with 20 preschool, 18 pre-kindergarten, 7 kindergarten enrichment and 4 jump start students. Enrollment increased 26% for a total of 53 TBA students with only 3 spots available in our afternoon kindergarten enrichment class. TBA augments our classroom programming with specialty offerings such as YOGA, Play and Praise, and Chapel classes. The students even participated in several ZOOM music classes!

On TBA's behalf, I applied for and received the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) stabilization grant through Keystone Stars as a part of our PA Department of Human Services License. This grant will be used for to further enhance the TBA programs during the COVID pandemic. Our staff has done an amazing job keeping our students happy and thriving throughout the school year. We are grateful to our wonderful families who've entrusted TBA with their children. We are thankful for the support from the TBA board of directors and church staff to help make this year successful. Our last day of school will be June 3rd.

TBA Educational Director Alison Rose



STEWARDSHIP 2022 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

My sincere appreciation to Marty Gillen for his seven-year tenure managing our stewardship campaigns. As usual, Marty brought his warm, reassuring personality to the annual challenge of asking parishioners to financially support Trinity and our ministries.

Juggling Stewardship and serving as Rector's Warden since 2020 is double duty that few if any of us could manage. Despite the added burden of COVID, Marty led Trinity through last year's stewardship campaign with his usual wit, charm, and enthusiasm.

I am grateful to Marty for staying with stewardship for seven years when no one else was interested in taking it on. Most likely through The Lord's intervention, Marty is returning Stewardship to me. I look forward to co-chairing Stewardship with Natalie Welker-Marx, knowing that Marty is readily available to answer our questions and cheer us on.

Before I report recent giving data, let's go back to 2013 when I last submitted a stewardship report for the annual meeting:

Table 1: Trinity Buckingham Pledging 2013-2010				
	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total # pledges	116	126	133	136
Total amt of pledges	\$269,920	\$297,975	\$285,752	\$292,056
Avg annual pledge	\$2,327	\$2,365	\$2,149	\$2,147
Avg weekly pledge	\$44	\$45	\$41	\$41
# increased pledge amts	NA	41	45	NA
# stable pledge amts	NA	52	59	NA
# decreased pledge amts	NA	15	14	NA
# new pledges	8	8	15	25
# lost pledges	18	15	18	9

Let's compare this with the giving data we present today:

Table 2: Trinity Buckingham Pledging 2022-2018				
Year	# Pledges	Amt Pledged	Amt of Pledge Actually Given	Difference
2022	72	\$229,314		
2021	84	\$245,945	\$213,020	-\$32,925 (-13%)
2020	85	\$238,727	\$225,179	-\$13,548 (-5.7%)
2019	83	\$232,122	\$224,785	-\$7,337 (-3.1%)
2018	87	\$227,049	\$237,505	+10,456 (+4.6%)

Table 3: Trinity Buckingham Pledging Characteristics 2022	
# of Pledges for 2022	72
Change from # of Pledges in 2021*	-12 (-8.6%)
Change from Amt Pledged in 2021	-\$16,631 (-9.3%)
Change from Amt of Pledge Actually Given in 2021	+\$16,294 (+9.3%)
# of Increased Pledges from 2021	30 (42%)
# of Decreased Pledges from 2021	9 (12.5%)
No Change in Pledge Amt (same pledge amt as 2021)	29 (40%)
New Pledges	4 (5.5%)
<i>* Non-pledgers were contacted. This includes Children of All Ages (9:30AM) families and several prior pledgers who see Trinity Buckingham as their parish but decline to pledge or provide any financial support currently.</i>	

Table 4: Comparison of Trinity Buckingham Pledging to Pledging in The Episcopal Church (TEC) in the US and the Diocese of Pennsylvania (DIOPA)

2020 Avg Annual Pledge in TEC: **\$3,205 (\$267/mo; \$62/wk)**
 2020 Avg Annual Pledge for DIOPA: **\$2,800 (\$233/mo; \$54/wk)**

Source: The General Convention of the Episcopal Church www.generalconvention.org
*Pledging data is part of the Parochial Report submitted annually by each parish or mission in a diocese. Each diocese in-turn submits pledging data to TEC annually. TEC is responsible for 111 regional areas in 17 nations. www.episcopalchurch.org/about-us/
 DIOPA is responsible for more than 135 church communities. www.diopa.org/find-a-church*

2022 Avg (Mean*) Pledge for Trinity Buckingham
 \$3,185/yr; \$265/mo; \$61/wk

**The mean is avoided in skewed distributions as the “center” will be off. Instead, the median, or the middle of the numbers range, is a better indicator of the “center” of the data.*

2022 Median Pledge for Trinity Buckingham
\$2,000/yr.; \$167/mo.; \$38/wk.

Table 5: Distribution of Trinity Pledges 2022

Table 4: Distribution of Trinity Pledges 2022									
Group A	Annu Amt Pledged	# Pledges	Total Amt Pledged	Avg Annu Pledge	Med Annu Pledge	Avg Mthly Pledge	Med Mthly Pledge	Avg Wkly Pledge	Med Wkly Pledge
Pledges above \$3,000	> \$10,001	4	\$75,880						
	\$10,000-\$5,001	5	\$36,660						
	\$5,000-\$3,001	8	\$29,604						
	Total	17 (24%)	\$142,144 (62%)						
Group B Pledges below \$3,000	\$3,000-\$2,001	19	\$49,012						
	\$2,000-\$1,001	21	\$29,028						
	\$1,000-\$1	15	\$9,130						
	Total	55 (76%)	\$87,170 (38%)						
Group A & B			\$229,314	\$3,185	\$2,000	\$265	\$167	\$61	\$38

For our 2022 giving campaign, we reviewed the July 26 Church Directory with Rector Nancy. In early October we mailed a letter, the 12-page Trinity Giving brochure, You Prayed for It, You Got It!, a pledge card, and a return envelope to 136 families/individuals.

In December we compiled a list of names that had not responded and reviewed this with Rector Nancy. In January, we called and/or emailed 50 families/individuals.

Please consider increasing your financial support of Trinity. Special gifts can include holidays, memorials, birthdays, anniversaries and everyday gratitude to God.

Your commitment to pledge is welcome any time. Pledge materials are available in the front welcome area. Natalie and I are available to answer your questions or listen to your concerns.

Stewardship of our church, campus, and ministries requires we all share our treasures, talents, and time. Please prayerfully discern what you can do to ensure Trinity Buckingham's vitality to do what God has asked of us.

God has blessed Natalie and me with this stewardship ministry. We look forward to you walking with us.

*Janet Zimmerman De Caprio
Natalie Welker-Marx
Stewardship*

We are grateful to the following families and individuals who have made a financial commitment in 2022 to support Trinity Buckingham and do the work God has asked of us.

Badiali, Stephen & Dani
Bernhardt, Deborah
Bockin, Sandra
Bradbury, Rich & Patty
Brice, Marilyn
Brooks, John & Ruth
Cannon, Joan
Carbo, Heather
Christiansen, Dan & Janice
Conoscenti, Amy
Cook, Pat
Copeland, Jean
Crooke, Elizabeth
De Caprio, Dom & Janet
Dilliplane, Nancy, The Rev & Steve
Downs, Steve & Carol
Eastwood, Jane
Erk, Fred & Mary Lou
Ewing, Jay & Morley
Fielder, Linda
Fuchs, Al & Pam
Gilbert, Tom & Erin
Gillen, Marty & Lauren
Goggin, Keith & Elisabeth
Grant, Deb
Gross, Bernadette
Guidry, Steve & Marjorie
Harar, Paul & Kelley
Henry, Jim & Jane
Huddy, Dave & Dina
Huntley, Sarah
Jerman, Diane
Kiel, Woody & Jo
King, Judy
Kinney, Bob & Kay
Kitson, Betty

Kroberger, Jeff & Barbara
LaSala, Jerry & Meryl
Lord, Bob & Sallee
Mann, Steve
Massias, Paulette
Martinez, Diana
May, John & Mary-jo
McCabe, Barry & Bonnie
McCabe, Sean
McConeghy, Jan
McCreary, Terry & Jennifer
McLean, Joe & Deb
Mennin, Felicia
Mochel, Tobias & Wannie
Noveske, Joan
Oliver, Peter
Oswald, Pam
Parker, Karen
Perry, Meg
Proctor, Rose Marie
Romero, David & Deanna
Sadowski, Wayne & Kathi
Sanders, Jim & Charlotte
Seckinger, Charlie
Slim, Betts
Snyder, Suzanne
St. Claire, Kyle, The Rev & Tam
Stalker, Stacy
Struble, Stan & Barbara
Swidorski, Jake & Sara
Trunzo, Carol
Unger, Jill
Vesely, Lynda
Welker, Joanne
Welker-Marx, Natalie
Wilmes, Rebekah



TRINITY NEEDS YOUR TIME AND TALENT

The saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child”. It can also be said “It takes a village to have a church”.

In order for our church to function, members need to participate in maintaining the institution. Yes, we have staff who perform various necessary functions, but a church depends on parishioner volunteers to carry out many of the needs of the organization. As with most churches, we do not have the funds to hire enough staff to cover everything that should and needs be done. A church cannot function and thrive without the full participation and engagement of its members.

Many of you have faithfully served on ministries over the years, and have taken a well deserved break, but we need you back now. COVID had a huge impact on Trinity but, even before the pandemic, Trinity was depending on fewer and fewer people to do the work needed to live out our Christian mission.

In the Episcopal church in Houston, TX I used to attend, our rector always said “Church, plus one”. “Church” meant, come regularly to church on Sunday to worship and be in fellowship, and “plus one” meant, be involved in at least one ministry.

At Trinity, we have so many opportunities for you to participate in the life of the church. Below are some of them:

There are the **Worship ministries**, such as Altar Guild, Acolytes, Readers, Intercessors, Ushers and, when we return to a more normal, Chalice Bearers. Each of the above ministries are looking for people to be involved.

Contact: Joanne Welker joannewelker@comcast.net 281-409-8980

We also need people for the various **Music ministries**, such as choir, hand bells, and the supporting music and arts programs like Jazz and Joe.

Contact: Martha Dudich Liturgymaven@aol.com 908-237-1403

We need volunteers to lead and facilitate **Spiritual Formation ministries** for people of all ages. This would be a group to discern and lead faith forums (when we return to greater in-person contact) and to create learning opportunities for children and teens. What does "Sunday School" or "Youth Group" look like in a mid-or post-pandemic world? How will we share our faith with a new generation and learn from their experiences of God?

Contact: Peter Oliver pwowashcross@yahoo.com 215-493-1773

The **Financial** responsibilities of the church are that of its members. We need people to volunteer to help with data input, financial oversight, issuing payment for services and bookkeeping. This area is in desperate need of people.

Contact: Janet Zimmerman DeCaprio jzghs69@yahoo.com 215-579-1873

There are **Fellowship ministries**, such as Coffee Hour. When we return from the pandemic restrictions, we need folks who will make coffee and tea and provide a refreshment for the Sunday coffee hour between the two services and the coffee hour after the last service.

Contact: Barbara Kroberger jbkro4@gmail.com 215-407-1240

Trinity need's a **Pastoral Care** group to help make visits, phone calls, meals, and write cards.

Contact: RoseMarie Proctor rmproctor2@verizon.net 215-340-7048

COVID put many of our **Outreach ministries** (like Community PeaceMeal, Code Blue and the Bread Ministry) on hold, but once it is safe to resume in-person ministries of outreach and service, we will need to discern where to put our time, energy and money to work in ways that meet the needs of our neighbors. Please consider participating in an outreach/social justice committee.

Contact: Sara Swidorski smonsere@yahoo.com 860-869-8594

We would like to start a **Funeral and Wedding team** that would help Nancy and the office co-ordinate the responsibilities involved when these events are held at the church. This group would assist with worship, hospitality and use of facilities on special days when the church is full of folks who are not regular members of the church.

Contact: Lynda Vesely lyndav2bg@aol.com 610-864-9844

The ministry of serving on the **Vestry**. This is a three year commitment to serve your church in a leadership role.

Contact: Marty Gillen martygillen@gmail.com 267-454-8222

An **Office Ministry**, comprised of a list of folks, on whom Cynthia may call when special needs come. These tasks often require little time, but need to be done. Examples may include helping sort through things in the office, helping to clean out a space on the church campus, window washing, organizing and tidying kitchen storage, a grounds project, etc. The office would appreciate being aware of anyone who they might notify when these projects arise.

Also, not necessarily an office need, but the parish records in the fire safe cabinets could use a crew to sort, and perhaps determine if there is value to recording any items with a current media for long term storage etc. Another task we need someone to do is to keep our outdoor signage up to date by changing the slats on the sign out front, and putting out the signs for

such events as Jazz and Joe, First Sunday, Rent our Space, etc.

Contact: Natalie Welker-Marx nwmarx@yahoo.com. 732-513-2937

A ministry I would like to see started, is a **Decorating Committee**. Three times a year the church is decorated. One is the Harvest Altar in November, one is the greening of the church in December, and the other is at Easter. Currently, the Altar Guild carries out this responsibility, however our Altar Guild is just a few people and the work of this ministry alone is time consuming. It would be beneficial if a group of people would take over the task of decorating the church for the above three occasions.

Contact: Joanne Welker joannewelker@comcast.net 281-409-8980

If you want to be involved in any of the ministries, please contact the vestry member indicated after each ministry. If there is a ministry you would like to see started, please contact a vestry member to see how we can help facilitate you in doing that.

Joanne Welker



PROPERTY REPORT

Numerous projects were done in the past year as we work to maintain our three buildings and property.

As always, Jim Sanders has taken the lead of most of these projects. Please give him a big thank you when you see him. We are so blessed that he gives so generously of his time and talent to Trinity.

Below are many of the issues we dealt with this past year:

- Installed a new door to replace the rotted side entry door to Historic Trinity.
- Replaced the furnace for the office area, and replaced the combined furnace/air conditioner that supports Reed Chapel and TBA office. The heating and air conditioning units that support the classrooms and Faith Hall are the original equipment. Their 20+ year age suggests that they will need to be replaced in the future.
- Replaced the 20+ year old roof replacement on our church, office and preschool building. This also included repairing and painting the steeple. installing gutter

guards and replacement of attic fans.

- We continued the conversion of church lighting to LED lamps and fixtures with rebate support from PECO. Most of the 4-foot fluorescent tubes have been replaced, and the parking lot lights are scheduled for replacement in January 2022. We are evaluating converting additional interior lights based on the costs and benefits.
- Installed accordion-style door between two classrooms to facilitate activities of separate classes.
- The rectory basement was flooded by the big storm we experienced in the fall. The water heater needed to be replaced, and there was significant damage to the rector's personal property. We are considering installing a sump pump to augment the existing floor drain.
- The dishwasher in the kitchen has broken down after 20 years. We are evaluating options for replacement.
- The rectory dishwasher was replaced.
- With insurance money received, the tree damaged by a car accident in front of property was removed.
- The black top on the parking lot was re-sealed and parking lines re-painted.
- The parking lot lights will have cost saving LED bulbs installed.
- The property's well pump stopped working and was replaced.
- The attic was purged and cleaned. This should be done on an annual basis.
- We hired a new lawn maintenance company and they are doing an excellent job.

Joanne Welker



FINANCIAL REPORT

The very good news is that Trinity ended 2021 in the black by approximately \$70,000. This is attributable to the faithful giving and generosity of Trinity parishioners, as well as to the forgiveness of a \$53,000 payroll protection plan loan from 2020, and a \$22,600 insurance settlement for damage sustained by the property following a car crash on 413.

As we look ahead to 2022, this budget surplus will be available to offset a projected deficit in the operating budget of approximately \$44,000.

Income:

Pledge	\$230,000
Holiday gifts	\$ 25,000
Investment Income	\$ 10,000
Rental Income	\$ 25,000
Other Income	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$300,000

Expenses:

Staff	\$188,000
Property	\$ 97,000
Administration & Technology	\$ 33,400
Sacred Gift to the Diocese	\$ 18,600
Worship & Music	\$ 4,000
Programs & Ministries	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$344,000

Peter Oliver, Finance Committee & Nancy Dilliplane, Rector



MINISTRY REPORTS

Altar Guild

Trinity's Altar Guild is composed of volunteers who prepare for each Eucharist service 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. The work of the Altar Guild is a rewarding and necessary function and when shared is a very special service to our church.

We give a heartfelt Thank You for all who have helped with this ministry in the past. However, due to COVID the past two years, the Guild is down to only three people who do all of the setting up and cleaning up for every service, Meg Perry, Joanne Welker and Natalie Welker-Marx. We want to encourage new members to participate in this very necessary ministry. Training is always available, even if you can only serve occasionally. This is a needed skill so that our church services can run smoothly.

To date, three have volunteered to participate in this ministry in the coming year; thank you Marjorie Guidry, Bonne McBabe, and Judy King. Also, thank you to Pat Cooke and Jane Eastwood for always assuming the task coordinating the flowers at the altar each Sunday. And thank you to Joan Noveske for continuing to develop the liturgical schedule for the paraments.

Meg Perry and Joanne Welker

Prayer Chain Ministry

Often no one thinks of Trinity's Prayer Chain until they experience a crisis of some sort in their lives. Be it an illness, acute or critical, surgery, marital discord, infertility or a death in the family, the prayer chain is always here for you.

We are a dedicated group of 16 individuals, men and women, of varying ages, who pray for those in need. We are currently divided into four groups with each group praying for approximately 13-15 people at any given time. We intercede by lifting up concerns to the Lord and ask that He helps in whatever way is needed.

This past year the group has prayed for 125 individuals with varying concerns who may or may not be members of our Congregation. On the occasion that someone has passed away, we pray for the repose of their soul and for the family and friends that mourn them. Very often we want to help someone during difficult times but don't know how best to do it. That's when prayers can be very comforting to all involved.

The prayer chain has one requisite – confidentiality. We do not discuss requests outside of our group unless someone specifically asks that we share information.

Please feel free to contact me should you feel prayers would be helpful to you or someone you know.

Does this sound like a Ministry that you may interest you? We would be happy to have you join our ranks. There are no meetings involved and you needn't leave your home. We communicate through email and on occasion perhaps a phone call. Any questions, concerns or requests? Please contact me at 215-766-2244 or at pabradbury@verizon.net.

Patty Bradbury

Outreach

During 2021, Trinity continued with some of our traditional outreach projects. Five hundred seventeen pounds of groceries were collected and delivered to area food pantries as a result of the Christmas in July food drive. Thanksgiving dinner was delivered to the family in

apartment five at the Doylestown Shelter. As a result of the Giving Tree, Christmas gifts were provided to Tabor Family Services and Doylestown Family Shelter. Gifts cards were also donated to the office to help people in need.

Bonnie McCabe

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is alive and well in spite of Covid. We have given out many items even though we have just started meeting in person again. Doylestown Hospital's Pastoral Care received many afghans. If you need a Prayer Shawl (or other item) or wish to join us, please contact me at 267-629-9125.

Karen Parker



Trinity Deputies to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (DIOPA)

Trinity's 2020 and 2021 elected deputies to the Diocese were Dom and Janet De Caprio and Joanne Welker; alternate was Natalie Welker-Marx.

Because of COVID, the 2020 Diocesan Convention was held November 6-7 exclusively online. A recap of the 2020 Convention is available at <https://www.diopa.org/news/2020-convention-recap>

The 2021 Convention, October 22-23, was a hybrid format, i.e., participants could attend in-person or virtually. We attended virtually. A recap of the 2021 Convention is available at <https://www.diopa.org/news/2021-convention-recap>

Janet De Caprio

Closing Hymn: The Church of Christ in Every Age

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three lines of text corresponding to the vocal parts. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score concludes with a final double bar line.

1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise. A car - ing
5. We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but spir - it led, must claim and test its her - i -
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's sac - ri -
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all with - out re -

tage and keep on ri - sing from the dead.
fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
serve. And spread Christ's lib - er - a - ting word.

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The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane,
Rector rector@trinitybuckingham.org

VESTRY

Marty Gillen, Rector's Warden
Janet Zimmerman De Caprio, Paul Harar, Barbara Kroberger,
Peter Oliver, RoseMarie Proctor, Sara Swidorski, Lynda Vesely,
Joanne Welker, Natalie Welker-Marx

STAFF

Cynthia Goode, Parish Administrator office@trinitybuckingham.org
Caroline Oakes, Minister of Media Communications
caroline@trinitybuckingham.org
Martha Dudich, Lay Associate for Liturgy & Spirituality
liturgymaven@aol.com
Dani Badiali, Facilities Manager faithhall@trinitybuckingham.org

VOLUNTEERS

Dave Romero, Treasurer
Ray Perisho, Assistant Accounting Warden
Jill Unger Acolyte Coordinators jsuhcnj77@verizon.net
Meg Perry & Joanne Welker, Altar Guild margaret.perry@comcast.net
Joanne Welker, Community of Hope, International
joannewelker@comcast.net

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM ACADEMY

215-794-5330 www.trinitybuckinghamacademy.org
Alison Rose, Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday – Closed