

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
FOR  
2023



TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH

**Annual Meeting February 4, 2023**  
**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. Appointment of Judges of Election:** Bonnie McCabe and Diana Martinez

**V. Elections:** (Joanne Welker)

**VESTRY**

3 year term ending in 2027

- Deb Grant
- Sara Swidorski (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Janet Zimmerman (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Class of 2025: Peter Oliver\*, Sue Snyder, Natalie Welker-Marx \*2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Class of 2026: Steve Downs, Jill Unger, Joanne Welker\* \*2<sup>nd</sup> term

### **DELEGATES TO CONVENTION**

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

### **DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES**

- Dom De Caprio
- Kathi Sadowski
- Joanne Welker
- Janet Zimmerman (De Caprio) (alternate)

## **VI. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote on Amendment to Trinity's By-laws**

### **Article IV, Section 2:**

**There shall be nine (9) members of the Vestry.**

(Previously this sentence read "There shall be twelve (12) members of the Vestry")

*Explanation: Trinity's membership has reduced in size since the time the by-laws were written. The reduction in vestry positions reflects this change in membership*

## **VII. Brief Stewardship, Budget and Financial Overview (Barry McCabe)**

## **VIII. Paper Bag Church**

## **IX. Motion to Adjourn**

## **X. Lunch**

# RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2023

It's hard to know where to begin my rector's report for 2023. With grief or gratitude, lament or laud? There has been so much of each in the last twelve months.

In January last year I enrolled in a certificate program in Death and Dying at OneSpirit Seminary in New York. My graduation project was a series of workshops here at Trinity that I called "Plan Your Own—Or Someone Else's—Funeral."

I never dreamed how soon or how often I would put what I learned to use. There have been so many deaths and funerals in our little faith community in 2023! We commended to our loving God: (the Rev.) Kyle St. Claire, Pete Krauss, Joe Parker, Elizabeth Crooke, Al Fuchs, Dan Wisnom, Jane Eastwood and John Brooks this year. Beloved members of this community for decades. Pillars of the church. Strong warp threads in the fabric of our common life. So much loss. So much grief.

And these are just some among many other deaths that have touched our community. Many of us, including Steve and me, lost parents, children, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and colleagues last year. **Our community is grieving.**

And we grieve not just for our loved ones. We are also in mourning for the church (church and Church) that used to be. Trinity has fewer members, volunteers and programs than it did in its prime. Gone are the days when we had to put chairs in the aisles in order to fit the Christmas Eve congregation, and when we wondered whether we had enough classroom space for all the Sunday School students.

These days we struggle to find ushers and readers for a congregation of 35, and our Sunday School can sit together at a single table. If even one person is missing, we don't have enough bell ringers to play a simple anthem. The annual Rummage Sale and weekly coffee hour have—like Open Circle Dinners and Crabfest—become memories. Yes, our community is grieving.

During my 8-week Sabbatical last fall, the Vestry hired the Rev. Mary McCullough to fill in, and she did a lot of listening. The transcripts of Mary's one-on-one and community-wide conversations and the report she wrote for me and the Vestry held no real surprises. They were all variations on the same theme: **Trinity is no longer the church she once was.**

We have shrunk in numbers, there are fewer and fewer volunteers to carry out the ministries of the parish, and the members and volunteers who remain are growing older. We are less engaged in what's happening at church. We are less able and less interested in doing all the things we once did. We haven't much interest, energy or ability to try new things. Our community mourns for what used to be. Our community is grieving.

Mary gave the Trinity community an opportunity to talk about your grief and she gave, I think, broad permission to be sad about all the losses: loved ones, cherished programs, young people and our own youth. She assured you (and I do, too) that is ok to be sad that the church has changed.

**This is not the future we expected.** We expected to hand on the legacy of a thriving and vital Trinity to the next generation. We expected that new—and younger—people would inhabit the church we built; that new and younger people would be grateful to inherit the programs and ministries we started, grew and nurtured; that new and younger people would joyfully continue to care for our buildings, programs and ministries just as we did.

But our expectations were not met. Those things didn't happen. The new and younger people didn't come. Or those that came didn't stay.

As 2023 came to an end, many of us took the opportunity my sabbatical offered to turn to one another and acknowledge our unmet expectations. And to admit that those expectations are probably not going to be met. New and younger people are probably not going to come and turn Trinity Buckingham back into the church that it used to be. And that is sad. We are sad. And that's ok.

Mary McCullough *also* helped Trinity to name something else. Something very important. It was an important confirmation for me as I returned from sabbatical. And it is something that I want to highlight for you in this annual report: **Being sad is not the same as being unhappy.**

Your conversations with Mary confirmed what I know to be true of Trinity, Buckingham. Most of us are not unhappy with our life together at Trinity. In fact, although we wish we were greater in number, and that our average age were younger, we are, in fact, a happy and faithful community. We are a mainly healthy and harmonious church community, with very little internal conflict. In a world community that is often at odds with one another and mistrustful, Trinity is an oasis of kindness and compassion. This is truly something to laud. **There is much to be thankful for at Trinity, just as we are right now.**

- ❖ We love one another. We truly and genuinely care about one another. We enjoy being together. Sharing a cup of coffee and a nosh is just a cover for what we really crave—sharing our stories and our lives with one another. We reach out to one another when there is trouble, and we celebrate one another's joys. We are a welcoming community.
- ❖ We find deep meaning and connection in Sunday worship. We appreciate the music that stirs our emotions and lifts our hearts, sermons that challenge us and enliven the imagination of our faith, and liturgy that helps us put into words our deep longings and our profound thanks
- ❖ We are, to our core, a generous and giving people. And Trinity church helps us care for and share with others beyond our walls. Though our physical capacity for service has diminished as our bodies age, Trinity continues to provide outreach opportunities that are within our means, whether it is bringing a can of food for the New Britain Larder, or toys for the Santa Shoppe or supplies for the Bucks Housing Group apartment, or a check for Episcopal Relief and Development. Serving others gives meaning to our lives, and we are grateful for how Trinity helps us to continue to care for “the least of these.”

- ❖ For those who are so inclined, Trinity provides opportunities to grow spiritually. The Tuesday Fizz Bible Study is a weekly anchor for its participants. The “Little Blue/Black Books” of Advent and Lenten meditations nurture faith.

At Trinity’s core, then, **nothing has really changed. We were and we are called to mutual care, to service and to worship.**

As we begin the next eight years of our journey together with God, can we let those bedrock, and still-present truths, rather than our expectation of filling the church with new younger people be our guide? Can we temper our grief with gratitude and conclude our laments, as the Psalms so often do, with lauds?

How will we, older, tired, small in numbers, faithful, generous, compassionate people care for one another, worship God, and serve others?

And—since our buildings and property are, in fact, a legacy from our forebears in the faith and from our younger selves--how will we older, tired, small in numbers, faithful, generous, compassionate people provide for their care and upkeep?

**Our focus in 2024 will be on developing the areas of our common life:**

- 1. Worship**
- 2. Pastoral Care**
- 3. Fellowship**
- 4. Service**
- 5. Care for the container (that is, our buildings and property)**

**Using these resources: The older, tired, small in numbers, faithful, generous, compassionate people of Trinity Church who are here now.**

And I hope that you will join me and the Vestry in Faith Hall after worship on February 4, 2024 as we get started.

Glory to God whose power working in us can accomplish infinitely more that we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.

In hope and faith,

*Pastor Nancy +*

## LAY ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Perhaps you attended the 10am worship last month honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, that opened with the hymn “Here I Am, Lord.” Several present asked me afterwards why I stopped playing on the final refrain (fearful perhaps the piano, too, had issues!) “I wanted us to hear one another,” I replied. There had been full-throated participation, insisting “I will go where You lead me” and I thought the community might feel strengthened and encouraged as their united commitment resounded in the sanctuary. I based this on the simple truth that my own faith has been formed and transformed by vibrant worship: provocative preaching, enthusiastic congregational singing, generous hospitality and practical care taking place within a kinship of vision and possibilities.

The work of shaping and engaging such faith experiences is good and important – and yes, work! – and I am most grateful for those who steadfastly offer their gifts in such service at Trinity: proclaimers of the Word, ministers of hospitality, music and the Eucharist, acolytes, Altar Guild and AV techs who unite us to worshippers at home. Our prayer and praise, indeed our spiritual lives are deepened by this commitment. And I expect you have noticed how many of these responsibilities are undertaken by the same individuals. *May I ask that you prayerfully reflect in what way your own gifts might bless us all?* I will join my prayers to your intentional consideration.

At another recent 10am worship, the choir's anthem included these words:

*God asks, “Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?”*

May the Body of Christ gathered at Trinity Buckingham respond with intent and zeal: “Hear am I, send me.”

*Martha Dudich*

Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality





## FINANCIAL REPORT for 2023

As our December financials are still being prepared, I will summarize where we are now. I assumed the position of Accounting Warden in October and I can report that our policies and procedures are working thanks to all our volunteers and our parish administrator. Prior to October, our finances were the responsibility of a Finance Committee that met quarterly, prepared budgets, and advised the Vestry.

As we look at 2023, it was an unusual year from both a Revenue and Expense Standpoint. Our budget projected a spending deficit of approximately \$15,000 yet we will end the year with a surplus between \$50-60 thousand. Why?

PLEDGES	\$ 20,000
MEMORIALS.	\$ 6,000
SPECIAL GIVING	\$ 15,000
ADMIN.	\$ 10,000
BLDGS&GRNDS.	\$ 23,000
UTILITIES.	\$ 5,000
INVEST. INC.	\$ (12,000)
BLDGS&GRNDS GIFTS	\$ (7,000)
TRANSFERS	\$ (4,000)
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 56,000</b>



Pledges were higher which was a positive. Memorials were also higher because of the number of parish members we lost during the year. Special Giving was up due to our efforts to close the gap of our projected budget deficit. Administratively we controlled our spending. We did not need to pay for snow plowing, and we did not start needed projects, so Buildings and Grounds was positive. Utilities were down. The 2023 budget number for Investment Income was high. We did not solicit Buildings and Grounds gifts and Transfers represent Rector Discretionary Gifts transferred to the RDF account.

For 2024 we are budgeting a deficit again as we expect Pledge income to be lower and expect fewer Memorials. Income is expected to be down \$30 thousand. Since we underspent our buildings and grounds monies last year, we will be spending substantially more this year as all our facilities need both major and minor work: current budget will be \$30 thousand plus. Hopefully with this year's surplus and managed spending elsewhere, we will see our way through 2024.

*Barry L McCabe*



# STEWARDSHIP REPORT for 2023

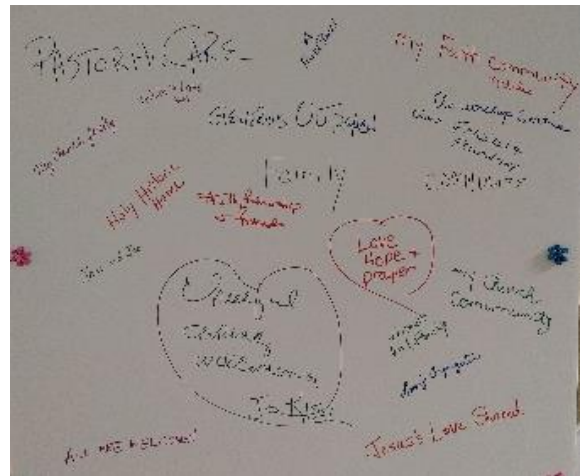
The theme for our 2024 stewardship campaign was, in three words or less, "How would you describe what Trinity Church means to you?" Many of the responses reflected how you consider Trinity your faith community and church family. The campaign ran from September to November, with announcements being made to both services. Pledge packets were mailed to parishioners in September. Pledges were blessed by Pastor Nancy on Giving Sunday, November 19th.

Each pledger will receive a handwritten thank you note.

Here is some pledge data:

- Number of pledges for 2024: 63
- Total amount pledged for 2024: \$234,972
- Number of increased pledges in 2024: 28
- Number of decreased pledges in 2024: 3
- Number of pledges remaining the same in 2024: 29
- Number of lost pledges in 2024: 6
- Number of new pledges in 2024: 2
- Median pledge in 2024: \$ 2,200

Year	# Pledges	Amt Pledged
2024	63	\$234,972
2023	71	\$239,452
2022	75	\$231,994
2021	84	\$245,945
2020	82	\$238,727



As a member of this Christian community, each of us is a steward of our church and ministries. In addition to pledging, honor special occasions to financially support Trinity, e.g., holidays, memorials, birthdays, confirmations, and anniversaries. Also, consider making a bequest to Trinity Buckingham in your will so that your legacy of support for the church and its ministries will long outlive you.

After reading this report and sharing in the conversation at the annual meeting, discern how you will show your gratitude to God. To give is a joyful and blessed act of love.

Thank you to Cynthia Goode, our Parish Administrator, for all her help and support with our stewardship campaign. *Natalie Welker-Marx & Janet Zimmerman DeCaprio*

# BUDGET for 2024

## 2024 Budget Narrative for Trinity Buckingham

After much prayerful discussion and study of the past year's (2023) budget and the ingathering of pledges for 2024, the Finance Committee and the Vestry of Trinity, Buckingham have determined an operating budget for 2024. Treasurer's reports are available to parishioners at any time. Please remember that it takes several months to close out the year and so the final report for 2023 is not yet available.

**We expect that our operating expenses will be approximately \$337,500.**

Personnel/salary expenses	= \$ 187,350	<i>reflects a 3% cost of living increase</i>
Property expenses	= \$ 62,500	<i>utilities, taxes, cleaning, lawn care, insurance</i>
Property projects	= \$ 30,000	<i>projected maintenance and repair</i>
Administrative expenses	= \$ 27,300	<i>office, copier, technology, phones</i>
Diocesan Pledge	= \$ 21,100	
Programs and Ministries	= \$ 7,500	
Sabbatical Expense	= \$ 1,800	

**We expect that our income will be approximately \$306,500.**

Pledged income	= \$235,000	
Offering plate income (not pledged)	= \$ 17,500	<i>Includes Christmas and Easter offerings</i>
Donations for specific purposes	= \$ 13,500	<i>Includes memorial contributions</i>
Income from Trinity Academy	= \$ 9,000	
Rental income	= \$ 26,000	<i>Most rental income is from Anna P. Catering</i>
Interest and Endowment income	= \$ 4,500	
Jazz n Joe income	= \$ 1,000	

As you can see, **the projected deficit is approximately \$31,000.**

There is very little that we can cut on the expense side of the equation and still sustain the Trinity that we want to have.

We want to state that this is not an expense problem—we have cut our costs everywhere we can. What we have is an income problem.

We were fortunate in 2023 to have closed the gap substantially because property expenses came in far below budget, because of parishioner generosity with our “close the gap” campaigns, because of memorial gifts, and because of a one-time pension adjustment in Trinity's favor.

The Vestry and the Finance Committee would be very glad to know of your ideas for increasing our income and how you will help us act on those ideas.

*The Trinity Vestry & Finance Committee*

*Summary created by Nancy Dilliplane based on TBC Budget Recap and Projection 12/28/23*

# PROPERTY REPORT for 2023 (With an Eye Towards 2024)

Over the course of each year a needs analysis is developed to identify and prioritize work and expenditures related to the physical plants that constitute our property. During the past year, focus was placed on upgrading bathroom facilities, exterior garden areas and maintenance of all structures and systems on the campus. In addition, resolution of water quality related issues comprised an important part of property work.

Going forward, 2024 needs have been identified and prioritized based on conditions of need and costs associated with “punch-listed” projects. Given financial limitations, this all-encompassing list has been reduced to comply with financial realities.

With this background, the vestry suggests priority be given to the following:

1. Church Exterior:
  - a. Building trim around the entire building is peeling and needs repainting.
  - b. Removal of the small, dead birch tree on rear of the church building;
  - c. Repair of identified parking lot asphalt areas and, if financially feasible coating of higher use sections
2. Church Interior, Utility & HVAC Systems
  - a. Replacement and repair of gasketing and thresholds of all entry doors with particular attention to double door fixtures;
  - b. Recognizing the aging (15-20 years) of HVAC units, setting aside monies for anticipated repairs/replacement of units in coming time periods;
  - c. Addressing Dept. of Environmental Protection provision of evidence assuring non-lead status of water system
3. Faith Hall / Kitchen
  - a. Attending to flooring condition of kitchen space
4. Historic Trinity:
  - a. Replacement of railings leading to front door entry and repair/replacement of steps leading up to same
  - b. Repair and possible replacement of side-entry door and provision of weather-guarding measures to avoid future damage
  - c. Analysis and repair of exterior stucco coating on chimney
  - d. Exterior painting of all portals and windows
5. Rectory
  - a. Repair/replacement of garage doors based on working condition

The above projects represent only a portion of property needs identified. Cost estimates are in progress. In addition, it is suggested that a grounds team of volunteers be reformed to address on-going appearance and upkeep needs proactively!

*Steve Downs*

# TRINITY BUCKINGHAM ACADEMY (TBA) REPORT

TBA was happy to welcome students for the 2023-2024 school year on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2023. Academy offerings include: before school, lunch bunch, kids club and kindergarten enrichment alongside our traditional preschool, jump start and pre-kindergarten classes. We opened our doors to 10 jump start (2 year old class) 18 preschool, 18 pre-kindergarten, and 5 kindergarten enrichment students for a total of 50 families. TBA augments our classroom programming with specialty offerings such as YOGA, Play and Praise, and Chapel classes, story time with Bill Wood, and Karate.

All TBA's teachers returned this year, some in different positions, which I view as a reflection of their dedication and agility in meeting the needs of the Academy and our students. TBA staff does an amazing job keeping our students happy and thriving throughout the school year, including our first annual ice cream social kicked off our school year in September.

TBA continues to meet licensing requirements of the PA Department of Education and Department of Human Services. To do so, staff must maintain all required certifications and continuing education hours each year.

Over last summer, TBA took on some "refreshing" projects including the women's bathroom and outside the TBA entrance. Jack DeLuca did an excellent job redoing the women's bathroom with new floor tiles, toilets and stalls. The outside entrance was a Rose family affair! Dylan Rose helped move the mulch and place the boarder. Megan and Sarah Rose painted the TBA rocks and flowers to help brighten up our school entrance. TBA hopes the colorful rocks reflect our joy and happiness of our staff and students!

This year, our inventive TBA parent board hosted several family fun events, such as parent coffees and a Christmas reception. The TBA parent board is also planning fundraisers planned for the spring, including a family photo day with the very talented Kelly Thibeault, a local photographer and former TBA parent along with dine and donate and our biggest event, the TBA art show and carnival!

We are grateful to our wonderful families who entrust 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Alison Rose* Educational Director



# MINISTRY REPORTS for 2022

## ALTAR GUILD

Trinity's Altar Guild is composed of dedicated volunteers who prepare the altar for all worship services, as well as weddings and funerals. Other tasks include polishing the silver and brass, laundering and ironing the linens, ordering flowers, seasonal decorating, and hanging the altar frontal, banners and scarves. The work of the Altar Guild is one of the fundamental ministries in the church.

We have had a busy past few months preparing for the funeral and memorial services of several of our dear long time parishioners. Please consider participating in this ministry. All are welcome and we are eager to train new members.



The Altar Guild members currently are Marjorie Guidry, Bonnie McCabe, Morley Ewing, Sue Snyder, Deb Grant, Kathi Sadowski, Meg Perry and Joanne Welker.

In 2023, also a thank you to Pat Cooke and our late Jane Eastwood for continuing the task of coordinating the flowers for the altar each Sunday. And thank you to Joan Noveske for continuing to develop the yearly liturgical schedule for the paraments.

*Meg Perry and Joanne Welker*

## ACOLYTES

A lot of what we mean by living our faith is to serve others. If you have thought about how you could serve Trinity, be a part of a faith community and experience the joy in doing so, you might want to consider being an acolyte whose responsibility is to assist the minister with the liturgy.

You may not know that acolytes (altar boys/ men/girls or women) have been assisting Christian services since 250 AD. Initially they were a clerical order. It was quite recently, in the 1980s, that girls were permitted to be acolytes. The word acolyte means "follower" or one who helps or serves. Acolytes perform a number of functions before, during and following the service. If you, your son or daughter (age 10 and older) are interested in finding out more about becoming



an acolyte in serving Trinity's faith-based community please talk to Pastor Nancy or Jill Unger. Both of us would be delighted to talk to you about this important ministry.

When acolytes first helped with the service they carried candles in religious processions. In today's services they can do other duties such as "assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book for the Gospel readings, candle bearers or "torches", assisting a deacon or priest with the Holy Eucharist, swinging a censer or thurible, carrying the incense boat, handing the offering plates to ushers, and many other tasks as seen fit by the minister or deacon.

Active Acolytes in 2023 were: \*Joanne Welker, \*Deborah Grant, Susanne Snyder, \*Sara & Ewan Swidorski and Bob Kinney ( \* denotes helping to live stream the service each week for our older members who cannot attend church).

*Jill Unger*

### **ECW - Episcopal Church Women**

ECW had a slow year - the only event we had was to make and sell two kinds of soup ( corn chowder and Italian wedding). The contributions helped to offset the general budget. Hopefully 2024 will have us meeting a few times.

*Mary Beth Perisho*



## JAZZ & JOE

If you want a fun evening out, you might want to check out our Jazz & Joe events, usually held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 in Faith Hall.

A \$5 donation is requested and coffee and snacks, some homemade, are included. Music is provided by The Jazz Sanctuary. It is well supported by the surrounding community and is important to our parish as the proceeds go to our music program and other church activities.

*Karen Parker*



## OFFICE VOLUNEERS

Cynthia Goode, our Parish Administrator, has also assumed Trinity's bookkeeping responsibilities. This leaves her with significantly less time to accomplish her former duties within her allotted 20 hours. Therefore, we are in need of volunteers to perform these tasks on a regular basis and when Cynthia is working remotely or is on vacation.

Responsibilities would include: answering the phone, responding to voicemail, answering the doorbell/greeting visitors, picking up mail and distributing mail from the post office, assisting with bulletin production, coordinating periodic parish mailings, maintaining the bulletin boards, being present to interact with scheduled vendor visits and assisting the Parish Administrator with other projects as they arise.

With a robust group of volunteers to help, it takes only a few hours of your time per week, especially if you would like to work in teams. It is a wonderful opportunity to offer your time and talent to the parish and enjoy fellowship as you do God's work.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Natalie Welker-Marx, [nwmarx@yahoo.com](mailto:nwmarx@yahoo.com).

Thank you to our 2023 weekly volunteers - Steve Downs, Natalie Welker-Marx, Kathi Sadowski  
Thank you to Pam Fuchs, Judy King and Jill Unger who were there to fill in when needed.

*Natalie Welker-Marx*



## **PASTORAL CARE**

One of Trinity's newer pastoral care ministries has been to send out birthday cards to parishioners. This has been coordinated by Natalie Welker-Marx and Janet DeCaprio.

If you have not received a birthday card this past year, your name may not be on our list. If you would like to add your name and birthday, please contact [nwmarx@yahoo.com](mailto:nwmarx@yahoo.com). Janet and I look forward to sending you birthday greetings.

Patty Bradbury, Trinity's Prayer Chain coordinator, sends out get well and sympathy cards to parishioners on the prayer chain and the weekly prayer request.

*Natalie Welker-Marx*

## **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

I'm pleased to report that as far as volunteers are concerned, Trinity's Prayer Chain Ministry is holding its own. We have had the same fifteen dedicated volunteers for several years. They include Bonnie McCabe, Leslie Jaedicke, Deb McLean, Barbara Torok, Jackie Moore, Woody Kiel, Joan Bradbury, Betty Kitson, Marty Gillen, Mary Beth Perisho, Christine Kunkel, Heather Carbo, Lauren Gillen, Joanne Welker and Patty Bradbury.

Our group is divided into four separate chains, or teams, if you will. Each chain prays for anywhere from a dozen to a dozen and a half people at a time. We lift people up in prayer and intercede on their behalf to our Lord. Each month updates regarding changes in prayer needs, if known, are provided. Please when requesting prayer provide me with monthly updates if the need continues or if the issue has been resolved and prayer is no longer needed.

In 2023 we prayed for a combined number of eighty-nine people. This number is slightly decreased from previous years due to the serious nature and long-term illnesses of many of those on our lists. Many people have such great needs that they stay on the list for several years. Others only require prayers for a short period of time. Keep in mind that ALL prayers are confidential. Would you consider joining this important ministry? You can pray anywhere and at any time. Would you like to place someone on the prayer list? Any and all prayer requests are welcome. Contact me directly at [pabradbury@verizon.net](mailto:pabradbury@verizon.net) or call the church office and I will get the message.

*Patty Bradbury*

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been quite active this year. In addition to the prayer shawls, lap robes, blankets, and doves for babies that we have always had, we have donated scarves to One Warm Scarf, Hospice blankets to Doylestown Hospital and Fidget Mats for Dementia patients at Pine Run. We also have Prayer Squares in the Narthex for anyone who needs one for themselves or someone else.

We meet on the last Friday of the month in Reed Library at 12:00 noon. New members are always welcome. For more information please call me at 267-629-9125

*Karen Parker*

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

Trinity participated once again in a local gathering of toys for needy children. **“Little Santa’s Big Shop”** is a grass roots gathering of friends and neighbors in Bucks County. Together with local organizations they gather toys, toiletries and holiday decorations for anyone in the community who is in need of assistance. On a designated day parents or guardians can “shop” for their kids at the “store.” This year, through the generosity of Trinity parishioners, 125 children from 47 families had a happier, brighter Christmas.

*Barbara Kroberger*



**“Christmas in July”** has been a longstanding ministry of Trinity Church. During the month of July, members of Trinity donate hundreds of pounds of shelf-stable groceries to the food pantries at the New Britain Baptist Church and the Doylestown Family Shelter. This year, following the Christmas in July collection, and recognizing that food insecurity is an ongoing issue in Central Bucks, Trinity made collecting food for the New Britain Baptist Church Food Larder a weekly practice.

*Steve Downs & Bonnie McCabe*

Although the **Code Blue Shelter** moved to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church during the pandemic, members of Trinity still provide many of the January meals on the nights the shelter is open. The Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless works year-round to serve our unsheltered neighbors, and is always looking for volunteers. <https://www.co2ssh.org/>

**Sacred Ground** is an 11-week film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love. Trinity began holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Sacred Ground seminary group in October 2023. If you are interested in participating in the future, please let Peter Oliver or Nancy Dilliplane know.

*Peter Oliver*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Sunday School is an intimate ministry, composed primarily of 3 children and 2 teachers, Soju Kurup and Deb McLean. We were joined on several consecutive Sundays this fall by a couple different groups of children but haven't seen them return. However, we have weekly lessons centered around a particular Bible passage or based on a seasonal theme. The kids often sing a song, hear the story, make a craft and enjoy a snack. As a class, we made a gratitude quilt and presented it to Pastor Nancy in December. The kids also enjoyed portraying Joseph and Mary on Christmas Eve and lit up the church with their sweet, earnest rendition of "He Came Down"- song and signs led by and thanks to Martha Dudich.

We promoted Sunday school on Christmas Eve by handing out candy canes with an invitation and details attached.

We are looking forward to spring, comfortable with each other, but always hoping for more attendees for the good and the growth of the church.

We also enthusiastically welcome any church member able to step forward to lead a lesson or two. We follow a clear, easy One Room Schoolhouse-curriculum. See Soju or Deb for details.

*Deb McLean*





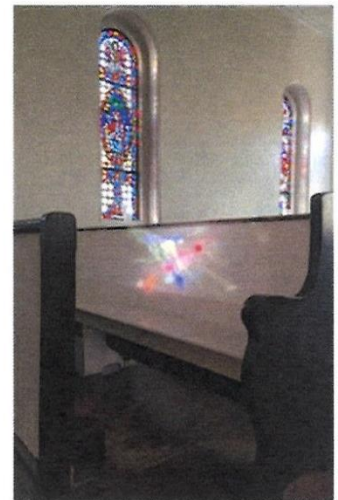
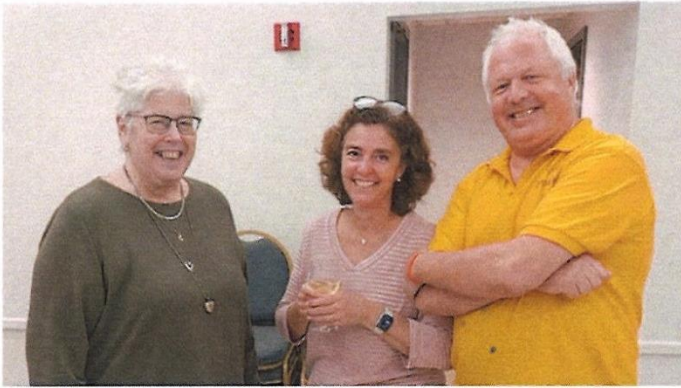
## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

It takes many lay leaders to make Trinity's Sunday Worship, special services and funerals the dynamic and welcoming ministry that it is. Trinity is blessed by the time and talent of a dedicated group of ushers, greeters, acolytes, altar guild members, lectors, intercessors, chalicists, video camera operators and musicians. Each of these ministries welcomes new and returning volunteers.

Thank you to Elisabeth Goggin for scheduling our Sunday Servers and to those who serve faithfully at 8 am and 10 am: Dom DeCaprio, Steve Downs, Morley Ewing, Elisabeth and Keith Goggin, Deb Grant, Marjorie and Steve Guidry, Bob & Kay Kinney, Jeff Kroberger, Diana Martinez, Deb & Joe McLean, Pam Oswald, Meg Perry, Jim Sanders, Ellie, Ewan & Sara Swidorski, Jill Unger, Joanne Welker, Natalie Welker-Marx, Janet Zimmerman.

And to the Choir and Handbells: Brad Cagenello, Nancy Dilliplane, Marjorie & Steve Guidry, Jane Henry, Bob & Kay Kinney, Steve Mann, Karen Parker, Sue Snyder, Judy Krauss, Kathi & Wayne Sadowski.





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