

Trinity Episcopal Church

2021 Annual Report

Following Jesus

What is a Parish in a New Missional Age?

A Parish is a Community ...

- **of Theological Imagination:** where our hearts and minds are moved by God's presence in our lives, in our neighborhoods, and in the world;
- **fed by Word and Sacrament:** where our stories connect with God's story in Holy Scripture, and where we experience God's grace in baptism and Eucharist;
- **forming disciples and apostles in God's mission:** where people grow as followers of Jesus and are sent by the Holy Spirit into the world to join God's work of restoration and reconciliation;
- **and connected to the wider Body of Christ:** by sharing our lives with companions in Christ across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and the wider Church.

***290th Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2021***

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Agenda

- Zoom Etiquette
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting
- Gratitude for departing Vestry Members and Officers
- Election of 2022 new Vestry Members and Officers
- Planning for 2022
- Closing Prayer
- Motion to Adjourn

Trinity Episcopal Church Staff Members

PARISH STAFF as of January 23, 2021

Rector	The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt
Director of Music Ministry	Donald Wismann
Communications & Membership Manager	Kim Merrill
Finance Manager	Lori Rohrbacher
Sexton	John J. Qubick

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH – NEWTOWN, CT MINUTES OF THE 289TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 24, 2021

Call to Order

The 289th Annual Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church was called to order at 11:03 AM online on Zoom by the Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt+. She opened the meeting with prayer #12 from the Book of Common Prayer. The meeting was held online because the church has been closed since March 2020 for safety reasons during the Covid 19 pandemic.

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were never submitted by the previous Clerk who has since left the parish.

Vestry Leadership

Rev. Andrea expressed gratitude to the Vestry that was in place while she was interviewing and when she arrived. She thanked the Wardens, Laurie Trotto and Dennis O'Connor, who shepherded us through the transition and calling of a new leader. She thanked departing vestry members Moe Pershinsky and David Ericson, and Patrick DeBrock for his years of service as Trinity's Treasurer. Dennis O'Connor continues as Warden, Dorothy Schmidt continues as Clerk, and continuing Vestry members are Leon Karvelis on Finance, Cathy Filiato on Christian Formation, Gordon Dunn on Property, Patrick DeBrock on Worship, and Rebecca Filiato and Gloria Rowley as Youth representatives. Geoff Dent continues as Delegate to the ECCT.

Election of Warden, and Treasurer and Vestry members

Nominations:

Warden—Sue Roman

Treasurer—Noel Bellesheim

Vestry—David Lias

Vestry—Cindy Anderau

There were no further nominations from the floor. Leon Karvelis moved to accept the slate of candidates and Forry Weatherby seconded. The slate of candidates was approved by unanimous vote.

Highlights of 2020 and Annual Report

Rev. Andrea thanked everyone for welcoming her and Chuck to their new home. She commended the Annual Report which holds reports from every commission. Rev. Andrea found it stunning how much was accomplished in this past year, such as Mission & Outreach, the search & call process, and worship. One new piece is the report of statistics about the viewers of our live-stream/on-demand service through StreamSpot. They show that we have had viewers from other states and even other countries. They indicate that we have widened our reach in a way that is new and unprecedented. It offers us a continued opportunity to reach out in sharing the gospel, and there's more to be done to expand the reach.

Programming for 2021

In the fall Trinity started the program Deepening our Understanding about Race and Racism spurred on by recent national events. We have people from other faith communities and other groups in town joining the conversation with us as we meet through Zoom. This profound dialogue will continue.

We are likely to use the Leading Out of Crisis- program This is a program brought to us by our diocese. It can guide us in how we can seize this moment and continue to shepherd this congregation wisely and safely, and continue to reach out using these new technologies.

We have been offered an opportunity to be a part of a gathering of churches across the country who will receive coaching and training in the Genesis II program. This program is offered by the National Church to help congregations figure out how to regrow, redevelop, and reach out in partnership with groups and individuals in the neighborhood.

As the Covid 19 pandemic continues, we are following the guidelines of state health officials and our diocese. The Covid case load around us is still high and it is not safe to open yet. There's new hope with vaccines and we look forward to when we can safely reopen.

The Budget for 2021 is included in the Annual Report and was presented in detail on January 17. There were no additional questions.

Appreciations

Dennis O'Connor said that it has been difficult in 2020 to give time, talent and treasure during the pandemic. Nevertheless Mission & Outreach continued its work, the commissions continued to meet virtually and the business of Trinity continued. Dennis was amazed by the continuing support of the parishioners for Trinity itself during the pandemic, continuing to support the parish with their pledges.

Laurie Trotto said that she, too, was looking forward to when we get back to normal, but she thinks in the future is going to be more exciting and better than ever.

Patrick DeBrock thanked people for their continuing financial support. Because support was so high, and expenses were down during the pandemic, Trinity is able to join the Joining Jesus Campaign and make two special donations. One is to Camp Washington and the second is Building the Beloved Community for racial justice and healing. Patrick said we were also able to put additional money in Mission & Outreach for the Newtown area. Trinity also benefited from the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program to continue to pay staff without furloughs or layoffs.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Andrea closed with Prayer for Social Justice, #27, in the Book of Common Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

Leon Karvelis made a motion to adjourn at 11:57 AM which was seconded by Laurie Trotto.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Schmidt
Clerk

2022 Slate of Nominees

Executive Committee Nominations

Warden – Bob Gardner

Clerk – Tom Swetts

Vestry Member Nomination

Patrick Corrigan - Properties

Jessica O'Meara – Membership

Thank you to our Vestry leaders who continue to serve:

Sue Roman
Noel Bellesheim
Cindy Anderau
Cathy Filiato
Patrick DeBrock

***Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41: 10***

Beloved Ones, we are held in God's hands.

As members of the body of Christ, we are gathered together by God to be Trinity Church in Newtown, CT. Every day I give thanks for the honor and privilege of serving among such a unique and precious expression of the body of Christ!

As I write in January of 2022, I am recovering from COVID. I am reminded again that we creatures are not in charge here. We are held in God's hands. As I am tended lovingly by lay leaders and Trinity Care Team, I am reminded of ways we are held in each other's hands as well.

We care for each other within the parish, and we reach out in Mission in so many ways to our wider community. I have enjoyed serving at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House, at Chapel on the Green in New Haven. I am moved by Trinity's participation in the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement, Laundry Love, and multiple local agencies.

Soon, we enter year 3 of pandemic. I would not dare to hazard a guess as to what comes next! But I am not in any way afraid. Drawing on the paths we forged together in 2021, I believe and trust that we will continue to adapt and grow and BE the body of Christ.

I am so grateful for the leadership of our staff: Don, Jack, Lori and Kim! And for the wisdom and counsel of Wardens Dennis, Forry, and Sue. Our Vestry and commissions and teams work tirelessly to keep things moving!

As 2021 opened, we were in a position of great caution, waiting for vaccines to become available. With a concern for the most vulnerable in our midst, and abiding by the guidance of our Bishops, we offered live-streaming or outdoor worship and virtual meetings and study groups.

At Easter, adding to our live-stream, we initiated an outdoor service we called Chapel in the Garden. We then gathered weekly until cool weather, and enjoyed the beauty of God's creation, drawing families and newcomers in a relaxed and joyful expression of worship.

At Pentecost, with vaccines widely available, we opened our doors again to public worship! Through summer and into fall, we witnessed months of a gradual and steady re-gathering of long-time and new members of Trinity Church.

I am so pleased to greet newcomers and to welcome former members back. We said a fond farewell to established members pursuing retirement re-location. Living communities are constantly changing!

For a time, church life began to feel almost 'normal' again, and we worked hard on welcoming and integrating our church family. For many months, we offered worship in 3 ways each week: in the Sanctuary, in the Garden, and live-streaming online. As we moved into December, a highly contagious variant invited us back into largely virtual connection.

As Priest and Pastor, I have been amazed – throughout 2021 - by the sheer amount of people in our wider community who call upon Trinity Church. I am constantly invited into relationship - by newcomers seeking a parish home, by couples seeking marriage and counseling, by families seeking baptism. I officiated at more funerals in my first year at Trinity than my predecessor in her entire tenure.

Sacraments and Rites in 2021

Baptisms: 8

Confirmation: 8

Marriage: 1

Burials: 13

We are all aware of the changing demographics of mainline Protestantism. But it's too easy to see pews emptied by pandemic and make dire pronouncements about Trinity's future. Reality is far more complex, and I caution you against simplistic and fear-based judgments.

In my viewpoint - as the one fielding these many requests for pastoral care – I believe Trinity has a vital and engaged ministry. I am not at all worried about Trinity's capacity to re-build and to thrive. We are already doing so – more pledges this year than last. **(In 2021 we had 66 pledges, and for 2022, we are currently up to 75 pledges.)** We are in God's hands. Do not be afraid.

A particular joy of 2021 has been witnessing the re-organizing of our many pastoral care ministries into the new Trinity Care Team. I give thanks for prayers, meals, cookies, rides, and much more.

In early 2021, I gathered a new team at Trinity to share in the Genesis II: Revision and Renew initiative <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/genesis-ii-re-vision-and-renew/> offered by our national Episcopal Church. We gather for coaching with Episcopalians across the Church. We practice the arts of invitation and welcome, and we experiment with building new partnerships in our neighborhoods.

In late 2021, I also gathered a new team to re-establish ministries with children and youth at Trinity Church – a goal delayed by the slower possibility for vaccination among our youngest ones. We have established funds in our 2022 budget for a Children's Ministry Coordinator to help us re-gather families and re-build ministries among children and youth. Please join us – we need your help!

In 2022, in addition to offering ministry to families, I also believe we need to find ways to gather around the climate crisis, accelerating rapidly. How might we focus on sustainability and sustenance, locally, amid changes to come?

Friends, we have a vital ministry. God has gathered us as the body of Christ in this place and this time. Not to mourn for the church of the past but to discern and build the church of our present and our future. We are in God's hands. And we do not fear. Amen!

Peace be with you,

Rev. Andrea

2021 Warden's Annual Report

Sue Roman, Forry Weatherby

Trinity Church stayed open and highly-functional during a second COVID pandemic year, and for this the wardens express their gratitude for the flexibility and good will of the parishioners, Rev. Andrea Wyatt, and the Trinity staff.

The Technology Guild led by Floyd Higgins brought the Sunday worship service into our homes before the vaccination rollout made it safe to return to the sanctuary. It continues to provide high-quality, artfully-produced livestreams for those who watch from home for health reasons, preference, or because they don't live near Newtown. It has been an unexpected blessing to reach new people and rekindle with past parishioners who have moved away through this technology. Livestreaming has also broadened the reach for weddings, baptisms, and funerals in a time when travel is still constrained. We thank all the willing hands who produce the livestream.

During the warmer months we worshipped in the Memorial Garden. This led Rev. Andrea to experiment with different worship styles in a setting that was more intimate and more tied with nature. This form of worship has an appeal different than traditional worship in the sanctuary and may lead us to further experiments when it warms up again.

The Trinity Care Team under the leadership of Cindy Anderau formed to support the congregation at a time when many felt isolated. Thoughtfully and carefully trained, using best practices learned through Stephen Ministry, dozens of parishioners have stepped forward to offer emotional support as well as meals and rides through this ministry. This is a blessing that will outlast the pandemic.

The upheaval felt around us was a fitting setting in which to launch the Genesis II project. A small group at Trinity is being trained to learn new ways to touch and be part of our wider community. Working with advisors from the national church and with a fellow church in Fredericksburg, MD, the Genesis II team is experimenting with ways to integrate with the wider community, where our presence will be felt beyond the walls of the church. This is new territory for us and the team has approached it with curiosity and the willingness to stretch our concept of church.

We remain a financially strong and sound congregation. New members have joined with continuing members to prayerfully and faithfully support us financially. In addition, our considerable endowments have grown because of the strong financial market and also our careful oversight led by Marianne Noyes-Ryder and conservative withdrawals from the funds. New treasurer Noel Bellesheim led a successful stewardship campaign and the Finance Commission led by Patrick DeBrock continues its careful oversight of our funds and operations.

We are blessed to have the Reverend Andrea Wyatt as our priest. She has led the Sunday worship services to serve those comfortable being in person as well as those at home and even those worshipping from afar. She has performed more baptisms, weddings, and funerals in 2021 than Trinity hosted in the prior several years combined. She has been thoughtful and prayerful on how to gather, balancing the safety of the congregants and the community with the needs for personal contact and being in a sacred space. She has modelled how to welcome new people into Trinity. She has been a companion in our experiments in being more integrated in the wider community. She has used her prophetic voice to call us to be awake and aware of what is going on in the world. And she is a pastor for people on their life's journey.

When Warden Dennis O'Connor moved to California in April, Forry Weatherby graciously agreed to serve as warden for the remainder of the year. Forry has served a number of roles at Trinity over the past 20 years, including warden, treasurer, and finance chair. His calm demeanor, long-term perspective, and willingness to do the right thing even if it is the hard served us well this year as it has in the past. We appreciate his willingness to engage from his new home in Cape Cod.

Trinity's strength is our grounding in the past and in tradition coupled with our ability to change and adapt to new opportunities and challenges. We don't know what 2022 will bring, but we are confident we will face it prayerfully, creatively, and with a generosity of spirit.

Worship & Formation

Genesis II

Sue Roman

Trinity Church was invited to participate in a program of the national Episcopal Church called Genesis II. This program works with small groups from various Episcopal churches to learn new ways to touch and be part of their wider community.

The Genesis II team at Trinity formed in April. The members are Nancy Cole, Jean-Maurice Calmels, Christina Lye, Frank Brill, Karen Wojtowicz, Sue Roman, and Rev. Andrea Wyatt. We meet twice a month by Zoom with the national group and twice a month on our own. The advisors are the Rev. Thomas Brackett, Missioner for New Church Starts & Missional Initiatives reporting to The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and the consultant Steve Matthews.

The team is learning a variety of methods for learning more about our community including methods of interviewing, observational techniques, and studying demographics. We have learned a project management approach called 90-Day Microstrategies that emphasizes quick wins using existing assets. We are learning about Asset Based Community Development that emphasizes strengths within your congregation and within the community. A key component is learning to be invitational in everything we do.

We hosted two labyrinth events in September as part of a 90-Day Microstrategy. One was for the Trinity congregation and followed a church service and the second was for the wider community on the autumnal equinox. We also hosted a Time of Remembrance in the sanctuary on the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The team members are enjoying getting to know each other better. A particularly meaningful day was spent sharing our spiritual autobiographies. It was a rich and moving time together.

We are partnered with All Saints' Church in Frederick, Maryland. We are also joined at times by advisors such as The Reverend Canon Holly Herring of the cathedral in Phoenix. It is helpful to hear the experiences of Episcopalians in other parts of the country.

Genesis II is a challenging program, both because it presents us with many tools and because it pushes us to go beyond our comfort zone. We look forward to continuing with the 15-month program in 2022.

Music Program

Don Wismann

The year 2021 certainly presented its challenges to our music ministry. We began the year with an abundance of caution due to the pandemic. We relied solely on our paid singers who sang masked and distanced for our streamed liturgies. As we approached the season of Lent, we went from singing one service per month to singing every Sunday. We carried this through Easter and the subsequent Easter season. On the Feast of Pentecost the full choir re-joined us as Trinity officially opened her doors once again. The choir and section leaders have remained in place at all Sunday liturgies through Christmas. We are extremely grateful to our paid singers for helping us through the worst part of the pandemic, when a full choir wasn't feasible. 2021 brought some surprise repairs to our Austin organ, the most significant of which was the re-building of the blower apparatus located under the stairs of the narthex. Some key components reached the end of their lifespan and needed replacing, this repair should last another fifty or so years. We look forward to maintaining our tradition of beautiful music into the year to come.

Adult Formation

Cathy Filiato

Adult formation began to hold programs this year both in person and virtually in 2021.

In January and February Sue Roman hosted a video and discussion program entitled “Race: The Power of an Illusion.” This was a three part video and discussion program which helped participants work through the myths and misconceptions and scrutinize some of the assumptions we take for granted in regards to race. The program explored how race has played out in the United States with social, economic, and political consequences.

A meditative Zentangle class was held on January 16 led by certified instructor, Lori Jeanne Bach. Participants learned a meditative drawing method and created their own designs in this class.

During lent the series “Pilgrimage of Renewal” was held. This program consisted of eight Zoom sessions. Trinity member and local author Sophronia Scott and North Carolina author Lisa Deam offered a free online retreat during Lent to help those who may have lost touch with their spirituality during the pandemic.

On March 20, a movie viewing and discussion, “Confronting Racism” was held. Participants watched the movie “Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North.” In this movie, Producer/Director Katrina Browne told the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, participants were surprised to learn that Browne’s ancestors were Northerners. The film followed Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brought them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England’s hidden enterprise.

During April and May Rev. Andrea led a spirited conversation centered around a newly-published book written by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers: *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community*.

On July 18, Cindy Anderau hosted a live virtual program entitled “Spiritual Life: It’s all About Relationships “ with Sister Joan Chittister.

During August and September parishioners and the wider community were invited to a book discussion on “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr. It was held both in person and on Zoom. Participants explored Rohr’s teachings through prayer, discussion and contemplative practices.

There were two Labyrinth events in September hosted by the Genesis II team. One walk was for parishioners after church on September 12th . The second walk was for community members on Tuesday, September 21st. Walking the labyrinth is an ancient tradition that has been rediscovered in the last twenty years because it is a gentle, soothing way to relax, think or pray. Our labyrinth is easily accessible through the memorial garden.

During October and November Cindy Anderau led a Book Discussion on “Radical Spirit: 12 Ways to Live a Free and Authentic Life” by Joan Chittister in a hybrid manner. This program had the intention of helping participants take control of their emotional lives and redirect their spiritual destiny, drawing on little known, ancient teachings of the saints, This book discussion offered a practical program to help transform one’s thinking and rebel against one’s fears, judgments and insecurities with a series of twelve simple rules for healthy spiritual living.

October 23 Sophronia Scott led a contemplative enrichment day entitled “The Humanity of Thomas Merton” in person and on Zoom. This day examined Thomas Merton’s life and teachings and how they can help us reach for God through our imperfections. Participants focused on developing a relationship with Merton’s spirituality that might deepen our own.

Youth

Noel Bellesheim, Julie Dunn

2021 continued to have Julie Dunn and Noel Bellesheim as co-chairs. The youth commission plans, prepares and executes many of the activities Trinity's youth participate in as well as supports their formation. For the first half of 2021, the YAC remained on Zoom as our primary gathering point and continued to meet monthly discussing our Kiva (www.kiva.org) activities and monitoring the progress our loans had made.

During June, Trinity's seniors were able to be recognized for their commitment with senior Sunday. It was an opportunity for Trinity parishioners to offer thanks and best wishes to our 2021 graduating class as they go off to college in the fall for the first time.

The fall has continued the growth journey for our youth. Confirmands were able to be confirmed as we continued to gather in person as we kicked off our fall season and welcomed new members to our YAC group.

Some statistics from our Kiva lending, with an initial seed funding of \$250 dollars, the YAC has been able to :

- Make a total of 22 loans, totaling \$550 dollars - after the initial \$250 was lent out and repaid, those funds were lent out again during the fall of 2021.
- The funds supported 22 individuals in 13 countries.
- Of the 22 individuals: 14 were female business owners, 8 were male
- The 22 individuals: 13 owned food or retail businesses, 6 owned agricultural businesses, 2 owned clothing shops and 1 was a business owner in the arts field.

Also during the fall, Youth Commission sponsored events took place as follows:

During October: The Great Pumpkin Challenge during the week leading up to Halloween, with over 70 pumpkins on four sections of scaffolding on the front lawn outside the Parish house, which raised over \$800 for the Hole in the Wall Gang for the fifth consecutive year.

During November: A socially distanced food drive for the benefit of Faith Food Panty in Newtown was held – where over 25 bags of pantry staples were gathered from parishioners and non-parishioners alike in the church parking lot. Advent wreath materials were also distributed.

During December: The youth partnered with Mission and Outreach to make 100 sandwiches and participated the same day on Chapel on the Green in New Haven where they handed out a hot meal and the sandwiches and cookies that were made.

2021 Membership Report*Kim Merrill*

“Member in Good Standing” can be defined as someone who contributes regularly, has taken communion at least 3 times a year, and that is active in the life of the parish. “Member Active” is for new members, children under the age of 16, and family members of “Good Standing” who only attend occasionally.

We were virtual only through May, reopening on Pentecost. We have welcomed many visitors over the months, some who have remained “Prospective”, some who became “Member Active”, and 3 families who have become “Good Standing”. A decision to not remove members until the Pandemic is truly over was made, as there is really no way of knowing if people are not attending because they no longer feel connected with Trinity, or if they are choosing to watch online for safety purposes. Rev. Andrea and I go over the lists of names regularly.

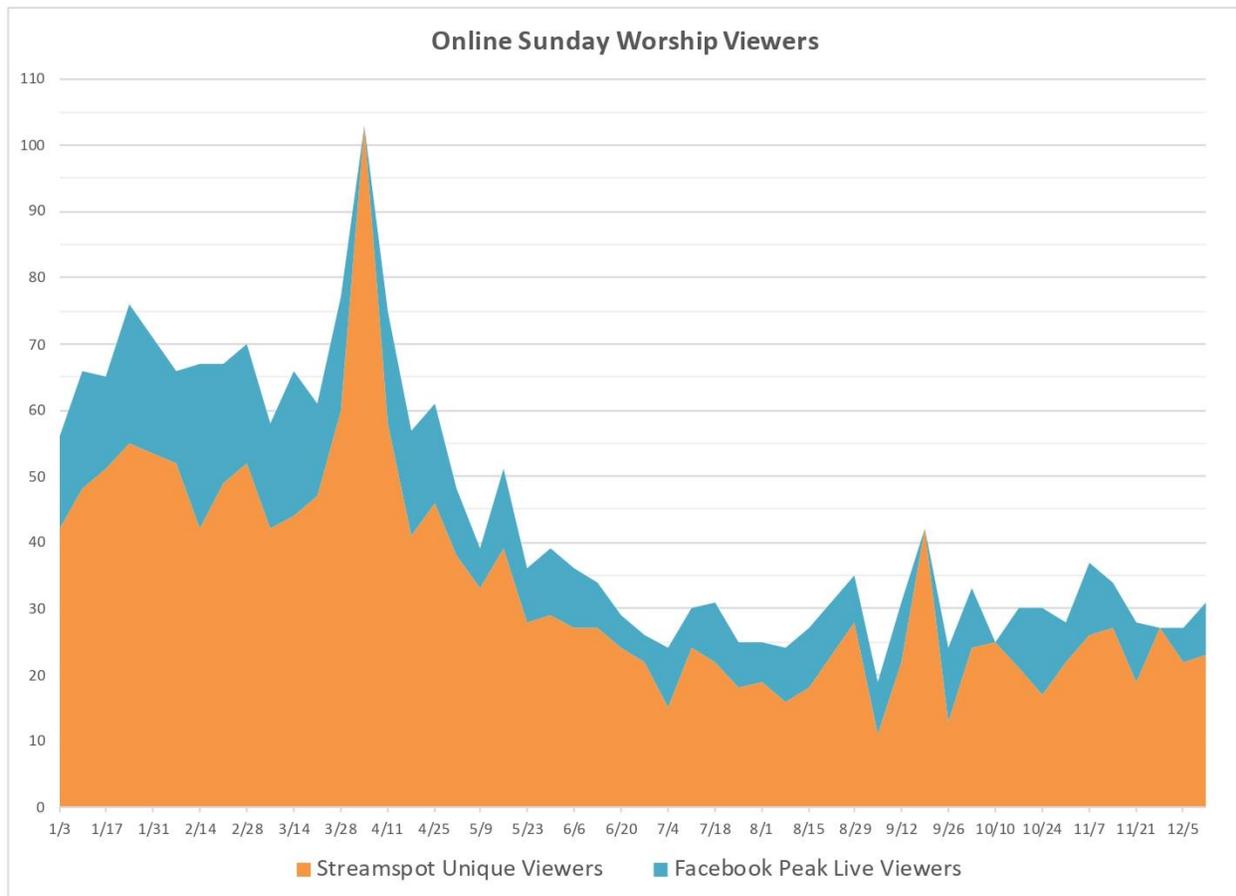
2021 Parish Membership Report*Kim Merrill***Parish Membership Statistics 2020 & 2021**

		2020	2021
<u>Increases during year</u>			
Baptisms 16 years and older		0	1
Baptisms under 16 years of age		0	7
Baptisms recorded by reason of transfer		0	0
Received by Bishop		0	0
Restored from Inactive Status		0	7
Confirmed by Bishop		0	8
Transferred in		0	1
New to Trinity		4	11
	Total	0	35
<u>Decreases during year</u>			
Lost by death		4	0
Transferred out		0	1
Inactive/Moved, etc.* (Numbers will be revised after COVID)		4	3
	Total	8	4
<u>Baptized members (those who are recorded)</u>			
Members 16 years and older		54	54
Members under 16 years of age		19	22
Present Baptized Members		73	76
<u>Members in Good Standing & Active Members</u>			
Members 16 years and older		191	205
Members under 16 years of age		30	35
	Total	221	240

	2020 In person	2020 Streamed	2021 in person	2021 hybrid	2021 streamed
Holy Communion (Number of Services)					
Sunday	10	34	15	32	18
Weekday (includes LEV & other services)	8	1	0	17	1
All Other Sacraments & Services					
Special Services (Interfaith, Holy Week, Taize)	0	20	13	3	6
Marriages	0	0	0	1	0
Attendance					
Average Attendance Sunday 9:30 a.m. <i>(per ECCT this is taken only from January & February)</i>	98				
Christmas Eve & Day Totals			138		
Easter Day & Easter Vigil Totals			0		

Online Worship Metrics

Sue Roman



Streamspot "unique viewers" are worshippers who watched through the Streamspot player. This includes both live and afterwards "on demand". It measures how many computers/phones/devices are connected.

"Facebook Peak Live Viewers" shows the maximum number of people watching the service at any point on Facebook. It doesn't capture people who watched it later.

Notice the high levels in the spring before vaccinations. The spike is Easter. As we opened up the sanctuary the numbers went down but are still substantial.

Altar Guild**Ruth Garrett**

It is a joy for all of us to be worshipping once again in our beautiful sanctuary. Your Altar Guild is gratefully back responding to its commitments.

We are responsible for the preparation of all Eucharistic Services, as well as preparing and assisting at Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The Altar Guild orders flowers and supplies and helps with holiday decorations at Christmas, Easter and other special occasions when warranted.

Our goal is to continue our care of the Altar with all the silver and brass vessels polished, all candles replaced when needed and all linens washed and kept in perfect condition.

Lives and responsibilities have changed for some of the Altar Guild members, reducing our number to nine. Some of the nine are still understandably hesitant to gather with others, leaving the responsibilities to a few.

Our objective is to spread the joy of serving faithfully, while enjoying the fellowship of its members and interesting more members of Trinity to join the Altar Guild.

Acolyte Report**Patrick DeBrock**

The Acolyte ministry at Trinity provides our youth and adults with a wonderful opportunity to explore their faith and fulfill servant leadership roles in service to God while enjoying fellowship together. All youth (grades 3 – 12) and adults are welcome to be part of this ministry. The acolyte function provides Altar support to the clergy, carries processional and recessional crosses, and functions as torchbearers all in a ministry that emphasizes servant leadership.

We are hoping to revitalize the program in 2022 as we are all feeling more comfortable about in person worship.

2021 Lay Worship Ministry Report

Kim Merrill

In the Episcopal tradition, worship is a work of the people. Worship is at the heart of what we do and participation in our worship services is strongly encouraged. A corps of lay worship leaders, both Adults and Youth, joins the clergy in providing leadership. The Tech Guild was created this year to accommodate the need to livestream worship. One or two people are required for every worship service. Training is available for all these lay ministries. Let us know if you are interested in serving as:

Acolyte - Leads the processional, Gospel presentation and recessional; carries the cross, candles.

Altar Guild - Sets up altar area for services, clean and maintain altar vessels, candles, and crosses, decorate the church for holidays, sets up for weddings, baptisms, funerals, special services, etc.

Intercessor – Reads aloud the Prayers of the People.

Lector - Reads assigned scriptures during church services - Old and New Testament.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) - Administer the sacraments to persons receiving Holy Communion, most often as chalice bearers.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) - Take Holy Communion to those who are sick or otherwise homebound.

Ushers- Welcome people into the service, hand out worship booklets, orient newcomers to the church, collects and presents the offering, directs the movement of the congregation during the Eucharist.

Tech Guild – Tech Guild is responsible for operating the video camera and associated controls used in the streaming of services and other events that are held in the sanctuary. Five church members have been trained to date. Additional operators are needed. Anyone interested should contact Floyd Higgins, 203-577-7540.

2021

Acolyte - Crucifer	9	LEV	4
Acolyte – Torch Bearer	7*	Cafe	6*
Chalice Minister	9*	Driving	5*
Altar Guild	9	Usher	13
Intercessor	17	Vestry of the Day	8*
Lector	17	Assistant Treasurer	5*
Tech Guild	5		

**These ministries were not used at all during 2021 due to reduced in-person service.*

Silence is God's first language, everything else is a poor translation.

*Father Thomas Keating
(founder of Centering Prayer)*

Father Thomas Keating developed a prayer practice known as Centering Prayer to bring a common monastic practice to the rest of us. The goal of this prayer practice is to “Be still and know that I am God” as the Psalmist says (Psalm 46:10). It is a simple prayer practice which has really only one rule to follow – show up and do it. When you show up (twice a day for 20 minutes each), you simply sit in silence and let your thoughts go and let God in. The true gift of the prayer practice is seen over time as you find yourself developing in the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Centering Prayer at Trinity has been going strong now for 17 years. Our current group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30am – 11:30am in a hybrid fashion with some in the Johnson room and others via Zoom. There are currently 8 active members of the group. Besides meeting monthly to pray together, we also typically go on a silent retreat once per year for a weekend. We often hold these retreats at monasteries, for example: Holy Cross (West Park, NY) and Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) (Cambridge, MA), both are Episcopal men’s monastic communities. We find that over time those hours of silent prayer help to open us to God’s presence and action in our lives. This was on-hold this year but we hope to begin again once Covid-19 is under control.

The group is open to anyone who has attended an Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop. If you have any questions about this prayer practice or the group, contact Cindy Anderau, 914-582-3816 or cindyanderau@gmail.com.

Tech Guild

Floyd Higgins

The Tech Guild is completing its second calendar year providing streaming of the services at Trinity. Thanks to Nancy Cole, Maria DeBrock, Patrick DeBrock, Floyd Higgins and Chuck Wyatt, all of the Sunday and special services has been streamed live this past year. Thanks also to Sue Roman for her video expertise in leading the development of our system. This was brought about by the Covid Pandemic and our desire to enable parishioners to “attend” church services without actually attending. Members of the Tech Guild take turns, usually two at a time: one operating the camera and the other monitoring and adjusting sound levels. We “go live” ten minutes before the service actually begins to allow viewers to get their video adjusted either on the Trinity Website or on Facebook. Those at home get to see what is going on, who is at church, and preparations for service such as candle lighting. The sound is turned on when the service actually begins.

Since there is only one camera that is fastened to the rail of the choir loft, it is not possible to get a good view of the musicians as they sing and play. We have two microphones in the loft to pick up the voices and the sounds of the organ. There has been discussion about procuring an additional camera (moveable) that would solve this problem as well as provide portability for covering special events in other parts of the church. There are no specific plans at present.

We note that other churches provide visuals and graphics relating to announcements about weekly activities or other information relating to church activities. We also see some churches that provide an overlay with words to hymns as they are sung. We are exploring opportunities relating to these extra features that would enhance our presentation.

The Tech Guild is open to new members. If you think you might be interested, please feel free to contact Floyd Higgins, Coordinator, or any of the other Guild members. You might like to sit and observe the operation during a live service. We can arrange for individual or group training. Scheduling assignments of the operators is flexible; each of the current members average two services a month.

The Tech Guild members are appreciative of the Vestry support in the development of the streaming operation and procurement of the equipment. We also appreciate the cooperation from Reverend Andrea, Music Director Don, and Communication and Membership Mgr. Kim. Finally, we are encouraged by the comments and feedback from parishioners who have shared their viewing experiences and thoughts about the “Trinity Stream.”

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

The Trinity Care Team began its ministries in May 2021. Its mission is: *To be prayerful in all that we do as we offer support to our parishioners and beyond.* We strive to achieve this mission by offering meals, rides, calls, and prayers for those in need. Before we began to live into this mission, we thought about how to equip ourselves with the sort of training we would need to fulfill each of these caring ministries. Using resources from the Stephen Ministry training program, we gave training to team members in: Confidentiality, the Art of Listening and Maintaining Boundaries. In the table below, you can see what training was required for each Trinity Care Team service.

Trinity Care Team Service	Training/Certification Required
<p>Meals We provide meals to parishioners in need (e.g., recovering from surgery or illness or after just having a baby or a life crisis)</p>	1. Confidentiality
<p>Rides We provide rides for parishioners who need them to church, doctor's appointments, etc.</p>	1. Confidentiality 2. Art of Listening 3. Maintaining Boundaries 4. Safe Church 5. Background check
<p>Calls We regularly check-in with parishioners to see if they are in need of any support from this team or directly from Rev. Andrea.</p>	1. Confidentiality 2. Art of Listening 3. Maintaining Boundaries 4. Safe Church
<p>Intercessory Prayers We pray regularly (goal is daily) for those on Trinity's prayer list (in the bulletin or as directed by the church office). This group also meets in person to pray together once per month. This group also sends prayer cards to those on the bulletin prayer list.</p>	1. Confidentiality
<p>Emergency Prayers We pray immediately when a request is made.</p>	

The training was completed at the end of August and since then, the team (24 active members) has accomplished the following:

Meals: 7 volunteers made 9 meals for two Trinity parishioners and one family who are not members but had reached out to Rev. Andrea during a very difficult time in their lives. This team also made "Thinking of you Cookies" that were given to parishioners who we haven't seen in awhile or who are new to Trinity. Ten volunteers made 40+ dozen cookies and 5 volunteers delivered them personally to 20 parishioners.

Rides: 3 volunteers have provided 11 rides to a parishioner for doctor visits.

Calls: 6 volunteers have made 36 calls. These calls have led to further support for these parishioners either through this team or by Rev. Andrea.

Prayers:

Intercessory prayer team: 10 members have been praying for all those in the bulletin and another confidential list of 20-30 people.

Emergency prayer team: 17 members have prayed immediately on 4 occasions.

Anyone is welcome at any time to join the Trinity Care Team. Training is easily accomplished using the video recordings we have saved. Members decide how much they want to participate and which ministry is right for them. If you know of a need out there that this team can fulfill, please reach out to us. Cindy Anderau, 914-582-3816 or cindyanderau@gmail.com or Laurie Trotto, 203-300-4859 or laurentrotto@gmail.com.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV)

During the latter months of 2021, we resumed our Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) program with much enthusiasm.

Our four trained lay persons visit with those individuals who are homebound, hospitalized or in nursing homes, offering a prayer service and sharing the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Each Sunday an LEV is sent out in prayer. The four LEVs are Martha Dayton, Ruth Garrett, Teddy Jameson and Glenda Strother.

It is a joy and privilege to spend time with these individuals who readily and happily receive the LEVs.

We welcome all who are interested in this rewarding ministry to please speak with any one of the four LEVs.

Prayer Partners

Gordon Strother

If you are a member of our Prayer Fellowship, you'll open up your Letter each month to see who your new Prayer Partner will be. That's about it. You may or may not contact her (or him), but since you both are receiving the same rotating list, she'll know you are praying for her. And you will see who's praying for you. Silent partners. That's the heart of the fellowship, but there are two more pages of fresh suggestions for your prayers if you are so moved, and one other page featuring a poem, a reflection, a meditation to enhance your prayer life. There are no meetings, no subscription fees, no requirements beyond those of your own heart. Contact Gordon Strother to hop on board. He'll need a phone number for the Prayer Partner list, and an email address (or an old fashioned one if you are a twentieth century sort of person).

The mission of Stephen Ministry at Trinity is:

to recruit, train, and support lay volunteers (Stephen Ministers) to be present for and bring Christ's love to people going through significant transitions and or recovering from challenges in their lives – for as long as it takes.

Even in these challenging times, Trinity's Stephen Ministry endures and prospers. The core work of offering one-on-one care-giving to parishioners-in-need continues. And our outreach to parishioners-in-mourning continues in the form of the series of "Grief Booklets" that we distribute. Our core work capabilities have expanded in adding two additional Stephen Ministers to the team—Carol Bigman and Joe Bojnowski. Having completed the 50+ hours of training this past fall, Joe and Carol are to be commissioned as full-fledged Stephen Ministers in January '22. We welcome them as caring members of the current roster of SMs—Ellie Zarifis, Erin Lutz, Geoff Dent and Gordon Strother. Additionally, Reverend Andrea was formally on-boarded into the work of Stephen Ministry, in having attended the formal week-long Stephen Ministry Leadership training offered virtually by SM headquarters early this past year. We are thrilled to have her presence and commitment to this important lay ministry—along with her wellspring of fresh ideas to enable us to keep on keepin' on in new ways.

Indeed, the Stephen Leaders Team—Cindy Anderau, Ron Dukenski, Paget Haylon and Reverend Andrea Wyatt—have continued to expand the field of possibilities of offerings to the Parish. Again in 2021, we provided classes on "The Art of Listening" and "Maintaining Boundaries" for purposes of building awareness of how we can collectively and communally "be here for each other" as parishioners. New Zoom technology has been employed to make it possible for many people to attend these offerings virtually—a real blessing in the time of Covid-19 and during bad weather.

More expansively in 2021, the Trinity Leaders have provided the impetus for the launch of the new Trinity Care Team, a mix of outreach services, including emergency and intercessory prayer, rides and meals and check-in phone calls to parishioners—along with distributing batches of cookies to people whom we wanted to know were in our thoughts and prayers. Coordinated by Cindy Anderau and involving 20+ parishioners, this set of initiatives have been enthusiastically embraced as a demonstration of Trinity as a caring community. They have been truly innovative and unique—well beyond what Stephen Ministry at the parish level is usually about—and serve as model of participation and community-building, even given the limitations and restrictions of the pandemic.

But, of course, Covid has taken its toll in some other ways—we were much less able to do the kind of sharing and networking with other Stephen Ministry parishes in the area that we've done in the past. Hopefully, this will change in 2022.

We continue to be blessed also by the ongoing support of our Vestry and parish leadership, who have dedicated themselves to "be on the lookout" for people who might be hurting in some way or have a need for the special kind of care-giving that Stephen Ministers provide. We have continued to promote awareness with periodic updates to the Vestry and contact with parish committees.

And we will continue to encourage all parishioners to share this "lookout" role. It's as simple as asking a person about whom you may have a concern, "Have you thought about working with a Stephen Minister?" Or it may be something you might mention to Reverend Andrea to make that inquiry. Stephen Ministry is about "Christ Caring For People Through People"—and that's all of us as parishioners, not just the designated Stephen Ministry Team. And, as always, we continue to emphasize the standard of confidentiality and anonymity for anyone who chooses to work with a Stephen Minister.

Finally, again, we ask all who read this report to continue to ask for God's blessing on Stephen Ministry in the life of Trinity Church, Newtown.

Mission & Outreach

Mark Benedict

COVID-19 did not stop Trinity's Mission and Outreach (M&O) Commission from supporting the local community in 2021! Trinity M&O members continued participation throughout the year in the regional interfaith collaboration called Laundry Love. Laundry Love provides dignity to homeless men and women by covering laundromat expenses at scheduled times and participating facilities. Trinity is one of several local participating faith organizations and the program is running well and is on a good financial track. Trinity plans to continue to support this mission through 2022 and beyond through hands-on participation and financial pledge assistance.

2021 was Trinity's thirteenth consecutive year as a continuous monthly hot meal provider at Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury. Covid-19 protocols continued through 2021 with enthusiastic volunteers providing cold and hot meals for both curbside pickup as well as delivery to remote homeless housing. Since starting in May 2009, it is estimated that perhaps 100 or more Trinity parishioners, clergy, affiliates or friends of Trinity have participated in this mission activity. As this is a continuous and on-going activity, the need for additional hands-on volunteers is constant. There are always opportunities for participation in meal preparation, sandwich making or meal serving at Dorothy Day or other volunteer roles to fill in all of the other important ministries the Commission supports. Please consider joining the team for a fun and fulfilling day or activity or even better, for the long term. The Trinity Newtown team is the DDHH meal provider 12 times a year, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Mark Benedict, Jean-Maurice Calmels, or any M&O Commission member or DDHH volunteer to indicate your interest.

The M&O Commission continued through 2021 to support a number of long-time and new mission initiatives. In addition to the annual adoption of Christmas and Thanksgiving Basket families by the Commission, with Christmas gifts and food items supplied by Parishioners, the Commission also supported local human service organizations through hands-on participation and monetary grants. The Mission & Outreach Commission provided financial support to Trinity's Companion Parish Group by covering the annual linkage fee and through a scholarship program to benefit San Jose La Montana's youth and local economy. The M&O Commission also supports the activities of the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement through member participation in activities, grants, and through fundraising support directly from Trinity parishioners.

In December the M&O Commission with Reverend Andrea teamed up with Trinity youth to travel to New Haven to host a Chapel-on-the-Green Sunday afternoon outdoor Church service and hot meal at Trinity/New Haven to local residents mostly comprised of unhoused people living on the street. Reverend Andrea preached an insightful sermon and it was a great experience to once again participate in this fulfilling outreach program together with Trinity parishioners and youth.

The M&O Commission nominates for Vestry concurrence the recipients of Trinity's Easter and Christmas Special Offering collections from the congregation. For Easter 2021, donations of \$1008.00 were collected for the Women's Center of Greater Danbury. The Christmas 2021 Special Offering collection recipients will be the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR) here in Newtown which is currently making plans to accept another refugee family to the area, and the F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry, which provides nutritious food to the food insecure also here in Newtown. At the time of this writing of this report the collection total from the Christmas Offering was not available, but the Commission has elected to supplement the collection with the remaining balance of the Commission 2021 budget - \$2250. The Mission & Outreach Commission would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions in support of these organizations as well as for the Commission's budget funding – which we very carefully manage.

The M&O Commission has an annual budget for the disbursement of Outreach grants and other activity expenses. The 2021 budget was \$17,000.00 approved at annual meeting, plus a vestry approved rollover from 2020 of \$3000, for a total of \$20,000.00, of which \$19,996.46 (99.98%) was expended. The grant money was disbursed to charitable/human services organizations with various missions, including but not limited to: housing, shelter, healing, hunger relief, social justice, refugee assistance, and disaster relief. Portions of the above funds were expended to support Trinity's direct "hands-on" mission & outreach efforts.

Faithfully submitted,
Mark Benedict, Chair

Mission & Outreach Commission members: Jeanne Benedict, Carol Bigman, Jean-Maurice Calmels, Nancy Cole, Martha Dayton, David Ericson, Joan King.

Laundry Love

Carol Bigman

Laundry Love is a national initiative to assist people who are homeless or struggling financially with their laundry. The story of Laundry Love began with a homeless individual in Ventura, California. When asked what he most needed, he replied

“If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being.”

Laundry Love of Greater Danbury encompasses funds and volunteers from 10 faith communities. Each church pledges an annual amount to keep Laundry Love afloat. Trinity is one of the charter members. Pre Pandemic these volunteers help clients locate washers and driers at the White Street Laundromat. We provided each guest with pre-paid cards enabling them to wash and dry two loads. During the pandemic we provide groups in social services with laundry cards/detergent packages. These groups, such as Dorothy Day, distribute the cards to their clients. Additionally, our volunteers distribute cards outside of White's one day a month to guests.

Companion Parish

David Ericson, Sue Roman

Our sisters and brothers in San José la Montaña have faced significant challenges in 2021 because of the COVID pandemic. El Salvador has done a better job than most of the surrounding countries at vaccinating their population, which has been an enormous blessing. Still, work and school has been interrupted by the pandemic. San José responded by delivering food and supply packages to families under quarantine. Sister Parish, Inc, which facilitates our relationship with San José la Montaña, has dedicated their fundraising efforts during the pandemic to securing emergency supplies for the communities in which they work.

The people of San José and surrounding communities are also working to protect local water sources from privatization and pollution by mining and other international industries, and to limit the reach of an increasingly autocratic government.

On a recent call with other churches that have Sister Parish-facilitated relationships, the Executive Director asked an arresting question. During this pandemic, how can we continue to show solidarity with these communities we love? At Trinity we arrange periodic online visits for Bible study and fellowship and hope to make those more regular. Anyone with interest in these and other communications is encouraged to contact us to participate.

We also continue to support our scholarship program, contributing about \$40 per month to the village's university students, thanks to the Mission and Outreach Committee. We are entering our third year of the scholarship program, and the first of these students, Carlos Ramirez, just graduated with a degree in Systems Engineering. I first met Carlos when he gave up his bedroom to me when I stayed at his parents' house on my first trip to the village. Carlos wanted to go to the capital to study but the fear of violence there led the family to decide that he should stay closer to home and attend a rural school. He had to take time off to work but returned to school and has now finished and gotten his degree. Other university students will be graduating soon, as well, and all have an agreement to give back to their community in some way. During their time at home, they have engaged in cleaning the local roads and woods of litter, working to combat violence against women, and other community service.

The Companion Parish Committee has recently discussed organizing a second delegation from San Jose to visit us here at Trinity Church in Newtown, so that they can learn more about our lives here and we can learn more about theirs. We hope to arrange this for the fall of 2022 and invite all who are interested to participate in the planning. Learning their history, and following their example of joyous, faithful organizing in the face of difficulty, has deepened my own faith. The Companion Parish Committee hopes to strengthen the bonds of faith-based friendship and solidarity that join our two communities.

IPRR (Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement)

Carol Bigman

Trinity has joined a number of faith communities in the greater Newtown area to resettle refugee families. Non affiliated individuals have also joined IPRR. Working closely with IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) we co-sponsor families upon their arrival in the United States. Each family has been thoroughly vetted by the state department. We are committed to helping each family learn English, obtain employment, enroll in school and become productive and independent community members. This summer Mission and Outreach sent the children from our third family to YMCA camp in Brookfield for two weeks. These children are all now successfully attending Danbury Public Schools. Trinity, along with these other groups, offer many volunteer opportunities in these areas. You may wish to be a driver or a tutor....the needs are many. To date, IPRR has settled three families in the U.S. It is currently fundraising to prepare for a fourth family. It anticipates this family's arrival in March, 2022.

2021 Communications Report

Kim Merrill

2021 brought the return of in-person worship, and the introduction of "hybrid everything". While it is challenging to manage both online and in person details of all activities, meetings and worship services, the staff and congregation have been incredibly supportive. The biggest addition to communications was the addition of the "Zoom Room", which is the set up in the Johnson Room which allows people to meet in person, as well as from the safety of their own home.

Trinity's relationship with the Newtown Bee continues to be positive, and we appeared in the paper at least 29 times over the course of the year. Some of the more notable coverage we received included the Newtown Interfaith Council, Great Pumpkin Challenge, the Service of Remembrance, and the Festival of Trees.

We have a solid presence on social media. On Facebook, we have 780 followers (up by 57 from last year), Instagram has 335 (up 44 from last year), and the e-news is sent out to 375 (up 20 from last year) people every week.

Breakfast Sunday

Patrick DeBrock

It is so hard to believe but it took over 2 years before we were finally able to come together and celebrate a Breakfast Sunday again. November 2019 had been the last Sunday Breakfast until November 2021 when we once again gathered for eggs, biscuits, bacon, and sausage. To me, it was glorious, even if only fleeting, to hear the conversation again over a meal in the Glover room. The Sunday Breakfast is one opportunity to come together in a ministry that celebrates multi-generational fellowship.

Even though the pandemic did shut down Sunday breakfast, we were able to have a Mardi Gras "to go" in February 2021. Thank you so much to all of you that helped and donated to the special event as Trinity raised almost \$2,000 for Newtown Family Services to help those in need. It was our first experiment with "take out" and despite a few glitches, it was a great event. The Tuesday after the Mardi Gras event we used the "to go" experience to provide a Shrove Tuesday pancake meal "to go". Thank you to all that assisted as we served over 65 orders of pancakes, sausage, and bacon.

We want to be very clear all are welcome to help as we have these types of events. It is a great opportunity for fellowship for everyone including existing and new members. It truly warms my heart when I hear people talk about these events at Trinity. As we come out of this pandemic it will be events like these that will help us to get back together again as a parish family. I believe these events can become a special way to connect and rejoin as a faith community for all of us.

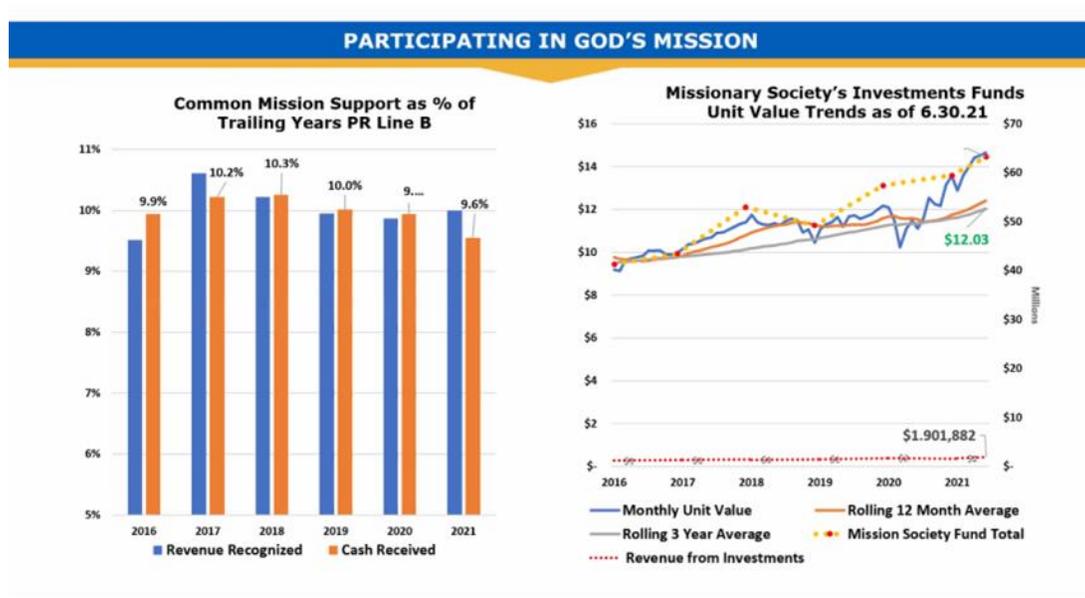
Again, thank you Trinity because for your generosity we have been able to conduct these events that provide support to our community, support future youth activities, offer opportunities for parish communication, and progress the ministry of multi-generational fellowship.

ECCT Convention Report

Tom Swetts

On Saturday October 23 the Episcopal Diocese of CT held its 237th convention remotely through Zoom. All Saints Episcopal Church of Cornwall and Seabury Retirement Community were welcomed into the diocese as part of the Intentional Episcopal Community. (resolution 1)

The budget for the new year is flat with funds shifted in areas to meet the current needs of the diocese.



There were seven resolutions in all.

Resolution #2

Approval of the diocese salary structure for clergy and staff of the parishes. There was a long debate on adding deacons to the payroll at \$25 a month to allow them access to the retirement benefits. It finally passed.

Resolution #3

The next was concerning energy audits being required by all parishes and methods of reporting to the diocese. Parishes were to hold one event per year around global warming.

Resotion #4

Fostering relationships with our indigenous neighbors and requiring each parish to hold one event per year around that topic.

Resolution #5

Sharing work around safe church to create less work for each individual parish

Resolution #6

Evangelism to target young adults and the need to have a full time staff person for this after the new bishop is installed. The Episcopal Church's membership has the highest median age of the top 20 religious entities.

Resolution #7

Addressing racism in according to the canons of the national Episcopal Church.
All resolutions passed.

The Bishop Douglas gave his farewell address to the convention sighting his accomplishments and where there is great work to be done. In his eleven years the diocese membership has decreased by 25% with more parishes going to part time clergy with nine parishes closing.

ECCT Changes over the last decade

- 2011 57,278 members 171 parishes
- 2020 43,373 members 155 parishes
-25% members -9% parishes

Full-time clergy

- 2011 96 of 171 parishes 56%
- Today 57 of 153 parishes 37%
(63% part-time)

He sees a need for God's in communities rather than centered in church. The diocese has six regions that are working to create this change. He mentioned Sandy Hook and the 30,000 deaths from gun violence each year and the formation of a group of over 100 bishops to oppose gun violence. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to me.

Newtown Youth & Family Services

Candace Bohr

Trinity Church saw a need for a local counseling center and acted upon that need in 1983. The Trinity parishioners provided \$15,000 in seed money, which, together with a \$5,000 special grant from the United Way, established the agency that provided counseling, support groups, educational workshops, and other services. This original agency was called the Family Life Center. In 1997, the agency changed its to the Family Counseling Center.

Newtown Youth Services (NYS) began in Newtown in 1979. Its mission was to improve the quality of life in the community through programs and services for young people and parents with a philosophy reflecting the enthusiasm, hope, and creativity that are the promise of children.

In 2007, FCC and NYS merged to form Newtown Youth and Family Services. In 2012, NYFS was designated as the Mental Health agency for the Town of Newtown. We currently serve clients from over 41 towns and have a close partnership with the Newtown School District.

We have been blessed with Kim Merrill to lead the charge on the Festival of Trees. NYFS is happy that the Festival has found a new home at Trinity Church due to Ms. Merrill and Rector Andrea Wyatt warm welcome and hospitality. The Festival of Trees is a very large piece of the Holiday Festival which just completed its 36th success year. NYFS looks forward to our continued partnership and encourage the congregation to reach out if they need support.

Trinity Day School

Michelle Macey

Trinity Day School began as Trinity Church outreach program in the early 1970's. Now incorporated, Trinity parishioners continue to receive priority for early registration each January. Many Trinity parishioners were first introduced to the church through their Trinity Day School experience.

Trinity Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit preschool, funded completely through tuition and fundraising efforts. The school is governed by a Board of Directors, which is currently undergoing reorganization. TDS is serving approximately 50 families this year.

Most of the TDS staff has been with the school for many years. The current director began as a teacher in 1995, having been a TDS student herself. Other teachers have worked at TDS for as many as 20 years. Trinity Day School is an important part of the Newtown community. The majority of families reside in Newtown, with a handful of students from neighboring towns attending.

State licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood and nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), TDS achieved raw scores ranging from 92-100% in ten different areas. The adjusted scores were "100%+" in all areas during their most recent reaccreditation! The reaccreditation process is based on a five year cycle. TDS will be up for reaccreditation again in 2024.

The school offers quality education for children ages two through five, with music, gym, and science programs to enrich the classroom experience. TDS brings community experiences into their classrooms. Before Covid protocols were in place, the children enjoyed visits from community resources such as the Newtown Hook & Ladder fire department and a local dental office as well as monthly visits from the CH Booth children's librarian. They have also partnered with the Newtown Youth Academy to bring NYA's "Happy Feet" soccer program to the 3s and 4s.

Now in the second year of Covid protocols, TDS has reinstated the twos program and is back to a full staff of nine. All staff are fully vaccinated. Families are still dropping their children off at the outside door, but are entering the building for pick-up. All adults three and older are fully masked while in the building. Field trips and enrichment activities involving community visitors are still on hold. Families follow strict rules regarding illness and covid-19 protocols. TDS continues to follow all guidelines put out by the local health department, CT Office of Early Childhood, and NAEYC. The health and safety of the TDS and all Trinity communities are very important. TDS is working hard to provide a safe place where children can benefit from a quality education.

There continues to be a significant, caring connection between Trinity Church and Trinity Day School. Together there is much we can do to serve the needs of our community. We look forward to fostering this relationship as we look toward the future.

Properties

Gordon Dunn

The Property Commission continues its mission of stewardship of all Trinity's properties and facilities for the benefit of the Parish community and others who may utilize such facilities as guests. The Commission focuses upon the safe, efficient and responsible care, use and maintenance of Trinity's Church, Parish House, Rectory, Curate House, Memorial Garden and adjoining properties while proactively planning for and addressing the changing needs of our parish community.

The goals for the Property Commission remain the same from year to year. They are as follows:

- Maintain all parish properties to allow the church community and guests to use them safely and comfortably
- Consider ways in which the church properties and facilities could or should be enhanced and assist in the execution of Vestry approved projects.
- Plan, measure, monitor and report spending associated with the Parish properties and facilities while maintaining budget discipline.
- Review on a current and proactive basis the condition of Trinity's properties and facilities to advise the Vestry of future requirements.

The Property Commission met its goals for 2021 and ended the year within budget.

In addition to regularly scheduled maintenance, the Property Commission successfully undertook and completed a number of projects in 2021. The primary accomplishments are as follows:

- Overall maintenance of the grounds to include shrub and flower planting
- Rekeying Project/ Fob initiative
- Damaged Trees and Limb clearing
- Enhanced audio / microphone live stream upgrade
- Parking lot lines repainted
- Boiler room / Furnace repairs
- A full year of Curate house rental.
- Gazebo roof replacement
- Johnson room closet makeover (ongoing)
- Fall / Spring grounds clean up

The time and effort of the Property Commission is much appreciated by all. It consists of Gordon Dunn, Larry Coleman, Kristen Peterson, Geoff Dent, Walt Street and Bob Hiruo. A special thank you to Larry Coleman for all his knowledge and wisdom regarding everything about the Trinity Property.

Finance Commission

2021 Trinity Finance Commission Annual Report

Patrick DeBrock

Our Role, as the Finance Commission, is to support the ministry of Trinity Church by ...

...taking care of our gift of holy currency – money

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this, the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had had great wealth (Mark 10:21-22)

... preparing and managing the overall budget

... overseeing the management of the endowments and trusts, including disbursements,

... providing accurate and timely, current & projected financial information to Vestry for decision-making

... developing and implementing ideas to improve our financial stewardship.

2021 Overview

2021 was a strong financial year for Trinity as the long-term investments continued to grow with the improvement in the stock market. Trinity was able to transition back to in-person worship early in the second quarter of 2021. The return to in-person services helped to support the growth of contributions (pledged and unpledged) to \$307,583 (11% increase from 2020) with total Income reaching \$569,375, or 5.8% over the prior year. The safe and slow return to in-person services also contributed to many of Trinity's ministry programs having lower than planned costs, resulting in total expenses of \$556,463 or \$12,468 lower than budget. Overall, Trinity closed out 2021 with a net revenue position of \$12,912. The 2021 net revenue funding position will be leveraged and carried forward into 2022 to help support exciting new ministries and initiatives being planned.

Glover Trust, Johnson & General Endowments

The Glover Trust's long-term investments continued to have strong growth with the fund up 6% as of November 2021 even after withdrawing the 4.5% (\$249,470) operating fund contribution for the year. For the fourth year in a row, Trinity did not require withdrawals from the Johnson and General endowment for the entire year. The ability to not draw on those funds has allowed Trinity to keep over \$100,000 of endowment untouched and growing. As of 11/30/2021, the Glover Trust had an investment balance of \$6,849,369 and the remaining long-term reserve funds (Johnson, General, and Capital Reserve) totaling \$1,245,937

Finance Commission Processes

The Finance Commission meets on a monthly frequency to analyze and discuss the Income & Expense condition, expected cash flows, and any financial issues that need to be addressed. The meetings also enabled a review of the current strategies employed by our money managers in terms of suitability from a risk management standpoint, market conditions, and long and short-term parish capital requirements. The Investment sub-committee continues to conduct periodic meetings with our money managers to discuss financial performance as well as the market strategies and stance for the short and long-term investments. The investment sub-committee was created to ensure the strategies were aligned with our target of growing the portfolio faster than our 4.5% withdrawals adjusted for cost-of-living adjustments but still maximizing portfolio safety.

A Moment of Recognition

The Finance Commission would like to express appreciation and special recognition to a couple of commission members. First, to our outgoing Finance Commission Chairperson a big thank you to Leon Karvelis for his dedicated leadership and considerable financial expertise that he provided the commission. Leon stepped into the chairperson role as a newcomer to Trinity. However, that did not stop him from taking on the role and having an impact. He led efforts to refresh and update the finance manual and enhanced the commission's review of our long-term investments. Leon brought his years of financial services experience with the markets and financial investment strategy to help expand the Vestry's awareness of the investment strategies Trinity. Thank you, Leon, for the leadership, experience, and love you provided to the Finance Commission and the continued fiscal prosperity of Trinity.

Finally, Randy Lewis has stepped down from the Finance Commission after decades of service. I must say that words alone cannot express the appreciation and gratitude that Trinity and the Financial Commission owe Randy for his service. Randy and his wife Sue have been longtime members of Trinity and Randy took an active and dedicated interest in the financial longevity of Trinity. He has led for years the Legacy Effort to get members to remember Trinity in their estate planning to ensure Trinity is around for the years to come. In addition, Randy has been a key member of the investment sub-committee and supported countless stewardship campaigns over the years. Randy helped me understand the rich history and importance of being excellent stewards providing oversight for Trinity's financial future and legacy. Trinity continues to be so blessed to have dedicated, experienced, and talented financial resources providing strong leadership and support with our financial position. Thank you, Randy, and others who over the years have maintained a strong financial love for the longevity of Trinity Episcopal Church.

*Respectfully & Faithfully Submitted:
by the Finance Commission Chair Patrick DeBrock*

Trinity Episcopal Church							
2022 Budget Summary							
Description	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	22 Bud to 21 Bud	%
Income							
PLEDGES / CONTRIBUTIONS	334,286	277,360	282,150	307,583	260,500	(21,650)	-7.7%
INVESTMENT INCOME							
Glover Trust	231,046	239,172	249,470	249,470	265,951	16,481	6.6%
Johnson Fund	-	-	9,741	-	10,848	1,107	11.4%
General Fund	-	-	15,240	-	16,964	1,724	11.3%
<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>231,046</i>	<i>239,172</i>	<i>274,452</i>	<i>249,470</i>	<i>293,763</i>	<i>19,311</i>	<i>7.0%</i>
OTHER INCOME	39,744	21,347	11,700	12,322	22,600	10,900	93.2%
Total Income	605,076	537,879	568,302	569,375	576,863	8,561	1.5%
Discipleship Expenses							
Worship	25,670	18,402	23,365	37,436	28,045	4,680	20.0%
ALTAR GUILD	4,537	4,260	3,965	6,963	3,940	(25)	-0.6%
MUSIC & CHOIR	19,999	14,025	18,600	28,447	22,025	3,425	18.4%
WORSHIP	1,135	118	800	2,025	2,080	1,280	160.0%
Formation	3,774	2,756	6,920	2,362	6,025	(895)	-12.9%
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	625	456	1,500	1,122	1,500	-	0.0%
CHURCH SCHOOL	292	144	-	164	2,700	2,700	0.0%
YOUTH	2,455	1,966	4,920	766	1,500	(3,420)	-69.5%
LIBRARY	402	191	500	310	325	(175)	-35.0%
Parish Life	1,736	2,754	5,200	1,337	8,322	3,122	60.0%
MEMBERSHIP	324	80	300	179	610	310	103.3%
FELLOWSHIP	1,006	856	1,600	(39)	2,450	850	53.1%
PASTORAL CARE	255	-	350	303	1,455	1,105	315.7%
STEPHEN MINISTRY	151	1,819	2,950	893	3,807	857	29.1%
Total Discipleship Exp	31,180	23,913	35,485	41,135	42,392	6,907	19.5%
Apostleship Expenses							
Finance / Office	111,393	125,910	109,596	121,636	103,243	(6,353)	-5.8%
COMMUNICATIONS/TOWER	3,074	2,602	4,406	5,001	6,690	2,284	51.8%
STEWARDSHIP	308	204	350	470	300	(50)	-14.3%
VESTRY	12,011	28,485	7,450	654	3,000	(4,450)	-59.7%
OFFICE EXPENSE	32,940	34,067	36,883	43,006	33,625	(3,258)	-8.8%
COMMUNITY & WORLD MINISTR	63,060	60,552	60,507	60,504	59,628	(879)	-1.5%
CARRY-OVER NEXT YEAR INITIATIVES	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	0.0%
MISSION & OUTREACH GRANTS	18,947	30,791	17,000	16,999	17,000	-	0.0%
PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE	100,641	89,576	93,220	81,862	92,580	(640)	-0.7%
Clergy / Staff Comp	342,205	268,380	313,630	306,830	322,417	8,787	2.8%
Clergy WAGES & BENEFIT	204,579	159,652	168,217	165,405	172,359	4,142	2.5%
LAY STAFF WAGES & BENEFIT	137,626	108,728	145,413	141,425	150,058	4,645	3.2%
Total Apostleship Exp	573,186	514,657	533,446	527,329	535,240	1,794	0.3%
TOTAL EXPENSE	604,366	538,570	568,931	568,463	577,632	8,701	1.5%
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	710	(691)	(629)	912	(769)	(140)	22.2%