



Trinity Episcopal Church

2019 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.

*Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020*

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**TRINITY NEWTOWN AS APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES
VESTRY STRUCTURE 2019**

BECOMING APOSTLES Means...

- *Being sent by the Holy Spirit into the world to join God's work of restoration and reconciliation.*
- *Widening our reach in the neighborhood as bringers of God's Love.*
- *Experimenting with new ways of joining in God's mission.*
- *Crossing boundaries, listening deeply, and living like Jesus.*

Warden – Dennis O'Connor

Missional Engagement: David Erickson, Liaison
Partnering with others to bring hope and healing into the world.

Finance: Hope Johnson, Liaison
Guiding and giving our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Properties: Leon Karvelis, Liaison
Connecting our buildings and grounds with our mission to serve others.

MAKING DISCIPLES Means...

- *Growing as followers of Jesus through Word and Sacrament.*
- *Gathering in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God.*
- *Connecting our story with God's story in Holy Scripture.*
- *Deepening our commitment to Jesus by learning in community.*
- *Being the Body of Christ as we break bread together and care for one another.*

Warden – Laurie Trotto

Worship: Gordon Dunn, Liaison
Working together to create beautiful and meaningful worship of God.

Parish Life: Moe Pershinsky, Liaison
Strengthening our unity as a community who cares for and loves one another.

Formation: vacant
Drawing from scripture, tradition, and our own stories to become more faithful followers of Jesus.

Trinity Episcopal Church Staff Members

PARISH STAFF As of January 26, 2020

Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Montgomery
Curate	The Rev. Matt Babcock
Seminarian	The Rev. Cate Anthony
Director of Music Ministry	Donald Wismann
Communications & Membership Manager	Kim Merrill
Finance Manager	Lori Rohrbacher
Sexton	John J. Qubick

TRINITY CHURCH - NEWTOWN, CT
MINUTES OF THE 287 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2019

Call to Order

The 287th Annual Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Montgomery (Jenny) who opened the meeting with the hymn, *We Are All One in Mission*, an invocation and a Dwelling in the Word reflection on 1 Corinthians.

Two vestry members, Laurie Trotto and Moe Powell shared their story and reflections on the Vestry's Following God Into the Neighborhood experience.

Approval 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

After review by those present, Amy Dent moved that the minutes of the 286th Annual Meeting be accepted. Forry Weatherby seconded and the motion carried.

Approve Bylaws Revision

Jenny provided an overview of the changes to the by-laws, noting that the stream-lined by-laws give the Vestry more control over items like setting the date for the annual meeting so that going forward it won't need to coincide with the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The changes also put our by-laws more in line with the ECCT and the national church. It was also noted how feedback from the By-Laws, Budget and Bagels forum was incorporated.

Randy Lewis moved that the revised by-laws as printed on pages 10 and 11 of the Annual Report be approved. Leon Karvalis seconded and the motion carried.

Election of new Vestry members, Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer and ECCT Delegates and Alternates

The following slate of candidates was presented to the parish.

Executive Committee Nominations:

Warden—Dennis O'Connor
Warden—Laureen Trotto
Clerk—Beth Thompson
Treasurer—Patrick DeBrock

Vestry Member Nominations

Connie Decker
Gordon Dunn
David Ericson
Leon Karvalis
Rick Irving—Youth Member

SW Region Delegate Nominations

Barbara Chamberlain
Geoff Dent
Bob Gardner—Alternate Delegate

There were no further nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and ballots were passed out and collected by Lindie Bacon and Randy Lewis who served as clerks for the election. Thirty-eight (38) ballots were cast for each slate above with no additional write-ins.

Highlights of 2018 – Slide Show and Annual Report

A slide show highlighting the year was viewed. Jenny invited the parish to share their reflections on the past year. Some items that were mentioned:

- Vestry and Outreach support for establishing scholarships for our sister parish in El Salvador
- The Parish stepping up for the Look Up campaign to repair the ceiling in the church
- Steady turnout and engagement in adult formation
- Our dedicated group of confirmands who have stayed in engaged and continue to exhibit leadership

2019 Budget Overview & Priorities

The 2019 Budget was handed out (going forward, it will be included in the annual report). The budget had previously presented to the parish at the By-Laws, Budget and Bagels forum. There were no additional questions.

Appreciations

Jenny invited those present to share their appreciations and started off by acknowledging Forry's leadership, even before she arrived and through difficult times. She also thanked our outgoing vestry, Dan and Sue for their leadership and dedication. Among the other appreciations offered were:

- Jean Benedict for all of the work she does in the parish, wearing many different hats
- Acknowledging the \$8,800 surplus and the excellent work the finance committee has done under Sue's and Dan's leadership
- All the hard work that the Altar Guild does behind the scenes
- For our clergy and the steady leadership they provide spiritually and administratively, the effects of which are evident even beyond the walls of our church

Results of Balloting and other announcements

Jenny announced that the slate of nominees was approved.

She also was pleased to announce that Amy and Geoff Dent have agreed to lead the committee that is planning our 150th anniversary of our current building. Anyone interested should attend the first meeting of this group on February 27th.

Commissioning of the Vestry and Ministry Group Leaders

Those elected were commissioned by the parish.

Motion to adjourn

At 8:37, Nancy Cole made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Donna Van Waalwijk. The motion carried and the meeting closed with the hymn, *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* and a dismissal blessing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth L. Thompson, Clerk

2020 Slate of Nominees

Executive Committee Nominations

Warden - Dennis O'Connor
Warden - Laureen Trotto
Clerk – Dorothy Schmidt
Treasurer - Patrick DeBrock

Vestry Member Nomination

Cathy Filiato - Formation

SW Region Delegate Nomination

Barbara Chamberlain
Geoff Dent

Alternate –

2019 Priest-In-Charge Annual Report

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Montgomery

It's always a bit nostalgic for me to look back over the past year. This is especially true as I think back on 2019. Reeling from the realities of Joe's brain tumor and subsequent surgery, my personal life took precedent over my priestly responsibilities in ways I have never known in twenty years of ordained ministry. Home life was such that I needed to take an extended leave from the parish, and I will always be grateful for your prayers and care for us during that time. To receive so many delicious meals and thoughtful ways of support were true gifts. To see how our curate, wardens, vestry, staff and congregation were fully capable of being Trinity Church without me, taught me a lot. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy being your Priest in Charge, however I know more fully it's not about me! It's about God working in and through each one of us. Time and time again as we care for one another, grow in faith, serve others, give generously, work for justice and follow Jesus out into the world we are opening ourselves to God's power and presence.

There are many outward and visible signs of God's grace working through us in. I'm proud of the way Trinity Church is adapting to the realities of being a parish in the new missional age. Today we are more connected to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. We are Dwelling in the Word. We are fed by Word and Sacrament every week. We are committed to making disciples and becoming apostles. We have had courageous sacred conversations about our past. We have sought healing and reconciliation. We have been supportive of and blessed by our curates, The Rev. Carrie Combs followed by The Rev. Matt Babcock, and of our seminarian, The Rev. Cate Anthony. We have continued to be partners with our community through Trinity Day School, the Connecticut Choral Society, AA, Interfaith Refugee Resettlement, Newtown Youth and Family Services, Dorothy Day, Laundry Love, the Girl Scouts, the Waterbury Symphony, and the Newtown Interfaith Council. We continue to host community conversations about immigration and the plight of refugees. We are not afraid to "try on" new things. We are sound financially and we have new people coming to Trinity.

All of which is to say that Trinity Church is a wonderful faith community. Knowing that my retirement date of July 1, 2020 will be here before we know it, I want to say again what a privilege it is to serve as your Interim Priest in Charge. Granted as we make way for the new rector there's some "spring cleaning" yet to be done (literally, emotionally and spiritually), all the while, know I'm grateful for the ministry we have done together over these past three years!

Having begun my ministry with you all in early August, it seems like only yesterday that Joel and I arrived in Newtown. We were eager to learn about the parish and community, and excited to see the ways God was at work in Newtown. In only four short months, I can tell you that we are very much at home among you. It is a blessing to be part of your family, and to experience all the ways that you continually extend hospitality. This was, in part, a major component of our discernment to join you in ministry. There is no doubt that "there is a place" for everyone here at Trinity!

The work we have been called to at Trinity is nothing short of amazing. As I continue to learn the various ministries of the parish, I am astounded by the dedication of lay and clergy leadership in this community. In the age of declining membership/participation in parishes, I continue to be energized by Trinity. Working with our confirmation participants and youth continues to be a blessing to my ministry. This work reminds me all too well often how God is continually at work "making all things new." Our youngest children continue to ask the most interesting and amazing questions about church and faith. Spending time with them has deepened my own faith, as they continually remind me of all the amazing ways that God is present in our world. Additionally, I am grateful for the vulnerability and engagement of our Youth-At-Church group. In discussing "hard" topics like anxiety, social pressure, etc., they began to strengthen tools like spiritual reflection. They are thoughtful and prepared for the next steps in their life. All these groups continue to be lovingly supported by the people of Trinity.

Lastly, our youth and YAC groups continue to be deeply connected to their community. By engaging their faith, our youth continue to answer the call to social action and participation in the wider world. Despite the cold rain and wind, they collected pumpkins and distributed candy as they raised awareness for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. The confirmation group began a discussion as to how their faith might be calling them to serve the community through participation in existing hunger alleviation ministries, as well as providing support for the homeless community during the coldest seasons of the year. We continue to prepare for and discern our call to pilgrimage, which remains an engaging conversation.

None of my work could be completed without the dedicated staff and support that we have at Trinity. I am grateful to work with such amazing colleagues. I am also grateful for the dedication and intentional support of our Youth Commission, as we continue to discern our call to ministry together. It is a blessing and true joy to be among you, and to become part of this amazing family. I can't wait to see what God is up to in 2020!

2019 Seminarian's Annual Report**The Rev. Gate Anthony**

It's hard to wrap my mind around the reality that I've been your seminarian for a year and a half, Trinity! It's been such a full and rich learning experience. In my first year as seminarian (fall 2018 to spring 2019), I worked primarily with the Mission and Outreach Committee. We celebrated the holidays by sponsoring Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts in partnership with local Newtown community service groups. In the Spring, the Mission and Outreach Committee sponsored and supported my Episcopal Evangelism Society, through which I received a grant enabling Trinity to host an ecumenical dinner church event on March 30. Before the dinner church event itself, I held workshops on evangelism and storytelling, working with members of our community to draw out the connections between the work of sharing the Gospel and telling our stories. The dinner church service was a wonderful gathering of both folks from Trinity's community and members of the broader Newtown Christian community. Together, we prayed, listened to Scripture, shared our stories of faith with one another, and (of course!) ate a delicious dinner. Gathering with you in this way was a dream come true, and an inspiration for my ministry.

In the fall of 2019, I partnered with Jenny to lead this community through a series of Sacred Conversations. Trinity, I want to commend you on the brilliant work you did together in that sacred circle: work of vulnerability in sharing, work of honesty, work of listening. You really showed up for one another to talk about difficult experiences and memories. More than that, you continue to show up to dream together about God's call to Trinity in these days and the days to come. As we continue into the New Year, I'm excited to continue learning with you. I'm especially excited and honored to serve as your deacon! It's a privilege and a great blessing of my formation to know you all.

The past year was a year of challenges and transitions for Trinity. We were blessed to have a tremendous staff in place that allowed Trinity to continue to function smoothly during Jenny's leave of absence. We were saddened to learn of Jenny's decision to retire in mid-2020, but excited for her and Joe as they begin this new phase in their lives. We were also excited for Carrie as she answered God's call to become the Priest-in-Charge at Trinity Church in Collinsville, CT. Finally, we were thrilled to be able to welcome Matt to Trinity as our new Curate in August where he has brought new excitement to the ministry, outreach, and worship of the parish.

This is a wonderful parish, doing many great things inside and outside our walls. It is with great joy, challenge, reward, and excitement that we have been able to serve as your Wardens. We remain fully committed and open to any and all conversations as we go forward.

We would like to comment on a couple of specific items:

Vestry:

We are proud of the deep commitment the Vestry has to listening to what God is asking of us and the dedication and professional manner in which Vestry members follow all responsibilities required by the Episcopal Canons, Dioceses and Trinity Bi-laws.

The Vestry continues to embrace the structuring of all the committees under either Discipleship or Apostleship which has created a strong foundation for us to grow spiritually and equip us to follow Jesus into the neighborhood. As Apostles, we are being sent by the Holy Spirit into the world to join God's work of restoration and reconciliation, widening our reach in the neighborhood as bringers of God's Love. As Disciples, we gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God, growing as followers of Jesus through the Word and Sacrament.

Continuing in 2020, the Vestry is committed to helping the various commissions, committees, and guilds grow as Apostles and Disciples, deepening our commitment to Jesus by learning in community as we break bread together and care for one another while we discover new ways of joining in God's mission.

Financial:

A strong financial reporting structure and auditing procedures continue to give the Vestry, Wardens, and clergy a full and clear understanding of our financial position at any point in time.

The Finance commission and the Investment Sub Committee, have, together with the vestry worked extensively to ensure we are spending within our means and positioning our finances for the long term. We are utilizing a lower percentage off our endowments to ensure that these remain available on going.

Personal Statement:

As we have gone through this past year and faced several challenges and transitions, our hearts are filled to see Trinity continuing to be vibrant, and our members working together to support each other and our community, and to serve God.

Thank you for trusting us to serve in the position of Wardens. We look forward to a very challenging 2020, as we continue to follow God into the neighborhood, further develop the structure of Discipleship and Apostleship, and critically, discern God's will for us as we learn to live as a parish in the New Missional Age and call a new rector for this next phase in the life of Trinity Newtown.

Yours, in God's name,

Laurie Trotto and Dennis O'Connor

Making Disciples

Parish Life

Moe Pershinsky

This year the Vestry has continued to fulfill our four goals we developed in 2018 and 2019. We strive to become Apostles and make Disciples. Parish life is formed in a combination of ways we care for one another such as Hands of Christ, Stephen Ministry, Pastoral Caring, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Membership and Fellowship. Using the Vestry's goals as a guideline, we as Parish Life feel as though we have developed a network of groups within Trinity to build relationships that contribute to the spiritual, emotional and social needs of adults and youth. During the past year Parish life has welcomed many new faces and seen some familiar faces during programs such as the Epiphany party, Breakfast Sunday (which are always a huge success) Welcoming Matt with Muffins, 2nd Women of Trinity Retreat and the continued success of the Lunch Bunch. Parish life also practiced going out into the neighborhood with Lemonade on the Lawn and serving Newtown during the Labor Day Parade, Brightening the Church lawn during the Pumpkin Challenge, passing out treats on Halloween and hosting Olaf during the Newtown Holiday Festival.

I have loved serving on the vestry and watching the ministry grow over the last year and I look forward to serving our community in the year to come. 2020 will be a very exciting new year with the Transition and the 150th Celebration I look forward to seeing what the new year brings

2019 Hands of Christ Ministry

Erin Lutz

The Hands of Christ Ministry provides meals to Trinity parishioners in their time of need. By utilizing an online sign up system called Care Calendar, volunteers may participate when it best fits their schedule. In 2019, the Hands of Christ Ministry supplied meals to three Trinity families. In total, 54 meals were prepared and delivered by 35 volunteers. Many thanks to all those who stepped forward to fulfill the goals of this ministry. We look forward to support our fellow parishioners in 2020.

2019 Pastoral Caring

Martha Dayton

Mission: *To love one another as I have loved you.*

Ways of caring in 2019

- The "Care Notes" booklets continue to be available for those seeking guidance in difficult situations.
- The correspondence ministry, organized by Martha Dayton, sent notes to those on the Sunday prayer list.
- The Sunday altar flowers were given each week to someone who needed cheer and well wishes.
- Funeral receptions were coordinated with two families and held in the Glover Community Room.

2019 Prayer Partners

Gordon Strother

Trinity's Fellowship is a ministry of low cost (paper and postage for two dozen monthly letters) and high consequence (if prayer's power multiplied has consequence). Think of the spiritual energy emanating from all those subscribers, representing all of us, winging forth each month's proposed prayers, collects, intersessions, mingling them with their own offerings, in their own space, at their own pace. We call it a partnership (we pray for a new partner each month on a rotating list), connected more or less by a "Dear Partner" letter. Want to subscribe? It's free. Tell Kim, or call editor Gordon Strother, (203) 304 9161.

2019 Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs)

Theodora Jameson

Trinity Newtown has a vibrant and dedicated group of trained participants for Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Currently, we have 5 Lay Eucharistic Visitors, who have received training and visit those who cannot attend services at Trinity. These services are held in homes, nursing homes or hospitals. Although we lost 2 recipients of our LEV ministry this year, we gained 2 new participants. The schedule is generated by a computer program, but additions can be made as required. All parish members are invited to consider any or all aspects of this ministry. Current LEV members are: Martha Dayton, Ruth Garrett, Bart Geissing, Theodora Jameson and Glenda Strother.

Parish Life continued

2019 Stephen Ministry Report

Ron Dukenski

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.

Trinity's Stephen Ministry continues to be a presence here in Newtown, in the greater Danbury area, and across the Diocese. In April, we participated in ECCT's annual "Spring Training" Event, presenting our story to great acclaim. Regionally, we continue to participate with a number of Stephen Ministry parishes from several denominations, in an effort to share information and resources and plans for ongoing shared training events.

If we had a theme this year as the Stephen Ministry for Trinity, it was "be on the 'lookout'"! All of us as caring parishioners here at Trinity can remind each other of the availability of Stephen Team Care-Givers, if we sense that someone might be hurting or have a need. It's as simple as asking that person, "Have you thought about working with Stephen Ministry?" Or it may be something you might mention to Jenny to make that inquiry. Stephen Ministry is about "Christ helping people Through people"—and that's all of us, not just the designated Stephen Team. So, during this past year, we made a concerted effort to speak to the parish as a whole in Sunday forums and also followed up with the Vestry and every standing commission and parish organization to reinforce the idea of everyone being "lookouts"—and, of course, reinforcing the notion of confidentiality and anonymity for anyone who chooses to work with a Stephen Care-Giver.

At the end of the year, as a "side project" and with Kim Merrill's help, we put together a "Stephen Ministry Prayer Booklet", available to everyone in the Parish. A collection of prayers and readings compiled from Stephen Ministers past and present, all of which are intended to be of comfort for people in need and those who care for them. These booklets are located on the table outside the side entrance to the sanctuary.

We are proud of the work of the Stephen Ministry Leader Team—Cindy Anderau, Ron Dukenski, Paget Haylon, Michelle Toby and Jenny Montgomery—who keep the overall process going for the parish and beyond. And we are grateful for the ongoing work of our Care-Givers — Gordon Strother, Geoff Dent, Ellie Zarifis, and Erin Lutz. We also bid a fond farewell to Anne McWhirter, a tireless Stephen Ministry Care-Giver who moved away this year. And finally, we ask all who read this report to continue to ask for God's blessing on this important ministry in the life of Trinity, Newtown.

2019 Centering Prayer

Cindy Anderau

God's first language is silence. Everything else is a poor translation.

*Father Thomas Keating
(founder of Centering Prayer)*

In a world filled with constant stimulation and "noise", we hardly find time to "Be still and know that I am God" as the Psalmist says (Psalm 46:10). One way to be still and find some silence in which God can reach you is the practice of Centering Prayer. 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 15 years. Our current group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30am – 11:30am in the sanctuary. There are currently 17 members of the group.

Besides these regular prayer sessions, we try to go on a weekend silent retreat each year. This past year's retreat was at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) in Cambridge, MA, an Episcopal men's monastic community. We find that over time those hours of silent prayer help to open us to God's presence and action in our lives. The prayer practice has deepened our faith in unique ways for each of us. 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, 203-426-2696 or cindyanderau@gmail.com.

Parish Life continued

2019 Breakfast Sundays Report

Pat & Marcia DeBrock

Once again thank you to all that supported and enjoyed the Breakfast Sunday events. There were seven events throughout the year and at each one we could see a transitional shift to Discipleship with the strengthening of our unity into a community who cares for and loves one another, generating a fun multi-generational ministry. The volunteers that make this happen are truly special and I can't thank them enough for all the support. In 2019, we had six new volunteers come down and we put them to work making buttermilk biscuits, cook sausage gravy, keeping an eye on the bacon or helping with cleanup. To all those people and the regular volunteers, I want to express my deepest appreciation. I find the fellowship and preparing a meal for others to be very rewarding.

Many of you may be curious why exactly did this Breakfast Sunday start up. Basically, it started from an idea that sharing a meal together was a great way to creating more opportunity to get together and share our lives as a faith community. I have heard how people are learning about exciting news or events in our member's lives while also finding out opportunities to offer a strong Christian shoulder of support. Breakfast Sunday continues to be an opportunity of being a Body of Christ as we break bread together and care for one another.

Finally, the Breakfast Sunday team would like to share with all of you some fun facts and observations that took place over 2019:

- Sermons can't be boring on Breakfast Sunday with the sweet smell of cooking bacon in the air
- On average 80 people (counting the kitchen team) were served on Breakfast Sunday
- People at Trinity appear to love orange juice as they drank a gallon every breakfast, but could care less for milk, often not even drinking ½ quart
- Slowly we are converting that health-conscious New Englander to realize the many benefits of delicious Southern country sausage gravy and buttermilk biscuits
- In 2019 the breakfast team used over 75 lbs. of flour, 25 lbs. of butter, cooked 1,050 slices of bacon (burnt a little over a 100) and scrambled nearly 1,300 eggs
- Trinity does not like oatmeal as only 5 servings were handed out, but we had made 45 servings (DeBrock chickens enjoyed the leftovers)
- Blueberry scones remain more popular than French Toast or even Crepes
- Everyone that picked up a plate at a Breakfast Sunday had a big smile on their face

Again, thank you Trinity for the love and support that has enabled this ministry to continue. It has been a great opportunity to support youth fund raising, share parish wide communication and provide funding for kitchen purchases. Thank you to everyone for being so supportive.

2019 Café (AKA "Coffee Hour")

Kim Merrill

One thing is for sure – something is missing when we don't have coffee available after worship on Sunday's! Breakfast goodies are also a treat. Thanks to those who provide this hospitality on a rotating basis – Jeanne Benedict, Carol Bigman, Nancy Cole, Sally DeLoughy, George Duncan, David Lias and Karen Wojtowicz. Please let Kim know if you'd like to be scheduled to take a turn.

2019 Lunch Bunch Report

Dick Taylor

Once a month those who are free for lunch on the fourth Thursday gather at a local restaurant for lunch – "My Place" in Newtown and "J & J's" in Southbury are the new favorites. Lunch is dutch-treat and Lunch Bunch could easily be called the "Fun Bunch". All are welcome!

Parish Life continued

2019 Communications Report

Kim Merrill

2019 started out with a huge leap in communications, as Jenny took a leave of absence. Without Jenny connecting the staff to each other and to the Vestry, we talked to each other constantly to make sure that all of Trinity's needs and wants were being met. Daily check-ins between Carrie, Don and I took place along with weekly check-ins with the Wardens. It wasn't easy, but we made it through the time period successfully! In preparing for Jenny's retirement, the website was carefully reviewed, with many updates made. The weekly e-news was slightly re-formatted in light of the fact that most people are viewing it from their phones or tablets.

Trinity has a strong relationship with the Newtown Bee, and we appeared in the paper at least 25 times over the course of the year. Some of the more notable coverage we received included the departure of Team 26, the Waterbury Sympony Orchesatra concert and Ice Cream with Olaf. The Ice Cream with Olaf was a new event that was held in conjunction with the Newtown Youth & Family Services during the Annual Holiday Festival. We had over 200 people come through to view the "Edible Creations", enjoy ice cream, and visit with Olaf, one of the main characters from Disney's "Frozen".

We have a solid presence on social media. On Facebook, we have 646 followers, Instagram has 246, and the enews is sent out to 387 people every week.

2019 Membership Report

Kim Merrill

With the help of the ushers, Carol Bigman and Nancy Cole, we consistently watch for new faces at our services. Once we've obtained their basic information, we follow up to be sure they receive the e-news and answer any questions they may have about Trinity. Should newcomers decide to join our church, we get additional information from them: baptism, confirmation, wedding anniversary if applicable, and birthdays. The office will also send out a letter from the Priest, as well as track their attendance. 2019 held a strong focus on cleaning up Trinity's membership. PowerChurch lists of Voting Member, Active Members, Prospective Members and Current Members were all printed out, read through, and decisions were made based on ECCT's standard of contributions and receiving Communion at least 3 times per year. Many names of prior members who are no longer active were switched over to "Inactive Member", and after months of discussion, we feel that Trinity's list of "Member in Good Standing" and "Member Active" are accurate. "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 also hosted a "Safe Church" training, and many of our members and staff members renewed (or completed for the first time) their training.

The online directory was completed and rolled out. It is a wonderful addition to life at Trinity. With a secure, and password protected account, all Trinity members who are listed in the directory can have access to all forms of contact for all Trinity members. I highly recommend downloading the app to a smart phone or tablet. It gives you contact information for most of our active members, and the ability to e-mail, call, or text right from the app. Please feel free to call or come to the office for help with the process if necessary. If you are not currently listed in the Directory, and would like to be, please e-mail Kim a photo and basic information.

The "Ministry Scheduler Pro" has finally won over the members of Trinity. With much attention given to fine tuning how the program is used, we seem to have finally surpassed the learning curve. As you read through the reports, you will see many positive mentions of the program. Worship servers are scheduled automatically every 2-3 months. All volunteers have the opportunity to schedule in "can't serve dates", for which they will not be scheduled. They also have the ability to request a sub through the software, or through the app. Once again, I recommend downloading the app to a tablet or smartphone. It allows access to "My Schedule", "Full Schedule", "Open Positions", "My Profile" and "Settings". Please feel free to call or come to the office for help with the process if necessary.

Parish Life continued

2019 Parish Membership Report

Kim Merrill

Parish Membership Statistics 2018 & 2019

		2018	2019
<u>Increases during year</u>			
Baptisms 16 years and older		0	0
Baptisms under 16 years of age		4	6
Baptisms recorded by reason of transfer		0	0
Received by Bishop		0	0
Restored from Inactive Status		0	4
Confirmed by Bishop		12	0
Transferred in		0	1
	Total	16	11
<u>Decreases during year</u>			
Lost by death		5	3
Transferred out		1	3
Inactive/Moved, etc.*		0	69
*Updated Power Church to reflect current membership	Total	6	75
<u>Baptized members (those who are recorded)</u>			
Members 16 years and older		93	49
Members under 16 years of age		36	17
Present Baptized Members		129	66
<u>Members in Good Standing & Active Members</u>			
Members 16 years and older		226	188
Members under 16 years of age		44	37
	Total	270	225

Making Disciples

Worship

Gordon Dunn

It's been an honor to serve with the talented Vestry team. Worship comprises of many ministries to include, Altar guild, Music, Usher, Lay Worship Ministers and Acolytes. We work together to create beautiful and meaningful worship of God. Our leaders and team members are selflessly dedicated to making a difference within the congregation throughout the year. It is always especially rewarding to see our youth develop and take on new roles within the Acolyte team.

Reflecting on the year it was an enlightening experience to attend the ECCT spring gathering for a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun. I'm looking forward to seeing how our Trinity worship teams evolve in 2020.

2019 Music Program Report

Don Wismann

The music department of Trinity works consistently to bring the best music we possibly can to the people of this church while thanking God for all our blessings. Our choirs, the Trinity Choristers, the Choir of Men & Women, Re-Creation, and the Taizé Ensemble comprise the music program of Trinity Church.

The **Choir of Men & Women** is filled with talented men, women, and teens. Many are from our Trinity family, but increasingly the choir draws fine musicians from the community who desire high quality repertoire and an enjoyable singing experience in a chamber setting. The group sings weekly in the Sunday morning worship and rehearses on Thursday nights. Beginning in January, we have begun reworking the choir with three new section leaders. Having our talented amateurs sing with these professional section leaders brings the level of the whole choir up. While always keeping in sight our position as leaders of worship, the group has been enjoying a repertoire in anthems, hymns, and service music.

Our **Trinity Choristers** is a choir for boys and girls grade 3 and up who love to sing. This group learns quality, sacred repertoire, serves to lead worship weekly, with the younger choristers being notably led and taught by the older. This is a marvelous group, and if you are a Trinity family not yet involved with the TC, I highly recommend it. We also study from the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life program which teaches music theory, vocal training and sight singing. Since the fall 2019 Season we have put the novice chorister portion of the program on hold due to lower enrollment and commitment to rehearsal schedule. We have focused our efforts on the Senior Trinity Choristers during this period, and hope to re-start the younger choristers in 2020.

Re-Creation, under the loving direction of Barbara Chamberlain, is a folk group which sings in church every other month and encourages anyone to join them who loves to sing to the glory of God.

Our **Taizé Ensemble** plays and sings for all of our Taizé services at Trinity. Newly redesigned to include more lay involvement, the ensemble is the newest addition to the Trinity music program. Taizé services are becoming sources of true evangelism in our community, bringing together people of many denominations to worship here at Trinity in this spiritual milieu.

All are welcome and encouraged to join these groups! The choral repertoire we sing is all of the finest quality, by such composers as Brahms, Arcadelt, Bach, Taverner, Purcell, Hampton, Britten, Carter, Copland, Mendelssohn along with diversity from African American Spirituals to 15th Century compositions. I am grateful to the entire parish for your support of our active and varied music program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donald Wismann

Monthly Service of Healing and Reconciliation

The Rev. Jenny Montgomery

On the first Wednesday evening of each month, we gather in quiet and beauty of our sanctuary for prayers, anointing, healing and sharing in Holy Communion. The next healing service is Wednesday, February 5th. We begin at 7:00 pm and the service lasts about 45 minutes. Healing prayer invites God into the realness of our lives—especially when we or those we love are experiencing sorrow, grief, sadness, disappointment, despair and struggle. This service is open to the community and all are invited.

Worship continued

2019 Altar Guild Report

Ruth Garrett, Linda Markin

The Altar Guild is responsible for the preparation of all Eucharistic services held at Trinity, along with preparing for and assisting at Holy Baptisms, weddings, funerals and special services during the year. We order flowers/supplies and help with holiday decorations at Christmas, Easter, and other special occasions when warranted.

There are twelve active members involved in this ministry at the present time. Although not in excess, the time commitment is an extremely important one. The Altar Guild is divided into four teams, and each team is responsible for all services during one week each month. Members often switch weeks or services as the need demands. We do not have regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year, but the directors will contact members with updates and are available for input.

Our goals are to continue our devoted work in the care of the altar with all the silver and brass vessels polished, all candles replaced when needed, all linens washed and kept in perfect condition, along with the hangings cleaned and pressed.

Our objectives are to spread the joy of serving faithfully, while enjoying the fellowship of all members, and to interest more members of Trinity to join the Altar Guild.

2019 Lay Worship Ministry Report

Jenny Montgomery, 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. 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.

2019

Acolyte - Crucifer	9	LEV	5
Acolyte – Torch Bearer	8	Cafe	7
Chalice Minister	10	Driving	4
Altar Guild	12	Usher	19
Intercessor	17	Vestry of the Day	9
Lector	14	Assistant Treasurer	6

Worship continued

2019 Ministry of Acolytes Report

Patrick DeBrock

The Acolyte ministry at Trinity represents a form of Discipleship by supporting efforts to gather in community weekly to thank, praise and swell with God. The Acolyte Ministry at Trinity Church provides both the youth and adults a wonderful opportunity to fulfill servant leadership roles in service to God while working together across Worship to create a beautiful and meaningful worship through learning more about their faith and enjoying fellowship of a ministry program. Youth in grades 3 - 12 as well as all adults are invited to consider giving of their time and talent in this special ministry. As an Acolytes you provide service assistance by lighting candles, leading processional and recessional activities and supporting our clergy on the altar.

The Acolyte's role is an important ministry which requires them to provide a high degree of reverence for mass by demonstrating a high level of dignity, humility, and understanding of their responsibilities in the service. The Acolyte must be ever mindful that it is a privilege to serve and it is a special gift they provide by serving to the glory of God.

I want to express my appreciation to the dedicated members and especially their families. Your support to ensure the Acolyte arrives on time and ready to serve does not go unnoticed. Trinity continues to be blessed to have an active ministry of caring and learning Acolytes, both young and old. It can be challenging for our young people to be willing to put themselves upfront and on the Altar, so I am very proud of how they all demonstrate a genuine caring spirit for this service. Our Acolytes are encouraged to take the opportunity to share in a deeper meaning behind the parts of our mass, develop understanding for the terminology and develop a recognition of the spiritual gift of offering time and talent in serving God. I would ask everyone at Trinity to find time after a service to thank our Acolytes for their gift of service and commitment to a very special ministry.

Acolytes who served 2019:

Caitlyn and Lily Bellesheim, Lindsey Civitelli, Brady Dunn, Matthew Irving, Ellie Williams, Theo West, Grant and Ella Simes, Morgan Brushett, Gloria Rowley, Jessica O'Meara, Sophronia Scott, Tain Gregory, Larry Coleman, Patrick DeBrock.

2019 Ministry of Ushers Report

Earl Gordon

Trinity's ushers continue to provide service to the parish for the regular Sunday service, as well as for weddings, funerals and other special programs throughout the year. We strive to provide the most friendly and professional level of assistance to both parishioners and newcomers to Trinity. Additionally, we welcome anyone from the parish that wishes to serve as ushers and assist them in their training.

The introduction and the use of the software scheduler has been a big help in allowing the usher team to coordinate and adjust their schedules easily and independently.

There is no budget associated with this ministry and no expenses were incurred during the year.

Respectfully, Earl Gordon

Service Statistics 2018 & 2019

Kim Merrill

	2018	2019
Holy Communion (Number of Services)		
Sunday	53	53
Weekday (includes LEV & other services)	39	45
All Other Sacraments & Services		
Special Services (Interfaith, Holy Week, Taize)	14	15
Marriages	3	1
Attendance		
Average Attendance Sunday 9:30 a.m.	94	94
Christmas Eve & Day Totals	417	335
Easter Day & Easter Vigil Totals	325	306

Making Disciples

Formation

2019 Youth Report

The Rev. Matt Babcock

Trinity Youth groups continue in their formation and spiritual growth! As a new Curate, I continue to be grateful for the leadership of so many adults who feel passionate about youth formation ministry. I am especially grateful to Ben Toby and the other parishioners who make up the Youth Commission and seek to provide support and guidance in ongoing formation planning. The year began with the continuation of two groups who gathered for formation: our Confirmation Class and our Youth at Church group.

Confirmation classes began at the start of the program year with 7 participants. Confirmation participants had established mentor relationships together with previous formation, which aided in their ongoing learning. Building on existing *Confirm not Conform* curriculum, a new approach following the Episcopal *Way of Love* was designed. This curriculum offered a communal approach through which to explore how our spiritual and theological foundation shapes who we are in the world. Confirmation participants also have been invited to build their skills for dialogue and compassionate listening through process group and dwelling in the word activities. As their journey continues, our confirmation participants continue to be empowered as they discern their own call to put their faith into action in our wider community. Confirmation participants are discerning opportunities that they can journey with those in our community who are struggling with homelessness, and this promises to be an exciting project for our participants. Confirmation participants are anticipating a visit from the bishop in May.

Youth at Church (YAC) continues to provide a space for youth participants to continue in discernment following confirmation. This is a unique offering which allows youth members to guide their ongoing thought and learning. This group meets at least once monthly. Through a facilitated conversation and process time, youth participants have been invited to think about critical issues in their own lived experience. Gathering time has been a safe space to explore individual life and faith narratives, as well as critical topics from daily life (i.e. stress/coping). Gatherings usually include a shared meal provided by the church. Youth participants have also gathered to prepare a meal following service in October. As this offering continues, youth participants will begin to learn techniques for theological and spiritual reflection based on specific topics which they elect prior to gatherings. I am excited to continue on this journey with our YAC members.

Although initial participation from other adult parishioners was a challenge, there has been a noticeable increase in this participation in November and December. This has significantly enriched our group learning gatherings. Ongoing discernment for wider engagement with community efforts and social gatherings is currently being explored by the Youth Commission. Additionally, the Youth Commission, together with clergy, continues to discern the shape of pilgrimage for 2020 in order to meet the specific needs of our eligible participants. More information will be communicated with the parish as this discernment continues.

Our Youth are engaged and growing in their own spiritual understanding. Journeying with them is a great joy in my life and ministry! I am grateful for their participation and vulnerability. I am also thankful for all the parishioners who have joined me in this ministry.

2019 Children and Family Report

The Rev. Cate Anthony

In 2019, the children and family ministry at Trinity continued to evolve and grow. We have a small and mighty community of families who routinely attend Sunday worship and whose children participate in the weekly Children's Liturgy which takes place in the undercroft during the Liturgy of the Word. Our programming for that time changed its shape over the course of the year. For some time, the clergy or staff member leading the program wrote the children's content so that it corresponded to and was inspired out of the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the day (this, of course, meant that the kids downstairs heard the same readings as their parents up in the church).

Following the summer break, Matt, Jenny, and I decided to use materials from the abundant resources available for children's ministry in the Episcopal Church. A few reasons contributed to this decision. First, many of the curricula available are expressly written for children by ministers specializing in kid's ministry, and are therefore extremely engaging, theologically grounded, and, well, just better than content we were writing on our own. Second, using a common program among the three of us means that there's a programmatic thru-line from week to week and gives the kids of Trinity educational continuity and a stronger foundation of Christian formation. This fall, we've used programs from Episcopal Relief and Development and Godly Play.

Formation continued

2019 Children and Family Report continued

The Rev. Cate Anthony

As a final note, a significant change arrives this winter in the format of Trinity's Children and Family ministry. Rather than having the kids of our community leave the church for the Liturgy of the Word, we're going to invite our children to participate in the entire Sunday service upstairs. We'll have a children's homily preceding the sermon, during which kids will gather at the front of the church while the entire community learns together from a kid's point of view. This might take some time to become comfortable—and that's absolutely ok! We're really excited to include the children of our community in the whole of our worship life.

2019 Children and Family Report

The Rev. Matthew Babcock

It truly is a privilege to journey with our children and families at Trinity over the past year. As my time with you began on August 4th, all existing programs were already established and underway. A central offering in Children's and Family Ministry this year has remained the Children's Liturgy of the Word held in the children's chapel area. This remained an intentional space for formation and curiosity with our children. By following the liturgical cycle, our children continued to think together about the changes in our life together (colors, Bible stories, etc.). In order to accommodate all liturgical duties, facilitating this offering was divided among me, Jenny, and our seminarian Cate. It was also a great joy to have the musical guidance of Barbara Chamberlain on a weekly basis.

Although this offering is special, and provides a unique space for all the amazing ways our children and families engage with our Scripture, attendance remains difficult to anticipate on a weekly basis (as low as one participant to Sunday's exceeding 16 participants). This reality can present logistical challenges for the learning environment at times. Additionally, the length of the service offering is dependent largely upon the length of the sermon for the day, which generally allows for dedicated lesson time of 15-20 minutes from opening song to closing prayer. Our Children and their family members are always engaged in our learning and story time, which means that we are able to encounter God in some pretty unexpected ways.

We continue to respond to opportunities to gather across generational lines throughout the parish. One such opportunity was the pumpkin carving event which was held in October. Participants were able to join with music and make a mess carving pumpkins. Following the carving, pumpkins were positioned on the Altar for a blessing and photo opportunity. Additionally, the entire parish was invited to a special conversation about Advent wreaths and their use in our homes. Following the conversation, families and participants were invited to build their own Advent wreath with provided supplies for use in their own homes. Each of these opportunities was designed to demonstrate that children and families are needed and welcomed as part of the greater worship and formation of the parish. This is crucial in the continued affirmation of the spiritual journey that our youngest participants find themselves exploring. Finally, our young children enthusiastically participated in our Christmas Eve service by building a living crèche as our nativity story was told. It was a joy to see these members be a special part of service, and was also fantastic to assist as they selected and were fitted for their costumes!

It is an amazing privilege to journey with our children and youth! Recently one child overheard noise upstairs as we were discussing Psalms, and how our souls together with the entire creation make music to God. With wide eyes, this young child asked, "I wonder what they are doing up there?" To experience this curiosity and interest in ongoing formation and exposure to wider parish life is refreshing! We took this child's question to heart as we continued to imagine how our young children could seek God. Two listening sessions were offered in December to explore this very question. As a result, young children will begin to remain in our sanctuary throughout worship following a children's sermon, beginning January 2020. This promises to be an exciting time for our young children to learn and grow before our very eyes. Additionally, this new opportunity promises to reveal unexpected ways that all generations can join each other in love and support.

Formation continued

2018 Adult Report

The Rev. Jenny Montgomery

Change is inevitable in any congregation and we were sad to say good-bye in 2019 to Dan and Lindee Bacon who were key leaders in adult formation. With their departure, the Christian Formation Commission decided to pause and will hopefully reconvene later in 2020. In the meantime, adult formation focused in the fall around a series of eight sacred conversations. By creating together a sacred, loving space of nonjudgment to talk about Trinity's recent history, the intention was to help us resolve conflicts and issues, heal and move forward, as well as explore new possibilities and dream of what we hope to become and accomplish as this Body of Christ. To quote Bishop Ian, to experience "unity where our differences are blessed." These sacred conversations were well attended and covered these topics:

Sept 22 – Where we are today

Sept 29 – Three years ago – 20 yr. rector's leaving

October 6 – Five years ago – visioning process

October 13 – Seven years ago – Sandy Hook School Shootings

October 20 – 1 yr. from now – with Canon Lee Ann Tolzmann and the transition process

November 3 – What we believe about the Bible

November 10 – What we believe about Jesus

November 17 – What we believe about the Church

In addition, the Saturday morning Bible Study was taught this fall by Joe Glaze. With wit and lots of passion Joe engaged adults in a lively discussion on the book of Acts. The Book Group read and discussed book about Dorothy Day as well as viewed a film of her life.

2019 Library

Sue Roman

The Trinity Library was completely overhauled and refreshed in 2019. The collection of 2,000 books and videos is particularly strong with books on prayer practices, prayers and blessings, the Daily Office, and the history of Christianity. There are a number of versions of the Bible and many study guides.

Influential authors that you will find in the Trinity library include Brené Brown, Rachel Held Evans, Richard Rohr, Reinhold Niebuhr, Joan Chittister, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating, Cynthia Bourgeault, Anne Lamott, Frederick Buechner, Sue Monk Kidd, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Annie Dillard, and Marcus Borg. There are also centuries-old texts by St John of the Cross, Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, and Meister Eckhart.

In the spring of 2020 the card catalog will be accessible online from the Trinity website.

Formation continued

2019 Women of Trinity

Ann Sandercox & Cindy Anderau

The Women of Trinity is a gathering of women whose intention is to support one another on our spiritual journey. The gatherings are open to all women of Trinity. We started off 2019 with a gathering in the Undercroft on Feb. 10 during which Paula Brinkman led us in a creative activity. The activity started with each of us painting a heart on a canvas. We then continued to pass the canvasses to our left every few minutes, and with Paula's guidance, we each added our own art and creativity on each canvas. We were all amazed at how beautiful and diverse they were in the end. They live on at Trinity and you can find them in various places in the library.



On March 10, several of the Women of Trinity group met at the home of Cindy Anderau to discuss the book, "The Feminine Soul: Surprising Ways the Bible Speaks to Women" by Janet Davis. It was a lively discussion with differing opinions respectfully accepted and honored.

On Saturday, June 22, thirty of us gathered at the rectory for brunch. It was a delightful morning of food, fellowship and fun. For fun, we played a game where we wrote down one fun thing about our self that no one else would know. These were then read aloud anonymously, and the group had three guesses as to who submitted the fun fact.

In July and August, a Women of Trinity prayer group met on Tuesdays for 6 weeks, led by Jenny and Cindy Anderau. This group shared prayer concerns with one another and learned a new prayer practice each week. Many found this group to be supportive both personally and spiritually and have asked that it be continued.

In September, the Women of Trinity returned to Camp Washington for a second retreat. The retreat theme was "When God Imagined Me" and was a weekend filled with opportunities to explore what God might have imagined each of us to be and how we live that out in the world. The retreat was led by Ann Sandercox, Cindy Anderau and Jenny with Abigail Ferreira, M.S. Theology leading us in a Bible study exploring the many feminine references used to describe God.

We look forward to 2020 for the Women of Trinity. If you have any questions about the group or ideas for gatherings for the group, please contact anyone of these women: Laurie Trotto, Ellen Mellville, Cindy Anderau, Ann Sandercox or Jenny.

Becoming Apostles

Missional Engagement

2019 Mission and Outreach Report

Mark Benedict, Carol Bigman

In 2019, Trinity M&O members began participating in a new 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 2020 and beyond through hands-on participation and financial pledge assistance.

As of December 2019, Trinity has been a continuous monthly hot meal provider at Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury for 128 straight months. Since starting in May 2009, it is estimated that nearly 100 Trinity parishioners 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, as well as an ongoing need for volunteers for chaperoning at the overnight shelters. Please consider participating in this important ministry. 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 2019 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 Thanksgiving 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 and through fundraising support directly from Trinity parishioners.

The M&O Commission nominates for Vestry concurrence the recipients of Trinity's Easter and Christmas Special Offering collections from the congregation. For Easter 2019, donations of \$2861.00 were collected for the Dorothy Day Hospitality House to assist in providing shelter and assistance to homeless in the Danbury area. The Christmas 2019 Special Offering donations will be split between F.A.I.T.H. food pantry in Newtown and Connecticut Students for a Dream. At the time of this report writing the collection total from the Christmas Offering was not available. The Mission & Outreach Commission would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions in support of these organizations.

The M&O Commission has an annual budget for the disbursement of Outreach grants and other activity expenses. The 2019 budget was \$17,000.00, of which \$16,947.00 (99.7%) 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. In December 2019, M&O purchased 250 new reusable grocery bags with Trinity and F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry markings for reinvigorating the weekly food collection ministry at Trinity. Look for M&O to roll out this activity early in 2020.

Faithfully submitted,

Mark Benedict, Acting Chair

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

Missional Engagement continued

2019 Companion Parish Report

Sue Roman

Trinity has a long-term relationship with the community of San José la Montaña, Chalatenango, El Salvador. The relationship includes visits of delegations from Newtown to San José la Montaña and from San José la Montaña to Newtown. The relationship is facilitated by working with the organization Sister Parish Inc.

There are three foundations of this ministry. One is faith--learning more about and strengthening our own faith by experiencing the faith in a community very different than ours. The second is reciprocity of ideas and visits, with both sides learning from each other. The third is persistence, developing a deeper bond and greater understanding over time.

In 2019 we continued the college scholarship that provides partial assistance to five college students from San José la Montaña. The students have committed to helping their community and paying back 20% of their scholarship over time. We sent \$2,400, half which came from designated donations and the other half from Mission and Outreach. We will continue this scholarship in 2020.

In March 2020 a delegation from Trinity will travel to El Salvador. The delegation will be in San José la Montaña for the annual festival to St. Joseph which is celebrated over multiple days with a range of community and church activities. The delegates will also visit sites important in the life and teaching of Saint Romero, the archbishop of El Salvador who fought for human rights and social and economic justice.

2019 ECCT Convention Report

Barbara Chamberlain, Geoff Dent

The 235th Annual Convention took place October 26-27th at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford.

There was a concerted effort to try on the new model for conduction business together, creating space for prayer and the worship of God., meaningful conversation and the opportunity for regenerative work that would help us faithfully live into our work in this new Missional Age.

Saturday events included:

- Opening business
- World café conversations
- Building meaningful relations across difference in our Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation
- How can we educate and inspire people of ECCT to respect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation, given the urgency and impact of climate change
- How smaller congregations--especially those with half-time clergy or less—best grow
- Addressing the causes of injustice

6:30 Evensong at the Cathedral

7:30pm reception at the Cathedral

On Sunday we shared a bus with St James, Danbury for 11 am worship with an exciting guest speaker, The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris!

Submitted: Barbara Chamberlain & Geoff Dent

Community Partners

2019 IPRR Report

We are people of many faith communities who have joined together to resettle a refugee family in the Newtown, CT area. Our volunteers include those both affiliated and unaffiliated with the partner faith communities. Working closely with IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), we co-sponsor refugee families upon their arrival to the United States. We are committed to helping each family learn English, procure employment, enroll in school and become productive and independent community members.

Missional Engagement continued

2019 Trinity Day School Report

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 populated by current family members. Currently, there are 62 children from 56 families attending TDS.

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, and collectively they bring 75 years of experience at TDS to their classrooms.

Trinity Day School is an important part of the Newtown community. The majority of families reside in Newtown, with a handful of students this year from Southbury, Roxbury, Bethel, and Brookfield.

State licensed and nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), This past June they successfully completed the process of reaccreditation. The school achieved raw scores ranging from 92-100% in ten different areas, and adjusted scores of "100%+" in all areas!

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, with Fall visits from the Newtown Hook & Ladder fire department and a local dental office as well as monthly visits from the CH Booth children's librarian. This year they have partnered with the Newtown Youth Academy to bring NYA's "Happy Feet" soccer program to the 3s and 4s.

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.

2019 Waterbury Symphony Report

Robin Colossa

With our Maestro Leif Bjaland, organist Christopher Houlihan, soprano Michelle Johnson, eight brass and percussion musicians, the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra was delighted to perform *Holiday Brass & Organ* at Trinity Episcopal Church on Saturday, Nov 30, 2019. We also had a VIP pre-concert reception and then a post-concert reception for all attendees. From the planning stages through to the night of the concert, every aspect of working with Trinity was a joy. Kim, Jenny and the entire staff were helpful, patient and enthusiastic. The concert itself was a success with a total of 155 patrons enjoying holiday music in Trinity's stunning gothic sanctuary. The WSO hopes to bring another concert to Trinity in the future!

Best Regards,

Robin Colossa

Operations Manager

Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

2019 Connecticut Choral Society Report

Nancy Trew Sugden

Once again, we are blessed to be able to use the Glover Room as rehearsal space on Monday evenings. CCS also uses that space for special rehearsals or sectional practice as needed and for day-long rehearsal "retreats" once each concert season. The CCS board uses a variety of other spaces such as the Johnson Library for monthly business meetings. Not surprisingly, the Sanctuary is our favorite space to sing. The acoustics are unparalleled and always help the singers to deliver memorable performances. CCS is grateful for the warm-welcome we have received from everyone in the Trinity family and we are very much looking forward to another year filled with music and friendship.

Missional Engagement continued

2019 Newtown Thursday Night AA Meeting Report

Ed Rojo

The Thursday night AA meeting at Trinity Church is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, AA meeting in Fairfield County. We are grateful to Trinity Church for its continued support and community partnership; in helping individuals and families within our nearby communities to address treatment and recovery from addiction and alcoholism.

In the past year we have seen an increase of over 20% in attendance not just from Newtown, but from neighboring towns such as New Milford, New Fairfield, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Danbury, to name a few. We have had guest speakers from a broad spectrum of lifestyles representing locations from Florida to Maine; New York to California.

Well respected in the "Sober Community", the Thursday Night AA meeting at Trinity Church, provides an atmosphere of open engagement and inclusion to all who seek a safe environment to address the issues plaguing too many families today; that of addiction and alcoholism.

We continue to grow and flourish by keeping to the time proven success of the AA principles; showing the new comer that a wonderful life exists once abstinence is practiced and replaced with a faith in a higher power.

Our thanks to Trinity Church for providing the facilities to do this good and noble work! We are very grateful to Trinity Church for its support of our cause and the wonderful reputation the church holds in our community and those of our surrounding towns.

2019 Girl Scout Troop 50591 Report

Kitt Boyle

Our troop has continued to meet at Trinity because of its central location in town, the warm, welcoming, responsive nature of the church staff and the lesson in service we are able to provide by donating to the food pantry as our use fee.

The facility itself has all that we could hope for to make meetings as comfortable and easy as possible – wonderful spaces, restroom facilities and limited access allow parents and girls to feel comfortable. All the interactions the troop has had with the staff or congregation have been positive and it is wonderful to be able to meet in a place where the Girl Scout mission is welcomed and encouraged. The troop adults appreciate the monthly lesson to the girls that every one of us can make a difference, even if it's only a little bit at a time that the food donation provides.

We deeply appreciate the ability to meet in the church and are glad that we have found such a hospitable home for the troop.

Best regards,
Kitt Boyle
Troop co-leader

2019 Boy Scout Eagle Project

Adam Bowditch

To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout Adam Bowditch asked the church property commission whether there was an outstanding project that could be organized and worked on during the late spring and summer of 2019. Larry Coleman proposed a dormant project to restore the Memorial Garden and Pavilion. After much discussion and presentation to the vestry the scope of the project was to include restoration of the garden, refinishing the pavilion, benches and stone walkway and Labyrinth plus clearing of brush and weeds to the carpark end of the garden.

A very successful fund raising effort was coordinated by Adam, including obtaining donations from Rings End and My Place Restaurant as well as many generous donations from parishioners. As a result, no money was required for the project from the general fund and a sum remains to fund the re-roofing of the Pavilion.

Larry Coleman provided continued guidance and assisted with obtaining the required materials and supplies. Initial work started in late May with several power washing sessions to clean off all the years of moss, lichen and dirt for the Pavilion, path, Labyrinth, and benches, then during several weekends in June Adam organized several work parties with many parishioners, scouts and parents helping. In total 340 hours were spent on the project with over 50 different helpers over the four work sessions, a phenomenal organizational effort on Adam's part.

The results were splendid, further oiling of the benches was performed by Larry during the summer, the Pavilion Roof will be tackled once an appropriate quote has been obtained.

Missional Engagement continued

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. Last year alone we had 12,692 mental health sessions scheduled (1530 clients) and served 39 towns.

We have the current privilege of having Rev. Jennifer Montgomery sit on our Board of Directors as the representative for the community Interfaith Council. This has reignited the relationship between both NYFS and Trinity Church so much so that Trinity led the charge in adding a new event to our Annual Holiday Festival. Kim Merrill and Rev. Montgomery did an absolutely fantastic job recruiting parishioners, edible competition judges and extending the hospitality of the church to the community!

Newtown Labor Day Parade and Halloween

Moe Pershinsky

One of my favorite things about Trinity is actually very selfish I love that I get to attend the Big Stone Church by the Flag Pole. Jason and I selfishly enjoy baking 600 cookies for Labor Day and dressing up for Halloween each year.

I love that I have the best seat for the Labor Day Parade and that I get to pass out candy to thousands of children on one of my favorite days of the year.

We are so fortunate to be in the center of town and I think sometimes I take for granted how special our beautiful building is. I love opening our doors to our neighbors and seeing their faces when they get to see the beauty behind the stone walls.

If you have never had the opportunity to make 3000 children smile on Halloween I urge you to join me in passing out candy at the Rectory next Halloween or to volunteer during the Pumpkin Challenge I also invite you to help serve lemonade and cookies to all of Newtown during the Labor Day Parade, you won't regret it

Trinity is such a prominent part Newtown and I look forward to opening our doors and our hearts and showing off our beautiful building

I hope all of you are able to celebrate 150 years of this this amazing place

Moe Pershinsky

Newtown Interfaith Council

Jenny Montgomery

The Newtown Interfaith Council is made up of local religious leaders representing the Al-Hedaya Islamic Center, Congregation Adath Israel, the Bahai Community, the Newtown Congregational Church, Christian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Home of Southbury, Newtown United Methodist Church, and St. Rose Roman Catholic Church. The Council meets monthly at Trinity on the second Wednesday at 2:00pm. Joint projects in 2019 included a send-off for the Team 26 Bike Ride to Washington DC, a community-wide Thanksgiving service and the 7th Anniversary Service of Remembrance for the Sandy Hook School Shooting. Featured presentations included Curt Symes speaking to the Council about resources for aging in Newtown, the new social services director speaking about her role coordinating combined services, a new program by Newtown Youth and Family Services addressing elder-care needs, and the Newtown police chief addressing safety needs in our faith communities.

Becoming Apostles

Finance

2019 Finance Commission Annual Report

Members: Hope Johnson (Chair), Forry Weatherby (Warden), Joseph Bojnowski, Randy Lewis, Marianne Noyes-Ryder, Patrick DeBrock (Treasurer)

2019 Overview – 2019 was a good year for Trinity. Overall, Trinity finished the year with revenue exceeding expenses by \$710. The Vestry agreed with the Finance Commission recommendation to reserve some of the revenue surplus to cover several one-time costs expected in 2020. Contributions maintained strong performance again in 2019 being \$5K above budget levels which was a major factor behind total revenue closing out the year at \$26K or only 4% below budget. The other key driver was lower overall expenses with the major component being lower staff costs due to the Pastor Jennie's medical leave earlier in the year. The lower staffing cost combined with lower ministry expenses contributed to expenses totaling \$ 604K which was \$21K or 3% below budgeted levels.

Endowment and Capital Funds - The Finance Commission continued efforts to maintain strong oversight of our endowments, ensuring withdrawals did not exceed 4.5% of the average three-year balance of the funds. In 2019, funds were withdrawn from the Glover Fund and for the second year in a row no funds were taken from Johnson and General. The last time funds were taken from Johnson and General was April 2017, translating into \$60K of untouched funds which have been allowed to grow. The Capital Reserve Fund has continued to show growth will providing funding for repayment of the parking lot repaving (\$14,420) and supporting properties with capital projects. The fund balances at the end of November were: Glover Fund - \$ 5,818,337; Johnson Fund - \$ 232,001; General Fund \$ 363,079, and Capital Reserve Fund - \$412,325.

Key Highlight – In addition to ensuring strong fiscal management, below is a quick recap of additional work by the Finance Commission in 2019.

- Further embedding the practice of prayer during finance meetings
- Supported Wardens and Rector with financial analysis for paid staffing support decisions
- On time submission to the ECCT of the annual Parochial report providing details on financial position and membership metrics
- On time completion and submission to the ECCT of the annual procedural audit, including confirmation of fund balances and outstanding loans
- Identification of additional funding sources to support Discipleship and Apostleship programs without impacting the operational budget
- Continued efforts to reduce the utilization of specialized holding accounts by leverage existing funds to support special requests
- Maintain a full balance sheet for Trinity, providing a comprehensive view of assets and equity
- Conducted quarterly fund manager review sessions to ensure maximum growth and support of long-term endowments
- Continued open communication on financial matters with the parish. In June the Commission hosted a 'Budget and Bagels' session to provide a mid-year status and encourage parish engagement in financial matters.
- Drove the annual Budgeting process with the Commission and Vestry leads. In this effort the finance commission is ensuring that Trinity's work in both "Becoming Apostles" and "Making Disciples" is being advanced.

Stewardship-

The Commission led the 2020 Stewardship campaign "**Everybody Needs a Place**" which kicked off in late October and ended late November. This year's campaign used a unique approach including providing the congregation an opportunity to articulate what Trinity means to them, why it's "their place" and how they contribute to the mission. The inclusion of unique and powerful 'Stewardship moments' provided a diverse view of the impact Trinity has had on its members. The Stewardship process was aligned with the 2020 budgeting process to drive a more spiritual process integrating the missions of Trinity.

Audit –

Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport, LLP Certified Public Accountants performed a procedures and investment fund balance review of Trinity's financial reports and ECCT Parochial reporting as of December 31, 2018. The results of the review identified no material misstatements or errors in the operational procedures, check authorization, payment and investment balances reporting.

Respectfully submitted,
Trinity Finance Commission

Finance continued

2019 Budget Report

Patrick DeBrock, Lori Rohrbacher

Trinity Episcopal Church
Financial Reports

Description	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Income					
PLEDGES / CONTRIBUTIONS	351,053	335,130	329,500	334,286	319,500
INVESTMENT INCOME					
Glover Trust	253,106	226,520	231,046	231,046	239,832
Johnson Fund	3,750	-	8,700	-	9,302
General Fund	5,830	-	13,700	-	14,555
<i>Total Investments</i>	262,686	226,520	253,446	231,046	263,689
OTHER INCOME	16,867	43,622	48,300	39,744	34,900
Total Income	630,606	605,272	631,246	605,076	618,089
<u>Discipleship Expenses</u>					
<u>Worship</u>					
ALTAR GUILD	4,779	3,799	3,946	4,537	4,070
MUSIC & CHOIR	9,206	14,069	20,350	19,999	21,450
WORSHIP	3,976	671	1,650	1,135	1,550
<u>Formation</u>					
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	1,369	347	1,400	625	1,500
CHURCH SCHOOL	6,196	981	2,050	292	-
YOUTH	2,163	1,327	6,775	2,455	4,920
LIBRARY	307	(91)	390	402	500
<u>Parish Life</u>					
MEMBERSHIP	378	464	425	324	425
FELLOWSHIP	592	887	2,500	1,006	2,350
PASTORAL CARE	290	143	350	255	350
STEPHEN MINISTRY	606	1,714	1,250	151	850
Total Discipleship Exp	29,862	24,310	41,086	31,180	37,965
<u>Apostleship Expenses</u>					
<u>Finance / Office</u>					
COMMUNICATIONS/TOWER	-	2,725	2,250	3,074	2,150
STEWARDSHIP	1,247	1,651	1,500	308	510
VESTRY	3,035	7,342	11,250	12,011	20,950
OFFICE EXPENSE	43,882	40,030	35,675	32,940	35,208
COMMUNITY & WORLD MINISTR	77,580	70,646	63,061	63,060	60,554
MISSION & OUTREACH GRANTS	13,996	12,003	21,000	18,947	19,000
PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE	90,186	97,276	90,162	100,641	90,070
<u>Clergy / Staff Comp</u>					
Clergy WAGES & BENEFIT	154,238	203,664	218,580	204,579	230,742
LAY STAFF WAGES & BENEFIT	206,510	136,895	140,644	137,626	142,522
Total Apostleship Exp	590,675	572,232	584,122	573,186	601,706
TOTAL EXPENSE	620,536	596,542	625,208	604,366	639,671
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	10,070	8,730	6,038	710	(21,582)

Becoming Apostles

Properties

Properties Commission Report

Leon Karvelis

The Property Commission in 2020 continues its long-standing mission of stewardship of all of 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's House, Memorial Garden and adjoining properties while proactively planning for and addressing the changing needs of our parish community.

The 2020 goals for the Property Commission remain much the same from year to year. They are as follows:

- Maintain all parish properties so that the church community and guests can 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 2019 and ended the year within budget.

In addition to regularly scheduled maintenance, the Property Commission successfully undertook and completed a number of projects in 2019. The primary accomplishments are as follows:

- In anticipation of the arrival of a new Curate, the Curate's House interior was painted, appliances were cleaned and, where necessary, replaced, and the house and property were freshened throughout. Thanks to all who helped get this done in a relatively short period of time.
- A significant repair was done to seal leaks in certain sections of the boiler in the Parish House. The boiler serves both the Church and the Parish House buildings.
- Through an Eagle Scout project overseen and directed by the Property Commission, the Trinity Memorial Garden was cleaned, weeded and freshened, and the lower portion of the adjoining gazebo was cleaned and painted.
- A Safety Committee was established to review all aspects of church safety and security and commenced meeting during the year.
- Dying trees were removed from the property adjoining the Parish House drive and dead branches pruned.
- Thanks to all the parishioners who participated in Spring and Fall cleanups.

The Property Commission's primary activities for 2020 include:

- Renovate bathrooms in the Parish House.
- Repair masonry in and around the church.
- Complete roof replacement on the Memorial Garden gazebo.
- Monitor the Parish House roof for leaks and possible repairs and, if necessary, advise the Vestry regarding the need for more extensive repairs or replacement.
- Review insurance coverages on all church properties.
- Replace older metal folding chairs with cushioned chairs.
- Assist the Trinity Sesquicentennial Committee in facility needs for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church building.

The Property Commission consists of Leon Karvelis, Dennis O'Connor, Larry Coleman, Kristen Peterson, Geoff Dent, Walt Streett, Ellen Melville, Bob Hiruo, Gordon Dunn, Jane Bojnowski and Forry Weatherby.