



**Trinity Episcopal Church
Annual Report
for the calendar year 2016
February 5, 2017**

THE VESTRY OF TRINITY CHURCH

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THE STAFF OF TRINITY CHURCH

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AGENDA

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Trinity Church
Sunday February 5, 2017

- I. Opening Prayer and Call to Order
- II. Review of the Minutes from the Previous Annual Meeting (*see below*)
- III. Vestry and Delegates Election
- IV. Closing Prayer

Remembering those who have died since
last year's annual meeting

Jane Struse
Claire Bauder
Phyllis Prater
Dorothea Schierenbeck
Carol Morgan
Gladys Williams Fries

The Annual Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church for Calendar Year 2015 Sunday, January 24, 2016

Fr. Dave Canan called the Annual Meeting to order at 12 noon with an opening prayer.

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on February 8, 2015 had been reviewed by the vestry at that time and were accepted by a vote of the parishioners assembled.

Nominations for vestry:

- Incumbents Martha Arnold and Ben Powley were standing to be elected to a second full term.
- Incumbent Dan Citrone, elected previously to complete a term for an outgoing Vestry member, was now eligible to be elected to his first full term.
- Liz Wendt was nominated to be elected for a first term on the Vestry.
- Bill Davis was nominated to replace Kristin Woods on the Vestry for the coming year. Then he will be eligible for election to two full terms. Kristin recently joined the Trinity Church's staff and therefore cannot be a Vestry member.

- The following Trinity members were elected as Deanery and Convention Delegates: Barb Davis, Liz Wendt and Piers Prater. There were no alternates.

Financial Presentation:

Rob Gergen, Accounting Warden and Finance Committee, presented a slide deck showing Trinity's 2015 actual income, actual expense and fund investment summary. Highlighted 2015 points for consideration included:

- Slight growth in membership versus departures
- Slight decrease in Sunday attendance
- Operating expenses were kept down with self-performance of some projects and deferring other work.
- Transfer of \$131,500 from Endowment Fund compared to anticipated budget transfer of \$162,650.
- The Vestry is looking for ways to control expenses and enhance endowments.
- A member noted that \$5/week additional donation by all would pay off the difference needed.

Finance Committee's Recommendations:

- Enhance income from building use and rentals
- Separate fund raising events to meet major capital costs
- Engage energy service company to improve Church infrastructure.
- Build up Endowment Fund.

Planned Giving Video:

Martha Arnold, unavailable for the Annual Meeting due to business travel, filmed a presentation where she explained the Planned Giving option for all members. Planned Giving brochures were also placed on each table.

Grace Church and The Incarnation: The relationship with GCI is different from last year. We are now partners in ministry to a church that doesn't have enough people. Fr. John Atkins is currently the full-time rector. In the future the church may need only a part-time rector. The church met with community leaders to discuss community needs facilitated by Episcopal Community Services (ECS), i.e. poverty, parking, child care, child safe activities, etc. Fr. Dave recommended parishioners review the description of the five bishop candidates. On Feb. 19, 2016 there will be a discernment gathering at Trinity. One hundred are expected for the dinner and gathering.

Fr. Dave noted that the Youth Director salary had been removed from the budget. Parish volunteers are working with the youth.

Fr. Dave Canan ended the meeting with a closing prayer at 12:30 P.M..

Submitted,

Jocelyn Tenney

Clerk of the Vestry

THE RECTOR'S REPORT

For His Sake

I am but one, but I am one

I cannot do everything, but I can do something

What I can do, I ought to do

What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

I do love this prayer from the Order of the Daughters of the King. I think it reminds me that none of us can do everything but all of us can do something. But most importantly it asks God's direction for what should be done.

Lord, what would you have us at Trinity Church do? There is so much good done through and in this place.

The hungry are fed, the homeless are housed by housing homeless families one month each year, regular donation to the Community Cupboard and the meals and soup prepared by Real Men and assisting with the Community Dinners at Grace Church and the Incarnation.

Adult spirituality is formed and deepened through a variety of adult learning opportunities like Women's Bible Study, Education for Ministry, Icon Writing, Education for Ministry, spiritual practices and book discussions. Sometimes we just enjoy one another's company at the Senior's Luncheons prepared and served by Mary and me.

God is worshipped every Sunday at 8 & 10 and each Saturday at 5. Weekday healing services happen Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Our worship is deepened by the Choirs under Stephen Schreiber's leadership.

Then there are special worship services like Lessons and Carols, the Passion Play on Palm Sunday and the Christmas Pageants.

Children and youth are nurtured in the faith through Children's Chapel, Church School, Youth Group, Confirmation preparation, Vacation Bible School, and Summer Mission trips. We feed and form kids in Port Richmond by assisting with GCI's First Friday where kids have a safe place to play, a good meal, and a time of prayer and listening.

As I pray, *Lord what will you have me do*, I pray for this wonderful Christian community called Trinity Church, I pray *Lord, what will you have US do?* Attendance and financial support are down again this year. As I pray, I am led to ask each of you this question: **IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT TRINITY CHURCH, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?** Maybe our answers to that question will give us the answer to "Lord, what will you have us do."

Amen!

With gratitude,

Fr. Dave

AN UPDATE ON OUR WORK WITH GRACE CHURCH AND THE INCARNATION

There have been some **big changes** at GCI since our last Annual Meeting. The biggest change is that **Fr. John has**

left GCI to serve a parish in southern Ohio. **Deacon Donna has also left** GCI because her assignment there was related to Fr. John's presence there. A major factor in Fr. John's leaving was that GCI cannot afford full-time clergy.

So, the GCI Vestry is left to discern the church's future.

In the meantime, the after school program, the summer camp, First Fridays and the Community Dinners continue to thrive and make Grace Church and the Incarnation a valued part of the Port Richmond neighborhood.

During the transition period, Fr. Dave will continue to participate in the leadership of First Fridays and the Community Dinners. In fact, the Trinity's confirmation class are going to do the Community Dinner on February 18.

Fr. Dave offered to assist with pastoral emergencies and perhaps assist on Sunday mornings when supply clergy is not available. We will continue to walk alongside the good people at GCI as they move through this transition.

Faithfully, *Fr. Dave*

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

*Remember who you love,
Remember what is sacred
Remember what is true
Remember that you will die
and that this day is a gift
and Remember how you wish to live.....*

It's that one, short phrase in this preface to the blessing offered at the end of church; it's that one line that catches you up short every time you hear it...."Remember that you will die". The words startle you out of complacency; they cause you to sit up, pay attention, and in that brief, passing moment when the words have quickened your heart, you remember that this life is a transient gift - a gift given to us in order to use for the sake of love and truth.

Today, our Annual Meeting provides a time to reflect back on the year, remember, and give thanks. For me, gratitude is at the heart of this message. I am grateful to be here, among you, sharing our faith journey together through all its ups and downs. I am grateful for the spiritual depth of faith shared with one another, as we all strive to love God and our neighbor every day of our lives. I am grateful for the ministries both seen and unseen on the part of this congregation. Reaching out in love to help one another, and to help those in need speaks to the conviction that we have committed our lives to following Christ, which means we daily 'remember' who needs love, who needs justice - and then go do our part.

I am grateful for those who have made their spiritual lives a priority by committing to a variety of spiritual practices throughout this year; for those who offer healing prayers week after week; for those who visit the sick and the homebound; for those who cook meals for the hungry; for a group of folks who love praying in silence early on Saturday mornings; for the youth and the children; for the music, for the servers, the schedulers, the greeters, the readers, the ushers; for the vestry; for the ones who pray for others; the DOK, Real Men Cook, IHN volunteers, the staff, all who offer hospitality. I am grateful for it all.

Today, I remember who I love, what is sacred, and what is true - YOU. You are God's gift to the world and I am better for knowing you.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and share Christ's love in this place. Thank you for your love and support.

Your sister in Christ,
Mary+

RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

*We are a community of Christian people seeking to love God
with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

I am grateful for our Trinity Ambler community--the clergy, staff, leaders and the people of Trinity as we strive to live our creed out loud!

Vestry began the year living into our ministries with a Mutual Ministry Review. The Mutual Ministry Review provided an opportunity to discern God's will and identify ways to enhance various ministries of the church and its people, including the lay people, vestry, staff and clergy.

Additional highlights of living our creed out loud include:

- Hosting our newly elected Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, pilgrimage to Trinity Ambler.
- Participating in the ministry of Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child." Trinity filled over 100 shoeboxes filled with toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Samaritan's Purse assists a needy child experience God's love.
- Volunteering in Backpack Sunday at Grace Church and the Incarnation for the third consecutive year. Each year we donate school supplies of all kinds to the children of GCI. Our outreach continues on the day of the event with set up, packing school supplies, leading games, serving food and cleaning up after the event.
- Welcoming families in transition through Interfaith Housing. Trinity parish members extended God's love with meals, transportation, and encouragement to mothers and their children.

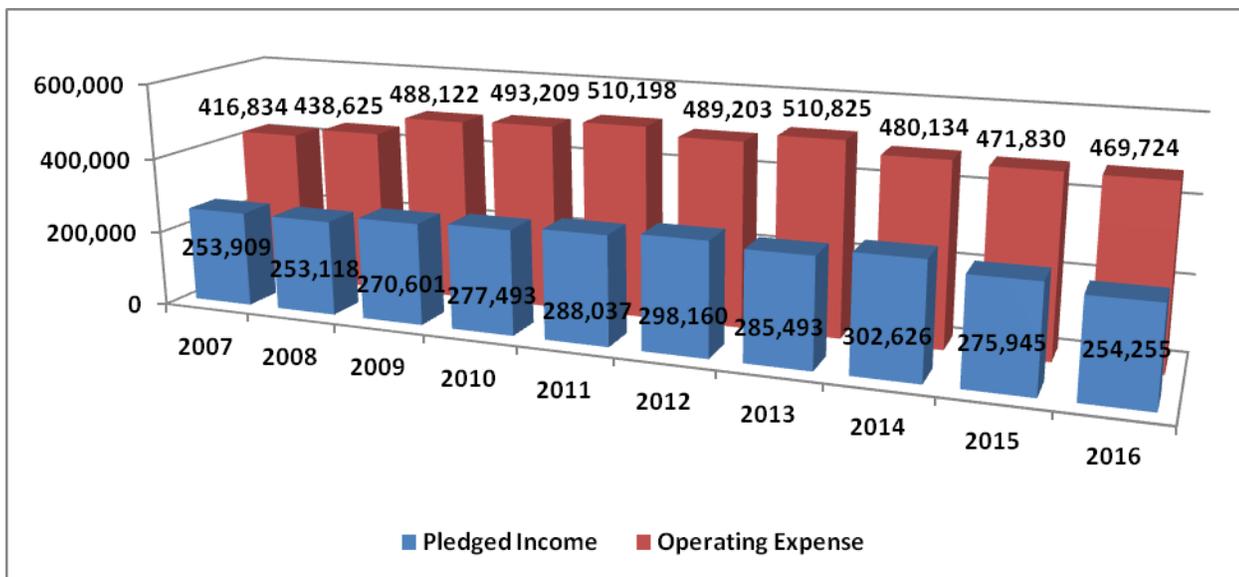
May we continue to appreciate each other for who we are and grow together in our faith.

Blessings to you,
Robin Chambers Dixon

ACCOUNTING WARDEN REPORT 2016

Trinity Ambler continues the trend of slight growth year-on-year. Our membership increased to 525 congregants from 523 at this same time last year. This total change incorporates 14 baptisms, 9 deaths, 6 new members (who transferred in due to the closing of St. Philips-in-the-Field, Oreland), and 9 departures. This growth is qualified by a slip in average Sunday attendance from 186 parishioners in 2015 to 151 in 2016.

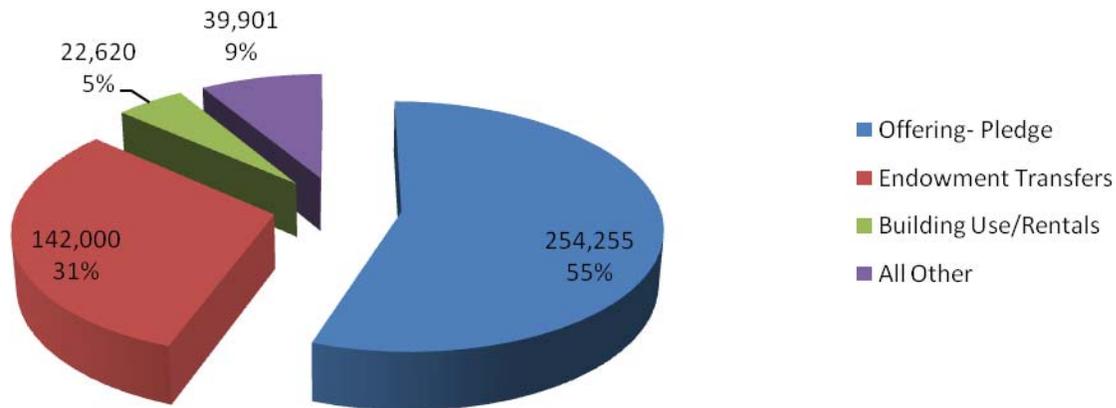
Pledge income for 2016 was \$254,255 which is down from the prior year and near the lowest it has been for the 10-year period depicted below. Operating expenses were also down slightly compared to the year prior and were lower than any other year in the period except for 2008. Other sources of income were used to cover the difference with the principal source being withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$142,000.



As a proportion of total expense, pledged income covered 54% in 2016 which is the lowest portion for the 10 years shown. This percentage ranged from 54-63% during this time. This proportion is an important benchmark to bear in mind in terms of how well our pledge commitments are offsetting parish expenses and, consequently, how much we have to draw on other sources of income to balance the accounts.

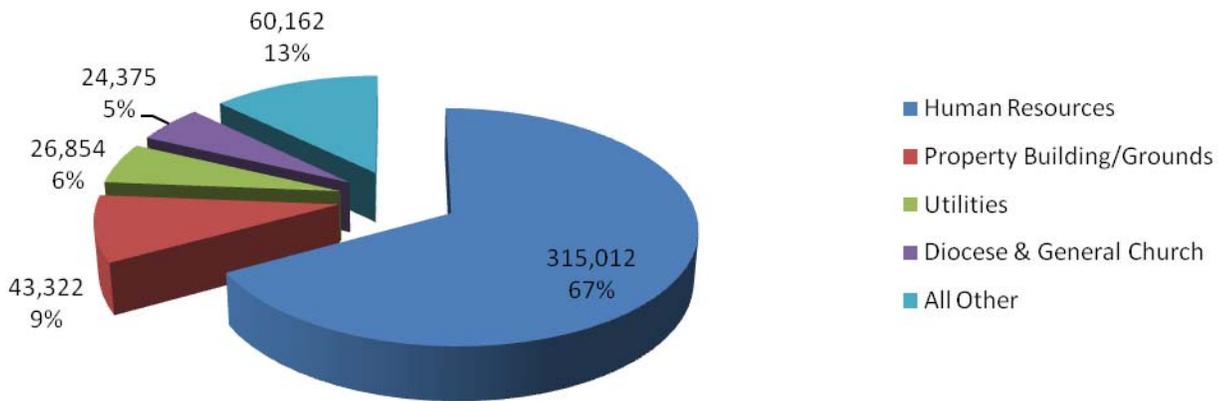
With regard to other sources of income, as mentioned Endowment Fund transfers amounted to \$142,000 of income used or 31% of the total. This is slightly higher than in 2015 when Endowment transfers amounts to 29% of total income used. In order to hold the Endowment fund at a steady amount and given consistent income and spending rates, this ratio would have to be around 10% or a third of the present rate. Building Use, amounting to 5% of income, is generated by renting out the Parish Hall and Sexton's Cottage.

Trinity 2016 Actual Income - \$458,776



Our actual expenses for 2016 of \$469,714 came in well under our budget of \$486,104 or roughly 92% of the expected amount. The main reasons for this were 1) less Property Building costs due to separate fund raising for events such as the new sidewalk on Highland Avenue, and 2) continued lower Utility costs owing to energy conservations efforts. The latter savings derives mostly from replacing existing lights with LED fixtures; work undertaken by John Dziel. Since the advent of our energy program in 2012, annual electric and gas costs have dropped from about \$30,000 to around \$20,000. We should all express our appreciation to John for his efforts.

Trinity 2016 Actual Expense - \$469,724



In terms of Trinity Ambler investments, the S & P 500 benchmark stock index was up 9.54% for the year. We must bear in mind that Trinity funds are invested in a combination of stock and bond funds so the stock market is only represents a portion of our portfolio. This investment combination is chosen to mitigate our risk of loss but it also limits our return in years when the stock market does well.

Fund Investment Summary

Fund	Balance as of 31 December 2016	Balance as of 31 December 2015	Balance as of 31 December 2014	Balance as of 31 December 2013	Difference 2016 to 2013
Endowment	\$ 828,907	\$ 907,721	\$ 1,073,161	\$ 1,124,321	\$ (295,414)
Scholarship	\$ 24,853	\$ 22,869	\$ 23,367	\$ 21,844	\$ 3,009
Sylvan Handley	\$ 34,150	\$ 37,641	\$ 42,221	\$ 41,073	\$ (6,923)
Boyer Operating	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,745	\$ (38,745)
Totals	\$ 887,910	\$ 968,232	\$ 1,138,749	\$ 1,225,983	\$ (338,073)

The 2017 budgeted expenses are roughly equal to 2016 actual figure (\$473,009 vs. \$469,724). Across the major categories of spending, Human Resources, Property Buildings/Grounds and Utilities, there is no expected rise in spending for 2017.

Based on 2017 pledge cards received to date, we expect pledge contributions to rise from 2016 actual of \$254,255 to \$280,000 this year. In addition, we have forecast to require \$144,000 of Endowment Fund transfers, roughly in line with the amount withdrawn in 2016 (\$142,000) to fully meet our expenses in 2017.

As mentioned in last year's report, to protect our investments from further erosion, we will continue to focus on initiatives to enhance our income and control expenses. The recommendations from the Finance Committee that will continue into the new year are 1) enhancing income from Building Use and Rentals, 2) meeting major capital costs by separate fund-raising events and 3) limiting utility expense by various means.

It is important to note that these measures should help reduce, but will not eliminate, our annual transfers from the endowment. As a congregation, we must also explore ways to build our Endowment Fund through bequests and other forms of planned giving. Our goal should be to increase the use of income provided by the fund in form of appreciating value and dividends rather than rely on the principle already invested to help meet our expenses.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the current state of Trinity finances.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gergen
215 542-7997
robert.gergen@pfizer.com

	2016			2017	
	Actual	Budget	\$ Over	% Budget	Budget
Income					
Building Use	9,720.00	10,000.00	-280.00	97.20%	10,000.00
Endowment Transfers	142,000.00	152,000.00	-10,000.00	93.42%	144,000.00
Flowers Income	4,607.50	5,500.00	-892.50	83.77%	5,500.00
Legacies & Bequests	15,000.00				
Miscellaneous Income	5,200.00	5,000.00	200.00	104.00%	5,000.00
Offering- Plate	8,825.71	9,500.00	-674.29	92.90%	9,500.00
Offering- Pledge	254,255.00	285,000.00	-30,745.00	89.21%	278,000.00
Parish Events	671.70	1,000.00	-328.30	67.17%	1,000.00
Rentals	12,900.00	13,200.00	-300.00	97.73%	13,200.00
Special Offerings	1,496.64	4,904.00	-3,407.36	30.52%	5,022.42
Total Income	454,676.55	486,104.00	-46,427.45	94.38%	471,222.42
Expense					
Administration	9,455.09	10,926.00	-1,470.91	86.54%	10,484.00
Adult Formation	456.49	1,225.00	-768.51	37.26%	1,225.00
Communication	1,648.89	1,900.00	-251.11	86.78%	2,500.00
Altar Supplies & Equipment	1,725.38	1,560.00	165.38	110.60%	1,560.00
Clergy	3,127.05	4,000.00	-872.95	78.18%	3,600.00
Diocese & General Church	24,375.00	24,500.00	-125.00	99.49%	24,500.00
Education	1,013.94	1,675.00	-661.06	60.53%	2,060.00
Flowers	6,264.00	6,125.00	139.00	102.27%	6,125.00
Hospitality	1,758.19	1,500.00	258.19	117.21%	2,000.00
Human Resources	315,011.98	311,856.00	3,155.98	101.01%	314,131.42
Insurance	14,210.00	13,650.00	560.00	104.10%	14,500.00
Mission and Outreach	9,999.96	10,000.00	-0.04	100.00%	10,000.00
Music	3,885.93	3,800.00	85.93	102.26%	3,800.00
Pastoral Care	50.00	150.00	-100.00	33.33%	150.00
Property Building	34,465.74	44,300.00	-9,834.26	77.80%	31,750.00
Property Grounds	8,271.05	11,550.00	-3,278.95	71.61%	9,800.00
Stewardship Committee	520.47	1,067.00	-546.53	48.78%	1,067.00
Utilities	26,853.84	33,700.00	-6,846.16	79.69%	30,100.00
Vestry Expenditures	226.73	300.00	-73.27	75.58%	300.00
Worship Ministries	511.60	820.00	-308.40	62.39%	820.00
Youth Group	778.95	1,500.00	-721.05	51.93%	750.00
Total Expense	464,610.28	486,104.00	-21,493.72	96.51%	471,222.42

Notes: The above data reflects budgeted expenses only. There were some minor non-budgeted expenses as well, such as those related to Grace Church as well as monies into and out of the Rector's Discretionary Fund. In addition, Mission and Outreach operates in its own account. The Operating budget supplies about 50% of the funds for Mission and Outreach, the remainder is self-funded. For 2016, total M&O expenses were \$18,818. The Episcopal Youth Mission group also operates in its own account and is self funding. For 2016, total EYM expenses were \$4,755.

ALTAR GUILD

On any given Friday or Saturday morning you will find the Altar Guild ladies bustling about the Sanctuary dusting, changing linens and setting up the Chapels and the main Altar for weekly services, Weddings and for Funerals. We work in Teams of 3 so the adage of 'many hands make light work' holds true!



Our Altar Guild budget covers wine and wafers, the oil for Altar and Acolyte Torch candles, Chapel votive candles and some linens. In an effort to save money and wear on the Altar Fair Linens (due to wax dripping from candles) we are now using oil candles on two of the three Altars and in the Acolyte Torches. In the coming year, we will replace some Altar fair linens and some smaller linens that have seen years of weekly use and wear. If you would like to remember a loved one who has died, or perhaps honor someone who is still by your side, please talk to myself, Dave or Mary about contributing money as a memorial.

Thank you to the wonderful women who work behind the scenes each week:

Team 1	Sue Bofinger, Jill Hayes, Yolán Giczi, Veronica Grogan
Team 2	Adele Butler, Evelyn Carpenter, Nancy McGarvey
Team 3	Ellen McCaffrey, Connie Stephens, Karen Reid
Team 4	Cheryl Bayard, Marge Maloney, Karen Reid

This year two of our long time members, Veronica Gallwey and Annette Irvin, took a leave of absence due to health problems. They are devoted members of our Guild and they are missed. Sadly, Annette died in January of this year. Thank you to Evelyn Carpenter, Cheryl Bayard and Connie Stephens who are responsible for ironing linens each week - it is an important job that takes a lot of time, skill and patience.

Submitted by
Karen Reid

CHILDREN'S FORMATION

2016 continued to be a year of growth and for Trinity's Church School program.

"WHAT HAPPENS EACH SUNDAY?"

NURSERY

Our Nursery Team made up of high school students, work weekly with children 0-4 each Sunday and designated special events:

Fiyi Adebukan
Jolade Adebukan
Jeff Cutcher
Erica Davis
Anneliese Gergen

Alison Kohne
Megan Otto
Adam Prater
Julian Woods
Kingsley Stroh

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children, youth, parents, and teachers gather together in the Children's Chapel located downstairs at 9:45 a.m. for song and prayer. Then all go to their respective classrooms at 10:00 a.m. All return to the Sanctuary at the exchange of the peace.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our classes are set up as follows: Godly Play I (Pre-K & K); Godly Play II (Grades 1 & 2); Faith Foundations (Grades 3 - 5); The Living Compass (Grades 6 & Up). This could not happen without the unending dedication, energy, and vision from our teachers and doorkeepers:



Godly Play Teachers

Cheryl Bayard
Becky Curlett
Stephanie Gold
Leigh Irvin
Sarah Mooers
Virginia Nissen
Jocelyn Tenney

Godly Play Doorkeepers

LaTanya Barkley
Liz Wendt
Ronnie Irvin
Ryan Irvin
Norlaine Romano

Teachers

John Bayard
Bernadette Baird
Catherine Derbyshire
Jen Prater
Liz Wendt

The Church School classes, led by Cheryl Bayard, completed the 'Noah's Ark Mural' located in the Children's Formation Wing.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Through June 2016, our children (pre-k - 2nd grade) met with Al Tenney each Sunday in the sanctuary immediately following the 10 a.m. service. As of September 2016, the children and youth are taught individual seasonal hymns to be sung as the Children's Chapel recessional. Thank you to Mr. Tenney.

CONFIRMATION:

Our 'Confirm Not Conform' confirmands and mentors began in October 2016, to prepare for the Bishop Lee's visitation scheduled for Sunday, March 5th to perform the sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop".

Confirmands

Jolade Abebekun
Jeff Cutcher
Christie Irvin
Alison Kohne
Jon Mason
Megan Otto
Julian Woods

Mentors

Beverly Black
Robin Chambers-Dixon
Ernie Dixon
Joy Kohne
Megan Phillips
Piers Prater
Liz Wendt

Teachers: The Rev. Mary McCullough, Liz Wendt, Jen Prater, and Kristin Woods.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS:

Additional programs included, but not limited to Diocesan Godly Play Teacher Training, 'Burying The Alleluia's', 'Annual Easter Egg Hunt', 'Jesse Tree Ornaments', Christmas Cards to College Students/Military Abroad, Advent Wreaths, and the Creation Quilt Mosaic (to be completed in 2017!)

CLEARANCES:

All volunteers in the church school program and nursery have completed/filed their mandated clearances according to state law.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016:

Trinity children and youth alike, learned how to 'Walk This Way' in July 12 - 17, opening our doors for all children age 4 - 12. Our dedicated volunteer team (56+ strong) was made up of team leaders, group leaders, storytellers, artisans, musicians, chefs, food servers, gamers, photographers, administrators, clergy, and staff . . . there are no words to express our deep gratitude for their talents, time and commitment. We also thank the overwhelming generosity of our parishioners who donated items

needed to make this event the success it was. The creation of the Trinity mosaic was led by Connie Stephens.



PAGEANTS:

Each year our parishioners come together to create two very diverse pageants: 'The Passion According to St. Luke' and 'Christmas with St. Mary'. Each pageant is made possible through the committed talents of actors, singers, musicians, theologians, costumers, designers, artisans, directors, stage managers, light board operators, sound technicians, and parents. Prayer is our thread.



PROPERTY: Thank you to Ellen McCaffrey, Bill Hecker, Walt Bunting, Piers Prater, and John Dziel for their attentiveness to the 'halls and walls' of the Christian Formation wing.

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION:

We continue to use Constant Contact, highlighting the goings-on of our program as well as upcoming events!

The children and youth are a deep blessing to our community. May we continue to lift them up in prayer, Christian formation and above all, grace.

"Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So... be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever." - Henri Frederic Amiel

Grace and peace,
Kristin W. Woods
Director of Christian Formation

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

It has been a few years since the Annual Report contained an Administrative Report so it appeared to be time to do an update.

In February 2016, Verizon hit us with a \$120 per month increase in fees for our business services. This was one of two telecommunication issues. The second was that our phone system (which the church owned) was over twenty years old. It had developed many problems but with business phone systems costing in excess of \$8,000 we were willing to live with them. This is one case where procrastination paid off. The Verizon issue was a tipping point as it brought our monthly to over \$350 per month. After a lot of research, we found the answer through a company called Broadvoice Communications. The new solution was a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) system that eliminated the need for standard telephone service. Basically, your phones plug in to your computer network. The deal struck not only provided us with the services we needed at a lower cost than the old Verizon rate, it also provided us with brand new state-of-the-art equipment at no extra charge. This took care of both problems at a substantial savings. It also took care of a major logistical problem: the old system simply rang the phone on Karen's desk. She would answer it and then route the call. The problem was that she only works on Tuesdays and Fridays. The rest of the time, catching a phone call was a bit of a problem. The new system allows callers to directly dial the person they want to talk to. In addition, we can now have multiple separate phone conversations all on the same phone number, which has been our number for almost 100 years.

By John Dziel

NEW MEMBERS

This past year Trinity was fortunate to have twenty new families attend services with us and several of these have become regular members of the Trinity Family. New members were invited to a reception at the rectory in September. This was an opportunity for the Vestry and Clergy to meet and welcome our newest members in person.

Work has been done, and will continue, to update the church directory. The photo wall in the Narthex has also been updated. If you don't see your picture, please let us know. We want to include everyone!

Jill Marsceill

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT 2016

We have been working diligently to execute Trinity's Mission Statement using the following communication technologies to extend our reach: print, internet, and digital recording. Each area mentioned below is overseen by amazing teams of dedicated parishioners, with the generous support from clergy and staff. This is truly a group effort and we are grateful to those who bring their time and talents to the scene each and every day. We welcome all who have an interest in connecting with others through the technologies listed and those who would simply like to learn how to use them.

Print: Information (Bulletin) Boards - a source of information to share with the diverse communities who gather weekly at Trinity. This includes, but not limited to: Upcoming Event/Sign-Ups, 'Slices of Life', Trinity Ministries, Youth Programs, Community Programs, and Business Cards. Many thanks to Lynda Basham and Pam Hawthorne for their monthly background vigilance.

Narthex Photo Wall & Pictorial Directory - Please contact Jill Marsceill if you would like to add your photo to the wall or update! Photos taken will be added to the pictorial directory. Special Thanks to Jill Marsceill, Eddie Black, Ed Doyle, and Janice Doyle.



Accent Wall and Basement Hallway Enhancement - In collaboration with the Church School program, canvas photos were placed on the accent wall, leading down to the church school classrooms. Photos have been chosen to line the hallway way across from the beautiful murals created by the VBS.

The Chimes Newsletter - We have moved from The Chimes to placing all information on the internet (Facebook, e-mail, and website). Special thanks to Sue Bofinger, Veronica Grogan, and Joe Grogan.

Internet - Trinity has successfully branched out in the social media through Facebook. All information, once communicated through The Chimes, is now available to all through our Facebook page.

Our **Facebook** page has 384 known followers with a weekly reach between 300 - 900 and potential reach of 60,000. FB is used for Trinity events, weekly announcements, photos, and theological discussion. Find us on FB at *Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler, PA*.

Trinity's website, www.trinityambler.com, has been going through minor modifications and will continue to do so through 2017.

Our weekly **Jingle** serves a dual purpose in print and on-line. Please send announcements to Karen Richter at office@trinityambler.com. Deadlines: Monday morning.

Wi-Fi continues to be accessible in the narthex, parish hall, library, and Children's Formation wing.

Sound System Support – Special thanks to John Dziel for his continued support and expertise in this area.

Podcasts, Facebook Live, Instagram, and more! A goal for 2017 is to record services/events taking place in the sanctuary and upload onto the website and Facebook.

Public Relations/Marketing: The public relations/marketing time was busy working with Trinity's Vacation Bible School 2016 "Walk This Way".

Marquee: The marquee was thoroughly cleaned, with thanks to eternal optimist, Bob Busser; plans are in for the Trinity sign to be 'given a make-over' with fresh paint.

Sandwich Board: We have begun to use the sandwich board to advertise special events outside our walls.

The Communications Committee is constantly evolving to meet the demands of the times and the ever-changing Church as we know it typos included. We are constantly looking into ways to enhance our presence in both Trinity and the surrounding community. If you would like to be a part of this constantly evolving team – please contact or see Kristin Woods.

Photographers, Designers, IT-ers, artists, techies, editors, outreach-ers, 'think-outside-the -box'-ers, writers, poets, songwriters, pray-ers, ages of all communicator types are welcome! Coffee, tea and H2O provided!

Grace and Peace,

Kristin W. Woods

MINISTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Trinity is lucky to have a dedicated corps of servers who assist in the worship services by reading, leading and offering prayers, bearing the chalice at communion, singing, carrying the cross, serving and bearing torches.

In addition, there is another group of volunteers who assist in making everyone feel welcome through greeting at the front door, ushering, individuals who deliver baskets to our visitors, teams who count the offering, hosts who talk to visitors during hospitality and Lay Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to those who cannot be with us.

Apologies if anyone has been inadvertently omitted. This consummate list demonstrates just how many people are involved in our liturgical services and the other functions that make our church a friendly, inviting one. Thanks to each and every one of you for giving your time, talent, and for making Trinity the truly unique place that it is.

The coordinators of each ministry are in bold type.

8 am Chalice Bearers and Lectors - Martha Arnold, Pam Olshefski, Jan Jones, and Hans DeViso.

Chalice Bearers - Cheryl Bayard, Ernie Dixon, Paul and Joy Greenlee, Bill Hecker, Addie Johnson, Gina Kapusnick, Berit Lakey, Al Mathis, **Marjorie Parsons**, Connie Stephens.

Acolytes and Crucifers - Fiyi, Feyi and Jolade Adebekun; Jacob and William Curlett; Jane and Jeff Cutchner; Olivia, Annaliese Gergen; Bridgette and Emma Gold; Julia and Madeline Hauser; Christie Irvin; Lauren Jackson; Alison and Colin Kohne; Abby Olshefski; Ryan Prater; Alex and Jesse Staas; Francis and Julian Woods. Special thanks to **Donnette Staas** who has taken on the coordination of the acolytes and crucifers with our grateful thanks to **Roger Clarke** for his many years of service in the same position.

Adult Choir Members: Sue Adair, Maureen McCauley, Bethann Dilione, John Guerin, Barb Davis, Ward Hickman, Brian Phillips, Anne Canan, Christine Smith, Nancy Dixon, Joy Kohne, Emily Liebert, Ben Litton,

Stephanie Reid, Al Tenney, Bill Davis, Megan Phillips, Shannon Guerin, Christie Irvin, Sue Bofinger, Jane Mathis, Mike Connelly, Brian Rickard, Ned Fawcett under the direction of **Steve Schreiber**.

Readers and Prayer Leaders - Sue Adair, John Bayard, LaTanya Barkley, Sue Bofinger, Robin Chambers-Dixon, Mindy Cutchner, Bill Davis, Joe and Leigh DeTato, **Nancy Dixon**, Diana Evans, Ned Fawcett, Laura Gergen, Judy Grieve, Joe Grogan, Christie Irvin, Addie Johnson, Joy Kohne, Berit Lakey, Ed Mahler, Al Mathis, Sarah Mooers, Marjorie Parsons, Brian and Megan Phillips, Stephanie Reid, Elizabeth Self, Donnette, Alex and Jessica Staas, Christine Smith, and Liz Wendt.

Healing Prayers - Sue Adair, Lynn Baird, Joe & Leigh DeTato; Ellen McCaffrey, Ben Powley, Barbara Shields, **Terry Tschopp**.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - Andrea Barlow, Maureen McCauley, Al Mathis, Ben Powley, Mary Tralie under the direction of **Father Dave**.

Ushers - Andrea Barlow, **Clyde Basham**, John Bayard, Evelyn Carpenter, Debbie Citrone, Hans and Mary DeViso, Ernie Dixon, Ed Doyle, Rogers and Jane Frassenei, Laura and Rob Gergen, Anne Getty, Judy Grieve, Pam Hawthorne, Ryan Irvin, Jill and Michael Marsceill, Karen and Dennis Reid, and Liz Wendt.

Greeters - Eddie & Beverly Black, Ken Bofinger, Evelyn Carpenter, Ed Doyle, Diana Evans, Jane Frassenei, Rob & Laura Gergen, Anne Getty, Ellen McCaffrey, Nancy Militello, Piers Prater, Sheila Ridgway, **Jocelyn Tenney**.

Basket Delivery - Members of the Daughters of the King.

Tellers - John Bayard, Nancy Dixon, Ernie Dixon, Katharine Driggs, **Rob Gergen**, Janet Lineberger, Nancy McGarvey, Nancy Militello, Marjorie Parsons, Brian Phillips, Christine Smith, Don Tippet, Mary and John Tralie.

Coffee Hour - to **all** who sign up to bring goodies and a thank you to **Dan Citrone** and **Fr. Dave** who keep a watchful eye on this ministry.

After Worship Hosts - Sue Adair, **Eddie Black**, Sue Bofinger, Gerry Bunting, Dan Citrone, Bill Davis, Ernie Dixon, Laura Gergen, Al Mathis, Jane Mathis, Megan Phillips, Marjorie Parsons, Ben Powley.

Flowers - a special shout-out to **Evelyn Carpenter** who gathers the weekly attributions for altar flowers and arranges them after services to be distributed. We look forward to the return of Jimmy and Amanda Hayden, on whom we depend for the beautification of our worship space for the special days/seasons of our liturgical year.

Compiled by Karen Richter, Office Administrator

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Daughters of the King (DOK) is an order of women who are dedicated to a life of prayer, service, and evangelism. The Anam Cara chapter at Trinity Episcopal Church currently has 23 active members (2 at-large) who continue to serve our parish. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month with the exception of July and August.

Each Daughter participates in our prayer ministry on a daily basis. Our meetings include praying for those on our Prayer List and Bible study. We have developed a caring and supportive bond among the Daughters.

Daughters have participated in Province III Spring and Fall Assemblies and the Cape May Retreat. We also contribute to the financial support of the Order through the Masters Fund, the Self-Denial Fund, the Endowment Fund and the Alpha Fund.

In June, new officers were installed. They are: Lynda Basham, President; Pam Hawthorne, Vice President; Diane Powell, Treasurer; and Jan McLemore, Secretary.

Some of the ways the Daughters serve the parish is through the ministry of Welcome Baskets delivered to those who visit our Sunday service. We also collected cleaning supplies for Interfaith Alliance of Ambler. We sorted the items collected for the Backpack Festival held at Grace the Incarnation in Port Richmond. For the past 12 years, the Daughters have coordinated the Women of Trinity retreat held in October at St. Marguerite's Retreat House in Mendham, NJ. This past year we were at full capacity. Mark the dates for 2017 (October 13-15) and plan to attend. The retreat is led by Rev. Mary McCullough.

We also coordinated the distribution and collection of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, an evangelistic outreach of Samaritan's Purse. We participate in hosting the Hospitality table. Under the direction of Nancy Militello, we also provide Funeral Hospitality, if requested.

We do, as part of our vows, pledge to "offer at all times our loyal aid and support to the clergy". As we begin 2017, we pray that God will renew our enthusiasm, reinvigorate our vision and open our minds and hearts to other service opportunities.

Submitted by Lynda Basham, President, Anam Cara Chapter

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach continues to thrive here at Trinity. There is a place for everyone who has a desire to serve others.

Here is a brief overview of some of the things we accomplished in 2016:

Trinity Ambler continues its work with **Grace Church and the Incarnation** in Port Richmond with the backpack collection and first Fridays at GCI.

In April 2016, Trinity hosted the **InterFaith Housing Alliance**. Our Parish Hall is transformed into rooms for the families that are in this program to stay in for the month. Trinity volunteers work at providing meals, transportation, and overnight supervision during these weeks. Many thanks to Ellen McCaffrey and the sub-chairs who make volunteering for this worthwhile effort an easy experience. Additional thanks to Leigh Irvin who erects the "walls" that make it possible for our guests to have some privacy.

Each month on a Saturday, **Real Men Cook** gathers to cook meals for Aid For Friends which provides meals to those who are elderly and homebound. This is especially important as the number of congregations participating in this outreach program declines. Aid for Friends noted a significant drop in the number of clients (2,243 in 2014 to 1,700 in 2016) served due primarily to the drop in meals being cooked.

Our congregation continues to provide food contributed by our parishioners every week to **Community Cupboard** in Ambler.

During the Christmas season, Trinity Ambler has several outreach programs. There is the annual Christmas tree gift program for children sponsored by **Episcopal Community Services**, and the very successful **Operation Christmas Child** where shoeboxes are filled with goodies for those children in need. Both programs are very successful here at Trinity. Every Advent season we have the wonderful **Christmas Table** filled with donated holiday items with the sales going to Mission and Outreach (many thanks to Nancy Militello and her organizing angels!).

Thank you for all your contributions of your time, and talents, and treasure to the various Mission and Outreach programs. Trinity is grateful for all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Saunders

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT 2016

The music department at Trinity continues to be reflective of the parish at large; people's lives change, and they move in and out of our own lives. Change is constant, yet things are at the same time cyclical. The music program provides evidence of the health and vitality of the parish.

The Choirs:

The choir system at Trinity is currently comprised of three choirs, the Youth Choir, which includes those who are at least in third grade or eight years and older; the Trinity Choir, which is the adult choir, and the Cherub Choir. Their presentation of anthems and other music enhances the services and, hopefully, inspires the congregation.

The Cherub Choir, which is comprised largely of enthusiastic children in Godly Play, has been supervised by Trinity Choir member Al Tenney. Al's philosophy is that when the children are ready they will sing. They usually sing toward the end of the service. The Youth Choir membership reflects the cyclical nature of volunteer choirs. Membership had been decreasing in past seasons, but now numbers ten, the same for the last two seasons. However, this number is due to the fact that older choir members still wish to sing with this choir, rather than join the Trinity Choir. Meetings have been sporadic this season, but they usually rehearse for a brief time on Sundays following the Eucharist. This choir is indicative of what is happening in society outside of Trinity Parish: the older youth become increasingly active young adults, and there is just no time in their schedules during the week for rehearsing. The gold standard of choir training programs is the one from the Royal School of Church Music in America. This is a structured music program which uplifts the spiritual lives of its participants through high quality music and training. The program is very flexible and can be adapted to the limited rehearsal time of the choir, but requires a considerable amount of dedication and commitment in terms of attendance. For years we have desired to implement this system, but with today's busy lifestyle the program succeeds in the Episcopal churches in the area who implemented it years ago and where it is a tradition.

The Trinity Choir likewise reflects a cyclical nature found with volunteer organizations. This, in simple terms, is due to life in general - people's lives change. They retire and move out of the area, they move out of the area to take a new job, they experience illness, they want to "take a break." There are now 24 members when all are present. Yet, this choir is sizable for a volunteer Episcopal choir in a parish the size of Trinity. The commitment and dedication to weekly rehearsals and participation in the worship service easily make this group in my opinion the most dedicated one in the parish. Additionally, very few volunteer choirs are able to sing music of this caliber. For me, this is gratifying as well as exciting. It continually amazes me that this choir is able to maintain both its quality of tone and repertoire. This year a couple of older members of the Youth Choir expressed a desire to join the adults and sing more challenging music. It is exciting to me to see this interest, and they have proven that they can participate and make a contribution. Yet aside from these new members, the choir itself is aging, and we need more members to relieve the demand of constant rehearsing and presence. In keeping with the philosophy of the Director of Music, no auditions are necessary and everyone is welcome regardless of musical ability. In other words, if you can carry a tune, you are welcome to join us.

This year we decided to try rehearsing after the Sunday service instead of Thursday evenings, thereby hoping to make it easier to attend rehearsals. This makes for a long Sunday morning, but an ease in already being on location to rehearse. There is exceptional talent in this choir, and their offerings of solos add much to the worship service. Special thanks go to Barb and Bill Davis and Al Tenney and our two soloists/section leaders. The Trinity Choir currently has two section leaders, a bass and an alto. Herb Ruzann, who was Trinity's bass section leader/soloist, retired at the end of last season. He was replaced by Brian Rickard, who most willingly lends his incredible voice and talents. Meaghan Heath, who was Trinity's alto soloist/section leader, moved to Seattle, Washington, to be with her husband, a serviceman who was transferred. Bethann Dilione is now our alto soloist/section leader and, likewise, does so much for the choir. These two individuals' contributions to the choir can't be overstated; they are truly a part of the group and inspire the volunteers in terms of learning music and tone production. The choir sings from the Sunday after Labor Day until the Sunday after Trinity, as well as on various holidays during the Church Year. My heartfelt thanks are extended to each and every member, with special thanks to Maureen McCauley, who handles the robe inventory.

Instrumentalists:

Trinity is blessed with much talent within the parish and further blessed in that its members so voluntarily offer their talents to the worship service. Some are actual music professionals and others are eager volunteers who just play or sing beautifully. There are so many people to thank that one risks omitting a name, but our thanks are extended to Anne Canan, Mindy Cutcher, Jane Cutcher, Kingsley Stroh and Maureen McCauley. We continue to be graced with beautiful string music provided by Fiyi, Jolade and Feyi Adebekun, three young members of Trinity. This Christmas season, Ellen Hickman, wife of Trinity Choir member Ward Hickman, joined us for the first time in playing the violin.

Musical Instruments:

Trinity's Schantz pipe organ continues to attract attention both locally and nationally because of its unique and successful design, as well as its magnificent sound. Occasionally, requests are made from organizations outside of Trinity who wish to utilize it. Pipe organs are complicated mechanisms, and Trinity's is no exception. Trinity's organ is tuned only twice a year compared to the usual three or four times other churches' organs require. This is largely due to the stability in temperature in the sanctuary. However, the organ was in need of some repair this year, partly due to its age of 27 years. A friend of Trinity, Theodore Didden, provided the necessary funds to replace the motors operating the expression shades on the organ. In addition, Mr. Didden funded the completion of the installation of the Cloches stop as well as adding a Tremulant to the Positif division. Probably the most important addition was that of computerized memory. With this the organist can utilize a computer in the console which will control 33 levels of stop management, as opposed to the original single setting. Trinity's organ was constructed with a French influence, and the Cloches is simply the equivalent of a Zimbelstern. The organ continues to be maintained by Emery Brothers. In addition to the Schantz organ, Trinity also has a Rogers electronic organ in the parish hall, a gift of Susan Adair from the estate of Elizabeth "Betty" Adair.

Since the time that Trinity Church was rebuilt, some families have donated pianos. Pianos that were constructed for homes rather than institutional use wear out, and over the years we have disposed of those no longer suitable for use through either gifting or selling. Currently, Trinity has three pianos: an Everett grand piano in the church; a Baldwin grand in the parish hall; and a Samick in the choir room/library. These pianos are currently maintained by Lawrence Fornaci.

Conclusion:

The Music Department, in conclusion, had an active year. Trinity's annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols was presented on December 4. The Christmas Pageant, *Christmas with Saint Mary*, was presented on December 18. On the afternoon of December 18, the Trinity Choir and soloists presented a concert of Christmas Music. They then presented a half-hour concert before the 11:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. All of this music was in addition to the other Sundays and commemorative events of the Church Year, such as Ash Wednesday and the Holy Week services.

The success of the Trinity Choir and the accomplishments of Trinity Parish in its vibrant life in the community come from the same source. It is because the people here at Trinity live out their ministries in their organizations, care for one another and wish to help one another as a way of spreading Christ's gospel. One can trace this directly to Father Canan's own philosophy and his ministry with the assistance and support of the Rev. Mary McCullough. I am honored and yet grateful to be a part of this organization.

The Grace of Our Lord be with you.

Steve

Stephen Schreiber, Director of Music

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Miracles abound in 2016. Our snow removal company of many years sent a letter in November 2015 that they would no longer be able to provide services. After much searching we found a "young" landscape/ snow removal company whose first snowstorm was a doozy. The miracle was it was our only major storm.

The Sexton's cottage was finally painted on the outside. It looks fantastic, thanks to Militello Painters. Several panes (which have to be custom made) were replaced and window trim pieces handmade by Mike Thornton, Contractor and Stephen Rawes, Builder. Craftsmanship is remarkable and beautiful in this lovely historic property.

John Dziel is an incredible asset to the church not just in the office but many behind the scenes repairs. The refrigerator typically likes to quit working at least once a year. John has a Lazarus touch and brings it back to life each time! Miracle!!

John's accomplishment this fall was when both boilers quit working simultaneously. John cobbled together pieces from both units making one viable unit to keep the church warm until the spare parts could be ordered. Both boilers are now fully functioning and have a good long life ahead. The church was spared a HUGE expense. Miracle!

AND this summer was the final phase of our re-lamping. Trinity has 100% LED exterior lighting. John replaced ground spot lights, roof spot lights and all our parking lot lamps to make Trinity a model of energy efficiency!! Miracle!

Another behind the scene worker, Bill Hecker is always on a project with no compensation for his labor. Thanks, Bill for installing a handrail in the pulpit, for re securing the altar rail, installing a new hot water source and new faucet with a sprayer for the sacristy, replacing our Episcopal street sign and numerous other small and big jobs. (Bill is currently working to replace an entire bathroom in the rectory.)

Bill Davis is always at the ready to help and especially in the area of plumbing.

Thank you, Walt Bunting and Bill Hecker, for a exterior landscape project which included getting Round-Up on weeds around the parking lot, clearing a overgrown garden and general sprucing up of the grounds.

Thank you, Piers Prater, for many volunteer hours to paint in our Sunday school classrooms. Thank you, John for adding more lighting eliminating dark corners in the Sunday school classrooms.

Thank you to all the property miracle workers big and small.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen McCaffrey

STEWARDSHIP

As a Stewardship Team we strive to show how all that we have is from God and thus we through the way we live our lives and share of our gifts, time, talents, and treasures.

This year's pledge campaign "We give thee but thy own" was successful and we thank everyone for their support. We thank you not only for your pledges but for the countless hours you spend volunteering, serving, sharing, and gathering together in our amazing church community.

The Stewardship team is looking forward to 2017 and the new opportunities that it holds! If you have any questions or are interested in joining this fun creative team, let me know!

The members of the Stewardship team are: Dan Citrone, Anne Canan, Dave Canan, Piers Prater, Ben Powley, Jane Saunders, John Bayard, Liz Wendt, Stephanie Gold.

Submitted by,
Liz Wendt, Stewardship Chair

TRIPS

On Thursday, **October 20, 2016**, thirty-five Trinity church members and friends had a return visit to the popular "Sight and Sound Theatre" in Lancaster County, PA to see the 2:45 PM performance of "Samson". This year we were delighted to have the best seats ever for the show as well as our favorite bus driver from Perkiomen Tours. On our way to the theatre, we stopped at Shady Maple for lunch smorgasbord and shopping. We look forward to our annual fall bus trips. In addition to multiple Lancaster trips, we have gone to New York City (twice) and Washington, DC. We welcome your suggestions for future trips.

Submitted by *Jane Frassenei*, Trinity Trip coordinator

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Current Vestry Members standing to be elected to a second 3 year term

Robin Chambers Dixon (Rector's Warden)
Bill Davis (Property)

Standing to be elected to first 3 year term

Connie Stephens (Environmental Stewardship)
Mary Deviso (Mission and Outreach)

Standing to be elected to complete a 1 year unexpired term

Dennis Reid, Sr. (Accounting Warden)

Thank you to our retiring Vestry Members

Rob Gergen
Walt Bunting
Jane Saunders

Thank you to our Continuing Vestry Members

Ellen McCaffrey, Property
Jill Marsceill, New Members
Jocelyn Tenney, Vestry Clerk

Martha Arnold, Planned Giving
Liz Wendt, Stewardship
Ben Powley, Worship and the Arts

Convention/Deanery Delegates

John Bayard, Barb Davis, Piers Prater, Jane Saunders, Liz Wendt

PARISH STATISTICS

Membership

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total # of Baptized Persons	495	507	499	513	465	506	515	520	523

Worship Attendance

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Easter Day Attendance	348	366	459	465	458	407	438	392	378
Average Sunday Attendance	198	199	204	211	195	209	202	186	151

Church School

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Children in Church School	65	60	61	69	76	76	98	108	106

Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$262,242	\$283,503	\$292,232	\$303,407	\$308,445	\$303,200

continued

	2014	2015	2016
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$317,248	\$285,273	263,080

Pledges -

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Pledges	139	136	136	118	122	141	132	119	99
Total Amount Pledged	240,870	278,378	278,658	257,832	260,918	275,090	252,462	228,000*	225,273*

*as of Jan. 31, 2017

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