

**TRINITY CHURCH
SOLEBURY**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**



*Trinity Episcopal Church
6587 Upper York Road
Solebury, Pennsylvania 18963
215.297.5135
trinitysolebury.org*

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

“Do you have 20/20 vision – Better yet, do you have a vision for 2020?”



That was the question we asked as we gathered for last year's Annual Parish Meeting. There was an air of expectancy and excitement for the year. We had just announced that we have paid off the mortgage and we had plans to do so much in the months to come. And then it happened. COVID-19. Everything came to a screeching halt. At first it seemed as though this might be a brief interruption and then reality set in that we were in for the long haul. One year later, other than for 5 weeks in which we gathered outdoors for worship, we have yet to resume in-person worship. Who would have thought?

But we are still here.

2020 has been a year of learning to do things differently, of being the church in a different way. We are still figuring it out and what we are learning will no doubt shape us for years to come. In the following pages there is a reflection of what we have been about the business of being and doing this year. It in no way tells the whole story. Hopefully it will remind us that the church lives on even during the most difficult of times. Each of you is a testament to the faith we share as a church community. This is your story.

WORSHIP



The word liturgy means “the work of the people”. Without the people, liturgy just doesn't work. That was certainly the opinion of many, including the Rector, as we began to experience worship virtually. After almost a year of gathering via the internet, we have all discovered that it does work, albeit very different. It also requires a lot more work of us all, from planning and implementation to the experience itself. The countless hours that have been put into making it all work boggles the imagination. The members of the worship committee, Church staff, clergy, participants in the liturgy, musicians, technical support personnel, and everyone who takes the time to “log on”.

There are so many people who need to be recognized. My fellow clergy; Ginny Sheay, John Bartle and Emory Bynum who have assisted me. Tim Harrell, who has continued to find ways to make music, members of the choir who have participated in special digital and audio recordings. Bill Wolf and Kyle Evans, who every week arrange to have lectors to assist. (We celebrate the fact that we have had young people be a part of worship every week). Stacie Fuchs continues to produce the worship leaflets, posting them to the web. Sarah Doyle provides technological support and edits the video and audio recordings. Jon Hayward, who has spent countless hours installing and programming the video recording equipment and providing the technological know-how to make it all work.

Outdoor Worship



Begun the weekend in which we observed the 20th anniversary of the dedication of Trinity's new worship space and rebuilt facility, nearly 50 of us gathered to rededicate ourselves to being the Church. For the next six weeks we continued to worship outside in the early afternoon in addition to our livestreaming virtual worship on Sunday mornings.

Advent/Christmas

This year Christmas was observed with a much scaled down version of the pageant with leadership from Trinity's youth. Instead of our customary Choral Eucharist, we celebrated with a Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols with a special digital choir performance of *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Christmas Day worship was delayed by a power outage but in a candle lit sanctuary the liturgy was recorded and posted online by midday.



MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

The year began with the second annual gathering in January of the Interfaith Community of which Trinity has provided significant leadership. We have continued to be involved with the Greater Delaware Valley Interfaith Community even amidst COVID.



Throughout the pandemic we have engaged with three mission partners: Bucks County Opportunity Council, Fisherman's Mark, and Delaware Valley Food Pantry. The leadership of each of these organizations joined in on our Zoom Vestry meetings to share with us their program and update us on their needs. To date we have supported them with combined contributions exceeding \$18,000.

Trinity also conducted a successful Advent food drive for Fisherman's Mark. Since the needs of our community still exist, we are looking toward doing another food drive in the near future.



Once again Trinity participated in providing Christmas gifts for the children of Pearl Street, a part of the Haddington community supported through Mission Philadelphia. It is very meaningful for these children to receive gifts from Trinity families. Thank you to Kyle Evans for spearheading this wonderful opportunity for giving.

This year's Mission Philadelphia, while definitely organized and experienced differently, was a most amazing five days of community building while accomplishing a myriad of projects. Celebrating its 24th year, more than twenty volunteers of Trinity took on some of the more ambitious initiatives in its history. While we missed our worship, meal, and residential time together, we did experience a wonderful bond with one another and community members who committed themselves to the work at hand. This was all accomplished while socially distanced and masked in sweltering heat and humidity.



A total of four work site needs were addressed - the Orchard at 55th & Pearl Streets, West Philadelphia; Girarden, a community-based garden, adjoining First African Church off of Girard Ave, West Philadelphia; West Philadelphia Peace Park, a beautiful new partner on N. 51st Street in West Philadelphia; and North Philly Peace Park, a partnership established last year, located on N. Jefferson Street.

Projects included general weeding and clearing of gardens, pruning, construction of two picnic tables and bench units, establishment of a large, abstract mural, installation of a 60-foot pollinating garden, fruit tree planting, and the first phase of a mosaic with handcrafted tiles donated by an area artisan. The Mission Philadelphia team included Trinity and St. Thomas families and individuals who dedicated multiple days to be a part of the amazing ministry and partnership with our brothers and sisters in Philadelphia.

PROPERTY

Although we have not been gathering in-person, Trinity has still had a building to look after. Thanks to our property committee we have maintained the building and grounds. Our custodial expenses were significantly reduced through most of the year. We were still blessed with having Glenn Fries care for our building. In addition, Glenn has provided the necessary sanitizing now required as a result of COVID. We have consulted with our HVAC service provider as to ways to cut cost with heating while protecting the building. As a cost saving measure we are replacing many of the thermostats around the building. As always, Bill Wolf is our “go to” person whenever there is an issue with any aspect of our building. A special thanks to Gary Wilmore for his efforts in managing the many cost saving efforts during this pandemic.

KNITTING MINISTRY



Our knitting ministry has been hard at work through the year in spite of COVID. Many afghans have been made and distributed. Additionally blankets have been distributed to homeless young people. Many thanks to Janet Gill and all the knitters for their dedication.

CENTERING PRAYER

A small group of folks continued to gather weekly for pray throughout the pandemic. Some joined online with people from Trinity, Buckingham. During the summer and fall, others gathered outside in the courtyard. This devoted group not only gathers for prayer and meditation, but also assists in sending cards to those who are ill or in need of prayers.

FELLOWSHIP

Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom every Sunday following the online service. Anywhere between 10 and 25 people would gather to check in, touch base, share good news and challenges. This was one of the ways in which we attempted to stay connected as a community.



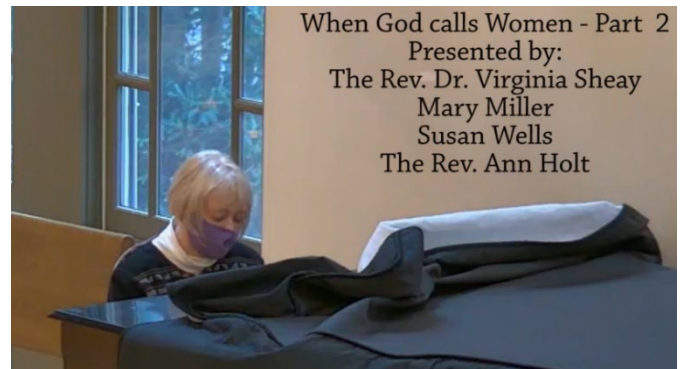
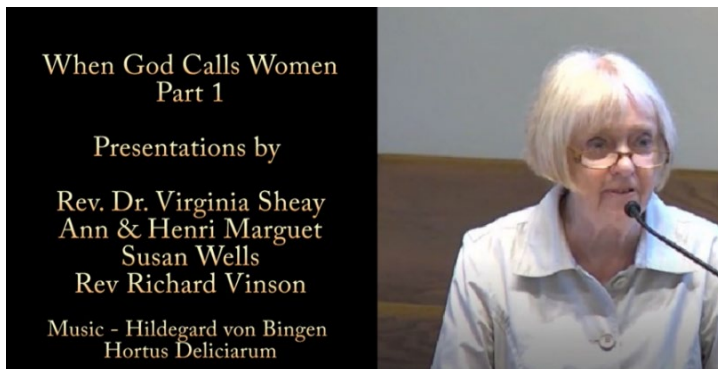
SACRED GROUND

Every day we are made aware of the outrage and fear of so many in our nation. The issues of race, equality, and justice are before us every day. The church can and must be a loving, liberating, and life-giving presence. The Episcopal Church has a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice.

In September, a small group began a journey of learning and sharing about race through participation in a film-based dialogue series on race and faith developed by The Episcopal Church entitled *Sacred Ground*. The sin of racism has plagued our nation and our church. We are called to foster *Beloved Communities* where all people may experience dignity and abundant life. We cannot effect the changes needed unless we first understand.

EDUCATION/FORMATION/SPECIAL PROGRAMS

When God Calls Women



Originally planned for Lent, the program developed by Ginny Sheay was redesigned as a virtual event, recorded and presented in two parts. Discussion followed on Sunday mornings in Advent during the fellowship time.

Inspired by Nature



A recorded program on Horticultural Therapy from the gardens and backyard of Trey Wilson. The healing elements of nature help improve body, mind, and spirit. Trey provided gardening tips as well as showcasing his beautiful plants.

Tanis



A program offered on Sunday morning focusing on the well-known Daniel Garber painting of his daughter Tanis (who was a member of Trinity). Led by Barbara Tortorello with an additional presentation by Bill Wolf on a painted cookie tin by Garber that was given to Trinity.



Temples, Cathedrals, and Churches From Around the World



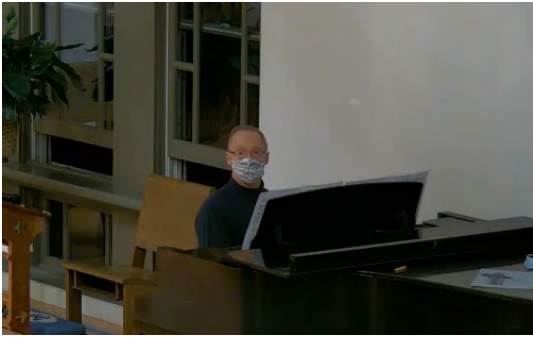
An informative and inspiring program was presented by Will Rivinus on model building of temples, cathedrals, and churches around the world and their history.

MUSIC

The musical world has been greatly affected by COVID-19, especially the act of singing. Recent guidelines have recommended singers be distanced by at least 27 feet. Therefore, this makes congregational singing and choirs virtually impossible. Singing has been such a vital part of our worship lives as we lift our voices singing praises. For the time being, we have assembled small groups in the church to record anthems and hymns for use in our services. With new technology, we produced our first Virtual Choir recording for the 20th anniversary celebration of the re-dedication of Trinity Church in October. Another recording was done for Christmas Eve. The week before Christmas, Tim Harrell, Trinity's choirmaster/organist, led us in virtual Christmas caroling. It was certainly different but still a lot of fun.

We will continue to use music in our worship in a safe and responsible way. The day will come when all can lift their voices in song to worship the Almighty and it will be a glorious

day. We are grateful for the leadership of Tim who continues to provide music for us under difficult circumstances. We are also grateful to Matt and Jenn Summers who have provided music for our liturgies with young people.



TRINITY DAY SCHOOL

The pandemic had a profound impact upon our school which had to suspend in person learning in March. The decision was made to not open in the fall. The school has resumed in January, albeit with a much smaller enrollment. We anticipate this growing as we emerge from the pandemic and once again becoming a vibrant part of our community. We are grateful for the work of Jessica Williams, Director, and that of the Board, chaired by Doug Brindley.

COMMUNITY – BLOOD DRIVE/POLLING PLACE



During the year, Trinity opened its doors to the Red Cross for a successful blood drive and was also the polling place for both Pennsylvania’s primary and general elections.



DISCERNMENT AND PARISH SUPPORT

In the course of the last year, Trinity has supported the discernment of Kyle Evans in a call to the Vocational Deaconate. A key part of the early phase of the process was the formation of a Parish Discernment Group (PDG). The PDG met with Kyle eight times over a four-month time period, during which prayer and reflection on various written assignments required of the candidate occurred. The PDG then made a recommendation to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry (COM).

Trinity wants to extend their deepest gratitude to the PDG members - Inez Bing, Peg Clark, Colleen Dey, Gretchen Ginnerty, Nancy Harrison, Erin Moss Jones, John McNeill, and Jenn Summers - for their spirit filled dedication to this process, particularly in the midst of COVID.

Kyle was also required to identify and complete a Congregational Leadership Project. She focused on food scarcity and worked with Bill and Jonathan Yandle to establish a Little Free Pantry at St. Philip's New Hope. It is hoped that at least two more will be installed in the coming months.

All this would not be possible without the loving and prayerful support of the Trinity family, particularly the Vestry and other parish leadership. They have helped to encourage an important call and ministry, one needed now more than ever.



CAREGIVING

Even with the constraints of social distancing and quarantines, the pastoral care network has continued to reach out to those who have been even more isolated by the pandemic. Meeting monthly the caregiving team has directed the efforts of many in the parish through cards, letters, calls, and emails. Trinity Cares for one another.

VESTRY

The Vestry of Trinity Church has proven itself to be the most dedicated vestry members in all of Christendom. From the onset of our time of exile as a gathered (in-person) community, the Vestry has met every single week to ensure the ongoing work of Trinity Church. There is not one single aspect of what has taken place during this time in which the Vestry was not deeply involved. They have cared for the fabric of this institution and the souls which give life and breath to it. A huge debt of gratitude is owed them. Thank you to Barbara Tortorello and Jeanine Plebani, Wardens, Gary Wilmore, Treasurer and Warden for Finance & Operations, Jeff Bairstow, Christy Cheever, John Dey, Melodee Fox, Pat Houston, Julie Loftus, Cathy Mumford, and John Schuster.

FINANCE

The following information is as of 12/31/20. The Day School and the cemetery financial results are not included in this report.

2020 Summary Financial Report				
	Actual	Budget	Variance	2021 Budget
Income				
Pledge	\$365,458	\$385,000	(\$19,542)	\$345,000
Plate	\$24,822	\$33,000	(\$8,178)	\$25,000
Fund Raising	\$5,000	\$53,200	(\$48,200)	\$0
PPP Loan	\$41,800	-	\$41,800	-
Other	\$24,032	\$39,900	(\$15,868)	\$22,900
Total Income	<u>\$461,112</u>	<u>\$511,100</u>	<u>(\$49,988)</u>	<u>\$392,900</u>
Expense				
Personnel	\$244,817	\$244,622	\$195	\$239,604
Office	\$30,553	\$32,000	(\$1,447)	\$25,000
Utilities	\$27,935	\$35,900	(\$7,965)	\$26,350
Maintenance	\$49,049	\$95,500	(\$46,451)	\$44,500
Building/Equipment	\$19,886	\$26,500	(\$6,614)	\$10,000
Programs	\$7,866	\$9,550	(\$1,684)	\$7,000
Charitable/Outreach	\$49,847	\$44,000	\$5,847	\$40,000
Fund Raising	\$2,750	\$23,000	(\$20,250)	\$0
Total Expenses	<u>\$432,703</u>	<u>\$511,072</u>	<u>(\$78,369)</u>	<u>\$392,454</u>
Surplus (Deficit) *	<u>\$28,409</u>	<u>\$28</u>	<u>\$28,381</u>	<u>\$446</u>

* Carry Forward Reserve for unanticipated COVID and/or Budget expenses

2020 year in review by Gary Wilmore, Financial Treasurer

By definition, a BLACK SWAN is a highly improbable event with three principal characteristics: It is unpredictable; it carries a massive impact; and, after the fact, we concoct an explanation that makes it appear less random, and more predictable, than it was. This past year certainly meets all of the above criteria.

As the summary financial results clearly illustrate, 2020 was certainly unpredictable; with massive impact across the board; and yet we ended the year in remarkably good condition. The combination of parish participation with pledge and plate contributions, judicious expense controls, and a fortuitous loan grant through the Payroll Protection Plan, enabled us to retain staff, cover operating expenses, and provide weekly services, albeit virtually. As the year progressed we were also able to participate with periodic contributions to Fisherman's Mark, the Delaware Valley Food Pantry, and the Bucks County Opportunity Council in their efforts to assist those in the community who were significantly affected by the impact of the pandemic. I personally cannot emphasize enough how proud I was to be a representative of the Trinity Parish and our commitment to the community.

The vestry's early decision to cancel Lobsterfest, and the obvious implications that decision would have on our outreach efforts for the year, was prudent recognition of the severity and potential consequences of the pandemic. However, guided by Kyle Evans' organization skills, coupled with strong volunteer participation, we were able to complete another successful Mission Philadelphia project with our Philadelphia partners.

I also want to highlight the very generous contributions made toward the annual Christmas Giving Tree program.

Looking forward to the 2021 budget, pledge commitments reflect fewer participants and several pledge reductions compared to last year. The plate estimate is conservative and remains lower than usual to recognize the inability to hold in-person services for an indeterminate period. While tentative plans for Lobsterfest or an alternative fundraising effort are underway, there is currently no rational way to estimate the potential proceeds. Other income estimate is conservative and assumes a contribution from the Day School, some typical receipts from prior year pledge payments, and modest activity related to church rental income, principally weddings.

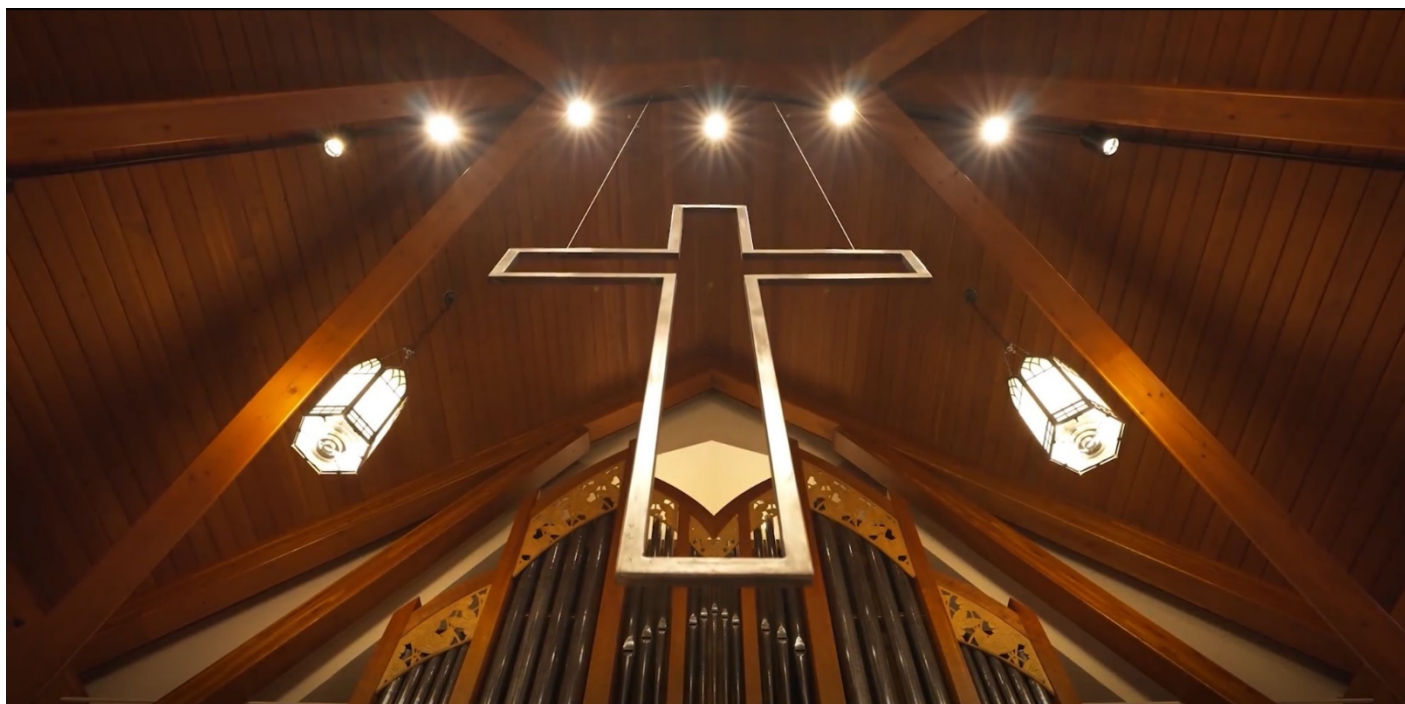
Expense projections are more predictable with staffing, utilities, and maintenance requirements simply what they are. It is noteworthy to recognize that the income and expense projections allow for continued commitment to charitable/outreach participation; those include our annual commitment to the Diocese and modest continuation of our commitment to the community organizations,

To summarize, I cannot over emphasize my thanks and gratitude to each of you who continue to support Trinity through your pledge, plate, and miscellaneous contributions. Thank you.

TRINITY THE SITE FOR BISHOP'S WORSHIP

2021 began with Trinity being honored to serve as the site for the online Diocesan worship for the season of Epiphany. Five young people from Trinity participated in the recordings.





RESTORATION AND RENEWAL

2021 will be a year for our Church and community to embrace the many challenges and opportunities as we move through and beyond the pandemic that has plagued us. It will not be a return to the way things were, but a pilgrimage into a new expression of faith in community. Over the next months we will slowly and safely explore ways to resume in-person activity, including worship and mission opportunities. This will be both exhilarating and frightening. We face a future that is unknown, but like so many faithful people in ages past, we are not alone. We have one another and we are blessed with the abiding presence of a God who loves us and who will lead us each step along the way. During this pandemic, I have used the words of Jeremiah to assure us to “seek the welfare of the place to which we are sent, and pray on its behalf, for its welfare we will find our peace.” (*Jer. 29:7*) As God has been with us and blessed us thus far along the way, so God will restore and renew us in God’s service.

VESTRY NOMINEES



Ashley Christie

My name is Ashley Christie and I have been attending Trinity since about 2005. My husband Scott and I had just welcomed our son into the world and were actively seeking a spiritual home. After attending a Sunday worship service, we knew we found our “home”. I am mom to Grant and Lindsay and am always looking for ways to be actively involved at Trinity.

I am currently employed by the Central Bucks School District as a Reading Specialist. My love of teaching and children led me to be called to teach Sunday School at Trinity. In the past, I teamed with Christine Angulo to coordinate and “oversee” Sunday School as well as teach the Kdg-2nd grade class. Currently I am still one of the teachers for the Kdg-2nd grade class, and I look forward to the day when I can see the kids in Sunday School.

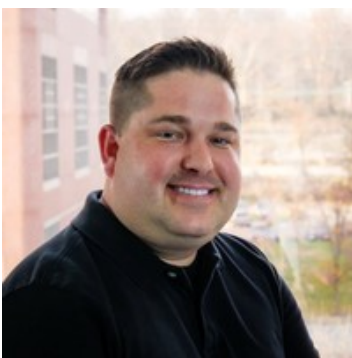
Trinity has become my family’s church home, and I feel so blessed for the opportunities that it has provided to me and my children. In today’s world, it takes a village to raise kids, and Trinity has been a very important part of my village. I am excited to have this opportunity to be a part of the Vestry. My motivation to serve, to actively participate and prayerfully make decisions, and to strengthen my relationships within the Trinity community are virtues that I would bring to the Vestry.



Nancy Harrison

I am delighted to be nominated to serve on the Vestry! My husband Jeff, our daughter Olivia, and I joined Trinity 15 years ago where we were welcomed with open arms. Since that time, I have been blessed to be involved with Church School, Trinity Youth Group, Lobsterfest, a memorable Tabasamu mission trip to Haiti, and most recently the Parish Discernment Group for Kyle Evans’ call to the diaconate.

As a practicing psychologist and university instructor, I hope to bring experience and skills that will enrich our parish. As a Vestry member, I hope to give back some of the love and care that the extraordinary people of Trinity have shared with us. I am honored to help shepherd our parish into the post-pandemic period!



Matthew Summers

I grew up in Mercer County, New Jersey and in the Episcopal Church, being baptized and confirmed at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton. I participated in the music and youth programs throughout childhood at the Cathedral, the Diocese, and National Church and represented Province 2 on the Design Team for the 1995 Episcopal Youth Event, which planned a week-long, tri-annual youth retreat for teenagers from across North America. I attended General Convention 1994 and 1997. In 1997, I served as a Youth Delegate to Trinity

Cathedral's Vestry. Many family dinners were spent discussing various bylaws and ecclesiastical procedures....good times!

In 1998, I found my way to Trinity with my parents, Barrie and Patrick Summers, following not only its new organist and choirmaster, Tim Harrell, but also the story of the devastating fire and the community spirit that rose from the ashes. It was a perfect place to re-set the Summers family roots. I served as a support to Kyle Evans in those early days, being a counselor on the youth retreat and Mission Philadelphia. Then, in 2004, began the most important relationship of my life with future wife, Jennifer Blumenstock, who has also served in various roles at Trinity since then. In 2006, I took on a leadership role in Trinity's Youth Band, supporting contemporary worship services. In 2008, Jenn and I were married at Trinity. In 2011, I had the pleasure of serving on the Search Committee for our present rector. At the time, Trinity had gone through a lot of transition and I found working with such an extraordinary cross-section of Trinity parishioners an extremely rewarding experience. Reverend Rick's first baptism at Trinity was of Andrew, our first child. Jack came along a few years later and well, no one has been entirely safe in McArthur Hall since.

Outside of The Church, I work for Cornerstone OnDemand, providing support to its customers that use Cornerstone's cloud-based software applications to attract, develop, and retain top talent. Trinity continues to provide not just the spiritual food I need to navigate all that life entails, but an extended family that exemplifies the values Jenn and I aspire for Andrew and Jack. I consider God's call to Vestry a great opportunity to give back to the parish, from which our family has already received so much.



James Wells

James has been a member of Trinity since 2002, with brief periods of membership at St. Matthews Episcopal, Pennington, NJ and All Saints Episcopal, Atlanta—both related to his vocational activities. He is an honorably retired Presbyterian clergy person from the Presbytery of San Francisco, after serving churches in Florida and California. He holds two degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, including a terminal degree in bioethics that focused on the morality of experimentation with human subjects in medical research. James is married to Susan for 42 years and has served on various committees at Trinity, as well as in singing in the choir. Since 1995, he has worked extensively in not-for-profit retirement communities and medical centers, with licenses in New Jersey, California, Florida, and Georgia. He has been an advocate of “active aging” and combating ageism.

James believes the Episcopal tradition of “common prayer” in liturgy and music provide both comfort and challenge to believers. He has been an active supporter of Episcopal Community Services of Philadelphia. Trinity has been meaningful because of the people: passion for inclusiveness and justice, commitment to children and youth, and engagement of meaningful fellowship activities.

Recently completing his vocation in long term care, James looks forward to a more active role assisting the Trinity’s expressions service and grace to each other and the larger community.