

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SOLEBURY, PA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

March 6, 2022



The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

~ The Book of Common Prayer, page 855

In Loving Memory

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Joy Haines
Mollie Hallowell
Carol Kinnier
Margret "Peg" Marty
Marie McKinstry
Kristen Mims
Virginia "Ginnie" Saunders
Josh Sowden
Diane Treptow

Planned Giving

As Christians, we are called to plan for the future of our church. To accomplish this, the Vestry of Trinity has established a Legacy Society, as a means of encouraging gifts to the endowment fund which will provide a reliable source of income to the parish for generations to come.

Trinity's Endowment Fund has a unique purpose in the life of our parish - to empower ministry beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. The Endowment Fund is not simply a hedge against future uncertainties. It is a commitment to provide our future parishioners with the means to minister to the community as we have been blessed to do.

Planned gifts, though requiring financial and estate planning assistance, offer a unique opportunity to make a substantial gift to the Endowment Fund while providing for one's family. Some planned gift options provide income for life and reduce the tax burden on the donors and their heirs.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your role in building Trinity's Endowment Fund. If you would like additional information, or wish to discuss confidentially the best way for you to make a gift, please feel free to contact one of the Wardens. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment to ensure an abundant future for Trinity Episcopal Church.



Assisting Priest – Virginia M. Sheay

During 2021, I continued to assist in preaching and officiating at the Sunday morning services, seasonal, additional services, and serving in the capacity of Assisting Priest under the discretion of The Rev. Richard L. Vinson, Rector.



As staff member, I also serve on the Worship Committee, the Pastoral Committee, and the Welcome Committee.

For the Lenten Day of Reflection held on Saturday, March 20, the presentation was *Unfolding the Mystery of Mary Magdalene*. Assisting me were John Bartle, James Wells, Barbara Tortorello, and Susan Wells.

For the Advent Day of Reflection, held on Saturday, December 18, the presentation was *Mystics, Music, and Musings: Wisdom Learning in a Time of Pandemic and Beyond*. Assisting me were James Wells, Barbara Tortorello, John Bartle, and Mary Miller.

While I am canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey, under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, Title III. Canon 9 Section 6, I am licensed by the Bishop of Pennsylvania to serve at Trinity Church.

I find it rather remarkable that I am simultaneously involved in the Dioceses of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maine. Somehow God is not finished with me, even though I am officially retired, and ordained a priest forty-five years ago. I deem it a privilege to be a part of this amazing faith community, Trinity Church. Thank you for this blessed opportunity.



And I saw the river
over which every soul
must pass
to reach the kingdom
of heaven
and the name of that river
was suffering;
and I saw a boat
which carries souls
across the river
and the name of that boat
was love.

Saint John of the Cross

Organist/Choirmaster – Timothy Harrell

The year 2021 continued to present many challenges for all of us as we navigated our way through COVID protocols and safe ways to engage in worship and making music. Easter Sunday outdoors presented the first chance to sing in public and singing outdoors is always difficult. But it felt good to be together celebrating the resurrection on so many levels. I have been encouraged by the number of singers in the choir who have returned to join us in worship each week, singing with the restrictions that masks put on singers. We find breathing is compromised and sound is somewhat muffled but I still see the joy on peoples' faces as we lift our voices in song. Friends of Music started back in the fall and a number of the outside music groups have begun performing again in our space. We look forward to the day that we can safely sing without masks and start our children's choir again. And finally, I wish to thank all of those who have continued singing in the choir. You bring much joy to my life.




Trinity Church Friends of Music
Presents an Organ Recital with
Timothy Harrell
It's Good to be Bach
An all J.S. Bach concert featuring
Tocatta and Fugue in D minor (Dorian)
Trio sonata in E flat major
Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor

Special guest Christopher Whitney
will provide commentary on each piece

Sunday October 17th @ 4 pm
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ROUTE 263 & SUGAN ROAD
SOLEBURY, PA 18963

trinityepiscopalsolebury

\$15 ADULTS - \$10 - 18 AND UNDER
FOR TICKETS CALL 215-297-5135

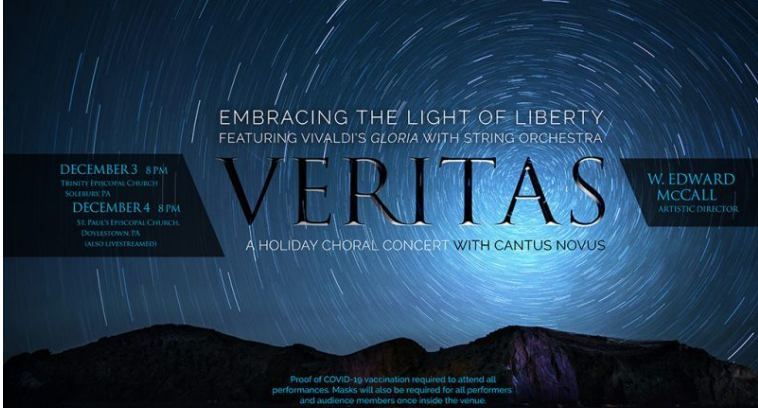


**FRIENDS OF
MUSIC**

Concert Series

The 2021-2022 Season

trinityepiscopalsolebury



EMBRACING THE LIGHT OF LIBERTY
FEATURING VIVALDI'S GLORIA WITH STRING ORCHESTRA

VERITAS

A HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT WITH CANTUS NOVUS

W. EDWARD MCCALL
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 3 8 PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SOLEBURY, PA

DECEMBER 4 8 PM
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWLESTOWN, PA
(MUSIC UNO THEATRE)

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required to attend all performances. Masks will also be required for all performers and audience members once inside the venue.



RENAISSANCE AND
BAROQUE MUSIC
FOR THE
HOLIDAY SEASON

In Sweet Rejoicing

A Year of Transition - A Year of Discernment – Warden Julie Loftus



We are in transition! We have existed in a consistent and comfortable place within Trinity, but in the spring of 2021, during a pandemic, Rick announced he was retiring. And then it began. I felt confident that Rick would plan the next course of meetings to make certain Vestry and Wardens could manage the Church without his leadership. After introducing us to the Canon for Transition at the Diocese of Pennsylvania, Arlette Benoit Joseph, Rick slowly released some of his administrative duties to the Wardens and the Vestry. It was so stepwise and gradual. I don't believe we recognized we were flying solo as a group. His leadership and strategy made the first part of this transition very smooth. He carefully advised us without overreaching his boundaries as a departing Rector. I am grateful for his consult and honored to have served as his Warden.

We are in a good place. Yes, Rick retired, and we dearly miss Rick and Ellen. I find comfort in knowing they are settling in their new home in Virginia Beach. Rick has left our church in order and instructed his Vestry (and Wardens) on the day-to-day operation.

I have included below Rick's message in the weekly announcements in case anyone missed:

Thank you to the people of Trinity for the wonderful sendoff last week. Ellen and I are truly appreciative of everything that was done. Your expressions of love and recognition of our time together was very moving. A special thanks to those who helped organize the day.

It was my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor and priest for 10 years. I pray God bless and guide you as you move forward in the ministry of service to the community.

Seek the welfare of the place to which you are sent, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare will you find your peace. Jeremiah 29:7

Rick +

Please note the reading from Jeremiah (the last sentence). Rick often spoke these words to remind us that we will find peace in serving God through our Church. Trinity is the engine that allows us to seek God through our church community.

May the peace of the Lord remain with you always. And thank you for supporting your Vestry and the Wardens. It is an honor to serve this Church and its parishioners. Trust in God, he has already planned our path to finding a rector.

Warden – James Wells

Trinity's people enter 2022 with astonishment, perhaps one expressed by Shakespeare's Miranda, who in *The Tempest* says:



Oh, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,
That has such people in 't!

Trinity has come to life with wonder and beauty, as doors open and people fill our spaces after the wearisome, extended COVID-instigated sequestration. Here we are, building upon the strengths given us by our retired Rector, Rev. Rick Vinson. And what do we make of this brave new world as we seek to serve Jesus Christ in it?

Our people are committed to gather and express the welcoming fellowship that so marks Trinity's heritage. We must manage different social and organizational issues with each other, as we enter a transition unlike any experienced in a generation—no interim rector. Trinity may be “rectorless,” but we are not rudderless! Your Vestry has been challenged by our Diocese to take on many of the responsibilities typically managed by a rector (excluding priestly functions). These are in accord with Diocese of Pennsylvania instructions as assigned by our former Rector and approved by Vestry. Written Diocesan guidelines state: *“Vestries should realize that they often play a more significant and enhanced role during times of transition. The job often takes more time. Members of the congregation may need more assurances as well as more frequent and effective communication from their elected lay leaders during the interim.”*

In this “new world” Trinity's first job is to maintain the sacred worship of God and provide pastoral care to those in need. This has been established thanks to the strong parish lay leadership, including assisting priests Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay and Rev. Dr. John Bartle.

Next task ahead is one of exploration: Trinity must elucidate our values, outlooks and expectations. We can navigate to a new understanding of mission with a rector compatible with that vision if we know where we're starting from: otherwise we might go around in circles or just reheat a stale version of what had been a flavorful past. Our parish has made a remarkable beginning to shape that understanding, with 143-strong participation in our parish survey (“Holy Cow”) and more than 50 joining “Voices” group conversations. This discovery phase will continue. Voices and Survey have helped us to establish a preliminary direction about what mission challenges might take hold at Trinity in our service to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

We also know that Trinity is well-positioned in this “brave new world” with the following assets:

- Financial participation, support and reserves
- Strong focus on Mission and Outreach
- Maintenance of youth and family opportunities

- Multi-faceted music programs and outreach to artistic communities
- Volunteer engagement
- Staff
- Digital presence and resources
- Day School

We have the freedom to choose among mission challenges.

We are surrounded by an “embarrassment of riches” (*How many goodly creatures are there here!*)—people with abundant talents who urgently seek to share them because of who they are and what they intend Trinity. Our commitment as a Vestry is to enable these gifts by communicating continually and praying without ceasing; managing these gifts as well as possible even in their “messiness.” In fulfilling this commitment, we would so achieve a destiny to be the church of Jesus Christ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit for our time and for future generations.

Financial Treasurer – Gary Wilmore

The following information is as of 12/31/21. The day school and the cemetery financial results are not included in this report.



2021 Summary Financial Report				
	Actual	Budget	Variance	2022 Budget
Revenue				
Pledge	\$327,128	\$345,000	(\$17,872)	\$350,900
Plate	\$39,473	\$25,000	\$14,473	\$25,000
Fund Raising	\$35,803	\$0	\$35,803	\$45,000
Other	\$62,131	\$22,900	\$39,231	\$23,850
Total Revenue	<u>\$464,534</u>	<u>\$392,900</u>	<u>\$71,634</u>	<u>\$444,750</u>
Expense				
Personnel	\$244,727	\$239,604	\$5,123	\$238,784
Office	\$29,966	\$25,000	\$4,966	\$30,000
Utilities	\$29,848	\$26,350	\$3,498	\$27,750
Maintenance	\$83,872	\$44,500	\$39,372	\$66,500
Buildings/Equipment	\$19,082	\$10,000	\$9,082	\$19,500
Programs	\$5,449	\$7,000	(\$1,551)	\$16,500
Charitable/Outreach	\$37,435	\$40,000	(\$2,565)	\$35,000
Fund Raising	\$8,780	\$0	\$8,280	\$10,000
Total Expenses	<u>\$459,159</u>	<u>\$392,454</u>	<u>\$66,705</u>	<u>\$444,034</u>

2021 Year in Review

The revenue estimates for the 2021 budget were purposefully conservative considering the continued impact of COVID precautions on in-person Sunday services, rental use of the property for weddings, concerts or other events, and most significantly, our Lobsterfest picnic. Similar conservative estimates were applied to expense considerations in order to maintain a balanced budget projection for the year.

The actual results for both income and expenses were substantially above the estimates. Fortunately, the unanticipated maintenance and buildings expenses were offset by equally unanticipated income generated through the determined and creative re-definition efforts of the Lobsterfest planning and implementation groups and several special purpose and miscellaneous gifts.

The fundraising income shown above was all from Lobsterfest, generated through dinner sales, sponsorship donations, and a very successful silent auction. Significantly, the corresponding expenses were well below the usual costs since there were no picnic facilities, amusements, or other miscellaneous expenses associated with our normal outdoor celebration.

The significant variance between budget and actual other income is primarily from outright donations towards identified costs such as the furnace repairs mentioned during last year's annual meeting: the video equipment acquired to enable the virtual Sunday services and contributions to help offset the anticipated pledge shortfall identified toward the end of the year and the numerous maintenance repairs such as a very expensive water heater and associated plumbing issues, electrical and lighting fixtures in the sanctuary, McArthur Hall, parking area lighting, and new thermostats throughout the building.

The real silver lining of our unanticipated income offsetting the significant maintenance issues we incurred was that we were able to meet our commitment to the diocese and continue providing outreach support, not only to Mission Philadelphia but to the three local organizations we have supported throughout this pandemic era: Fisherman's Mark, the Delaware Valley Food Pantry, and the Bucks County Opportunity Council.

2022 Budget

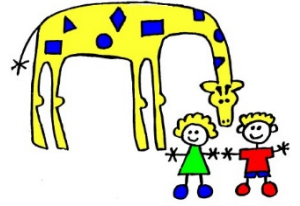
Looking forward to the budget for 2022, our projected revenue is slightly higher than last year due to the combination of a similar pledge and plate commitment and the inclusion of Lobsterfest and possibly the return of Cookie Bake. Pledge participation this year is based on the receipt of 95 pledge card responses compared to 98 last year.

On the expense side of the budget, personnel expenses have been kept relatively stable given the uncertainty of timing and contract terms for Rick's replacement. Maintenance and Buildings/Equipment categories have been increased to reflect the probable continuation of expenses consistent with the ageing of the property.

Fundraising, Outreach, and Programs are simply distributed funds to recognize the likelihood of a similar Lobsterfest event, a possible Mission Philadelphia event, and hopefully, Outreach.

Trinity Day School – Jessica Williams

After the pandemic caused our closure in March of 2020, we planned for our eventual reopening in January 2021. We prepared both the facility and staff to manage the enhanced health and safety protocols and communicated our plans & expectations with families. We continue those practices today and, to date, have not had any instances of spread of COVID-19 within our school. Although the local district may soon be changing their masking guidelines, Trinity Day School will err on the side of caution until the children we serve all have the option to receive a vaccine. We will likely remain masked indoors through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.



When we reopened in January 2021, we had 11 children begin. Over the course of the next few months, we added 12 more students to finish the year in June with 23. The current school year began in September 2021 with enrollment of 41, but we had two new students join us on Tuesday 2/22, bringing us to 43. This number is on the high average of where we typically stand. We will graduate 21 students onto Kindergarten in June.

Our enrichment programs have been running on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons since the start of the school year and will continue through the remainder of the year. These include subjects like: Water Play, Holidays & Baking, Super Sleuths, Young Authors, Winter Crafts, Science, Cooking, and more. Our other afternoons are filled with child-led play, assisted by gentle prompts and redirection from staff. We have several students who stay each day.

Registration is underway for next school year, and camp registration for June will begin shortly. We have 22 students registered for the next school year, with the bulk comprising five-day PreK and three-day PreK. We will need to run two classes for each schedule option. We see an increase in interest as the pandemic appears to ease, and I anticipate a full roster for the 2022-23 school year.

In May 2021, I (TDS Director, Jessica Williams) graduated with distinction from Arcadia University with my Master of Education, focused on early childhood education. I also received a certificate in Infant Toddler Mental Health and my PA Director's Credential. I look forward the application of this new knowledge to the advancement of the school over the next several years.



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 Julie Loftus and James Wells, Wardens, Gary Wilmore, Treasurer and Warden for Finance & Operations, Jeff Bairstow, Christy Cheever, Ashley Christie, John Dey, Melodee Fox, Nancy Harrison, Cathy Mumford, and Matthew Summers.

Trinity Youth Ministry – Kyle Evans


Trinity's youth have remained active in service throughout COVID. This has included periodically sending cards to Trinity members who are having health issues or unable to attend church in person, shopping for the West Philadelphia Pearl Street children at the holidays and wrapping said gifts. They have also maintained regular participation in Trinity's worship services, including special youth led services such as the fifth Sunday contemporary liturgies and Holy Week's Stations of the Cross and Tenebrae. In addition, they have remained essential volunteers for Trinity's Lobsterfest. Of course, Trinity youth have also stayed actively involved in Mission Philadelphia (please see the Mission Philadelphia report). As COVID cases diminish, it is hoped that more opportunities will present themselves for expanded youth engagement at Trinity.

A Youth Ministries Committee has recently been formed to consider possible ways to re-engage Trinity's youth and other young people from the community, including the Bucks Deanery.



9th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
**Bucks and Montco Teen
Peace and Social Justice Summit**

Sunday, January 17, 2021
3:00-5:00 pm
Special Zoom Session



- Suggested for 9th through 12th graders and mature 7th and 8th graders
- Meaningful & Courageous Conversation on Race, Prejudice, and Intolerance
- Youth Empowerment
- Inspirational Speakers

Workshops for students to choose include:

- Allyship—How to be an ally to any marginalized voices in my community
- Systemic Racism/Black Lives Matter/Police Reform
- Understanding Privilege

There will also be a separate session for adults

Schools, Faith-based and other Community Organizations, and the Public are all welcome!

For Registration and Information, visit:
www.thepeacecenter.org
or call 215.750.7220 or 215.833.7877

Church School – Ann Koberna

Have you ever wanted to win the lottery? A relationship with God is far, far more valuable than winning the biggest lottery! Unlike money, toys, fun, and control, God can NEVER be taken away or used up. God always loves you! God is there for you all day and night, no matter what! God gives to you and helps you give to others, too. Like a friend, the more time you spend getting to know God the more your trusting relationship grows. Spending time together brings you closer. Coming to Sunday School helps develop YOUR relationship with God. Come have fun while learning more about God, doing good for others and making friends in class. Each time you come you will be moving personally closer and closer to God, and receiving more of God's valuable gifts!

Each grade level laughs and talks a lot. Sometimes we color or do word searches or have doughnut holes while we read the Bible and discuss the day's lessons. We all learn from each other. Often the teachers learn from the students, too! This year Linda Kenyon has been visiting all 3 classes regularly. She has presented some drama exercises as a way of experiencing and connecting us to the day's scripture. The teenage class has been involved in several outreach activities. Sometimes, the other classes join them. For two Sundays, all three classes made squares for The Love Quilts. Each person wrote and drew pictures of encouraging, uplifting messages on fabric squares with fabric pens. These squares are then sewn into a colorful quilt and sent to South Africa. Over 120 orphan children will receive these comforting blankets, made through many hands, with God's love.

Each Sunday we enjoy spending time together and with God, as we become closer, learn more, and love our neighbors.



Mission Philadelphia's 25th Year – Kyle Evans

Mission

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*



While COVID required that many ministries suspend their activities, this was not the case for Trinity's Mission Philadelphia. For those new to Trinity, Mission Philadelphia is a youth led multi-day service, residential initiative, in North and West Philadelphia. The primary focus is urban greening and agriculture. Most recently, we have developed partnerships with North Philly Peace Park (NPPP) and West Philly Peace Park (WPPP), both grass roots, community-based nonprofits. In 2020, Mission Philadelphia, normally scheduled for late June, was moved to August to minimize COVID issues. All participants commuted daily from Bucks County, were socially distanced and masked. In 2021, Mission Philadelphia returned to June and daily commuting remained. The focus projects included the relocation of the WPPP, including the reconstruction of a shed built on the original site; a new mural and garden at NPPP and further mosaic work on their shed. Work was also done at with longer standing partners, Ms. Lisa Barkley of the Pearl St. PHP and First African. Other miscellaneous projects included general planting and garden and property maintenance, relocation of fencing, and the creation of signage. The average attendance each day was 25 participants. The volunteers included Trinity youth, Trinity Youth Group alumni, now in their 20s, 30s and 40s, more "senior" individuals, and community members. It is always amazing to see what is accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

Mission Philadelphia could not be possible without the funds raised through Trinity's annual Lobsterfest. We are deeply grateful for the parish and community support of this wonderful event.

It seems hard to believe that Mission Philadelphia is approaching its 26th anniversary. It has remained a mission that has a deep impact on everyone who helps in its planning and execution, whether for the first time or for many years. It has been an important way to help transform abandoned spaces, break down racial barriers, and deepen understanding among and between communities. This year's dates are June 18-22. Please consider participating in some way.



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.

Knitting Ministry – Janet Gill

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, the Knitting Ministry displayed 28 afghans; the culmination of a whole year's work. Everyone enjoyed seeing all the beautiful colors in them. The Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay blessed them with a prayer. Each one has a sewn on label which reads: "Knitting Ministry, Trinity Church – Solebury, Made with love and prayers."



A big thank you goes to the following:

Sue Benner

Linda Kenyon

Diane Ash

Beth Carrick

Helen Montgomery

Ginnie Saunders

Shanti Kengeter

Mitzi Breslin

Betsy Thomas

Jean Evans

Cathy Mumford

Janet Gill

Designing and sewing together:

Barrie Summers

Laura Huestis

Ann Meredith

Cathy Mumford

Ellen Vinson

Janet Gill

Barbara Slack

Crocheters:

Karen Dewar

Connie Gillis

Jean Keenan

Displaying/Folding/Packing:

John Shields

Gene Fox

Photographer:

Mary Miller

Blessed by:

Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay

Delivered to shelter:

Kyle Evans

This year, a total of 24 people worked to finish 28 afghans with a total of 161 done in 6 years!

These afghans were made for the homeless youth of Bucks County. They are living at various places: with friends, in the woods, and at a shelter in Warminster. Their director is known as "Woody" who visits them, sees to their needs, and helps to guide them through his experience.

Since 2015 we have also given 87 Prayer Shawls to anyone who is ill. This is the another part of our ministry. These also have a label sewn on and they have all been blessed by our Rector Rev. Richard Vinson at our altar in the church.

Pastoral Care Ministry

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all...1 Timothy 2:1



The ministry of caring is at the heart of the church's life. At Trinity we are all called to share God's love particularly during times of adversity and offering our gifts to nurture those in their time of need.

Pastoral Care Committee

Meets each month or as needed. Coordinating committee includes The Reverends Ginny Sheay, Emory Byrum, and John Bartle and parishioners Earlene Austin, Kyle Evans, Lynn Fox, Kim Laughlin, Roger Stikeleather, and Warden James Wells.

What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral Care is a group of volunteers that coordinates and facilitates congregational needs in collaboration with Trinity's clergy. We uphold the utmost discretion and confidentiality as is required.

How does the Ministry Work?

A team of lay persons will assist the clergy with follow up, clarify needs and refer those needs to the appropriate person(s). All requests for pastoral care needs may be directed to the Church office at 215.297.5135 or email trinitycares@trinitysolebury.org. You may also contact any member of the Pastoral Care team directly. All communications are considered confidential and will be handled with discretion if required.

Trinity's Pastoral Care Ministry offers many helping gifts to those in need. Following is a list of current support offerings:

Prayer List

If you, or a loved one, would like prayer support, contact the Church office at 215.297.5135 or email your request to prayerlist@trinitysolebury.org. You may also make a prayer request through our website's Pastoral Care page (member log-in will be required).

You may also wish to take part in one of our healing services held during Sunday worship services every first Sunday of the month throughout the year.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Trained lay members go out with blessed sacraments bringing communion to those who are unable to attend church services.

Laying on of Hands

Intercessory prayers are offered on behalf of those who come forward to the Healing Stations after receiving communion at Sunday services.

Bereavement

Bereavement support provides compassionate support to individuals in the congregation who are experiencing grief through the death of a loved one.

Meals

Home-made meals are delivered to those in times of illness, bereavement, transition, or blessing.

Cards & Notes

Personally written cards and notes are sent to parishioners during times of need.

Flowers

Small arrangements are delivered after Sunday Service.

Ministry of Intercession

A group of Trinity members are devoted to the ministry of daily prayer of intercession on behalf of those who need strength, solace, or who celebrate a blessing.

Transportation

Rides to church services, medical appointments and special church events can often be coordinated with advance notice.

How you can help?

All of these Pastoral Care Ministries are possible because of the wonderful Trinity Community that supports one other in so many ways. As a parishioner, YOU are already a member of our Pastoral Community. It is through your caring support that prayers are lifted, meals are provided, cards are sent, flowers are delivered, and more. If you would like to be notified when a parishioner needs assistance, please let Kim Laughlin (laughlins11@verizon.net) know and your name will be added to our email distribution list.

When it is safe to gather in larger numbers again at church, we will be scheduling a General Pastoral Care meeting for all parishioners so we can share what our goals of the ministry are and solicit your support and ideas for ways to continually lift up our community in God's love.

Lobsterfest

For the past 25 years, on the first Saturday of June, Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury hosts Lobsterfest, a family friendly fundraising event. Pre-COVID this has been a community wide picnic-style occasion on our campus, featuring our famous lobster and rib dinners, live music, and auction. Post-COVID the event was changed to a drive-thru take-out only event. This year we will continue the drive through format.



Lobsterfest is our only annual fundraising event and all proceeds from this event will be used exclusively to support our numerous local and regional mission partnerships, including Mission Philadelphia - an integrated community based program turning abandoned lots into green spaces and community gardens; Bucks County Opportunity Council - an organization providing critical community services from food and wellness support to services that help to lift families out of poverty; Delaware Valley Food Pantry - the largest, longest, volunteer driven area pantry that addresses local food scarcity and personal needs; and Fisherman's Mark, Lambertville - an organization focused on community stability, health, and wellness. Some of the proceeds also go towards our diocese pledge to support outreach through their programs.

Lobsterfest has always been successful, especially last year as a drive-thru format. The drive-thru format proved to be less labor intensive and more profitable, despite lacking the joy of the community picnic atmosphere. The current leadership is stepping down after the 2022 event and is preparing procedures to allow for new leadership to step in next year. If you are interested in taking on a leadership role, please contact one of the Wardens. Without new leadership, Trinity will not be able to host Lobsterfest in 2023.



Aspirant, Postulant, and Going Forward – Kyle Evans

"... whether in the Church or in the world, as deacons we go to the darkest places with the Light of Christ and declare 'even here Christ is Risen!'" - Deacon Matthew Simpson



During the last year, Trinity has continued to support my call to become a Vocational Deacon. I began to discern this call in 2019. There were various delays in the process for all aspirants, as the Diocese of Pennsylvania (DIOPA) leadership navigated through COVID. Patience, confidence in my call, and God's ongoing presence in my journey certainly helped with the lapse in time. Approved as a postulant in November, I am a member of a "class" of 8 new deacon postulants. We are called "Cohort 2". We began our studies in February and are scheduled to meet monthly to unpack all that we have learned. The source of our studies is the Iona Collaborative at Seminary of the Southwest. Our first year together will not only include academics, but also 100 hours of community work. I will share more about the community work as I determine what that might be.

There has been inconsistent support of the diaconate in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Bishop Gutiérrez, however, is a spirited advocate for the order. In fact, he has set a goal of ordaining 60 new deacons in 6 years. At present, there are 16 deacons in DIOPA and none in the Bucks Deanery. Traditional Church is changing and deacons are going to be a critical part of the "New Church". With this in mind, Bishop Gutiérrez has identified St. Stephen's Church in Philadelphia as the Deacon's Center for Formation, Meditation and Action. It is not only where Diocesan Deacons receive their formation, but also a hub for mission. It is very exciting.

Unlike priests, deacons do not receive any financial compensation. They are, therefore, bi-vocational. Their commitment to bring the light of Christ into the world and the world's challenges to the attention of the church is a deep and fervent call that measures far beyond a particular post or paycheck.

The loving and prayerful support of the Trinity family, particularly my Parish Discernment Group, the Vestry and other parish leadership, have been immeasurably important in my journey thus far. Trinity has helped to encourage an important call and ministry. To date, I have communicated the various stages of my journey through "Tidings" articles, Sunday announcements, and personal conversations. I welcome other suggestions on ways to keep the parish updated on my process going forward.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Excerpt from the Baptismal Covenant

Vestry Nominees



Kim Laughlin

I first began attendance at Trinity on college breaks in 1986 and began regular attendance with my mom upon graduation. I was married in the Chapel the month David Anderson began his ministry here in 1992. I began teaching Sunday School in 1995 and joined the Vestry for the first time the three months before the church fire. During my second vestry term we called Rick Vinson to be our rector. Throughout my 36 years at Trinity, among many other things, I have found my calling in Youth Ministries and Pastoral Care. My family was blessed to be a part of a very strong Youth program that was formative in the development of who my adult children have become. I have been by my children's sides as they have served others on several mission trips to Haiti with Tabasamu, developed relationships with communities in West Philadelphia during many years at Mission Philly, and found their voices and confidence during many youth leadership services and acolyting. My commitment to Youth Ministries has included leadership in Lobsterfest, Mission Philadelphia, as a Church School teacher, a TYG Sponsor, TYG Inc. Advisory Board Member, TYG Youth Band member, TYG Cookie Bake leader, and Acolyte Coordinator.

My Pastoral Care work began in leadership over 14 years ago. I have since then become a Lay Eucharist Minister, completed a year-long course in Benedictine Pastoral Care through Community of Hope International, completed mental health training through the Diocese, and was a member of the Interfaith Coalition prior to COVID. I was a Counter for 15 years, a member of Hospitality, and now serve on the Worship Committee. This June I will complete my fourth year of Education for Ministry, at which time, with your approval, I will step on to the Vestry for my third term. I am also honored to serve on the Search Committee to call our next rector.

The last several years have been difficult as we buried my husband and sister, but through it all the Trinity Community has held me up and supported my family. I can't thank you all enough. Trinity truly is my home, my heart.



Marilyn Schuster

My husband John Schuster and I began laying the groundwork for the third act of our lives about 12 years ago when we bought a farm near Stockton, New Jersey and found that the Delaware River Valley is rich in physical beauty as well as interesting people and culture. Our active middle years were spent raising 2 daughters in Summit, New Jersey while John commuted for 40 years to his job in New York City. One of our requirements for a fulfilling life in retirement was to find a spiritual home within a close Christian community. After a few disappointing starts, we

found Trinity 7 years ago. Our first contact was a Trinity-sponsored house tour, but it wasn't the homes that drew my attention. As we boarded buses in the church parking lot, I saw groups of adults standing around chatting and laughing. I could tell that it took at least 100 volunteers to make the event work. Having had many experiences planning church events, I was impressed by the size of the undertaking and the fun people seemed to be having together. The next week we visited and received a warm welcome. Barrie Summers spoke to us about church activities that would correspond to our interests, and within a week, I got an email from Barrie with several contacts for groups that suited my interests. I was sold. We jumped in and have actively participated since that day.

It should not be necessary to state the obvious: Christian communities are flawed as are the individuals that make them up. The Pandemic has hastened the decline of participation in mainline Christian denominations. But churches remain one of the only places in our society where a stranger can enter, strike up a conversation, and expect to be welcomed and embraced with love and acceptance. Of all the tools of spiritual growth used by Christians....corporate worship, private prayer and contemplation, education, evangelism...the core is a circle of trusted friends who are always opening the circle to others. I want to work to make that a reality.

Notes




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