

Trinity Episcopal Church

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

January 26, 2025



Trinity Episcopal Church
Rector, The Rev. Robert E. Baldwin
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Solebury, Pennsylvania 18963

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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

Rector's Letter

The Rev. Robert E. Baldwin, Rector

For most of 2024, we heard from the Gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings. The Gospel of Mark is the first, and shortest of the Gospels, but one of the quirkiest traits that the Gospel has is that it uses the word “immediately” constantly throughout the text. “Immediately” occurs forty-one times in the Gospel; by comparison, the entirety of the New Testament only uses the word ten times elsewhere.

This gives the briefest of the Gospels an even greater sense of urgency, of immediacy to Jesus’ ministry and the coming of the Day of the Lord. This past year has had that similar sense of energy and activity.

Last year, I mentioned four areas (four-and-a-half) I wished to see Trinity go in terms of ministry. The first was ministry to the elderly, specifically building up our online ministry for those who cannot attend. The second was to increase ministries given to young people and their families. The third was to intentionally focus on maintaining the physical plant. And the fourth was evangelism. The “half” was about being environmentally sensitive at a church.

Our online ministry team continues to develop that ministry to promote engagement with our participants. We instituted family-friendly events like game nights, the Advent Fun Day, and children’s sermons. The property committee has been working extensively to both respond to and anticipate upcoming property issues, and in 2025 we will be hiring a part-time sexton to give them staff support. And a powerhouse team of volunteers has created a vital newcomer team that makes sure that every visitor is identified, welcomed, and connected with me and other members.

In addition, Sarah Doyle’s retirement provided the impetus for us to reconfigure the office staff situation. We hired Kirstin O’Connor as a bookkeeping contractor for the parish and the Trinity Day School and we hired Deneise Murad as parish administrator. Their contributions have been so meaningful to the parish that we will be expanding Deneise’s hours next year. The increased office staff also catalyzed a discussion about space usage

in the building that has grown from a simple matter of moving things around to a widespread conversation between staff, the Vestry, and parish leaders about long-term goals and strategic planning.

So, what does 2025 look like, in addition to increased staff support and a widespread overhaul of room usage in the church? One growing edge of Trinity's ministries that has been active in the past and will be yet again is providing more opportunities for spiritual growth and development, including retreats and programs. We are looking into expanding youth ministry, including joint events with other local parishes. And as always, we want to continue to make our existing programs and new events as newcomer- and family-friendly as possible.

Thank you for everything you personally do for this parish to make it the wonderful community of Christ that it is.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Robert Baldwin

Warden's Letter

Kevin Clark, Co-Warden

Lorri Perkins, Co-Warden

As we look forward to 2025 at Trinity, it's important to reflect on the year that was an amazing 2024! You can feel it in the service, in the ministries hard at work (old and new), in the informal gatherings in the fellowship hall, in the church office, in the music program and even in the parking lot. Trinity is vibrant, energized and growing. We are truly blessed.

Rob, Mandy, Maura and Parker are acclimated and settled into their new Rectory home, Rob is officially installed as our Rector (and knocking it out of the park from the pulpit),

and we continue to be inspired by a renewed sense of hope, blessing and possibility they bring to our congregation.

On the shoulders of giants (previous Wardens' and Vestry shoulders that is!), we are so happy to share *some* of the efforts from this past year that have helped to enhance, and in some cases, re-establish, the foundation and support structures for the ministries and fellowship of Trinity to thrive.

So many had a hand in creating:

- A robust staff including a new, in-office Parish Administrator after Sarah Doyle's retirement, a professional Bookkeeper handling the books for the church as well as the Day School, and a part-time role for Sunday morning Sexton support.
- Attention to property challenges resulting in a safer and better environment with fewer dangerous dead trees, fewer potholes, brighter lighting, cleaner windows, and a reliable air conditioning and heat system for the Baldwins! (And there's so much more to come!)
- New dishwashers and expanded counter space in the kitchen, helping us to be more tidy and eco-friendly using our own mugs.
- A comprehensive budgeting process and review of vendor contracts to ensure we're getting the most for our money
- Consistent and effective communication avenues to reach a wide range of parishioners and community members
- Enhanced online streaming of Sunday morning services
- Spring cleaning effort to de-clutter and make way for better ways to use our limited storage

And there are so many more we could mention. We are grateful to serve during this time at Trinity and with Rob. We look forward to continuing the work to secure a strong foundation, support the vibrant ministries serving our holy mission, and welcoming new members and the community to walk with us in Christ.

Please review the following updates from the ministries of Trinity Church. We promise you'll be amazed and inspired... and perhaps find your place to serve and participate.

Thank you, one and all, for your dedication, love and commitment to Trinity.

Treasurer's Letter

Julie Loftus, Treasurer

It is an honor to be the Treasurer here at Trinity. I appreciate the encouragement and energy from Father Rob, Kevin and Lorri. I am grateful for Gary Wilmore's past financial work and assistance which continues today. We are fortunate to have a Finance Team with members that bring much experience to our Church. Dave Griffith and the captains of this year's stewardship season did a wonderful job reaching out to parishioners and working on our financial plan. This team has put into place strong controls and accurate reporting with our finances. With the hiring of JCGM Bookkeeping Services (Kirstin O'Connor) we have improved our systems and procedures including the Day School. Our Parish Administrator, Deneise Murad, has been instrumental in getting us important data and working in connection with Kirstin. I feel there is a bright future that God has made for us, and I am excited to a part of this charge.

Staff Led Ministries

Church Office

Sarah Doyle, Office Administrator (January – June)

Deneise Murad, Parish Administrator (May – December)

Laura Huestis, Office Assistant

Baptisms, 4 / Funerals, 5 / New Members, 20 / Weddings, 5

The Church Office experienced several major changes in 2024. Office Administrator, Sarah Doyle retired in June and Deneise Murad came on board as our Parish Administrator. Gary Wilmore stepped down as the volunteer bookkeeper and Kirsten O'Connor was contracted to do the bookkeeping for both the Church and the Day School. Laura Huestis remains a valuable part of our office team with her weekly work on putting together the church bulletins and uploading information to the website.

Regular office hours were re-established when Deneise started. Beginning in June of 2024, the church office hours were M-F, 9am-1pm with Deneise working Monday – Thursday and Laura working Friday. In 2025, these office hours will be expanding.

Since the Rectory has been converted to a home, the office has been temporarily located in the Prue Day Library with storage and copier space located in the Chapel sacristy. The Space Use Taskforce has met and is addressing where the office will be located permanently. This solution is slated to take place in 2025.

Many thanks to our office volunteers:

Karen Dewar, who shows up weekly to manage all of the name tags for Sunday services and is willing to offer support in any way needed. She has been scanning files, stuffing envelopes, etc. Gary Wilmore, who shows up daily to deliver our mail from the post office. He also signs and mails checks weekly. Jon Hayward, who technically is on the Communications team, but is there to answer all the questions Deneise has about internet, website, etc. He has been a steady support in the office transition.

As a new staff with a few active volunteers, we have begun to find a nice rhythm. The office staff welcomes any members who would like to volunteer!

Music Ministry

Tim Harrell, Choirmaster / Organist

Music is a fundamental ministry at Trinity. Led by Tim Harrell, our organist/choir director, the choir supports the congregation in service music and hymn singing at Sunday services. The ministry also provides liturgical musical support for the congregation in the special services of Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil. Tim also provides organ accompaniment at the many weddings celebrated at Trinity.

Choirs

The all-volunteer Senior Choir consists of approximately 25 singers and sings at all 9:30am Sunday services. The St. Cecilia Children's Choir, now in a rebuilding stage under Assistant Director Anne Shields, provides occasional offertory anthems and Communion music, also at the 9:30am Sunday service.

Friends of Music

Musical events outside of church services are organized under Trinity Friends of Music (FOM), a program which is wholly supported by donations from parishioners and interested community members. In addition to the always-sold-out Christmas Messiah concert, the FOM concert series this year will feature return performances by opera and recital singers Michelle Johnson and Brian Major, and the Hofstra University Chamber Choir, violinist Abbie Ringdahl, as well as organ recitals by Aaron Patterson and our own Timothy Harrell. A number of outside groups use Trinity as a concert venue on a regular basis, including the La Fiocco renaissance ensemble, Concordia chamber players, Cantus Novus chorus, and the men's a cappella group Cordus Mundi. Use of our space by such outside groups has now been formalized and is administered by the Church Office using the new Facilities Use Agreement form.

Organ

The Martin Pasi mechanical-action organ is the foundation of Trinity's music program. Now almost 20 years old, it is scheduled for a modest structural upgrade by Martin himself in the near future. This upgrade will preserve the integrity of the organ for many years to come. The cost of this work will be covered by a dedicated fund which was established from the original organ campaign at the time of the organ's installation in 2006.

Piano

The generosity of a number of donors in the Parish and of the original owner have allowed us to acquire a magnificent Steinway Grand piano for the Sanctuary. Under the auspices of Friends of Music, an inaugural recital concert took place on November 10, 2024. Trinity pianists Tim Harrell, Susan Johnson, Lisa Landley, Matt Mackensen, Virginia Sheay,

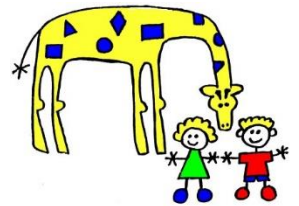
James Wells and Christopher Whitney all superbly demonstrated the qualities of this fine instrument.

For more information on the Trinity Music Ministry, please go to the Music tab on our website:

<https://www.trinitysolebury.org/#music>

Trinity Day School

Jessica Williams, Director



The 2023-24 school year ended in mid-June with a roster of 43 students. We graduated 20 students on to Kindergarten. This year, we have a current roster of 45 students, 23 of whom are PreK students. Two of these PreK students returned for a growth year. We expect almost all to graduate on to Kindergarten this June. We added 6 students to a new Toddler Grow/ Young 3's class in January.

We currently employ 6 teachers, 5 aides, and 1 director. Prior to the start of this school year, we increased pay by \$1/hr. for all classroom staff. We are looking to increase tuition for the coming school year to allow flexible funding for potential further increases.

TDS Parents Committee and families committed to sponsoring two children's holiday wish-lists this December. We will also be supporting Mrs. Killough's mission trip to Guatemala in late January. Last spring, and again this March we'll sponsor an activity table at the St. Baldrick's Community Event raising money for pediatric cancer research. This spring we will, once again, sponsor the tee-ball teams of the Solebury Township Little League.

Our in-school enrichment programs began in September with yoga. Miss Adi (The Yoga Gnome) and Miss Kate led us in relaxing poses and got our bodies moving in new ways leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. We welcome back our dynamic music teacher, Mr. Righteous Jolly, this January through March. Yoga will return when we come back from Spring Break.

Our PM Enrichment programs began in September with a new addition: Afternoon Scholars (for the oldest of our PreK students), meeting 3 times each week. Forest Fridays also started in late September and we enjoyed Holidays & Baking program on Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons after our return from Thanksgiving. Upcoming afternoon enrichments include subjects like: Game Masters (playing cooperatively), Super Sleuths, Young Authors, Winter Crafts, Science, Cooking, and more. Our afternoons are always filled with child-led play, assisted by gentle prompts and redirection from staff. We have a robust list of students who stay each day.

Registration is underway for next school year, and camp registration for June will begin in February. We are anticipating another full student roster for the 2024-25 school year.

Volunteer Led Ministries

Altar Guild

Susan Wells, Chair

Members: Christine Angulo, Sue Benner, Gerri Broadbent, Dotti Brown, Christy Cheever, Elaine Crooks, Kellie Cummings, Colleen Dey, Deborah Faust, Laura Huestis, Ann Marguet, Lorri Perkins, Beth Schermerhorn, Suzanne Walsh, Vivian Yeh

The 15 members of the Altar Guild have been truly wonderful! We know that facilitating worship and the Eucharist for Trinity is a privilege, a responsibility, a time for some fellowship and grace, not a mere duty. And we often have fun! After service you may see folks going into the sacristy to help each other wash and put away the service vessels, talk and laugh.

We have set for all worship and special services including two with the bishop, the Rt. Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez. Sydney Fox created a lovely children's cross for the sanctuary; Laura Huestis, made a veil for cremains; a new set of white paraments was purchased; we worked with Bill Wolf and Deborah Faust to have the Vestry approve the altar repair; and with Vestry support, we replaced the wine ewer with a sterling one which will not corrode. We met for a "polishing party" with Lorri Perkins; moved and stowed

crates of stoles and chasubles; considered some general reviews and adjusted some procedures; worked to replace the candles with oil candles which will ameliorate future damage to the needlepoint and fair linen and set out the Trinity creche in MacArthur Hall.

In the chapel, we changed the paraments when possible, set the Advent wreath and set for several services at Rev. Rob's request.

Going forward, we suggest work on the chapel altar, so that centering prayer has a decent place for their materials, safe storage for the moveable altar top, and our priest a safe place to officiate. This is not major- a platform base! It also would be very helpful if the lock on the cabinet in the sacristy could be replaced. The Diocese has been alerted that Rev. Rob would like a tabernacle (from a closed church) for the sacristy, for the reserved sacrament.

Altar Guild may seem a "behind-the-scenes" ministry, but we are a vibrant, busy group: join us!



Artistic Advisory Team

Bill Wolf, Chair

Members: Whitney Chandor, Carol Church, Kevin Clark, Roger Stikeleather, Barbara Tortorello, Susan Wells

The year 2024 brought us two new members, Whitney Chandor and Kevin Clark

and we now are a committee of seven.

The following projects were accomplished and/or are in progress:

- A Children's Cross was crafted by Sydney Fox for use during Rev. Rob's children's sermons.
- Many of the books from the library were moved to the ante room by the stairway in the narthex; creating a mini library.
- The coat alcoves in the Narthex hallway were cleared of clutter and are now available for hats and coats.
- It was determined that the Mira Nakashima Altar needed some repairs and refinishing. That was done in their workshop by one of the original craftsman and it looks beautiful. The Church purchased a specific dolly which is to be used by a dedicated Trinity team when moving the Altar.
- A few members of our group decided that McArthur Hall is looking tired and in need of cosmetic refreshing and that this could be achieved by private donations of time, talent and treasure. We presented this to the Wardens and Vestry, outlining our goals. They supported the project as long as they were informed of the details and any costs. The vestry has approved painting McArthur and this should be completed by the end of the month and is a gift of a parishioner.
- We are currently contacting companies who can clean or refurbish our discolored soundproof wall coverings in McArthur Hall.

Church School

Coordinators: Ashley Christie, Nancy Harrison, Jenn Summers (with support from Kyle Evans)

Teaching Volunteers: Nursery: Christine Angulo/ PreK – 6, Ann Koberna (lead), Fred Koberna, Dotti Brown, Carol Church, Melodee Fox, Ashley Christie, Jenn Summers/ 7-12th grade, Nancy Harrison, Walter Dixon, Bill Jaglowski

The 2024-2025 Church School team has been preparing lessons and excitedly teaching the youth in Trinity's parish. Trinity's Church School is an important partner in our youth's faith journey, and we welcome all youth in Church School.

There are many dedicated members of Trinity who help with the Church School. We are grateful for their dedication. In addition to our listed team, Kathrine Hunt also shares her time and talent with Trinity's youth by leading bread making monthly. This ministry is a favorite, and the children enjoy sampling the bread. We welcome any parishioners who may want to share their time and talent with the youth. The experience of spending time with the children is priceless and not to be missed!

We will finish out the 2024-2025 Church School year in early June. As we look to the 2025-2026 Church School year, we welcome anyone who would like to join this important ministry. If you are interested, please contact Ashley (achristie@trinitysolebury.org), Nancy (nharrison@trinitysolebury.org), or Jenn (jsummers@trinitysolebury.org).



Communications Ministry

Jon Hayward, Chair

Members: Mandy Baldwin, Chris Peters, Ed Phinney, Marilyn Schuster, Roger Stikeleather

2024 was both an easy and a challenging year. The weekly production of notices, updates to the website, and posts to Instagram and Facebook flowed easily throughout the year with the help of Roger Stikeleather, Marilyn Schuster, and Laura Huestis. It is noteworthy that on our weekly notices email, the average "open rate" (percent of emails sent that are viewed by someone) is 22% above the industry average open rate.

As nice as that is, several technical challenges occurred. There was a mandatory update to our hosting platform that meant we had to review a large percentage of our web programming. Then there was a mandatory update of our phone system that required switching hosting platforms. Fortunately, that upgrade went easily despite a lot of angst.

Then, as September approached, we had 3 concurrent and vexing issues: noise in the church audio system, an internal internet outage, and poor broadcast quality.

Thanks to Ed Phinney sacrificing his day off, we were able to isolate and correct the internal internet issue. I don't know what I would have done without his help.

Regarding the audio noise issue, eventually, we were able to isolate it after trying at least 6 different filters and adapters.

Then there was stuttering in the video broadcast. This issue occurred as we switched to using graphic overlays during the broadcast (more about that below). It took a several weeks to tame this issue, as we could find nothing wrong with the hardware/software setup. Eventually, we opted to switch to a new hardware encoder, and all was fixed.

However, the audio system still proved problematic with many complaints about general audibility. Then God sent us a solution: our own member, Chris Peters, stepped up to help. Chris installs systems like ours as a part of his career. He quickly said we need to buy and install a certain audio mixer. We did that, and eliminated at least 6 pieces of

equipment whose functions were now rolled into one. But the most amazing part is how Chris then fine tuned our system microphone by microphone, and then went on to fine tune the frequency response of the whole room using white noise.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Mandy Baldwin for her upgrades and contributions to our weekly video broadcast. Mandy takes each week's service and breaks it down into 30 or more separate graphic slides that she then overlays on the broadcast throughout the service while simultaneously switching between two cameras and changing the camera views. This is a big job, and it takes a lot of background work and dexterity to keep all flowing smoothly.

Finally, thanks again to Ed Phinney, who, while simultaneously participating in the choir, has faithfully "driven the video camera" during our live broadcasts until we started using the graphic overlays in August.

If you have any ideas, complaints, suggestions, we are always open to any feedback. It's our joy to help spread the word of all the wonderful things God does, and all the wonderful things happening at Trinity.

Finance Team

Julie Loftus, Treasurer

John Schuster, Chair of Finance

Finance Report

The following information is as of 12/31/24. The day school and the cemetery financial results are not included in this report.

2024 Summary Financial Report				
	Actual	Budget	Variance	2025 Budget
Revenue				
Pledge	\$430,174	\$415,058	15,116	\$445,000
Plate	\$59,188	\$20,100	\$39,088	\$44,000
Fund Raising	\$47,943	\$44,000	\$3,943	\$38,800
Other ¹	\$93,293	\$30,700	\$62,593	\$32,200
Total Revenue	<u>\$630,598</u>	<u>\$509,858</u>	<u>\$120,740</u>	<u>\$560,000</u>
Expense				
Personnel	\$271,143	\$267,485	\$3,658	\$358,342
Office	\$41,125	\$31,400	\$9,725	38,714
Utilities	\$45,902	\$45,148	\$754	\$47,725
Maintenance	\$94,293	\$69,250	\$25,043	\$54,250
Buildings/Equipment ²	\$59,446	\$25,385	\$34,061	\$22,300
Charitable/Outreach	\$46,222	\$45,000	\$1,222	\$36,500
Fund Raising	\$16,697	\$16,000	\$697	\$17,200
Other ³	\$53,020	\$10,180	\$42,840	\$14,762
Total Expenses	<u>\$627,848</u>	<u>\$509,848</u>	<u>\$118,000</u>	<u>\$589,793</u>

¹ Other revenue is a combination of several categories, and includes Church rent, wedding revenue, flower revenue and restricted and unrestricted gifts.

² Buildings/Equipment includes the cost of replacing the air conditioning system in the rectory.

³ Other expenses is a combination of several categories, and includes communications, spiritual life, worship, youth and miscellaneous expenses. Other expense includes a \$25,000 transfer to the Capital Maintenance Reserve on Trinity's balance sheet.

2024 Year in Review

2024 was a good year for Trinity financially. At this time last year there was a great deal of enthusiasm. We had a new rector, in person services were restored and attendance was steadily increasing. The rectory renovation had gone exceedingly well, and 2024 pledges were up by close to \$100,000 from 2023. Unknowns included whether the Church office could run efficiently in the former library in McArthur Hall, and the length of time it would take to assemble a staff to support a growing congregation.

As is our custom, expenses were budgeted at levels representing best estimates of what was likely to occur during the year. A balanced budget was projected.

Actual results were significantly different. Total 2024 revenues came in much higher than anticipated. Every category of revenue exceeded our budget. New members continued to pledge throughout the year, so total Pledge revenues were up. Plate revenue almost tripled the amount budgeted, as we overestimated how much the increase in pledges in 2024 would affect Plate revenue. Fundraising revenue was also up, as Lobsterfest, Cookie Bake and St. Nick's Fair were successful. Other revenue exceeded expectations as we received both restricted and unrestricted gifts, as well as significantly higher wedding income and Church rent. Restricted gifts, which are designated for a specific purpose, included contributions to the Kensington project, the ECS Episcopal Community Services project to help people set up homes as they transition from homelessness, and contributions to the Day School teacher's mission trip. We also received a gift to our endowment fund from a member who died during the year. Unrestricted gifts primarily consisted of memorial gifts.

Total expenses were also substantially higher than budget in 2024 with each category exceeding out budget. The most significant increases were in Building/Equipment, which includes approximately \$38,400 relating to replacing the air conditioning system in the rectory, as well as unanticipated repairs during the year. Maintenance expenses increased largely because of higher than usual expenses for work done in 2023 that

weren't billed until 2024, as well as the purchase of the dishwashers in the kitchen. Also, we incurred snow removal expenses of approximately \$9,500 compared with none in 2023. Personnel expense increased primarily due to the excellent addition of Deneise Murad, Parish Administrator, on a part-time basis, and Kirstin OConnor, Bookkeeper, on a contract basis. Office expense increased primarily due to unanticipated costs incurred in connection with the office relocation. Other expense includes a \$25,000 transfer to the Capital Maintenance Reserve on our balance sheet.

As a result of the above, particularly Lobsterfest's success, we were able to meet our commitment to the Diocese and to continue providing outreach support, not only to Mission Philadelphia, but to the four local organizations we have supported for some time: A Woman's Place, the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Delaware Valley Food Pantry and Fisherman's Mark.

2025 Financial Plan

Looking forward to 2025, projected pledge revenue is \$445,000. Pledge participation is based on the receipt of 105 pledge card responses. Lobsterfest, Cookie Bake and the St. Nick's are expected to continue in 2025, providing additional revenue to fulfill Trinity's mission.

On the expense side, we have budgeted conservatively to reflect known events, but we are projecting a deficit. The largest expense increase, in Personnel expense, includes additional hours for our Parish Administrator, the hiring of a full-time sexton that will cost slightly more than our current cleaning service, and salary increases for staff. There are two ongoing projects that are not included in the 2025 budget. A task force is currently reviewing alternatives for relocating the Church office, and the property committee is reviewing long-term repairs to the heating system. Since the timing and potential expense of these projects is unknown, we thought it was premature to include costs for these projects in the budget at this time. We are confident that Trinity has the resources to

accomplish these projects, as well as other unanticipated expenses that might arise through the year.

Foyers Groups

Cathy Mumford, Coordinator

Over the past few years, the Trinity church community has organized into groups of eight to ten, singles or partnered, for quarterly meal get-togethers. There is no agenda for the gatherings other than enjoying the company of others in our Trinity community and learning more about the amazing folks who make up our congregation. The host couple supplies the main course and beverages, while the rest of the group brings appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts. Optionally, the host couple can organize a meal (Dutch Treat) at a local restaurant. The groups are set at the end of each calendar year for the following year. If you are not a part of a Foyers group and are interested, please contact Cathy Mumford mums@juno.com or (908) 385-5455 and she will work to get you plugged into a group.

Greeters Ministry

Kathy Mumford, Chair

Greeters are the first impression visitors and newcomers have of Trinity. Greeters arrive between 9:00 am and 9:15 am to stand in the Narthex and direct parishioners to the name tag books. Greeters help any newcomers or worshipers without a name tag complete a blank name tag and sign up on the missing/new name tag sheet. Thanks to office volunteer, Karen Dewar, printed name tags usually appear in the name tag binders by the next Sunday. At the close of the 9:30 am service, Greeters leave the Sanctuary during announcements and stand in the Narthex to greet everyone, especially the newcomers and visitors. Newcomers and visitors are encouraged to complete a blue WELCOME card then introduced to Rev. Rob. Currently we have about 30 greeters, scheduled 3-4 times a

year in pairs. We are always looking for more friendly people, so if you'd like to join the Greeters Ministry, please contact Cathy Mumford at mums@juno.com or (908) 385-5455.

Knitting Ministry

Barbara Wilson, Coordinator

Thanks to the work of Trinity members and others in the community we donated 33 afghans, 6 baby blankets and a prayer shawl this year. A small group of volunteers meet on Thursday afternoons at church to sew squares into afghans. But the very awesome part of this ministry is where the squares come from. Many friends or acquaintances who love to knit or crochet donate 7 x 9" squares. We are always seeking more donations. We even have donations of yarn waiting to be used if needed. Please let me know if you know of a person with these talents who might like to contribute. Every item donated is tagged with love and prayers from Trinity. Such a blessing!

Lobsterfest

Event Coordinator: Erin Jones

Event Leaders: Amanda Burd, John McNeill, Bec Simon, Steve Wilson



On Saturday June 8th, Trinity held its 28th Lobsterfest. With the return of in-person, Lobsterfest included picnic style up on the hill and pick-up options. While the beautiful weather certainly helped, this year was a success thanks to all the contributions from Trinity and parish members. Lobsterfest would not be possible without this community support.

Lobsterfest is a longtime, community wide event that represents the start to summer. It guarantees significant funds that are dedicated exclusively to Trinity's outreach initiatives, including Mission Philadelphia. Lobsterfest is scheduled again for June 7, 2025. Please contact Erin Jones at erinmoss118@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved. We welcome new volunteers.

Mission Philadelphia

Sponsor: Kyle Evans

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

(1 Peter 4:10)



Mission Philadelphia (MP) is a youth led multi-day, residential, service initiative, in North and West Philadelphia. The primary focus is urban greening and agriculture. Strong partnerships have been developed with North Philly Peace Park (NPPP) and West Philly Peace Park (WPPP), both grass roots, community-based nonprofits. MP also celebrates a renewed alliance with Episcopal Community Services (ECS). Additionally, we celebrate that youth and adults from St. David's, Radnor have now joined this important ministry.

Mission Philadelphia has continued each year, even in Summer 2020. 2024 projects included construction of a tall fence, shed repair, and gardening at West Philly Peace Park, restoration of an orchard and large-scale garden elsewhere in West Philadelphia, installation of a greenhouse, assistance with the food pantry and other needs at ECS's St. Barnabas Community Resource Center, and general clean up, painting, and gardening at North Philly Peace Park.

The team enjoyed residing at Bryn Mawr College. Some meals were eaten in the cafeteria, and others were provided by St. David's members. In the evenings, youth enjoyed time together over swimming, basketball, ping pong, card games, and an ice cream run.

Mission Philadelphia could not be possible without the funds raised through **Trinity's annual Lobsterfest**. We are deeply grateful for the parish and community's support of this wonderful event. Mission Philadelphia 2025 is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 – Sunday, July 22.

Mission Philadelphia's mission has a profound impact, both among Trinity and community members who help in its planning and execution, and those who benefit in the broader communities. It has been an important way to help transform abandoned spaces, break

down racial barriers, and deepen understanding among and between communities. Brochures are also available in McArthur Hall and on the Church School Welcome Table.

Newcomers Ministry

Colleen Day, Chair

Members: Cinda Ball, Carol Church, Melodee Fox, Laura Huestis, Kim Laughlin, Cathy Mumford, Terri Reynolds and Barbara Tortorello

Throughout 2024 the Newcomers Ministry continued with our mission of welcoming all visitors and potential newcomers to the Trinity community, with multiple points of contact by greeters, parishioners and clergy. We are excited to see that parishioners are greeting visitors and newcomers before and after services.

In June, Rob led the Welcome Liturgy, followed by a celebratory reception, hosted by the Newcomers Ministry. We welcomed Annette and Tim Airey, Olivia Bowman and Quint Meredith, Olivia and Craig Cook, Carol Cruickshanks, Sue and Mark Dils, Walter Dixon and Marty Wheelwright, Carol Dutcavich and Joan Jennerjahn, Ann and EC Hoffman, Susan and Rick Jakober, Nancy and Jerry Ruddle, and Lily Stephano.



In October, Terri Reynolds led a sub-committee in developing a new Welcome card. The card stands out both in the vibrant blue color and the bold WELCOME banner. Additionally, with help from Jon Hayward, a QR code was included enabling the visitor the flexibility of completing the card on-line, or dropping it into the new WELCOME box that Gene Fox made for collection of the paper card.

The ministry continues to look for avenues to connect with visitors to Trinity. A recent example was a gift-wrapping table, staffed by Newcomer Ministry elves at the St.

Nicholas Fair. In addition, the ministry provides the celebratory cakes for all baptisms and special receptions.

In early 2025, with assistance from Deneise Murad, Newcomers Ministry will be trained on how to use Servant Keeper, significantly improving our ability to track visitors and newcomers on-line. Additionally, as our congregation has grown and more members are wearing their permanent name tags, there have been multiple requests for permanent name tags. The committee is working on finding a vendor for new permanent name tags. More to follow!

Outreach Ministry

Co-Chairs: John Dey, Betty Stagg

Members: Christine Angulo, John Dey, Jean Evans (member emeritus), Pat Houston

The Outreach Leadership Team at Trinity Episcopal Church is dedicated to fostering stronger communication among our parishioners, the outreach ministry leadership, the Vestry, and our Priest, Rev. Rob. Together, we aim to ensure that Trinity's outreach efforts continue to thrive and impact our local community.

A key responsibility of our team has been to enhance communication and streamline the process for new outreach initiatives. In 2024, we successfully implemented a **New Outreach Ministry Proposal Form**. This form serves as a valuable tool for those wishing to introduce new ministry ideas, which are first reviewed by our team before seeking Vestry approval. There is a binder located in the church office containing the 14 Outreach ministries currently active. These efforts are supported by a combination of financial, material and hands on contributions from Trinity. We have also **set up an Outreach table** in McArther Hall. There will be highlighted current Outreach activities on the Outreach table. If your outreach ministry has a use for the table please seek out one of us. We encourage everyone to take a look at both the binder in the office and the table in McArther Hall if you're interested in finding ways to volunteer and serve our community through Trinity.

Our outreach efforts continue to support several long-standing community ministries, including:

- **A Woman's Place**
- **Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC)**
- **Fisherman's Mark**

In addition to our ongoing initiatives, we are excited about several new initiatives and goals for 2025:

1. **Church School Children's Donation Presentation:** Our children will present the Little Wagon with food donations for Fisherman's Mark during a church service to be blessed.
2. **Updating the Outreach Ministry Proposal Form:** We are revising the proposal form to include **succession planning** as part of our strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of our outreach efforts.
3. **Monthly Outreach Corner in the Newsletter:** We will feature a monthly dedicated Outreach Corner in our newsletter, highlighting the important work being done by our various ministries and providing opportunities for parishioners to get involved.
4. **'Help Wanted' List for Outreach:** We plan to regularly post a "Help Wanted" list in the church to highlight specific needs for volunteers or donations in our outreach ministries.

The Outreach Leadership Team looks forward to continuing our important work in the community and invites all parishioners to consider how they might contribute their time and talents to these efforts. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Co-Chairs: Kim Laughlin, Roger Stikeleather

Members: Rev. Rob Baldwin, Rev. John Bartle, Rev. Emory

Bynum

Earlene Austin, Lyn Fox, Barbara Wilson, and Sue Eavenson, James Wells



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

We are all called to Christ's ministry of offering God's love to each other - both by asking for love and support during times of adversity, and by offering our gifts to nurture those in their time of need, we together heal and become whole in Christ.

What is Pastoral Care? Pastoral Care is a group of volunteers that coordinates and facilitates congregational needs in collaboration with Trinity's rector. Our team meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

How does the Ministry work? All requests for pastoral care needs should be directed to the website (www.trinitysolebury.org in the "We Care" section). Alternately, email prayerlist@trinitysolebury.org or contact the Church office at (215) 297-5135. A team of lay persons acting as Care Coordinators will assist the clergy with follow up, clarify needs, and refer those needs to the appropriate Pastoral Care sub-ministry team.

How can I help? Trinity's Pastoral Care teams offer many helping gifts to those in need. Following is a list of the current components of Pastoral Care. These ministries all need and welcome additional helping hands. Please offer your caring support for our parish by contacting any of the point persons listed.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

Volunteers are needed and appreciated for each of these ministries:

Prayer List

As a people of God, Trinity offers prayers for those of the church, the community, and the world in need. We have a published Prayer List in our weekly bulletin for those who have given their permission for their name to be published. This ministry allows us to care for and lift up the needs of persons within our community, as well as families and friends. In addition,

we have a small group of parishioners who are called to join our email prayer group. As prayer requests come in, sometimes it is appropriate to mobilize prayers other than through the bulletin prayer list. If you would like to participate any of Trinity's prayer ministries, please contact Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973.

Care Coordinators

The Care Coordinators assist the clergy to ascertain which Pastoral Care services are needed and ensure that they are provided. Requests for any pastoral care needs may be made directly to any of the following: Rev. Rob Baldwin at the church office, (215) 297-5135, or through Care Coordinators, Roger Stikeleather, (215) 272-2422; Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973; Earlene Austin, (215) 208-5128; Lyn Fox, (215) 340-7442; Barbara Wilson, (609) 577-3252 or Sue Eavenson, (215) 919-3651.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Trained lay members go out with blessed sacraments bringing communion to those who are unable to attend church services. For more information, please contact Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973.

Laying on of Hands

Intercessory prayers are offered on behalf of those who come forward to the Healing Stations during communion on the first Sunday of the month. We also offer a dedicated Laying on of Hands service at any time during the week. Requests for this prayer ministry should be made to Rev. Rob Baldwin through the church office, (215) 297-5135 or through one of the Care Coordinators.

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry provides compassionate support to individuals in the congregation who are experiencing grief through the death of a loved one. For more information, please contact Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973.

Meals Ministry

A team of Pastoral Care members provides home made meals to those in times of illness, bereavement, transition and even joy. For more information, please contact Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973.

Knitting Ministry

The Trinity Knitters make prayer shawls, afghans and blankets for those in need of a loving touch. For more information, please contact Barbara Wilson, (609) 577-3252.

Flower Ministry

Small bouquets are prepared from the altar flowers for delivery by parishioners to anyone with a pastoral care need. Pick up bouquets, as available, at coffee hour or call the church office to reserve one. If you have questions or requests, please contact Lyn Fox, (215) 340-7442.

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. Please contact a Care Coordinator with your request.

Transportation

There is a team of dedicated parishioners who are willing to drive people to appointments and for other necessary occasions. We can also arrange transportation to evening events at Trinity. For more information or to request help, please contact Kim Laughlin, (215) 718-3973.

St. Nicholas Fair

Event Coordinators: Kevin Clark, Gene Fox

The St. Nicholas Fair was held on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Thanks for the fantastic and beautiful donations of items to sell and for the many volunteers who packed, unpacked, set up, cleaned up, assisted, worked and greeted! A special thanks to Gene Fox for his expertise and assistance in everything from picking up donations at parishioners' homes to pricing hundreds of items. Without all of you, this Fair could not have happened. Thank you!!! The Parish Hall and Narthex were filled with lovely antiques, collectibles, vintage goods, handmade items, Christmas décor and new gifts. Cookie Bake offered their famous cookies for sale; The Newcomers Ministry offered gift-wrapping, and Anna Wyman provided storytelling in the chapel. It was a busy, festive and very

successful day! If you would like to be part of this wonderful event, please contact Kevin Clark at hessianrun@gmail.com or (862) 703-0459.



Trinity Youth Ministry

Sponsors: Kyle Evans, Cyndi Grondahl, Steve Wilson, Bill Yandle

“And a little child shall lead them” Isaiah 11:6



Trinity Youth Group (TYG) has experienced lots of fun, community building, and service during the past year. TYG meets every Tuesday, 6:30-8pm. All young people in grades 6-12 are welcome, whether Trinity members or not. Most Tuesday nights, the group can be found in the youth room at Trinity. However, occasionally, they gather offsite for alternative experiences, such as touring the Peddler's Village scarecrow, holiday lights and ice sculpture exhibit, walking on the NJ wing dam and, of course, the annual Christmas gift shopping for West Philadelphia Pearl St. youth.

Tuesday night activities at Trinity have included making doggie treats for the Blessing of the Animals service, decorating cookies for Trinity's infamous Cookie Bake, board game night, preparing Caring for Friends meals for senior citizens, various group building activities and running the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (In 2025 on Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7pm!).

There is much uncertainty in today's world. It is more important than ever to provide a safe and caring environment where young people are able to be themselves and feel unconditionally loved, both through peer and adult relationships, and God's constant presence. Trinity youth frequently bring friends and there is a great sense of comradery. The group recently welcomed a family who had learned of Trinity's youth ministry while preparing to relocate from Colorado.

If you or your teens are interested in getting involved (Sponsors do not need to have children in TYG or at all), please contact Bill Yandle, william.yandle@yahoo.com, or Steve Wilson, mr.stephen.wilson@gmail.com, for more information. Brochures are also available in McArthur Hall and on the Church School Welcome Table.



2024 Vestry

Co-Wardens: Kevin Clark, Lorri Perkins

Members: Ashley Christie, David Griffith, Kim Laughlin, Eric Muth, Marilyn Schuster, Jennifer Summers, Dick Wallace, Bill Yandle

Secretary: Laura Huestis

2025 Vestry Nominees



Cinda Ball

It is an honor to be considered for a position on Trinity Solebury's Vestry. Currently, I am involved in Cookie Bake, the Newcomer's ministry, and the Greeters group. In past years, I was very active in organizing Church School and Aids for Friends. If supported to join the Vestry, I envision being a listener, a problem solver and a consensus builder in our meetings. I am interested in continuing to welcome visitors and new members to our community while working behind the scenes to strengthen our "onboarding and welcoming process". I'll also continue with the Co-Chair Team for Cookie Bake!

Over the years, Curt and I visited Trinity several times when staying with his parents, and we formally joined the church when we moved to Solebury back in May of 1998. Our four daughters were baptized here. Trinity will always hold a special place for us.



Terri Reynolds

I grew up in Kansas and moved to New York after graduating college. My husband, Mike, and I lived in New Jersey for 25 years, England for 5 years and are thrilled call Pipersville our home since 2022. We've been married for thirty-seven years and are the proud parents of two children, Katie and David.

I was introduced to Trinity by Trey Wilson in 2022 and immediately felt welcomed by the parish, officially joining shortly thereafter. Since then, I've been blessed to express my faith through various ministries, including the Newcomer's Committee, Kensington, St. Nicholas Fair, Sacred Ground, Quilts for the Homeless, Mission Philly, and Peacemeal. Professionally, I hold a B.S. in Accounting and spent seven years working as a corporate accountant before choosing to be a stay-at-home mom. During this time, I volunteered with school and community organizations and served on the Foundation for a Special Needs School, holding both leadership and support roles. I returned to school at the New York Botanical Garden in 2002 to study horticulture and design. Outside of my volunteer work, I love hiking, kayaking, gardening, and spending time in nature.



Nancy Haldeman Ruddle

I've been a resident of Carversville for 37 years where Jerry and I raised our two daughters, Elizabeth and Anna. Elizabeth and her family (husband Ross Gabrielson and kids Madeline and Jack) live in Solebury, and Anna and her husband Quincy Darbyshire live in San Francisco and are expecting their first child any day now. I recently wrapped up a rewarding 35+ year career in Mortgage Banking, earning the trust and confidence of so many wonderful people. It's heartwarming to still receive calls from previous clients looking for guidance.

Our Trinity history:

Our family joined Trinity by letter of transfer about 16 years ago. After a respite, Jerry and I returned in 2023. Our daughter Elizabeth and her husband Ross were married at Trinity in 2009. Prior to that, I taught music at the Day School and assisted with the kindergarten class under the direction of Jeanie Wilson and Prue Day. That was around 1992-95 when I

took a step back from my Mortgage Banking career to have a more flexible schedule for our children due to Jerry's professional travel commitments.

More recently:

I then transitioned back to Mortgage Banking and recently retired giving me more time to pursue lifelong interests. In the Fall of 2023, I attended Temple University's Adult Study Abroad program in Rome. I'm a fan of life-long learning! The new friends from this program are dear and one of the treasures of these experiences. I'm currently enrolled in OLLIE (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) courses at Temple University and taking Italian classes.

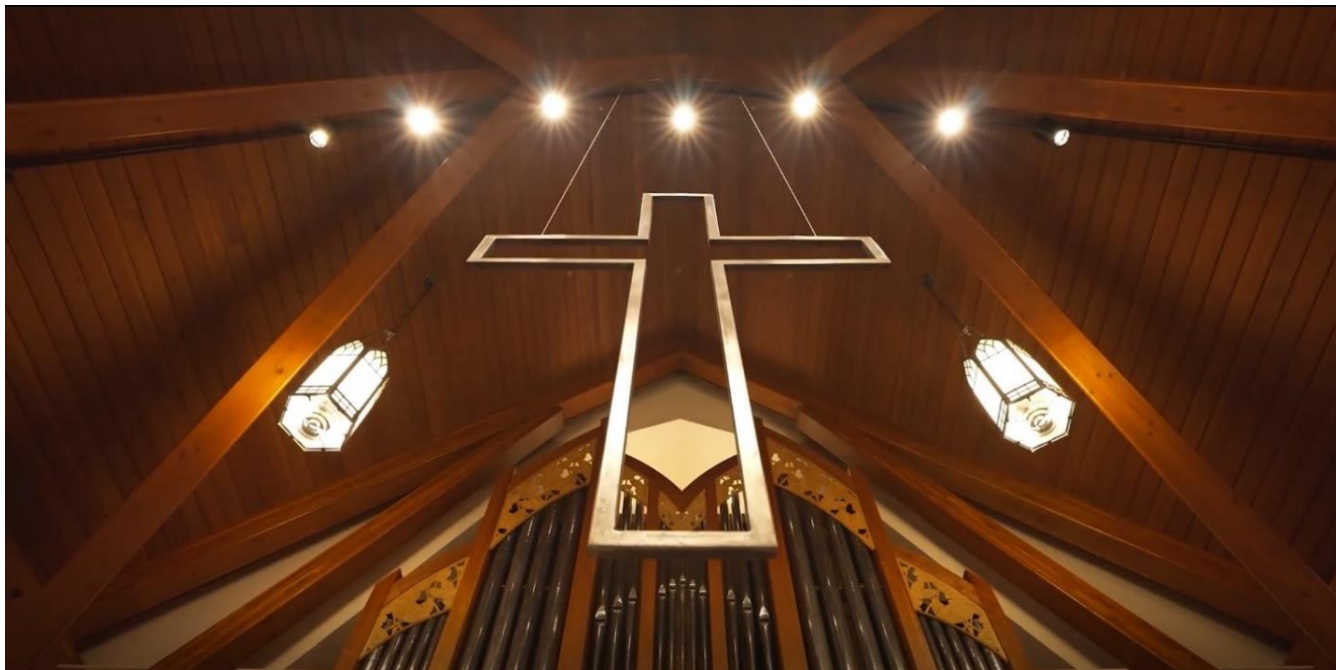
Interests:

Spending time with our kids, grandkids and with my remarkable parents (ages 98 and 88), travel, music, gardening, beekeeping, historic preservation, art, antiquing and Italian. Volunteering at Trinity since Jerry and I have returned has been fulfilling as we grow into the Trinity family. Appointed in 2012, I currently serve on the Solebury Twp. Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) which oversees the Historic Districts of Carversville and Phillips Mill.

I'm a graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia and Rome.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Trinity for a term in the vestry if that's the decision of the Church.

Notes




trinityepiscopalsolebury

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215.297.5135
trinitysolebury.org*

Addendum

Property Team Report

Chair: E.C. Hoffman

Members: Barbara Conklin, Jon Hayward, Frank Tortorello, Dick Wallace, Bill Wolf

The property committee meets monthly to review the state of the buildings and grounds and to make recommendations for improvements. Following is a list of many of the projects completed and in progress over the last year:

Completed Projects

- New Kitchen Dishwashers
- Updated campus signage
- Improved chapel lighting
- Updated Sanctuary sound system
- Dead tree removal
- McArthur Hall HVAC repair
- Rectory HVAC improvements including whole house generator
- TDS HVAC repair
- TDS toilet replacements
- Replaced trash removal contractor for savings
- Replaced snow removal contract in search of savings

Work in progress

- Heating System partial repair/ replacement in progress
- Sacristy Water Heater replacement
- Updating kitchen stove fire suppression system to code
- Advisory to Space Allocation Committee (church office relocation)

Help Wanted

- HVAC Experts
- DIY handyperson team