Trinity Episcopal Church 60 Church Street – Asheville, North Carolina

Annual Report

A Message from the Associate Rector

The Rev. Amy Peterson

With gratitude and great joy, I joined Trinity as associate rector on July 13, 2022, and began working hand-in-hand with Scott in worship, teaching, pastoral care, and preaching. Debbie Cox, Beth Chestnut, and I meet on a regular basis to plan for upcoming events for families and youth and to discuss how best to meet the needs of our growing church family (plans are already underway for next year's trips). Connection with the larger community and diocese is also part of my role here; I serve as the secretary for and a member of the Executive Council, meet with the Church Street Collaborative, and participate in Fresh Start.

2023 saw a growth in new programs and an extended period of the rector's absence. I continue to feel grateful for this community and the many gifts here.

The year kicked off with a lot of planning: a vestry retreat, program staff retreat, executive council retreat, and a clergy staff retreat at the end of February.

I organized the speakers for our Lenten lunch series with the theme "Listening to the Voices of Women." We heard from artists Joan Payton and Ann Moorefield, Jewish poet Jessica Jacobs, Cherokee activist Lianna Costantino, Karen Wallace-Meigs of the NC Council of Women/Pisgah Legal, and Carolyn Cronin of Transformation Village.

In February, I took a group of folks to a symposium on creation care at Montreat, and from that, our creation care committee was born, which now meets monthly. They have instated composting, partnered with other Church Street congregations in advocacy work, and (in partnership with Stan Hubbard of Buildings and Grounds) taken responsibility for the health of the grounds, among other things.

In March, I led the youth confirmation retreat; eight youth came, and six were confirmed. I also led the women's retreat, with thirty-nine attendees.

In April, we celebrated Holy Week and Easter; in May, we confirmed/baptized/welcomed about fifty new folks into the church.

Rev. Scott took all his vacation at once this summer and "borrowed" a few weeks from his sabbatical. Dena Whalen and the other clergy in the church assisted me in his absence. I helped out with VBS and, along with Debbie Cox, took our youth group to a Blue Theology experience at the Duke Marine Labs in Beaufort, NC.

Fall programming is full and rich. I meet with the Women's Bible study group every week to pray and discuss the upcoming lectionary texts. On Sunday mornings, I lead the Clark Room Conversation adult formation hour. I also lead a nine-week book club using Where Goodness Still Grows; about thirty people attend weekly.

In October, we are offering a Wednesday night dinner series leading up to our All Saints celebration, helping us think about what a good death means:

- Oct 4 What the Burial Rite Gets Right with Father Scott
- Oct 11 God the Gravedigger with Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner
- Oct 18 Memento Mori: how facing death teaches us to live, with Dr. Christiana Peterson
- Oct 25 Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love with Dr. Mallory McDuff

November brings our guest speaker, Dr. Ellen Davis, and our diocesan convention; then, of course, we'll start afresh with Advent.

Respectfully submitted, Amy +

A Message from the Deacon

The Rev. Dcn. Bob Zito

This is my third year at Trinity. I have been praying to discern where God calls me in ministry here. In prior parishes, my ministry has concerned education, pastoral care, and church growth, mainly with newcomers and seekers within the church.

I am currently teaching systematic and moral theology and Christian ethics at the Iona Collaborative at the Seminary of the Southwest.

I've been acting as Clergy Liaison for the Congregation Development Ministry Team and have suggested a new program as a shepher's ministry which will assign a parishioner to each newcomer to assist in their transition transitioning to Trinity.

I'm also working with the Rector to recharter a Trinity Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

I have been working with Sally Cochran and the Art Guild on fundraising events for Lake Logan.

My primary ministry is serving at the Eucharist on Sundays and making pastoral calls.

Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord in all persons.

Vestry Nominees for the Class of 2026

James Bradley

James Bradley is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee and resides in the Wolfetown Community. He was raised in the Baptist church and his father was a third generation Baptist minister. He began attending the Episcopal Church in 2016 and was confirmed at Trinity in May 2021. James feels the openness and inclusion of the Episcopal faith has opened new paths of connection for him with God and the members of the church. If elected, he looks forward to serving on the vestry.

He was graduated from Cherokee High School in 1981, completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts at UNC-Greensboro in 1986, and received his Masters in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University in 2010.

From June 2017 through January 2023, James served as the Secretary of Education for the Eastern Band of Cherokee (EBCI). Previously he was the Director of Community and Recreation Services for the EBCI, Advertising/PR/Sponsorship Supervisor for Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, a Manager Intern in the Harrah's Cherokee Leadership Development Program, the fiscal & Training Supervisor in the Tribal Education Program, Executive Director of the Cherokee Historical Association, Program Director at the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, and the founding director of the Cherokee Youth Center Boys and Girls Club. He is an alumnus of the Native Leadership Institute through the American Indian Center at UNC Chapel Hill. He has also been a board member for the Friends of Mountain History, the Musical Theater Advisory Board at Western Carolina University (WCU) and the WCU Cherokee Center Advisory Board.

Carole Rickard Hedden

Carole was born and raised in Cape Girardeau, MO in the Catholic church. She and her high school sweetheart, Cole, married after Cole entered the U.S. Army. During a lengthy assignment away from home for Cole, Carole began attending the non-denominational chapel at Fort Campbell KY, which in turn led her to Trinity Episcopal (Clarksville, TN) where their first daughter was baptized.

After Cole left the Army in 1986 and until 2014, the family moved more than a few times, attending Episcopal churches in New Mexico, Arizona, New York and Virginia. Volunteer roles with these churches ranged from Sunday School teacher and thrift sale coordinator to developer of a "plant" church in Arizona.

Carole and Cole began restoration of an abandoned "farmette" in 2014 in Asheville and began visiting Episcopal churches throughout the community, joining Trinity in late 2015 as "8 oclockers." Carole is a member of the linen and flower guilds and is working on water intrusion issues with Trinity's building and grounds committee.

A journalist by trade, Carole worked for 26 years with Aviation Week & Space Technology (media company) where she led new product development and editorial coverage of program management, innovation, workforce, and advanced air mobility. She also worked for Corning Inc., Honeywell, Austin Peay State University and several newspapers. Carole retired in December 2022.

She and Cole have two daughters--one in Atlanta with her husband and two children, the other in Seattle. Carole enjoys needlework, cooking, reading, hiking, kayaking and gardening.

Tina McGuire

Tina was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. When she was five years old, her father and several other men decided that their small Toledo suburb needed an Episcopal parish. This was the beginning of her lifetime participation of being "raised" in the Episcopal Church! After graduation from Briarcliff College in Westchester County, NY, she married John, a Duke medical student. After that, they were off to Seattle for an internship and residency in general surgery. Tina joined St. Stephen's, Seattle, and her church volunteer career was off and running. By then, there were three little boys, John, Jr., Peter, and Malcolm, who loved to sit in the front pew...searching for the Holy Ghost!

For Tina, being a member of Trinity has been a joyful ride since 1978. Her family and she came to church on the third Sunday of July that year and have never once looked back or considered trying out another church.

She has been involved with much of Trinity's life since we arrived. It would include teaching Sunday School, being on the Altar Guild, initiating the Flower Guild, singing in the Choir (for a year!!), helping plan the new Church Street Courtyard, and many other involvements. It's hard to sit still when one is a member of Trinity! There is so much available to nourish the soul and so much to give in the way of bringing beauty into this house of God.

Craig Weeks

Craig was born in Glen Ridge, NJ, and is a lifelong Episcopalian. He was confirmed in the Episcopal Cathedral in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Craig met his wife Lorrie on a blind date arranged by Craig's brother when Craig was playing baseball for his alma mater, Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA). Craig majored in Political Science and International Studies and spent a semester studying abroad in Medellin, Colombia. Craig and Lorrie married after graduation and moved to Phoenix, AZ, where Craig got his MBA at the Thunderbird School of Global Management. They then moved to Montclair, NJ, where Craig spent most of his career working in large banks in New York City and a 3-year assignment in Geneva, Switzerland. Lorrie and Craig were active members of Saint James Episcopal Church in Montclair, where Craig completed fifteen years on the vestry plus three terms as Warden. Craig is a Trustee Emeritus of Dickinson College, having served on that Board for 17 years.

Craig and Lorrie moved to the Asheville area from Seattle, WA, in 2017. They joined Trinity in early 2020 and are part of the "COVID Cohort." At Trinity, Craig is a lector and intercessor and participates in the "Trekking the 828" group. Lorrie is a sewing volunteer at Lake Logan and on the CDMT committee. Craig volunteers with the Red Cross and is on the Weaverville Economic Development Advisory Committee. Craig and Lorrie's son and his family live in New York.

Richard Wrightson

Richard was born in New Zealand and was baptized and confirmed in the Church of England (CE). He attended two CE-related boarding schools with a strong emphasis on music (he studied piano and cello and, for four years, sang in the choir where he was head choir boy). He moved with his parents to the U.S. when he was sixteen, attended the University of Virginia (including going through the Ph.D. program in economics), and served in the US Navy.Beginning in 1968, Richard worked in New York as a financial economist and, in 1978,

founded his own independent financial research firm. While living in Westchester, New York, he served on the vestries of Christ Church, Tarrytown, and St. Barnabas Church, Irvington as treasurer of both churches.

Richard moved to Asheville in 2002 and was immediately drawn to the warmth of Trinity. He has served as a lay reader and usher. He is married to Corkie Morrill and has two children from a previous marriage. Since moving to Asheville, he has served on the board of the Asheville Chamber Music Series for eight years, the last three as President, where he led a successful funding campaign during the 2008 financial crisis to purchase a grand piano. His interests include music, travel, golf, hiking, and reading.

For Richard, it would be an honor to serve on the Trinity vestry (if elected). As a committed lifetime Anglican/Episcopalian, he would feel challenged to preserve the church's well-being and help further the growth and outreach of Trinity Church.

Nominees to the Diocesan Convention

Katherine Ray Jeff Imes

Senior Warden's Report

When I joined the vestry in 2021, we were still trying to figure out a new - and post-pandemic - normal. As my time on the vestry draws to a close, I am truly in awe of how our parish has pulled together and the wonderful community we have here at Trinity. While other churches worry about dwindling attendance and financial woes, we remain a strong, vibrant place of worship, with a congregation that extends the boundaries of our church building thanks to our virtual presence and continued streaming of services.

Your vestry has had multiple areas of focus this year. As always, community and fellowship are at the top of the list as we continue to work to broaden opportunities for members of Trinity to get together. Trinitarians love to be together, from the Lenten lunch series to Trekking in the 828. Supper clubs are returning, and Clark Room Conversations (formerly Parents in Conversation) has been filled to capacity! Amy and several members of Trinity have formed a Creation Care Committee to ensure we are good stewards of God's creations. Scott held a summit of Trinity leaders in May, which garnered strong feedback on growing our church community.

Historically and continually, Trinity has demonstrated a strong dedication to our Asheville and Appalachian communities through outreach. Our Outreach Committee has continued to support various ministries, including the Church of the Advocate, Appalachian Regional Ministry, ABCCM, and Rise Against Hunger. We have provided scholarships to campers for Camp Henry and supported Lake Logan, Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Homeward Bound, Episcopal Relief and Development, and many other worthy charities. Just last month, Scott and Amy held an Outreach Retreat to strategize on informing members of outreach opportunities and encouraging volunteer participation.

This year, a discernment team for Trinity Place has worked tirelessly and with great care to evaluate agencies for continued ministry through Trinity Place. The vestry will hear from one of those agencies in an upcoming meeting as we work to discern the next steps for this valuable community resource.

The vestry has spent time evaluating our general security in order to maintain a safe, inclusive environment. We have invested in strengthening our physical building while improving overall accessibility and safety. Our Buildings and Grounds team at Trinity has been hard at work, ensuring we preserve and protect our physical worship space. We have an amazing church home, but as it ages, we must keep it in good shape for future worship and fellowship.

In closing, I return to the strength of Trinity and our wonderful community. What comes to mind as a demonstration of this is our Rector's well-deserved vacation this summer. While that may seem an odd example of perseverance, I was so happy to see the pews filled, Amy's smiling face, and an overall sense of normalcy. While we missed Scott, this parish has an amazing staff, a wonderful community of volunteers, and a desire to be together in worship. We managed to keep the ship afloat while the captain was away, with fairly smooth sailing. What a strong, stable, willing crew we have!

I am blessed to have served on this vestry for three years. The leadership of this group, the steadfastness, and the dedication to Trinity - I could not have asked for a more rewarding

experience. Each member brings his or her own strengths and opinions, always keeping a love for Trinity at the forefront.

And the staff of Trinity - wow. When I walk through the church doors, I feel the community, energy, love for one another, the congregation, and God. I maintain that the staff of Trinity is unmatched, and I am so thankful for each staff member.

And to Scott, who leads this parish with steadfastness and grace - you juggle so many responsibilities, yet your center is clearly on our spiritual well-being and love for this parish. I have learned from your leadership and grown spiritually in your presence. Thank you.

And to the parish as a whole, thank you for the opportunity to serve. Trinity is a beloved community, and our strength is because of each and every one of you. Christ's love is present in this wonderful building, and we take this love out into the world around us, enlightened and strengthened by Trinity, our church home.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Ray, Senior Warden

Financials and Stewardship

The finances at Trinity Church are divided between the Investment Team, the Stewardship Team, and the Budget Team. All three are committed to bringing recommendations to the vestry and being good stewards of the money entrusted to Trinity Church.

Investment Team

The Investment Committee was established twelve years ago to supervise, monitor, and evaluate the investment assets of Trinity Church and to recommend an annual distribution from these assets to the church budget. We make recommendations to the Vestry regarding investment matters.

We meet four times per year to review investment performance, meet with our investment managers, Parsec and the Community Foundation of WNC, and formulate recommendations for the Vestry to review and consider.

This year, our committee membership consisted of Rev. Dr. Scott White, Senior Warden Katherine Ray, Junior Warden Dave Hensley, Treasurer Jennifer Weidemann, Finance Director Jan Hildebrand, Finance Assistant Robyn McNeal, Fred Groce, Jeff Howden, Vince Childress, and Jim Gunn. I am grateful for the dedicated service of this talented group of Trinitarians. If you would like to be part of our committee, please contact Jan Hildebrand or myself.

As of September 30, 2022, Trinity's assets included two Money Market deposit accounts, at First Citizens Bank and Self Help Credit Union with combined balances of \$296,875, an operating checking account and an investment portfolio managed by Parsec Financial that is comprised of restricted, unrestricted, and Legacy assets of Trinity Church with a balance of \$1.8 million.

Additionally, Trinity is blessed to be the income beneficiary of three endowed accounts at the Community Foundation of WNC with combined balances of \$1.6 million.

Trinity also receives income from a portfolio that is managed by Wells Fargo as Trustee. This account was established in the 1960s by a gift from a generous parishioner.

Over the past year, Trinity has received several very generous unrestricted bequests, including a living endowment that has strengthened the financial security of the parish. This endowment has been invested with Vanguard Funds, adding an additional investment manager to our portfolio.

Other bequests received have allowed us to formally establish an independent Legacy gift portfolio at Parsec Financial.

Our focus continues to be on being good stewards of the assets of the parish. While 2022 was a difficult year for the financial markets, we have had regular meetings with our investment managers. This year, we made a recommendation to Vestry to begin to utilize a Treasury Money Market Fund for the cash reserves of the church, and this recommendation is in the process of being implemented.

Our stewardship efforts should inspire the confidence of our parish that we are seeking to get the best possible returns on our funds, by using active and passive investment strategies.

It has been a great blessing to have served yet another year as Chair and to have served on this committee since its inception.

> Respectfully Submitted, Chad Hardy Committee Chair



A comforting truth of faith is found in casting one's care on God, who is the true anchor of our souls! This year's stewardship theme, "An Anchor For The Soul" reminds us that we rest in the changelessness of God. There are few, if any, guarantees in life, yet the one that we all proclaim and hold to is that God's love, grace, and forgiveness will never fail.

Trinity strongly depends on pledged giving to reach our budgetary dreams for each fiscal year. As in years past, our campaign for 2024 started in September with an electronic pre-campaign, giving members a short, quick, and easy way to return their pledge commitments to Trinity. In the first weeks of October we reached out by U.S. mail to those households who had not yet responded. We will finish up our campaign in November with vestry members reaching out to those who have not yet had a chance to respond to the online or written pledge requests.

We could not do this without the help of our Stewardship Team – Scott, Amy, Ken, Robyn, Nanette, and Dillon (retired); and our two vestry liaisons, Cissie Stevens and Stuart Camblos.

> Respectfully submitted, Jan Hildebrand & Jo Ric

Treasurer's Report

The Finance Committee team has met twice during the year to review Trinity's financial reports. The committee continues to assess the cash position of the church with a focus on no-interest-bearing funds. This resulted in a recommendation to the vestry to increase the funds available for investment. The church's investments have done well this year, showing an increase of \$465,000 compared with September 2022.

The committee will soon begin work on the draft 2024 budget for approval by the vestry. The church is again in a strong financial position for the current year with a \$153,000 positive variance to budget on August 31, 2023.

The committee comprises parishioners and staff members: Treasurer Jennifer Weidemann, Katherine Ray, Linda Watt, Steven Bennett, Don Weidemann, Jan Hildebrand, Robyn McNeal, and Scott White.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Weidemann Treasurer

Assets Held by Trinity Church - Endowed Designated Funds

ENDOWED FUNDS - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	Sep-22	Sep-23	
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	\$1,289,041.11	\$1,313,614.22	as of 6/30/23
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/CANNON	\$215,636.73	\$219,885.25	as of 6/30/23
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/PATTON	\$70,226.16	\$73,261.39	as of 6/30/23
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$1,574,904.00	\$1,606,760.86	
Community Foundation of WNC manages the funds			
TRINITY INVESTMENT FUNDS			
PARSEC - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	\$863,843.53	\$1,043,822.45	
PARSEC LEGACY FUNDS - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	\$451,096.17	\$513,119.49	
TOTAL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT PARSEC FINANCIAL (SCHWAB)	\$1,314,939.70	\$1,556,941.94	
ENDOWED FUND - NOT DONOR RESTRICTED			
VANGUARD - LIFE STRATEGY FUNDS	\$508,283.96	\$590,900.95	
VANGUARD - WELINGTON FUNDS	\$529,781.00	\$593,782.39	
TOTAL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT VANGUARD	\$1,038,064.96	\$1,184,683.34	
INVESTMENT TOTALS	\$2,889,843.70	\$4,348,386.14	

Summary of Revenue & Expenses

Accounts	Actual Jan 01, 2023 - Sep 30, 2023	Budget Jan 01, 2023 - Sep 30, 2023	Annual Budget This Year Year	Annual Budget % Used Jan 01, 2023 - Sep 30, 2023
Revenues				
Operating Income Other Income	891,901.85 201,769.94	828,749.97 140,433.03	1,105,000.00 187,243.96	80.72 % 107.76 %
Total Revenues	\$ 1,093,671.79	\$ 969,183.00	\$ 1,292,243.96	84.63 %
Expenses				
Administration	176,910.27	170,891.91	227,855.96	77.64%
Contracted Services	16,236.64	19,710.00	26,280.00	61.78 %
Admin Support	9,526.48	8,175.06	10,900.00	87.40 %
Congregational Development	381.30	1,125.00	1,500.00	25.42 %
Parish Life	20,746.71	21,825.00	29,100.00	71.29 %
Stewardship	3,729.85	3,749.94	5,000.00	74.60 %
Buildings and Grounds	124,482.99	137,404.53	183,205.77	67.95 %
Outreach and Mission	129,593.29	157,405.59	209,874.20	61.75 %
Worship and Music	101,027.64	101,264.04	135,018.88	74.82 %
Education & Formation	122,147.42	117,415.98	156,554.74	78.02 %
Parish Pastoral Staff	241,884.44	229,090.77	305,454.41	79.19 %
Pastoral Care	1,392.46	1,125.00	1,500.00	92.83 %
Total Expenses	\$ 948,059.49	\$ 969,182.82	\$ 1,292,243.96	73.37 %
Net Total	\$ 145,612.30	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.00	0.00 %

Programs Bible Study & Group Learning

At Trinity, we are lifelong learners because we are lifelong disciples, called to love God with all our heart, with all our strength, and with all our mind — from the smallest of children to the most seasoned of adults. At Trinity, there is a place for you to learn and grow closer to Christ and your neighbor, no matter where you find yourself in life. Throughout the year, we explore the heart of the Christian faith, challenge ourselves to live more deeply into Christ's way of love, and engage critically with the real-world issues that confront modern life. We have formation classes every Sunday as well as special topical series or featured speakers at different times throughout the year.

Trinity has a vast array of programs for Nursery through Adult. Children are taught through a method termed "Godly Play" based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world.

Adult programs are varied and are co-planned by the Clergy and Lay members to encompass Biblical and current issues. The classes are taught by the Clergy and by members bringing various backgrounds and expertise to encourage questioning, searching, and learning.

Programs for Children

- Godly Play The fall of 2022 saw a dramatic increase in the number of new families with children! These numbers have remained strong into 2023. Fortunately, we have 17 Godly Play Mentors (teachers) on board, so our coverage in all three classrooms was high. This curriculum continues to engage and connect with children.
- Come Join the Circle: "What's Your Passion"-Each summer Sunday features a Trinity parishioner who shares their passion with the children. We tied this in with stories from the Bible or other aspects of faith formation. Rabbits and their patron saint, labyrinths, stepping stones, dancing, gardening, children's books, watercolor art, and more were explored throughout the summer.
- Nursery Ingrid Sanders, a long-time employee, continues as Nursery Supervisor. A new hire, Nora Bliss, moved to Oregon at the end of May. We used a rotation of subs through the summer. All nursery staff are fully vaccinated and have completed the required First Aid/CPR and Safeguarding God's Children.
- Children's Hour. This ministry continues through the academic year and breaks for summer with "Come Join the Circle." Andrew Davis continues as a pianist. We meet in the Undercroft for a small snack as we allow time for other children who have not been to Sunday School to join us. We process into the Redwood Chapel and use stories, songs, and movements to follow the liturgical calendar or Biblical themes.
- Godly Play Parent Pages incorporated this year with weekly parent emails (digital download) to support upcoming lessons.
- Everybody Upstairs This event occurs approximately thrice during the academic year. It involves Godly Play Mentors and children telling the "sermon." In February, we told the "Parable of the Good Samaritan". In October, we will tell the story of "The Circle of the Church Year".

$\mathbf{V} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{S}$

Vacation Bible School "Holy Moses: Rescue, Freedom and the Law"

"Holy Moses: Rescue, Freedom, and the Law" Our format used the past two summers was such a success that we continued with the same framework for this summer's VBS. Our theme revolved around the significant moments in the life of Moses. The children explored this theme through song, dance, yoga, crafts, science experiments, food, and more! The last day was a Water Play Day, with the partial closure of Aston Street for an inflatable water slide.

ALL SAINTS' CANDLELIGHT DINNER

We continue to tweak our All Saints Dinner this year. On Wednesday, November 1st, we will celebrate with an **All Saints' Candlelight Dinner**, featuring a lovely autumn meal on tables with white tablecloths and many candles! Several of our youth will be dressed as saints while serving the tables. The meal will be followed by an "All Hallow's Eve costume parade, with the children processing across the stage in their Halloween costumes. It will be followed by our costumed youth sharing information about the saint they represent in costume. We'll finish the evening with a candlelight walk to our Memorial Garden for a reading of the names of those interred there. Donation jars will be on the table to help raise money for our upcoming youth mission trip.

OBSERVING THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Advent Wreath Making-This annual celebration involves all families creating an Advent wreath for their home, as well as taking home a Devotional Guide (Godly Play based) to mark the season.

NEW THIS YEAR: Lessons and Carols for Children and Youth- This year, we are offering a separate service for children and youth that will run in conjunction with the usual Lessons and Carols service.

Children's Christmas Pageant-The pageant is a perennial favorite, where all children dress in costume for a beautiful retelling of the Nativity story.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner- Children make crafts and enjoy pancake races and other games besides our pancake meal.

Lenten Home Project-This Lent, our take-home devotional, was a "Faces of Easter" wreath. Each family had a wire wreath, copies of the Faces of Easter cards from Godly Play, and a devotional booklet to use in conjunction with the "Faces" cards.

Palm Sunday Walk with Church Street churches- We resumed our annual "walk" with First Presbyterian and Central United Methodist this year. Families join together on Church Street and process with a donkey and palms to Pritchard Park for a short service.

Easter - Easter at Trinity for children involves two identical services (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.). The children join the grand procession at both services, flower a large outdoor cross, eat hot cross buns, and have our special service in the Redwood Chapel. Sandwiched between these two services is the Easter Egg Hunt.

OTHER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Invisible String- On Wednesdays in October, Amy Peterson offers a Wednesday evening series on "Holy Dying." We offer nursery care and a program for children three and up based on the book, "The Invisible String," a beautiful story about the "string" that connects us to those we love, even when we cannot see them. We will explore the story through different hands-on activities and crafts.

Kick Off Sunday- August 27th - This was the largest Kick-Off Sunday attendance-wise in recent memory! We had all the usual bells and whistles: Chikomo Marimba Band, inflatable water slide on the street, traveling magician, face painter, balloon twister, fairy hair, lawn games, and a big picnic with Buggy Pops popsicle cart on hand.

Club 345- Our junior youth group for 3rd-5th graders continues to meet monthly during the academic year. Activities have included: "Fake Sleepover," a tour of WLOS, Earth Day activities, a trampoline park, mini-golf, a Haunted trail, outreach to Transformation Village, and more.

Four for Families- This ministry happens four times a year, with the goal of gathering our families with elementary-age children and younger ones together for fellowship and community. Activities included: "Upstairs/Downstairs," a perennial favorite with families gathering for dinner, followed by the children watching a movie "upstairs" in Tuton Hall and parents heading "downstairs" to the youth room for games and conversation. We had planned an outing tied in with a Diocesan event at Tryon Equestrian Center but it was cancelled due to weather.

Upcoming events include "Stargazing and Hot Chocolate" where we have our own private viewing of the sky at UNCA's observatory with members of the Asheville Astronomy Club, followed by hot chocolate at Asheville Chocolate. Once again, we will also have families represented at our "All Saints Dinner."

Children's Choir -These choirs remain active during the academic year. We started this year with many new children for two choirs!

Submitted by Beth Chestnut Director, Children and Families Ministry

Youth

Sunday Formation, Grades 6-12

Every Sunday, Trinity's youth rooms are open from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. as a safe space for youth to process their week and how it intersects with their faith. Youth ministry at Trinity is active, thriving, and comes in many forms, all working together to build adult faith in our students from 6th to 12th grade. Formation comes through acolyting, service learning trips, retreats, community service hours, Sunday formation hours, and Trinity EYC.

For the first part of 2023, the middle and high school classes were combined. We split the classes into middle and high school classrooms on Sunday, August 27, 2023.

Adults who help with youth: Debbie Cox, Dave Hensley, Nanette Popa Forma Conference 2023 Alexandria, Va. (January 17-19)

Beth and I went to a Forma Conference this past January for our continuing education. What is Forma? The Annual Conference is an opportunity for Forma to encourage and develop Christian educators, inside and outside the Episcopal tradition, to grow in how they educate and minister.

This year, our theme is "Called to Covenant." Our four plenaries will be focusing on how we are called, through Micah 6:8, to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday was Sunday, May 14. We had 5 seniors, Henry Holland, Andrew Johnston, Thompson Murray, Riley Oswald, and Olivia Williams. Debbie Cox, for the first time, gave the homily virtually and in person. Henry Holland read the first lesson and Riley Oswald read the prayers of the people. This year, we recognized 5 high school seniors and 9 college students in the service and on our website.

Confirmation

Amy Peterson and I held a Confirmation Weekend in March at Lake Logan. Confirmation Sunday was Sunday, May 14, 2023. We had 5 confirmands confirmed: Amber Guzy, William Whisnant, Ashe Hornthal, Owen Peterson, and Collin McCormick.

Middle School Experience 2023

This past summer, our first Middle School Experience at Trinity was at Robbinsville, NC. We had 7 youth and 3 adults who went July 10-13, 2023

High School Experience 2023

This past summer, we went to Beaufort, NC. We had 15 youth and 3 adults go in July 21-27.

Sixes on Sundays / EYC

Trinity offers six core gatherings, which are called Sixes on Sunday. These six Sundays are a priority as we build our community. Trinity is meeting monthly beginning this past August. It will be fun, social, and building fellowship with one another.

Keeping Lent in Home

For this Lent, we sent home for children and youth the "Faces of Easter" wreath. Each family had a wire wreath, copies of the Faces of Easter cards from Godly Play and a devotional booklet to use in conjunction with the "Faces" cards.

Palm Sunday Walk with Church Street Churches

This year we were able to resume our annual "walk" with First Presbyterian and Central United Methodist. Families join together on Church Street and process with a donkey and palms to Pritchard Park for a short service.

Vacation Bible School

Holy Moses: Rescue, Freedom, and the Law

This past June was our annual Vacation Bible School, this year Nanette Popa and I took the fifth-grade group to do service projects at the following non-profit organizations: Transformation Village, Manna Food Bank, and Haywood Street Congregation

Saint O'Lantern Dinner

This year, we are continuing to tweak our All Saints Dinner. On Wednesday, November 1st we will celebrate with an All Saints' Candlelight Dinner featuring a lovely autumn meal on tables laid with white tablecloths, and lots of candlles! Several of our youth will be dressed as saints while serving the tables. The meal will be followed by an "All Hallow's Eve costume parade, with the children processing across the stage in their Halloween costumes. It will be followed by our costumed youth sharing information about the saint they are representing in costume. We'll finish the evening with a candlelight walk to our Memorial Garden for a reading of the names of those interred there. Donation jars will be on the table to help raise money for our upcoming youth mission trip.

Advent Wreathmaking Event

This annual celebration involves all families creating an Advent wreath for their home, as well as taking home a Devotional Guide (Godly Play based) to mark the season.

Lessons and Carols for Children and Youth

This year we are offering a separate service for children and youth that will run in conjunction with the usual Lessons and Carols service.

Submitted by Debbie Cox Director, Youth Ministry

Adult Ministries

Faith formation is a lifelong process, a belief that Trinity lives out by offering a diverse, engaging, and timely slate of Adult Education opportunities throughout the year.

In the Fall of 2022, we started the Adult Formation series with a big welcome for the Rev. Amy Peterson. It's hard to believe it's only been a year since Amy arrived. Mr. Peter Williams (a member of Trinity) took over to lead a class on the spirituality of architecture. The Rector led a six-week session titled "God in Real Life," where participants read articles from current affairs and considered how God shows up in our world. Our vestry led one Sunday to share vestry news with the parish. On the last Sunday of October, we welcome Dr. Norman Wirzba, the Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished

Professor of Christian Theology and a Senior Fellow at the Kenan Institute of Ethics at Duke University. He led a session titled "Hope for a Wounded World" and encouraged us with God's care for creation and God's children. The Rev. Amy Peterson then led a fourweek session on "The Women in Jesus' Family Tree."

Meanwhile, in Parents in Conversation, the Rev. Amy Peterson led the group with sessions titled "Genesis: Bad Parents of the Bible." And the Rev. Gus Boone led a session on the Enneagram.

Exploring the Episcopal Experience is a foundation-level class that examines all aspects of the Episcopal Church. It also serves as training for those new to the Episcopal Church and as a review for anyone interested. The Rector led this class for many participants in the first half 2023.

In Lent, the Rector led a season on the Crucifixion, and during that session, our former bishop, the Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor led a session on his new memoir. The Spring finished out with sessions on the Resurrection.

The weekly women's Bible study continued meeting through the year, both in person and online, to discuss upcoming lectionary texts.

In addition, the Becoming Beloved Community book club, led by Sharon Lechner and Page McCorkle, continues to meet every other week in person and online, reading and discussing books by Black writers. Its members are deeply committed to anti-racist work and support each other's endeavors outside the group.

The Rector maintained a Thursday night Rector's Bible Study on Zoom that was consistently well-attended, averaging 20-30 people weekly. We continue to host a large class of Education for Ministry.

We give thanks, especially to all those who led a formation series or offered their professional expertise and spiritual wisdom.

Respectfully submitted, Scott White

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study (WBS) continued its weekly meetings this year to hold morning prayer and discuss the Sunday lectionary texts. Averaging between 10 and 20 participants each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., WBS provides a warm, engaging, and fun environment in which those gathered share their joys and prayer requests, listen for God's guidance, and enjoy each other's companionship. Conversation around shared life together and around the scripture text is lively, engaging, and encouraging.

Because of the pandemic, the WBS moved to a hybrid platform that allows members to participate either in person or online, and members have continued to appreciate this option. The Zoom online version of the program allows members who are not able to attend in person (whether by location or health) to join this beloved group and find weekly support and connection. We've had folks join from multiple states away at times.

While I lead this Bible study most weeks, other clergy and lay members of the group lead on occasions when diocesan commitments required me to be at other meetings. WBS remains a strong, important spiritual gathering in the life of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Amy Peterson

Rector's Bible Study

The Rector's Bible Study began the first week the COVID pandemic started in March of 2020. Born out of our inability to gather in person, the study is only an online (Zoom) study. The study continues. Our time together is a classic Bible Study, with time for fellowship, prayer, and scripture study. We've studied Galatians, Acts, Philippians, Revelation to John, Romans, a comparative study of the Synoptic Gospels, and more. This coming Fall, we are diving into the prophet Isaiah.

Using the Zoom platform for this study benefits many of our members. When the time changes and our evenings turn dark, during the winter months of questionable weather and more, this platform allows us to continue meeting consistently. Many of our participants live 20 minutes away from the church building, so what would be a nearly two-hour block of time to participate is strictly the one hour of the study.

Respectfully submitted, Scott White.

Friday Morning Prayer & Reflection

The group (formerly Men's group) meets using ZOOM at 7:30 A.M. each Friday for a little over an hour. The group has grown to an average participation of 8 to 10. Still, in the quietness of the early hours, we continue to pray for the health of the Trinity Parish family, the local community, our country, our nation, and the world. We also pray for those with personal concerns. We then take time to reflect on one of the following week's lessons. Often, contemporary national and international issues influence our discussions and prayers.

We welcome any and all, men and women, to gather with us using ZOOM at this address This information can also be found in the weekly updates on the Trinity website.

Submitted by John Bordley

Education for Ministry

EfM provides a four-year curriculum that develops theologically informed laity who are prepared to listen for and respond to God's call. EfM helps participants discover and exercise their varied gifts for ministry in their everyday lives.

An EfM group is 6-12 participants who meet weekly over 36 weeks. The classes are about 3 hours in length. Students are given weekly assignments to study and then come back to class ready to discuss the readings. Year One students study the Old Testament, Year Two, the New Testament, Year Three is Church History and Year Four is interfaith encounters and ethics.

- EfM is open to all denominations and is an international program.
- Trinity currently has 10 students. This class meets by Zoom on Monday evenings.
- New classes begin in September 2024, and would welcome new students.
- For more information, please contact Peggy Buchanan for the evening classes.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Buchanan

Becoming Beloved Book Study Reimagining Our Place in the Story

This hybrid book study group meets on Wednesdays in the Clark Room and via Zoom, with seasonal schedules.

Fall 2023 the group is reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the group's first Indigenous author. Discussion meetings occur every other Wednesday. NEW this season, Sharon and Page have partnered with Barb and Susan Matthews to integrate Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, and Contemplative Practice.

The group size has grown from 6 to almost 30 people. We welcome group members to enter into dialogue in a safe and supportive setting with other fellow Trinitarians and church leaders – to discuss questions about the text that can be challenging and uncomfortable. Because conversations invite vulnerability and challenge members to examine their our own biases and understanding of race, class, and gender, we set the following intentions:

- 1. Building relationships, following Jesus into the wilderness, and learning together,
- 2. Practicing making changes where we can, no matter how big or small,
- 3. Committing to the work for a lifetime, making it a lifestyle choice
- 4. Seeking the Third Way of gentleness, creativity, and divestment of power, not only in our social justice work but in our relationships with each other.

In exploring the works of Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color (BIPOC), we deepen our faith, expand our understanding of Christ's call for reconciliation, consider the role of the white dominant culture in social justice efforts, and commit to walking in the Way of Love. The group's journey is to do "the work" of learning what BIPOC brothers and sisters have experienced (and continue to experience in our world), how did (and do) they feel, what have they learned (and what can we learn from them), where did (and do) they find God in the midst of racism, oppression and violence, and most importantly -- what is our role in doing God's work as fellow Christians.

We share our own stories of personal growth, shame, healing, and where we find hope and opportunity to embrace the larger community of faith that includes all God's children. We discuss ways we -- as individuals, a group, a community and a world -- can promote social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Originally started in June 2021 through a collaboration between David Henson, former Associate Rector, and parishioners, Sharon Lechner and Page McCorkle, the group specifically selects books written by BIPOC authors. Books previously read and discussed include:

If you are interested in joining us, then please contact Page McCorkle or Sharon Lechner.

Respectfully submitted Page McCorkle

[&]quot;Jesus and The Disinherited" by Howard Thurman

[&]quot;Sisters in the Wilderness" by Delores Williams

[&]quot;I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown

[&]quot;The Cross & The Lynching Tree" by James Cone

[&]quot;The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett

[&]quot;Beloved" by Toni Morrison

[&]quot;Long Division" by Kiese Laymon

[&]quot;The Office of Historial Corrections" by Danielle Evans

[&]quot;Change the Game" by Collin Kaepernick

2nd Chapter Book Group

What better way to share in our community of faith than to come together in a small group for honest conversation about a good, or not so good, book? We are a group of women who enjoy reading and getting together to talk about what we have read. Sometimes you read a book you may never have chosen if it was not on the "list" and it opens new horizons of thought.

This daytime group meets six times per year on the second Thursday of the even numbered months at the church from 10-11:30AM. 2020 marks our seventh year of meeting to discuss a variety of fiction and non-fiction books chosen by the group that lend themselves to good conversation. The year started normally with our first meeting at the church but quickly changed in April to a Zoom format online. Attendance usually varies from 6-8 women from our list of regulars and continues to see those numbers as we adjust to virtual meetings. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Barbara Fotinos (bfotinos@gmail.com) for more information.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Fotinos

Monday Evening Book Club

The Evening Woman's Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of every other month, beginning in January. We meet in homes about 6:00 pm, bringing a dish to share, for social time, dinner, and a directed discussion of a book, chosen yearly at an animated (but civilized) organizational meeting. We have read fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. In 2023 we had six meetings, including one led by a local author.

The group, which has about 40 on the roster, is open to all, of course, and it's a great way to meet other literary types.

Respectfully submitted, Erwin Gunnells

Worship

The Worship Team comprises lay and ordained people at Trinity and assists the Rector in planning, organizing, and implementing parish worship.

In the Episcopal Church, the Rector has sole responsibility for leading and shaping worship in the congregation. However, liturgy cannot happen by the work of the Rector alone. It takes a large group of dedicated individuals to offer a meaningful liturgy that lifts up the presence of Jesus among us. This team seeks to work together so that the worship of Trinity Church is edifying to all.

We meet four times a year to assist the Rector with planning. The team comes together to review and coordinate upcoming services; critique past services for any new learning and help cast a vision for worship at Trinity.

The worship team is an important part of paying attention to the core aspect of a Christian community–praising God. The team is invaluable to the Rector as the Rector is charged with oversight of worship.

Respectively submitted Scott White

Music Ministry

In the Fall of 2023, we have 10 children in the Alleluia Choir, 4 in the Jubilate Singers, 31 adults, and 10 handbell ringers in our choirs. We continue to have an instrumentalist and soloist at each Celtic service. Our Lead Singers are Pamela Miller, Nana Hosmer Griffin, Robert Thorpe, and Andrew Davis. We are grateful to organist James Taulbee, who graciously volunteers as an accompanist occasionally.

2023 highlights:

- Music Revue in February
- Requiem by John Rutter sung by the Chancel Choir in March
- Evensong service was sung by Pastyme on Palm Sunday
- Easter Vigil music led by a vocal quartet
- Easter services at 9:00 and 11:00 with choir and brass
- Chancel Choir's Evensong in May
- Celtic Harp duo at the Celtic Service on September 24
- Chancel Choir retreat at Lake Logan in October
- Three Choir Festival by the Church Street Choirs in October
- Recital by David Woodard and James Taulbee in November
- 2023 Music for Advent series on Wednesdays at noon, followed by lunch. Musicians include Polly Feitzinger (piano), Gray Pearson (piano, organ, oboe) and Jessica Schaeffer (harp)/Kate Steinbeck (flute)
- Lessons and Carols with choir and brass on December 10
- Prelude to Christmas Eve thirty minutes before the 5:30 and 11:00 services by choir and brass

Respectfully submitted, Sharon C Boone Music Director and Organist

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continues to be the "quiet ministry" at Trinity. What we do is behind the scenes, and our main role is to prepare all things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, Sacraments, and Offices of the Church.

In 2023, St. Hilda's Altar Guild has 14 active members. In order to keep up with three Sunday services as well as weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the additional Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services, we added a third co-chair. This decision was made based on the need to have at least two directors available at all times.

We continue to recruit and retain members and welcomed two new members this year.

We are so grateful that our attendance has increased at all three Sunday services, but that also brings the challenge of being fiscally responsible. The supplies essential to our ministry continue to be wine, communion wafers, wax candles, liquid wax, and cleaning supplies. Along with rising vendor costs and increased shipping charges, our budget has been strained. Of course, we need all these pieces in order to have services.

As a group, we continue to be dedicated to serving God by preparing the Sanctuary, Altar, hangings, vessels, and elements for service and worship.

Respectfully Submitted, Jane Exner Ada Jo Foley Bill Brackney

Linen Guild

The Linen Guild is the part of St. Hilda's Altar Guild that launders, maintains, and cares for the Eucharistic linens used in all our services. These beautiful sacred linens include purificators, corporals, credence table covers, baptismal towels, altar cloths, and fair linens.

The Linen Guild is responsible for laundering and caring for the fair linens and altar cloths used on the four altars and the Healing Station altar. These altars are used for various weekly services. We also care for the small linens used regularly in all services.

Membership in the Linen Guild is not exclusive to members of the St. Hilda's Altar Guild. Anyone who has an interest and will care for the linens in a reverent, careful manner is welcome. Linen Guild members currently serve on a rotating schedule of two weeks twice a year. Members take the used linens home after the Eucharist to launder and iron them, returning them to the church the following week.

We presently have 16 members in this guild. We are grateful to those who serve in this ministry, and we welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this dedicated group. Linen Guild members, through their service, deepen their faith and their knowledge of the church and the Sacraments.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Whisenhunt Chairperson

Acolytes

Trinity's Acolyte Ministry is the largest, most active group of youth in the church. We have 41 youth and children who serve on a regular basis, at least once a month, but sometimes more. The goal of the acolyte ministry is to serve God and his church, and to enhance the worship service for all involved. Acolytes don't do or say a lot during the service, but imagine how different our service would be without the cross, candles, or banners!

Each Sunday requires a minimum of 5 acolytes- one for 8:00 service and 4 for 10:45. The average number of acolytes scheduled for 10:45 service is 4 per Sunday. Bill Morrissey has faithfully served as the acolyte for the 8:00 for many years and only misses one or two Sundays a year.

The majority of our acolytes are in 3rd-12th grades. We do have some adults that acolyte occasionally when it is not appropriate to use youth, primarily for funerals, the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service, and the 6:00 am Great Vigil of Easter.

Monies from the acolyte ministry budget are used for the maintenance of vestments, the purchase of new gloves as needed, and to purchase and engrave crosses for our acolytes.

We had one senior acolyte, Henry Holland, who helped with the acolytes and helped the Acolyte Master. Beginning in August, we have a new senior acolyte, Frida Vassallo.

We have two adult volunteers who help with the acolytes, Elizabeth Boulter and Anna Whisnant, when the Acolyte Master isn't there on Sundays.

We have two training sessions, one in August and one in January.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cox\

Trinity Flower Guild

The Flower Guild ensures that the altar is adorned with beautiful arrangements each Sunday, always in honor of or as a memorial to loved ones and friends. The Flower Guild also works with the Altar Guild to decorate the Church for the High Holy Holidays, Christmas, and Easter. Our guild currently has twenty-eight members.

Once a part of the Altar Guild, we now coordinate with them and the Flower Delivery Team. This is an enthusiastic, talented, and dedicated group: when the schedule is sent via MSP every two months, every slot is filled within days.

In the fall, the Flower Guild hosts an annual luncheon for its members, including the Altar Guild and the Flower Delivery team. This year we welcomed the Linen Guild to this informational meeting. Linen Guild Chair Nancy Whisenhunt shared an update on plans for this year's renovation of the working sacristy. The Flower Guild presented the Christmas reveal, with Ken Wilson showcasing his vision for decorating throughout Trinity this December.

Forty-two parishioners gathered in the courtyard on the first day of fall to share a picnic lunch. This meeting provided time to share information from each team, including how we can work better together. Social time is equally important as we reconnect and get to know one another better. Four new members, who signed up at the Ministry Fair in September, were also welcomed.

In the spring of 2024, the Flower Guild will host a workshop led by Sharon Miller for all members of Trinity who may be interested in arranging altar flowers. This workshop will address all levels of experience, so feel free to attend if you are curious about this creative process. Watch for an invite in the Sunday Times.

New members will be assigned to work with experienced arrangers during orientation. If you feel called to beautify the sanctuary to the Glory of God and would like to join this dedicated group, please get in touch with me. We would love to have you!

Chris Dismukes Flower Guild Chair chdismukes@gmail.com 828-231-2897

Usher Ministry Team

The Ushers serve to help create a spirit of worship, reverence, and friendliness in and about the church during services. Visitors receive their first impression of the church from the greeters and ushers, and this first impression may be the deciding factor in a visitor becoming a regular worshiper.

The Usher Ministry for 2023 consists of 37 men and women across six teams who serve dutifully at 63 regular and special services.

Looking ahead to next year, the Usher schedule for 2024 will have six teams and individuals covering 62 regular and special services. Ushers will serve 9 times per year on average. In the upcoming year, The Usher Ministry will continue to work with members of the vestry and the Buildings and Grounds Committee to develop a more strategic plan and approach to the safety and security of our campus, so parishioners continue to feel safe and secure and all visitors feel welcome.

We are always looking for volunteers to be a part of the Usher Ministry! If you would like to learn more about being an Usher, please contact Jeff Imes: imesjf@gmail.com; (828) 273-7300.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Imes, Head Usher

Congregational Development

The Congregational Development Ministry Team's mission is to:

- Extend Trinity's ministry beyond our walls and out to the wider community
- Make the experience of a newcomer as welcoming as it can be
- Fully incorporate newcomers and help them move beyond membership to participation
- Encourage current members into participation

This past year we have specifically done the following:

- Provided Welcome Ministers at our main Sunday morning service
- Provided updates to our Pictorial Directory
- Made weekly calls to everyone submitting a Welcome Card
- Continued our Stocking Ministry to regularly restock pew card holders
- Held two Newcomer events

The coffee hour in our courtyard continues to provide a wonderful place to get to know one another. Our dreams for the future are to continue to incorporate both old comers and newcomers into becoming more engaged at Trinity.

Team Members: Ed Bleynat, Jim Deuel, Kathie Owings, Tim Owings, Carlyn Pheil, Cheri Taylor, Lorrie Weeks, Scott White and Bob Zito.

Respectfully submitted, Carlyn Pheil, Convener This past year we have specifically done the following:

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Respectfully submitted, Carlyn Pheil, Convener

Outreach

We give thanks to God for the many opportunities we have been given to help the underserved in our community. It is a real honor to help decide how best to utilize the gifts of our parish.

Our team has two primary functions. The first is to act as prudent stewards of money designated by the Trinity Vestry. We award grants to various organizations we believe are most effective in helping individuals in need. The second function is to promote activities to encourage others to serve one another in Christ and provide "hands on" opportunities to serve and expand God's Kingdom in the community surrounding our parish.

In our first function, we were blessed to receive \$70,000 for 2023 to distribute to organizations that apply for grants. We consider the grant requests that are consistent with our goal of serving our neighbors with shelter, food, and children's welfare. We are deeply appreciative to Trinity's Vestry and parishioners who have made our grant program possible. See the Trinity website for a list of organizations our church sponsors (https://www.trinityasheville.org/serve-the-world).

In our second function of promoting "hands on" ministry opportunities, we continued to support the following ministries:

- Our "Red Bag Food Drive" collects food for needy organizations. The first collection will go to Helpmate, the second will be for Manna, and the third will be for the Appalachian Regional Ministry. Each drive has brought in many pounds of food and/or supplies. We all have been truly amazed and humbled by your generosity!
- We continue to provide snacks to Creative Peacemakers. This is an after school program
 designed to help children learn and practice peacemaking through cooperative relationships and
 play.
- We will partner with First Presbyterian and Central Methodist to host the Loaves & Fishes Alternative Market. The goal of this is to provide funding for 12 local ministries.
- Trinity has been at the forefront of the Meals on Wheels program in Buncombe County, participating since the 1970s with meal delivery teams. We are proud to have been a part of this very important ministry for many years.

In October we host an intergenerational event called Rise Against Hunger. This effort by so many in our parish helps generate up to 10,000 meals, which are then distributed to those most in need here in the US or abroad.

We also hope to continue our partnership with Children First Communities to provide gifts for children who would otherwise not have any.

Our team continues to seek God's Will and the direction of the Holy Spirit in seeking to serve our community. We welcome your participation and encourage you to become involved by joining our team and/or getting involved in an ongoing Outreach activity. Please contact me at tegoodrich@gmail.com if you have any questions concerning the Outreach Team.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Goodrich

Trinity Grant Allocations for 2023

Organization	Amount
ABCCM	6,700
AB Tech Lavender Fund	844
All Souls Counseling	1,759
American Red Cross WNC Chapter	1,340
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	5,000
Asheville City Schools Foundation	1,039
Bounty & Soul	2,261
Carolina Resource Center for Eating Disorders	503
Children First Communities in Schools	2,931
Council on Aging of Buncome County	2,010
Elida Home	2,261
Hark	3,015
Helpmate, Inc.	6,700
Homeward Bound - A Hope	4,774
Horizons at Carolina Day	1,337
Literacy Together	2,345
Manna Foodbank	400
Meals on Wheels	3,350
Memory Care	2,261
Mountain Child Advocacy Center	2,680
Mountain Housing Opportunities	1,298
Music Works of Asheville	335
Open Doors of Asheville	1,759
Pisgah Legal Services	3,350
Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries	1,759
Trinity Parish Outreach	116
Western Carolina Rescue Ministries	2,848
Western NC AIDS Project (WNCAP)	1,675
YWCA Child Care	3,350
	70,000

Appalachian Regional Ministry

The Appalachian Regional Ministry was developed in response to the 2017 Vestry call to explore ministry opportunities beyond those of Outreach. A committee was formed to consider regional, national, and international efforts. We decided to start here in NC trying to help our Appalachian neighbors in need.

After studying the area, we decided to focus our efforts on Graham County. It is one of the very poorest counties in the state. There is only one school in the county and only one grocery store. There are almost no jobs. With almost 2/3 of Graham County a national park, their income base will never be great. For example, over half the children are living in poor or low-income homes and over one-quarter of the children live in households that have food insecurity.

To help meet these needs, we have developed two general areas of ministry: those directed at meeting current needs and those we hope to develop to address additional needs identified by the ministers in Robbinsville.

First, as for Trinity's current efforts, a growing number of volunteers have been going out to Graham County every month to work alongside local volunteers. Together, we unload a Manna food truck and repackage big boxes of fruits and vegetables into individual serving sizes so they can be given out to family members. Afterward, our Trinity volunteers go to work in the kitchen and help prepare a meal, which is given out in the evening. Initially, we prepared food to feed 200 people. The need has grown so we are now preparing food for around 300 people.

Second, we wanted to listen to the ministers with whom we work to learn about other needs. They identified needs such as inadequate housing, a safe social gathering place for youth, and the lack of computer skills for adults. There are other needs, of course, including economic development. Trinity is in conversation with the ministers out there as to how we can best help meet those specific needs. Currently, for example, several people from Trinity have volunteered to help teach computer skills. Mary Howell has designed a curriculum to help the elderly learn how to use the internet, shop online, and other social skills. This is now helping retirees connect with their neighbors and save money on items they need.

With God's help, Trinity is responding to the vestry's call to develop this ministry, and we thank all the volunteers who have helped make this ministry such a successful experience. The ministers out there have repeatedly expressed how grateful they are for all our help. They are genuinely trying to do all they can for the poor. With our mutual prayers and efforts, it is a real blessing to be able to see God's hand at work. If you are interested in helping our less fortunate Appalachian neighbors, please contact me, tegoodrich@gmail.com. Thank you so much.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Goodrich

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care team meets monthly to oversee Trinity's many pastoral ministries, coordinate efforts to care for the parish's sick, grieving, or needy, and discuss the pastoral care and concerns of the community. The goal is to avoid institutionalizing care, as multifaceted care is ongoing with clergy, staff, and parishioners.

The team comprises clergy and lay persons. We continue to meet on Zoom primarily. Often, our meetings last 30 to 40 minutes, and the time travel to and from the church can add another 30 to 40 minutes for some members.

Our meal team continues to deliver hearty meals to those recovering from health issues and those amid difficult times or grief. Trinity's Encouragement ministry, led by Jennine Hough and consisting of close to a dozen people, continues to offer written cards with words of comfort, prayer, and encouragement to many of our parish members who are sick, unable to travel, or grieving. Corkie Morrill continues to host a group for caregivers of those with dementia or other cognitive illnesses.

The Flower Delivery Guild continues to touch members' lives with altar flowers. They deliver to those who have experienced illness, are recovering from sickness, and have celebrated a recent life milestone. We have a whole host of volunteers who dismantle the altar flowers from Sunday and arrange them in individual containers to be delivered.

We have resumed our Healing Station Ministry at the 10:45 service and will continue to evaluate when we might return that ministry to the 8:00 and 5:30 services.

We continue to walk toward a full recovery of our Lay Eucharistic Ministry.

I am ever grateful to all those who serve on this ministry team and share with me in the pastoral care of Trinity Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Scott White

Caregivers' Ministry

This group meets on the second Friday of each month and is a support group for those who are providing care for loved ones who have terminal illnesses, especially those diagnosed with some form of dementia. Currently, during and post the COVID-19 pandemic, the group continues to meet through Zoom technology. This is especially important at this time because caregivers are often caring for their loved ones 24/7 alone since professional help is often unwilling to come into the homes of individuals.

As we go forward, post-pandemic, we hope to meet using a combined format of in-person and Zoom. This will enable all who wish to attend to do so.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church or churches in communion with it. Today, our membership includes women in Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Anglican churches.

As Daughters, we undertake a Rule of Life, which can be thought of as a covenant between God and ourselves. It helps us to focus on our walk with Jesus Christ. Our Rule of Life incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service.

Daughters seek to grow and deepen their relationship with God through the Rule of Prayer. We fulfill this vow by praying daily for unity in Christ's church, the spread of Christ's kingdom, God's blessings upon the members of our chapter and our clergy, and the spiritual growth of our parish. We also pray specifically for members of our parish who request prayers and for those on the Sunday prayer list in the bulletin. Our members are involved in diverse services throughout the church such as vestry, altar guild, garden guild, Sunday school teachers, lay readers, outreach in the community, volunteering with the Church of the Advocate, etc.

Through the Rule of Service, a Daughter seeks to do the will of God every day. It is the application of her baptismal vow in which she strives to be Christ's faithful servant by growing His Kingdom, participating in worship and study, and assisting clergy in the outreach and work of the church.

The Order of Daughters of the King at Trinity has two new members who were admitted on September 24. We held a Quiet day in Lent led by two of our members. We often attend regional meetings hosted by different parishes throughout Western North Carolina. We hold our monthly meetings in the Clark Room usually on the third Sunday after the 10:45 service. Our current book study is Help, Thanks, Wow. We provided two scholarships for students in Haiti to attend school. We have provided underwear, shoes, and monetary donations for the Church of the Advocate and supplies for women at Transformation Village. We also help with breakfast, funerals, and other special events. Two of our members lead contemplative prayer in the Beloved Community Book Club on Zoom as well as meeting in person. We send out personal postcards to Trinity members for Birthdays and Anniversaries. Nancy McCorkle is the President. Ada Jo Foley is the Secretary, and Marty Boone is the Treasurer. Any interested women are invited to contact Nancy McCorkle at nkmccorkle@gmail.com or at 912-224-5387. We welcome new members at any time.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy McCorkle

Parish Life

Mission Statement: Parish Life works to strengthen social and spiritual ties among the members of Trinity Church. Our goal is to foster bonds that hold Trinitarians together.

Breakfast returned on Sunday, August 28th in Tuton Hall at 9:00 am. The cost is \$5.00.

Receptions - Funeral receptions provide refreshments with graciousness and abundance thanks to volunteers who come forward on short notice. Receptions generally follow funerals or memorial services. Most of the receptions were outside in the Church Street courtyard.

Parish Dinners and Volunteering

We held our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper each year with the Trinity men cooking pancakes.

During Lent, Amy Peterson's program was "Listening to the Voices of Women". We served lunch during that time, also.

We have our **Steak Dinner** that coincides with our Musical Revue each year.

We had a **reception for Dillon Manly** in May, who retired after faithfully serving Trinity for 11 years.

Also, Debbie cooks a meal with a couple of parish life committee members who are volunteering at **Transformation Village** on the third Tuesday of each month. Debbie Cox also cooks and serves a meal for the Veterans Quarters on the first Wednesday of each month.

Kick-off Sunday is every year in August. We have hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, and sides. This year, we had Buggy Pops for dessert. This is the beginning of our academic year.

We will have **Dinner To Go** in September, October, and November where Debbie Cox cooks and offers a meal for \$10.00 which parishioners pick up after the 10:45 service. Members of Trinity's parish life Committee assemble meals and hand them out to parishioners on the designated Sunday. Any profits from the meals goes to Youth scholarships.

During Advent, we will have **Advent Recitals and lunches** every Wednesday.

Parish Life Committee

Susan Haldane, Tim Fotinos, Jeannie and Ben Powell, Binford Jennings, Ralph Simpson, Art Garst, Beth Putnum, Grace Pless, Katie Chappell, Marty Boone, Mary Culbertson, Adrian Vassallo, Barbara Setzer, Ada Jo Foley, David Hensley, Michael Andry, Dana Cole, DeDe Swift, Kathy Kvam, Lang Hornthal, Janet Webb, and Debbie Cox

Flower Delivery Ministry

The Flower Delivery Ministry was inaugurated after Easter Sunday, 2020. With a huge array of flowers intended to adorn the sanctuary, Easter was a virtual service for the first time in the history of Trinity Church. What to do with the flowers?

Ken Wilson and Pastoral Care Team-member Chris Dismukes, pulled together a team of three to arrange over 60 small vases the day after Easter. Another team of three delivered to parishioners at Retirement Communities, nursing homes and those alone at home.

Out of this effort, the Flower Guild learned that this small gift of flowers from the altar was a symbol of God's love, and our love and support of one another. This ministry is now a part of Pastoral Care, as we think of those in need, dealing with trying times, or celebrating a milestone.

Each Sunday, volunteers meet at Trinity after the 10:45 service to rearrange flowers from the altar to smaller vases. Deliveries follow with one or two volunteers who may have 4-6 vases, depending on flower availability.

Our group currently consists of 30 volunteers. Being a part of this ministry gives just as much joy to us as the joy delivered to others. We receive many wonderful well wishes from recipients who are grateful for this small way of showing support. To date, over 1,100 flower arrangements have been delivered by this committed team.

Please contact me if you are interested in arranging, delivering or both, or if you know of a parishioner who would benefit from a delivery.

If you have clear glass vases that you would like to donate, feel free to deliver to the church kitchen. Please kindly run them through your dishwasher before donating, as dirty vases encourage bacteria growth that result in dead flowers!

Connie Wilson wilson.constance@gmail.com 773-769-6939

Building and Grounds Committee

Our Direction: This year's work of the Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team was shaped by Scott White's challenge in our opening meeting, "Five years ago Trinity's historic capital campaign allowed us to take a comprehensive look at our buildings and take enormous strides toward renewing our sacred spaces," he said. "Now we must move toward managing our physical assets in a way that integrates long-term campus sustainability with day-to-day maintenance and repairs."

We are being called to simultaneously look down at the urgent tasks at hand and look ahead to Trinity's future. I hope you will see that reflected in snapshots of our Team's current work below.

Maintenance and Repairs completed in 2023

- Roofs: All roofs have been inspected and repairs or repair plans made. Flat roofs were replaced
 over the sacristy and the 2nd floor elevator hall; both have a 20-year warranty. A standing
 contract was negotiated for annual roof inspections, which will keep us aware of current and
 emerging roof problems.
- Gutters and downspouts: All gutters and downspouts were cleaned and repaired in July. A
 contract was negotiated for twice-annual cleaning, inspection, and repair of this system to
 dramatically reduce the likelihood of water incursion.
- Stormwater Drains: With gutters and downspouts now clear, we can see where we have problems with underground drains to carry stormwater to the street. To properly size replacements for collapsed drains, an engineering study is underway to map stormwater volumes on all south-facing roofs. To stop water incursion into the basement while that study is completed, a temporary drain is now in place on the northeast corner of Tuton Hall.
- Sacristy Renovations: We are working with Nancy Whisenhunt, who is managing updates of the "Working" and "Clergy" sacristies. We have assisted in setting the project's scope and budget and are providing HVAC systems, improved lighting, and replacement windows.
- Safety and Security: This year all 19 exterior doors were assessed for structural integrity and ability to provide safety and security to building occupants. Plans were made and priorities were set for repairs. By year-end five doors across the south face of the building will be repaired and have new locking systems and emergency exit "panic bars."
- Accessibility: The door from the entrance courtyard to the undercroft was sealed this summer due to its frame's failure. Given this door's generous width and proximity to our elevator, we are taking this opportunity to rebuild the door and frame as an ADA-compliant entrance, allowing people in wheelchairs to open the door and enter or exit without any assistance.
- Windows: With the stained glass windows restored by the capital campaign, we assessed the
 condition and repair needs of the 223 other windows throughout the complex. Two will need
 immediate replacement when the old window air conditioners are removed during the sacristy
 renovations.
- Motion-Activated Lights: 18 bathroom lights throughout the complex are being converted to use power only when someone is in the room.
- Playground: In time for this year's Vacation Bible School, playground drains were unclogged, the ground was re-leveled and new mulch was installed.

Work on Long-Term Campus Sustainability in 2023

- B&G Workspace: Seeing the need to have frequent "working meetings," we arranged the shared use of a room on the Oak Hallway. A work table, filing cabinet, corkboard and whiteboard help us in planning and implementing projects, meeting with contractors, and storing related documents.
- B&G Archives: We compiled over 2,000 pages of documents (dating back to 1911) retrieved from offices, basement storage, and the personal files of former B&G Team members. The documents relate to construction, renovation, replacement of equipment, land purchases, and a host of major decisions made regarding Trinity's physical assets through decades of work. All of these documents are now filed in dedicated, secure B&G storage.
- Architectural Drawings: All existing plans and drawings (dating back to 1912) are now in the B&G workroom. This fall the plans are going to be "digitized" and stored in "the cloud." Trinity will have 24/7 digital access and will have a high-resolution copy of each sheet. The originals will be placed in secure, climate-controlled, and fireproof storage off-site.
- New Resources: We have become active members of the Episcopal Parish Network.
 Comprising over 200 clergy and lay leaders across the country, the group partners with national
 experts to identify best practices in parish management. A Buildings & Grounds representative
 recently attended a virtual conference on the care of buildings. He brought back a wealth of
 knowledge that would have been practically impossible for us to find on our own.

What's Next: Initial 2024 Priorities (Plans and budgets in the works)

- Sacristy Renovations: To ensure that the sacristies are fully functioning before Easter, we manage the infrastructure work and assist with coordinating contractors as needed.
- HVAC Systems: Our goal by year-end is to assess and inventory all of the parts of Trinity's many components (different types, ages, conditions and capabilities) and plan for maintenance, repair, and replacement as anticipated over the next 10 years.
- Roofs: With the roofs of the 1921 and 1962 buildings repaired or replaced this year, we plan to repair leaks in the nave roof next year.
- Bell Tower: Analysis of photos made during the most recent repairs (2017) to the bell tower roof call for an updated assessment of the tower roof, supporting structure, and some masonry at the top. Early next year we will define the scope, budget, and timing of this essential capital project. To assist, we plan to retain an architect experienced in historical building structures, church buildings, and preservation methods.
- Safety, Security and Accessibility: We will update Trinity's Life Safety Plan, continuing to improve exterior doors as funds are available.
- Windows: Based on our 2023 assessment, plan maintenance and repair anticipated over the next 10 years.
- Planning: Begin assessment of Trinity's space utilization with a goal of using every bit of space as efficiently as possible and supporting Trinity's continued growth.

What's Next?

2023 has been an exciting year of discovery, planning, and work. While the year's accomplishments have been gratifying, they amount to just the first step in a long journey. I am encouraged by a team of people with the knowledge, skills, and experience required to maintain our mission's dual focus. This year's team includes Mack Day, Fred Fairhead, Carole Hedden, Cole Hedden, Dave Hensley, Ralph Simpson, Ed Snyder, Adrian Vassallo, Tom Williams and

Glenn Childes. Scott White has also been an active participant. Please join me in thanking each of these people who are giving generously of their time and talent—ask them about the work they see ahead. They have made possible all of the things listed above—and much, much more!

In this year's work, we have confirmed that a reliable engineering rule-of-thumb applies to Trinity: For every dollar of deferred maintenance, organizations will have to pay at least \$4.00 in future repairs and replacements. In our work this year, we have seen the impact of things that haven't been maintained through lack of funds. At the same time, we have seen evidence of hard work and creative effort to accomplish a remarkable amount of preventive maintenance at Trinity through the years. We have also gained a deep appreciation for the remarkable preventive maintenance done by Glenn and all of the staff. They do so much with the funds available!

Care of our buildings is improving—and we must do more! Trinity and its growing ministries deserve safe, accessible, and sustainable facilities. Your Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team looks forward to working with Trinity's clergy, staff, vestry, and parish community to continue moving in that direction!

Faithfully submitted, Stan Hubbard Convener

Creative Care

On February 7, 2023, about ten Trinitarians attended the Creation Care Alliance symposium at Montreat, where we heard from a variety of speakers about the ways our faith calls us to care for the more-than-human world, and the ways people in Western North Carolina are partnering to do so.

That group of folks felt called to continue meeting together, and led by Rev. Amy Peterson, formed Trinity's Creation Care Committee. Several other people joined the group as well. Monte Gaillard, having a background in working for the Nature Conservancy, chairs the group, which meets about once a month. Twenty-five folks are in the group, and about ten of those come to meetings regularly.

Our Mission

- To foster a greater awareness and appreciation of all of God's creation and its sacredness, so that we experience the love of God, and allow love to move us to gratitude and action on behalf of the more-than-human world
- To create, nurture, and maintain the landscape surrounding Trinity Church, Asheville, North Carolina, with an acute sense of the genius loci (the spirit of the place) and for the betterment of the natural world
- To set an example at Trinity that inspires and enables others to reconsider their own landscapes and lives

In our first six months, we:

• Established a composting system at Trinty; inspired United Methodist Church to join our efforts!

- Collaborated with First Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, and Trinity on our first Earth Day Celebration!
- Raised funds to upgrade the Courtyard and Memorial Garden!
- Hosted a work day for volunteers on April 24th!
- Refreshed and sustained the herb garden! (Thanks, Melissa Harrelson!)
- Hosted a garden tour at the home of Parishioner Mack Day to benefit the Creative Care Committee and the Memorial Garden!
- Shared Lee MacAulliffe Rambo's bunnies with the church in a variety of ways; she also wrote about Celtic saints with a connection to the natural world for our instagram, and raised funds by selling "bunny honey"!
- Funded and planted plants for the children's playground! (Thanks, Monte and Palmer Gaillard!)
- Set up a new watering committee for gardens!
- Hosted a tour/lunch with noted Naturalist Sonya Carpenter at Highlands Botanical Gardens on August 24th!

We are grateful and excited for what will come next as we practice loving our more-than-human neighbors and caring for all creation.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Peterson +

Communications Team

Leaders: Scott White and Amy Peterson

Trinity's newly-formed Communications team met in March, April, and May, and after a summer off, will resume meeting this fall. With a goal of making our communications clearer and more streamlined, we began by auditing our current communications and exploring options for outside groups to redo our web presence.

We have begun the process of cleaning up our website and making it more user-friendly and easier to navigate. We've also redesigned our Friday emails, taken steps to get more folks comfortable with Realm, and gotten our YouTube listings more up-to-date. Connie Wilson and Steve Bennet made a video showcasing life at Trinity. We continue to evaluate our use of Facebook and other social media.

Trinity Art Guild

For many years, Dianne Weaver chaired the Art Guild from its inception when Bill Whisehunt was Rector. Following Dianne's death in December 2022, Nancy Swann felt called to keep the Art Guild functioning in Dianne's memory and asked Scott White for his approval.

The first meeting was organized in February 2023, and two new members were welcomed, Ann Sherrill and Wendy Dowden.

The group voted to donate any earnings from the sale of merchandise and other future projects to Camp Henry (50%) and Lake Logan (50%) as these two entities now operate as one.

In May, 2023, another meeting was held when Sally Cochran proposed Deacon Bob Zito's generous offer of holding "cooking events" with all proceeds going to Camp Henry/Lake Logan. Nancy and Sally became Co-Chairs of the group. In June, a sale was held at Coffee Hour of Trinity t-shirts and caps in an effort to lessen inventory. In September, 2023 the Art Guild had a table at the Ministry Fair to promote Camp Henry/Lake Logan and their future "Cooking Dinners" at Deacon Bob Zito's new home in the spring of 2024.

Two new members Emily Ray and Byron Ellen Shaw signed up to join the Guild which now has twelve members.

Faithfully submitted, Nancy Swann and Sally Cochran

Lake Logan Volunteers

Our Diocesan-owned camp and conference center's mission statement is to serve Christ by welcoming all generations to experience restoration and reconciliation with God, one another, and all creation.

Thursday Volunteers at the lake experience this every week as we do a variety of inside and outside work, including gardening and groundskeeping, painting, minor construction and repairs, and interior cabin improvement. We have fun and fellowship while getting things done. Some people come every week while others come once or twice a month. We welcome everyone whenever you can come and welcome all skill levels. Volunteers are the heart of Lake Logan. We are grateful that Trinity has so many people who have been involved over the years.

Lake Logan is a 260-acre property in Canton that surrounds the lake. Cabins accommodate up to 88 guests, boys and girls cabins accommodate another 90, and there are several campsites.

Team Members: Paul Dismukes, Chris Kamm, Jeff Imes, David Pheil, Fred Koon, Paul Hatfield, Bill Brackney, Van Joffrion, Nancy Swann, Michelle Minks, Laurie Williams, Kay McCann, Stuart Camblos, Lorrie Weeks, Melissa Harrelson, Tina McGuire, and Grace Pless.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Fairhead and Carlyn Pheil, Conveners