

Trinity Parish Church

**Fiscal Year 2020
Annual Report**



**Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting
February 21, 2021**

300 Main Street • Wethersfield, CT • 06109

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**Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
February 21, 2021
Via Zoom**

10:00AM Worship Service

Approximately 10:30 – Start Annual Meeting

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Quorum**
- 4. Minutes of Annual Meeting February 2, 2020**
- 5. Pastor's Comments**
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Rob Heath**
- 7. 2021 Budget: Rob Heath**
- 8. Results of Election**
- 9. Comments from the Wardens**
- 10. Acknowledgement of All Printed Reports**
- 11. Other Business**
- 12. Motion to Adjourn**
- 13. Closing Prayer**

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am. It was determined that the 53 people present at the Annual Meeting satisfied the requirement for a quorum.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 10, 2019: Following no suggestions or changes, it was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting be approved as provided in the Annual Report. The motion passed.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Wardens' Report: Wardens Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro shared reading their report as published on page 5 in the 2019 Annual Report and thanked our priests and parish members for their support.
5. Pastor's Report: The Rev. Tom Furrer thanked all who support and help with this parish. Pledge income has increased 64% in the last two years. He also shared another sign of Trinity's health is the 'willingness to reach out beyond our walls to extend the love of Jesus to others' and thanked the congregation for their ongoing support.
6. Missional Curate's Report: The Rev. Darryl Burke expressed his appreciation to Father Tom and our congregation for being a 'powerful and caring lay community.'
7. Treasurer's Report: Rob Heath presented the report.
 - i. Financial Report for 2019: By year end, income was more than budget by \$13,900 and expenses were under budget by \$573. No money was transferred out of investments to cover operating expenses.
 - ii. Investments are following market trends and, after removal of \$25,000 to cover the parish hall renovation, a net gain of \$54,000 made this past year. Vestry has defined restricted accounts, requiring vestry approval for expenditure, and designated accounts where money was donated for a specific purpose.
 - iii. 2020 Annual Budget: This is a balanced budget, \$157,478, and we do not anticipate withdrawing any money from investments during 2020.
8. Nominating Committee Report:
 - i. Nominating Committee proposal on number of wardens was presented.
 - ii. Motions:

#1 We move that the congregation support the trial of a shared position for one Warden position for not more than the three-year total term for a Warden. This experiment is to be reviewed and evaluated on a yearly basis. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

2 We move that the one-year interval in Vestry service be waived to allow Warren Blessing to move directly from Vestry member to Warden. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

iii. Slate of Officers

The 2020 officers are: Wardens: Connie Harasymiw and Rebecca Scruton (one position), Warren Blessing; Parish Clerk: Leslie Jones; Treasurer: Robert Heath; Vestry members: Greg Joseph, J.R. Stanko, Anne Marie Stavola; Convention delegate: Kathy Cole; 2021 Nominating Committee: Joan Joseph, Rose Riley, Lynda Blessing, Cheryl Chadsey.

Motion made and seconded to accept the slate of officers. The motion passed.

9. Comments from Incoming Wardens – Connie Harasymiw reminded the congregation of how Trinity has moved forward since 2016.

10. Acceptance of All Printed Reports:

Motion made and seconded to accept all the printed reports. The motion passed.

11. Other Business:

i. A vote of thanks was extended to Rose and Denise for their outstanding service to Trinity during the past year.

ii. A vote of thanks was extended to all the outgoing officers.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Brown

Warden's Report 2020

During this past year of 2020, the twin pandemics of Covid and anti-black bias, white supremacy have so greatly influenced our lives. At a time of looking for and needing more connection with others either in our daily lives or on Sunday mornings during services, we have been hit with mask wearing which hides the smiles we want to share. We crave hugs and contact but are hit with social distancing. We want to meet together, indoors and in person to worship together and receive communion but it is not safe.

We have been made aware, through too many circumstances reported in the media or in our own lives, of the anti-black bias and the unaddressed white supremacy in our society. We experience the reticence in our own selves to address these profound issues.

All of these fears that build within us and the anger that comes with the media stories, leave us as uncertain and fearful. But, we have been provided with a way to address our fears from 2020 and to approach year 2021.

With faith and with joy, let us repeat the following:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

Respectively submitted, Connie Harasymiw

2020 was a personal adventure for everyone and for myself. It was the first time for me to ever fulfill the responsibilities of a Warden. This was a time of questioning myself as to what I was capable of doing. I questioned my level of spirituality and if I had enough to qualify me for this role. The year gave me much time to think about leading and following during a pandemic and this was not in the job description! So, what was correct to do or best in the way of following God's desire through me needed to be determined as time played out. I have gone in this manner doing the best I could, but there is always more one can learn and achieve.

The obvious conditions surrounding all of our lives due to the pandemic caused us to travel on new and barren roads. There was no path to follow and we spent much time questioning what would be best to do for the congregation. Our focus was to carry on as much as usual as we could and to assist parishioners to communicate and not feel alone. How much can one do online and still feel the sense of community at Trinity?

This was a year of encouraging people, communicating and supporting those needing assistance. It was a year that we all felt lonely at times and wondered what should we be doing. Even at my age, I couldn't compare this year to anything else I ever faced, and at times struggled to push forward. Attempting to list successes and accomplishments does not seem important this year. We supported most of the ministries we have previously supported, all of which are so important.

It was wonderful having the support of so many, there were many folks who thanked us and were very grateful for our efforts. I too was grateful for the support and friendship I received from Rebecca and Connie and from so many others in our small but mighty community.

Respectively submitted, Warren Blessing

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

To say the very least this past year has been a year like no other. This is true in our personal lives as well as in our parish life. We began our tenure this year entering into a new paradigm of having three wardens. One having one position and two sharing the other position of a second warden. This, having a part time priest, we felt would better distribute the work load. I found the experience of sharing this role as ‘co-wardens’ to have many perks and new learning opportunities. We together brought three unique personalities, a breadth of knowledge, diversity, passion, compassion and spirituality. Decisions that needed to be made with our Priest in Charge were explored as thoroughly as possible seeking the best for the parish striving to be in sync with God’s will and direction for our community of Trinity Parish. Working together was not always easy. Decision making and conversations took much longer with three “voices”. Working with Connie and Warren was a privilege and learning experience in so many ways and at many levels.

Not long into this tenure, we experienced the reality of Covid-19 along with all the restrictions, the education needed, changing information and establishing policies and procedures concerns inherent to the pandemic. Navigating how to “be Church” continues to unfold. We normally have at least one Zoom meeting as Wardens and an additional Zoom meeting with Fr. Tom every week. This increased level of communication has been needed in order to work together with Fr. Tom to address concerns and issues that have and are confronting the church. We also keep in touch with our contacts at the ECCT as needed for their guidance.

The vestry has met monthly via ZOOM to participate in decision making issues. At the beginning of the year several of our vestry began working on projects to help us be more of a presence in the community. The expressed intent being to encourage more outside folks to become part of the Trinity community and to provide a place for worship, spiritual growth, friendships and outreach. Due to Covid-19, these plans and visions have had to be put on hold and our energies re-focused on meeting the current situation we are facing in creative and new ways.

Looking back over the year, in the midst of all the challenges, there is much for which we can be grateful to God and to the people of Trinity. With God’s help and the help and prayers of many, parishioners, we were able to adapt and continue our life and ministry as a congregation.

We are blessed to have a pastor who cares about our congregation and who continues to connect with people by phone calls and visits, as restrictions allowed. The Vestry has made phone calls to all the people of the parish. Parishioners have taken initiative to reach out to each other on their own, calling and connecting with people who were on their minds and hearts. We’ve been able to provide meals as needed to parishioners throughout the pandemic.

Our Admin, Linda Rubera has worked tirelessly to support us during this very challenging season. For her and her support team we give thanks.

We were truly blessed to have Fr. Darryl Burke with us. His presence was very valuable in many ways. With the racial turmoil of the year, he, with grace and knowledge, opened Scripture to help us and invite us to enter into the reality of racism in our country. With this

awakening, during the summer a group of folks came together on the Green to reflect on and address the Racial Issues inherent in our country. As part of the beginning efforts to communicate this issue with the parish and the community Marc Yves-Regis was asked to present his photo exhibit of “Black Lives Matter” gatherings in CT. Marc was available for conversation and explanations at this outdoor exhibit.

We are very grateful to hear from parishioners that they “have grown spiritually, thought more deeply, and prayed more this year with the restrictions in place due to Covid-19”. Participation in online worship and Christian formation during the week would probably never have happened otherwise and a closer connection with God has resulted.

We desire to hear and follow God’s direction through each one in our parish and in our weekly discernment. We as wardens invite your input, suggestions, your willingness to volunteer as needed and especially your prayers.

We are so very grateful for God’s presence, guidance and wisdom during this past year. And along with the Apostle Paul, “we are confident that He who has begun a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

In closing I share this timely prayer for the Eighth Sunday after Epiphany.

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.
(p. 216 BCP)

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Scruton

Pastor's Report

Dear Trinity Family,

With apologies to Charles Dickens, I would summarize 2020 as follows. ***"It was the worst of times. It was the best of times. It was a season of darkness. It was a season of light. It was the winter of despair. It was the spring of hope."***

From one perspective, the past year was a disaster for our world, our nation, our state and our church community here in Wethersfield. On the other hand, it was an opportunity to trust God in the midst of circumstances over which we have very little control or influence.

Fr. Darryl's Ordination: We began our 150th anniversary year in the fall of 2019 with high hopes of making a positive statement about the renewed vitality of our parish. And we had several activities planned for the first half of 2020. These plans reached a high point in February with the ordination service of Fr. Darryl Burke, our missional curate. We hosted an ordination service for the first time since the early 1960's and it was a joyful event. The Church was packed as it had not been in many years. The choirs of Trinity and St. Monica's joined forces to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". It was a truly blessed and holy night for everyone. And, as it happened, it was the last big hurrah before the COVID 19 plague descended down on us.

Staying Connected During the Shut-Down. In early March, following the encouragement of our Bishop, we closed the Church to public worship "for two weeks" until – as we thought at the time – the crisis passed. With no advanced warning and no previous experience, we began filming our worship services and showing them on our website and Facebook. Leslie Jones tried to hold her cell phone steady while we filmed the first few services. Little by little we learned how to do it better and started filming services 6 days a week. Suddenly, we had higher weekly church attendance than we have had in many years. People wanted to be connected and stay connected even though we were unable to meet physically. These online services and Bible studies and prayer groups have been the primary means by which we have stayed connected all of these months. Later in the summer, we began holding Sunday afternoon services in the parking lot, with an attendance of 20 to 30 each week.

Some encouraging statistics. During this very difficult year, our church attendance has not only held steady – it has increased. Sunday worship attendance increased by 18% and weekday attendance increased by 300% (See details in the Worship Report). While our income was down due to many factors (the ESL program closed down, no Christmas Fair, no concerts by Sal, no Chili Cook-off etc.), our pledge income came in as planned with no drop off in giving. Thank you everyone for faithfully fulfilling your pledges. While we had to curtail some of our in-person outreach programs, many of them continued on very well (see details in the Outreach Report).

Other Activities. As you will see in later reports below, we had to change almost everything we did in Christian Formation, Outreach, Music, Worship and other activities that define a church community. We had to stop doing some things, but not everything. We had to adapt to a new reality. Throughout this year, we have learned to worship God and keep connected in ways that most of us would never have imagined or thought possible at the beginning of the year. We have learned to trust God's plan and not our own plans. We have learned to care for each other and keep connected in new ways. We have made mistakes and we are certainly not perfect, but God has brought us through a difficult time and we are stronger. "It was the worst of times. It was the best of times."

I want to thank our wardens, Connie Harasymiw, Warren Blessing and Rebecca Scruton and the Vestry members for their collective wisdom and prayers as we figured out how to best navigate this difficult year. And I want to thank Bishop Gordon for helping me to discern God's will and purpose for our parish community in this difficult season of our life together. Perhaps like some of you, this year has

not always brought out the best in me. I have been grumpier than normal this year. The Wardens and Bishop Gordon have helped me to see how God is working and speaking in our parish community. And for that, I am grateful. Finally, I want to thank all of the members who have been steady in worship attendance and in financial giving and outreach activities through these difficult times.

As we look ahead to 2021, we have hope that things will get better gradually. But probably not instantaneously. We still have a long journey before we get to something like "normal" again. We are all in this together and I hope we will continue to learn to trust God in the midst of things we cannot control.

In the words of St. Paul ***"I have learned in whatever state I am to be content. I know how to be abased and how to abound; in any and all circumstances, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, or abundance and want. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*** (Philippians 4:11-13)

We, Trinity Church in Wethersfield can do all things through our Lord Jesus Christ who strengthens us. That is the truth we live by. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Worship Report

Worship has been a challenge this year. As some of you know, I am not a tech savvy person. And it has been a stretch to adapt to preaching to an iPad instead of people. With the help of some dedicated servant-hearted people, we have managed to maintain a worship connection with many, if not all, of our members.

Some encouraging statistics. During this very difficult year, our church attendance has not only held steady – it has increased. Here is a comparison with the previous year.

Sunday Attendance increased by 18%

In 2019, our total Sunday attendance was 2,859 with an average of 54 per week.

In 2020, our total Sunday attendance was 3,319, with an average of 64 per week.

Weekday Attendance increased by 300%

In 2019, our total weekday attendance was 1,039 with an average of 20 per week.

In 2020, our total weekday attendance was 3,202 with an average of 61 per week.

I want to thank Leslie Jones (I call her "Leslie Spielberg") for her tireless efforts to film, edit and publish the hundreds of services and programs we have done over the past nine months. I also want to thank Clark Tomlinson (lighting and sound man), Joan Joseph (web site manager), Bishop Gordon and Rebecca Scruton for leading morning prayer and centering prayer groups. And I want to thank Warren and Lynda Blessing, Clark and Joyce Tomlinson, Rebecca Scruton and Connie Harasymiw for doing all of the set-up for the outdoor services in the parking lot during the summer months.

I also want to thank Carol Jones for keeping the altar guild activities running smoothly, also Jennifer Gebhardt, Carol Jones and Nan Heath for coordinating our altar flowers for each Sunday and special events during this difficult year.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Music Report

The music for our worship services has changed dramatically this year. As you know, singing is a particularly effective way of spreading the COVID virus. And so, we have had to curtail and change the way we do music in our worship services.

I want to thank our musicians Dorothy LaBelle, Sal Basile, JR Stanko, Linda Traue, Hubertus, Heidi, Olivia, Phillip, Clara and Jacob Tummescheit, Patrick and Hannah Gephardt for helping us stay connected through our online and outdoor worship services.

I also want to thank Rose Riley for getting us connected with the Virtual Ecumenical Choir of Immanuel Congregational Church and Faith Congregational Church in Hartford, under the direction of Mr. Wayne Dixon, whom we first met during his participation in Fr. Darryl's ordination service. Because of Rose's active participation in this virtual choir, Mr. Dixon has graciously allowed us to include the music of the virtual choir into our Sunday worship services.

Because of a rising spike in COVID numbers this fall and winter, we had to change our plans for the annual Lessons and Carols service, thus curtailing our plans for parish members to sing in this service. Instead, most of the singing parts were covered by the virtual choir. While we certainly missed the contributions of our own members singing, we deeply appreciated the beautiful contributions of the Faith-Immanuel Virtual Choir.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Christian Formation Report

Our Christian Formation plans, like everything else in 2020, had to be rearranged and changed.

We began in Lent with an evening series on using the Book of Common Prayer. This in-person series had to be cancelled after three sessions due to the COVID shut-down. After the initial shut-down, we began conducting daily Morning Prayer services, which were very well attended in those early months as people had a deep desire to stay connected.

As time went on, we began other online Christian Formation experiences using the Zoom technology for connecting with people. For example, we hold a very well attended lay-led Zoom Morning Prayer service every Wednesday at 8:30 AM and a Zoom Centering Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM. In the fall, we held a ten-week Zoom Bible study series on the Book of Isaiah on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Most recently, we started a Saturday morning Zoom Spirituality Discussion based on the daily reflections of Richard Rohr and led by Garth Myers.

When you add up all of the participation in these various offerings, it is pretty amazing given the modest size of our congregation. In this, as in many other matters, we are "small but mighty".

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Kateri Medical Services (for Warren's outreach Report)

Kateri Medical Services has continued to flourish despite many setbacks due to the COVID pandemic. We had to cancel our planned mission trip in June because of travel restrictions, which was a great disappointment as we had three members of Trinity who were planning to participate. But the work of the clinics goes on.

As Trinity members may know, I founded this ministry in 2003 to fund and facilitate one full-time medical clinic to serve the rural poor in Nigeria. We work in partnership with dioceses the Anglican

Church of Nigeria. Since my "retirement" in 2016, we have built three new clinics and partnered with another clinic which was already built. In 2020, we began another partnership an already existing clinic that could not afford to pay its workers. We now have six full-time partner clinics in five different dioceses in Nigeria. We serve approximately 20,000 people every year in those clinics. We are planning to add a seventh clinic in 2021.

I am grateful to Trinity parish and to individual members for contributing to the work of Kateri Medical Services. And I am grateful that you are willing to share me with this other ministry. I spend about half of my time being your pastor and the other half raising funds to build clinics and pay our 67 medical staff members in Nigeria.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Nigerian Scholarships

For the third year in a row, Trinity members have sponsored scholarships for children in the Anglican Diocese of Kafanchan. For \$ 92, we provide tuition, uniforms, books and meals for one student for an entire school year. Most of these students come from very poor families. Some are orphans. Without these scholarships, they would not have any education.

This year, we contributed \$4,152 which provided scholarships for 45 children.

I have visited each of these schools and spoken with the students. For the most part, these are children of doctors and nurses and lab scientists and teachers and pastors and architects. When you sponsor one of these children, you are investing in BIG DREAMS.

On behalf of these children and their parents, I want to say "thank you" to everyone who has empowered these dreams to come to fruition.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2020

Notes to Financial Statements:

A. Trinity Parish 2020 Budget and Actuals (pg. 13)

Income was less than budget by \$15.8k.

- Pledges were under by \$10.1k, and Non-Pledge was under by \$3.6k.

Expenses were under budget by \$18.1

- Staff under because minimal charge for Sexton.
- Music under because none of the special music planned occurred.
- Program under because Supply Clergy not needed as planned.
- Church Property under because of lower maintenance and snow removing costs. **Utility costs** were higher.

While 2020 was a balanced budget, actual income exceeded actual expenses by \$2.4k. Nothing was withdrawn from investments to cover operating expenses.

B. Designated/ Restricted Accounts (pg. 14)

The Vestry has defined Designated and Restricted Accounts as follows:

Designated Accounts are those where money was given for a specific purpose and must be used for that purpose.

Restricted Accounts are those where money was given but without a specific purpose. Vestry approves expenditures.

Some designated accounts, such as Outreach are managed by a group within Trinity who disburse funds from the account as appropriate. Other accounts such as Memorial Fund are used with Vestry approval.

The monies for these accounts may be in the checking account or investment accounts. Monies added to these accounts or disbursed from these accounts are not reflected in the Operating Budget. A total picture of Trinity's accounting must include both operating and designated/restricted fund activities.

C. Budget 2021 (pg. 15)

Unfortunately, we were not able to develop a balanced budget, so we will have to withdraw approximately \$30k from Investments. Anticipated income dropped by \$15.5k. (decrease in pledge/non-pledge, no Fair, and minimal rent). Expenses increased by \$13.5k (Rector, Insurance, and Diocese Assessment).

Fiscal Year 2020 accounts were processed using Power Church Plus software.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Heath -Treasurer

2020 ACTUAL TO BUDGET

	<u>2020 Actuals</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Income		
Support	131,761	145,898
Investment Income	0	0
Other Income	10,063	11,580
Total Income	\$141,824	157,478
Expenses		
Rector Compensation	33,380	31,038
Staff Compensation	23,728	33,245
Christian Formation	101	1,100
Music	5,076	7,287
Program	9,567	13,326
Office	13,422	12,938
Property Church	41,277	45,272
Diocese & Deanery	12,831	13,272
Other	0	0
Total Expenses	\$139,382	\$157,478
Income Less Expenses	\$2,442	\$ 0

NOTE: In 2020 nothing was transferred from Investments to cover operating expenses.

Cash Accounts

Checking Account Balance: **\$32,326**

Investment Accounts

	<u>Episcopal Fund</u>	<u>Merrill Lynch</u>
Beginning Balance	2,834	532,646
Additions	515,232	0
Withdrawals	0	515,232
Income/Dividends	4,256	4,828
Chg. in Market Value	83,725	-22,242
Ending Balance	606,047	0
Total Investments	\$606,047	

NOTE: to comply with Diocese Cannon's we closed Merrill Lynch and transferred all amounts to Donation and Bequests for Church Purposes managed by the Diocese.

2019 Ending Balance = \$535,480 2020 Ending Balance = \$606,047 Increase of \$70,567

2020 DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED ACCOUNT ACCOUNT

Account Name	Beg. Balance	Transfers In
Designated Accounts		
Special Gifts	123	3,108
150th Anniversary	2,162	150
Physical Improvements	12,491	28,112
Flower Fund	5,991	820
Memorial Garden	6,602	40
Discretionary Fund-Rector	615	2,070
Outreach-General	1,487	1,086
Outreach-Special	0	6,425
Community Outreach	923	7,800
Curate	4,515	15,512
Theological Seminary	242	40
Stained Glass Windows	1,296	0
Music	1,264	0
Altar Guild	2,181	0
Nielsen Estate	0	17,753
Total Designated Accounts	39,892	82,916
Restricted Accounts		
Memorial Fund-Restricted	157,789	1,959
Sale of Rectory (net}	101,131	0
TOTAL	298,812	84,875

NOTE: there are "correcting entries" included in the "In" and "Out" amounts.

Comments on Designated/Restricted Accounts:

Physical Improvements: spent \$25,000 for new heating/cooling, \$6,500 for outside trim paint, \$6,300 to remortar stone

Memorial Fund: transfered \$1,500 for Father Darryl's ordination, spent \$1,400 for Nativity set.
Received \$1,959 in donations.

Curate: received 23,675 from Diocese for 12 months reimbursement for Father Darryl, spent \$20,758 to date. Remainder is to offset increase in Diocese Assessment.

Special Gifts: mostly corrections and transfers, and \$1,500 for Father Darryl's ordination.

Nielsen Estate: received \$17,750 in dividends from estate.

Outreach-Special: received and sent \$5,300 to Nigeria for student scholarships and sewing machines for Nana.

Outreach-General: received and spent \$1,500 for various charities including South Park Inn, Food Bank, Hands on Hartford, and Lunch in the Park.

2021 BUDGET

Income

Support	137,825
Investment Income	0
Other Income	4,100

Total Income **\$141,925**

Expenses

Rector Compensation	36,310
Staff Compensation	20,178
Christian Formation	1,000
Music	7,330
Program	15,785
Office	14,196
Property Church	58,977
Diocese & Deanery	17,190
Other	0

Total Expenses **\$170,966**

Income Less Expenses **-\$29,041**

NOTES: Deficit Budget. \$29,000 withdrawal from Investments needed to cover operating expenses.

The PROGRAM line includes a new expense for Mission/Outreach initiatives that are not funded by special fund raising campaigns.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Lynda Blessing, Cheryl Chadsey, Joan Joseph and Rose Riley met in early November to begin its task, which proved to be a daunting one, given the pandemic. Following the *Protocol for Nominating Committee* guidelines, we identified 23 vestry candidates to invite to the Discernment Meeting in December to fill 3 Vestry positions and the Parish Clerk position.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Joseph

WARDENS

Rebecca Scruton and Connie Harasymiw - shared warden position
Warren Blessing

CLERK

Melanie Hepburn

TREASURER

Rob Heath

VESTRY

Greg Joseph	Sarah Butters
J.R. Stanko	Peter Dewberry
Ann Marie Stavola	Carol Jones

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lynda Blessing
Jennifer Gebhart
Rose Riley
Susan Whitehouse

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Ray Colburn
Kathy Cole

ALTERNATE CONVENTION DELIGATE

Rose Riley

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALTAR GUILD

This past year, we have worked to prepare the main altar and side chapel for taped services and, for a brief time, the sanctuary and parish hall for the in-person services. For safety reasons, this work was done by a reduced number of our members, using a shortened, efficient customary to minimize time spent away from home. Joyfully, we also set up for three baptisms last year!

We have enjoyed fresh flowers on the main and side altars for all our taped services, so we are grateful to Jennifer and Cheryl, our Flower Coordinators, and also to Nan, who continues to offer guidance and help. We are thankful for Joyce and Susanna who care for our fine linens.

The Altar Guild members are Susanna Brown, Kathy Cole, Helen Descrochers, Marilyn Galek, Jennifer Gebhardt, Nan Heath, Carol Jones, Marty Koehler, Tina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis, Barbara Rowley, and Joyce Tomlinson. At the beginning of 2020, we welcomed our newest member, Denise Paternostro, and look forward to her joining our work once normalcy returns. Always room for more!

We are grateful to the Trinity members who support the Flower Fund through our biannual appeal or through donations to mark special Sundays in memory of lost loved ones or for other personal celebrations.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Jones
Altar Guild Director

FRIENDS AND NEEDLES

Friends and Needles has not met this year due to the pandemic and the admonition against in person gatherings. We intend to reconvene in 2021 as the pandemic eases.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Harasymiw

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Current Members (2020): Barbara Rowley (Chair), Rob Heath, Kathy Cole and Ann Marie Stavola

During 2020, the Finance Committee met for the first few months of the year. During the rest of the year the Committee members received monthly finance reports via e-mail. Committee members:

- Reviewed financial performance
- Compared monthly income and expenditures to budget
- Review actual checks written/account activity

Any questions comments were then handled via e-mails.

The Treasurer (Rob Heath) created and presented financial reports monthly to the Vestry.

Members of the Committee reviewed the auditor's comments/report on 2019 financial policy and procedures.

The Finance Committee collected information from parishioners responsible for a committee or budget line to create the 2021 budget.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this Committee for 2020 please see Barbara Rowley or any Committee member.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rowley

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

A formal Technology Committee was created in 2020 consisting of Warren Blessing, chair, Donna Brown and Joan Joseph. A plan for the development and use of technology within Trinity was developed and approved by the Vestry. Below is the Technology Plan. All objectives and recommendations are currently ongoing unless otherwise noted in **bold**.

Technology Plan 8-28-2020

GOAL: To support Trinity's mission both within and outside of Trinity through the use of 21st century technology.

Objectives:

Form a dedicated Technology Committee

- To develop, evaluate and annually review Trinity's Technology Plan
- To oversee and address technology issues within Trinity
- To determine and recommend technology needs
- To determine and recommend, when needed, the use of a consultant
- To recruit volunteers as needed

- To submit a technology budget request to the Finance Committee – **done for 2021**

Inventory, coordinate and annually review hardware & software holdings

- To identify budget needs
- To identify areas in need of repair/replacement/upgrades
- To determine and recommend needs as they arise within Trinity

Develop and maintain a plan for media retention:

- To organize & coordinate Trinity's print & electronic holdings – **done and updated regularly**
- To comply with Diocesan guidelines as outlined in:
 - *Records Management for Congregations: An Archives Manual for Episcopal Parishes and Missions*
 - *Parish Records: A Suggested Arrangement*

Recommendations for 2021:

1. Review and determine audio & video needs for continuation of online services
2. Upgrade office computer to include camera and microphone
3. Purchase external backup drive - **done**
4. Explore media retention options

Recommendations for Future Consideration:

1. Review and revise Trinity's online presence
2. Fine tune media retention options and solutions
3. Continued support of online meetings

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Joseph

SOCIAL MEDIA

While we can't meet as a church, we can be the church Trinity's social media presence played a primary role in 2020 when the pandemic closed Trinity's physical doors. Our website and Facebook pages became the primary portal for online services, with attendance figures for both Sunday and weekdays up significantly. Other pandemic-related features added to the website include a pandemic photo journal and an online giving option via PayPal.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Joseph

MEMORIAL GARDEN



*"Think of them faring on as dear
In the love of There as the love of Here."*

From "Away" by James Whitcomb Riley

As always, a heartfelt thank you to Keri Milne, who has done so much work over the past years to make the Memorial Garden beautiful. This means so much to everyone, but especially to those who have relatives interred in the Garden.

Those interred in the Garden in 2020 were: Jean Erickson and Rev. John Rogers

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Tomlinson

Mission and Outreach Report for 2020

Trinity's commitment to Mission and Outreach work continues to grow and is supported by a great many of our parishioners. The year of 2020 has been a very difficult year due to the international pandemic. We had hardly started our year off and we were halted due to the fear of not wanting to spread the Covid-19 virus to anyone else or infect ourselves. Many places we traditionally support closed their doors and would not accept our contribution of food or clothes.

In this year, we were fortunate enough to supplement the way we contribute to many of our initiatives that we support. The church had voted on contributing cash to our Mission and Outreach initiatives as part of our operating budget. This money funded our budget and fortunately gave us the ability to support many of these people by contributing cash to their causes. We started our year with \$7,600 of money contributed by parishioners. This money was donated throughout the year to various groups we support.

Some of the highlights of this year's giving were as follows -

South Park Inn	\$1000
Wethersfield Food Bank & Backpack Program	\$1000
CT Children's Medical Center	\$200
Foodshare	\$1000
St. Vincent's in Haiti	\$1000
Keane Foundation	\$500
Church by the Pond	\$550
Kateri Medical Services, Inc.	\$2000
St. Monica's Church Holiday Party	\$350
Hands on Hartford	\$350

Besides this money, many of our initiatives are self-funded by the parishioners directly. For example, many of us contribute to support educational scholarships for children in Nigeria.

Kateri Medical Services

Kateri Medical Services has continued to flourish despite many setbacks due to the COVID pandemic. We had to cancel our planned mission trip in June because of travel restrictions, which was a great disappointment as we had three members of Trinity who were planning to participate. But the work of the clinics goes on.

As Trinity members may know, I founded this ministry in 2003 to fund and facilitate one full-time medical clinic to serve the rural poor in Nigeria. We work in partnership with dioceses of the Anglican Church of Nigeria. Since my "retirement" in 2016, we have built three new clinics and partnered with another clinic which was already built. In 2020, we began another partnership, an already existing clinic that could not afford to pay its workers. We now have six full-time partner clinics in five different dioceses in Nigeria. We serve approximately 20,000 people every year in those clinics. We are planning to add a seventh clinic in 2021.

I am grateful to Trinity parish and to individual members for contributing to the work of Kateri Medical Services. And I am grateful that you are willing to share me with this other ministry. I spend about half of my time being your pastor and the other half raising funds to build clinics and pay our 67 medical staff members in Nigeria.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

Nigerian Scholarships

For the third year in a row, Trinity members have sponsored scholarships for children in the Anglican Diocese of Kafanchan. For \$95, we provide tuition, uniforms, books and meals for one student for an entire school year. Most of these students come from very poor families. Some are orphans. Without these scholarships, they would not have any education.

This year, we contributed \$4,603 which provided scholarships for 48 children.

I have visited each of these schools and spoken with the students. For the most part, these are children of poor subsistence farmers. But when you ask them what they want to do with their lives, they want to be doctors and nurses and lab scientists and teachers and pastors and architects. When you sponsor one of these children, you are investing in BIG DREAMS.

On behalf of these children and their parents, I want to say "thank you" to everyone who has empowered these dreams to come to fruition.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tom Furrer

"Sewing Machines for Nana"

Our 2020 Lenten project to help Mrs. Nana Dogo, Bishop Marcus' wife, purchase sewing machines for young, mostly widowed mothers of young children in Kafanchan Diocese, Nigeria was a big success. We wired \$630 to her to use in training these young women in various skills, one being learning to sew. After two weeks training, the women go home with a kit which includes a sewing machine, fabric, and thread. They then earn a living by making uniforms for the diocesan schools.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Ford

St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Hati

Covid-19 has not had a major impact in Haiti. Poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, fuel scarcity, and violent protests against the government embody the chronic disease pattern there. St. Vincent's Center – school, medical clinic, and brace shop works tirelessly against this pattern.

During this year, they have been given an x-ray machine (from Japan) and added medical analysis lab; the ten physicians (ophthalmologist, pediatricians, orthopedic surgeons) at their downtown Port-Au-Prince medical clinic continue to offer healing and now diagnostic testing to the hundreds who come weekly for help. Upstairs staff tailor-make prosthetics for poor Haitians suffering from limb deformities.

At the Santo 17 campus, (15 miles away) teachers educate the 200 deaf, blind, and wheelchair-bound students using methods appropriate to their disability – sign language and/or Braille, as well as the spoken word and books. They are now beginning to explore what assisted technology (e.g., refreshing Braille displays) could do to enhance their education – and what vocational courses could do to improve employment opportunities.

St. Vincent's offers hope. Faithfully, practically, daily, they chart a course out of illness, poverty, and unemployment to productive citizenship. They have been doing so for 75 years. This life-changing pattern is possible because of many institutions and churches, like Trinity Parish who provide support. This year we forwarded \$1,000 to assist with the wonderful work they are doing.
Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Ford

Community Dinners at Hands on Hartford

Our program this year, even given the challenge of Covid-19 pandemic, ran very smoothly. Through the generosity of the parishioners of Trinity, we were able to provide food for 100 ham dinners, including the ham, mac/cheese, baked beans, coleslaw, buttered rolls, juice and dessert. We provided these dinners 6 times in 2020, and we have plans to deliver meals 6 times in 2021. This program at Hands on Hartford served about 4000 dinners this past year, we were a part of this effort. Additionally, several times during the year, we gave a donation to Hands on Hartford from Trinity Parish. These donations were used for the Community Crisis Fund which was established to help the most vulnerable folks in the community as they address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support for this important ministry. The food and donation were appreciated so very much.
Respectfully submitted, Lynda and Warren Blessing

Wethersfield Social & Youth Services

The need here has been great. We have been able to assist them with local food insecurity in several ways. Our donations in the beginning of the year yielded 276 pounds of food being delivered to the food bank. Once the pandemic took control we made cash donations and sent checks \$700 to Wethersfield Food Bank and \$300 to support "Weekend Meals" for town families who need assistance.

During the season of Advent, we had the opportunity once again to help our neighbors with a "Reverse Advent Calendar". Each day during the 26 days of Advent, we put a non-perishable item into a box. Four large carts of food were delivered to the Wethersfield Food Bank for distribution to our neighbors.
Respectfully submitted, Anne Tranberg and Leslie Jones

Copprome Orphanage, El Progreso, Honduras

I have not been able to go to Honduras since my last visit which was October 2019. Since then almost everyone in the orphanage has had the virus and recovered. I have sent money down there twice for food. Currently there are 44 children--4 new ones-- and a greater than ever need for food. I have the money from this summer's sales of jams and plan to go in February. A doctor from Yale was down there in November with no problem so I decided now is the time to help. Prayers will be appreciated.
Respectfully submitted, Ginger Smith

Lunch in the Park and Church by the Pond Program

Lunch in the Park is a ministry of outreach to people who are hungry in Hartford. In 2020, Trinity Parish participated by providing bagged lunches on February 1, March 7, August 1, and November 7. Respectfully submitted, Leslie Jones

The Purse Ministry

Not much has happened with the Purse Ministry. Even during the pandemic, people have donated things to fill purses and I thank you for that. Hopefully this pandemic will pass and I'll be distributing purses as soon as I can. Thanks very much.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Krupenevich-Rafala

Our Syrian-American Family in Wethersfield

Due to the pandemic this year, our assistance to Yaman and her family has changed. We feel that God sent this family to us to be their community. Many church members have helped in the past by donating food, cleaning supplies, and cash. This year a group of eight parishioners has continually brought boxed/canned food, cleaning supplies and money to Marilyn's home where we socially distance by putting the items in her car trunk. Then the Syrian family comes and transfers the donations into their car. The family thanks all who have assisted them as they have been unemployed for most of the year. They are very appreciative of our help.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Ford

St. Monica's Christmas Party

This is a collaboration with the "Your Place Youth Center" and St. Monica's Episcopal Church. Due to COVID 19, they had to think outside the box in order continue this important ministry to our community. The giving format this year was changed, and money was collected to purchase Gift Certificates for Food and toys for the children and families.

Respectfully submitted, Warren & Lynda Blessing

Sean's Closet

Sean's Closet experienced a slowdown in distribution of clothing due to the pandemic. Distribution is primarily through Wethersfield Social Services and they were not able to bring clients to Sean's Closet. We were able to assist on several occasions by filing requests for clothing and sheets and blankets and kitchen furnishings by filling submitted lists.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Harasymiw

South Park Inn

Contributions were limited to financial donations only during the pandemic

Respectfully submitted, Rose Riley

Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair

The Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair was not held this year due to the pandemic and admonitions against public gatherings.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Harasymiw

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The property committee continues to take care of Trinity Parish's physical structure. It's been a year where a number of large scale initiatives were undertaken. Due to Covid-19 our tasks were very different this year, spending more time on outside work. We did have a larger impact from the Wethersfield Family Literacy Program and the Tri-Town Y engaging our services to hold their classes and camp in our church school area.

In addition, the following is a list of those accomplishments we were involved with this year.

- Replaced Church Sanctuary A/C and added supplemental heat.
- Furnace/Hot water Expansion Tank replaced.
- Enhanced recording of online Sermons and installed second wireless Microphone.
- Back stairs painted and rubber guards installed on steps.
- Mason work to repair Old Sacristy Ceiling/ Roof was completed.
- Exterior Woodwork and painting completed around the church.
- External Janitorial Services were vetted and hired.
- Garage Door Panels replaced.
- Built a Nativity Scene for the front lawn.
- Coordinated a Paint Day for exterior metal windows.
- Coordinated an Energy Audit.

Each year presents new and different challenges, we would very much encourage anyone to think about joining us this year and giving your support

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Blessing, Clark Tomlinson and Jerry Stavola

NOTES