

The 180th Annual Meeting of the members of Trinity Episcopal Church

January 30, 2022, 11 a.m. Trinity Parish Hall Athens, Pennsylvania

AGENDA

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II. Opening of the Polls

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- IV. Reading of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- V. Closing of the polls and nomination for election to the Vestry and Diocesan Convention
- VI. Old and New Business
- VII. Closing

I. Supply Priest Not – Too – Annual Report January, 2022

(The View from Behind the Altar)

I am now into my eleventh year of being your supply priest and I figured it was about time for me to make some sort of a report—for you as well as for posterity. Since I have no position on your Vestry, this report is unofficial as well as unsolicited.

Although this might sound like I can't hold down a job, over my 45 years as a priest, I have been affiliated with eight parishes before landing on Trinity's doorstep. While each of those parishes have held a special place in my heart, I feel a need to single out Trinity.

Since the dissolution of Grace Church (Waverly), Trinity has afforded me the sole privilege of an altar from which I can do what God has called me to do: bring the sacraments to a desiring people. How do I explain my appreciation fully?

For me, a priest without an altar is like a fish out of water. You are my pond. You invite me weekly into your midst, giving me opportunity to do in part what God would have me do: celebrate with and for you the great gift of Christ, the Eucharist.

With all my being, thank you. — Benjamin Lentz

II. Senior Warden's Report to the 2022 Annual Meeting

Year 2021

We began the year with in-person worship services suspended due to Covid. Services resumed the first Sunday in June. Fortunately, as was the case in 2020, our faithful members continued to keep up with their pledges despite not gathering, remembering that the bulk of our expenses continue whether or not we hold Sunday worship. In fact, our income for the year slightly exceeded our budget. Our normally budgeted expenses for the year were down, as we were not paying our supply priest and organist while we were closed. Also, Father Ben continues to donate half of his compensation back to Trinity.

Unfortunately, non-budgeted major expenses once again required attention in the form of roofing (on both the Rectory and the church) and repointing of the church building. The need to replace the Rectory roof became obvious in the form of water leaking through the second floor ceiling. In the process of replacing the Rectory roof it was discovered that the north face of the church roof was also in dire need of replacement. The need for repointing the church was determined as a result of a routine walk-around inspection of the facilities. Bottom line is we expended \$16,350 on the Rectory roof, \$8,400 on the north facing church roof and \$6,000 on repointing of the church for a total of \$30,750. These repairs were primarily funded by the withdrawal of just under \$30,000 from three of our accounts the Diocesan Investment Trust, which will result in a reduction of funds available for normal withdrawal as income in our budget moving forward.

In the good news category financially, our Maurice Trust account with Citizens and Northern Bank increased in value over the year by about \$16,500 in spite of our quarterly withdrawals for operating funds and repayment on the remaining loan for work done on the bell tower. This loan has seven quarterly payments remaining and will run through January 2024. Once this loan is repaid we will have a little more breathing room for unbudgeted expenses, but not much. Continued depletion of the

DIT funds will severely limit our availability of withdrawal of emergency funds as well as reducing normal withdrawals of earnings for budget purposes.

We did apply for a grant from The Society of the Episcopal Church for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania (more commonly referred to as The Society) to help us with the roofing replacement and were fortunate to receive a grant in the amount of \$6,000. This money was just received in January and will be returned to the DIT to offset some of the withdrawal indicated above.

One additional unbudgeted expense occurred this year. The office copier, purchased in 2008 was beyond its expected useful life, requiring more and more service. In addition, the cost of the service contract was increasing significantly due to the age of the machine and a lack of available parts. The new copier comes with a significant reduction in the cost of a service contract and was purchased out of current income without any further investment wthdrawals.

As I write this, we have still not seen the year-end results of the funds invested in the DIT, but they will obviously be down as a result of the major withdrawal noted above. None-the-less, a budget is presented elsewhere in this document which essentially balances for 2022, assuming no further non-budgeted expenses. The budget is consistent with recent history and should present no surprises. We continue to budget based on a full time organist and a full time supply priest even though we have been unable to find a full time organist and Father Ben donates half of his stipend back to Trinity. Unbudgeted major expenses (if any) are becoming harder to fund as the DIT investment balance declines. While the Maurice Trust balance remains substantial, there is a limit as to what we can withdraw in any given year.

Special thanks to our Junior Warden Nate Schwartzberg for his special contribution this year in the form of the new covered porch, handrail and steps at the outdoor entrance to the Sacristy. Nate provided all material and labor for the project. Thanks to Nate also for identifying contractors, obtaining quotes and overseeing the work on the roofing and repointing projects and all the other things he does.

I should also point out that much of what we do would not happen without the very capable assistance of our Parish Administrator. Thank you, Barbara.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all those who keep Trinity going. We urgently need some new blood on the Vestry. Please give some thought to whether you could help by serving on the Vestry or in some other capacity. Volunteers are desired for everything from taking the offering, becoming a lay reader, helping with the altar, and hosting coffee hour to ringing the bell and all the other little tasks which must be done every week. Special thanks to Father Ben and Paula for the services they provide with dedication and excellence.

I conclude by asking each of you to re-evaluate what you can do to become more involved with Trinity.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Z. Gerhart, Senior Warden

III. Parish Administrator's Report

Worship and Music

We began 2021 with a dark church, having closed for the second time in 2020 in November due to Covid. Historically, this was not the first time the church had gone dark - worship was held in the rectory during the 1940s rather than heat the church during the war. January began a dark time for our country, but with a glimmer of hope as three vaccines were soon to be available.

Again, we found ways to keep being The Church much as we had done in 2020. We put the palms in front of the church doors for people to take on Palm Sunday; we sent out information for Holy Week activities, and many opportunities for on-line worship for Easter. Fr. Ben, Alan and I created a video for Easter that featured a brief video journey through Holy Week and a sermon from Fr. Ben. It was put on Youtube as well as our web site. Throughout the time we were closed, Fr. Ben undertook a Bible study, which he managed to make nearly as interactive as an in-person one would be, recapping each session and answering questions he'd solicited. He put an enormous amount of work into this offering, and with some assistance from me, it was emailed, snail-mailed, and featured on our redesigned web site. He gave us a great gift and it was very much appreciated.

As the weather warmed and vaccines became available, we were able to gather again for worship. We began on June 5 at 10 with Holy Eucharist II and music. Our regular organist, Joe Barber, was quite ill, so music was provided by our resident musicians, Nate, Dan, and me two weeks a month, and subsitute organist, Paula Bacorn, the other two weeks. Meredith Beck played for us once this summer while she and her son were here to close out the family home following Jan's death. Sadly, Joe passed away in September; he was a gifted musician. We have modified our worship in light of Covid, receiving communion in just one kind, bread, and remain masked and socially distanced, but we sing and we meet for coffee hour. While the Covid infection rate has continued to climb, the diocese made the decision not to close churches again, so we remain together, but careful.

We have three active licensed Worship Leaders: Barbara Caum, Dan Gerhart, and Marny Gerhart. Our lectors, Fanna Proper and Martha Pierce, read for us every other week or so. We invite anyone interested in these ministries to volunteer; training is available volunteers are most welcome.

2015	12
2016	13
2017	13
2018	11
2019	12
2020	15
2021	17

In our worship life during 2021, there were 29 Sunday services, two of which were Morning Prayer while Fr. Ben was on vacation and the rest were Holy Eucharist. And though we missed Easter again this year, Christmas Eve was joyful and featured many musical offerings including a piece played on the antique Harmonium. There were 26 in attendance. Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) for the year was 17.

We celebrated St. Francis Day with pets in attendance (last year it was virtual), had a hugely successful brass polishing party,

Administration

In 2021 I completed my 31st year at Trinity. A big change this year was a complete overhaul of our website, which I first built sometime in the mid 1990s when it was all

pretty new. It's been through various iterations since then. The new site is run on a template, and while it doesn't allow the customizataions I was able to do in the past, it does automatically resize itself for all sizes of screens, which is really important these days. If you haven't looked at it lately, it's the same url it's been since the olden days: trinityathens.org. Also new this year is a color laser printer for the office, which replaced the 13 year old copier which could no longer be repaired. It enables us to

use color in the newsletters that are still mailed, interfaces with the computers, scans documents, and actually costs much less to run.

[This list is extensive - in the distant past, many of these tasks were done by vestry members and volunteers.] Some of the things I do include publishing the monthly newsletter for both mail and electronic distribution, creating Sunday and special bulletins, authoring the church website and Facebook page, scheduling worship servers, music, doing routine paperwork, sending schedule changes to the newspapers as well as press releases for special events, compiling the parochial report, preparing the weekly bank deposit, recording pledges, writing checks for bills and payroll, computing payroll taxes and filing state, local and federal tax reports, preparing W-2 and 1099 forms, balancing the checkbook, creating the monthly financial report for the vestry, taking and writing minutes for the monthly vestry meeting, overseeing other employees and communications with our landlord, creating the budget for the coming year, coordinating with groups that use our facilities, arranging for mowing and snow removal, service calls for various issues, setting the altar on Saturdays, and generally being a presence at the church. I coordinate with our supply clergy, The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz.

I continued to be the gardener in residence for both the church and rectory. If anyone ever wants some exercise, volunteers are more than welcome! This year I repainted and replaced the letters on our large wooden sign, last done in 2009. I also dug out the original tiles from the parish hall kitchen remodeling (sometime in the 80s) and replaced cracked tiles until I ran out. I also washed the sacristy windows - as far as I know, that had never been done in my decades here; we have a very nice view now. I also repainted the three rectory porch steps. We pay Alan Caum to cut all the lawns during the growing season and Cliff Parshall takes care of snow removal in the winter.

There are no regular office hours; the parish office is in the rectory and is reachable by phone at almost any time. To call me directly, dial 888-8981.

Barbara Cameron Caum Parish Administrator

IV. Junior Warden's Report - Buildings and Grounds

We had two unexpected capital projects this year - replacing the rectory roof and the north side of the church roof. When water began dripping into two of the upstairs rooms in the rectory it was obvious the roof needed to be replaced. The roof had been done in the 90s and was, unfortunately, done badly. We have not done the research to find out when the church roof was last done, although we can estimate that the south side was done sometime in the 1980s. So the north side had to have been much older. There was some water damage to the northwest corner of the church wall, but it appears to be minimal.

The cement steps to the sacristy door had sunk over the years and the entry had become difficult and dangerous at times. I decided to replace the steps and build a porch and roof over the entry. There had been a small roof up until about 20 years ago, when it pulled out of the soft brick and was taken down. I worked with the local building inspector, who approved my design and then jack-hammered the old steps out so I could start from scratch. My time and the materials were donated and are my gift to Trinity. There is a series of photos on the web site that shows the process if you're interested.

In the rectory I replaced two broken treads in the basement stairs, rewired the lighting in the office ceiling, when the light failed due to a burned wire; put lighted tops on the front porch stair posts, repaired a hole in a bedroom ceiling caused by the roof leak, and put better lighting in the basement.

In the church, I installed a new faucet in the sacristy sink, purchased and installed an electic pump for the harmonium, and was part of the team that installed the Stations of the Cross and Christus Rex which were gifts from Grace, Waverly, and replaced the rotted outside window sill under the west facing stained glass window. I coordinated with our main AA Group, Survivors, who replaced the tiles in the parish hall kitchen ceiling and installed new lighting. The vestry approved the cost; they provided the labor and they did a beautiful job. They also installed a new digital thermostat in the hall.

Generally, I keep an eye on things, fix problems as they arise, and work with contractors and artisans when needed.

Nate Schwartzberg Junor Warden

V. Outreach and Hospitality Report

I. Outreach

We donate food items each Sunday which are given the Athens United Methodist Church Food Pantry. We are very grateful to Sue Kopatz, who delivers them for us.

We again participated in the annual Souper Bowl, even though we were closed. This event was created by a youth group in California and has now gone national. All donated cash is used locally, however. Members of the congregation are asked to place a dollar or more in the soup pot by the baptismal font for each family member. This year folks mailed in donations and broke all previous records by donating \$175, which was given to the Valley Food Pantry. Our United Thank Offering ingathering was held in September; we sent \$112.15 to the national E.C.W., where funds are used for grants to congregations. Over the course of the year the penny jar was filled with \$27.50 for the Church Periodical Club, which provides books for seminarians and Christian education nationally and internationally.

The Carol Reed memorial mitten Advent tree was dedicated to socks this year, which is the most requested item in most shelters and clothes closets. The tree was loaded down with 118 pairs of socks as well as a hat and some mittens. Marie Bubniak will be distributing them for us.

We host AA meetings three nights a week; there are currently four meetings and the Valley Council also meets once a month. This is an important part of our Outreach, as we support the good work they do by providing a place with light and heat.

Our St. Francis Day observance was also an Outreach event. Parishioners donated a huge number of bags of food, toys, and pet supplies which were donated to the Animal Care Sanctuary in memory of Holly Flood; this was a joint effort with Church of the Redeemer.

We put together six large gift bags of personal items to donate to the Abuse and Rape Crisis Center which included toiletries, towels and items needed when an individual has to suddenly leave their home. Supporting the ARCC in this way has been an on-going outreach ministry of ours.

II. Hospitality and Parish Life

When we reopened in June, we immediately began having coffee hours again, that vital part of church life. We surprised Fr. Ben with a celebration of his tenth anniversary as our long-term supply priest in July; it was a really nice event and he was truly surprised. Coffee hour hosts are always needed; there is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen.

Marie Bubniak, Outreach Coordinator (report compiled by Barbara Caum)

VI. Diocese of Bethlehem Convention Delegate Report

Diocese of Bethlehem Convention, 2021

The 150th convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem was held by Zoom on October 14, 2021. In observance of the sesquicentennial the Bishop started with a 10-minute summary of our history from the first Anglican congregations in the area to 1909 when the current boundaries and name were formed. We then received an update from the Bishop and other staffers on the progress the diocese has made in the last year.

The number of staff members at Diocesan House has been substantially reduced over the last few years in order to balance the budget and allow for a shift in priorities toward supporting local congregations. Now the Canon Mission Model has been put into place to help provide this support. At the time of the convention, Melinda Artman had been chosen as the canon for the northern section and the search process was underway for the southern district position. As priests active in local parishes the missioners will be better situated to gather together groups from each area to discuss common goals and projects.

At the previous convention, 5 diocesan priorities which had emerged in a series of discussion were introduced. This year we received a report on how each of them was being addressed. They are: 1) Vibrant and stable congregations, addressed through the Canon Mission Model and also Convocation Ministry. A Convocation Assembly has been formed as a representative leadership body; 2)Racialjustice, which is the focus of several diocese-level discussion groups; 3) Lay and clergy formation, this year to include the first post-pandemic in-person event at Lake Harmony on April 30, 2022; 4) Planting new communities of faith; 5) Diocesan partnership, discussions with our neighboring Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

The financial report and approval of the new year's budget contained no surprises. Most parishes continue to pay up. There were reports on Kajo Kaji, where the situation has improved. The high school is open and progress has been made toward opening a college.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Cama Convention Delegate

VII. 2021 Financial Report and 2022 Proposed Budget

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
Budgeted Income						
Balance Forward	8,769	10,226	14,660	7,739	7,739	12,404
Plate Offerings	7,001	4,631	3,441	3,500	5,752	4,000
Pledge Payments	17,185	19,000	17,160	19,700	22,980	20,640
Maurice Trust Interest	26,178	19,158	18,801	18,800	18,257	18,250
Diocesan Investment Trust Interest	3,587	3,569	2,973	3,000	2,195	2,000
Special Gifts	242	685	377	350	734	375
Rectory Rent	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600
Building Renovation Pledges	3,300	2,550	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
Transfer of Capital from DIT	5,000	7,150	19,739	0	29,871	-
Total Budgeted Income	77,862	73,569	86,451	62,389	96,828	66,969
Total without DIT transfers			66712		66,957	
Non-budget General Income	1,928	816	461	450	654	450
Gross Income	79,790	74,385	86,912	62,839	97,482	67,419
Non-Budgeted Pass Through Inc.					67,611	
Designated#					1,027	
Memorials					300	
Grants			8,755	5,000	5000	6,000
Total Non-budgeted pass-through			8,755	5,000	6,327	6,000
Total All Income	79,790	74,385	95,667	67,839	103,809	73,419
Deduct Memorials	-2,993	-10,246	-5,177	-4,680	-4,791	(4,791)
Total Disposable Income (Note)	76,797	64,139	90,490	63,159	99,018	68,628
Note: total without memorials						
Budgeted Expenses						
Diocesan Assessment****	7,392	7,356	8,203	7,135	6,853	6,626
Diocesan Acceptance	1,848	1,836	2,051	1,784	1,784	1,657
Supply Clergy	6,500	6,370	1365	7,280	3,120	8,400
Auto & Travel	234	245	48	245	193	250
Deacon/Supply	130	0	0	0	0	-
Health Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	-
Pension Payments	0	0	0	0	0	-
Payroll Taxes	3,548	3,402	3,538	3,500	3,595	3,550
Rector's Education Fund	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sexton	2,600	2,550	2,550	2,650	2,600	2,650
Organist	3,900	3,750	3,725	5,600	1,500	5,600
Parish Administrator	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300
Payroll Taxes accrual	-2,199	-2,018	-2,192	-2,200	-2,198	(2,200)

	2018	2019	2020	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed
Property, Liability Insurance	3,974	4,077	3,956	3,900	3,886	4,000
Outreach	325	235	300	300	125	300
Evangelism	0	0	0	0	0	-
Altar Supplies	79	0	0	0	0	-
Organ Maintenance & Music	0	0	0	300	0	300
Telephone	364	340	411	400	384	400
Office and Worship Expense	1,068	1,413	1,429	1,400	1,202	1,400
Convention Expense	0	0	0	250	0	250
Miscellaneous	64	46	0	0	0	-
Church School	0	0	0	0	0	-
Utilities**	3,742	3,316	3,149	3,500	3,093	3,500
Real Estate Taxes	2,328	2,328	2,372	2,375	2,372	2,375
Other Property Expense	0	0	0	0	0	-
Maintenance	2,179	2,776	2,993	3,000	2,182	3,000
Interest - C&N LOC/Loan***	5,436	0	0	0	0	-
Parish Hall Rent	4,440	4,440	4,440	4,440	4,440	4,440
Total Budgeted Expenses	63,252	57,762	53,638	61,159	50,431	61,798
Non-budgeted General Expense						
Major Improvements	4,810	9,449	9,343		31,950	
Equipment Replacement	2,775	301	8153		3,431	
Total Expenses	70,837	67,512	71,134	61,159	85,812	61,798
Non-Budgeted Passthrough						
Transfer to DIT			16,405	5,000	5,000	6,640
Returned to LNS			650			
Total Non-Budgeted Passthrough			17,055	5,000	5,000	6,640
Subtotal All expenses			88,189	66,159	90,812	68,438
NET (Income-Expense-Memorials)	5,960	-3,373	2,301	-3,000	8,206	190

* Capital Projects	Current					
Roofs, Re-pointing	275	AG		#Designate	ed =	
	200	Strange		UTO, Altar	Guild, Soupe	er
**Utilities do not include rectory	581	Shearer		WC Refund	d, DIT Donati	on
*** Interest comes directly from	740	Cama				
earnings before they are deposited.	195	Barber				
****Grant applied -281.59 Covid '21	200	JB/Flood				
	100	Smith				
	2500	Kelley				
	4791					
Memorials (Designated in Checking)	-2,993	-10,246	-5,177	-4,680	-4,791	-4791

VII. Summary of Assets, 12/31/21

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	Change
Investments			
DIT 002 Freeborne (Int On-			
ly)	11,832	12,922	1,090
DIT 087 Alvord - Int Only	4,840	5,317	477
DIT 092 Endowment	8,366	5,256	-3,111
DIT 096 Bridge (18,250 min)	26,780	29,614	2,834
DIT 147 Minor	9,624	0	-9,624
DIT 209 Tupper	9,994	0	-9,994
Total DIT Accounts	71,436	53,108	-18,328
Maurice Trust	403,840	420,370	16,530
TOTAL Investments	483,016	485,883	2,867
Checking Account*	7,739	12,404	4,666
Total Assets	490,754	498,287	7,533
Liabilities			
C&N LOC - now loan	-24,601	-16,682	-7,919
Employee Taxes Accrued	-550	-550	0
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-25,151	-17,369	-7,781
Net Assets-Liabilities	465,604	480,918	15,314
*Includes Memorials: 4791			
	2020	2024	2022
	2020	2021	2022
Interest Income	2.072	2.40=	Projected
DIT	2,973	2,195	2,000
Maurice	18,801	18,257	18,250
Total	21,774	20,452	20,250

VII. Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

Trinity Episcopal Church 179th Annual Meeting Church Nave Sunday, January 31, 2021

A shortened Annual Meeting in the time of Covid.

Present: Fanna Proper, Dan Gerhart, Marny Gerhart, Laura Cama, Doug Plank, Nathan Schwartzberg, Daye Moreno, Lloyd Moreno, Alan Caum, Barbara Caum, Martha Pierce

(Annual meeting report booklet had been mailed or emailed to all active members previous to the meeting)

With a quorum present, Senior Warden Dan Gerhart opened the meeting with prayer at 11 a.m.

Dan explained that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting will be shortened to the required in-person meeting to elect a vestry. The diocese would have approved a Zoom meeting, but that would not work for many of our members, and our proposal to use a paper ballot that could be mailed back was not allowed. However, the bishop has approved that ten people may meet in person if properly masked and distanced, which is why the meeting is taking place in this way.

Polls: The polls opened at 11:05 AM for election/selection of vestry members. Dan explained that the new Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem require vestry members to rotate by three-year terms. We currently have five vestry members, the minimum allowed (maximum is 12). Dan appealed to those present to consider serving so that there would be a larger group. Communicants in good standing may serve - that is, those who attend and give regularly.

Laura Cama and Nate Schwartzberg - terms will be up in 2022

Marie Bubniak and Dan Gerhart - terms will be up in 2021

Marny Gerhart - term ended in 2020

There were no volunteers to either join the vestry or serve as Marny's replacement.

A motion was made by Alan Caum and seconded by Nate Schwartzberg to allow Marny to continue serving another term.

The polls were closed.

The motion carried by acclamation.

Current Vestry members terms are:

Since the only business of the meeting was to elect the vestry, after requesting prayers for Joe Barber and for Jackie Davis, both of whom are quite ill, a motion to adjourn was in order

Adjournment: Nate Schwartzberg moved, Doug Plank seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Cameron Caum, Parish Administrator