

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

**Fiscal Year 2019  
Annual Report**



**Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting  
February 2, 2020**

**300 Main Street • Wethersfield, CT • 06109**

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# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA**

## **February 2, 2020**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order
3. Establish a Quorum
4. Adoption of Minutes of Annual Meeting February 10, 2019
5. Correspondence (if any)
6. Comments by the Outgoing Wardens
7. Pastor's Comments
8. Curate's Comments
9. Treasurer's Report: Rob Heath
10. 2020 Budget: Rob Heath
11. Report of Nominating Committee
12. Elections
13. Comments of Incoming Wardens
14. Acceptance of All Printed Reports
15. Other Business
16. Motion to Adjourn
17. Closing Prayer

## **A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH**

Almighty and ever living 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 10, 2019**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:06 am. It was determined that the 50 people present at the Annual Meeting satisfied the requirement for a quorum.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 4, 2018: Following no suggestions or changes, it was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting be approved as provided in the Annual Report. The motion carried.
3. Correspondence: Judith Shaw read a personal letter to the congregation thanking all for their prayers and support during the past year.
4. Wardens' Report: Wardens Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro shared reading their report as published in the 2019 Annual Report.
5. Pastor's Report: The Rev. Tom Furrer described the journey that led him, with his wife, Maryjane, to accept the call to become our missional priest on January 1, 2019. He welcomed the approximately twenty people who have joined Trinity during the past couple of years, several of whom have already stepped up to participate in the running of the parish.
6. Treasurers' Report: Kathy Cole, member of the Finance Committee, gave the treasurer's report on behalf of the treasurer, Rob Heath.
  - i. Financial Report for 2018: By year end, income was more than budget by \$13,400 and expenses were under budget by \$2,500. Although 2018 was a year with an expected deficit budget, nothing was withdrawn from investments to cover expenses because there was a high balance in the checking account (from unexpended funds withdrawn from investments in 2017).
  - ii. Investments are following market trends and total \$480,357 at the moment. Vestry has defined restricted accounts, requiring vestry approval for expenditure, and designated accounts where money was donated for a specific purpose.
  - iii. 2019 Annual Budget: This is a balanced budget, \$136,109, and we do not anticipate withdrawing any money from investments during 2019.
7. Trinity By-Laws: The by-laws have been updated to include all amendments, approved during the past few years, in the primary text and no longer as appendices. Certain other

changes have also been made such as clarification of procedures for filling an unexpected vacancy in the officers and removal of the assistant treasurer position.

Motion: To accept the 2019 version of Trinity By-Laws. (Ray Colburn, Kathy Cole)  
Motion was carried.

8. Nominating Committee Report: Connie Harasymiw described how nominees were chosen through a process of mutual discernment this year. The 2019 officers are: Denise Paternostro and Rose Riley (wardens); Carol Jones (parish clerk); Robert Heath (treasurer); Leslie Jones, Tina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis and Linda Traue (incoming vestry members); Rose Riley and Ray Colburn (convention delegates); Lynda Blessing and Kathy Cole (convention alternates); Donna Brown, Marilyn Ford, Connie Harasymiw, Rebecca Scruton (2020 nominating committee).

Motion: To accept the slate of nominees (Connie Harasymiw, Kathy Cole)  
Motion was carried.

9. Acceptance of All Printed Reports:

Motion: To accept all the printed reports. (Leslie Jones, Judith Shaw).  
Motion was carried.

10. Other Business:

i. A vote of thanks was extended to Rose and Denise for their outstanding service to Trinity during the past year. Tom commented on how much time they have put in.

ii. A vote of thanks was extended to the members of the Property Committee who did extensive work during the parish hall renovations: Warren Blessing, Ray Colburn, Jerry Stavola, Connie Harasymiw, Billye Logan and Clark Tomlinson. The team of volunteers who painted the walls of the hall were also thanked.

Tom offered a prayer of dedication for the parish hall.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Jones  
Parish Clerk

## Comments By The Wardens

Another year has gone by and we have managed to fill these 365 days with a multitude of activities, celebrations, and prayerful gatherings along with the following list of accomplishments:

- We have a balanced budget for the first time in two decades.
- We celebrated Trinity's 150th anniversary with celebratory Confirmation service and beautiful reception in the Parish Hall.
- We began new initiatives, such as our partnership with other area churches and the Tri-town YMCA who is using our office space downstairs. We have continued our partnership with the Family Learning Program.
- We have also begun new initiatives in Mission & Outreach such as the Neighbors feeding Neighbors Program with Saint Andrews, Rocky Hill and Sean's Closet in conjunction with the town of Wethersfield.
- New undertakings took place in Worship as well, culminating with our first Interfaith Thanksgiving service. In addition, we have a new Curate in Deacon Daryl Burke.
- Development of strong programs in Mission & Outreach and Adult Christian Formation has also continued.
- We have done all this against the background of increased membership and stewardship.

Father Tom and Deacon Darryl Burke have provided tremendous leadership for this parish. They have helped us extend our pastoral care, our Christian formation and enlivened our liturgical worship. However, hours are limited by terms of the contracts and it is critical that the laity pick up the remaining responsibilities of running this parish. Later at this meeting the Nominating Committee will present to you an innovative approach to help spread this workload more evenly among wardens. I hope it finds your support because it is important to this church that ministries be shared.

On a personal note, we want to take just a minute to thank all of you for your generous support, encouragement, prayers, and guidance these past two years. Our term as Wardens ends in just a few short days, but our love and appreciation for our parish and all of you will continue for a lifetime.

With prayers and gratitude,  
Denise Paternostro and Rose Riley

## Pastor's Report

Dear Trinity Family,

It has been one year since I began as your "missional priest-in-charge". This is the title our Diocese uses to designate clergy who are not "full-time" in terms of hours and pay. I prefer the simple title of "pastor".

So, after one year, it seems to me like our parish morale has improved a bit. It seems like folks are happy to be part of our community of faith and extending a genuine welcome to new people coming to visit us or to join us. And it seems like people are beginning to believe that there is a future for this parish - which had been very much in doubt a couple of years ago.

One sign of this growing sense of health and well-being is our financial giving. In 2019, for the first time in a very long time, we didn't dip into our reserve funds to support our annual budget. Our pledge income has grown by 64% in three years. We are now fully supporting our operating budget through our pledges and using our reserve funds only for capital improvements. You will read about the impressive work done on capital improvements later in this report.

Another sign of health is our willingness to reach out beyond our walls to extend the love of Jesus to others. You will read about any of these outreach efforts later in this report. Also, this past year, we have held our first ever Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service, which included members of various Christian churches, plus one synagogue, one mosque and one B'hai community. It was a lot of fun and we had great friendship and fellowship after the service. I hope we can continue to connect with other faith communities in the future. We have also deepened our relationships with Christians in other parts of the world, especially Nigeria. We had several visits from Bishop Markus Dogo and his wife Nana from the Diocese of Kafanchan. And for the second year in a row, we are sponsoring scholarships for about 50 primary school students in the church schools in that diocese.

As we look ahead to the future, our greatest challenge is to pray fervently that God will enable us to reach out to those in our community who do not know Jesus and to be intentional about inviting them to join us in this great adventure of being His disciples. Thank you all for your wonderful support in so many ways.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Tom

## **Missional Curate's Report**

When I first arrived at Trinity a member of the congregation described the congregation as "small but mighty". That has proven to be true, but what was omitted in this description of the congregation was that it is a congregation which is also prayerful, faithful and determined to respond to God's call to spread the gospel of love! My brief time in this parish has been a time of spiritual awakening and growth as I have prepared for my ordination, and life as a priest. It has been a particularly rich and meaningful experience, and I am most grateful to the members of this congregation, for the manner in which I have been welcomed and accepted as a member of this community of faith.

I have had the opportunity to work quite closely with Father Tom, and he has willingly served as a mentor, advisor and friend. He has provided me with opportunities to become actively involved in the workings of the church, and has sought to expose and engage me to/in all aspects of the operations of a church and of the Priest in Charge's duties and responsibilities. Most importantly, he has demonstrated the difficulty in adhering to the hours of a part time priest. For while these are quarter time positions, it is often necessary to exceed the proscribed hours. To witness the joy with which he performs his duties has been a joy and this will have an impact on the manner in which I perform my own responsibilities in the future.

During the almost five months that I have been here, I have had a multitude of experiences and activities in which I have engaged. I have participated in both the Wednesday night and the Thursday evening Bible studies, and I look forward to facilitating some of these sessions during Lent. I meet with Father Tom and the wardens weekly to discuss myriad aspects of the overall operation, spiritual growth and vision for the church. I have met with the worship committee, where we have discussed the spiritual growth of the congregation, as well as the worship experiences. I have attended the vestry meetings, where the lay leadership and the clergy strive to discern how best to respond to God's call for this community and to meet the needs and expectations of this congregation. I have also had the opportunity to meet and interact with members who engage in their own ministries, e.g. the Kateri hospital missions, the purse ministry and the Honduran orphanage, in an effort to answer God's call to serve others. These meetings are both useful and productive, but more importantly, they have permitted me to witness the high degree of dedication and leadership exhibited by members of the congregation.

Participating in and leading worship services has been a fundamental responsibility. I have had the opportunity to preach regularly and to actively play a role in the development of the worship services. I have also meet regularly with Father Tom and Bishop Gordon, where together we assist one another in growing spiritually, as we share our stories I strive to discern that to which our God is calling us. These meetings have proven to be pivotal elements in my own spiritual growth and development. I have also visited members who are homebound or in nursing homes, and are no longer able to physically attend church services. I have had the opportunity to interact in all aspects of church and all elements of the congregation, and this has been most rewarding for me.

My time at Trinity continues to be well spent. This is indeed a small but mighty congregation who actively seek to discern God's will for them as both individuals and as a congregation. The strong lay leadership, sincere faith and willingness to step out in faith are attributes which have enabled them to overcome daunting challenges to their very existence, and move forward doing God's work. I am blessed to spend time in this congregation and I am certain that this experience will have a profound impact on me spiritually and as an ordained clergyperson. I thank the members of the congregation for their openness, acceptance and welcome!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Darryl C. Burke, Deacon

# REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2019

## Notes to Financial Statements:

### A. Trinity Parish 2019 Budget and Actuals (pg. 9)

Income was more than budget by \$13.9k.

- Pledges were over by \$8k, and Non-Pledge was over by \$2k.

Expenses were under budget by \$573.

- Music over because of more music material, more rehearsals, and pay raise.
- Office over because of higher supply and printing costs, but nothing spent on new computer equipment.
- Church Property under because of lower maintenance and snow removing costs. Utility costs were higher.
- While 2019 was a balanced budget, actual income exceeded actual expenses by \$14.4k. Nothing was withdrawn from investments to cover operating expenses.

### B. Designated/ Restricted Accounts (pg. 10)

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 2020 (pg. 11)

We were once again able to create a balanced budget. Pledge income increased by \$17k and we will be receiving \$3k for office rent for the Tri Town YMCA director. Rector increased by \$3k-more hours. Music increased for raise, more music supplies, and guest organist. A new \$7.6k account was added-Outreach and Mission - to fund new outreach programs not funded by special fund raising campaigns. Church property increases by \$5k for additional maintenance, higher insurance rates and utility costs.

Fiscal Year 2019 accounts were processed using Power Church Plus software.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Heath, Treasurer

## 2019 ACTUAL TO BUDGET

	2019 Actuals	2019 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Support	139,544	128,267
Investment Income	0	0
Other Income	10,417	7,842
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$149,961</b>	<b>136,109</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Rector Compensation	27,673	28,278
Staff Compensation	33,572	32,838
Christian Formation	669	600
Music	6,035	4,900
Program	4,246	4,000
Office	12,087	11,739
Property Church	37,794	40,216
Diocese & Deanery	13,460	13,538
Other	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$135,536</b>	<b>\$136,109</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,425</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

NOTE: In 2019 nothing was transferred from Investments to cover operating expenses.  
\$25,000 was withdrawn in February to pay for Parish Hall Renovations.

### Cash Accounts

Checking Account Balance: **\$55,742**

### Investment Accounts

	Episcopal Fund	Merrill Lynch
Beginning Balance	2,378	477,979
Additions	0	0
Withdrawals	0	25,000
Income/Dividends	58	9,623
Chg. in Market Value	398	70,044
Ending Balance	2,834	532,646
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$535,480</b>	

## 2019 DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

Account Name	Beg. Balance	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Ending Balance
<b>Designated Accounts</b>				
Memorial Fund-Designated	0	0	0	0
Special Gifts	900	4,571	5,423	48
150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	0	6,655	4,493	2,162
Physical Improvements	37,537	400	25,446	12,491
Flower Fund	5,900	3,060	2,969	5,991
Memorial Garden	5,975	800	173	6,602
Discretionary Fund-Rector	1,055	914	474	1,495
Outreach-General	879	14,808	14,200	1,487
Outreach-Special	0	935	935	0
Outreach-Copprome	0	0	0	0
Outreach-Good Shepard Partnership	923	0	923	0
Community Outreach	0	1,163	240	923
Curate	0	11,837	7,872	3,965
Theological Seminary	160	82	0	242
Stained Glass Windows	1,296	0	0	1,296
Church School	407	0	407	0
Music	1,264	0	0	1,264
Affiliated Groups				
Altar Guild	2,181	0	0	2,181
<b>Total Designated Accounts and Affiliated Groups</b>	<b>58,477</b>	<b>45,225</b>	<b>63,555</b>	<b>40,147</b>
<b>Restricted Account</b>				
Memorial Fund-Restricted	160,849	2,250	5,310	157,789
Sale of Rectory (net}	101,131	0	0	101,131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320,457</b>	<b>47,475</b>	<b>68,865</b>	<b>299,067</b>

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

### Comments on Designated/Restricted Accounts:

Physical Improvements: spent \$25,446 on Parish Hall renovations.

Memorial Fund: received \$2,000 from Geoff Nielsen estate. Transferred \$5,000 to 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Account.

Curate: received \$11,837 from Diocese for 6 months reimbursement for Father Darryl, spent \$7,872 to date.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: received \$1,005 from Sal's concert and \$5,000 from Memorial Gifts.  
Spent \$4000 for food and organist.

Special Gifts: mostly corrections and transfers. Of the \$900 left from last year, \$500 was transferred to Adult Formation, and \$400 to Property Improvements for Parish Hall renovations.

Outreach-General: received and spent \$1,485 for Kateri, \$5,110 for Nigeria, \$1,005 for St. Vincent's School-Haiti, and \$2,000 for African Education Partners.

## 2020 BUDGET

Income	
Support	145,898
Investment Income	0
Other Income	11,580
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$157,478</b>
Expenses	
Rector Compensation	31,038
Staff Compensation	33,245
Christian Formation	1,100
Music	7,287
Program	13,326
Office	12,938
Property Church	45,272
Diocese & Deanery	13,272
Other	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$157,478</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$0</b>

NOTES: Balanced Budget. NO withdrawals 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**

## **Three Warden Experiment**

Four years ago Trinity Parish began a time of not having a priest to lead us. Because of this the Wardens took on the responsibilities of leadership which included many of the roles which typically are under the purview of a rector. In time, Father Tom Furrer felt a call to continue his call to ministry in this community. However, his ministry among us is as a missional priest not a full time priest. As such, there continue to be areas of leadership that need to fall to the wardens and not become the priest's.

We have been graced and blessed by wardens who have helped us to move forward in growth in many ways and areas. However, this leadership has often been akin to a full time job. We all agree that this is not good stewardship of our leaders' personal or missional lives. We (Trinity Parish) find ourselves on the cutting edge of living into a new paradigm of being 'church' and church leadership.

We recommend to the vestry, after talking with Fr. Tom and assessing this role, that this upcoming rotation of wardens be reconfigured to have the Sr. Warden's position be a shared position i.e. two persons who will share leadership with one Jr. Warden. Practically speaking, we will have three (3) wardens who share in the lay leadership of the parish, while taking the lead in their areas of interest/capability. This can be an experiment for the next two years at which time there will be an evaluation of this concept.

The persons put forward are Warren Blessing, Connie Harasymiw and Rebecca Scruton.

# **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

## **WARDENS**

Rebecca Scruton and Connie Harasymiw share one warden position

Warren Blessing

## **CLERK**

Leslie Jones

## **TREASURER**

Rob Heath

## **VESTRY**

Tina LaMorte

Ann Marie Stavola

Cheryl Lewis

J. R. Stanko

Linda Traue

Greg Joseph

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Joan Joseph

Rose Riley

Lynda Blessing

Cheryl Chadsey

## **CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Ray Colburn

Kathy Cole

## **Motions from The Nominating Committee**

- #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.
- #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.

# **INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **ALTAR GUILD**

This past year, the sacred responsibility of preparing our church for worship each week was entrusted to 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. In addition to the Sunday worship services and special services during the Easter and Christmas seasons, there was a Thanksgiving service, an Interfaith service, the glorious celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, four funerals and one baptism. We are particularly grateful to Susanna and Joyce for their care of our fine linens, many of which are quite old and fragile now, and to Nan, our Flower Coordinator, for her creativity and diligence in designing the flower arrangements to be appropriate for each liturgical season and decorating our church during the special celebrations. A special "thank you" to Patrick Gebhardt for his help in hanging the Christmas wreaths. This year, Jennifer and Cheryl will take over the duties of Nan but, thankfully, she will continue to provide guidance and assistance as well as rejoining the regular Altar Guild team.

We warmly invite you to shadow members of the Altar Guild some weekend to learn more about our work and to discern if this ancient, sacred ministry might be one that God is calling you to.

Finally, 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

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

The responsibility of the Christian Formation Committee is to organize opportunities for parishioners to expand their spiritual growth.

The Thursday morning Bible study continued to grow under the leadership Rebecca Scruton. The committee also sponsored a study called Read and Feed based on the book We Make the Road by Walking.

The Christian Formation Committee also sponsored a study called Read and Feed based on Brian McLaren's book, We Make the Road by Walking on Wednesday nights.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Paternostro

## **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Thursday Morning Bible Study met January through the second week of June and September through November. Our breaks are the last two weeks of June through the end of August and December, resuming at the beginning of Epiphany.

We continue to meet from 10:30-12:00 noon. Our format changes throughout our time in order to accommodate different styles of learning and the different desires expressed by those in attendance. We have used videos/CD's, lectures and group participation e.g. The South African Bible Study. Additionally, we have had different leaders throughout the past year. Fr. Furrer, The Rev. Rosemary Dawson (guest lecturer teaching the book of Ephesians) and Bishop Scruton. Our focus is on studying the Bible and hearing it as "God's love letter" to God's people, listening to the Spirit individually and through each other. We have been truly enriched in our spiritual growth and journey as well as the growth of this caring community. The study is open to anyone at any time and all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Scruton

## **FRIENDS AND NEEDLES**

The knitting group continues to meet from one to three o'clock each Thursday afternoon in the Seabury Room. We knit hats for premature babies and prayer shawls and baptism blankets. We knit for the church fair and for Wethersfield Social Services. This year we knit a basket full of pocket prayer shawls which are free to anyone who wants one.

We knit for our families and ourselves, but over all we have fun. We read and share books and help each other with knitting difficulties. Any and all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Harasymiw on behalf of all the knitters.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Current Members (2019): Barbara Rowley (Chair), Rob Heath, Kathy Cole and Anne Marie Stavola

During 2019, the Finance Committee met monthly to:

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

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

The Committee reviewed investment performance and met with our investment advisor.

Members of the Committee reviewed the auditor's comments/report on 2018 financial policy and procedures.

The Finance Committee collected information from parishioners responsible for a committee or budget line to create the 2020 budget. The Committee also looks at the budget as it relates to the guidelines required by the Diocese. Our budget planning work began in August and culminated in presenting a proposed budget to the Vestry.

Diocesan canons (laws) regarding management of invested funds necessitate transferring Trinity's investments from Merrill Lynch to the Donations and Bequest Fund – the only approved Diocesan investment entity. This is run through the Diocese and managed by Bank of America. That transfer will occur during 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Rowley

## **IT TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Although Trinity continues to address the importance of technology within 21<sup>st</sup> century communities, the recommendation made in the 2019 Annual Report to examine and implement the technology replacement plan and network security was not addressed this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Brown and 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 of us who have relatives interred in the Garden.

Those interred in the Garden in 2019 were: Amy Lynn Shaw Cruz and Dorothy Daigle.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Napolitano

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Sing a new song to the Lord!"

The music program at Trinity continued to grow in 2019. Anthems were offered approximately once a month (except during the summer) in addition to feast days and special events. The special events included a joint choir at Saint Paul's on Ash Wednesday, the 150th Anniversary and Confirmation service in October, the Interface Thanksgiving service and Lessons and Carols.

Singers from other choirs along with a guest organist and choral director joined the Trinity choir for the 150th Anniversary service and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. Missy Cheney was the organist for the 150th anniversary and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. Our own Dr. J. R. Stanko provided the saxophone accompaniment and solo on the anthem for the Anniversary service and Mike Gowdy of Wethersfield Methodist church directed the choir and the Praise Band at the Interfaith service.

Our choir numbers about 10 singers on most days (and often a few more) and they truly make a joyous sound unto the Lord. Dorothy Labelle, our organist and choir director provides direction to the choir as well as hymns for Sunday morning worship.

2019 Choir members included

J. R. Stanko, Tom Traue, Paul Milne, Gordon Scruton, Sal Basile, Linda Traue, Kathy Cole, Maryjane Furrer, Tina Lamorte, Sarah Butters, Rose Gottfried, Diane Zarillo, Barbara Napolitano, Rose Riley, Susan Smith and Marilyn Galek.

The Music Committee which takes part in the planning of all of this music consists of Tom and Linda Traue, J. R. Stanko, Kathy Cole, Barbara Napolitano and Rose Riley.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH REPORT

Trinity's recorded outreach commitment goes back to the early 1980s when we began supporting an Episcopal school in Haiti. In 2003 our Outreach Committee was reorganized to focus on **local, regional, and worldwide organizations**. Mission and outreach activities reported for 2019 include projects under the "Outreach Umbrella" in addition to those administered by the Mission and Outreach Committee. Trinity also provides access to our building for outside organizations.

### **Kateri Medical Services, Inc.**

I would like to thank everyone at Trinity for your support of Kateri Medical Services in so many ways. As you know, this is the other half of my life of ministry. I spend about half of my time with my work here at Trinity and the other half raising funds, building clinics, organizing and leading mission trips and keeping in touch with ministry partners in Nigeria.

I am very grateful to Trinity members who have donated money and prayed for me while I am on my mission trips. And grateful to Sal Basile for doing concerts for us. And Warren Blessing for donating his proceeds from his wood carving sales. And grateful to all of you who attended our once-every-three-years fundraising dinner at First Cathedral.

Thanks to all of your support, Kateri Medical Services brought simple, decent and affordable medical care to 22,996 people in 2019. That is an all-time high for us in the 17 years we have been doing this work. Thank you all for your support.

Rev. Tom Furrer

### **Nigerian Children's Scholarships, Kafachan District**

For the second year in a row, Trinity members provided scholarships for school children in church schools in the Diocese of Kafanchan. We donated \$ 100 per child, which provides tuition, books, uniforms and lunch for one child for a full year. All together, we are providing for more than 60 children to attend school. Thank you generous Trinity members for you open hearts and open hands to give a hand up to children from poor families.

Rev. Tom Furrer

**St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti.** St. Vincent's Center is the only Episcopal school in Haiti which provides academic, clinical, and residential services for 100 deaf, 60 blind, and 40 children in wheelchairs, most unable to walk. It is operated by a Board of Directors with eight Haitians and seven North Americans who work tirelessly "discussing, deliberating, deciding the best path forward for their students". Their headquarters is in Memphis, TN. As their mission statement attests, the children are growing into their full potential, with the skills to negotiate life. Wonderful plans were underway to operate two

campuses – a downtown school for Grades K-9 with full day classes and time for extra-circular activities; and a residential school at Santo 17 for upper grades, a trade school, sports, and entrepreneurial activities. However, for the last three months of 2019 “blockades, businesses, and schools have been shuttered because of corrupt political leadership. There has been no commerce and drastic shortages of food and fuel”. The funds from Trinity's very successful Cook-Off in October helped to buy food and water. Even though St. Vincent's is closed, the Board continues to pay all faculty and staff; their monthly payroll is the lifeline for some 100 people and their extended families.

The good news is that their Trustees in the United States have five new Brailleurs and parts for eight broken ones plus wheels for the three drill presses in the Brace Shop. Workers have been trained to repair wheelchairs and brailleurs. In spite of the upheaval with the government, they will be ready to lift St. Vincent's to a new and higher operational level than ever before.

**Community Dinners at the Cathedral.** Our program this year has run very well. We bring the food, prepare it in the kitchen, and serve it to the residents in Hartford. This overall program has been able to serve about 4,000 dinners last year; we are a small part of that effort.

We have had excellent support in donations and in assistance preparing and serving the meals from parishioners of Trinity. We have been fortunate to have some new volunteers to join us and support our efforts this year. We are always looking for someone new, who would like to help out. We continue to prepare five or six meals per year, depending upon the calendar.

*Warren and Lynda Blessing, liaisons for Christ Church Cathedral Community Dinners*

**Wethersfield Food Pantry.** Once again the generosity of Trinity Parish is outstanding! I choose to weigh the weekly food donations so that there is a tangible amount to report. The monthly donations average 91.46 pounds. March was the banner month with 144.4 pounds delivered. The year's total amounted to 1097.6 pounds. This figure does not include the special Advent collection which filled the back of a pickup truck. Here's to 2020! Let's see what the little church can do.

*Anne Tranberg, liaison for Wethersfield Food Pantry.*

**Wethersfield Social Services.** In addition to the Food Pantry, during 2019 we supported a Backpack Program by providing snacks to over 60 school children who take home backpacks full of healthy, kid-friendly items to keep lower income families going over the weekend. Once school closed for the summer, we took part in a new Social Services program where Wethersfield families in need pick up a bag of food items once a week during the summer and then went back to the Backpack Program once school restarted in September.

**Neighbors Feeding Neighbors.** Trinity joined forces with St. Andrews of Rocky Hill to support this project of providing packaged food to people through local community organizations. Food was purchased in bulk and we repackaged it to create 12,500 meals. We packaged Oatmeal and Mac & Cheese. The meals were distributed to South Park Inn, Wethersfield Social Services, and Cornerstone Shelter in Vernon.

*Warren Blessing, Jr., liaison to St. Andrew's for Neighbors Feeding Neighbors*

**South Park Inn.** During 2019 Trinity parish members continued their faithful support of South Park Inn. The collection basket was filled each week and every month or so we would take a trip to South Park Inn with many large bags full of needed items. This year we were able to facilitate a relationship between South Park Inn and FLP (the Family Learning Program) which occupies our old Sunday School area) which resulted in FLP donating toys to South Park Inn for the children who come there and for the play area in the main waiting room.

*Rose and Ray Riley, liaisons for South Park Inn*

**Copprome Orphanage, El Progreso, Honduras.** As of 2020, I will have been going to Honduras for 20 years, and it has been a wonderful and enlightening experience that I have loved doing. Currently we have 40 children in the orphanage almost equally divided between boys and girls aged 4-20. This past November, which is the end of their school year, there were two graduates from high school.

*Ginger Smith, liaison for Copprome*

**Lunch in the Park and Church by the Pond Programs.** Father Tom Furrer served as celebrant at Church by the Pond on several 2019 Saturday afternoons in Bushnell Park, Hartford. Parishioners prepared 60+ bagged lunches and handed them out after the service during Lunch in the Park fellowship time. We participated on January 5, May 4, and June 22.

*Leslie Jones, liaison for Lunch in the Park and Church by the Pond*

**The Purse Ministry** began last May and has distributed a total of 115 purses and men's bags among six agencies in Connecticut. Through the efforts of parishioners, approximately 50 to 60 purses/bags remain ready to be distributed elsewhere. There are a total of eight agencies listed to receive materials for those transitioning from living in a facility to moving out on their own. These agencies will be rotated to receive more purses/bags on a regular basis, averaging every six to eight months, depending on need. Thank you all for your support.

*Sue Krupenevich-Rafala, liaison for The Purse Ministry*

**Our Syrian-American Family.** For the second year we continued to help our Wethersfield Syrian family with food staples, household and personal care items. Several Trinity parishioners have formed a friendship with Yaman and her three young children. She again participated in our 2019 Cook-Off where she won two prizes for her delicious food, and she appreciates her association with Trinity Parish. Their family is scattered around the world so we feel that God sent them to us to be their community in Wethersfield.

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili + Rice & Beans Cook-Off.** "This was the best one of all" was the common theme after the October 20<sup>th</sup> Cook-Off. It was a fun evening with 15 cooks (16 recipes) participating from Christ Episcopal Church, Middle Haddam; St. Andrew's Episcopal, Rocky Hill; St. James' Episcopal, Glastonbury; and Trinity Episcopal, Wethersfield. The recipes – 11 Chili plus five Rice & Beans – some old and some new – were all delicious. Parishioners from all four churches attended; there was special music by Fr. Tom Furrer, Sal Basile, and JR Stanko; Bishop Marcus Dogo spoke on "Educating Children in Third World Countries"; and we celebrated our successful Nigerian Children's Scholarships Fund raising. The Cook-Off continues to "take on a life of its own" and has now become a multi-community event.

**St. Monica's Christmas Toys.** We learned about the St. Monica's annual Christmas Party in December where they distribute toys to children in their Hartford neighborhood. We made the announcement via email on Wednesday and by Thursday Deacon Darryl Burke had a car full. More toys came in on Sunday. The Holy Spirit had a hand in making this a success as Darryl said it worked out very well.

**Sean's Closet.** The collaboration with Wethersfield Social Services continues to evolve. We have three rooms, one of children's clothing, one of adult clothing, and one of household goods. We have met with the social workers and put a basic plan into place. They will identify the needs and refer, and Trinity will collect items and distribute. They have the expertise and we have the space. Our Vestry provided funds for shelving and racks, and we expect to be up and running by early spring.

*Connie Harasymiw, liaison to Wethersfield Social Services*

**Sal and Dave's Concerts.** Many thanks to Sal Basile and Dave Spitzer for the wonderful evenings of great singing and music. Enthusiastic groups of people attend to dance, sing, and enjoy wonderful music and food. Proceeds from the two "Golden Oldies" concerts went to Kateri Medical Services, Inc. to purchase medicine for the 5 clinics.

In addition to all of the above, in 2019 we had our Annual "**Teddy Bear & Friends Sunday**" where we collected several bags of all kinds of stuffed animals which went to The Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford to be distributed to children while being treated; if they are admitted they keep the animal; if they are outpatient, they take the animal with them. We also participated in a **Feminine Hygiene Kits Project** which went to Kafachan District, Nigeria for Nana Dogo to use. Several Trinity people took part in **The Boot Party** at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford on a Saturday in December to serve the needs of homeless and disenfranchised people in the Greater Hartford area. Several people attended **Hands on Hartford volunteer** projects during the year. On October 15, **Trinity hosted a luncheon to honor Nana Dogo**, the Wife of Bishop Marcus Dogo from the Diocese of Kafachan in Nigeria. After the lunch, Nana Dogo spoke about issues facing women.

As Fr. Tom Furrer has said many times, we are small but mighty, especially when it comes to Trinity's outreach work as shown above. The Mission and Outreach Committee is striving to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus locally, regionally, and worldwide.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Ford, Chair  
Mission & Outreach Committee

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Upkeep and maintenance of our building is an everlasting process. Just like your home, but on a larger scale, there are things that happen and break and repair is needed. We also want to improve the building's condition for our parishioners so that it is safe and comfortable.

Many of our efforts are put into short term fixes that are needed, but we try and identify longer term items that require planning and project management skills. Some of the items that have been accomplished in 2019 include the following.

- Installed a refurbished Street Sign for the church on the corner of Silas Deane Highway and Church Street.
- Coordinated Fire Marshall inspections.
- Managed the overall replacement of the Parish House ceiling, the new installation of LED lighting and painting. Several other hallways and rooms were also included.
- All tile floors in the church were stripped, cleaned and waxed.
- Assisted with a Boy Scout Eagle project to support a Wethersfield Social Service program.
- The exterior Sanctuary doors were cleaned, repaired and painted.
- Coordinated an energy audit of the building.
- Maintained procedures needed to ensure our Inspections and Insurance is in compliance.
- Wrote and submitted a grant request to apply for building repair funds from the Diocese.
- Managed our relationship with our shared services partners who run socially supporting programs.
- Worked on Sanctuary speaker system to improve the sound.
- Maintained the emergency lights, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

We have a small dedicated group who supports our property committee needs; new members are always welcome.

Respectively submitted,  
Warren Blessing

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

The Worship Team is part of the Worship Ministries at Trinity Parish. Our role is to help organize Sunday and special feast day services by:

- Supporting preparation of the Sunday bulletin
- Planning and coordinating special services
- Coordinating with the team leaders of Altar Guild and Lay Worship Ministries (lectors, ministers of communion, ushers, etc.)
- Coordinating with Father Tom, the music committee and organist for hymns and anthems.

In addition to Sunday services and feast days, the Worship Team oversaw two major liturgical events in 2019: the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Confirmation service and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service.

We met nine times in 2019.

2019 Worship Team Members included:

Fr. Tom Furrer	Dorothy LaBelle
Donna Brown	Denise Paternostro
Kathy Cole	Rose Riley
Carol Jones	

## **YE OLDE SUGAR PLUM FAIR**

The fair was held on Saturday, November 23, 2019. Many, many parishioners participated in set up, manning a table, clean up and counting. Those who could not work the fair supported the effort by coming to the food court for lunch, and buying gifts, books and baked goods. As always good suggestions were offered, particularly in the area of community advertising about the fair and suggestions of additional tables for next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Harasymiw

# NOTES