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Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
Sunday, January 26, 2025

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order
3. Establish a Quorum
4. Adoption of Minutes of Annual Meeting (February 4, 2024)
5. Correspondence (if any)
6. Comments by Wardens
2025 Goals
7. Treasurer's Report: Rob Heath
8. 2025 Budget: Rob Heath
9. Report of Nominating Committee: Don Ghostlaw
10. Acceptance of Nominating Reports
11. Elections
12. Acceptance of All Printed Reports
13. Other Business
14. Motion to Adjourn and 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.

Trinity Episcopal Parish Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024

1. The meeting was opened by Bishop Gordon Scruton with a prayer.
2. Meeting was called to order at 11:16a.m.
3. A quorum was established – 53 participating, 44 in attendance and 9 through mail-in ballots.
4. 1. Adoption of minutes. Motion to approve minutes of 2/26/2023 made by Greg Joseph, second by Garth Myers. No discussion. Vote to approve unanimously. Motion passes.
5. Correspondence. None.
6. Comments by out-going wardens. Garth Myers, out-going warden, expressed his thanks for the support of the parish community, his co-wardens, vestry members, everyone who participates and volunteers their time to keep the ship afloat in the various committees, ministries. We are truly a lay-led parish. Also mentioned that the search for a new priest in charge has a candidate and please continue to pray for the wardens in this process. We should continue that energy even as a new priest potentially joins us.
7. Rob Heath, treasurer's report. Pointed community to page 6 of the annual report for report of the treasurer, 2023 actual to budget, designated/restricted account activity, and 2024 budget. Rector and staff compensation were down in expense in 2023, music was above, less snow removal – so in general expenses were down, total income exceeded expenses by \$7749. Nothing was withdrawn from investments during the year. Checking account balance was \$35,158. Investment balance was \$1,109,026, an increase from last year due to market improving. Designated accounts are strictly for specific purposes, restricted can be used for other things but we don't use these funds for day-to-day expenses. Budget for 2024 is a deficit budget. Will be taking \$27,103 from investment income to balance. Rector was not included. When we do have a priest in charge, we will be taking funds out of investment account to cover the cost for 2024. Outreach and Mission was increased to 10% as part of our plan. Music was increased to reflect appropriate stipends for supply organists.
8. Report of the Nominating Committee: Rose Riley. Nominating committee members: Barbara Cosgrove, Judy Shaw, Garth Myers, Tina LaMorte. We are

trying to have the members staggered, so only 2 members come off each year. This year there will be one person serving a one-year term (Rebecca Scruton), a current vestry member who will continue for an additional year (Don Ghostlaw), and a new member who will be serving three-years (Greg Joseph). Full vestry members: Cheryl Chadsey, Kathy Cole, Bruce Duncan, Greg Joseph, Don Ghostlaw, Rebecca Scruton. Wardens: Connie Harasymiw, Carol Jones. Clerk: Melanie Hepburn. Treasurer: Rob Heath. Annual Convention Delegates: Lynda blessing, Ray Colburn, alt. Jennifer Gebhardt.

9. Acceptance of Nominating Reports: Motion to accept the slate made by Joan Joseph, second by Peter Dewberry. No discussion. Slate of Rebecca Scruton (one-year term), Don Ghostlaw (extension of one-year), Greg Joseph (three-year) accepted unanimously. Motion passes.
10. Motion to approve the slate made by Dorothy Labelle, second by Judy Shaw. No discussion. Candidates accepted unanimously. Motion passes.
11. Thanks for out-going warden and vestry members by Carol Jones – Garth Myers, Charles Melchreit, Susanna Brown.
12. Acceptance of all printed reports. Motion to accept by Greg Joseph, second by Ray Colburn. No discussion. Reports accepted unanimously. Motion passes.
13. Other business: Question from Melissa Pavic – any strategy on how to bring in young families? Melissa offered to be part of a group working on that issue. Rebecca Scruton responded by thanking Melissa that this is something that we have been struggling with over the last ten years. Encouraged the wardens and vestry to activate this. Aversa Shelton also responded – is this the right place to ask the vestry for their support or how to create a committee. Invited Aversa and Melissa to come to a vestry meeting and present their ideas. Question or statement from Ginger Smith – if you want to have a greeter program, she will be happy to plan the menu and cook the meal. No resistance to hearing new ideas. Garth asked that everyone thank Bishop Scruton for his guidance on the worship committee. Clark Tomlinson – noted how much the sound has improved, thanks to Don Ghostlaw. And recognized how much work Don has done to move forward with streaming our Sunday service, as well as being available on the website and YouTube. Someone from St. Mary's Hospital will be coming on 2/9 to advise.
14. Closing prayer: Bishop Scruton.
15. Motion to adjourn made by Greg Joseph, second by Garth Myers. Meeting closed at 12:04pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Melanie Hepburn
2/4/2024

REPORT FROM THE WARDENS

...Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

These words were written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus around A.D. 63. If Paul visited us today, he would hopefully say: *Good job, Trinity, you get it!* For as we look back over the past year, it is impossible not to rejoice and be truly thankful for us all, and the good work we have done together in building a strong, active fellowship at Trinity.

Even though it has been two and half years since Fr. Tom retired, the absence of a priest in charge has not deterred us from pursuing our mission to *Love God, Love our Neighbor, Change the World*. Each Sunday, we come together to express our love for God in a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer and enjoy a challenging scripture-based sermon or homily, beautiful liturgy and organ music. We give thanks for the diligent work of the Worship Team that prepares our worship services for each season, incorporating appropriate liturgies, service music and hymns. With Bishop Gordon's guidance, they have endeavored to use the full resources of both the BCP and our hymnals so we can enjoy a varied, enriching worship experience. We are thankful, especially, for those who prepare the sermons and homilies; through their prayerful, thoughtful effort, we have confidence that God is using them to bring His words to us. We give thanks for our celebrants/officiants and readers for their conscientious preparation and work. Although their work is "unseen", we thank the members of the Altar Guild and Flower Committee that ensure our church is always clean and beautiful as we walk in the door for Sunday worship, a Healing Eucharist, a baptism or funeral. Finally, it is wonderful that Dr. Kevin Mack has become our regular Sunday organist and choir director. Our small choir, under his direction, contributed mightily to our worship experience on several occasions last year.

This year we received a visit from the Rt. Rev. Jeffry Mello, our neighbor and friend, who commended us for our lay leadership and loving, active congregation. On that day, Aversa was confirmed, Sue, Don and Carol were received into membership, and Ann Marie, Kathy and Donna reaffirmed their faith. What a blessed day for us all!

After every service, we had an opportunity to come together as a family and enjoy one of Cheryl's world-famous deviled eggs and other goodies in our Coffee Hour. Again, we give thanks for all those whose ministry of hospitality is so welcome and important to us.

We continued to offer other ways to worship, pray and study God's word together. Our weekly online service of Morning Prayer and time of Centering Prayer have continued

since the pandemic. We were blessed also by the Bible study programs, offered by Peter and Rebecca, during the past year.

Our streaming capability has continued to develop, thanks to Don and Dan. All our services are now live-streamed or can be viewed later online using the links on our web page.

This year, we joined with other faith communities in Wethersfield for an interfaith Thanksgiving service at the United Methodist Church. We celebrated the National Day of Prayer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and continue to support their food pantry. It is a great witness to our community that, though we have varied traditions, we are united in our love of God and desire to work to build His kingdom in Wethersfield. We hope that, in the coming year, there will be more opportunities to come together for worship and service.

Much of the work of the Property Committee is also unseen but is, nevertheless, vital! We must never take for granted the hard work involved in keeping this old building in good working order. One of their current projects is the renovation of the former Children's Chapel into a meeting space for us or possible renters. It will be known as the Geoffrey Nielson Community Room in memory of our former parishioner who gave so generously to us through his estate.

This past spring, we welcomed Jo-Ann Formica as our parish administrator. She has helped our hardworking Treasurer, Rob, with the bookkeeping and our tireless office volunteers, Nan and Donna, in their myriad of duties that keep us functioning smoothly. The job description for all that they do for us would probably run several pages!

Seeking ways to love our neighbor, in both hands-on and financial ways, is now an integral part of our collective DNA; no longer just the passion of a few. We give thanks for Joan and Ann Marie who coordinate this work. It was always our prayer that, one day, we might tithe our Operating Budget, and now we do! This year, 10% of our pledged income will go to outreach projects. But, in addition, there are frequent monthly collections for special needs that we respond to with generosity and love. Our commitment is to divide our effort between programs at the international, regional and local level. Full details are always to be found on our beautiful web page – thanks to Joan for all her effort here – but let's just highlight a few programs. One of our international programs that we are personally connected to is the Africa Education Partnership whose president is Don and Peter is a former Board member. We were happy to receive a visit from Bishop Markus Dogo and his wife, Nana, last year to speak about the work of AEP in Kafanchan. Our ears are probably still ringing after Bishop Markus' sermon! We also celebrate the ongoing ministry of Ginger at the Copprom Orphanage in Honduras that she visits twice a year. An excellent example of our regional work is that of Warren and his team who regularly provide hot meals to the hungry folk in Hartford through the

Hands on Hartford program. Also, Clark, Joyce and others who prepared lunches four times last year for the Church by the Pond ecclesia ministry in Hartford. Locally, we are happy to house and support the Hawk Helpers backpack program that serves students at Charles Wright school. These are just a few examples of the good work we are doing to show love to our neighbors.

For many years, we have hoped to find ways to make our presence in Wethersfield better known through serving our community in attractive, engaging ways. Thanks to the initiative and leadership of Melissa and Aversa, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Christmas Carols and Cocoa on Main were wonderful events that brought lots of people to our door. And better advertising of the Blessing of the Animals service, resulted in a greater attendance of local people. We hope to develop more initiatives during this year.

Last year, we came together to identify our Goals for 2025 that would help us continue to build ourselves up in love and further expand our mission. We began by collecting ideas from vestry members and then invited the whole congregation to share their prayers and hopes for Trinity. The list is included here except now, it has been rearranged to show our progress towards achieving these goals. We are excited by the progress that has been made; we are deeply grateful that our pledge commitments for 2025 will enable us to make further progress in the coming year and also afford a part time priest that we wait in hopeful anticipation to arrive.

As your wardens, we are so grateful for the Lord's wisdom, guidance and provision during the past year. If you should ever doubt that God really answers prayer, become a warden and prepare to be amazed! We give thanks to all of you who make this parish a true family home where the Lord is pleased to dwell!

Connie and Carol

2025 GOALS ADDRESSED AND ACCOMPLISHED

1. Signage inside and outside the church-14 dots.
2. Use Rare Reminder and Wethersfield Life to advertise church events and services-12 dots.
3. Participate in Interfaith Service.
4. Family and Children Outreach-6 dots. Carols and Cocoa.
5. Do small tasks for homebound parishioners-5 dots.
6. New second camera for live streaming services.
7. Regular adult formation.

GOALS IN PROGRESS

1. Capital Improvements-9 dots. Wheelchair accessibility to parish hall;
2. Update the Kitchen-8 dots. Installation of slop sink, certification of two parishioners as food preparers.
3. Update the Memorial Garden-2 dots.
4. Clean carpets and sofas in Seabury Room.
5. Update the parish directory-7 dots.

GOALS REMAINING

1. Restart the church fair-9 dot.
2. Four social events a year-8 dots.
3. End of life/funeral planning discussions-7 dots.
4. Senior Outreach Programs-6 dots.
5. Contemporary music band and Saturday service-5 dots.
6. Regular retreats and services like Compline-4 dots.
7. Folk music/Praise band-4 dots.
8. Confidential Care Committee for people with special needs-4 dots.
9. Have a sung Eucharist-2 dots.
10. Return to Rogation Sunday-1 dot.
11. Closer ties to St. Monica's and Church of the Good Shephard-1 dot.
12. New electric piano.
13. Pastoral Care.
14. Develop a wish list for new projects.
15. Office committee to oversee processes and procedures.
16. Music Directorship/Choir
17. Creation Care Committee/Outside events
18. Call list (by Vestry) to contact people not seen regularly.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2024

A. Trinity Parish 2024 Budget and Actuals (pg. 10)

Excluding Investment Income, Income was \$3k higher than budget. Pledges were under budget by \$2k, but Non Pledge was over by \$3.9.

Expenses were under budget by \$13.9k.

- Staff was under \$9.7k because of vacancies and fewer hours.

- Program was under because we didn't spend as much as planned, even though Worship Supplies were slightly over.

- Property was under due to lower snow removal costs, and utilities were lower. Cost saving measures may be starting to pay off..

Total Expenses exceeded Total Income by \$9.3k.

Nothing was withdrawn from investments to cover operating expenses.

B. Designated/ Restricted Accounts (pg.11)

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 Altar Guild 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.

C. Budget 2025 (pg. 12)

While we had a good pledge campaign, and pledges were increased this is still a deficit budget. Excluding Investments, Income increased 8.4%. Excluding Rector, Expenses decreased 9.6%. We included the cost of what a 19hr/week priest in charge might cost for the entire year. Budget for staff was lowered because of fewer hours worked. Music budget was increased due to higher fees and choir rehearsals. Supply Clergy reduced assuming we had a priest. Mission and Outreach remained at 10% of income (less investment). Utility costs reduced assuming the cost savings measures taken will continue.

Fiscal Year 2024 accounts were processed using Power Church Plus software.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Heath -Treasurer

2024 ACTUAL TO BUDGET

	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget
Income		
Support	123,379	120,384
Investment Income	0	27,103
Other Income	2,998	2,078
Total Income	\$126,377	\$149,565
Expenses		
Rector Compensation	0	0
Staff Compensation	11,608	21,316
Christian Formation	186	1,000
Music	14,302	14,300
Program	7,791	9,291
Outreach and Mission	12,487	12,246
Office	13,695	13,694
Property Church	59,057	60,808
Diocese & Deanery	16,555	16,910
Total Expenses	\$135,681	\$149,565
Income Less Expenses	-\$9,304	\$0

NOTE: In 2024 nothing was actually transferred from Investments to cover operating expenses.

Cash Accounts

 Checking Account Balance: **\$31,774**

Investment Accounts

Donations/Bequests

Beginning Balance	1,109,028
Additions	0
Withdrawals	0
Income/Dividends	24,863
Chg in Market Value	98,973
Ending Balance	\$1,232,864

Account Name	Beginning Balance	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Designated Accounts				
Special Gifts	0	14,030	2,019	12,011
Physical Improvements	0	5,190	5,190	0
Flower Fund	2,124	2,855	4,290	689
Memorial Garden	7,087	0	27	7,060
Discretionary Fund-Rector	3,597	210	1,199	2,608
Outreach-General	125	15,095	14,345	875
Outreach-Special	120	5,400	5,400	120
Community Outreach	923	0	137	786
Theological Seminary	0	0	0	0
Stained Glass Windows	1,296	0	0	1,296
Music	1,264	0	0	1,264
Altar Guild	1,225	1,250	314	2,161
Memorial Fund-Designated	0	0	0	0
Total Designated Accounts	17,761	44,030	32,921	28,870
Restricted Accounts				
Memorial Fund-Restricted	161,370	1,730	1,809	161,291
Sale of Rectory (net)	42,813	0	5,190	37,623
Nielsen Estate	482,850	0	0	482,850
Total Restricted Accounts	687,033	1,730	6,999	681,764
Fund Growth	421,995			551,100
TOTAL INVESTMENT	1,109,028			1,232,864

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

Comments on Designated/Restricted Accounts:

Physical Improvements: streaming equipment, new chairs, and "slop sink".

Outreach-General: corrections, St. Vincent's School-Haiti, trees.

Outreach-Special: Nigerian student scholarships.

Special Gifts: special one time donations.

Sale of Rectory: transfer to fund Property Improvements.

Memorial Fund Restricted: memorial donation for Arnold Cosgrove, and hymnals.

2025 BUDGET

Income	
Support	131,565
Investment Income	56,100
Other Income	2,100
 Total Income	 \$189,765
 Expenses	
Rector Compensation	52,799
Staff Compensation	14,122
Christian Formation	1,500
Music	17,300
Program	4,000
Outreach and Mission	13,367
Office	14,820
Property Church	57,192
Diocese & Deanery	14,665
 Total Expenses	 \$189,765
 Income Less Expenses	 \$0

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of the Nominating Committee were Don Ghostlaw (chair), Barbara Cosgrove, Tina LaMorte and Garth Myers. Below is a list of all those who have agreed to serve during the 2025 term, including the nominees for the roles identified as ‘new’ and the new Nominating Committee.

Wardens

- Connie Harasymiw (existing)
- Carol Jones (existing)
- Don Ghostlaw (new)

Clerk

- Melanie Hepburn (existing)

Treasurer

- Rob Heath (existing)

Vestry

- Cheryl Chadsey (existing)
- Kathy Cole (existing)
- Bruce Duncan (existing)
- Greg Joseph (existing)

- Aversa Sheldon (new, 3-year term)
- Melissa Pavick (new, 3-year term)

Annual Convention Delegates

- Lynda Blessing (existing)
- Susan Fennelly (new)

Alternate Annual Convention Delegate

- Kathy Cole (new)
- Donna Brown (new)

2025 Nominating Committee

- Barbara Cosgrove
- Peter Dewberry
- Sheila Dewberry
- Cheryl Chadsey

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

In the Episcopal Church, worship and music are under the leadership and supervision of the Rector of a parish. In the absence of a priest, the Wardens assume the leadership responsibilities of the Rector, including oversight of worship and music for the parish. The wardens delegated their responsibility for the worship and music of the parish to the Worship Team in 2022. Garth Myers served as the Chair of the Worship Team in 2024, with Carol Jones (Warden), Nan Heath, Donna Brown and Gordon Scruton as the membership. In September, Bishop Scruton asked to be relieved of his advisory duties on the Worship Team - which were considerable - and the team continued on, humbled by the enormity of his contributions.

Our worship life requires much more behind the scenes work than parishioners may realize. The details of planning and implementing weekly worship, hymns, service music and bulletins requires constant weekly preparations. Worship needs to be coordinated with the Altar Guild. The worship team is tasked with the weekly worship life of the parish, and this coordination touches on almost everything at Trinity Parish. Worship truly requires a “village” of willing parishioners working regularly, behind the scenes to sustain our life of prayer and worship. While the clergy shortage has required us to have Morning Prayer and lay homilists, we have learned to worship more deeply with Morning Prayer and we have learned that God has blessed us with a good group of parishioners who are gifted in communicating the Word of God to the congregation. We have been overjoyed with Gordon’s continued involvement in leading one service of Holy Communion each month, and with Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer leading the celebration of mass more than a dozen times in 2024; Pastor Hugh has now become licensed to conduct services in the Connecticut Diocese. We consider it a sign of the strength of our lay leadership that attendance for Morning Prayer services has averaged only a few parishioners fewer than services with the Eucharist in 2024.

The Worship Team met almost every month in 2024. Each meeting included a reflection on the strengths of the preceding services, as well as any challenges faced. We then looked forward to the services for the next respective season on the church calendar, aligning readings, prayers and versions to be used alongside service music and hymns. Garth and Nan have taken the responsibility for choosing our weekly hymns. They choose hymns, appropriate for our parish, from an officially recommended list of options from our Hymnal, which reflect both the Scriptures of the day and the Season of the Liturgical Year. The wardens embarked on a challenging journey to find an organist for our worship, and we have welcomed Kevin Mack to lead us in music in the Sunday services. Kevin’s training as a choir director has been invaluable to the development of a small but dedicated choir for special specific Sunday services in 2024.

We held a Healing Eucharist at noon on the first Wednesday of the month which was well attended and much appreciated by parishioners. We pray for peace and justice in the war-torn world, for our nation, for people in the healing professions, and for any concerns

that are on the hearts of those who come. Opportunity is given for anointing and laying on of hands at the altar rail for those seeking special prayers for themselves and for others.

In the coming year, the Wardens and Worship Team will continue to plan services that can magnify the Glory of God and provide spiritual inspiration for our congregation.

Worship Team members: Chair, Garth Myers. Carol Jones, Nan Heath, Donna Brown, and Gordon Scruton (January to September).

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The Altar Guild has faithfully prepared our church for Sunday worship and the Healing Eucharists as well as for baptisms and funerals throughout 2024. Our current members are Susanna Brown, Cheryl Chadsey, Kathy Cole, Helen Descrochers, Marilyn Galek, Jennifer Gebhardt, Nan Heath, Melanie Hepburn, Carol Jones and Sheila Dewberry.

We are grateful to Nan Heath and Jennifer Gebhardt, our Flower Coordinators, who supervise the floral arrangements throughout the year, especially at Christmas and Easter, and after the services, arrange for all the flowers and plants to be delivered to our homebound parishioners and others who might be sick or grieving. Nan also manages the Flower Fund budget including the biannual requests for donations to support this ministry.

We are also grateful to Joyce, our laundress, for her diligent care of our delicate altar linens and Clark Tomlinson who bravely renews the Sacristy Candle each Sunday.

Carol Jones, Altar Guild Director

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT

We continue to have a strong contingency of parishioners who seek to deepen their spiritual growth by meeting with a small group of other seekers.

From February 14, 2024 (Ash Wednesday) until the end of May, a Bible Study group, led by Rebecca, met using the movie "The Chosen", cross checked with Scripture, as our point of discussion and spiritual growth.

Each Saturday, unless Garth was out of town, a group of folks met to discuss the weekly writings of Richard Rohr published by Contemplative Outreach. Each day of writings (by a broad cross section of authors as well as Richard) offered hope, invitation and new ways of being in God and in community. Please contact Garth should you wish to join this lively, diverse, open group.

A Lectionary Bible Study, led by Peter Dewberry met the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

This group, too, is open to anyone wishing to study the lesson(s) for the coming Sunday. Lively discussion and "a'ha" moments are often part of the time together.

Beginning in September, an Inquirer's Class led by Gordon Scruton and Cheryl Cementina was offered. This class was given in preparation for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows and for anyone wanting to join the course as a learning opportunity.

The class finished the Sunday following Bishop Mello's Visitation.

We hope and pray that in 2025, we will follow the Spirit's leading into the areas of study that we need as a parish and as individuals to further the mission given to us by God to:

"Love God, Love your neighbor, Change the world."

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Current Members (2024): Kathy Cole (Chair), Rob Heath (Treasurer), Charles Melchreit, Ann Marie Stavola

The duties of the Finance committee did not change in 2024. The Committee's primary duties include:

- Creation or modification of financial policy and controls as required.
- Monitoring adherence to existing policies and controls
- Reviewing monthly financial reports before presentation to Vestry
- Assisting the Vestry in development of the annual budget
- Developing long term income/expense strategies
- Recruiting, training, and scheduling Counters
- Researching ad hoc financial questions

During the year:

- The committee provided support to the Treasurer by reviewing financial reports, the auditor's comments, and draft budgets at monthly meetings.
- Kathy Cole continued to oversee the counting process, including scheduling and training.
- Rob Heath continued his initiative to formalize documentation of financial processes and account structure.
- The committee monitored the performance of the diocesan Donations and Bequests for Church Purposes fund, which holds Trinity's endowment.
- Early in the year, the committee evaluated potential benefits and risks of moving part of Trinity's checking account balance into an interest-bearing money market fund. As the evaluation indicated that the income gain would be meaningful at current interest rates while not exposing Trinity to material investment risk, a money market account was established and is in the process of funding.

The Finance Committee benefits from the knowledge and insights of parishioners and hopes that some will consider joining as at-large members.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

The Technology Committee supports Trinity's mission both within and outside of Trinity through the use of 21st century technology by continuing to oversee and address technology issues within our parish.

UPDATES: 2024

The decision to provide live-streaming continues to be the catalyst for needed improvements and updates to Trinity's infrastructure.

Streaming: Report: This year we have made significant progress with the streaming and church sound. Don Ghostlaw and Dan Keifer have spent a great deal of time optimizing the streaming so that it works smoothly, and Dan has spent considerable time updating the sound system in the church. We have acquired a second streaming camera for installation at the rear of the church for altar close-ups, close-ups of announcements, and to capture funerals, weddings and baptisms that take place at the back of the church. Having a second camera will also make routine Sunday morning broadcasts more interesting to those watching. We still intend to maintain our robust privacy guidelines and will not be using either camera to show parishioners who are not active in a given Sunday service. Don Ghostlaw and Dan Keifer

Computer Networking: Report: Don Ghostlaw and Dan Keifer have assumed a new role maintaining our computer network. Our networking equipment, used to connect wireless access points, provide computing services to the Office and around the building, including to rooms in the basement that may become used in the future, and to the streaming services, have not been maintained or updated since they were initially installed many years ago. Don and Dan have taken on this role and will soon be bringing existing networking equipment up to date and maintaining it so that it stays current and continues to provide reliable services to Trinity. Don Ghostlaw and Dan Keifer

Reorganization of Trinity's online files:

As of early January 2025, Rob Heath reported that 14,000+ files are finally able to be accessed under one main directory with meaningful sub-directories.

2025 INITIATIVES:

- Update networks
- Complete the reorganization of Trinity's online files

The Technology Committee would like to recognize and thank:

- Don Ghostlaw and his team for their work to make live-streaming possible for Trinity.
- Rob Heath for his tireless commitment to the complete organization of Trinity's files.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Joseph and Donna Brown

MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach at Trinity is a lay-driven ministry focused on serving local, regional, and global causes. Trinity's Mission & Outreach committee serves as a resource for the congregation to guide, organize and record M&O projects and activities. The focus for 2024 was **We Hear the Call**. The M&O bulletin board in the Parish Hall was moved to the largest, centrally located, board to showcase and highlight Trinity's participation in our ever-evolving committed journey to serve. The congregation has generously given more to Trinity's M&O initiatives than could have possibly been imagined and could not have been accomplished without their support.

The three sections below record what was done in each category during 2024.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Joan Joseph & Ann Marie Stavola

2024 Local Mission & Outreach:

- Wethersfield Food Bank - Lenten Food Drive – (Vickie Crafa) – 705 items (SNAP & NON-SNAP items) + \$100 in gift cards
- Wethersfield Food Bank - Holiday Food Drive – (Vickie Crafa) – 220 items + \$250 gift cards
- Wethersfield Social Services - \$500 (Vickie Crafa) to the Backpack fund for back-to-school supplies
- Wethersfield Social Services - \$1500 (Vickie Crafa) to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank
- Charles Wright Elementary School Hawks Helper Weekend Backpack Program - Trinity provides a large room for the collection and storage of food items. School volunteers meet weekly to prepare food packages for distribution to school families facing food insufficiencies. The Summer Snack Program collected over 230 snacks and over 90 cans and packs of fruit to supplement the program. In December \$500 was allotted from the M&O Fund to provide storage units for the group.
- St. Paul's Food Pantry – (M&O Committee) The Food Pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wethersfield services well over 50 families weekly and is partially subsidized by Foodshare, with the remaining needs being met by local donations and partnerships with area supermarkets. The needs continue to grow and they have turned to area churches to help fill the gap. In December Trinity collected specific items to supplement the food pantry's immediate needs resulting in 146 cans and packages (including many 12-48 count boxes of ramen) totaling over 200 items. In June \$500 from the M&O Fund was given to supplement weekly donations.
- Because We Care – (Barbara Cosgrove) created in late 2023 to provide cards & meals for parishioners in need. She would like to form a group of people to call on to prepare a meal when needed. Please contact her to become part of this ministry or to request cards or meals for a parishioner.

- Friends & Needles – Report: We continue to meet weekly to knit prayer shawls and baptism blankets and infant hats for NICU babies. We also knitted 16 pocket prayer shawls for distribution at Middlesex Hospital Hospice program as well as for our own congregation. Connie Harasymiw.
- Sean’s Closet – Report: We continue to collect clothing for all age groups and household goods for distribution through Wethersfield Social Services. We also respond to needs from individuals as they are brought to our attention. Connie Harasymiw.
- Arbor Day Tree Planting – In conjunction with the town of Wethersfield, a European Hornbeam (\$345) was planted in front of Trinity through collected donations from Trinity parishioners.
- Keane Foundation - \$500 (Donna Brown) to support Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Programs.
- Det. Robert “Bobby” Garten Memorial - \$500 (Ann Marie Stavola/Joan Joseph) to the memorial fund for a former Trinity parishioner who was a Hartford police officer gunned down in the line of duty.

2024 Regional Mission & Outreach:

- Community Dinners at Hands on Hartford (Warren & Lynda Blessing) – 445+ meals. Report: All positive reports from the clients of Hands-on Hartford. We provided the food, prepared and served the dinners on Monday evenings every other month. We also had a team who went up to HOH and assisted in serving a meal to their neighbors on Memorial Day.
We have had wonderful support from our parishioners in supplying food, money and in person support for this initiative. We prepare a very appreciated menu to the clients. They receive a dinner comprised of baked ham, baked beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert and a drink. Our dinner is prepared. Part of our team continues make the plates up and part of us start serving the clients.

We have had a few new people this year join us in attending. Our goal is to have six people attend. More, we start to get in the way of ourselves. Warren & Lynda Blessing

- Lunch in the Park/Church by the Pond – Christ Church Cathedral (Carol Jones) – \$600 from M&O fund to offset costs. 120+ bagged lunches provided - served 4 times in 2024.
- Disabled American Veterans – (Vickie Crafa) – 36 food gift cards worth \$960 collected.
- Middlesex Health Hospice Program (Ann Marie Stavola) – In January we created 17 polar fleece blankets, collected 42 baking goods and received 16 prayer squares from Friends & Needles to donate to this program

- Purse Ministry – Toiletries, hygiene items and more to fill purses for those in need & transition (Sue Rafala) – 16 purses distributed to the VA Hospital / 35 purses & 50 care packages distributed to St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown.
- Camp Washington - \$800 (Corinne Helfant) to support summer camp opportunities for children.
- Malta House of Care - \$500 (Vickie Crafa) to the Malta House of Care Medical Clinic that provides high-quality, free primary health care to uninsured adults in Greater Hartford
- Sandy Hook Promise - \$500 (Vickie Crafa) towards educating students and adults to know the signs of gun violence.
- Alzheimer's Association - \$500 (Rose Reilly)

2024 Global Mission & Outreach:

- St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities – \$3000 (Connie Harasymiw) was given towards a \$15,000 grant awarded by the diocese. This year the center was destroyed by gangs and they are currently working to set up a clinic in a new location to respond to the needs of children with disabilities. The grant was awarded to provide sorely needed durable medical goods.
- Kateri Medical Mission – \$600 (Bruce Duncan)
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem - \$1000 (Gordon & Rebecca Scruton) whose mission is the *transforming [of] lives of the vulnerable & displaced in the Middle East*.
- Africa Education Partnership - \$800 (Don Ghostlaw) to further the work of building schools & providing scholarships in northern Nigeria.
- Nigerian Scholarships – Bishop Dogo in Kafanchan, Nigeria (Cheryl Chadsey) - \$5400 was raised to provide 18 scholarships at \$300 per student per year.
- Soup to Go – Copprome Orphanage, Honduras (Ginger Smith) - \$1845 raised through this activity. In December \$300 from the M&O Fund was allotted to provide additional services for the children. Report: I was in Honduras twice this past year—March and October. In October school had just resumed and all the children were well Sister Teresita was recovering from a hip fracture. I had sufficient money to feed the children for 10 days and left their freezers and counters full of food. The children were taken on a day trip to the Gulf of Mexico beach and had a wonderful beach day. In October school was a week away from closing and 3 girls were graduating from high school which is a really big deal!! One of the girls I have known since she was 2, so it was very sad for me as I knew she would not be there when I return again. She is the last sister of 7. The cost of food had significantly gone up since March so I was not able to leave as much in the freezers. More money will be needed in March 2025 to fill the freezers. On a sad note, Sister is failing and I am very concerned for her. Also, it seems that the tumor in the back of Danielo's neck is growing again and more surgery will be

needed. Also, it rained every single day so no day trip was possible. The next Soup to Go will be Mar 2, 2025 and your participation will be gratefully appreciated as the needs are getting greater. Many thanks to all who have so generously contributed. (Ginger Smith)

MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT



“Think of them faring on as dear

In the love of There as the love of Here.”

From “Away” by James Whitcomb Riley

A heartfelt thank you to Rob Heath, Cheryl Chadsey and James Milne, whose work to maintain the Memorial Garden is very much appreciated. This means so much to everyone, but especially to those who have relatives interred in the Garden.

No one was interred in the Memorial Garden in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Tomlinson

PROPERTY REPORT

One more year of keeping the ship on track. There are always plenty of things that need to be repaired or straightened out. With the support of our property team, we do what we can. We also need to work within our budget and act financially responsible. Many of the projects we work on are not always visible to all. Such as we painted the garage, cleaned out the undercrofts. We have seemed to accumulate extra unneeded “stuff”. The old shed was dismantled and removed, exterior doors all refinished, the office and office lobby all cleaned and repainted. We also cleaned out the Children’s Chapel and removed the falling ceiling so to eliminate the danger of it falling on someone. We had our slate roof on our church repaired. Just a sampling of tasks completed this past year.

We also looked to groups or small businesses that align with our principles to rent some space in the school area.

We would always welcome a helping hand; we promise not to over work you. Requests are sent out and team members offer to help based on the project and their time schedule.

Respectively submitted,
Property Team, Warren Blessing Ray Colburn, Charles Melchreit, Jerry Stavola, Clark Tomlinson.