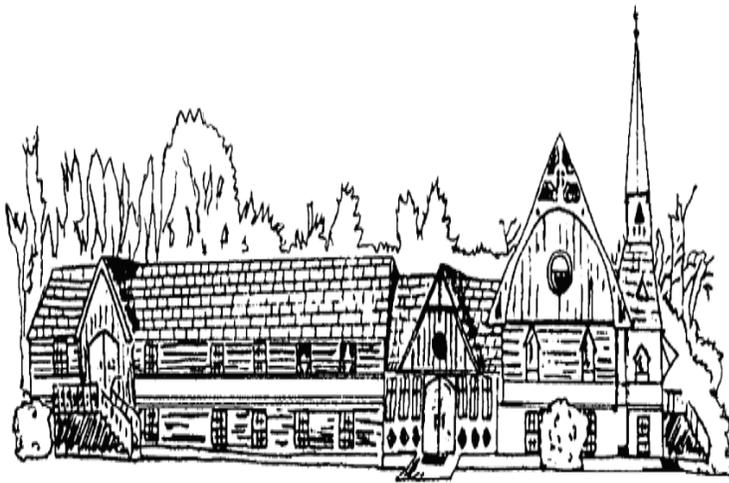


**The Journal of
The Annual Meeting
of
Trinity Episcopal Church
Collinsville**

**In the Town of Canton
and
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut**

January 28, 2018



MISSION STATEMENT:

“With God’s love, we joyfully welcome and nourish all; with God’s help, we serve our community and beyond.”

**Trinity Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2017**

The Reverend Linda Spiers called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

A motion was made by Heather Prescott to accept the Agenda, Ken Jones seconded and unanimously passed.

Minutes of the January 24, 2016 Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Walter Lowell to accept the minutes, seconded by Kathy Hart and unanimously passed.

Linda offered a prayer for a church meeting from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

A portion of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Sermon "**Look to the Rock**" from the Annual Convention in CT on November 21, 2016 was shown.

Treasurer's Report: Operating & Capital Budget

The Treasurer's report is on page 9 of the Annual Report booklet.

Points of interest from Consolidated Balance Sheet on Page 12:

1. Cash balance is positive.
2. Liability Section: - 0 - we don't owe anyone anything. Money was taken out of the endowment fund to pay our outstanding debt to the Diocese.
3. Revenues were very good. A number of parishioners gave more than they had pledged, totaling \$17,000.00. We still have \$15,000.00 of pledged monies not collected.
4. Expenses: very fortunate that expenses are less than budgeted. Kenny Wood's retirement in June resulted in monetary savings.

Capital Campaign report is on page 13. Jim went over money in and out. Only \$5,000.00 in uncollected pledges remain for the capital campaign. Actuals 2016, the "other expenses" is mostly equipment in the form of computer equipment. The money borrowed from the Memorial Fund for the Capital Campaign will be repaid in the first quarter.

A motion was made by Walter Lowell to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mike Wallace and unanimously passed.

Report from Nominating Committee & Election:

Maryellen Prudhomme gave a report for the Nominations Committee; the entire slate is as follows:

- Maryellen Prudhomme – Senior Warden
- Neale Hegarty – Junior Warden
- Jim Stapleton – Treasurer (one-year term)
- Arthur Lowell – Asst. Treasurer
- Tom Sweeney – Asst. Treasurer
- Heather Garvin – Clerk of the Vestry
- Mimi McGill – Vestry Member (three-year term)
- Gary Nicksa – Vestry Member (three-year term)

- Peg Pinton – Vestry Member (three-year term)
- Dawn Lowell, Travis Robinson, Mimi McGill (after filling the last year of Neale Hegarty's vestry term) are retiring from the Vestry.
- Karanne Farling, Diocesan Convention Delegate
- Ann McAdoo, Diocesan Convention Delegate
- Susan Jones, Diocesan Convention Alternate Delegate
- Rachelle Harper, Diocesan Convention Alternate Delegate

Motion to accept the slate as presented was made by Peter Dehey, seconded by Rachelle Harper and it passed.

Motion to cast one ballot for the slate as presented was made by Ken Jones, seconded by Nancy DaSilva and it passed.

Rector's Report: Linda's report was her sermon today. She encouraged everyone to take time to read the annual reports in the booklet. On the back of the Agenda is a letter from the Bishops telling us that we are doing all the things required of us financially in the Diocese.

Senior Warden's Report:

The Senior Warden's report is on page 7 of the Annual Meeting booklet. Maryellen noted that, with Linda's encouragement, the Vestry undertook a Mutual Ministry Review which helped the Vestry to focus on what is important to the members of the church.

Maryellen thanked everyone who put work into *Jammin' with Jesus*, Holy Smoke BBQ, Kenny's retirement, Tag Sale, Mardi Gras celebration and *Quality Street*. We do what we want well and we don't talk about Stewardship much because we don't like to talk about money. We need a leader for Stewardship and if anyone feels they can lead this throughout the year, please speak to Linda or Maryellen.

Junior Warden's Report:

The Junior Warden's report is on page 8. 2016 saw a new roof and new gutters. This year the furnace will be replaced, probably over the summer when school is out. Trinity handymen are the best and they take it upon themselves to fix what needs to be repaired. The church looks great now and we have to maintain it. Lead paint is taken care of and yet the church will be inspected once or twice a year by the State of Connecticut because of the Nursery School.

Leslie noted how grateful she is to the Capital Campaign and for fixing the doors on the tower and making them compliant with fast emergency escape.

Presentation of 2017 Budget:

The 2017 budget is on page 16 of Annual Meeting booklet. Last year we had a budget deficit forecasted and we ended up with balanced results. There should be a \$30,000.00 deficit this year, too, based on current pledges. Jim went into the benefits of pledging and being able to plan with money in hand instead of waiting to see if we have money or not at the end of the year.

We don't have enough pledges to cover our operating expenses and we need to find a way to collect money for the rainy days.

There will be a 1% increase in salaries for 2017.

Stewardship Update:

It would be nice to have people on a committee to discuss stewardship going forward.

Recognition of Committee Chairs:

Linda thanked Theresa, Alex, Mary and Norman for their faithful work. She thanked Maryellen, Neale and Jim for their work and the vestry members.

There will a celebration for the end of the Capital Campaign on April 22nd.

Linda thanked Leslie, Travis and Dawn for their faithful ministry with *Jammin' with Jesus*.

Linda invited committee chairs to stand, Acolytes, the finance committee, choir and church school teachers.

Walter Lowell made a motion at 12:31 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Peter Dehey, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Garvin
Clerk of the Vestry

Rector's 2017 Annual Report

*"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."* 1 John 4:7

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry speaks and writes profoundly about "Becoming the Beloved Community." *Beloved Community* is a choice of words used by Martin Luther King, Jr., and I believe we are all on a journey to becoming the beloved community. We are all God's beloved children, no matter who we are or what we've done or not done. As I look back at 2017, I see many ways the people of Trinity are on this journey of becoming the beloved community, and I want to continue pondering that in 2018. Think about these words and recall how we are on that journey together.

We continued the practice of having Family Worship services once a month—a time when our children and young people remain in church and participate more actively than their normal roles. Christian formation happens in church in ways that are hard to describe, so this once a month fullness of time with us is important for them and for us. Alex Kirstukas continued to offer his gifts of music and choral directing by serving as our Interim Director of Music from January through mid-September when he headed to London for further academic studies. We had a grand celebration of Alex's music and the enormous gift of himself to us. We welcomed Jenny Bradshaw in September as our Director of Music, and she enthusiastically embraced her work of directing the choir, planning music, starting the Canton Children's Choir, and serving at funerals. Jenny and the choir soothe our souls with beautiful music and invite us to praise God gloriously. Beloved communities grow in faith and in love.

We gathered in life event celebrations near and far. Welcomed into Christ's fold in baptism were Grace Adelyn Gorman and Gideon Travis Robinson. Confirmation was held at Trinity, Torrington, with Bishop Laura Ahrens confirming Shannon McAllister Downey, Maxmillian Henry Sparks, and Ian McAllister Stapleton and receiving into the Episcopal Church Lisa Ann Bogush. There was only one marriage recorded in Trinity's Register – Michael James Toussaint and Anna Trzeciak, married by the Rev. David Duprey at Villa de Louisa. Michael and Anna's marriage began a blessed relationship with David who visits us in liturgy and often celebrates once a month while on leave and studying at Princeton. We said farewell and celebrated the lives of a large number of God's beloved: James Richard Fijalkowski, Joseph D. Bidwell, Harold James Decker, Ray G. Pelletier, Grace Elizabeth McFarland, Mark Elston Lowell, Janet Marie Dandley, Christine Kirby Faunce, Christine Spiers Moseley, Kenneth E. Woods, Alice Colligan Barnhart, Lawrence Palmer Vernon, Jane Frances Reeve, Victor Vincent Viering, Loretta LaPointe Vernon, Alexa Vasquez, Donna Pierce Faunce, and David Edward Shaver. It was a year of loss for so many. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Beloved communities celebrate together and grieve together.

Beloved communities reach out beyond themselves. For the third year a group of Trinity all-aged volunteers joined people of all faith traditions and helped create and pack meals at the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center—this year thousands of breakfast meals were made and distributed to local Food Banks and Gifts of Love. Trinity folks continued to gather quarterly to make lunches for *Church by the Pond* guests in Bushnell Park—made possible by the generous donations each quarter of food items and the folks who take the lunches into Hartford and distribute them. Trinity members continued to clean closets at home and donate clothes to *Church Street Eats* and to *Miriam's Closet*. Whether someone is on the street in need or someone is about to interview for a new job, clothes have been given generously and delivered generously by faithful outreaching hands and hearts.

Trinity's youth continued to learn about what it means to have a giving heart by working at Christ Church Cathedral's Sunday feeding program *Church Street Eats* and leading Trinity's participation in a Hartford citywide and North Central Region *Boot Party* for the homeless. *Heads Up! Hartford* mission camp opened

the doors for Trinity youth to learn more about leadership, diversity, and community service. Our youth helped us raise monies for *Camp Hispaniola* and Holy Land children through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. All ages and nearly all Trinity members reached out to host *Quality Street*, which raised a phenomenal \$3,700 for the Canton Food Bank and \$3,700 for the Canton Fuel Bank. *Holy Smoke Barbeque* enticed us all with delicious pit cooked pork and community hospitality and live music. Raised from the good food of the day, monies allowed us to redo Trinity's Memorial Room with new furniture and new lamps and to make that space hospitable for all who gather there. Trinity is now the owner of the smoker thanks to the generosity of its original owner and resides temporarily in a storage facility through the winter.

Becoming beloved community includes learning to be good stewards with all that's entrusted to us all the time. See the financial reports for an update of the good progress of our year. See that our Capital funds have continued to cover the things needed and planned for. We are stewards of time, talent, and treasure all the time—a journey that continues through life.

We continued to learn how we are part of a greater whole with being out into the wider Canon community and into our ECCT North Central Region. I actively participated in the Christian Activities Council—a group of close to 60 Greater Hartford clergy from multiple faith traditions. We were trained in ways of community organizing and unlearning racism and how we might bring those skills into our houses of worship. Tracey Dandley-MacLaren and Marc-Yves Regis have learned more about this process of building relationships not only outside of Trinity but deeper relationships within our own community with one another. There will be more to come on this work. Becoming beloved community is all about loving God and loving neighbor, whether inside our walls or outside our walls.

You lovingly reached out to one another as members have recovered from illnesses and hospital stays and accidents and losses and transitions of life—taking meals, checking in on them, loving them through the good times and the challenging times.

In June I sent out a parish letter advising you of a change in my status. The Canons of the Episcopal Church require that clergy retire at the age of 72. Bishop Douglas, with the authority of his office, granted me another year with you, beginning in July 2017. My pension through the Church Pension Fund began in July, and the portion that Trinity would have paid for my pension has been saved in the Rectory Fund and will continue to be saved for the next rector. Discernment for what's next is still underway. Be assured that I still feel called to active ministry, thanks to the many ways you have taught me and we have walked together.

You have continued to do amazing and wonderful things as well as listened for God in the midst of change. Your Vestry continued to provide strong leadership in many and varied ways. I am eternally grateful to Maryellen Prudhomme for her phenomenal service and leadership as Trinity's Senior Warden. I am also thankful beyond words for Trinity's staff and for the many ways they help us become the beloved community. It continues to be an honor to serve with them and with each of you. Thank you for all that you do and all that you are. The journey continues as we learn together how to keep becoming the beloved community.

With blessings and gratitude,
Linda+

Senior Warden 2017 Annual Report

In 2017, the Vestry focused primarily on two matters, Trinity's Mission Statement and Stewardship. At our meeting in August we had an Ideation Session expertly facilitated by Anne Marie Pelletier. We recognized that an update to the existing Mission Statement was well overdue, and decided that a new Mission Statement should be clear, understandable, active (rather than passive) and outward facing. And, it had to align with our Stewardship efforts. In September, we gathered our thoughts and got to work on the drafting process. Each word of the current Mission Statement was carefully and thoughtfully chosen, and we hope it speaks to you.

"With God's Love, we joyfully welcome and nourish all; with God's help, we serve our community and beyond."

Stewardship was a topic for discussion at each Vestry meeting this year. We recognized that Stewardship includes giving in many ways, and contributions of time, talent and non-monetary treasure are absolutely critical to the sustainability of Trinity. Our new "Pass the Plate" is intended to symbolize that everyone contributes to and touches Trinity in some way. However, we needed to speak candidly and openly about the financial aspect, and do what we must to keep our church open and active well into the future. And Linda gently reminded us how very often Jesus spoke of money, and often in ways that we might find uncomfortable.

Again, as we did with Anne Marie on the Mission Statement, we received valuable direction and guidance from Paul Atkins, Jerry Holmes and Mike Wallace, and many of you had the opportunity to hear from them as well. We have shared more information about Stewardship through the weekly Stewardship Pearl and will continue to provide financial updates. Take a look at the poster downstairs to see our Stewardship progress this year.

Very recently, a parishioner commented to me that Trinity is a "Service Church". And indeed, we are giving in so many ways. From the Food Bank to Quality Street, to Church in the Park, clothing donations, and Miriam's Closet, from socks, scarves and mittens to Easter Baskets, prayer shawls and Christmas toys, so many lives are touched. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as Senior Warden of Trinity, Collinsville.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Prudhomme, Senior Warden

Junior Warden 2017 Annual Report

With all the hustle-and-bustle involved with the Capital Campaign coming to a close, we should all take pride in the condition of our Trinity home. After working tirelessly to bring the condition of our building back to a level befitting our expectations, we have continued the due diligence to keep it that way.

2017 was a year of true preventative maintenance. Regular gutter cleanings, paint touch-ups on the interior and exterior of the building, wood rot and woodpecker repairs on trouble-prone areas before any real damage could develop and of course, lots of landscape work and weed-pulling. At every turn, the members of Trinity appeared when summoned, and our Trinity home looks better than ever as a result.

2017 marked the second year in a row that water was kept out of the building. A combination of a new roof, new (and bigger) gutters, additional downspouts and clearing around the foundation all allowed us to maintain a dry basement.

Last, but certainly not least, we rewarded ourselves with a new furnace! Not only will this furnace use less than ½ the oil as our previous model, the computer-controlled functions will ensure additional efficiencies that will lead to additional savings in operational costs for years to come. Our old furnace literally limped across the finish line last April, so its replacement could not have come at a better time, especially for the Trinity Nursery School, which did not look forward to the prospect of having to cancel classes in the 2018/2018 school year.

Once again, I want to give special shout-outs to the Trinity Handymen and women who assisted with everything from rotting fence posts to loose stairs to spraying acres of poison ivy to moving the Trinity Smoker to its winter home. It is a great pleasure to have so many people who are willing to help keep our building in tip-top shape, and who volunteer at a moment's notice.

2017 was a year void of any building "emergencies" – testament to the time, effort and money we have put into maintaining our home. The Capital Campaign has allowed us to bring our building back to the level it deserves – now it is upon all of us to keep it there. I thank all of you who stepped up and helped to keep Trinity in the condition it deserves.

With Gratitude,
Neale Hegarty, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report For the year ended December 31, 2017

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The Numbers

Income and expense amounts, at Trinity, is grouped as 'budgeted' and 'non-budgeted'. When reviewing the financial health of the parish, it is important to distinguish between these. Budgeted amounts are predictable, non-budgeted amounts are not. We rely on the budgeted amounts to ensure our financial viability.

- The budgeted numbers represent the operating revenues and expenses Trinity anticipates for the upcoming year. These are the numbers included in the operating budget adopted by the Vestry each January and distributed at the Annual Meeting.
- The non-budgeted items are those that are not included in the budget. Historically, the non-budgeted items have related to outreach and mission; things like *Quality Street* and special envelopes, as well as special gifts or other items where there isn't a reasonable basis to estimate an amount to include in the budget process.

The Funds

Trinity maintains a series of Funds, where money has been set aside for specified purposes. The balance of these funds is reported on the consolidated balance sheet. Some of these funds have been designated by the Vestry, while others are specified by the donors.

- The primary fund is the **Operating Fund**. This is the fund used to support the day to day operations of Trinity. This is where pledge receipts are deposited and operating expenses are paid.
- The **Youth, Maintenance and Acolyte** Funds represent money collected for those specific programs. There is little activity in these funds.
- The **Memorial Fund** represents money given 'in memory of' members of the parish family.
- The **Rectory Fund** represents the remaining proceeds from the sale of the rectory. Both the Memorial and Rectory funds have been designated by the Vestry to be used, as the need arises, for unique one-time expenses; these monies are not to be used to fund the operations of the parish. The money in the Rectory Fund has been set aside to assist a rector in arranging housing in Canton, should there be such a need.
- The **Endowment Fund** represents money given to the parish with the expectation that the income earned by the Fund could be used at the Vestry's discretion. The expectation is that the principal in the Fund would not be touched.
- The **Cudworth Trust** was established to benefit members of the Trinity community. The principal is not to be used. The income from the Trust is deposited to the Rector's Discretionary Fund semi-annually.
- The **Rector's Discretionary Fund** represents money given to Trinity to be used at the Rector's discretion, generally for alms.
- The **DS Burton Memorial Fund** was established in memory of Debbie Burton. The money is used to grant scholarships for students in need attending Trinity Nursery School (TNS). Scholarships are approved by the Vestry based on recommendations of the TNS staff. TNS holds fundraisers to add monies to this fund.
- **Capital Fund** (Nurture Trinity Capital Campaign) was created in 2014 for the purpose of raising money to cover capital improvements at Trinity. The capital campaign was a three-year campaign, ending December 31, 2016. A summary of the capital campaign is reported separately in the annual report. Once all Capital activity is completed, any residual balance in this Fund will be contributed to the Maintenance fund.

2017 Results

Cash Flow

Cash flow is the primary financial concern of the parish leadership; making sure there is enough money on hand to pay the bills. For the second year in a row, operating cash flow was positive. The cash flow was positive, in part, because Trinity was not required to fund the rector's pension over the last six months of 2017. While the expense was not paid, the money that would have been contributed to the pension was deposited into the Rectory Fund. This practice will continue as long as Linda remains as our rector.

Consolidated Balance Sheet (all funds, excluding Capital Campaign)

Significant changes in the consolidated balance sheet include:

- Cash balances improved year over year, primarily due to prepayment of 2018 pledges (\$18,310) as well as the positive operating cash flow.
- The Memorial Fund balance increased because the Capital Campaign repaid money borrowed from the Fund.
- The Rectory Fund increase reflects the contribution of the rector's pension as well as a 15.5% return on investments in 2017.
- The Endowment Fund increase is the direct result of a 15.5% return on our investments.
- The DS Burton Memorial Fund balance reflects fundraising contributions made by Trinity Nursery School.

Revenues – Operating Fund

Actual operating revenues were \$10,610 greater than budgeted. The variance is attributable to payments made in excess of amounts pledged.

Non-budgeted revenues increased year over year because of prepayments of 2018 pledges and special gifts received in 2017 (thank you).

The outreach amounts represent collections using the special envelopes (Christmas, Easter, etc). or specific events, most notably Quality Street. The outreach amounts are disbursed as non- budgeted expenses, outreach.

Expenses – Operating Fund

Actual expenses in 2017 were less than budget by \$5,582 and less than 2016 actual expenses by \$1,060. The primary reason expenses are lower than budget relates to the elimination of the rector's pension payment in the last half of the year. A summary of the variance to budget, by category:

- Salaries and other employee expenses include all costs associated with personnel at Trinity. The favorable variance relates to the Rector's pension and education allowances that were not used in 2017.
- Worship expenses include flowers, supply priest, music and altar supplies; costs associated with our worship services. The variance is not meaningful.
- Mission expenses include Trinity's pledge to the diocese as well as Christian formation and advertising.
- Utility expenses include oil, electricity, and water. Oil and electricity charges were higher than budgeted.
- Maintenance expenses include maintenance contracts as well as repairs and upkeep. The variance is not meaningful.

- Administrative expenses are the costs of maintaining our office, including postage and liability insurance. The variance is not meaningful.
- Other expenses is a catch all of activity not classified elsewhere. The variance to budget reflects monies spent to refurbish the memorial room.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Stapleton
Treasurer

Consolidated balance sheet here

Statement of revenues and expenses here

capital campaign spreadsheet here

Finance Committee 2017 Annual Report

The role of the Finance Committee is to monitor the financial health of the Parish and provide recommendations, pertaining to financial matters, to the Vestry.

Financially, 2017 is another year to celebrate. For the second year in a row we have positive operating cash flow. We began the year anticipating a \$13,000 deficit in the Operating Fund. Instead, we end the year with a \$3,205 surplus! We have also collected a record amount of pre-paid pledges for 2018. This provides liquidity in the Operating Fund we have not seen in years!

We did not make any withdrawals from our investment accounts in 2017. That, too, is good news.

Our annual pledge drive saw improvements for 2018. We received more pledge cards and larger pledges than we have seen in the past. During the pledge campaign, statistics were shared showing the distribution of pledge amounts among pledging units. The statistics showed that Trinity relies on roughly 12% of the pledging units for 50% of pledge revenue. While this statistic is not likely unique to Trinity, it is important that the Parish understand this statistic. In looking at the distribution of pledges for 2018, our reliance on the largest pledging units decreased slightly, 1.25%, while those pledging between \$2,500 - \$5,000 increased 8.49%. Those pledging less than \$2,500 fell by 7.7%. A more detailed breakout of the pledge distribution is included in the Stewardship section of the Annual Report. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

During the pledge campaign, we talked about using increased pledges to support greater outreach initiatives at Trinity. To that end, the Finance Committee recommended a \$2,500 increase in the Outreach budget (to \$3,000), as well as \$500 for Miriam's Closet. The \$3,000 Outreach budget will be used by the Outreach Committee as they think best, consistent with our mission: "With God's love we joyfully welcome and nourish all; with God's help, we serve our community and beyond."

The 2017 operating budget again forecasts a deficit, though a much smaller deficit than 2017. The budget is presented elsewhere in this report. Given our experience with deficits over the past two years, we do not anticipate any financial hardships in 2018.

Last year we reported that we were behind in our annual financial reviews, required by the Diocese. We can report that we are now current with those reviews.

We welcome Rick Richardson as a member of the Finance Committee. Rick has spent the last 6 months of 2017 working on the implementation of the Realm software application at Trinity. Realm is a mission centric software package we will be introducing to the parish in early 2018. The application provides new ways for us to communicate and keep informed of what is going on at Trinity. There are features which will improve our efficiency from an administrative perspective. We will be better able to track and report on all our parish activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Sweeney, Paul Atkins, Rick Richardson, Jim Stapleton

2018 Operating Budget

Summary

As in the past, expenses for 2018 have been budgeted based on 2017 actual expenses. 2018 pledged revenue is based on pledges received as well as recurring payments made by parishioners who do not pledge. Total pledging units received to date is 74, 5 more than at this time last year and one less than total pledge cards turned in in 2017. The total amount pledged has increased, as well as the distribution of the amounts pledged. All other revenue is budgeted based on 2017 actuals. Our expectation is that additional pledge cards will be received in 2018, similar to other years.

The operating budget, once again, is projected to run at a deficit. The budgeted deficit in 2018 is \$8,868, roughly \$4,000 lower than the 2017 budget. Given that projected deficits in 2017 and 2016 did not materialize, when projected deficits were much larger, the expectation is that 2018 deficit will not be an issue.

Revenues

Pledges – A total of 74 pledge cards have been received, pledging \$225,095. This represents a 6.9% increase in signed pledge amounts compared to 2017.

Plate - Collections in 2017 were roughly \$1,000 less than budgeted in 2017. The 2018 is based on the lower 2017 actual amount.

Fundraising – Fundraising in 2017 was less than budgeted and the 2018 budget reflects that fact.

Expenses

Personnel Expenses - increased 2% over prior year budget and 7.3% over 2017 actual expenses. The variance to budget relates to the 1.95% salary increases voted at the Annual Convention. The variance to 2017 actuals relates to Rector pension expense. The rector pension is set at 18% of compensation. However, pension contributions are not allowed once a priest reaches the age of 72. While Trinity is no longer making pension payments, the amounts are included in the budget and the budgeted amounts will be deposited into the Rectory Fund.

Worship Expenses – increased 59% over prior year actuals because there was no supply organist expense in 2017. We anticipate supply organist costs in 2018. In addition, the flower expense actuals number is net of actual flower revenue. We do not budget flower revenue, but budget a net flower expense.

Mission Expenses - increased 26% over prior year actuals because of the assessment due to the Diocese, which is derived from our 2016 Parochial Report. Our 2016 revenues were significantly higher than 2015, resulting in an increased assessment. In addition, consistent with increased pledging, Outreach budgeting has been increased. As our pledge revenue increases, we will seek opportunities to use that money in support of outreach and mission initiatives, including Miriam's Closet. Included in the budget, but not funded, are lines for Millennium Development and Seminary Support. These are both items Trinity is expected to support, but has not. Millennium Development should be .07% of pledge income (\$178) while Seminary Support should be 1% of revenue (\$2,541). Including these on the budget, even though they are not funded, serves as a reminder of obligations we are not yet meeting.

Utility expenses - consistent with prior year actuals. The hope is that any increase in cost would be offset by the efficiency of the new furnace.

Maintenance - consistent with prior year actuals. Maintenance expenses in excess of the budgeted amounts will be covered by the Maintenance fund.

Administration - 5% increase over prior year actuals, even though prior year included catch up payments to our accountant for two years of financial reviews. In 2018, computer expenses will go up as we implement the Realm software application we have installed. The new application is mission centric, with an accounting module. The application will be rolled out to the parish in early 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Stapleton, Treasurer

2018 budget spreadsheet here, pg 1

2018 budget spreadsheet here, pg 2

2018 budget spreadsheet here, pg 3

Stewardship 2017 Annual Report Time, Talent and Treasure

The Vestry this year invited Paul Atkins, Jerry Holmes, and Mike Wallace to join us in conversation about the 2018 Stewardship drive. They became our stewardship consultants. We sought their wisdom in why they give, what would be most important for us as a parish to consider for stewardship, what focus might we emphasize this year. They came to us with a “Growing in Stewardship” document and very faithful discussion, reminding us that stewardship is something we all do on a daily basis. They encouraged us to have a well-defined and clear vision with a goal and posed an interesting question: what would we do if we were to raise more funds than we need? Another question posed was: should Trinity look at a different Mission Statement and should it be better understood by members? They also gifted us with four important points:

1. Let’s remember that everything we have on this earth has been entrusted to us by God.
2. We are responsible for prioritizing what is done with the gifts God has given us.
3. The Deceiver is working day and night to lead us down the wrong path and capture our hearts.
4. We need to recognize that many of us worship the creation and not the Creator!

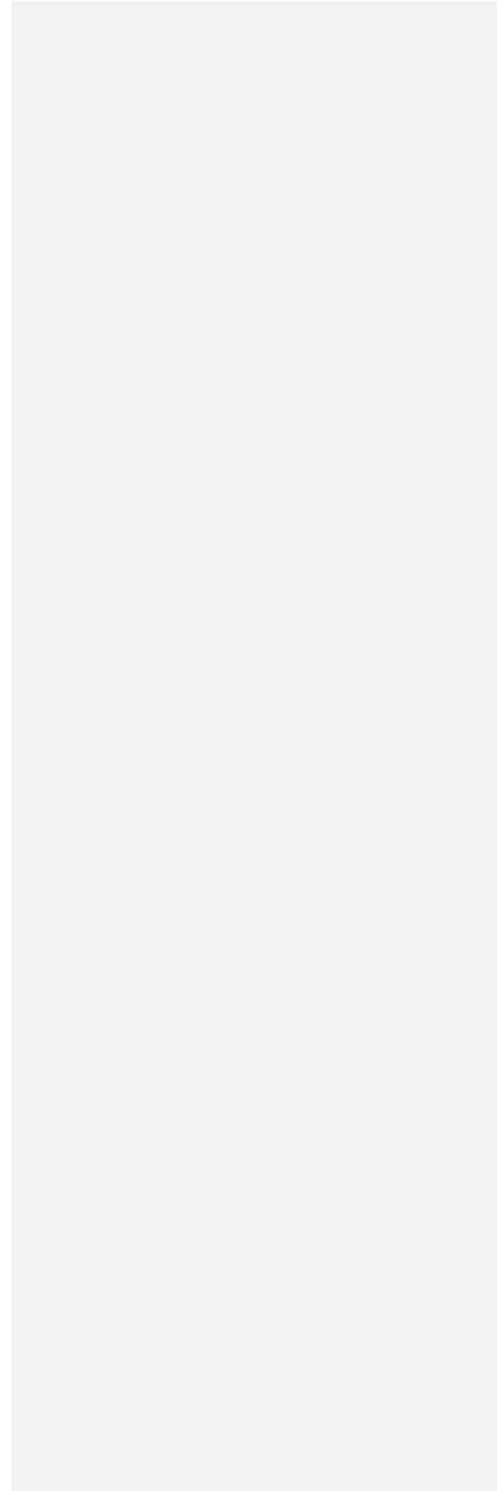
One result of our conversations with these faithful stewardship consultants was intentional work facilitated by Anne Marie Pelletier around a new mission statement. The Vestry spent an entire meeting talking about why we are at Trinity, what’s important to us, what message we want to convey in our mission statement, what God is up to at Trinity. From that work came Trinity’s new mission statement: *“With God’s love, we joyfully welcome and nourish all; with God’s help, we serve our community and beyond.”*

We invited Paul, Jerry, and Mike to jointly share their thoughts with the congregation during sermon time, and it was in November’s family service when we all heard their message of God’s generosity and how we might generously respond. The stewardship theme was “Passing the Plate.” We invited everyone in the parish to touch the plate as it’s being passed as a physical reminder of our giving to God in response to God’s generosity to each of us. We now make that a custom at Trinity and continue to invite everyone to touch the plate, no matter whether you place something in the plate on a given Sunday or not. We are all stewards of our time, talent, and treasure, and the physical touching of the plate reminds us of that.

During the stewardship drive we began including “Stewardship Pearls” in the bulletin—sayings from people throughout time of what giving means. Some have come from members of our parish. Others have come from theologians or poets or writers or Biblical verses or historical figures. In addition to the stewardship pearls, we included an offering plate graphic of our giving goal’s progress in the Parish Hall with a weekly report of pledges in the bulletin. Throughout the drive we informed the parish with a graphic of last year’s giving, showing the distribution of household pledges—a picture that revealed a vulnerability where a small number of givers were providing 50% of the parish pledge income. A goal was to shift the distribution of giving. The results of this year’s stewardship drive revealed a blessed shift in those numbers. You’ll see the shift on the following graph that compares 2017 and 2018 pledge distribution. In 2017 we received more pledges by the end of the year than we ever have received at this time, and household pledges have increased. That is good and wonderful news, and we are grateful to each of you for your generosity. We still have a journey ahead of us toward increased giving and toward an even healthier place of stewardship. We’re on the way. We thank you and we thank Paul, Jerry, Mike, and Anne Marie for their help.

In gratitude and in hope,
Your Vestry

Stewardship chart here



2017 Christian Education – Annual Report

The on-going goal of those who minister in Christian Education is to provide opportunities for all members of Trinity Episcopal Church to nurture and develop their faith.

For children: To implement age appropriate lessons and activities that teach and proclaim the Gospel message. Formal Christian Education classes follow the academic school year (September – June) and attendance each Sunday morning averages between 20 – 25 students.

Curriculum for Pre-K through 5th/6th grade: The core curriculum used by our youngest children (pre-k and kindergarten) through grades 5/6 is *Living the Good News*. Published by Cokesbury, LTGN offers developmentally appropriate material for each grade level and allows our youngsters to explore the Sunday Scriptures very much in accord with their individual learning styles. This program allows all of our children to listen and/or read and discuss the lessons specific to any given Sunday and also provides them (and their teachers) the opportunity to seek and find ways to make the Word of God a living reality in their everyday lived experience. **Godly Play** remains an integral part of our pre-k through grades 2/3 curricula and, throughout the grades, the use of *imagination* and *play* is thoughtfully encouraged.

For youth: To provide a safe and nurturing environment where they can discover and explore their faith. Our primary curriculum for our young people in grades 6/7 through 9/10 is *Journey to Adulthood*. This program encourages young people to engage in conversation about self, society, sexuality and spirituality within a safe environment whose boundaries are confidentiality and trust. *Living the Good News* (Young Teen) is used as a supplemental text to familiarize these young people more deeply with Sacred Scripture. Our Confirmands are engaged in two sources for reflection – *My Faith, My Life* (Jenifer Gamber) and *I Will With God's Help* (Mary Wile). Most of the “work” of this group, however, occurs in faith-filled conversation and dialogue that is continually supported by their Confirmation mentor. This component of faith formation is not unique to the Confirmation group but occurs in all of our classrooms and at every age level. Trinity is blessed beyond measure in our Church School teachers!

As a point of interest, in May of 2017, three of our young adults were Confirmed at Trinity, Torrington; in October two of our youngsters celebrated their Rite 13 Liturgy and, in December, four young people were enrolled as catechumens and began their formal time of discernment as they prepare for Confirmation in 2019!

Outreach, Stewardship, Worship and Christian Education: It is always our prayerful intention that the religious instruction of our children and young people remain connected to the vision, mission and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church, Collinsville as well as to that of the larger Church community that extends beyond our walls. To that extent, we encourage and empower our children and young people to take leadership roles in Sunday Eucharist as well as other special liturgies throughout the year. Our “Family Worship Sunday” experience has not only continued but has become, since September 2017, a monthly occurrence. Our youngsters volunteer and experience what it means to minister to their faith community as lectors, intercessors, choir members and usher/greeters. In addition, stewardship, community service and mission experiences continue as expectations not only for the adult members of our faith community but for our children and young people as well. We intentionally discern **how** and **where** Christ might be inviting us to be His hands, His feet and His love in our sometimes-broken world. Our Lenten Bake Sale supported Camp Hispaniola: we continue our commitment to the clients of *Church Street Eats* however we are able – whether that be by collecting warm winter socks or serving a meal: some of our youngsters are now joining with their parents and other members of the adult community in packing the brown bag lunches that are part of Trinity’s quarterly commitment to “Church by the Pond”: several of our young people attended *Heads Up! Hartford* at the end of June **and** all of the proceeds from our 2017 Christmas Bake Sale, along with whatever is raised through our Advent mite box collection, will be sent to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem as they seek to serve the poorest of God’s children in the land where Jesus walked.

For adults: To offer regular and special programs that enlighten and expand their understanding and love for Christ in their lives. Although a challenge at times, providing programs and experiences that meet the varied needs and desires of the adult members of Trinity remains a constant Gospel mandate. Throughout 2017, we continued to offer such programs as weekly Scripture Study groups, book discussions on topics critical to on-going adult Christian formation, quiet hours, a Lenten Silent Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery and four Friday evening Lenten soup suppers that provided invaluable opportunities for faith sharing and fellowship. In 2017, the theme for these four evenings was ***Come and See***. (Can a Lenten Discipline be Fun?) - *Movie Night with Jesus*. To encourage family attendance, child care continued to be offered. Finally, each faith formation teacher is responsible for classroom preparation and that is, in and of itself, a wondrous opportunity for the deepening of their own journey with God. It is my joy and privilege to walk that journey with them and to assist, with God's help - as I am needed and able.

I am extremely grateful to all those who support us in remaining faithful to the vision and mission of Jesus Christ – our adults, children, young people, Church School teachers, Sunday Morning Coordinators, the members of the Christian Education Committee and the Rev. Linda Spiers, our rector. We are grateful that God has chosen us to *teach as Jesus did* – with love, compassion and commitment to and for all God's people. We believe that Christian formation is a lifelong process where the secular and sacred become one in Christ's love - through the grace of God. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Bellacosa, Minister of Christian Formation

Music Ministry 2017 Annual Report

Music continued to be at the heart of Trinity's liturgy. The leadership provided by Trinity's faithful Choir continued to fill our sanctuary with prayerful song and joyful music that makes the soul smile. Alex Kirstukas continued as Trinity's Interim Director of Music from January until September 10 when we said farewell to him as he left for Master's Degree study in London. There was a wonderful farewell celebration and thanksgiving for Alex's generous ministry with us. We rejoiced in his return home for Christmas and look forward to future times of his being back in our midst.

We had said farewell to Minister of Music Kenneth Woods in June 2016 after nearly 32 years of ministry. Sadly this year we lost Kenny in death in June 2017. Trinity's choir sang at Kenny's service at Christ Church Cathedral in a glorious celebration of his life.

On September 17 we welcomed our new Director of Music Jenny Branshaw who enthusiastically joined us and began directing the choir. Jenny holds a Bachelors in Arts degree with Piano Performance major and a Master in Music with Historical Keyboard Performance major—both degrees being from Brigham Young University. She is Kodaly certified specializing in choral conducting. We delight in having Jenny at the organ bench and piano bench.

The choir throughout the year sang challenging and heartwarming music for anthems and led us in congregational singing with strength and skill and love of God.

In October Jenny began the Canton Children's Choir which met on Wednesday nights from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. with 10 to 12 children enrolled and eager to learn music. The children's choir is a mix of Trinity children and children in the wider Canton community. They sang for our family services in October and through the end of the year. They take a break for the first part of 2018 while Jenny is on maternity leave.

On behalf of the entire congregation I give thanks for Trinity's Choir, for Alex's ministry, for Jenny's new ministry with us, for Leslie Dehey's continued ministry as music librarian. Thanks be to God for each and every one. We are always looking for new choir members for the adult choir and for the Canton Children's Choir. Please be in contact with Jenny when she returns from leave.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Linda Spiers, Rector

Worship Committee 2017 Annual Report

The Worship Committee continued to meet monthly throughout the academic year and planned primary worship services for Sundays and special occasions. Represented groups include the Choir, Christian Education, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care along with the rector.

During the year the Worship Committee continued to plan the *No Rehearsal* Epiphany Pageant, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday, Ash Wednesday (with *Ashes to Go* and hot cross buns and prayers from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. in Trinity's Parking Lot and around Collinsville), Palm Sunday with chicks on a stick in procession, Holy Week services, Easter Vigil, Easter Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Youth Sunday, Homecoming Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, Children's Sabbath, Rite-13 liturgy, In-gathering Sunday, Thanksgiving Day with blessing of breads, Enrollment of the Catechumens, Advent Sundays with Advent wreath, Christmas services, and all of the normal Sundays through the year. At the conclusion of Trinity's Lenten series, the group planned a Taizé worship service, and plans are currently underway to conclude 2018's Lenten series with another Taizé service. Anthems were planned by Interim Minister of Music Alex Kirstukas with the assistance of Leslie Dehey until Alex's last Sunday on September 10. From that point forward our new Director of Music Jenny Bradshaw joined Trinity's staff and joined Leslie and Linda who together worked on the planning of music.

I continue to be grateful for the faithful counsel and ministry of the Worship Committee—Jan Atkins, Theresa Bellacosa, Leslie Dehey, Roseann Kitching, and Phyllis Lowell. We regularly discuss what they hear and see with respect to our liturgy and parish members' feedback. We look for ways to enrich while honoring the beauty of our tradition. If you feel called to help us with Trinity's worship and liturgical matters or want to offer us some ideas, please contact any one of us. We would be grateful for more eyes and ears to help with our planning and to continually looking at how our worship might be better. Being part of this ministry is a great way to learn more about the church, and why we do what we do.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Linda Spiers, Rector

Communication Committee 2017 Annual Report

This ministry includes the following functions:

- Documentation of all major parish events
- Creation and maintenance of the parish website - www.TrinityCollinsville.org
- Assist with the creation of print ads
- Provide technology help desk functions for the parish staff
- Assist others in the parish with photography, media or technology needs

Trinity's website is divided into five sections: Home Page, About Us, Media (Publications, and Photo Gallery), Calendars, and Ministries. The photo gallery contains pictures of all major parish events. It is not always possible to be at every event and so we rely on parish members who have cameras to help us document the life of the parish by submitting their pictures of any event for inclusion in the parish photo gallery on-line.

Each parish publication is posted online to coincide with the delivery of these publications in printed form. Each week's sermon is also available in pdf format for download.

We are also responsible for the parish-wide e-mail service that sends out timely announcements to all those in the parish who have an e-mail address. If anyone in the parish isn't receiving these messages, please get your e-mail address to Mary in the office.

As one of the last segments of the Nurture Trinity capital campaign, we installed new computers in the office and began installing a new cloud system called Realm which will replace our accounting system as well as provide the parish with a new way to communicate and share. Official full launch of Realm will occur in late January and early February.

This year we designed and arranged for publication of display advertisements announcing our holiday services for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas in local newspapers.

This coming year we will be converting cassette tapes of Kenny Woods' events over to digital CDs so anyone in the parish who wants to have this piece of musical history can do so.

We would welcome additional assistance from anyone in the parish with skills in media and/or technology.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Richardson, Chair

Altar Guild 2017 Annual Report

Altar Guild Mission Statement:

“To render, with dedication and loving attention to detail, all Holy Housework Needed for liturgy and worship at Trinity Episcopal Church with an intention Of creating a sacred environment of Trust, Peace, Hope, Charity and Love, All for the Greater Glory of God.”

Each week our Altar is tended to by your Altar Guild. Weekly funds for flowers and the sanctuary light are given by parish members in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, someone or some special occasion in their lives. If you would like to contribute or join us in this mission you will find envelopes and signup sheets on the tower in the Narthex. Simply fill in the date you would like to denote, place your funds in the envelope provided and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. These donations are how the Altar Guild is funded. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

We move quickly through the seasons and Altar Guild members are kept busy with an ever changing schedule. The Altar Guild doesn't just work on Sundays. You will find us here during the week if there are special services or needs, a team arrives on Saturday morning to prepare for Sunday services and on Sunday we work throughout the morning to make sure all is set for our two services. You have a wonderful dedicated group of women on your Altar Guild. Be sure to thank them!

This year's Christmas Season brought some challenges! On the Wednesday before Christmas we joined with several members of the parish for an evening of a wreath making, proceeded by warm soup and fellowship. Greens were once again cut and delivered by Mike Wallace. We Greened the church on Christmas Eve, following the 9 a.m. service. This church looked lovely for our Christmas Eve services! Thanks to Sharon Courthouts for the beautiful floral arrangements at Christmas and to Linda Burgess and her team for the Thanksgiving Harvest and Easter Garden. Long term members and their knowledge are much appreciated on this Guild. There is always something new for us to learn.

We are now preparing for Lent and Holy Week. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday and it will soon be time to order our plants for Easter Day. If you haven't given for Easter Flowers in the past, please consider contributing this year. I guarantee the feeling is wonderful when you look at our Altar on Easter Day and know you have had a part in its beauty.

No doubt the New Year will bring celebrations, sorrows and changes as we join around the Lord's Table. Your Altar Guild is ready to accept each one, and we ask you to join us. If you are interested, please let me know. More hands are always needed and we would be happy to have you share with us the joy of preparing the Altar for worship.

And to all parish members, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Thank you to Mary Jones for keeping me on track with reports, announcements and early access to bulletins and to Linda+ for her love, support, encouragement and for continuing to make us all welcome at the Lord's Table.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Atkins, Altar Guild Directress

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

Phyllis Lowell, Joan Hayes, Ann Bierut, Ann McAdoo, Karanne Farling, Linda Burgess, Deb Asaro, Dawn Lowell, Emily Henne, Carlene Rhea, Marianne Amo, Bette Holmes, Sharon Courthouts
Special Flowers – Carolyn Jones

Outreach Committee 2017 Annual Report

Our donations and accomplishments this past year reflect our philosophy of helping people and families in need, most especially children, locally, statewide and throughout the world.

The Special Envelope donations for 2017

Ash Wednesday	IRIS - \$311
Good Friday	The Anglican Church in Jerusalem - \$30
Easter Sunday	Habitat for Humanity - \$895
Ascension Day	Chrysalis Center - \$100
Trinity Sunday	Mercy House - \$120
All Saints Day	Camp Washington - \$125
Thanksgiving	The Gathering Place - \$150
Christmas	IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) - \$840

On Super Bowl Sunday, we collected \$312 in our "Souper Bowl Sunday" stockpot to send to Torrington Soup Kitchen.

We continued our commitment to providing meals to 'Lunch in the Park' on a quarterly basis, as there is no meal available otherwise to the homeless in Hartford on Saturdays. With the help and contributions of many parishioners, we provided and distributed 70-100 bag meals to the homeless at Bushnell Park four times a year.

In the spring, the Outreach Committee made and delivered 'goody bags' for homebound parishioners to let them know they are missed. In December, homebound parishioners received a plant and some small necessary items as well as a prayer.

In November, Julia Wholey and I chaired the *Quality Street Fair*. A host of other parishioners participated in a multitude of ways to make this annual fund raising truly successful. \$7,400 was raised and divided between the Canton Food and Canton Fuel Banks.

In December, a needy Canton family received multiple Christmas gifts due to the generosity of our members.

The Canton Food Bank, operating out of Trinity, continues to feed many of our Canton neighbors. We ask that you continue to remember to pick up non-perishable food items when you are shopping and drop them in the basket on your way in to church.

We gratefully thank the congregation for its wonderful support of the Outreach Committee. Without your continued support, we would not be able to help those people less fortunate than ourselves as Jesus calls us to do. We welcome suggestions of any organization that you would like us to consider for the upcoming year. We continue to seek 'new blood' on the Committee especially newer members of Trinity, to provide us with new ideas, talent and energy. Please consider it!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Corthouts, Chair

Miriam's Closet 2017 Annual Report

Miriam's Closet has completed its first year of operation and there are not enough thanks to go around to all of those who have helped, contributing both time and clothing. We have served over 78 individuals, providing each person with several outfits. That translates into roughly 170 shirts and blouses, 175 slacks, skirts, or a dress, 50 pairs of shoes plus coordinating ties, belts, scarves, purses, and jewelry. Some people have come directly to the Closet and other outfits have been delivered to Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, Manchester, East Hartford, Hartford, Enfield, New Britain, and Torrington. Without exception, each recipient has been impressed with the quality of the clothing received and appreciative of Trinity's generosity.

From a note we received ... "I am truly grateful for the help and encouragement I received. Foremost, the welcome certainly made the experience much easier on my psyche. Asking for help is not something I am used to. ... Thank you for making life an easier place for those who really need easier at a moment in life."

Extra special thanks need to go to Deb Asaro, Bette Holmes, Jo Wallace, Robin Boe, Susan Jones, Elaine Howland, and Judy Hinman, who have put in hours of their time sorting, organizing, shopping, and assisting those who came to Trinity; to Maryellen Prudhomme and Marc-Yves Regis for delivering; and to every person who so generously supported this mission. You have all made a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi McGill

Pastoral Care/ Welcoming 2017 Annual Report

The Pastoral Care/Welcoming Committee helps to keep parishioners connected who are unable to be with us on Sundays and helps to take church to them. From this group meals for recently hospitalized persons or for families mourning the loss of loved ones are coordinated. A card ministry actively continues for events of life. This group offers a friendly visit and on occasion brings Holy Communion to someone who is homebound. A number of our members have moved away and we are in need of new members.

We continue to welcome all people into our doors and help others know that all are welcomed at our table. This group's ministry includes inviting newcomers to coffee hour and introducing them to parish members. This group also hosts newcomer ministry Sundays when they happen. Our Sunday ushers have been wonderful greeters, and we are always looking for new ways to welcome the stranger into our midst. Vestry members during the year have taken responsibility for standing at the bottom of our stairs and welcoming people as they enter the building, hopefully making them feel at ease and know where to go for worship. We recognize that by welcoming the stranger we may be entertaining angels as Paul proclaims.

Please consider joining in this ministry, we would love to have you serve with us. Please contact Roseann Kitching (860-507-6497) or Linda+ (860-693-8172).

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann Kitching, Chair Pastoral Care and Welcoming

Counters 2017Annual Report

Working in pairs, weekly contributions are counted at the end of the 10:00 AM Sunday service. In the past year, we started with 7 regular counters; and ended with 1 counter joining Treasurer Jim Stapleton as substitute counters. A major change in procedures occurred in the 4th quarter of the year. The entering of weekly contributions on pledge sheets and then inputted into the Church Windows computer program on a desktop was eliminated. We now do a direct input using a laptop into the Realm program.

Pledge and non-pledge money is recorded using code numbers for each entry. Notations are made as cash or check contributions. The discretionary fund is non-budget income. A copy of the contributions, pledge envelopes and other items are given to Mary Jones, Parish Administrator. One person from the pair is responsible to stop at Webster Bank on Sunday to make the deposit.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hinman

Acolyte 2017 Annual Report

While we maintained a strong core in the Acolyte group this past year, our challenge (as in past years) has been working to identify new members. We are especially grateful for the faithful service of our Acolytes who serve *all year* with dignity and reverence. While we were unable to enjoy a fun “getaway” as a group in 2017, we plan to make up for that in 2018, so stay tuned for something fun later this year. In addition, there will be some fun in-church sessions coming-up in the April/May timeframe where everyone will get a chance to refine their skills in a way which I promise will be enjoyable for all.

As mentioned above, our focus will continue to be to grow the membership in this most important service here at Trinity, and I encourage new members to join – BOTH youth and adults. While traditional guidance has maintained that no one under the age of 9 can serve, exceptions can always be made if the robe fits – there is always room for another Acolyte!

Lastly, I want to thank Jeff Pierce and Roy McAdoo for their years of service in this ministry. And while they have both “retired”, do not be surprised if you see them in a robe once and a while. I want to give an extra thanks to Roy for all that he has done for this ministry over the years. He left very large shoes to fill.

Respectfully submitted,
Neale Hegarty

Lectors/Intercessors/Ministers of Communion 2017 Annual Report

Lectors, Intercessors, and Ministers of Communion are parish members who are worship assistants every Sunday of the year. They serve at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. (or 9:30 a.m.), depending on individual preference and are integral to Trinity's worship life. In the past year we have had Prayers of the People read by members from their pews—people pick up an individual intercession upon entering church and thereby we have multiple voices at both services with the Prayers of the People. We therefore have many intercessors speaking out from the congregation—voices of all ages.

One Sunday a month on Family Sundays Trinity's young people have read lessons and led the Prayers of the People. Their voices teach and lead us with the help of Minister of Christian Formation Theresa Bellacosa, who recruits and coaches them as needed. On those Sundays Trinity's young people take an even more active role in our liturgy than on routine Sundays, and I am grateful for their willingness to serve.

Adult lectors and Ministers of Communion have faithfully served throughout the year. Lectors of all ages help us to hear Holy Scripture through their reading with understanding. Ministers of Communion administer the chalice and sometimes serve the bread. Some of them serve at both worship services, some only serve at their preferred service. Ask one them about their ministry and why they serve this way. We are always looking for additional servers and welcome your inquiries and your interest. Worship Assistants are not asked to come to meetings—only to offer yourself for a brief training and then to serve.

I rejoice in serving with each of our worship assistants and thank each of them for being ready every Sunday to serve. You are a gift to each of us and on behalf of the congregation I express our gratitude for your faithful presence and service to God and to us.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Linda Spiers, Rector

Ushers and Greeters 2017 Annual Report

Usher/Greeters are the first people to welcome and direct people as they come to attend service. Other duties include, taking attendance (which includes the choir and those serving and all church schoolteachers and children), recording the total number of attendees and giving that number to the office, process the Bread and Wine to the Altar, collecting the offering, putting the Hymnals and kneelers in order and making sure that the sanctuary is tidy for the next service.

It's a simple, but very important list of duties. However, one item stands above the rest on the list. Being the first person to welcome someone to our church. The Ushers and Greeters represent the hospitality of Trinity Church to newcomers as well as being the welcoming face to regular attendees. How welcome someone feels here is at the very heart of who we are as a people, a church family and as human beings. The dictionary defines welcoming as "a kindly greeting or reception, as to one whose arrival gives pleasure" and to greet the arrival of (a person or guests etc.) with pleasure or kindly courtesy.

In 2017, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new families as members of the Usher/Greeter group. We now have 2 volunteers for the 8:00 a.m. service and 7 couples, and 7 individuals for the 10:00 a.m. service. Elizabeth Cowell continues to share the responsibilities of Usher/Greeter management with Mary Jones. While Elizabeth monitors the Sunday duties and generates the reminder calls, Mary continues to create and distribute the schedule and monitor changes. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Usher/Greeters team, please see Elizabeth Cowell or email the office at office@trinitycollinsville.org. This ministry presents the opportunity to welcome the new members of Trinity on a personal level as well as to greet familiar members for Sunday Services.

Thank you Ushers and Greeters for welcoming everyone who comes through our doors! Your dedication to this ministry, showing the hospitality that Trinity has to offer, is truly a gift to our parish. What a wonderful way to show and to share Christ's love. In that spirit, we welcome all parishioners to join the Ushers/Greeters group in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jones

Trinity Nursery School 2017 Annual Report

The following is the report of Trinity Nursery School Teachers to the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The school employs a treasurer and five teachers working with three classes (two four-year-old classes and one three-year-old class).

Lee Ann Delaney has been appointed as the Administrator along with being the school's head teacher. Teacher's files continue to be reconstructed for efficiency and organization. The new Professional Development procedure which includes tracking updates for all certification and training courses which are required by the State of CT Statutes and Regulations is running smoothly. With few changes, this new system reached its three-year anniversary in July 2017.

Contracted Nurse Consultants LLC. are thorough and keep their scheduled visits as required per state regulations. They check and advise overall health, safety and nutrition of the nursery school program. This contract is required by state licensing.

The annual NAEYC Accreditation application was reviewed in the Washington D.C. Headquarters and TNS received their certificate for another year. This is an extensive, time consuming and expensive application. NAEYC has increased their fee which brings the amount to \$700 per year. We are very proud to achieve such standards; given that we are a small nursery school in Collinsville. Many private/church nursery schools cannot afford NAEYC accreditation; there are very few accredited in the Farmington Valley and Litchfield area. The cost for renewal is over \$1,700. NAEYC will be visiting in 2018.

The Parent Volunteer Committee and Lee Ann have been working on an overall survey to aid in future marketing, publicity, and overall financial decisions. Survey will go out during the 2018 school year.

Lee Ann is looking for new ways to advertise for the school; she designed a new postcard in May, 2017. Trinity Nursery School now has a Facebook page and Lee Ann posts weekly updates on activities and events. She has updated and improved the information on the nursery school website so that it is mobile friendly for parents and prospective families who are "on the go".

Teachers Judy Sharp, Mary Doran, Katy Gentile and her two daughters Bella and Sophia purchased and collected gift items for various ages and packaged them for their annual contribution to Canton Food Bank families.

The children raised money for Roaring Brook Nature Center (RBNC) to help build new Raptor cages – which was only a portion of the entire campaign that the center was working on to make renovations. Trinity Nursery School teachers and RBNC work together every year teaching children from TNS. LeeAnn is also a faculty member in the summer for K-1 classes at RBNC; the Trinity students all went on hikes and learned about Raptors; who they are, how they live and what they eat, etc. RBNC shared many Raptor related items with TNS and the children had a "bird's-eye view" of what it's like to be a Raptor. Fun was had by all.

I write on behalf of our teachers and families: We are blessed to work with young children at Trinity Nursery School; they're our hope for the future and world. We would like to take this time in our report to thank Linda Spiers, Mary Jones, Trinity's Vestry, Trinity Parishioners, and the Episcopal Diocese of CT for supporting our nursery school program. The children also want us to be sure we thank the nice man (Mr. John Almor) who delivers recycled cans (without sharp edges) for their paint.

We are thankful for the parents and alumni families and those who assist in keeping our nursery school in operation. Blessings to all.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Delaney, Administrator/Head Teacher

Trinity Nursery School Treasurer's 2017 Annual Report

The following is a report from the Trinity Nursery School Board of Directors for the 2017 annual meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, respectfully submitted by Garry Schafer, President and Donna Miscikoski, Treasurer.

- Enrollment had been on a downward trend for the past few years, from 49 in 2014-15, to 39 in 2015-16, to 36 in 2016-17. We have therefore run 3 out of the 4 planned classes in each of those years. We believe that the economy as well as the move toward full-day kindergarten has contributed to this decline. In an effort to stabilize and reverse this decline we have enhanced our focus on both paid and free advertising.
- We have maintained state licensing, and are current with NAEYC accreditation.
- We currently have one full time teacher/Administrator, Lee Ann Delaney, who teaches the 3-year-old and the 4-year-old classes. Katy Gentile, a part-time teacher, joins Lee Ann in teaching the 4 year olds. Judy Sharp and Mary Doran are part time teachers, working primarily with the 3-year-old classes. The current staff is an excellent mix of education and talent, all with a very high level of dedication and enthusiasm. Donna Miscikoski is our Treasurer. Both Lee Ann and Donna are paid to perform various duties that we feel, in order to provide year over year consistency, are better performed by an employee rather than a volunteer. Some of their duties include the renewal of the state licenses, inspections, contracts, student paperwork, registration, invoices and payments, budgeting, budget variance tracking, cash flow management, tuition tracking and follow-up and more as indicated in the Trinity Nursery School Bylaws.
- Another wonderful year can be reported in great part due to the efforts and donations of our volunteers. We would like to extend our thanks to all of the parent volunteers who have contributed this year and of course, to the staff of the school. We would also like to thank the members of the church Vestry for their continued support of the nursery school.

Trinity Nursery School Financials:

Cash Balance, 6/30/2016	\$55,374.79
Revenues, 7/1/2016-6/30/2017	\$88,980
Expenses, 7/1/2016-6/30/2017	\$88,355
Net Revenue	
Cash Balance, 6/30/2017	\$55,999.79

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Miscikoski, Treasurer

CANTON FOOD BANK ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

We presently have 132 clients qualified through the intake process at the Senior and Social Services since July. With the generosity of our community with non-perishable, occasional perishable food and monetary donations we can provide for an average of 55 clients each week feeding about 112 individual family members. Individuals, schools, organizations, businesses and area churches continue to support us through their food drives and donations.

We continue to receive food on Mondays through the Foodshare Retail Program which is then distributed on Tuesday to our clients. In addition, volunteers pick up bread and pastry from Big Y and Shop-Rite each Tuesday morning. In 2017 with the effort of the entire community we were able to provide for a total of 2,621 clients with 5,317 individual family members.

When we had our last inspection from Foodshare we were advised to weigh all the food leaving the Food Bank to insure a more accurate total for the meals we provide throughout the year. We began to weigh in May which required a third person each Tuesday. With the purchase of a scale and the use of a card table provided by the church the process has been going well. The total meals provided for 2017 was 50,506, slightly down from 2016 with 52,794.

The Canton Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization with over 40 volunteers at this time. These volunteers provide bakery pick up, shelf stocking, weighing food, distribution of food and grocery shopping each week. We often need volunteers so if you have a few hours each month we welcome you to join us. You may contact me at 860 693-0629.

I hope that all of you realize that without the generosity of Trinity Episcopal Church the Food Bank would not exist to provide so much for each client. You provide not only the space and generous donation from your *Quality Street Fair* but hospitality to both our clients and volunteers. You are truly a blessing and we appreciate your support and prayers immensely.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lazauski, Director

2017 Annual Report - Canton Connections

Canton Connections celebrates its 21st year in 2018! We have meant so much to the children and teens who have been part of the program. Caryn Turek has even received letters from former participants who have graduated from college thanking her for their experience at Canton Connections.

It is so heartening to see a whole family of children come to Canton Connections. When the children have to stop coming upon finishing third grade they are very sad but excited at the prospect of coming back to be a volunteer/mentor when they are older. Even with this great legacy Canton Connections has experienced lower enrollments. At our Board meeting in June we looked at the pros and cons of Canton Connections. The pros were uplifting: support of Canton's Churches, Canton Community Health Fund, community organizations, teenage mentors & volunteers, program impact is excellent emphasizing sharing, community give back, life skills & communication. But then there were the cons: need \$8000 to fund a year of CC, low enrollment, can't reach families (once school went GREEN our enrollment dropped), need new Board leadership, society has passed us by, people looking for full week of after school program (Canton Park & Rec started a program at Cherry Brook Primary School), Caryn could never be replaced. We were very perplexed. The Board will continue to analyze the situation and would so welcome some young new eyes to help on the Board.

This past year we received a \$3000 grant from the Canton Community Health Fund; \$1000 from the Dupree Foundation; \$500 from the Rotary; and \$600 from Canton Volunteer Fire Dept. Our Flatbread Fundraiser was again a success, netting \$1,314.50 (\$1,066 from auction, \$248.50 from Flatbreads).

Caryn Turek, our program director, has had many wonderful moments with the children, their families, and teen volunteers. Traditionally she keeps many of the small projects the children accomplish the same as in other years, so that it helps to build relationships in a community setting, to keep tradition, to teach the children to think of others, to create an opportunity for the children to help others, and to learn about other people who live outside of Canton. The program focuses on having fun learning in a creative setting, thinking more openly, being more responsible towards each other, and becoming more confident and comfortable in their surroundings. Just recently Caryn received a huge bag of stuffed animals from former students and she created an adopt-a-pet program. The children made carriers out of shoeboxes & sewed pillows for the "pets". Then they prepared adoption papers and in order to "pay" for all the expenses of adopting an animal (shots, food, etc.) the children earned chips as money for accomplishing educational tasks.

If you went to the Canton Historical Museum's Gallery of Trees this past Holiday season, you saw the awesome Canton Connections Tree the children created. The children had so much fun making decorations and singing Christmas carols in October!!

Canton Connections is so thankful to Trinity Episcopal Church for housing us for the past 20 years, thankful for members of Trinity who are so helpful on the Board, and MOST especially to our wonderful minister, the Rev. Linda Spiers, for all her tireless work on Canton Connections behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Howland, President

2017 Board Members include Dawn Harris, Phil Klemarczyk, Caryn Turek, Anne Marie Pelletier, Carlene Rhea, Karanne Farling, Annamae Rotondo, Sherry Goodwin, and the Rev. Linda Spiers.

**Save the date
of
Tuesday, February 13
For a Mardi Gras Supper**



**It's Trinity's Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration with
New Orleans' surprises for all! New Orleans Gumbo,
Jambalaya, Waffles and Pancakes and more.....**

Watch for more details but save the date now!

THE PARISH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Office e-mail address: Office@TrinityCollinsville.org
Rector e-mail address: Rector@TrinityCollinsville.org
Website: www.TrinityCollinsville.org

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. -- Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. -- Choral Eucharist
Summer Sunday Worship (July and August): 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

STAFF

The Rev. Linda M. Spiers, Rector
Theresa Bellacosa, Minister of Religious Education
Jenny Bradshaw, Director of Music
Mary Jones, Parish Administrator
Norman Robinson, Sexton

VESTRY

Maryellen Prudhomme, Senior Warden (860-675-8117)
Neale Hegarty, Junior Warden (860-651-3035)
Jim Stapleton, Treasurer
Arthur Lowell, Thomas Sweeney, Assistant Treasurers
Heather Garvin, Clerk

Tracey Dandley-MacLaren	(2018)	Rachelle Harper	(2019)	Mimi McGill	(2020)
Elaine Howland	(2018)	Marc-Yves Regis	(2019)	Gary Nicksa	(2020)
Sheri Sparks	(2018)	Julia Wholey	(2019)	Peg Pinton	(2020)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Summer hours (mid-June thru August) Tuesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL – 860-693-4615

Faculty: Lee Ann Delaney, Mary Doran, Kathryn Gentile, Judy Sharp