

The Journal of the Annual Meeting
of
Trinity Episcopal Church Collinsville

in the Town Canton
and
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

January 28, 2024



MISSION STATEMENT:

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

**The Annual Meeting of
Trinity Episcopal Church**

January 28, 2024

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order / Opening Prayer
- 2) Approvals:
 - a) Agenda
 - b) Minutes of Last Meeting (pages 2-11)
- 3) Treasurer's Report for 2023 (pages 12-18)
- 4) Election of Vestry, Officers, and Delegates
- 5) Senior Warden's Report (pages 24-28)
- 6) Junior Warden's Report (pages 29-30)
- 7) Presentation of the 2024 Budget (pages 19-23)
- 8) Acknowledgements for Outstanding Service
- 9) A Candid Discussion about our Future
- 10) Closing Prayer
- 11) Adjournment

Trinity Episcopal Church
55 River Road
Collinsville, CT 06022-0374
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023

Senior Warden Karanne Farling opened with a prayer and called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

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

Minutes of the February 6, 2022 Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jack Henne to accept the minutes, seconded by Judy Hinman and unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Lisa went over the 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Lisa noted we are in good standing with the Diocese. Judy Hinman and I have begun gathering information for the 2022 financial review.

A motion was made by Paul Atkins to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Roy McAdoo and unanimously passed.

Report from Nominating Committee & Election:

Karanne gave the report for the Nominations Committee; the entire slate is as follows:

- Maryellen Prudhomme – Junior Warden (three year term)
- Jack Henne - Vestry Member (three year term)
- Jim Stapleton - Vestry Member (one year term)
- Paul Atkins - Vestry Member (one year term)
- Ken Jones - Vestry Member (one year term)
- Dawn Lowell is going off the Vestry.
- Karanne Farling, Diocesan Convention Delegate
- Ann Bierut, Diocesan Convention Delegate
- Ann McAdoo, Diocesan Convention Alternate Delegate

Laurie Barnhart asked about the By-Laws and the length of the officers. Maryellen clarified the terms in the By-Laws.

Motion to accept the slate as presented was made by Rick Richardson, seconded by Leslie Dehey and it passed.

Motion to cast one ballot for the slate as presented was made by Ann McAdoo, seconded by Lisa Bogush and it passed.

Senior Warden:

Karanne went over her report.

A motion to accept the Senior Warden's report was made by Ken Jones, seconded by Bruce Quigley and it passed.

Junior Warden's Report:

Paul went over his report, emphasizing that the major job is supporting the senior warden. He talked about the building maintenance that will be coming in the next 18 months; two of which

were painting the west side of the church and keeping banks cleaned on the property.

A motion to accept the Junior Warden's report was made by Carolyn Jones, seconded by Ken Jones and it passed.

Presentation of 2023 Budget:

Lisa discussed where we are and where we will go in the future. There is an almost \$59,000 deficit going into 2023 and she went over that it is a conservative number. Driven by 2 things: 1. decreases of pledging dollars. 43 this year. 2. getting a PIC Priest for 9 months.

From 2018 — 87 pledges to this year 2023 — 43 pledges. A trend that is not sustainable and it will not help us attract a potential priest in charge.

Expenses: the expenses will increase by \$96,000 over 2022 budget. That is considering the PIC is brand new out of seminary and the lowest paid candidate. Live Streaming is an expense going forward \$3,500/year.

We can't wait to see who we get for a PIC and we can't wait to see what others will do and we need to keep ourself accountable and watch the future. It is hoped that we can come together collaboratively and work for Trinity's future.

Laurie asked if the PIC was half time and the Diocese deemed we can support a half time priest.

Dave McGill asked if we are getting pledges from those watching on livestream. No one could say for sure at the meeting but it will be looked into.

Sharon Corthouts asked about Outreach Committee and giving back of money not used and the adjustments made in Vestry were clarified.

Acknowledgements for Outstanding Service:

Karanne acknowledged Dawn Lowell for completing her third term on Vestry.

Christine Greene was thanked for taking on the assignment of pulling together the information to create the new Website, which is our calling card for attaching the new PIC.

Karanne acknowledged our lay readers; Stan Moraski, Rick Richardson, Leslie Dehey, Laurie Barnhart, Diane Terry and Mimi McGill and Leslie recognized Karanne Farling for giving their time and thoughts to keep the services continuing.

Other Business:

A Candid Discussion about our Future, moderated by Paul Atkins

Bruce Quigley and Paul Atkins witnessed the dissolution of Christ Church Avon and it is not something you can believe would happen or want to experience. Paul feels we don't have a pledging problem but a demographic problem and how can that be solved.

Any priest looking at our church will wonder how long they will be here and how long they can be supported by our church.

Peter Dehey said "It pays to advertise" and wondered if we have someone in our midst that can get the word out about the qualities of our church.

Judy Hinman related the work they do in the Garden Club and said they turned to social media and we should use it to share all the things that are happening at Trinity. She also asked about the availability of renting space in the building. It is available for rent. Dave McGill mentioned that 30 years ago AA and Al Anon rented space for meetings and some of the people came back for services and joined the church.

Rick Richardson suggested that maybe we should postpone getting a priest and hire someone who can be a social media person to get our word out of what a nice place this is and draw people to Trinity. Facebook is out for the younger generation and if we are looking for the younger families, we need to change our social media.

Roy McAdoo mentioned that this is the same conversation we have each year and we need to bring our church to the times and get out of our mindset to sell ourselves. Even if we aren't growing, here is what we are doing with our numbers. Show all that we do through and at the church.

Diane Terry reinforced we need to attract people but do we not have to go out and hire a social media expert or is that person in our midst?

Bruce Quigley noticed we aren't the only church going through this and it is problem throughout all denominations.

Maryellen is thinking alternatively; are there people out there to come to church? Is church part of society now. She wanted everyone to look at their own families and how many of their children go to church after being raised in one. She wants us to think about whether there is another church that might want to join us in this building.

Ann Bierut noted while being a delegate to Convention, the new Bishop relayed a story of a church that was slowly dying and they went after people who were going to retire or had just retired and they enlivened that church. People that have time on their hands, the energy to get involved and want to get closer to God.

Paul Atkins pointed out that we need to go out in our social circles and talk about what Trinity means to us and why we go to this church.

Carolyn Jones asked if anyone has reached out to the diocese and to see if there is another church that is in the same situation that might like to join with us. She agreed with Rick about putting off getting a priest too quickly.

Laurie Barnhart suggested we talk to each other about our faith journey so we get comfortable talking about our church with others.

Joni Andrews suggested putting information at the food bank on Tuesdays and inviting them to the Lenten Soup Suppers to get members.

Diane Terry thinks we need to pray about this in a more organized fashion. Sharon Corthouts suggested that happen in a positive form, not lamenting but uplifted.

Mimi McGill pointed out 85 people came here for Christmas Eve and could have gone somewhere else but chose our church. We need to take all our ideas and be proud and excited and enthusiastic about our church. She suggested we get a committee together to take these ideas and figure out how we implement them. The committee should be made up of people in the parish, not just vestry members.

Lisa Bogush has a challenge/thought, where is our commitment to the town and schools, something that would help them and get us positive attention.

Bruce Quigley suggested a New Membership Committee to take these ideas and implement them.

Rick Richardson thinks we can't do the social media work but can help the person who is hired to do the job. We need to look at someone who has done this for another church and turned them around. He feels we need to pay someone to do this. Laurie Barnhart agreed.

Karanne noted that there are services in the diocese and she will go to the senior warden forums and see if she can get information.

Kathy Hart mentioned that Bishop Laura Ahrens suggested that we combine services with St. John's in Pine Meadow. It was pointed out we do share services at holidays.

Bruce Quigley thought we made a mistake in only having one Christmas Service. There are people looking for a church and we miss them at the big holidays. Karanne pointed out it is tough to get supply priests for the holidays.

Leslie wanted us to think about how far we have come since 2021. We began with services in the parking lot and then added the choir, and all along we have kept up our customs and pageantry throughout our journey back from Covid. We now use technology to bring the church out of the building. She gave the history of the food bank which was started by Charlotte Craig and has been here for 50 years. The nursery school has been here a similar amount of time as well and reaches out into the community. She feels God will not let us fail and we need to pray for God's help.

Paul ended with the thought "We have little to despair about and much to build upon".

Diane added it is one thing to say "pray" but another to do it...she suggested that it start after church. She offered that if anyone would like to learn to be a lay reader, she would be a tutor to help people learn how to lead the service. For the homily, she suggested that we should listen to parishioners who might have a thought or a prayer they would like to share. Karanne said the worship committee will work on that plan.

Karanne closed the meeting with a prayer.

Rich Richardson made a motion at 11:38 a.m. to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Ken Jones and was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Garvin, Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer's Report for the year ended December 31, 2023

The Numbers

At Trinity, financial data is segregated as either budgeted or non-budgeted. When reviewing the financial health of the parish, it is important to distinguish between the two. Budgeted amounts are predictable, non-budgeted amounts are not. The budgeted amounts are critical in evaluating the parish's financial health. 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; 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.

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. Most of these funds have been designated for specific use 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 Maintenance Reserve funds represent money collected for upkeep of facilities.
- The Memorial Fund represents funds given ‘in memory of’ members of the parish family. Money in this fund is used to maintain gifts given to Trinity in memory of others.
- 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 monthly.

- 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 contributes a portion of their fundraising proceeds to the fund.

2023 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. Cash flow was positive in 2023 primarily due to lower than anticipated expenses related to unfilled rector's position. Cash flow is presented, discussed, and monitored by the Vestry each month.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Net assets on the balance sheet have increased by just over \$100,000, driven by positive cash flow and increase in investment balances. The parishes investments earned just under 11.10% for the year. Our investment mix continues to be 60% equity, 40% fixed income. The funds are rebalanced at the start of each year. The LPL balance represents most of the prepaid 2024 pledges. The balance will be transferred to the Operating Account in early 2024.

The increase in the Memorial Fund is a combination of a bequest received in 2023 offset by expenses incurred in upgrading the sound system and cleaning the organ.

Revenues – Operating Fund

Actual operating revenues were \$24,657 more than budgeted. The favorable variance is primarily due to favorable pledge revenue, the majority of which is donations made by members who did not pledge.

Other revenue represents donations made through special envelopes during the year.

The Event Outreach amount of \$7,594 represents collections for specific events, most notably Quality Street. The event outreach amounts are disbursed as non- budgeted expenses.

Expenses – Operating Fund

Actual expenses in 2023 were less than budget by \$80,628. That variance reflects our reality as we look for a rector. The 2023 budget included a three-quarter time rector. The worship variance to budget relates to our Local Live TV contract. The Maintenance variance relates to one time costs in configuring the church for Local Live TV as well as extra work done maintaining our grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Stapleton, Treasurer

Consolidated Balance Sheet			
	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	Change
Assets			
Cash, Operating Fund	199,505	\$ 155,224	\$ 44,281
LPL Financial	17,102	-	\$ 17,102
Maintenance Reserve	24,981	18,201	6,780
Cash	241,587	173,425	68,162
Memorial Fund Savings	36,283	25,866	10,417
Rectory Fund , Market Value	93,253	83,939	9,314
Endowment Fund, Market Value	173,184	155,886	17,298
Cudworth Trust, Market Value	20,655	19,034	1,621
DS Burton Memorial Trust, Market Value	2,472	2,230	242
Savings & Investments	325,848	286,955	38,893
Discretionary Fund	5,914	4,370	1,544
Total Assets	\$ 573,349	\$ 464,750	\$ 108,599
Liabilities			
Prepaid Pledges	(16,402)	(9,766)	(6,636)
Accounts Payable	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	(16,402)	(9,766)	(6,636)
Net Assets	\$ 556,948	\$ 454,984	\$ 101,964

Statements of Revenues & Expenses - Operating Fund						
	2023	2023	Variance	Prior Year	Variance	
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	to Budget	Actuals	Between Years	
Revenues						
Pledge Revenue, budgeted	\$ 186,067	\$ 161,410	\$ 24,657	\$ 182,234	\$ 3,833	
Other Revenue, budgeted	19,650	19,650	\$ -	22,560	\$ (2,910)	
Total Budgeted Revenue	205,717	181,060	24,657	204,794	923	
Flowers	1,290	-	1,290	2,200	(910)	
Special Gifts	5,294	-	5,294	835	4,459	
Other	4,252	-	4,252	1,750	2,502	
Total Non-Budgeted Revenue	10,836	-	10,836	4,785	6,051	
Event Outreach	7,594	-	5,500	5,500	2,094	
Total Outreach Revenue	7,594	-	5,500	5,500	2,094	
Total Revenue	\$ 224,148	\$ 181,060	\$ 40,994	\$ 215,079	\$ 9,069	
Expenses						
Salaries	\$ 50,587	\$ 114,869	\$ (64,282)	\$ 44,733	\$ 5,854	
Other Employee Expenses	6,532	30,142	(23,610)	3,975	2,557	
Worship	11,938	4,525	7,413	8,503	3,435	
Mission	21,235	24,683	(3,448)	21,087	148	
Utilities	20,166	21,800	(1,634)	19,543	623	
Maintenance	23,823	16,500	7,323	16,608	7,215	
Administration	23,160	26,000	(2,840)	28,437	(5,277)	
Other Expenses	1,450	1,000	450	2,031	(581)	
	158,891	239,519	(80,628)	144,917	13,974	
Outreach Expenses	8,606		8,606	5,500	3,106	
Total Expenses	167,497	239,519	(72,022)	150,417	17,080	
Net Operating Fund Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 56,651	\$ (58,459)	\$ 113,016	\$ 64,662	\$ (8,011)	

2024 Operating Budget

Summary

In preparing the 2024 budget, we continue to contemplate what Trinity could be, and where this period of discernment will lead us to as a parish.

The 2024 pledge revenue is based on pledge cards received at the time of this report.

As in the past, expenses for 2024 have been budgeted for based on 2023 actual expenses, with some exceptions noted below.

The 2024 Operating Budget forecasts a \$20,459 deficit compared to a 2023 operating surplus of \$56,651. The deficit is driven by the costs of a half time rector. The 2024 budget assumes our new rector starts mid year. Beyond 2024 our revenue base will need to increase to support an annual half time rector.

Revenues

- Pledges – A total of 44 pledge cards have been received, pledging \$156,910. This is a net increase of 1 pledge card compared to 2023.
- Plate Collections – the budgeted amount approximates what was received in 2023.

Overall, our budgeted revenue for 2024 is 12% less than what we collected in 2023 and in line with what we budgeted for 2023. If our revenue collection experience in 2024 is similar to 2023, we should be fine financially for 2024.

Expenses

- Salaries & Other Employee Expenses – budgeted expenses for

2024 include an estimate for a half time rector over the last half of the year. Salaries have been increased by 3.05% as recommended in the Diocesan convention.

- Worship Expenses – budgeted expenses include the annual charge for Local Live TV. This had been budgeted as a maintenance expense in 2023's budget. The budget also includes estimates for supply priests for the first six months of 2024.
- Mission Expenses – budgeted expenses are lower in 2024 because of the assessment due to the Diocese, which is derived from the revenues reported on our 2022 Parochial Report.
- Utility Expenses – budgeted amounts are relatively consistent with prior year budget and actuals,
- Maintenance Expenses - budgeted amounts are higher than prior year actuals as we out source more maintenance work at Trinity.
- Administrative Expenses – budgeted amounts are consistent with prior year budget and actuals.

Overall, budgeted expenses for 2024 are 26% higher than 2023 actual expenses and 16% lower than the 2023 budget.

2024 Operating Budget - Budgeted Accounts Only					
	2023	2023	% Variance	2024	% Change
Accounts	Budget	Actuals	to Actuals	Budget	in Budget
4001 Current Year Pledge Income	156,910	181,041	15.38%	157,264	0.23%
4004 Plate Collections	4,500	2,927	-34.96%	3,000	-33.33%
4008 Online Giving		2,100	N/M	-	
Total Regular Collections	161,410	186,068	15.28%	160,264	-0.71%
Assessments					
4501 Nursery School Assessments	19,650	19,650	-	19,650	0.00%
Total Assessments	19,650	19,650		19,650	
Total Budgeted Revenues	181,060	205,718	13.62%	179,914	-0.63%
5001 Salary - Rector	38,159	-	N/M	13,108	-65.65%
5002 Rector's SS Allowance	5,838	-	N/M	2,849	-51.20%
5003 Rector's Housing Allowance	18,000	-	N/M	12,000	-33.33%
5004 Salary - Sexton	5,934	6,870	15.77%	7,750	30.60%
5005 Salary - Music Director	20,730	20,730	0.00%	21,400	3.23%
5007 Salary - Parish Administrator	26,208	22,987	-12.29%	23,642	-9.79%
Total Salaries	114,869	50,587	-55.96%	80,749	-29.70%
5008 Rector Professional Expenses	500	-	-100.00%	500	0.00%
5011 Pension - Rector	7,920	-	-100.00%	5,032	-36.46%
5021 Insurance - Rector	11,250	158	-98.60%	5,850	-48.00%
5031 Education Allowance - Rector	1,850	-	-100.00%	925	-50.00%
5041 Travel Allowance - Rector	500	135	-73.00%	750	50.00%
5051 Social Security Taxes	7,122	3,870	-45.66%	4,039	-43.29%
5052 Payroll Services	1,000	881	-11.90%	925	-7.50%
5099 Other Employee Expenses	-	1,487	N/M	1,500	N/M
Total Other Employee Expenses	30,142	6,531	-78.33%	19,521	-35.24%
5101 Music - Supplies	725	290	-60.00%	500	-31.03%
5102 Music - Maintenance	-	525	N/M	550	N/M
5103 Music - Supply Organist	-	350	N/M	400	N/M
5111 Flowers - General	500	(39)	-107.80%	250	-50.00%
5112 Flowers - Easter	100	387	287.00%	500	400.00%
5113 Flowers - Christmas	500	255	-49.00%	500	0.00%
5121 Altar Guild Expenses	1,000	470	-53.00%	489	-51.12%
5122 Worship Expenses - Other	500	5,610	1022.00%	5,500	1000.00%
5123 Supply Priest	1,200	2,800	133.33%	1,200	0.00%
Total Worship Expenses	4,525	10,648	135.31%	9,889	118.54%

2024 Operating Budget - Budgeted Accounts Only					
	2023	2023	% Variance	2024	% Change
Accounts	Budget	Actuals	to Actuals	Budget	in Budget
5131 Diocesan Pledge - Current Year	22,983	20,064	-12.70%	20,960	-8.80%
5201 Christian Formation Expense	200	-	-100.00%	200	0.00%
5202 Outreach Expense	1,000	412	-58.80%	500	-50.00%
5205 Advertising Expense	500	590	18.00%	500	0.00%
5206 Miriam's Closet Expenses	-	169	N/M		N/M
Total Mission Expenses	24,683	21,235	-13.97%	22,160	-10.22%
5301 Utilities - Oil	8,000	8,517	6.46%	8,900	11.25%
5302 Utilities - Electric	8,000	6,195	-22.56%	6,500	-18.75%
5303 Utilities - Telephone/Cable/FAX	4,800	4,704	-2.00%	4,900	2.08%
5304 Utilities - Water	500	476	-4.80%	500	0.00%
5309 Utilities - Other	500	273	-45.40%	300	-40.00%
Total Utility Expense	21,800	20,165	-7.50%	21,100	-3.21%
5311 Maintenance - Service Contracts	6,500	4,797	-26.20%	5,000	-23.08%
5312 Maintenance - Landscaping	2,000	9,745	387.25%	5,000	150.00%
5313 Maintenance - Trash Collection	1,500	1,559	3.93%	1,600	6.67%
5314 Maintenance - Snow	5,000	3,205	-35.90%	5,000	0.00%
5315 Maintenance - Janitorial Services	500	978	95.60%	-	-100.00%
5319 Maintenance General	1,000	4,518	351.80%	2,000	100.00%
Total Maintenance Expenses	16,500	24,802	50.32%	18,600	12.73%
5321 Office Supplies - Postage	500	649	29.80%	700	40.00%
5322 Office Supplies	2,000	2,492	24.60%	2,600	30.00%
5323 Copier Lease	4,000	3,508	-12.30%	3,750	-6.25%
5324 Computer Network Expense	500	-	-100.00%		-100.00%
5325 Computer Software & Support	4,000	1,175	-70.63%	1,250	-68.75%
5327 Financial Review	2,500	1,135	-54.60%	3,750	50.00%
5328 Realm Expense [ACS]	1,300	2,724	109.54%	2,600	100.00%
5329 VANCO Clearing Fees	1,200	1,208	0.67%	1,300	8.33%
5331 Insurance - Liability	10,000	9,266	-7.34%	10,841	8.41%
Total Administration Expenses	26,000	22,157	-14.78%	26,791	3.04%
5401 Other Expenses - Coffee Hour	500	531	6.20%	600	20.00%
5499 Other Expenses	500	919	83.80%	1,000	100.00%
Total Other Expenses	1,000	1,450	45.00%	1,600	60.00%
Total Expenses	239,519	157,575	-34.21%	200,409	-16.33%
BUDGETED Operating Income(Deficit)	(58,459)	48,143		(20,495)	0

Senior Warden's Report 2023

My term as Senior Warden began in 2020 and the first Vestry meeting that year was in February, in the Parish Hall at the church. That was the last one in the church for nearly a year and a half. That was also when we resumed worshiping in our sanctuary once again. It wasn't long after we reopened that we became a parish without a priest and we had to begin making decisions on a lot of things on our own. As Senior Warden those were challenging changes for me.

As a community those were decisions that we had never had to make ourselves before: how to plan worship, recruit supply priests, train lay ministers, recruit and retrain acolytes, crucifers, ministers of communion and find a new music director. We had to decide if and when it was safe to have church, to drink from the common cup, and whether or not to fill the baptismal font inside the sanctuary door. We even settled upon having a scaled down version of Quality Street Fair with a drive-through collection for charity. "Big, elaborate and fun" was more our style...not scaled down and safe, which was what we had to settle for.

When I think of that time the word "anxious" comes quickly to mind. That was partly because we didn't know how we were going to manage in what had become "the new normal".

All that has changed in the past few years and especially in 2023. For one thing we have been successful at stepping up to those issues, making decisions and managing change successfully. It wasn't just a handful of us, but all of us who kept things moving forward. Now, looking back on 2023 so much is different and the main thing that stands out for me is the energy, spirit, confidence and pride with which we approach things now...or I should say "once again". In many ways this year felt like we had gotten some of the old Trinity back. For example, this is what I'm hearing and seeing:

- We see people volunteering more readily for all types of things: reading, ushering, acolyte duty. Folks were “all in” for the Gear Collection for Camp Hispaniola. I can’t think of anyone who didn’t do something to contribute to Quality Street this year: being there on “the day”, baking, cooking, cashiering, serving, setting up, taking down, bidding or buying. We even had some young people offering to serve and to help out in many different ways, who weren’t even connected to the parish except through a teen member.
- We have seen folks giving more generously financially to Trinity and to our many ministries and outreach efforts.
- The Food Bank saw a need to expand their service availability. In corresponding fashion Miriam’s Closet adjusted their hours to include more opportunities for Food Bank recipient to use their services.
- Our worship services are more joyful and that’s because we believe in what we are doing and have received appreciation about how well we plan and joyfully celebrate our faith.
- Our weekly attendance has improved steadily. The word is out and people come! We have had extremely well attended, joyful holiday services.
- We have also become known for our community service and charitable efforts in Canton and beyond.

When you read the reports in the Annual Report, especially those from Worship, and our Outreach activities you will see more examples of this.

This is all good stuff...that paves the way for more good stuff.

For example, last year we took on a challenge: replacing our complicated setup for producing the live feed of our weekly services. It was originally set up to serve those who either could not or

preferred not to worship in our sanctuary, mostly for health and safety reasons during the Pandemic. The original arrangement, implemented at that time, was complicated to use and was supported with volunteers on a weekly basis. The sound and video quality were sub -standard. It was difficult to set up and was not reliable.

After a little investigation and reference checking the vestry agreed to pursue a contract with a firm based in Stamford: Local Live TV. It looked like it could provide the reliable and user-friendly service that we needed. It took the better part of last year to accomplish this change, owing mostly to the difficulty of setting up the service on our site and the inevitable challenges of adapting an antique treasure of a building to the use of modern technology. But we did it! We dared to risk and persevere and it has paid off. Now we have enhanced, reliable visibility for our “at-home” audience, prospective parishioners and priest candidates as well. This is similar in value to our web-page, in that it can be another “calling card”.

All of our accomplishments from the past year are examples of “collaborative leadership”, a process by which, as a community, we accomplish more by not only enlisting individual skills and talents but also by effectively working together as a team.

In that sense we are living what Christ’s servant leadership taught us. St Paul envisioned for the “body of Christ” a community thriving when each person brings their unique talents and responsibilities to the activities of the parish, while recognizing that each person is essential for the health and the vitality of the entire community. Caring and contributing made all the difference for Trinity in 2023.

At the Annual meeting we will pay tribute to our departing Vestry members and welcome our new ones.

We will also schedule an open discussion of things you are happy

with and any concerns you may have. We will offer updates on the plans for enhancing our visibility in the community and ideas we will explore to bring a new priest into the picture. We are open to discussing all of the concerns you may have; specifically concerns about the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Karanne Farling, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report 2023

Traditionally, the Junior Warden's job was focused primarily on the maintenance and upkeep of the Church property. These responsibilities have now expanded, as there is simply too much to be done for us to divide the labor so narrowly. The Wardens must be true partners, working together to make decisions, provide leadership, and generally "get stuff done".

This report will include both the traditional and non-traditional aspects of the job in 2023, and a bit about 2024.

We were fortunate in 2023, as our building maintenance costs have been stable, with no need for major repairs. We had the organ cleaned and tuned, and thanks to the volunteer efforts of Mike and Ann Bierut, the pews and Sanctuary floor have been re-stained and look terrific.

Highland Park Property Management was hired to clean up the front bank, trim trees and bushes in the Memorial Garden and to provide mowing and plowing services. We needed the help this year to get all of this done, and we have been pleased with the results.

On the non-traditional front, I planned and organized a mock interview with a priest from the area to act as our candidate. This provided the Vestry with the opportunity to develop questions and test our process. The feedback we received was very positive – we will be ready when the time comes. And as a part-time social director, I organized our picnic and Christmas Giving Tree, and co-chaired Quality Street with Mimi McGill – this is the fun part.

Going forward, I will Chair the Vestry's Search and Sustain Committee. The group will focus and expand upon our ongoing efforts to attract a Priest in Charge and to pursue opportunities to increase the visibility of Trinity in community. You will hear more about these efforts in the coming months.

Finally, none of these things could have happened without a parish full of "Yes" people. "Yes, of course I will help" is always the answer. It's who we are, and I am extremely grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Prudhomme
Junior Warden

Worship Committee 2023 Annual Report

Worship at Trinity this year has been full of many blessings. Through the dedication of the six members of the Worship Committee and their teams, we had 17 Communion Services in addition to our Antecomunion Services. And, we had a baptism this year!! On Sunday, June 28, Rev. Low baptized Charlotte Matilda Atkins and Jackson William Atkins, twin children of Geoff and Tamara Atkins, grandchildren of Paul and Jan Atkins.

There are not enough words to fully express our gratitude for the year-long support from The Rev. Salin Low. In addition to monthly communion services, Rev. Low has been with us for the holiest celebrations of our church year: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost and All Saints. The Right Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan, blessed us with an official visit and on a Sunday in November when she had no other commitment, she decided to celebrate communion with us. In addition, we were blessed to have The Rev. Marilyn Anderson celebrating communion with us on four Sundays and having Maggie Breen, our Diocesan Missionary, preach for us on two Sundays.

Presiders and Homilists: The new reality for churches is the need for trained lay-leaders to preside and preach the Liturgy of the Word and Prayers that “comes before” Communion, which is called Antecomunion. Our Sr. Warden, Karanne Farling, coordinates the schedule of priests, presiders and homilists to assure that we have a worship service every Sunday. We are truly blessed to have Karanne Farling and Stan Moraski as our primary lay presider/homilists each month. On other Sundays, Karanne presides with homilists Laurie Barnhart, Leslie Dehey, Diane Terry, Mimi McGill and members of the Vestry Maryellen Prudhomme, Paul Atkins, Jim Stapleton during Stewardship. And, a special blessing, Ian Stapleton was a Presider/Homilist when he was home from college in July.

Crucifers, Acolytes, Ministers of Communion: We are truly blessed to have a wonderful team of servers who add reverence and beauty to our communion services. They include Jonathan Eno, Elaine Eno, Joan Andrews, Marc-Yves Regis, Gary and Noah Nicksa, Peter and Leslie Dehey, Stan Moraski, Jim Stapleton, (Coordinator: Leslie Dehey)

Readers: Seven parishioners have volunteered to recite weekly the two Scripture Readings, the Psalm and Prayers of the People which includes the Intercession List. A rotating monthly schedule is made based on each person's availability. The schedule is prepared and sent out mid-month prior to the month assigned. We are grateful for our regular readers and those who volunteer to read for special services. (Coordinator: Judy Hinman)

Ushers: An usher is at the Sanctuary entrance at each service to greet people as they enter and provide them with a service leaflet, take up the elements for communion when there is a priest presiding, and pass the offering plate(s). The schedule is sent out monthly and includes the latest update on guidance for performing their duties. There are currently 10 active ushers. (Coordinator: Ann Bierut)

Camera Operators: We are deeply grateful for the faithful service of our three long-term camera operators, Heather Garvin, Jim Stapleton and Jonathan Eno, plus Reilly Greene in 2021, whose commitment assured the YouTube broadcast of our Sunday services from early Covid shutdown in 2020 through to October 2023.

Long Awaited Change to Our Live Streaming: On October 15, 2023, we began live-streaming our worship services through LocalLive TV in Stamford, CT. The new technology includes enhanced microphones and two cameras in the sanctuary. A LocalLive Producer in Stamford operates the cameras remotely following the Run-of-Show script prepared each week by Leslie Dehey.

Comments from parishioners: “This is 1000% better than YouTube.”
“We feel we are right there in the sanctuary, and especially like the altar close ups during communion.”

This new way of worship, adopted initially in response to Covid restrictions, enables us to include our parishioners who cannot for many reasons come to in-person worship and those who have moved to other states (VA, FL, NC), but still worship with us. Recently, the family of Terence and Grace Jowett were especially grateful that live-streaming of their parents’ funeral on January 13, 2024 enabled family and friends in England, France and Africa to attend the funeral.

This new technology enables us to have a modern-day presence on the web, a convenient source of information for those who may be church-shopping and priests seeking a new parish who want to know more about us.

We continue to have inspirational worship here at Trinity. It is with deep gratitude that we thank the priests, lay presiders and homilists, especially Karanne Farling and Stan Moraski, for their faithful and inspiring leadership of our worship.

We are also grateful for the many readers, crucifers, acolytes, ministers of communion, choir, altar guild, and ushers, and for Carol Leichner who prepares and publishes our bulletins and Trinity Newsletters. We are profoundly grateful for all who worship with us in-person and by live-streaming. Your presence and your prayers are a beloved gift to our faith community.

Respectfully submitted
Leslie Dehey, Committee Chair

Members of the Worship Committee: Ann McAdoo-Altar Guild, Ann Bierut-Altar Guild and Ushers, Judy Hinman-Readers, Pastoral Care and Coffee Hours, Phyllis Lowell-Member, Karanne Farling-Vestry and Leslie Dehey-Choir and Committee Chair

Counters 2023 Annual Report

Consistent with our process since 2021, contributions to Trinity Church were received on Sundays, through U.S. mail or directly through the Realm program. Except for direct donations to Realm, all pledge and non-pledge contributions were entered into Realm as cash or check contributions primarily by Judy Hinman. Weekly deposits were made to Webster Bank and copies of the contributions, deposit slips, bank deposit confirmation, and other support items were given to Lisa Bogush, Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Hinman

Altar Guild 2023 Annual Report

With the resignation of Ann McAdoo mid-year due to having moved out of state, we decided to use a team approach for leadership. Deb and Ann assumed responsibility for communication, problem solving and scheduling, Jan orders all necessary supplies and bakes our communion bread, Phyllis and Joan wash and iron the altar linens, and Linda and Marianne continue to take care of special flower arrangements and the Harvest Altar Display. All members prepare the sanctuary for Sunday services on a rotating schedule.

The Altar Guild guide book was recently updated with pictures, step by step instructions and checklists to assist those setting up for Sunday services. This was needed because of the frequent changes due to switching between Communion and Antecommunion services, and a return to practices that we observed before the COVID shutdown.

We appreciate the dedication of our members and their willingness to assist in setting and cleaning up, usually without even being asked

to!

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bierut

Altar Guild Members:

Deb Asaro, Ann Bierut, Linda Burgess, Marianne Amo, Jan Atkins,
Dawn Lowell, Phyllis Lowell, Sharon Corthouts, Karanne Farling

Christian Education 2023 Annual Report

During the first half of 2023 Trinity continued to participate in a combined Confirmation Class with St. James Church, Farmington and St. Albans Church, Simsbury. Confirmation was in May with one student from Trinity being confirmed.

Christian Education classes continued to be suspended due to there not being enough children/youth attending to hold Christian Education classes. A few young members of Trinity have served as acolytes, crucifers and readers during this time. We will continue to reach out to families with children to encourage them to return to regular attendance.

Church member Rick Richardson held a weekly online bible study over Zoom for most of 2022, offering parishioners a regular opportunity to learn and discuss the Scriptures together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Bierut, Christian Education Coordinator

Communication Committee 2023 Annual Report

This ministry includes the following functions:

- Maintenance of the parish website: TrinityCollinsville.org
- Assistance with the creation of print ads
- Assisting others in the parish with photography, media, or technology
- Documentation of all major parish events
- Preparation and distribution of weekly parish e-newsletter and e-blasts as needed
- Maintenance of the parish Facebook Account

In 2023, the parish Communications Coordinator and Committee chair collaborated on achieving the above objectives.

The Trinity Office continued to publish its electronic parish newsletter, providing parish news, Vestry updates, and details about upcoming worship services and events.

The newsletter, sent out each Thursday at 3:00 p.m., promotes church activities, offers periodic surveys for parishioner input, and encourages participation in important parish-wide meetings. It also informs parishioners about stewardship and ministry needs.

The e-newsletter platform is also used to send out occasional “e-blast” announcements about a death in the parish family, or last minute cancellation reports in case of inclement weather.

Both the newsletter and website continue to provide online access to weekly worship bulletins for anyone who wants an advance copy, and for at-home worshipers who participate in Sunday service by live-stream. Even though the pandemic is over, home views of Trinity’s livestream service each week continues at a steady level.

This year we moved our on-line streaming of our Sunday service from YouTube to a new service provided by Stamford-based Local Live TV. Two new cameras were positioned for best shot selections. Leslie Dehey and the worship committee have worked tirelessly to develop weekly shot direction instructions to the service so that what is broadcast is the best possible view of events in the sanctuary.

Last year we launched a major facelift and upgrade of the Church's website. It now features a thoughtful design and promotes Trinity Collinsville as an active and welcoming church community with an enduring history in the Collinsville area. The site also serves as an introduction to Trinity Collinsville for any potential clergy who may seek a Priest-In-Charge position with Trinity. The site is currently maintained weekly by the Office with Chris Greene's input.

The Committee produced two ads in 2023; one in the Valley Press to announce the Church's Easter Service and one in the same paper to announce the Christmas Eve Service.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Richardson, Communications Committee Chair

Hospitality (Coffee Hour) 2023 Annual Report

The ministry of hospitality is vital to our life together at Trinity. Hospitality Ministry, aka Coffee Hour, returned to trinity in 2022 on one Sunday each month. Parishioners individually or with another family, select the date that works best for them. The simple coffee hour of beverage and finger food is held after the 9:00 service in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Hinman

Miriam's Closet 2023 Annual Report

Miriam's Closet continues to provide gently used back-to-work/interview clothing to both men and women. The need is still there as evidenced by the following note:

A Message from Deb Asaro:

A good thing happened this week at Miriam's Closet. I was called and asked if we could help a family coming from Columbia.

The family consists of two women and one of whom has a husband and 3 kids. It was a very unexpected trip and their host was not prepared for them. They came with just the clothes they were wearing, nothing else. Usually the host has clothes, etc. on hand as she is known to help those in need with clothing, housing, and jobs. She had nothing for them, so she sent out an SOS.

I met the host at the closet along with the two adult females and a 12-year-old girl. They found lots of items. I was afraid we wouldn't have much for them as our shelves are not as full as before. I didn't know their sizes-and I thought that more casual clothes would be what they needed most now. I was able to fill a couple of bags from my own closet and with some things we had they walked out with several overstuffed bags for themselves and the husband. They even found a couple of warm coats!

This past year we have continued regularly scheduled hours for Food Bank recipients on the first and third Tuesday morning each month. In September the Food Bank expanded their hours to include Monday evenings, we followed suit and are now there for the Food Bank folks on the first and third Monday. Getting know the Food Bank volunteers and recipients has been rewarding for us all. This relationship has served to strengthen the bond between Trinity

Church and the Food Bank with both volunteers and recipients actively participating in Quality Street, a gratifying outcome for everyone.

Keeping this mission open and viable is dependent on donations and volunteers. It is always exciting to check the Closet and find the bins filled with yet another bag or box full of surprises. Our donations continue to come from you, the Trinity community, but we are also receiving items from outside our walls. The word has spread that Miriam's Closet is a place to pass along the never worn, no-longer-needed clothes that are in everyone's closet.

And lastly, there is a dedicated group of special people who sort, wash, iron, organize, shop, hang out on Monday evenings and/or Tuesday mornings and do whatever is needed to keep our Closet going – our Closet Elves. They are the ones who fill the requests, ensuring that each person receives clothing neatly pressed, color coordinated and accessorized, on hangers, ready to wear.
Invaluable

Thanks be to God.

Mimi McGill

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 2023

Quality Street Faire 2023

“Church presents more than \$7500 to community efforts”

*(An update about Quality Street
from an article in the Valley Press)*

On Tuesday, December 12, Trinity Episcopal Church-Collinsville presented checks totaling over \$7500 to the Canton Food Bank, the Canton Fuel Bank, and the Trinity Nursey School Scholarship fund thanks to the generosity of 250-plus Farmington Valley residents who attended Trinity’s 2023 Quality Street Fair.

Trinity Episcopal Church, the little Victorian church at 55 River Road in Collinsville, for well over a decade has held an annual holiday fund raiser and given away one hundred percent of the proceeds to local community organizations.

The Quality Street Fair is a huge undertaking for this small church community, according to Mimi McGill, Quality Street Chair. Parishioners begin working in September on creating the popular home floral decorations, others construct amazing baskets chuck-filled with high quality items for the basket raffle. Folks bake, make jams, candies, frozen soups, casseroles to sell. On the day of the fair, the parish hall becomes a restaurant serving homemade soups, sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

This year all the hard work paid off. The fair generated well over \$7500 in profit. As has been the tradition at Trinity for over 15

years, checks were written to the Canton Food and Fuel Banks plus starting last year, the Trinity Nursey School scholarship fund. McGill stated that supporting local organizations is important to Trinity and its mission. All were excited to have made a near record amount and to present the checks to the representatives on the Food and Fuel Bank plus the nursery school.

The Canton Food Bank has been housed at Trinity since 1983. **Jennifer Herbek, Canton Food Bank Director** commented, “We are very grateful to the Trinity parish for providing the space for the Food Bank and their big-hearted donation. The last two years volunteers and recipients have been active participants in the fair. It gives us a chance to work together with the church community on putting together the fabulous Quality Street Fair.”

Michael Langer, Treasurer of the Canton Fuel Bank said, “Thanks to Trinity Church, other Canton organizations and citizens the Canton Emergency Fuel Bank has been making sure no Canton families are without heat.”

“Trinity’s generous donation to our Deborah Burton Scholarship fund brought tears to my eyes,” said **Lee Ann Delaney, Director of Trinity Nursery School**. “We know we can help and support children in our community who will benefit from a preschool experience before heading into full day kindergarten.”



Photo: Canton Food Bank, Canton Fuel Bank and Trinity Nursery School representatives receive donations from Trinity Episcopal Church in Collinsville

Left to Right: Lee Ann Delaney, Trinity Nursery School Director, Jennifer Herbek, Canton Food Bank Director, Michael Langer, Treasurer Canton Emergency Fuel Bank.

Gear Drive Camp Hispaniola

In years past Trinity has supported the work of fellow parishioner, Marc Yves St Regis who created and runs a summer Camp in Haiti and the Dominican Republic each year. Camp Hispaniola has grown over the years. Starting 2009 the camp has now served more than 450 campers. Upon arrival each camper receives a bag filled with personal care items and a t-shirt. They are also served two hot meals a day and participate in recreational, educational, spiritual and cultural programs.

In 2023 Trinity conducted a very successful drive to collect used soccer and baseball gear. The campaign began in the spring and was advertised widely throughout the Farmington Valley. We collected over a hundred pairs of cleats, multiple baseball and soccer uniforms, bags of socks, dozens of soccer balls, baseballs, bats, shin guards and more. We held a special coffee hour at the end of the drive and packed all the collected items to be shipped to the Dominican Republic in seven mailing barrels. Through generous donations from our congregation we collected \$1,295 to help with cost of mailing the gear and to cover other camp expenses.

Lunch in the Park

The Outreach Committee was able to prepare, pack and supply "Church Lunch in the Park/Church by the Pond" in Bushnell Park thru out the year 3 times for average of 40-45 bagged lunches.

Many thanks to the Outreach Committee and members of the Parish who donate the food items for the bagged lunches, and to those who helped prepare and pack the bagged lunches for the three dates throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Corthouts, Outreach Committee

The Christmas Giving Tree 2023

'Tis the season for giving! This year, we were asked to provide gifts for several Hartford families who have recently come to the U.S. from Columbia. The families on the list we received were all related, the children are siblings and cousins. This Christmas gift project was organized by Grace Church, and they were hoping to help 250 children and their families. Trinity is one of several Episcopal Churches that participated in this project.

We are very happy to announce that all of the tags for children and gift card suggestions for parents on the small tree in the Narthex were adopted. Thanks to our Trinity family for your generosity and support.

By Junior Warden Maryellen Prudhomme

Pastoral Care Annual Report 2023

Pastoral Care ministry is the communicating with and visiting parishioners who were unable to attend Sunday worship. The team assisted parishioners by preparing meals, running errands, transportation, taking the church bulletin to them, or other necessities. A card ministry actively continued. With the exception of Christmas cards, a hand written note on Trinity's notecards with an appropriate verse is written. Communications Coordinator, Carol Lechner, mails a copy of the newsletter to parishioners who do not have access to a computer. All of this helps to keep parishioners who are unable to be with us on Sundays to be connected with us. We are taking church to them.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Hinman

Trinity Music Department Annual Report 2023

2023 was a remarkable year for Trinity's music department and church body. We started the year with some of Trinity choir's favorite anthems, which were a blessing and a treat for the congregation. Later in the year, we were all graced with six additional musicians who played wonderfully for our Easter Sunday program. All the music presented that day served as a tribute to Christ's resurrection and all that He has done for us.

During the summer months, the choir was off, however, Trinity was still enjoying beautiful piano instrumental music which enhanced each service. Once the choir returned, planning for the Advent and the Christmas season began.

On December 24th at our annual Christmas Eve service, we were once again fortunate to have additional instruments in our service which included violins, flute, alto saxophone and trumpet. Along with the musicians, their families were there to support the ministry.

We ended the final Sunday and day of the year with the choir singing Hector Berlioz' The Shepherds' Farewell which was fitting as we say goodbye to the end of the season and 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesco Blackmore
Director of Music Ministry

TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

The following is the 2022-2023 report of Trinity Nursery School Administrator, Teachers and PVC.

The school employed a treasurer and three teachers with two classes. MWF & T/TH sessions.

Lee Ann Delaney is Administrator/Head Teacher and PVC Parent Volunteer Committee leader.

- TNS freed itself from the expenses of NAEYC accreditation program. Now that the state has its own Office of Early Childhood with guidance, resources and support for ECE standards and criteria. This allows funding for staff to meet their annual professional development requirements without paying out of pocket. The OEC renewal fees also increased which occurs every two years.
- Katy Gentile, her daughters and former teachers Mary Doran and Judy Sharp collected items for various ages of children and filled stocking stuffer bags for Canton Food Bank families.

- TNS PVC Fundraising was minimal yet the school raised over \$2,000 again with an online “Dinner, Winner and Then Some” raffle event. This will be the last year of online fundraisers created by staff. PVC members will need to come up with a new BIG fundraising strategy.
- Staff and students follow statutes and regulations guidelines created by Farmington Valley Health, Nurse Consultants (mandatory health consultant) and Office of Early Childhood.
- Parent referrals continues to be the number one way for families to know about TNS
- Full enrollment in both classes for 2022-2023 school year with a waiting list.
- Registration for the 2023-2024 year was very successful in January of 2023.
- Administration continued to use online signups for events, snacks, and conferences.

- 2022-23 year provided afternoon enrichment for students preparing for kindergarten or another full-day five-day program. The MWF afternoon enrichment was a huge success. Plans to include enrichment tuition during registration/contract will allow families to budget earlier.

Enrollment for afternoon enrichment was small - due to the age demographics of our upcoming MWF class. Many turn 4 in the fall and early winter before 12/31/22 so they may stay an additional MWF year and then attend both enrichments since public school kindergarten won't take them in the fall of 2024. January 2023, State changed the five year old "shut off" date for Kindergarten enrollment from December 31st to September 1st beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

- Website and social media continue as top online advertising platforms.

I write on behalf of our teachers and families: We are blessed to work together at Trinity Nursery School. Children are our world's greatest natural resource – we hope to instill a foundation for the love of learning and a passion to explore everything the world has to offer. We would like to take this time in our report to especially thank Trinity's Vestry, Trinity Parishioners, and the Episcopal Diocese of CT for supporting our nursery school program. We are very fortunate to be a very busy preschool with full enrollment in both classes in our area and it's thanks to everyone in our community who recognizes our school as a quality program for our community. Here's to another successful year filled with joyful young voices inside our preschool!

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Delaney

Trinity Nursery School Treasurer's 2023 Annual Report

The following is a report from the Trinity Nursery School Board of Directors for the 2023 annual meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, respectfully submitted by Kerry Platt, Treasurer.

- The enrollment had been on a downward trend for the past four few years, and we have therefore run only 2 out of the 4 planned classes in the last four 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 are looking into additions to the current class offerings to be more competitive in our current market, as well as offering an online payment option to help to streamline tuition payments as well as fulfill a need by current and future parents, giving them the option to pay via check or credit card. The Nursery School also offered an extended enrichment day to students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's, allowing an extra two hours of learning and socializing for the students. This program will remain an offering to students in the 4's program going forward.
- We have maintained state licensing, and are current NAEYC accreditation.
- We currently have a full-time teacher/Administrator, Lee Ann Delaney, who teaches the 3- year-old and the 4-year-old classes as well as another full-time teacher Katy Gentile. Katy joins Lee Ann in teaching the 3 and the 4-year-olds. Wendy Young helps teach in the 3-year-old class due to the class size. The current staff is an excellent mix of education and talent, all with a very high level of dedication and enthusiasm. Kerry Platt is our treasurer. Both Lee Ann

and Kerry will continue to perform various paid 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.

- 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, including their donation from the holiday fair of \$1,375 in December of 2022.

- **Trinity Nursery School Financials:**

- Cash Balance, 6/30/2022

- \$77,227.07

- Revenues, 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 \$114,925.97

- Expenses, 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 \$100,031.67

- Cash Balance, 6/30/2023

- \$92,121.37

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Platt, Treasurer

Canton Food Bank 2023 Annual Report

The Annual Report for the Canton Food Bank begins with great news as we received a Community Impact Grant from Connecticut Foodshare. We purchased a new refrigerator with increased refrigeration capacity to support our fresh initiative for 2023 and display baskets for families to shop from in a more welcoming and dignified manner!

Another wonderful change was that we increased access to the food bank by expanding to Monday evenings as of May 2023. This change allowed for working families or individuals needing more flexibility to shop for food in the evening hours. We had a very positive response from the families who utilize the food bank and volunteers who serve, as it gave people an opportunity to volunteer in the evening for a shorter time commitment. Sometimes change is good and this is surely one example!

Currently, we have 107 families registered, which is up by 19 from last year. Canton's Senior and Social Services office continued to qualify clients through its intake process. We maintained good communication with their staff and they were very responsive to the needs of the food bank and promotion of food and nutrition assistance with their programming as well!

The food pantry was open for families every Monday (since May 2023) from 6-7pm and Tuesday from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. We had approximately 60 volunteers that work tirelessly to shop for perishables and supplies, organize and stock the pantry and work with the community during drives and food distribution days. We were able to serve on average 50 families a week. All of the food distributed by the Food Bank was weighed and the number of meals

was calculated with a weekly average of 930 lbs. distributed for 775 meals. The largest utilization was March-May with May seeing the most need, data which we will use to plan for in the spring of 2024.

In terms of donations to stock the food bank, the Connecticut Foodshare Retail Program provided us with food from Shop Rite and other grocery stores each Monday delivered by one of their volunteers. In general, the retail program supplied the bread products, frozen meats and other items that may be discontinued or no longer stocked in the store. In addition, we received a grant from the Canton Community Health Fund (CCHF) specifically geared toward our fresh initiative to purchase fresh fruit and produce from Bristol's Farm Market for the 2023 growing season and fresh eggs from Otis Poultry Farm weekly. The initiative was a huge success putting health and nutrition in the forefront of families in need dealing with food insecurity. Support from the Canton community and beyond continued with over 23 organized food drives for non-perishables and monetary donations as well. Overall, the generosity displayed by these schools, individuals/neighbors, organizations (like the Boy Scouts & Rotary), local businesses and area churches continued to leave me amazed and kept our shelves filled for families to "shop".

A driving force that motivated the volunteers at the food bank was building a sense of community and making the food bank experience less transactional and more relational. This was evidenced by our inclusion in the Quality Street Fair at the church! We were given the opportunity to showcase artwork, baked goods, crafts and plants grown by volunteers and families of the food bank alike. It felt good to be a part of the community working to support others and give back through our talents and treasure. Once again, we were grateful for the monetary support through the Fair and space provided per the pantry, choir room and church classroom.

The generosity of the church allowed the volunteers of the food bank to continue to serve families in Canton dealing with food insecurity and was much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Herbek

THE PARISH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Collinsville, Connecticut 06022-0374

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Office@TrinityCollinsville.org

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30pm

www.TrinityCollinsville.org

WORSHIP

Sundays at 9 a.m.– Livestreamed / In-Person

Please visit our website for more information

STAFF

Francesco Blackmore, Director of Music Ministry

Carol Leichner – Communications Coordinator

Norman Robinson – Sexton

VESTRY

Karanne Farling – Sr. Warden 860-707-9850 or

srwarden@trinitycollinsville.org

Maryellen Prudhomme - Jr. Warden 860-463-6281

Lisa Bogush – Treasurer

Heather Garvin – Clerk

2024: Paul Atkins, Ken Jones, Jim Stapleton

2025: Ann McAdoo, Mimi McGill

2026: Jack Henne

TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL – 860-693-4615

Lee Ann Delaney, Kathryn Gentile, Wendy Young