

ANNUAL REPORT



TRINITY
BUCKINGHAM
CHURCH



2024

Annual Meeting February 2, 2025
Agenda

I. Call to order (Nancy Dilliplane)

II. Appointment of Secretary for the annual meeting—Sara Swidorski

III. Prayer & Listening Hearts guidelines (Nancy Dilliplane)

Prayer for the Parish: Almighty and ever-living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity Buckingham for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Guidelines for being with one another today:

1. Take time to become settled in God's presence.
2. Listen to others with your entire self (senses, feelings, intuition, imagination, and rational faculties).
3. Do not interrupt.
4. Pause between speakers to absorb what has been said.
5. Do not formulate what you want to say while someone else is speaking.
6. Speak for yourself only, expressing your own thoughts and feelings, referring to your own experiences.
7. Avoid being hypothetical. Steer away from broad generalizations.
8. Do not challenge what others say.
9. Listen to the group as a whole—to those who have not spoken aloud as well as to those who have.
10. Generally, leave space for anyone who may want to speak a first time before speaking a second time yourself.
11. Hold your desires and opinions — even your convictions — lightly.

From Grounded in God, Revised Edition (Farnham, Hall, and McLean, Morehouse Publishing)

IV. Appointment of Judges of Election: Bonnie McCabe and Diana Martinez

V. Elections: (Joanne Welker)

Vestry Candidates:

1. Karen Parker
2. Kay Kinney
3. Hank Grosz
4. Natalie Welker-Marx

Other Vestry Members

Class of 2027: Deb Grant, Sara Swidorski (resigned 9/24), Janet Zimmerman (2nd term)

Class of 2026: Steve Downs, Jill Unger, Joanne Welker (2nd Term)

Diocesan Convention Delegates for 2025:

1. Natalie Welker-Marx
2. Joanne Welker
3. Deb Grant
4. Alternate?

Deanery Representatives for 2025:

1. Natalie Welker-Marx
2. Joanne Welker
3. Kathi Sadowski

VI. Brief Stewardship, Budget and Financial Overview (Barry McCabe)**VII. Motion to Adjourn****VIII. Lunch****RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2024**

As I write my report for the year 2024, Martha Dudich's fine sermon about Jesus, his mother and the wedding celebration in Cana is still ringing in my ears and stirring my heart. Both Mary's attention to places of need, and Jesus' use of what is at hand to meet the need seem important as we reflect on the life of our faith community this year.

Mary invites us to pay attention to what we lack—what we seem to have run out of. Jesus invites us to take stock of what we do have, and to fill ourselves up to the brim with it.

Our ordinary lives, when offered to God and to one another, can become extraordinary. The joy and fullness that results when we marry our own lives to the life of God overflows with hope, peace, compassion, forgiveness and generosity.

And so, these two lines from John 2: 1-11 will shape my reflection on 2024 at Trinity, Buckingham:

1. They have no wine
2. You have kept the good wine until now

They have no wine:

Has Trinity run out of wine? It is true that our wedding celebration (and by that I mean all the ways that we celebrated the wedding of our lives to the Divine life, not wedding receptions!) appeared to be more abundant in the early days.

- The days when we outgrew the original church and built this newer one—and even then, needed to bring in folding chairs on Christmas Eve.
- The days when Pierce hall burst at the seams with Sunday School children, when Vacation Bible School filled up the first day registration was open, and when the Youth Group took off for camping trips and mission trips on a regular basis.
- The days when the Christmas Bazaar, Open Circle dinners, Crab Fest, Spring and Fall sales flourished.
- The days when the choir filled the chancel.

We drank that good wine and delighted in that abundance. But those early days of celebrating—and many of those we celebrated with—are gone.

- Many, like the Sunday School and the Youth Group children grew up and moved away.
- Others, like the Sanders and the Gillens, followed those children and have moved from Buckingham to celebrate life in retirement far from here.
- Many, like Elizabeth Crooke and Marty and Alan Reed, have moved on to new, and unending life in the embrace of God in eternity.
- Still others have simply slipped away without saying good-bye to new and different parties.

We can, and we should, give thanks for all the good wine we consumed at this great wedding feast, and all the people we shared it with. Those early, heady days of celebrating our life with God, that have come and gone.

It's also true that, for many, if not most of us, who remain at Trinity Buckingham, the days of our youth have come and gone, too. Gone are the days of boundless energy, robust health, more disposable income. Gone are the days we weren't challenged by driving at night, when we didn't worry about climbing ladders to change light bulbs or hang massive wreathes, when we didn't ache for days after weeding flower beds or sorting through bags of donated clothing.

You know, I wasn't exactly young when you called me to be your rector. I was 53. That was ten years ago. And I know how much has changed in my own body and my own energy in the last decade. A decade ago, the majority of you were in your sixties and seventies. That means that you are now in your seventies and eighties, and have continued to experience all the incarnational changes that come with aging. We simply don't have the capacity to continue to party as we once partied. The wine of our youth is gone.

But, has Trinity run out of wine? If we persist in evaluating our marriage with God in terms of the past, we might be tempted to answer yes. We can easily imagine a time—even if it's not yet arrived—when we'll say **We have no wine.**

And yet...as Martha reminded us in her recent sermon, the story of the Wedding Feast in Cana isn't a story of depletion and scarcity. It is a story of unimagined abundance.

They have no wine, his mother said to Jesus. The first wine had indeed run out, but Jesus looked around at what was at hand. He saw six stone water jars and he told the servants to fill them to the brim. When the steward tasted the water, he found that it had become wine of a superior quality. The steward said to the bridegroom in astonishment: **You have kept the good wine until now.**

What was at hand -- ordinary water vessels -- filled to the brim at Jesus' invitation, overflowed with the wine of the kingdom.

Now, here's something to think about: we humans are ordinary water vessels: the average human body is 60% water. An average-size adult contains about 10 gallons of water.

So, what if we ordinary, older, and fewer in number water vessels accepted Jesus' invitation anew, and filled up to the brim with the water that's available to us right now, as we are and where we are. What might be the result? Can we not still celebrate our marriage to our good and loving God? We're celebrating 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of marriage. That makes for some well-aged, extraordinary wine. Think of all we have learned over the years about hope, faith, love, justice, peace, and joy? **What if Trinity's best wine is right now?**

What if, right here, right now, in us and among us, is extraordinary wine that symbolizes the union of God and God's people is just waiting to be drawn out and shared with one another and with Buckingham, and our nation, and the world?

In point of fact, look at the choice wine that has been drawn out this year:

Since last year's annual meeting we have celebrated:

- Two weddings
- Five baptisms
- One funeral

- Our Sunday School, though small, has tripled in size. Every week we experience in them love, joy and care for one another that is disproportionate to their numbers.

- Wait staff has had to scurry to add tables and chairs at recent Seniors Who Care lunches

- The Trinity Buckingham Academy is full to the brim with preschoolers, who, along with learning their ABCs and 123s are also learning how to be kind and compassionate and generous human beings.
- Our new parish administrator, Sara Swidorski, hit the ground running in September, and manages our day-to-day business and communications with energy, good humor, creativity and sensitivity. Cynthia Goode continues to bless us with her institutional memory and bookkeeping (with volunteer assistance from Pam Oswald and Deb Grant).
- Our vestry: Sue Capanear, Steve Downs, Deb Grant, Peter Oliver, Jill Unger, Natalie Welker-Marx and Janet Zimmerman, and wardens Joanne Welker and Barry McCabe give generously of their time, energy and spirits to oversee our financial and property resources
- We have filled more car trunks than I can count with:
 - food for the Grace food pantry in New Britain
 - Toys for the Little Santa Shoppe
 - Supplies for the Bucks Housing Group Apartment in Doylestown
 - Socks and Underwear for the Clare Project in Kensington
- Our ordinary, aging members make meals, drive vans and staff the Code Blue Shelter for our unhoused neighbors on cold winter nights
- We send cards, make calls and visit one another when we are in crisis or ill or grieving.
- Our choir and handbell ensemble lift our prayers and spirits and help us worship God in the beauty of holiness with music that belies their small numbers.
- Our Fizz Bible Study, book and Lenten study groups and multi-parish EfM group gather all year long to spend time with God's word in the Bible and God's word in one another.
- Martha and I, along with a faithful team of altar guild members, acolytes, lectors, intercessors, and eucharistic ministers create weekly opportunities to give thanks to our loving Creator, hear the gospel preached in engaging ways, and draw the Trinity community ever more deeply into the ongoing dance of the Trinity.

There continue to be abundant opportunities and invitations to be filled to the brim with living water at Trinity—to have our water changed by Jesus into good wine for the life of the world.

And perhaps that is where I should end this year's reflection. **You have kept the good wine until now.**

But, you know me, and I can't resist leaving you with a challenge.

And the challenge is this: with so many opportunities and invitations to let Jesus fill us to the brim, why do so many of the invitations go unanswered?

I have become curious, over the last year, about the low numbers of people who avail themselves of the opportunities Trinity provides to fill up on Jesus at worship, at fellowship, at formation or at social justice events.

And I'm not talking about the people who have moved to new addresses in heaven or on earth, or those who have moved on to other parties and no longer consider themselves part of the Trinity community, or those who are no longer physically capable of participating in in-person gatherings.

I am talking about the people who *do* call Trinity, Buckingham their church home. I'm curious about why more of *you* don't seem to wish to partake of the opportunities that Trinity offers to turn water into wine.

- I'm curious about why attending worship for many of us is a monthly rather than a weekly occurrence, and why we so frequently arrive late.
- I'm curious about where everyone was on Christmas Eve
- I'm curious, in a community where most of us are senior, why more of us don't turn up for fellowship events like Seniors Who Care
- I'm curious about why we don't attend one another's funerals
- I'm curious about why, when many of you have told me that you feel hopeless about the current state of the world, you don't seem interested in participating in our Epiphany faith forum: "Hope is Here"
- I'm curious about why people tell me they are feeling lonely don't stay for coffee hour or try our weekly Fizz gathering on Zoom.
- I'm curious about why we want to worship, but not help lead worship.

I don't say this with intent to shame or humiliate. I am simply curious. There is a lot of good wine on offer here at Trinity. It is even possible that the really good wine has been kept until now. I'm curious about what is keeping us from the celebration.

I have a hunch that the answer may be that you spent your youth making the old wine. And I do know and understand that before my time with you, you taught Sunday School and helped lead worship, and read and discussed books, and hosted coffee hour, and prayed and worked for a more just world. And you didn't expect to still be doing it at this stage in your lives.

And maybe it's not fair for me to expect it.

But I want to let you know that your presence and your involvement matters. It matters now more than it ever did. You are an essential ingredient of the new wine that Jesus wants to draw from Trinity's stone jars.

Here is an example of what I mean. The choir and handbells have learned in the last several years that when even one singer or ringer is missing, the rest of the group cannot play the prelude, or

sing the offertory hymn we had hoped to share as part of worship. We can't play a melody without a G. A four part anthem without the tenor doesn't work.

The same goes for each and every one of the members of this congregation.

I wish we understood more clearly that if you choose not to come to worship on Sunday, you are depriving me of hearing your voice raised in song, of feeling the power of your prayer joined to mine, of knowing the comfort of your kneeling by my side for Communion.

I wish we understood more deeply what it means to study scripture or discuss faith together. When you choose not to take part in the Fizz or a faith forum, you are depriving me of your wisdom and insight, and of hearing what the Spirit of the Living God might have to say to me through you.

I wish we understood more deeply that we learn how to care about and pray for one another by sharing our stories around the table in Faith Hall or the Gardenville Inn. When you are not there, you deprive me of a chance to share your joys and sorrows. And you deprive me of your prayers for me, because you haven't heard my story.

I wish we understood more clearly that it is in our being together that Jesus fills us to the brim. When you do not answer an invitation to be together, you are missing out on the promise that whenever two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is in the midst of them. And finally, if we are not filling one another, and being filled, then how are we to be the good wine of the kingdom—the wine of joy, hope, peace, justice and love.

I know what I think, but I'm curious to know from your point of view, which is it:

We have no wine. OR We have kept the best wine for now.

Pastor Nancy +



LAY ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Lift up your eyes – do not despair. Look up ahead – the path is there.

There was a full-throated response to the call of this song the choir shared with those worshipping on a recent Sunday in Epiphany, charging us all to “put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.” Most often when selecting congregational hymns or choir anthems, it’s with the intent of supporting those scriptures that will be proclaimed, attentive to the particular liturgical season and affirming our theology (speaking to who God is and what we believe). In this case, however, I’ll admit that while “Lead With Love” may have aligned with this criteria, the reason for including it in worship was rather selfish: my needing both the reminder of the deep truth of that refrain and the support I could find in my faith family proclaiming it together.

Reflecting on another year of the Trinity community accompanying one another on the journey of faith, hope and love – sharing our joys and blessings, our losses and struggles, attentive to needs of a world bigger than our own – a pair of words came to mind. PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY. (Suddenly I was 17 asking my parents for the car keys!) As a faith family, we may sometimes lose sight of this reality: we are, quite literally, here for one another. Or should be. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses the metaphor of a physical body to show how necessary all the members are to the body of Christ. Are we aware of how indispensable each of us is to the Trinity body? How my journey is absolutely linked to yours and yours to mine. I count on your prayers, your wisdom, your humor, your redress – which is to say, your companionship.

Another hymn text comes to mind, from “The Servant Song.” *We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

Will you and I commit to discerning our part in both the blessed privilege and certain responsibility of accompanying one another on the path? Can we trust God has plans for this community that count on each of our unique gifts, our enthusiasm and energies, our prayers and our presence? If there are ways I might be more helpful, I trust you will let me know. In the meantime, it’s one foot in front of the other.

Best blessings!

Martha Dudich

Lay Associate for Liturgy and Spirituality

FINANCIAL REPORT for 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Operating Rev.	340,000	365,000	315,000
Operating Exp.	<u>295,000</u>	<u>351,000</u>	<u>344,000</u>
Surplus	45,000	14,000	(29,000)

This report shows only Operating Revenues and Expenses and excludes transfers such as Rector Discretionary Funds and Sabbatical Expenses which do not impact the normal operations of the church.

In 2024 we saw an increase in one time income of \$13,000 and investment income of \$12,000 while expenses increased due to payroll expenses of \$22,000, maintenance of \$23,000, insurance of \$4,000, and other smaller expenses of \$7,000.

As we look to 2025, we see a decrease in pledgers from 63 and \$235,000 to 59 and \$225,000 and less one time payments of \$40,000. Expenses are budgeted lower in 2025 as we expect maintenance to be \$9,000 less and professional fees less as we spent \$4,200 for an audit but these savings will be offset by increases in salary and benefits of \$6,200.

We had not had an audit since before 2018, so we engaged a CPA firm to look at both the academy and the church for 2023. The good news other than some minor comments and suggestions how to improve our processes and document our procedures, our financial statements were fine.

Overall, despite the deficit budget forecast for 2025 we are in reasonably good shape and hopefully similar to 2023 and 2024 where we also forecasted deficit budgets we will do better.

The financial statements for 2024 and the budget for 2025 is available in the church office for review.

Barry L McCabe

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for 2024

The campaign ran from September to November, with announcements being made to both services. Pledge packets were mailed to parishioners and pledges were blessed by Pastor Nancy on Giving Sunday, November 24th. We appreciate your generosity in supporting Trinity.

Here is some pledge data:

- Number of pledges for 2025: 59
- Total amount pledged for 2025: \$225,000

PROPERTY REPORT for 2024

This year produced varied activities undertaken to sustain and preserve our church facilities. In terms of exterior work, Historic Trinity received repairs needed to the exterior chimney stucco and cap. In addition, a new door and fittings were installed on the side door and main sanctuary doors were remounted to better secure and seal same. Our main church received painting of wooden trim/eave areas and power washing of the east wall exterior and TBA entryway. In addition, damaged trees bordering our main parking lot were dropped and removed.

Interior work included resolving a dampness/mildew issue in the TBA office with wall repairs, replacing breaker panels following a power surge, and installing new weather stripping in all exterior opening doors requiring same. Major renovations were completed in the women's bathroom including flooring, facilities and sinks.

Regarding the church rectory, attic repairs related to chimney cap issues was undertaken and work continues in this area. Waterline testing, inspection and resolution has been undertaken with replacement of well cap. As required, ongoing water quality testing continues.

Steve Downs

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM ACADEMY (TBA) REPORT

TBA was happy to welcome students for the 2024-2025 school year on September 3rd 2024. Academy offerings include: before school, lunch bunch, kids club and kindergarten enrichment alongside our traditional preschool, jump start and pre-kindergarten classes. We opened our doors to 16 jump start (2 year old class) 20 preschool, 17 pre-kindergarten, and 5 kindergarten enrichment students for a total of 58 families. TBA augments our classroom programming with specialty offerings such as YOGA, Play and Praise, and Chapel classes, story time with Bill Wood, and Karate.



TBA's staff is filled with incredible veterans and several newbies this year! We were happy to welcome back Alison Rose, Stephanie Meyer, MaryAnn O'Neil, Andi Conte, Christine Lugossy, Jen Reed, Monica Gerace, Courtney Robertson and Amanda Wright . Our new staff has done an amazing job learning the ropes and helping students flourish emotionally, and academically. Our new teachers, include Erin Boles, Laura Cohan, Allison Haughney and Lauren Cheatle. TBA staff does a fantastic job keeping our students happy and thriving throughout the school year. Our

TBA staff enjoys our school gatherings; the ice cream social in September, our Christmas Pageant in December, Donuts for Grown up in April, our Art Fair in May, and an end of year picnic and graduation in June!

TBA continues to meet licensing requirements for the Department of Human Services. To do so, staff must maintain all required certifications and continuing education hours each year.

Over last summer, TBA took on some projects. TBA ordered and installed two new computers, and a new printer. TBA had a beautiful new pathway installed to our playground. Both of these projects were possible because of a very generous donation from the Oliver foundation. TBA is so grateful!

This year, our inventive TBA parent board hosted several family fun events, such as parent coffees and a Christmas reception. The TBA parent board has done a fabulous job planning fundraisers. They had a TBA parent make cookie kits, TBA shirts were made, we had dine and donate at Panera and our biggest event coming up, the TBA art show and carnival!

We are grateful to our wonderful families who entrust TBA with their children. We are thankful for the support from the TBA board of directors and church staff to help make this year successful. Our last day of school will be June 6th.

Jillian Kruze
Educational Director

MINISTRY REPORTS for 2024

ALTAR GUILD

Trinity's Altar Guild is composed of dedicated volunteers who prepare the altar for all Sunday services, special holy day services, as well as weddings and funerals. Other tasks include polishing the silver and brass, laundering and ironing the linens, ordering flowers, seasonal decorating, and hanging the altar frontal, banners and scarves. The work of the Altar Guild is one of the fundamental ministries in the church.



Our Altar Guild members currently are Marjorie Guidry, Bonnie McCabe, Sue Snyder, Deb Grant, Kathi Sadowski, Meg Perry and Joanne Welker. Meg and Joanne are so grateful for the work these wonderful women do to keep the Altar Guild functioning.

Also, thank you to Pat Cooke for continuing the task of co-ordinating the flowers for the altar

each Sunday. And thank you to Joan Noveske for continuing to develop the yearly liturgical schedule for the paraments.

Meg Perry and Joanne Welker

ACOLYTES

A lot of what we mean by living our faith is to serve others. If you have thought about how you could serve Trinity, be a part of a faith community and experience the joy in doing so, you might want to consider being an acolyte whose responsibility is to assist the minister with the liturgy. You may not know that acolytes (altar boys/men/girls or women) have been assisting Christian services since 250 AD. Initially they were a clerical order. It was quite recently, in the 1980s, that girls were permitted to be acolytes. The work acolyte means



“follower” or one who helps or serves. Acolytes perform a number of functions before, during and following the service. If you, your son or daughter (age 10 and older) are interested in finding out about becoming an acolyte in serving Trinity’s faith based community please talk to Pastor Nancy or Jill Unger. Both of them would be delighted to talk to you about this important ministry.

† When acolytes first helped with the service they carried candles in religious processions. In today’s services they can do other duties such as “assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book for the Gospel reading, candle bearers or “torches”, assisting a deacon or priest with the Holy Eucharist, swinging a censer or thurible [13], carrying the incense boat, handing the offering plates to ushers, and many other tasks as seen fit by the minister or deacon.

Active Acolytes in 2024 were: Joanne Welker, Deborah Grant, Suzanne Capanear, Ewan Swidorski and Bob Kinney

A/V Live Stream members were: Jill Unger lead coordinator, Deb Grant, Ewan and Sara Swidorski and Joanne Welker

Acolyte Coordinator for 2004 was Jill Unger

† [Wikipedia/Acolyte/Christian Denominations-Anglican Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acolyte/Christian_Denominations-Anglican_Church)

Jill Unger

ECW - Episcopal Church Women

Not much news from the ECW this year. We haven't met at all. But we did make corn chowder for sale for the congregation. Our numbers are very slim but I do hope we can meet this Spring as we do have money to disperse. The women in our church have always been so supportive over the years and I am grateful for that. We can no longer do our Fall Rummage sale and Spring Sale as we just have too few women to help put it all together. But it would be nice, in the future, if we could have a bake sale or a dinner so we could raise some more funds. We'll see as the year goes on.



Mary Beth Perisho

JAZZ & JOE

If you want a fun evening out, you might want to check out our Jazz & Joe events, usually held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 in Faith Hall.

A \$5 donation is requested and coffee and snacks, some homemade, are included. Music is provided by The Jazz Sanctuary. It is well supported by the surrounding community and is important to our parish as the proceeds go to our music program and other church activities.

Karen Parker



PASTORAL CARE

Early last year a Pastoral Care ministry was formed to help Rev. Nancy with the pastoral care needs of our church. It is a dedicated group of parishioners who volunteer their time and talent. Those who are part of this ministry and what they do for us is as follows:

Patty Bradbury continues to send a monthly prayer chain email to those in our church who have offered to lift others in prayer. Patty also mails grief pamphlets to parishioners who are mourning a death of a loved one.



Bernadette Grosz continues to organize the monthly Seniors Who Care luncheons which enable us to spend time with one another in fellowship.

Karen Parker heads the Prayer Shawl group which knits beautiful prayer shawls for parishioners who need comfort.

Natalie Welker-Marx sends birthday cards to parishioners throughout the year as well as the monthly Home Touch booklets to those unable to attend church.

Janet Zimmerman DeCaprio and Natalie Welker-Marx and Joanne Welker received certification this year to take communion to those who are unable to attend church for various reasons.

Pat Cook is so good about reaching out to our parishioners by phone and with cards and also organizes the Sunday altar flowers that are given by parishioners in memory of or in gratitude for.

Joanne Welker keeps in contact with those who are ill with phone calls and visits.

Rev. Nancy is always there for us to provide care and a listening ear and we are grateful for her leadership and experience.

Joanne Welker

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

The Prayer Chain Ministry is a quiet but very active Ministry at Trinity. Our very dedicated Intercessors include Bonnie McCabe, Leslie Jaedicke, Deborah McLean, Barbara Torok, Jackie Moore Salerno, Woody Kiel, Joan Bradbury, Betty Kitson, Marty and Lauren Gillen, Mary Beth Perisho, Christine Bradbury Kunkel, Heather Carbo, Joanne Welker and Patty Bradbury.

Over the last year we have prayed for over ninety people. Some of these have been acute needs and many have been long term requests for healing. Many of those we've prayed for have been parishioners but many are friends, neighbors and colleagues. We receive prayer requests sometimes through the church office but mostly through word of mouth. Should you need prayers for yourself, a loved one or friend please either contact the church office or pabradbury@verizon.net.

The weekly prayer lists from Sunday services are forwarded to me. From that list cards of get well and sympathy are also sent to our parishioners. Grief booklets are sent throughout the year as well.

We are always happy to have new members join our group. Should you find you have a few extra moments each day to include others in your prayers, please contact me.

Patty Bradbury

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl group has been busy this year with a few new projects. Besides our usual projects of prayer shawls, pocket prayer squares and lap robes for our congregation, we have donated fidget mats to Buckingham Valley nursing facility and Pine Run dementia unit, scarves to One Warm Scarf, and various other items to Gift of Life, Bayada, hospice and Veterans' groups. one of our members is a distributor for many charitable organizations.

We always welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact Karen Parker at 267-629-9125

Karen Parker

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Little Santa Big Shop

Thanks to the generosity of Trinity members and other residents of Bucks County, Little Santa Big Shop was able to provide a shopping experience for 75 parents/guardians to help more than 200 kids have a wonderful Christmas. LSBS is a grass roots group of Jamison residents who gather donations throughout the year. For one day in November, registered recipients can come and select gifts for their kids. In addition, they can select household cleaning supplies, personal care items, wrapping paper and homemade cookies. The support offered by Trinity is invaluable to the success of the project. Thanks to everyone who supported Little Santa Big Shop.

Barbara Kroberger

Grace Church Food Pantry



Throughout the year, thanks to the generosity of folks here at Trinity, we've been able to weekly support our outreach partners at Grace Church (formerly New Britain Baptist) food pantry in feeding the hungry of Central Bucks County.

The pantry is well known to the needy and extremely well managed thanks to the volunteers from Grace Church. **Open two days each week, Mondays and Wednesdays, the pantry served 8,492 over the course of 2024.** Donations, brought to Trinity each week by our community members are transferred and help stock the shelves for those experiencing food insecurity.

If you're sharing each week, thank you. If you've not yet started, please join us. If you're in need of assistance, you know where to go... Grace Church New Britain Food Pantry.

Steve Downs

Doylestown Family Shelter

Bucks County Housing Group has four shelters, 87 rental units and two food pantries. They also provide comprehensive housing counseling for their families. Trinity and Doylestown Presbyterian help the families who live in apartment five by providing a welcome basket upon move in, holiday meals, Christmas gifts and Easter baskets. There have been times when we have been asked to help with gas gift cards, clothes for summer day camp and restocking the apartment with pots and silverware

Bonnie McCabe

Code Blue

The Code Blue project provides overnight shelter when temperature is below 28 and the shelter is fully staffed. The shelter runs from Dec 1 – Mar 31 at 4 different churches. The doors open at 7Pm where a hot meal is provided and a warm place to sleep. In the morning guests are given breakfast selections and a bagged lunch to go. Shelter closes at 6:30 am. The shelter cannot open any night unless it is fully staffed with 14 volunteers.

Due to the pandemic and the increase in homeless, Trinity can no longer be a host church because we do not have the room, but our participation in the project continues by suppling hot meals in the month of January to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Plus, there are several of us that volunteer to help fill the nightly shifts. Here is the website to read more about how you can help. <https://www.co2ssh.org/>

Here are some stats from 2023-2024 season:

- Code Blue shelter was open 65 nights last winter
- Shelter was provided to 73 different individuals throughout the season (64% increase over the last season)
- Our Code Blue shelter was staffed by two hundred and fifteen (215) individual volunteers.
- Shelter volunteers served 4,625 hours this season.

Unfortunately, the 2024-2025 season the guest counts are even higher.

In the fall CSSH had it's first annual Quizzo Trivia Night fund raiser in November. Fun was had by all!

Pam Oswald

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity's Sunday School is made up of a small but enthusiastic group of children between the ages of 3 and 10. With the addition of two new families this year we tripled in size. Primarily led by parents Deb McLean and Soju Kurup, we also welcomed Carla Koshy, Judy King and Elisabeth Goggin as occasional teachers this year. We gather for worship in the sanctuary at 10 am and after a prayer and a song we leave for our own lessons while the congregation hears the Scripture Lessons and the sermons. Then we return for Communion. This year we have been working with Martha Dudich to sing as a kids choir from time to time, for example, during the prelude at the 4 pm Christmas Eve service. We took cookies to Ann's Choice in December and visited and sang Christmas Carols with our parishioners who live there. We always welcome new children to join us, and would love to have more adults teach a class from time to time.



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Worship at Trinity, Buckingham is a team sport. From setting up and cleaning up the altar, to distributing bulletins and overseeing the live-stream feed, lifting our hearts and voices in prayer at 8 am and 10 am on Sundays, at special services and funerals involves us all.

Thank you to Elisabeth Goggin for overseeing the Sunday Servers, and to all those who volunteer to lead worship: Sue Capanear, Dom DeCaprio, Steve Downs, Morley Ewing, Elisabeth and Keith Goggin, Deb Grant, Marjorie and Steve Guidry, Bob & Kay Kinney, Jeff Kroberger, Diana Martinez, Deb & Joe McLean, Pam Oswald, Meg Perry, Ellie, Ewan & Sara Swidorski, Jill Unger, Joanne Welker, Natalie Welker-Marx, and Janet Zimmerman.

And thank you to the Choir and Handbells: Brad Cagenello, Sue Capanear, Nancy Dilliplane, Marjorie & Steve Guidry, Jane Henry, Bob & Kay Kinney, Judy Krauss, Steve Mann, Karen Parker, Kathi & Wayne Sadowski.

We would love to welcome new altar guild members, acolytes, lectors, intercessors, live-stream camera operators, singers and ringers. Please speak to Nancy+ or Martha about how you can share your gifts.





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