

2021 Annual Report

*Trinity Episcopal Church, Nichols
Trumbull, CT*

January 16, 2022



*Mission Statement: Our mission is to proclaim by word and deed,
the good news of Jesus Christ reaching out to all in His name. Our
desire is that others may come to faith in Him, drawn by the
example of our lives.*

Annual Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, Nichols Trumbull CT

January 16, 2022 at 10:00am

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Prayer for the Parish
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on us as we begin another year. Grant that we may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen our trust in your goodness all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- II. Roll of Voting Members: Presentation and Adoption
- III. 2020 Annual Parish Meeting: Approval of Minutes
- IV. Reports
- V. Elections
from the constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:
"Members of the Parish entitled to vote at any Parish meeting are those communicants aged 16 and older who, for at least six months prior to that meeting have been faithful attendants at the services of the Church in the Parish, unless for good cause prevented, faithful contributors to its support, and faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."
 - a. Vestry Members
 - b. Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Questions and Feedback
- IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



Trinity Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Alan C. Murchie Rector

Trinity Episcopal Church 2022 Parish Voting List

Trinity's By-Laws

ECCT, Canon I, Section 5. Members of the Parish entitled to vote at any Parish meeting are those adult communicants (16 years or older) who, for at least six months prior to that meeting, have been faithful attendants at the services of the Church in the Parish, unless for good cause prevented, faithful contributors to its support, and faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God; these facts to be determined in each case by the Vestry in accordance with the provisions of these Canons.

Alexander & Phyllis Aiello
Laura & Will Alibrandi
Bernadette & James Allan
Beth & Jamey Allan
Daniel & Elizabeth Bartl
Lilly Beall
Andre Benoit
Lisa Brown
Allison Bushnell
Joe & Sharon Buzzeo
Madeleine Buzzeo
Louise Caterson
David Cavallaro
Kathryn Cavallaro
Jami Carlacio
Susan Panicker-Cayo
Caroline & Tim Cepetelli
Brian Christy
Catherine & Stephen Christy
Will Costanzo
Fran Cronk
Alisha & Miguel Cruz
Joe & Nicole Culotta
Bill & Carolyn DeFranco
Angela Doyle
Lois Dudla
Dave & Georgeann Erhardt
Rev. Lee Forshaw
Patrick & Gladys Freyer
Sarah Galan
Ross Galloway
Joseph & Pamela Gill
Amy & David Ginter
Lurena Hoinacki
Regina & Simon Howes
Patricia Kay
Ruth Johnson
Bond Koteas
Elizabeth & Fred Langhammer
Colleen Linane

Eleanor Melito
Christian & Sylvia Medina
Antonio Medina
Christian Medina
Francisco & Lesley Moises
Suzanne Mount
Elizabeth & Nate Moyer
Alessandra & Daniel Musso
Nancy & Peter Myer
Candice Myers
Megan Myers
Erin Nicholson
Linda Ortiz
Lou Payne
Claire Pinciario
Robert Pitzschler
Reinaldo Ramos, Jr.
Art Riley & Susann Gill Riley
Jon & Liz Robert
Dave & Debra Robison
Patricia Robson
Adele Russell
Jane Sampson
Douglas Serafin
Gayle & Manuel Silva
Arlene Stalvey
Brenda & Mike Stapleton
Zachary Stapleton
Donna & Sam Sutter
Brittany Thornton
Paul Thornton
Alison Walsh
Rebecca Wilbur
Nancy Wilson
Richard Worth
Bruce & Nancy Zepke

Last Year's Annual Parish Meeting Minutes (1/24/21) Meeting Via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:25am by Rev. Alan Murchie, followed by a prayer for the parish.

Roll of Voting Members: Presentation and Adoption

The Parish Clerk, Gayle Silva, certified that a quorum was present. Alan led us in an acclamation that the voting list was approved as printed in the Annual Parish Report.

2020 Annual Parish Meeting: Approval of Minutes

There was unanimous approval of the minutes from the January 19, 2020 Annual Parish Meeting as published.

Reports: All reports are appended to the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting, furnished to all parishioners prior to the meeting. Additional comments are as follows:

☪Rector: Acknowledged the grief in the Parish due to the pandemic. We continue to pray for those who are isolated or anxious. Alan asked for all parishioners to consider doing one thing this year that would increase the church's neighborhood presence, such as linking posts about the church's food drives on Facebook. We will continue to work to spread God's word.

☪Deacon: No additional comments.

☪Wardens: Senior Warden commented on the Wardens' Facebook page, that all participating parishes are following the same formula for worship and meetings. No additional comments from the Junior Warden. Alan noted that the new meditation chapel will be named The Ed Fisher Meditation Chapel.

☪Parish Ministries: No additional comments.

☪Treasurer: There was unanimous approval of the 2021 Budget as submitted.

Elections:

Elections were held by mail-in ballot. Ballots must be kept on file for one year. The entire slate of Officers, Vestry Members and Delegates, as well as the changes to Trinity's Constitution and By-Laws, were approved by 40 votes with 2 abstentions:

☪For 1-year terms: Robert Pitzschler, Senior Warden | Simon Howes, Junior Warden | Suzanne Mount, Treasurer | Lisa Brown, Clerk

☪Vestry Member for 3-year terms: Georgeann Erhardt, Douglas Searfin

☪ECCT Delegate, 1-year term: Robert Pitzschler

☪ECCT Alternate Delegate, 1-year term: Douglas Serafin

☪Greater Bridgeport Ministry Network Delegate: Robert Pitzschler

☪Trumbull Interfaith Council Delegate: Rev. Lee Forshaw

☪Vestry Nominating Committee: Nancy Wilson

Old Business: None.

New Business: Alan presented gifts to outgoing Vestry Members David Ginter, Alessandra Musso, Gayle Silva and Sam Sutter. Alan discussed a public farewell to retiring staff members Kathleen Miranti and Mike Stapleton. Doug Serafin discussed his offering of a class for parishioners to learn to play the recorder.

Questions and Feedback:

Andre raised a question about the voting age being 16 or 18 years of age, asking what the policy was on voting age, and if 16 is considered an adult for voting purposes. Bob will look into what the age is to be considered a voting member of the parish. Alan stated that there is a plan to begin a program for teens in the parish to empower them. Brenda stated that she is grateful for the families in the parish. Erin thanked the parish for the connections.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

There being no further business, Robert Pitzschler moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Simon Howes, and the vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am with a recitation of the Prayer of St. Francis.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Silva, Parish Clerk

Rector's Report, 2021

I vividly remember a conversation early in 2021 with Dave Ginter, Junior Warden at the time, about our church basement. Ceiling tiles were disintegrating, leaks were appearing and, in some cases, bits of tile were actually falling rather precipitously from the ceiling. At \$5000, a partial new ceiling didn't seem completely out of the question, but, as Dave said, "It can be hard to muster enthusiasm for an expensive upgrade few will ever see." He was right, of course. But he also suggested that at some point we would need to get it done. And in 2021, we did. A quick walk through our lower level stands to me as a wonderful symbol of the year we've just shared together: in addition to fresh paint colors, rededicated and repurposed rooms, and the beautiful sound of music coming from Miss Olga's piano studio, holes are patched, tiles are replaced; leaks and falling debris are, happily, a thing of the past. The basement ceiling work, prosaic and unglamorous as it is, serves as a potent symbol of a year in which we wound up focusing and working dedicatedly on nuts and bolts, on the quiet essentials.

In particular, I would highlight:

☞ *Vestry Commissions* Quiet and potentially unnoticed indeed, yet how wonderful that our deeply gifted and devoted vestry members have each dug deep within a particular area of focus, from communications to education to fellowship, church growth, justice and reconciliation, and more! In addition, we've rebooted personnel and budget committees, each vitally important to the life of the parish.

☞ *Parish Questionnaires* Over the summer, we designed and distributed questionnaires to the entire parish, seeking collective wisdom on a range of issues from how we share information to how we might celebrate 175 years as a parish. Based on the results of these surveys, we've upgraded our Sunday livestream, created a new staff position, launched a discussion series, and much more.

☞ *The 1699 Barn* Of all possible unglamorous projects, this one takes the cake! An intrepid group cleaned out our historic barn, allowing access to its contents and opening up new possibilities for its use. This involved tasks such as repeat trips to the "transfer station," elimination of cobwebs, clearing of passageways, and much more. We are grateful to all who assisted in this long-awaited and essential project!

☞ *Rectory Dinners* Along with our continued deliveries of goodies on special days such as Shrove Tuesday and Maundy Thursday, our rectory dinners allowed us to remain connected and to grow in fellowship during a challenging and isolating time. These gatherings allowed new members to meet longtime members over food and conversation, and moreover they've been lots of fun.

☞ *Saturday Service* Developed as an outdoor, in-person option for worship, our new Saturday service quickly drew a loyal following of its own. The wonderful Parking Lot Band bore ample witness to the power of the Spirit, integrating parishioners of all ages and making joyous music. And our Church School met on our back lawn as we worshiped. We are delighted that this service has continued into the colder months.

☞ *Ministries Fair & Christmas Fair* How might we gather fittingly yet safely for our signature parish events? Brenda, Patti, Bond, Gladys, Lurena and Donna, among many others, came together to make 2021 a year of thoughtful and effective regathering. We are grateful.

☞ *Adult Formation* Masked, distanced, and even deprived of our signature culinary delights, we found a way to gather on Wednesdays, as in the old days, both at 11 and 6! In the morning we focused on the writings of the apostle Paul, while in the evening, we discussed Stephanie Spellers' *The Church Cracked Open*.

☞ *Music Classes* Quietly, yet palpably, our campus has filled throughout 2021 with the sounds of music and of musicians young and old. Our beautiful new music salon allows Miss Olga to teach her students in a large, safe space. Julie Capuano and our sextons have developed our south lawn as a welcoming space for safe gathering. As a result, Julie has continued, even through the colder months, her much-loved Music Together program.

☞ *Curtains* Finally, we watched in awe and delight in 2021 as gifted artists from within our parish family designed and crafted curtains and (in Peet Hall) cornices that have added depth, color, vibrancy and beauty to our signature spaces. We are most grateful indeed!

2021 hasn't been an easy year. It began with the devastating loss of our beloved brother in Christ, sexton Edward Fisher. Covid-19 seemed to recede, only to reappear in newer, less predictable forms. We miss our coffee hours, our social gatherings, our fundraisers; we miss our extended greetings and hugs. Yet once again, God's gracious, transformative, redeeming love has shown itself in ways we could never have imagined. Trinity has only grown stronger in 2021! We've welcomed many new members, we've gathered in every way possible, including life-giving new ways, we've reached out ever more to our online parish family and to our neighborhood. We've been challenged deeply, and we've responded with our signature lightness of being, our openness, our willingness to see just where the Spirit might be leading us next. We enter our 175th Anniversary year strong, filled with hope and faith, nimble, welcoming, dedicated, and firmly grounded in our shared devotion to the one whose love and light know no limit. Thanks be to God.

Best wishes and abundant blessings,
Alan

Deacon's Report

The year 2021 continued to change how outreach and ministry was able to be completed as relates to the food ministries of the Greater Bridgeport Ministry Network of which I held the role of missionary. Covid-19 was expanding and creating a crisis situation. The need for those food insecure continued to rise. This continued the manner of distribution of food pantry items as well as the weekly supper programs. Operation of these programs required change. Pantries and supper programs had to be operated outside of buildings which is still the case at this time. Volunteers pre-bag groceries outside and clients receive them outside. Supper programs are currently not hot meals, but brown bag lunches distributed outside as well. Trinity continues to provide monthly bag meals to St. John's Church in Bridgeport.

Collection and distribution of food continues by way of "First Fridays" which makes a difference to local food pantries under the organization and planning of Sam Sutter. As Thanksgiving approached, a part of my yearly planning for items to be distributed to the two food pantries in Bridgeport, continued. I arranged for Trinity to become the 'stuffing' church and they came through with flying colors. Approximately 400 boxes of stuffing were collected.

I arranged for PPE protocols to be put in place to safeguard food pantry clients and volunteers which included the taking of temperatures, face masks, ensuring safe distancing, sanitization and additional client support when needed.

Early in 2021 I arranged through Yale New Haven Hospital visitation to the St. Luke/St. Paul's food pantry to conduct Covid-19 testing. Additionally, when vaccinations were available for Covid-19, I again arranged for Yale New Haven Hospital to visit both St. Luke/St. Paul's and St. John's food pantries to schedule on site vaccination appointments. In May of 2021, Yale New Haven Hospital set up pop-up vaccination sites. One site was First Baptist Church on Washington Avenue in Bridgeport. Individuals did not need an appointment. It was a walk up and with proper identification and an individual would be vaccinated.

Weekly I serve as your deacon. I take part in our worship and liturgy which includes proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, delivering sermons among other things.

I believe we are committed to meeting the needs of those around us in a humble gentle spirit of love. Jesus said: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Ministry and mission all flow from this commandment of our Lord. At Trinity, we can be determined to share the abundant love of God in our community and the inner city. We are abundant with gifts that have not been used yet - and perhaps we have not imagined we even have. That's good news as it provides a base from which to continue to grow ourselves (both young and older) for mission and ministry not only in our communities but also the world." What a gift and blessing! Remember, we can always do great works. It is in each of us!

Peace and Blessings,
Diane M. Peterson, Deacon

Wardens' Reports

Sr. Warden Report

A year ago, who would have predicted that we would still be dealing with COVID?! But here we are, still masked, live-streaming, and without our coffee hour! But the good news is that Trinity is still here, we have gained parishioners, and our finances continue to be in good shape. Through my contacts with Wardens throughout the ECCT, I find that all of us – parishes both large and small – are dealing with the same issues. While they are mostly COVID related, there are also other concerns that need to be addressed such as a shortage of available clergy, refugee resettlement, declining membership (especially young people), and a fall-off in volunteerism. These are issues that we will continue to consider at our Vestry meetings as they apply to Trinity.

Two new parish policies were approved during the year: a Financial Matters Policy and a Scholarship Policy. The following existing policies were updated: Parish Manual, Constitution and By-Laws, Safe Church, Legacy Fund, and Vestry Handbook. All of these policies are available on-line through our parish website.

We also have several Vestry Commissions that were active during the year and whose reports will be found elsewhere in this document. Thanks go to: Doug Serafin – Becoming Beloved Community; Laura Alibrandi – Communication; Dan Bartl – Education; Linda Ortiz & Lisa Brown – Fellowship & Church Growth; Suzanne Mount – Finance; Simon Howes & Nancy Wilson – Personnel; and Lisa Brown - Prayers & Caring

So far, our various anniversary plans have been subdued due to COVID: the 50th year of the main church building in 2020 and the 100th year for Peet Hall in 2021. BUT, we are still planning for several projects and events during 2022 to celebrate our 175th year as a Parish. Some events will likely be virtual but as many as possible will be in person and hopefully, in November, we will be able to fill the church with parishioners, friends, and family for a celebratory Eucharist.

As a part of that milestone, several initiatives are being contemplated that would enhance our outreach presence in the community ranging from the installation of a labyrinth near the memorial garden to repairing the tower clock which for several years now has only been correct twice a day! Consideration is also being given to painting the interior of the church and replacing the carpeting, neither of which have been done for approximately 22 years! The list of possible projects will have to be prioritized, costs projected, and fund-raising needs assessed.

If you have not done so, I would urge you to visit our parish website <http://www.trinitynichols.org> to: keep up with the latest news, review our policies, read the Parish Directory and to donate to Trinity either with your annual pledge or to special funds such as capital expenses, altar flowers, the legacy fund, etc.

Lastly, I look forward to 2022 as an exciting year of growth, fellowship, and spiritual fulfillment at Trinity.

Blessings, Bob

Jr. Warden Report

Measuring 2021 by the number of unexpected events and emergencies that occurred at the church and rectory, I'd say overall that we had a good year regarding maintenance of the buildings and grounds. I think this is in no small way due to the work Dave Ginter and Co had done in the previous years on the general facilities of the church and rectory, and hence the good state we are in.

The one issue we did have to deal with was our continuing saga of water in the lower level; a combination of clogged gutters, clogged drains, blocked drainage pipes and a 'once in 50-year rainstorm' that dropped 6" of water, created some challenging conditions for us. The clogged gutters and drains we just need to stay on top of, regular gutter maintenance and weekly drain inspections, especially in the fall. We also had Rotor Rooter out to scope our drainage pipes with cameras and clear debris and other obstructions. We think we are in a good place now, so we'll see how things go over the next year or two, see if there are any more '50-year rainstorms', and address the issues should they arise. There are other things we can do but next steps get particularly expensive, so let's hope we are done !!

Besides unexpected difficulties there has been an abundance of activities to continually beautify the church and they have been documented in this annual report. Thank to you all for your effort and cheerful spirit as we prepare for our 175th year.

And now a few words on some wonderful contributors:

In 2021 we said, "See you later Ed" to our dear friend Edward Fisher. He was a real presence around our church and constantly ensuring it looked its best; all the rooms he painted with such love and care are a continual reminder of our friend's faith and commitment. I'm sure heaven is well on its way to getting a fresh coat of paint by now !! Thank you Edward.

Mike Stapleton retired this year after nearly 20 years of dedicated service. Whenever I see that clean and bright linoleum floor in the church, I think of Mike painstakingly, over the years, excavating 175 years worth of wax and dirt from that very floor, transforming it into something bright and attractive. One of many things he did to enhance the place. Thank you Mike.

Zach Stapleton has done a great job helping out with whatever needs doing now his dad has retired; a very able contributor for a long time now. Thank you Zach.

Our new sexton is Scott Detuzzi who is really a great addition to our staff. Scott has many skills and along with his creative thinking, had immediate impact and he's a joy to work with. Thank you Scott.

Finally, I want to mention Bill DeFranco, whose continued care and concern for all things at Trinity, help keep it in very good stead. Bill's tireless commitment has been a force here for many years and hopefully many more to come. Nothing epitomizes his thoughtfulness more than the Memorial Garden; it's a treasure both for us and our community. Thank you Bill.

We look forward our 175th year next year, to the various beautification projects, to the celebrations, and to the smooth running of our buildings and grounds.

~ Simon

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a dedicated group of men and women that prepare the chapel and the main sanctuary for Sunday services of Holy Eucharist, and special services such as: Morning Prayer, holy days, baptisms, confirmations, funerals, and weddings. The Altar Guild does their work quietly; to ensure that all the items needed for worship are present. Its members are responsible for caring for vestments, linens, altar coverings and sacred communion vessels. The Altar Guild also clears the church after worship services.

We would like to welcome our new altar guild member Elizabeth Moyer. Elizabeth now cares for our worship linens by way of cleaning and pressing. Thank you Elizabeth for the wonderful job you do in caring for our linens!

Again, this year we are thankful for the talents of Robert Pitzschler and Lurena Hoinacki who helped arrange plants, and decorated the church for all to enjoy at our virtual Easter and in person Christmas services.

We would also like to thank our Flower Guild for creating the beautiful arrangements for our altar each Sunday. Thank you, Brenda, Alan, Adele and Lisa!

In 2021 the Altar Guild supported: 3 baptisms, and 3 funerals.

If you are interested in assisting in this important ministry – men, women or teens, please contact Sharon Buzzeo.

~ Sharon

Becoming Beloved Community

“Becoming Beloved Community” is the Episcopal Church’s program of long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice. The Diocese of Connecticut has responded to this “prophetic” call by creating a specific office and appointing a canon for mission advocacy, racial justice and reconciliation, and requiring every parish in the diocese to concretely respond to this call. This report summarizes the actions taken by the Trinity, Nichols Christian community to this issue.

- A parish survey was conducted in August which included questions trying to establish the feelings of the church community regarding this issue. Many felt that this was better addressed on a diocesan level rather than the parish level. Yet there was agreement that this was appropriate for the church to address.
- Bishop Laura conducted a parish visitation on October 17th and met with the vestry specifically to address racial justice. She led the group in a discussion of Martin Luther King’s “Letter from the Birmingham Jail”.
- A discussion series was conducted by Fr. Alan on Rev. Stephanie Spellers’ book “The Church Cracked Open”. This was held on six consecutive Wednesday evenings in September and October and was attended by an average of eight people. The purpose of this series was to examine the ways in which the Episcopal Church has aligned itself with

structures of power in American society and has not always in fact extended the broad welcome to all we see as an important part of our identity.

- There are plans to conduct a similar discussion series in early 2022 on Sundays after church, which will allow a different group of people to attend.

~Submitted by Doug Serafin

Christian Education Report

Church School had another unique year with the primary focus on the health and safety of our families. Lessons were emailed weekly through June of 2021. A Mardi Gras delivery of crafts and treats was made to all Church School families on Shrove Tuesday and Zach and I made a Facebook live program with Alan in the Parish Hall. An Easter delivery including a loaf of fresh baked bread and other treats and crafts was made to each family on Maundy Thursday. In person outdoor classes started in July and August during the Saturday summer service. To kick off Church School in fall, Alan, Zach and I presented an outdoor church school service, Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors. We held classes outside through the end of September and moved into our newly painted and furnished classroom in October. In December, we had our annual Christmas Pageant with everyone participating and sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

COVID-19 has created many challenges for our church school. My hope and prayer is that our classroom will be overflowing with children in this new year. Please pray for all children, especially during these difficult times, that they continue to stay safe, healthy and learn and share the Gospel with each other.

May the New Year bring us all an abundance of kindness, love, peace, health and joy!

Peace, Brenda

Communications Commission

Our communications team has started to embark on several new ways to share our message both internally, and externally, in order to further build our community, bring Trinity into current times using the most effective methods, clarify our messaging, and further span the distance between virtual and in-person communication as needed in these ever-changing times.

Additionally, our goal in this very special 175th Anniversary year is to reach out to our neighbors who may not yet know what sets Trinity apart from the other places of worship in our area, by focusing on our robust music program, our church school led by Brenda, our connection with Nichols' history (the fire, the statue, etc.), our local community outreach programs, and our unique geographical location as we are literally at the doorway of Nichols, welcoming all who enter. We will announce all of our exciting multi-media projects once they are developed a bit more fully. Stay tuned...

Laura Alibrandi

Community Partnerships

As we moved from the year 2020 into 2021, we were filled with optimism that the pandemic would be behind us and we would return to our previous state of “normalcy”. Unfortunately, as we all know, that did not happen, and 2021 in many respects replaced 2020 as a year filled with challenges in regards to our ability to help the less fortunate. We still could not hold our semi-annual benefit concerts, and once again we were unable to work with Priscilla Place by providing Easter and Thanksgiving meals. Our involvement with Earth Animal in the Connecticut Backpack Program was also put on hold.

However, as we did in 2020, we were able to provide 16 Christmas sweaters to several members of Priscilla Place. We also continued to prepare bagged meals on the first Tuesday of each month which were handed out by St John's Family Center to the food insecure in the Bridgeport area. Our parishioners continued to bring in weekly food donations that were then distributed among our four supported food pantries (Priscilla Place, Sterling House, St John's, and St Luke's/St Paul's).

Our monthly First Friday Food Drive was a great success as we were able to engage not only our own parishioners but the greater community of Trumbull in accepting non-perishable food donations which were then distributed to the aforementioned four food pantries. Commencing in September 2020, to date we have received 736 bags/boxes of food from 305 donors (118 parishioners, 187 community), for a monthly average of 19 contributors and 46 bags/boxes of food. In 2021 alone, the monthly average has risen to 20 contributors and 49 bags/boxes of food.

Therefore, as indicated by the numbers, the need for helping those who are less fortunate continues to grow with each and every passing month. In 2022, we look forward to meeting the needs of the food insecure with continued involvement from our generous parishioners and the at large community. Once again, I wish to thank each and every parishioner for their continued support of these important ministries. I also encourage anyone who would like to participate in any of these programs or who have ideas for additional outreach programs to contact me.

~ Sam Sutter

Covenant to Care for Children

Covenant to Care for Children provides a safety net for abused, neglected, or impoverished children in Connecticut by providing essential support in moments that are critical for a child's ability to thrive and a family's ability to stay together.

This mission is fulfilled by partnering with state agencies, faith-based communities and other organizations that share Covenant to Care's dedication to improving the lives and futures of at-risk children in Connecticut by providing direct assistance and critical goods to families struggling to meet the basic needs of their children.

Covenant to Care offers several different ways to help including Adopt A Social Worker, Critical Goods, Placement Packs, Crisis Food Support, Mentoring and Children's Enrichment Fund.

In 2021 we participated in their annual Backpack Drive collecting items such as pens, pencils, crayons, markers, rulers, notebooks, folders, lunch boxes etc.

As we look forward to 2022, we are looking at two possible programs to be involved with. One, called the Critical Goods Program, is designed to help families who are at risk of losing their children due to the lack of certain material goods. The other, the Placement Packs Program, provides diaper bags, back packs, or tote bags as appropriate to comfort children and youth who are entering a strange new environment.

~ Lisa Brown

Education Commission

While 2021 saw similar challenges to 2020, as the pandemic continued, Brenda, Zach and Alan worked hard to provide the children in the parish a connection to our Episcopal traditions and faith. The year began with virtual lessons and some church school drive-ups. In May, as the weather got warmer we were able to gather outside as a church school for several months until the fall. We were treated to two new experiences, Holy Week and Joseph and his multicolored coat, where Brenda, Zach and Alan performed, with costume, the experiences of Jesus and Joseph through several stations around the Trinity grounds while the children watched and asked questions. We are blessed and grateful to have Brenda continue to lead our church school. Thank you to her and the families for continuing the children's program at Trinity.

Alan continued to lead us through our adult education with the Notes from Trinity emails, as well as regular book studies, weekly bible study, scripture reflections, and discussions during Midweek Refreshment. We appreciate the love, nurturing, and spiritual guidance that he has given our parish.

We conducted a survey with several other commissions mid-year. Thank you for the participation and feedback. The message was to continue as we have. While the survey is closed we are always open to hear your feedback and ideas. Please feel free to reach out to me at danbartl@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Dan Bartl

Facilities Report

2021 has been a pretty busy year around Trinity. The following list represents items done on the building and grounds during the year.

- Power washed the church
- Fixed front doors to church – closing issue
- Vestibule floor stripped and waxed
- Side entrance doors – replaced door closer
- Gutter downspouts & drains snaked out
- Church & rectory gutters cleaned
- New fire alarm upgraded to 5G
- Hole in basement ceiling – framed and new ceiling tile put up
- Power washed memorial garden stones
- Bulletin boards redesigned
- Peet Hall new closet curtains
- New curtains in Sanctuary
- New lamp post in rectory yard installed with light on timer
- Light installed to illuminate wood carving

- Music Salon reconfigured for piano lessons
- Fixed remainder of basement ceiling tiles
- Two floods downstairs/cleaned & floors dried. Only minor items lost.
- Pageant closet cleaned and organized
- Multiple pictures hung in West Lounge and various classrooms
- Barn cleaned out – multiple dump runs made

Items we could / should do for 2022.

- Upgrade lighting in basement hallway
- Upgrade thermostats – winter 2022
- Fix loose tiles downstairs due to flooding
- Strip and wax floors downstairs
- Remodel rectory half bath (which is already gutted)
- Replace curtain rods in Peet Hall with smaller diameter rods to enable smoother curtain movement.
- New mulch in childrens play area (\$90 material cost)
- Have town fix broken curbs in parking lot

~ Joe Buzzeo, Scott Detuzzi, Simon Howes

Fellowship and Church Growth

This has been a challenging year for not just our parish but life in general. I must comment by saying that our church is such a great comfort to so many because of the positive and always hopeful outlook of everyone. Some things we are considering are movie night open to the community. There was some discussion of sending postcards to the community to join us in worship. We know other churches that have done that. We have also talked about what we will do to celebrate our 175th anniversary, possibly a picnic opened to the community or a neighborhood lunch to spark some interest in our church. Of course, all these possibilities have to be Covid safe.

Lisa has started asking for donations for blessing bags for the homeless. The parish has embraced this idea and the donations are coming in. We will get a group together to assemble them and I believe they will be distributed through Sam, along with the bagged lunches at St. John's Church in Bridgeport.

We should continue to be welcoming to any visitors. If we see someone new near us in church say hello and be welcoming.

~ Linda and Lisa

Finance Commission

The Finance Committee of Trinity Nichols meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Its members are Suzanne Mount, Treasurer and Chair; Alan Murchie, Rector; Bob Pitzschler, Senior Warden; Nancy Wilson, bookkeeper; Dick Worth, parishioner.

The responsibility of the committee is primarily to provide financial oversight for the church. This includes preparing the annual budget and developing policies for financial record keeping and reporting. The entire Vestry carries fiduciary responsibility for the parish and the Finance Committee serves a leadership role in this area.

~ Nancy Wilson

Hospitality Report

We all are hospitality. With the help of many 2021 was still a busy year despite the Covid restrictions. As we were still unable to gather due to Covid we began the year with Paczki deliveries to local parishioners for Shrove Tuesday. Another delivery of homemade breads was done once again for Easter.

We were able to hold our Christmas fair where our talented bakers helped supply us with homemade cookies. Cookies were festively packaged and sold out within hours. Despite the pandemic we were able to gather outdoors for lemonade in the shade after worship.

Thank you for everyone's generosity and joyful participation in this most important ministry!

~ Lurena Hoinacki

Music Report

Who would have imagined a year ago that Covid-19 would still be such a major factor in our lives? It certainly continues to have an effect on our music program. As the year began, Alan and Herb were live-streaming Sunday services from an otherwise empty church. As the weather warmed, and vaccines arrived, we cautiously began to open the doors to in-person worship. We were still without a choir, as choral singing was seen a way to spread disease at a time when vaccines were just being introduced, and few people had been vaccinated. As the summer weather approached, an outdoor service on Saturday was introduced so people could gather safely. This congregation developed their own "choir" which became known as the "Parking Lot Band". Led by Doug Serafin, they made their own music on Saturday, while Herb, Patti Kay, and Maddie Buzzeo (home from college for the summer) became the choir at the Sunday morning service. As the fall approached, and with it colder temperatures, the outdoor service moved indoors. Doug brought his recorder inside, and he, along with Patti and Herb, became the choir on Sunday morning, with Doug often providing a flute accompaniment to our hymns. At Christmas, Maddie again joined us while she was home for the holiday and the trio became a quartet for Christmas. Covid continues to have an effect, as several of our original choir members have needed to step back from inside worship during the pandemic for health reasons, and we wish them well. Our trumpeter for Christmas was also side-lined at the last moment, having been exposed to Covid at a business seminar in the days leading up to the holiday. So there we are. We have no idea what the coming year holds in store, or how this virus may mutate yet again. We do know that we are blessed with talented, dedicated musicians who will adapt to whatever comes our way in order to provide fitting music for the worship of God.

~ Herb Lazration, Organist & Choirmaster

Personnel Commission

In 2022 we will be forming the Personnel Committee, a sort of HR group; this committee will be responsible for overseeing Trinity's staffing needs. These responsibilities are many and would include, for example, a proper hiring process, ensuring annual staff reviews, and addressing compensation needs.

More on the formation of this committee will be forthcoming.

~ Simon Howes

Prayer & Care

Caring Connections was limited in its activities due to the pandemic in 2021. A Caring Connections section has been added to our weekly Notes from Trinity, and our Sunday service leaflet.

We were able to reach out to Trumbull Senior Center for the holidays and provide 16 new sweaters for seniors attending the center. Zach Stapleton made the delivery of sweaters a week prior to Christmas.

~ Lisa Brown

Sacramental Report for 2021

Baptisms:	3	Blaire Evelyn Bartl Sadie Christy Reagan Michelle Gilbert
Marriages:	1	Michael Ciavaglia & John Primavera
Memorials:	6	Daniel Baker Edward Fisher William Ernest Jones William Kirkby Kristin Mastin Elizabeth Riccio

Worship Report

☪Trinity continued to have a strong online worship presence in 2021, and we were delighted to gather in person regularly both on Saturdays and Sundays. Our Saturday service has been a strong new addition to our liturgical life, drawing a loyal and growing congregation. Of special note is the music at both services.

☪Our services have been greatly enhanced in 2021 by the inspiring, edifying homilies offered by The Rev. Diane Peterson and Jami Carlacio. Our deep thanks to them both!

☪In November, we upgraded to a three-camera streaming system for our liturgies. With tutorials from a clergy colleague and with intuitive equipment, it's been fun to make the change. Best of all, it's allowed us to be at lectern, pulpit and altar again to celebrate the Eucharist!

☪Liturgical highlights included a Palm Sunday service with bagpiper Rich Mount and a moving Passion Narrative offered virtually; a Good Friday outdoor experience for children and families attended by a large congregation; a Music Sunday celebration in May; liturgies for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day; Ash Wednesday liturgies offered throughout the day; and a new, well received 3:00 PM Christmas Eve service designed especially for families and children.

☞ Bishop Laura Ahrens visited in October and a large congregation gathered to be with her. We followed the liturgy with an outdoor reception and a vestry gathering.

☞ Our Blessing of the Animals was attended by nearly 40 two-legged and four-legged beings; we were delighted to see such a large congregation on a misty and intermittently rainy afternoon.

☞ We partnered with Christ Church, Tashua to launch a new liturgical offering called Wandering Church. Suspended for now due to a resurgence of Covid-19, we look forward to another season of collaborative, prayerful worship with our sister Trumbull congregation.

☞ Finally, we were delighted to welcome new members to our team of lectors, intercessors and altar servers, and to our altar guild!

~Alan

Treasurer's Report

It is the policy of the Vestry, when proposing annual budgets, that the budget be balanced or show a positive end of the year balance. Accordingly, the Vestry, working with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, has proposed a 2022 budget that will result in a positive end of the year balance of \$1,620.00.

Normally, the budget report also shows the previous year's proposed and actual budget figures. As of the publication of this Annual Report however, all of the final figures for 2021 are not yet available. As soon as they are available, they will be published as an addendum to this report.

Bob Pitzschler, Senior Warden

Trinity Budget Report

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Income			
Fund Raisers			
1 Income			
concerts	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
St Nick's Fair	0.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
1 Income - Other	0.00	2,000.00	1,200.00
			150.00
Total 1 Income	0.00	5,500.00	4,350.00
Total Fund Raisers	0.00	5,500.00	4,350.00
Interest Received	518.35	7,000.00	6,000.00
Member Donations			
Altar Flowers	666.20		
Capital Improvements	3,310.84	3,000.00	3,000.00
coffee hour	0.00	50.00	50.00
Initial Offering	819.31	200.00	500.00
Loose offerings	1,336.00		500.00
Pledge	99,069.46	100,000.00	103,000.00
Special Offerings			
Christmas	730.00	750.00	750.00
Easter/Lent	75.00	600.00	600.00
Thanksgiving	90.00	100.00	100.00
Special Offerings - Other	0.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Total Special Offerings	895.00	16,450.00	11,450.00
Total Member Donations	106,096.81	119,700.00	118,500.00
Memorial Garden	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	15,522.59		
Other			
Smiles Income	69.35		
Other - Other	21,950.69		
Total Other	22,020.04		
Rental Income	13,500.00	12,000.00	15,000.00
Xfer from Capital Improvement	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Xfer From Landsale Account	36,000.00	72,000.00	84,000.00
Xfer in From Investment	2,421.89		
Xfers from Powell Fund	1,229.70	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Income	197,809.38	237,200.00	248,850.00
Gross Profit	197,809.38	237,200.00	248,850.00
Expense			
Clergy			
Continuing Ed & Misc	104.06	1,850.00	1,850.00
Dental Insurance	684.00	682.00	682.00
Housing Allowance	1,484.04	1,484.00	1,627.00
Life Insurance	360.00	360.00	360.00
Medical Insurance	12,204.00	13,068.00	14,418.00
Pension	8,213.05	9,251.00	9,251.00
Salary	29,933.04	29,933.00	33,004.00
SS Allowance	4,323.88	4,717.00	5,172.00
Deacon Allowance			500.00
Supply Priests	670.67	600.00	600.00
Total Clergy	57,976.74	61,945.00	67,482.00
Episcopal Church			
Diocesan Assessment	20,808.00	21,000.00	20,808.00
Seminarian/Guest Speaker	1,400.00	900.00	1,200.00
Total Episcopal Church	22,208.00	21,900.00	22,008.00
Office & Administrative			
Audit	3,700.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Bank Fees			650.00
Tithe Expenses	412.26		
Bank Fees - Other	87.95	25.00	
Total Bank Fees	500.21	25.00	
Copier Lease	1,352.56	1,650.00	1,200.00
Inserts/Envelopes	214.74	300.00	300.00
Internet & Telephone			
Church	1,409.20	1,450.00	1,658.00
Rectory	809.43		
Internet & Telephone - Other	159.98	900.00	900.00

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Total Internet & Telephone	2,378.61	2,350.00	2,558.00
Mileage	0.00	300.00	300.00
Office Wages	21,161.69	22,198.00	28,468.00
Payroll Taxes			
Medicare	685.58	1,300.00	800.00
SSI	2,931.51	4,546.00	4,000.00
Workers Comp	0.00	1,225.00	1,000.00
Total Payroll Taxes	3,617.09	7,071.00	5,800.00
Postage	610.20	500.00	600.00
Stewardship	194.50	250.00	250.00
Supplies			
Computer	0.00	125.00	0.00
Covid Supplies	80.59	1,200.00	500.00
Misc Supplies	584.26	1,000.00	500.00
Office Supplies	380.84	1,500.00	1,000.00
Supplies - Other	107.52		
Total Supplies	1,153.21	3,825.00	2,000.00
Total Office & Administrative	34,682.81	40,469.00	45,124.00
Payroll Service	1,016.80	1,650.00	1,236.00
Program			
Advertising			
Other Advertising	460.45	750.00	750.00
Website	332.13	250.00	1,000.00
Total Advertising	792.58	1,000.00	1,750.00
Annual Convention	360.00		
Children's Ed			
Summer	0.00	500.00	500.00
Supplies	1,272.48	500.00	500.00
Wages	3,082.05	9,142.00	9,475.00
Total Children's Ed	4,354.53	10,142.00	10,475.00
Gifts/Recognition	3,000.00	300.00	300.00
Outreach			
Family Matters			1,000.00
Greater Bpt Ministry Donation	600.00	600.00	600.00
Rector Discretion	610.00		
Outreach - Other	25.00		
Total Outreach	1,235.00	600.00	1,600.00
Tracts/Literature	228.57	100.00	350.00
Total Program	9,970.68	12,142.00	14,475.00
Property			
Alarm Fee			
Monitoring	0.00	250.00	800.00
Testing - Annual	2,395.75	800.00	250.00
Total Alarm Fee	2,395.75	1,050.00	1,050.00
Bldgs & Grounds			
Capital Improvements	868.62	5,000.00	5,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs			
Boiler			
Maintenance	0.00	1,200.00	1,000.00
Repair	2,427.05	5,000.00	4,000.00
Total Boiler	2,427.05	6,200.00	5,000.00
Church	1,112.68	9,000.00	7,500.00
Rectory	0.00	5,000.00	3,500.00
Wage - maintenance	7,330.13		
Water Heater	3,010.80		
Maintenance & Repairs - Other	1,420.60		
Total Maintenance & Repairs	15,301.26	20,200.00	16,000.00
Service Contract	880.00	500.00	500.00
Total Bldgs & Grounds	17,049.88	26,700.00	21,500.00
Maintenance			
Lawn Care	3,285.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Trash Removal	912.00	960.00	1,200.00
Wages	5,907.00	19,885.00	20,000.00
Total Maintenance	10,104.00	24,325.00	24,700.00
Memorial Garden	375.00		
P&L Insurance	8,596.80	7,200.00	9,000.00
Sewer	1,279.27	850.00	1,000.00
Utilities/Water			

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Electric			
Church	6,391.85	11,000.00	10,000.00
Rectory	829.38	800.00	1,000.00
Total Electric	7,221.23	11,800.00	11,000.00
Heat			
Church	5,428.70	5,000.00	8,000.00
Rectory	1,681.29	1,800.00	2,500.00
Total Heat	7,109.99	6,800.00	10,500.00
Water			
Church	945.90	700.00	800.00
Rectory	394.55	400.00	400.00
Total Water	1,340.45	1,100.00	1,200.00
Total Utilities/Water	15,671.67	19,700.00	22,700.00
Property - Other	1,810.00		
Total Property	57,282.37	78,825.00	79,950.00
Worship			
Altar Flowers	505.51		500.00
Altar supplies	243.39	1,000.00	
Music			
Music Expenses	275.00	600.00	600.00
Piano Tuning	920.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Wages - Choir Director	14,352.04	14,351.00	14,875.00
Total Music	15,547.04	15,951.00	16,475.00
Total Worship	16,295.94	16,951.00	16,975.00
Total Expense	199,633.34	233,882.00	247,230.00
Net Income	-1,823.96	3,318.00	1,620.00