

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
484 LIME ROCK RD.
LAKEVILLE, CT 06039

Celebrating 150 Years



1874 - 2024

Trinity Episcopal Church
Lime Rock, CT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2024

TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY

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Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Call to order and invocation—the Rev. Heidi Truax

Election of Clerk of Annual Meeting

Presentation and ratification of the roll of communicants

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting (held January 2023)

Rector's Thank-you to the parish and to outgoing Vestry

Election of Wardens, Vestry Members, Clerk and Treasurer

Sr. Warden: Linda Lloyd

Jr. Warden: Theresa Kenny

Treasurer: M. E. Freeman

Clerk: Jim Conzo

Vestry: 3-year term:

Stephanie Barrett

Emily DiMartino

Jarrold Sisk

Vestry: 2-year term:

Marian Beers

Vestry: 1-year term:

Al Dorf

Alan Swide

Election of Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention

Delegates: Jim Conzo and Bev Becker

Alternates: Carol Taylor

Reports:

Stewardship and Treasurer's Reports

Motion accepting other reports as presented in this Annual Report

Old Business

New Business

Benediction and Adjournment

Voting Members

Barry Anderson	M. E. Freeman	John Oler
The Rev. Marilyn Anderson	Judith Frost	Randy Orzano
Fred Baldwin	Scott Frost	Thomas C. Ragan *
Stephanie Barrett	Danielle A. Gaherty *	Susanna Schindler
Patricia Barton	Christine Gevert	Tom Schindler
Stuyvesant Bearns	Gordon Gustafson	Judith Sherman *
Beverly Becker	Gretchen Hachmeister	Jeffrey Silvernale
David B. Beers	Marilyn Hardy	Jarrold Sisk
Marian K. Beers	Fred Harris	Michelle Sisk
Roy Bickley	Sally Harris	Richard Stone
Eleanore Boyse	Sandra Hartley *	Alan Swide
Matthew Boyse	Carol Hoskins *	Helen Symons *
Geoffrey Brown	Robert Hoskins *	Carol Taylor
Mary Anne Carley	Eleanore Jenks *	Maureen Tesoro
Heather Chapman	Stephen W. "Bill" Jenks	Michael Tesoro
Frances Anne Columbo	Keith Johnson	Alison Tripp
James Conzo	Brian Kenny	Gary Tripp
Michael Cuoco	Theresa Kenny	The Rev. Heidi Truax
Jeremy Dakin *	Celia Kirby	Janet Walker
Calpurnia Davis *	Richard Kirby	Diane Walters
DeeDee Davis *	John Kuhns *	Tim Ward
Richard Dawson	Rachel Lamb	Arete Warren *
Virginia Dildine *	Jane Lipton *	Norma Wright
Emily DiMartino	John Lloyd	
Al Dorf	Linda Lloyd	
Kathy Drake	Malcolm MacLaren *	
Cheryl Duntz	Maurice Maddox *	
Russell Duntz	Martha Nesbitt	
Pari Forood	J. Keith Nolan *	

- Excused by reason of disability, illness, distance or internet connectivity.

81 Total, minus 17 excused = 64 against which quorum is calculated.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 23, 2023

Meeting called to order at 11:51 AM

A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by Jeremy Dakin to have Beverly Becker be the clerk of the meeting. Motion carried, all in favor.

Beverly Becker, Clerk, announced the list of voting members and asked if there should be anyone added or removed. Pastor Heidi added Debra Carter to the list. Beverly asked for a **motion to accept and ratify the voting members, with the addition. Motion made by David Beers and seconded by Bill Jenks. Motion carried, all in favor.**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were presented as part of the Annual Meeting report. **A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by M.E. Freeman, to accept the minutes of the 2022 meeting. Motion carried, all in favor.**

Pastor Heidi thanked the outgoing vestry members Barry Anderson (who was at the meeting) and Scott Frost, and the Rev. John Carter who is retiring as our Hispanic minister. She also thanked Tim Ward for bringing 2 men from Trinity Glen when possible. Pastor Heidi has enjoyed doing the online bible study, and it is going well. And she has really enjoyed the Sunday School children. It has been so fun and inspiring for her.

Pastor Heidi presented the slate of officers, vestry members and diocesan delegates:

Linda Lloyd, Sr. Warden, M. E. Freeman Treasurer, Bev Becker, Clerk, Vestry members: Alan Swide, Theresa Kenny, Mike Cuoco, Jim Conzo, Marian Beers and Al Dorf. Diocesan Delegates are Bev Becker and Jim Conzo. Carol Taylor volunteered to be the alternate delegate for 2023.

A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by M.E. Freeman, to direct the clerk to cast one ballot for the 2023 slate of officers, vestry and delegates. Motion carried, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: M.E. Freeman reports that we are keeping an eye on our expenses, but with the electricity and oil up who knows. We currently have a deficit budget but are hoping to rectify this. All employees received a raise.

Motion made by Linda Lloyd and seconded by Sally Harris to accept the Treasurer's Report for the financial year 2022. Motion carried, all in favor.

Stewardship Report: M.E. Freeman is still getting some last-minute pledges and hopes we can have a balanced budget.

Hispanic Ministry Report: **A motion was made by Barry Anderson, seconded by Jeremy Dakin to accept the agreement between Trinity Episcopal Church Lime Rock, the ECCT, and the Rev. Felix Rivera, Deacon, Hispanic minister.** "The Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church Lime Rock with the Vestry concurring contracts with Rev. Felix Rivera Deacon to serve as the Hispanic minister and the leader of the La Misa at Trinity Lime Rock Church beginning January 29th, 2023. A deacon in good standing, the Rev. Felix Rivera agrees to exercise this ministry under the terms outlined in the agreement letter".

Donations were made from the Venous Seguro account to four food banks. Each received \$250: The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, to North East Community Center in Millerton, St Thomas in Amenia and to Fishes and Loaves in Canaan. Donations will still be accepted, and the Vestry will be the administrator of the account.

Music Report and Video Production Report: Christine Gevert reported that she is grateful to be back in the church both for choir singing and for Crescendo even though the group has shrunk.

Flower Report: Pastor Heidi thanked Theresa Kenny for all she and the flower committee have done.

Altar Guild Report: Pastor Heidi thanked Bev Becker for all she and the Altar Guild have done.

Outreach Report: Pastor Heidi thanked Bev Becker and reported that Bev feels we need more people on the committee. Currently we have Bev Becker, Pastor Heidi, Cheryl Duntz, Jim Conzo and John Oler who will join us via zoom.

Art Report: Pastor Heidi reported that MaryAnne Carley is also retiring from being head of the art show. Her daughter Theresa Kenny will now be head, and MaryAnne will be on the committee. Theresa is hoping to have an art show early September. Thus, there will be two shows for the 150th anniversary.

Communications and Verger's Report: It would be nice to have an Owl to help with the bad zoom reception. Pastor Heidi thanked Geoff Brown, for all the years he has done the Rota. Pastor Heidi told us all of the hidden work that he

does in getting the services on You-Tube and tracking the response of people coming to view either a Sunday service, the pageant or a funeral, as well as the live stream. M.E. Freeman thanked Geoff for pushing us all to get our reports in and for making the Annual Report.

Diocesan Convention Report: Beverly Becker stated that there is a report for each. She has tried to convey to all of you both what Bishop Jeff has said and what she feels he is like. That he is a spiritual, passionate, humorous and caring person.

The balance of reports of the ministries of Trinity Church were presented and the authors of the reports said they were grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church. **A motion was made by John Oler, seconded by John Lloyd to accept all the reports.**

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS –The 150th Anniversary Committee: We have a need for a better way to pick up Zoom video. This would apply to Vestry meetings as well as annual meetings, and any other hybrid activities that we have here. Geoff suggests that we possibly try to raise a little money (\$1,000) so we can buy an OWL unit, a camera thing that tracks voices, reproduces voices and pictures of the speaker. John Oler suggested inviting Rev. David Sellery or a former pastor in New York (he preached at John's sister's church), who has written a book, for either of them to come speak to us. Christine Gevert recommended a company that was used during a Crescendo concert in Stockbridge to displays images on the walls. She will give the contact information to Pastor Heidi. Cost is approximately \$2,500. Bishop Laura will be coming to visit us on July 9, 2023, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the laying of the Cornerstone and to bless our new Chapel.

The annual meeting for next year will be January 21, 2024 with a snow date of January 28th 2024.

Bishop Jim Curry will be coming to Salisbury on June 10th to the Hewat Community Garden, on Salmon Kill Road, to demonstrate turning guns into plowshares.

Motion to adjourn was made by Theresa Kenny and seconded by Jeremy Dakin. Motion carried, all in favor.

Pastor Heidi ended the meeting with a blessing at 12:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Becker, Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rector's Report

Rector's Report for 2023

“Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the Lord; for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:9

This verse from Psalm 62, designated for Sunday, January 21, has a simple message. Trust God. Talk to God. So, then questions may follow...Why? How? To what end? I'm sure each one of us who attends Trinity Church has a personal answer to those questions. Why trust and talk to God? Because God listens, God responds and God is trustworthy. We have listened to God's words given to us by prophets, sages and Jesus our Christ, and have taken them to heart.

And so, because of our trust in God, we have a vibrant, active and caring congregation. We do so much as a parish, and we also open our building and our hearts to people who need a place to meet. There are the women who meet for AA on Wednesday night, the Taichi class who needed to find a place that is warm and welcoming, the Amesville association and the Lime Rock Citizens meetings. And then of course, there are our dear friends of Crescendo who do so much for us in a true symbiotic relationship.

So, I give thanks for you, each and every one...those who attend church services, those who support us financially, and those who go the extra mile and are found here every Sunday...except maybe when there is a snowstorm!

Please, please, please take time to read all the reports that have been written for the annual meeting. These reports represent a huge amount of time, treasure and talent spent by yourselves, your friends and church family. They tell of all the activities of Trinity Church that have taken place in the last year that support our communities in many ways. You may think you know all that goes on here at Trinity, but you may be surprised to learn how much we do.

I have taken on some activities this year to support all of your ministries. And I have had so much help from all of you in various events. I have also taken on things that are dear to the heart of a rector. They include:

- Attending Anti-racism “Visions” training with Bev and Geoff
- Becoming a member of the Leadership Team of the NW Region
- Leading prayers again this year at Lime Rock Park major events
- Attending the Regional Hispanic Festival in April and have supported and encouraged the *Misa*

Participated with the whole parish on Pentecost Day at Salisbury Congregational Church

Welcomed the New York Cycle Club once again this year...this time with good weather too

Organized the Guns to Garden Tools event in early June with help from Trinity parishioners and community representatives. We hope to support CT Against Gun Violence this year.

Supported a high school student who wanted to do her community service at Trinity Church

Welcomed Bishop Jeffrey Mello to our 150th Anniversary blessing of the cornerstone and new Mary Chapel

Held a Vestry dinner at my home

Was appointed to be the Clerk of the Cathedral Chapter for 2024

Made visits each month to Sharon Hospital, Noble Horizons, Geer Nursing and Geer Village for prayers and services

Pastoral visits to 20 people over the year adding up to approximately 95 visits.

The visit by Bishop Jeffrey Mello in July, and the Heritage Walk, led by Geoff Brown in September, were both wonderful opening events for the 150th celebration in 2023. We're looking forward to more events in 2024. With art shows and possibly happenings, we look forward to culminating our 150th on October 27. At that time Bishop Laura Ahrens will preside at a service of Confirmation and also Reception of new Episcopalians.

If you have never been officially welcomed as an Episcopalian and would like to have Bishop Ahrens formally welcome you into the Church please let me know so that we can celebrate you! Or, if you would like to have your baptismal vows renewed with a blessing by the Bishop, we would welcome you to step forward that day and be especially acknowledged and blessed. Please let me know soon so that we can plan for that part of our celebration on Sunday, October 27.

Many people have worked very hard to be sure that we have a beautiful parish on Sunday mornings and I'm grateful to the heads of all committees for taking on that responsibility. I also want to celebrate all that is done for the good of the church by giving little gifts on Sundays. I have started this process but I haven't finished yet. So far, little tokens have been given to members of the Choir, the Vestry, the Church Gardeners, the Altar Guild and my fellow Sunday School teachers. I still will thank those on the Flower Committee, the Hospitality volunteers, the Ushers (and please help me remember if I am forgetting any group or committee.)

Special thanks go to Deacon Félix Rivera, our Hispanic Missioner, and to Christine Gevert, our talented and generous Music Director who has brought so many people with much talent to us. And where would we be without Geoff Brown who keeps our Sunday worship running smoothly and communicates to

the world for us. We would be in a sad state, that's for sure! And lastly, many thanks to Linda Lloyd, our Sr. Warden who calmly and confidently watches over us all!

God is indeed trustworthy, and a sure and certain strength for us in all the days of our lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Parish Statistics 2023

Parish Statistics for 2023

Baptisms:

Dee Dee Davis	April 23
Oliver Cody	October 23
Max Barnard	October 23
Adam Barnard	October 23

Burials:

Mary Elizabeth (Biz) Rogers	September 9
Jane Louise Kennedy Tuttle	September 30

Weddings:

Calpurnia Carter and Dee Dee Davis	May 20
Katheryn Wincek and William Joumas	September 9
Laren Hanlon and Kenneth Weaver	October 14

Average Sunday Attendance in person: 43 (we were at Salisbury Congregational on Pentecost)

Average Attendance Sunday services online: 29 (this includes both Local Live and YouTube)

Easter Attendance:

In person: 136
Online: 69

Christmas Attendance:

In person: 117

Online: 32

Misa Attendance: 126 total (average of 11 per service) (live only)

Wardens' Report

In a time of dwindling church attendance, we at Trinity continue to offer "Companionship along the way". This year has been a slow return to pre-Covid days but our music ministry continues to flourish, with some returning, and some new, choir members. Our Sunday streaming is going well, with people watching from other states, and even other countries. Heidi continues to provide wonderful pastoral care to us as well as at Geer and Noble Horizons.

We provide outreach to the community and Christian education to our children. Our art shows bring people from all over through our doors. While our Hispanic ministry is struggling we have one, which is more than any other church in the area. We continually look outside the box for new ways to let the world know we are here. I've always felt Trinity was a small but mighty church.

We have a budget deficit for 2024, something that causes great concern to the Vestry. I don't take this lightly. It would be wonderful to have a huge endowment and never have to worry about where the money was coming from but then we might become complacent. This forces us to use our resources wisely and find new avenues of outreach and income. I give thanks for those of you who have already pledged and ask those who haven't yet to please consider doing so. Any amount helps us continue our mission of gospel and community.

With great appreciation,

Linda Lloyd
Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND 2024 BUDGET

The good news is that we ended 2023 in the black and entered 2024 with a small balance in our operating account and, despite the capital expenditures we made in 2023, with a healthy balance of \$26,890 in our capital reserve fund. Our only long-term liability is the loan we received from the diocese during the pandemic. The principal balance of the loan as of December 31st was \$9,315 and we will continue to pay it off at a rate of \$500 per month plus interest.

Virtually all 2023 pledges (save one that became uncollectible due to a death) were paid by December 31st and we expect to receive the small amount of remaining pledge payments soon.

The concerning news is that our 2024 budget shows an operating deficit of almost \$28,000. This is due to a variety of factors including a decrease in the amount of pledges this year (although many pledgers increased their pledges), the continuing high cost of oil and electricity, mandated increases in our diocesan pledge, non-clergy compensation and health insurance, and increased property insurance costs. None of these costs are within our control. The vestry is currently considering measures to address the projected deficit during the course of the year, and it may be that the costs of oil and utilities going forward will not remain at current budgeted levels. It is worth noting that Trinity has had deficit budgets in the past and has always prevailed. We had a significant operating deficit at the end of 2022 which we overcame in 2023 and I hope that we will be able to do the same in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
M.E. Freeman, Treasurer

Flower Committee Report

2023 Trinity Flower Report

The flower committee, Heather Chapman, Tom Schindler, Judith Sherman, Marilyn Anderson, Marian Beers, Michelle Sisk and myself arrange flowers on the Saturday before Sunday services. During Lent, greens were placed and on the fourth Sunday of Lent daffodils were placed in the windows. For Easter Sunday the church was decorated with lilies, cut flowers and the poles were decorated. During Advent, greens were placed. The week before and the week of Christmas the church was decorated with poinsettias, carnations and candles in the windows with ivy. The poles were adorned with flowers, ivy and candles. Candles were placed at every pew. The flowers are offered up to God and are in the memory of a loved one. The usual donation is \$50.00 with a note to Nancy. Judith stepped down in November and a note of thanks was sent to her for her service for many years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Kenny, Flower Chair

Adult Christian Formation Report

Bible Explorers (Adult Christian Education)

This year again our Bible Study classes were all on Zoom. Jane Tuttle, a constant attendee until she was unable to do so, liked to call us “Bible Explorers.” Others in the group like that name too, so we’ll now be called the Bible Explorers

We have been fortunate to have an attendance of between 6 and 12 each week. Some books of the Bible are more interesting and attract a bigger group. We are an interfaith group including friends from the Congregational Church and Jewish faith.

Here are the Bible books we studied this year:

First Book of Kings

The Acts of the Apostles

Proverbs

Gospel of Matthew

We also did a few weeks of looking at the Lectionary readings for Sundays. And we completed the year by studying a current book by the Rev. Stephaie Spellers, ***The Church Cracked Open***.

As we explore the Bible we try to alternate between study of the Hebrew scripture and Christian scripture. We also try to vary between prophecy, Gospels, and histories.

What's next? We are currently diving into history again with the books **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**.

We meet on Thursdays at 1 PM on Zoom. Come and see! And if you are interested in giving it a try, please see Geoff's link to the zoom meeting given to us every week in the Trinity Update. Or let me know and I'll add you to our Bible Explorers mailing list.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Sunday School/Youth Report

Sunday School Report for 2023

Sunday School was very active in 2023. The Sisk and Kenny families were the principal attendees, and at times there were also guests. Theresa and Brian Kenny, Jarrod and Michelle Sisk and Susanna Schindler were present in the room with me. And Susanna led us in some wonderful creative activities. One of our main goals of the year was to become more familiar with the events of the church year and have fun while doing it. Our grand overview tour of the Book of Common Prayer continues into 2024 so that we will have visited every section of the prayer book.

Other activities in 2023 included having an illustrated sermon at a 10:30 service when the children drew pictures of salt and light and bushel baskets while I preached about Chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel.

We burned palms on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, and I hope we'll do that again this year on Sunday, Feb. 11. We'll have to see if the weather cooperates.

We read together a book written by Rev. Dr. Mark Bozzuti-Jones, Director of Spiritual Formation at Trinity Retreat Center. It was the story of the life of Absalom Jones, the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

We reinstated the Thank Offering at a few services...when possible to do so (when all the Sunday School children were there together.) The children have not yet designated a recipient for the donations. The total collected so far is \$205.50.

On Easter Sunday the children helped to hide Easter eggs for the second round of the Easter egg hunt (for the children who attended the Misa de Pascua.) We tried to do an Earth Day planting on April 22, but rain foiled our efforts this year.

We painted T shirts to express the importance of love and the Holy Trinity. We baked bread that was blessed for Holy Communion.

We had a fun activity, "making a world of our own," in the parking lot on Trinity Sunday. Each participant created an image of what they would like the world to look like. What a big job God has!

Susanna led us in activities of painting, embroidery, map making and painting garden rocks for Mother's Day and decorating picture frames for Father's Day.

Towards the end of the year, we all worked very hard on learning the 23rd psalm. And Emma helped the adults at coffee hour to wrap presents for children and adults for the December *Misa en español* service.

And lastly, in Advent, we turned our focus to putting on the annual Christmas pageant. In addition to our stalwart children and adult characters, we had new participants this year because a Ukrainian family has moved into town. The theme of the pageant was teaching the younger children the most important Bible Stories: Creation, The Exodus, Incarnation, and the Resurrection.

This year we look forward to having Teddy, Jack, and Parker take their first communion at a service in the spring. And on Sunday, October 27, when Bishop Laura Ahrens visits us, God willing, Emma and Brennan will be confirmed, and Jarrod and Michelle will be received into the Episcopal Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Communications Report

This report combines the former Verger's Report and Communications Report, addressing the fact that our "footprint" is both in-person and digital.

Our livestream, via locallive.tv, remains our principal streaming vehicle. It is clear that the ability to view the service via livestream, either live as it occurs, or afterwards, has ceased to be just an accommodation for Covid and is now an expectation. The Sunday last year with the fewest viewers was June 25, when only five people viewed the livestream. But 42 viewed it on Trinity Sunday, and an average of around 17 people view the livestream each week. So, when you're in church on a Sunday and you're near the front, take a moment to wave to the camera during the Peace. You will be waving to real people who are worshipping with you at Trinity Lime Rock!

During the year, due to limited audience and the time commitment involved in editing and uploading (often unsuccessfully) each livestreamed service, I decided to upload only highlights this year to **YouTube**. Our YouTube channel, @trinitylimerock, now has 99 subscribers, up from 94 last year. Among the most popular videos this year have been Easter (53 views), the Bishop's visit for the cornerstone celebration (46), Palm Sunday (45), and the Christmas Pageant excerpt (44). All-time, *Pie Jesu*, sung at Trinity by the American Boychoir in 2007, now has 9829 views, with the Palm Sunday service from 2007 with 8427.

As noted last year, we no longer use **Twitter** (now called "X").

The website, **trinitylimerock.org**, continues to evolve. We now publish a post each Sunday morning with the bulletin and information about the day's activities and links to them. Your suggestions are appreciated!

The **Trinity Update e-mail newsletter** continues to appear weekly, and regularly includes the **Rector's Letter**. Circulation is slightly up, to 328 last year versus 320 in 2022. The open rate is now in the high 40s, significantly up from last year.

Zoom continues to be an accepted way of meeting at Trinity. The popular weekly Bible Study is 100% remote via Zoom. Sunday Coffee Hour is hybrid, using the Owl, permitting remote attendees to interact with those physically present in Lime Rock. Vestry meetings are hybrid, again using the Owl. The Annual Meeting will again be hybrid. The Owl device considerably improves the hybrid experience, although we are still learning how to use it most effectively with larger groups.

Facebook (and Instagram) are occasionally useful to increase visibility in the larger community. Our presences in the “Meta” world are:

--Facebook Group – 132 members (up from 126 last year)

--Facebook page -- 551 followers (up from 543). Meta seems to have spontaneously spawned two additional Facebook pages for us, and we will attempt to remove these additional “presences” this year.

--Gallery Facebook page – 346 followers (up from 336 last year).

--Instagram account – Currently 1907 followers, up from 1664 last year.

This is our most popular Meta offering and we hope to devote additional attention to it this year.

Print Advertising: The *Lakeville Journal* remains as the principal print advertising vehicle for the parish, and we especially appreciate the editorial coverage they give us. They are a wonderful resource for the entire community.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown, Communications Chair

Diocesan Convention Report

Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, October 27-28, 2023 and the Hartford Convention Center.

The following are the highlights of the convention:

- A presentation on the importance of Safe Church training for all those involved in children’s education and for all members of the Vestry.
- A resolution calling for the repudiation of any negative or hateful rhetoric aimed at transgender people. (passed)
- A resolution to allocate \$20,000 from the ECCT endowment to investigate the extent of the ECCT’s involvement in the institution of slavery in the U.S. (passed)
- A resolution acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in the state of Connecticut and the complicity of the ECCT in the institution of slavery in America. This resolution was the dominant resolution of the convention and proposed the establishment of a 2.5-million-dollar fund taken from the diocesan endowment to be used as

initial reparations for those most directly harmed by slavery. Much debate took place on this resolution which centered on two main issues; does money really absolve us of our involvement, can't we just be terribly sorry and repentant? And secondly, should we be including in reparations the indigenous peoples who have also been hurt again and again by the white settlers in Connecticut and in an ongoing manner by our government and individuals out to rob and in every way undermine the native peoples of our land. Much heartfelt discussion took place on this resolution with the ultimate affirmation that 1, the resolution was specifically about slaves and not the indigenous people and 2, that while money cannot absolve us of our participation in those events it can possibly help in some ways to alleviate the ongoing suffering of the descendants of the slaves. In other words we will be putting our money where our mouths and hearts are. This resolution also passed overwhelmingly. It is to be hoped that next year another resolution will be made regarding reparations of one form or another to the indigenous people.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Conzo, Delegate to the Convention
(other delegates were Rev Heidi Truax, Rev Marilyn Anderson, and Bev Becker.)

Hispanic Ministries Report

La Misa Annual Report

On January 29, 2023 I began as Missioner at Trinity, Lime Rock, after Rev. John Carter retired in December 2022. I connect with the Latino community who have residence primarily New York State. There are a few who have residence in Connecticut. Most of the community are from Mexico. Some are from central and South America.

Our service (*La Misa*) took place typically on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm. It all depended when the musicians, *Sin Fronteras* (Without Borders), from Christ Church Cathedral were available to provide Spanish liturgical music that is popular in the Latino culture. We had eleven services in 2023. On October 22, 2023 there was no power at the church in the afternoon so we had to cancel it. I am the celebrant during the service of the Word and proclaim the Gospel of the day and share my homily. Rev. Heidi then is the celebrant during the service of communion and I assist in preparing the communion at the altar.

We averaged about 6 in attendance, not including the two clergy, and the musicians. We have had a low of zero attendance to 14. There was that one Sunday where we had no attendance from outside. That Sunday, August 27, I partnered with Rev. Marilyn Anderson. My wife, Carmen was the only attendee that day. It was also a Sunday in which the musicians were not available and Christine Gevert and another musician, Carlos Boltes provided the service music. That Sunday afternoon we blessed donations of clothing prior to distribution for families in need.

I began to connect with the community at least one Thursday a month at the North East Community Center in Millerton, New York at its food pantry. Many of the clients are of Latino background and I would just welcome them to the pantry and introduce myself and tell them of our monthly Spanish service.

We have provided pizza twice after service and on the Saturday, before the third Sunday of Advent we had pizza and gifts to share with the parishioners (I want to thank the Trinity family for gift wrapping the gifts). It was the first service we had at 12 noon on a Saturday. It was decided that during the winter and early spring we would have La Misa on Saturdays at noon.

On April 22, 2023 we had a Latino church community celebration at St. John's, Waterbury, sponsored by the Hispanic Ministry Network. We had attendees from the eight Episcopal churches in Connecticut that minister to the Latino community. Five parishioners from Trinity, Lime Rock attended the event. Our bishop diocesan, Jeffrey Mello, attended and participated in the event beginning with the service in which he was the celebrant and preacher.

I am blessed to have Rev. Heidi Truax both as a colleague and friend and in working together to do this most important ministry. I also want to thank the Trinity family who have welcomed Carmen and me to your fold whenever we attend a 10:30 service. We have found a home in Lime Rock and for that we are so blessed.

May this year, 2024, be one of continued HOPE, FAITH and LOVE at Trinity, Lime Rock and that God accompany us and guide us to do the work of welcoming and serving the wider community.

This humble servant thanks you,

Félix Rivera

Art Shows

2023 Trinity Church Lime Rock Art Show Report

Ran: Sept. 15th - Oct. 1

The art show was a success with 99 entries, ranging from small to large works along with bin entrees. 6 large paintings, 8 small paintings and 5 bin entrees were sold. Attached is the final financials prepared by Nancy. • 79 attended the reception, including approximately 50 visitors. 2 judges were paid \$100.00 each. 1st prize winner won \$100.00 2nd prize winner won \$75.00 3rd prize winner won \$50.00 The artists were paid 70% of their sold pieces (30% stays with Trinity) The sales tax is paid to the state by Nancy. Thank you notes went to all volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Kenny, Art Show Chair

150th Anniversary Committee Report

The high point of the year was the Episcopal visit of our new Bishop Diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello, to celebrate the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone and to consecrate our new Mary Chapel. We were one of the first parishes in his new Diocese that he visited, and we hope that we passed muster with him.

This year Suffragan Bishop Laura Ahrens will visit us to mark the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Trinity, and will confirm, receive, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us. Also upcoming: All Things Trinity Art and Craft show. It will be an art show for all Trinity members of all ages. The intent is to celebrate our own talented artists and budding artists. It will be held in April this year with Theresa Kenny leading the effort. Volunteers needed! It will tentatively be held be April 20, 21, 27, 28 with the opening reception on Friday, April 19 at 5 pm. More to come on this!

Technically our 150th year celebration will not end until 2025 when we will mark the anniversary of our reception as a parish in the Diocese of Connecticut at the Diocesan Convention that year. (This was an administrative proceeding at the Diocesan Convention, so it's a bit difficult to create an event around it. We eagerly solicit your thoughts on how we might best mark that date.)

Ongoing through the 150 weeks of the Sesquicentennial, yours truly will continue the weekly history articles in the Trinity Update. At this writing, we are at 1921 in the story. The Barnum and Richardson years are a memory and Trinity is getting used to being a mission of Christ Church, Canaan – then a far stronger and wealthier parish – and getting permission from their Vestry for changes made at Trinity. We were in for some rocky years at that time before things will turn up -- right around the time Bishop Ahrens comes to visit us!

During the year, Theresa Kenny provided the 150th logo that graces the cover of this report, and Pastor Heidi obtained and distributed 150th anniversary tote bags. In cooperation with the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, I led a walking tour of the church and surroundings. If you have a particular project you would like to undertake under the auspices of the Sesquicentennial, please speak to the Rector, either of the Wardens, or the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Brown, Chair of the Sesquicentennial Committee

Buildings and Grounds Report

2023 was another rather quiet year for Buildings and Grounds. In 2022 we had an energy audit, suggested by the diocese, that pointed out mainly electrical issues that if upgraded could save the parish money.

During the late summer, lights throughout the building were converted to energy saving LED bulbs and motion sensors-timers were installed. In August a mini-split air conditioner & heater was installed in Walker Hall to cool the room in the summer and reduce the need to run the furnace in the colder months.

In November, Perotti Plumbing replaced the failing well tank in the undercroft to remedy the surging water pressure in the building.

Twice during the year, I believe in the spring and fall, an anonymous yard maintenance crew cleaned around the property, removing leaves and debris! Thank you to whoever you are!

As head of B&G, I was not always available to be on-site for some of the projects that were taking place. I want to thank those that stepped forward to help, in particular Pastor Heidi.

Respectfully,

Gordon Gustafson, Buildings and Grounds Chair

Outreach Ministry Report

A major outreach activity of Trinity is our Thanksgiving Dinner in Canaan.

Thanksgiving Dinner once again took place inside Pilgrim House despite some potential issues that might have prevented this from happening – the building is now rented on an annual basis to a pre-school education group. Fearless leader Bev Becker was at the right place at the right time to keep us on track! Hooray!

Unfortunately, Bev herself came down with Covid at the last moment and was unable to oversee all of the actual activities on Wednesday and Thursday. That responsibility fell squarely on the shoulders of pastor Heidi who ably kept the ship on course. Heidi, together with longtime veteran Jim Conzo formed the backbone of the cleanup team, this year ably assisted by a few other new volunteers who took on some of the heavy lifting that results from a project of this size.

As has been noted previously, Trinity Church has been spearheading the annual dinner in recent years and many parishioners showed up on Wednesday to spend time cleaning and peeling the vegetables to be served with the 12 turkeys that were cooked by our invaluable chef Mike English. Mike has always been the eye of the storm in the Pilgrim House kitchen but now has indicated that his health will not allow him to do this in the future. Much praise is due Mike for all of the work he has done to create a wonderful and healthy dinner for our community over the years. Thank you so much Mike and we wish you the best of health!

We may already have a successor to Mike in Janet Kaufmann, a noted chef and caterer. One or two other new volunteers who have experience as restaurateurs may also step up to help with cooking.

Many of the regular volunteers were once again on hand to plate the meals for our very thankful diners. A young person, child of one of the diners, was extraordinarily helpful in cleaning and dismantling of the room and was urged to return next year.

Thanks to VFW Canaan 6851 for allowing us to purchase our food through them and thus saving us a lot of money. Thanks to the Boy Scouts for putting out flyers and to Paul Ramunni for providing the music.

And thanks to all who participated in any capacity!

Jim Conzo

Other Outreach activities for the year included:

Feed A Family of Four was conducted the same way as we did it the preceding year. People were asked to bring extra donation for the Corner Food Pantry or to take food there directly.

Corner Food Pantry - Barry Anderson picks up donated food from the basket outside (or inside) the red doors of Walker Hall and takes it to the Corner Food Pantry on a weekly basis. There have been weeks when the basket was overflowing with food and weeks in which there is not one item! Please remember to donate if you can.

Outreach Brunch and Potluck On March 26 we held our annual Outlook Brunch and Potluck. This year we honored four local libraries, each represented by one of the staff:

- Hunt Library, Falls Village, represented by Meg Sher
- Hotchkiss Library, Sharon, represented by Gretchen Hachmeister
- Scoville Library, Salisbury, represented by Karen Goodell
- Douglas Library, Canaan, represented by Norma Demay

Much of the congregation was on hand for this presentation which was thoroughly enjoyed. We also learned a lot about our libraries. Besides the \$400 we donated to the libraries some parishioners donated even more! It was a very successful event!

Crop Hunger Walk - The Crop walk is still coming back from Covid. This year we had a few walkers . People could walk in their own neighborhoods and schools and churches could hold their own walks. Trinity walked the Salisbury Rail Trail with Salisbury Congregational Church. Overall, the walk was quite successful. Trinity raised over \$2000 of the \$36,529.57 total that was raised (as of November 2, 2023). Twenty-five percent (about \$9125.) of the official total will be returned the northwest corner to be distributed to local food pantries

and voucher programs in our area. Thank you, Rachel Lamb, for heading up the team.

Tree Lighting: On December 2nd, 2023, Trinity again had lights put on our large tree thanks to Perotti Tree Company. We had hot cocoa, but we missed John Lloyd's donuts this year. There were about 50 participants, the most so far. Thank you to Lisa Keller for inviting so many of Lime Rock people from her extensive e-mail list!

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Becker, Chairman of Outreach

Altar Guild Report

Janet Walker handles the 8 a.m. service. Theresa Kenny, Mike Cuoco and Beverly Becker (and Pastor Heidi, sometimes) handle the 10:30 a.m. service. We had about a dozen people come together to polish brass and silver in March and in December.

This year on Christmas Eve some of you may have witnessed Pastor Heidi, Pari Forood and me changing the altar during the middle of the service. This year the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve were on the same day so the altar colors were change in the middle of the service. It went beautifully! I had been nervous to head the Altar Guild but working with such a great team makes my job so much easier. Thank you all Altar Guild members and to Pastor Heidi too.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Becker, Head of Altar Guild

Music Report

The year started with Lessons and Carols, and throughout the year we were able to have a choir regularly every Sunday, and also on special occasions. Our small group of singers remains very dedicated to leading the musical ministry at Trinity: Linda and John Lloyd, Tom Schindler, Kathy Drake, and Gordon Gustafson. In the fall we were rejoined by Mary Sullivan, and are delighted to

have two new members: our neighbors Lisa Keller, who joined Crescendo this summer, and Kateryna Cherniavska. We are fortunate to have a talented young singer at Trinity Church, who has joined us again this year on special services: Emma Sisk, and our own parishioner Maurice Maddox, who has led us in singing spirituals. Guest singers from Crescendo often join our Chorus. We had a set-back in June due to a Covid outbreak in our group: seven of our fourteen singers got ill. Thankfully we all recovered and were able to continue our music making.

Some of the anthem sung this year are Renaissance and Baroque works by Christian Erbach, Andrea Gabrieli, Peter Philipps, William Byrd, J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel, Charles Gounod. Besides the hymns and service music from our own hymnal, and my own compositions and arrangements, we have sung new hymns by Christopher Webber, Sophia Green, bilingual (English-Spanish) service music,

A highlight was the 150th anniversary celebration and Bishop's visit on July 9.

In August Crescendo Latin American musician Carlos Boltes and I provided the music for the Spanish Misa.

Tom Schindler led the singing *a capella* during my vacation Sunday, and while I was sick.

We sang at Jane Tuttle's Memorial Service.

In December our singers and guests led again the Caroling for the Tree Lighting.

Among our other guest musicians this year we had Rodrigo Tarraza, flute, Chris Belluscio, trumpet from Boston, MA, and Tricia van Oers, recorder, Andean performer Etienne Perley.

In 2023 we had seven Crescendo concerts at Trinity. This included the 20th anniversary concert in October, in which the church was filled to the last seat. Crescendo is very grateful to Trinity Church for getting the organization started in the first place in 2003, and for being such supportive hosts of our musical activities! This year we were able to offer to completely free concerts to our community, and also expand our offer of free tickets. Several of the concerts are professionally recorded and filmed, and feature Trinity church on YouTube, receiving many views. As always, works from our concert repertoire are often repeated in our church services, and many of our amateur and professional singers and instrumentalists sing and play in our special services. Here is the list of concerts: Jan. 7: "A Story of Hope in the Voice of the New World" - Festive vocal and instrumental music from Colonial Latin America; Feb. 4: "*Cantos y Suspiros*—Songs and Sighs" - Songs and dances of 17th & 18th

century Spain and Latin America; *Apr. 28*: “In Search of the Bridge” - American and Latin American 20th century and contemporary choral works – World premiere by John Myers!; *Aug. 3*: “Johann Sebastian Bach’s Flute and Harpsichord Music” - Perfection of Cantabile Art and Cosmic Harmony - A Tribute Concert for the legendary Wanda Landowska; *Sep. 23*: “Baroque Beat-Fiesta Latina” - Your Favorite Baroque Works on Latin American and Early Instruments; *Oct. 29* “Fantastic Baroque” - Sacred Poly-Choral Works and Opera Choruses from the early Baroque to the early Classical periods in Latin America and Europe. Crescendo’s 20th Anniversary Concert; *Dec. 17* “Carols for the Earth” - Festive Holiday Music with a New, Earth-Conscious Message.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Gevert

Stewardship

We are pleased to report that we have received 2024 pledges in the total amount of \$158,043 from 45 pledging units. Of this amount, \$3530 is designated for capital expenditures. Practically all of our 2024 pledgers maintained or increased their 2023 pledges. We are particularly grateful for those who were in a position to increase their pledges. As always we ask all who have pledged to make their pledge payments over the course of the year rather than waiting until the end of the year so we can avoid a cash crunch in December. We thank you for your continuing financial support. That is what enables Trinity to endure and continue its ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

The Stewardship Committee