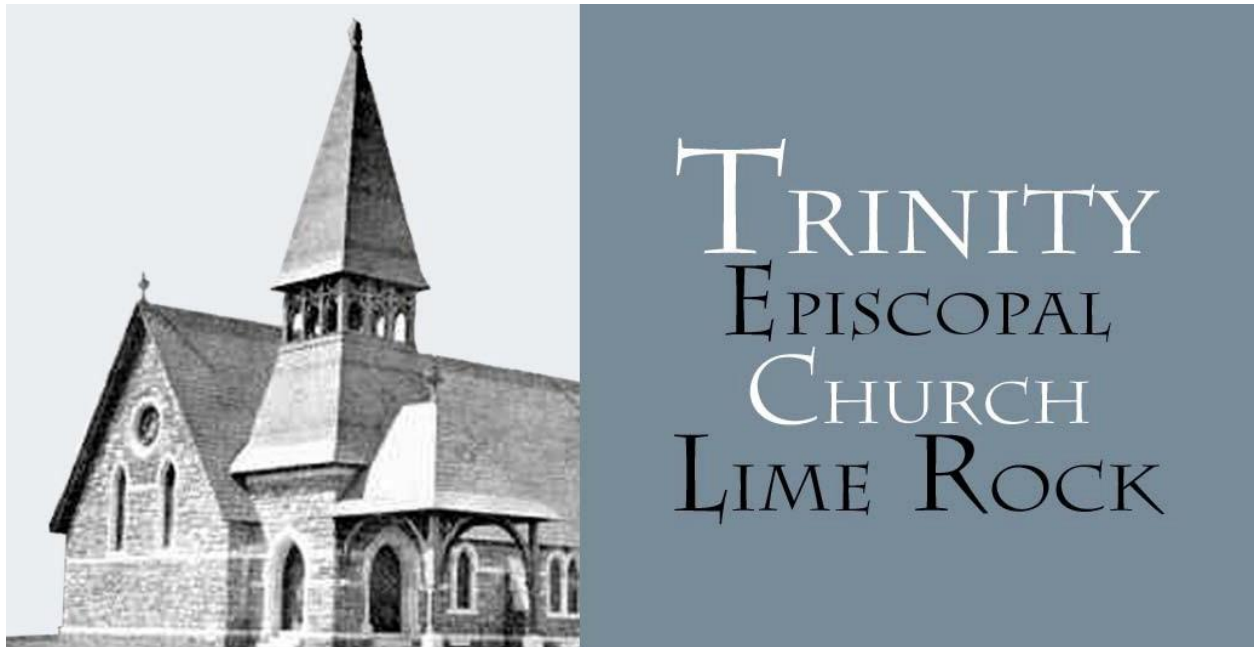


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
484 LIME ROCK RD.
LAKEVILLE, CT 06039



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2021

TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY

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Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Call to order and invocation—Pastor Heidi Truax

Election of Clerk of Annual Meeting

Presentation and ratification of the roll of communicants

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2019

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

Election of Wardens, Vestry Members, Clerk and Treasurer

The proposed slate of officers and vestry for 2021 is:

Senior Warden: Linda Lloyd

Junior Warden: M. E. Freeman

Treasurer: John Oler

Clerk: Bev Becker

Vestry: Three-year term: Theresa Kenny

Vestry: Two-year term: Barry Anderson, Scott Frost

Vestry: One year term: Danielle A. Gaherty, Mike Cuoco, Al Dorf

Election of Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention

Delegates: Bev Becker and Jim Conzo

Alternates:

Reports:

Stewardship and Treasurer's Reports

Other Reports (please see Annual Report)

Old Business

New Business

Benediction and Adjournment

Voting Members

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Barry Anderson | M. E. Freeman | J. Keith Nolan |
| The Rev. Marilyn Anderson | Danielle A. Gaherty | John Oler |
| Rob Babcock * | Christine Gevert | Randy Orzano |
| Martha Baer * | Jason Gladding | Thomas C. Ragan |
| Fred Baldwin | Joanne King Grafe | Garrett Richardson |
| Patricia Barton | Gordon Gustafson | Elizabeth Rogers * |
| Stuyvesant Bearns | Gretchen Hachmeister | Susanna Schindler |
| Beverly Becker | Marilyn Hardy | Tom Schindler * |
| David B. Beers | Fred Harris | Judith Sherman |
| Marian Beers | Sally Harris | Jeffrey Silvernale |
| Deanna Benevidez | Carol Hoskins | Ted Somerville |
| Roy Bickley | Robert Hoskins | Richard Stone |
| Eleanore Boyse | Betsy Howie * | The Rev. Emily Stribling |
| Matthew Boyse | Eleanore Jenks | Robert Stribling |
| Geoffrey Brown | Stephen W. "Bill" Jenks | Alan Swide |
| Jane Ellen Canfield * | Keith Johnson | Helen Symons |
| Mary Anne Carley | Theresa Kenny | Carol Taylor |
| The Rev. John Carter | Celia Kirby | Maureen Tesoro |
| Lonnie Carter | Richard Kirby | Kevin Titus |
| Heather Chapman | Jacqueline Kuhn | Alysha Trimble |
| Frances Anne Columbo | John Kuhns | Alison Tripp |
| James Conzo | Rachel Lamb | Gary Tripp |
| Michael Cuoco | Jane Lipton * | The Rev. Heidi Truax |
| Jeremy Dakin | John Lloyd | Jane Tuttle |
| Virginia Dildine * | Linda Lloyd | Alice Tweed |
| Al Dorf | Malcolm MacLaren | Max Ule * |
| Kathy Drake | Sunny MacMillan * | Janet Walker |
| Cheryl Duntz | Maurice Maddox | Diane Walters |
| Russell Duntz | Jackson Marvel | Tim Ward |
| Pari Forood | Martha Nesbitt | Arete Warren |
| Judith Frost | | Marion Williams |
| Scott Frost | | Norma Wright |

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

Officers, Vestry, and Delegates of Trinity Lime Rock in 2020

Presiding Bishop: Most Rev. Michael Curry

Bishop of Connecticut: Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas

Suffragan Bishop: Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens

Rector: The Rev. Heidi Truax

Senior Warden: Linda Lloyd

We remember with fondness and sadness our Junior Warden, Allen Berrien, who died in office on October 8, 2020.

Treasurer: John Oler

Clerk: Bev Becker

Vestry:

 Finishing their term as vestry members: Martha Nesbitt

Delegate to Convention: Bev Becker, Jacqueline Kuhn

Alternate Delegate to Convention: Carol Taylor

Minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2019

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH LIME ROCK MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by The Rev. Heidi Truax, Rector.

A motion was made by Carol Taylor and second by ME Freeman, to reaffirm the voting list. Motion carried. The Voting List was approved and a quorum established.

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting as written in the Annual Report for 2019. **A motion was made to accept minutes by Geoff Brown and seconded by ME Freeman. Motion carried**

Rector's Report: Heidi reported that she especially wanted to thank Carol Taylor, our outgoing Senior Warden, who has served in this leadership role faithfully for 3 years. She noted she was very grateful for our ever-faithful Junior Warden, Allen Berrien; Clerk, Beverly Becker; Treasurer, Martha Nesbitt and Daniel Gaherty who are all willing to stay on this year so we have continuity of leadership. She noted with gratitude that Linda Lloyd has answered the call to return to the Vestry to be our Senior Warden this year. She noted her gratitude that just when we needed to appoint five new members at one time for the 10-person Vestry, 5 people have stepped up and been willing to serve the church. She asked for God's blessing on them, and on Alice Tweed, Susanna Schindler, and Gordon Gustafson who have finished their terms on the Vestry and will continue to be active servant leaders in our Parish in their various capacities. Heidi gave Gordon and Susannah gifts from the parish to thank them for their service. She also thanked Al and Alexis Dorf who, although they may have moved to New Hampshire, who are remembered for their tireless work for Trinity Church and for the community.

Wardens' Report:

Stained Glass Report: Stained Glass Resources came last week and took the window. Most of the money has been raised for phase one

The Ministry Fair: A few years ago we tried something called The Ministry Fair, and we tried it again today. It is where different tables are set up about certain subjects and each person goes from table to table and learns about something going on in the church. The tables were a Pollinator Garden table, Music table, Sunday School table, Altar Guild table, Pastoral Care table, Outreach table, Finance table, Parish Helpers table, Hospitality table and Misa Services table. There was a chairman at each table to discuss the subject of that table and people came for 15 minutes to each of the tables. Some subjects were combined so that we only ended up with 6 Tables.

Some of the suggestions that came out of the tables were: Outreach: to have a steak dinner put on by the Beers, a potluck lunch at the Beers, Padre Juan would have a joint Sunday with us, Gordon would ring the church bell Sunday mornings, Sunday School: could have a fresh air program. Finance: would bring more people to church. Music /Art: how to make more out of events so that more people would attend. Possibly livestream the tree lighting.

Stewardship Report:

Financial Report: A year solidly “in the black” with revenues exceeding budget and expenses under budget.

Music Report: Heidi gave Christine an award for all her years of service so far.

Latino Ministry: The *Misa* continues to draw congregants from a number of towns in the northwest corner. Congregants come from as far away as Amenia, Kent and Pine Plains. The average monthly *Misa* attendance grew for the third year in a row.

Heads of other committees and ministries had nothing to add to their written reports.

Officers: The clerk was directed to cast a single vote for the following slate:

Senior Warden - Linda Lloyd
Junior Warden – Allen Berrien
Clerk – Beverly Becker
Treasurer – John Oler

Elected as Delegates to 2020 Diocesan Convention in Hartford:

Bev Becker and Jacqueline Kuhn
Carol M. Taylor, alternate

Old Business: ECCT leadership is holding Safe Church Training on Saturday, February 8th, at St John's in Washington CT. Anyone who works with children and the elderly is required to take this class.

New Business:

It looks like the Time Out Foundation, the non-profit down the street, will be keeping their horses in the field while their new paddock and riding ring are built.

DVDs: If anyone has any old DVDs they no longer want Heidi has been taking some to Trinity Glen.

Dylan Mello will be our new Northwest Region Missionary.

Trinity Retreat Center would like to make a Trail Magic Trailer. They would like for this trailer to be taken by different churches to different trails and made available to people who are hiking the Trail. Possibilities for the trailer would be electricity, food maybe even clean socks.

Date of next Annual Meeting was established as January 17, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned with a blessing at 12:40 PM by Pastor Heidi. A motion was made by Danielle Garrity and seconded by Geoff Brown to end this meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Becker, Clerk

Rector's Report

“Everyone is a bit scared,” said the horse. **“But we are less scared together.”**

From *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy¹

There has been a lot to scare us and worry us in this last year; the global pandemic, the search for justice and truth amid growing awareness of racial bias in our nation, and most recently, the violence we experienced earlier this month (the attack on our U. S. Capitol on the Feast of the Epiphany 2021.)

Fear and anger are such powerful emotions that lead us so far astray. How many times has God through prophets, angels and his Son Jesus told us, “Do not be afraid.” So, in order to put into perspective this crazy, difficult year I’m going to report my **regrets, appreciations and learnings**. (This is how all our Diocesan meetings conclude so we can distill the key aspects of our time spent together.)

I regret that we have spent so little time together in our beautiful church this year, now with bright, fully restored stained glass windows.

I regret, along with Mary Anne Carley, that we were not able to hold Art Shows this year. This was to be the first year that we hosted the HVRHS student art show in the Spring. This, among other things has been a great loss.

I regret, along with Padre Juan Carter, that we have had to suspend our *Misa en Español* for now. Instead, our missionary priest, John, has been taking his ministries with our Spanish-speaking parishioners and friends on the road; to bless, baptize, celebrate and support *la gente Latina*.

I appreciate our Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers. Through them we have been able to hear voices of our parish that are diverse and thoughtful. Danielle A. Gaherty,

¹ Every once in a while, a book comes along that says what we are thinking, but don't know how to put into words. This book was written in 2019 but is suddenly having a moment. If you're interested in buying it, get the hardcover version with beautiful works of art and calligraphy. It's really thoughtful and contemplative.

Roy Bickley, Tom Schindler and Carol M. Taylor have shared their thoughts on Scripture and led worship that gives us their distinct points of view and life-giving messages.

I appreciate Linda Lloyd, our gallant Senior Warden. When she took this position in January 2020 she said she was glad not to have to be a “wartime warden” this time. Instead, she has had to be a “pandemic warden.” She has risen to the occasion, as she always does, and has kept us on track and “herded the cats” when needed. (I’m mostly talking about myself being a difficult cat to herd!)

I appreciate Geoff Brown, ever the communicator par excellence, who has kept us in touch with each other and kept the information and news flowing in this challenging year. This year we have not had those informal in-person meetings at coffee hour. Everything has to be accomplished through a deliberate conversation by email, phone or zoom. It all takes much more effort. Geoff has navigated it all with grace.

I appreciate our amazing Christine Gevert, who made it her aim and goal to not be deterred by the difficulties we faced beginning in the Spring and continuing to the present. She dove into learning how to do video editing and sound mixing. She has mastered it all. The exemplary music we have long cherished in our parish has had to change to a different platform. But through Christine, the ministry of music lives on beautifully through her prodigious talents. AND we look forward to the day when we can hear voices singing in our church once again, whenever that may be.

I appreciate Emily Blair Stribling and Marilyn Anderson, priests and members of our parish who have enhanced our life together; Marilyn with her book and movie discussion groups and Emily Blair who was our Supply Priest when I was on vacation this summer.

I appreciate the substantial improvements made to our church this year.

- 1) We have a new Internet Mesh Network in the whole our complex. Many thanks to an anonymous donor that made this happen.
- 2) We had the slate roof repaired to take care of broken tiles to keep our nave “ship shape”.
- 3) And mostly, there were monumental efforts by **Susanna Schindler, M. E. Freeman and John Oler** to see to completion the first phase of our stained glass window renovation. We were able to achieve this through faithful donations from parishioners and a lifesaving grant from the Gerry Charitable Trust. Arete Warren facilitated this important grant. The committee has more planned for us in 2021. This has been, and will continue to be, a hugely successful undertaking.

I appreciate everyone in our faithful congregation; each one of you who have attended services, either in person or online, have participated in our rota of parish tasks, have faithfully donated to our parish and have supported each other through phone calls, visits and tasks to help those in need. We are a beloved community that cares for and supports each other in Christ's holy name.

I have learned so much this year.

I have learned that there is much more that connects us than that which divides us. We may have had to fall back on old ways of communicating with each other; phone, email, letters and meeting at a distance. But we keep connected.

I have learned that unimportant things can fall away; saying "no" to things that aren't crucial to life and to ministry becomes a bit easier. I am passing the baton of leadership of the Crop Walk to someone else now after our successful 2020 virtual walk.

I have learned that there is so much I cannot do, and I must, more than ever, ask for help, and focus on those things that give life to all of us, the congregation.

And I have learned that where there is a will there is a way. If we want to, we can become willing to learn new things; challenging things. The struggle with new technology is an important and worthy struggle. God does not limit holiness to just one way of worship. God does not limit communication with us to being in a building on a Sunday morning. God finds a way whenever we have the will to find and be found by God.

I am so blessed to be the Rector of Trinity Church Lime Rock. I give thanks every day for you. We are a beloved community.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Heidi

"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

The First Letter of John 4:11

Parish Statistics 2020

Baptisms:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Parker Thurston Plouffe | February 16 |
| Renata Gonzalez Gutierrez | September 26 |
| Wendy Michelle Santiago Leyva | October 3 |
| Miguel Angel Santiago Leyva | October 3 |
| Kevin Santiago Leyva | October 3 |
| Alice Susan Ceballos Jardines | October 17 |

Marriages:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Heather Powell and Sean Byron Cody Church, Tashua) | May 24 (at Christ |
| Sarah Howard Blackwell & James Douglas Gillispie of B. Williams) | Oct. 3 (at home |

Burials:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Delores Selino | March 21 (at Mountain View Cemetery) |
| Patricia McVicker Landis | July 25 (at Mountain View Cemetery) |
| Allen Douglas Berrien | October 24 |

Average Sunday Attendance before Pandemic: 58.4

Average Sunday Attendance during Pandemic (online and in person services): 85

Wardens' Report

January, 2021

Dear Friends,

There's no need to tell you that 2020 was not a good year for anyone. When I accepted the Senior Warden position last January I never dreamed the world would implode the way it has. Covid has forced us to change the way we do things. In a church, where everything is done in a reassuringly traditional way, we have all been forced to learn new ways of doing things, no matter how much we go into it metaphorically kicking and screaming. It's never easy for us to change but we have had no choice.

Because of Heidi and Christine's persistence we have entered the virtual world in a better position than many churches. It was heartening to hear Bishop Douglas say that our virtual Sunday service was one of the best in the diocese. We have continued to (virtually) support our fellow parishioners and still produce a beautiful Eucharist with wonderful music. This has allowed parishioners who wouldn't have been able to attend in person anyway, to stay included in our church family and worship.

We know that things may never go back to the normal we were used to but my hope is that we will stay together and find new ways to be part of our Trinity family.

With gratitude,
Linda Lloyd

Treasurer's Report

Financial Highlights for 2020

- Very little long-term debt: \$27,500; being paid off \$500/month
- Healthy cash balance: \$40,321 in unrestricted NIB checking a/c to pay recurring bills
- We continue to be on-time and up-to-date paying our monthly bills

- Positive response to our Stewardship appeal this year: \$179,038 pledged (\$161,568 Operating; \$17,470 Capital Expenditure); a Team Effort co-led by John Oler, ME Freeman, Barry Anderson and Scott Frost and with excellent guidance provided by Heidi and Linda Lloyd;
- We dealt very successfully as a team of parishioners with the stained-glass windows' collapsing in place; including the grant from Gerry Charitable Trust of \$50,000, we raised \$133,321 against an original goal of \$62,500 – impressive overkill of an objective in the face of urgent need for such funds;
- In a “very challenging year” we posted very good numbers on combined revenue, held the line on expenses and combined Operating Income, Non-Operating Income, Non-pledged Income/Donations, Loans (PPP 1.0 and ECCT), Investment Income, *Misa* & *VS* Income, and parishioner Pledge Income altogether \$432,299 (151% of goal) to cover nearly our entire shortfalls in various expense categories.
- The two major expense items that blew our budgeted expenses: (1) Stained Glass Capital expenditure of \$120,588 (v. Budget \$50,000) 241% of budgeted amount was all paid up and resulted in surplus funds available for Phase 2) – Bravo! to Susanna for her “over the top” fund-raising efforts! And, (2) Outreach/Mission expense of \$101,431 (v. Budget \$22,100) 459% of budgeted amount was only partially offset by \$102,004 *Misa/VC* income – the remainder of these funds are deployed by the Rev. John Carter to recipients on an ‘as needed’ basis.

The detailed financial report is distributed to attendees at the Annual Meeting as is our usual practice.

John Oler, Treasurer of Trinity Lime Rock

Stewardship

Stewardship for 2021 Report

Trinity's stewardship committee for our 2021 operating and capital budget appeal was led by John Oler as chair and also included M.E. Freeman, Scott Frost, and Barry Anderson. In addition, Heidi and Linda Lloyd assisted the committee, while special recognition and thanks is extended to Theresa Kenny, who contributed an original artwork for the campaign that beautifully illustrated our tag line for Trinity's appeal—“Our Lighthouse in the Storm”.

Last year, the campaign for 2020 led by our departed friend Allen Berrien resulted in 49 operating budget pledges totaling about \$132,000 and 20 capital budget pledges adding up to almost \$14,000.

As appreciated as the pledges were, for the operating budget we were nonetheless left short of a balanced budget by about \$20,000, after considering other sources of revenue including income from investments and non-pledge donations. Indeed, the operating budget came into balance for 2020 only

because of a one-time infusion of \$25,000, courtesy of the Payroll Protection Program and the US federal government.

So the Stewardship Committee started its work in September looking at another \$20,000 or so gap to fill for the 2021 operating budget. We realized that a special effort was necessary, made all the more difficult by the uncertainties raised by the Covid pandemic.

Centering “Our Lighthouse in the Storm” appeal on the quality of Trinity’s liturgical and musical online service in the midst of pandemic closures and our community outreach efforts such as *Misa* and *Vecinos Seguros*, we made a special request for increased support. In addition to the regular appeal letter to all parishioners, John and ME made personal appeals by phone to certain Trinity members.

The result was a success—the Trinity community responded very generously to our appeal. Our operating pledges total \$159,000 (43 pledgers)—a 20% increase. As a result, we are entering 2021 with a balanced operating budget.

We also received about \$17,500 in 2021 capital budget pledges (16 pledgers), which will go towards maintaining and improving Trinity’s physical facilities (aside from the stained glass restoration effort).

As the Stewardship Committee concludes its work for the New Year just begun, we want to thank all who financially committed to Trinity’s mission by making pledges of any amount.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,

Barry Anderson

A few stewardship campaign statistics follow:

—Average operating budget pledge: \$3,757. Median operating budget pledge: \$2,100. (Based on 43 received pledges.)

—The reason the average pledge is much higher is the influence of the largest pledge amounts. The top 10 pledge amounts add up to about \$101,000, or about 63% of the \$159,000 total pledge amount.

—Of the 49 operating budget pledgers from last year, 34 made pledges for 2021 and we had 9 new pledges, for a total of 43. Of the 34, 22 increased, 7 stayed the same, and 5 decreased. The 9 new pledges total is about \$11,500.

Flower Committee Report

During Lent on March 15th, Trinity cancelled in church services due to Covid-19. The Flower Committee, Heather Chapman, Tom Schindler, Joanne Grafe, Marian Browning, Judith Sherman, Jackie Kuhn, myself and Heidi continued to make the church beautiful for the filming of Services in the Sanctuary. Flowers were either dropped at the church doors on the Thursday before filming and arranged by Heidi or brought in to be arranged by a committee member. Weekly the flowers were changed and replaced with new. During Lent and Advent the altar was adorned with greens and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, daffodils were placed. The flowers are offered up to God and are in the memory of a loved one. During Covid-19 instead of signing up in Walker hall, church members contacted Heidi who in turn updated the chart. Periodically the chart will continue to be on the website or Trinity Update online. The usual donation is \$50.00 with a note for the bookkeeper on the check.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Kenny, Flower Chair

Altar Guild Report

This year has been very different for the Altar Guild. With no in-person services for Easter and Christmas we didn't have the usual flurry of activity in getting ready for the major feast days. But the altar hangings were changed with the seasons, the elements were blessed and then properly disposed of every week for the Spiritual Communion service. And the brass was polished throughout the year at various times.

Supplies have been ordered as needed. And the parish acquired a set of oil candles to be used on the small altar at floor level that is filmed each week. Wax candles were a disaster during the heating season since the large furnace duct blew hot air on the candles making them drip like crazy on the fair linen.

Many thanks to our Altar Guild members Bev Becker, Mike Cuoco, and Janet Walker who faithfully served with me on the altar during the in-person services this year. They helped schlep things in and out for our summer outdoor Eucharists. And then switched gears and helped set up the church when we moved the services inside in the Fall. Our Altar Guild has a new member for 2021, Theresa Kenny. Thank you, Theresa, for joining the team.

Thank you to all the volunteers who are not on the Altar Guild but also carried chairs, tables and other needed items outside, back into the parish hall and into the church when the seasons changed.

We all miss seeing each other and look forward to the day in 2021 when we can be together in church. When we anticipate starting in-person services again we will begin to schedule Altar Guild members. An email will go out at that time to ask guild members their availability.

This is my 23rd year as head of the Altar Guild. I'm glad to be able to be a part of this sacred ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tweed

Adult Christian Formation Report

In 2020 you would think that we would have had to suspend all Bible Study and Adult Education and forums in March when the coronavirus made us cancel so many events. But, although we have had to move online, the discussions have continued successfully. More importantly, we have been able through zoom discussions to include people in other parts of our state and our country. Bible Study attendees are from Connecticut, New York, N. Carolina, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Bible Study has had an average of 8 attendees throughout the year. We have studied the Books of: Daniel, Romans, Esther, Ruth, First Samuel and Luke.

The Rev. Marilyn Anderson led us in several book and movie discussions this year. In January Marilyn started a group called "Good Books". This group was meant for all our NW Corner Episcopal parishes. We began by reading *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. We continued with *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. It was at that point that the in-person book group had to be suspended but we held our discussion of *Life of Pi* online.

Pastor Marilyn, together with the Rev. Emily Blair Stribling and Pastor Heidi held an online series of discussions on movies that would help us have a better understanding of what people of color in our country have been through and continue to experience. We watched and discussed *Becoming*, *Just Mercy* and *If Beale Street Could Talk*. These movies and our zoom meeting discussions were prompted by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. Parishes in the ECCT were invited to participate, and some did so.

Marilyn also led a book discussion online this Fall on the book *Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry. It was fun to be able to share a book discussion group with members of other parishes in the ECCT. That certainly has been one of the silver linings of our year of pandemic and zoom meetings. I hope that we'll be able to continue online book groups in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Sunday School/Youth Report

It seems like ancient history now, but 2020 began auspiciously for the young people! Susanna Schindler, Theresa Kenny, Adrienne Aakjar, and Garrett Richardson shared the teaching responsibilities for 2 1/2 months. But first, the young people put the Christmas Pageant costumes away!

From Susanna: Then, the children learned about Jesus' life from birth. They created a map with Garrett and then, with Susanna, made little figures out of clay to represent the holy family and people Jesus met during his life. Unfortunately, because of Covid and the closing of the church, the travels of Jesus had to end with the baptism of John the Baptist.

The young people continued their practice of outreach to support animal welfare. This year the children used most of the thank offering to "adopt" two koala bears who were in the hospital in Australia for severe burns

Chocolate Sunday was highlighted by the combination of unseasonably warm weather and the timely arrival of field hockey sticks, the gift of Pari Forood. Summer Sports, of course, were not to happen this year due to COVID.

As the parish began to adapt to the new normal, the older young people were scheduled for occasional reading assignments in church (pre-recorded via Zoom), which they handled with maturity and grace. We even had a Christmas Pageant on Advent IV! The Frost family and Pastor Heidi built a lovely musical tableau based on an *a capella* version of the first verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" which the three girls had practiced singing and harmonizing in the car – and amazingly it transitioned perfectly into the verses sung by the choir with organ accompaniment. The costume wardrobe dressed the girls appropriately and even yielded a large doll to serve as Baby Jesus!

As 2021 dawns full of hope, the three older girls will read twice each in church via Zoom during the 1st quarter. And Theresa has in the early planning stages a possible fun creative project for all age groups to be presented around Easter either in person via Zoom.

Safe Church: The Diocese has now created an online version of Safe Church training and it is hoped that with this flexibility and convenience more of the teachers will be able to be qualified in 2021. Of those who interact regularly with the young people, Judith Sherman (SCC), Arete Warren (SCC), Pari Forood (SCC), and the undersigned are currently Safe Church certified.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Brown

Outreach Ministry Report

This year we did Feed A Family of Four differently. People were asked to send donations to the Corner Food Pantry or to bring food there directly. You could also bring food for to the basket outside the church and Barry took it over.

The Thanksgiving Dinner was also done much differently this year as we were only allowed to do take out. With a staff of 12, we managed to feed over 125 people on Thursday. We had a parade of cars come into the parking lot and receive a bag of food per person which was handed to them by Pastor Heidi.

Three cars delivered 31 meals from Ashley Falls to Norfolk to Salisbury and of course Canaan. On Friday, 25 meals were delivered to Wangum Village in time for lunch. Thanks to Patrick Sullivan of the Lakeville Journal, he ran an article for two weeks and that brought in quite a few donations. After expenses we were able to donate to four food pantries: Fishes and Loaves in Canaan, Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, Norfolk Food Pantry, and the Cornwall Food Pantry. We also received donations of food, to-go containers, and condiments from United Methodist Church. Even in the pandemic we were very very blessed. Many thanks to the VFW Canaan for their support and the use of their tents because it was raining.

Food Basket - Every week on Friday Barry Anderson comes by Trinity to pick up the food that people have put into the basket outside the red doors of Walker Hall. 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.

Crop Hunger Walk - This year the Crop walk had to be completely online. There were some people who walked around their own neighborhoods and churches and schools who held walks with just their own groups. But it was very successful all the same. Trinity Church raised about \$2,500 this year and the total for the Walk was about \$30,000. We have been able to make significant donations to food banks this year because of everyone's generosity.

Beverly Becker, Chair

Pastoral Care Team Report

2020 was a difficult year to try to stay connected with our church family. Not only did we have to adjust to the absence of a physical presence at our worship services, and seeing each other every week, it was difficult to stay focused on the task of focusing on anything but Covid, covid, covid. This challenge was with us every moment of the day. We worried about catching it, our families catching it and also the new normal of living an even more isolated existence. We checked the news for daily updates, watched the metrics in our state and used Zoom.

So at the beginning of an awareness of life being very different, in March of last year, the nine members of the Parish Care team made the first of a round of calls to advise some members of service cancellations and our switch to livestreaming of services. The call list was broadened and ten days later, a second round of calls were made by the team to about 36 members to check on wellbeing, and remind them to view the Trinity Update for a status of the happenings.

About a month later, a third round of calls was made for wellbeing follow ups. By the time we reached October, Covid fatigue really set in and we reached a lull in using the call list. Things were still not looking better and a plan was devised to restructure the care team so that the Parish would use one-on-one phone buddy teams -- "each one reach one." The idea was that this would share call work across the whole parish and provide a more cohesive effort. The goal was for members to self-select a buddy and arrange to call each other.

This process was launched by Advent, where Linda Lloyd, our Senior Warden, took up managing the buddy system. Thanks be to God we are still here and worshipping with each other.

Many thanks to the Care Team: John Oler, Mary Sullivan, Barry Anderson, Danielle Gaherty, Rachel Lamb, Celia Kirby, Esperanza Nunez, Rev. Heidi., Linda Lloyd.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Taylor

Parish Care Team

Buildings and Grounds Report

Buildings & Grounds 2020

Our year once again was relatively uneventful, with the main project being the restoration of the stained glass windows.

We did have several minor heating issues but for the most part nothing of any consequence.

An anonymous donor funded the installation of Wi-Fi throughout the church. Whoever you are, thank you!

2021 will be a bit busier once the COVID-19 pandemic is successfully addressed. There are more than several projects that were placed on hold due to social distancing and the lack of available help from our friends at Trinity Glen.

- The north and east sides of the addition facing the parking lot are in need of scraping & re-painting.
- Several of the foundation stones on the east side of church need to be re-cemented (is that a word?)
- The basement window wells on the east side need to have more permanent covers installed
- The outside basement stair room on the rectory side has rotted siding that needs attention
- The gutters above the kitchen are in need of either replacement or re-hanging
- Lumber has been purchased for the rebuilding of the quad bench/tables. A work party will need to paint and assemble these before summer.
- Last but not least, I would like to get a LARGE work party assembled to do clean-up work on the exterior of our beautiful property. I missed the opportunity to do this in the fall and would like to get it completed before the growing season starts.

Gordon Gustafson, Chair

Ministry of Humor

The Ministry of Humor took a few steps back this past year. It was hard to find anything humorous about the pandemic or the political shenanigans in Washington. In retrospect, however, the blame must be placed squarely on the shoulders of yours truly, who has encountered some fairly serious health issues.

I have taken comfort, however, in the company of a stuffed bear named Gladly, which I inherited from my mother. You may know him better as Gladly the cross-eyed bear.

Jeremy Dakin

Art Shows

There were no art shows this year. I hope for a better 2021 with the resuming of art shows.

Mary Anne Carley

Music Report

Music Report for Trinity Church Lime Rock for 2020

The year of the pandemic has been both a challenge and a blessing for our music at Trinity. Early on it became clear that singing is one of the very dangerous activities, as it amplifies the spread of aerosols that might carry the virus. The time we spend rehearsing indoors (a minimum of three weekly hours, and mostly many more) is (and still will be for a long time) a great safety issue. So I decided to start a virtual choir to be able to have choral music for the Easter service, which was the second week in April, after holding a few filmed services in March with just me on the organ and singing, and the few people, who by then still were in attendance. Building a virtual choir was a challenging undertaking. All of us, including myself, had to learn the computer programs to record, go through difficult technical set up, and also purchase microphones and other equipment. Copyright and reporting issues have become a necessity, as the music is streamed online. It has been a steep learning curve for all. I have taken on all post production sound editing as well. Our weekly rehearsals have been held on Zoom. The virtual choir projects have taken place weekly since the Easter service, with exception of my three vacation weeks in November. Six of our own

Trinity singers take part regularly, and we have had also as guests a group of up to 12 Crescendo singers – several of which take part on a regular basis. Among them have been none professional section leaders and soloists. Four Crescendo section leaders sing regularly – and have been doing so for free since the pandemic started. We are very grateful for their service: Jennifer Tyo, Sarah Bleasdale, Ron M’Sadoques and Jim Barrett. Some of our singers attend regularly from further away: Stamford, Winsted and Hartford in CT, New Marlboro in MA, Tucson, AZ and even Santiago, Chile. Singers of Crescendo Vocal ensemble have recorded weekly a Renaissance motet (up to 12-voice parts) for our prelude, and occasionally also a Baroque chorus. Almost weekly, all singers record an anthem. We have hired soloists and tutti singers, as well as instrumentalists, and given the remote work, we have been able to do that more frequently than in a normal year. Instrumentalists have been period players from Crescendo’s Orchestra Chris Belluscio (trumpet), Job Salazar (violin), Tricia van Oers (recorder), Rodrigo Tarraza (traverso) and Hideki Yamaya (theorbo). Among the soloists have been sopranos Jennifer Tyo and Jordan Rose Lee, alto Sarah Bleasdale, tenors Pablo Bustos and Ron M’Sadoques, and baritones Jermaine Woodard Jr. and Jim Barrett. We had a wonderful contribution of the three Frost kids singing a capella in December.

- While Renaissance and Baroque music, and traditional hymns lend itself for our services, and is also the style that we perform mostly with Crescendo, this year we also sang some more spirituals, in a conscious effort to embrace more diversity. Crescendo’s virtual fall program “The Christmas Story in Three Cultures” embraced the concept of cultural diversity, including Latin American and Hispanic works, and also a large motet by an African American/Canadian composer. This program was presented as prelude at our Christmas Eve service.
- Early on in the pandemic, I offered daily organ improvisations on hymn tunes, playing Trinity’s Rodgers organ. 63 consecutive sessions were live streamed on Facebook between late March and early May.
- This summer we performed also a newly written work by a local composer, dedicated to the health care workers during the pandemic. And the penny whistle, played by Jim Barrett, made its debut at Trinity as well!
- Over this period I wrote more than twenty descants for hymn tunes, some new hymn harmonizations, and an arrangement of the Sanctus (Holy) for our own choir.
- Outreach: We were able to pass on our experience with producing virtual choir projects in two instances: to our neighbors the Salisbury, Congregational Church, and to a group of Chilean choral directors, who received free online instruction about this process by me as a means to support congregational music making in these difficult times.

We miss our singers, who are not able to join us in the virtual chorus recordings, and in the weekly online rehearsals. We mourn the loss of the connection and community

that we experienced so deeply through rehearsing and singing together regularly. We miss joining our voices with the congregation, and we hope that everyone is able to sing along with us in their homes. And we are enormously grateful for still being able to make music, and for new possibilities that have opened up with virtual music making. Among them the opportunity to collaborate regularly and extensively with so many musicians. The future of choral singing is still unclear, but it is expected that it will likely become a hybrid affair, including some of the remote/online rehearsing and recording process even beyond the duration of the pandemic. We hope to find our way with this that will serve the needs of Trinity church as best as possible.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Gevert, January 2021

Latino Ministries Report

THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF HISPANIC MINISTRY AT TRINITY LIME ROCK

VECINOS SEGUROS

The Gift Card Program

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Vecinos Seguros* (VS) went into action to meet some of the food needs of the local/regional Hispanic community. Food insecurity is common.

There being no government safety nets for the undocumented in particular, I began to raise funds for Gift Food cards purchased at FreshTown Market in Amenia. On April 6th, working collaboratively with Esperanza Nuñez, we handed out about \$1500 worth of gift cards. At the most recent distribution, we served 54 clients, helping put food on the table for 250+ women, men and children. For most of the year, we gave a fresh cut flower to every client. We do not “live by bread alone”.

Over the course of the last nine months, 75 donors have contributed a total of \$86,466.00 for the purchase of gift cards. Currently, we are distributing \$8-9000.00 worth of cards a month.

The VS email group includes more than 200 subscribers. I send out updates regarding needs as well as progress reports. The emails to this loyal and generous group are the primary means of soliciting of funds. The donors are from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Texas!

Special thanks to the Trinity Lime Rock Church donors!

We also received a \$5000.00 grant from the “Rapid Response Fund” of The Episcopal Church.

VS is ecumenically engaged with The Millerton Presbyterian Church and the Salisbury Congregational Church. I also have close relations with Hotchkiss School. I gave a Zoom presentation for students about the work of VS. Student groups have contributed food, clothing and money earned through bake sales. Currently, I am making plans with a student group, “De Colores”, to offer online ESL and tutoring.

On a number of occasions, I have found rent money for folks in a financial crisis. As I write this, I am trying to assist two families with rent.

In September, I had the honor of representing you as the keynoter at the Convocation of the NW Region of the Diocese.

Computer Project

Working with Paul DePaolo and Kiana Low (a recent NYC high school alumna now attending Wesleyan College), VS has been able to deliver computers at a nominal cost to 15 families. These families are part of the clientele who come for gift cards. Kiana set up a GoFundMe account that has raised about \$2500.00 for this cause.

THE *MISA*

We had three regular *Misa* services in the first quarter of last year. Christine Gevert led us with beautiful music.

Then came the pandemic!

Except for one service on All Saints Day, there were no more regular monthly Spanish language services in 2020.

However, there were five baptisms in the fall held at several sites in New York. These were the natural extension of relationships established through the gift card program.

ZOOM-World

Starting in April, I took blind leap into the world of Zoom. The learning curve has been steep☺ However, with Zoom I have been able to hold some Bible studies and prayer gatherings. Marilyn Anderson provided training for a volunteer and me on how to co-host a Zoom meeting. I hope to have more meetings now that there is a small group of families equipped with computers.

Social Networking

I formed a WhatsApp group, an online community, which now has about 80 people on the rolls. I send out prayers, educational opportunities, programs for children and reminders about gift card distribution days. From time to time, other member-users put up prayers or icons.

Hispanic Ministry Network

I am a member of the Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Network (HMN). We have monthly Zoom meetings. Through this network and on behalf of Trinity Lime Rock Church and its Hispanic Mission, I applied for a block grant to support the *Misa*. Our application was approved, and, for the third year in a row, our ministry was affirmed. I am thankful for the support of the members of the HMN and the Diocese.

None of this would be happening without Heidi!

I am very grateful for the magnanimous support of Trinity Lime Rock Church, its Vestry and the Rector. I am also thankful for my partner in ministry, Esperanza Nuñez.

Being Hispanic Missioner on behalf of Trinity Lime Rock Church is a deeply gratifying privilege

Thank you!

The Rev. John Carter, Missioner

Stained-Glass Restoration Project

I hope you all have seen the restored altar windows. Each window is like a precious jewel.

Basically, we accomplished both Phase 1 and Phase 1B of the Stained-Glass Rescue project over the last year and a half!!! We couldn't have done it without all your help. Total expenditure was about \$140,000 dollars. Of that \$50,000 came from a generous Gerry Charitable Fund Grant and \$25,000 came from a challenge grant. Many thanks to all donors.

I would also like to thank the industrious Gerry Charitable Trust Grant Proposal Team: M.E. Freeman (Chair par excellence), Heidi Truax, John Oler, Geoff Brown, Linda Lloyd and Tom Ragan. It was a very professional and thorough proposal. We are lucky to have such talented people in our congregation.

To date, we still have about \$22,000 in the Stained-Glass Rescue Fund. The Stained-Glass planning team will meet in the soon to make plans for repairing and restoring the rest of the windows.

Nothing will be done without the seal of approval from the vestry and input from the congregation. We have received updated bids from Stained Glass Resources for the next 2 phases. The bid for the round window at the back of the church (which is baked by the sun in the summer) includes a frame bid. I asked for this because cracks in the frame are evident to the naked eye.

We have already been promised future donations which may get us to the approximately \$50,000 needed to complete Phase 2.

Feel free to email susannaschindler@gmail.com for further input.

AND THANK YOU!

Susanna Schindler, Chair

Society for Advanced Theological Discussion/ Car Repair Report

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL MEN'S SOCIETY

FOR DISCOURSE ON ADVANCED THEOLOGY &

LESS ADVANCED AUTO MAINTENANCE

(SOMETIMES CALLED THE MEN'S GROUP

What with the pandemic, one would expect that a society dedicated to periodic dinners out at local restaurants would have had to close down for the year, but the Men's Group managed to survive the year.

While Connecticut and New York restaurants remained closed throughout the year, Massachusetts opened its restaurants to indoor dining in July, and our society conducted a number of dinners at Baba Louie's and GB Eats in Great Barrington. Unfortunately, these dinners were not well attended, the probable reason being that your chairman did not send out invitations, because of the widespread belief that restaurants are not safe places to visit during a pandemic. (Under MA law, one must wear a mask entering and leaving the restaurant but may remove it while eating – to avoid choking to death.)

I must admit that eating alone was not very exciting, and I would hope soon to return to our former practice of better populated dinners.

Anyone wanting to join me in Great Barrington, please advise.

With best regards for the New Year, I remain, lamentably,

Your chairman

Keith Nolan

Video Production Report

Video Production Report for Trinity Church Lime Rock for 2020

Since mid March 2020 our main services have been streamed online. After three services with a very small group of people, and no congregation present, it became clear that this was not a safe way of proceeding anymore. To be able to include our choir, and have music with good sound quality, a pre-recorded video seemed a much better alternative than the format of a Sunday service on Zoom. It fell upon me to produce the video, not because I am an expert or professional in the field, but simply because there was no other staff member or volunteer able to do this, and like most everyone else, there was not enough money to hire a professional service. With this being the context, I can try to briefly explain, how our videos are produced – and I include my apologies for my shortcomings, as I really am an amateur, and had only once before produced a (very short) video.

The video has been the vehicle for our main weekly 10:30 AM Sunday service, streamed live on Facebook April to October) and since November as live premiere on Trinity's YouTube channel. One main focus of the video has been to connect our congregation with the church, and find a way to experience moments of contemplation, spiritual exploration and faith together on the computer screen "at Trinity in Lime Rock." The components of the video are: Pastor Heidi's service parts, which include her sermon, filmed in the church, the readings by parishioners recorded on Zoom in each person's home, the music, mostly virtual choir segments remotely recorded and digitally assembled, images and graphics. Pastor Heidi and I collaborate in the

production of this video. She not only films herself, but also since May schedules and records the parishioner's readings, and also designs some of the announcement graphics/slides. On my part the video production includes the graphics for all music related parts of the service, and between segments (announcing readings and prayers), captions of texts spoken by the congregation at home, and taking and assembling photos of the church and surroundings to be shown during the prelude and postlude. The video editing process is done in Adobe Premiere Rush, and finally the finished video is uploaded to the social media outlet (YouTube lately). It is a very labor-intensive process for all involved. Heidi and I have spent many hours learning what to do, and how to do it. None of us has had or gotten any formal training in this field. I am grateful for the many tutorials accessible for free on the internet, that teach us about video editing and social media 'premieres'. We have been able to use my filming lights that are normally used in Crescendo's concerts for the parts filmed in the church.

The participation of our readers, guest preachers and worship leaders in the videos has been a vital element of this online 'production'. On a couple of occasions, parishioners sent in great photographs about specific subjects like "Where do I find God," "Your Family's Creche," and artwork by Mary Anne Carley and Randy Orzano, and a costumed tableau of the Christmas scene by the Frost family. The flowers and altar hangings have been equally wonderful, and adapted to the new needs of the filmed service. These visual elements have enriched the videos, and made them more our own. But mostly I marvel at Pastor Heidi's ability to speak to the camera, position herself in a great frame, her ability to hold still in the moments that we need to cut a part into the video, how she remembers to speak the congregation's parts, and most importantly her charisma of addressing an empty church, imagining her congregation. Without her, the whole video production would just be an empty exercise. Lastly, Kean's (Pastor Heidi's photogenic and lovely dog) contribute greatly to the joy and uniqueness of Trinity's services – after all he is representing all of us as live 'audience' in the church for the time being!

Respectfully submitted by Christine Gevert, January 2021

Verger's Report

2020 Report of the Verger

Trinity has had a verger for seven and a half years now. The job remains mostly administrative, and with online worship has shifted further in that direction.

Our young people are the future of Trinity, and their presence greatly enhances our worship. We unfortunately experienced a decrease (down 20% year over year) in attendance by young people during early 2020 (pre-COVID-19).

2016 (partial year): 4.67
2017: 4.81
2018: 4.91
2019: 4.79
2020 (partial year): 3.80

COVID-19 has as disrupted the process of developing our older young people in liturgical practice (acolyting, ushering, reading) and recovering from this setback will be a priority once we are back in the church. During 1Q2021 our older young people will read twice each as a means of encouraging their continued engagement.

The willingness of parishioners to participate as readers and counters during the COVID-19 period has been very encouraging. We have seven counters scheduled to serve in the first quarter of 2021, and 26 (including our young people) who will read.

During the year, we sadly lost Allen Berrien, Head Usher (and general last-minute problem solver). We miss him!

In conclusion, thanks to all the staff and the volunteers of this parish. You make my burden light.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Brown, Verger

Communications Report

COVID-19 had a significant impact upon parish communications in 2020. Due to the resourcefulness, creativity, and initiative of Christine Gevert (who is now also the parish videographer – see her video report) and Pastor Heidi, we have done well. When, as was frequently the case beginning in March, we were at a loss how to proceed, these two improvised solutions that not-infrequently became de facto standards.

At year-end 2020:

Rector's Letter: This document is now distributed primarily via the Trinity Update (when space permits) or the website (when space in the Trinity Update is insufficient). A few paper copies are available at the church or for distribution by the Rector.

Print Advertising: The *Lakeville Journal* continues to serve as the principal print advertising vehicle for the parish.

Trinity Update: We now produce 2 issues per week, the usual one on Wednesday, and a "Sunday Supplement" early Sunday morning with access information for online worship and the coffee hour. At year-end, our per issue circulation was 322, flat to the previous year. When we return to regular weekly in-person worship perhaps we can return to a single issue per week.

Facebook pages (and group): Facebook now identifies both "likes" and "followers" for pages, which makes year to year comparisons difficult. At present our Sports page (116 likes) and Gallery page (302 likes) are inactive due to COVID-19. Our main page, which continues in heavy use during COVID, has 344 likes (up from 259 = 33%) and 399 followers. Early in the COVID period the Facebook page was our principal vehicle for videos.

YouTube channel: As we gained experience with video, both streamed and uploaded, it became clear that YouTube was more appropriate for our needs than Facebook. Thus, in the 4th quarter Christine migrated our weekly video production to YouTube. The most popular services in 2020 on YouTube were All Saints, with 175 views to date; Advent 2, with 125 views; and Christmas Eve, with 106. We have only 62 subscribers, however. We need more, as YouTube weights subscriber count heavily in determining how frequently videos are shown to outside viewers.

Twitter presence: Twitter subscribers are down slightly from last year with 509 followers (down from 526). Our Twitter feed continues to appear on the parish website, and our Trinity Updates are automatically posted on our Twitter feed.

Instagram account: Rapid growth of our popularity on this platform continued, although we post only occasionally to it. Our current follower count is 1410 (up 47% from 959 last year). We continue to seek ways to build on this strength.

Website: We are now utilizing the website to present the week's principal worship service via a window to the YouTube feed. This is convenient as it gives us a way to present both the bulletin and Pastor Heidi's sermon – and a link to the “donate” page – in a convenient location for visitors.

Zoom: New this year is the conferencing utility called Zoom. It is used for Vestry meetings, Sunday coffee hours, weekly Bible study classes, and to record the readers for the weekly worship services. It will serve as the platform where we will have our annual meeting. In other words, it has become central to our parish operations during COVID-19.

The Future:

If we can make a request, it would be for everyone to subscribe to the YouTube channel in the next few months.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown, webmaster

Diocesan Convention Report

Beverly Becker and Jacqueline Kuhn, Delegates to Convention, and the Rev. Heidi Truax attended this Zoom Convention for Trinity.

Bev reported that the focus was much like Bishop Laura's sermon, in that we need to find new ways to transition into this new normal, called the economic instability, Bishop Ian's words were “God's future is now.” He added that we are prepared to handle covid-19 and racism because we have been preparing for this for a few years and God has brought us and prepared us for this.

One of the things that everybody elaborated on is that Covid is a bad thing but it broadened our horizons. There were three days of World Cafe. The first night was economics: the real rich and

the real poor, how to come together in the middle. The second night was what did we go through in the pandemic that we were willing to keep or what have we forgotten to take care of. Friday night's was on racism.

Pastor Heidi noted that the convention was Wednesday through today/Sunday and the first three days were large Zoom meetings 270-290 people. Then we went into smaller breakout rooms. Jackie participated Friday night, Heidi and Bev Wednesday and Thursday. Saturday was a Zoom webinar that added complications.

The resolutions basically centered around understanding our situation in our life with Covid, a new understanding of how we have many more Priests in charge than Rectors these days. And we have many more who have 1/2 time, 3/4 time or 1/4 time Priests than we do full-time now. So things are changing! There is a document that they want us to all read called **Transition Is The New Normal**. Pastor Heidi had not suggested it to the parish to read because she doesn't want us to think that we are going into transition or that she was leaving because she isn't going anywhere. 8 resolutions were passed including the budget of the diocese and clergy compensation Increase of 1.8%, merger of two parishes, having more literature in Spanish, and broadening the categories for discrimination or non-discrimination.

Beverly Becker, Delegate to Convention