

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Trinity Episcopal Church
AGENDA- Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, November 12, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

- **Holy Eucharist- at which time the Priest in Charge's report in lieu sermon**
- **Process to the Parish Hall**
- **Review of Diocesan Norms**
- **Discussion on size of the Vestry and Vestry elections**
- **Dinner is served**
- **Treasurer's Report – Church Financials**
- **Chair of the Finance Committee Report**
- **Junior Warden's Report**
- **Senior Warden's Report**
- **Questions**
- **Rector's comments**
- **Closing prayer**
- **Meeting adjourned until January 7th, 10:00 AM in the parish hall for the election of additional vestry members.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT STAFF AND COMMITTEE HEAD REPORTS ARE IN THE PRINTED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT. PLEASE CONTACT THEM WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

How We Live and Work Together in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

As Episcopalians in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, we believe our life together must be shaped by and reflect the values revealed in our baptismal promises:

- • to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ;
- • to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and
- • to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

Our baptismal values provide the foundation for norms that govern the ways we will strive to live and work together as Christians. Our goal is to live out these principles in our work together in the Diocese, making them a pattern of living in prayer, word, and action, with individuals being consistently invited and challenged to live into the larger vision of our Diocese rooted in the Baptismal Covenant.

We will:

Listen attentively - Honor the ideas and concerns of others by listening with care.

Practice courtesy -Observe relaxed courtesy in every gathering.

Respect all opinions -Respectfully include all opinions, even when there is disagreement.

Speak for self only -Listen and speak from an “I” position (but do not speak for anyone else).

Model transparency - Act with honesty, openness, directness

Honor confidentiality- Respect private or personal confidences when appropriate.

Share decision-making- Share the power by including all persons affected by the process of decision-making.

Refrain from judgments - Resist speculation or censure about the motives or spiritual maturity of others.

Communicate consistently -Make careful, consistent communication a priority.

Challenge in love -Challenge the times when we are not living up to our norms, speaking the truth in love.

Admit responsibility -Be publicly accountable for errors, seeking to learn from mistakes.

Forgive generously -Forbear and forgive each other's failings, with God's help.

Be open to the new -Be receptive to exploring new ideas and possibilities.

IN GATHERINGS

Our interactions occur in various settings: with another individual, in committee meetings, in vestry meetings, in commissions and convocations, and in Diocesan-level Councils.

Individual Relationships

In individual relationships you can contribute to responsible and assertive problem solving by:

- • Discussing what is bothering you only with those who can do something about it.
- • Permitting someone to complain to you only when you can do something about it.
- • Not permitting complaints when we can do nothing to change the situation.
- • Asking others "how might we help you think of ways to do something about your concern?"
- • and/or "What do you propose to do about this matter?"

Group Meetings

Effective outcomes and uses of our time in determining appropriate courses of action are promoted when we:

- • Develop and distribute an agenda/time table in advance.
- • Start and end on time
- • Come prepared
- • Attend regularly
- • Notify the chair when unable to attend
- • Participate actively without monopolizing discussion time
- • Work together to agree on actions
- • Identify person(s) responsible, goal(s), and completion dates for every proposed action
- • Distribute minutes and to-do lists in a timely fashion.

Created by the Transition Team, adopted by the Standing Committee and Executive Board, Diocese of Southern Virginia, June, 2006

Interim Priest Report- Annual Parish Meeting, November 12, 2018

The parish leadership at Trinity Church, the Bishop of Southern Virginia, and I came to an agreement describing my role here before I began. I was called to lead as pastor, priest, to proclaim the gospel, and to work within the traditions and structures of the Episcopal Church.

Beyond these typical duties, the Vestry and I are to work as follows:

1. Remember the story of this congregation and its relationship with previous leaders, clergy and the diocese.
2. Work to bring a spirit of openness and trust to this relationship.
3. Work together to discern God's dream for this parish.
4. Celebrate God's call to new parish leaders.
5. Develop relationships with other Episcopal churches in the area, and with churches of other denominations and with the community to enhance parish life and mission and strengthen the current relationship with the diocese.
6. Build commitment to our hope which is in God in order to be empowered by God to move into the future with openness to new possibilities.

In the same vein, as this parish moves forward, the vestry has defined your work, that is the work of the parish, for the coming year.

The Road Ahead- 2018

"During this interim time our task is to prepare ourselves to welcome our new rector with open arms. This includes deepening our spiritual lives, clarifying our mission, and strengthening our financial position for ministry."

Last month the vestry led four well-attended gatherings to talk about this Road Ahead for Trinity in 2018. Our thanks are given to those who hosted and led the discussions. We primarily talked about where that path has taken us in the last year in our efforts "to prepare ourselves to welcome our new rector with open arms. This includes "deepening our spirit life, clarifying our mission, and strengthening our financial position for ministry."

We also discussed what these efforts might be in the year ahead. What follows are my observations on these efforts based upon my experience here, what I heard and read about the gatherings, and my own hopes for you as the people of God at Trinity.

"During this interim time our task is to prepare ourselves to welcome our new rector with open arms."

This is essential work. It includes those three areas of spiritual formation, mission, and stewardship. It also has to do with *esprit de corps*. Trinity has had a tough go of it the last decade or so. No clearer measure of that has been the rotation of clergy you have known. Some have made mistakes. At other times, the parish has erred. Circumstances in downtown Portsmouth and in congregations of all denominations and settings throughout the country have shifted dramatically. All these changes can be hard on the psyche. I applaud and thank all of you who have remained faithful and active in the life of the parish. I dare not thank anyone by name from fear of forgetting anyone of you. I dare not take the time to recite all your names, but you all deserve some thanks one way or another.

Attendance at worship is down since the departure of the Rev. Charles Smith, but a good and holy Spirit seems to be alive and well. Many of your programs continue to hum along. Outreach and Mission, the Backpack Ministry, the Episcopal Church Women, the Men's Brotherhood, the music and children's ministries, the Christmas Shop, the Fall Fest, the Film Series, and those serving in worship services to name a few. The ongoing hospitality here includes welcoming newcomers, coffee hours, and receptions for funerals and other special events. It is central to who you are. We have had some fun, experimental events such as a 40's dance, a visit and confirmation service with the Rt. Rev. Fanuel Magangani from the Diocese of Northern Malawi, and choral groups including the Youth Choir from the Cathedral in Port Au Prince, Haiti. But not all of the programmatic ministries are up and running. A big part of your job now is to persevere in the faith, not only for your own soul's health, but also to have the pieces in place to build upon in the future. Keep on keeping on, but be warned. More tasks lie ahead, just on the horizon.

“This includes deepening our spiritual lives...”

Do you believe in God? Actually, that is not the real question. The real question is: “What sort of God do you believe in?” What does this Jesus of Nazareth have to do with you? Who is this God that you worship? Is God for us or not? How might the Spirit of all creation dwell in your heart. Coming to corporate worship once a week for Word and Sacrament, song and fellowship is wonderful. But it is designed to be the community’s corporate celebration amidst our daily lives of petition and praise, petition and praise. Everyone needs a spiritual practice, a Rule of Life it has been called. It was gratifying to see how many of you helped while attending the Lenten series Julia Dorsey Loomis and I had put together. The same goes for Linda Torres, the parish administrator’s, sessions on “The Joy of Painting.” It would be even more gratifying to know more people were involved in Julia Dorsey’s early morning yoga classes, Vivian Boothe Pharr’s Bible Study, or classes I have offered. Going deeper can take many forms. It requires motivation, persistence, and faithfulness. Opportunities are here. Jacky Rodes, the Director of Christian Formation, and Jack Levick, Organist and Choirmaster are both great resources whose programs are underutilized. I commend them to you. The hope is that our life in the Spirit will lift up our hearts. Our main task, our real task, is to come to grips with who this loving God is to us. With that in mind, we ask, openly and eagerly, “So what are we to do? Who are we to be?”

“This includes... clarifying our mission...”

This parish has a need for clarity. If this God be the God of all gods, the questions then are “Who are we to be?” and “What are we to do?” “What is our mission?” Those are issues for you to describe in one simple sentence. What is our holy calling in this place? Can you as a congregation do so and agree on? In this coming year, the vestry is to gathering input from the entire congregation, and from that to define the parish’s mission. Then in the not too distant future they will form a search committee or the vestry will serve in that capacity. That group will work with the Diocese of Southern Virginia to conduct a search. I don’t know what else the diocese will require from the parish, but I do know that only until you are further down that road toward a united clarification will a search begin. You call a new rector who will work with you to pursue God’s mission for you. The mistake would be to hire a clergyperson who will dictate to you what you are going to do. A bigger mistake would be for you to dictate to them what they are

going to do. You hold that sacred trust together. The Good Book says that "without a vision the people perish."

"This includes... strengthening our financial position for ministry."

Money is a problem. Some folks in this parish think we don't have enough money. Others feel we have too much. Even more would say we don't spend the money properly. I have never seen a parish spend as much time and energy on money. Until you break the pattern of confusing faithful stewardship with financial diligence you will be stuck. You cannot expect any rector to fix it. Until you address that issue you shouldn't be asking a new rector to address it with you.

This does not mean that money is a bad thing and that you should be blissfully ignorant about financial issues. This parish has over \$5,000,000.00 in endowments and reserved funds. Also, these beautiful buildings are in a unique location and debt free. That is a lot of treasures on earth. They are a huge blessing. Perhaps that is an even larger responsibility. If we have an average Sunday attendance of 75 people, that would come out to over \$66,000 per active communicant. Actually, this is about enough money to maintain this setting. So, we might say the building and the funds to maintain it are our gift. The ministry of this parish can be sustained in the long run only by your own giving. Presently 31 pledges have been received for a total of \$69,000 for 2018. The very ambitious goal advised by the Finance Committee is \$130,000 This is an increase of 17% percent from last year, and includes an \$18,000 draw from non-renewable reserves. Being good stewards of what the Good Lord has is a life-long, all-encompassing task. Money is one part of it. It need not be a problem. It could be a gift. But like all good gifts to really own it you must share it generously and gracefully.

You have a golden opportunity here on the corner of High and Court Street. This a faithful, diverse, talented community that has been given this time and in this place to be the Church, the Body of Christ. God is faithful and good, and has given us an example of the use of those good gifts in Christ our Lord. We are invited to follow in those footsteps for the ministry we share in this place.

This is an exciting time here. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

Warden's Letter

November 2017

I will be leaving the vestry in December 2017. I want to thank you for your support during my tenure as Senior Warden at Trinity Episcopal Church. We are entering the season of giving thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our blessings, these past three years, have included renovations to our sanctuary, Parrish hall, the bell tower and the brick wall on the west side of the church property. We raised money to redecorate the "Tween" room upstairs for our young people of the church and installed a new fire escape outside the room to ensure their safety. Our special music programs were funded through your kindness and support with the establishment of the Saint Cecelia Guild. We lost a rector and we gained a priest-in charge in January 2017. Now as I end my tenure, I want to encourage you to support our new rector and vestry as the church moves forward and plans for the "road ahead."

With a grateful Heart,

I am,

Randolph Boothe-Pharr

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNIOR WARDNS REPORT

The Junior Warden is traditionally responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the property. The limited funds available for maintenance have resulted in minimal maintenance work. I also serve as the managing partner for the Trinity LLC.

- The LLC transferred excess funds to the Vestry to invest in the Endowment.
- The fire escape stairs from the second floor were replaced utilizing funds from the church renovation monies provided by the Endowment.
- The leaks around the south Parish House chimney were repaired. The water damage to the choir room ceiling remain to be repaired if/when funds are available.
- One of the two trees lost during the hurricane was replaced by donation.
- The Sexton replaces the air conditioning filters instead of using a contractor.
- The Health Department found contamination in the ice machine. A contract to clean and service the ice machine has been established.
- The Sexton discovered a leak in the Parish House roof at one of the "eye brow" vents. Repairs were made before any damage could occur to the second floor ceilings.
- A condensate line in the first floor storage room was broken when moving tables. The line was rerouted to make it harder to damage.
- A high water cut off was installed on the HVAC units over the parish hall and kitchen to prevent a plugged condensate drain from damaging the ceilings.
- Thanks to the Administrator's investigation, the internet was upgraded to prevent static in the phone system.
- The Fire Marshall noted a number of violations during his annual inspection. The kitchen hood was noted as not being in compliance with the current code for a commercial kitchen (no fire suppression system). I pointed out that the hood was original to the building and not required to meet the current code. Other violations were addressed and he made the hood a recommendation, not a violation.
- Dave Ballinger and I worked together to improve the church sound system. The equipment was funded by donations.
- We worked with the Portsmouth Police Department to prevent the homeless from sleeping in the church yard and using the yard as a bathroom and trash dump. This has been marginally successful.
- The window spot lights at the west end of the building were damaged by vandals. I am working with our electrical contractor to identify and install LED replacements. I also plan to replace the poor performing/inoperative spotlights on the south side.
- I continue to replace lamps with LED's to reduce energy costs and the labor costs to replace bulbs.
- The attics in the church are being inspected for the first time in over a year.
- The condenser for the church air conditioner was cleaned.

In addition to the normal maintenance requirements, the following are future challenges of a 55 year old building that has had limited maintenance for a number of years:

- Stucco on the parish house and colonnade is cracked and has a number of holes. Repair, seal and paint to prevent rain from damaging interior of rooms. Repoint and seal brick on the west wall.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2017 ANNUAL MEETING
JUNIOR WARDNS REPORT

- Scrap, repaint, calk and reglaze parish house windows. Failure to perform this work soon will result in the wood windows rotting.
- The parish house heating and air conditioning units were installed in 2001. The expected useful life of this type of equipment is 20 years. Installation was governed by cost and resulted in poor control of temperature. Installation will be complicated due to remaining asbestos ceilings in the common room and first floor hall.
- The age of the parish house security and fire detection/alarm system is unknown. Limited documentation is available. The authorities and our insurance company require that the systems operate. Replacement will be complicated due to remaining asbestos ceilings in the common room and first floor hall.
- Replace the colonnade flat roof. Repair/replace rotten decking and structure.
- The tile used in the colonnade is slippery and dangerous when wet. Many tile are loose and need to be repaired. Proper repair should include regarding the yard to insure proper drainage.
- Repair/replace tombstones, wrought iron fencing and wrought iron gates.
- Replace obsolete two wire electrical wiring.
- Replace two exterior doors.
- Replace rusting metal fire escape at south end of the building with galvanized steel.

Trinity Episcopal Church Finance Committee

Annual Report - 2017

The Trinity Episcopal Church Finance Committee has been very busy during 2017. In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, we also held several special meetings to address other important financial issues.

Finance Committee members include The Reverend Robert Davenport, Irv Lindley - Chairman, Larry Outten – Interim Treasurer, Randolph Boothe-Pharr - Sr. Warden, Joe Saveika - Jr. Warden, Richard Gill - Pledge Master, and parishioners Gracie Peacock, Patricia Roulhac, and Jim Nicholson.

Many churches have challenges with money. It is a continuing burden for church leaders in the light of increasing costs and failure of many believers to honor God in financial stewardship. What can Trinity Church do to meet financial challenges in the future?

1. Establish a budget and live within it!
 - a. Do some good-faith estimating prior to the start of the fiscal year on how to fund the various ministries of the church.
2. Communicate about church finances
 - a. Keep the congregation apprised of the church's financial situation. (Too little talk about money can be a bigger problem than too much time talking about money)
3. Demonstrate accountability
 - a. Integrity in this area is absolutely critical and every church needs to regularly examine practices of handling money.

Our theme for 2018 will be a "BACK TO BASICS" approach. I would like to take a few minutes to cover with you a newly designed Trinity Episcopal Church Financial Snapshot as of the end of October 2017. A copy is attached. This one page document covers information on Net worth - Assets, Operating Revenue and Expenses, and is intended to help you better understand Trinity's current financial position. This report will be updated monthly and provided to parishioners.

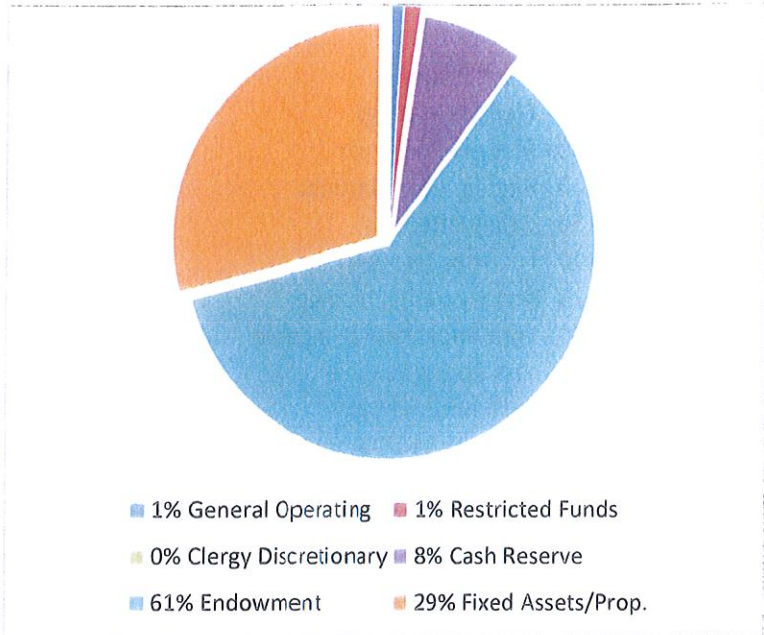
As a reminder, the results of our meetings are covered in the monthly Finance Committee minutes and are available for all parishioners to read. Our meetings always open and close with prayer and we are ever mindful that we should be good stewards of all that God has given to us.

Irv Lindley,
Trinity Finance Committee Chair

Trinity Episcopal Church Financial Snapshot YTD 2017

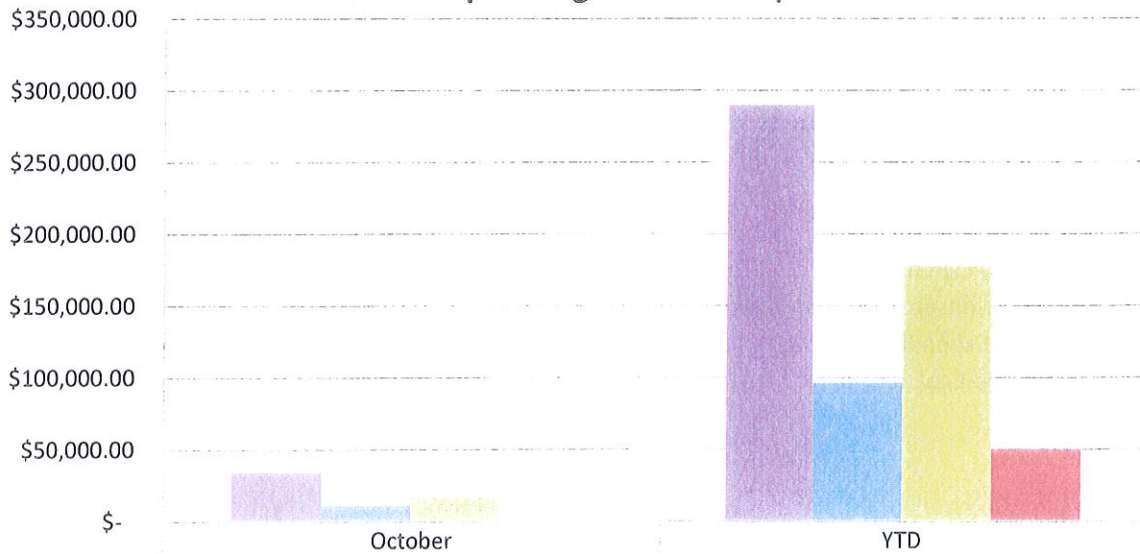
Net Worth - Assets

1% General Operating	\$	71,586.11
1% Restricted Funds	\$	83,309.46
0% Clergy Discretionary	\$	1,397.55
8% Cash Reserve	\$	575,737.01
61% Endowment	\$	4,422,087.96
29% Fixed Assets/Prop.	\$	2,113,715.00
Total	\$	7,267,833.09



Pledge year	No.	Total Pledge Amt
2017	53	\$105,470
2018	30	\$68,183

General Operating Income & Expense YTD 2017



* Includes funds from rectory rental, foundation distributions, cash reserves and miscellaneous.
October expenses are higher than normal because there were 3 payroll expenses rather than the normal 2.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Proposed 2018 Budget

Headings and Account	2017 Annual Budget	2018 Proposed	2018 w/Corrections
Revenues			
41110 - Plate Offerings	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
41120 - Pledge Offerings	\$90,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
41130 - Pledges Prior Year	\$2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
41140 - Regular Contributions	\$15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
41150 - Other Offerings	\$750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
42110 - Facilities Use Fees	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -
42125 -Rectory Rental Income	\$10,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
42160 - Fdtn Bookkeeping Income	\$1,056.00	\$ 1,056.00	\$ 1,056.00
42165 - Visa Points Income	\$300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
42180 - Cash Reserve Draw	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -
42432 - Restricted to Operating	\$13,751.00	\$ -	\$ -
43105 - Interest	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -
43110 - Foundation Draw	\$117,551.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 142,205.00
43120 - Peters Trust Income	\$21,886.11	\$ 21,886.00	\$ 21,886.00
43130 - Flournoy Legacy Pledge	\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
43150 - Fdtn Restricted Funds	\$44,665.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Total Revenues	\$323,959.11	\$ 374,492.00	\$ 386,697.00
Total Christian Formation Expenditures	\$23,162.00	\$ 23,528.56	\$ 23,528.56
Total Church Growth Expenditures	\$1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Total Fellowship Expenditures	\$1,950.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Music Expenditures	\$39,339.00	\$ 40,021.61	\$ 40,144.61
Total Office Related Expenditures	\$45,001.00	\$ 44,037.28	\$ 44,737.28
Total Outreach Expenditures	\$12,700.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total Property Expenditures	\$108,868.02	\$ 114,739.22	\$ 119,852.22
Total Rector Expenditures	\$88,227.84	\$90,241.25	\$ 90,241.25
Total Rectory Expenditures		\$9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Total Staff - Nonsalary Expenditures	\$40,672.82	\$40,672.82	\$ 40,899.98
Total Vestry Expenditures	\$2,511.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
Total Worship Expenditures	\$1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
Total Expenditures	\$365,631.68	\$390,240.74	\$ 396,403.90
	Annual Budget	2018 Proposed	2018 w/corrections
NET	-\$41,672.57	-\$15,748.74	-\$9,706.90

MUSIC DEPT

Some may know that I am a Norfolk, Virginia native that returned to my roots two years ago after a successful full time career serving large churches in the Midwest and Florida. Since then, the members of Trinity have warmly embraced me into their fold.

When I arrived here, I inherited only two choir members, Mary-William Baines and Robert Rea. We currently now have 10 wonderfully cooperative and responsive choir members. My only frustration is that after asking and inviting various church members, I have only been successful with one, Debbie Matheny. If you love singing, please consider joining us. There are no auditions, you do not necessarily have to read music, just love music and have a desire to learn.

Several highlights of the previous year include:

- *A well-attended and successful Phantom of the Opera event featuring internationally renowned theatre organist Brett Valliant accompanying the 1925 classic silent film on Trinity's pipe organ preceded with a Gala reception in the parish house.

- *Brass and timpani enhanced our worship services on Christmas, Easter and Trinity Sunday.

- *Guest trumpeters were occasionally featured during church services, one recently financially underwritten and sponsored by a donor who asked to remain anonymous with the hope that others might be inspired to do the same.

- *For the second year in a row I was invited by the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Virginia Arts Festival to be a featured organ recitalist on the Organ Swell series; this time at Bruton Parish Church in colonial Williamsburg.

- *Most recently, Trinity sponsored the Virginia Children's Chorus in a well-attended and beautifully sung afternoon concert.

Since the 500 year Reformation anniversary was recently celebrated, I am reminded of Martin Luther's words, "I have no use for cranks who despise music because it is the gift of God....and makes people joyful. Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Music enables us to truly express and transcend what words simply cannot.

Faithfully,
Jack

What Christian Formation is doing and hopes to accomplish in 2018?

We have had an eventful year so far, with much more to look forward to for the last two months of 2017 and for the next year to come.

Last year's Christmas Pageant was a huge success. The children and adults did such a wonderful job and it couldn't have been possible without all of the adult support we received! Thank you especially to Jack for the musical assistance and all who helped with crowd control and costume/prop inventory. This year we will be spicing things up with a different rendition. We will host an epiphany pageant on Sunday, January 7th instead of our usual Christmas Eve pageant. We look forward to all who can attend and participate.

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Mardi Gras celebration began our Lenten time together in 2017. We feasted and then fasted. Our annual Easter egg hunt, which was held after the 10:30 Easter service, was celebrated in Trinitarian style with many eager egg seeking children.

This past summer we took a hiatus from Vacation Bible School. We look forward to next summer, where we can hopefully pick back up again and possibly host as we did 2 summers ago. Instructional Eucharist was held in August with 3 children who got to have a better understanding of what Eucharist is all about.

In September, Jacky took maternity leave to have her baby, but the wonderful support of Trinity's parishioners was there. Christian Formation resumed as normal with special help from many volunteers. Jacky returned in October and Godly Play lessons resumed as planned. The nursery has grown, with toy contributions from several parishioners, and in children with our newest member born this September. We have had 4 guest children come to the nursery as well when their families were visiting our parish.

WWJB has been a huge success this year, with topics varying from God creating Evil, creation vs. evolution, to topics of possessions and predestination. In May we had the privilege of having Bishop Magangani from Malawi come to visit and lead a discussion on What is Heaven really like? This special WWJB session had a record number of over 40 attendants. Special thanks to the Brotherhood for serving us dinner during a very deep, enlightening discussion. While Jacky was on Maternity leave, Father Robert stepped in and led a discussion on "What the church is all about". This month, on November 28th, WWJB will resume with the following topic: "What ever happened to Mary?"

Last week we had our All Saints Day parade and learned about some of the saints that the Episcopal Church recognizes throughout the year. The kids dressed up as their favorite saint, created their own shield that represents them, and talked about what a Saint really is.

Each month there has been a Trinitarian Family Event for all church members to enjoy. This has included game night, attending the Virginia Aquarium, movie night, a trip to the zoo, fun on the Tapman's farm, and our annual trip to Busch Gardens. We will wrap up the year of fun with a trip to Dave and Busters on December 2nd.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped in making each event a wonderful memory! -Jacky Rodes

Report to the Parish
Linda Torres, Parish Administrator

The previous twelve months have been filled with changes in our administrative offices. I've had the pleasure of working with Jim Sell, Julia Dorsey Loomis, Peg Buelow, and Robert Davenport. Our bulletin formats have changed with each preferring something just a little bit different than the last. What has been consistent is their desire to see Trinity through this time of change, emerging stronger in faith and its mission in the community. I have enjoyed getting to know them.

As parish administrator, I try to take your calls, answer your questions, schedule and advertise events, send out communications regularly and support the staff members (Tony, Jacky and Jack) in their ministries for Trinity. I consider receiving your requests a privilege, and it makes me feel good when I can make your life just a little bit easier.

Robert and I have met with representatives of RSVP; the Girl Scout of America; STOP, Inc.; and Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition discussing ways we can interact with our community. STOP, Inc. works with families and veterans who need assistance maneuvering the paperwork associated with complicated government assistance programs. They meet with clients in our Conference room the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

I've worked with Adriana Bethel-Hibbler, Ellen Tapman, and Malcolm Fortson to review the current parish database finding ways to be more inclusive and effective. We've established privacy restrictions to protect certain information from being viewed, and we should have a new directory before year's end.

I've experienced changes as the financial secretary as well. After working side by side with Malcolm Fortson for six years, I am now working with interim-treasurer, Larry Outten. Direct Deposit for payroll was requested and has been implemented. Trinity has had our 2016 financial review, with no areas of concerns found. I am working with Larry and Irv Lindley as finance chair to offer a simplified view of Trinity's financial status; it is included in your report package.

Looking forward to 2018 and the Road Ahead, I will assist Robert, the vestry, staff and congregation individually and collectively in preparing for a new rector and Trinity's mission in this community.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Torres

Please consider joining our group *Painting with Joy!* the second Tuesday evening of the month. We meet from 6-8:?? A light dinner will be provided. A sign-up sheet for this month is in the parish hall.

An Invitation to Join the Altar Guild At Trinity Episcopal Church

Have you ever considered joining the Altar Guild at Trinity?
Here are some reasons God may be calling you to this ministry.



The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens and vestments, while also serving the clergy. Being part of the Altar Guild, you will be making a valuable offering to our community's worship life.

The Guild members serve on a rotation; thus, it is not an every Sunday responsibility. You will grow spiritually. After training, members find this work to be a true ministry of devotion and prayer. For members of the Altar Guild, worship begins the moment they enter the sacristy before the formal service has started. This ministry can be a form of prayer that enriches your life.

If you would like to join us or learn more, please contact Ginny Niemeyer, Elaine Chandler or any member of the Altar Guild, they will be happy to answer questions you may have.

Respectfully Yours,
Patricia Roulhac

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care has fulfilled its mission this past year by working with the rector and parish administrator to address the needs of parishioners who might need thoughtful attention by way of appropriate cards, phone calls, food, or visits. Our thanks to those of the parish who on their own fulfill this kindness in their visits to the lonely or bereaved; or, on happy occasions such as births or special milestones.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us.

So be swift to love,
And make haste to be KIND.

Mariana C. Sumner
Chair, Pastoral Care
November 9, 2017

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

2017 has been a busy year for ECW. Three of our major events were the February Sweet & Savory Sale, the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Sale, and the recently completed October Fall Fest which included a lunch and a BBQ dinner. The funds raised from these events, along with other donations to ECW, are used toward projects both within and outside Trinity. This year a major internal project was the upgrading of the refrigerator in the Parish kitchen. This involved replacing the compressor and other parts to improve performance and reduce noise and eliminated the need to purchase a new refrigerator.

During the year cash donations were made to organizations including The Boys Home of Virginia, Jackson-Fields Home, and the Southeastern Food Bank. A large donation of personal products for women was contributed to Oasis Social Ministry, and donations were made toward Christmas gifts for families provided by the Wesley Center and Church Women United's *Operation Santa*.

In March, we hosted the Diocese of Southern Virginia ECW Board meeting at our church which included lunch and a Eucharist service conducted by our priest, Robert Davenport. Also in March ECW prepared and served evening meals several nights during Trinity's Lenten Series. ECW held and/or coordinated receptions following three funeral services at Trinity during this year, with a fourth scheduled for November 14th. We also held dinners and/or receptions for special visitors including the Bishop of Malawi and a missionary from PC(USA) and in June hosted a special coffee hour recognizing Andrea Morgan's service to Trinity, prior to her move to Philadelphia.

My gratitude goes to all of you at Trinity who support ECW projects as well as those of other committees. I particularly want to thank Trinity's Vestry and its staff - Tony Macklin, Sexton, and Linda Torres, Parish Administrator - who always offer their help and support to ECW activities in so many ways. Thank you to those parishioners who contribute funds and/or who volunteer their time to prepare for events, decorate, contribute food, assist in the kitchen by preparing and/or serving meals, set up or clean up, and who willingly support ECW activities throughout the year. You are so appreciated because without you, ECW's work would not be possible. I love and thank you all.

Dottie Lindley
President, ECW

Brotherhood of Trinity:

As all of us in the Brotherhood are getting older, our involvement in maintenance and repair of minor Church and Rectory issues has waned. Our major contribution over the past few years has involved providing culinary services for major events related to Church activities.

Notably, providing dinner for the Haitian Boys Choir when they visited here for a concert, a great success during which we discovered their love of chicken tenders. The latest event was the 40's party, where we provided good old American hot dogs and burgers with all the fixings. An evening which was attended by many and enjoyed by all. The decorations provided by the Vestry were amazing and very patriotic in keeping with the period.

I'm sure there will more for the Brotherhood to participate in, in the coming months and years. We do a pretty good job in the meal preparation area, and have a lot of fun in the process.

Mission and Outreach Report 2017

Our budget was reduced this year to only \$5000 unrestricted for outreach.
With our budget we donated the following:

Portsmouth Volunteer for the Homeless	\$450
Oasis Social Ministry	\$450
Portsmouth Area Coalition (PARC)	\$450
Back to School Supplies	\$68.77
Food Back Packs for Douglas Parks	\$2700 (part funds from SEVACF)

Restricted Funds:

Oasis Breakfasts \$829.37

Christmas Shoppe Donations:

\$100 Trinity for New Chairs
\$500 VA Children's Museum
\$500 Edmarc Hospice for Children
\$500 Friends of the Juvenile Court
\$504 Nelson's Science Dept. for Cyber Security Summer Camp for Portsmouth Students.

The donations to Portsmouth Children's Museum, Edmarc and Friends of the JD Court were matched by the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation Trinity/London House Fund. In addition we provided 60 back packs that were filled by the congregation and delivered to The Wesley Center and PARC. The left over school supplies three boxes were taken to Douglas Park Elementary.

Larry and Gracie Peacock, Patty Hollins, Dottie and Irv Lindley and Andrea all volunteered at Scope, Harbor Park and Portsmouth Pavilion to earn the money to buy the gifts for this year's Christmas Shoppe which will be held on 12/9 and 12/10 this year.

On Sunday, January 28, 2018 we are planning a Murder Mystery Dinner Party to raise money for Mission and Outreach we hope that everyone will support our fund raiser.

Respectfully

Gracie Peacock, Chair Mission and Outreach

The Foundation Report will not be available until January.
We will distribute it at that time.

