

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

Celebrating 150 Years



1874 - 2024

Trinity Episcopal Church
Lime Rock, CT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
February 2, 2025

TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY

Table of Contents

<i>Agenda for the Annual Meeting</i>	3
<i>Voting Members</i>	4
<i>Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 21, 2024</i>	5
<i>Rector’s Report</i>	8
<i>Parish Statistics 2024</i>	9
<i>Wardens’ Report</i>	12
<i>Treasurer’s Report</i>	13
<i>2024 Northwest Region Leadership Team Report</i>	13
<i>Flower Committee Report</i>	14
<i>Adult Christian Formation Report</i>	14
<i>Sunday School/ Youth Report</i>	15
<i>Communications Report</i>	16
<i>Diocesan Convention Report</i>	18
<i>Hispanic Ministries Report</i>	19
<i>Art Shows</i>	20
<i>150th Anniversary Committee Report</i>	21
<i>Outreach Ministry Reports</i>	21
<i>Altar Guild Report</i>	23
<i>Hospitality Report</i>	23
<i>Safe Church Report</i>	24
<i>Music Report</i>	24
<i>Buildings and Grounds Report</i>	26
<i>Stewardship Committee Report</i>	26

Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Call to order and invocation—the Rev. Heidi Truax

Election of Clerk of Annual Meeting

Presentation and ratification of the roll of communicants

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting (held January 2024)

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

Election of Wardens, Vestry Members, Clerk and Treasurer

Vestry for 2025

Linda Lloyd, Senior Warden

Cheryl Duntz, Jr. Warden

M. E. Freeman, Treasurer

Jim Conzo, Clerk

Three-year term

Theresa Kenny

Mike Cuoco

Two-year term

Emily DiMartino

Jarrold Sisk

One year term

Marian Beers

Al Dorf

Election of Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention

Delegates: Jim Conzo and Bev Becker

Alternates: Carol Taylor

Reports:

Stewardship and Treasurer’s Reports

Motion accepting other reports as presented in this Annual Report

Old Business

New Business

Benediction and Adjournment

Voting Members

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

- Excused by reason of disability, illness, distance, etc.
90 Total, minus 26 excused = 64 against which quorum is calculated.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 21, 2024

The Meeting was called to order at 11:47 AM.

A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by John Lloyd to have Jim Conzo be the clerk of the meeting. The motion was carried. All in favor.

Pastor Heidi indicated that we had a quorum. Geoff announced the list of communicants and Heidi asked for a motion to accept and ratify the voting members. **The motion was made by John Lloyd and seconded by Gordon Gustafson. The motion was carried. All voted in favor.**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting on January 23, 2023, prepared by Bev Becker, were presented as part of the Annual Meeting Report. **A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by Mary Sullivan to accept the minutes. The motion carried with all voting in favor.**

Pastor Heidi thanked the parish and presented gifts to outgoing vestry members Mike Cuoco and Bev Becker. She also presented gifts to John and Linda Lloyd and Gordon Gustafson and Christine Gevert, and Geoff Brown, for all that they do for Trinity Church. She also thanked our deacon, Felix Rivera, for heading up the Hispanic Ministry., and M.E.Freeman, our Junior Warden and Treasurer.

Pastor Heidi presented the slate of officers, vestry members, and diocesan delegates: Linda Lloyd, Senior Warden, Theresa Kenny, Junior Warden, M.E.Freeman, Treasurer, Jim Conzo, Clerk, Vestry Members: (3-year) Stephanie Barrett, Emily Di Martino, Jarrod Sisk, (2-year) Marion Beers, (1-year) Al Dorf, Alan Swide, Diocesan Convention Delegates, Bev Becker and Jim Conzo, Alternate, Carol Taylor. **A motion was made by Geoff Brown and seconded by John Lloyd for the clerk to cast one ballot for the entire slate of officers, vestry, and delegates. The motion carried with all voting in favor.** Pastor Heidi and the parish welcomed the new vestry.

Stewardship Report:

We have 45 pledges. A plea was made to increase pledges and pay in as timely a manner as possible.

Treasurer's Report:

(Given by Pastor Heidi as M.E. Freeman was not present.)

We ended 2023 in the black. Al Dorf prepared the 2024 budget and due to a projected deficit of approximately \$20-22,000, he suggested we do more fundraising. Note a correction in the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Annual Report; The word *mandated* should be changed to *voluntary* regarding non-clergy compensation pay increases. Pastor Heidi explained why our Diocesan pledge has increased. We received \$15,000 from the Harwood Fund. **A motion was made by John Lloyd and seconded by Geoff Brown to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was carried with all voting to approve.**

Rector's Report:

Pastor Heidi expressed thanks to Geoff Brown for spending many hours compiling online attendance.

Warden's Report:

Linda gave thanks to everyone and especially Buildings and Grounds. Pastor Heidi thanked Linda for all her work.

Sunday School:

Our Thank Offering is actually \$247.00, not \$205.50, not counting today's Thank Offering. Vlad translates bible study into Cyrillic with the help of an App and a Ukrainian bible.

Communications:

A suggestion was made to highlight special events at Trinity on our website and in the newsletter and Geoff has already thought of a way to do that.

Hispanic Ministry:

Misas will now be held on Saturdays at noon.

Art Show:

We made about \$1700 from the art show in 2023. Theresa has scheduled a new show called "All Things Trinity" for April 20 to April 28. (Just the two weekends). The reception will be on Friday night April 19.

Outreach:

One event was left off the Outreach report; The New York Cycle Club's annual visit to our area on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The NYCC loves our church and the food, beverages, comfort, and bathrooms that we provide. We made about \$400 at this event this year!

Altar Guild:

Sally, Marion, and Diane offered to iron church linens as needed.

Buildings and Grounds:

All is in the report.

Music:

Christine Gevert has framed 15 of her photographs which she will offer for sale as part of our fundraising.

Old Business:

Thanks to the donors who made our new "Owl" possible for better zoom meetings.

New Business:

Call for help with driving Marianna (of the new Ukrainian family) to or from Hotchkiss where she now works. Several people volunteered.

Ash Wednesday services will be on Feb 14 at noon and 6 PM.

**Next year's meeting will be Jan 19, 2025 (Snow date Jan 26, 2025.)
Meeting Adjourned at 12:46**

Respectfully submitted by
Jim Conzo, Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rector's Report

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6

2024 has been a great year for Trinity Lime Rock by many measures. We've been blessed with new parishioners, our average Sunday attendance has increased, and we have celebrated more joyful milestones than in any year since I've been here. We also have a lovely little Sunday School with faithful parents and grandparents who bring the children to church—even when it's a challenge.

Throughout the year, we joyfully marked our 150th anniversary, a celebration detailed in Geoff Brown's report. The culmination of these events was Bishop Laura Ahrens' visitation on October 27th, when she baptized, confirmed, received individuals into the Episcopal Church, and met with our Vestry. What a day! Our statistics page reflects the joy and vitality we've experienced at Trinity this year.

The only small cloud on the horizon is my upcoming retirement on June 30th. While I am ready to retire, it saddens me to leave this blessed place and all of you. But rest assured, I will remain fully engaged during my final months. I am committed to diligently fulfilling my responsibilities until my last day and ensuring a smooth transition of my duties. The good work God has begun among you will continue, and I have every confidence that this church will thrive and grow.

In 2024, our parish has also been actively engaged in the wider Church and the world. As Secretary to the Cathedral Chapter, I hear about many initiatives across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). This connection led our confirmands, along with their families, to participate in Church by the Pond this summer—an opportunity I wouldn't have known about otherwise.

We were also blessed to welcome Brian Cheney as our Seminary Intern this summer. With fresh eyes, Brian brought new ideas to us while simultaneously learning from all of you about parish life. Sponsoring someone for Holy Orders invigorates a parish, reminding us that the next generation of priests and deacons keeps the Church fresh and alive. God willing, Brian will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on March 15.

Our outreach efforts have remained strong, supporting people both near and far, regardless of background or faith. The Outreach Committee has been very active, and I encourage you to read their report detailing the many ways we help others. Michelle Sisk and the Sunday School have also engaged in meaningful service, such as writing letters to a Ukrainian POW and donating their thank-offering money to worthy causes.

Additionally, as a member of the NW Region Leadership Team, I stay informed about the ministries of our neighboring parishes. If you're interested in broadening your engagement, consider joining the NW Region Leadership Team or serving on one of the ECCT's diocesan

committees or boards. Jim Conzo is already active as a member of the Journey of Discovery with Indigenous Peoples Ministry Network. You can explore more opportunities at <https://www.episcopalct.org/ministry-networks/>.

I was saddened that our Misa ministry, which began in January 2018, had to come to an end. Deacon Felix Rivera worked diligently to connect with our neighbors in Millerton, but the ministry was no longer sustainable. However, when one door closes, another opens. The Rev. John Carter is reviving Vecinos Seguros, now called VS2, an initiative to support local immigrant communities.

We have a couple of exciting opportunities coming up right away. VS 2 will meet on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 3 PM. In March we will host Connecticut Attorney General William Tong on Thursday, March 6, at 6 PM. Both of these events will take place in Walker Hall. The first meeting will include testimonials from our friends. In the second, AG Tong will address immigration concerns and provide guidance for residents worried about deportation.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who step up to help, ensuring the smooth running of our church. We have so many volunteers in key positions that make this parish run smoothly. Thank you! I especially appreciate my co-workers, Christine and Nancy. Though we are a small staff, we accomplish a great deal! I am also thankful for the dedication of our Vestry and committee members.

Whether or not you serve on a committee, you are a vital part of this parish through your attendance, giving, and participation. You show what it means to follow Jesus Christ—to care for one another and for the stranger. God has begun a good work in us, and that work will continue by the grace of God.

God bless us all,

Heidi

Parish Statistics 2024

Baptisms: (*more than Trinity has had in a year since 2009*)

Madeline Pari Sandberg	March 9
Brigham Derek Reed	April 14
Caleb Alexander Pavia	April 14
Cole Anthony Pavia	April 14
Richard Irving Dawson	October 20

In person: 116
Online: 40

Christmas Attendance:

In person: 129
Online: 31

Misa Attendance: 27 total of three services (average of 9 per service) (live only)

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Wardens' Report

2024 was a good year for Trinity. Under Pastor Heidi's leadership we are thriving. We may be a small parish by city standards but in the Northwest corner we are a strong presence. Our local Trinity family encompasses many towns and three states while our remote congregation attends from different states and even different countries.

I know we are all sad about Pastor Heidi's upcoming retirement but she has become one of Trinity's longest serving Rectors and deserves our most heartfelt thanks for the many things she has done for us, so much of it unseen and underappreciated.

For those worried about the future please know that this will be my fourth transition at Trinity and even though we may go through a rocky period of discernment and unease, we've always come out stronger in the end.

Always remember, Trinity is all of us. We truly embody "Companionship Along the Way"

Gratefully,
Linda Lloyd, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Trinity began 2024 with an approved budget that showed a daunting deficit of almost \$28,000. The actual deficit was then somewhat reduced by the end of January 2024 due to 2024 pledges that came in after the approval of the budget. Fortunately, by the end of 2024 the deficit was completely eliminated due to several fortuitous developments: certain expenses wound up being less than budgeted, including heating and electrical expenses; plate offerings were more than double the budgeted amount; and most importantly we received significantly more in non-pledge gifts than budgeted. Due to one very generous gift, we were able to pay off the remaining balance of the loan we received from the diocese during the pandemic.

The approved budget for 2025 reflects a higher amount of pledges and shows only a \$4,045.12 deficit. So we are thankfully starting 2025 in a much stronger position than when we began 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
M. E. Freeman, Treasurer

2024 Northwest Region Leadership Team Report

I'm a member of the Northwest Region Leadership Team. Being on this team has allowed Trinity Lime Rock to get notifications of what is going on in the region and keep up to date. Our region used to have a missionary who was an ECCT employee and helped us work together. But that position has now been eliminated and so the regions in the ECCT are now on their own to either keep up with each other or let their leadership team disband.

We have chosen to meet anyway, and work together anyway! The mission of The Northwest Region Leadership Team of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut is to be able to have our parishes in the region work together on projects and get together for an annual gathering.

This year's gathering at Camp Washington in the fall included a morning worship service followed by lunch and an afternoon of activities. I led an activity called "This or That," and everyone seemed to enjoy it. I'd like to do it with the Sunday School this year.

A major part of our effort in 2024 was the promotion of the Elmore Terrell Trust Grant to foster collaborative ministries. This includes ministries with other faith-based communities or with the community at large. This grant can help fund an existing or new project. The NWRLT reviews the applications and votes on which missions receive funding. For 2024, recipients of the Elmore Terrell Trust Grants include support for food pantries, clothing, the homeless, community outreach.

Recently, we have been sending out Regionwide newsletters to keep everyone informed about events in our region. Each leadership team is now responsible for its own dissemination of news and so we are using it to feature news of the region and parish profiles. Anyone at Trinity Lime Rock wishing to subscribe to the NWRLT newsletter can contact Laura Daly (msdalynac@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Truax

Flower Committee Report

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Kenny, Flower Chair

Adult Christian Formation Report

Adult Education at Trinity; Bible Explorers Class 2024

Some of you are familiar with our Bible Explorer's hour that takes place every week on Thursdays at 1 pm. We take on various books of the Bible, and other topics, and try to alternate between Hebrew and Christian Scripture. Here are the books and topics that we studied in 2024:

Genesis, The Letter of James, Women of the Bible, Joshua, and Advent readings in December.

Since 2020 this gathering has been on zoom. And what a gift that has been these last five years. Our Advent study with others besides me leading the explorations was a breath of fresh air!

In the first week of Advent, our friend of the parish, Toni Siegel, led us in a study of the Prophet Baruch. In the second week of Advent, our parishioner and vestry member, Emily DiMartino, led our discussion on the Gospel reading Luke 3:7-18. And the following week, our parishioner, Sandy Hartley, led us in exploring the Gospel reading Luke 1:39-45.

I encourage you to stir yourselves up, and if you have a little free time at one o'clock on Thursdays, dip your toe in the waters of Bible discovery. We have a great group of explorers, and although we aren't experts in the Bible, that's not the point. The point is to have fun, share our own experiences and faith, and learn something too.

Come join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Sunday School/Youth Report

We had a fun year in Sunday School 2024! At the beginning of 2024 we numbered seven attendees. Then, with the confirmation of two of our students we ended the year with five regular attendees. I was so grateful for adult help, support, supervision, participation and leadership from parents and grandparents; Theresa and Brian Kenny, Jarrod and Michelle Sisk, Cheryl Duntz and Courtney Duntz. And Susanna Schindler led us in many creative activities.

Our first focus of the year was preparing the younger children for First Communion and baptism. We memorized the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm, and we learned the Ten Commandments. Each time we learned something new, it was with the help of a game or activity that made it more fun. Susanna made us a big Lord's Prayer puzzle that we later hung on the bulletin board. We played a game of catch to help us learn the Commandments.

We burned palms on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday on Feb. 11.

On April 14 there were three boys who received Communion for the first time and three more boys who were baptized. See the statistics page for the names of all.

For Mother's Day we painted and decorated fans for each girl and woman in the Church. For Father's Day, Susanna led us in a beautiful craft of marbling to create painted bookmarks for each man and boy in the parish.

The Thank Offering was taken up about one Sunday a month. On April 7 the children decided to send the money that had been collected in the previous year to Sharon Audubon Center. The amount sent was \$283.50. Since that date we have had a number of Thank Offering Sundays and have raised \$194.45 as of January 19, 2025. Sometime this year the children will be presented with three different worthy organizations to choose from. They will decide where they want to send the thank offering.

On Easter Sunday, March 31 this year, the children had fun at our usual Easter Egg Hunt. And again this year, Sunday School kids helped to hide eggs for the children who were going to come to the Easter Spanish language service.

Earth Day Sunday let us get our hands dirty planting plants and bulbs which had been donated to the church. This all made for beautiful gardens later in the spring and summer.

Other activities this year included having fun with Susanna making big bubbles outside in the nice summer weather and making prayer beads. We were fortunate to have Brian Cheney with us for the summer months. He is the assistant chaplain at Kent School and a candidate for Holy Orders. He led a Sunday School class and a Confirmation Class. Brian taught the children about the “singing bowl.”

In the late Spring, Summer and early Fall, the focus for the older two young people was on Confirmation Class. We learned more about the Bible, the Episcopal Church, the History of the Christian Church and studied ways to practice our spirituality. Emma and Brennan attended the overnight Confirmation retreat at Camp Washington in March where they joined other Confirmands from CT parishes in thoughtful discussions, prayer walks, a meditative labyrinth and journaling session, preparation of communion bread, and an instructional Eucharist with Bishop Ahrens. Later in the year, we had two more activities for the confirmands; we made and brought lunches to unhoused people in Hartford at a celebration of Church by the Pond on August 3. Many thanks to the members of the congregation who helped us by buying ingredients and putting together bag lunches. Church by the Pond is a monthly Eucharist and food outreach by Christ Church Cathedral. Later in August we went to Catamount to do the high ropes course there. This activity helped us learn about trusting each other and about having faith.

The two confirmands were confirmed by Bishop Laura Ahrens on Sunday, October 27. It was a wonderful, festive day. See more about this wonderful day in the life of Trinity in the Rector’s report.

At the end of the year we took on a new and important project of writing letters to a Ukrainian prisoner of war. These words and pictures were sent over to the war zone by email. We expect to write more letters in the early part of 2025.

And lastly, we turned our attention to putting on the annual Christmas pageant. In addition to the children and adult characters, we employed the choir as Israelites. The theme of the pageant was time. We demonstrated the two types of time in our lives: Chronos and Kairos. Susanna and Tom Schindler made a fine set of “tablets of commandments” and I made a few new costumes to increase our inventory of pageant costumes. We also baked cookies for the annual tree lighting and delivery to homebound parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Communications Report

Our livestream, via locallive.tv, remains our streaming vehicle. Locallive now provides viewer numbers for Sunday services. In 2024, an average of 11 people viewed the service as it was being celebrated, while an average of 8 viewed the service subsequent to the service, thus the average total viewers per service was 19. Last year we manually calculated an average of 17 people viewing each service, so this is an increase of 2 participants, or 12%. The service with the most overall viewers was July 17 with 52 total viewers.

So, when you're in church on a Sunday and you're near the front, take a moment to wave to the camera during the Peace or before or after the service. You will be waving to fellow worshippers on at least two continents!

Our **YouTube channel**, @trinitylimerock, has 99 subscribers. Our most popular all-time videos are unchanged from last year. YouTube itself has been repositioning to compete with the Tik Tok app. Thus, posting material here longer than 10-12 minutes has become challenging at best. We don't know what role YouTube will play for us in the future, but we encourage all to visit our channel on YouTube and "Like" it.

Two years ago we eliminated our presence on **Twitter** (now called "X"), and time has shown it was a good decision. The new Bluesky app appears to be where most refugees from Twitter have found a home. Whether we would benefit from a Bluesky presence is uncertain.

Facebook (and Instagram) are used to increase Trinity's visibility in the larger community. Our presences in the "Meta" world are:

--Facebook Group – 142 members (up from 132 last year)

--Facebook page -- 570 followers (up from 551).

--Gallery Facebook page – 347 followers (up from 346 last year).

--Instagram account – Currently 1890 followers, slightly down from last year. Instagram, particularly their "Reels" section (videos of a minute or less), is viewed as an alternative to Tik Tok.

Unfortunately, Meta's ending their online monitoring of content increases reputational risk associated with all Meta vehicles. We continue to monitor developments here.

Our own website, **trinitylimerock.org**, continues to modernize. We publish a post each Sunday morning with the bulletin and information and links for the day's activities. In response to a parishioner suggestions (1) the times of our Sunday services now appear "above the fold" on the home page, and (2) we added a photo of the church on the home page (something that was earlier frowned upon). Parish websites generally are transitioning to a leaner approach, as are we. We are making the website itself more static and providing event-oriented information in website posts and the Trinity Update.

The **Trinity Update e-mail newsletter** appears weekly, and includes the **Rector's Letter**.

Circulation is steady with around 330 subscribers. The current open rate is around 35% and both the bounce rate and the block rate hover around 0%. During this year we will end our year-by-year run of parish history, but include articles about historical subjects occasionally. Special thanks are due to Michelle Sisk and Jeremy Dakin for their much-needed and appreciated weekly editorial reviews and suggestions.

Zoom continues to be an accepted way of meeting at Trinity. Regular use includes Bible Study, Coffee Hour, Vestry meetings, parish meetings and the annual meeting. For all but Bible Study, the Owl is used.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Geoffrey Brown, Communications Chair

Diocesan Convention Report

The 240th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, October 25 and 26, 2024, held in Bristol, Ct. Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan.

The following are some of the highlights of the Convention:

- 1 Adoption of a new Canon XVII. This resolution allows for removal of a member from an ECCT Committee, Commission, or Board, for failure to participate in the work of the committee, commission, or board, or other misconduct. All attempts at resolving the problem first shall be made with the help of the Bishop. (Approved)
- 2 The Reparations Board (last year we voted in favor of monetary reparations to some members of the black community of the state) to be appointed by the Bishop Diocesan and shall include one Bishop and at least one lay representative of the remaining historically black parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. (Approved)
3. That May 5th of each calendar year be recognized as Red Dress Day: Remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Journey of Discovery with Indigenous Peoples Ministry Network (JDIP) will create and provide the Red Dress Day liturgical resources as approved by the Bishops as needed for worshipping communities to use in their principal services nearest to May 5th. Red Dress Day is officially recognized on May 5th in Canada. It was inspired by artist Jamie Black who hung hundreds of red dresses in public places to represent the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. National Statistics show 5 times the number of these incidents occur in Indigenous communities than the rest of the population in Canada and the U.S. Lori Cambell, an indigenous engagement leader explains that they believe that spirits that have passed see bright colors, so hanging the red dresses helps lost spirits find their way home to their loved ones. This resolution was proposed by the Rev. Diana Rogers, Co-Convener of Journey of Discovery with Indigenous Peoples (JDIP), an online monthly meeting. The clerk of this Annual Meeting was one of the co-sponsors of this resolution and spoke at the Convention, along with Rev. Rogers. (Approved)

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Conzo, lay delegate to the Annual Convention. Other Trinity delegates included Rev. Heidi Truax, Rev. Marilyn Anderson, and Bev Becker.

Excerpts from Bishop Jeff's Address provided by Bev Beckler:

We are growing together With Jesus as our vine, our branches are stretching and reaching new places—the very places God needs us to be. Many of us are still struggling with isolation and, increasingly, polarization. The Gospel John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” It reminds us that we are all branches belonging to the one vine that is Jesus Christ.

While the powers of this world continue to do their best to divide and separate us—to pit us one against the other—Jesus calls us back to remember that we are, whether we feel it or not, inextricably bound, one to another. We need to be the Body of Christ in this world. We will actively seek out ways to continue to build connection, to continue to build trust, to build our relationships with one another here and out in the world as the beloved children of God. And you, friends, you are the branches of your local parishes and communities. You are reaching out into your neighborhoods and communities. You are bringing the justice, love, hope, peace, reconciliation and joy of Christ to where it is most needed, you are bringing it to those for whom it is the most lacking.

When you look at the uncertainty of the future in your parish, or you feel like you are out on your own, you are connected to a much larger branch, and to a Vine that never abandons us. We have work to do to strengthen where the connections between branches have been broken.

Despite whatever challenges we might be facing, whatever might get in our way—and something will, with Jesus as our vine, our branches are stretching and growing in new ways all across Connecticut—reaching into the very places God needs us to be the most.

Jesus is our vine. May God continue to give us the strength, the hope, and the courage to be the branch for the sake of the world.

Amen

Beverly Becker

Hispanic Ministries Report

Report on the Misa (Spanish language Mass) and *Vecinos Seguros* (Safe Neighbors) Fund

We held a *Misa* for the first three months of 2024. The last *Misa* was on the Feast of Pascua (Easter.) The Rev. Félix Rivera, Deacon, was the preacher and leader of the Service of the Word for these services and I was the Celebrant. Our musicians were the band “*Sin Fronteras*” (Without Borders). The attendance was poor totaling 27 for the three services and an average of 9 people per service. Considering that there were three band members, two clergy and Carmen, Felix's wife, at each service, that means that only three people were coming to the service on average.

On April 2, 2024 Félix and I met with Bishop Laura Ahrens because we were concerned that the number of attendees did not warrant the amount of effort that was going into our services. So, at

that time it was decided that the Easter Misa would be the last. We did this in consultation with the Rev. John Carter who had begun these services with me in January of 2018. The funding of these services was through a grant from the ECCT and so the unused portion of the Misa grant for 2024 was returned to the Diocese.

The fund called *Vecinos Seguros* was started at the end of 2017 and has been used to help the Hispanic population. This fund is still held on our books although it was inactive in 2024. The balance in the account as of December 31, 2024 is \$10,572. However, a group of concerned residents, led by Jill Drew, John Carter and others, has recently revived the ministry and has received donations once again beginning in January 2025. The beneficiaries of this fund will continue as it has since its inception, the Hispanic people in the tri-state area of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Heidi Truax

Art Shows

September 2024 Art Show

The art show was a success with 33 artists entering. There were 144 entries, 81 judged pieces, 63 bin and small entries. 2 large paintings, 3 bin and 9 small paintings were sold. 132 people attended between the reception and the show. After all expenses apr. \$1,216.00 was made.

2 judges were paid \$100.00 each, First prize winner was paid \$100.00, second prize winner was paid \$75.00 and the 3rd prize winner was paid \$50.00. The artists were paid 70% of their sold pieces. (30% stays with Trinity) The sales tax is paid to the state by Nancy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Kenny, Art Show Chair

All Things Trinity Show

April 20-April 28, 2024.

A new fundraiser was created in 2024 as part of our anniversary. We invited parishioners to sell original art, photography, woodworking knitting, jewelry, hand-sewn items, baskets and any art/craft items. Trinity cookbooks and books by church authors were for sale. The children also participated with their art.

All items were for sale and 100% was donated to the church. The artists/authors were also given the option to keep 70% of the sale and 30% to the church.

Approximately 12 artists, and 3 authors participated. (The Trinity cookbook is included within this figure.) 55 attended the reception and approximately 65 attended and or helped.

Approximately \$1,975.00 was made, making it a very profitable show.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Kenny

150th Anniversary Committee Report

We concluded the 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2024 with the visitation of Suffragan Bishop Laura Ahrens marking the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Trinity. While with us she confirmed and received new members (see the Parish Statistics section) and celebrated the Holy Eucharist with us. Bishop Laura also met with the Confirmands and the Vestry while here with us.

We earlier held the All Things Trinity Art and Craft show. Please see the Art Shows section for the summary of that show.

On May 19, Pentecost, we conducted the service according to the liturgy in the 1871 version of the Book of Common Prayer, simulating the ritual presumably in use when Trinity was founded.

Technically our 150th year celebration will not end until 2025 when we will mark the anniversary of our reception as a parish in the Diocese of Connecticut at the 1875 Diocesan Convention.

This was an administrative proceeding at the Diocesan Convention, so it's a bit difficult to create an event around it. We are delighted to hear any ideas or suggestions.

Ongoing through the 150 weeks of the Sesquicentennial, the undersigned has been bringing the year-by-year history of the parish. We're now around up to around 1975. We will terminate the weekly history lessons the week of the annual Diocesan Convention, thus completing our celebration of our 150th anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Brown, Chair of the Sesquicentennial Committee

Outreach Ministry Reports

OUTREACH BRUNCH: On March 10, 2024, Trinity held its annual Outreach Brunch. Unlike years past, this year we hosted only one nonprofit, the Homeless Shelter in Torrington, jointly run by Trinity Torrington and the Torrington YMCA. It is overseen by Conrad Sienkiewicz who came to speak to us about the shelter. Trinity Lime Rock presented Conrad with a \$400 check to help with their good work and numerous parishioners provided additional funds.

Later in the year Pastor Heidi heard that the Terrell Trust was offering grant money to parishes who made proposals for a project they would like to do, provided it was done with at least one other parish. Some of the Vestry decided that it would be a wonderful use of that money if we could get some of it once again to the Homeless Shelter in Torrington. So Pastor Heidi and Cheryl Duntz got together and filed the papers for the grant money. Cheryl and Jim also took part in an online meeting regarding the future of the Shelter promising. Nevertheless, Trinity was awarded a \$1000 grant from the Terrell Trust and an anonymous parishioner matched the grant with an equal amount. Conrad came back to Trinity on Sunday, December 22 to accept the \$2000 check for the Homeless Shelter.

Submitted by Jim Conzo.

New York Cycle Club: Linda and John Lloyd, The Sisk family, Stephanie Barrett, Barry Anderson, Heidi Truax, Cheryl Duntz Jeremy Dakin, Heather Chapman, and Marilyn Anderson volunteered. Thanks to all of you, we had a great event. The weather was beautiful, and about 70 bicyclists came by. Gratitude to all for the work you put into making this a great success and fun too! Jeremy Dakin adds: “A couple of folks did comment on the absence of sandwiches, but conceded that there were probably too many last year. Next year, apples and tangerines? Maybe a few sandwiches. And more garbage cans and clearly-marked recycling bins. What about fruit salad? Seems to me we used to offer it, and it was quite popular.”

Habitat for Humanity: While Trinity has been volunteering in Habitat for Humanity builds for many years, this was the first year that Habitat brought the build to us! Construction techniques have developed to a point where a mob of hammer-wielding amateurs can be of much value in framing up houses, and a good way for Trinity to help was in building the flower boxes for the home under construction on Rudd Pond Road in Millerton. Many thanks to all who helped! Thank you to Habitat for Humanity Pastor Heidi was on hand to bless the new Habitat house on Rudd Pond Road.

Food Basket: Barry Anderson picks up food at Trinity that people have donated for the Corner Food Pantry. 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 about fifteen Trinity Church parishioners who walked the tracks with Salisbury Congregational Church. It was very successful. Trinity Church raised slightly less than \$2,000 which is part of the \$37,000+ that was raised as of November 6, 2024. Twenty-five percent (about \$9200.) of the official total will be returned to the northwest corner to be distributed to local food pantries and voucher programs in our area.

Thanksgiving Dinner: This Thanksgiving meal was the most well-attended dinner in the 17 years of its existence. There was an article in the *Lakeville Journal* a week before the dinner explaining what the dinner was all about and how it came into existence. I believe that it let people know what kind of event it was and who it was for. We had 35 meals delivered and approximately 35 takeout meals, and served about 200 people in total. Because of the article, we had some people help us both on Wednesday and on Thursday who didn't know about it previously. We had a lot of extra hands to help on Wednesday as the 4-H children came to help us with peeling and setting up the dining room.

Trinity Church has been spearheading this annual dinner for the last 12 years and many parishioners showed up on Wednesday to spend time cleaning and peeling the vegetables to be served with the many turkeys that were cooked by our invaluable chefs Karl Hester and Mike English. Many of the regular volunteers were once again on hand to plate the meals for our very thankful diners, wash dishes, serve desserts and be helpful in cleaning and dismantling the room.

I want to thank all of the parishioners who helped in any way. Financially, peeling, working, and eating. I appreciate all of your support; without all of you this would not be possible.

Beverly Becker, Chairperson, Thanksgiving Dinner

Tree Lighting: December 7, 2024, Trinity again had lights put on the large tree thanks to Perotti Tree Company. Hot cocoa was served to attendees, and the choir provided support for caroling. . Christine provided little toys for the children who attended, and the Sunday School students, together with Michelle Sisk, made us delicious cookies. Many thanks to all who attended or participated.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Becker, Chairman of Outreach Committee

Altar Guild Report

Janet Walker handles Altar Guild duties for the 8 a.m. service. Theresa Kenny, Mike Cuoco and Beverly Becker (and Pastor Heidi, sometimes) handle the 10:30 a.m. service. We had about a dozen people come together to polish brass and silver on March 23, 2023 and on November 23, 2024. I have been very proud to head the Altar Guild. Working with such a great team makes my job so much easier.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Becker, Head of Altar Guild

Hospitality Report

We would like to thank all the hospitality volunteers who have provided delicious sweet and savory food for coffee hour. Here are the volunteers who have participated in this ministry: Barry and Marilyn Anderson, Stephanie Barrett, Bev Becker, Marian and David Beers, Heather Chapman, Jim Conzo, Michael Cuoco, Cheryl Duntz, Pari Forood, M.E. Freeman, Gordon Gustafson, Bill Jenks, Theresa Kenny, Linda and John Lloyd, Martha Nesbitt, Susanna and Tom Schindler, Michelle Sisk, Fiona Szepanski, Heidi Truax, Diane Walters.

A special thanks goes to Theo O'Neill for his gift of a new coffee maker and grinder and especially for providing the beans!!

Some of the individuals who were volunteering for hospitality can no longer volunteer, we do need additional volunteers for the new year!!

Respectfully Submitted
Marian K. Beers

Safe Church Report

Most of the parishioners that need to complete the Safe Church Program have done so: Stephanie Barrett, Geoff Brown, Jim Conzo, Christine Gevert, Linda Lloyd, Susanna Schindler, Michelle and Jared Sisk, Alan Swide, Carol Taylor.

A few of us still must complete the course: Bev Becker, Marian Beers (will be done this Sunday 1/26/25), Cheryl Duntz, M.E. Freeman, and Theresa Kenny.

This is an important ministry to keep a safe environment within our church. All participants learn about proper boundaries, how offenders operate and how to stop abuse. A big thank you to those who have completed the course.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marian K. Beers

Music Report

With our own dedicated choir singers and guest musicians we made music at all Sunday services, and special services this past year, including the summer months. In my 23rd year serving as organist and choir director here, I continue to be very grateful to the leadership, Pastor Heidi and the Vestry, and the parishioners at Trinity, and very specially to our own choir members for their appreciation and support of music. As we all face the changes of our times – challenges and new opportunities – the music at Trinity Church remains an active part of our little church and also of our local community.

*Some of the **anthems** sung this year were Renaissance and Baroque works by Thomas Tallis, Orlando Gibbons, Peter Philips, William Byrd, Blasius Ammon Tyrolensis, Hans Leo Hassler, Melchior Franck, Cristobal de Morales, Francisco Guerrero, Andrea Gabrieli, Agostino Agazzari, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Antonio Vivaldi, George Frederic Handel, Johann Sebastian Bach, and works by composers of the Romantic era Charles Villiers Stanford, César Franck, and Charles Gounod.*

*The choir and congregation continue to sing **four-part service music and psalm tones**. This year I **composed and rearranged twelve new settings** – among them seven descants, and a hymn tune.*

*Something new we took on with our choir members was **percussion and body percussion sessions during the summer months**. I acquired ten bongos and djembe drums, and after a few weeks of working with them we invited percussionist Jay Bradley to lead us for one session. The other special summer activity was recorder playing. I acquired a set of twelve soprano recorders and four alto recorders so our singers could try them out. It is not easy to learn a new instrument as an adult, but everyone gave it their best, and were able to play through a short song at the end of the sessions.*

*A highlight this year was the October service with Bishop Laura Ahrens, in which we performed a contemporary anthem “Listen” by the Belgian composer Kurt Bikkembergs, which included body percussion. Our own talented youth singer Emma Sisk was the soloist. Other soloists this year were Kathy Drake and Linda Lloyd. **Special music** – generally with guests from Crescendo - was provided for services such as: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, The Feast of the Trinity, Transfiguration, Bishop’s Visitation, Christmas Eve and Day. We provided **music for two weddings, and three Memorial services**. In December our singers and led again the **Caroling for the Tree Lighting**.*

***Trinity Choir members** in 2024 were Sopranos: Kathy Drake* and Linda Lloyd; Altos: Kateryna Cherniavska, Lisa Keller*, and Mary Sullivan*, Tenor: Gordon Gustafson*; Basses: Richard Dawson, John Lloyd, Tom Schindler* (singers with and asterisk are also members of Crescendo). **Guest Singers from Crescendo** were Sopranos: Joy Wyatt, Roberta Roll, Julie Bickford, Jennifer Tyo, Jordan Rose Lee, Katie Kutney, Sarah Melcher, Louise Brown, Eileen Epperson, DeeAnne Hunstein; Altos: Pat Barton, Susan Pettee, Mary Verdi, Mary Priestman, Maureen Bateman; Tenors: Randy Orzano, Peter Perkins, Matthew Kreta, Doug Schmolze, Steve Hassmer; Basses: Andy Kettler, Michael Wise, Jim Barrett.*

Among the **instrumental music** heard at our services were works by Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, Girolamo Frescobaldi, Luigi Rossi, Giovanni Maria Trabacci, Francois Couperin, Eugene Thayer, and organ improvisations on hymn tunes sung in the services. Among our other **guest instrumentalists** this year we had Tricia van Oers*, recorder, Manon Hutton-DeWys, piano, Brian Kanner* and Jens Larsen trumpet, Donna Castaner*, harp and voice, and Juan Mesa*, organ. (*Crescendo musicians).

In 2024 we had **six Crescendo concerts and one summer workshop series for choral singers** at Trinity. This included a festive holiday concert with Johann Sebastian Bach’s 5th Cantata of his *Christmas Oratorio*. Crescendo Chorus of 45 singers and five soloists was accompanied by a period instrument orchestra of 15 musicians. The church was completely filled for this event. In 2024 about 675 audience members attended Crescendo concerts, and about 170 amateur and professional musicians were part of our programs. As always Crescendo is very grateful for being hosted at Trinity Church! This is our 21st season here.

We were able to **bring some of the Crescendo concert repertoire to our services** at Trinity. Among the works performed were Giacomo Carissimi’s “Plorate filii Israel” on Good Friday, and several early Baroque Christmas cantatas on Christmas Eve.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Gevert

Buildings and Grounds Report

Looking back on the year, Buildings and Grounds had a relatively quiet 2024 with no major projects undertaken but we kept busy!

Firstly, I would like to thank John Lloyd and Richard Dawson, two people who have helped numerous times behind the scenes with some of the grunt work, my unsung heroes. It goes without saying that Pastor Heidi has been a great help, meeting workers when I was not available and thinking of things that need doing.

January saw a heating outage which was remedied by a quick delivery of fuel oil that had been scheduled but missed!

Through an unsecured foundation vent in the basement we had critter problems until our pest control company trapped and relocated several raccoons. The holes were boarded up and a permanent wooden cover constructed to discourage future visitors and ceiling tiles that had been damaged were repaired.

Upgraded lighting was installed in the choir rehearsal room.

Support brackets were installed on the metal railing going up the exterior ramp at the rear of the church.

A permanent bracket for the curtains was installed in the hallway robe storage area.

In November we had the annual fall cleanup of the grounds. Thank you to those who participated!

The split rail fence was repaired at the entrance to the parking lot with a new post & rail.

Throughout the year on a weekly basis, I took the Trinity trash and recyclables to the transfer station

Respectfully,
Gordon Gustafson
B & G chair

Stewardship Committee Report

We are pleased to report that we have received 2025 pledges in the total amount of \$168,670 from 42 pledging units. Practically all of our 2025 pledgers maintained or increased their 2024 pledges. As always we ask all who have pledged to make their pledge payments over the course of the year rather than waiting until the end of the year so we can avoid a cash crunch in December. We thank all of you for your continuing and essential financial support.

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship Committee