



# The Trinity Herald



**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
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**DEC. 2021**

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## *Warden's Words*

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, we also have much to celebrate as a congregation.

We persisted in praising God and doing His work even without having a priest in charge for most of this year.

We had lay readers take charge of Sunday Morning Prayer services online even though many of them had never done a sermon or homily before.

We returned to in-person worship for Advent and Christmas even as local Covid-19 cases surpassed the level at which we closed the church last year.

And we made progress toward a prospective affiliation with St. James, Edison, even as both our congregations dealt with the effects of the pandemic.

None of this would have been possible without the efforts of so many people, especially those who were identified in the September issue of the Herald. Thank God for all your work this year.

At the same time, much has to be done for Trinity to move forward in the coming year. Here are some of the issues we must address.



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THE TRINITY  
HERALD is published  
quarterly in March,  
June, September and  
December by Trinity  
Episcopal Church,  
Woodbridge, NJ

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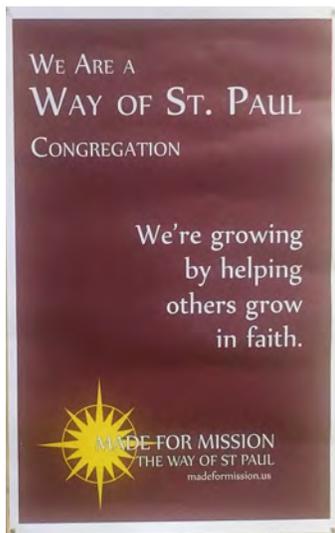
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-- Reconnecting with congregants who have been left behind since the pandemic began. We're aware that Zoom services and emailed newsletters mean little to those among us who aren't comfortable with computers, for instance.

Holding services in person is helping with this process. We have already seen people in the pews that we didn't see at all online the past few months.

Our Mission Committee, a/k/a the Vestry, is involved as well. We are calling congregants to find out how they're doing and to let them know how we're doing -- and that leads to the next issue:

-- Addressing our financial situation. Trinity is one of many congregations in our diocese that isn't self-sustaining. Our position has worsened in the past few years, as we have tapped our Endowment Fund to cover expenses.

We lost some families this year that provided substantial support. What's more, we weren't able to produce the kind of Stewardship campaign this year that we had in previous years. This means we're in a bigger financial hole than we had with a full-time priest.

Please help if you can. The pledge form for next year is available in this issue of the Herald for your convenience. A Stewardship campaign letter that was sent in October is also included.

-- Completing work on a memorandum of understanding with St. James. There's a saying that every problem is an opportunity, and that's how it's working out so far with St. James. We're excited about the potential to strengthen our ministries while easing our financial burdens.

Trinity and St. James both have steering committees, which are meeting jointly to work on the memorandum. Hopefully we will have this done in time for our respective annual meetings: the fourth Sunday in January for us, the first Sunday in February for them.

-- Selecting a priest-in-charge for both congregations. Once the memorandum of understanding is drafted and approved, Trinity and St. James will form discernment committees. They will hold joint meetings to consider candidates to lead us.

-- Coming up with a clergy team. Affiliations typically involve at least one deacon, supported by the diocese, in addition to a priest-in-charge. Trinity and St. James will have to work with the diocese to find a deacon or deacons to fill out the team.

That's a pretty full agenda, for sure. Yet it's one we have to pursue in order to move forward as we come out of the pandemic. Your support and your prayers as we address these issues would be most appreciated. Thanks again.

*David Wilson*



## CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. (in person))

Saturday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day, 10 a.m. (online))

Sunday, Dec., 26: Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. (in person))

Saturday, Jan. 1: Evening Prayer, 5 p.m. (online))

Sunday, Jan. 2: Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. (in person))

# D Back in Person

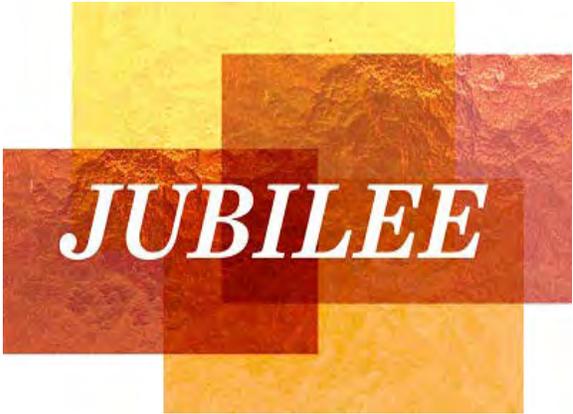


Sunday, Dec. 5, was a day of firsts for Trinity. We held our first in-person service since November of last year, when we went back to online worship in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We also celebrated Holy Eucharist for the first time in six months.

The service was led by a supply priest, the Rev. Pervez Baig. He's shown on the left in the photo above. Arlene Guellnitz, who served as lay eucharistic minister and lay reader, is on the right. (Photo: Jeanne Boyle)

Congregants were required to wear masks and to maintain social distance, in keeping with past practice. Yet they were allowed to come to the altar rail to receive Communion and were given both the Body and Blood on Christ, as allowed under recent guidelines from the diocese.

In-person services will continue at least through the Christmas season, as long as they can be done safely. Any updates will appear in This Week at Trinity.



# JUBILEE

# Outreach Ministries

*Trinity helps carry out God's work in the world and meet the needs of the local community through feeding and diaper programs and other outreach efforts. We have operated as a Jubilee Ministry Center, designated by the Episcopal Church for our support of the poor and oppressed, since 2015.*

The Thanksgiving holiday began a season of giving thanks for family and friends and also for the many blessings God has given us. It is a time to share by giving to others. Trinity has done that this year by providing food and prepared lunches to members of our community.

We served more than 120 families, or about 330 individuals, with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Each family received a 10- to 12-pound turkey, potatoes, green beans, green peas, tuna fish, oatmeal, apple juice, turkey stuffing, beets, pasta, dry beans, canned peaches, macaroni and cheese, butter, cereal and milk. Most of the packages also included cornbread and cranberry sauce.

The packing volunteer team packed 130 boxes. They organized items in an assembly-line style by placing cases and boxes of food on tables at St Martha's House. They filled the holiday boxes, taped them closed and moved them so that they would be ready to be distributed.

Volunteers unloaded 3600 pounds of fresh produce. Each family received a 10-lb. bag of potatoes, a 5 lb. bag of onions, 10 lbs. of yams, two stalks of celery, two heads of cabbage, 3 lbs. of cucumber, and 5 lbs. of carrots. The distribution team placed food items in the cars of recipients, including those who took part in the Friday lunch program. We were able to share items from our Thanksgiving distribution with two other churches.

The guests were truly grateful for the quantity of food provided, the quality of the food and the fresh produce. Each one of the volunteers will tell you that the holiday distribution is a gratifying and rewarding experience.

At Christmas, we will be serving about 90 families. We received 58 oven roasters early on, which was a good start. We hope to provide each family with apples and oranges, and we need your support to do so. You can make a monetary donation to Trinity's Food Pantry and indicate it's to be used for Christmas Fresh Fruit.

The Trinity family has continued to serve the community of Woodbridge over the last 21 months. Even in this pandemic, we have not missed a single week, nor have we missed a holiday. This is a blessing.

We would like to thank BCB Bank for their annual contribution. Without this support, we wouldn't be able to serve the number of families and individuals with the quality or quantity of items that made this year's Thanksgiving Week special. We especially want to thank Linda Estrada-Page at BCB Woodbridge and Corey D. Jones, Business Development Officer at BCB Carteret. Corey has been a faithful volunteer in our Friday program for many years.

Thank you very much to Lucas Frank and the team from IBEW Local 827 and Verizon for the truckload of food for the pantry. The team not only brought donated and purchased food, but also brought it all in to St Martha's House. They stacked it up on our shelves so we can readily use it to fill the boxes for distribution.

*First comes the unpacking ...*



*... then comes the stacking*

We give thanks for Trinity's Monday Morning Packers team who prep the boxes and bags to be filled with canned and boxed food. Volunteers move the boxes to the parking lot and load the cars.

We are grateful for Carroll Thomas, who leads Trinity Food Pantry and also arranges and picks up food from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Thanks to Joe and Mary Kovacs, our Sextons, who make sure doors are open and shelves are ready. They also help with distribution. Thanks to volunteers Michele Purtz and Steve Thompson and to congregants Dorothea Borkowski, Jeanne Boyle, David Forsythe, Arlene Guellnitz and Ross Guellnitz.



The Friday Luncheon resumed on Oct. 15 after being canceled for more than a year because of the pandemic. Carroll plans and shops for each lunch and an amazing group of volunteers make and serve the food to community members in the Parish Hall. Volunteers also engage in warm and loving fellowship with each other at every luncheon. Volunteers include Ashok Besant, Alice Ciuffo, Ann Donegan, Joan Gibilisco, Gail Thomas and Michele Purtz and congregants Jeanne Boyle, David Forsythe and Arlene Guellnitz.

Let us all give thanks to God for all our many blessings!



After a 22-month hiatus, our Feeding the Faithful dinner and worship service returned to the Parish House on Dec. 8. Held every Wednesday at 6 p.m., the dinner is uplifting to everyone who participates.

The worship service at our reopening was led by Father Peter Boyle, who conducted evening prayer. David Forsythe assisted by doing the readings. Father Boyle blessed the meal, which consisted of baked chicken, string beans, mashed potatoes, and gravy.

David hosted the evening along with Jeanne Boyle and Carroll Thomas. They welcomed guests from the congregation and the community and set the tone for a wonderful evening.

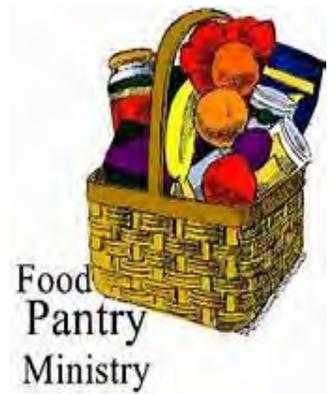


Feminine hygiene products are now available from the Food Pantry. Distributions are made monthly on the 1st Saturday. These items are a substantial expense for low-income families and usually aren't covered by assistance programs. Your help with supplying these products would be appreciated.



# Volunteer Opportunity

Your Food Pantry ministry is in need of several volunteers to enable us to efficiently service and fulfill a most important role in our community. The number of people in need of our support is ever increasing.



Volunteers will pack and distribute food baskets. They will be able to experience the gratifying satisfaction and pride that helping other brings.

The pantry is traditionally open on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays from 10 a.m to 11 a.m. Currently, the pantry is operating every Thursday and Saturday.

If you can spare a few hours on those days, please consider joining us. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Carroll Thomas.

## Donations Wanted

### Food Pantry

These food items are in demand: Canned chicken, canned meats, stew (low sodium), canned and dry pasta, macaroni and cheese, rice, dry beans (black, red, pinto), vegetables, fruits, cereal, granola bars. Household items also in demand: Paper products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste.



### Diaper Bank

Our diaper program always needs children's disposable diapers, especially smaller sizes, and baby wipes. You may drop them off starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday or 11 a.m. on Friday. You may also purchase items through AmazonSmile so they are delivered automatically.

THANK YOU for your continued support



The Way of St. Paul team has explored what it means to have a personal rule of life. We have tried out a variety of activities and come up with a list from which you can choose to develop your own rule of life:

- \* Worship with Morning and/or Evening Prayer
- \* Pray the Anglican rosary
- \* Listen to Christian music and praise God while driving/commuting
- \* Pray the Daughters of the King prayer while putting on the DOK cross
- \* Read the Forward Day by Day meditation and respond to its prayer requests
- \* Reflect upon the daily tweets from Trinity Church
- \* Subscribe to a daily Bible verse service and reflect on each verse received
- \* Read the newspaper and pray for those who passed away and their families
- \* Respond to prayer requests from Episcopalians on Facebook
- \* Participate in the Episcopal Public Policy Network and contact elected officials on issues of the Episcopal Church
- \* Pray daily via email with the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist
- \* Pray when you learn news, both happy and sad, of others, especially friends and fellow parishioners, newsmakers
- \* Pray for family, friends, and the world
- \* Be mindful of Christ in all others
- \* Make all with whom you come in contact with feel heard and loved

God bless you, every one.

## Beyond the Pages



Trinity's faith-based book club, Beyond the Pages, meets monthly through Zoom on Sunday afternoons. The meetings are an opportunity to gather with fellow readers and to enhance your spiritual understanding through literature.

Beyond the Pages most recently discussed John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* on Dec. 5. The next book is Mitch Albom's *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, set for Jan. 16. Information about the club's meetings and books is in This Week at Trinity. Contact Jeanne Boyle for details.



# Corner

Trinity is grateful to all who have given their time, talent and treasure during the current period of transition. Your contributions make it possible for us to serve our congregants and the local community and to work toward our future.

Your generosity is needed more than ever as we look ahead to 2022. Our financial resources have dwindled because of the pandemic, and pledges through early December were down substantially from past years.

Fortunately, there's still time for you to show your support if you haven't already done so. The pledge form for 2022 is included in this issue of the Herald along with a Stewardship letter, sent in October.

There are several options for paying your pledge, including our online-giving platform, Givebutter, which is linked to our home page. Bill-paying services, available through banks, are another possibility. If you prefer to use offering envelopes, please contact the Church Office to obtain them.

Remember that Stewardship involves time and talent, as well as treasure. We are thankful to all those who helped with our outreach and fundraising events this year. We look forward to having more events next year as we bring back activities that were interrupted by the pandemic.

For details on these and other opportunities to serve, see *This Week at Trinity*. Contact Wardens Steve Kalista and David Wilson for more information.





Dear Congregant:

We are living through a period of transitions.

Trinity has been without a priest-in-charge since May. Our next minister is likely to be shared with St. James, Edison, under an affiliation agreement. While both congregations support the affiliation, negotiations on the agreement will take some time to complete.

We have been limited to online worship since last November, though we look forward to the return of in-person services shortly. Our Friday lunch program and Wednesday dinner and worship meeting were suspended for an even longer period, more than 18 months, before returning recently to the Parish House.

Our diocese is going through a transition as well. Bishop Stokes, who originally suggested that we affiliate with St. James, is retiring in June 2023. The committee that will pursue his successor is already being formed, and Trinity has been a part of that process.

What does all this have to do with stewardship? The answer lies with how we look at these transitions. Trinity has never closed even as the coronavirus pandemic has kept us apart. Lay readers have stepped up to conduct Morning Prayer and to provide homilies in the absence of a priest. Our feeding ministries have not only carried on with some adjustments, but also stepped up to meet the local community's growing needs. The diocese has supported us financially and in other ways even as preparations for a leadership change began.

None of this could have happened without the generous assistance that you and your fellow congregants provided during the past year. As we look ahead to the coming year, we hope you will renew your support for our mission and ministries.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help ensure Trinity's future and return the pledge certificate sent with this letter. You may mail it to the church, using the address on the certificate, or scan it and send as an email attachment to [wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org](mailto:wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org).

You hold the key to our success during the transitions and beyond. Please respond accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David M. Wilson'.

David Wilson, Warden

# A Call to Love

## A FINANCIAL AND FAITH COMMITMENT

### Trinity Episcopal Church Pledge Certificate for 2022

Having prayed about my support for the mission of Trinity Episcopal Church and being mindful of all that God has given to me/our family, I pledge to provide the following amount during 2022:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly / monthly / quarterly / yearly (circle one)

I will fulfill my pledge via (check one):

Offering plate  Mail  Automatic bank transfer  Online giving

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I/we realize that in the event of a change in my/our financial position, we can adjust our pledge confidentially by contacting our clergy or wardens.

I/we are interested in making a gift to support a specific project at Trinity for which funds are needed. Please contact me to discuss the possibilities.

I/we are interested in learning about planned giving to Trinity through wills, charitable trusts and other forms of estate planning. Please send information and have the Valentine Society contact me for follow-up.

**Please return this form to:  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
650 Rahway Ave. at Trinity Lane  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-3530**

THANK YOU for your support of Trinity in the coming year. We hope you will also be able to share your time and talents in the spirit of stewardship.

# St. Anne's Unit



St. Anne's Unit will hold its first meeting of 2022 on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be BYOB&S (Bring Your Own Beverage and Snack). The group will follow our diocesan guidelines by wearing masks and maintain socially distant seating.

St. Anne's is an organization that's unique to Trinity. It isn't a member of any national or international group. It was formed in 1942 to help operate a day-care center during World War II.

St. Anne's is open to any women of Trinity. All fundraising projects support the church's activities. Happy New Year to all.



## Thank You!



St Anne's would like to thank each and every one of you that supported our Christmas Greenery Sale. Thank you all for ordering Christmas decorations from us and being so prompt with pick-up.

We are pleased to be able to place grave covers given in honor of parents in our Trinity Cemetery. We are also grateful for those who adopt a grave and allow us to honor people who were part of Trinity many years ago.

Thanks to all those who helped on distribution day. You were a blessing.

# Trinity at the Turkey Trot



Trinity's David Wilson, John Bergacs and Kathy Krupa (left to right) were among participants in the 1st Annual Woodbridge Turkey Trot 5K race, which was held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at Alvin P. Williams Memorial Park in Sewaren.

John and Kathy are pictured with first-place medals they received in their age-group categories. Congratulations.

## Remembering the Sick



Trinity prays for the sick and the suffering at weekend services, during the Prayers of the People. In order to keep our prayer list up to date, names of those in need of our prayers will be included for four weeks at a time.

You may add names to the prayer list or renew names already on the list by calling our prayer request line at 732-634-7422, ext. 100, or by sending an email to Wardens Steve Kalista and David Wilson at [wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org](mailto:wardens@trinitywoodbridge.org). You are encouraged to mention a name aloud during services and we hope that you will feel free to do so.



# WELCOME TO COMMUNITY SOLAR

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without the need for  
solar panels



**Donation**

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make a donation to us  
for every subscriber



**100%**

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doing what's right  
for the earth

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**S1698**

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## FAQs

### ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SIGN-UP FEES TO ENROLL?

No. There are no enrollment charges, no hidden fees, and no long-term commitment. Cancel at any time without penalty.

### WILL I STILL BE A PSE&G COSTUMER

Yes, you will stay with your current utility provider, but your bill will be reduced.

### DO I NEED TO OWN MY HOME OR APARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE?

No. Renters and owners alike have access to clean energy and savings with our solar energy.

### HOW DO I SIGN UP? WHEN CAN I START?

Right away! Go to [GoSolarLandscape.com](http://GoSolarLandscape.com) or call 732-456-5656. Our bilingual team is ready to support your needs.



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Address Correction Requested

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