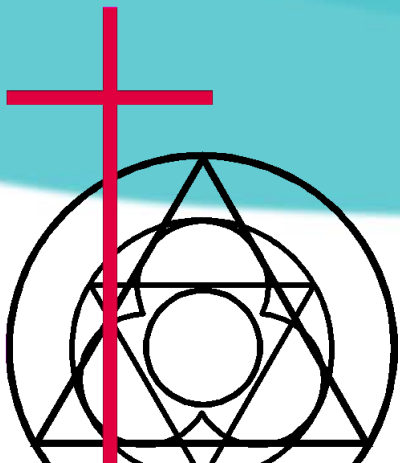


Annual Report 2023



Trinity Episcopal Church

130 N. West St. Wheaton, IL 60187

www.TrinityWheaton.org | 630-665-1101

An Opening Reflection



Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Agenda Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023

Call to Order

Welcome & Wardens' Report

Reflection on 2023

Opening Prayer

Appointments and Nominations

Strategic Planning Report

Financial Presentation

New & Old Business

Election

Rector's Report

Open Mic

Lunch



Ministry Staff and Leaders

The. Rev. Kevin Caruso	Rector kcaruso@trinitywheaton.org
The Rev. Dr. David Fisher	Priest Associate dfisher@trinitywheaton.org
The Rev. Dr. Robin Currie	Priest Associate revdoc04@sbcglobal.net
The Rev. Jim Lanning	Deacon jlanning@trinitywheaton.org
The Rev. Brenda Lotesta	Deacon Lotestabrenda@gmail.com
The Rev. Jayachitra Lalitha	Deacon jayachitalalitha@gmail.com
Robert Ward	Organist & Music Director church-organist@comcast.net
Gay Webb	Family Ministries Coordinator gaywebb52@gmail.com
Michelle Baun	Parish Admin. & Communications Dir. trinitywheatoncomm@gmail.com office@trinitywheaton.org
Chris Ponstein	Bookkeeper bookkeeper@trinitywheaton.org
Jean Allmart	Clerk of the Vestry vestry@trinitywheaton.org
Rod Sweer	Treasurer j.sweer@att.net



2023 Vestry

Jean Allmart, Clerk of the Vestry

Steve Dionne, Sr. Warden

Kathy Brown, Jr. Warden

Class of 2024

Julie Nelligan
Steve Faryan
Judy Schwartz

Class of 2025

Abby Markham
Beth Petti
Eric Bergman

Class of 2026

Bernie Ishmael
Bob David
Larry Kuhn
Peter Bostcok



Leader Reports

Warden's Report

The year 2023 was a very exciting year at Trinity! The Strategic Planning Team finished their work with the outside consultant. From that effort, a plan was formulated for the future goals of our Parish life within our internal Church community and the community around us. The team is continuing to meet and implement the mission and goals developed through that process.

The redecorating of the parlor was completed in early 2023 and has provided a welcoming space for various meetings and small gatherings. We enjoyed the photographic display in Millett Hall of places that individual parishioners found to be sacred. We also were able to rehang the Trinity Quilt in a prominent place in Millett Hall. The desire is to have the history of this quilt displayed for future reference. Several community events were sponsored by Trinity - the community Easter Egg Hunt and family pictures with Santa. We also saw the return of some pieces of Christmas Sharing back into our building. A special thanks to those that made these events happen.

In 2022 and 2023, Trinity was blessed to be the beneficiary of significant financial legacies. To ensure that these funds were managed to support the mission of the parish, the Vestry formed a financial committee to address our fiscal policies. A major task was completed in 2023 - the much needed cleaning of the pipe organ and repair of the pipe chambers. A music committee was formed to support and augment the music that our enthusiastic choir provides to enrich our various liturgical services. The Safety Committee continues to work and refine our emergency response policies. In 2023, 22 members of the parish were trained in CPR and received their certification. Steve Wilson and his technology committee continue to explore ways to improve the technology that we use within our space.

The summer brought the marriage of Fr. Kevin and Megan Elmore and the joy of welcoming Megan, Gwen, and Finn into our lives. The summer also saw the absence of Fr. Kevin as he took his first portion of a well earned sabbatical. The parish was invited to join Fr. Kevin in the reading of several books that he would be using during his time away. We were fortunate to have the support of our strong parish staff during this time.

In an effort to stay connected with members, the Vestry continues to reach out each month to ask if there are any needs or special intentions that the Vestry can offer prayers for. This contact is made through a phone call, email and or text message.

Trinity has many unsung heroes: the volunteers that help man the Church office, the team that meets and folds the weekly bulletins and special mailings, and the dedicated team that supports DuPage PAD's the 2nd Tuesday of every month. There are a lot of committees, commissions, etc. that are listed in this annual report, but there are others who simply do important tasks here at Trinity and do not always get recognized. We thank them for what they do. If you want more information on these opportunities, please Kathy Brown or myself.

Submitted by Steve Dionne

Priest Associate Report

This year I divided my time between Trinity and St Paul Lutheran Wheaton. I presided at least one service a week at Trinity, preaching as scheduled. I had the opportunity to lead most worship for seven weeks this summer while Fr Kevin was on Sabbatical.

I baptized my newest great niece in Ohio. (See picture)

I cannot look back on this year without mentioning the lumpectomy and radiation treatments. During my lowest time I was uplifted to know you were in prayer, and your continual encouragement sustained me. It is always a joy to be here!

Blessings!

Pastor Robin



Deacons Report

In the Episcopal Church, Deacons are one of the three orders of ordained ministry. For many years, this was seen as a transitional ministry, sort of like an internship, for people who were expected to go on to be ordained as priests. Beginning in the early 1970's, the Episcopal Church recognized that there were people who were called to take on the role of Deacon as a life calling rather than as an interim step on a path to priesthood.

These people became known as Permanent Deacons or Vocational Deacons. The Diocese of Chicago was an early adopter of this movement.

For the past 50 years Trinity has been served by several individuals who have been called Deacons. Beginning in 1974 when Bob Taylor was ordained and continuing to today these persons have supported the ministry of the Trinity community through a wide variety of activity ranging from leadership in aspects of worship to bringing home communion to hospital visits to nursing home ministry to social action ministry to Christian formation and many other efforts. Each of them has enhanced what we all do together.

Currently there are three Deacons in active service at Trinity. Below is a brief, and not complete, list of some of the things our Deacons do here at Trinity:



Deacon Jayachitra Lalitha:

- Led Bible Study Group on Human Sexuality and the Bible; the members of the study group shared their personal experiences as LGBTQA+ community during worship services.
- Led retreat on zoom platform during Lent season on the theme, “Mary Magdalene at the Foot of the Cross and the Open Tomb”
- Visited Nursing Home
- Part of Pastoral Care Support Teams to assist congregants in times of special need
- Preaching in Worship service
- Organizing activities on discernment for priesthood

Deacon Jim Lanning:

- Nursing Home ministry
- PADS
- Organizing worship leadership
- Adult formation program
- Hospital visits
- Backpack for Stroger Hospital effort
- Various committees and task forces chartered by Vestry



Deacon Brenda Lotesta

- Nursing Home Ministry participation
- Lead Pastoral Care Support Teams to assist congregants in times of special need
- Home and rehab visits
- Northern IL Food Bank and Backpack/Bishop Anderson House ministries
- CASA: Supporting children and family in the foster care system
- Trinity Strategic Planning Team support.
- 2023 continuing education, Backstory Preaching classes and the Chicago Diocese College of Congregational Development, completed year 1 of 2 year program.
- Focus on assisting individuals engage in, participate in, or create meaningful opportunities to serve according to their individual gifts and desires.



Archives Report

The Archives crew has accomplished many things in the past year. Most importantly and helpfully the file drawers have been indexed and it is much easier to find information.

We will continue to refine that index. There are many photos and 35mm slides that are not identified. Going forward we will be needing help with these.

Trinity now has a scanner in the office and very soon we will be making use of that. As we begin that project we will label each photo and/or date of the events depicted.

Almost all of our clergy photos have been enhanced and digitized. The Diocese has sent digitized photos of the Bishops. These will be incorporated in the 150th anniversary events.

Parish records and financial records are kept in the safe for preservation. We will soon index the contents of the safe, as well.

If you have any Trinity memorabilia that you'd like to donate, those items will be welcome!

Mary Buckley



Financial Report

Trinity stewards its finances carefully.

Our Investment Management Policy specifies a 'buy and hold' approach consisting of low cost index funds that in total have moderate risk. A money market fund provides the flexibility to draw from our investments without being forced to 'sell low'. To balance our operating budget we take a currently sustainable ~4% of our unrestricted funds.

On the expense side of the ledger, there are few opportunities for large savings. So, we look for and implement smaller ones. Two examples from 2023 are a new credit card for the church and an increased insurance deductible. The new credit card provides an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases while our old card offered no such benefit. This benefit could reach a \$1,000 a year. Our insurance premium increased 17% for 2024. After considering the risk and benefit we increased the deductible from \$5,000 to \$10,000 thus mitigating the higher premium by more than \$2,000. In 2024 we plan to renegotiate our Comcast contract and review how we purchase our natural gas and electric utilities. Our operating costs continue to increase, but we also continue to search for ways to keep those increases as small as possible.

Rod Sweer



Faith Formation & Parish Life

Book Club

The book club has a regular schedule of meetings from January to November, which always take place on the second Thursday of the month. We use these meetings to select the books that we will read throughout the year. Typically, our meetings are held both in person and through Zoom, allowing members to attend in a manner that works best for them.

However, during the winter months, specifically due to weather conditions, we switch to exclusive Zoom meetings for the safety and convenience of our members. This ensures that everyone can participate without any issues related to transportation or potential hazards caused by inclement weather.

In 2022, our book club became ecumenical and expanded its membership by welcoming three individuals from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. This initiative aimed to foster a diverse and inclusive environment where people from different backgrounds and beliefs can come together to enjoy literature and engage in meaningful discussions.

We are always thrilled to welcome new readers to our book club. Whether you are a seasoned bookworm or

just starting your reading journey, we invite you to join us and be a part of a community that celebrates the joy of reading and the beauty of diverse perspectives.

We expect to pick the August through November books in late spring. If you join you can help select the books we'll read. Contact Jeanne Hoffman for more information: JLHOFF@comcast.net

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This is a group of knitters or crocheters who meet in person and online to pray and create prayer shawls and pocket squares. The prayer shawls and squares are blessed and given to Bishop Anderson House for use by their Chaplains and are available at the church for general use by anyone to give to those who they pray for. These items are a special symbol of love and prayer offered to those navigating life's challenges. If you would like to receive or give a prayer shawl or square to someone you know to share your love and prayers please reach out to Judy Morgan (leader) or one of the Deacons. All are welcome to participate! The meeting schedule is published in the Church bulletin and on the Church app.

Holy Spokes

Holy Spokes, which is Trinity's social cycling group, continues to gain popularity. Last summer, over 30 riders from Trinity and the next door apartments joined together for leisurely rides throughout the area. Riders of all ages and abilities are welcome to join us each Saturday between May and October. Rides are typically flat and do not exceed 14 miles. And we usually reward ourselves with refreshments at the local establishments after the ride (302 anyone?). Last summer we squeezed in ten rides; rode 161 miles; ate over twenty 302 burgers; drank countless bottles of water; and destroyed one bike computer! Expect to start most rides from the Trinity parking lot this summer.. However, we will start from a different area at least one weekend each month (such as Naperville!). Riders are expected to bring their own bikes and helmets (required). If you don't have either, we'll be happy to help find either so that you can enjoy the experience. For more information, please contact Rob Roque or Rich Lotesta or email us at holyspokes@trinitywheaton.org.



Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee hosts many annual events. During the year 2023 those events included:

- the Annual Meeting luncheon in January
- the Pancake Supper that returned to Trinity Church
- the Easter Eve Champagne Reception that came back after the
- Covid hiatus
- the Trinity Picnic at Northside Park
- the Golf Outing and Steak Fry and
- the Advent Brunch

All the above events were the perfect learning curve for the highlight of the year...

The wedding reception for Father Kevin and Megan Caruso on June 10. The Hospitality Committee really enjoyed coordinating the reception. We wish to again say "thank you" to all who helped out. Coffee hour is coordinated by this committee. We love having people host after the 10 am Sunday service. If you would like to preside over a coffee hour, we'll gladly help you out by answering any questions that you may have. It's an easy way to contribute to the Trinity community and a great way to meet people. The Men's Group always rustles up tasty food for the picnic, the Steak Fry and the Advent Brunch. These cooking phenoms are now officially a part of the Hospitality Committee.

The Hospitality Committee also assisted with several memorial services during 2023. Our role is to support and lend a helping hand with any details of a funeral or memorial reception. Please join us! We would love to have you on the committee. We would also be very happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted, Chuck Boyle, Steve Dionne, Julie Nelligan and Adele Southcott



Men's Group

The primary activities of the Men's Group in 2023 again centered on hospitality and, of course—great food. The group served up some fine eatin' throughout the year—

- Serving up traditional hot dogs and brats at the 4th of July pot luck
- Grilling burgers and dogs at the Church Picnic at Northside Park in August
- Delivering great steaks and all the sides and fixin's to 63 of our closest friends and family
- at the Steak Fry in September
- Adding to the spirit of the season at the Advent Brunch, where we enjoyed good food, and the fellowship of over 100 of our fellow parishioners and friends.

Although the cast of characters is always changing, the men and women that gather to host these events are a great bunch. We have fun along the way and take pride in putting on a top-notch event. All men (and women) are welcome to join us - no special uniform or secret code - but we'll teach you the handshake. And a special shout out to the Hospitality team that "dress" the room and make the whole affair special. They are awesome.

Thanks to all the team that made the 2023 events successful.

Parish Office

We've had a whole year of office volunteers and they have several projects going on through the year like digitizing our columbarium records; taking rental payments and assisting the support groups who call Trinity home.

The office is staffed during the week, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, by either staff members or dedicated volunteers. Depending on the day of the week, additional hours may be required to accommodate the needs of different groups. Our goal is to provide a space where support groups, ministry groups, and even rentals can take place.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a welcoming and supportive space for these community support programs. The increase in attendance at our in-person meetings reflects the growing recognition of the importance of such programs in people's lives.

The AA and Al-anon groups, in particular, have become an essential part of our parish community. Seeing them utilize 2 to 3 classrooms in our lower level demonstrates the positive impact they have on individuals seeking recovery and support. It is truly remarkable to witness their commitment to their recovery journeys and overall well-being.

By offering space and support to these groups, our parish has taken on a vital role in helping individuals overcome addiction and find solace and understanding amongst their peers. We understand that recovery is a lifelong process, and through our community support programs, we strive to provide ongoing assistance and encouragement to those who need it.

We are committed to continuing our collaboration with these groups and other community support programs as we believe in the power of shared experiences and collective support. Our hope is that by being an integral part of their recovery journey, individuals will find the strength and resilience to rebuild their lives and create lasting positive change.

We are truly humbled to witness the positive impact our parish community is making in the lives of those seeking support, and we look forward to furthering our commitment to fostering well-being and recovery for all.

Thank you to all our office volunteers for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our community

ministry. Your warm welcome and assistance in navigating our building make such a difference in the experience of those we serve. I am truly thankful for your contributions to the positive impact our parish has on the community. Your organizational skills and dedication to keeping things running smoothly are invaluable.

As we move forward, I am excited to see the growth and positive change that our parish will continue to make in the lives of those we serve. Together, we have the power to create a vibrant and supportive community that uplifts and empowers all who enter our doors.

Thank you again for your selfless service and for being an integral part of our community ministry.

Faithfully submitted by,
Michelle Baun

Legacy Society

What do you want your legacy to be? The Trinity Legacy Society is a way for individuals to leave a lasting impact by including the organization in their estate plans. It represents a deep commitment to the community of faith and the belief that Trinity's mission should continue even after one's passing.

By becoming a member of the Trinity Legacy Society, individuals leave a lasting imprint on the organization. Their gifts contribute to the financial stability and growth of Trinity, enabling it to continue its vital work in serving the community and furthering its mission.

In summary, the Trinity Legacy Society is a community of individuals who have made provisions in their wills to support Trinity even after their passing. It represents a commitment to the faith community and a belief in the importance of supporting Trinity's mission for future generations.

Contact: Charles Wilcox—legacy@trinitywheaton.org

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild plays a vital role in ensuring that the altar and sanctuary are properly prepared to create a sacred and welcoming space for worship. Our responsibilities include:

1. Preparing the altar:

This involves setting the altar linens, such as the fair linen (white cloth covering the altar), corporal (square cloth placed beneath the chalice and paten), purificator (small cloth used to cleanse the chalice), and lavabo towel (used for the washing of hands). We also arrange the candlesticks, cross, and any other necessary items.

2. Arranging liturgical vessels:

We make sure that the chalice, paten, ciborium, and other necessary vessels for Holy Communion are clean and ready for use. We may also prepare additional items such as the baptismal font and the chrism oil for baptisms.

3. Seasonal decorations:

During Advent and Christmas, we decorate the church with wreaths, candles, and other appropriate symbols. Similarly, during Holy Week and Easter, we adorn the sanctuary with flowers, banners, and other visual elements that reflect the significance of the season.

4. Coordinating floral arrangements:

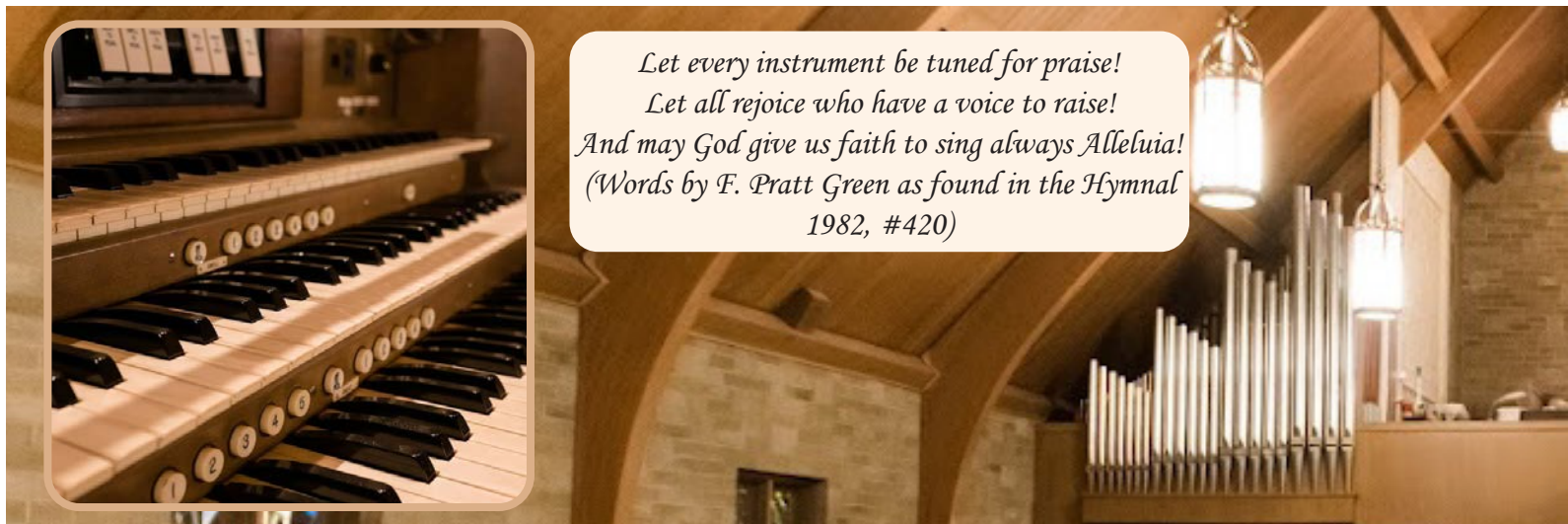
We work with the florist or arrange flowers ourselves to create beautiful arrangements that enhance the worship space. These arrangements may be used on the altar, in the sanctuary, or in other designated areas of the church.

5. Maintaining and caring for sacred objects:

We ensure that the altar linens are properly washed and ironed, and that the vessels and other sacred objects are cleaned and polished regularly. We may also be responsible for storing and preserving items such as vestments, paraments, and linens.

6. Assisting clergy during services:

We are present during worship services to assist the clergy with any needs during the liturgy. This may include lighting candles, bringing forward the bread and wine for the Eucharist, and attending to any other ceremonial requirements.



*Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!
(Words by F. Pratt Green as found in the Hymnal
1982, #420)*

7. Special services:

We play an essential role in preparing the church for special services, including Trinity weddings, baptisms, and funerals. This involves ensuring all necessary items are in place and coordinating with other volunteers or staff members involved in these services.

By diligently carrying out these responsibilities, the Altar Guild helps create a reverent and aesthetically pleasing environment that enhances the worship experience for both clergy and congregants.

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about Altar Guild, please contact Liz (elanning@gmail.com) or Emily (emily.kessler1966@gmail.com).

Music Ministry

Trinity's Choir

The Senior Choir continues its dedicated ministry by offering their talent for the 10:00 am Sunday service, plus special services such as Advent Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The Choir's high level of commitment and spirituality shows as members work hard every Wednesday evening to learn the music, and again on Sunday, to review and polish music before the service. Choir members for 2023 include: Jim Brown, Jeanne Hoffman, Carol Ann Ishman, Ken Miller, Beth Stewart, John Miller, Judy Morgan, Julie Nelligan, Ruth Anne Wilcox, and Jayachitra Lalitha.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir consists of people who are filled with vigor and enthusiasm for learning and growing. They rehearse weekly and offer their musical gifts to the congregation approximately once a month. Handbell Choir members for 2023 include: Illija Mackovic, Faye Mackovic, Adam Mackovic, Laurie Faryan, Jeanne Hoffman, Phil Petti, Beth Petti, Mary Rogers, Rob Roque, and Sharon Roque.

Trinity's Instrumental Group

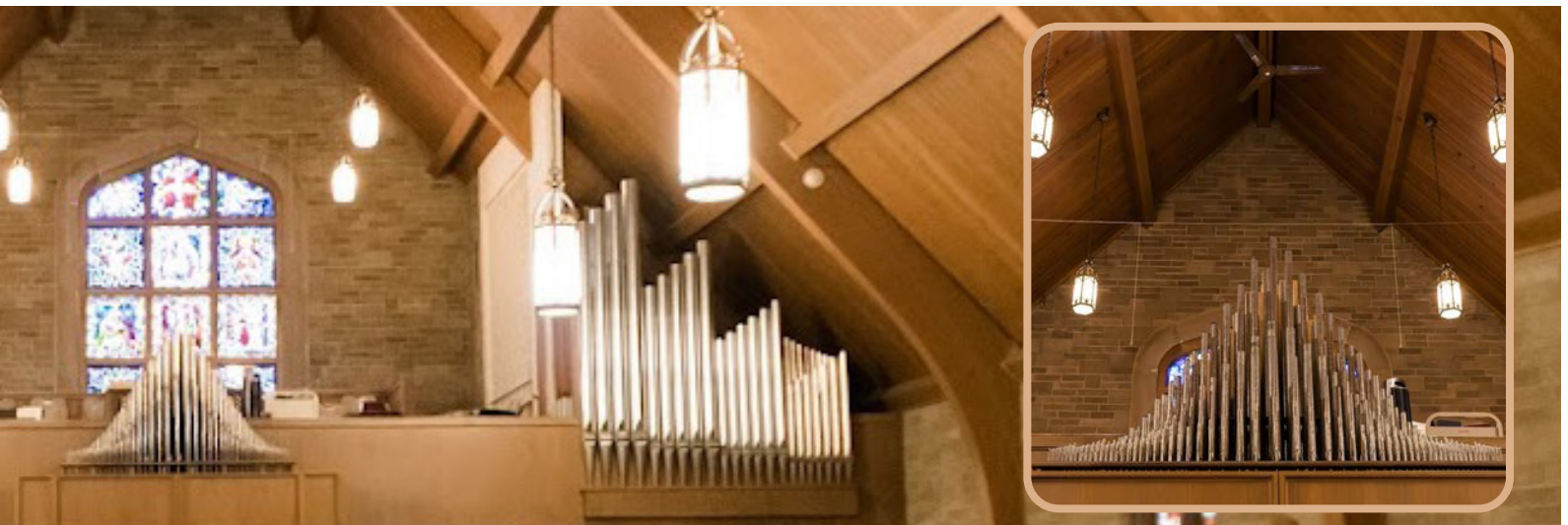
The Trinity instrumental Group played for the 10:00 am service several times in 2023. This group is open to instrumentalists of all ages and playing levels. Thanks to those who participated this past year, including Barb Berdahl, Faye Mackovic, Adam Mackovic, Mark Thomas, Bill Moore, Alex Kourbanis, Madeline Nephew, Sofia Nephew, Steve Koester and Nancy Moore.

Music Loft

Music in the Loft is where children and their parents (or anyone else who wants to participate) are invited to come to the choir loft to sing the recessional hymn, ring chimes, and to watch the postlude performed on the organ. This is a great chance for children and others to see Trinity from a different vantage point, and to share in the making of music.

Organ Renovation

The Vestry has approved a renovation project for our pipe organ. It has been over 33 years since any upgrades have been made to our organ. The renovation will be in two phases. Phase one, where all the pipes were removed and cleaned was completed in the summer of 2023. Repairs to the plaster in the chambers were also



done at this time. Phase two will begin after Easter of 2024. This phase will include the following: Replacement of unreliable draw-knob solenoids; Replacement of shade engines; Replacement of key contacts and pistons; Replacement of cracked and incorrect console tags; Installation of updated control system, including transposer, record-playback, more piston memory and other features.

In closing: I feel blessed to be among all of you at Trinity as I begin my twelfth year. May we all continue on with grace, patience, and joy. And, may we remember the multitudes of blessings that have been bestowed on us. Respectively Submitted by Robert Ward, Director of Music and Organist

Parish Outreach

The Outreach committee continued its grant program in 2023 – asking members of the parish to suggest charities that would benefit from a donation from Trinity. We received requests to support the following groups: Youth Guidance - WOW program; Emmanuel Parish Summer Lunch Program; DuPage Habitat for Humanity; World Relief DuPage; Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly (ESSE); Guitars For Veterans; Hispanic Ministry Diocese of Chicago; Water for People. Each organization received \$500 from the parish and, in exchange, we got to learn about these groups.

In addition, Outreach financially supported Peoples' Resource Center (backpacks and school supplies as well as food), Episcopal Relief and Development (disaster relief), and the Diocese of Renk with money from our budget and/or from special donations.

PADS, which works to find solutions for homelessness, was able to purchase a former motel which has been converted into interim housing for homeless persons. A group from Trinity helps gather and distribute food to these guests once a month. Contact Steve Dionne for more information on this.

Trinity has continued its program of regular volunteer sessions at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Deacon Brenda Lotesta and Ruthanne Wilcox have been leading this and can provide more information if you are interested.

Again this year, Trinity participated in Christmas Sharing which donates food and other items to families who are part of CUSD 200 annually. We are grateful to Liz Lanning for heading up this effort for the last several years!

We would like to thank the members of the commission - Jim Brown, Nancy Lanning, Richard Lotesta, Helen Mensing, Judy Morgan, Charles Wilcox.

If you have any questions about the Outreach Commission please contact Nancy Moore or Liz Lanning at outreach@trinitywheaton.org



Thank you, Trinity!,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support of our Christmas Sharing at Trinity. Your generosity has made a real difference in the lives of the families that we helped! I'm also grateful for your financial contributions, which helped us provide programs and services that positively impact our community.

For example, your donations have helped us to:

- Provide food and clothing to those in need
- Toys that Parents could pick out
- Gifts that children could pick out for their parents

If you haven't heard (or read on Facebook yet) this was my last year of running Christmas Sharing at Trinity. I'm grateful for the faith and support Trinity has given me in running Christmas Sharing in the past 11 years. I'm sure whoever takes on Christmas Sharing next will do an equally amazing job!

Thank You Again!

Liz Lanning



Buildings & Grounds

2023 was another busy year for Buildings and Grounds.

With the help of the volunteer corps, we knocked out the usual list of odds and ends that need doing. Some examples include –

- Hung the quilt in Millett Hall.
- Installed a wide screen TV in the parlor (more on the parlor below).
- Assembled carts and installed flat screens for use upstairs and downstairs.
- Hung pictures in the Parlor in support of that project.
- Replaced the “porch light” above the Chapel main porch.
- Finished and painted the ceiling of the Rectory porch.
- Planted native Illinois perennials in the St. Francis area in the front courtyard and in the planter by the back parking lot.
- Cleaned out various unused areas around the property and discarded old furniture, etc. that people seem to dump at the church.
- Repainted the parking lot shed.
- Cleaned out the maintenance room for storage for the Cub Scouts, discarding unused materials and years of accumulated unused paint.

In addition to the volunteer completed projects, we completed major upgrades and repairs:

- On a May workday, volunteers re-landscaped the front of the Rectory, removing old, overgrown bushes, and replanting the front gardens with local Illinois, perennials. A big shout out to the team from We Grow Dreams that joined us for the day and added the youthful spark (and strong backs) we needed for the heavy lifting.
- The courtyard garden in front saw new plantings and the installation of a new bench, providing a place to sit and relax, and enjoy the birds and the spring flowers, or quietly contemplate close to the Columbarium.
- As part of the organ refurbishment, repaired and repainted the pipe chambers on the north and south sides of the choir loft.

- Rebuilt the front porch of the Chapel, installing new framing, new composite decking, and installing new lighting on the steps for safety. Rebuild and refurbished the double red doors to the Chapel. As usual, we had several roof repairs for missing tiles. Thanks to our roofer that makes the harrowing trip up our very steep roof.
- Replaced 154' of parking lot fence!
- A new exhaust unit was installed to replace a faulty fan and motor and provide direct ventilation of the upstairs powder room and the downstairs bathrooms.
- In the spring, the patio was power washed and the windows in Millett Hall and the Cloister were cleaned.
- And of course – completed the remodel of the Parlor. After the walls were repaired and repainted, the new furniture arrived. This was a multi-month effort by a dedicated team and I don't think I'm wrong that it has been a huge hit. Thanks to the Parlor Team for our fabulous new space.
- Not to be missed, is the redecorated Wedding Room on the lower level. What a great spot for our wedding couples to gather. And, paired with the Parlor, Trinity can offer a wonderful experience for our guests.

Finally, 2023 saw the chartering of the Trinity Technology Task Force. This group began meeting in September and using working sessions, research, and site visits has identified Trinity's Audio/Video/Streaming needs. The Request for Proposal and partner/contractor selection will take place in the first quarter of 2024, with plans to have the project completed by summer. More details will be shared as we move forward in the new year.

As usual, it's been a busy year and we look forward to 2024 in which we'll likely focus on getting everything in tip top shape for the 150th celebration in 2025.

Thanks to everyone that helped in these busy times.- Steve Wilson & Rich Lotesta

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is not a mysterious thing, it simply means how well we take care of each other. It is not something that the clergy do, but rather is how we all treat each other. Trinity really does care for many people, and this aspect of that care reaches to many of our members and people associated with Trinity.

On a fundamental level, one of the things we can all do in caring for each other is to offer prayer. If you know of a prayer need, for yourself, for a member of your family or for someone in the broader community, please contact the office to ensure that we can incorporate that need into our prayers each week. The best way to do that is to use the Prayer Request component on the Homepage of the Church Center app, but if that is not possible, contact the office some other way.

One of the ways we express our ongoing love and prayers is through delivery of altar flowers to persons in our community to express our thoughts for them, or to celebrate some event in their lives such as a new birth. Part of this ministry is also the Grief Series from Stephen Ministry, which we send to people in the parish who we know have lost a loved one.

Another way is through the newly developed Pastoral Care support Teams. The Pastoral Care Support Team is a group of volunteers who take on the task of making calls, checking in, offering support to members of the congregation during times of life transitions/aging or increased need during health rehabilitation. This team may offer rides to health care appointments, being present during senior service meetings, sharing knowledge of food, housing and transportation services available within DuPage county and being present during life transitions. This effort continues to flourish, and if you are interested in joining, please contact Deacon Brenda Lotesta or Deacon Jim Lanning.



TABS

The Trinity Action Brigade (TAB) works closely with the Pastoral Support Team providing meals to individuals/families generally for a three week period after new births, during cancer treatments or health care procedures. TAB is led by Peggy Ehrisman who sends cards monthly to those on the prayer list and schedules meal delivery and participation. We have many people who have volunteered their time for this ministry and they have provided much needed help. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact Peggy.

Nursing Home Ministry

For many years Trinity maintained a relationship with Winfield Woods nursing home, providing a communion service on Sunday afternoons. This ministry is led by Deacon Jim Lanning and supported by a dedicated cadre of lay persons with assistance from one of the deacons. As reported last year, we have resumed serving the residents by providing regular services at the nursing home. Initially we committed to a schedule of once a month services, and then after some experience we expanded to twice a month services on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. We were able to do so with the expansion of our volunteer team to nine people. We are looking forward to 2024 with the hope of expanding our team to allow us to offer additional services on a regular basis. We have also begun discussions with the folks involved in Guitars for Vets to provide some musical leadership that will enhance the worship experience for the residents.

Get Involved -

So, what can you do? Well, first, pray for us as we resume our commitment to the residents of Winfield Woods. Second, if you think you might be called to assist in this ministry, talk to Deacon Jim or Deacon Brenda about joining our ministry team. Currently, there are seven lay volunteers, and of course the deacons. If we can rebuild our cadre to 10 or 12 people, we will be able to offer more frequent services to the residents with our ultimate goal to once again visit them each week.

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to help with all of the ministries provided by Pastoral Care. Any suggestions to help us provide more support for our parishioners will be very welcome at any time and if anyone would like to join us to help in one or more of our ministries, we would be happy to hear from you. Just call or e-mail the office or contact one of the Deacons and we will find a Pastoral Care opportunity for you to participate in.

Worship Leaders

Over the course of 2023, Trinity has continued to offer a full range of worship experiences while maintaining options to keep safe those who are vulnerable to various communicable diseases. We have retained some space in the pews for those who wish to practice social distancing and wearing masks. These spaces are in the southeast quadrant of each of the worship spaces, and have clear directions for using these spaces.

Our Lectors, Lay Eucharist Ministers and Acolytes have again offered their services to enrich our common expression in worship. We have, however, had several of our worship leaders step back from participation for many reasons. If you would be willing and interested in taking on a role as a worship leader by reading lessons, leading the Prayers of the People, distributing communion, or serving at the Altar as an acolyte, at any of the regular services please contact Deacon Jim Lanning to volunteer. As an aside, there is no age limit to these service opportunities. Adults can be Acolytes and youth can be readers. As an example, one of our parishioners, who was an acolyte as a youth and is now reconnecting to Trinity as an adult, has joined the worship leader team as an acolyte at the 5:00 Saturday service on a regular basis. If you would be interested in joining the team, please talk to Deacon Jim or one of the other clergy who can pass the information along.

We are continuing to imagine how we can come together to worship God with our whole hearts while staying safe and protecting the more vulnerable members of our community. One of the ways we are doing this is through the continued use of media, such as live streaming the 10:00 service so that those persons who may be more at risk from COVID can continue to join us, even if not in person.

The sense of a community at prayer is important and is made up of many small but critical contributions by many people at each service. Each of the people who form a part of the worship leadership team make a valued contribution to this effort and deserve the thanks of the whole parish.

Technology & Communications

Trinity continues to assess its technology to implement solutions that offer the best experiences to staff, parishioners and visitors. This past year various members of the Trinity community banded together to align technology with Trinity's Strategic Plan. Highlights of these activities include:

- Increasing use of the Church app and providing periodic live tutorials to users
- Utilizing the large monitors in Millet Hall and the Parlor as electronic sign-boards
- Forming a Technology Resource Group to assess:
- The audio visual needs of the facilities and prepare a request for proposals to implement improvements
- The streaming needs of our remote participants and visitors
- Begin to update the website to align with Trinity's Strategic Plan.

Stay tuned for changes throughout 2024!

Church Center App

Church Center enables members to sign up for various events and activities within the church. This could include signing up for volunteer opportunities, registering for programs or classes, or simply RSVP-ing for upcoming events. This streamlined process helps to optimize the coordination and organization of these activities.



Google Search Numbers Spotlight

Aug. - Dec. 2023

Searches for Directions	597
Website Clicks from keywords "Trinity Episcopal Church"	514
Website Clicks from keywords "Episcopal Church"	349
Website Clicks from keywords "Church"	128
Website Clicks from keywords "Trinity"	185
Website Clicks from keywords "Churches near me"	217

Church Center App Usage

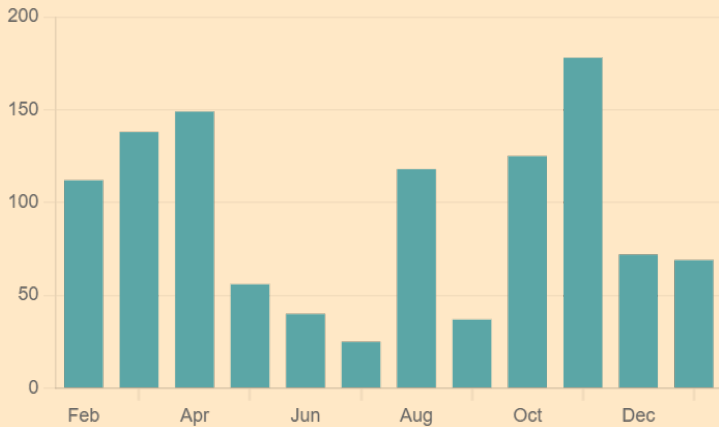
www.TrinityWheaton.ChurchCenter.com

Search your App Store for Church Center or use the QR Code



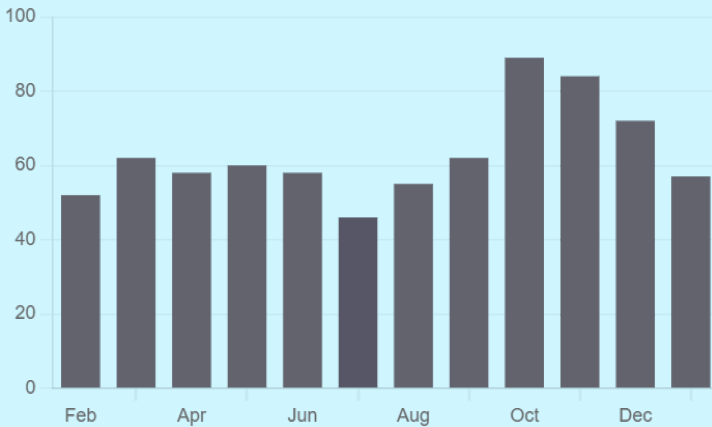
Church Center App Event Sign-ups

Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023



Church Center App User Activity

Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023



Candidates and Nominees

Jeanne Hoffman - Vestry Class of 2027

Early in the summer of 1980 I was looking for a new church. I visited Trinity and never left because I found my church home.

I've always lived in the Chicago suburbs but Wheaton has been my home for more years than I care to remember. I'm a member of the choir and a past member of the handbell choir. I coordinate the book club and participate in the prayer shawl ministry. Several times each month I'm one of the people who volunteer in the office. I've been retired for the past 2 years and enjoying the ability to do whatever I want each day.

Trinity has always been a welcoming place for me. It's an honor to serve on the vestry again.



Dianne Trausch - Vestry Class of 2027

Dianne M. Trausch was born and raised in Riverside, Illinois and attended St. Mary's Catholic School and St. Mary's Church. After attending College of DuPage Dianne worked extensively in the travel industry. In the early 80's Dianne was married and had two children, Joseph John and Amyanne Patricia. She also started to work for the airlines as a reservationist, worked on the ramp and then became a manager of the ticket counters and gates at Midway Airport and soon developed Midway Airlines Quality Control Department.

Also around this time Dianne and her children decided to join Grace Episcopal Church. They were all very active in the Youth Groups, acolytes and Sunday School and formed lasting relationships. In the late 90's Dianne was offered an opportunity in Breckenridge, Colorado so they relocated there.

Eventually Dianne opened a Farmers Insurance Agency in Breckenridge. After many years of living in Breckenridge, operating the Insurance Agency, getting married to Ken Trausch and raising the kids it was time to return back home to the Chicago suburbs. Dianne and Ken have found their spiritual home here at Trinity Church and would like to help however they can. Their free time is spent traveling and most importantly with their 4 grandkids that live in the area and their other 2 grandkids that travel all over due to their dad being in the Navy.



Mark Thomas - Vestry Class of 2027

In August, Susan and I will have been married 54 years. We have two grown sons Eric and Adam and three young granddaughters.

I was with the National Live Stock and Meat Board/National Cattlemen's Beef Association for over 32 years and retired as the Executive Vice President for Global Consumer Marketing. You might remember our consumer marketing campaign: "Beef ... It's What's For Dinner". I did my undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Arizona and am a Vietnam Era commissioned Army Officer. Susan is a neonatal intensive care nurse and graduated from The New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Boston.

In the mid 80's I served on the Trinity Vestry. Since then I have served on the stewardship committee at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Centennial, Colorado; and on the vestry (and steward committee chairman) at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Cape Cod); and on the vestry of St. Andrew's by the Sea Episcopal Church (Cape Cod). I was a reader at the two churches on Cape Cod.

We came to Trinity Wheaton in the late 70's and found the people here to be friendly and welcoming. Our boys were very active in the youth group and for a number of years I helped coordinate the annual steak fry.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Trinity Vestry again and will work to support the mission and goals of Trinity Episcopal Church.



Nancy Lanning - Diocesan Delegate

I have been a member of Trinity for many years and involved with the Altar Guild, where I assist in preparing the sanctuary for worship services. Additionally, I am actively involved in our Outreach Ministries, which aim to serve and support those in need within our local community. Through various initiatives such as food drives, clothing donations, and volunteer work.

I have also had the privilege of representing Trinity as a delegate at the Diocesan Convention in the past and I enjoy learning about what is happening in the wider church community.

