

# 2017 Annual Report



**The Church of the Holy Trinity  
381 Main Street  
Middletown, CT 06457**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## *The Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown CT*

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| Minutes of the Annual Meeting - January 29, 2017 .....         | 3    |
| Interim Rector Report .....                                    | 6    |
| Senior Warden's Report .....                                   | 7    |
| Building & Grounds Report .....                                | 8    |
| Parish Group Reports   |      |
| Acolytes.....  | 9    |
| Altar Guild.....   | 9    |
| Altar Memorial Flower Committee.....                           | 10   |
| Christian Education - Children's Ed./Sunday School/Youth ..... | 11   |
| Convalescent Home Ministry.....                                | 13   |
| Deacon's Report .....  | 14   |
| Episcopal Church Women.....                                    | 15   |
| Hospitality .....  | 17   |
| House of Many Talents .....                                    | 18   |
| Lay Readers and Chalicers.....                                 | 19   |
| Liturgy and Music Advisory Team .....                          | 20   |
| Music Ministry.....  | 20   |
| Necrology .....  | 22   |
| Outreach.....  | 22   |
| Parish Administrator .....                                     | 24   |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund.....                               | 25   |
| Showers for the Homeless Committee .....                       | 26   |
| Social Services .....  | 27   |
| Brother Thomas .....   | 27   |
| Transition Team .....  | 28   |
| Ushers .....   | 29   |
| Annual Meeting 2017  |      |
| 2018 Nominations.....  | 30   |
| <u>Treasurer's Report</u> .....                                | 31   |
| 2017 Profit & Loss Statement and 2018 Budget                   |      |
| 2017 Balance Sheet   |      |



## **Annual Parish Meeting 29 Jan 2017**

The annual meeting of the Society of The Church of The Holy Trinity was called to order by The Reverend Dana Campbell at 10:30 a.m., who then led us in prayer.

The Reverend Lee Ann Tolzmann of ECCT gave a Power Point presentation on the transitional process. She spoke of change within the parish and how we now prepare for the hiring of a new Rector. The procedure for hiring clergy has changed from past practices. She said that 76% of clergy now are 50 or over. Fewer people are going into clergy. Average tenure is six years.

She said that the transition process is an opportunity for a parish to transition closer into the heart of God. We focus on remembering that we focus on God's mission first.

We have not yet determined if we need to hire a half-time Priest. Joseph Krasinski of Danbury will be our consultant. The vestry will interview candidates as they become available. The consultant will work with our vestry to determine a transition team. The vestry chooses and calls the new rector in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese.

For transition teams, we will need people who will pray for the transition team all the time, as well as a Discernment team, a recruitment team, and a hospitality team.

The Discernment team will work with preparing profiles and develop content for the transition page on an updated website. Our current website is over ten years old. Lee Ann suggested we could use word press for developing a new website. She showed us St. Mary's, Manchester website as a good example.

The next step in the process is recruitment. The Canon for Mission Leadership (CML) receives names of candidates. The consultant (Joseph) will prepare the recruitment team for interviews.

Lee Ann Tolzmann (CML) receives the candidate portfolios and does basic preliminary background checks.

The recruitment team will review interview protocols and hold mock interviews. There will be two sets of interviews using Skype, or in person. A short list of three or four candidates will be sent to the vestry. The vestry will interview the short list.

Question: Are there standards that we need to adhere to for our website. Answer: No, but you want to be creative.

Question: Do we do a self-study as in the past. Answer: Not like before- there is some discernment process, but not a survey.

Question: how do we determine if we can afford a full-time priest. Answer: We need to support someone for five years. The Finance Committee is meeting at the Commons this week

to determine affordability. Lee Ann said that it is hard to return to full-time from a half-time clergy.

Question: Can we go into our endowment for affordability. Answer: We cannot take more than 15 percent over a three-year period from the endowment. We already are taking 5 percent per year for operating expense.

The ECCT website has all the information on salaries, which are based on experience. It was suggested by a parishioner that we obtain information on gifts to the endowment and for what purposes they were left.

Question: What is the length of discernment process. Answer: There is no time line but it shouldn't take more than a year.

Question: Could we tear down the newer part of our building and build a space for helping the community. Answer: That discussion would be taken up as a project for a new clergy person.

*A motion was made by Susan Spaeth and seconded by Ron Burlette to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as written. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimous in favor.*

The retiring members of the vestry were thanked for their service: Alexandria Ellis, Marie Burlette, and Ashley Saylor.

The following officers were elected to vestry for a one-year term: Wardens: Taylor Duckworth and Andre Bishop. Clerk: Ashley Saylor. Treasurer: Pam Ferguson. Vestry members elected to a three-year term: Enid Healy, Hector Pinero, Ty Warren.

Ron and Diane Reid were elected as ECCT Convention Delegates for 2017; Jonathan and Dortha Willetts were elected as Alternate Delegates.

*All were elected unanimously.*

**Finance Committee Report:** Treasurer Pam Ferguson thanked the finance committee members for their support and input: Taylor Duckworth, Eric Rennie, Jack Spaeth, Betty Wyskiel, and The Reverend Dana Campbell.

Pam reported that we came out \$40,000 better than we had anticipated, partly because we were \$8,400 under budget in expenses. Contributions were \$31,000 higher than anticipated. The Endowment value started 2016 at \$505,000, with \$70,000 transferred into the account. The value of the endowment at the end of 2016 was \$581,843.

The pledges for 2017 are \$17,000 less than last year. The Jones Funds are expected to be less this year. Our parochial report was prepared correctly in 2016, which results in a lower commitment to the Diocese.

We do need to cut expenses; our largest expense is salaries and benefits. Our Clergy will be full time until May 1, after which Dana will work  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. We could avoid this by increasing pledges. May need to go into our endowment for moving expense for a new priest. A one-time draw for moving costs does not affect the withdrawal rule.

Dana mentioned that Cyndi Hursty, who has been our bookkeeper for two years, is leaving. A new experienced bookkeeper, who has all the knowledge needed for us, has been hired. Dana

thanked Pam for her hard work translating our finances into the new system. Because of the change to Power Church bookkeeping, parishioners received two separate donation reports this year.

Taylor reviewed the Annual Report. She mentioned a need for building and grounds members. Altar Guild and Flower Group need help. Deacon Pat needs more people for the Lay Eucharistic ministry. We need a team to help as needed for hospitality.

She said that we would be using Word Press for website.

Monique McMillan spoke about the need for more outreach to people. She spoke about stereotypes. Bev Byrd spoke, saying that we are trying to do God's work here.

Ty Warren mentioned that there is a commitment on the part of the church that is working to bring us out to help others. It was suggested that we schedule talks about social issues, which Monique was concerned about at our new 10:30 adult education programs.

The experimental plan for holding our Worship Service at 9:00a.m. on Sundays for a time starting in February was discussed. It is thought that having the children with us through the whole service would be beneficial for them, and give Sunday School teachers the opportunity to attend the whole service. Education for all will be held at 10:30 each Sunday. It is logical to experiment before a new clergy person comes.

Question: Will this service result in losing Sunday School children? Answer: We don't know. We lost three Sunday school teachers last year. Going to church will give them worship opportunities they didn't have before.

Dana thanked schedulers for various ministries: Marie Burlette, Sharon Sheedy, Veronika Webb, and Andy Milliken. Suzanne Scibilia was thanked for her legal help, and her work with the Praise Band and Bell Choir. Lois Dragone and Judy McMillan were thanked for their work as the Altar Guild.

Deacon Pat Jackson led us in prayer for the members and friends of our parish who departed this life in 2016. They are: Carole Sandstrom Barcomb, Susan Beck Wasch, Jean Reil, Earle Vincent Roberts, Sr., Frances Rowland. Joan Marion Brackett Drechsler, Eric Bengston, Violet Narsis Cannata, Joyanne Walmsley Hammond, The Reverend John P. Miller, Wilma Menosky.

Carl loges expressed hope that Monique McMillan will become more involved in parish ministries as she has spoken out.

He also said that when Dana came here, there was a tremendous amount of confusion as a congregation, and lots of false information. He thanked her for leading us out of the valley. The congregation thanked her with a round of applause.

*A motion was made to adjourn at 12:25p.m by Kathy Adams and seconded by Dortha Willetts. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Reid  
Clerk of the Vestry



## Interim Rector Report

*...for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:6)*

As sometimes happens, I looked over the Scripture lessons appointed for our Annual Meeting Day with some dismay. Usually, through the grace of God, there is some obvious tie-in to the life of the parish on which the preacher/report writer can hang his or her hat. At first glance, I found none here. The gospel is about exorcism, the first lesson has people so afraid to encounter God that God is forced to appoint prophets as go-betweens, and the second lesson is about eating meat sacrificed to idols! Oy!

However, as I looked more closely at the passage from First Corinthians, the Epiphany light began to dawn. Paul's letters to the early churches are so specific to their situations, yet so universal in their overall teaching. And, of course, some things never change. A friend of mine who was a Parish Consultant for many years, assisting parishes through tough times and sticky situations, used to say that there was nothing she had ever encountered in any parish which had not also happened to the Corinthians!

Although the chances of our having run up against questions of conscience concerning "idol meat" are fairly slim, the way in which Paul wants the Corinthians to deal with the problem certainly applies to what I have experienced in our life together at Church of the Holy Trinity over the past year.

For Paul, the dilemma of how to behave as Christians in daily life in a heathen or secular world is ultimately answered by asking oneself two questions about any possible action: what does this mean for those around me and what does this mean for my relationship to God. One of the take-aways Paul seemed to have from his Damascus Road encounter with the Risen Christ was that Christian life is all about relationship: our relationship with God and our relationships with one another; and the fact that you can't have one without the other.

When Paul had experienced the light of Christ on that road, it blinded him. Jesus identified himself to Paul and said, simply, "get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." He did not regain his sight until a disciple of Jesus laid hands on his eyes and called upon the Holy Spirit to fill him. Then Paul got up, was baptized, and spent some time with the disciples in community before setting out on his own to advocate for the One whom he had formerly been persecuting.

Note: Jesus didn't send Paul to a priest, but to a disciple. And there are plenty of those here. Here at Holy Trinity, the tradition of a strong lay ministry continues. I have every confidence that you will be able to function with part time clergy because you have all the right instincts. Hardly have I entered a hospital room or a convalescent home or made a phone call to someone in distress when I have not found that parishioners have been there ahead of me, sent cards, made a phone call, or sent a casserole. You look out for one another. You love each other. You know that spending some time in a community of love speeds any healing process.

Paul, a devout Pharisee who enjoyed both the privilege of being a religious leader and also a Roman citizen, chose to aim his ministry squarely at the Gentile, non-Jewish, population, who enjoyed no such privileges. For Paul, there was a universality and a multidirectional nature

to God's commandment to love. It crossed all the usual human boundaries. In Christ there was to be no Jew or Greek, no slave or free person, no male or female because in Christ all had been made one. Paul humbled himself to be all things to all people and so to draw them to God.

I have seen this boundary-crossing love manifest at Holy Trinity in your social service ministry through Carl Loges and Jane Nichols, two professionals who work hard as volunteers to assist those who have fallen through the cracks of our security nets. I have seen it in the way in which Valerie, your Parish Administrator, speaks with those who call or show up at the door seeking help of some kind. As a parish, you have committed yourselves and your building to housing the Warming Center, and at the recent Homeless Memorial Service I cannot tell you how many people stopped me to express their gratitude for that gift of love. The Showers for the Homeless Project will ice the cake and fill a big gap in local services, as well as speaking volumes about your care and respect for your neighbors who are struggling.

You have welcomed the stranger. Many parishioners have given of their time and talents as drivers, English tutors, furniture movers, picnic companions, or whatever was needed at the time to settle refugee families in Middletown. The Middlesex Refugee Resettlement Coalition is a ministry amid controversy in our neighborhood. Holy Trinity has supplied more volunteers for this effort than any other member organization. You have taken the time to build relationships across barriers of culture, language, and beliefs. Paul would be proud of you. I certainly am.

Your concern for right relationship has prevailed over expediency time and again as you have worked together in parish groups. Your desire to make children welcome has overridden any annoyances with their sometimes over-exuberant presence in worship. In meetings you have taken extra time to listen to each another, and to work through differences of opinion. Parish Forums were safe spaces in which to express your views about the experiment with Sunday service times. It was not about avoiding upsetting one another, but rather about learning to speak the truth in love. And in 2017 we experienced the fruit of our labors in unifying the parish finances with fund accounting. Many of you gave up a level of power in order to share it with others. You are now working together in harmony. It was a challenge, and you embraced it.

Every time you have worked on your relationships with one another and with your neighbors, you have improved your relationship with God. That is how it works because those relationships are inseparable, says Paul. I believe him. I know that because you are pulling together as a parish while the way church happens changes all around us, you will be equal to the future—whatever it brings. Just remember Paul's counsel: it's all about relationship! started the ball rolling and set the bar high for others to give. Plans are well underway for receiving a second refugee family very soon.

*Dana +*

## Senior Warden Report

2017 has been a year of questioning. Who are we? Why are we here? What are we doing? Are we just our building or are we more? What does the future hold for us? How will we get there? What is the value of the space we share? We had a small task force working on that question a while back. We will need to revisit that question in the near future. Meanwhile, our building still allows us to reach out to people in need in the heart of Middletown. The Anonymous groups still use our church every week. They are a part of us; we are a part of them, the part affectionately known as “the squeaky floor church.” The clothing closet continues to be a ministry housed in our space. In 2017, we have taken a more active role in helping it



to stay stocked up and organized. Our relationship with St. Vincent DePaul remains strong. With them, we have helped to feed and warm some of our neediest neighbors through the soup kitchen, the food pantry, and the warming center which stays right here several winter months every year.

Should we keep doing two services? Our experiment with just the 9am service was to try to answer this question. It was a very difficult decision because while the one service solved some problems, it brought on others. After a good long trial, and many parish forums to discern the needs and concerns of the people, we decided to go back to our original 8 am and 10:15 am service times.



Who are we? We tried out some intergenerational activities and got to know ourselves and each other better. We tried out cooking all together, eating together, making crosses together, playing games, and singing too.

What does the future hold for us? Several workshops at the Commons were on topics related to our future as a church in this time. What trends do our finances say about our future? How do we *DO* church in this age? How can we collaborate? How can we minimize our cost while maximizing our efforts? We still do not have all the answers, but we are learning to keep our eyes and ears open to opportunities. For example, we are trying to collaborate more. Did you plan to attend our joint Christmas service with Portland? Shall we go to the next event for the North Central Region?

Where do we want to go? We put together a phenomenal Transition Team. They are helping us define who we are, what we are up to in this place, what is important to us, what we need to grow into, and how we want to move forward. With them at the wheel, in 2018 we will be prepared to call our new rector.

Who is going into the future with us? You are. I am. We all are, I hope. My prayer for 2018 is that *each and every one of us* feels empowered to participate in the life of this parish in some way. *We are* the skin and the bones of the church, His Church. He needs us all to be active participants. This place isn't for us; it IS us. Time for you to start your own questioning: How will I participate at Holy Trinity in 2018?

Faithfully,  
Taylor Duckworth

## **Building & Grounds Report**

- AAA Plumbing fixed heat circulators in chapel
- Sewage back up occurred in basement due to an old section of pipe and flushing of paper towels and other objects
- AAA Plumbing fixes zone valve controllers
- Ladies room toilet fixed
- Outside clean up, bushes pruned, leaves raked, Annuals planted, beds mulched, inside window trim painted, weeds pulled
- A/C unit placed in windows, circulator pumps turned off
- Water valve in Sacristy that was running constantly was turned off at the valve and AAA Plumbing replaced the valve



- Broken support beam found in basement will be inspected and repaired
- Kone Elevator inspected during routine maintenance
- Victorian room doorknob replaced
- A/C units removed from windows
- Building and grounds committee replace ten spotlights
- Fire extinguishers inspected by Roybal
- New thermostat (7 day) installed in Parish Hall
- Ladies room door lock replaced

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Bishop, Junior Warden

### Acolytes



The acolytes assist in the worship services on Sundays and with special services throughout the year. Although we are a small group, we serve willingly to assist in our parish's worship life. All our acolytes are all to be commended for their dedicated service to God and His church.

Sunday School children help in the extinguishing of the candles at the end of the service. These young people serve respectfully and are always willing to serve in this capacity.

Thanks to Hector Pinero, Dominick Russo, Patrick Powell, and Shane Buckheit for serving as Crucifers at 10:15 services. If we can add a few younger people, male and female, to our numbers, we can add torch bearers to our group.



Thank you to Pam Ferguson and Brother Thomas Goddard for their dedicated service at the 8:00am services. Any young person in Confirmation Class or older, and all adults are welcome to serve as Acolytes. Please contact Diane Reid at 860-267-2825, or email:

[rondiane@comcast.net](mailto:rondiane@comcast.net).

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Reid

### Altar Guild

*Almighty God, grant, we beseech you, that we may handle holy things with reverence, and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may rise with acceptance before you and obtain your blessing; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

“The altar is the center of the Christian Church. Around it the people of God gather to celebrate the mysteries of Christ's body and blood. That sacrament, the Eucharist, along with our baptism, is what binds us to Christ. Whatever we do in the world to live out the Christian life -- whether it be prayer, study, work for social justice, ministry to the sick, care of the dying, tending the needs of the poor, and the hungry — all these Christian activities arise from the presence of Christ

within us and that presence begins at a baptismal font, and gets renewed, and nourished at an altar.”

These words from the National Altar Guild Association explain why we take the ministry of the Altar Guild very seriously. Our Sunday worship goes to the heart of our life as Christians. The gracefulness and beauty of that worship would be impossible without the work of dedicated Altar Guild members.

At Church of the Holy Trinity, the Altar Guild is a ministry of service. The members of the Altar Guild are responsible for setting up and caring for the furnishings in the nave, sanctuary, and sacristy, Chapel, and any other area of the church where special worship will take place. They perform tasks such as:

- Preparing the altar
- Laying out the vestments and vessels for worship
- Setting the credence table with the elements (bread and wine) to be administered during communion
- Coordinating the decoration of the worship spaces with flowers for weekly Sunday worship, Christmas, Easter, and special events.
- Laundering and ironing altar and worship linens, polishing brass and silver, filling candles, caring for vestments, etc.
- Ensuring the church is dressed in the proper liturgical color of the day (hangings, vestments, etc.)
- Cleaning up after services and either preparing for another service or “closing down” for the day

The Altar Guild is a ministry of “quiet service.” It is behind the scenes, but a most critical act of service to the church. The objective is the same for any weekly or special service: *to make each service as perfect as possible.*

We encourage participation in this important ministry and we welcome men and women to join Lois Dragone, Judy McMillan, Sandy Wade, and Stacy Rich, who take pride in preparing all areas of our church for worship. All are welcome.



Elizabeth Wiese and Pamela Ferguson

### **Altar Memorial Flower Committee**

Our committee is now only Pam Ferguson and myself. We order our weekly flowers from Uncle Bob's Florist and get our Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias from Country Flower Farms. We desperately need a few new members to help us, especially during Easter and Christmas to help with decorating and watering. It is not a big job nor does it take a lot of time.

Anyone wishing to have flowers in memory of a loved one should still call me, but all checks should be made out and sent to Church of the Holy Trinity, with a notation indicating what the check is for. Any other questions about weddings and/or funerals should also be directed to me. It is a pleasure to decorate the Lord's House, but more helpers would be a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth K. Wiese



Kerline Vassell-Klaus and Ethan working on the felt board

### **Children and Youth at Holy Trinity Christian Education**

In January 2017, Kerline Vassell-Klaus and Taylor Duckworth were our main teachers, with Sandy Pinero and Marie Burlette as our substitute teachers. Sandy Pinero, Cynthia Ellis, and Julia Claude continued to serve as assistant teachers. Sandy Pinero took inventory and procured supplies. Total enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year was 17 students. Average daily attendance was between 3 and 7 (not counting pageant season). Carol Powell organized our Youth Sundays during the first half of the year.

We developed lessons with assistance from [www.episcopaldigitalnetwork.com](http://www.episcopaldigitalnetwork.com) (free) and a subscription to [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) (\$100 for the year).



In late January, we began holding class at 10:30 am after the one 9 am service. At least one time per month, we had an intergenerational activity for all ages in lieu of Sunday school classes. These activities were very well received and mostly well attended. Some of these offerings included making valentines, preparing for our St. Vincent DePaul dinner service in March (adults cooked, children decorated cupcakes), and coloring stations of the cross.

When Sunday school classes resumed in September, we returned to our traditional 10:15-10:45 class during the 10:15 am service time. Quickly enough, in late October we began preparing for the Christmas Pageant. This year we tried something new shared by St. Mark's in Mystic, CT: The Best Christmas Pageant Never. The children did a fine job as always, and learned a great deal about the Nativity story as we practiced.



Much thanks go to our teachers and assistant teachers, as well as all of the parents for getting the children to church and participating. Additional gratitude goes out to Ashley Saylor Pierce for her support, Ty Warren for his technical assistance with the Christmas pageant, the youth group for their help with creating the stable for the Christmas pageant, and Sandy Pinero for spearheading all of the necessary communication. Thank you very much!

Respectfully submitted,  
Taylor Duckworth

### Youth Group



For 2017, the youth group averaged 6-8 teenagers, with Alex Ellis, Taylor Duckworth, Andy Milliken, Marie Burlette, Kerline Vassel, Sandy Pinero and Ron Burlette serving as adult volunteers. The group met every other month throughout the year, and is open to teens 13 or 14 and up. The lessons for the year mainly came from Ministry to Youth, an online resource.

In spring, the teens hosted a Silent Movie Night, with classic black and white silent films accompanied by live piano. For Mardi Gras, we hosted a Pancake Brunch after a Sunday service, raising \$700 in donations. Some electrical issues resulted in slow cooking, but fun all around. In summer, we welcomed the community to Tie Dye on the lawn, providing the dye and direction to color your own shirt.



In July 2017, 3 youth, Alex Ellis, Ron Burlette and myself traveled to Woonsocket, RI to participate in a Work camp sponsored through Group Mission Trips. We were split onto separate work crews with 300 other teens and adults, to accomplish small home repair projects such as interior and exterior painting and deck rebuilding around the community. We spent the week sleeping at a local middle school, with days at our work sites and evenings gathering together for fun,

music and worship. The teens were a little uncertain about the process to begin with (the showers were very cold, the air mattresses deflated, they were working with strangers), but eventually friendships were made and we connected with our crews and residents. The trip amounted to 32 hours of community service per person, and over 50 local families were impacted. Other than our excursion day to a local trampoline pad/mini golf course, the teens most enjoyed the time we spent together as just our youth group. Our evening devotions were a chance to connect, laugh and grow as a group. Steph- "It was a really interesting experience." Alex- "I liked helping the community and being able to travel with our group." Ron- "It was refreshing to see these kids serving, and spiritually renewing." Jorell- "I'm excited to go again!" A TREMENDOUS thank you to our CHT family for supporting us in fundraising, transportation (Cynthia Ellis!!), and prayer. We couldn't have gone without your love and support.

In fall, the teens and youth helped set up for the town wide Tag Sale on the lawn, sorting donations for sale and haggling with shoppers. We gathered the night before to bake cookies and brownies for sale, learning that it is important to spray your pans and read your instructions. We spent two Saturdays hiking- storming Gillette Castle in the rain and mist, and ambling through Wadsworth Falls. To end the year, we gathered for a Lock-In overnight at CHT, complete with games, pasta dinner, craft setup, leading in to the Holiday Fair in the morning, with supervised kids activities upstairs, and our own wine glass terrariums for sale. While not as busy as last year, we still had a decent turnout, serving 15-20 kids upstairs and selling 25-30 terrariums.



Submitted,  
Ash Pierce, Youth Leader

## **Convalescent Home Ministry**

A lay team from Holy Trinity has been conducting monthly Morning Prayer services at area convalescent homes in Middletown since the 1970s. Currently, we are serving Middlesex Health Care Center on the second Sunday of each month. Thanks to our faithful crew of regulars: Marilyn Bengtson, Marion Harris, Eric Rennie and Susan Spaeth, with back up from Steve Horst.

- Eric Rennie



Ron Reid, Diane Reid, and Deacon Pat at Convention

## Deacon's Report

### **Eucharistic Visitors' (EV) Program:**

A couple of our Shut-Ins passed away this past year; so, although the needs of our church community are manageable at the moment, the EV program is still short on commitments for participation. We have been fortunate to have **Fr. Ted Coolidge** join the team thus bringing us to a four-member team, which includes **Steve Horst, Joan Hedrick and Brother Thomas**. "What is the role of the Eucharistic Visitor", you ask? This is to provide "*Outreach to and contact with members of our Parish Family who are homebound, ill and absent*". The EV will also be Licensed and Commissioned to take Holy Communion to an assigned member of the congregation who is classified as a "Shut-In". I reiterate that, with CHT preparing to call a half-time rector, it is rather important to have a viable team in place for continuity once the new Rector is chosen. This is a valuable service for us to maintain since it not only provides support but also helps to keep relationships with a vulnerable membership alive and active.

While the EV team serves as the umbrella group in this role, all members of the Church Community (the body of Christ) are called to share in the care of its members who are ill and/or unable to be with us in the pews on Sundays. To this end, I again ask that you call or check in on anyone you notice is absent. If you are unable to do this yourself, please bring it to my attention. Or, if you wish to inquire about someone who has been absent or missing, do not hesitate to speak either to Rev. Dana or to Deacon Pat.

### **Adult Bible Study:**

The adult bible study group continues to meet in the Library on Sundays following the 8:00am Service. We have travelled together on two previous journeys – Journey with Mark, Journey with Luke – and are currently on the "Journey with John". Our plan is to join with the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) for their Lenten study, which begins on February 11, 2018. We have been learning and sharing a lot from and with each other and have become faithful partners along the way. Please join us – no passport is needed!

### **Prayer Group:**

We started a Prayer Group, which meets in the Library on Thursdays, 4-5pm. A small group of pray-ers gather each week to pray for ourselves and each other, for our families and those of our church community, for our Church CHT (the body of Christ), for ECCT, for our city and its leaders, for our country and for its leaders and for the world. Intercessory prayers are raised for situations that have come to our attention and from those who have asked us to pray for them. We have been blessed to report prayers answered and for lives touched by God's by grace and through his mercy. Again, there is a place reserved for you so, just stop by and join us – no special invitation is needed.

### **Your Deacon's Activities:**

- I continue to serve as a member of the Deacons Council under the guidance of the Bishop Suffragan and to travel all over the State as we are hosted by communities where Deacons are in service. Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Chair of the Deacon's Council visited with us here at CHT during the fall of 2017.
- Your Deacon was again co-Presenter at two sessions of Eucharistic Visitors training at the ECCT Spring Training on April 1, 2017. Plans are in place for this to be repeated this year.
- I continue to serve as a member of the Meriden Clergy Association and to volunteer as an "On Call" Chaplain at Midstate Medical Center two to three times each month.
- Your Deacon is from time to time asked to serve in other communities outside of CHT. These activities are undertaken quietly with willingness and in humility as part of my Diaconal Vows.

Finally, I ask that you consider becoming participants in the Bible Study and Prayer Group activities of your community. Not only will you be sustained and supported individually but you will join in the sharing and giving that binds us as a people making this spiritual journey together. Consider also our **dire need for folks to serve on the Altar Guild**, which is an important part of preparation and activities for worship services here at CHT. Please speak with Rev. Dana for more information; we do need your help!

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Patricia G. Jackson, Deacon

## **Episcopal Church Women Report**

We had a very busy year in 2017. Our members dedicated their time, energy and talents to make our projects successful. We also developed friendships and had a terrific time while accomplishing our goals. .

Our events included the following:

1. **February or March – Envelope Appeal.** A letter is sent to all parishioners explaining our outreach goals and asking for a donation. We have always had a good response and we reached our \$1500 goal.



2. **Ascension Day Shut-In Service** – All area convalescent homes and shut-in's were invited to this ecumenical healing service, with lunch and entertainment. We had 80 guests this year. The Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers provided the great entertainment. We serve sandwiches and fresh strawberry shortcake for lunch. Each resident receives a boutonniere upon arrival by the House of Talents. Everyone loves the day, especially the Shut-ins, and ECW pays for everything. Transportation is provided to all guests via MAT vans and Hunters Wheelchair transport. The cost is about \$1800 and is worth every penny.
3. **Cruise Night in June** – sponsored by Middletown Chamber of Commerce. We set up tents and sell hot dogs, cookies, soda, water, and coffee. We need lots of help beginning at 12 noon. We start selling food by 3:30 p.m. It is a great event, with 500 or more cars on display and hundreds of people.
4. **Parish Picnic at Smith Park in June** – Many people attended and it was great food and fun. Hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, paper goods, and beverages are provided by the Church. Everyone brings a dish to share for 8-10 people. Picnic tables at Smith Park are in a shady pavilion, so join us this year!
5. **80 & Over Celebration in June** – We celebrated all those 80 & Over with boutonnieres, cake, coffee and conversation. Trinity Portland joins us on that day. A good time was had by all and an opportunity to build community.
6. **Motorcycle Mania in August** – Sponsored by the Chamber. We did participate this year and hope to get enough volunteers for 2018 to make a good showing. We made about \$700 between the 2 shows.
7. **ECW Potluck and meeting in September**
8. **Town Wide Tag Sale in September** – This was our 6<sup>th</sup> year sponsoring this event. Money raised through participation fee (\$20) for an at your home tag sale. The fees cover the tag sale signs, publicity in the Chronicle, Middletown Press and the Hartford Courant. Maps are given out that week locating all addresses. Between the tag sale on the front lawn of the church, run by the Youth and Marie Burlette, and Pam Ferguson's tag sale on her front lawn for BAWA, a total of around \$1500 was raised for outreach.
9. **October Soup Supper** for St. Vincent DePaul's fundraiser. Made and donated 11 gallons of corn chowder to the event.
10. **Annual Holiday Fair**, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone worked hard and long to make this a success:
  - Taylor Duckworth – 41 crafters and vendors
  - Marie Burlette – Attic Treasures
  - Ron Burlette – music set up
  - Pam Ferguson – Silent Auction and Tea Cup Auction
  - Helen Feeley – quilt drawing
  - Deacon Pat & Lois Dragone – Baked goods, plants
  - Liz Wiese – Cookie Walk
  - Ruth Hubbard – House of Talents' ABC's and all handiwork, themed baskets, ornaments
  - Ashley Pierce – entertained kids on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor



Dorothy Chernoff – cheese and maple syrup  
Tracy Vess and Megan Nesci (Sharon’s daughters), Sharon Sheedy, &  
Cathy Parks – Upstairs dining and kitchen

The clean up and set-up committee and David Morse for decorating the  
entire church for the occasion.

Thanks to anyone else I’ve missed. We made approximately \$6500.00.  
Great work everyone! – Sharon



11. **Cheer Committee.** Marion Harris sends out cheer cards 3 times a year:  
Easter, early fall and at Christmas. Thanks, Marion!
12. **Box Tops for Education** continues. Save and bring in.
13. **Shawl Ministry** continues. Anyone in need of a prayer shawl see Dana or House of  
Talents. We also have yarn and directions for knitting or crocheting.

### **Dates to mark your calendar for 2018.**

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| March ECW Meeting          |                             |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>       | Annual Shut-in Service      |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup>      | Church Picnic at Smith Park |
| June 20 <sup>th</sup>      | Cruise Night                |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 80 & Over Celebration       |
| August 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Motorcycle Mania            |
| September 15 <sup>th</sup> | Town-Wide Tag Sale          |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>   | Holiday Fair                |

### **Officers for 2017 ECE**

President – Sharon Sheedy  
Vice President – Taylor Duckworth  
Secretary – Marie Burlette  
Treasurer – Pam Ferguson

### **Hospitality**

The coffee hour held following the 10:15 a.m. service is hosted by  
individuals, with the help of others.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Sharon Sheedy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Sharon Sheedy  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Nancy Duchardt  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Helen Feeley

If you can help on any Sunday morning, please let the person in



charge of that morning know what you might like to bring in. Some suggestions are as follows:

|                               |       |                      |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Bar of cheese/box of crackers | Fruit | Veggie and dips      |
| Cookies                       | Punch | Breads or cake, etc. |

Bring in your offering and place on the back table. Anything would be very helpful. I believe the community we build at coffee hour is important to this church and our bonding together. If you can commit to something on one Sunday a month, please make arrangements with the person in charge for that day. Thank you in advance and a special thanks to Helen and Nancy for volunteering.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Nancy Duchardt | 860-344-9804 |
| Helen Feeley   | 860-346-4913 |
| Sharon Sheedy  | 860-346-7937 |

- Sharon Sheedy

### The House of Many Talents



Phyllis Tobits, Elizabeth Wiese, Marilyn Bengtson  
Front Row: Lois Dragone, Ruth Hubbard  
Not pictured: Anne Ross, Kay Sonstrom

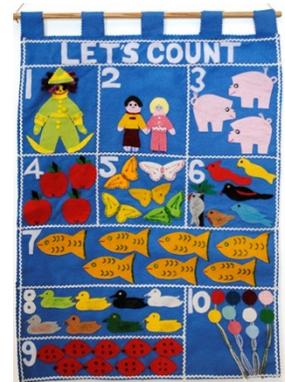
We look forward to another year of meeting on Thursdays for the House of Talents. 50 years ago, Anne Ross gathered a group of retired women from Holy Trinity and the community to meet and do at that time what was called handiwork for the church. She found a project that they could collectively work on (ABC Wall Charts for children) and sell to help with church expenses and outreach projects. To this day, the group continues to meet and produce the ABC Charts. This year we sold 40 ABC Charts and 8 Counter Charts, with an additional 5 ABC's sold at the Holiday Fair. We are always looking for and in need of interested volunteers. You do not need to know how to sew. If you can trace, cut, sew, glue, stuff, trim – come in and help. It's a lot of fun and you would be contributing to the cause. We welcomed Margaret Scarrozzo as a new volunteer this year. She joined Agnes DiStefano, Phyllis Tobits, Marilyn Bengtson, Lois

Dragone, Kay Sonstrom, Ruth Hubbard, Anne Ross, Liz Wiese and Sharon Sheedy. We also celebrated Anne Ross' 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday with a surprise luncheon and cake for her. Fun was had by all!! Dessert and tea are served – bring a sandwich if you like. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For those unable to come, you can be of tremendous service. When in need of a baby gift, remember the ABC Charts. They are \$40 each with many colors to choose from and we can send them out for you – just pay the postage fee. Over the years, the charts have been sent all over the world. We must be doing something right! We hope to have the support of parishioners as we do from everywhere else. Another thought, if you could post one of our small advertisements on your work bulletin board, that would get us additional exposure. Please call the church office if you would like one. 860-347-2591.



We are once again producing the Counter Chart Child's Wall Hanging. This is a felt wall hanging with numbers 1 through 10, with appropriate figures in each space. The colors are the same as the ABC Charts. This gives you an opportunity to match the colors if an additional gift is needed. We have sold several so we know we have another winner. The Counter Chart is also \$40.00.



Thank you to Anne Ross, Ruth Hubbard, Agnes DiStefano, Phyllis Tobits, Marilyn Bengtson, Margaret Scarrozzo, Lois Dragone, Liz Wiese, Sharon Sheedy and Kay Sonstrom for ALL their hard work and dedication.

- Sharon Sheedy

## Lay Readers and Chalicers

**Readers:** The Church of the Holy Trinity has had five regular Readers at the 8:00 a.m. service and nine regular Readers available at the 10:15 a.m. service.

Thank you to Gordon Adams, (The Rev) Ted Coolidge, Nancy Duchardt, Pam Ferguson, (Br) Thomas Goddard, Steven Horst, Joan Hedrick, Jon Irwin, Regina Morgan, Carol Powel, Eric Rennie, Suzanne Scibilia, Karen Warren and Dortha Willetts. And, of course, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during the church school year, we have our youth readers.

**Chalicers:** The Church also appreciates their smaller group of dedicated Chalicers. There are two for the 8:00 a.m. service and 10:15 a.m. has four. Thank you to Joy Coolidge, Pam Ferguson, (Br) Thomas Goddard, Carl Loges, Diane Reid and Veronika Webb. We also have our junior Chalice Kris Bachanalal, who serves on Youth Sunday.

I am looking forward to 2018 and hopefully increasing our dedicated group. If you have any interest in either Reading or Chalicng, please talk to Dana, Deacon Pat or me. We would be glad to tell you about the ways you could participate in any of our services. There are personal rewards to both Reading and Chalicng.

- Veronika Webb

## Liturgy & Music Advisory Team Report

The Liturgy & Advisory Team is a group formed by the Interim Rector to assist her in decisions around the worship life here at Holy Trinity. The Advisory Team helps solicit feedback from the congregation on our worship practices. The Team met only twice in 2017, and will continue to meet on an “as-needed” basis.

Members and their special areas of interest are: Ron Burlette (Praise Band, Bells, & Sound System), Deacon Pat Jackson, Jean Maynard (10:15 Service & Transition Team), Hector Pinero (10:00 Service, Vestry, Transition Team & Parent), Gordon Adams (Vestry), Susan Spaeth (8:00 Service & Nursing Home Eucharists), Joan Hedrick (Choir, Vestry, & Eucharistic Visitor), Eric Rennie (Communications & Nursing Home Eucharists), Kris Bachanalal (Youth Group & Acolytes) and The Rev. Dana Campbell.

As a result of discussion with this Team, we engaged in an experiment from Feb. 1 through June to try out having one 9 a.m. service on Sunday mornings, followed by a Coffee Hour and then Christian Education for all ages.

The goals of the experiment were: to create a functioning Sunday School program nurturing both kids and teachers; to create “critical mass” by gathering everyone into one service for uplifting worship; and to expand adult and intergenerational offerings for Christian Education.

Accountability and evaluation of the experiment were achieved by holding a series of Parish Forums for gathering congregational feedback along the way, as well as a simple survey which could be taken online or on paper at the end of June. Parish Register statistics were also examined.

Both the Vestry and the Liturgy and Music Advisory Team considered all the data and concluded that the goals were not met. We did not achieve a better Sunday School experience. Critical mass was elusive since attendance dropped off to roughly the same level that the 10:15 service had been achieving. Although many enjoyed the intergenerational offerings, that did not appear to offset the other downsides. The decision was made to return to the previous Sunday schedule as of September 10, 2017—knowing that Sunday School will continue to be a challenge.

We did learn some things in the course of this experiment. Quiet, contemplative worship opportunities are desirable to many. More ways in which to integrate our youth into the worship life of the parish need to be found. Intergenerational activities have a lot of support. There is interest in some teaching about our liturgical traditions. We really do enjoy being all together more often than at our annual meetings. These are findings we will continue to explore.

If you have any comments about what happens here during worship, or if there is some worship experience you feel is missing, please speak with a member of the Advisory Team and they will bring your ideas to the group.

## **Music Ministry**

In 2017 our music program benefitted by the great collaborative groundwork laid by Minister of Music Allison Lindsay in 2016. A very talented singer in her own right, Allison’s voice and leadership skills—as well as her boundless enthusiasm—have encouraged a variety of music and musicians to lend their talents in praise of God here at Holy Trinity.



During this past year, the Trinity Singers, comprising singers from the choir, Praise Band, and congregation at large, provided inspiring music throughout the year, with special offerings at Easter and Christmas. Vocal and instrumental collaboration fostered many great performances with the Bell Choirs, Praise Band, and at Easter the Thread City Brass—a five-part brass ensemble from the Manchester area in which two members of our

congregation, Sam and Virginia Eurich, play Trumpet and French horn, respectively (and brilliantly!)

This year saw further collaboration with members of the choir from Trinity Church in Portland, under the leadership of Susan Beers. Our combined groups gave a rousing performance of “Elijah Rock” in Portland during our time there in August, and sang a hauntingly beautiful Russian choral work, “Salvation is Created,” at the late evening Christmas Eve Service in Middletown. The voice parts of our two church choirs complement each other well, and we hope for more such collaborations in the year to come.

Since we were unable to budget the Thread City Brass for Christmas Eve this year, we worried a bit by how to provide the traditional half hour of special music, which has always preceded the late service. This worry was quickly dispelled as we began to mine the many music talents found in our congregation. In the end, we could have easily filled an hour’s worth of beautiful Christmas music. Musicians participating ranged from a Warren family father-son jazz duo to members of the Praise Band in various configurations, to Mike Fazio’s own arrangement of Noels for organ, in addition to the Trinity Singers with members of the Portland choir. Covering a wide spectrum of music styles, our own musicians gave their best, most beautiful offerings to the Christ Child and put us all into the Spirit of Christmas!



Many congratulations to all those who worked together to make 2017 another outstanding musical year at Holy Trinity. Special thanks go to Allison Lindsay, who gave her notice at the end of 2017. We will miss her, and we wish her well in all her operatic and vocal instruction endeavors! In 2018 Mike Fazio will be stepping up to work with the choir until we can secure a new musician to fill the Minister of Music position. We will be seeking someone who can continue to build on the expanded Trinity Singers and instrumental collaborations which have served God so well in 2017.

Soli Deum Gloria! To God alone be the glory!

- The Rev. Dana L. Campbell

## Necrology

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

--*Book of Common Prayer, Page 504*

Members and Friends of Church of the Holy Trinity who have died since our last Annual Meeting:

Richard E. Bengtson  
Kathleen E. Wicks  
Joyce Marie Baron  
Betty Jeanette Dorey Falco  
Douglas Grover  
Francis DiStefano

## Outreach Committee Report



### 2017 Outreach Committee

Left to Right: Taylor Duckworth, Veronika Webb, Pam Ferguson, Liz Wiese, Sharon Sheedy, and Marie Burlette

### Financial

The

local  
22, 2017 to  
following

### Outreach

Committee continued its practice in this parish of contributing half of the outreach budget (\$3,000) to causes and half to global causes. We met on June allocate funds, with Vestry approval, to the groups:

1. \$500 to Sexual Assault Crisis Services
2. \$500 to St. Luke's Home

3. \$500 to CHT Youth Group Mission Trip
4. \$500 to Doctors Without Borders
5. \$500 to Episcopal Relief and Development
6. \$500 to AFEDJ-American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

We met again on December 17, 2017 to allocate the remaining budgeted funds (\$3,000), with Vestry approval, to the following groups:

1. \$500 to Amazing Grace Food Pantry
2. \$500 to The Jack Spaeth Care for Creation/Environmental Fund
3. \$500 to Hospice, Middletown, CT
4. \$500 to CHT Youth Group for Camp Washington Retreat
5. \$500 to Water for People, Africa
6. \$500 to Love 146-Working to End Human & Child Trafficking and Exploitation in CT

The Church of the Holy Trinity received \$3,400 from the dissolution of the Union Evangelical Church of Middletown with the stipulation it be used for Outreach purposes. The Vestry voted to send \$3,000 to Episcopal Relief and Development (Hurricane help) and \$400 to the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Greater Middletown to help in the settlement of a refugee family from Iraq to Middletown.



Outreach funds were also used to support our annual Shut-In Service and Luncheon, to send greeting cards on 3 holidays to our shut-in parishioners, and purchase the ingredients for the annual Soup Supper that is a fundraiser for the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen. We also sent our Good Friday offering to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This society supports the ministries of four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

#### Outreach Projects

In addition to financial contributions, our parish participated in several other outreach projects during 2017. We continue our ongoing nonperishable food contributions to Amazing Grace Food Pantry. We gathered bags of toiletries and gift cards for the Eddy Shelter and for distribution through St. Vincent de Paul to our homeless neighbors. We purchased Christmas presents for 20 local children in need through the Salvation Army. We also donate to the Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project to purchase 176 pies.

Libby Carrier, a Middletown resident, continues to operate The Clothing Closet in two rooms of our basement. The Clothing Closet is open every Wednesday morning and receives clothing donations practically daily. It has helped our needy neighbors find clothing for everyday wear and for job interviewing. We are grateful for all the contributions of new or lightly used clean clothes and for the hard work of parishioners and non-parishioners in keeping them sorted and ready to wear.

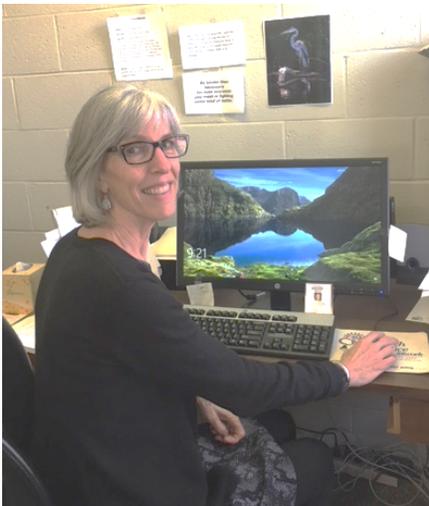
## The Warming Center

Perhaps the most important of our outreach ministries is the Warming Center. St. Vincent de Paul administers this and they supply trained monitors who stay the night with clients. The Warming Center is the successor to the Fabian's Place program begun here at Holy Trinity many years ago in response to the need for a warm, safe place where homeless people not able to get into local shelters could stay. Open from around Thanksgiving through the month of March every year, we share with South Congregational Church and St. John's Church in housing this ministry which has saved many lives during the cold weather months. If needed, we were able to grant extended hours to the Warming Center whenever that was requested. And thanks to all the parishioners who contributed hats, socks, gloves, scarves and coats that were distributed to our guests at the Warming Center on Christmas Eve.

St. Vincent de Paul makes an annual contribution to help defray our heating costs, provides janitorial services every morning when the Center is here, and provides for deep cleaning the carpet in the Chapel at the end of the season.

Outreach continues to be at the heart of this parish, and we have probably forgotten to include something in this report. May God continue to give us the strength, the resources, and the compassion for these ministries.

Liz Wiese, Chair  
Pam Ferguson  
Marie Burlette  
Sharon Sheedy  
Veronika Webb  
Taylor Duckworth  
Suzanne Scibilia



## **Parish Administrator**

In February of this year we signed a new lease with the ACT Group in Cromwell for a Ricoh Color Copier. Due to a special grant program through the company, which works with many non-profits, we were able to go from a lease which had risen to \$912 over the course of 4+ years to \$330 per month; a significant cost savings! The cost per page for black & white and color also went from \$.01 b&w and \$.1058 color to \$.006 b&w and \$.065 color. As part of the lease, the ACT Group paid off our lease early at no cost to us, saving Holy Trinity \$5,090 off the end of our lease. We are very grateful for their generosity. The delivery went smoothly and we were up and running in no time. The service is also much improved over the previous company we worked with. As far as actual machine problems, we have had virtually none since we received the copier. There have been some problems with programming booklets and the interface with my computer and the copier, which we are still working on. The ACT Group has worked very hard to get this resolved and I think we are close!

It seems that the Parish Office had the busiest year I can remember. I am constantly up and down answering the door, (the buzzer has broken and it has been a challenge to try and figure out

what could be wrong with it) with so many people bringing clothing donations now that the word is out about our Clothing Closet, people looking for assistance in other ways, and parishioners coming to the office. A new wireless doorbell was installed, thanks to Andre Bishop and Andy Milliken, for the Parish Counseling Office which now has Jane Nichols in the morning, as well as Carl Loges in the afternoon M-W-F. This has helped tremendously so I am not answering the door for all of their clients as well. I spend a lot of time on building issues; monitoring the thermostats and making sure they are programmed correctly for special events (admittedly sometimes I forget), taking payments from the many 12 Step groups who use the building, keeping the calendar for building use up-to-date, monitoring the heating and plumbing systems and calling AAA Plumbing and the electrician when necessary. We have had a few major issues with the plumbing system this year as well as the heating system.

After working at Holy Trinity for 15 years, I have become very “building aware” and usually notice when something is amiss, but I may not catch everything. If you notice something in need of repair or attention around the church building and grounds, please contact either Andre Bishop at 860-834-1456 or Andy Milliken at 860-810-7599; call the church office at 860-347-2591 or email at [office.holytrinityct@gmail.com](mailto:office.holytrinityct@gmail.com).

I was able to link the Parish Google Calendar to the new in-progress website with the help of Taylor Duckworth’s sister Tori, so that it will always be up to date if anyone is browsing to see what is happening at the church.

As always please continue to support your Parish Newsletter, on which Brother Thomas and I collaborate, by sending in your articles to the office email, [office.holytrinityct@gmail.com](mailto:office.holytrinityct@gmail.com) or to [tagoddard115@comcast.net](mailto:tagoddard115@comcast.net) by the deadlines published in the previous Trumpet, or in the weekly bulletin. Since we have gone electronic, I only print and mail out about 20 newsletters. If you do not receive the Trumpet, either electronically or via mail, please notify the church office.

Announcements for the weekly bulletin should be to the office no later than Wednesday morning.

Please remember to make sure that doors are securely shut and locked before you leave the building.

The office hours continue to be Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- Valerie Hall  
Parish Administrator

## **Rector’s Discretionary Fund Report - 2017**

The Rector’s Discretionary Fund is an account solely for the use of the Rector/Interim/Priest in Charge, to dispense outreach funds confidentially at his or her discretion. The Senior Warden also signs on this account to cover emergencies that might arise when the clergy in charge is away.

The Discretionary Fund is funded in several ways: through a budget line item by which the parish channels a certain amount of money from the operating budget into this fund; through



## Social Services



The year 2017 went from calm at the beginning to very dynamic by the end of the year. This was due to the closing of the Case Management Program at Community Health Center (CHC), because of a cut in state funding. This program helped people of low income with non-clinical issues. Most of our referrals have come from the CHC Mental Health Unit. This adds various degrees of difficulty.

Jane Nichols, a former colleague at CHC, has joined me as a part-time volunteer. It is busy and will become even more so as our program is, for many, the last hope to remain in housing.

I have been appointed as a member of the Middlesex Hospitals' Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC). The mission of the PFAC is to work with all levels of the health system to improve the experience for patients and families. If you have had a negative experience or have suggestions as to how to improve patient care, please write them down and get to me as soon as possible. I will make contact with you to get more information or your concern or suggestion.

This is the thirteenth year that I humbly thank you, representing the people who are homeless, for your generosity in giving warm clothing at Christmas.

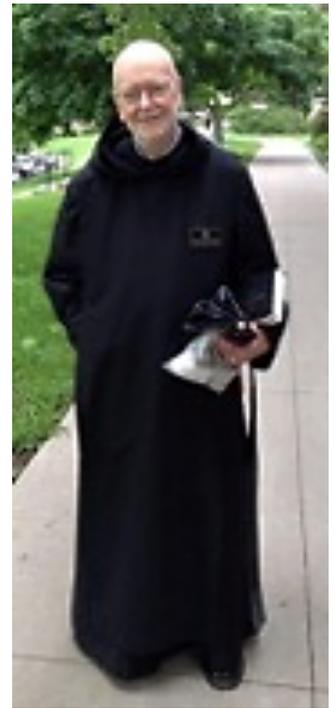
--Carl Loges

## Report from Brother Thomas

A major event this year was my attendance at our community's semi-annual Convocation at Conception Abbey, Missouri the last week in May. Here I had the opportunity again to meet fellow Benedictine members from throughout the US, Canada, England and yes, Brazil. At this gathering I and two others renewed our monastic vows for the year, in anticipation for life vows in 2018.

Other duties and activities at Holy Trinity included:

- ◆ Assisted at the 8 a.m. Eucharist and occasional services whenever possible.
- ◆ Led a Lenten Quiet Morning, Saturday, March 18, in the Community Room.
- ◆ Visited ill parishioners and others either in their home, health center or at Middlesex hospital.
- ◆ Assisted Valerie Hall with layout and design of monthly issues of *The Trinity Trumpet*.
- ◆ Assisted Beverly Byrd with portion of the Confirmation class.
- ◆ Designed logo used for the Annual Stewardship Pledge campaign.
- ◆ Participated in Day of Remembrance at St. James Church, Higganum, Dec. 8.
- ◆ Attended St. James Church, Higganum, when not able to be at Holy Trinity.



- ◆ Met periodically with my spiritual director, Fr. Ted.
- ◆ Regularly fulfilled my Benedictine obligations, including Daily Offices of Morning Prayer, Noonday, Evening Prayer & Compline; plus assigned Spiritual reading, prayer and meditation.

“That in all things God may be glorified.”  
Br. Thomas A. Goddard, OSB



Front row: Stacey Rich, Marie Burlette, Diane Reid, Jean Maynard  
Back row: Hector Pinero, Steven Horst, Andrew Milliken, Eric Rennie

## **Annual Report of the Transition Team**

Discerned by the Vestry, Church of the Holy Trinity’s transition team members Marie Burlette, Steven Horst, Jean Maynard, Andrew Milliken, Hector Pinero, Diane Reid, Eric Rennie and Stacey Rich, began meeting in Mid-October 2017. The Episcopal Church of Connecticut’s Office for Transition Ministry has a well delineated process that guides our team’s work and has assigned transition consultant, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Krasinski, to lead us through this process. Andrew Milliken and Jean Maynard were elected co-chairs of CHT’s transition team and are currently guiding us through the first phase of the process, which includes the discernment of God’s mission within our parish, the collection and interpretation of data, and the development of a parish portfolio. The parish portfolio is a recruitment tool, which will be published electronically on our website for viewing by potential candidates for the rector position. In addition to recruiting and vetting candidates, the transition team is ultimately responsible for recommending a short-list of candidates to the vestry for interview. The entire process is expected to take three to six months.

The transition team has taken a multi-pronged approach to discernment of God’s mission at Holy Trinity, which includes examining parish activities in a historical context, conducting small group meetings and eliciting feedback through a survey disseminated to all parishioners. The transition team wants to hear from you and invites you to complete a survey, personally speak

with a transition team member, or email your comments and questions to us at [chttransitionteam@gmail.com](mailto:chttransitionteam@gmail.com).

More detailed information about the transition process and the team's progress will be presented at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Burlette

## Ushers



Jon and Jill Irwin

We currently have a strong group of ushers who assist with the 8:00 am and 10:15 am services, holiday services and funerals. Lori and Jon Irwin are the regular ushers at the 8:00 am service. Andre Bishop, Randy Burlette, Ron Burlette, Julia Claude, Andy Milliken, Emily Milliken, Hector Pinero, and Jean Samolyk are the regular ushers at the 10:15 am service. While the Parish experimented with one regular Sunday service at 9:00 am we coordinated this group to cover the one service. We did lose a few of our regular ushers over the last year and it would be helpful if we had additional volunteers from the Parish help out with this ministry group. If you are interested, please contact Andy Milliken ([milliken274@comcast.net](mailto:milliken274@comcast.net)) if you are interested.



Julia Claude  
next generation  
Youth Sunday

Submitted by Andy Milliken

## Nominations for 2018

|                  |                         |                                |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wardens:         | <b>Taylor Duckworth</b> | <b>(Six terms – exp. 2020)</b> |
|                  | <b>Andre Bishop</b>     | <b>(Six terms – exp. 2022)</b> |
| Treasurer:       | <b>Pam Ferguson</b>     | <b>(annual)</b>                |
| Asst. Treasurer: | Suzanne Scibilia        | (annual – appointed by Vestry) |
| Clerk:           | <b>Ashley Pierce</b>    | <b>(annual)</b>                |
| Vestry:          | <b>Kris Bachanalal</b>  | <b>(2019)</b>                  |
|                  | Helen Feeley            | (2019)                         |
|                  | Joan Hedrick            | (2019)                         |
|                  | Enid Healey             | (2020)                         |
|                  | Hector Pinero           | (2020)                         |
|                  | Ty Warren               | (2020)                         |
|                  | Susan Colby             | (2021)                         |
|                  | Steve Horst             | (2021)                         |
|                  | Ashley Pierce           | (2021)                         |

ECCT Convention Delegates:

**Diane Reid**

**Ron Reid**

ECCT Convention Alternates:

**Steven Horst**

**TBD**

Officers to be elected are in **bold face**.

## 2017 Treasurer's Report

The Church of The Holy Trinity ended the year 2017 with an operating net income of \$7,863. This is \$20,866 more than the budget of a \$13,000 loss. Our total income was \$336,797 (\$29,907 over budget.) Our total expenses were \$328,934 (\$6,041 over budget.)

**Income:** Items of significance are:

- Pledge income was \$174,142. This is 3% over what we pledged. It is very unusual for a church to hit 100% of what was pledged much less exceed that number.
- We received \$19,106 in Memorial gifts, for which we had budgeted only \$1000.
- We received \$64,888 from our various Legacies and Bequests (\$5,738 more than was budgeted.) This was due to an extra distribution from the Mary Jones Trust Fund and the Walter Jones Trust Fund as well as money from the McCutcheon Fund.
- The House of Talents, ECW and the Youth Group together raised a net of \$12,869.
- We received \$22,585 in donations for the use of our building.

**Expenses:** The accounts with significant differences are as follows:

- Outreach Initiatives was \$5,647 over budget. This was in part due to unexpected money we received from the dissolution of the Evangelical Union Church Fund. This money was stipulated for outreach.
- Clergy Salary was \$9,575 over budget. We originally budgeted for the rector to be full time for 4 months and then drop to 3/4 time for 8 months. The ECCT proposed that they would subsidize the salary by paying half of the increase for 6 months if we would leave the position at full time for the year. The \$9,575 is the net overage after the ECCT contribution of \$6,400.
- Building Repairs were \$6,391 under budget, in part because the anticipated elevator fix is not happening until 2018.
- Natural Gas was \$4,035 over budget. We have adjusted our estimate for this line item in 2018.

**Audit:** Our 2016 financial records were reviewed by Blum Shapiro using the Agreed Upon Procedures required by the ECCT. No significant findings were noted by the auditor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Ferguson, Treasurer