

Trinity Episcopal Church

Newport, Rhode Island



2023

Report Prepared for the
Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Date Issued: February 28, 2024

Mission Statement

We are a community of Episcopalians, gathering to love, know and serve Jesus Christ through worship, Christian education, and serving each other and those in need. Our historic parish is a living beacon calling all for worship, fellowship and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

2023 Endowment Fund Allocations

TRINITY CHURCH 2023 ENDOWMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS

<u>FUND</u>	<u>ACCT</u>	<u>RESTRICTION</u>	<u>1/1/23 MKT VALUE</u>	<u>2023 ADDITIONS</u>	<u>2023 DISTRIB.</u>	<u>2023 NET EARNINGS</u>	<u>12/31/23 MKT VALUE</u>	<u>%</u>
#1 GENERAL	OB	NONE	132553		10200	-971	121382	5.85%
#2 GENERAL	OB	INCOME	352876		27591	-2633	322652	15.54%
#3 RIVES	OB	INCOME (MAINTENANCE)	41425		3200	-305	37920	1.83%
#4 KING	NB	INCOME	37410			-275	37135	1.79%
#5 WEBSTER	OB	INCOME (MAINTENANCE)	92666		7200	-682	84784	4.08%
#6 PERRY	NB	BOOKS	14317			-106	14211	0.68%
#7 RECTOR'S DISC	NB	INCOME (RECTOR)	138679			-1019	137660	6.63%
#8 ROVENSKY	NB	INCOME (RECTOR)	202655			-1518	201137	9.69%
#9 ST. MICHAEL'S	NB	SCHOLARSHIP	132587		5005	-975	126607	6.10%
#10 WETMORE	OB	INCOME (MAINTENANCE)	32979		2600	-243	30136	1.45%
#11 GOELET	OB	GARDEN (MAINTENANCE)	31635		2400	-233	29002	1.40%
#12 BROOKS	OB	MAINTENANCE	293479		22699	-2239	268541	12.94%
#14 RICE	OB	INCOME (MAINTENANCE)	223936		17299	-1672	204965	9.87%
#15 PARKER	NB	INCOME (ORGAN)	14583			-108	14475	0.70%
#16 ALTAR SOCIETY	NB	ALTAR EXPENSES	79304		8000	-584	70720	3.41%
#17 GIFFEN	OB	MUSIC PROGRAM	88899	5000	6807	-654	86438	4.16%
#18 COLUMBARIUM RESERVE	NB	PERPETUAL CARE	23813			-175	23638	1.14%
#19 DEPRECIATION	NB	CAPITAL EXP FOR PROP	29377			-217	29160	1.40%
#20 GRANT RESERVE	NB	TEMPORARY ACCOUNT	4616			-35	4581	0.22%
#21 PRESERVATION & BEAUTIFICATION	NB	CAMPUS PRESERVATION	110218			-872	109346	5.27%
#22 LINEN FUND	NB	ALTAR SOCIETY USE	7501			-55	7446	0.36%
#23 OBELISK ESCROW	NB	PERPETUAL CARE	14073		750	-104	13219	0.64%
#24 MEMORIAL WALL	NB	PERPETUAL CARE	10242			-76	10166	0.49%
#25 MCBEAN GRANT	NB	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	74342		18289	-546	55507	2.67%
#26 CLARKE FNDN.	NB	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	35496			-261	35235	1.70%
		TOTALS	2219661		132040	-16558	2076063	100%
	OB= OPERATING BUDGET		1290448	5000	99996	-9632	1185820	57.12%
	NB= NON BUDGET ACCOUNT		929213	0	32044	-6926	890243	42.88%
		TOTALS	2219661	5000	132040	-16558	2076063	100%

2023 TRINITY CHURCH PERFORMANCE

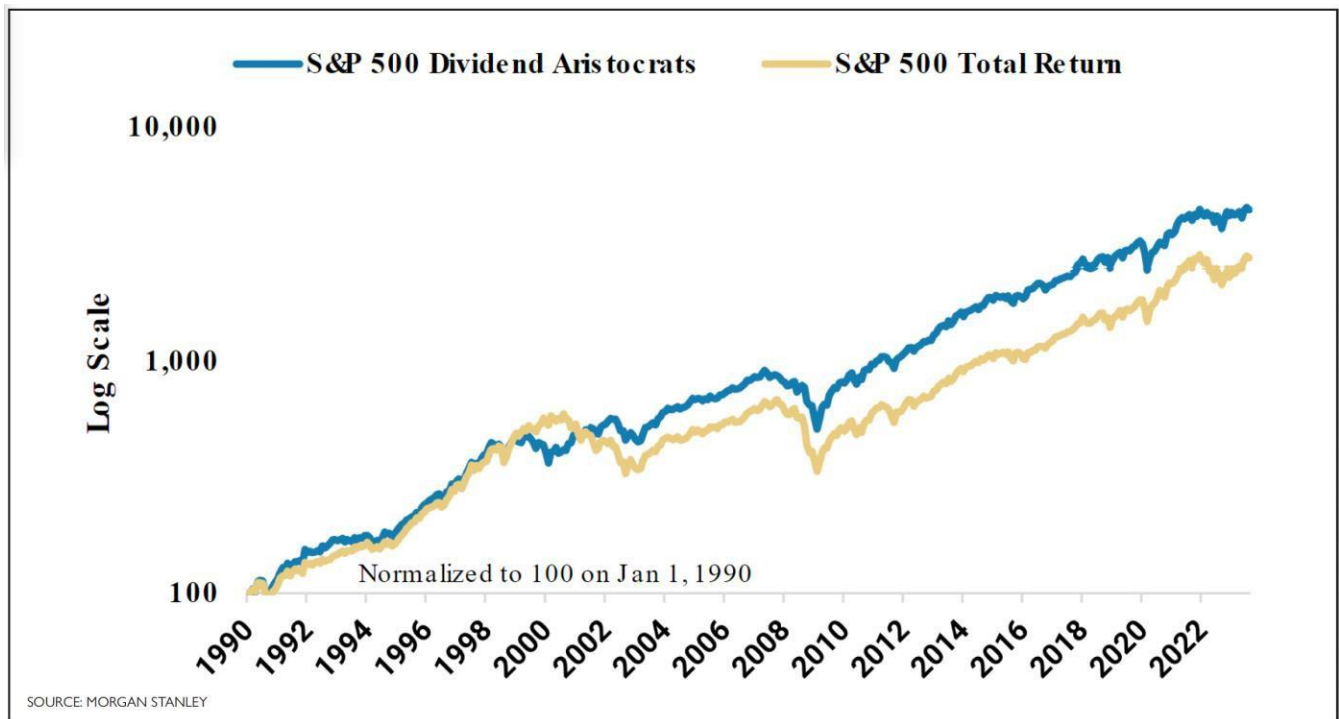
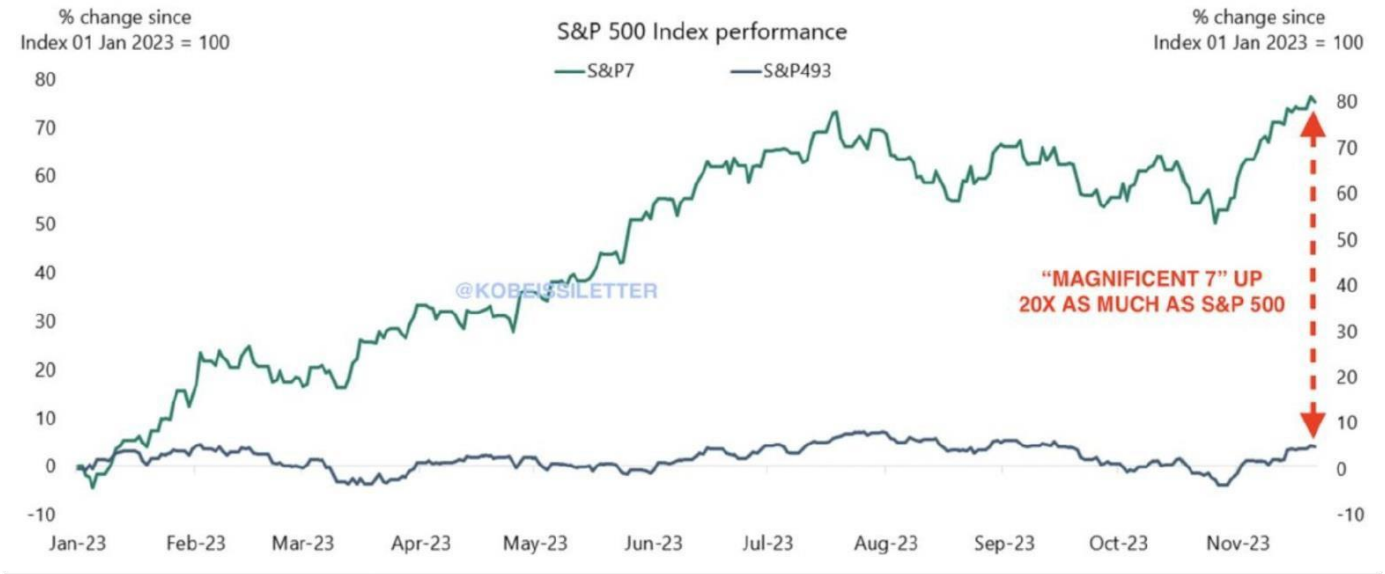
ENDOWMENT NET RATE OF TOTAL RETURN YEAR-TO-DATE	-0.70%
BENCHMARK LIPPER BALANCED FUND INDEX	13.90%

ENDOWMENT COMPOUND GROWTH RATE SINCE 2004	6.89%
BENCHMARK LIPPER BALANCED FUND RETURN SINCE 2004	6.23%

2-YEAR COMPOUND GROWTH RATE OF PORTFOLIO VS. BENCHMARK

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2-YEAR CAGR</u>
ENDOWMENT	1.60%	-0.70%	0.44%
LIPPER BENCHMARK	-14.36%	13.92%	-1.23%

S&P7 is up 80% in 2023. S&P493 is basically flat.



TRINITY CHURCH ENDOWMENT DRAW FOR OPERATING ACCOUNT
FOR YEARS 2017-2023

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DRAW</u>	<u>MKT VALUE</u>	<u>DRAW RATE</u>
2017	107,000	1,445,000	7.4%
2018	110,000	1,460,000	7.6%
2019	141,000	1,314,000	10%
2020	124,000	1,410,000	8.8%
2021	100,000	1,325,000	7.5%
2022	101,000	1,371,000	7.4%
2023	99,996	1,350,000	7.4%

TRINITY LANDMARK PRESERVATION FUND, INC.
HISTORICAL INVESTMENT ACTIVITY AND RETURNS
1990-2023

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE	543,544
NET TOTAL RETURN SINCE INCEPTION	2,773,294
TOTAL EXPENDITURES SINCE INCEPTION	- 1,911,904
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023	1,404,942

ANNUALIZED RETURN SINCE INCEPTION	7.93%	Δ +6.16 %
ANNUALIZED LIPPER BALANCED FUND	7.47%	

2-YEAR COMPOUND GROWTH RATE OF ENDOWMENT VS. BENCHMARK

	2022	2023	2-YEAR CAGR
ENDOWMENT	1.86%	-2.34%	-.26%
LIPPER BENCHMARK	-14.36%	13.92%	-1.23%

2023 Operating Budget:

- 1) The original 2023 budget was flawed, with overoptimistic numbers for pledges and weddings and under-stated music directors' salaries.
- 2) Once we realized that we had a significant built in deficit, we took steps to increase pledges and gifts and to reduce expenses.
- 3) Thanks to the additional generous donations from members, including summer members, we were able to end the year without needing to take additional money from the endowment.
- 4) The bookkeeping/accounting operation was challenged by a stiff learning curve due to the inexperience of staff and the conversion to the Realm accounting system.
- 5) We spent most of 2023 unable to get financial information. We took steps to correct this by:
 - a. Hiring a consultant in July to redo all of the errors introduced into the books up until that point by staff and the accounting firm
 - b. Dismissing the accounting firm
 - c. Using the results of the 2022 audit to make processing changes
 - d. Providing more regular working hours for the bookkeeping function

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

2023 Results and 2024 Approved Budget

Accounts	Original 2023 Budget	2023 Midyear Budget	2023 Actuals	Accounts	2024 Budget (vestry approval Jan 2024)
Revenues				Revenues	
4205 Mercer Funds	\$0	\$600	\$629	4205 Mercer Funds	\$800
4400 Guiding Revenue	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$11,926	4400 Guiding Revenue	\$10,500
4601 Weddings	\$51,250	\$22,500	\$19,561	4601 Weddings	\$18,750
4702 Building Rental	\$500	\$500	\$700	4702 Building Rental	\$500
4703 Tower Lighting	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,863	4703 Tower Lighting	\$2,500
4704 Book Sales: History at Trinity	\$200	\$200	\$330	4704 Book Sales: History at Trinity	\$200
Designated Gifts				Designated Gifts	
4201 Community Meal Fund	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,793	4201 Community Meal Fund	\$0
4202 Altar Society	\$0	\$0	\$10,702	4202 Altar Society	\$0
4203 Fountain Maintenance Fund	\$1,500	\$1,257	\$0	4203 Fountain Maintenance Fund	\$0
4500 Music at Trinity	\$0		\$6,084	4500 Music at Trinity	\$0
Reserve Funds	\$24,322	\$24,322	\$31,921	Reserve Funds	\$0
Total Designated Gifts	\$29,322	\$29,079	\$50,500	Total Designated Gifts	\$0
Internal Support				Internal Support	
4001 2023 Pledges	\$300,000	\$275,000	\$229,842	4001 Current Year Pledges	\$309,757
4002 Non-Pledging Contributions	\$33,575	\$33,575	\$85,179	4002 Non-Pledging Contributions	\$54,000
4003 Loose Plate	\$0	\$0	\$4,585	4003 Loose Plate	\$5,000
4004 Holy Day Offerings	\$0	\$0	\$717	4004 Holy Day Offerings	\$1,000
4005 2022 Pledges	\$0	\$0	\$14,013	4005 Pledge: Prior Year	\$0
4006 2024 Pledges	\$0	\$0	\$33,620	4006 Pledge: Next Year	\$0
4007 Processing Costs	\$0	\$0	\$4	4007 Processing Costs	\$0
4701 Miscellaneous Revenue	\$150	\$150	\$484	4701 Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0
Total Internal Support	\$333,725	\$308,725	\$368,444	Total Internal Support	\$369,757
Investment/Endowment Income				Investment/Endowment Income	
4100 Budgeted Endowment Draw	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$99,996	4100 Budgeted Endowment Draw	\$78,000
McBean Funded Capital Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$18,290		
Columbarium Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$750		
Total Investment/Endowment Income	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$119,036	Total Investment/Endowment Income	\$78,000
Fundraisers				Fundraisers	
4301 Pumpkin Patch Net	\$1,300	\$4,200	\$13,673	4301 Pumpkin Patch Net	\$3,500
4303 Strawberry Festival Fundraiser Net	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,729	4303 Strawberry Festival Fundraiser Net	\$1,200
Total Fundraisers	\$4,100	\$7,000	\$16,402	Total Fundraisers	\$4,700
Total Revenues	\$532,597	\$482,104	\$571,351	Total Revenues	\$485,707

Expenses				Expenses	
5000 Diocese Apportionment	\$78,300	\$78,300	\$83,050	5000 Diocese Apportionment	\$75,374
Clergy				Clergy	
5101 Rector's Salary	\$55,650	\$55,650	\$55,650	5101 Rector's Salary	\$54,200
5102 Rector's Housing Allowance	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	5102 Rector's Housing Allowance	\$48,000
5103 Rector's Pension	\$17,577	\$17,577	\$18,135	5103 Rector's Pension	
5104 Rector's Health/Dental	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$14,989	5104 Rector's Health/Dental	\$14,544
5105 Rector's Medical Contribution	-\$2,340	-\$2,340	-\$2,303	5105 Rector's Medical Contribution	-\$2,460
5106 Rector's Employer FICA	\$4,552	\$4,552	\$4,081	5106 Rector's Employer FICA	\$4,146
5107 Rector's Professional Expenses	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	5107 Rector's Professional Expenses	\$2,000
5108 Rector's Continuing Education	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$900	5108 Rector's Continuing Education	\$500
5109 Deacon's Salary	\$354	\$354	\$317	5109 Deacon's Salary	\$354
5110 Deacon's Employer FICA	\$27	\$27	\$24	5110 Deacon's Employer FICA	\$27
5111 Deacon's Pension	\$64	\$64	\$95	5111 Deacon's Pension	\$64
5112 Deacon's Continuing Education	\$350	\$350	\$0	5112 Deacon's Continuing Education	\$350
Total Clergy	\$137,434	\$137,434	\$135,888	Total Clergy	\$121,725
Program				Program	
5603 Trinity Loving Community (TLC)	\$500	\$500	\$538	5603 Trinity Loving Community (TLC)	\$500
6100 Miscellaneous Expense	\$0		\$101	6100 Miscellaneous Expense	\$200
Worship				Worship	
5118 Music Director Salary	\$45,833	\$63,328	\$63,328	5118 Music Director Salary	\$63,328
5119 Music Director Employer FICA	\$3,506	\$4,845	\$4,844	5119 Music Director Employer FICA	\$4,845
5120 Music Director Continuing Education	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	5120 Music Director Continuing Education	\$0
5502 Musicians	\$20,700	\$20,700	\$17,674	5502 Musicians	\$17,700
5400 Visiting Clergy	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	5400 Visiting Clergy	\$3,000
5503 Music Librarian	\$500	\$500	\$250	5503 Music Librarian	\$500
5504 Organ Expense	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	5504 Organ Expense	\$0
5505 Piano Expense	\$600	\$600	\$290	5505 Piano Expense	\$600
5506 Sheet Music	\$500	\$300	\$1,014	5506 Sheet Music	\$300
5507 Music License	\$415	\$450	\$850	5507 Music License	\$450
6001 Liturgical Supplies	\$300	\$300	\$9,748	6001 Liturgical Supplies	\$125
Total Worship	\$78,454	\$94,622	\$101,598	Total Worship	\$90,847
Formation				Formation	
5121 Sunday School Assistant Wages	\$2,000	\$1,850	\$750	5121 Sunday School Assistant Wages	\$0
5122 Sunday School Assistant Employer FICA	\$153	\$153	\$57	5122 Sunday School Assistant Employer FICA	\$0
5601 Sunday School	\$300	\$300	\$1,783	5601 Sunday School	\$1,000
5604 Vestry Development	\$500	\$0	\$0	5604 Vestry Development	\$500
5605 Conferences & Seminars	\$5,000	\$3,300	\$3,239	5605 Conferences & Seminars	\$0
Total Formation	\$7,953	\$5,603	\$5,829	Total Formation	\$1,500
Hospitality & Fellowship				Hospitality & Fellowship	
5509 Coffee Hour	\$100	\$100	\$117	5509 Coffee Hour	\$100
5510 Hospitality/Newcomers	\$400	\$0	\$0	5510 Hospitality/Newcomers	\$0
Total Hospitality & Fellowship	\$500	\$100	\$117	Total Hospitality & Fellowship	\$100
Total Program	\$87,407	\$100,825	\$108,183	Total Program	\$93,147
Mission/Outreach				Mission/Outreach	

5512 Outreach Operations			\$12,000		5512 Outreach Operations	\$0
5513 Community Meals	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,788		5513 Community Meals	\$0
Total Mission/Outreach	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$16,788		Total Mission/Outreach	\$0
Administration					Administration	
5113 Admin Wages	\$59,000	\$59,000	\$58,817		5113 Admin Wages	\$37,440
5114 Admin Employer FICA	\$4,514	\$4,514	\$4,499		5114 Admin Employer FICA	\$2,864
5115 Admin Pension	\$3,045	\$3,045	\$4,328		5115 Admin Pension	\$0
5116 Admin Medical Contribution	-\$340	-\$2,340	-\$1,155		5116 Admin Medical Contribution	\$0
5117 Admin Health/Dental	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$13,841		5117 Admin Health/Dental	\$0
5123 Workers Compensation	\$700	\$722	\$1,727		5123 Workers Compensation	\$722
5201 Credit Card Fees	\$120	\$120	\$137		5201 Credit Card Fees	\$0
5202 Vanco Expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,755		5202 Vanco Expenses	\$4,000
5203 Bank Fees	\$0	\$0	\$30		5203 Bank Fees	\$0
5701 Office Supplies	\$4,000	\$4,700	\$4,390		5701 Office Supplies	\$4,000
5702 Leased Equipment	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$8,449		5702 Leased Equipment	\$9,000
5703 Office Equipment	\$500	\$0	\$895		5703 Office Equipment	\$0
5704 Dues & Subscriptions	\$600	\$10,000	\$5,262		5704 Dues & Subscriptions	\$4,500
5705 Telephone/Fax/Internet	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$5,505		5705 Telephone/Fax/Internet	\$5,000
5706 Payroll Service Fees	\$500	\$750	\$1,415		5706 Payroll Service Fees	\$1,320
5707 Website Maintenance	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,260		5707 Website Maintenance	\$200
5708 Merchant Fees	\$500	\$500	\$108		5708 Merchant Fees	\$0
IT Maintenance	\$1,000	\$0	\$540		IT Maintenance	\$6,000
5711 Accounting Services	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$9,954		5711 Accounting Services	\$5,000
6100 Miscellaneous Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0		6100 Miscellaneous Expense	\$0
6501 Postage & Mailing Service	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,224		6501 Postage & Mailing Service	\$1,400
Total Administration	\$117,639	\$124,511	\$126,982		Total Administration	\$81,446
Property					Property	
5511 Guiding Expenses	\$250	\$250	\$361		5511 Guiding Expenses	\$250
5800 Pest Control	\$0	\$0	\$420		5800 Pest Control	\$1,200
5801 Repairs & Maintenance	\$23,400	\$23,400	\$30,646		5801 Repairs & Maintenance	\$23,000
5802 Equipment Maintenance	\$8,300	\$6,000	\$7,862		5802 Equipment Maintenance	\$8,000
5804 Snow Removal	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,120		5804 Snow Removal	\$1,500
5805 Tree Care	\$500	\$1	\$800		5805 Tree Care	
5806 Landscaping	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$7,210		5806 Landscaping	\$6,500
5807 Cleaning Services	\$16,700	\$14,250	\$18,075		5807 Cleaning Services	\$19,000
5809 Property Insurance	\$16,000	\$17,270	\$17,270		5809 Property Insurance	\$17,270
Utilities					Utilities	
5803 Security System Monitoring		\$375	\$0		5803 Security System Monitoring	\$1,200
5808 Dumpster/Waste Removal	\$4,500	\$6,525	\$5,645		5808 Dumpster/Waste Removal	\$6,000
General Utilities			\$2,010			
5901 Electricity- Church	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,797		5901 Electricity- Church	\$2,900
5902 Electricity- Carr Rice	\$700	\$700	\$61		5902 Electricity- Carr Rice	\$60
5903 Electricity- Honyman Hall	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$8,256		5903 Electricity- Honyman Hall	\$8,550
5904 Natural Gas	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$13,255		5904 Natural Gas	\$16,000
5906 Water	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,460		5906 Water	\$1,450
Total Utilities	\$39,500	\$41,900	\$33,484		Total Utilities	\$36,160

Total Property	\$114,150	\$110,070	\$117,248		Total Property	\$112,880
Total Expenses	\$534,930	\$551,140	\$571,351		Total Expenses	\$484,573
Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,333	-\$69,036	\$0		Surplus/Deficit	\$1,134

2023 LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff

(Open), *Rector*

The Rev. Christine Cassels, *Deacon*
ccassels@trinitynewport.org

(Open), *Parish Administrator*
Adminassistant@trinitynewport.org

Fred Jodry, *Co-Music Director*
fjodry@trinitynewport.org

Michael Bahmann, *Co-Music Director*
mbahmann@trinitynewport.org

Officers

Wayne Porter, *Senior Warden*

Norris Commodore, *Junior Warden*

Elaine Burress, *Treasurer*

Geer Isdale, *Assistant Treasurer*

Karen Nash, *Clerk*

Vestry

Class of 2024

One Year of Eligibility
Phoebe Livingston-Lopez
John Smith
Cheryl Hatch

Class of 2025

Two Years of Eligibility
Robert Smith
Morgan Huntley
Dolores Bauer

Class of 2026

Three Years of Eligibility
Meryl Moore
Donna Ellis
Jeff Clark



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Newport, RI

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Senior Warden's Report

Vintage R&B icon Lionel Richie headed up the 70's group, The Commodores. One of the deep tracks I recall from my youth is "Easy". As some you recall, the next few lines say something to the effect ... "Easy like Sunday Morning"...

Since, if my memory serves me, February 2002, I've been involved here at Trinity, from Sunday School thru my recent Warden seats. Taking what used to be a quick but inspiring 30 minute ride over the bridges, to worship with my church family. Things change, sometime for the better. Now my ride is a full hour, but even more inspiring. The advent of Bluetooth and other media funnels have allowed me to build a very spiritual and nurturing Sunday morning ride / routine, to and from our historic campus. Believe it or not, Baroque music occupies at least a third of the playlist.

Thank you all for being the center and focus of this routine, you've made it extremely rewarding and ... Easy, to be a maturing part of Trinity Episcopal Newport.

Reflecting on 2023:

Together we've gone through quite a bit this year. Experiencing the usual and routine successes we've come accustomed to, that include our Strawberry Festival, Summer Soiree, Pumpkin Patch and Silver Tea, to name just a few. We've completed capital improvements. More importantly, I feel we have taken a more responsible approach to the care and upkeep of this historic and beautiful space.

Reverend Watt's resignation hit us hard, but we've started on the path of replacing our rector and healing, where needed. We continue to wish Tim and Tanya well and hold them up in prayer, as they resettle closer to their families and promising opportunity.

Projecting – A Look Forward:

Looking forward from my seat, the future ... could be ... in fact, probably will be very, very bright. Elaine, Norris and team are approaching the final stages of fund raising and if we continue to support them ... for us ... we will begin the construction phase of our much anticipated Parish Hall.

The 300th Year Celebration has begun to receive our attention and our Parish Life Commission is in the process of seating a subcommittee that will give direct and focused attention to this HISTORIC event.

The Vestry has authorized the signing of a contract / LOA for our Interim Rector, The Reverend Tim Safford. I'm sure you'll all be very happy in this relationship. We must receive Reverend Safford, his wife and family warmly, like only Trinity can. At this time, I should include a word of thanks for the diocesan offices, Canon Dena and, of course, Bishop Knisely.

Our outreach efforts, such as TLC and Community Meals, continue to frame us as a beacon of hope and caring, and we should all be proud and thankful to those who make these community building efforts happen consistently, month after month, year after year.

In closing, first I'd like to express my thanks and gratitude to this year's officers, Norris, Karen, Elaine and Geer, and all this past year's Vestry members. And then to all the members proper, thank you again ... and again ... and again.

And may God continue to bless us!! Peace!!
Wayne R. Porter, Senior Warden

Rector's Report

I cannot adequately convey my gratitude to God for calling me to serve here and to each of you for sharing in all the richness of being included in this community of faith. It's hard to remember what our common life was like even when I started just a few months into a pandemic that we all thought would be much shorter. It has been a dynamic and challenging time for our world and our parish. Yet, over the years, we have seen God at work in so many amazing and surprising ways: through cultivating a habit of welcome that draws newcomers into our life; through supporting our main outreach ministry of feeding the food insecure and our own community through a major kitchen remodel, through nurturing the spiritual growth of our children and youth by re-engaging our commitment to children's ministry, through reinvigorating and growing an amazing music program following the hiring of Fred and Michael from a choir of six voices to over 30, through re-engaging a stalled capital campaign under Elaine's brilliant fundraising and achieving the successes of that kitchen remodel and raising a million dollars toward our new building in my time here with you; and along with many other ministries and moments of grace.

Following a new call and moving on from our mutual ministry will leave some things unresolved. Chief among these is the construction of space badly needed for advancing the ministries of the parish. However, I feel that Trinity Newport is in a strong position, with able leaders, who will help discern the gifts and skills needed in the 32nd rector of Trinity, Newport. These lay leaders need you to step forward as participants in that process and as volunteers in maintaining our many ministries and in building for growth.

- Excerpts from Rev. Tim Watt's Resignation Letter

Deacon's Report

A Deacon's job is to be a fire starter, to see a need in the church or in the community and to respond to the need with the community's help. This past year at Trinity, we had many Diaconal activities, including collecting and delivering health and hygiene products for people in Haiti. We also did two drives for the Boys and Girls Club in Newport. We supplied items for going back to school, including items for their clubhouse for arts and crafts and the after-school program. And at Christmas time, we collected warm clothing and items for Christmas gifts. Parish members are committed to helping neighbors in need, overseas, and the B&G Club in the neighborhood.

New Ministry Perspective

In the new year of 2024, I want to work more with the TLC pastoral ministry, it is a passion of mine, and Trinity has many members who are homebound. I hope can foster faith conversations and bring Holy Communion to parishioners. I hope the Women's Ministry continues to have a book study for Lent, and after Easter, practicing Resurrection, and for Advent. The Women's Circle offered a retreat in 2023 that was well attended. I hope we can have these events more regularly. In closing, from St. James: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says they have faith but not works? I will show you my faith by my works!" I look forward to our work in 2024.

Best, Deacon Christine

Junior Warden's Report

During 2023 there was focus on addressing deferred maintenance issues. The activity included:

1. Having the gutter drain lines and collection box cleaned out and snaked to address a flooding problem in the Honyman basement.
2. Had a circulation water pump repaired in May, but the repair only lasted until December when it had to be replaced.
3. Had repair work completed on the A/C units in Honyman Hall and the Church.
4. Installed dollies in Honyman Hall to better organize the storage of chairs and reduce damage to the walls.
5. With the help of the Trail Administrator for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, we acquired and installed an AED in Honyman Hall.
6. Had the entry door to Honyman Hall repainted
7. Had the beech tree in the cemetery treated for bark disease
8. With the help of the Altar Guild, the altar plaques were cleaned.
9. Installed new flooring in Pew 88.
10. Working with members of the congregation, weeded the flower beds twice and planted additional flowers to beautify the Trinity campus.

In addition, I am the Trinity Newport Project Leader for the Aquidneck Island Parish Resilience Project. The project is focused on:

1. Firstly, enhancing emergency preparedness for the six participating Episcopal churches on Aquidneck Island.
2. Secondly, engaging with the island communities to identify needs that can be met through parish resources, with an emphasis on the ways environmental racism has placed Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations at greater risk.
3. Thirdly, through parish formation offerings and Creation-centered liturgical events, present these activities within the framework of the Christian call to love God and neighbor.
4. Finally, develop a framework to support climate adaptation: assessing climate vulnerabilities, identifying adaptation options, and helping to cultivate a robust Creation Care ministry throughout the communities of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

On Sept 23, 2023, I attended the Conference for Creation Care 2023 – Environmental Justice Focus.

On October 15th, as part of Parish Worship and Education, we hosted Creation Care liturgy and preaching events, followed by presentations to the congregation.

On November 18th, 2023, I participated in the Aquidneck Island Coastal Pilgrimage where members visited different locations on Aquidneck Island that may be impacted by climate change.

Norris Commodore, Jr Warden

Slate of Officers, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegates

Officers

Senior Warden: Norris Commodore

Junior Warden: John Smith

Clerk: Karen Nash

Treasurer: Elaine Burress

Asst. Treasurer: Geer Isdale

Vestry

Class of 2025

One Year of Eligibility

Robert Smith
Morgan Huntley
Dolores Bauer

Class of 2026

Two Years of Eligibility

Meryl Moore
Donna Ellis
Jeff Clark

Class of 2027

Three Years of Eligibility

Ann Souder
Dan Cordeiro

Diocesan Delegates

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Norris Commodore and Dolores Bauer

Diocesan Convention Alternates

Jeff Clark and Wayne Porter

Nominating Committee for this Slate

Phoebe Livingston-Lopez, John Smith,
Cheryl Hatch, Wayne Porter, and Norris Commodore

About the New Nominees for Vestry

Dan Cordeiro

Dan, 46, is a native Newporter with several generations of his family involved at Trinity Church, including his parents marrying here. Dan's career includes over 25 years in the real estate industry in New York, Florida, Puerto Rico and Europe, including large scale developments like Hudson Yards, hotel properties such as Four Seasons, and as a realtor locally at Gustave White Sotheby's in Newport. A graduate of Rogers High School, he holds a BA from New York University and an MBA from Ecole Hoterliere de Lausanne, Switzerland. He has become more active at Trinity since living in Newport full-time, including assisting with the AV production needs. We hope his Newport roots, business acumen, and expertise around real estate, construction, design, communications and finance will help him to be of service to the Trinity community.



Ann Coale Souder



Ann is a native of Richmond, VA who first lived in Newport in the late 1970's when she worshipped at Trinity Church. She returned in 2000 and has been a regular parishioner ever since.

Education:

BA in Fine Arts, Boston University 1972
Salem College Winston-Salem, NC
St. Catherine's School, Richmond, VA

Work:

Currently Executive Director of Seamen's Church Institute, Newport
Area Sales Manager for Newport and the Caribbean, DYT Yacht Transport, Amsterdam
Marketing and Sales Representative, Newport Shipyard, Newport
Director, North Star Gallery, Newport
Manager, Deborah Gage (Works of Art), London
Executive Assistant to the Director, Dallas Museum of Art
Marketing Representative , Pearson Yachts, Portsmouth
Secretary to the President and Board, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Citizenship: US and UK

Memberships:

New York Yacht Club
Ida Lewis Yacht Club
Royal Dornoch Golf Club, Scotland
President, Newport Maritime Alliance
Quindecim

2023 Fundraising Report

In 2023 the capital campaign raised \$ \$181,634in gifts and pledges from 44 donors.

In 2023 Trinity spent \$57,656 in capital campaign funds for architectural and engineering work for the new building, storage for the Belmont angel, fundraising and some residual kitchen renovation expenses.

The current estimate for the Carr-Rice replacement building is currently \$1.75M.

We are in the process of developing a comprehensive fund-raising approach that includes the new building, increase in endowment and the celebration of our 300th anniversary of the church building.

Capital Campaign Financial Status:

Cash	\$974,881
Investments	\$ 36,200
Due from Endowment	\$ 33,500 (per Vestry vote 2022)
Unpaid pledges	\$ 58,631
Total	\$1,103,211

Elaine Burress, Campaign Manager

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Community Meal and Sharing Our Space

Community Meal

The Community Meal team served dinner on 28 days in 2023 (always the first, fourth, and fifth Monday of each month). Demand grew steadily throughout the year, and we are now serving between 100 and 120 guests per meal. We also expanded our outreach by routinely delivering meals to residents of Lucy's Hearth. We are grateful to the more than 30 volunteers - both longstanding and new - for the more than 1,000 hours of service that they delivered to our community in 2023. The highlight of the year was certainly the Christmas dinner prepared and served on Christmas day by more than 12 volunteers who created a feast that delivered much needed nourishment to the body and soul. Thank you to our volunteers and financial supporters who make this ministry possible. Volunteers are always welcome to sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/ekjGZiR>

D'Arcy Carr

Sharing Our Space

We believe that offering our centrally located **facilities** to the wider community is an important part of our engagement and service in Newport, allowing us to fulfill in real and tangible ways Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor.

In 2023, we did not share our space as much as we would have liked. But graciously, we were able to host a handful of receptions for the funerals of our dearly departed Trinitarian brothers and sisters.

To continue our reach out into the community, we offered a safe space outside in our fenced grounds for Christopher Carbone's performances and classes that are held with local families and young children.

We had a volunteer day with students from Salve Regina, they took on tasks such as: weeding, organizing, storage work, filing, cleaning, and other light work around the office and campus. They worked together as a team and were able to accomplish so much in a matter of a few hours. *Thank you Salve!*

In addition, we hold numerous musical performances in the Hawes Room, many with usage of our beautiful pianos.

Norris Commodore, Jr Warden

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

2023 Stewardship Report for Annual Meeting

Our team: Wayne Porter, Jan Gordon, Dennis Kretzschmar, Donna Ellis, Dolores Bauer, John Smith, and Morgan Huntley, focused on two objectives this year: celebrating and giving thanks for what we love about Trinity (an effort that will continue), and improving our pledge drive. To those ends, a team of active participants have helped to steer and implement our plans.

The pledged numbers for 2024 are:

- 107 have made a pledge, compared to 86 last year
- \$321K total pledged, compared to \$229K last year
- Most pledges increased or stayed the same, fewer than 10% decreased, and fewer than 10% of pledgers from last year have not yet made a pledge for 2024.
- 22 families pledged who did not pledge last year. It's particularly exciting to see new pledges.

The Team consistently discussed how the act of pledging is a spiritual discipline that encourages us to think deeply about our relationship with money and all of our "stuff". Consistent pledging helps our members to develop a deeper understanding of all of our blessings and a more generous response to that abundance. Our objective is not just to raise money from our members, but to help our members become better stewards of all that they have - talents, time, and treasure.

Besides the successful pledge drive, the team also created giving envelopes for the pews so that we can associate a name with a cash gift in the offering. A simple explanation of why we pledge was developed for welcome meetings with new and potential members.

This year, the Stewardship Team hopes to expand our efforts. Plans for this year include:

- We will continue to meet with new members and potential members as part of new member orientations and welcoming events.
- Adult Education - still hoping for a Stewardship Bible Study series.
- Workshop/presentation about estate planning.
- Periodic eTower notes and Sunday announcements highlighting how our gifts to Trinity impact our community, as well as thanks for Trinity blessings.

Terry Commodore
Stewardship Chair

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRIES / INREACH

The Inreach Commission oversees Children's and Adult Formation as well as Stewardship efforts. It's been a busy and productive year.

Sunday School continues to grow. There are now about 12 children who attend with an average of six or seven per week. We hope to continue the upward trend in numbers. The parents seem to be very happy with what we are doing, and the parish as a whole is enthused. There are now four adults teaching regularly and a wonderful new volunteer assistant from Salve Regina.

We have carved out a space in Honyman Hall and added an art cart and a bulletin board to our area as we eagerly await the new building.

The Christmas pageant cast included 15 children. They seemed to enjoy participating, and the audience (Christmas Eve service attendees) was very appreciative of their efforts.

The Women's Bible Study led by Deacon Christine meets weekly and averages around 10 participants.

With Canon Tim's departure, that piece of Adult Christian Formation is on hold but will hopefully be resumed when an interim is in place, or if not, once we have a new rector.

Trinity's Inreach Commission reached out to other Episcopal churches within in a local radius in an attempt to form a Christian Youth Group focused on tweens and teens within the local Episcopal church community. Response from other congregations was minimal and Trinity does not have a large enough group within the age parameters to support a youth group at this time. We continue to look for opportunities.

Morgan Huntley

Trinity Loving Community (TLC) and Prayer Shawl Group (PSG)

TLC is a lay-based pastoral care ministry whose mission is to remain in contact with those who are temporarily in need of help or with those who are no longer able to participate in parish life. It is run entirely by volunteers to develop and foster a spirit of community. Each month, volunteers make phone calls, visits, prepare and deliver occasional meals. They provide rides and make grocery or pharmaceutical runs for those parishioners who are no longer able to do so themselves. We want to ensure that all parishioners are not forgotten during their times of need, whether their need is temporary or chronic in nature. Our volunteers have been quite busy. This year alone, they have unselfishly sent 235 greeting cards/notes, made 145 phone calls, provided 21 rides, delivered 128 meals and 106 altar bouquets, gifted 12 prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. Dedicated TLC members have also made and enjoyed 71 visits, some of which included anointment practices and communion.

We are not always aware of a personal need. Therefore, your help is always welcome. Should you have a concern for yourself or another parishioner, please call the church office @ 401.846.0660 or Pam Alexander @ 401.835.6103. You may email me at rkalexander1@cox.net. Your requests are handled with compassion and are kept confidential. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate requests for Newport's general public; only former and current Trinity church members.

TLC works with the Community Meal Ministry to provide a hot meal when needed. We also work with Mary Sinnott, Altar Society Directress, to schedule the delivery of altar flowers to anyone celebrating a joyous or milestone event, as well as to members of our church who could use some cheer. The Strawberry Festival Committee continues to generously offer complimentary strawberry shortcakes to our Care List members; something this population anticipates each June with great joy!

PSG is an auxiliary group of people who knit and crochet. PSG meets bi-monthly to create one-of-a-kind prayer shawls that are gifted to those in need of comfort and prayer. The knitters and crocheters also create baptismal blankets to welcome newly baptized children. These blankets are presented during the church service at which the baptismal candidates are welcomed into the Household of God.

What to expect in 2024?

- Continue with our full range of services. If you have additional ideas for helping our parishioners, please contact Pam Alexander.
- Continue our association with Community Meals and the Altar Society.
- Grow the volunteer lists for TLC and PSG.
In the beginning of this report, there is a list of tasks from which you may choose based on your personal interests and your availability. The Monthly Coordinator would call you on a rotation basis, so you are not constantly in the "batter's box;" just inside the "on-deck circle." You always have the option to decline a request for any reason. The time spent doing TLC business is minimal.
- ???? Possibly the formation of a group of men and women to prepare homemade soups to be placed in the freezer, as a convenient and quick grab for a parishioner in need, before a "Meal Train" can be scheduled. What is your favorite recipe? Tomato-basil, chicken noodle, pasta e fagiolle, split pea, "chowdah". We'd love to have a healthy supply on hand. Please let me know if you are interested.

Faithfully submitted,
Pam Alexander, TLC Facilitator

EVANGELISM AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Constant Contact E-Tower, Social Media, and Website Maintenance

Constant Contact E-Tower

Weekly E-Tower emails sent from Constant Contact were scheduled for every Thursday throughout 2023. In addition to the weekly E-Tower, special news announcements are sent as needed. Our weekly emails are being sent to 378 people.

Of those 378 people, we had an open rate average of 62% compared to 60% from 2022. Interestingly, there were 774 clicks to a link in the email with 53% from mobile and 47% from desktop.

Social Media

During 2023, we continue to share photos, events and live streams, reaching out to the wider community of Newport, Aquidneck Island, and all of Rhode Island.

Live streaming on Sunday mornings has continued throughout the year, with much thanks to Norris Commodore, Dan Cordeiro and Dennis Kretzschmar, the backbone of our rotation team. We could really use the extra help – if anyone is interested in learning how to use our fun little set up – please reach out to Norris, Dennis, or call the parish admin office and we will be happy to train and assist.

Our online presence on Sundays is always a great fall-back for our Trinitarians who are home injured or sick, away on travel, or at a seasonal home. It is a tool our very own choir greatly appreciates to look back on! Each post has the chance to reach Newport and beyond. We are finding that many of our current, potential and/or previous members enjoy staying in touch virtually!!

Funerals have had the most benefits of our offered live streaming. Those with loved ones both near and far away unable to travel are now able to join us in live time, and leave loving comments of support to each other. Some folks will even go back with a clear mind to rewatch/listen and this has offered some therapeutic advantages.

Website Maintenance

Our website work in 2023 has mostly been dedicated to informational updates. The event page was updated regularly with all current events throughout the year with a link to Sign-up Genius. Since Vanco was integrated into the website, specific giving options are streamlined such as Easter and Christmas giving and other small event giving. The website is getting an upgrade. Keep an eye out for the new look.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

The various “pieces” that comprise our Parish Life is an integral and defining part of the Trinity community. Each year, these shared efforts and ambitious events reflect our priorities, our traditions and our future aspirations and allow us to “put into action,” in faith and fellowship, that which will build the social, charitable, felicitous and unique character of who we are and what we have represented in Newport for 300 years.

From welcoming the newcomer and “seeker” for the first time and encouraging a journey to eventual membership, if so desired—to hosting small, off-campus gatherings in the hope of knowing each other just a bit deeper (Koinonia)—to raising funds for Trinity needs and those of other worthy civic causes and organizations in town through established and esteemed festivals and events, **Trinity Church casts a wide net!**

All this is part of a healthy and ever-growing Parish Life and there will be more in ‘24... stay tuned!

Robert Smith and Jeff Clark - Parish Life Commission

The individual leaders’ reports follow here:

- Welcome Committee
- Koinonia
- Pumpkin Patch
- Strawberry Festival
- Silver Tea
- Blessing of the Animals
- Tour Guide Mission
- Trinity Reading Group

2023 Welcome Committee and Koinonia Reports

Welcome Committee

In an effort to better transition new Trinity members into the parish, The Welcome Committee was restarted in Fall 2022.

To date, a Welcome card has been added to the pews. The card includes information about Trinity and allows the visitor to share their information with the church so we can better meet their spiritual needs.

In 2023, we began hosting gatherings so new members can meet one another. These gatherings will also be an opportunity to offer small bits of info about so many of the Trinity ministries. The gatherings were held 4 times throughout the year. We met after the 10:00 service for coffee and pastry upstairs in Honyman Hall. People were invited through notices in the eTower and leaflet. Attendance ranged from 0-10. Attendees met members of the Vestry, the Rector and volunteers from different ministries. Many attendees have become active members of Trinity.

We are blessed with new members and visitors to Trinity each week and we hope to make it easier for them to learn all that we have to offer and welcome them to our vibrant community.

Geer Isdale
GeerIsdale@gmail.com

2023 Koinonia Report for Annual Meeting

The Koinonia ministry involves parish members hosting Trinitarians at their home for a social event. It provides an opportunity to meet new parish members and allows each of us to get to know one another even more.

Koinonia had a few parties in 2023 ranging from a brewery gathering to a polo gathering and many in between. Participation was less than in years past but each event provided great opportunity to gather and socialize outside of church.

Please use this time to consider hosting an event. You decide the offering-pot luck, munchies, beer/wine, etc., the number of people and the time of day. It can be a simple affair or quite festive - or anything in between.

Geer Isdale
GeerIsdale@gmail.com

Pumpkin Patch Annual Report

Last fall, once again, the popular parish Pumpkin Patch was a great success, benefiting all — our visitors, our parish volunteers, the Trinity Community, the pumpkin-purchasing-public and the various charities that receive the great majority of proceeds in the form of donations.

This is why our Pumpkin Patch, and other fundraising events during the course of our Parish Life year, are so important. Along with the fun and fellowship offered by being together in community, these events comprise the vast majority of charitable giving that Trinity provides each year to organizations and causes on Aquidneck Island and beyond.

The balance on the Pumpkin Patch account after all expenses were paid out, which includes paying the Pumpkin Patch, all receipts and 30% to the church, was \$13,288.57. We usually kept something in the account for next year but were told to spend it all this year. The recipients are as follows:

- *Martin Luther King Center - \$1500
- *Seaman's Church Institute - \$1500
- *Salve Regina - Outreach Programs - Kathleen Rendos - \$1000
- *RISING - Music weekend - \$1000
- Lucy's Hearth - \$1000
- McKinney Co-op Shelter - \$1000
- *Carrigan Nelson - \$1000
- *St. John's School - \$1000
- Sunday School - \$1000

Total - \$10,000

Balance to church - \$3,288.57

We gave to all the charities that we have given to in the past and added a few more. The asterisks denote the ones we have given to in years past. RISING is a nonprofit musical group that helps people learn how to perform their own music. It is a fantastic organization that helps us for a full weekend with all their equipment and they also help with the Strawberry festival. We added Lucy's Hearth and McKinney shelters to help with homelessness in the area. Carrigan Nelson is fighting brain cancer and has performed in our Patch. Her family is always in need to help her fight this horrible illness. This is the second year we have donated to them. St John's School goes through The Rev. Robert Canter. He is in touch with them and still has been able to help them with the money that we provide. We made a specific donation to the Sunday School to give Dolores Bauer whatever support she needs to continue to offer a program to our youth and maybe to help her start to get things for the new building. The rest of the donation I hope that the church will use as is best needed to meet the needs of our congregation and the needs of the community.

This was a wonderful Patch but would not have been possible this year without the over and above devotion of Debby Lengyel. She went above and beyond to be in the Patch. Diane Myers is instrumental in seeing to what needs to be done and ensuring that the word goes out to rally the troops, fill up the staffing schedule and organize the entertainment, while always improving and finding new ways to keep this Great Pumpkin tradition fun and enjoyable! This year's baking effort was the best it has ever been! A big shout out to all the bakers. We had our best year ever for "other" sales!

Strawberry Festival - Saturday June 17, 2023

The weather, although not ideal, was tolerable for the day, overcast with some on-and-off rain. Event was held inside with some small tables out on the lawn with a large tent. The inclement weather created a contingency plan to use in the future. Even so, we sold 400 cakes/150 lemonades. Leftover berries and cakes were sold the next day at coffee hour too. Biscuits and lemons were donated to the Community Meal. After expenses, we ended up making about \$1,500 for the Church.

MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS!

We are grateful for the parishioners who helped chop and prep, work in the kitchen, and take on other tasks. Thanks to those who came out to help with signage, tents, tables and chairs. Despite the not-so-great weather, thanks to all who helped to create a festive environment for this annual event. And many thanks to Diane Myers for facilitating the music, which provided a nice ambiance in the Hawes room.

Respectfully submitted,
Phoebe Livingston, Cissie Ferzoco, and Bob Smith, Co-chairs



Silver Tea and Blessing of the Animals Reports

Silver Tea

Once again, on the first Saturday in December, we welcomed the public into our Hawes Room for Trinity's annual "Christmas in Newport" event, the Silver Tea. The silver was polished, the room was decorated, and thanks to Fred, Michael and Meryl, the room was filled with music, providing a perfect holiday atmosphere to welcome in our guests. The weather cooperated and had a fairly steady stream of tea drinkers for most of the afternoon. With thanks to the many volunteers, we are very happy to be able to report another successful event!

Our revenue this year was again in the neighborhood of \$3,000 and after expenses, we realized a profit of about \$2,500. We have come to understand the need for more advertisement of this event, with more concentration to trying to keep the room full. There were many events going on in Newport on this day, so we had a lot of competition.

Profits from the Silver Tea typically are used to purchase and replace items for Hawes Room, the kitchen, and other "hospitality" types of needs. This year, we purchased the chair racks and a rolling cart for Sunday School supplies. Our "living room" is in need of some serious cleaning and replacement of tired furniture, but we will try to save it for when the new building is closer. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7, 2024 for this year's Silver Tea!

Chris Pimentel and Deb Lengyel

Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis

Trinity Church has scheduled a special service in the summer for the Blessing of the Animals. This is in celebration with the Feast of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals. This service witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of the stewardship of creation is strengthened. As an outdoor service, it encourages families, especially those with children, to attend and celebrate their pet(s). In the past, dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles, and even a lizard were blessed by the priest.

A prayer for our pets...

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets.

2023 Annual Report from the Tour Guide Mission

Our 2023 guided public tours opened in April and May with weekend tours. On Memorial Day our regular 10 am-4 pm daily summer schedule ran for five months through October 31. Sunday after-service tours were offered **every** week of the year.

Total visitation was 7,266, exceeding last year's total by 300, with the most visitors counted in October when the cruise ships came in. Income from visitors totaled \$11,926 (average \$1.64 per person). Book sales brought in another \$330 from *Semper Eadem* Vol I (\$30), and Lew Keen's new book, *A Guide to Historic Burial Grounds in Newport*. (\$22)

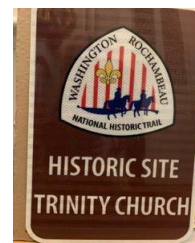
We had a total of six group tours, which was a great improvement over the previous few years. Organizations included the Victorian Society, Alexandria Association, Preservation Society, Salve University and two large tours with the Naval War College – for their orientation and for Navy spouses during the International Seapower Symposium in September. There were no tours booked with travel companies that are still skittish about COVID, and no school tours were scheduled in 2023, which is largely due to the high cost of bussing.

Our team of trusted regular guides included: Barbara Bailey, Tricia Baylor, Helen Brennan, Elliott Caldwell, Terry Commodore, George Ellis, Pam & Ray Fisher, David Hunt, Julie Keesling, Marilyn McDonald, Harle Tinney and Mary Jo Valdes. Reliable substitutes included Jim Conners, Pat Drislane, Cissie Ferzoco, John Hattendorf, Charlotte Johnson, Jim Patterson, Bob Smith and Jeff Weston. In September we held a fun pot luck volunteer appreciation dinner at Harle Tinney's home in Middletown for guides and clergy. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our guides for your hard work and dedication!

Graveyard – Volunteer Jimmy Lappin continued to clean a total of 72 headstones, ledgers and monuments up until the Fall. He and Canon Tim discovered a tall marble headstone for Freelove Sophia Tweedy Malbone in the church basement. It was likely removed when the streetlight was installed near the other Tweedy family stones. Where and how to reinstall it is currently under discussion.

Signage – in addition to the RI Historical Cemeteries sign we received last year, the National Park Service made us a special Washington- Rochambeau historic site sign to put on the fence by the three French graves that include Admiral de Ternay.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Johnson & Harle Tinney
Tour Guide Mission Coordinators



Trinity Reading Group

We formed the Trinity Church Reading Group at the beginning of the Pandemic, as a way to provide some fellowship for our parishioners during the lockdown of gatherings, such as the coffee hour, etc. This opportunity of fellowship has continued over the past few years as we now have 10 men and women who regularly attend our meetings in person or by Zoom. Please note, that all are welcome to join us at any time. We read and discuss a good variety of genre, i.e., fiction, non-fiction, historical and historical fiction. Currently, we are reading *The Time Keeper*, by Mitch Albom. We meet once a month on a Monday. From 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Larry and Anne Glenn's house in Newport. Our next meeting will be on March 18. If you are interested in joining us at any time, please contact Anne Glenn (annedglenn@gmail.com or 516-242-4187)

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Worship Commission Annual Report for 2023
Submitted by Meryl Moore and Phoebe Livingston

Trinity Church Altar Society

Trinity Church Altar Society is a group of faithful members who work quietly behind the scenes to prepare the church for worship. This past year we welcomed our first male and currently have twenty-one members who are divided into 4 teams. There is a team for each Sunday of the month and their duties begin on Saturday and continue to the following Friday. Any service (Eucharist, wedding, funeral, memorial service, etc.) that takes place during this time period is the responsibility of that team. Fifth Sunday duties are covered on a rotating basis with each team taking a turn once a year.

The Altar Society prepares the church for worship at the direction of the clergy. Members prepare all the elements necessary for worship, set the altar table, wash and mend linens, polish silver, arrange flowers, clean the altar area, and perform a variety of other tasks. Also, the Altar Society delivers altar flowers, Easter plants and poinsettias to shut-ins, the sick, the bereaved, and those celebrating special occasions.

The Altar Society annually receives \$300 from the church's operating budget to cover some expenses. Monies received through donations at Easter and Christmas and donations for altar flowers throughout the year fund the purchase of flowers, wine, wafers, candles, small linens, cleaning supplies, etc.

In 2023, the Altar Society, using funds from our Slocum Gordon account, funded the \$12,000 restoration of the altar tablets that had been damaged from wax splattering. The conservation treatment was meticulously performed by Alexander Katlan, a conservator from New York. He was so moved by the good deeds of the church that he informed the Altar Society that he had remembered Trinity in his estate planning with a gift of \$20,000. To prevent any further damage to the tablets, oil candles are now being used on the altar retable. A separate candle lighter was purchased to be used only at the altar area to limit the possibility of any wax drippings.

In addition, the Altar Society funded the re-silvering of the altar candlesticks, the purchase of new red Bible markers, and the purchase of an oil Paschal candle. Through a generous donation from Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr. the altar cross was restored and re-silvered in honor of his father, Canon Lockett Ford Ballard.

The Altar Society recognized Miriam Smith's many years of service with the purchase of new green silks (a burse, veil with personal inscription and Bible markers) in honor of 90th birthday.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Sinnott

Trinity Church Ushers, Coffee Hour, and Lectors/Intercessors/Acolytes Reports

Ushers

Ushers support the 8 am and 10 am services, as well as funerals and special event services, mostly musical. I am grateful for our current ushers and the continuous commitment they make to this important Trinity ministry, especially their volunteering for special services throughout the year. Our overall number of ushers increased by a few during this year. With the additional ushers, I have been able to schedule ushers so that the frequency is no more than once per month, except when there are additional services at Christmas and Easter.

We are still hoping to initiate youth ushers along with youth participation in other service aspects, but full incorporation will likely occur when we have a new building and more families with children become regular attendees. We will be working with Vestry on this effort when it can be logically pursued.

I would be remiss if I did not directly request that parishioners consider becoming an usher and join us in this important ministry at Trinity.

Reach out to me at djkretzschmar@gmail.com
Submitted with prayer and great expectations for 2024,
Dennis Kretzschmar

Coffee Hour

Under Anne Livingston's capable direction, the Coffee Hour crew brought us together after the 10:00 am worship service and for several special events throughout 2023. Volunteers worked in teams, rotating through the year serving coffee, tea and light snacks in Honyman Hall, moving outdoors during the summer months. Anne reports adding several new members to the roster this year, and volunteers are always welcome. Coffee Hour is a welcome extension of our worship service, providing a friendly and casual environment for fellowship and a great opportunity to greet visitors and new members.

Acolytes, Intercessors, Lectors

Terry Commodore organizes this ministry that is so important to our two Sunday morning worship services and other special services. Volunteers sign up according to their availability, and Terry makes and posts the assignments for all Sunday services. A call goes out to the volunteers when services are added or there is a vacancy. Training is provided and volunteers are always welcome.

Music Program

The Trinity Choir currently has 32 members on the roster, with an average attendance of around 25. They sing for 40 Sundays each season, and our four wonderful Choral Scholars take turns singing in the summer months. Extra services included Ash Wednesday (two services) Good Friday (two services), Christmas on the Hill, and Christmas Eve. Christmas on the Hill was particularly well attended this year.

We sang choral settings of the Mass for
February Candlemas - Palestrina: Missa brevis
April Easter - Mozart Mass in C - with oboes, trumpets, strings and tympani
June Pentecost - Mozart Missa brevis in B-flat with strings
Nov All Saints - Caldara: Missa St Josephii with strings
December Christmas - Haydn: Missa brevis in F with strings

Evensong was offered in Lent, and in Eastertide our choir joined with the Choristers of Newport County, Peter Berton, director, and the Choir of St. George's School, Kate Longo director, for an Eastertide joint Evensong at St. George's School Chapel.

Concerts offered included the Newport String Project in February, summer concerts of music for Salterio and Harpsichord with Fred Jodry in July, and Violin and Harpsichord with Michael Bahmann in August. We celebrated our newly re-strung 1910 Blüthner piano with a Rachmaninoff recital by Ivan Gusek in September.

Both Michael and I appreciate the support and frequent generosity of the Trinity Parish in supporting our vibrant musical life.

Fred Jodry

2023 AT-A-GLANCE

January

Weekly Men's Bible Study restarted
Weekly Healing Service restarted
Prayer Shawl Group restarted
Book Club restarted

Funerals/Memorials:

Roger King



February

Ton of Love Food Drive for MLK Center
Ash Wednesday Service (Noon & 7PM Services)
Pancake Supper

Music at Trinity:

Newport String Project
Evensong



March

Women's Book Study Resumes
Altar Society Meeting

Music at Trinity:

Theodore Mookk & Michael Bahmann:
Shostakovich Bach, and Chopin

April

Maundy Thursday
Good Friday Noon & Night Service
Easter Service
Easter Egg Hunt after Easter Sunday Service
Chris Carbone on the Lawn

Weddings:

Myers - Nicolson



May

Newcomer Coffee Hour started
Ascension Sunday
Work begins on the Church Tower

Music at Trinity:

Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension

June

Strawberry Festival
Book signing: Witness to Dignity by The Rev.
Russell Levenson, Jr.

Koinonia:

Meadows Party



July

Weed and Trim Day on Campus
Summer Soiree Event

Music at Trinity:

Concert "A Thousand Golden Strings"

Weddings:

Watson - Genninger

Rentals:

Myers Anniversary



August

Chris Carbone on the Lawn

Koinonias:

Dolores Bauer
Toni Green

Weddings:

Mancosh - Sheppard

September

Homecoming

Women's Retreat

Adult Formation started

Music at Trinity:

Rachmaninoff & Bluthner Concert

Koinonias:

Polo – Isdale & Gordons

Weddings:

Bunting – Luckey

Slocum – Kenyon

Rentals:

Jane's Dancing Hands



October

Mass on the Grass

Blessing of the Animals

Pumpkin Patch

Chris Carbone in the Patch

Silver Tea Crafters begin their work

Funeral:

Brian O'Malley

Baptism:

Libby Carney



November

Sunday School returns

Baptisms:

Wolff Bardenheier

Rentals:

Newport Hill Association

December

Silver Tea

Christmas Eve Family Service at 4pm

Christmas Eve Night Service at 9pm

Christmas Day Service

Lessons & Carols

Pamela Clarke Book review & signing:

Talk on the life and times of Clement
Clarke Moore, author of "Twas the Night
Before Christmas"

Weddings:

McFarlane - Bermel



