



Trinity Church

Newport, RI



2017

Report Prepared for the
Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Date Issued: January 28, 2018

Mission Statement

We are a community of Episcopalians gathered by Christ, serving and supporting one another and those in need. Our historic church is a living beacon calling all for worship, fellowship, and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Front Cover Photo by Frank Leith

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Parish Leadership

Senior Warden's Report

There is nothing more beautiful than to touch another soul deeply. Trinity Church continues to be a beacon of light where all are welcome to share in our life here up on the Historic Hill of Newport. The congregation continues to grow with many new young children, friends and families. These are the reasons we are here....to provide a place to learn and live into the life of Jesus Christ and continue to find our place in the faith based community. Trinity offers hope, faith, and love for one another and will continue for generations to come.

Trinity is blessed to have many strong leaders, with our Rector, Mother Anne Marie Richards and Assistant Priest, Father Alan Neale, the staff, vestry and finance committee. They are the backbone of caring for the property and all of the fiduciary responsibilities. Our treasurer, Elaine Burress, assistant treasurer, James Patterson, and Business Manager Brian O'Malley showed complete dedication to their financial leadership roles and responsibilities all year long. You can thank them again for an essentially balanced budget this year. Jeff Gordon also kept his watchful eye on our endowment.

Stewardship is vital, your yearly individual pledging and our operating yearly budget are not two separate things, but is one living system that relies on each other to support the life of the church. The budget is achieved based on your pledges that are made on a yearly basis. It takes a collection of faithful commitments to do God's work in this place and that will always include lights and heat and maybe one day air conditioning for Father Alan. The Stewardship Campaign this year was under the leadership of Meryl Moore and Larry Pulice, so I thank them for their willingness to serve. Both Meryl and Larry are available if you are new to pledging and/or want to know more about it. It's not too late to make your commitment for the year. Every pledge counts, especially yours.

In May of 2016, the old moth-balled Carr Rice building was demolished and removed leaving just the slab. It is now ready for a new building to be built on its footprint. We completed the silent phase of the campaign and launched into the public phase in February. Now is the challenge to raise enough financial support through outside grants and donors to start building the new space. We continue to tweak the North façade and will reapply for HDC approval once we are closer to starting the project. The capital campaign finance and steering committees remain focused in our vision of a new building and campus improvements. Barbara Roos has agreed to stay on as our project manager even though she moved to Connecticut. Co-chairs of the campaign are Tony Simpson and Elaine Burress. We will hopefully be improving the traffic flow with a new traffic pattern that will have an egress on to Church Street. As none of us has experience running a capital project of this significance, there has been a learning curve with its challenges, but we remain with our eye on the prize not only for us but for our future generation and generations to come.

More good news is that Elaine Burress worked diligently to secure realistic bids and submitted a grant request in the amount of nearly \$28,000 from the state preservation grant to be used to replace seven exterior doors of the historic church and install web-based locking systems. Trinity Church did in fact receive the grant. Thank you, Elaine! Look for new church doors to be coming that will keep our church safe and secure.

This year we had transitions with staff positions and an unexpected leave for our rector. After Easter, Mother Anne Marie took a seven week leave of absence and Father Alan seamlessly took care of our worship, staff and pastoral care in her time away. We are very blessed indeed to have Father Alan with us as our Assistant Priest. Mother Anne Marie is back and is in full force running the parish. At the same time Barbara Roos resigned as our parish administrator as she and Pieter decided to move to Connecticut for Pieter's new career. We gained Cassandra Dias who is a wiz at getting things done, is tech savvy, and is a friendly presence in the office. Stephan Griffin received his doctoral degree in organ performance and also moved on to pursue his career; we wish him nothing but the best in his bright future. In November, we called Christopher Bingham to be our new choir master. After a year's hiatus, the youth choir will relaunch in the fall of 2018.

An interesting community opportunity became available that Trinity decided to be a part of. In collaboration with the Newport Art Museum and the Redwood Library, Trinity exhibited the art work by Paul Chan in July. It was a 19 feet tall swaying-motion figure with a hood that was billowing in the chancel for a week.

Our Outreach commitment remains as strong as ever. We had a great Strawberry Festival in June. Thank you to Geer Isdale and Dennis Kretzschmar for chairing the event once again. We also linked this event to deliver homemade strawberry shortcakes to all of our TLC friends. The shortcakes were delivered to their home which of course included a nice visit from a volunteer. This was the great idea of the facilitator of the TLC program Pam Alexander. Pam really stood up and took charge of the TLC program this year with Father Alan. Trinity is such a LC, loving community, because of the guidance and care from Pam and Father Alan along with all of the volunteers who touched many people in meaningful ways.

The Pumpkin Patch was another success that required so many hours of volunteering to make it happen. Diane Myers and Debbie Lengyel deserve a great round of applause for their tireless work to raise money for our outreach programs that go to local organizations and far reaching international ones like the San Juan School.

There are many opportunities to get involved so please take a look at the full annual report to see all that happened this year. There are too many for me to include in this report but I do want to personally thank each and every one who contributed in some way large or small to make Trinity the place to be a part of.

Trinity church had its challenges this year, with each situation we as a congregation and as a community banded together with the guidance of Mother Anne Marie and Father Alan to finish the year with hope and faith looking into the year ahead. I am constantly amazed at the strength of our parishioners to steady the ship when issues arise and to see how we all rise to the occasion at hand. Sitting in my box on Sundays I felt the love and grace from you to push through our situations as a united whole with individual talents and strengths, integrity and care for one another and for our church to thrive and grow into the future. We have a lot to be thankful for. I am completing my third year term as your Senior Warden today, and Trinity Church will be welcoming its new Senior Warden! I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve. I personally want to thank and say I couldn't have done it without John Smith, Elaine Burrell, James Patterson, Brian O'Malley, Tony Simpson, Karen Nash and the vestry and committees. I am a firm believer in transitional leadership for a healthy life of the church so it is time for me to move over and let some new energy and ideas flow.

Trinity has lived by the Latin phrase of "Semper Eadem" meaning "Always the Same" for over 300 years. It doesn't mean that things won't change but that we will remain steadfast and singlehearted in our oneness with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as a community and in relationship with one another.

With my deep gratitude,

Wendy Durudogan, *Senior Warden*

Rector's Report

To serve as the Rector of Trinity Church is an awesome responsibility, and a great joy. Come May 2018, I will have been here for eight years, and I can honestly say that 2017 holds a unique place in my heart as both the most difficult year yet, and at the same time the best of the best. Perhaps those contradictory statements seem unlikely descriptions of the same year, but life is often lived in contrast, and perfection is an elusive goal.

We stepped out boldly with the public launch of the Trinity Serves in February 2017. With balloons, M&M's with the campaign logo, a moving video clip, and all the other stuff that goes along with a well-orchestrated press event, we made it known that Trinity Serves was underway and ready to engage the wider community. The joy and excitement of that day was fantastic, but proved hard to sustain. Over the next months we would learn some hard lessons about fundraising outside the parish, suffer some setbacks, make a few mistakes, miss some opportunities, and then finally come up with a plan to get us back on track. We launched in 2017, but I think 2018 will really be our year.

I will probably always remember 2017 as the year that I learned again how to ask for help, and how to take a break. Making a public statement about my health, particularly my living with depression, was not easy, but I offered my witness with the hope that it might model the kind of healthy honesty that can decrease the stigma of mental health issues and help build community. Telling my parishioners I was not well was tough, but the overwhelming support and love that I received in return was perhaps the most powerful gift I have ever received. Don't ever doubt the grace and mercy of God as lived out in the members of Trinity Church, it is our finest heritage. I left Trinity after church on April 30, tired and sick, and returned on June 14 healthy, rested, and revved up.

And when I came back, I landed right in the middle of some real anxiety about a planned art exhibition in the church. I had lead the planning for it for most of the winter, but while I was out on leave some potentially difficult details came to light. When I returned, wise colleagues promised me they would support me if I wanted to go ahead with the installation, but also gently (*and not so gently*) suggested that maybe we should cancel. I prayed, and I listened, and I sought the advice of friends and mentors, and finally decided that we would go ahead with hosting Paul Chan's dramatic piece, *Pillowsophia (after Trinity)* for one week. It was installed beginning on June 28, opened to the public on July 1, and came down on July 8. As I wrote at the time of the installation:

“Installing a brand new piece of art in a centuries old building presents an opportunity for visitors and worshipers to contemplate this animated object—perhaps first noticing the obvious contrasts. Not just old vs. new, but familiar vs. unknown, static vs. dynamic. This particular piece, with its near cruciform shape, brings to mind classic Christian symbols, but at the same time is so very different. Jesus, if this could be Jesus in the monk-like habit, is not immobilized on the cross, but is instead animated, reaching out to us, demanding our attention. Or, is there no connection to an ancient Roman execution at all? Are these spasms of pain? Ecstatic dancing? As the air brings the figure to life, we may be reminded of the life-giving breath of God, *ruach* in the Hebrew Scriptures, that holy force that moved over the earth at creation. Or of the wind of the Holy Spirit. Or of the air that propels a sailboat forward and causes a kite to soar. The piece invites, maybe even demands, thought and contemplation. There is no singular answer to the question, “What does it mean?” Indeed, the meaning emerges as the wind, the fabric, the heart, the head, and the experience of encountering *Pillowsophia (after Trinity)* come together.”

Many people reacted positively to the piece, others were unmoved, and more than a few disliked it. That is as we might expect – a variety of opinions. What is important, though, is that we did not shy away from trying something new, from engaging our space in new ways, from inviting new voices and new faces into our old church. I hope that we have an opportunity to be similarly bold in 2018, maybe even for more than seven days.

The other theme of my return to work was staff replacement. After completing his Doctorate at Boston University in May, Dr. Stephan Griffin decided to resign his post as Director of Music in order to pursue other opportunities. He gave notice in June and served with us until August 21st. Also in June, Barbara Roos submitted her resignation as Administrative Assistant. She graciously stayed in her post until Cassandra Dias was hired in August and provided a near seamless transition for the office. Losing two skilled professionals, who also happen to be fantastic colleagues and friends, was not what I thought I'd come back to, but I am grateful for the years we were able to serve together.

Our search for a Music Director took longer than anticipated, largely due to my trying to replace two key staff positions at the same time. We made our way from week-to-week with substitute organists on Sunday and, when the choir returned for the fall season, the generous assistance of Michael Genese who served as Interim Choirmaster. In the end, I chose to call Christopher Bingham as Director of Music, and he began his ministry here on November 1st. Beginning his post late in the season, with Christmas right around the corner, was a challenge for Chris, but he rose to it and gave it all the effort he could. I'm grateful to our choir for their devotion during the interim period and at the start of a new director's tenure.

For me, the late summer and early fall was taken up by trips back and forth to my native Maryland to be with my mother in her last days. I will never forget the many cards of support I received during that uncertain time, and the overwhelming outpouring of love and sympathy that was offered when she died on September 18. As your Rector, it has been my privilege to bury parents, spouses, friends, and extended family, and to walk with precious souls through the last days this side of the veil of heaven, but now it was me who was not the priest, but the daughter. And you all cared for me in countless ways. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your love and support.

And last but not in any way least, we had a Christmas Pageant on the Third Sunday of Advent this year. I'm sure that lots and lots of churches had Christmas Pageants this year, but ours was truly special because it was the first one we've had in at least ten years. More than 15 beautiful young people participated – all of them sons and daughters of this parish. Why is that exciting? Well, because, you see, when I arrived in 2010 we had no babies, none. And then Jim and Whitney Garner brought their new baby, George, and later, Emlen. And then Andy Green brought Chloe, and later Margot. And then, and then, and then... And now these are our kids and I can't quite put into words how much I love them, all of them – and their fantastic parents and grandparents. These families represent a renewal, a re-birth of Trinity, and an answer to the prayers of so many. Not that it is only the young who matter, but that our tiniest members mean that this place will go on long after our most seasoned members enter the life eternal. They mean that Trinity lives on into the next generation. And besides that, our children are all beautiful, wicked smart, and just generally awesome.

So now it is off into 2018. Wonderful joys await. Terrible sorrows, too. And through it all, the love of God will carry us through. Trinity is a place unique in its heritage and renewed in its purpose. The grace, peace, love, justice, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ is powerfully present in this place and her people. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, *Rector*

Assisting Priest's Report

It is truly remarkable for me, and Wendy, to reflect that it is 2 ½ years since we returned to Aquidneck Island and moved into semi-retirement. The joy of this time is due very much to our involvement with Trinity Church both as priest and as parishioner.

Starting with 20 hours/week, our Rector (Mother Anne Marie Richards) and Vestry agreed to increase my hours to 25 hours/week; the plan is for these hours to be worked Sunday-Wednesday Noon – well, that's the plan anyway.

Originally, my job description involved assisting the Rector with liturgical/preaching duties, developing our 'wedding ministry' and exercising pastoral care.

Over time the job description has increased to include education, newcomer ministry and assistance with annual stewardship programs.

Soon after my arrival, the Adult Forum resumed at 9am on Sundays, between services. Our subjects have been varied as has attendance but every meeting is literally alive with questions, comments and fun. Last year I worked alongside parish members to help develop a Sunday School with more volunteer teachers, find a relevant and accessible Sunday School program and present the Sunday School Pageant in December 2017.

Most Sundays Trinity Church is privileged to welcome visitors to worship; some are first time visitors, some visit regularly – some are on vacation, some are looking for a new church home. Whoever the visitor, this is our guest and I sense that we all do our best to help people feel welcome. If a Newcomer Card is completed, I generally contact the person within a few days and try to visit them either at home or meet for coffee. Trinity Church is growing in numbers and it is really exciting to be a part of this welcoming ministry... a ministry in which we all share.

I hope it might be possible for my hours to increase a little as 2018 continues but whatever happens... it is a joyful privilege to share ministry with Anne Marie, with the staff and with the people of Trinity Church.

The Rev. Alan Neale, *Assisting Priest*

Junior Warden's Report

This completes my second year as Junior Warden and I would like to thank the Clergy, Staff, Vestry, and Congregation for all the support and help I have received. I am most appreciative to everyone! Some accomplishments in the Building and Grounds area for 2017 include:

- a. Historic Church: Built and installed additional shelves for the Altar Guild. Several repairs made to pews. Interior Church painting (Trinity green) was completed. Exterior repairs were completed through designated endowment funds. Estimates are still being received for climatization of the Church to fulfill the \$250,000 designated capital campaign grant.
- b. Honyman Hall: Gutters cleaned and minor interior repairs completed.
- c. Contracts: All required periodic preventive maintenance and cleaning was completed per existing contracts. All fire extinguishers on campus were inspected and upgraded as needed and are in full compliance with code.
- d. Some contracts were re-worked to eliminate duplication of services and reduce costs.
- e. Spring clean-up and sprucing was held on 10 June with many projects getting done. Special thanks to Jim and Ellen Patterson, Kim Doherty, Charlie Jauss, and Wayne Porter for their excellent work on the grounds and to Wendy Durudogan for dropping by with much needed supplies.
- f. Grounds: Beech Tree on West side of Church was pruned by Bartlett Tree Service. N.E. Landscaping maintaining grounds: in addition to routine maintenance they trimmed hedges and cleaned up and removed fencing from construction area to improve campus appearance.

Plans for 2018:

- a. Honyman Hall: Bring fire protection system to code. Since HH is part of capital campaign this may be funded as part of the building upgrade.
- b. Estimates/installation of air conditioning in historic Church. This is being funded as part of a charitable foundation designated gift to the capital campaign.
- c. Hold another Spring clean-up and sprucing to do maintenance items and small repairs.

Faithfully submitted,

John Smith, *Junior Warden*

2017 Vestry Commissions

<p>Properties John Smith</p>	<p>Finance & Administration Elaine Burress Jim Patterson</p>	<p>Outreach Tony Simpson</p>	<p>Stewardship Meryl Moore Larry Pulice</p>
<p>Buildings and Grounds Strong Back Brigade</p>	<p>Audit Committee Budget Columbarium Operations Counters Endowment Trustees (<i>future</i>) Finance Committee: Budget LPF Liaison Human Resources Insurance Information Technology</p>	<p>Christmas Outreach: Gifts for Teens Giving Tree Stockings for Soldiers Community Partnerships Martin Luther King Center Community Meal</p>	<p>Annual Campaign Planned Giving (<i>future</i>)</p>
<p>Christian Formation Fr. Alan Neale</p>	<p>Evangelism & Communication</p>	<p>Parish Life Wayne Porter Geer Isdale</p>	<p>Worship Rich Mason</p>
<p>Adult Christian Formation Committee: Bible Study Groups Forum Hour Inquirers' Class Lenten Series Sunday School for Children Youth Group</p>	<p>Greeters Newcomers' Events/ Incorporation Communications</p>	<p>Archivist Coffee Hour Guides Ministry of the Arts Special Events: Homecoming Pumpkin Patch Silver Tea 12th Night Parish Picnic Strawberry Festival Trinity Loving Care (TLC) Prayer Group</p>	<p>Acolytes Altar Guild Eucharistic Ministers Eucharistic Visitors Flower Guild Music Lectors and Intercessors Ushers</p>

For 2017, three Vestry members were appointed to other leadership roles in the parish, rather than as Commissioners. Pam Alexander served as **TLC Coordinator**, Tatiana Schweibenz served as **Sunday School Coordinator**, and Tom Jansen served as **Construction Liaison for Trinity Serves**.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The following slate of nominations for Vestry and Diocesan delegates for 2018 is submitted for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation on January 28, 2018:

Slate of Officers, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegates

Officers

Senior Warden: Tatiana Schweibenz
Junior Warden: John Smith
Clerk: Phoebe Livingston
Treasurer: Elaine Burress
Assistant Treasurer: James Patterson

Vestry

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
<i>One Year of Eligibility</i>	<i>Two Years of Eligibility</i>	<i>Three Years of Eligibility</i>
Brad Beebe	Pamela Alexander	D'arcy Carr
Cynthia O'Malley	Geer Isdale	Fred Green
B. Mitchell Simpson	George Oestreich	David Killebrew

Diocesan Delegates

Delegates to Diocesan Convention (to serve through 2019)

Joan Bartram, Larry Pulice, and John Smith

Alternates to Diocesan Convention will be appointed by the Vestry

Nominating Committee for this Slate

Wendy Durudogan, *Chair*
Scott Bartlett, Wayne Porter, Larry Pulice, and Elizabeth Ziemba

Trinity Serves: A Community Campaign



Trinity Serves

A Once in a Generation Opportunity

Historic Trinity Church is in the midst of a capital campaign to raise at least \$3,000,000 to support a bold suite of projects to preserve and protect the historic Trinity campus, ensuring the continued vitality of this centuries-old Newport landmark. Touching all areas of the Trinity campus, there are four key projects planned:

- **Historic 1726 Church Building:** Upgrade climate control systems and security (Budget: \$250,000)
- **Honyman Hall Parish House:** Repair, renovate and increase program space. (Budget \$200,000)
- **Assembly & Music Hall:** Using the original foundation footprint, replace the demolished, unhealthy Carr-Rice House with an architecturally attractive glass-facade building that reflects rather than conflicts with the beauty of its historic surroundings. (Budget: \$2.5 Million)
- **Landscaping:** To complement the Maya Lin design of Queen Anne Square and improve pedestrian & vehicle traffic patterns. (Budget: \$50,000)

To date, generous parishioners have donated over \$750,000, and The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust has fully funded the work on climate control in the historic church building.

More than the construction or repair of buildings, however, this is a campaign to reclaim the bold heritage of our founders, to once again state boldly our intention to be a powerful presence for good in our community. Replacing lost space, engaging in new and dynamic partnerships, and gaining efficiency in our campus operations are the tools our generation of bold thinkers will use to support and serve our entire community. We're not talking about just building a building, or just fixing what's broken, but about harnessing the historic power of this organization to do good.

2017 was year in which the Capital Campaign closed the quiet phase of the campaign, a time in which we concentrated our fundraising efforts on members of the parish. At a festive press event on February 15, 2017, we launched the public phase, the period of fundraising where we reach out to members of the wider community and to our foundation partners.

As we moved forward, and began to introduce Trinity Serve's projects to a wider audience, we hosted social events, one-on-one conversations, and prepared several significant grant applications. Elaine Burress took the lead on grant writing and did an outstanding job of presenting the case for Trinity Serves to a wide variety of potential funders. Of note were the applications to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission for restoration and repair of the doors to the historic church and the installation of an electronic locking system; and to the John Clarke Trust for funding of the replacement building. While a decision from John Clarke will not be known until early 2018, we learned just after Christmas that our RIHPC grant was approved. We expect work on the doors and locks will commence in the latter half of 2018.

Along the way, and is normal on long-lasting projects, we experienced some changes in leadership. After bringing the projects from study, to visioning, to an actual capital campaign, Paul Taylor asked to step aside from his responsibilities as Chair, and to take up the role of avid supporter. There aren't words that can adequately describe the tremendous gift that Paul's leadership was, so we'll just simply state the obvious: without Paul Taylor there would be no Trinity Serves. Following Paul's move to a new role, Tony Simpson was appointed Chair, and Elaine Burress Vice-Chair of Trinity Serves. Likewise, there were changes to our Steering Committee as we bid farewell to Michael Murray and Pieter Roos, and welcomed Brook Richards to the team. The Steering Committee is now comprised of:

Tony Simpson, *Chair*
Elaine Burress, *Vice-Chair*
The Rev. Mary Johnstone, *Chaplain*
The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, *Rector*
Joe Bardenheier
Jim Burress
Wendy Durudogan (Senior Warden)
Anne Maxwell Livingston
Thomas Palmer
Brook Richards
John Smith (Junior Warden)

Additionally, the Campaign Finance Committee worked diligently to monitor pledge payments and campaign expenses. Providing timely updates to the Vestry, the Finance Committee serves as a vital link to those who hold ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the Corporation. The Finance Committee is comprised of:

James Patterson, *Chair*
Jim Burress
Elaine Burress, (Parish Treasurer)
Dennis Kretzschmar
Brian O'Malley
The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, *Rector*

As the year moved along, it became apparent that the campaign was not making the financial progress that we had hoped for. Although we were moving forward in other areas – strengthening our case statement, collaborating with our partners, reviewing design possibilities – the money was not coming in as we had hoped. After much research, and several interviews, we selected Betsy Grenier as our new Fundraising Consultant. Ms. Grenier's firm, Hannah Street, has a great deal of experience with capital fundraising, and particular skills in identifying and developing relationships with individual donors. Ms. Grenier's work with us will get underway in early 2018.

In December, we had planned to make application to the Historic District Commission for an extension of our Certificate of Appropriateness until 2019. After due deliberation, and in consultation with our attorney, Turner Scott, we decided to let the certificate expire. When we are closer to a construction date, we will reapply to the commission. As it happens, what might have been seen as a setback has actually opened up new possibilities for improving the details of the design of the new building. In early 2018 we will work with our architects to gather more feedback on both programs and building design, taking the time to incorporate any changes that have occurred since the design process began in early 2014. While the wholesale redesign of the building is not under consideration, we will push hard to refine the look and feel of the building, identifying specific material choices, and updating exterior treatments and details.

Finally, at the request of the Campaign Finance Committee, the Vestry approved a substantial repayment of the outstanding loan from Trinity's endowment to Trinity Serves. Payment of \$210,000 was authorized, leaving a balance of \$47,000 plus accrued interest. The Campaign leadership and Vestry are to be congratulated for the careful management and oversight they exercise and which allowed repayment one year ahead of schedule.

As we head into 2018, campaign leadership is excited about the work that lies ahead, and hopes that members of the parish will be similarly enthused. Now is the time to share your joy, your sense of anticipation, and your thanks for the chance to make a once in a generation positive impact on Trinity Church. Together, let us reclaim the bold heritage of our founders. They did not shrink back in fear or doubt, but instead struck out boldly, lending their real and material support right alongside their heartfelt prayers. Let us do the same.

Tony Simpson, *Chair* and **Elaine Burress**, *Vice-Chair*, *Trinity Serves: A Community Campaign*

Trinity Serves Project Progress

Climatization of the Historic Church

In November 2016, Trinity Church was honored to receive a grant of \$250,000 from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust in support of work in our 1726 church building. In October 2017, as we approached the one year anniversary of that grant, we reported our progress to the foundation via the following report.

We continue to be grateful for the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust's support of the Trinity Serves Campaign. Your 2016 grant to us specified that the funds should be used to climatize the building, allowing for greater comfort for visitors and for a more stable environment, a beneficial situation for the historic building. An update on our activities to date follows.

When the grant was received it was immediately placed in a separate restricted fund of our General Endowment. The Trinity Endowment is managed by Slocum, Gordon & Company of Newport, with firm principal and co-founder, Mr. Jeff Gordon, serving as our representative. We are confident in the firm's ability to safeguard and segregate these dedicated funds. To date we have not spent any of the awarded grant.

The work of exploring options for providing climate improvement to an historic structure has taken a good bit longer than any of our team members might have expected. We began our research with conversations with professionals from the Newport Restoration Foundation and the Preservation Society. All with whom we spoke acknowledged and affirmed as appropriate our desire to identify the options for climate control for both visitor comfort and the creation of a more stable environment for the nearly three-hundred year old building. The experts in the field all felt that the long term health of the building and its contents would be aided by doing away with the wild swings in temperature and humidity between the peak of summer heat and the depth of winter's chill. Additionally, several organists and our own technician spoke of the value of a more constant environment for the health of our current hybrid (electronic & pipe) organ as well as for its eventual (and much-needed) replacement.

After many conversations, and more than a few dead ends, we have received, or expect to receive, proposals from three vendors who have the capacity and ability to do the work needed. An additional firm has shown interest in the project, but has not yet made a formal presentation to us. Arranging site visits was a lengthy process, with many frustrating delays along the way, but the time was used wisely as we immersed ourselves in the particularities of various climatizing systems.

The following is a brief summary of each vendor's progress to date:

DAIKIN APPLIED

Based on a referral from the Newport Restoration Foundation, we contacted Mr. Tom Burke, Senior Sales Engineer at DAIKIN APPLIED, a Braintree, Massachusetts company. Mr. Burke and his staff visited Trinity in August 2017 and proposed a classic Air Conditioning system, with the placement of outdoor condensers in the open space at the west end of the north side of the building, in the corner created by the bump out of the tower. The preliminary estimate for this installation is \$675,000, though this figure does not include any carpentry work that would certainly add considerable expense to the project. Mr. Burke advises that the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$750,000. As this amount far exceeds our budget, and is so out of line with the other proposals, we have decided not to pursue DAIKIN as a potential vendor.

Rotexco/Lawrence Air Systems

Working with Mr. Curt Genga from the Preservation Society of Newport County we were then introduced to Mr. Ernst Rothe of Rotexco. Rotexco specializes in Geothermal Source Heat Pump Technology; Lawrence Air Systems is their local vendor. We should note that the Preservation Society has installed geothermal systems at several of their properties in Newport within the last 18- 24 months, and is pleased with the results so far. The system is environmentally sensitive and its installation would require fairly minimal disruption to the exterior of the building. Additionally, a geothermal system would provide both cooling and heating for the building. The existing heating system would only be called on during times of extreme cold. While researching the geothermal option important questions were raised about the accumulation of moisture in the ducts and adjacent walls. Apparently this was a problem in early geothermal installations, so we will be asking for clear assurances that these problems will not occur with any potential system at Trinity.

Rotexco/Lawrence Air Systems offered two options for an installation at Trinity Church. The less expensive option (\$158,123) uses two-stage geothermal heat pumps and the more expensive option (\$194,357) employs 6 ton geothermal heat pumps. From their presentation, we learned that the difference is in the "power" of the system which affects how quickly the interior temperature changes. Rotexco/Lawrence Air Systems estimates did not include electrical system upgrades (likely necessary) or any carpentry or painting. Should Trinity choose to go with a geothermal system we feel confident that we could accomplish our climatization goals within the \$250,000 project budget.

InControl and A&L Mechanical

Finally, Mr. Marc Lennon, on staff at Newport Restoration Foundation and The Newport Art Museum, visited Trinity in September and suggested that a ductless air conditioning system would be an appropriate option for Trinity. (Just such a system was installed at the Newport Art Museum recently.) Mr. Lennon subsequently returned to Trinity with Mr. Dave Krugman from inControl and Mr. Lou Matthews from A&L Mechanical so that they could develop a more complete estimate. Both Mr. Krugman and Mr. Matthews believe that the necessary equipment could be housed in the bell tower without risk to the structure or to the bells. The ductless system does require making periodic slits in the ceiling above the balcony seating, but the design objective for these openings is to be as unobtrusive as possible, blending in with the building and not requiring covering grates. The forthcoming inControl/A&L Mechanical proposal will also include a recommended upgrade and replacement to the control systems located in the basement of Honyman Hall so as to achieve maximum efficiency in both heating and cooling. Though we have not yet received a formal proposal from them, Mr. Lennon, InControl, and A&L Mechanical assure us that the total cost of the project will not exceed our \$250,000 project budget.

Work on this important project will continue in 2018 as we finalize design and vendor choices and move towards installation. We are grateful for the support of The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust as we continue to work to raise funds to pursue all the goals of the Trinity Serves capital campaign.

Driveway Realignment for Improved Traffic Flow

In late December, wooden stakes and bright orange spray paint appeared along Trinity's property line at the bottom of the South (aka Pumpkin) Lawn marking signs of progress on one of the Trinity Serves projects – improving vehicle and pedestrian traffic through our campus.

The stakes and spray paint define where a driveway extension and curb cut will be placed, connecting Trinity's driveway directly to Church Street. This slight change to our campus will improve traffic flow as cars will enter and exit in a continuous one-way traffic pattern.

The next stage in this project will be to obtain detailed proposals and price quotes from several vendors and utilizing various methods of paving. Current technologies offer a variety of paving materials, from blacktop to stamped concrete, to “green” options which combine grass and embedded load bearing surfaces. What we have learned so far is that plain blacktop, as we have on our current driveway, is the cheapest option, while stamped concrete is the most expensive. The green solution approaches are primarily intended for occasional parking and may not provide the durability needed for plowing and moderate traffic exiting the church property.

Final design and budget decisions have not been made, but with each step we take forward we draw closer to a significant improvement in the overall function of Trinity's campus

Properties Commission

Buildings and Grounds Committee

See Jr. Warden's Report

Strong Back Brigade

Throughout the year the volunteers from the Strong Back Brigade are called upon to help various ministries of the church. They have particular expertise in the setting up and taking down of chairs and tables, and have also become very familiar with the steps that lead to the church basement. Once a year they facilitate the Rector's request for a bouncy house at Homecoming, and for the first time in 2017 were called on to set up Christmas Trees on the slab. The best thing about the SBB's ministry? It is most often accomplished in just a few hours, and certainly qualifies as done-in-a-day. Want to add your name to the list? Contact me at brookrichards140@gmail.com.

Brook Richards, *Chair*

Finance and Administration Commission

2017 Year End Financials

The 2017 year-end report is published as part of the Financial Reports section on pages 36-39

Due to the conscientious financial support of the members of this parish, prudent spending discipline exercised by the parish staff, and the financial control process which includes monthly financial reviews conducted by the Finance Committee and regular financial reviews at vestry meetings, the parish ended the year with a small surplus. This was unexpected as all forecasts leading into the month of December anticipated an approximate \$5000 loss. My observation is that we are meeting our needs, but only barely and need to work to encourage all members of the parish to step up to the continuing challenges of providing financial stability for Trinity Church operations. It costs roughly \$1360 per day each day of the year to keep Trinity's doors open.

Brian O'Malley continues to provide timely, accurate and detailed monthly and quarterly reports that make financial monitoring possible. Jim Patterson provides excellent guidance and asks penetrating questions. Jeff Gordon continues to provide wise and steady counsel with endowment and investment management.

In an attempt to encourage financial support from individuals and families more attuned to digital transactions, we upgraded our on-line giving options. It is now easy to pledge on-line and make payments on-line with bank transfers or credit cards. This is an advantage for the parish in that it helps ensure an even cash flow and an advantage to the parishioners because it is very easy to use, allows gifts to be directed to one of many uses and lets parishioners track their giving status at any time.

Because we anticipated operating at a loss, we did postpone some landscaping and did not focus on maintenance that was primarily esthetic such as signage, fixture replacement and paint issues in Honyman Hall.

Outreach continues to be self-funding in that we did not use pledges or endowment draw to cover those activities but instead held separate fund-raising drives or pursued grants.

The audit was performed by Susan Millis, Dennis Kretzschmar, and Robert Bergstrand and submitted to the RI Diocese on time. In addition, Dennis provided a draft of financial procedures for the Finance Committee to review for adoption in 2018.

2018 Budget

The final, Vestry-approved 2018 budget is published in the Financial Reports section on pages 36-39

Highlights of the 2018 Budget:

- A loss of less than \$2,000 is anticipated in FY18.
- Pledge income is made difficult to budget as actual pledges as submitted on pledge cards as of January 3rd are approximately \$225,000. However, given the recent giving history at Trinity Church (pledge income in FY16 was \$280,000 and in FY17 was \$296,000), we are anticipating pledge income of \$287,000.
- In FY17 we were able to use previously accumulated funds from unrestricted donations and from music donations to buttress the operating budget, however those funds are now depleted.
- There is no evidence to suggest the amount of money that we can raise from fund raisers like the Pumpkin Patch, Strawberry Festival, and from the Guiding Program will increase this coming year.
- We continue to work to keep our endowment draw at a prudent level. For FY18 it will be 5.5% of the rolling average of the funds invested in support of the operating budget.
- With the notable exception of the diocesan apportionment which will decrease from \$76,000 to \$66,000, expenses will not be decreasing between FY17 and FY18. Many expenses will increase by a few hundred dollars, though there will be a significant increase (\$5,000) in pension costs for the Rector because of a new formula's implementation by the Church Pension Group.

- The rector's salary and housing allowance will increase by 2.5%. The Assisting Priest's salary and housing allowance will increase by 4%.
- The Music Director's position was reduced from Full-time in 2017 to three-quarter time in 2018.
- The Parish Administrator's salary remains constant and will be reviewed at the incumbent's one-year anniversary in August 2018.

Had we more funds, we would like to increase the salary of the Assisting Priest and the hours of the parish administrator. With more hours from the financial assistant we could explore software programs better suited to our bookkeeping needs. Extra landscaping and more preventive maintenance work would be pursued. It would be great to have a part-time sexton.

Elaine Burress, *Treasurer*

Endowment Reports

The 2017 Endowment Reports are published in the Financial Reports section on pages 36-39.

Jeff Gordon, *Endowment Manager*

Outreach Commission

Community Meal

The Community Meal program has continued to be an active ministry during 2017, serving hot meals and a warm welcome to anyone in need on the first, fourth, and fifth Mondays of each month. The need for this program continues to be as strong as it has ever been.

During 2017, we held 27 Community Meal events and served a total of 2232 meals. On average, we serve 83 meals at each event, and on a half dozen occasions served over 100. Our average cost to put on a Community Meal is about \$187, which works out to be \$2.27 per meal.

Once again this year, we received a grant of \$2500 from Stop & Shop, which funded over half our year-long expenses of \$5000. We also received a grant of \$5000 from the Rhode Island Foundation's Newport County Fund. With those two grants, the operating cost of the program is more than fully funded.

We have an email list of about 25 individuals who are active participants and welcome anyone else who would like to help or cook. In addition to parishioners, a number of local community volunteers offer to help on a regular basis, making it a truly community meal. We continue to enjoy the support of the employees of the Middletown Home Depot, who are regular volunteers on the first Monday of each month.

We continue to try new and interesting menu items, always with an eye on well-rounded and nutritious offerings. The spirit of generosity and commitment among parishioners, friends, and neighbors to help those in need keeps the Community Meal program full of enthusiasm. Everyone involved is proud to be able to serve our guests in a manner befitting Trinity Church.

Jeffrey Greene, *Chair*

Gifts for Teens Program

This program was started many years ago by Ryan Tucker and his mom, Helenmary Lauth. It was a great way for needy teens to have other teens shop for them. It is a great program and through the years we have had a lot of participation and support. Due to our low numbers of teens we asked for help for some of the big items this year from the parish and you all went above and beyond! It was a great success. We have been getting a grant every year for the past couple of years from Child and Family Services, but it is very strict on what we can spend the money on, Clothes, Shoes, Toiletries and Books. If any of you have had teens you know that a lot of them ask for Gift Cards, games, bikes, and things that are not on this list. So we asked the parish for money to donate or to buy the gifts that we could not. This year we shopped for 14 youth and we wrapped them after church in the Hawes room, this has also now become a tradition. It is best when we have lots of hands helping as it goes quicker. If you like to shop maybe you would like to help with this ministry next year!

Diane Myers, Chair

Giving Tree

We teamed up with East Bay Community Action Adopt-A-Family which matches caring individuals and organizations with families in need of warm winter clothing and toys. Trinity was given a wish list for each family member from twelve different families. Those lists were distributed to trinity parishioners who volunteered to purchase toys, clothing or gift cards. The gifts were wrapped and identified by code number, gathered together in Honyman Hall for delivery to East Bay Community Action.

Larry Pulice, Chair

Stockings for Soldiers

Thanks to the generosity of the good folks at Trinity, we stuffed and sent 50 stockings to soldiers this year, and we are grateful to all who donated their time and generosity.

We hope to repeat this in 2018.

Anne Oliver, Chair

Sharing our Space

In 2017, Trinity Church shared our space with a number of community organizations at little or no cost to these groups. We believe that offering our centrally-located facilities to the wider community is an important part of our engagement and service in Newport. Among the groups who used meeting space at Trinity in 2017 we include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, East Bay Literacy Volunteers, Newport County Chamber of Commerce, Christmas in Newport, Newport Strings, and The Historic Hill Neighborhood Association.

The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, Rector

Stewardship Commission

Stewardship is not just about raising money; it is how we treat each other and all of God's creation, as well as how we use and share the time we have available and the talents God has given us. As this parish lives out its life from day to day, there are countless examples of nourishment, growth, formation, ministry, and mission where the time and talent of our parishioners are so important. We give our time and talent to ministries within our walls, missions to the wider world, and pastoral care for our members in need. And yes, stewardship is in part about how we use and share the financial resources with which God has entrusted us. *

This year, Meryl Moore and Larry Pulice led the 2018 appeal for annual giving, "Step Up Your Pledge". Beginning October 8, pledge cards were sent to all Trinity families, with options for pledging online, returning the card via mail, or placing it in the Offertory plate. During the campaign, the Trinity website was in transition, and changes include more opportunities for secure electronic pledging and giving. Currently, the online system is up and running, allowing members (or guests) to make a one-time donation, set up recurring payments on a schedule of their choice, or specify a gift to one of Trinity's programs. We invite you to investigate this new system if you haven't already done so.

As of Wednesday, January 3, we have accepted 98 pledges in the amount of \$208,897 compared to 100 pledges for \$237,285 reported at this time in 2017. These pledges include:

- 20 new pledges
- 31 increased (over 2017) pledges
- 29 equivalent (to 2017) pledges
- 18 reduced (from 2017) pledges

We celebrate twenty new pledges, the majority coming from new members to the Trinity Community. This is good news. We also celebrate the generosity of those who continue to faithfully support the programs and mission of Trinity from year to year, and who confirm their intention with a yearly pledge.

As in recent past years, pledges do not accurately predict Trinity's actual revenue including pledge payments, the plate offering, and other gifts and donations. Thank you to all who have accepted the responsibility of making a pledge, and to the many who give generously each year of their time, talent and treasure to Trinity. We hope you will continue to prayerfully consider your practice of giving, and encourage you to contact a member of the clergy if you have questions or concerns.

*borrowed from St. Paul's Church, Washington, D.C.

Meryl Moore and Larry Pulice, *Vestry Stewardship Commission*
Eric and Tatiana Schweibenz, Wendy Durudogan, *Committee members*

Meryl Moore and Larry Pulice, 2017 Stewardship Chairs

Christian Formation Ministries

Adult Formation Series

During 2017 the following classes were presented and led by Alan Neale

Decision Making – Process, Problems & Progress

A Theology of Humor

Welcome – Exegesis, Essentials, Example, Expense, Eternal

“I Believe What!?” – a series based on the Apostles’ Creed

Introduction to the Ministry of Healing

“The Unfamiliar Lord – Meditations on Four Christ Poems” by Archbishop Rowan Williams

The class takes place between Sunday services at 9am in Honyman Hall; numbers have varied between six and sixteen (and sometimes more, maybe you can guess one of the more popular themes?)

Generally each class includes presentation of material (always including one or more Biblical passages), general commentary and conversation peppered with often piercing questions and much laughter.

The class has consistently been thoughtful, honest, fun and altogether inspiring even for this priest of forty years’ experience of leading adult study classes.

Never before had I attempted adult study based on poetry but such is the nature of the group that I was bold enough to attempt the task and it was highly, highly rewarding.

Even the most erudite and articulate of Episcopalians generally suffer from hesitation when it comes to speaking about the spiritual life and yet to remain dumb harms the life of the spirit.

Please consider “coming to class” from time to time, or even consistently – it would make a great resolution for 2018 and for Lent.

Beginning February 4th 2018 the class will spend several weeks looking at one of the great prayers in our Prayer Book and reflecting on how our lives can be renewed spiritually.

The Rev. Alan Neale, *Chair*

Sunday School

Sunday stories had a year of growth in 2017. We have been blessed with 10 volunteers and Kailey Williams our Sunday Stories assistant. Sunday Story attendance has increased approximately 50% on average from 3-4 to 5-12 children each Sunday. The children range in age from 3 to approximately 12 years of age. It is wonderful to see so many children attending each week and to see them engage in the story time activities and crafts lovingly prepared by our parents and volunteers. Kailey Williams, our Sunday School assistant, has been a blessing to the program and provides the children with consistency each Sunday. Kailey is paid per Sunday thanks to a very generous donation from a parish member.

In 2017, through the hard work and organization of Reverend Alan Neale, we began to use the Spark Children's Bible and the Spark Sunday school program. The program allows each Sunday school teacher to access, utilize, and design their class based on a schedule designed by Reverend Alan Neale. The Spark online resources provide prayers, craft ideas, coloring pages, music, science projects, and computer science activities for the Sunday teacher to choose from. The children have the same lesson on two consecutive Sundays but the lesson is taught differently each Sunday allowing the children to learn, absorb, and understand the meaning of each lesson.

On December 17, 2017, the children participated in a short Christmas pageant. The pageant was made possible by all of the parents, volunteers, and Reverend Alan Neale who worked together on costumes and the content of the pageant. It was a wonderful blessing to see all of the children in their beautiful costumes singing and acting out their parts.

We look forward to a wonderful 2018 and hope that we can grow our Sunday Story program by at least 5 more children and 5 more volunteers.

Tatiana Schweibenz, Chair

Men's Bible Study

Like counting on the sun to rise each morning, we can depend on the Men's Bible Study group to meet every Wednesday morning at 7:30am. Making allowances for a variety of schedules, the group ranges in size from two or three to a dozen, but it is not the number of men around the table that matters, but the deep commitment to ongoing study of Holy Scripture. In 2017 our group completed a long study of the Gospel of Matthew and took up a look at Galatians. New members are always welcome!

Brook Richards, Chair

Evangelism and Communications Commission

Newcomers

See Assisting Priest's Report

Greeters

A welcoming greeting and a smile are always appreciated as newcomers, visitors, and regulars alike arrive at Trinity Church for services on Sunday mornings. About twenty individuals and couples participate in this ministry on a rotating basis (five or six times a year), and more are always welcome. If you are interested in being a Greeter, or would like to chair this ministry, contact Cassandra Dias in the church office.

Cassandra Dias, *Greeters Coordinator*

Communications

The biggest and best news in our Communications strategy this year was the late-fall launch of our newly designed website. After the structure and basic design were developed by the team at Figmint, our amazingly talented Administrative Assistant, Cassandra Dias, brought the site to life with carefully curated content and a welcoming host of features.

On a regular basis, news for our community is published via the weekly email, in the Sunday service leaflet, on our website, and via our Facebook page. This year we've been particularly blessed by Fr. Neale's daily Facebook postings highlighting the hymns and scriptures of Morning Prayer. If you have not liked our Facebook page yet, you are missing out on valuable resources and a good bit of humor as well.

Although much was accomplished in 2017, there remain several key Communications goals not yet met. Chief among those are the production of regular video content, including weekly sermons; increased visual content, including regularly capturing photos of events; promotion of the church and capital campaign in local media; and sufficient budget expansion to allow for hiring a part-time Communications Director.

The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, *Rector* and **Cassandra Dias**, *Administrative Assistant*

Parish Life Commission

Trinity's "Parish Life" universe is generally comprised of the following ministries; Guiding, The Strawberry Festival, Homecoming, The Pumpkin Patch, TLC (aka Trinity Loving Community), The Ministry Fair, Coffee Hours, The Silver Tea, and Twelfth Night.

We had another terrific year, and so again I'd like to extend a personal thanks and appreciation to each of my fellow Vestry Members, as well as individual thanks to; Anne and George Oliver, Elizabeth DuPont, Anne Livingston, Harle Tinney, Geer Isdale, Wendy Neale, Jeffrey Greene, Dennis Kretzschmar, Jeffrey Clark, Diane Myers, Deb Lengyel, Christine Pimentel, Wendy Durudogan, John Smith, Brook and The Strong Back Brigade, Rev. Anne Marie, and Rev. Alan. Once again, you've all helped the Parish Life Ministry shine!

Details for the year are highlighted by another well attended Pancake Supper, another highly successful Strawberry festival, an abundantly well supported and attended Homecoming event, where the high point of the afternoon was a toss-up between the Bouncy House, the massive selection of eats, and all of those delicious entries in the 3rd annual Ben Hopkins - Trinity Bake Off.

Pumpkin Patch efforts added color and substance to Trinity's fall campus once again. As always, hats off again to the Pumpkin Patch Crew for doing a wonderful job. This is always a huge undertaking that requires deep support from the entire parish.

TLC, Guiding, Coffee Hours, The Ministry Fair and The Annual Silver Tea all reported healthy attendance, volunteer and financial support and continue to be the very sturdy underpinning of our Parish's social activities.

Thanks again everyone & may God continue to bless us all, throughout the year!

Wayne Porter, *Vestry Commissioner for Parish Life*
(porterwayne@msn.com)

Trinity Loving Community

Although quiet in nature, TLC is an active and vital lay-based pastoral ministry at Trinity Church. It is comprised of wonderful volunteers who work closely with the Rev. Alan Neale, TLC's clergy liaison, and me. The sheer number of those we serve reflect its level of activity. The selfless acts of our volunteers continually respond to and meet the temporary or chronic needs of our parish members, many of whom are unable to attend church services. TLC is vital because those who cannot attend church are not forgotten and remain connected to Trinity Church. We attempt to meet their social needs through visits, phone calls and greeting cards; their physical and mobility needs by providing rides, doing small errands and by preparing occasional meals; their spiritual needs through visits by the clergy; Fr. Alan Neale administering Communion monthly to those who would like to receive, or by an occasional request, as well as Communion being administered by our LEV's (Lay Eucharistic Volunteers), Jean Gorham and Bob Smith.

The number of parishioners on the TLC Care List generally remains stable, but may vary due to illness or surgery, making the numbers more fluid as one's temporary need is resolved. We depend upon all members of the Trinity Church Faith Community to report needs/circumstances of the congregation of which Alan and I may not be aware. Please call the church office @ 846.0660 or me @ 835.6103, even if you simply suspect someone could use our help.

A monthly coordinator contacts volunteers on a rotation basis, to carry out the tasks which the volunteer has selected based on his availability and/or interests. During 2017, I am proud to report what TLC has accomplished. The team has contacted those on the Care List with 158 phone calls, sent 291 various greeting cards (both hardship and celebratory), made 206 visits to homes, hospitals or nursing facilities. Since June 2017, Alan Neale has administered Communion to 43 parishioners unable to attend services; Jean Gorham and Bob Smith have supplemented that number on numerous occasions. TLC has provided 19 home cooked meals and 21 strawberry shortcakes due to the generosity of Geer Isdale, chair of the annual June Strawberry Festival, and her team. We have provided 52 rides to doctors' appointments or helped members run small errands. With the help of the Altar Society, 36 altar flower arrangements, 23 Easter plants and 25 Christmas poinsettias were delivered this year.

What does the future hold? Besides continuing to carry out the tasks we are currently providing, I would like to organize a group of men and women to knit or crochet prayer shawls, to be given to Trinity Church's chronically ill members, as a token of God's love during their hardship, to bring them comfort, warmth and hope. More on that to follow in the eTower and Sunday leaflets.

Your wish to help TLC in any capacity, is always welcomed and appreciated. I can be reached at:
rkalexander1@cox.net (h) 293.5332 © 835.6103

Faithfully submitted,

Pam Alexander, *TLC Facilitator*

Pumpkin Patch

2017 marked our 9th annual Pumpkin Patch and it was another great success. We would like to thank all of you who helped in the Patch this year!

In the nine years we've held a patch, we have donated over \$28,000 to worthy causes. This is very exciting. The most important part of the Patch is **you**, the Patch volunteer. Together, we sit in the Patch and give witness to the current life of Trinity Church to all the visitors from all over the world. If you took the time to sit for any time Thank You. I believe this is one of the most important ministries of our parish, and it is something that a lot of families in our area count on and look forward to every year. Every year we look for new ideas and new people to help. Given the size of our parish, if we all helped for just one shift it would make the Patch easy to run. This year we profited \$3,503.93 in pumpkin sales and took in \$4,097.94 for the sale of food and other items, for a total profit of \$7,601.87.

This year, unloading the 1500 pumpkins was greatly aided by volunteers from Rogers High School and Salve Regina University who joined Trinity volunteers to make quick work of a big job. Truly, many hands make light work. We'll put a call for unloading volunteers in October 2018 – come and lend a hand.

The biggest plus of being a Patch volunteer is the stories that get told in the Patch. I can't tell you how it feels to tell people in Newport and from all over the life of Trinity. It is so much fun – *and so much easier if everyone helps out*. To fully staff the patch takes two people for every shift on a weekday and 4-6 people for every shift on the weekends; in total there were 26 shifts to fill, 18 weekdays and 8 weekends.

Great support – and lots of profit – comes from our parish bakers. We had great bake items this year! I like to say that the pumpkins are great to sell but we make most of our profit from the Bake Table and the Food Table. Thank you to all of you who made goodies this year!

As we plan for 2018, our 10th Pumpkin Patch, I look forward to any new ideas that anyone has. Just let Debby or me know what you're thinking and we'll see if we can make it work. In 2018 we hope to have a few people who might lead baking for a weekend or help run the food table or help in other leadership roles.

Deb Lengyel and Diane Myers, Co-Chairs

Strawberry Festival

The 4th annual Strawberry Festival was held on Saturday June 17th from 11-5:00. The weather was cloudy and about 70 degrees, but did not rain. Traffic began at 10:30 and we were serving until 5:15

Volunteers prepped strawberries Thursday night and Friday morning. There were 2 shifts of volunteers on Saturday both in the kitchen and serving.

The weather had an effect on the quantities served-as far as counts for the day-we sold 463 shortcakes and comped 36 (including 21 for TLC). We sold 97 lemonades, approximately 60 bottles of water and 70 quarts of strawberries.

Planning was for 700 shortcakes and 250 lemonades. Profit was \$2100.

Geer Isdale, Chair

Silver Tea

Despite an overnight snow and a cold day, some old friends and some new friends joined us that Saturday, December 9, for delicious homemade treats and finger sandwiches, all from parishioners. There were volunteers who baked, made sandwiches, cooked, and made fudge, pound cakes, jams and chutney and breads. There were volunteers who made wreaths and table toppers. Then there were the folks who came and set up, serve up and then those who came to clean up. And once again, Miriam Smith made a beautiful boxwood living tree that was raffled off. Thank you to everyone who so generously helped out!

This event would not be anything without Christine Pimentel and Wendy Neale. Their support and the amount of work they both put in prior to and on the day of event is a true gift and I offer a special thanks to both of them.

This year's Silver Tea raised \$1300.00.

Mark your calendar now for the next Silver Tea on December 1, 2018, 12 pm – 3 pm

Debby Lengyel, Chair

Christmas Treasures 2017

Elven artisans gathered their beautiful handmade products, from gems, pottery, artwork, ornaments, silver, glass, and creatures big and small. The day was very cold and only one week before Christmas, so total dollar made was \$590 from vendor fees.

In 2018 Christmas Treasures is scheduled for December 8th 10a- 4pm.

Debby Lengyel, Chair

Guiding Program

In 2017 the Guiding Ministry offered year-round public historic tours of the church on Sundays after the 10 am service, as well as tours by appointment. The regularly scheduled tour season began in April and May with Saturday tours, and daily summer tours offered from 10 am to 4 pm starting on Memorial Day through October 31. Group tours were also offered in addition to these regularly scheduled public tours. Advertising was through Trinity's web site, our phone greeting, and rack cards that are picked up by visitors at the Gateway Visitor's Center. For the first time we entered into an agreement with the kiosk at Bowen's Wharf that made us one of their featured promotions, and included a beautiful new plaque on their board of local attractions. Additionally, faithful volunteers periodically distributed rack cards to various hotels and B&Bs.

Continuing from last year, on Tuesday afternoons, a Four-Faiths Tour was offered that included Touro Synagogue (which organized the tours), Trinity Church, Church of the Patriots (Congregational), and St. Mary's. Not only was attendance for this tour down in 2017, revenues have yet to be received, since the costs of printing and advertising continues to exceed income. In 2018, St. Mary's will withdraw from the Four Faiths Tour and offer their "Camelot" tour on their own. Plans to replace St Mary's with the Quaker Meeting House are in the works. While this is a meaningful outreach opportunity, it is still not envisioned as a money-maker.

School and other group tours were down in 2017, but two "open houses" involving most of the city's other places of worship were enthusiastically received by visitors and very well attended. The first was offered over the 4th of July holiday and the other on Boxing Day after Christmas.

The following 5-year chart shows overall attendance increased in 2017 by 2,000, but average income per visitor fell considerably to \$1.59. Records show visitation during Trinity's events (Strawberry Festival and Pumpkin Patch, for example) and the fall cruise ships visitors in the fall bring in the most visitors each day with the lowest donation rate. Unless we attract more group tours, we believe revenues will remain flat. This has been a hard nut to crack.

5-Year Guided Tour Comparison					
Year	Total Attendance	4 Faiths	Admission	Income	Average income per visitor
2017	7,000 est.	98	Donation	\$11,109	1.59
2016	5,000 est.	150	Donation	\$12,630	2.53
2015	4,000 est.	270	\$5	\$14,662	3.67
2014	8,815			\$16,366	1.86
2013	10,082			\$14,062	\$1.41

The scheduling process was greatly improved when Cassandra Dias developed a shared Google schedule that both she and Charlotte could monitor and then update any openings. Sixteen guides accepted regularly-scheduled shifts and six substitutes filled in as necessary. This resulted in only a few times that were left open – usually due to last minute problems – a great improvement over last year.

Three of this year's new guides were signed up as a result of Alan Neale's broadcasting to the congregation our need for more tour guides. Pam & Ray Fisher and Helen Brennan were welcomed to the list of regularly-scheduled guides, along with several others who will be contacted this spring for availability. "On-the-fly" training worked well, with newcomers first shadowing either Harle or Charlotte, then being assigned with other guides until they felt comfortable on their own.

For 2018, we are planning to offer special tours focused on specific subject matter, such as the stained glass windows, the graveyard, and historic congregation members. If groups can't get to the church, we are considering developing a PowerPoint presentation that can be taken to schools, organizations, nursing homes and such. Feedback would be appreciated.

Charlotte Johnson and Harle Tinney, *Co-Chairs*

Archivist

Work on the multi-year Archives Project is concluding. The Trinity Archives are located in two spaces—the Newport Historical Society and at the Church. Records from the Colonial Period through 1967 are at the Historical Society. Materials from 1968 to the present are located at the church. The final phase of the project is under way, this involves the creation of Research Guide that lists all of our records and their location. The finding list will make the archives available to researchers at all levels. In conclusion, I would like to recognize three individuals who have provided guidance through the length of this project—Dr. John Hattendorf, Historian of Trinity Church and Molly Bruce Patterson and Bert Lippincott of the Newport Historical Society.

Joan Bartram, *Archivist*

Contemporary Art in an Historic Church

Paul Chan

Pillowsophia (after Trinity), 2017

The loose translation of *Pillowsophia (after Trinity)* is “wisdom of the pillow” or “wisdom of sleep or passing.” This animated sculpture is a new work in a series by Chan that he calls “breathers.” A breather is composed of a fabric body designed by Chan and attached to one or more specially modified fans. Incorporating techniques that combine clothing design, patternmaking, drawing, and physics, Chan composes the internal architecture of the body so that it is capable of exploiting the airflow and air pressure from the fans to create different kinds of motion. Simply by the way each breather is shaped and sewn, it can be animated and choreographed in ways unlike anything Chan, or anyone else, has created so far.

“I feel this particular breather belongs in a church,” Chan says. “Maybe it’s because I always imagined it as an altarpiece. It was made to express the drama and sorrow that seems always to occasion sacrifices of real worth.”

Installing a brand new piece of art in a centuries old building presents an opportunity for visitors and worshipers to contemplate this animated object—perhaps first noticing the obvious contrasts. Not just old vs. new, but familiar vs. unknown, static vs. dynamic. This particular piece, with its near cruciform shape, brings to mind classic Christian symbols, but at the same time is so very different. Jesus, if this could be Jesus in the monk-like habit, is not immobilized on the cross, but is instead animated, reaching out to us, demanding our attention. Or, is there no connection to an ancient Roman execution at all? Are these spasms of pain? Ecstatic dancing? As the air brings the figure to life, we may be reminded of the life-giving breath of God, *ruach* in the Hebrew Scriptures, that holy force that moved over the earth at creation. Or of the wind of the Holy Spirit. Or of the air that propels a sailboat forward and causes a kite to soar. The piece invites, maybe even demands, thought and contemplation. There is no singular answer to the question, “What does it mean?” Indeed, the meaning emerges as the wind, the fabric, the heart, the head, and the experience of encountering *Pillowsophia (after Trinity)* come together.

Mr. Chan’s work was displayed at Trinity Church July 1 - 7.

Worship Commission

Worship Servers

The year 2017 has presented both opportunities and challenges for those of us who serve at the altar and reader's desk at Trinity.

Opportunities: sharing the serving tasks at Sunday worship, special services such as Evensong and Christmas on the Hill, the solemnities of Lent and the Palm Sunday Passion reading, and the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

Challenges: recruiting new members of Team Servers in order to share our duties fairly without overworking anyone. Some servers and readers have retired - special mention here, and profound thanks, for the many years of service as a chaliceist to our gracious Jean Gorham, and to beloved Peter Chabot, our multi-purpose server at the 8:00 AM Rite One service!

Larry Pulice, chaliceist, head acolyte, and usher, has stepped into Peter's shoes, alternating weeks with faithful Miriam Smith at 8:00, and continuing to serve in multiple capacities at 10:00. New parishioner Terry Commodore has offered herself as relief server at 8:00, and as reader at 10:00 - thank you, Terry! Sander and Holly Snowden, with daughter Taylor, have joined the 10:00 team; Sander and Holly as lector, Holly as chaliceist, and Taylor as acolyte and chaliceist-in-training. They will be with us until the Marines whisk them away at the end of Spring. Thank you, Snowdens!

And thank you to all of Team Servers, each and every one, veterans and newbies, altar servers and readers – may you be showered with abundant blessings for all that you do!

Wish list for 2018: more readers and servers, and particularly servers willing to do the occasional eight o'clock Sunday service, so our veterans can have a well-earned day of rest. Curious? Call me, text me, email me and let's talk about it. Onward!

Karen Nash, *Server Coordinator*

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Altar Society

Trinity Church Altar Society is a group of parishioners who work quietly behind the scenes to prepare the church for worship. Members are divided into 4 teams. There is a team for each Sunday of the month and their duties begin on Saturday and continue until 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. The work is a thank-offering of time and talent, a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ. The work is highly specialized and of deep spiritual significance. It consists of preparing all the elements necessary for worship, setting the altar table, washing and mending linens, polishing silver, arranging flowers, cleaning the altar area, and a variety of other tasks too numerous to list. In 2017, through coordination with Trinity Loving Community, the Altar Society delivered altar flowers, Easter plants and poinsettias to shut-ins, the sick, the bereaved, and those celebrating special occasions.

Service on the Altar Society is a sacred and most beautiful lay task and we are fortunate to have dedicated members who consecrate themselves to this work. If you are interested in learning more about this rewarding ministry, contact Canon Richards or Mary Sinnott, Directress.

Mary Sinnott, *Directress*

Music Program

The music ministry of Trinity is strong and continues to grow each season! Highlights of my short time here have included three services on Christmas Eve, and an ambitious program of sophisticated repertoire for our Lessons and Carols service. The **Trinity Choir** continues to uphold the highest standards of musical excellence within the Anglican and American choral traditions in order to enhance our worship and communal life. Several members of the choir generously devote significant time behind the scenes to help keep things running smoothly. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Suzy Hardy for coordinating the choir's social events; and to Kristi Rood-DeAngelis who devotes countless hours to keeping our substantial musical library organized, and our choral scholars, who have provided valuable energy and time to the preparation of a smooth transition between music directors.

The members of our choir worked tirelessly throughout 2017 and deserve to be acknowledged by name in this report. They are as follows:

+ = *Choral scholar*

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
Elaine Burress	Susan Bernard	Stan Brown	Jeff Clark
Meryl Moore	Suzy Hardy	Colin Browning	Frank Leith
Diane Myers	Karen Knisely	Jim Burress	Chris Myers
+Kristi Rood- deAngelis	+Nicolette Mingels	+Michael Genese	Blake Sherman
	Alison Vareika	Kaitlyn Lengyel	
	Nancy Bills		

Our **Choral Scholars** program continues to flourish and be an extremely vital part of our mission and ministry. In addition to singing, they have led rehearsals, accompanied anthems, conducted the choir, and performed solo works. We are the benefactors of their considerable talents while they gain valuable practical experience beyond the scope of their formal education.

There is a significant need to replace **the organ**. We've had multiple instances of computer failures this year, which have resulted in the organ malfunctioning during worship and rendering it at times unplayable due to the poor design and installation of the console and digital components. Despite our diligent maintenance efforts, issues continue to arise. Currently we are using cinder blocks, duct tape, and a spare choir robe to help with leaks in the wind lines. Trinity needs a reliable instrument with appropriate tonal resources to reflect the dignity and diversity of our worship—one that can proudly support an otherwise flourishing music program.

We are incredibly fortunate and truly blessed to get to worship together as we do week by week. I consider it a sacred trust to oversee and guide the continued development of this extraordinary music ministry, which I hope will provide inspiration and glimpses of the Divine every time music sounds within these holy and historic walls. For the privilege of working with and ministering to each one of you, and the support and encouragement of such wonderful colleagues in the office—Anne Marie, Alan, Cassandra, and Brian—I am deeply grateful.

Unfortunately, my time at Trinity has been cut short due to family concerns. It has been my deepest honor to serve the Lord in the walls of Trinity, and feel truly blessed to be a part of such a unique and authentic representation of Christ's domain.

Christopher Bingham, *Director of Music*

2017 At – A – Glance

January

All-Parish Annual Meeting followed by festive celebration of Trinity Serves

“Discerning God's Will” Adult Forum series

Births: Colton Oliver Gordon and Jaden Heath

Baptisms: Vivian Elizabeth Browning and Colin James Braithwaite

February

Pancake Supper

Annual Vestry Retreat

“Is Humor Divine?” Adult Forum series

Public Launch of the Trinity Serves campaign

Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes Annual Conference in Washington, DC

Funeral: Richard C. Long

March

Lenten Series: Experiencing The Holy with Our Whole Selves: A Series of Mini-Retreats

April

Keeping the Watch Maundy Thursday into Good Friday

Glorious Easter Day celebrations

Expanded Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Gas Lamp Grille

Bishop Knisely's visitation

Baptisms: Oscar Michael Davis, Madeleine Anne Carr, Vivien Catalozzi, Xavier Ian Catalozzi, Cortez Winston Rojas, and Jacob Robert Rojas

Confirmations: Angus Macdonald Davis, Joanna Nicole Davis, Charlotte Ladwig, Jocelyn Ohde, and Annika Roos

Received: Kelsey Ann Braithwaite, Kayla Ann Donnelly, Melissa Quinn, and Kelly Ann Rojas

Wedding: Robin Bellows and Jeffrey Brown

May

“What Christians Believe and Why?” Adult Forum series

Newport Community Youth Choir Spring Concert

Spring fling hosted in the home of Elizabeth DuPont

Participation in Poetry of the Wild Newport

Weddings: Eliza Downing and William Anthony

Funeral: Shirley Anne Roos

June

Strawberry Festival

Baptisms: George Cabot Edenbach and Addison Ann Rucker

Weddings: Danielle Geoffroy and Ryan Jessee

Funeral: Russell Andrew Johnson

July

Baptisms: Jaden Jeffrey Heath, Natalie Claire Stolk, Cecilia Jane Stolk, Grace Vieau, Leslie McGregor George, Sasha Christina Kryca, and Sophia Tatiana Kryca

August

Welcome our new Admin. Assistant, Cassandra Dias

State Grant Application Submitted

Baptism: Susette Stewart

Weddings: Olivia Hadley and Zachary Slifer, Samantha Cox and Peter White

Funeral: John Jermain Slocum, Jr.

September

Homecoming

“The Church’s Ministry of Healing” Adult Forum series

Ministries Fair

Sunday School Begins

E.F. O'Donnell & Sons update the exterior of our historic church

Organ Recital by Dr. Philip Brisson

Baptisms: Ava Ruth Groff, Joanna Hulce Coll, Evelyn June Coll , and Albert Pierson Coll

Weddings: Katie Brown and Tom Cochran, Lauren Morrison and Evan Shaw, Nina Resetkova and Adam Ray, and Margeau Frigon and Ryan Jong

Funeral: Clyde Bonner LaRue Jr.

October

Pumpkin Patch

Annual Fund campaign kicks off

New Website Launched

Jane's Dancing Hands Circle

Baptism: Mary Browning Pinault

Weddings: Meredith Armitage and Jonathan Lear, Allison Nagle and Dennis Adams III, and Celia Tafuri and Devon Russo

November

Welcome our new Music Director, Christopher Bingham

"The Poetry of Rowan Williams" Adult Forum series

Newport Strings Concert

Diocesan Convention

Stockings for Soliders

Funeral: Charles Henry Breen

December

Advent Wreath-making workshop and luncheon

Gifts for Teens

Christmas on the Slab

Silver Tea

Christmas Treasures

The Family Giving Tree

Children's Christmas Pageant

Christmas on Historic Hill: A Service of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day at Trinity – a joint celebration with Emmanuel and St. John's parishes

Historic Houses of Worship Open House

Funeral: Manny de Pinho

Financial Reports

2017 Profit Loss Summary

2017 Profit Loss Summary

	2017 Profit & Loss	2017 Budget	+ / (-) Budget
Revenue			
Pledge/Plate Revenue	337,493	319,785	17,708
Budgeted Endowment Draw	85,000	85,000	0
Unbudgeted Endowment Draws	1,896	0	1,896
External Funding	48,944	40,400	8,544
Grants/Donations	4,028	4,000	28
Fundraiser Events	4,478	7,785	-3,307
Guiding Revenue	11,109	11,000	109
Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms	22,909	27,000	-4,091
Other Revenue	903	4,100	-3,197
Total Revenue	516,760	499,070	17,690
Expenses			
Diocese Apportionment	76,645	76,645	0
Payroll Expenses	271,380	277,074	-5,694
Programs			
Music Program Expense	39,689	23,300	16,389
Social Activities	78	130	-52
Guiding Program	551	570	-19
Outreach Operations	4,585	4,900	-315
Total Programs	44,903	28,900	16,003
Ministry	20,688	22,950	-2,262
Communications	1,836	1,800	36
Accounting Services	19,046	19,000	46
Administration	20,351	19,150	1,201
Buildings & Grounds	39,518	37,645	1,873
Utilities	20,437	20,700	-263
Supplies	1,684	1,450	234
Total Expense	516,488	505,314	11,174
Net Surplus / (Loss)	272	(6,244)	6,516

2018 Budget – Final Summary

	2017 Profit & Loss	2017 Budget	+/(-) Budget	2018 Budget
Revenue				
Pledge/Plate Revenue	337,493	319,785	17,708	325,850
Budgeted Endowment Draw	85,000	85,000	0	84,000
Unbudgeted Endowment Draws	1,896	0	1,896	0
External Funding	48,944	40,400	8,544	26,700
Grants/Donations	4,028	4,000	28	4,000
Fundraiser Events	4,478	7,785	-3,307	6,650
Guiding Revenue	11,109	11,000	109	11,500
Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms	22,909	27,000	-4,091	25,000
Other Revenue	903	4,100	-3,197	3,980
Total Revenue	516,760	499,070	17,690	487,680
Expenses				
Diocese Apportionment	76,645	76,645	0	66,068
Payroll Expenses	271,380	277,074	-5,694	258,129
Programs				
Music Program Expense	39,689	23,300	16,389	45,118
Social Activities	78	130	-52	175
Guiding Program	551	570	-19	580
Outreach Operations	4,585	4,900	-315	2,500
Total Programs	44,903	28,900	16,003	48,373
Ministry	20,688	22,950	-2,262	12,300
Communications	1,836	1,800	36	2,350
Accounting Services	19,046	19,000	46	19,000
Administration	20,351	19,150	1,201	21,935
Buildings & Grounds	39,518	37,645	1,873	39,200
Utilities	20,437	20,700	-263	20,720
Supplies	1,684	1,450	234	1,600
Total Expense	516,488	505,314	11,174	489,675
Net Surplus / (Loss)	272	(6,244)	6,516	-1,995

Trinity Landmark Preservation Fund, Inc.
Historical Investment Activity and Returns
1990 - 2017

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE	543,544	
NET TOTAL RETURN SINCE INCEPTION	2,514,147	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES SINCE INCEPTION	- 1,488,505	
ENDING BALANCE	1,569,186	
ANNUALIZED RETURN SINCE INCEPTION	9.01%	Δ +26%
ANNUALIZED LIPPER BALANCED FUND	7.14%	
2017 YTD NET TOTAL RETURN	7.30%	

Leadership 2017

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Canon Anne Marie Richards, *Rector*
rector@trinitynewport.org

The Rev. Alan Neale, *Assisting Priest*
Assistingpriest@trinitynewport.org

Christopher Bingham, *Director of Music*
musicdirector@trinitynewport.org

Cassandra Dias, *Administrative Assistant*
adminassistant@trinitynewport.org

Barbara Roos, *Capital Campaign Project Manager*
projectmanager@trinitynewport.org

Brian O'Malley, *Financial Consultant*
bookkeeper@trinitynewport.org

Officers

Wendy Durudogan, *Senior Warden*

John Smith, *Junior Warden*

Elaine Burress, *Treasurer*

James Patterson, *Assistant Treasurer*

Charlotte Ladwig, *Clerk*

Vestry

Class of 2018

Meryl Moore
Wayne Porter
Larry Pulice

Class of 2019

Tom Jansen
Richard Mason
B. Mitchell Simpson

Class of 2020

Pamela Alexander
Geer Isdale
Tatiana Schweibenz



Trinity Church

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