



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Trinity Episcopal Church

FEBRUARY 12, 2023
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 Allegheny Ave, Towson, MD 21204
www.trinitychurchtowson.org

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Rector's Report

Last year suggested we take our inspiration for 2022 from Isaiah 43:19:

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

This past year, God did indeed fulfill for us this promise to the ancient Israelite exiles returning from Babylonian captivity. We put a lot of energy into pulling old things like hospitality and in-person formation, but we also tried many new things and there is a resulting spirit of optimism that is palpable in the parish.

We said goodbye to two valued employees, Jill Dumser and Luis Tejada, but also welcomed Andrea Albamonte and Mark Beatty as parish administrator and sexton respectively. Both of them have settled right in and have made it possible for both the Communications and Property ministries to start thinking more strategically for this new year. It is good to see more collaboration between staff and parish members to help get us into shape for the COVID-endemic era that we are now in.

Sadly, one of our most important new community members, Deacon Intern Carolyn Armstrong, could only be with us temporarily. Nevertheless, she has significant impact on us with her leadership in preaching, pastoral care, and especially evangelism. Carolyn got us talking about the latter to a degree most Episcopalians cringe to even consider. Under her guidance we started exploring as deeply as we ever have what it means to share our faith with others. [Side note: Carolyn has asked me to be one of her sponsors for ordination on June 3rd. I hope Trinity will make a good showing for that.]

At the preschool, we brought on three new teachers and rebuilt the board that had withered to bare bones during the worst of the pandemic. We also restarted chapel for the little ones, and have seen a lot more church-member involvement with both the teachers and students. The growing closeness between these two branches of the Trinity family is very exciting and rewarding for all. It also reflects our growing mission-focus.

Starting in August, your amazing vestry began a process of review and renewal of our Trinity mission statement and prayer. It emphasizes the coordinated ministries of our church, school, and shop and our common commitment to being a resource to anyone and everyone in our larger community. It expresses our long-standing desire to be a place of welcome, inclusion, and caring. One of the nicest ways we lived out this fresh expression of our mission was the blessing of the Surprise Shop volunteers, something we hadn't done in way too long.

In that spirit of welcome, we began new partnerships. Some of these were not as successful as we had hoped. While we shared a vision of inclusion with the community theater company Third Wall Productions, we determined that we were not a good match for ministry in our space. Our partnership with Unity Fellowship Church of Columbia, however, has been a great success. Not only do we share space well, we share a common desire to reflect the love of God in the world.

My hope is that both congregations will nurture our emerging relationship with Northeast Towson Improvement District in both creation care and social justice ministry.

Trinity's work on the latter began last fall with our series on Trinity's role in the racially charged history of Towson East and West. Creation Care has been the work of our new Green Team subcommittee of Outreach.

Our Junior Warden Heather Ayotte will say more about property, but I can't help but highlight our new lighting and sound system in our already beautiful church. Not only have we upgraded our worship technology, but we were able to use grant money to make significant improvements to the Surprise Shop. We are now slowly investigating the possibility of renovating Jarrett House to serve as the headquarters of a new ministry collaboration with Geekhat's Giveback, an emerging non-profit service of free technology repair, refurbishment, and distribution.

I want to acknowledge that worship attendance peaked last summer at around 80 folks per Sunday, and we now hover around 65. Many of our fellow worshippers fell out of the habit of coming to church or had other life-changes that keep them from joining us in-person. Many of us are still recovering from illness and the stress of the COVID emergency.

At the same time, I'd like us to celebrate the freshness springing up in the form of new worshipping members, four baptisms, and a renewed interest in making music at Trinity. Many are coming to me—more importantly coming together—with abundant creative energy around worship and music. Special thanks to Dara Lewis for volunteering to be the initial lead on these efforts. We will spend time during lunch at our annual meeting discussing some of these possibilities, as well as all the other areas of potential growth at Trinity. I hope you'll make a point of attending.

As we consider what lies ahead, I'd like to suggest we keep in mind the words attributed to Paul in Ephesians 5:20:

...the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly
far more than all we can ask or imagine...

May God continue to bless Trinity Church, Towson, and may we continue to grow as a blessing to all those around us.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Rhett" with a small plus sign at the end.

Report submitted by The Rev. Dr. Henrietta Wiley

Senior Warden's Report

What a joyful day it is today! We are finally able to be in person for our annual meeting and enjoy the good food and in-person fellowship. As I reflect on the challenges of the past year, I am filled with gratitude to see long-term parishioners returning and overjoyed at the new faces that I see around me on Sundays.

Well, I made it through the first year of my term of Senior Warden despite all my misgivings. As Rich Dougan's term wound down last spring, I questioned whether I should move to Senior Warden, when my skill set seemed better suited to continuing as Junior Warden. In truth, I doubted my ability to faithfully perform the required duties when Rich seemed to navigate the ins and outs of the task so effortlessly. With considerable soul searching and prayer, though, I was able to face those fears and am deeply grateful that I chose to move up.

Had I not taken up the challenge, I would have missed working with an inspired Vestry. The Vestry has dealt with the post-covid challenges of putting the pieces back together. Who could have imagined that coming together for worship, fellowship, participating in committees, and the countless other activities we take for granted would need to be discussed in order to protect everybody's health. The Vestry revamped and clarified Trinity's mission statement and assisted in the development of the beautiful and meaningful prayer we say at each service.

Looking back at the past year, I see the huge number of changes Trinity has experienced. Coming back together in person has created challenges requiring the congregation to come together in new ways. For example, our live-streaming services ministry allowed us to connect with the homebound and others could not normally participate in communal worship.

We wished our long time sexton, Luis Tejada, and parish administrator, Jill Dumser, well this year as they moved along on their journey, and welcomed in their place two new staff members, Andrea and Mark, who have already made enormous contributions in their roles. We hope we will have a long and productive relationship with them.

Last year saw Trinity attempting different outreach strategies. The most significant was the partnership with Third Wall, which produced *Chess, The Musical* in the Sanctuary. Although this relationship not a good fit and was ended, the effort to find different means of reaching out in different ways continues.

We continue to offer our wonderful facilities to many community groups. Tai Chi, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Painting Group, the Police Community Relations Council, and the Canticle Singers are a few examples.

Meanwhile, our ministry teams and committees continue to do exceptional work. The altar guild continues making the church more and more beautiful. The outreach team connects us with the wider community. The finance, property and green team all pull together to maintain the beauty and safety of Trinity.

Finally, the Surprise Shop and the Preschool continue to be the embodiment of Trinity's mission of bringing Christ's teachings into the world through service and grow in faith.

As we go through this year, I hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider how they can enrich the life of the church and those around them.

In peace,
Greg

Report Submitted by Greg Gabell

Nominees for the Vestry

We give thanks for all those who have helped to lead the Trinity Church community, as members of the Vestry and beyond.

This year, the Nominating Committee has identified four nominees to fill our open seats on the Vestry. According to our Bylaws, members may serve up to 2 concurrent terms, so three of these nominations are for current members of the Vestry to be elected to a second term in office.



Cathy Evans (2nd term)

Cathy Evans, a lifelong resident of the Parkville/Towson community, has been married for 36 years to husband Lee and is the mother of two adult daughters, Erica, a DC resident, and Rachel, who resides in Parkville. After retiring from a 31-year Finance career at Becton Dickinson in 2014, Cathy started attending Trinity in July 2017, immediately felt welcome, decided to convert from Roman Catholic and was reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church in April 2018. Cathy spends her time volunteering at ACTC, at The Red Devils (a breast cancer patient support organization), is on the board of the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute, is an active member of the

Trinity Community Outreach Committee and Vestry and she manages the weekly E-Times and Prayer Fellowship communications. She typically attends the 8am service on Sundays and enjoys meeting and talking with the Trinity members. To relax, she enjoys spending time at their beach home in Ocean City, Maryland.



Meg Gardner

Meg Gardner is a cradle Episcopalian who never paid attention, so she has been bothering people at Trinity with questions since early 2020. Raised in and around College Park, she avoided both a full education and prison. She is known for her irritating truthfulness and patient openness. She was at the Washington Post for Watergate, but only because there was no more affordable day care. Her first job was assisting in South African research, mostly cutting up other newspapers. She ignored all signs that pointed to journalism and instead is now Mom to six helpful and intelligent adult children, office manager to some

lovely introverts, and armchair historian of racist oppression in Maryland. She writes cozy mystery novels because she is a terrible cartoonist. The first novel was very well received and the second is taking forever. She is very enthusiastic about sobriety and cheese.



Haley Mahonski (2nd term)

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve Trinity Church as a member of the vestry. I have been a member of Trinity on and off for most of my life. I am a member of the preschool board, serving as secretary and of the stewardship committee, serving as co-chair. My husband Shawn and I have three daughters, Delaney, Alison, and Caitlin and a dog named Wilson. I am the director of annual giving and alumni relations at Stevenson University and really enjoy my work as a fundraiser in an educational setting. I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and friends, hiking, camping, boating, kayaking, and running. I also love reading, listening to music, and watching ice hockey. I look forward to continuing to work with the vestry to consider the best ways to

meet the needs of our congregation and our community.



John Oporia (2nd term)

My name is John and I love The Lord as my personal savior. I have been a member of the Trinity community since April 2018. I moved to America early 2018 and Trinity was my first house of worship and it has been my home since. My girlfriend Monica and I have been blessed with two children, Kristiana (15) and Kyle-Valentino (11). I've been a practicing Anglican since birth having been born into the Anglican (African) community (save for a spell of about 5 years during which I worshipped in the protestant church).

My main service of worship is the 10am service however, I do worship in the 5pm service once in a while. I currently work in the Moving industry.

Worship

The purpose of worship is to give glory to God. In worship, we express our love and gratitude to the one who create us, has redeemed us, and inspires us to live in faith. We acknowledge our flaws and frailties and receive assurance of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We break open the Word of God for inspiration in our daily life and we break Bread to experience ourselves as the unified Body of Christ.

We welcomed 4 people into the Body of Christ through baptism in 2022:

- Matthew Pierce Michel
- Margaret Ann Dougan
- Brittany Danielle Chambers
- Leo Deal Marx

We joined 2 people in Holy Matrimony:

- Richard Patterson and Sidney Lemon

We celebrated the lives and mourned the deaths of 8 with funerals:

- Julia Parker Schaeffer

- James Albert Horne, Jr.
- Karen T. Kruger
- Patricia Powell Paulus
- Charles T. O'Donnell
- Mary Bell Howser
- Richard Morrison Patterson
- Peggie Ann Frederick

Like most churches in the U.S., our physical attendance rate remains greatly reduced from pre-COVID numbers. Fortunately, we have not seen a significant drop off from 2021. We have lots of lovely new family-in-Christ among us to keep our spirits up on Sundays.

Average Sunday Attendance: 66

Our increasingly successful live-streaming system has made worship participation easier for those who cannot come in person. We were concerned for a time that it contributed to decreasing in-person attendance, but anecdotal evidence suggests that people who have a history of attending church do not rely on the live-stream as a replacement for coming in person.

Our robust “view” numbers for our live worship are difficult to interpret. Many if not most of our views come later in the day or week and it is not clear what brings people to the recordings. In addition, YouTube counts views quite liberally. If you watch a video for a while, go to a different page, and then come back, it’s two views. If you accidentally click on a video and close it after more than 10 seconds, that counts as a view.

Report submitted by Rhettta Wiley and Andrea Albamonte

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team is devoted to the ministry of Trinity's home-bound members. As a team, we are committed to their spiritual support. This is accomplished through Eucharistic visits, cards of healing, birthday and Christmas greetings. We are the “good shepherds” they depend on and provide support to our rector who cannot tend to every member as often as she might like.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- 129 home visits.
- Safe Church and Eucharistic Visitor training session with Deacon Intern Carolyn Armstrong in September.

If you’d like to serve as a Eucharistic Visitor or otherwise participate in the pastoral care of those home-bound temporarily or long-term, please talk to Mother Rhettta and Claire Hudson. The list of people who have trouble coming to church is getting longer,

and it would be good to have more parishioners helping to keep those people connected with Trinity.

Report submitted by Claire Hudson and Rhetta Wiley

Music & Worship Committee

We strive to provide supportive feedback of the weekly worship services and the music within. We seek out possibilities with the resources we already have and desire to assist the rector with continuing to bring together our parishioners of all ages in an effort to maximize each congregant's fulfillment of God's word.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- Cataloguing our musical library, including the many different sources of contemporary music we have. Many thanks to the Rev. Liz Masterson for spearheading this huge work!
- Updating our subscriptions to various online musical catalogues to fill in missing pieces in our music library.
- Opening up our planning to include music from different sources, intentionally including a variety of musical genres and themes.

Looking forward to 2023, we hope to better define our musical identity as a church. The Music & Worship Committee will be taking on the task of at least one contemporary worship service Sunday per month-targeting the second Sunday of each month. We will be recruiting regular/reliable/routine worship leaders to lift up the service and provide a more communal experience. Keep a look out for our up-coming gathering - we are excited about the possibilities for our musical future.

Report submitted by: Mary Beth Jorgensen-Convenor, Dara Lewis-Vestry Liaison

Parish Life

Offering fellowship and hospitality to all, our ministry of Parish Life looks for ways to foster connections among all those who consider Trinity a home.

Highlights from 2022:

- After starting to know some of the people who walk across our property to get to and from work every day (many at the County court and office buildings) on Ash Wednesday, we started posting a question once a month for reflection. The question is put on our sign board and paper is put on the door off the drive, and we ask folks to leave their thoughts - "Leave it @ the Door!" - resulting in sometimes profound and occasionally funny exchanges.
- We were excited to start gathering again in March 2022 for fellowship and food at Coffee Hour following the 10am service. We have seen a lot of people taking part in sharing this work, including several of our newer members.
- Also in March, we began offering simple soup suppers following the 5pm service.

- We shared a triumphal celebration of Trinity Sunday in June with a lunch together with members of our community. It was especially a delight to welcome members of Unity Fellowship Church, who also worship in our space, and get to know them better.
- We shared “lemonade on the lawn” throughout the summer, welcoming members of the church and wider community.
- As schools and programs resumed in the late summer, we hosted the Kona Ice truck several times as an invitation to families (within the congregation, the preschool, and larger community). While weather conspired against us, we look forward to continuing to look for ways to connect all the constituents of our mission together.
- Together with the Preschool, we offered an Advent and Christmas wreath-making event.

We give thanks to all who have helped us to grow this ministry over the past year, most especially our Vestry Liaison, Lisa Pawluk, and Junior Warden Heather Ayotte.

In 2023, we look forward to growing our ministry by offering more events on Sundays and beyond. We hope to invite more members to take leadership in our ministry, whether for an hour once a month or more. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Laura McGuire in the Church Office or Lisa Pawluk (at lisa21805@gmail.com or 410-258-1162). Thank you for being a part of our life together!

Report submitted by Laura McGuire

Formation

Providing opportunities to grow in faith is a central part of our mission as a congregation. We work to offer spiritual formation so that members of all ages may grow in faith, knowledge, and connection to God and one another.

Highlights:

- After much delay, we were thrilled to send 8 high-school youth and 2 adult chaperones on pilgrimage to Colorado for the week of July 16-22. So much time and effort went into this event - the J2A youth met weekly on Sundays to prepare themselves, parents and families gave their time and effort, and members and friends supported the group with prayer and financial support. The pilgrims shared some of their experiences with the congregation on September 18.
- While the Omicron variant of COVID decided to rearrange our plans to return to in-person gatherings in the winter and spring, we responded by offering a variety of formation experiences in small group gatherings (actually in person) and at home (either over Zoom or supported by social media). Material for faith formation in the home was sent out in the seasons of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost; adult groups met to discuss how the Church helps us prepare for the end of life; and parenting and small family groups met to support one another.
- In the fall, we resumed in-person formation for all ages. Godly Play for those age 3-grade 5 began meeting in a classroom in Memorial Hall, a youth Confirmation class began for those who had returned from pilgrimage, a new twice-monthly Youth Group launched (together with youth from Unity Fellowship Church), and Adult Forum began.

- In an effort to support our members in their life in prayer, in September we took part in planning a service of Centering Prayer. Join us every Tuesday in Lee Chapel at 3pm for half an hour of silent meditation and prayer.
- We welcomed the greater community into telling the story of Christ's birth with two pageants this Christmas, one with Preschool families before the Christmas break, and the other open to all on Christmas Eve. It was a joy to see the church once again filled with shepherds and angels heralding God among us, our Emmanuel!

Many thanks to all who have taken leadership in our ministries this year. We give special thanks to our Vestry Liaison, Joanne Chapline, and our Deacon Intern, Carolyn Armstrong, who supported our programs in so many ways. And even more thanks to our extraordinary J2A mentors, Jim Thierer and Ellen Torres, who gave of themselves in so many ways to make the pilgrimage and all that led up to it such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

As we become more and more comfortable with gathering in person, we have begun offering more and more opportunities to gather. Volunteers can give as much time as they can, from just an hour helping with an event to weekly leadership of programs. To find out more, please contact Laura McGuire in the Church Office or Joanne Chapline (410-812-5722 or joannechapline@gmail.com).

Report submitted by Laura McGuire

Communications

The communications team makes sure that information about our parish is distributed across multiple mediums. We manage a website, Facebook and Instagram pages, e-Times, Prayer list email, the BellTower newsletter, YouTube channel, and bulletin board.

We are currently going through a transitional period with our communications plan. In 2023 there will be a re-evaluation of the use of each of our various communications methods. The team will be examining the purpose, audience, efficacy, and cohesion of each of our communications methods. We will be looking at ways to better integrate some of our media, such as examining whether we can livestream to the website as well as YouTube.

Special thanks to: Cathy Evans, Rich Dougan, Diane Serex-Dougan, Stephanie Foy, Nancy Nicholson, and Laura McGuire

Report submitted by Andrea Albamonte

Technology

Our goal is to share the ministries of worship and formation clearly and effectively using various types of technology. This past year, the team has:

- Repaired existing microphones
- Adapted the sound system for regular music playback
- Upgraded the internet connection in the church
- Improved new projection screen and repaired old projector screen

- Created a more efficient workspace for smoother operation of the live streaming equipment.
- Finished the planning and execution of the first phase of updating the sound system/rack.
- Continued the project of permanently running all streaming cables through the Undercroft.

For 2022, we had 2,143 views of 55 services, 51 views of the 4 Adult formation "Towson East & West" presentations, and 1,365 views of 48 Wednesday Night Evening Prayer streams.

Special thanks to everyone who donated to the technology fund, The Grimm Family, Patrick Duffy, Jen Korczakowski, Mary Sykes.

Going forward into 2023, we hope to continue to provide streaming services, continue to improve the quality, and build a deeper bench of trained people to manage the live stream and the technology.

You can help by volunteering to run the technology during services! The time commitment is roughly 1/2 hour before the service to turn everything on and make sure it works, the duration of the service, and 10 - 15 minutes of turning off/ putting away tech after. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Mary Sykes at Silverbackbutch@gmail.com to schedule time to be trained on the equipment.

Livestreaming our services and events continues to be an important ministry. A number of people have commented that their family was able to tune in to see a baptism, or graduation, or pageant. People have also mentioned going back to listen to the sermon again because they had some questions relating to it. This goes to show that our use of technology continues to be an important method of facilitating engagement and learning.

Report submitted by Mary Sykes

Facilities

A big part of being engaged with our broader Towson community is renting out our space to groups and organizations that can benefit from partnering with us. These partnerships allow us expand the mission of our parish beyond our own worshipping congregation.

This past year, we have ended our contract with Snapology and with Third Wall Productions. McAllen's Toffee is still a faithful renter of our kitchen and a valued member of our broader community. While we explored another kitchen renter this winter, in the end the contract didn't work out. Unity Fellowship Church has become an important part of our community; look for chances to worship with this wonderful congregation in the year to come. Our other regular renters include the Police Community Relations Board, Steve Bleinberger's Art classes, and Advocates for Success, AA, and of course, ACTC. Tai Chi and some of the AA groups have moved online because of the pandemic, and didn't transition back to in-person gatherings.

We are hoping for more long-term renters in the coming year. We still receive regular requests to rent out Memorial Hall for one-time events.

You can help our facilities team by recommending our wonderful space to people and organizations that might be able to use it! We are especially interested in being able to rent to organizations that have missions that align with our own.

Report submitted by Andrea Albamonte

Property

The purpose of the Property Ministry is to ensure the continued preservation of Trinity Church building and grounds. As we approach the 160th anniversary of the church, we as a ministry, are committed to recognizing the ever-growing need for general maintenance as well as enhancing our current buildings in order for them to be accessible and inclusive to all. We believe in sharing our space with other community groups so that they too might have a safe space for meetings.

In late April, Trinity was awarded a grant from the Maryland DHCD Community Safety Works-Facility Improvements in the amount of \$25,000. In our application, we discussed the increase in crime and property destruction around our buildings and property. We addressed the specific need to improve The Surprise Shop, a historical building, which due to the deteriorating structure and features have contributed to a variety of issues. We requested \$25,000 towards our project budget to update the Surprise Shop and create a stronger infrastructure to combat the increase in crime and property destructions. We believed this will help us improve the property and bring it up to new code requirements while adding to neighborhood improvements. In addition to \$25,000 grant, Trinity Church and Surprise Shop will invest \$8,628 for a budget total of \$33,628.

The complete project included repaving of the parking lot, painting the exterior of the Surprise Shop Building, new gutters, exterior lighting, and landscaping.

In September, the lighting was replaced in the church. After requesting several bids, we were able to secure Dynamo Electric to replace the recessed light bulbs in the church. The job was completed in one day and came in under budget.

Continued maintenance and improvements to the property of Trinity Church and grounds. We are currently working with Mechanical Engineers to address the issue of the tower at the accessible entrance to the church, which is pulling away from the building.

How you can help:

The property ministry meets most months for approximately an hour. Our ministry encompasses a multitude of projects from buildings to grounds. We continue to desire a subcommittee which will specifically look at the grounds, to include our Green Team initiatives as well as the goal of building a labyrinth on the property. If you have an interest or would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out.

Special Thanks to: Tom Valenti, Greg Gabell, Shawn Mahonski, Kim Clark, Stephanie Foy, Mary Sykes, Mark Beatty, Krissy Lyons and Lyle Patskowsky

Report submitted by Heather Ayotte

Outreach

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to serve Christ in all people by funding and executing projects that benefit those in need locally, regionally, and across the globe.

In 2022 our Outreach Committee:

- Established Trinity Transportation, a door-to-door Lyft service and coordinated 87 rides for parishioners, led by Ted Miller and Claire Hudson.
- Established the Trinity Green Team, which has:
 - worked to reduce the amount of single use plastic and paperware at coffee hour (Joel Moore),
 - obtained Baywise certification for Trinity Grounds (Nancy Nicholson),
 - established recycling for the church and preschool (Claire Hudson),
 - assisted with additional native planting on the grounds (Melissa, Rob, and Tressa),
 - cut back the invasive ivy on the East side of the grounds (Doug Rowland)
 - and provided samples of environmentally friendly household products to parishioners (Joanie Smith).
- Coordinated the collection and donation of seven bins of supplies to MCVETS, 30 bags of school supplies to Pleasant Plains Elementary School teachers, 500 pounds of pet food and supplies to the Kibble Connection program, 56 Thanksgiving bags to ACTC, 24 hats and gloves and 48 socks for adults in need, 24 sets of thermal underwear for Janet's Drawers, four bags of hats and gloves for students in need at Pleasant Plains and reading materials for Baltimore International Seafarers' Center.
- Made the following financial donations:
 - \$1,421.33 Trinity Transportation
 - \$1,000 to Episcopal Relief and Development General Fund
 - \$1,523 to Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukraine assistance
 - \$1,000 to ACTC
 - \$1,000 to MCVETS
 - \$1,000 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Special Thanks:

The work of the Outreach Ministry would not be possible without the incredible support and generosity from Trinity's parishioners.

Goals for 2023:

- Continue to develop and implement Trinity Transportation.
- Continue to provide Outreach activities as agreed upon by the Outreach team.
- The recruitment of new Outreach Ministry team members.

How can you get involved:

Individuals can donate their time and resources to the several Outreach Ministry activities throughout the year. Individuals can also join the Outreach Ministry's team. They can actively plan, support and participate in the ministry's work.

The following is a letter from Trisha Voegtlin and Jen Schleicher, the School Counselors from Pleasant Plains Elementary School:

Dear Members of the Outreach Committee & Trinity Episcopal Church,

The teachers and staff of Pleasant Plains Elementary School would like to thank you for the generous donation of classroom supplies. The teacher's faces lit up with excitement when we delivered the bags. The supplies will be extremely helpful as they prepare to welcome the students. Your hard work and dedication to our partnership will touch each child and family in our school in the most positive way and ensure an encouraging start to a new school year.

Sincerely,

Trish Voegtlin & Jen Schleicher
School Counselors -Pleasant Plains Elementary School

Report submitted by Melissa Jenkins and Ted Miller

Surprise Shop

The Surprise Shop seeks to provide a means for the community to share its worldly goods with one another through consignment and donations, to assist Trinity Church in its programs of community outreach, and foster and encourage camaraderie among its personnel.

With the \$25,000 grant for the Surprise Shop secured by Trinity Church, the exterior was painted, exterior lights and gutters were installed, the parking lot was paved, a security system was added, and new landscaping begun. The back porch and steps were rebuilt with funds from an anonymous donor. The Surprise Shop maintained our self-supporting status and repaid debts to Trinity Church incurred during the early period of the COVID pandemic.

Highlights of 2022:

The Surprise Shop serviced over 400 clients of ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches), providing over \$6,717 in goods to those in need. The Surprise Shop reinstated our Volunteer Luncheon (October), Blessing of Volunteers (November), and Christmas Open House (December). The Surprise Shop welcomed many new individuals this year. We educated the newcomers by explaining our connection to Trinity Church, our long history, and our services to the greater Towson Community and will continue to do so with pride as we celebrate our 59th birthday on April 1st.

Number of people served in 2022: 1500

Special Thanks to The Rev. Dr. Henrietta Wiley (Rector), Jen Korczakowski (business manager), Greg Gabell (Senior Warden), and Heather Ayotte (Junior Warden) for securing and assisting with the grant.

Additional Special Thanks to everyone who supports the mission of the Surprise Shop through volunteering, donating, or shopping with us.

Goals for 2023:

- To continue our present outreach ministries and support those of the Trinity Outreach Committee.
- To develop a 5-year plan with regard to ongoing maintenance and landscaping needs.
- To clean out our attic and organize financial and archival documents.
- To improve and update our website. (www.SurpriseShop.org)
- To revise and update our Bylaws.

How you can help:

Volunteers are continually needed to maintain our shopping hours and to do all the work beyond the checkout desk. Working one 3-hour shift per month would be a great help. Desk Clerks are especially needed on Saturdays. Other specialized volunteer opportunities are available such as processing consignment and donations. We welcome teenagers through adults, men and women.

The Surprise Shop has served the broader community in so many ways: the ACTC client who leaves with the clothing he/she needs and expresses appreciation with a smile, the child who finds a toy they love, the elderly shoppers who come often and love to talk, the college students looking for an ugly Christmas sweater, the shopper who finds their purchase on sale and didn't expect it, the families who come and find something for everyone, the visitors who tell stories of how they've been coming to the shop for 30 years, those who just marvel at the house, the volunteers who enjoy the work, and spread the good news of the Surprise Shop.

Report submitted by Stephanie Foy and Erin Woodward

Preschool

Our Top Highlights of 2021-2022 school year:

Nature Conservation Activities

- Green Towson Alliance Native Garden Contest Winner, Audubon Bird Habitat Certified, Bay Wise Certified, and Good News Garden Certified.
- The Trinity Preschool families and children participated in the Beautification project and planted over 95 native plants in the front of the school.
- Recycling in the Preschool was established and continues because of Claire Hudson's generosity to pick up the recycling weekly so the children can help the environment.
- The playground had the rubber mulch removed and replaced with wood chips which is environmentally healthy for the earth.
- The children experienced Nature Science with Ms. Tressa and did a butterfly release in the Spring.

Return of in person family events

- Our first visit to Lohr's Farm to pick apples and pumpkins was perfect school family outing and the families loved the location.
- Our first Trunk-or-Treat welcomed alumni and present families to meet for a safe and fun school activity.
- First Father's Day(or male figure) event was an interactive and fun experience for the students as well as their guest.

- The Art Show allowed the students to share their incredible creations throughout the year. We also had an Art to Remember Fundraiser where the student's artwork could be used to make various keepsakes.
- End of the Year celebration gave the families an opportunity to be with one another, share a meal, and play fun games.
- It was meaningful for the families and children to be back in the church for Graduation. We also were able to live stream it for those families that were not able to attend in person.

Community Outreach Events

- I was a guest presenter for the May Gathering: Welcoming Kids into the Garden for the Good News Gardens of the Episcopal Church. It was an opportunity to share nationally what our school created with the Outdoor Classroom.
- Giving Envelopes were introduced for the children to vote and donate their own money to local charities monthly. We continued all the annual community outreach projects from the previous year.
- Sharing the Love project was an opportunity for the school to reach out to the community through the student-created Valentine's Day cards and a special treat for the people who walk through our lot daily on their way to and from work.

Looking forward, we aim to grow in several ways.

Maryland Excels Recognition

All our teachers are certified, and we meet the standards of the MSDE for Preschool Programs. We have gone beyond those requirements by holding a Maryland Excels Quality Rating. We have recently started the process to advance our rating with Maryland Excels to increase our use of best practices, professional development and continued use of our curriculum, which is in alignment with MSDE overall kindergarten readiness and socialization domains. We will be using self-assessments and observations to develop and submit a school improvement plan to Maryland Excels Program. Not only will this impact the children directly, but history has proven grants and fiscal rewards often result from being acknowledged for quality care.

Marketing

We aim to increase our enrollment and be more visible in the community through more effective marketing strategies and by improving our indoor classroom environment with the same rigor and success as our gardening initiatives.

Cultural Changes

We hope to develop a more cohesive connection between the Preschool and the Church Parish. Increased joint activities, communication, and opportunities to serve together will bring Trinity's mission to a deeper reality as we love and serve.

Report submitted by Tressa Andrews

Finance Team Annual Report

Committee Members

Greg Ayotte (Chair), Tracy Martin, Mac Price, Joel Moore, Ellen Torres, Jen Korczakowski, Reverend Henrietta Wiley

Mission

The Finance Team members serve as good stewards of the generous contributions of the membership to carry out the ministry of the church. Its' mission is to protect the assets the church and make recommendations for their use by implementing proper accounting principles, reviewing monthly financial statements, and preparing the budget.

2022 Highlights/Accomplishments

- Received Loan Forgiveness for our 2nd PPP loan, converting the loan of \$164,167 into a grant for the Church, preschool, and Surprise Shop.
- Prepared and gained Vestry approval for the 2023 budget.
- Obtained several grants to assist the preschool's operations, to make repairs to the Surprise Shop, and to increase the hours of the support staff for the church.
- Applied for Employee Retention Tax Credits which could provide a tax refund of over \$200,000 under the CAREs Act, if approved.

Number of People Ministry Served

All members of Trinity Episcopal Church, Preschool, and Surprise Shop

2023 Goals

- To conduct a financial review of the finances for 2022
- To continue to advance the work on the structural deficit to reduce it in future years
- To increase facility rentals, for which the income will be used for facility repairs and maintenance
- To apply for appropriate grants when available to support the operations, capital needs, and ministries of the church

How can others get involved? Time Commitment and Volunteer Opportunities

Contact the Finance Committee Chair, Greg Ayotte

The committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm via Zoom.

Volunteer opportunities - join the Finance Team, become a Counter on Sundays for the offerings received, plan a fundraiser, assist with grant research and grant writing.

INCOME AND EXPENSES PRESCHOOL AND SURPRISE SHOP

2022 vs. 2021 PRESCHOOL INCOME AND EXPENSES

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSES	BUDGET SURPLUS
2022	\$578,100	\$537,500	\$40,600
2021	\$584,800	\$536,100	\$48,700

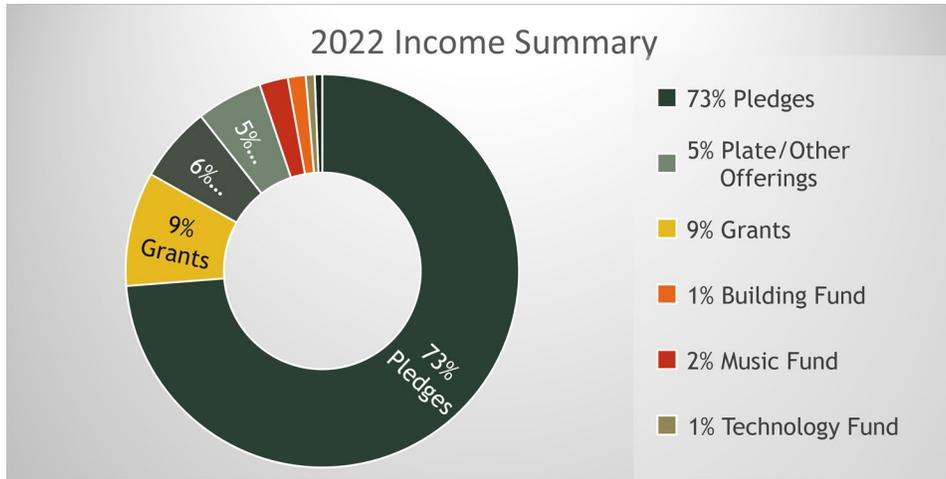
2022 vs. 2021 SURPRISE SHOP INCOME AND EXPENSES

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSES	BUDGET DEFICIT
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2022	\$165,140	\$157,144	-\$2,003
2021	\$120,575	\$124,795	-\$4,220

CHURCH INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

Pledges, Plate, and Special Offerings	\$269,783
Grants, Dedicated Funds Contributions, and Restricted Rental Income	\$72,466
Total Normal Operating and Restricted Income	\$342,249



Normal Operating Expenses	\$395,376
Supplemental Expenses Subsidized Through Dedicated Funds and Grants	\$47,709
Total Normal Operating and Supplemental Expenses	\$443,085

2022 Normal Operating Deficit = **-\$125,593**

2022 Total Deficit = **-\$100,836**

INVESTMENT LOSS 2022

ENDOWMENT FUND	-\$256,626	-16.5%
MARGARET BAER FUND	-\$14,489	-17%
SURPRISE SHOP FUND	-\$3,686	-15%



worship · serve · grow

Office Phone: (410) 823-3588

Website: www.trinitychurchtowson.org

For pastoral emergencies please call Mother Rhetta at 443-470-5539

The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, Towson

Greg Gabell, *Senior Warden*

Heather Ayotte, *Junior Warden*

Greg Ayotte, *Treasurer*

Joel Moore, *Registrar*

Catherine Evans (2023)

Joanne Chapline (2024)

Jean Close (2025)

Haley Mahonski (2023)

Allan Grimm (2024)

Joanne Lindsay (2025)

Joel Moore (2023)

Peggy King (2024)

Dara Lewis (2025)

John Oporia (2023)

Joanie Smith-Miller (2024)

Lisa Pawluk (2025)

Trinity Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta L. Wiley, Rector

The Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Associate Priest

The Rev. Cindy Christopher, Deacon

Laura McGuire, Lay Associate

Jennifer Korczakowski, Business Manager

Andrea Albamonte, Parish Administrator

Mark Beatty, Sexton

Hardwick Spencer, Organist and Choir Director

Tressa Andrews, Director of Trinity Episcopal Preschool

Erin Woodward, Director of Surprise Shop Volunteers



Sunday Service Schedule

8:00am: Holy Communion Quiet Service (No Music)

10:00am: Holy Communion Service with Music

5:00pm: Inclusive, family-friendly Evening Prayer and Holy Eucharist with music

Weekly Services & Bible Study

Tuesdays: 3pm Centering Prayer in Lee Chapel

Wednesdays: 8am, Online Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesdays: 6pm, Evening Prayer with Sykes & Wiley (YouTube Only)

Thursdays: 11:00am Bible Study, grab your lunch and log on.