




VOICE OF TRINITY

January 31, 2021

Volume 22, No. 01

Most people who have spent any significant amount of time around toddlers have probably had to deal with unrelenting questions of “Why?” As these little ones are trying to understand the world around them, they are filled with questions about everything from, why is the sky blue to why they have to do

FROM THE  whatever it is that you’ve asked them to do. Sometimes when they are really on a roll with the whys it can be hard to remember that their curiosity is a natural part of them figuring out their way in the world and is a good thing.

It seems to me that as we grow up, we become so focused on the who, what, when, where, and how questions of life that we often forget the why question. Maybe it’s because others react poorly to our why questions. Maybe it’s because the why questions are sometimes so much harder to answer than the others. Maybe it’s because we’re moving so fast trying to check off the next things on our lists that we just forget to pause and ask the why questions. Who has time to ask why questions? Things have to just get done!

Church communities can also fall into the same rhythm of focusing so much on the who, what, when, where, and how questions that we don’t stop and ask the why questions. Sure, we know that the Church’s big why is that we are a community of disciples of Jesus seeking to develop and support one another as we live into the mission of God in the world around us. But, it’s easy for that to get lost when trying to find people to fill slots on various ministries, trying to ensure that the buildings and grounds are in good shape, trying to ensure that the fiscal health of the church can support the ministries, etc. Unfortunately, running too fast too long without a clear sense of connection to our why eventually becomes detrimental to living vibrantly into the community and ministry that God invites us into.

In the coming months, I invite you to join me in the practice of holy curiosity. Like the toddler asking why about any and everything, I am inviting us to ask why. I am NOT inviting us into criticism, judgement, blame, shame, or resentment. I am inviting us to pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts, prick our imaginations, and engage every aspect of our congregational life together with the curiosity of why. Why do we have this meeting/ministry/group/tradition? Why do we organize it the way that we do? Why do we engage the goal of the group/ministry/meeting in this particular way? As we engage the why questions we will inevitably be led back to the who, what, when, where, and how questions. As we honestly, openly, and consistently engage the why questions, I believe that God, who is able to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, will spark in us anew the fire for God’s work at Trinity.

J. Littlepage +

Coming Up in the Adult Forum

Adult Christian Formation has begun a series of forums and programs on the topic of Christian Ethical Principles for Confronting Social Injustice. The first forum, on January 9, was led by Dr. Frank Kirkpatrick and provided a broad overview of how the faith convictions of Christians should inform our thinking about the injustices in our society; a follow-up forum on January 23 featured discussion of which specific social justice issues are of greatest concern to Trinity's members.

This focus on Christian ethics and social justice will continue, along with a little fun mid-February:

Sunday, February 13: Who Wants to be an Episcopal Millionaire? – We all need a little escapism these days, don't we? So we're bringing back an old favorite: Mark MacGougan is returning in his role as Game Show Host Extraordinaire as we try a Zoom version of the popular quiz show (with a religious twist).

Sunday, February 27: Discussion/follow-up on CT Forum "The Fight for Racial Justice" – Rev. D. will facilitate a conversation about reactions to the CT Forum on February 25; see a separate article on the Forum in the column to the right.

Planning for March Sunday forums is ongoing; watch the weekly eVoice for details.

Sunday forums will follow the 10:00 a.m. service, and will be on Zoom until further notice.

The ACF Team: Suzanne Blancaflor, Pat Bunker, Martha Freimuth, Frank Kirkpatrick, Mark MacGougan, Roy McAlpine, Everett Post, Rev. D. Littlepage



Coloring Sheets for Kids Now Available on Sundays

Copies of "The Sunday Paper Junior" coloring sheets and crayons are now available on Sunday morning at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Each week's sheet highlights some aspect of the Scripture for the day and also includes notes to help parents talk to their kids about the theme.

Please feel free to let your children color and otherwise be themselves during the worship service. All are welcome as they are, including kids!

2021 Statements in the Mail

Annual giving statements as well as Capital Campaign statements for 2021 have now been mailed out from the parish office to anyone who contributed to Trinity Church and/or the Capital Campaign last year. If you have not yet received your statement, please contact Barbara Roos at office@trinityhartford.org or 860-527-8133, Ext. 204. If you have a question about a statement, contact Fran Times-Mack at ftimesmack@trinityhartford.org or 860-527-8133, Ext. 206.

CT Forum Presents: "The Fight for Racial Justice"

Reckoning with and Dismantling Systemic Racism

Where: The Bushnell
166 Capitol Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06106

When: February 25, 2022

Time: 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to join the Trinity Community as we attend this timely and pertinent program. A panel of powerful voices will reflect on the history of the fight for racial justice and examine and confront the structural inequities embedded in our society today. A critically important conversation, this Forum will address key issues such as policing, voting rights, civil rights, criminal justice reform, education, and more.

Featured Panelists:

- Julian Castro – Mayor of San Antonio and Political Analyst
- Cathy Park Hong – Award-Winning Poet
- Baratunde Thurston – Writer, Activist and Comedian

Trinity Community for Racial Justice has partnered with the CT Forum Ticket Outreach Program to offer discounted and free tickets to this event. Our block of tickets is in the Mezzanine section of The Bushnell. This forum will be available via livestream for ticketholders not comfortable attending in-person.

Look for ticket information in future editions of the weekly E-Voice.

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association Report

Executive Director report:

The community breakfast November 17 was a big success, with participants both live and via Zoom. Details of the new strategic plan were shared; the plan can be reviewed at the AHNA website. A few areas covered in the plan – composting, identifying blighted properties, and work on Farmington Avenue – were discussed. A new video about Asylum Hill was shown. This is a joint effort with AHNA and The Hartford. Several board members and community stakeholders were honored for their work.

Fire Department:

Reminders to keep Christmas trees watered, not to leave food unattended on the stove, and not to use extension cords with space heaters.

Community Court report:

The focus of the court right now is quality of life issues. The desire is to lower the amount of recidivism. UCONN law students are now assisting with the work of the court.

Quality of Life Committee:

A goal is to restart the Friends of Sigourney Park and begin a monthly cleanup of Asylum Hill.

Economic Development:

A letter of support for NINA's proposal to renovate 279 and 285 Farmington Avenue as single family homes was requested and approved. Revised renovation plans for the Comet diner have been submitted to the city for approval.

Communications:

The committee reported on working with The Hartford to create the video shown at the Community Breakfast.

Green Committee:

A report was given on Barbara Robbins' progress in initiating composting opportunities.

Open Street Initiative:

Nat Gale, Director of Operations in Hartford, announced that on six different Sundays in 2022 one or two streets will be closed to vehicular traffic from 9-3 to encourage connecting the community. Cultural and recreational programs, music, food and other activities will be planned. The first event will be Sunday, May 22, on Farmington Avenue at Whitney Street. More info is available at safestreeets@hartford.gov.

Election of officers: Chairperson Jackie McKinney, Co-Vice Chairpersons Janine McMahan and Marian Leist, Treasurer Louisa Barton Duguay and Secretary Nancy Rion were unanimously approved.

Meetings continue via Zoom on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:15 p.m.

– Boo Morton



Except for the workday described below, Trinity's office and buildings will be closed on Monday, February 21, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

Presidents' Day Indoor Work Party

Our annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday workday was canceled by inclement weather – so we are now planning a Presidents' Day workday for Monday, February 21, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, weather and COVID permitting. Help make our worship space sparkle! Work day tasks will all take place indoors – no sub-zero temperatures to brave. Come enjoy fellowship with other members of the Trinity Church community while helping take good care of our church home!

Voice Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Voice* is Friday, March 11, at 5:00 p.m. This issue will cover events in Holy Week (April 10-April 17 this year), plus all other events scheduled to take place this coming April and May.

Please email your articles to voice@trinityhartford.org. Be sure to use this address, as doing so will ensure that your information doesn't go astray.

Cycle of Prayer for February and March

February 6

Ginny Catanzaro
Ismerelda & Tristan Changoo
Richard Charron, Peter Vreeland
& Tony Charron-Vreeland

February 13

Alan Cheyney
Gavin, Emma & Fiona Cheyney
Kevin Chick

February 20

George Chien, Julio Flores,
Michael Morel & Ismael Rubio
Michael Chong & Linda, Matthew
& Caitlin Chong-Leehow
Marcus, Leslyn & Sam Clark

February 27

Sandi Cone
Nancy Crandall & Bruce Wazorko
Grace Crooks

March 6

Louisa Cummings
Margaret Daniel
Neill Derick

March 13

Odile, Adrian & Aaron Dilone
and Arianny Lora
Mary Dixon
Valerie Dixon

March 20

Janet Donston
Asker Downer
John Doyle

March 27

Richard Duggan
Marlene Dunkley-Edwards
Pamela Duval

A New Flag of Welcome; A Fresh Look at Pronouns

Since 2014, Trinity has had a rainbow banner over the Sigourney Street entrance as a public sign that Gay and Lesbian people are welcome here. That banner had become faded and weather-worn, and has now been replaced with a new one, for which I chose to use a design created in 2018 by Daniel Quasar. Sometimes called the “progress pride” flag, it has a triangle section with white, pink, light blue, brown, and black chevrons in addition to the usual rainbow.

The white, pink, and blue represent people under the transgender umbrella, and the brown and black represent LGBTQ people of color. The black stripe also represents people living with AIDS, those who have died of AIDS, and the continued stigma associated with AIDS. I chose this design because it more fully reflects the kind of welcome that we seek to embody as a place of welcome, hope, and healing.

As we continue fostering a welcoming community for LGBTQ people, I am inviting you into the practice of listing your pronouns on your name tag (we can print you a new one) and using pronouns when introducing yourself in groups. Most people use individually, or in combination: he/him, she/her, or they/them as their pronouns. (It has grown increasingly accepted to use they/them as 3rd person singular pronouns.) There are also other neopronouns that some

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Trinity Episcopal Church
120 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2796

www.trinityhartford.org
Phone: 860-527-8133 Fax: 860-527-2863
Email: office@trinityhartford.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

1st Thursday: Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at noon
All other Thursdays: Mid-day prayers at noon (via Zoom)
Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in person in the church
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (in person and via YouTube)
Links to YouTube services at trinityhartford.org

The Reverend Dorothea M. Littlepage, Rector
Michelle Horsley, Director of Music Ministries

Assisting Clergy:

The Reverend Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick
The Right Reverend Andrew D. Smith
The Reverend C. Jon Widing

The Reverend William J. Eakins, Rector Emeritus

The VOICE of Trinity Church
Published in August, then bi-monthly, September to May,
for Trinity's members and Friends

Edited by Katherine S. Wilson



Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday 2022 falls on March 2, marking the official beginning of the forty days of Lent. The service schedule for Ash Wednesday is as follows:

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with sermon

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon, hymns and choir

- The imposition of ashes will be available at both services.
- The evening service will be livestreamed via YouTube.

2022 Wednesday Evening Lent Series To Study Landmark Work by Howard Thurman

Beginning on Wednesday, March 9, and continuing through April 6, Rev. D. and members of the Adult Christian Formation and Trinity Community for Racial Justice teams will lead a series of Zoom discussions on Howard Thurman's landmark work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was a theologian, teacher, and one of the principal architects of the nonviolent civil rights movement of the 1960s. He was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who is said to have carried a copy of Thurman's book with him as he traveled the country working for racial equality. Rev. Thurman served as the first Dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University, and from 1953-65 as Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University. In the 1940s, he helped co-found the first major intentionally interracial and interdenominational church in the United States, San Francisco's

Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples.

The question Rev. Thurman addresses in *Jesus and the Disinherited* is "What does the religion of Jesus offer to those with their backs against the wall?" He begins the book with a story about a conversation with a Hindu man who challenged him to explain how he could promote Christianity in the face of all the oppression that has been, and continues to be, perpetrated by people who are Christian. The book describes Rev. Thurman's response; his thoughts are as relevant today as they were when the book was published in 1949

This year's Lent series will take place on Zoom due to ongoing COVID concerns. Please consult the weekly eVoice for further details, including exact times. The ACF team is hoping to make copies of the book available for purchase or loan.

Response to COVID – Where We Stand Now

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, here are the protocols now in place for all those attending services or otherwise entering our buildings:

- Anyone serving at the altar plus members of the Intercessory Prayer Team are asked to provide the Rector with proof of two shots of COVID Vaccine.
- For now, only the Bread will be offered at Communion. If you would like to receive Communion, please maintain distance as you come forward. Do not remove your mask to consume the Sacrament until you are back at your seat.
- Everyone should wear either a surgical mask or a (K)N95 mask covering their mouth and nose at all times when inside public parts of the buildings. Cloth masks alone have been shown to be inadequate in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Persons not in the same household/exposure bubble should maintain at least six feet of distance, including at the Communion rail. There should be no physical contact between persons not in the same household bubble.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to work to keep each other safe. Questions or concerns? Please reach out to Rev. D, and be sure to stay up to date on our latest COVID protocols via the weekly eVoice and Sunday bulletins.

Trinity Academy Update

In December, Trinity Academy was pleased to welcome family and friends for our reignition of



Cultural Night! This event

spotlighted each grade's research of places around

the world, with a focus on customs, traditions, food, and values. To best represent our student body, our first graders studied Thailand, our second graders the West Indies, our third graders Africa, and our fourth graders Haiti. Families "toured" these places by tasting authentic food, listening to traditional music, watching customary dances, and learning important facts. Families (and staff!) also brought in homemade dishes to share with everyone. A memorable night!

Trinity's Holiday Party was held later in December. Students participated in festive activity stations like holiday caroling, cookie decorating, arts and crafts, and pinatas. Gifts, generously donated by both Trinity Episcopal and Asylum Hill Congregational churches, were eagerly opened by students at the end of the party. Even Santa paid a visit!

Students started back to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 18, after concluding one week only of online learning. Thanks to the City of Hartford, Trinity Academy was able to secure 40 at-home COVID-19 test kits for its students, to help ensure the safety of the return to school.

– Allison Bernhard, Principal

Book Group To Discuss Tale of Father/Son Journey

Trinity's Book Group – open to all – will discuss *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and an Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn at its meeting on March 4. The author teaches a college course at Bard College on *The Odyssey*. The book begins with his father sitting in on his course and tells of their exploring the story together, first in the classroom and then on a ship retracing Odysseus' voyage. They also grapple with their own relationship, which deepens as they come to understand each other better.

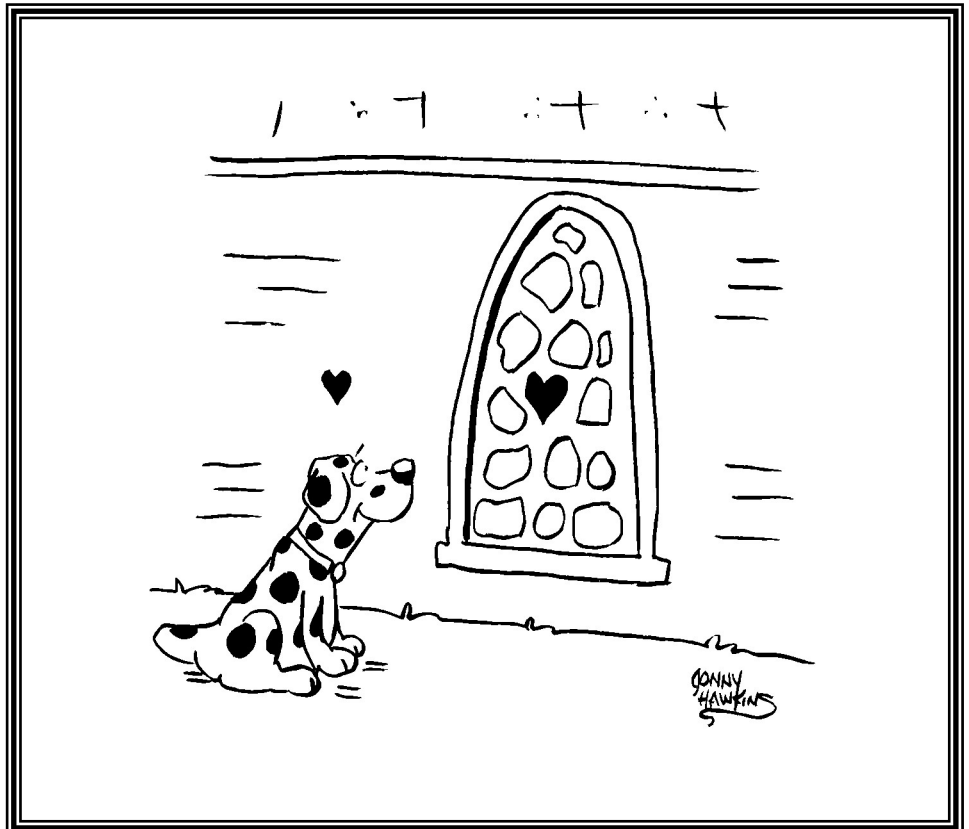
Book Group will meet on Friday, March 4, 7-9 p.m., at the home of Jon Reik in Farmington. Please contact him at jonr720@aol.com if you plan to attend. All are welcome, on a one-time basis or for every Book Group meeting!

A New Flag - Continued from Page 4

people use. When everyone in a space shares their pronouns, it can create a more comfortable environment for all gender identities, without singling out those whose correct pronouns may not be obvious. It also allows everyone to be addressed and referred to in ways that align with their identity, thus affirming their dignity. Some of us may already be familiar and comfortable with this practice, while it may be more of a struggle for others of us.

My prayer is that as a community, we will have grace with each other and ourselves as we grow into this practice. If you have questions or would like to talk more about it, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

– Rev. D.



Coming Up! Music Events in February and March

As we continue monitoring COVID and crossing our fingers that the infection rates quickly subside, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of safe ways to share our faith and community through music. All the following events are subject to change based on future COVID situations, of course, but for now, we hope to offer them as described below.

Sunday, February 6, 9:00 p.m. *Epiphany Compline*

Six professional vocalists sing works by Chesnokov, Sigurbjörnsson, Trotta, Hogan, and Victoria in this ancient, late-night service. The sanctuary will be darkened and filled with dozens of candles as we observe this short, meditative service of sung prayer. This month's ensemble will feature the voices of Alice Matteson, Allison Holst-Grubbe, Benjamin Rauch, Jack Pott, Jermaine Woodard Jr., and Luke Scott. Join us for this uniquely intimate spiritual experience. Previous services of Compline are viewable on the church's YouTube channel.

Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m. *Ash Wednesday evening service*

This service of Holy Eucharist with sermon will be a traditional service of ashes and remembrance, featuring special choral and instrumental music. The service will be in-person and livestreamed via YouTube.

(Note that there will also be an in-person-only Ash Wednesday service of Holy Eucharist with sermon at 12 noon on March 2)

Sunday, March 6, 9:00 p.m. *Lent Compline*

Repertoire and ensemble TBD

Sunday, March 27, 5:00 p.m. at the Trinity College Chapel *Chorister Evensong*

This service of Evensong will feature The Choir School of Hartford singing with other treble/RSCM choirs from First Church of Christ (Newington), St. John's Episcopal Church (West Hartford) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Fairfield). The service will feature choral works by Howells, McDonald, Plumstead, and Mendelssohn, and will be accompanied by Zachary Schurman on organ. The chapel is located on the Trinity College campus at 300 Summit Street in Hartford.

– Michelle Horsley
Director of Music Ministries



Daylight Saving Time for 2022 begins on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, or you'll be late for church on Sunday!!

News from Five Talents

Five Talents is a micro-enterprise development organization that helps the world's most vulnerable families escape poverty; the organization has been part of our parish Faith in Action ministry.

With the New Year comes some exciting updates from Five Talents! Working alongside our partner, the Mother's Union, we are expanding to two new areas, Mombasa (Kenya) and Rwanda. We see God's faithfulness every day as we hear countless stories of hope from the women and men we partner with and serve.

In Bolivia, program directors Sara and Eva Mamani have come up with innovative ways to continue supporting Savings Groups members even as in-person meetings remain impossible due to health and safety protocols. When the pandemic started, people could only leave their houses once a week and many lost their jobs. Savings Group members needed new ways to provide for their families. Sara and Eva developed a curriculum called the *7 Steps to Financial Health*, with steps like "Seek God's purpose in your life" and "Don't depend on a single source of income." Biblical themes with practical scripture references encouraged participants to think outside the box. Sara and Eva even created a digital version of the program accessible via text message and YouTube.

One program participant, Teresa, had to close her shoe store when the pandemic hit. She set up a

News from the Trinity Community for Racial Justice

2021 was a busy year for the TCRJ. Highlights included:

- Partnering with Adult Christian Formation to present a forum led by the Hartford based Open Communities Alliance on the systemic impacts of housing inequity in Connecticut
- Contemplatively sharing the beauty of Hartford's racial justice murals together
- Updating our web page on the Trinity site with educational topics relating to racial injustice in our community
- Working together with team members from the parish on Trinity's history of complicity with racism since its founding in 1859 (to answer the requirement of all CT parishes expressed in Resolution 7 of the ECCT annual convention)

Have Something To Tell the Trinity Community?

If you have information that you would like to have passed along to the Trinity community and/or the wider world of the Web, you can send it in for publication in the appropriate one (or more) of our parish communication tools:

Information for the **weekly eVoice electronic newsletter** should be sent to Barbara Roos at office@trinityhartford.org. Material must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday for publication that week; announcements received after the deadline will be held for the following week's edition.

2022 promises to be a year full of more exciting opportunities for all parish members to faithfully remain involved in the fight for racial justice. Some of the tentative plans for 2022 include attending a CT Forum together in February about the fight for racial justice (see article on Page 2), planning a pilgrimage to sites in Connecticut important to this history, and completing our history project.

Interested in learning more? Please watch the eVoice and parish bulletins as well as *The Voice* for details about our 2022 work, or contact a member of our TCRJ team:

Rev. D. Littlepage
Martha Freimuth
Cathy Rowe
Kitty Peterson
Suzanne Blancaflor
Heather Kramer

Articles for our bi-monthly publication, **The Voice**, (which is what you're reading right now) should be sent to voice@trinityhartford.org. The deadline for each issue is listed in the previous edition, and can be found in the Sunday bulletin.

George Chien, who got our eVoice up and running, is now working on building and refining our on-line presence. If you have information that should be considered for addition to our **website**, please contact George at chienga@sbcglobal.net.

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small grocery store in front of her home and sold produce.

Customers were scarce at first until she applied Step 4 of Sara and Eva's program: "Ask God for a new idea," and figured out that she could go door to door and sell directly to her neighbors. Her business and profits grew.

Teresa says, "First pray, and then God will do His work to bless you, He is the one who gives wisdom, energy, clients, everything; depending on Him is the best that we can do."

– Sarah Herndon,
Five Talents



Adult Choir Currently On COVID-19 Hiatus

As is the case with the choirs of so many other churches right now, Trinity's Adult Choir is on a temporary hiatus until COVID-19 rates subside significantly.

During this time, we are happy to be able to offer small-ensemble vocal leadership for our Sunday services. Each Sunday, a group of 3-8 singers will (safely!) provide music ministry while we continue to weather the Omicron surge. All singers are welcome to be a part of these small-ensemble opportunities! If you are interested in participating, please contact Michelle Horsley, our Director of Music Ministries, at mhorsley@trinityhartford.org.

Notes from the December and January Vestry Meetings

December Meeting

The Trinity Vestry held its December meeting by Zoom on the 21st. The meeting started with devotions led by Kitty Peterson, who read two excerpts from “The Cosmic Dance” by Joyce Rupp and shared a YouTube video of a choir singing the folk song “Peace I Ask of Thee, O River.”

Rev. D. invited Vestry members to share how they were doing. As you might expect a few days before Christmas in the midst of a resurgent pandemic, the responses represented a range – from concerns regarding challenges to gratitude for blessings.

The first order of business was approving the minutes of the prior meeting, which was done.

Rector’s Report: Rev. D’s Rector’s Report started with expressing appreciation to:

- Michelle Horsley, choir members and others who helped to organize and present the Blue Christmas and Lessons and Carols services, which were beautiful and spiritually uplifting.
- Casey Rousseau and Jake Troiano, our Virtual Vergers, who have repositioned the cameras used to broadcast services so that they no longer block the center aisle.
- Suzanne Blancaflor, who assisted Rev. D. in leading an Advent Quiet Day on December 3. Six people attended and found it a helpful way to start Advent.

She also reported on:

- Benefits and growing pains of sharing Parish House space with IRIS.
- The break-in and overnight stay of a homeless person that were resolved with no charges pressed and lessons learned about improvements that were needed in the security system.
- Trinity Academy’s return to hosting in-person classes and efforts to provide supplemental emotional and practical support for students and their families. D. has a bi-weekly meeting with TA leadership. Donna Colliton is no longer with the school as Head of Development.

COVID Discussion: In light of sobering statistics on infections and hospitalizations, should the church change any of its current practices? Some local churches had announced that they would not hold in-person Christmas services this year. What should Trinity do?

There was a general discussion on this topic without any motions or votes. The consensus of the group was as follows:

- Trinity should continue to offer services both in-person and electronically.
- We should look for ways to reduce exposures associated with in-person worship. Various suggestions were offered regarding potential changes to communion distribution, choir, acolytes,

refreshments, and adult forums.

- Rev. D. will follow up with those responsible for each of these areas to finalize the needed changes.
- One recommendation raised by medical professionals on the Vestry deserves to be highlighted here. They said that most cloth masks provide only weak protection against the Omicron variant and urged those attending worship in-person to wear a surgical mask or N95/KN95 mask.

Budget Update: Casey reported that we do not yet have enough information to start finalizing the budget for 2022. Many pledges are still outstanding and there are open questions about some potential capital repairs. The 2022 budget will be a major focus of the January Vestry meeting.

Rev. D., Casey and Jake will be following up with parishioners who have not yet indicated a pledge for 2022. This was discussed in the November Vestry meeting as being a task for Rev. D. and the Executive Committee, but it was later pointed out that the Rector, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are normally the only church members who know which church members pledge and for how much.

Bishop Transition Update: Marsha McCurdy Adell reported that applications for our next diocesan bishop closed on

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Vestry Notes for December and January - Continued from Page 9

December 15. Those wanting to know more can go online to “CTBishopSearch.com”.

The meeting concluded with “A Night Prayer” from the New Zealand Prayer Book. The next scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be January 18.

January Meeting

The Trinity Vestry held its January meeting by Zoom on the 18th. The meeting started with devotions led by Rev. D. She shared a recording of Mahalia Jackson singing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.”

The Vestry members then split into pairs for Relational Meetings to build understanding of each other’s experiences and values.

The first order of business was approving the minutes of the prior meeting, which was done.

Rector’s Report:

- Rev. D. expressed concern about reduced participation in worship services. In-person attendance is down for the very understandable reasons of Omicron and winter weather. However, online attendance has not increased as much as in-person attendance has decreased. For some people, online services may be difficult to access or may not be satisfying. We need to consider new ways to reach out to our members, starting with a calling tree to touch base with members and make sure people are OK. Rev. D. will follow up with Vestry

members to get the calling tree organized and launched.

- Rev. D. has discussed with Lily Miller, the Quadrant Liaison for Outreach/Faith in Action, a potential restructuring of the responsibilities of that Quadrant. Currently, the group spends much of its time allocating available parish funds to worthy external ministries. The proposed change is to create an Outreach Disbursement Committee of three to five people which would report to the Vestry and include at least one Vestry member. That committee would manage the disbursement of Outreach funds, freeing up the current Outreach/Faith in Action team members to focus on ways other than monetary donations that Trinity can further God’s mission in the world. The Vestry passed a motion authorizing Rev. D. to appoint three to five people to serve on this new Disbursement Committee. Heather Kramer volunteered to be the committee’s Vestry representative .

Budget Discussion: The Budget Discussion began with a review of a Capital Budget request from the Property Committee. Vinnie Pacileo joined this discussion to answer questions about the request. The request does not include the cost to repair the Parish House chimneys, pending quotes that will be available in

February. A preliminary estimate on the chimneys was \$50,000, but it may be possible to postpone work on at least one of them.

The 2022 Capital Budget request, which does not include the chimneys, totals \$112,300. Vinnie explained that the proposed list of projects represents the high-priority items from a longer list of potential projects that totaled \$250,000.

Next, Casey Rousseau, in his role as Treasurer, walked the Vestry through a draft 2022 Operating Budget. The budget includes a draw of \$50,000 from the parish endowment and projects a shortfall of \$91,000. He pointed out that some elements of the budget are placeholder numbers and that better information will be available in a month or two.

Casey reported that the current market value of Trinity’s endowment funds is approximately \$1.2 million. The diocesan guideline for endowment draws is 5%, which would be \$60,000. It appears, however, that Trinity will need to draw significantly more than this amount in 2022, primarily to fund the Capital Budget. It is allowable under diocesan guidelines to draw beyond 5% for capital expenses. However, for many Vestry members, the prospect of spending down a share of the endowment is an uncomfortable return to a situation that is not sustainable on a long-term basis. After many years of spending down its

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Vestry Notes

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endowment, in the past several years Trinity Church finances had reached a sustainable equilibrium. However, the pandemic has hurt pledge income just as issues with deferred building maintenance are needing to be addressed.

After a thorough and collegial discussion, the Vestry agreed to the following:

- The Draft Operating Budget for 2022 was approved on a provisional basis, to be reviewed and adjusted no later than the end of March.
- The Treasurer was authorized to draw up to \$150,000 from the endowment over the course of 2022. This is understood to be \$50,000 in support of the Operating Budget and \$100,000 in support of the Capital Budget.
- There was no specific motion on this point, but Vestry members expressed an awareness that the church needs to be returned to a state of long-term financial sustainability. The first step likely needs to be increasing pledge income.

Bishop Transition Update:

Marsha McCurdy Adell reported excitement and hope about the process.

The meeting concluded with “A Night Prayer” from the New Zealand Prayer Book. The next scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be February 15.

– Mark MacGougan

Birthdays of the Month



If you have a February or March birthday not listed below, contact Barbara Roos in the parish office at 860-527-8133, Ext. 204, or office@trinityhartford.org so she can add your special day to our parish records.

February

Liz Kirkpatrick	2
Dinaka Onoh	6
Olivia Mogor	8
Pete Troiano	11
Elaine Weber	11
Ginny Catanzaro	12
Zoe Grace Adell	13
Morgan Sage Adell	13
Judy Miller	13
Arianny Lora	18
Marc Miller	18
Ruth Rose	19
Althea Francis	25
Mary Register	25
Jane Reik	25
Laquisha Springer	26
Alice Turcotte	26
Austin Mogor	27
Katie Reynolds	27
Andrew LaCroix	27
Alison LaCroix	27

March

Julio Flores	1
Alan Rice	6
Kate Rousseau	6
Elizabeth Rousseau	6
Claire Blissett	14
Karin Peterson	16
Anju Mathew	17
Frances Sloan	18
Kristina Peterson	19
Molly Miller	20
Emily Troiano	21
Emily LaCroix	21
Alan Cheyney	22
Winston Rose	23
Nancy Crandall	23
Jennifer Stephens	24
Franklin Mogor	25
Marion Henderson	26
Victor Troiano	27
Jim Bradley	28
Margaret Daniel	28
Emily Estes	28



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