



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TOLEDO, OHIO • TRINITYTOLEDO.ORG

A large, faint, circular stained glass window design serves as the background. It features various colored segments in shades of teal, pink, purple, and yellow, separated by dark grey lead lines. The design is partially obscured by the text.

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Welcome Home!

The 2023 Annual Report offers pictures and words capturing moments of another year of ministry and life together. And what a year it was, as we bid farewell and godspeed to our rector of the last six years, The Right Reverend Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray.

During Lisa's tenure, the congregation grew numerically and in spirit, longstanding deferred building maintenance was addressed, and Trinity's plaza was completed – offering outdoor space that has the potential for community engagement and ministry. Our worship and music continued to inspire and delight us, culminating in the visitation of our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Anne Jolly.

With our rector's departure, we entered a new phase of this historic parish's life – a life that stretches back over 180 years in downtown Toledo. Through the decades, Trinity's ministries have adjusted as its clergy and people responded to changing times, listening always for God's voice amid all the other voices that clamor for our attention.

Like Jesus' first disciples, we are learning to trust in God through Christ. Like them, we find ourselves filled with the Holy Spirit – a forgiven, joy-filled community. Every week we gain renewed strength

from “the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.” We dare to hope that others will see the light of God's love shine in and through us.

We find ourselves excited and challenged by what lies ahead for Trinity. As the parish Search Committee begins its work in earnest, we look forward to engaging with the tasks of transition: reflecting on who we have been, who are our neighbors, and where is God out in front of us, calling us to serve.

With gratitude to those whose past generosity continues to bless God's work, and to those who continue to give, serve, and pray for the kingdom to come in our midst, we hope that the words and pictures of this report convey something of the essence of this progressive, inclusive, creative community of faith. May we continue to be faithful members of the Body of Christ from our stunningly beautiful church here in downtown Toledo.

Minutes of the 180th Annual Meeting

Trinity Episcopal Church, Toledo, Ohio

Sunday, January 29, 2023

11:31 am – Call to order by The Rev. Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray.

- The presence of a quorum was confirmed by visual inspection (38 people attending) and Leah Reed was appointed clerk for the meeting.
- Minutes of the January 30, 2022 meeting approved as presented.
- Vestry member Donna Steppe offered thanks to members completing their term: Jeffrey Albright, Leah Reed, and Jamie Paul.
- Karen Keune presented Vestry approved slate (2023-2025) with the following members: Jeffrey Albright, Leah Reed, and Jamie Paul.
- Jeffrey Albright, Leah Reed, and Jamie Paul were each elected to serve another consecutive 3-year term on Vestry by acclamation.
- Gary Franklin presented the 2022 Annual Report for approval. Motion carried by verbal consent.
- Jeffrey Albright, Junior Warden, gave remarks about the importance of community at Trinity.
- Lisa thanked Deacon Meribah Mansfield and Retired Reverend Robert Gahler for their help in ministry.
- Lisa thanked staff members Heather Meyer, Grace Mauk, George Benson, Chelsie Cree, Melissa Toth, Bradley Baker, Tajj Crowder, and Kim Buehler for their faithful service.
- Lisa gave remarks about the progress of Trinity's ministry, including welcoming over 140 new members in the last three years and new programming Trinity is offering to create community and advocate for social justice. Lisa gave updates on building maintenance.
- Lisa reviewed the 2030 Vision and reinforced its importance in guiding the work we do as a church.
- Lisa led a closing prayer and blessing.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:53 by Lisa.

Respectfully submitted, Leah Reed, appointed clerk.

Summary of Vestry Activities

The year 2023 has been one of transition, growth, and accomplishment for Trinity Toledo. Vestry, alongside our Rector, the Rev. Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray, has realized the fruits of much labor and the achievement of multiple goals. Additionally, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate, Trinity's Interim Rector has stepped in to help us carry on and continue to live into our established vision through the nourishing of our roots and creation of sustainable goals for the transitional period ahead, as we prayerfully await our new Rector. To follow are the highlights of Vestry Actions from 2023:

- Annual Meeting
 - Budget Report
- All-vestry, in-person retreat at Trinity Toledo
 - Committee selection (Vision, Finance, Property)
 - Leah Reed-Daily stepped away from the position of Vestry Clerk
 - Karen Keune stepped into the position of Vestry Clerk
- Approval of the 2022 Parochial Report.
- Spiritual formation and community engagement throughout 2023:
 - Film Series
 - Concert Series
 - Wednesday Eucharist
 - Pastoral Care Services
 - Toledo Streets Newspaper
 - Food for Thought
 - GUPPS
 - Baptism, Reception, and Confirmation classes restarted
- Agreed-Upon-Procedures engagement proposal prepared by Mosley, Glick, O'Brien, Inc., Certified Public Accounting firm for FY 2022, received and approved.
- The remaining funds from Next to New (\$2,983.02) and the visioning fund (\$22,231.67) were approved for transfer back into Capital Reserve funds.
- Approval of Capital Reserve expenses for completion of St. Mark's Chapel in the amount of \$25,000.00 in addition to other property expenditures totaling \$14,704.00(2/2023).
- Received, moved, and approved the request for Rev. Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray's resignation.
- Celebrated the tenure of Rev. Dr. Lisa-Tucker Gray and family at Trinity Toledo.
- Approved the selection of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate, as interim rector.
- Delegates selected and approved for the 2023 Convention.
- Approved spending policy for the 2024 operational budget.
- Selected and approved Annual Pledge drive committee chairs and Vestry mentor, with an aggressive goal (\$200,000.00 and 90 pledging families) for 2024.
- The Rector Search Committee was selected and approved, along with a budget (\$5,000.00) for the search process.
- Received and approved a revised contract for services with PostCo for 2024.
- Received and approved the submission of Community Engagement Grant through the Diocese for the re-initiation of the community breakfast for 2024. Requested \$5,000.00 in grant proposal, receipt of an anonymous \$5,000.00 match received.
- Approval of funds drawn from KeyBank line of credit in the amount of \$596,000.00 (as of 12/13/23) for the completion of entire Plaza restoration.

Accomplishments:

- Plaza completion
- St. Mark's Chapel completion



Interim Rector's Message

Dear Friends,

This could hardly be called my annual report since I have only served as your Interim Rector during the fourth quarter of 2023.

Intentional interim clergy like me arrive in congregations during the transition from one rector to the next. Such times are often unsettling for parishioners since the relationship with one familiar priest ends, and the arrival of a new rector is typically many months away.

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray ended her tenure in mid-September to accept a new position with the Church Pension Group. With her departure, Trinity entered a liminal space – the time between where you've been and where you're going. The Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote a prayer that sums up what such a time feels like. The prayer begins, "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end." Indeed, the members of Trinity cannot know for certain where the road to the next rector will end! What we do know is that God journeys with us just as God journeyed with the Israelites during their forty years in the wilderness.

If I can't tell you where the road will end, I can report that the journey has begun. Your Wardens and Vestry have appointed the Search Committee, given them their "charge" – what the expectations are for their work – and established a budget to fund their ministry. Members of the Search Committee are Gail Abood, Mary Beroske, Angie Carriker, Mark Dubielak, LaVonda Jossett, Karen Keune (chair), Allen Santiago, and Sue Smitley.

They will solicit input from the congregation, write a parish profile to be shared with prospective candidates, vet the candidates and, ultimately, nominate one priest for election as rector. Because The Episcopal Church is not a congregational church, the choice is not made by the vote of the members. Rather, the Wardens and Vestry act as the membership's representatives in issuing the call.

Rector transitions emphasize spiritual calls in the Episcopal tradition. The congregation, the Search Committee, and the Vestry all listen for God's call about the future of the parish and constantly ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance before calling a rector. Candidates also listen for God's call about whether they should stay where they are or accept the possibility of a call from a different parish looking for new spiritual leadership.

While the search and discernment work are going on, the usual life of Trinity continues. We gather for worship each Sunday (and now at noon on Wednesdays as well). We offer pastoral care, baptize new Christians, and commend our siblings into God's care when their lives end. We provide lunch for Toledo Streets Newspaper vendors, host Food for Thought's mobile food pantry and other helping organizations once a month in our sanctuary, and, in February, we'll start serving a community breakfast again twice a month. We continue to seek new ways to be Christ's hands and heart in downtown Toledo.

Thank you for welcoming me during this very special time in the life of Trinity. I look forward to continuing to build the partnership between clergy and laity – a partnership that is foundational to the kind of church Jesus calls us to be – one where we are all ministers. Please know that I pray daily for our common life and for the priest who will be Trinity's next rector. Whoever that person turns out to be, they will be blessed by this progressive, inclusive and creative community.

Faithfully,

Stephen

The Reverend Dr. Stephen H. Applegate
Interim Rector

Wardens' Message

Dear Trinity Community,

It is always amazing how fast the year seems to pass by us. And yet here we are counting down the last few days of 2023.

As we take a moment to look back over the past year, we find that it was filled with many opportunities to build community. There were pop-up dinners, a chili cook-off, a bake-off, and 4th of July fireworks on our fully restored Trinity Plaza. In celebration of Toledo Pride, we held a cookout on the plaza, opened our building for hospitality during the parade, and staffed a booth at Promenade Park. Advent brought wreath-making, the 7Cs (Cookies, Cocoa, Coffee, Carols, Chili, Cards, and Camaraderie!), and a small group discussion on the Advent Way of Love. We also offered a Blue Christmas service. These are just a few examples of how we built community this year.

As we know, our community also entered a time of transition at the end of July when our rector, Lisa Tucker-Gray submitted her letter of resignation because she felt that God was calling her to follow a new path on her life journey. In September, we celebrated our shared ministry together and said our goodbyes during one last Sunday worship service together. We began our own next journey as a faith community - a journey to finding a new rector for Trinity.

In October, we welcomed the Reverend Doctor Stephen Applegate as our interim rector. We recently commissioned our search committee, and they are beginning work with our search consultant. In January, we will have parish meetings to gather information about our community's gifts, needs, and hopes for the future.

Your vestry continues to work hard at evaluating and prioritizing the needs of our building and grounds. We also continue to look at the needs of our community and the broader Toledo community. We want to thank everyone for helping make 2023 a successful year of coming together to build community, worship, sing, and break bread together.

Our deepest thank you to all in this faith community for keeping the ties that bind.

With much love and appreciation,

Donna Jeffrey

Donna and Jeffrey



DONNA STEPPE
SENIOR WARDEN

JEFFREY ALBRIGHT
JUNIOR WARDEN

We want to thank everyone for helping make 2023 a successful year of coming together.



Worship

Honor, reverence, adoration, love – these are all words that have been used to describe what we mean by worship. To these words, the experience of worship at Trinity adds another – joyful! How blessed the parish is to have talented and committed musicians – led by Chelsie Cree and Grace Mauk – guiding and enhancing the experience! Their backgrounds and curiosity mean that we sing everything from traditional hymns, to gospel, to show tunes – yes, show tunes!

In addition to our musicians, members of the worship team – Altar guild, eucharistic ministers, lectors, intercessors, greeters, ushers, and sound technicians make our Sunday in-person services – known as Trinity@316 – a collaboration that benefits from the gifts and talents of many. Many people deserve individual recognition, but three volunteers – all retirees – warrant special mention: Father Robert Gahler, who fills in whenever he is needed, Deacon Meribah Mansfield, who is faithfully present nearly every Sunday, and Ken Stoops, a gifted organist who moved to Toledo from Florida and who has blessed us from time to time with his playing.

Trinity@Home, our online worship offering, continued through 2023. The service premieres every Sunday at 9:00 AM and is available to view throughout the week. Many have said that they found Trinity during the pandemic because of Trinity@Home. It is essential that Trinity maintain an online worship presence.

An analysis of the viewership and a careful look at the production costs for the weekly online service has resulted in the decision to move from a fully-produced video to live broadcasting our Trinity@316 services. The transition to livestreaming has been underway since the beginning of December. New equipment, including cameras and a video mixer, will soon be in place. And a new ministry – that of Digital Ministry – will give parishioners with technical ability the chance to participate.

In this change, Trinity is following many other parishes in moving from a pre-recorded format to a live one. After the Sunday service has been livestreamed, it will continue to be available for viewing on the church's Facebook page.





Honor, reverence, adoration, love – these are all words that have been used to describe what we mean by worship.

Music and the Arts

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

We believe that God can be found anywhere in music, and genre does not dictate what is holy. Living into being “both-and” people, we cover many musical genres during worship services, including, but not limited to: classical, hymnody, Broadway, LEVAS, The Hymnal 1982, Christian Contemporary music, gospel, bluegrass, jazz, and more. More parishioners have offered to come forward to play, including Merwin Siu, the principal second violinist with the Toledo Symphony; and Ken Stoops, a highly accomplished organist. We also engaged with many instrumentalists over the summer season, including Anthony Marchese on cello, Carter Adams on organ, Teresa Disbrow on clarinet, and Will Schneider on horn. Not to mention our wonderful, incredibly talented choir.

CHOIR: A LIFE OF THEIR OWN

Choir continues to be a thriving ministry in Trinity’s tapestry. Just when we think the choir is done growing, we seem to find more voices to come and join! Overall, choir participation has increased this year, making weekly attendance anywhere from 20 to 25 people on average. The choir is also expanding in generations, ages 12 to 70.

Writing to you as the director, it delights me to say that the choir has taken on a life of its own. The choir as a community is self-feeding, splitting off into many small group activities, and forging good friendships. For example, our end of the year choir party in June resulted in people wanting to get together sooner than the beginning of the next choir season in September, so they planned their own get together in July. Other outings have included: seeing the Fisk Jubilee Singers in Fremont, supporting section leader Melissa Toth; and Trinity

It is a privilege and gift to serve in this place and to share in this time and space with staff, leadership and the congregation.

member Phil Skeldon in Jekyll and Hyde at the Crowell Opera House; seeing The Prom at the Crowell, vocal directed by Chelsie Cree; supporting choir member Kai Siu with his debut performance with the Toledo Youth Orchestra; and collaborating with Bradley Baker to offer two church wide events - the Chili Cook-Off in May, and Sailing the 7 C’s in December. Truly, these are only the things that made it to my desk. I know they often attend concerts together and plan wonderful activities. They take care of each other in a way that truly expresses God’s unending love.

MUSIC PERSONNEL

Our Trinity Section Leaders (previously known as Choral Scholars) have made a splash again in the music department. This year, the section leaders, Bradley Baker, Melissa Toth, Kim Buehler, and Taji Crowder, added their skills to the worship experience through both their excellent singing and their teaching prowess in the choir itself. Our musicians are highly involved in the fabric of our community and attend our parties and celebrations every chance they get. This year, we did say goodbye to Taji Crowder as he moved on to other opportunities. And while Trinity is on the hunt for a new tenor section leader, the choir does continue to thrive. We are also incredibly thankful to Brian Buckner for continuing as the Trinity@Home accompanist and filling the online worship service with breathtaking music. And, of course, to Grace Mauk, our Assistant Director of Music and The Arts for her insight, heart, and immense skill in all things keyboard and music.

Speaking of music personnel, the music team worked diligently to ensure a proper send-off for our beloved rector, The Rev. Dr. Lisa Tucker-Gray. A full half-hour of music prior to the beginning of the service honored her gifts to us as a ministry, as she championed the arts and music especially. It was a great honor to have the equivalent of a Christmas Eve service in September for her. We were delighted to have over 200 people in the church that day, with 40 in the choir alone.

INTERNAL MUSIC OFFERINGS

Throughout the year, Trinity offered plenty of internal music opportunities. The Ukulele Choir returned during Eastertide; and Joanna Whaley gave an excellent concert speaking on her experience as a transwoman in the church. Trinity also offered a Wednesday night concert series during Lent. Five Wednesday evenings were dedicated to different music, including: local artists The Will Schneider Trio, Toledo School for the Arts Glass City Steel (a steel drum group), Jeff Stewart, Carter Adams on the organ, and ending with a fabulous Broadway Night with our section leaders and Brian Buckner.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Trinity joyfully opened its heart (and doors) to multiple groups in the area to use our space to create. Actors Collaborative Toledo, or ACT, continues to be a great building partner, offering multiple small theatre shows a year, with at least 50 people in attendance. Toledo Alliance for the Performing Arts, or TAPA, held their annual Concerto Competition Winners concert, where the concert was split in to two sections: the first in small groups around the church, and the second all together in the Sanctuary watching the competition winners play their pieces with the Toledo Symphony. We also hosted a new group, the Northwest Ohio Vocal Arts ensemble, or NOVA, for their debut concert, which has led to future engagements with the group after successful filling the sanctuary with over 170 people in attendance. Masterworks Chorale, a local choral group, held their 50th Anniversary Concert and celebration in our building during June with over 200 people total. Issue Box Theater, a group of entirely volunteer theatre creators, held multiple listening sessions in our space in preparation for “Suitcases,” a musical based on the complicated and important issue of mental health.

THE ARTS

Trinity moved forward in creating more opportunities for the Arts, separate from the performing Arts, for which we are well versed. Joan Nowak, Trinity member and artist, created multiple works for Sheila Otto’s sermons given in the summer. Advent wreath making was a fabulous time of intentional spiritual crafting, led by Heather Meyer, also resident photographer. And finally, Trinity created #FlatJesus as a social media-based offering to stay connected through everyone’s summer travels. #FlatJesus travelled worldwide, and still hangs on many of our doors.

NEW SPACES

This year, we finished work on our newly designed chapel and the work on the plaza has been completed. Trinity is excited to use both in future Music and Arts offerings in the church.

Community Engagement

During 2023, Trinity members have shown up in droves to be the hands, feet, and heart of God's love in our corner of the Kingdom of Heaven. We not only have maintained great relationships with our previous years' community partners, but we have also been fortunate enough to welcome new partners with open arms.

TOLEDO STREETS NEWSPAPER

On the third Thursday of every month between 4-8 volunteers gather in the Trinity kitchen to make lunch for some of the hardest working people in Toledo. The TSN Vendor Lunch continues to be a staple of our community engagement and has only grown in the past year. Each month we prepare and deliver 30+ lunches, but with a twist. This year we started offering at least one meat and one vegan/vegetarian option because we're not just offering food, but dignity as well. We are also entering the second year of our three-year financial commitment with TSN.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION

In June, after a gun violence awareness service lead by Deacon Meribah, we started partnering with MDA. We have boldly marched with, hosted meetings for, and showed up to support MDA. From these meetings, Deacon Meribah and other faith leaders formed the Multi-Faith Coalition Against Gun Violence in 2023. In October, Trinity served as host to over 80 attendees for a forum with legislative and city leaders.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT MOBILE PANTRY

On the fourth Tuesday of the month, volunteers from Trinity gather from 9:30 – 12:15 to set up and tear down the mobile food pantry that Food for Thought provides. Begun in April of 2022, it has flourished due to the ongoing needs of those living downtown and ending of federal COVID funds. In January we moved the mobile pantry to the Sanctuary, which has been a welcome change for our guests and volunteers.

LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In January, Trinity staff met with the health department for an update on the opioid epidemic in Northwest Ohio and to receive NARCAN training. At the same time, we invited the health department to join us for the monthly food pantry to provide onsite NARCAN training as well as their Northwest Ohio Syringe Services (NOSS). Since we started training our food pantry guests on NARCAN, Trinity has assisted in almost 20 fatal overdose reversals, trained almost 90 people in how to



administer NARCAN, and distributed almost 200 packs of NARCAN. This community partnership has been one of the most practical and important ways we have been Jesus to others in 2023.

CARESOURCE

Each month a representative is available to help others navigate their medical coverage.

JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES

Our newest addition to wrap-around services joined us in September 2023. Every month, our representative helps people find new ways to work through what is going on in their lives.

TOLEDO PRIDE

A new record and standard was set for Pride this year thanks to the many volunteers who showed up early and often to expand Trinity Loves Love. A free, community family cook-out on our newly renovated plaza kicked off August's Pride Weekend, complete with drag queen story hour, Princesses Elsa and Moana, face painting, dance party, and general merriment. Adorned on this year's t-shirts "Protect Trans Kids"; we welcomed over 1,000 people through our doors either at the cook-out, during the Saturday parade for bathrooms and cooling stations, or at the Trinity booth in Promenade Park. The tradition continued of handing out cold water bottles to parade participants and watchers. A huge thank you to Angie Carriker for co-chairing, and to Donna Steppe, Jolene Miller, LaVonda Josett, Kimberly Kefalas-Siu, Rebecca Facey, and Chelsie Cree for all the hard work they did coordinating volunteers.

EQUALITY TOLEDO

In 2023, we strengthened our relationship with our friends at Equality Toledo. Trinity provided meeting space for their “Make Noise Monday” discussions of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, calling Ohio representatives and creating protest signs for future needs.

SOLACE HEALTH & WELLNESS

We began our partnership with a local reproductive and health care justice non-profit to protect LGBTQIA+ youth. Once a month we open our doors to the parents of LGBTQIA+ youth for a time of parental support and conversation.

DOWNTOWN TOLEDO FIREWORKS

For the first time in decades, Trinity friends and family took over the ENTIRE renovated plaza for fellowship, food and games while waiting for dusk to settle for annual fireworks. Over 80 joined in for the perfect summer evening while Ashley Lovegood crooned.

LEADERSHIP TOLEDO

Our ministry partner and third floor building partner, Leadership Toledo, is continuing to make an impact in so many ways. Their Signature Program, Community Leadership Series, YiPEE and Youth Leadership Toledo are in full swing in addition to introducing Focus 419. Several times a month, LT groups gather in our building for team building meetings. Trinity and LT have returned to our once-a-quarter lunch-and-learn time to grow our connections and support in our ministries.

ACTORS COLLABORATIVE TOLEDO

Our building partner ACT continues to bring high-quality performances to Trinity and the rest of Toledo. This year “Winter Rain: Six Images of Thomas Merton”, “On the Exhale” (which received acting and directing awards), and “American Hero” were performed at Trinity. In 2024 the plays “The Mountaintop”, “Wakey, Wakey”, and “Tiny Beautiful Things” are already scheduled to be performed at Trinity.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The daily noon AA Meeting at Trinity celebrated its 32nd anniversary this year. We are grateful to be able to offer safe space for this crucial community resource and for the volunteer leadership of Ray.



Trinity members have shown up in droves to be the hands, feet, and heart of God's love.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is what used to be known as “Christian Education.” The now-more-commonly used term recognizes that we continue to be “formed” as disciples of Jesus of Nazareth. Forming disciples happens in many ways at Trinity – through worshiping together as the Body of Christ on Sundays, through study and discussion, and through fellowship and prayer. At Trinity, we continued to challenge our assumptions, learn about implicit bias, and engage with new and different perspectives than our own.

Here are some specific ways we grew our faith in the past year:

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

Throughout the past year, the group read a number of books that challenged and stretched us. Then the group gathered online for a monthly discussion. Some of the books the group has read include: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, *Hello Beautiful*, *Demon Copperhead*, *Lessons in Chemistry*, *The Covenant of Water*, and *Our Missing Hearts*.

POP-UP DINNERS

As we continue to move towards intentional community, we brought back our famously attended dinners. Held at a different person's house, not to be repeated, these evenings provided opportunities for new and long-standing Trinity members to break bread over meaningful conversations.

FAITH AND FILM

Every Sunday evening during Lent, Priest Lisa led *Marching from Pain to Possibility – A Lenten Journey through the Wilderness of Woundedness*. Each week attendees would watch a short film that conveyed deep desires that are rooted in wounds and pain. Taking example from the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, people explored spiritual practices to examine their wounds of self and others, in hopes to bring about healing and peace.

EPISCOPAL 101

In preparation for Bishop Anne's visitation at the end of October, a one-day intensive class about the history, polity, worship, and theology of the Episcopal Church was offered.



MONTHLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Rick's City Diner is the gathering place for the Men's Bible Study. Jason Rahe leads the group in discussing lectionary-based passages from Holy Scripture. Many deep friendships are formed as conversation flows right along with the coffee. This growing group welcomes new participants. Previous knowledge of the Bible is not required.

LIVING THE WAY OF LOVE THROUGH ADVENT

This group, led by Jolene Miller and Deacon Meribah Mansfield, met weekly after church starting in late November to discuss how we can practice turning, learning, praying, worshiping, blessing, going, and resting during the season of Advent. A simple soup lunch was served.

BISHOP JOLLY VISIT

One of the highlights of this past year was Bishop Anne Jolly's first “official” visitation to Trinity since she was ordained and consecrated a bishop in April. As David Joslin, who served as the bishop of Central New York, wrote in a pamphlet for Forward Movement Publications, a bishop is “An Apostle in our Midst.” Whether any of the apostles wore stiletto heels while preaching and teaching is a matter for scholars of the early church to determine. However, the newest Bishop of Ohio certainly did wear high heels to Trinity!

On Sunday, October 29, the Bishop presided and preached at the 10:00 AM service. Matthias and Kai Kefalas Siu, the sons of Merwin Siu and Kimberly Kefalas, were welcomed into the household of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Irene Ballmer, George Benson, and Kimberly Kefalas from Trinity, and Timothy Krukowski from St. Timothy's, Perrysburg were formally received into the fellowship of this communion.

As one can see from the photographs that accompany this article, it was a “Jolly” day (pun intended). Bishop Anne brought an infectious joy to Trinity the morning of her visitation and was clearly delighted by Trinity's inclusive worship, inspiring music, and radical welcome.



At Trinity, we continue to challenge our assumptions, learn about implicit bias, and engage with new and different perspectives than our own.



Building Update

Trinity shines a little brighter with the recently completed plaza renovation and the restoration of St. Mark's chapel.

2023 was a year of great progress in two most deserving areas: the full completion of our plaza renovation, and the redesign and much needed restoration of Saint Mark's chapel.

PLAZA

With the water mitigation project completed in 2022, it was time to start the demanding work of restoring the remaining portion of our plaza that was overgrown, weathered, and woefully in need of maintenance. In March 2023, RAM Construction began the excavation work to bring this entire space back to life. With RAM's guidance, minor modifications were made in an effort to keep the project financially feasible.

As of November, our plaza is a blank canvas of countless community opportunities with fresh concrete, a bird's-eye view deck overlooking Summit Street and the Maumee River, upgraded electrical access, and upgraded LED lamps in refurbished original lamp posts. The fresh dirt in the landscaping beds awaits an energetic, thoughtful group of Trinity gardeners to plan sustainable, native plantings that will grow with us for the decades to come.

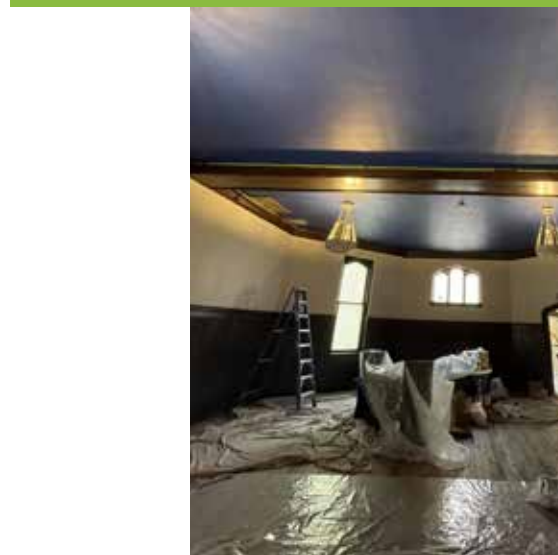
ST. MARK'S CHAPEL

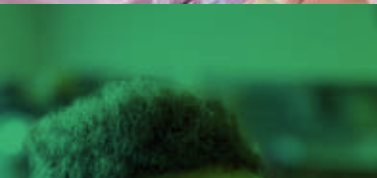
In early 2023, vestry approved \$25,000 in capital reserve funds to restore and rejuvenate our chapel, originally built in 1875. The vision for the space, "Vibrant arts. Sacred space.", paved the way for making St. Mark's: usable for a variety of Trinity sacred offerings, flexible, and affordable for our Toledo community. We were disappointed to find during renovation that the memorial marble altar that was constructed in the late 1940's was not structurally sound, close to collapsing through the floor, and had to be removed.

As of December, the space has been used for the return of Wednesday Healing and Eucharist noon services, and our first Blue Christmas service held on December 20. What was once a gloomy catch-all for storage with torn carpeting and dingy hardwood floors, is now a warm space with versatile seating options, stunningly restored hardwood floors, and a level stage or altar area for countless future performances and services.

OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Replacement of exterior green, building banners, and LGBTQIA+ flags
- Upgraded security cameras for 24-hour off-premises live-recorded feed
- Repairs to flat roof over 3rd floor wing
- ADA wayfinding sign upgrade on our first floor





A year of the Trinity life in pictures.



Annual Pledge Drive

The 2023 Annual Pledge Drive for Trinity took place in October and November. The theme for this year, “Rooted in Abundance,” was inspired by TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship). Chosen as a reminder of our infinite blessings of resources, this theme also encourages us to grow in faith, courage, hope, and love. Being rooted in abundance is about being certain, steadfast in our knowledge that we have enough to share with a world in need. It is about doing the hard work of knowing ourselves so that we can know how to help others.

This year presented us with unique challenges, especially as our Pledge Drive began during a time of transition marked by the departure of our Rector, Lisa Tucker-Gray and the introduction of our Interim, Stephen Applegate. Nonetheless, with a dedicated team, we established goals and moved forward determinedly, finding grace in the unknown space of transition, rooted both in our history and anticipation of our future as a radically welcoming, progressively evolving, and unapologetically inclusive church in an urban setting.

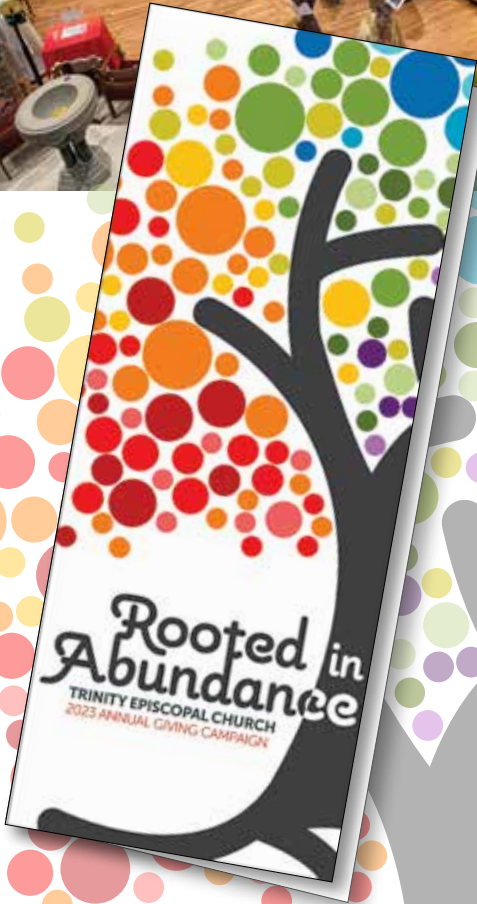
A variety of tools were developed for this year’s Pledge Drive. B Creative Studio was the curator of the printed pledge pamphlets, on-line pledge forms, and specific web page designated for pledge giving.

Additionally, a sincere thank you goes to our co-Chairs, Angie Carriker and Phil Skeldon, for their outstanding contributions. Both provided powerful impact stories at Trinity@316 worship as well as Trinity@ Home. Throughout the month they sent thank you notes to each of us. Special thanks also to Karen Keune who served as mentor to our co-chairs, staff and vestry.

Thank you also to the following members who shared their abundance: Brian Ingman, Allen Santiago, Kyle Greffe, Yvonne Dubielak, Mark Dubielak, and Mary Beroske.

To follow is a breakdown of the Pledge Campaign Outcomes over the past 6 years:

PLEDGE DRIVE STATISTICS						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Pledges	53	64	79	75	87	70
Total Dollars Pledged	\$156,354	\$167,950	\$176,350	\$168,020	\$198,092	\$201,300
Average Pledge	\$2,950	\$2,624	\$2,560	\$2,335	\$2,358	\$2,876
New Pledges	13	19	26	11	23	15



Budget Process



Historically, one week prior to the Annual Meeting, Trinity offers an opportunity for the community to come together to learn about our church finances. The time together is a combination of presentation and conversation. Our goal has been to educate and de-mystify the finances that support our ministries.

Each year we provide an overview of the sources that fund our operating budget and review trends and patterns in giving. We also review the other sources used to fund the operating budget and any noticeable changes from year to year. For some, understanding an organization's finances is second nature, and to others it is not. We have made a commitment to doing all we can to empower and inspire all of us in this area of our ministry. Cultivating a context and environment where all feel good about asking questions and getting involved is important to us. We are the bearers of great gifts. To whom much has been given much is expected (Luke 12:48) - and we want to honor those gifts entrusted to us in the best way possible.

The purpose of the Annual Budget review and conversation is to:

- Review the sources of funding supporting the operating budget.
- Review the results of the most recent Annual Pledge Drive.
- Review the anticipated year of expenses and anticipated capital improvements.
- Provide an opportunity for questions and conversation.

This year's meeting was held on January 22, 2023.

Each year we gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be good stewards of these resources. As we move into 2024, we continue to work toward realizing our 2030 vision. The vision sets priorities for the ministries of Trinity in the months and years ahead and is the result of the collaborative discernment of Vestry, staff, and members of the parish. We regularly revisit the priorities we set, listening carefully for how our loving God is calling us to faithful ministry. How grateful we are for the generosity of our forebears. They had the foresight to provide Trinity with substantial resources. Combined with the generous gifts of current members, we anticipate another exciting and challenging year in 2024.

The purpose of the Annual Budget review and conversation is to:

- Review the sources of funding supporting the operating budget
- Review the results of the most recent Annual Pledge Drive
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FINANCIALS

MASTER TRUST AND MUSIC AND THE ARTS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Trinity is blessed to have received numerous and generous legacy donations over the course of many years. It is the responsibility and privilege of each generation of Trinity leadership and membership to live into the call of being good stewards of these important resources for ministry.

Each year available fund revenue is used from these two funds to supplement Trinity’s Operating Budget. The revenue is determined and distributed based on a 5% spending policy calculated on the 3-year average of the Fund’s Market value established annually at the end of September. The funds are managed by KeyBank.



OTHER SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS

Trinity also holds several smaller funds also used to support the Operating budget. They are used in conjunction with donor stipulations for particular use. The exception includes the HAMM Bequest which has portions designated to supporting costs associated with either the Altar Guild or funds for supporting women & children related programs.



ENDOWMENT FUNDS (AS OF 9/30/23)

Fund Name	2021 Market Value	2022 Market Value	2023 Market Value
Key Master Trust	\$5,280,472	\$4,170,707	\$4,472,475
Music and the Arts	\$6,387,868	\$4,991,574	\$5,356,178
TOTALS	\$11,668,341	\$9,162,281	\$9,828,653

OTHER SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS (AS OF 9/30/23)

Fund Name	2021 Market Value	2022 Market Value	2023 Market Value
HAMM - Altar Guild	\$76,387	\$60,367	\$65,053
HAMM - ECW	\$77,264	\$60,977	\$65,916
Gunnel Mauk - Education	\$225,336	\$185,070	\$205,469
Finch - Music	\$221,175	\$182,132	\$193,048
Reycraft - Program Growth	\$776,647	\$359,703	\$381,762
Capital Reserves	\$200,590	\$156,730	
TOTALS	\$1,577,399	\$1,004,979	\$911,248
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	\$13,245,740	\$10,167,260	\$10,739,901



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
316 ADAMS ST., TOLEDO, OH 43604

2024 Operating Budget

	2023 Approved Budget	2023 Actual through 12/31/23	2024 Approved Budget
INCOME			
Current Pledge Payments	195,292	167,421	201,300
Prepaid Pledge Payments	10,000	0	-
Prior Year Pledge	3,000	1,362	1,500
Plate & Special Offerings	14,000	13,095	15,800
Givers of Record	8,000	13,574	6,000
Total Plate & Pledge	230,292	195,452	224,600
Combined Investment Income	479,898*	482,010	451,804
Other Operating Income	123,015	167,526	114,210
TOTAL INCOME	833,205	844,988	790,614
EXPENSES			
Personnel	423,378	413,961	387,132
Building & Grounds	144,752	157,169	167,649
Administration	72,662	89,212	43,970
Community Engagement	119,500	114,442	108,612
Worship & Music	47,063	38,679	40,161
Congregational Vitality	5,850	5,485	2,500
Plaza Renovation (KeyBank LOC Interest)	20,000	14,820	40,590
Restricted Funds - Finch	-	8,687	-
Restricted Funds - Gunnell Mauk	-	4,540	-
Restricted Funds - Reycraft	-	13,123	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	833,205	860,118	790,614
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-	(15,130)	-

*Includes \$40,000 from Finch, Reycraft & Gunnell Mauk Restricted Funds.

PARISH STATISTICS

WORSHIP STATISTICS

	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	4	9	6
Burials	1	4	3
Weddings/Blessings	1	1	1
New Members	20	58	27
Other Services (In Person / At Home)			
Palm Sunday	0 / 66	80 / 93	115 / 65
Easter	0 / 81	104 / 215	196 / 93
Christmas Eve	105 / 62	178 / 264	202 / 71

	2021	2022	2023
Parish Families			
Mailing Units	151	231	297
Church Post Subscribers	373	387	317



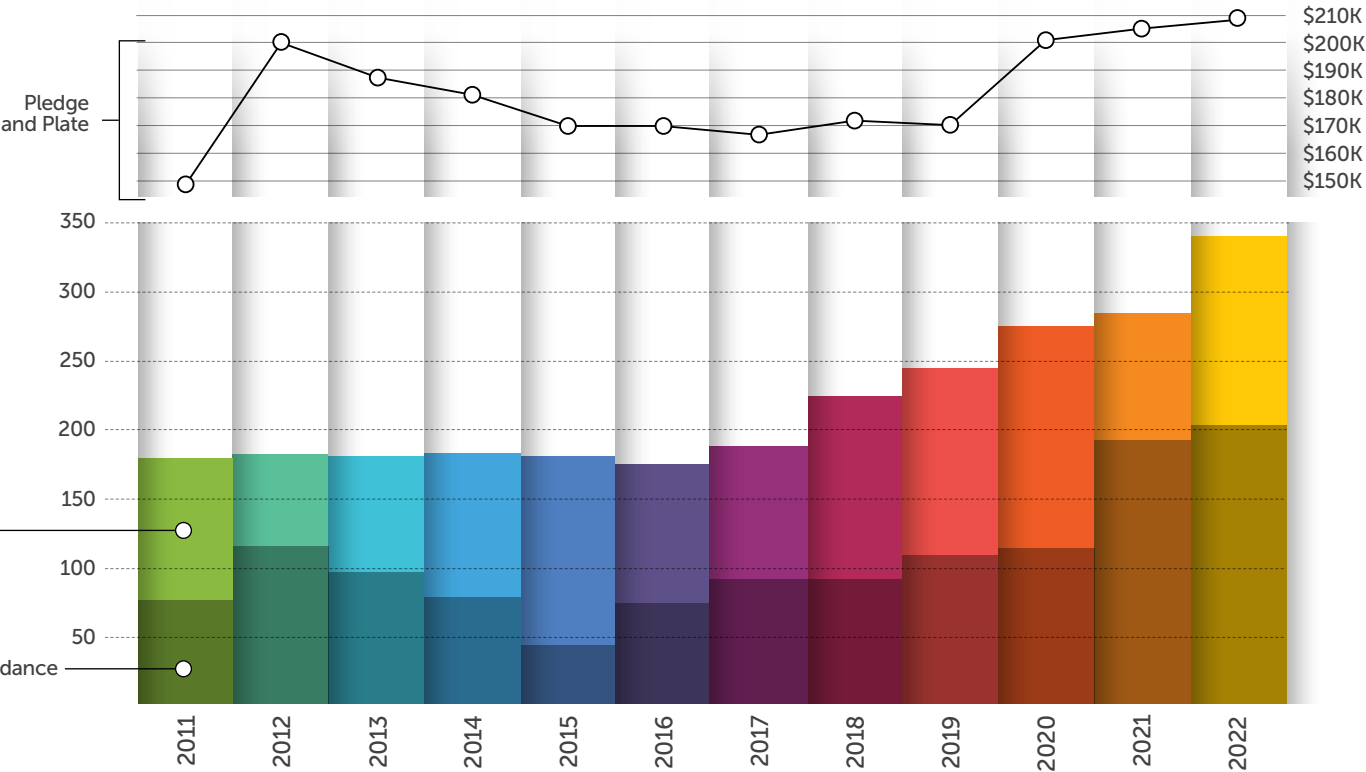
AVERAGE SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (TRINITY@316)

	2021	2022	2023
	73 (8 weeks)	78 (43 weeks)	89 (51 weeks)

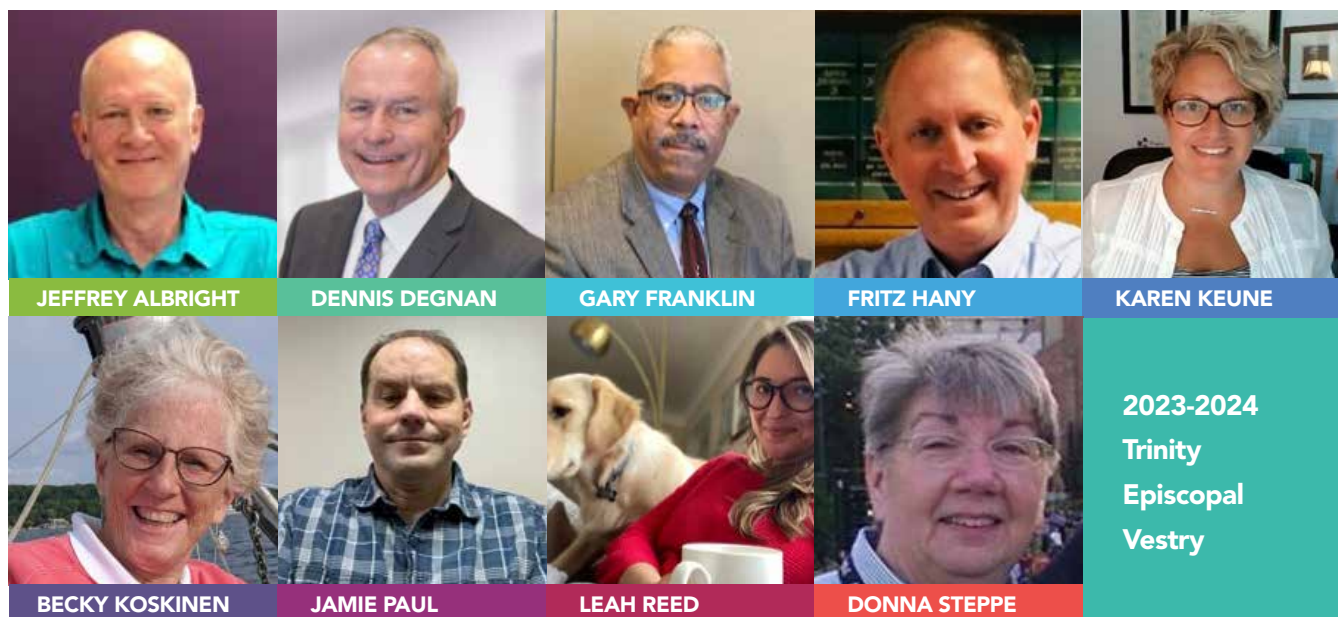


AVERAGE NUMBER OF TOTAL SUNDAY SERVICE HOUSEHOLD VIEWS (TRINITY@HOME)

	2021	2022	2023
	118	124	74



VESTRY SNAPSHOT



2024-2025 VESTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

Vestry meetings are usually scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM and held either at Trinity or via Zoom (unless otherwise noted).

2024-25 DATES	MEETING DESCRIPTION/FOCUS	LOCATION
Sunday, Jan. 28	Annual Meeting immediately following 10:00 AM Worship	Trinity
Saturday, Feb. 24	All-Day Vestry Retreat	Trinity
Tuesday, March 26	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, April 23	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, May 28	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, June 25	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, July 23	Gathering with staff and families 6:30-8:00 PM	TBD
No August Meeting		
Tuesday, Sept. 24	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, Oct. 22	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:30 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, Nov. 26	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM	Trinity
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Vestry Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM (Final Budget)	Trinity
Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025	All-Parish Budget Presentation	Trinity
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025	Annual Meeting	Trinity

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Applegate
Interim Rector
stephen@trinitytoledo.org

The Rev. Dcn. Meribah Mansfield
Deacon
meribah@trinitytoledo.org

Heather Meyer
Director of Operations
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George Benson
Director of Community Engagement
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Chelsie Cree
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Grace Mauk
Assistant Director of Music and The Arts
grace@trinitytoledo.org

Brian Buckner
Trinity@Home Accompanist

PARISH VESTRY 2023

Donna Steppe, Senior Warden
Jeffrey Albright, Junior Warden
Karen Keune, Clerk
Margaret Baehren, Treasurer
Dennis Degnan
Gary Franklin
Fritz Hany
Becky Koskinen
Jamie Paul
Karen Keune

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-2499
216-771-4815

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop

PARISH OFFICE

Monday through Friday

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
316 Adams Street
Toledo, OH 43604
419.243.1231
trinity@trinitytoledo.org



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

316 ADAMS STREET, TOLEDO, OH 43604
419.243.1231 • TRINITYTOLEDO.ORG

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