



**TRINITY CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024**

**Our Vision:**

A visible agent of God's love in Christ,  
joyfully embracing all people.

**Our Mission:**

God is here; Jesus loves you.  
We are a welcoming, diverse community sharing God's love,  
Spreading the Gospel, and caring for all people and God's creation.  
Come join us.

**Trinity Cathedral  
801 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618**

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**Trinity Cathedral  
801 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618**

**Annual Meeting  
January 21, 2024**

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome
- II. Report of the Nominating Committee  
(Chinweze Ahaghotu, Clerk)
  - Vestry Nominees
  - Diocesan Convention Nominees
  - Trenton Convocation Nominees
- III. Dean's Report
- IV. Necrology
- V. Financial Reports  
(Ronald Zilinski, Treasurer)
  - 2023 Financial Performance
  - 2024 Budget
- VI. Other Business Items
- VII. Adjournment

## DEAN'S REPORT TO THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 2024

*Adapted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer:*

*God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to us  
as we wait in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make us the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.  
Amen.*

### **Pastoral Care**

In 2023 pastoral care was once more a major part of Cathedral Ministry. I am grateful to all the members of our congregation who diligently checked on and supported one another. Anxiety and isolation is even more present post-COVID-19, and as such, compassion is at a premium. We are an aging congregation and no doubt our care and compassion for each other is essential. Andrea John and a small group of individuals coordinate pastoral care at the behest of the Dean: Margaret Nartey, Cynthia Coleman, Winifred Daniels, Lucy Adams, Lourdez Hernández, Jennifer Ng'andu and Andrea John. Also supporting the Dean's pastoral visits are Cn. Paul Cooper, Kimme Carlos and Georgia Koenig.

### **Property**

The challenges continue to be many for an aging building. I'm grateful to Mike Raab for his commitment and faithfulness in dealing with a myriad of property issues. This year we worked to get much of the Cathedral walls re-plastered and painted in time for the consecration of Bishop French. We also undertook extensive cleaning, replacement and repair of gutters on the church and academy buildings (access to these were most challenging and quite costly.) Additionally, the landscaping sub-committee headed up by Georgia Koenig and Irene Sanz, and including Bernard McMullan, Sue Remmers and Cn. Terry Cooper did comprehensive work on the landscaping of Cathedral grounds. It was wonderful that the timeliness coincided with the consecration and seating of our new Bishop. Several members of the congregation have made significant contributions to this effort, and for this we are most grateful.

Using some of the Fred Rogers gift, with Vestry approval we attended to improving our cameras and audio system at the Cathedral. We are grateful to Rob Bullington and Dcn. Pete Cornell who undertook the work required.

## **Justice Issues**

Our Lenten theme for 2023 was “Lent from the Margins”. The Rev. Rachel Tyler led our Lenten Program and did a marvelous job. She encouraged us to think and converse on the way we journey and intersect with our fellow pilgrims. In 2024, Cn. Dr. Phil Lewis will lead us in a conversation on Bishop Mariann Budde’s book, *How We Learn to Be Brave*.

## **Mission & Ministry**

I want to thank Deacon Chris Cox for his diligence and faithfulness in the leading of our Adult Education programs at the Cathedral. His presentations have been extremely well-received in our lifelong Christian Formation community. Deacon Chris continues to organize for our support of a young person we’ve adopted and support overseas. Deacon Chris organized a Creation Care Committee and hosted a forum led by The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson. I am also grateful to all the Cathedral lay leadership who have worked tirelessly to move these efforts along.

In 2023 we received three substantial contributions of coats. I want to thank Cn. Clara Gregory who coordinated much of the distribution of the largest one received. Cn. Gregory, Bobbie Powell and Dennie Higgins also coordinated a Maternal Health Forum for mothers and families. Thank you Cn. Gregory for coordinating the Healthy Eating and Moving classes, with all the wonderful focus on nutrition (a grant from Trenton Health Team made this possible). Thanks to all who got involved and contributed to the putting together of a beautiful cookbook, now available for sale. Thanks Lucy Adams, Janet Thompson, Joyce Gibbs-Spears (and Ann Notte and the Diocese of New Jersey for the printing.)

I am grateful to Lourdez Hernandez for an excellent 2023 World AIDS Day remembrance with participation from our Community partners: the Hyacinth Foundation, Henry J. Austin, the Mayor’s office and the College of New Jersey.

In 2023 we celebrated the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Bishop George E. Councill Community Day Golf Outing & Pickle Ball Clinic. On this occasion Trinity Princeton was the victorious foursome! The Pickle Ball Clinic was a wonderful addition and very well received. Thanks to La’Tonya Johnson, our Chair, for her outstanding leadership. Thanks to Bishop Sally French, and Committee members Richard Koenig, Tom DiMuzio, Bill Harmer, Patrice D’Angelo, Susan Zitofsky, David Miller, Willie Coleman and the undersigned. In 2024, this event will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

We participated in the Episcopal Community Services (ECS) Gala and farewell to Bishop Chip and Susan Stokes. I was most proud of the Cathedral, as we were the only congregation to seat five tables in attendance. This effort, coordinated by the ECS Board, realized a great benefit to the efforts of ECS work in our communities.

I am grateful to have completed the Cathedral’s Emergency Action Plan. Thank you to Bobbie Powell, Mary Johnson, Fay Manicke, Nancy Hood-Boczar, Willie Coleman, Bernard

McMullan, Ellen Wanser and Security Consultant, Dan Anderson. The Vestry approved it and we will soon be sharing it with the congregation and renewing our training in CPR.

We held two community animal vaccination clinics (cats and dogs) which were conducted by People for Animals with leadership and a host of volunteers from the Cathedral. The response from the community was phenomenal.

Stewardship giving in the last several years has been fairly successful. Building on the New Consecration program, which has been well-received, but also because over many years we've emphasized to our members the importance of being good stewards. Lessons learned from Jim Murphy, Jerry Keucher and the Episcopal Church Foundation have helped in this regard. We were extremely pleased with our speaker, The Rev. Trisha Thorne for a wonderful Stewardship message. On behalf of the Wardens and Vestry I want to express my profound appreciation to our congregation for their faithfulness in being consistent in the upkeep of their pledges to the Cathedral throughout 2023. We are also blessed by members whose companies do matching funds. Significantly boosting our coffers this year were generous gifts from The Rev. Dr. Bob Adams and Dr. Fred Rogers

Our relatively new Ministry, the Grief Support Group headed up by Regina Thompson Jenkins and her husband Jon Jenkins, continues to meet every second Saturday of the month. They share stories and resources with grieving members who have lost loved ones to violence in the City of Trenton.

## **Appreciations**

### **Cathedral Staff**

Let me express my profound appreciation for our Cathedral staff, in particular, Mrs. Patrice D'Angelo. Thank you most sincerely for all you do. Dr. Kerry Heimann, Al Shaw and Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn thanks for all your efforts during another challenging time. At the end of 2023 we bid farewell to Michael Pettyjohn, who retired after fifteen years of service to the Cathedral. We had a wonderful farewell for him. He expressed great appreciation for our expressions of gratitude.

My sincere thanks to former Altar Guild Shop Director, Joyce Gibbs-Spears; and volunteers Howard Ebersole, Ginny Harmer, Georgia Koenig, Linda Lengyel and Cheryl Nagy for their tireless efforts to fulfill the mission of the Altar Guild Shop. I am pleased to announce a new Manager of the Altar Guild Shop, Lucy Adams.

### **Food Pantry**

We are extremely grateful to Ellen Wanser, who through the acquisition of a grant from Mercer Street Friends, acquired three commercial refrigerators and other equipment for the Food Pantry. In the late summer of 2023, Ellen and I agreed it was best for her to step aside from Food Pantry leadership to attend to major surgeries she needed to have done. I'm grateful that these have since happened and she is slowly recuperating. I'm grateful to Lourdez Hernandez who has

stepped up and doing a marvelous job with the leadership of the Pantry. Reporting is now being done using our newly-acquired computer exclusively for the Food Pantry. Thanks to J. Gil Williams, Willie Coleman, Ellen Heath, Veronica Ngwayah, Judith Miller, Edna Garrison and the community volunteers who help with this crucial ministry.

### **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Satellite Site**

Thanks to Dcn. Chris Cox, Dick Koenig, Fay Manicke, Bill & Ginny Harmer and Cn. Paul Cooper.

### **Angel Tree Ministry**

Thank you, Judith Miller and all who faithfully support this important Ministry to families at Christmas time.

### **Parish Hospitality**

This Ministry welcomed Larry Spears and his dear wife Joyce Gibbs to the leadership, along with the continued leadership of Anthony Rabara. They have brought renewed vitality to our fellowship hour. Winifred Daniels, Ginny Harmer, Bill Harmer, Fay Manicke, Edna Garrison, Georgia Koenig, Willie Coleman, Carolyn Ford and Deborah McConnaughey help to coordinate most occasions of hospitality and fellowship. Thank you - thank you - thank you. To all who contribute foodstuff thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I'm extremely grateful to Georgia Koenig and her team of volunteers who count the weekly offerings: Fay Manicke, Willie Coleman, Sharlie Ross and Jocelyn Francis-White.

Many thanks to our Associate Clergy: Noel Amadi, Peter Bridge, Bruce Montgomery, John Luttrell (part-time Assistant) and Deacons Carol Gilbert, Chris Cox and (in 2023) transitional Deacon, Rachel Tyler. We are greatly indebted to them for their generous support and service to the Cathedral and its community.

My sincere thanks to the wardens and vestry for their generous support and service to our Cathedral and its community: Dennie Higgins and J. Gil Williams, Wardens; Ron Zilinski, Treasurer; Chinweze Ahaghotu, Clerk, Cn. Paul Cooper, Ass't. Clerk, Lourdez Hernandez, Samuel Richards, Nancy Hood-Boczar, Margaret Nartey, Edward Greenfield, Ellen Wanser, Lee Whiteman and Bobbie Powell.

### **Music Ministry**

Thanks to Dr. Kerry Heimann, Fay Manicke and our faithful Choir members: Laurette Ketter, Bobbie Powell, J. Gil Williams, Brenda Whiteman, Cn. Paul Cooper, Kim Neighbor, Susan Remmers, Sue Gummere, Ellen Wry, John Gummere, Howard Ebersole, Mike Raab, Bernard McMullan, Eugenia Collins, Sherri Anderson and Nkeoma Akaeme.

## **Trinity Strings**

Led by Sherri Anderson and Kaitlyn Baum, this is one of the true treasures of our Cathedral Ministry to youth.

## **Acolytes**

My sincere thanks to our Acolytes, Lafayette Roberts, Jr., Laurus Ketter and Cyrus Ketter for their faithful service at our weekly liturgies.

Thanks to the many Cathedral commissions and organizations: Finance and Budget, Outreach (Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen), Evangelism, Choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Prison Ministry, Sunday School, Adult Education, Parish Life and Hospitality, and the Trinity Cathedral Altar Guild Shop. Their members are owed a great debt of gratitude for constant energies expended in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our Cathedral.

Thanks to the many organizations with whom we are affiliated; we are so appreciative of what we are able to accomplish together, for our community and God: Trenton Health Team, Trinity Academy, Urban Promise, Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer, St. Francis Hospital, Hyacinth Foundation, Rescue Mission of Trenton, the Anti-Poverty Network, Eastern Service Workers, Salvation and Social Justice and United Mercer Interfaith Organization (UMIO.) Episcopal Churches, Christ The King, Willingboro, Holy Apostles, Yardville and St. Luke's, Ewing.

My sincere thanks to Lee Whiteman for his efforts to capture Cathedral memories with his photography throughout the year. We owe you a great debt of gratitude, and to Susan Remmers for keeping the photo bulletin boards around the Cathedral updated. This year Lee Whiteman and Tony Wootson continue to be the point persons operating the camera for our livestream ministry.

My sincere thanks to Susan Remmers for her tireless efforts with the Flower Guild Ministry, providing beautiful altar arrangements, flowers and plants in celebration of Easter and Christmas, and arrangements to benefit our shut-ins. This year Susan will step down from this responsibility. I'm most grateful for her long and faithful tenure. I'm grateful to have Cn. Terry Cooper, Ginny Harmer and Rachel Mathis for their diligence and dedication as leaders of our Altar Guild ministry.

I want to once again thank the Wardens, Dennie Higgins and J. Gil Williams; Deacon Chris Cox, and all our convocation delegates for consistently attending Trenton Convocation meetings: Willie Coleman, Deborah Raab, Howard Ebersole, Brenda Whiteman, and Jocelyn Francis-White.

Thanks to Sherri Anderson, Stretto Youth Orchestra and the Trinity Strings for their faithful Ministry of Music development amongst the youth.



## **Future Considerations**

Looking ahead we will need to continue to be creative and imaginative in staying connected with our congregation and other potential members.

Please consider how you may serve at the Cathedral in 2024 and beyond. We continue to need help with the hospitality and greeters ministries. In addition to which, all our committees could benefit from your energy and input. At baptism we were asked, “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” Our response: “I will, with God’s help.” Let us get on with God's mission and our ministry.

## **Remembrances 2023**

Rest in peace:

Lafayette Roberts, Sr.  
The Very Rev. Herbert Draesel  
Chanda Moore  
Jane Ramsdell  
Patrick A. Worrell  
Gwendolyn O. Pearson

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

~ Teresa of Ávila

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. René R. John, Dean

## 2023 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

		Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>					
	<b>4000 · CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT</b>	162,500.00	150,000.00	12,500.00	108.33%
	<b>4100 · TRUST INCOME</b>	111,676.20	101,000.00	10,676.20	110.57%
	<b>4300 · Draw Down from DIT</b>	100,000.00	97,202.64	2,797.36	102.88%
	<b>5100 · Fees</b>	56,932.50	51,600.00	5,332.50	110.33%
	<b>5115 · Fund Raising Events</b>	51,560.54	55,100.00	-3,539.46	93.58%
	<b>5120 · Liturgy/Music Donations</b>	3,209.50	4,000.00	-790.50	80.24%
	<b>5130 · Offerings</b>	40,311.61	30,900.00	9,411.61	130.46%
	<b>5140 · Memorial</b>	829.00	1,100.00	-271.00	75.36%
	<b>5160 · Parish Life Donations</b>	709.00	541.00	168.00	131.05%
	<b>5170 · Pledges</b>	336,131.30	287,000.00	49,131.30	117.12%
	<b>5200 · Other Income</b>	2,460.00	15,000.00	-12,540.00	16.4%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>866,319.65</b>	<b>793,443.64</b>	<b>72,876.01</b>	<b>109.19%</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
	<b>6115 · Christian Formation/Education</b>	514.00	1,500.00	-986.00	34.27%
	<b>6300 · Liturgy/Music</b>	8,873.93	7,949.00	924.93	111.64%
	<b>6500 · Outeach</b>	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
	<b>6600 · Parish Life</b>	3,635.57	1,400.00	2,235.57	259.68%
	<b>66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
	<b>7100 · Diocesan Asking</b>	101,013.00	101,000.00	13.00	100.01%
	<b>7200 · Salaries</b>	244,692.65	245,952.82	-1,260.17	99.49%
	<b>7300 · Employer Payroll Taxes</b>	13,624.16	14,950.03	-1,325.87	91.13%
	<b>7400 · Fringe</b>	180,194.95	180,486.86	-291.91	99.84%
	<b>7500 · Legal &amp; Professional</b>	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
	<b>8100 · Office Expenses</b>	22,058.21	23,290.00	-1,231.79	94.71%
	<b>8103 · Fund Raising Expenses</b>	10,720.80	13,365.00	-2,644.20	80.22%
	<b>8104 · Insurance</b>	73,909.85	71,200.00	2,709.85	103.81%
	<b>8200 · PROPERTY</b>	157,742.15	121,600.00	36,142.15	129.72%
	<b>8445 · Stewardship</b>	1,096.25	700.00	396.25	156.61%
	<b>8500 · Misc expenses</b>	209.00	550.00	-341.00	38.0%
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>818,284.52</b>	<b>793,443.71</b>	<b>24,840.81</b>	<b>103.13%</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>48,035.13</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>48,035.20</b>	

## 2024 BUDGET

		Budget	Budget
<b>Income</b>	<u>Changes</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
4000 · Contributed Support	-	150,000.00	150,000.00
4100 · Trust Income	17,000.00	118,000.00	101,000.00
4300 Draw down from DIT	(8,273.92)	88,928.72	97,202.64
5100 · Fees	9,400.00	61,000.00	51,600.00
5115 · Fund Raising Events	(3,300.00)	51,800.00	55,100.00
5120 · Liturgy/Music	(500.00)	3,500.00	4,000.00
5130 · Offerings	(7,500.00)	23,400.00	30,900.00
5140 · Memorial	(200.00)	900.00	1,100.00
5160 · Parish Life	209.00	750.00	541.00
5170 · Pledges	19,000.00	306,000.00	287,000.00
5200 · Other Income	(12,500.00)	2,500.00	15,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,335.08</b>	<b>806,778.72</b>	<b>793,443.64</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
6115 · Christian Formation/Education	-	1,500.00	1,500.00
6300 · Liturgy/Music	3,240.00	11,189.00	7,949.00
6500 · Outreach	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
6600 · Parish Life	1,300.00	2,700.00	1,400.00
7100 · Diocesan Asking	1,153.00	102,153.00	101,000.00
7200 · Salaries	(8,841.42)	237,111.32	245,952.74
7300 · Employer Payroll Taxes	(250.03)	14,700.00	14,950.03
7400 · Fringe	(9,988.18)	170,498.69	180,486.86
7500 · Legal & Professional	-	7,500.00	7,500.00
8100 · Office Expenses	(480.00)	22,810.00	23,290.00
8103 · Fund Raising Expenses	1,000.00	14,365.00	13,365.00
8104 · Insurance	13,101.71	84,301.71	71,200.00
8200 · Property	12,700.00	134,300.00	121,600.00
8445 · Stewardship	400.00	1,100.00	700.00
8500 · Misc expenses	-	550.00	550.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>13,335.08</b>	<b>806,778.72</b>	<b>793,443.64</b>

## TRINITY CATHEDRAL OUTREACH COMMISSION

In the 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew, we read that when the Son of Man returns, he will gather the righteous at his right hand and commend them as such: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

In February 2023, discount closeout retailer Ocean State Job Lot delivered over 1,000 winter coats and PPE (sanitizer, masks and gloves) to the Cathedral, in conjunction with Project Freedom Villages and Bookwell Travel. The donations were distributed to our neighbors through 45 houses of worship, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, area high-rise apartments, senior citizen homes and recreation centers, and to local veterans through the American Legion Post 182.

The coat donations are part of Ocean State Job Lot’s Buy-Give-Get program, which encouraged customers to buy a quality, brand-name winter coat for \$40 (valued at \$80-\$120) and give it back to the store for donation to a veteran. In appreciation, customers received a \$40 gift card to be used for a future purchase, allowing customers to donate winter coats for free. Nearly 200,000 winter coats have been donated to veterans in need since the inception of the program.

A special thanks to retired Navy Captain Louis A. Cavaliere, Chairman of the Chapel of Four Chaplains and the American Legion for making the introduction between Brian Gates of Ocean State Job Lot, Bookwell Travel, and Canon Clara Gregory. An esteemed retired Veteran, William Smith, First Commander of the American Legion Post 182 (Trenton) graciously served as the liaison to area local veterans. With his assistance we have obtained vital information on resources for veterans to share with those who need it.

Cathedral Clergy, staff and volunteers gathered to receive and distribute the donations, including Bishop William H. Stokes, Dean René R. John, Canon Clara Gregory, Willie Coleman, Al Shaw and Patrice D’Angelo.

The Outreach Commission is pleased to have developed a collaboration with the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium, Inc. (CJFHC), a leading private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and part of a regionalized maternal and child health (MCH) system. The CJFHC works to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, and children in the region through the collaborative efforts of member hospitals, providers, and consumers. Their mission is to promote an equitable and healthy future for families through services, advocacy, education and collaboration.

Members of our Outreach Commission attended a conference in Bridgewater Township put together by the CJFHC, celebrating Black Maternal Health Week. This one day seminar focused on maternal and child health in black and brown communities, addressing issues that this community of women and their newborn children face. There was a very active discussion highlighting the disparity of treatment for these women and children, and a statewide initiative is underway to improve the outcomes for this population.

In August, we attended a Black Breastfeeding Week Celebration held on Front Street in Trenton. There were many vendors at this street fair, including Horizon Healthcare insurance, doulas and midwives, to help educate this population regarding their pregnancies, and birthing and breastfeeding their children.

In September, we attended the Trenton Family Festival, hosted by Trenton's First Lady Tammy Murphy. This was held at Hedgepeth-Williams intermediate school in Trenton. It was an all-day event, for moms, babies and their families providing educational material, food, music, and giveaways. Trinity Cathedral was one of two churches in our area that were represented.

On November 4, 2023 the Cathedral hosted an educational event that spoke to the issue of postpartum depression and the treatment of this condition in the black and brown community. Many of the local health services were represented, and COVID and flu vaccines were administered by the Trenton Health Team.

In August, the Outreach Commission hosted a month-long "Healthy Eating and Moving" forum. Through a grant from the Trenton Health Team, we offered a series of six one-hour classes after church on Sundays. We hosted an average of 18 participants each week.

The proposed outcomes of our grant from the Trenton Health Team were to:

1. Add more fruit and vegetables to foods offered during fellowship hour
2. Produce a church cookbook with an emphasis on healthy recipes
3. Increase use of/re-introduce parishioners to the Walking Trail on the Cathedral grounds
4. Educate parishioners on use of the Cathedral Labyrinth - used for walking meditation. Promote the Labyrinth as a way to quiet the mind and calm anxieties
5. Provide FitBit or similar fitness trackers to parishioners and community members

As a result of these weekly classes, Cathedral parishioners have compiled and published a cookbook which is available in our Altar Guild Shop (just \$10 each). To keep the healthy eating going, proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks are going to provide fresh produce to guests of the Cathedral Food Pantry. This also helps our farming communities: a win-win for all!

Overall, the Outreach Team had a very productive year in 2023, collaborating with many organizations in the Trenton area to reach the black and brown communities that are in need of their services. It is our goal to provide ongoing support, training and education for the men, women and their children in our community, to lead healthier lives.

**We have joined the Movement for Justice  
The New Jersey Poor People's Campaign - Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbie Powell, Outreach Commission Member  
Canon Clara Gregory, Outreach Commission Chair  
For the Outreach Commission: Denise Higgins, Deborah McConnaughey  
and Margaret Nartey

## **2023 YEAR-END FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

2023 was a very good year for the Trinity Cathedral Food Pantry, with many changes and improvements made to the ministry. Lourdez “Cookie” Hernandez took over as Director of the Pantry from Ellen Wanser, who served faithfully for several years and was instrumental in procuring new shelving, refrigerators, and a freezer for the ministry. Her dedication and leadership was and is very much appreciated.

Since the pandemic and the subsequent decrease of SNAP’s monthly allotment in early 2023, the Food Pantry has seen an increase in the number of clients we serve. Last year we distributed approximately 2,522 bags to over 3,000 adults and 836 children, an average of over 210 families per month. As a result of the increased need, since August we have received an additional 40 “Community Bags” each month from our partner, Mercer Street Friends, which have been a major blessing and allowed us to meet the augmented demand of our clients.

This Thanksgiving, thanks to the donations of parishioners and turkeys received from the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, we were able to give 92 families turkeys and Thanksgiving sides. Many thanks to Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in Yardville, for gifting us the proceeds from their annual Thanksgiving food drive (even delivering the food to the Cathedral!)

Every Thursday evening before each Pantry, volunteers assemble bags for distribution on Saturday morning. Many thanks to all of those who come out to help. Without your continued service, we would not be able to function as efficiently as we currently do. Thank you for laboring with us in God’s garden. (If you would like to assist in packing the bags, please contact the Cathedral office.) Thank you all for your continued contributions of food and funds to our Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdez Hernandez – Food Pantry Director  
J. Gilbert Williams – Food Pantry Co-Director

## **TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK)**

The Cathedral has been a satellite location for TASK since 2009. Meals are prepared at the TASK headquarters on Escher Street and transported to the Cathedral in heat-insulating containers. Our normal procedure of serving hot meals in Synod Hall each Thursday evening had to be adjusted starting in the Spring of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. TASK headquarters began to restrict indoor meal distribution and dining at their site, and requested all satellite locations do the same.

TASK headquarters now serves meals inside their facility, but continue to distribute bagged meals to their satellite locations, which we distribute through the Overbrook Avenue doors to our guests.

Typically we serve about 10-15 guests at the door, but those who come to the Cathedral each week take multiple meals to distribute among family members at home and other residents where they live. As a result we distribute 40 meals per week to our guests who rely on the Cathedral for food. These local area residents tell us every week how much they appreciate Trinity Cathedral's food service.

Our crew of volunteers includes Fay Manicke, Dick Koenig, Cn. Paul Cooper, Ginny Harmer, and myself. Deacon Chris Cox continues to lead the group and is the liaison between the Cathedral and the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Harmer  
Soup Kitchen Volunteer

## **GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (FORMERLY MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS)**

In support of the diocesan Global Goals initiative, Trinity Cathedral has sponsored a child in Lusaka, Zambia, for many years through the agency of Children International<sup>1</sup>. We have helped provide medical and dental care, nutritional needs, and educational opportunities through the expansion of community schools, teacher training, and the provision of classroom materials.

At the start of 2023 we were pleased to receive a Global Goals Task Force grant to support a second sponsored child in Zambia, allowing Emmanuel Banda (now aged 11) to be joined by Aaron Moyo, aged 10. Both Emmanuel and Aaron live in poverty with meager family incomes around \$50 (equivalent) per month. Like other children in Lusaka, they face serious challenges accessing basic healthcare services, nutrition and education, - areas where we can help through Children International. More information and updated reports about Emmanuel and Aaron can be found on the corkboard in the corridor near the Cathedral office.

At the end of 2023 the Cathedral applied for, and was awarded, a new Global Goals grant to support Aaron through 2024. Thank you Global Goals Task Force!

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Christopher Cox

<sup>1</sup> [www.children.org](http://www.children.org)



Aaron



Emmanuel



## **PRISON MINISTRIES**

### **Angel Tree**

This Christmas marked the eleventh (11th) year of Trinity Cathedral's participation in the Prison Fellowship® Angel Tree Program. In 2023, we provided gifts to ten (10) children on behalf of five (5) prisoners, bringing the totals of those served, since we became an Angel Tree church in 2011, to two-hundred and eighteen (218) children and one-hundred and eleven (111) prisoners.

Presents were distributed in Synod Hall. It was a day of fun and gratitude as we greeted and interacted with the children and their parents/caregivers. The children were treated to refreshments; and for the second year, each parent/caregiver also received a gift in the form of a care package. Additionally, we handed out Gospel materials provided by the national Angel Tree® office.

The adults expressed their appreciation for this ministry; and the children were excited and joyful. A member of one family actually conveyed a desire to volunteer with us for our next Angel Tree® Christmas.

As is our custom, we sent a greeting card to each prisoner-parent who signed up his/her child or children for this program.

The Angel Tree® Ministry strengthens family relationships, sharing love and bringing joy to all involved. We are grateful for the generosity and compassion of all the volunteers who contribute to this annual effort by the Cathedral to extend hope to families with loved ones in prison. We could not be successful without your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Miller

## **INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS OF GREATER MERCER COUNTY (ICGMC)**

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County (ICGMC) is a member of a strong, informal network of local organizations focused on providing essential services to seniors and those with disabilities so that these folks may remain safely in their own homes. Interfaith Caregiver volunteers provide nonmedical support services such as friendly home visits, reassurance phone calls, trips to doctors, grocery shopping, yard work, and similar assistance at no cost and in complete confidentiality. The volunteers must complete a thorough training program given by the Interfaith organization. (This information, by the way, will be personally helpful to the volunteers as well.)

Several governmental and private groups, which are part of this network, can also inform and assist care receivers. Examples of coordinating groups are the Mercer Office on Aging, Mercer Street Friends, free legal aid to those who qualify, and transportation services like TRADE.

Trinity Cathedral is in the middle of an area of retired folks or people living with disabilities. As you may imagine, these folks really need help in dealing with day-to-day problems. It may be as simple as taking them to a local drugstore to have a photo taken for a passport. Cn. Paul Cooper regularly visits a Trinity parishioner on Saturdays to share lunch. Our experience with our neighbors has been one of rewarding friendships.

If you are interested in building a wonderful relationship with someone who could really use assistance given in ways that are comfortable for you both, please talk to Dean John or me or give ICGMC a call at (609) 393-9922. They are located at 3635 Quakerbridge Rd., Suite 16, Hamilton, NJ, 08619 or [www.ICGMC.org](http://www.ICGMC.org). The friendships you may develop will be priceless.

Respectfully submitted,

Cn. Terry Cooper

## TRINITY CATHEDRAL ACADEMY

This past year, 2023, the daily schedules of the children of the Trinity Cathedral Academy were essentially steady. The Academy continues to be integral to the life and ministry of the Cathedral: the presence of the young children and their families is grace itself.

The number of children in all three classrooms (three and four year olds) has remained at capacity as required by the licenses, with a waiting list. On June 16, at the end of the academic year, the Academy staff and Reverend Johnson staged the “stepping up” of the four-year-olds with a joyous concert and “graduation” in the Cathedral. The space was packed – so many proud parents, siblings, relatives and friends cheered the children as they performed rehearsed songs! Members of the Academy Board who attended were indeed moved.

With the start of the new academic year in September, the classrooms steadily refilled and in December, Rev. Lynn Johnson, Academic Director, reported that the numbers were at capacity. The Venerable Lynn Johnson continues to manage the Academy, its finances and personnel with her usual professionalism. There have been some staffing changes: classroom teachers resigned in the late fall. Rev. Lynn has posted the vacancies and has been interviewing for their replacement positions.

Fiscally, Trinity Cathedral Academy is on sound footing. The accounts are up to date – most importantly, the rent to the Cathedral. The annual budgeted allocations for the maintenance of the pre-school, by the Trenton Board of Education and other New Jersey State funds, have been regular. There was a slight increase for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The children, their families, care givers and teachers are grateful to Dean René John and his staff for their support and care in the Cathedral spaces.

Respectfully submitted,

Trinity Cathedral Academy Board  
Noreen Duncan, Canon (lay)  
Georgia Koenig  
Willie Coleman

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT FOR JUBILEE MINISTRY IN EDUCATION: URBANPROMISE TRENTON (UPT)**

*Our motto: OPEN A BOOK and OPEN A MIND!*

### **Staffing**

There have been many changes for UrbanPromise Trenton during 2023. Our Executive Director, Melissa Mantz, who led us through these past difficult years of COVID and grew our staff and our program, retired in May. Our new Executive Director is Sean McFadden. He is an energetic young man with experience with children in both NYC, where he grew up, and in Philadelphia where he worked previously in the Charter School environment. He brings energy and new ideas to the program, which is something that every organization needs as it continues to grow and thrive in this ever-changing world.

Melissa's retirement was followed at the end of the school year with the loss of, Michael Lavoglio who grew our college prep and support program and Evelyn Hawthorne, our East Trenton, site director. Evelyn's replacement is a Terry Stokes, a graduate of Yale University and Princeton Seminary. Just one month ago, Elyse Smith our long-time and original staff member and Street Leader director moved on to a new challenging position closer to home as a Social Worker with youth in Camden. They will all be missed, but our new staff members bring new energy and commitment to sustain and grow the program. We are fortunate, here at Trinity to have our caring, compassionate leader Tai Gilmer, still at the helm. We have a wonderful working relationship.

### **The After School Program**

We continue to highlight reading, and math, but are expanding our enrichment activities as well. The newest group with whom we have partnered is Girls on the Run. It is amazing how some of the girls have embraced this activity. I attended a race at Stuart Country Day in November with the girls. They did amazingly well, and it was an incredible experience for them to have. We expect to resume it again in the Spring. Our own John and Sue Gummere are volunteering to share their love and talent for art with a small group of our children, and we have a group from Princeton University providing STEM activities weekly.

There is still so much catch-up to do, leftover from the COVID disaster! One on one help is always the best. But, we are also using a computer-based program to evaluate, identify, and focus work to the appropriate age level and ability for each child each day, either in place of homework - if there is none assigned - or in addition to, if there is time left over. It seems to be working quite well. The staff is still learning all of its possibilities.

### **Summer Camp**

Is always an adventure waiting to happen! This past year was no exception. As usual we were fully enrolled for six weeks, Monday through Thursday all day. A change initiated was no

camp on Friday, rather than half-day as in the past. We will evaluate the pluses and minuses of this before planning this year's program. We again provided structured reading, math, and Bible classes in the mornings, with fun activities in the afternoons. Our trips included Grounds for Sculpture, NJ State Museum, Cadwalader Park, and of course Wacky Water Day on the front lawn of the Cathedral grounds.

### **Our Street Leader program**

We currently employ 10 high school students to work each day with the younger children, Monday through Thursday after they have spent their first hour with us working on their own homework assignments. They then continue to work with the same group at a variety of fun activities offered during the last hour of camp. On Fridays they come together as a group without the responsibility of working with the younger children, and enjoy each other, and a variety of enrichment activities planned by or with the staff. These activities range from Community Service projects to college prep activities about scholarships, FASFA applications, writing personal statements, and doing actual applications; to a variety of career options which may or may not require a college degree, a variety of reading opportunities, financial literacy/budgeting sessions, cooking, etc. Coming up when we return in January, they have series of meetings with the African American Chamber of Commerce. This is a new partnership we are exploring.

### **Volunteers**

I include this thought each year in my report, and need to do again this year. Our volunteer group continues to grow with the most amazing folks spending quality time each week with one or more of our children. They bring so much to enrich the program and the lives of the children that they touch and are enriched by their experience with the children. This is such a real example of getting more than you give. I am constantly amazed by and grateful to them. We continue our relationship with the Bonner Students at TCNJ, a treasured asset to the program as well.

As always, a special thanks to Dean John, Patrice D'Angelo, Al Shaw, and PJ Pettyjohn for their continuing support and help with the daily demands of the program. Thanks also to the many Trinity Cathedral parishioners who help with the program and provide support in a variety of ways. We appreciate the birthday cupcakes, the volunteer hours, the financial donations, and the Santa Gift shop donations. Thank you one and all!

Please remember: If you have any time or talent that you would like to share with any part of our program, please see me! We are creative and flexible! E-mail: [gbkoenig@verizon.net](mailto:gbkoenig@verizon.net) or call (609) 273-3351.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Koenig  
Trinity Cathedral/UPT Liaison

## CREATION CARE MINISTRY

Our response to God's undeniable love for Creation

Trinity Cathedral held its inaugural meeting of the newly formed Creation Care ministry a few days before Earth Day 2023. We came together with a deep passion and concern for “this fragile earth, our island home” to discern how God is calling us to be better stewards of Creation. As people of faith, we have no choice but to respond to the current climate emergency and all the consequences that flow from it.

A dedicated Creation Care team has since met monthly to develop new initiatives under the three broad categories of 1) Education and Awareness, 2) Advocacy/Environmental Justice, 3) Local Conservation and “green” practices. Some of the work completed in 2023 is listed below:

- An environmental Education and Awareness forum was held at Trinity Cathedral on September 10, 2023 with guest presenter the Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, Rector at Holy Innocents, Beach Haven.
- The team has written monthly articles in *The Trinity Times*, including suggestions for easy lifestyle changes that we can all make to help the environment.
- We have assembled a permanent Creation Care display in the Cathedral nave, including information material, prayer cards, rocks and live bamboo!
- We produced a bi-fold flyer with useful QR-code links to reliable sources of information about the environmental emergency and actions we can take to help.
- We held discussions with the Trenton-based community development organization ISLES<sup>1</sup> to propose Trinity Cathedral's participation in local environmental restoration projects, starting in 2024.
- We are collaborating with ISLES to apply for a grant from the Episcopal Church's Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism. If successful, the Cathedral will partner with ISLES to develop a local program that will address key environmental justice issues such as climate change resilience, food insecurity and wellness, and empowerment for environmental improvement and reduced carbon footprint.
- We met with representatives from Catholic Relief Services, Diocese of Trenton, to discuss potential collaboration with environmental legislation lobbying efforts.

The Creation Care team looks forward to a very active year in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Christopher Cox

<sup>1</sup> [www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org)



## TRINITY STRINGS

Trinity Strings continues to grow with 4 faculty members: Sherri Anderson, Kaitlyn Baum, Dae'von Austin (TS alumnus) and Jordan Lescouflair (TS alumnus). There are 37 students in the program. We launched a new beginners' class this Fall.

One major initiative this year was cleaning out the closet in the choir room and doing a thorough inventory of our instruments and bows. We received a grant from Princeton Community Foundation for \$15,000 to do repairs. This got a lot done, but we still have instruments and bows in need of work. Strings and a bow repair cost \$110 annually per student. This is one reason why string playing has often been only accessible to middle and high income families. We are committed to making this program accessible for everyone and we have been blessed with what we need to honor this commitment. Longterm, we would like to launch an initiative to redo the choir room and fix all the water damage. This is still a matter for prayer as we don't in the moment see where these resources will come from.

Highlights from our alumni include: Ava Daniel (a member of Trinity strings for 11 years) started as a freshman at Princeton University this past Fall and is doing very well. Aaliyah Jenkins (a member of Trinity Strings for 11 years) continues to thrive as she studies music at Rowan. Jada and Jarid Vaughan (members of Trinity Strings for 11 years) are in their junior year at Montclair studying Political Science and Business. Makayla Gordon (member of Trinity Strings for 11 years) is in her junior year at TCNJ studying Biology. We are seeing the discipline of musical study and the positive community in which this takes place doing beautiful things for all our students as they grow.

Trinity Strings is grateful for all the support and warmth the students receive from the Cathedral Community. Prayers for the growth and well-being of the students are always a gift.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Anderson  
Director

## SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Sunday afternoon Bible study offering continued in 2023 with an online format, meeting by Zoom on a bi-weekly schedule. We are blessed with a lively and committed group of participants. We enjoy meaningful conversation in both small and larger groups guided by our study material from the acclaimed Kerygma<sup>1</sup> program. Our aim is to connect the written Word to our everyday journeys of faith.

In the first half of 2023 we completed a year-long 14-session study of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's Gospel is uniquely inclusive, and speaks to our modern-day challenges of inequity, division, and social injustice, and inspires faith, spirituality, and action. The action continued in the 2023/24 program year as we picked up "Luke part-2" with the study of Acts. Luke is our guide as we relive the events of the early Church and catch the wind of the same Spirit that brings new life to us today.

Please join us for our 90-minute sessions by Zoom on alternative Sundays at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Christopher Cox

<sup>1</sup> [www.kerygma.com](http://www.kerygma.com)



## EVANGELISM COMMISSION

Evangelism Commission in 2023 continued the effort of working with Commission members in feeling comfortable about talking with others about God and refining use of the Barnabas questions and Life planning along with the Bible and the Book of Common Prayers as tools in evangelism.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip G. Lewis



## SOCIETY OF MARY

As a national devotional organization, the *Society of Mary's* (SoM's) objective is to honor the Mother of Jesus in accord with Anglican tradition. The SoM has many chapters or "wards" and "cells," ours at Trinity Cathedral being the Ward of *Mary, Queen of All Saints*. Most of these chapters are based at Episcopal Churches; although, there are a few at churches from other jurisdictions. During 2023, the secretary of our ward attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the SoM, which was held at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, New York, and preceded by Mass celebrated by the Very Rev. Leander Harding, Dean – with attendees from other wards and cells. The SoM superior, Fr. John Alexander, who was then the Interim Priest at Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ, conducted the meeting.

Also locally, we made our annual ecumenical pilgrimage in honor of Mary at the *Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa* in Doylestown, PA. Half a dozen of us made this pilgrimage on Saturday, October 21, including the Very Rev. Dean René John, who is the superior of our ward; Jr. Warden Gil Williams, Dr. Leon Burrows, from Philadelphia and who is our organist on special occasions such as UBE services; Sue Remmers; and Cns. Terry and Paul Cooper This pilgrimage has taken place in many of the years beginning in the 1980's. We are planning to donate a plaque to the shrine commemorating these many years of pilgrimage.

We continue our weekly Rosary Devotions virtually on Thursdays at 8 pm. Canon Deborah Ford (RIP) was instrumental in establishing these devotions before the icons at St. Elizabeth's Altar prior to the pandemic. We make sure that all participants have Rosaries and guides for their use as well as hymn books. Please get in touch with Erica Warner or me if you have any questions or need this guide material. I can E-mail the Zoom link for 2024 to those wishing to join us.

Those interested in learning more about the Society of Mary, including becoming a member, can refer to their website, which is [www.somamerica.org](http://www.somamerica.org) .

Respectfully submitted,

Cn. Paul Cooper (E-mail: [paul.cooper@verizon.net](mailto:paul.cooper@verizon.net))  
Secretary of the SoM Ward at Trinity Cathedral  
Secretary of the SoM/USA

## TRINITY CATHEDRAL ALTAR GUILD – 2023

With continuing thanksgiving, the rhythm of life at Trinity Cathedral has returned to that of our pre-COVID days. We are sincerely grateful to Dean John and our priest associates: Noel Amadi, Peter Bridge, John Luttrell, and Bruce Montgomery; and to our Deacons, Chris Cox and Carol Gilbert. They are each unique and insightful in church matters so we continue to learn from them.

Rachel Mathis, Cheryl Nagy, Ginny Harmer, and Cns. Paul and Terry Cooper attend to the setting of the altar in the Cathedral for the 10:00 am service. Special thanks to Hilary Cox, who quietly steps up whenever needed. Our Deacons arrange for the 8:30 am service. (They need help at that time.) Our 9/11 Memorial candle stand for private prayers is kept renewed by Veronica Ngwayah. Laurus and Cyrus Ketter, our wonderful acolytes, clear the altar after the services. They, with our crucifer, Lafayette Roberts, Jr., are our jewels.

Thanks to the generous legacy of Dr. Fred Rogers, our sacristy has been repainted and renewed. With outstanding effort and discernment, Bernard McMullan, Patrice D'Angelo, Susan Remmers, and Terry Cooper reorganized that space, while eliminating worn out or no longer useful articles. Our beautiful, detailed service bulletins - prepared by our Cathedral Administrator, Patrice D'Angelo - are worth re-reading again during the week. Al Shaw and PJ Pettyjohn are always willing to assist as needed. With bidding goodbye to Bishop Stokes and welcoming Bishop French more has been renewed at our Cathedral than can be enumerated here. God has inspired us with outstanding cooperation by all involved. It has been an extraordinary year and we are grateful.

Diocesan services are generally held on Saturdays and Sundays. Your help would be most gratefully received, if you are available.

Respectfully submitted,

Cn. Terry Cooper

## TRINITY CATHEDRAL FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild provides flowers for the altars of Trinity Cathedral and decorations of plants, greens, and flowers for Easter and Christmas.

The increased support of our faithful parishioners enabled us to provide altar flowers for 29 Sundays this year. We appreciate the Amadi family, the Bridge family, the Cox family, Fay Manicke, Margaret Nartey, Jennifer Ng'andu, Frances O'Brien, Maureen Perry, Bobbie Powell, Susan Remmers and Irene Sanz.

In addition, the Flower Guild provided altar flowers for Diocesan survives in May and June and created four arrangements for the consecration of Bishop Sally French, under the very able direction of Mr. Ira Lackey of Trinity Church, Princeton.

We are indebted to Dean René John, Cn. Arthur Powell, Karlene Blasse, Greg Cooper, Winnie Daniels, Georgia Koenig, Bernard McMullan, Anthony Rabara, Al Shaw and Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn for the greening of the Cathedral this Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Remmers

## **THE CATHEDRAL ARTS SERIES AT TRINITY (CAST)**

The Cathedral Arts Series at Trinity (CAST) hosted two concert events at Trinity this past year.

In the Spring of 2023, for Women's History Month we presented “Let It Begin With Me” featuring singer Elyse Langley. The show celebrated the lives and humanitarian contributions of remarkable women throughout history, with stories about Harriet Tubman, Corrie Ten Boom, Sojourner Truth, Jane Froman and more, all set to inspirational music of all genres.

In October 2023, Mr. Richard C. Alston presented his program entitled, “Classically Black: Songs from African-American Composers”. He performed music for piano composed by a range of men and women of African heritage, including works of Nathaniel Dett, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Joseph Bologne-Chevalier de Saint-George, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and others. He provided us with lots of interesting information and actually asked questions to the audience.

Both of these events were well received by the attendees.

Looking ahead to 2024, the CAST committee is hoping to collaborate with Capital Harmony Works, a local organization working in Trenton, New Jersey to make use of our Cathedral space for future musical events. The CAST committee is also exploring other possible musical events and we welcome any suggestions from our congregants.

We are also actively seeking folks to serve on the CAST Committee. If you have a love of the arts and would like to help bring more exciting performances to our Cathedral, then CAST is for you! We recently welcomed Sherri Anderson to the committee and are grateful for her musical experience and input; we encourage everyone to recommend her youth music program, The Trinity Strings – please see their report in this booklet for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Powell  
Chairperson, Cathedral Arts Series at Trinity

## TRINITY CATHEDRAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### January 2024

Trinity Cathedral enjoyed a good 2023 Stewardship season. New Consecration Sunday services were well attended and the homilist, The Rev. Deacon Trisha Thorne, Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services – New Jersey, was very well received.

The theme for 2023 was “Creation Caring Stewards, Expressing Gratitude by our Giving” and the scriptural reflection was taken from Psalm 43:6: “*Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*”

As of the writing of this report, we have 70 pledging units totaling \$238,000, representing an average of \$3,400 per unit. We anticipate a few more pledge units being received, which are greatly needed as we seek to continue to do important work in the local Trenton community and beyond through our various outreach ministries.

Thank you to all who have pledged and all of those who are considering a pledge. Without your support, our collective labors in God’s garden would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Gilbert Williams  
Junior Warden/Stewardship Chair 2023

## REPORT OF THE GOLF COMMITTEE

Once again, the members of the Golf Committee were pleased to lead the efforts for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop George E. Councill Memorial Golf Outing which was held on Monday, October 9. The outing generated gross revenue of \$ 46,034 for the Cathedral's ministries, a slight decrease over last year's results.

### Golf Fundraiser Results, 2019-2023

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
\$ 43,479	\$ 44,361	\$ 44,823	\$ 47,265	\$ 46,024

While 2022 saw internal change, 2023's efforts were impacted by external winds. The diocese spent much of the spring and early summer focused on the election and installation of new bishop, Sally French. We also saw significant staff changes at Diocesan House requiring the committee to take on many of the administrative tasks once handled by diocesan staffer, Ann Notte. A special thanks to Dean René, Patrice D'Angelo and David Miller for their Yeoman's work on this front.

We implemented several changes this year, including:

- Added a well-received Pickle Ball Clinic, which expanded participation to non-golfers.
- Focused on cold calls to generate additional ad sales.
- Implemented a weekly Golf newsletter in the final month leading up to the event.
- Reformatted the silent auction and raffle and added a wine pull.
- Awarded prizes to second and third place finishers along with individual trophies to the members of the winning team.

Despite this, we continue to experience a decline in golfers (68 this year) and will need to work much harder to have the event retain its status as a "signature diocesan event."

We hope to use the outing's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a galvanizing moment to:

- Generate more revenue.
- Recruit additional members from across the diocese who supplement needed skills and serve as ambassadors of the outing.
- Expand the event's offerings (e.g. Pickleball, table games, etc.) to attract more attendees.

We remain grateful to the Cathedral community for its support. We are especially thankful for the members' donations to the various auctions, and for the attendance of so many at the awards dinner, a demonstration to the wider diocesan community of your commitment and engagement to this event.

We welcome your input as we explore ways to further develop this event.

Respectfully submitted,

La'Tonya Johnson, *Chair*  
Willie Coleman  
Patrice D'Angelo  
Thomas DiMuzio  
Alan Erickson  
Van Gibson

Bill Harmer  
The Very Rev. René John  
Dick Koenig  
David Miller  
Susan Perfater Zitofsky

### **TRINITY CATHEDRAL ALTAR GUILD SHOP**

The Cathedral Altar Guild Shop is starting its 60<sup>th</sup> year, providing religious and non-religious books, church supplies and gift items. We have faced many challenges for a small shop, but we press on thankfully to our faithful volunteers and loyal customers. Currently, we are going through some transitioning with new management.

Goals for this year:

- Increase sales by continuing to add new products.
- Update on-line service.
- Advertise more outside of Cathedral parishioners.

A special thanks to our committed volunteers who give their time and energy to the AGS. To our outgoing manager, Joyce Gibbs, and Georgia Koenig, and Linda Lengyel, who are the regular Sunday and Diocesan event team. Also, to bookkeeper, Sharlie Ross and Howard Ebersole for their assistance. We are blessed to have this fine group of workers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy T. Adams  
Manager

**ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JANUARY 2024**

The Endowment Fund Board was revitalized this year. The Board now consists of members Georgia Koenig, Chinweze Ahaghotu, Van Gibson, Willie Coleman and the undersigned. The Board is currently overseeing the Cellini Endowment Fund, the 829 W. State Street Fund and the Fine Arts Fund. The three funds, as of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, totaled \$672,399 and are held within the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). The Board is coordinating with the Finance Committee on how Trinity Cathedral might get greater growth for these funds beyond what is so well provided by the DIT.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip G. Lewis

**A REPORT OF THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL GROUNDS FACELIFT TEAM FOR 2023**

In anticipation of the election and consecration of a new bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, a team of individuals interested in the appearance of the cathedral's grounds and their maintenance convened in late summer 2022, and developed a plan to tackle some of the less attractive elements of our grounds. With the enduring support of Dean René John, the vestry, and the Property, Maintenance and Improvement Commission chair, Mike Raab, we began a systematic march to prepare the grounds for the upcoming Diocesan events and ensure that it remained as a welcoming member of the Berkeley Square and West Ward neighborhoods of Trenton. Members of the coordinating team include Canon Terry Cooper, Georgia Koenig, Bernard McMullan, Susan Remmers, and Irene Sanz. We have been supported in our efforts by members of the custodial staff, as well as several exceptional contractors.

We were delighted to receive substantial funds from a variety of sources including individual donations, support from the Cathedral's operating budget, the Flower Guild, funds from bequests, and a contribution from the Diocese. What was initially laid out as a project of two phases, has over time morphed into Phase III and IV as we have taken on more projects.

The following projects have been accomplished or are well underway:

- Removal of multiple dead, dying, or "past-their-prime" shrubs and trees
- Shrub and tree replacement and landscaping of large areas at the front of the Cathedral including the "Triangle garden"
- Pruning of large trees along the perimeter of cathedral property
- Careful treatment of the cathedral lawns along West State Street



- “Lining” of the perimeter of Cathedral and Chapel walls with pavers or stones to reduce the incursion of vines and other plant growth that could damage mortar and building stones
- Covering unprotected window wells along the Chapel sides (covers for similar window wells along the Overbrook Avenue side of Synod Hall are under construction)
- Replanting of the garden beneath the Guild Room
- A massive pruning and transplanting effort of the Memorial Garden (final plans are being drawn up to complement the existing plants with attractive native species; this work will begin in Spring 2024)
- Development of a guide for grounds maintenance and management practices to ensure that efforts to date are sustained and completed in an environmentally-friendly manner
- Launch of the “Trinity Cathedral Organic Weed & Water Club” to recruit volunteers (like you) to tend and care for small plots of the Cathedral’s gardens throughout the growing season
- Installation and refurbishment of new signs around the property and re-lining of the parking space in the cathedral’s parking yard

What is planned for 2024:

- Installation of a donated bench at the West State Street bus stop (to be coordinated with the City of Trenton that will pour a concrete pad for the bench during a sidewalk replacement project along West State Street (early Spring 2024)
- Expansion of the entry driveway “apron” to allow easier access into the Cathedral’s parking yard (as part of the city’s sidewalk restoration project)
- Painted lining of the driveway to help reduce speeds and discourage parking
- Continued refurbishment of the Memorial Garden including (as noted above) planting of new shrubs, cleaning of the Celtic cross monument, and sanding and repainting of the entry gate and arch
- Cleaning up areas around the parking yard and garage
- Developing a plan for the maintenance and enhancement of the lawns and gardens along Berkeley Avenue

While we have made substantial progress in the past 16 months, we recognize that these efforts require ongoing attention and action. We seek more volunteers who are willing to sustain our efforts over future decades.

If you have questions about our selections, process or wish to offer suggestions and support, please contact any team member!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bernard McMullan  
 On behalf of the Grounds Facelift Team

**THE 239<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION**  
**Saturday, March 4, 2023**

Clergy and Lay Deputies gathered at the Cathedral for this one-day hybrid 2023 Diocese of New Jersey Convention in person and via Zoom. The Convention began with the Eucharist lead by The Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes. Following the Eucharist, Bishop Stokes welcomed all assembled for Convention, in person and via Zoom. During his address to Convention, Bishop Stokes conveyed his gratitude and blessings for the honor of serving the Diocese for the past 10 years. He was also thankful for the support and service he has received from everyone throughout the Diocese, and specifically recognized his staff, with the Dean and staff of the Cathedral.

Greetings were presented by Bishop-Elect Sally French, expressing her appreciation for having been selected as the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. It is a joy for her and she is looking forward to being in relationship with the people of the Diocese in partnership with God.

Greetings were delivered from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who spoke of how the Diocese is in the midst of transition with the election of a new Bishop. Transitions are complex moments, when one world is yielding to another. We pray over those moments, that God will guide us through this transition.

Also addressing the Convention, was Archbishop Daniel, of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, based in Somerset County, New Jersey. Archbishop Daniel spoke about the pain the people of Ukraine have experienced the past year. There have been over 18,000 civilian casualties and some 628,000 kids taken from Ukraine to Russia. He thanks the American people for their support and prayers for Ukraine.

Other guest speakers included The Right Rev. Carlye Hughes, Diocese of Newark; The Right Rev. Juan Carlos, Diocese of Ecuador Central and The Right Rev. Cristobal Leon Lozano, Diocese of Ecuador Litoral.

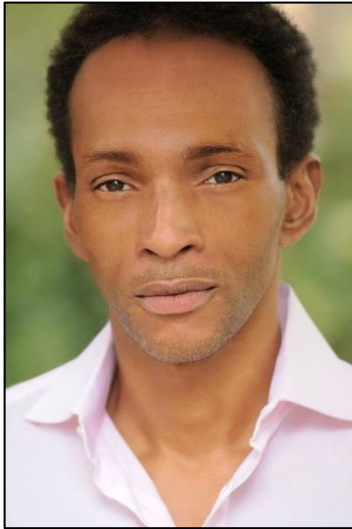
The business portion of the Convention included voting on resolutions, committee reports, and the Diocesan budget, and electing leaders to various governing bodies of the Diocese and delegates to General Convention.

The 2023 Diocesan budget, totaling \$4.6 million was approved. The 2024 proposed budget was deferred to allow the new Bishop to have input on her budget priorities. There will be a special Convention held in November to present a proposed 2024 budget.

You may view details of Convention resolutions, reports and the results of the elections on the Diocesan website ([www.dioceseofnj.org](http://www.dioceseofnj.org)).

Respectfully submitted,  
Willie Coleman, Judith Miller and Margaret Nartey  
2023 Diocesan Convention Delegates

## **J. GIL WILLIAMS – CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR WARDEN**



My first scholastic experience was at our Trinity Academy, I attended an Episcopal boarding school for high school (St. Andrew's, Middletown, DE), and have been an active member at Trinity since January 2014.

During my time at the Cathedral, I have served as a Lector, Chalice bearer, Vestry member (currently Junior Warden), Choir member, Hamilton Grove volunteer, Co-head of the Food Pantry, Co-head of Outreach & Jubilee Ministries, and the Chair of Stewardship (2017-23). I'm also a member of the Cathedral's Pastoral Care Committee.

I live in Lawrenceville and have worked as a middle school and high teacher & coach in both New Jersey and Los Angeles, currently teaching middle school Math at Dr. Martin Luther King School and coaching Varsity Tennis at Trenton High. I'm passionate about teaching and working with children, creative writing and producing, and spreading the gospel of Christ.

## **MARGARET NARTEY – CANDIDATE FOR JUNIOR WARDEN**

I have been a long time member of the cathedral family (over a decade), raised my sons here in their formative years, and saw them serve as Youth Group members and Acolytes. I've served as a member of the Cathedral African Festival committee for four years. Recently, I've served as a Vestry member for two years and a delegate to the Trenton Convocation and Diocesan Convention. It has been a learning and rewarding experience.

If elected it will be an honor to serve as Junior Warden working with the Bishop, Dean, fellow Warden, fellow Vestry members, congregation and community to further the interests of God's people. Most recently, I've also been working with Andrea John, a few other Cathedral members and the Dean to ensure individuals and families in crisis are ministered to always. My ministry strengths have been Pastoral Care, Lay Ministry, Hospitality and Ushering.



Thank you for considering me as a nominee for Junior Warden.

## JOHN GUMMERE – CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY



I'm originally from Trenton and I was raised Roman Catholic, with an early exposure to the Episcopal Church by way of my father's side of the family; my father was not a churchgoer but his parents and my Aunt Betty (Peplow) were long-time members of Trinity Cathedral.

Professionally, I'm an artist: a painter and graphic designer. I graduated with a BA in Architecture from Columbia University, but my "first love" was fine arts; I took all the art courses I could at Columbia, plus part-time courses with Mel Leipzig and others at Mercer County Community College. Long after college, I returned to school in the four-year Certificate Program at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

My faith journey took me through Catholic parochial school and Jesuit high school, along with participation in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), then on to activity in the Catholic Campus Ministry in college, and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) after graduation. For two years in JVC, I taught art and music at a parochial school in North Philadelphia. After JVC I had an exposure to Quakerism through one of my first graphics jobs, at *Friends Journal*, a national Quaker magazine published in Philadelphia. My first wife and I were long-time parishioners at Old St. Joseph's, the Jesuit church in downtown Philadelphia, and we eventually migrated over to St. Peter's Episcopal Church. While attending St. Peter's, I was asked by Margareth Awiti, a parishioner from Tanzania, to help her launch a ministry to help poor villages in her home country. Eventually that evolved into the Philadelphia-Serengeti Alliance, a 501c3 nonprofit that has mainly focused on water development projects in rural communities, as well as other initiatives to improve the quality of life.

Sue and I married in 2011 when I was living in South Philadelphia. When we moved from Philadelphia to the Trenton area in 2016, Trinity was the clear choice for our spiritual home. We have sung in the choir for several years, and I have taught art in Trinity's Urban Promise program.

## **ELLEN HEATH – CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY**

Ellen joined the Cathedral about four years ago at the suggestion of a friend who knew what kind of community she was looking for. Originally a Presbyterian, she has found that she appreciates the Episcopal services as well as all the friends she has met. She has enjoyed the Bible studies and looks forward to being more involved in other activities of the church.

Ellen has lived in the Lawrence/Trenton area for 50 years. She retired from the water monitoring division of the Environmental Protection Agency in 2000. She has two daughters and a large extended family from her second marriage with Bob Schuster.



## **LOURDEZ (“COOKIE”) HERNANDEZ – CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY**



I was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico and have resided in New Jersey for the past 50 years. I became a member of Trinity Cathedral after attending a World AIDS Day event in December 2013. For the past 25 years I have been, and continue to be an activist for those living with HIV/AIDS consistently. I regularly participate in advocacy efforts which include lobbying in Washington DC, and meeting with members of Congress to advocate for HIV/AIDS funding. For the past 20 years I have worked for the New Jersey Association on Correction as the program Supervisor of the Correctional AIDS Project in the NJ Department of Correction.

I have been a member of the National Minority AIDS Council, New Jersey Governor’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and Related Blood-borne Pathogens since 2003. I am also affiliated with numerous community service agencies, such as the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, NJ AIDS Partnership, NJWAN (New Jersey Women and AIDS Network) and a member of the Mercer County HIV Collaborative, New Jersey HIV/AIDS Planning Group’s Executive Committee, HIV/AIDS Issues Committee and the Prevention and Care Collaborative Work Group. I have great passion for those living with HIV/AIDS and I am willing to educate the community without hesitation.

I have volunteered at the Cathedral Food Pantry for a couple of years, and in 2023 I became the Food Pantry Director. I have assisted in organizing the Cathedral World AIDS Day Commemoration for the past several years, and I am currently serving an unexpired term on the Vestry. Thank you for considering me to serve another term.

## CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY – LARRY SPEARS

Lawrence G. Spears, better known as Larry, has lived in Trenton New Jersey for over twenty years. He is the husband of Joyce Gibbs Spears and the father of two daughters: Karen Spears and Sarah Spears. He has worked in the Philadelphia School District for the last twenty-five years as a therapist working with special needs children. In his spare time, he enjoys reading the paper, history books and watching Korean, Chinese and Indian shows on Netflix as well as other cable channels.



Larry is a native of Knoxville, Tenn where he was raised by his parents as a Baptist. In his early twenties he was introduced to the Episcopal Church, which he has called his spiritual home for the last thirty-eight years. During this time he has been a member in different parishes in Tennessee, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has served in different capacities as follows: Acolyte master: Sunday School superintendent and teacher; Bible Study leader; Vestry member and Youth Group leader.

In 2016, Larry was ordained to the diaconate in the Reformed Episcopal Church to serve parishes in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. Larry left the Reformed Episcopal Church due to the changing social and political environment religion finds itself in our society today.

Currently, Larry serves as Co-chair of the Hospitality Committee and organizes the food for our Sunday fellowship. Since the pandemic began, he has begun a campaign of periodic calls to fellow parishioners to check-in on their well-being.



INTERFAITH  
Caregivers  
GREATER MERCER COUNTY

3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 16, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619  
Phone: 609.393.9922 ~ Fax: 609.586.1919

July 6, 2023

Reverend Rene Rory John  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
801 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618-5390

Dear Reverend John,

On behalf of the Board and our entire team of staff and volunteers, thank you and the members of your congregation for your donation of \$240 to Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County's *Walk for Wellness 2023*. Your congregation's generous and continued support of our caregiving and wellness services for homebound seniors and adults with disabilities is greatly appreciated.

The contribution of the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral family will allow us to engage even more volunteers and increase our capacity for providing transportation services, assistance with everyday life activities, and much-needed companionship to lonely homebound seniors.

Thank you, once again, for your generous contribution. Our community is stronger because of our work together aiding our vulnerable and disabled neighbors!

With deepest appreciation,



Carla A. Winters, Ph.D.  
Interim Executive Director  
Grants & Agency Programs

*In accordance with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, ICGMC acknowledges receipt of the contribution specified above. Per IRS regulation, we hereby state that no goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. ICGMC is a 501(c)3 organization. Our Tax ID is 22-3312846.*

*Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation and the percentage of contributions received by the charity during the last reporting period that were dedicated to the charitable purpose may be obtained from the Attorney General of The State of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215 and is available on the internet at <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charfrm.htm>. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement*

*MISSION: Promote the independence, dignity and wellness of homebound elderly and people with disabilities by matching them with supportive and caring volunteers who assist with the tasks of everyday life.*

**[www.ICGMC.org](http://www.ICGMC.org)**

**TRINITY CATHEDRAL  
2023 NECROLOGY**

**The Very Rev. Herbert Draesel**

**Chanda Moore**

**Gwendolyn O. Pearson**

**Jane Ramsdell**

**Lafayette Roberts, Sr.**

**Patrick A. Worrell**