

The Ministries of Trinity organized according to the 5 Marks of Love

To Tell - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- **Altar Guild:** This small but dedicated team plays an essential role in our busy worship schedule. They clean, polish, launder, store and arrange all of the materials that are needed for our weekly Masses. No parish can run efficiently without an active Altar Guild. New comers are encouraged to join. It is a great way to learn about our liturgical traditions.
- **Worship Volunteers:** Ushers, Greeters and Lay Readers also play vital part in our weekend services. Ushers and Greeters are responsible for displaying the warm welcome that our visitors and returning parishioners expect; and Lay Readers participate in the Ministry of the Word.
- **The Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** These parishioners serve as part of the altar party and are trained to assist the deacons and the priests in setting the altar and serve as chalice bearers.
- **Our Vergers,** Russ Boulet, John Scherer, Dave Osis, and Liz Scott, help coordinate every liturgy service at Trinity and assist in the training of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers.
- **Seabrook Monthly Eucharist** occurs on the 4th Wednesday of each month for the residents of Seabrook Village. This service, conducted by an Episcopal or Lutheran clergy person, provides a connection to the church for those who either cannot participate in services as often as they used to or can no longer attend due to infirmity.
- **Hispanic Ministry:** Trinity has joined a coalition with three other Episcopal churches on the Jersey Shore to develop a parish-based ministry to the Hispanic community. This involves sharing a Spanish-speaking Priest and church planter to help us engage with the Hispanic community in our area, offering worship, service and fellowship in their language. Our goal is not to create bilingual services, which have proved in the past equally unsatisfactory to both Spanish and English speakers alike, but rather to build a joint community of faith that offers services in both languages. These two distinct communities together form one church by sharing leadership and encouraging fellowship opportunities that involves the whole church.
Padre Ramon has grown a regular worship community that attends a 5 PM Spanish Mass on Sundays. In the coming year, he will begin to transition from a focus on Christ Church, Tom's River, to Trinity. Consequently, he will become a more visible presence in our community. The Spanish-speaking congregation should experience more rapid growth as a result of this development.
- **Music:** The adult choir continues to set a high standard for the musical life of our church, enriching our worship on a weekly basis with a combination of service music, anthems, and hymns. They also sing at our Evensong services throughout the year. As ambassadors of Trinity, they have recently completed a choral residency at Guildford Cathedral in England, where they provided the choral music for all services for a week; demonstrating to a wider audience both the importance of music to our church and the professional quality it expects from this ensemble. Diane Caruso, Music Director, is always eager to talk with interested parishioners about joining the choir.
Diane is particularly grateful for her summer sabbatical last year. She spent most of this time in England enriching her knowledge and experience of our Anglican musical tradition.
- **Arts Committee:** Trinity has assumed an active role in the arts by adding the visual arts to the already established musical life of the parish. In the past year, the nave of the church has served as a regular venue for church-appropriate art exhibitions. The much admired "Stations of the Cross" exhibition, featuring works by local artists and an exhibition entitled "Activism in the Arts" were highlights from 2017.
- **Communications:** Trinity recognizes the challenges of communicating its sense of God's mission to the parish and beyond. The Church is in particular need of volunteers to step forward in this area. This year we have embarked upon a thorough overhaul of our various forms of electronic and print communications, beginning with the development of a new website. This is scheduled to go "live" in early 2018.

To Teach - *To teach, baptize and nurture new believers*

- **Youth Formation:** Our goal is to have a thriving youth ministry at Trinity; but we realize that we need to start small by first providing a consistent high-quality Sunday School. This is happening! Next step will be to introduce programs that specifically target our toddler population and then build a youth group for our teenagers. Once those needs are met, we will be well on the way to having a first-class youth program that is spiritually rich, joyful and fulfilling. Accordingly, we have identified the need to hire a staff member dedicated to this goal. We are excited to announce that the vestry has approved the creation of a part-time Family & Youth Director. This new member of our team will focus entirely on the needs of our youth and help connect families to programs and opportunities that will enrich their individual spiritual lives and those of the entire family unit. A job description is being created and the search for this position will begin shortly thereafter.

On Sundays

The Children's program has had another wonderful year. The Nursery continues to be staffed by paid employees Miss Shekira and Miss Rachel. They work hard to create a safe, fun, age-appropriate environment for our youngest members up to age 5. Sunday School for children in grades K-5 continues to grow. We have creative, loving, supportive teachers that continue to inspire our children. This year, we began using a new curriculum entitled "Weaving God's Promises," which focuses on general Bible knowledge, the Saints, church seasons, the Episcopal Church, and much more. It is grounded in prayer and has connections to home for the parents. It provides flexibility for the teachers and a large selection of activities, games, and crafts to reinforce the lesson of the day.

Our children continue to participate in worship in a variety of ways, including gathering around the altar with Fr. Michael on special occasions to celebrate the Eucharist and join in on processions for special feast days and church holidays.

Confirmation

After several years when no young people or interested adults were available for confirmation classes, the program resumes this year with five teenagers. They will be exploring their faith and spirituality through discussion, exploration, and service. This is a two-year process, using the "Confirm not Conform" program, that prepares young people to become mature members of our faith community.

- **Tuesdays at Trinity (Adult Forum):** This program has been operating for nearly three years now. Every Tuesday evening parishioners meet to discuss a particular topic related to faith. We are currently engaged in a 26-week study of the Bible, using a program entitled "The Path."

- **Adult Forum:** This consists of weekly informal video-based faith discussions and are held on Sundays at 9 AM, conveniently scheduled between services so more people can attend.

To Transform - *To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation*

- **Food Justice** at Trinity continues to meet the immediate needs of hunger in Asbury Park. Trinity's Food Pantry and Saturday Soup kitchen are still run by wonderful local volunteers serving over 35,000 (increased from 30,000 last year) meals a year. We continuously work to get more local, healthy, and organic food to serve to our guests. During our soup kitchens we have volunteer social workers that work to empower our guests and expand their options for their future concerning housing, jobs, and healthcare. Our acupuncturist continues to work every week with our guests' stress, anxiety and addictions. Over the last year our soup kitchen has a new program that we call the Food Justice Work Program. This program is about building relationships with our low-income community members who volunteer at our pantry and soup kitchen and honoring them and their labor by paying them a living wage of \$11 an hour for their work. We have paid twelve

volunteers over \$5,000 and have seen them able to pay rent, get housing for the first time, or buy the extra food they need for the week. Next year we look to upgrade this program. This year Food Justice has also continued to teach all of our Saturday Soup volunteers every Saturday the reasons our community members are hungry in one of the richest countries in the world.

Food Justice at Trinity Fundraisers- This year we had three large fundraisers; we had the Battle of Hunger(\$16,000), Spring Lake Community Theater show(\$11,000), and a Tony Campolo event about racial and LGBTQ Justice issues(\$3,000).

Trinity's Urban Garden had a great season. It was pretty much the same as last year, but this season we opened the garden up to the community members to pick food for themselves. It was a joy to see our Haitian and Central American community members help themselves throughout the week to local healthy food.

Food Justice at Trinity believes that some of the root causes of hunger are unjust economic systems and systemic racism. So, Food Justice at Trinity helped to found the **Asbury Park Anti-Hunger Coalition**, which consists of a diverse group of people and organizations working to combat hunger and injustice in Asbury. The group is currently made up of a Food Justice group, an Educational Justice Collective, and a group of people who have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness organizing in the community.

The Asbury Anti-Hunger Coalition /Women's Hospitality Network continues to serve a meal on the last Tuesday of each month with many different groups around the city. This past summer and Fall the collation of organizers that have or currently experienced homelessness created the Women's Hospitality Network in Asbury Park and Neptune, New Jersey. The network is now made up of a group of multiracial churches that have committed to housing and advocating for women experiencing homelessness in the winter months. The network agrees that poverty is a form of violence and an injustice; it also understands that low income people living in the United States experience disproportionately high rates of violence. We will start housing women to confront this violence on Decembers 4th. Each night a different church in Asbury and Neptune will take a night to house women. During the four months, we will work with local social workers to make sure that most of the women staying with us have employment or have found permanent housing.

- **The Racial Justice Project**, just for a reminder, was created in collaboration with Food Justice at Trinity with the understanding that as long as racism exists, hunger will always follow, so to end hunger one also must organize to end racism.

During this season the racial Justice Project at Trinity became one of the organizers for the intersectional "Rally Against Hate," in Asbury Park, New Jersey, which was organized in solidarity with Charlottesville. This was probably one of the most diverse rallies I have been to and was a big step towards Asbury Park coming together. I will explain more farther down.

The Racial Justice Project has also organized a Racial Justice Film and Dialogue series this year. Here is a list of films we have shown to create community dialogue and social change. Between 100 to 160 came for each one of these seven films.

- **The Asbury Park Housing Coalition** in conjunction with Food Justice at Trinity is working with Fair Share Housing New Jersey to create and organize for an affordable housing ordinance in Asbury Park.
- **Immigration Advocacy:** In conjunction with both Food Justice at Trinity and the Hispanic Ministry, the church works to serve the immigrant population in Asbury Park by providing a variety of advocacy services. This has prompted the church to undergo a parish-wide discussion of what our role is in the lives of neighbors whose status is threatened for whatever reason. As a result, this past summer the Vestry of Trinity voted to declare itself a Sanctuary Church.

- **Family Promise:** The mission of this organization is to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. To that end, various institutions, particularly communities of faith, are selected to host the individual families participating in the program for a week at a time. Trinity has been offering hospitality to homeless families through this program 2 to 3 times a year for the past two years. It is coordinated by Rocco Sherman and Adrienne Wirt and requires the support of a host of volunteers to ensure that the families who temporarily reside at Trinity are offered the services they require.
- **The Chorister Program:** Throughout its nearly 15 years of existence, this important ministry has proved to be effective in making a positive difference in the lives of many young people in our community. In 2016/17 funds were raised to enable our chorister to join the adult choir in residency at Guilford Cathedral in England (summer 2017). This cross-cultural experience was life changing for the choristers who were able to participate in the trip.

Regarding its future, it has been decided that this program would be better served were it to become an independent 501c3 nonprofit with Diane Caruso as its director. As such, it will no longer be considered a Trinity Church ministry; though it will continue to operate in our facility and will continue to play a role occasionally as “guest artists” in our worship services. This change in status will enable the chorister program to operate outside the restrictions imposed upon a church ministry, freeing it to expand both in terms of fund raising and programming. Also, there will be a name change to go along with this new direction: The program formerly known as the Choristers will now be known as The Choir School of Asbury Park.

To Tend - *To respond to human need by loving service*

- **The Shawl and Baptismal Blanket Ministry.** Parishioners knit/crochet shawls and blankets created with love and prayer to give to those in need of comfort, prayer and healing within our parish family, friends and community. This ministry also creates Baptismal blankets that are provided to our newly baptized babies. If you like to knit or crochet, this ministry can be done at home on your own time. Donations are also accepted to support this work.
- **The Make a Meal Ministry:** This lay run service provides meals on an as needed basis to persons in our community who are sick or who are shut-ins. We extend our many thanks to all who contribute to this wonderful ministry of care and to Peggy McGinn, the ministry coordinator.
- **The Trinity Health Taxi Ministry:** This ministry matches drivers with parish members who need rides to their doctors or healthcare related appointments. A person in need of a ride/escort can email the ministry scheduler at least one day before their appointment and the scheduler will arrange for one of the volunteer drivers to pick up the parish member for their appointment. The driver stays with the member at the medical office until the member is ready to return home. Need a ride? Email rides@trinitynj.com.
- **The Bereavement Ministry:** This ministry provides support during the year of loss through listening, cards, and prayers to those who have lost loved ones and friends. Grief Support Groups are run as needed.
- **Home and Hospital Visitations and Communion:** This is another vital part of the pastoral life of the parish. These visits and the distribution of the Eucharist occur on a regular basis by your clergy and our Eucharistic Visitors. Please notify Father Michael, Deacon Gail, Deacon Carolyn or Rev. Lucille if you or someone you know in the parish requires a visit. Please contact Deacon Carolyn if you feel called to serve in this ministry. This year Deacon Carolyn trained several new Eucharist Visitors who are visiting on a regular basis those who are sick and shut-in.
- **Prayer Team:** During the Eucharist the Trinity Prayer Team is at work providing intercessory prayer in the back of the church. We encourage all to stop back and share a prayer with a Team Member. Your prayers are held in confidence. The Prayer Team supports all three weekend services. We enthusiastically seek to provide a presence at each service. Added to our 10am roster is Rocco Sherman, a very welcome addition. Dave Van Buskirk and Yvonne Ruhaut faithfully serve at the 5pm service. Peggy McGinn serves weekly at the

8am service. Our long term 10am team members are Mary Volak, George Lee, Pamela Renee, Yvonne Ruhaut, and myself, Joanie McCoy.

We bid a fond farewell to veteran Robert Culpepper who is stepping down from Prayer Team to move to sunny Florida. Also Cheryl Stanley has accepted a new assignment and is unable to serve on Prayer Team at this time. We thank them both for their faithful service.

Many use the Prayer Desks regularly for comfort and encouragement. Please come back to pray with us whenever you feel a need to give thanks or to pray for any individual needs or concerns.

- **Parish Prayer List** is coordinated by Wendy Jaghab. If you have a concern that you would like to be lifted up in prayer, please contact Wendy.

To Treasure - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

- **The Trinity Campus:** Our beautiful buildings should benefit the entire community, but because some aspects of our facility require updates and renovation, not everyone can fully share in the life of this church. This is particularly true of people with limited mobility. Our buildings need to move toward becoming fully accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is an issue of hospitality as much as anything else. More restrooms, greater accessibility for all, and a more efficient use of space are our goals. To this end, Minno & Wasco, an architectural firm, has been recruited to design our spaces to allow for this development. The plan is currently being costed out so that we can have an idea of what funds will need to be raised in order to realize this goal.

- **Stained Glass Window Project:** The once challenging prospect of addressing the issues related to our failing Stained Glass windows (to the tune of several million dollars) has been happily resolved in Trinity's financial favor. Gene Higgens of Epiphany Studios has worked tirelessly on Trinity's behalf to find an affordable solution for us. He submitted a proposal that will enable our windows to be safe from further deterioration at a fraction of the costs that were initially given in an earlier study. He was responsible for restoring and reinstalling our magnificent Nativity Window and has presented the vestry with a long-term plan to preserve all of the other windows in the church.

- **Buildings and Grounds Maintenance:** The work to maintain Trinity Church is the responsibility of our staff and volunteers. When there is a major repair, or project, the Buildings and Grounds committee investigates options, obtain estimates, and then makes their recommendation to Vestry for approval.

- **Fund Raising:** The Committee would like to begin first with thanks and gratitude to Bill Pearson for all of the hard work he has put into the Chairing of this Committee over the last 2 years. As you know, Bill resigned in June leaving a wonderful legacy of a great spirit and a lot of hard work.

The year started with the traditional Trinity Fund Raisers comprised of the dinner at DJ's and the Spaghetti Supper/Tricky Tray and the Shredding Event. This year we were very fortunate to also receive donations from the Art Gala and also a very nice donation made to the Spaghetti Supper. Two new events were added, a dinner/cooking class, an all over fun event at Lemon Restaurant, as well as adding a Mega 50/50.

It is the hope of the committee, that going forward the cooking class and dinner will continue to bring our Church family together for a fun time and that the Mega 50/50 will grow. The possibilities for this fundraiser are great, and with support and planning will hopefully bring in consistently increasing revenues.