



Trinity Tidings

March 2024

Annual Letter to the Parish

Printed below is a portion of the text from my letter to the congregation, as presented at our recent Annual Meeting.

January 2024

Dear Friends,

Now in my fifth year as rector, I want to offer my gratitude to everyone for their presence and assistance amid our common life together. As we conclude our bicentennial year celebration, we are more attentive to Trinity's history. With such an awareness, we seek to determine a path forward into the future. In a world around us that seems to relish bringing about chaos and disorder, I am grateful that we have been mindful of what is truly important in a faith community.

Thank you to Janeil Rey for serving as Warden of the parish this past year, as well as her continuing work with the Godly Play program. May she and her family have a safe and joyous journey on their upcoming extended travel tour. I also want to offer my gratitude to Don Fellows. He arrived at a time of need for us to become our supply organist. By way of his musical talent and work with the parish choir, he has uplifted us in our worship to God. I also want to give thanks and acknowledge the work of Ginny Becker. With dedication to her role as parish treasurer, she has gone above and beyond the call-of-duty!

From the Parish Register and Register of Services: Transfer in: One (1); eighty-two (82) public Sunday services were held during the past year. This total includes seventy-six (76) occasions of Holy Communion and six (6) occasions of the Daily Office, two (2) of which were services of Choral Matins. Four (4) public services of Holy Communion were

held on weekdays. One thousand-two hundred and fifty-two persons (1,252) received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Other Offices and Private services occurred on sixteen (16) occasions, which include the following: Holy Communion: 8; Holy Baptism: 1; Holy Unction: 2; Reconciliation of a Penitent: 1; Burial of the Dead: 1.

Faithfully,
(The Revd.) James Clement
23rd Rector

We congratulate
Jake Wilkins and Melisa Eichmann
on their election to serve a term of
three years on vestry!

Please keep them and the vestry in your prayers
for the work and mission of this parish church.

Important dates in March

Sunday Worship:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

TECW Meeting: Saturday, March 2, 9:30 a.m.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.

Holy Week and Easter Day: March 24-31.
Please page two for service schedule.

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Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
January 16, 2024
As approved at the February Meeting

Holy Week and Easter Day Schedule

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 24

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rt. I) and
Liturgy of the Palms.

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rt. II) and
Liturgy of the Palms.

The 10:30 service will begin in Garland Hall.

The Paschal Triduum

Maundy Thursday
March 28

7:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist of the Institution.

Good Friday
March 29

Noon – Liturgy of Good Friday, *a said service.*

Holy Saturday
March 30

10:30 a.m. – Liturgy for Holy Saturday, *a said service.*

*Everyone is invited to decorate the church
immediately following this service.*

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day
March 31

Please note the special service time

10:00 a.m. – Choral Eucharist (Rt. II) and
Lighting of the Paschal Candle.

Present: Janeil Rey, Warden; Ann Sullivan; Cathy Berner (via conference call); Sally Ludlum; Mary Lou Vercant; Jenn Wilkins, Clerk; Virginia Becker, Treasurer (via conference call);
The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused: Karin Wheelock; **Guest Attendee:** Jake Wilkins.

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., followed with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Janeil Rey.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Janeil Rey, seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented for consideration. Mary Lou Vercant made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Cathy Berner. Motion carried. See attached.

- **General Fund:** All regular monthly expenses were met. A second invoice was received from Gugino for work on the boiler, which increased the balance due to \$608. An additional invoice is expected. First quarter bills were paid, which included Allen Fire Equipment and Fredonia water/sewage. Due to our placement on balanced billing with National Fuel, there was a zero balance for December and a credit for January 2024.
- **Snowden Lane Partners:** The investment accounts increased 4.6% for December; 14.64% for 2023.
- **2024 Stewardship:** To date, 32 stewardship cards have been given in the amount of \$105,496. Several pledge units have been pre-paid, which greatly assists with cash flow for the first few months of the year.

- Building Fund: The balance at the end of October was \$611.16.
- Memorial Fund Report: The balance remains at \$3,072.28.
- Music Fund: Current balance is \$529.37 at the end of December. Subsequently, an additional \$200 has been deposited.

Buildings and Grounds: Fr. Clement reported.

- Gugino Heating and Plumbing is currently discussing our boiler system with an engineer for options to solve issues. Heat in the church has been consistent when needed for worship services.

Additional Reports: Congregational Ministries:

Trinity Episcopal Church Women: Next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 9:30 a.m. The Epiphany Tea will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2:30 p.m. in Garland Hall. Deborah Dibble, Director of the Student Health Center, SUNY-Fredonia, is the guest speaker.

Rector's Report: Fr. Clement reported.

- The Christmas Eve service was wonderful. Although many from the congregation were out-of-town, we welcomed many visitors. Many thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for the season, which was an enjoyable time as well.
- Fr. Clement will be out-of-town on assignment for the diocese, Feb. 9-11. A Morning Prayer service will be offered on Sunday, Feb. 11, officiated by Sally Ludlum. No 8:00 a.m. service is scheduled.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Feb. 13th in Garland Hall. This will be a free-will offering event. Jake Wilkins is the coordinator. Contact him, if anyone wishes to help or donate items.
- The Season of Lent will begin the following day on Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. Fr. Clement will be available at the office who wishes to stop by for Imposition of Ashes. Two Ash Wednesday services will be scheduled. More information will be available in the upcoming parish newsletter.
- Lenten Program and Supper: Fr. Clement invited everyone to join with him for a six-week video and conversation course based on the book by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours That*

Changed the World. This will take place on Wednesday evenings in Garland Hall, Feb. 21-March 27. A Lenten supper will be provided as well.

Old Business:

- Annual Parish Meeting: This meeting will be held on Jan. 28, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Janeil Rey will be presented as Teller for the meeting; Jenn Wilkins for Clerk. A light brunch consisting of items, including various quiche and soup will be offered.

New Business:

- Fr. Clement and Vestry extended their appreciation to Janeil Rey and Karin Wheelock for their service to this congregation and as members of vestry. Their terms end, which included an additional year due to the pandemic lockdown.
- Additional conversation was had as a reminder that vestry meetings maintain an open invitation for anyone to attend. As a courtesy, advanced notice is requested for discussion of new items to be listed on the agenda. This ensures adequate time for all topics.
- Godly Play: The principal instructor for the children's Sunday curriculum will be away for a period of time. Fr. Clement has decided to schedule Godly Play every other Sunday, beginning Sunday, Jan. 21.
- Operating Budget 2024: Virginia Becker shared a few notes that contributed to significant savings in the 2023 budget and carried through into the budget for 2024: Fr. Clement did not use three different line items budgeted for him, which saved \$1700; supply clergy were not used during his absence; supply organists have been used for services. A significant reduction in utility fees and office supplies was noted. Stewardship commitment increased for 2024 and last year's proposed deficit, which was quite startling, has been reduced to an actual amount of less than \$700. Knowing that we can reduce costs, especially with utilities, these actual figures were placed in the budget for 2024. Janeil Rey commented on the efforts made to reduce the deficit projection, and appreciation for the increase in stewardship pledges. A motion was made

by Mary Lou Vercant, seconded by Janeil Rey, to approve the 2024 Operating Budget as presented. Motion carried by all on Vestry.

- Vestry Selection Committee: As the committee, Vestry previously determined qualifications for an individual to be considered as a nominee and placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting for election to serve a term on vestry. Per the details shared in the January parish newsletter, this included that a person's nominee *should be a member in Good Standing, among which, includes an individual who has been faithful in attending corporate worship with the congregation.* The Committee approved the nominations of two candidates: Jake Wilkins and Melisa Eichmann. A third individual, who was self-nominated, was contacted for a conference call. After consideration, it was determined that this person has not participated in worship with the congregation. All agreed that active, not necessarily exclusive, participation was essential to understanding the needs of the entire congregation. Janeil Rey expressed appreciation for Jake Wilkins and Melisa Eichmann and moved them forward for election, seconded by Sally Ludlum. All approved.
- Diocesan Convention Delegates: Motion made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Cathy Berner, to approve and place forward for election the following persons to represent the parish at the next convention: Lisa Sedlmayer, Jenn Wilkins, and Jake Wilkins. All approved.
- Janeil Rey shared with Vestry a letter from Karin Wheelock resigning her position as Assistant Treasurer. In her letter, she expressed her appreciation for the kind and loving community that Trinity has been for her family.
- Ann Sullivan commented on the new persons attending worship services and encourages everyone to continue welcoming them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. with a motion made by Mary Lou Vercant, seconded by Sally Ludlum. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jenn Wilkins, Clerk.

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Parish Notes



EASTER FLOWERS

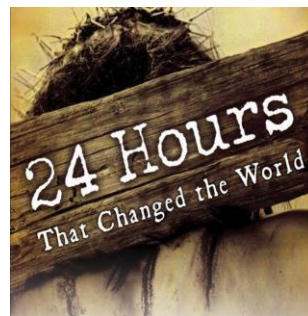
If you are interested in purchasing Easter Flowers, please sign up by Sunday, March 17th. The sign-up form is located in Garland Hall.

A potted Easter Lily or Tulip is \$10.00 each.
Contact the Flower Guild for information
about special floral arrangements.

Please make checks out to *Trinity Flower Guild* and contact Melisa Eichmann or the parish office with any questions you may have.

All are Welcome to gather for the Easter decorating of the church on Saturday, March 30th, immediately following the Holy Saturday service.

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Lenten Program and Supper

Our Lenten study based on Adam Hamilton's book, 24 Hours That Changed the World, continues into the month of March. Everyone is invited to join together for this six-week series and for a Lenten Supper in Garland Hall on Wednesday evenings at 5:30.

Remaining Sessions:

March 6: Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate

March 13: The Torture and Humiliation of the King

March 20: The Crucifixion

March 27: Christ the Victor



A big Thank You to Jonah, cellist and SUNY student, for offering his musical talent during our 10:30 service on Feb. 25. And Thank You to our Chancel Choir: Bella, Anna, Nathaniel, Dan, Doreen, and Fred. Everyone has enriched our liturgy with their talent!

TECW

ONLY 7 1/2 WEEKS: That's how much time you have to finish your spring cleaning to find items that you want to donate to the SPRING RUMMAGE SALE.

We are looking for your **kitchen items** you no longer use, **summer clothes** (no broken zippers missing buttons etc.) - do your really need 35 tee shirts! **Household items** that have some life left in them and are clean, **books** you have read, **children's clothes and toys** (need to be complete), **Gardening items** (without the dirt, dust, etc.), **linens** (no stains or tears) **puzzles** you have finished (complete), **small appliances** that work, belts, **shoes** that can still be worn, **nick knacks** (time for someone else to dust them) that are clean and unbroken, **holiday items** no longer used, **small furniture** (unbroken clean). **Craft items, decorating items, office supplies, purses, house plants** you are tired of watering.....



Thank You!!

To everyone who helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – as a volunteer, providing donations, or participating in any way. See you next year!

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The College Kitchen

Julia (President of the student club; Fredonia for Friends of Honduran Children) and her peers Gabrielle and Adam volunteered their time to assist with the preparation of the Shrove Tuesday meal while two local Boy Scouts Charlie and Nate delivered food and drinks to guests.

Julia will return to Garland Hall on Sunday, May 5th at 12pm to host a fundraiser in conjunction with the College Kitchen to raise funds for medication and medical supplies for future brigades in Honduras. This college group of pre-med students provides medical clinics and health care check-ups to orphans and families in Honduras. Jake Wilkins previously participated in this medical mission at the *Sociedad Amigos de los Niños* in January of 2023. A formal announcement with details will be shared in April for parish members and the community to attend.

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Remember!

Daylight savings time

2:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 10th

APRIL 28th 9-2 Saturday.

Watch April Tidings for drop off times.

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Birthdays in March

- 1 Spencer Annear
- 3 Robbie Mancuso
- 4 Kerrie Vercant-Underhill
- 6 Audrey Parker
- 12 Dominic Schultz
- 17 Bernard Jakiela
- 26 Todd Reynolds
- 27 Todd Graves
- 31 Walt Sedlmayer

Wedding Anniversaries in March

None in March

In Memoriam

- 25 Leo Tucker
- 27 Edith Tucker
- 28 Bruce Graves
- 30 Linda Erick

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*