

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 31, 2016



The Rev. Jon Stratton, Rector

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Agenda for the 161st Annual Meeting
of Trinity Episcopal Church
St. Louis, Missouri
January 31, 2016**

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer
3. Reading of the Necrology
4. Appointment of Secretary for the meeting
5. Presentation and Approval of Minutes from 2015 Annual Meeting
6. Election of the Vestry
7. Election of Diocesan Delegates
8. Presentation of the Slate of Trustees of the Endowment
9. Financial Reports
 - i. Trustees
 - ii. 2015 Year End
 - iii. 2016 Budget
10. List of Submitted Reports
 - i. Trinity Food Ministry
 - ii. Stewardship
 - iii. Communications
 - iv. Parish Life/Hospitality
 - v. Junior Warden
 - vi. Senior Warden
11. Appreciations
12. Other business
13. Closing Prayer
14. Adjournment

Minutes of the 160th Annual Meeting

January 25, 2015

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Senior Warden Dave Hilditch called the meeting to order at 11:37 AM in the nave of the church. Rev. Jon Stratton, Rector of Trinity, offered the opening prayer and read the necrology.

Appointments for the Meeting

Dave Hilditch appointed Julien Worland to serve as meeting secretary and appointed Hazel Kirk and Karin Layher to serve as tellers.

Minutes

Adrienne Fly moved to accept the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting as prepared. Rip Van Winkle seconded, and the assembled parishioners agreed by voice vote.

Election of the Vestry

Dave Hilditch presented the following as applicants to join the 2015 Vestry: Michael Biggers, Joyce Daughaday, Adrienne Fly, Anne Henning, Jesse Todd, and Jeff Wunrow. Jesse declined to run. In his place, Junior Warden Willie Meadows agreed to serve an additional term. There were no nominations from the floor. The Senior Warden said that members of the new Vestry would set the lengths of the terms Vestry members would serve. Al Wiman moved and Ted Taylor seconded the motion to accept the slate, which was approved by voice vote.

Election of Diocesan Delegate

This matter was tabled.

Election of the Endowment Committee Trustees

Dave Hilditch presented Barbara Uhlemann, Vander Corliss, and Jeanie Frazee as nominees to continue serving as trustees of Trinity's endowment. Adrienne Fly moved to accept their nomination, Darrell Berg seconded the motion, and parishioners approved them by acclamation.

Financial Reports

Vander Corliss presented the report on Trinity's endowment. He referred to the information printed in the Annual Report. He reported that the Trustees had released \$42,000 from the endowment to support operations of the Parish and additional money to support the Food Ministry. On page 6 of the report, he pointed out that the total market value of funds remained stable over the year at \$1.14 Million. There were no immediate questions.

Jeanie Frazee, recently elected Treasurer, presented the 2014 Year End financial report. As of December 31, Trinity's cash balance was \$767,000, from part of which the parish would pay the balance owed on the South Parish Hall construction project. Included in the cash balance were Trinity Food Ministry Reserves and some or donor-designated funds. An additional anticipated expense will be replacement of the church's heating system. As to income and expenses, the parish posted a year-end deficit of \$13,600 after using money from reserves. This was close to the amount budgeted for 2014. The Trinity Food Ministry posted a surplus.

Jeanie discussed the 2015 Budget, which she said was conservative on the income side, although she said income may increase in the next year. The TFM 2015 budget is similar to last year's, and the TFM still has reserves.

Duncan McArthur called attention to the amount of Trinity's cash reserves and asked whether those funds would remain in cash or be invested. Jeanie responded that after the final SPH payout, a finance committee would decide how to handle those funds.

Patrick Fox said that he was concerned about the drawdown from the parish's saving over recent years. The amount of these transfers is equivalent to 26% of pledge income. Jeanie explained that investment appreciation and recent generous bequests have enabled the parish to meet its financial goals. Jeanie explained she was not very concerned because she was hopeful donations would rise in the coming year.

Vander Corliss, who chaired the Stewardship Drive, acknowledged Patrick's concerns and stated he wished that the parish had done better in its pledges, alleviating the need to support operations with Parish reserves. He added that the endowment was being used as it had been for many years at a drawdown rate consistent with keeping principal intact.

Reports

Ministry reports appeared in the Annual Report and were not presented orally except for the following.

Interim Rector's Report. Senior Warden Dave Hilditch recommended that the parish read Rev. Mark Hatch's insightful report.

South Parish Hall. Michael Haggans reported that the SPH hall was now different from what it had been before, though still not complete. He asked for patience until then, including installation of kitchen equipment.

Michael explained that old SPH was opened 60 years ago; the new SPH is a long-term investment. He acknowledged that many people had worked over the years to keep the old SPH in repair, and noted Tom Kirk's ongoing maintenance work. He said the new SPH was made possible by donations from more than 100 parishioners plus generous bequests from Jan Dunlap and Steve Turner that had been of enormous help. Mike named the members of his SPH committee: Adrienne Fly, Jan Parker, Kate Worland, Willie Meadows, and deceased parishioner Perry Bascom. Perry had dealt with many legal issues involved in the construction. Trinity had been Perry's final client.

Deacon Harry Leip asked volunteers to stay after the potluck lunch to help clear out the SPH because construction would continue the next day.

Rip Van Winkle noted we still have no place to hang coats in the new SPH.

Trinity Food Ministry. Adrienne Fly had given a link to her report in the Etimes and said that everyone in the parish had helped support the TFM in one way or another. It is the parish's biggest ministry, and she said she was glad to soon be moving the Hot lunch program into the new hall after a work day on Jan. 31. She asked parishioners to be careful with the new floor, which still not completely sealed.

Junior Warden. Willie Meadows rose to the congregation's applause, and thanked Norman Morris, who had removed years of accumulated debris from the church basement last summer. His efforts made it possible to reach heating pipes needing inspection and repair.

Willie explained that the church's steam boiler broke irreversibly on Christmas Eve. Three contractors had provided bids to replace it, which ranged from \$17,000 to \$26,000. Further investigation revealed that a better option would be to replace the steam system with a hot water system, for which he was awaiting two additional bids. The Vestry will be making the final decision.

He reported that the leak on the east wall of the chancel was now repaired.

Senior Warden. Dave Hilditch reminded the congregation that "going across" or "going over" is the etymology of the word *transition*. He reviewed the last twelve months of transition. One year ago, Interim Rector Mark

Hatch had just arrived. Demolition of the old SPH had not begun. The Search Committee had just been named. In twelve months, the parish had come a long way, he said.

In the past year, he said he saw deep reserves of resilience in the community, an ability to maintain attention and balance -- usually with grace -- while holding fast to our core practices (like the TFM) and also letting go of past ways of doing things. We had demonstrated our assurance, our clarity, and our willingness to acknowledge uncertainty and to be involved in an open discernment when we were not sure what was going to happen. We were fortunate to have the help of Rev. Mark Hatch and the Search Committee. He quoted from Mark's farewell address that the parish "needs to nurture and soothe a deep pool of leadership at Trinity." We also need to encourage more people to be involved and to share their love and give generosity of their time.

Appreciations

Senior Warden Dave Hilditch acknowledged the following individuals: To Helen Hendry for her continuing hard work in the church's gardens. To Michael Haggans for his leadership on the SPH project, who came to nearly every Vestry meeting where he patiently explained the project, and then also described solutions to the furnace problem. To Adrienne Fly for her leadership of the TFM. To Lisa Carpenter and Carlos Daughaday for leading the Search Committee. To Faith Sandler for leading the Transition Committee. To Mary Moore and Hazel Kirk for their work with hospitality all year. To Beverley Van Horne for being our interim to the interim. To Julien Worland for serving as Vestry clerk. He asked the 2014 Vestry to stand to be acknowledged. He thanked Willie Meadows for serving as Junior Warden, offering him a gift of flowers and flashlights. He thanked Deacon Harry Leip who was such a fine resource for the Vestry and support to the Warden. The congregation offered standing applause.

Other Business

Rev. Harry Leip rose to acknowledge the Wardens. He explained that the Senior Warden is appointed by the Rector to guide and support the Rector. Harry reminded the congregation that Dave had served two years, throughout the whole transition process, and gave him a gift of dinner for two at Jazz at the Bistro.

The Senior Warden presented a gift basket to Rev. Jon Stratton and his family, welcoming him and his family to the parish and Central West End.

Al Wiman rose to acknowledge the contributions of Jeff Nall, saying Jeff was one of the most valuable assets Trinity has.

Dave Hilditch announced that the 2015 Senior Warden will be Barbara Uhlemann.

Rector's Comments

Rev. Jon Stratton said that it was very appropriate to end the meeting with thanksgiving. The holiest thing we can do is to offer gratitude to those who have affected our lives and community. He thanked the parish for being able to serve as our pastor, rector, and priest.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM followed by a potluck lunch in the new South Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted:
Julien Worland

Candidates for Vestry & Diocesan Delegate

Vestry

Jean Frazee

Jean is a retired CPA and currently serves as Parish Treasurer. She first came to Trinity in 1969 and has been a member since except for a few years in the 1990's and early 2000's. She served on the most recent Search Committee, works in the Hot Lunch Program and is a Trustee of the Trinity Endowment. Past service includes Senior Warden, Treasurer, Senior MC, member of the Vestry, Delegate to Diocesan Convention and a Trustee of the Diocesan Investment Fund. She states "Trinity is an important part of my life. I enjoy the people, the liturgy and the sense of community. Maintaining that in the future is very important."

Jean is running for a three-year terms on the Vestry.

Mike Fowlkes

Mike is originally from University City but spent most of his adult life on the east coast. He has worked as a quality control chemist, a management consultant, and as an IT specialist for law firms. An interesting claim to fame is that he managed the Guinness World of Records Exhibition in the Empire State Building. He attended St. John the Divine Episcopal Church while living in New York. Mike now works as a Project Manager in St. Louis and has found his church home at Trinity. He serves on the Altar Party and worked on the Trinity Youth Carnival team. Mike has also participated in a project in University City involving planning for Olive Boulevard, Heman Park and Residential Land Use.

Mike is running for a three-year term on the Vestry

Hazel Kirk

Hazel started attending Trinity as a child in 1959 when her family moved to St. Louis, when Tony Morley was Rector and Mary Gallatin was Choir Director and Organist. Except for a period in the 1960's and 1970's she has been a parishioner ever since. She has always loved the high church liturgy and the music at Trinity. She credits Trinity's history as an integrated parish for her dedication to social justice and civil rights which led her to a career as a social worker. A highlight of that career was being chosen in 2015 by her colleagues in the St. Louis Social Work Leaders in Health Care organization as Social Worker of the Year. Hazel and her husband Tom were married at Trinity by Bill Chapman and raised their four children at Trinity. They are grateful for the love and care they have received from parishioners over many years.

Hazel is completing a two-year term on the Vestry and is therefore eligible for re-election. She has served as the head of the Parish Life Commission, responsible for hospitality at parish events. She wishes to run for a one-year term on the Vestry.

Diocesan Delegates

Michael Fowlkes – 2 year term

Kate Haggans – 3 year term

Jesse Todd - Alternate

Trustees Report

Trustees: Barbara Uhlemann, Jean Frazee, Vander Corliss

Net Worth vs. Prior Yr (No Unrealized) - As of 12/31/2015

Account	12/31/2014 Balance	12/31/2015 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Charles Schwab Institutional-Cash	49,327	60,638
Schwab Cash Account	0	0
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	49,327	60,638
Investments		
Charles Schwab Institutional	841,648	827,873
TOTAL Investments	841,648	827,873
TOTAL ASSETS	890,975	888,511
LIABILITIES		
	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	890,975	888,511

Income/Expense by Category w/ Realized Gains/Losses 1/1/2014 through 12/31/2015

Category	1/1/2014- 12/31/2014	1/1/20 12/31/2
INCOME		
_ DivInc	20,678	
_ LT CapGnDst	18,166	
_ RlzdGain	0	
_ ST CapGnDst	436	
TOTAL INCOME	39,279	
EXPENSES		
Management Fees	4,878	
Social Respon. Expense	993	
Trinity Pledge	42,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	47,871	
OVERALL TOTAL	-8,592	-2,464

Net Worth vs Prior Yr (Market Basis) - As of 12/31/2015

(Includes unrealized gains)

Account	12/31/2014 Balance	12/31/2015 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Charles Schwab Institutional-Cash	49,327	60,638
Schwab Cash Account	0	0
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	49,327	60,638
Investments		
Charles Schwab Institutional	964,677	894,686
TOTAL Investments	964,677	894,686
TOTAL ASSETS	1,014,004	955,324
LIABILITIES		
	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	1,014,004	955,324

Portfolio Cost & Market Basis - As of 12/31/2015

Security	12/31/2015 Cost Basis	12/31/2015 Balance
Charles Schwab Institutional		
DFA 5Yr Global Fixed Income	82,334	80,423
DFA Emerging Mkts Core Equity	21,617	22,246
DFA Intl Small Cap Value	45,420	43,047
DFA Intl Small Co Portfolio	35,825	34,045
DFA Intl Value III Portfolio	119,106	81,584
DFA Large Cap Value III Portfolio	110,195	132,467
DFA Real Estate Securities	14,430	29,106
DFA US Lg Co Index	105,197	155,896
DFA US Micro Cap Portfolio	54,971	69,843
DFA US Small Cap Value Portfolio	43,062	56,015
Vanguard GNMA Fund Admiral Shares	85,198	82,358
Vanguard Short-Term Invst Grade Fd Admiral	110,518	107,655
-Cash-	60,638	60,638
TOTAL Charles Schwab Institutional	888,511	955,324
TOTAL Investments	888,511	955,324

Finance Committee Report

One of the main roles of the Finance Committee is the preparation of the Budget for approval by the Vestry. The Budget is divided into two parts – the Parish Operating and Food Ministry. In 2015, the Parish Operating Actuals were a deficit of \$60,147 (\$47,594 plus planned \$12,553 draw from reserves). The original budget deficit was \$14,378. The 2015 budget was developed prior to the calling of a new rector and changes were anticipated during the year. The majority of the addition spending was a result of the renovation of the North Parish Hall, the Children's Carnival, the hiring of a sexton, curriculum for Sunday School and new music. All spending was approved by the Vestry during 2015. Trinity has been fortunate in the past several years to be the recipient of a number of bequests. The Finance Committee reviewed the overall financial situation recommended that 2016 be a deficit year also for the Parish Operating part of the budget. The goal is to reduce the deficit by \$20,000 per year in the future. Deficit reductions are expected to come from Parish growth. The Vestry agreed with the recommendation. The Food program budget is prepared separately. Because of various shortfalls in collections, it is also running a deficit. The Food Program will report on plans for next year.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Frazee, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report (Preliminary pending annual audit) **Balance Sheet as of 12/31/15**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Pulaski-Bank - Main Account	152,092.57
Pulaski Money Market	52,132.01
Pulaski Organ Reserve - Savings	5,054.54
Pulaski Niekamp Fund - Savings	7,429.69
Pulaski TFM Checking	4,822.26
Cass Checking - Construction	15,546.08
Cass Checking	146,650.72

Total Checking/Savings	<u>383,727.87</u>
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Total Current Assets	<u>383,727.87</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>383,727.87</u></u>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

SPH Remodeling Project

SPH Contributions	254,267.83
Transferred from Bequests	496,716.69
SPH Project Expenses	<u>(791,169.99)</u>

Total SPH Remodeling Project	<u>(40,185.47)</u>
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Trinity Food Ministry Fund

TFM - General

TFM- General as of Jan. 1	41,591.93
TFM - General YTD	
Adjustment	<u>(18,524.02)</u>

Total TFM - General	<u>23,067.91</u>
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Total Trinity Food Ministry Fund	23,067.91
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Donor Designated	
Library Fund	424.63
Pre-Paid Pledges	10,567.87
Memorial Garden Fund	<u>395.00</u>
Total Donor Designated	11,387.50
Administratively Designated	
Palecek Fund	45,000.00
Dunlap Fund	305,391.39
Organ Reserve	5,054.54
New Sign Fund	334.22
Building Repair Reserve	<u>6,700.00</u>
Total Administratively Designated	362,480.15
Retained Earnings	74,572.74
Net Income	<u>(47,594.96)</u>
Total Equity	<u>383,727.87</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>383,727.87</u>

Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Income and Expenses
January through December 2015

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Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Income and Expenses
January through December 2015

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1																	
2																	
3																	
33					Expense												
34					Salaries/Allowances												
35					Rector's Salary/Allowances												
36					Rector's Salary		38,030.07		40,000.00		95.08%		-				
37					Housing Allowance		23,768.82		25,000.00		95.08%		-				
38					Auto Allowance		437.76		575.00		76.13%		-				
39					Total Rector's Salary/Allowances		62,236.65		65,575.00		94.91%		-				
40					Lay Staff Salaries												
47					Total Lay Staff Salaries		86,646.65		80,689.53		107.38%		19,158.00		17,989.11		106.5%
48					Vacation Substitutes												
49					Clergy		2,300.00		1,050.00		219.05%		-				
50					Total Vacation Substitutes		2,300.00		1,050.00		219.05%		-				
51					Total Salaries/Allowances		151,183.30		147,314.53		102.63%		19,158.00		17,989.11		106.5%
52					Deacon's Expenses		50.00		50.00		100.0%		-				
53					Employee Benefits/Taxes												
54					Rector												
55					Rector Insurance		26,969.13		20,000.00		134.85%		-				
56					Rector Pension		11,082.50		11,700.00		94.72%		-				
57					Total Rector		38,051.63		31,700.00		120.04%		-				
58					Rector Continuing Education		750.00		2,000.00		37.5%		-				
59					Lay Benefits												
60					Lay Insurances												
61					Parish Administrator		353.82		426.70		82.92%		18.61		22.46		82.86%
62					Sexton		2,408.00						-				
63					Total Lay Insurances		2,761.82		426.70		647.25%		18.61		22.46		82.86%
64					Lay Pensions												
65					Parish Administrator		1,774.92		1,774.87		100.0%		93.36		93.41		99.95%
66					Sexton		289.65						-				

Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Income and Expenses
January through December 2015

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD
1																	
2																	
3																	
67																	
68						TFM Manager											
69						Total Lay Pensions	2,064.57										
70						Total Lay Benefits	4,826.39										
71						Employment Taxes											
72						Workers Compensation Ins.	254.00										
73						FICA	5,727.90										
74						Total Employment Taxes	5,981.90										
75						Total Employee Benefits/Taxes	49,609.92										
76						Utilities and Communications											
77						Electricity	8,840.43										
78						Gas	6,398.19										
79						Water	417.26										
80						Sewer	550.94										
81						Internet/Telephone	2,140.53										
82						Total Utilities and Communications	18,347.35										
83						Property & Operations											
84						Operations, Use & Maint.	49,151.60										
85						Mileage											
86						Bldg. and Liability Insurance	18,536.00										
87						Outside Bldg. & Grounds	3,838.52										
88						Total Property & Operations	71,526.12										
89						Office Expenses											
90						Office Equipment & Maint.	5,928.64										
91						Office Supplies	2,885.64										
92						Postage	840.00										
93						Payroll Service	1,705.71										
94						G/L in re Securities Sales	16.10										
						Bank Service Charges	466.53										

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Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Income and Expenses
January through December 2015

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD
1																		
2																		
3																		
95							Total Office Expenses	11,842.62		10,500.00		% of Budget		Jan - Dec 15		Budget		% of Budget
96							Rector's Expenses	1,530.06		1,500.00		112.79%		193.23		100.00		193.23%
97							Moving Expenses	-		5,000.00		102.0%		-				
												0.0%		-				
98							Miscellaneous	828.42		300.00		276.14%		786.00		300.00		262.0%
99							Programmatic Expenses											
100							Within Parish											
101							Transition Hospitality	476.29		500.00		95.26%		-				
102							Bishop's Visit	-		100.00		0.0%		-				
103							Family Service	-		400.00		0.0%		-				
104							Fellowship Food/Supplies	851.74		750.00		113.57%		26.04				
105							Coffee	622.02		500.00		124.4%		-				
106							Music	2,732.05		700.00		390.29%		-				
107							Adult Education	853.92		800.00		106.74%		-				
108							Church School	3,564.68		500.00		712.94%		-				
109							Youth Program	131.01		250.00		52.4%		-				
110							Child Care	640.00		750.00		85.33%		-				
111							Altar Supplies	3,577.37		2,000.00		178.87%		-				
112							Flowers	1,525.10		1,500.00		101.67%		-				
113							Books/Calendars/Subs./Dues	627.59		450.00		139.46%		-				
114							Advertising	403.40		500.00		80.68%		-				
115							Archival Committee	-		50.00		0.0%		-				
116							Arts Committee	199.61		250.00		79.84%		-				
117							Convention Expenses	570.00		500.00		114.0%		-				
118							Total Within Parish	16,774.78		10,500.00		159.76%		26.04				
119							Outside of Parish											
120							Direct Assistance - Food	-						49,945.96		52,000.00		96.05%
121							Direct Assistance - Non-Food	-						621.37		1,000.00		62.14%
122							Other Misc. Outreach/Nurse	509.72		500.00		101.94%		4,097.39		7,541.00		54.34%
123							Total Outside of Parish	509.72		500.00		101.94%		54,664.72		60,541.00		90.29%

Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Income and Expenses
January through December 2015

14

2016 Budget

							Parish		Food Ministry		TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense											
		Income									
		Pledge Related									
			Pledges-Current Year				238,000.00				238,000.00
			Pledges-Prior Year				1,000.00				1,000.00
			Plate Offerings				22,000.00				22,000.00
		Total Pledge Related					261,000.00				261,000.00
		Endowment Contribution					42,000.00				42,000.00
		Interest Income					1,000.00				1,000.00
		Memorial Gifts					500.00				500.00
		Building Use					5,000.00				5,000.00
		Parish Functions					100.00				100.00
		Altar Flowers					1,000.00				1,000.00
		Food Ministry Income									
			TFM Income from Churches						10,000.00		10,000.00
			Schnucks E-Scrips						1,800.00		1,800.00
			TFM from Hunger Task Force						8,000.00		8,000.00
			PY TFM Endowment Income						1,000.00		1,000.00
			TFM Income - Memorials, etc.						1,000.00		1,000.00
			TFM Christmas Card Income						500.00		500.00
			TFM Income from Other Donors								
				From Parishioners					15,000.00		15,000.00
				From Non-Parishioners					18,000.00		18,000.00
			Total TFM Income from Other Donors						33,000.00		33,000.00
		Total Food Ministry Income							55,300.00		55,300.00
		Miscellaneous Income					300.00				300.00
		Total Income					310,900.00		55,300.00		366,200.00
		Expense									
		Salaries/Allowances									
			Rector's Salary/Allowances								
				Rector's Salary			40,000.00				40,000.00
				Housing Allowance			25,000.00				25,000.00
				Auto Allowance			2,000.00				2,000.00
			Total Rector's Salary/Allowances				67,000.00				67,000.00
			Total Lay Staff Salaries				87,137.16		24,118.00		111,255.16
			Vacation Substitutes								
				Clergy			1,500.00				1,500.00
				Lay Staff							
					Organist/Choirmaster		400.00				400.00
					Sexton		600.00				600.00
				Total Lay Staff			1,000.00				1,000.00
			Total Vacation Substitutes				2,500.00				2,500.00

							Parish		Food Ministry		TOTAL
							Total Salaries/Allowances	156,637.16	24,118.00		180,755.16
							Deacon's Expenses	750.00			750.00
							Employee Benefits/Taxes				
							Rector				
							Rector Insurance	31,452.00			31,452.00
							Rector Pension	11,700.00			11,700.00
							Total Rector	43,152.00			43,152.00
							Rector Continuing Education	1,000.00			1,000.00
							Lay Benefits				
							Lay Insurances				
							Parish Administrator	426.00	25.00		451.00
							Sexton	7,600.00			7,600.00
							Total Lay Insurances	8,026.00	25.00		8,051.00
							Lay Pensions				
							Parish Administrator	1,900.00	100.00		2,000.00
							Sexton	675.00			675.00
							TFM Manager		884.00		884.00
							Total Lay Pensions	2,575.00	984.00		3,559.00
							Total Lay Benefits	10,601.00	1,009.00		11,610.00
							Employment Taxes				
							Workers Compensation Ins.	1,500.00			1,500.00
							FICA	6,457.10	1,845.05		8,302.15
							Total Employment Taxes	7,957.10	1,845.05		9,802.15
							Total Employee Benefits/Taxes	62,710.10	2,854.05		65,564.15
							Utilities and Communications				
							Electricity	7,000.00			7,000.00
							Gas	7,000.00			7,000.00
							Water	800.00			800.00
							Sewer	800.00			800.00
							Internet/Telephone	2,000.00			2,000.00
							Total Utilities and Communications	17,600.00			17,600.00
							Property & Operations				
							Operations, Use & Maint.	20,000.00	600.00		20,600.00
							Bldg. and Liability Insurance	20,000.00			20,000.00
							Outside Bldg. & Grounds	2,500.00			2,500.00
							Total Property & Operations	42,500.00	600.00		43,100.00
							Office Expenses				
							Office Equipment & Maint.	4,000.00			4,000.00
							Office Supplies	2,800.00	100.00		2,900.00
							Postage	700.00			700.00
							Payroll Service	1,800.00			1,800.00
							Bank Service Charges	500.00			500.00

On Saturday the day began with Morning Prayer. The second presenter Deacon Harry Leip gave his talk to convention on his personal experience with Reconciliation and the church

Later elections were held for Cathedral Chapter, Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and Standing Committee.

The third presenter was The Rev. Shariya Molegoda Rector of Grace Church, Jefferson City and her long journey of Reconciliation in her own life.

A report was given by the committee on Resolutions, Discussion followed

After lunch there were reports from committees and a long Discussion of the Churches Alcohol Policy the Decision was made to retain the 2010 Policy and revisit it at the next Diocesan Convention.

There were Vendors to visit and interesting things to purchase during breaks and it was also a time to catch up with friends from other places.

Respectfully submitted:
Ann (Fritzi) Baker

Trinity Food Ministry Report

Our mission: The Trinity Food Ministry provides nourishing perishable and non-perishable food to persons in need through the Food Pantry and the Sunday Hot Lunch, in a context of Christian hospitality and mutual respect.

The food ministry, while largely a volunteer endeavor, is managed by Barbi Click, who is employed 25 hours a week to be responsible for operation of the Food Pantry and Sunday Hot Lunch programs.

The Food Pantry: Our food pantry operates in the South Parish Hall Tuesdays through Thursdays from 1:30 until 3:00. Food is stored in a storeroom in the SPH and in the “breezeway”. On average, we bring in and give out 1,800 pounds of perishable and non-perishable food each week.

We purchase one-half of the food we distribute, the other half being donated by Trinity, St. Peter’s, St. Michael’s, Grace, Holy Communion, First Unitarian, Good Shepherd, St. Timothy’s, and other churches and community groups such as the Philip Johnson Salon, Old Bonhomme School, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church (sandwiches) and Schnuck’s/Operation Food Search.

During warm weather, volunteers from Holy Communion, 1st Unitarian Church, Bowood Farms and the CWE/New City School Farm bring us fresh produce. Near the entrance to the east parking lot, Barbi has created garden space that provides additional vegetables. Each week, we pick up the day’s-end supply of bread and other treats from a St. Louis Bread Co. Cafe (about \$25,000 worth per year). The Flowers Baking Company, Pilgrim Congregational Church and our Holy Ground neighbor Second Presbyterian also donate their leftover bread for our pantry.

Adrienne Fly coordinates the volunteers and other groups that partner with TFM, and is the liaison for the food ministry with Trinity and other groups. Our three-day-a-week pantry is staffed by 35+ volunteers from Trinity and elsewhere, and last year provided food for 8760 people (4735 adults, 2490 children, 1535 seniors). We are grateful for the ongoing faithful service of all of you who are Food Pantry volunteers, Sunday-night-bread pickers-uppers, Tuesday-morning-bread-baggers, as well as other regular volunteers who help receive large food deliveries, and do the regular preparation and set up on pantry days.

The other part of TFM is the Sunday Hot Lunch. Each week Trinity’s kitchen and South Parish Hall welcome up to 100 people for a hot meal. Teams of eight to 15 volunteers cook and serve, assisted by Barbi and Trinity volunteer-innkeepers. We hosted about 4000 people last year.

Those teams come from Church of the Ascension/St. Barnabas Youth Group, Central Reform Congregation, Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, First Unitarian Church, One St. Louis, St. Ambrose R.C. Church, St. Paul's UCC, and fellow Episcopalians from Grace, Holy Communion, St. Francis, St. Paul's, St. Peter's and Trinity. Thank you to Trinity's Hot Lunch innkeepers, cooks and servers,

During the construction of the South Parish Hall, the Hot Lunch program took place at our Holy Ground partner down the street, Cornerstone. They were extraordinarily generous and hospitable for nearly a year! Since returning to our SPH, our guests and volunteers have appreciated the attractive new space, the restrooms and the improved kitchen.

Through Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministries, we have Reta Kirk, RN as our nurse during pantry hours helping clients monitor and understand their medical issues and ways they can improve their health status. Thanks to the generosity of the City health department, we are able to supply condoms and offer confidential HIV/STD testing.

The TFM Advisory Committee, designed to assist Barbi and Adrienne in developing policies and procedures for the food ministry, will be reconstituted and reactivated in the new year, with representatives of the food pantry and hot lunch volunteer corps, as well as parishioners and the rector. That group works on guidelines for volunteering communities, finance, personnel, and planning for the future.

Understanding our finances: Trinity Parish is home to both parts of this ministry, but TFM does not receive money from the church budget or from your Every Member Canvas pledges. It is largely funded by the money that parishioners and others contribute specifically to it. Additionally we receive contributions from Grace Church, St. Michael's, St. Timothy's, and 1st Church of Christ, Scientist; the Diocesan Task Force for the Hungry; Macy's "Bag Hunger" campaign; Schnuck's eScrip program; Meals on Wheels; and Operation Food Search.

The final BIG THANK YOU - to say that we couldn't do any of it without the office support of Bill Ader, our parish administrator.

Respectfully submitted:
Adrienne Fly, TFM Coordinator

Parish Life Commission Report

This has been an exciting year for the parish life/hospitality group as it is the first year of the ministry of Fr. Jon Stratton. In the very beginning of his ministry he organized the Vestry into leadership roles over aspects of parish life. I agreed to be the head of Parish Life. I started this role with trepidation, but I found right away that there was a committed group of parishioners who enjoy baking, preparing food, organizing beautiful tables, and basically providing hospitality to others. I want to most particularly thank the supportive team of: Anne Hennig, Ron Tompkins, Chuck Havener, Mary Moore John Carroll, Cathy Tierney, Tom Kirk and, more recently, Karen Biggs. These folks respond quickly to email requests for help and volunteer time and energy very willingly. All kinds of people have donated food and drink when asked, but I am grateful for this core group of helpers.

Our first major event was celebrating the Installation of Fr. Jon as our rector. We had a particularly nice reception for that event. We had celebrations for Pentecost and the Trinity Sunday picnic as in other years. We had receptions for happy and sad times. We had a lovely event for the All Saints Day baptismal celebration and we organized receptions for the funerals of Jacki Judd and Dave Smith. We provided some help for the openings of art shows.

Another major part of the hospitality ministry has been the organization of "treaters" to provide food after church services-different from one person trying to put all the snacks together. Treaters like Gloria Winston provide wonderful cakes once a month. Karen Biggs started the first Sunday celebration of birthdays with more cakes and the names of people whose birthdays fall in the month written out behind frames. We have the special gift of

Cathy Tierney's outstanding homemade cakes adding to the food presented on various Sundays, and then also Treater John Carroll's wonderful cookies fill us up. Other members of the "treater" team are Anne Hennig, Jeff Wunrow, Kate Worland, Phillip Egart as well as John Carroll, and myself. Food after church is decidedly more fun and tasty these days.

The church branched out for the Fun Fair event in a way we had not done before. I was asked to present 500 hotdogs to the people who came to the Fun Fair. With extra people helping for that event, we did give out the 500 hotdogs, bags of chips, grapes, juice boxes and cookies. We did decide to serve one lunch at a time, next time, because when we laid out the food on tables, it all went so very fast. The cookies were all gone within the first twenty minutes that we opened for lunch.

Our parish life ministry is developing and moving forward. We are trying new things and new kinds of celebration of our parish life. We are hoping and planning to have our next Parish picnic at Fountain Park, working to help cross the Delmar divide. It is only two blocks north of us and a lovely big open green space. We want to establish ourselves as a church that is open and friendly and in the community that is our city and our neighborhood.

Respectively submitted:
Hazel Kirk

Stewardship Commission Report

This year we received 96 pledges from 95 households, totaling \$238,337 towards our 2016 operating budget. This is a 9-year high, reflecting the energizing influence of our new rector and the hard work of the stewardship committee: Lisa Carpenter, Carlos Daughaday, Adrienne Fly, Chuck McManis and myself. We created a brochure about Stewardship at Trinity, featuring a powerful reflection by Lisa Carpenter. This was followed up by weekly reflections from a series called "Blessed to be a Blessing" inserted in the bulletin and by inspiring talks given weekly at both services by Adrienne Fly, Carlos Daughaday, Michael Fowlkes, Faith Sandler, Karin Layher and Jesse Todd.

The 96 pledges for \$238,337 includes 20 from new pledgers. It represents a 17% increase in pledging units and almost 11% in dollars pledged over last year's 82 pledges totaling \$221,742.

Five Year Giving History

2016:	96 givers	\$238,337
2015:	82	\$221,742
2014:	81	\$218,886
2013:	91	\$222,082
2012:	90	\$221,914

In closing, I would like to remind all of us that Stewardship is more than fundraising; it is "a way of life by which we enjoy and care for all of God's creation". (Rev. Steven Bosney). As Daniel Webster wrote in 2011: "*Raising money in a fall campaign for next year's parish budget is a very small part of what should be a year-round practice of stewardship. Stewardship is, or should be, a daily spiritual discipline shaping how I spend God-given time and talents to help build the reign of God on earth here and now.*"

Respectfully submitted:
Joyce Daughaday, Stewardship Chair

Communications Commission Report

The Communications Commission accomplished many things over the past year, especially related to social media. Mick Maurer joined the communications effort, bringing with him his social media expertise. We now have accounts on Twitter and Instagram, in addition to our Facebook and web site presence. Mick actively posts relevant news and information to our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts. Our metrics have greatly improved over the year, with almost three times as many “likes” on our Facebook page and close to 100 followers on Instagram and Twitter.

In addition to increasing our social media presence, we had two major projects:

- 1) The launch of the Humans of Trinity project online: In conjunction with the photo exhibit in the North Parish Hall, we began posting the pictures on Instagram and Facebook. We started with two pictures a week and have now moved to posting weekly. The photos have generated many likes and positive comments, and the project provided exciting content for us to post as we moved into Instagram. We thank the members of the Humans of Trinity project for the lovely photos they provided for us to use.
- 2) Rebranding: We have moved to a unified strategy across our online presence. We renamed our web site and social media accounts to Trinity Church in the Central West End and updated the logo used on the various sites. We also gave thought to the use of relevant hash tags for easily finding content posted on Twitter and Instagram. Many thanks to Bill Ader for our beautiful new web site and to Jeff Wunrow and Ben Kiel for their work on our new logo.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Layher

Arts Committee

After a year off (more or less) due to the impact of SPH construction on the use of the NPH, the Arts Committee came back with several exciting projects in 2016. After some much needed sprucing up of the NPH—which is hopefully going to be completed in the next year or two—we organized an exhibit in honor of our new south parish hall and our new rector called “All Things New.” As usual, it was a wonderful testament to the artistic talent in our pews. Over the summer, inspired by an idea from Father Jon, Julien Worland headed up a great team of volunteers on a project called “Humans of Trinity.” Modeled after “Humans of St. Louis” and other similar Facebook pages, Julien and his team (Phil Klasskin, Etta Taylor, John Uhlemann, Patricia Way, Lisa Will-Smith, and Eden Harris) created a gallery of over 40 images and quotes from Trinity parishioners along with people who attend groups that use our building, and neighbors who use the food pantry. It is quite an impressive array of God’s children. Mick Maurer has been posting these images on the various social media platforms that the Communications Committee has been developing. It’s been a wonderful way to show who we are to the world. Finally, our fall art project engaged the whole parish by inviting everyone to bring home bottles of water from their summer vacations, which were then assembled into a mobile which was installed in the front of the sanctuary over the font. It was called “The Waters of Baptism,” and like previous installations which engaged the community, it was beautiful and very well received.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our efforts this year, and a special thanks to the members of the Arts Committee in 2015: Eden Harris, Julien Worland, Ron Tompkins, Nikki Lott, John Uhlemann, and Etta Taylor.

Respectfully submitted:
Jeff Wunrow

Welcoming Committee

At year's end, Fr. Jon Stratton and Adrienne Fly worked to systematize a process for welcoming and incorporating newcomers to the congregation. A corps of 15 or so parishioners were asked to pay particular attention to new people at Sunday services and to engage with them.

The yellow "Welcome" cards in the pew racks are used to capture information about newcomers so that we can immediately start communicating with them. Bill Ader, Adrienne and Jon share a database with that information. Jon customarily writes to visitors in the week after they first attend, asking to meet with them. A few days later Adrienne follows up with an email pointing them to the various ways they can learn about what is going on at Trinity and inviting them to contact her as well if she can help them make connections.

We are considering having "Dutch Treat" lunches after church every month or so to give newcomers an opportunity to meet a few other people. There then will be periodic newcomer classes with Jon, culminating in brief ceremony at a Sunday service where those new folks are welcomed as members of Trinity. Two of those occurred in the Spring and Fall of 2015.

It's all in the beginning stages and may be modified as time goes on. It is our hope to spread a culture of welcome in the congregation. We hope everyone will be more intentional about introducing themselves to people they don't know - even if you think the person may have been around for a while. To that end, wearing name tags would really help - and the new design, with clip-on or hanging style holders are available. Contact Adrienne if you would like one.

Respectfully submitted:

Adrienne Fly, "Newcomer Navigator"

Church School Report

It's with some genuine emotion that I find myself composing my last annual report. After thirty-three years of serving as Trinity's church school director, I've decided to retire from this extraordinary ministry. Changes marked the past year and with them came the assurance that Trinity's children will continue to be cherished. As our most natural, spiritual anchors, their growing presence among us will be strongly nurtured and strengthened by new rector, Jon, and I leave knowing that our youngsters will thrive under his inspired leadership. So, Amen!

Exciting changes heralded his stewardship with us and some proved a little challenging but it was clear from the onset that excellent Christian education for parishioners of all ages was one of Jon's priorities. Our church school population had declined over the last several years but at the start of our new year, the roster, helpfully expanded by the births of Sadie Kiel and Frank Stratton, has grown to a potential of 25 now with almost a dozen children attending regularly on Sundays. New class times, a brand new curriculum and some unique focus for our overall church school program began enthusiastically in September. Some things worked splendidly. Others had to be tweaked a bit. Jon and I both acknowledged, from the start, that all was a 'work in progress' and we soon learned that having classes start early proved difficult for many of our parents. While the 7th-12th grade class continues to meet early, we eventually returned to the traditional starting time of 10:30.a.m. for the preK-3rd and 4th-6th grade classes. The "soft space" in the sanctuary, while initially greeted with some tentative enthusiasm, has proven to be an excellent means of keeping our youngest quietly engaged after they join their families during the service at the passing of the peace. Instead of volunteers teaching on a nine-month schedule, we now ask for a commitment of only two consecutive months and that much-shorter tenure has proven to be an optimistic and successful recruiting tool. Jon and I are very grateful for the talented services of teachers, Jan Parker, Harry Leip, Mary Moore, Kathleen Cummings, Dawn Dupler and Mike Clark. Special thanks must go to Mike, who has volunteered to lead the 7th-12th graders for the whole year. He's been ably assisted by Eric Cox, Mary Taylor, Fr. Jon and Jeff Wunrow on occasion. Our little nursery has been very well-staffed by Annie Chappell, Claire Corliss, Ben Kiel and, even when she wasn't planning on it, Susie Stratton. We're so grateful for their services. Plans are underway now, after vestry approval, to use the TLC Company based in University City for some professional nursery staffing beginning in February. Jon and I are hopeful that ongoing nursery care continues to prove attractive to visitors and church-shopping families as well as our parishioners.

Our new curriculum comes from Sparkhouse and it's gotten a resounding thumbs up from all my teachers. It's relatively inexpensive and comes with an assortment of resources including age-appropriate Bibles and DVDs for each class. The material for the pk/-6th grade is lectionary-based while the teens' is more theme-based. It's extremely easy to follow and serves even those without any prior teaching experience.

The second Sunday Family Service always engages our youngsters and their families in an interactive, hands-on way and I love the informal, energetic Eucharist that takes place in the north hall at 9:00 a.m. Families take turns bringing a Bible story to life in dramatic fashion during these services and these small moments continue to be among the most naturally spiritual I've ever experienced at church. Thanks largely to our millennial rector, we "went electronic" and no longer have to rely on worship booklets. We're very grateful for the musical leadership of Mike Clark and his son, Becket and attendance at this lively worship service is burgeoning now under the leadership of Fr. Jon and Deacon Harry.

As my time as children's director of religious education draws to a close, I'd like to thank you for your enthusiastic support over the years. It's been a pleasure and a heartfelt privilege to serve your children!

Respectfully submitted:
Kathy van Bakergem

Acolytes, Readers and Intercessors Report

For over 100 services each year, our acolytes, chalices, readers and intercessors give their time, talent and energy to the Trinity community. This group of volunteers works diligently to provide a sacred liturgy for our worship. I am humbled and honored to serve with the many persons who give their time so freely on Sundays to allow us to worship – it truly is a community endeavor!

Our readers and Intercessors make the challenge of reading all the names, places and events in the bible look easy (ok, mostly easy)! At any service, you can hear them bringing the words of the past to life and helping gather our prayers and intercessions. Many thanks to Al Adams, Fritzzi Baker, Martha Baker, Ginny Benson, Dean Bradley, Martha Bradley, Ellie Chapman, Adrienne Fly, Maginel Galt, Anne Giedinghagen, Helen Hendry, Hazel Kirk, Nikki Lott, Bill Mayhan, Carolyn Munch, Mike Pilato, Dave Rueschhoff, Ron Tompkins, John Uhlemann, Ann Watts, Betty Weber, Tom Weber, Julien Worland and Jeff Wunrow for their invaluable assistance this past year.

Trinity is blessed to have a group of acolytes who excel in the art of liturgical choreography and make it all seem easy. Thanks to Fritzzi Baker, Eric Cox, Steven Forsyth, Mike Fowlkes, Kate Haggans, Jan Parker, and Linda Small for their enthusiastic attending to the art of liturgy.

I continue to be thankful for our squad of youth acolytes who help us to remember to have a sense of humor in all our service! A hearty thanks to Zoe Goffe, Kara Henderson, Annie & Jack Hoffmeister, Anna & Oliver Layher, and Riley Luebbers for their energy and participation.

At our services, the chalice bearers faithfully assist at the altar and pass the Eucharistic cup to all. Big thanks to Jim Andris, Brian Alms, Darrell Berg, George Friesen, Barbara Uhlemann, and Lisa Will-Smith for their careful and prayerful ministry to the community.

This year we saw several folks take a leave of absence from their duties which they have faithfully and graciously performed over the years. A blessed retirement to Helen Hendry, Willie Meadows & Jan Parker and many thanks for all your gifts that you share with the Trinity community!

As always, I'd like to give special thanks to Stephen Nichols for scheduling our services.

Respectfully submitted:
The Rev. Harry Leip

Sacristans Report

Many thanks to Sacristans: Jim Andris, Kate Haggans, Anne Hennig, Carolyn Munch, Stephen Forsythe and Linda Small for their ongoing commitment to prepare the altar for Sunday and special services. Additional thanks to Etta Taylor, unofficial Sacristan, who made every effort to prepare the loaves of bread for our Eucharist celebrations. Many thanks also to Kate Haggans who worked with contractors to renovate and update the Vesting room – which is now spacious and much easier to use – a much needed improvement. And finally, though not officially Sacristan functions, much appreciation to Eden Harris who assisted Ron Tompkins with creating the “All Saints Memorial” altar this year. And finally – special thanks to everyone who has volunteered to provide fresh flowers for the Altar on Sundays: Ellie Chapman, Eden Harris, Anne Hennig, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Munch, Jan Parker Pat Way and Ron Tompkins. Carolyn will retire from this ministry at the end of 2015. Her commitment and creativity (especially with the 4th of July flowers) has been noticed and much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:
Ron Tompkins

Ushers Report

Thank you to our dedicated Trinity Ushers who served in 2015 at regular Sunday services and on special occasions, offering a welcome smile to newcomers and fellow parishioners alike.

Ushers serving at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday services are: Jim Andris, Martha Bradley, Carol Cradock, Kathleen Cummings, Ron D'Aloia, Jan Kasalko, Chuck Mannis, Bill Mayhan, Dave Mundy, Etta and Ted Taylor and Faith Sandler. Our 8:00 a.m. Sunday services were served by Bob Emert, Dolores Friesen, Tom Kirk and Barbara Ritchey.

Again we thank Stephen Nichols for scheduling around our requests and Deacon Harry for keeping us informed about changes and special ushering needs.

Additionally thank you to all who carried the baskets to the altar at the offering for the benefit of our food pantry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Kasalko

Healing Team Ministry Report

Trinity's lay healing ministry has a long history. In former years, teams of two people served each Sunday of the month. Currently, however, the healing ministry is diminished to two or three ministers who offer prayers but once a month. On the second Sunday of each month, with oil stock in hand and often joined by Hazel Kirk and/or Mary Ellen Anderson, I station myself below the pulpit.

We anoint the seeker in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayers of intercession, or prayers for the pain and fear we all feel.

This ministry matters. It really matters. It means as much to the pray-ers as to the anointed.

However, few parishioners avail themselves of this offering or feel themselves called to be ministers. We long for ways to expand the ministry. We need more ministers, we need paths to spread the word about healing, and we need ideas of where and when the prayers can be offered within the Sunday service.

Respectfully submitted:
Martha Baker

Film and Fellowship Report

Second Tuesday of the month-- that's our night. Ever since 2007, we have been gathering in North Parish Hall, from September through May, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., to talk about current films, one or two a meeting. We've considered talking about television series and films, too, and just may do that one day.

To fuel our discussions, we lay out quite a spread of tasty treats and we "fellowship" (my Baptist sister's verb) among murmurs of appreciation for the delicacies. When the feeding frenzy has calmed, we begin to discuss the film appointed, usually the month before so we have time to see it.

Gratefully, this grand group lives by the Gospel According to Joan Baez: "I've never had a humble opinion. If you've got an opinion, why be humble about it?" Discussions are lively and educated and variegated; they are rich and invigorating and healthy. Sometimes a film will surprise us ("Most Violent Year") or call on our own experiences ("Spotlight") or haunt us ("Still Alice").

Respectfully submitted:
Martha Baker

Book Discussion Group

The Book Group met January 17, 2015, at Lawrence and Barb Holmes' house in University City. The book being discussed was **The Master: A Novel**, by **Colm Toibin**, recommended by Georgia Johnston. This book is an interpretation of the last five years of the life of Henry James, the American-born writer who lived his last years reclusively in a mansion in the English countryside. The author examines James's need to isolate himself from family and friends in order to be true to his writers' gift.

On February 21, the group met at Hazel and Tom Kirk's home in Oakland (between Webster Groves and Crestwood) for a "Snack-Pot-Luck" and discussion of **Nathaniel Hawthorne's** classic Gothic novel, **The House of Seven Gables**, recommended by Jim Pfaff. The story follows a New England family and their ancestral mansion in Salem that was built at the time of the witch trials and is "haunted ... by fraudulent dealings, accusations of witchcraft, and sudden death." (quoted from Wikipedia).

Ellie Chapman and Jim O'Bannon hosted the March 21 Book Group meeting to discuss **Old Filth** by **Jane Gardam**, which Ellie had also recommended. This novel tells the life-story of a British Colonial judge, raised in Malaya at the height of the British Empire, who, after practicing law in Southeast Asia, has retired to a country house in Dorset, England. "Filth" is an acronym for "Failed in London, Try Hong-Kong" and serves as a sort-of nickname for the protagonist among his younger colleagues. Through his story the reader gains a first-hand glimpse into the waning days of the British Empire.

We met on April 18th at Lisa Carpenter and Duncan Macarthur's home in the Tower Grove South area. The book for April was **All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel**, by **Anthony Doerr**, recommended by Ella Chapman and Anne Hennig. This novel, set in Germany, on the Eastern Front, and in France during the Second World War, tells parallel stories of a blind French girl who takes a role in the French Resistance, and a mechanically gifted German orphan boy whose talents the German army uses in tracking down resistance fighters. Although it was not currently available in paperback, we decided to break a Book Group rule and choose it for discussion anyway, since it was available for Kindle, the hardcover copy could be bought for the price of some of the paperbacks we have chosen, and several members of the Group had read it already and were willing to share their copies.

May's selection, **Anne Perry's The Sheen on the Silk: A Novel**, was recommended by Georgia Johnston, who also hosted the discussion on May 16 at her home just south of Tower Grove Park. This historical novel is set in Constantinople at the time of the early Crusades and the separation of Eastern and Western Christianity; it examines the fundamental beliefs that led to the schism, in the course of telling an absorbing tale about a woman who disguises herself as a eunuch and takes on the profession of healer/physician in order to find her brother, who was convicted of murder and exiled to a wilderness stronghold in the Holy Land.

On June 20 we discussed **The Goldfinch: A Novel by Donna Tartt**, at the home of Richard and Kathy Yopez in Webster Groves. This long novel had been considered for Book Group for a number of months, but was put off until the summer, when many of us hoped to have more time free for reading. The book is contemporary fiction about the life of a man who, as a boy, survives a terrorist bombing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, stealing/rescuing a rare painting by a little-known Renaissance artist in the process.

The Book Group decided to meet on July 25th rather than the 18th, our regular third Saturday. Barb and Lawrence Holmes graciously offered their home once more for the discussion of **Mary Coin: A Novel by Marisa Silver**, recommended by Ron Tompkins. This historical fiction is set mostly in the Pacific Northwest during the Depression and afterwards, and tells a back-story based on an iconic photograph of a mother and her young children that was taken as part of the project to document the plight of migrant-worker families from the Dustbowl.

The book chosen for August was **the Girl on the Train by British author Paula Hawkins**. This psychological thriller is told through the eyes of Rachel, an alcoholic divorcee who fantasizes about the lives of people (including her ex) living in homes her commuter train passes every day on the way to London and back. When one of these people disappears, Rachel goes to the police with her observations, but it is difficult to separate the truth from her imagined fantasies. The book is so well written that it discomfited several of us to the point that we could not continue reading it. That and the fact that many Book Group members planned to be out-of-town that month made us decide not to meet in August.

We chose **The Good Lord Bird by James McBride** (recommended by Lawrence Holmes) for September, and met at the Friesen's home in West County on September 19th for the discussion. This book is another historical novel, told by a young slave who joins John Brown's abolitionist gang in Kansas in the years just before the Civil War. The "Good Lord Bird" of the title refers to a rarely-seen kind of woodpecker, which becomes an omen and good-luck symbol for Brown and the narrator. We probably laughed more reading this book than any other book this year.

On October 17 the Book Group met at Barbara Ritchie's home on Lindell in the CWE to discuss **Americanah by Chimananda Ngozi Adichie**, recommended by Ron Tompkins and Linda Small. This book shows contemporary (2000's) America as experienced by a young Black woman from Nigeria who came to the States for higher education and to avoid the political situation in her native country. Among other things, she maintains a blogsite where she posts social commentary in the form of explanations of American racial manners and customs for other non-American Blacks. These observations are contrasted with the experiences of her first boyfriend as an undocumented alien in Britain, and their later life together back in newly-democratic Nigeria. We were especially grateful to Barbara for hosting October's meeting (with help from George and Dolores Friesen), since she has been facing some serious health challenges in recent months. We were happy to have her in our midst again, and grateful for her candor in sharing details of her situation with us. Our prayers are with her as she continues dealing with ongoing health issues.

The November and December meetings were combined, and on December 5 we met again at Ellie and Jim's home in the CWE to discuss **Euphoria by Lily King**, recommended by Georgiana Cameron. In 1933, the anthropologist Margaret Mead, her husband at that time, and another English anthropologist collaborated to study a primitive tribe in New Guinea. King has taken this as the backbone for a tale of sexual and intellectual passion in an exotic setting.

The Trinity Book Group usually meets the third Saturday of the month at 7PM. If our selections pique your interest, we hope you will consider joining us! Contact Anne Hennig (ahennig@wustl.edu) to get on the mailing list, or check the E-times the week before to find out where we're meeting. Happy reading!

Respectfully submitted:
Anne Hennig

Holy Yarn

Holy Yarn was formed to bring together people who knit, crochet and quilt. Our works of primarily prayer shawls, lap blankets and comfort quilts are given to parishioners in need, to comfort them with God's love through our Trinity hands. We held our first fundraising sale in the 2015 Christmas season, raising more than \$400 for Trinity programs and the Food Ministry, with several commissions still pending for children's sweaters, hats and scarves.

Special projects over the last year have included transition gifts to Rev. Mark Hatch, Trinity's interim minister, and to incoming Rev. Jon Stratton and his family. We have given hats and scarves to the Seaman's Institute for Christmas at Sea, and chemo caps to Barnes Jewish Center for patients in the stem cell therapy unit. We have celebrated births of new parishioners, and comforted families of children at the Stix Early Childhood Center with prayer shawls and baby blankets. Our expert knitters and quilters are always ready to teach and help others (we started a new member in knitting in January). We meet monthly on the first Sundays and the group is open to everyone. Come join us in the North Parish Hall after coffee to share projects and talk about techniques, books, food and life!

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Eastman and Sara Lappi

Deacon's Report

As I always include for this report - What a year it has been! With a new rector, refreshed parish hall, and many new faces, it has been a very refreshing year at Trinity. From Jon's arrival as our new rector in January, to a glorious celebration of new ministry with the Bishop & diocese to a year full of educational and service opportunities, it seems like it has been a full year.

I would like to recognize the lay and ordained leadership at Trinity for their energy, vision and faithful service to our community. It has been a tremendous gift to serve with the Rev. Jon Stratton. Getting to know Jon and his family has been an ongoing joy and privilege and I am very fortunate to have such a respectful and passionate colleague who has a great sense of humor! Hats off to the Rev. Beverly Van Horne who continues to be an excellent comrade-in-arms and a never-ending source of wisdom and advice for me. A big thanks to our Senior Warden Barbara Uhlemann and Junior Warden Jan Parker. Knowing you two were at the helm, working with Jon and the Vestry this year has been a huge source of comfort.

While I'm on the subject of thanks, I must complement Parish Administrator Bill Ader on his efficiency, his attention to all our needs and his never-ending mental rolodex of facts, figures and history of Trinity. Also a big thanks to our Sexton Darryl Hines who helps with things both big & small - it has been great to have a fresh set of eyes on staff. As always, thanks to Kathy van Bakergem for her dedication to Trinity's youth and our Family Service. Thanks to Jeff Nall and our choir for bringing music to life and enriching our worship experience throughout the year. And lastly, a big hand for Adrienne Fly & Barbi Click who continue to amaze me with their dedication to the Trinity Food Ministry.

Thanks to all the ministries at Trinity – those ministries who involve lots of people to those who quietly gather people. Several years ago, I attempted to create a list of all our ministries and as the list grew, I was happily reminded that we truly have many things going on which allow us to serve each other and to serve the world.

As our parish quietly celebrated our 160th anniversary this year, I wanted to especially thank our archivist Etta Taylor for her encouragement and assistance in better understanding our early parish history. As we begin our 17th decade as a parish, serving the City of St. Louis and her people, I am ever more convinced that our community's joys and sadness, our triumphs and disappointments were shared by others in our community through the numerous years. And it gives me comfort that we are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

I will end my report as I always do - I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to be Trinity's deacon. This month marks my fifth year in ordained ministry and there is no other place that I would like to serve than at Trinity.

May the new year ahead of us be one of shared mystery and service.

Respectfully submitted:
The Rev. Harry Leip

Junior Warden's Report

2015 was the year for completion.

*The South Parish Hall was completed. The decoration committee installed benches, coat pegs, window treatments, a white board and signage.

*The new heating system was installed.

* A new hot water heater was installed

*The front and library doors were constructed and installed. We are still "tweaking" some of the construction issues with the doors. The contractor indicated that the issues will be resolved when the weather warms.

*The nursery was moved from the loft area and relocated to the middle classroom in the NPH and redecorated.

*The preschool room and the infamous "Turquoise" room were painted and carpeted. The Turquoise room now houses the Archives, Arts Committee and the AV equipment.

*It was a bit like "musical chairs with the offices.

The Rector's office is now in the Library. The food program and Deacon's office is in the loft and the old rectors office is now a meeting room for many, especially our youth.

* A renovation plan for the North Parish Hall was developed but lack of funds only allowed for removal of the old cabinets on the north wall, painting and window treatments. In addition to the usual parish use, the NPH also houses the Trinity Art Gallery .

* A family friendly space was created in the church. A pew was removed to create a "soft space" which allows families with young children to spread out and move around a bit during the service.

* A sexton was hired and the closets and storage spaces were finally cleaned and organized.

*A dedicated group of folks continue to keep the gardens and ivy in great shape. In addition, the garden area in front of the SPH was planted with trees and bushes and the gardens on either side of the driveway were planted with vegetables by the Trinity Food Ministry and produced an impressive bit of produce.

As with any old building, we completed many repairs that were a result of deferred maintenance.

Respectfully submitted:
Jan Parker

Senior Warden's Report

As stated in the parish bylaws, it is the responsibility of the Senior Warden to represent the Parish as a whole in consultation with the Rector, and shall, in the absence of the Rector or during a vacancy in the rectorship, arrange for all regular services and church activities.

It has been a joy this year to welcome The Rev. Jon and Susie Stratton and their daughter Alice to Trinity, and to celebrate with them the arrival of their son Francis. It has been an honor and pleasure for me to serve Jon and the Parish as Senior Warden. The leadership, energy and vision that Jon brings have helped make Trinity a very busy place. Attendance at services has increased as have opportunities for education, reflection, service and fellowship.

In my access to Jon as Senior Warden I have found him to be an attentive listener and someone who considers advice in a thoughtful way.

I believe that the parish is in a very fine place at this time. A change in leadership always means a change in the accustomed routine and sometimes such change is difficult. But it is clear that Trinity is secure and growing.

I want to thank the members of the Vestry for their dedication and work this year, particularly Karin Layher who is completing a full term of service, and Hazel Kirk and Jan Parker who are completing partial terms. Karin has done fine work on parish communications. Hazel has done a wonderful job organizing hospitality for many parish events this year. Jan, who was appointed to the Vestry after last year's Annual Meeting, has given outstanding service as Junior Warden, devoting countless hours caring for our parish's physical plant. I am also completing a full term of service and therefore will be rotating off the Vestry. Michael Biggers, Joyce Daughaday, Adrienne Fly, Anne Hennig, and Jeff Wunrow remain on the Vestry and will provide continuity in 2016.

Thanks are also due to our excellent Vestry Clerk, Julien Worland, to Al Adams who has helped out on occasion as substitute Clerk, and to Parish Treasurer Jean Frazee.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Uhlemann

Rector's Report

Rector's Annual Report

Trinity Episcopal Church

Text: I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

4th Sunday After Epiphany, January 31st, 2016

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This Sunday's appointed text from Brother Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth (or One Corinthians if you are reading the Trump Authorized Version), makes frequent appearances at wedding ceremonies, both sacred and secular. Because of its traditional usage, Paul's soaring rhapsody about love connotes sentimental feelings of affection, fidelity, and maybe even romance. It may seem that Paul's primary purposes for drafting this text were to extol the majesty of the love shared between two individuals and to give love pride of place amongst the divine virtues. As Paul says, "And now hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." All you need is love, love; love is all you need.

Paul's "Love Chapter" might seem a natural fit for the celebration of marriage or the warm feelings of affection shared between two people, but Paul never intended for this pericope to be read in such a context. Paul was angry at the Corinthian church when he wrote his letter, and today's passage was Paul's not so subtle way of

chastising his congregation. Members were dragging one another to pagan courts rather than settling their differences amongst themselves in the spirit of patience and charity. The church was full of divisions, each clique vying for the highest places of privilege. The community's Eucharistic feast was an occasion for gluttony and drunkenness. The poor amongst the congregation were neglected, while the rich found favor. The weaker members of the church weren't given recognition, and the gross inequities of the surrounding culture had crept into the Christian community. Simply put, the people of Corinthians were not acting like Christians. And in these 13 verses, Paul reminds the Corinthians what a Christian community founded upon the deep and abiding love of God should look like. It must have been a bit uncomfortable for the church to receive this letter. I can imagine folks squirming in the pews as they heard, "love is patient, love is kind," while being reminded of their own lack of patience and kindness toward one another and their failure to live up to love's high standards. Undoubtedly, Paul had the church's deficiencies in mind while penning his poem, and his words must have stung, if not angered, some in the congregation.

But Paul's letter was not all rebuke. He begins his discourse on love with the words, "And I will show you a still more excellent way." The Corinthians might have lost sight of the excellent way, but Paul believes that these folks could reclaim their high calling. They just needed a little nudge; a reminder of the deep and abiding love from which their community received its nourishment, its identity, and its mission. After all, the Corinthians had gotten a lot of things right. They stood firm through pagan persecutions. They exhibited various signs of the gifts of the spirit, including gifts for teaching, leadership, healing, and a host of other gifts for the building up of the community and the preaching of the Gospel. The nascent Christian community at Corinth even challenged conventional gender roles that placed women in subservience to men. They knew the more excellent way, and it was undoubtedly this excellent way that had attracted them to Christ and to each other in the first place. So Paul gives them a much needed reminder that "the greatest of these is love." Paul's not talking about sentimental saccharin, or a love that always results in warm feelings and moments of Kumbaya. The love we read about in Corinthians is the deep abiding love of God that allows for tension and disagreement, without nasty division (something our elected officials could use a lesson in). It is the love of Christ that rejoices in God's justice, and refuses to stand idly by in the face of wrongdoing. This love, as described by Paul, compels the Christian community to bear one another's burdens while hoping for and working toward a world turned right-side up. The Corinthian congregation was called to model God's eternal agape love, and it was this love that stood as the pillar of their existence, giving purpose to their every movement and all their good works. They had veered from the most excellent way, but it was not too late to return to the path of their calling.

We are not the Church in Corinth, we are the church in The Central West End of St. Louis. Paul's letter does not wholly apply to us in this place, but there are some similarities between Paul's church and ours. Both communities had their fair share of interesting and colorful characters, and like Corinth, Trinity is full of talented people with a multitude of gifts for the uplifting and nourishment of the community. Like Corinth, Trinity has been known to challenge cultural assumptions about gender and sexuality, and both congregations, Trinity and (believe it or not) Corinth had occasions to welcome, without judgement, crossdressers in worship from time to time. And of course, both communities ground their mission, purpose, and identity in the love of Jesus and his Kingdom.

During my year as your rector, I am pleased to say that I have neither seen nor experienced the types of dysfunction, divisions, and unhealthy behavior that resulted in Paul's chastisement of the church in Corinth. It's not that we are perfect. Like any community of more than one person, there's bound to be disagreements, differences in opinions, and a healthy amount of tension. We, as a community of diverse and unique people, won't always get along, no matter how much we love one another, and that's OK. True love, the love described by Paul in First Corinthians, is truthful enough to acknowledge (and sometimes create) tension within our community, and steadfast enough to bind us together, in charity, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Love lives at Trinity. And although we aren't experiencing the sorts of divisions and nastiness that plagued Corinth (thank God), it is good for us to hear Paul's admonition to love as a reminder that everything we do, as a Christian people, has its origins in the deep and abiding love of God through Christ. And if we ever lose sight of this reason for our being, no matter how successful our programs become, no matter how many people we feed, no matter how much we grow, without the deep and abiding love of God within our hearts and controlling our actions, we are but a noisy gong and a clanging symbol.

This past year, I've seen a lot of love at Trinity. I've seen our church provide groceries and food to hundreds of people in our community, because God's deep and abiding loves compels us to respect the dignity of every person. I've seen Christ's love in action as parishioners took to the streets in Ferguson, because in Christ Jesus there is no east or west, no north side or south side. I've recognized a love for God's justice as I traveled to Jefferson City with Trinitarians to pressure legislators to pass more just and compassionate public policies. I've witnessed members of this congregation standing in solidarity with low-wage workers, not because we're liberal, or progressive, but because there is a burning desire within our hearts to experience a world where we truly love our neighbors, especially the least of these, as ourselves. I've witnessed, first hand in fact, as members welcomed newborn children into the community, by showering expanding families with tangible signs of love in the form of hot food, offers to babysit, and warm wishes. I've seen parishioners who are hungry to grow in the knowledge and love of God show up every Wednesday to practice contemplative prayer in the quiet candlelit chapel. I've seen new folks walk through these doors, both rich and poor, gay and straight, young and old, and find a place of hospitality where they experience a glimmer of the love that we now know in part, but will one day see face to face. I was privileged to witness the opening of the South Parish Hall, a space built, not only for our own use, but for the use of organizations that transform love into public policy like Jobs with Justice and groups that show God's love to historically marginalized communities, like Metro Trans Umbrella Group, Growing American Youth, and Effort for Aids. I've seen love in action around shared meals, where both the stranger and familiar face receive nourishment for body and soul, and I've seen it around the burial sites of saints past, where there is hope in a love that defeats even death. It might sound like I am boasting about this community, and maybe I am a little bit. But more importantly, I'm boasting about the love of Jesus Christ that is alive and well in this congregation, a love that grounds us in the very life of the Holy Trinity and gives meaning and purpose to every action we take.

We are at a good place. Christ's love is strong with us. As you will have read in other reports, we've experienced tangible signs of our health. Over twenty new members have officially joined our community in the last year, and several others have affiliated with Trinity as regular worship attenders. Our average Sunday attendance is up, we've added weekday worship services to our liturgical schedule, and we've increased the number of opportunities for Christian education and formation, including regular adult Sunday school, teen Sunday school, small groups, and weekday bible/theological classes. As you will see in the financial report, our total pledge amount has risen over 10%, we've gained 20 new pledging unites, and although we continue to work with a deficient budget, our 2016 deficit has been cut approximately 50% from last year. And lest this boasting get out of hand, I again turn to Paul as a reminder that without love, we are but a noisy gong and a clanging symbol.

God's love is deep and it is wide, and no matter how much we experience God's love at Trinity, there is room for us to grow more fully into the boundless knowledge and love of Christ. Throughout the last year, I've been listening to the Holy Spirit that animates this place. I've listened through one-on-one conversations with you at coffee cartel (don't worry, if you haven't had a one-on-one with me it's not because I've forgotten, it's because there are more of us than I expected!), I've listened through prayer, and I've listened through our shared experiences as a community. And this is what I've heard; a longing and hunger for spiritual formation and religious education, a love of fellowship, an enthusiasm for evangelism, and a boldness to build God's kingdom through acts of social justice and service to the community. I'd like to comment briefly on these four areas.

Formation and Religious Education: In 2015, we have offered several new opportunities for education and spiritual growth. Contemplative prayer has become a regular occurrence on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM. We've added more opportunities for theological education for adults through our Sunday Coffee and Conversation sessions, weekday classes, and various small groups. A new teen Sunday school class meets regularly on Sunday morning, and we've selected a new and engaging Sunday school curriculum for children Pre-K through 6th grade. And yet, there is a hunger for more, and we have the gifts, the facilities, and the people power to develop and offer a comprehensive course of religious formation and education at Trinity that includes things like regular confirmation classes, academic-style theological discussion groups, spiritual retreats, and accessible bible study groups for the young and old, the spiritual seekers and seasoned religious, and the newbies and old-timers. Christian formation and education is the business of the church and one of the many ways we grow more fully into the knowledge and love of Christ.

Fellowship: One of the defining characteristics of the church since its birth 2000 years ago has been shared food and fellowship. I've never been in a church that doesn't like to eat, and Trinity is no exception. Not a week goes by that Trinitarians don't break bread together, and when there are two or three Trinitarians, there's probably going to be some delicious food. For Christians, sharing meals holds special significance. Jesus told his disciples that shared meals were a sign of God's Kingdom, it was through eating together that the early church blurred the lines between the clean and unclean, it was at tables of shared food where the marginalized found acceptance into a new community, and it is through a shared meal of Bread and Wine, where everyone has enough and no one has too much, that we encounter Jesus every Sunday and receive grace upon grace, forgiveness of our sins, and strength for our journey. We have many opportunities for food and fellowship at Trinity, and it's my prayer that this fellowship not only continue, but expand. We're a growing parish, and growth brings with it opportunities to form relationships with new people, expand the tables of fellowship, enjoy each other's company, and strengthen the bonds of Christian love and support that bind us together.

Evangelism: Evangelism is not always a word associated with Episcopalians, and understandably so. The "E Word" is often associated with televangelists trying to save souls from eternal hellfire and damnation, Jehovah Witnesses handing out tracks, and awkward conversations about personal relationships with Jesus. But at its root, evangelism simply means sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through both word and deed. We practice evangelism when we show hospitality to the new faces that come into our space. We spread the Good News through casual conversations with friends and family about the love, warmth, and sense of community that we find at Trinity. And we serve as evangelists when we participate in the communal life of the Central West End and the 18th Ward, not only as members of Trinity, but more importantly, as ambassadors of the love of Jesus. Our new Presiding Bishop, The Right Revered Michael Curry, has encouraged the Episcopal Church to reclaim the task of evangelism and take the Good News that we hear in our sanctuaries outside the walls of the church, and I think that's a great idea. I think that's a Christian idea. Why hide the love that has been poured into us under a bushel when there are folks hungry for the type of connection with God and neighbor that we enjoy through Christ. There is momentum for evangelism at Trinity, and a desire to welcome new people into our community, I've seen it in 2015, and I hope to see more in 2016.

God's Kingdom through Social Justice: As I've said before, and as I think we all agree, there exists a chasm between the way the world is and the way the world should be. We pray that God's Kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven, but some days, that kingdom feels excruciatingly distant. Our communities are marred by institutional racism, a rigged economy that favors the wealthy at the expense of the poor, gross inequities between the haves and the have nots, and a host of social ills that elicit emotions ranging from anger to despondency. We live in a broken world, and yet hope for a world turned right side-up by the love of Jesus. And it has been this hope, fueled by the Gospel, that has compelled Trinitarians past and present to do their part to build God's Kingdom here on earth, and there's still a lot of building to do. I've sensed a desire at Trinity, a strong desire, to help radically transform this world through the power of Christ's love, and that's good, because as Christians that's exactly what we were called to do; to preach good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. We've done it in the past, and I sense that we'll continue to fight the good fight into the future in ways both great and small.

Christian formation, evangelism, fellowship, and social activism, these are the four areas that I feel God is calling us to embrace more deeply in 2016 and beyond. It's not that these are the only important aspects of our life together, there are so many more, but it is around these areas in particular that I have discerned a sense of excitement for what we've already experienced and a hunger for more.

Much more could be said about the life and work of the people of God in this place, the care and compassion we have for one another, our rich liturgical life together, and the holy desire we have for a deeper relationship with God and our neighbor. There's a lot to be said about this wonderful community, and there's much to be excited about in the coming years ahead, but I don't want to boast, unless it is to boast of the love of Jesus that flows through our DNA and binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. That I will boast about. That I have boasted about. And it's that love that I'll continue to tell others about, because without love, we are but a nosy gong and a clanging symbol. AMEN

Parish Statistics 2015

Services

Sundays

Eucharist 118

Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, or Compline 12

Weekday

Eucharist 156

Daily Office 156

Contemplative 36

Eucharistic Visits with Reserved Sacrament 50

Average Sunday Attendance 115

Baptisms 6

Confirmation and Receptions 5

Weddings and Sacred Unions 0

Deaths and Burials 5

Children Under 18 years of age 26

Total Active Baptized Members 216