

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

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# Opening & Closing Prayers

## OPENING PRAYER

from the New Zealand Prayer Book

### Prayer before a Meeting

God our Creator,  
when you speak  
there is light and life,  
when you act  
there is justice and love;  
grant that your love  
may be present in our  
meeting,  
so that what we say  
and what we do  
may be filled  
with your Holy Spirit.

## CLOSING PRAYER

from the New Zealand Prayer Book

### For the Mission of the Church

Draw your Church  
together, O God,  
into one great company  
of disciples,  
together following  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
into every walk of life,  
together serving him  
in his mission to the world,  
and together witnessing  
to his love.

# Rectors' Report



2024 has truly been a year of renewal and resurgence. As we return to many of the practices and connections that defined our life before 2020, we've experienced significant growth—both in numbers and in spirit. Attendance is up, giving has increased, and participation across our ministries is flourishing. Our Vestry is fully engaged, committees are thriving, and the worship ministry is seeing greater involvement than ever. Our staff works together in harmony, leaning into our vivid vision and witnessing its manifestation—turning the hopes and dreams we held a few years ago into tangible reality.

To those who have been with us for many years, we are deeply grateful for your perseverance and commitment. And to those who have joined us more recently, we are thankful for your joyful presence, which continues to enrich and strengthen this community.

**Staff:** This year has brought both farewells and warm welcomes. While we said goodbye to staff members moving on, we've been fortunate to welcome new faces who are helping drive our vision forward.

Ben Leiby, returning as interim, is leading our music program with passion, and for the first time in years, the congregation is singing hymns and psalms together. The choir continues to thrive, filling our space with joy and talent.

Inaara Neal-Shiraz has brought her expertise in development, adapting her role to meet our needs. She is an example of unwavering welcome and a shining light, making those around her better with her joy.

Robyn Schnieders joined us in late 2024, impressing everyone with her skill, resourcefulness, and warm personality. She uplifts and supports others, helping them be their best.

Demetrius Swinson, our superhero, always ensures everything runs smoothly. Along with Robyn, he has been improving our buildings, with impressive results.

Karen Majer continues as our Rentals & House Manager, expanding events and strengthening community connections through her professionalism and commitment.

**Vestry:** For the first time since the pandemic, we have a full vestry. But it's not just about having the right number of people—it's about having the right people for this moment! This dedicated group works hard, prays for each other, and knows how to have fun together. They've addressed challenging issues like the use of the endowment and the needs of our physical property. Their strategic efforts are preparing our community for the future and laying the groundwork for us to thrive.

We are truly blessed to have such a committed team serving with us and helping us to lead.

## Vivid Vision

As we look back at 2024, we're reflecting on the remarkable journey we've had over the past three years. We began our vivid vision process talking about what we might become. It was a set of aspirational words, representing what we hoped to become - a dream, a guiding light, and a collective goal that united us. But this year, we have witnessed our vision shift from being just a set of words to become our reality. No longer just something we talked about, it's now part of everything we do and a driving force in our day-to-day activities, our decision-making, and the way we interact with each other.

Our worship together feels different. The congregation is singing with one voice, responding with confidence, and greeting each other with excitement and love. The church remains buzzing long after the service ends—people are connecting, laughing, and truly enjoying each other's company.

We've also deepened our connection with the neighborhood and our neighbors in new and exciting ways. We've invited them into our space

for music events, improv shows, art exhibitions, and opportunities to serve and be served at our Open Hearts Café.

Our community is shining God's light to the world through fearless joy and an embracing welcome—reminding our neighbors that if it's not about love, it's not about God. In doing so, we are the living, breathing vision—becoming a community where everyone feels seen, valued, and loved, both within our walls and beyond.

It is an absolute joy and privilege to serve alongside you in this blessed church.

**The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector**  
**The Rev. John Gardner, Rector**



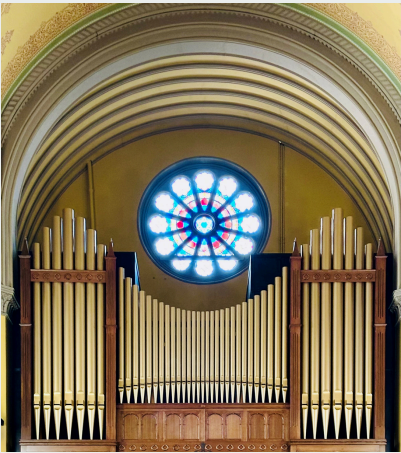


# STAFF REPORTS

# Interim Organist & Choirmaster Report



This past year was one of expected and unexpected changes for the liturgical music ministries at CHT. At last year's annual meeting, we anticipated the completion of our organ project, and among the high points of the past year were the series of events with which we inaugurated the instrument. In September, our Bishop blessed the new organ at a special service of Choral Evensong followed by a tour of the instrument for donors and friends. We have highlighted the organ through two series of lunchtime recitals in Advent and Lent and at our weekly worship services. Other special events included recitals by students from the Curtis Institute and a concert of music for choir and two organs presented by Choral Arts Philadelphia. We look forward with anticipation to another special Evensong co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists on April 2 and the dedicatory recital by Alan Morrison on April 12. Beyond public performances, the organ is used many hours each week by students at Curtis and beyond. The vision of the instrument as a resource for worship and community is being realized. I am thankful to all who have contributed in so many ways to bring this project to completion.





# Music Report, cont.

In the area of unexpected transition, it has been my honor and privilege to once again assume leadership of music in worship following the departure of Donald Meineke in July. My goal over the past year has been to maintain the high standard of liturgical music established by my predecessors while continuing to adapt to the needs of the congregation. We continue to explore the riches of our Anglican tradition within our 21st century, American context. During Epiphany, we reintroduced congregational singing of the psalms using Anglican chant, which we will return to in the Easter season. We have also been making more use of the Episcopal Church's supplemental hymnals: Wonder, Love, and Praise; Lift Every Voice and Sing II; and Voices Found.

Our choir is an essential component of musical leadership for our worship, and I am grateful to the congregation and vestry for their continued support of a strong choral tradition at CHT. The choir sang at most Sunday liturgies, several services of Choral Evensong, and at the special liturgies of Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. In addition to the special services associated with our organ, in February, the choir of St. Peter's Church joined us for our regular Evensong service. Choristers in 2024/2025 were Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Brian Felty, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Alyson Harvey, Samuel Higgins, Kate Nicole Hoffman, Samuel Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, Cole McIlquaham, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermeyer, Eddie Rubeiz, Erica Rose Smith, Julianna Smith, Amanda Staub, and Austin Stewart. Our choir is composed of highly skilled, committed, and engaged singers who are a joy to work with. I am deeply thankful for each one of them.

If you feel a calling to join the music ministry of CHT, either as a member of the choir or in some other way, please reach out to me by email ([bleiby@htrit.org](mailto:bleiby@htrit.org)) or see me after church some Sunday. I would be happy to talk with you.



**Dr. Ben Leiby**  
**Interim Organist & Choirmaster**

# Director of Operations & Administration Report

Submitted by Robyn Schnieders

## Completed Projects

### Staffing Support

**Dec. 2024:** Robyn Schnieders hired as full-time Director of Operations & Administration.

**Q4 2024:** Operations & Personnel Handbooks revised & updated

**Q1 2025:** New receptionists hired/trained



Robyn & Birch (RIP)

### Building Beautification & Maintenance

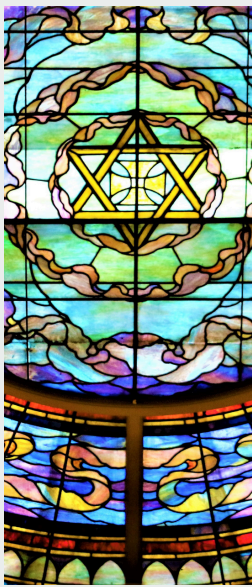
- Skylight and roofing project completed.
- Exterior painting of Church and Parish House (trim, windows, doors, etc) completed
- New metalwork added at 1904 Walnut Entrance. Repairs to all gates and metalwork as needed completed.
- Herman Goldman re-contracted for HVAC support
- Glass doors of the church repaired and realigned
- New trash & snow removal vendors contracted, resulting in both monetary savings and improved service provided
- Sanctuary & select office wood flooring replaced and/or restored



# Ongoing Projects

## Staffing Support

Exploring opportunities for staff CPR & Narcan trainings for Q2 2025



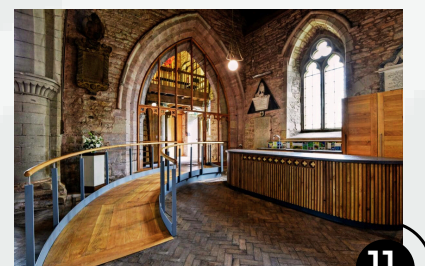
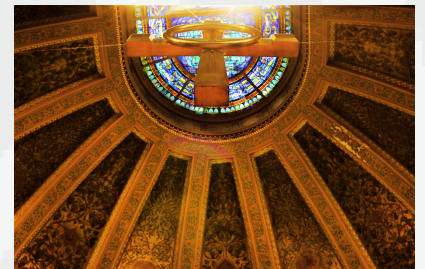
## Building Beautification & Maintenance, cont.

- Vicinity did a full review and inventory of all steam traps. Several were replaced, and we are currently evaluating additional repair/maintenance per their recommendations
- Ongoing negotiations regarding leakage and damages from skylight and roofing project
- Purpose and Place: all materials in the building with a purpose will find an appropriate place

# Upcoming Considerations

## Maintenance

- Accessibility Plan
- Plaster & Paint Repair (interior sanctuary)
- Masonry Repair (exterior)
- Upstairs Organ Railing & Safety considerations (looking to repurpose existing unused brass panels as a part of this design)



# Dir. of Development & Communications Report

Dear Friends,

My journey as a CHRIT staff member has blossomed over the past few years. I started as the Rentals Manager in November 2023, took on the role of Director of Communications in June 2024, and at the start of 2025, have been given the blessed chance to serve our beloved community as the Director of Development & Communications.

In this new role, my mandate is to leverage our communications channels to increase our revenue. In order to do this, I have strengthened our visibility on our social media. I have created a more robust bank of pictures, videos, and audio from numerous CHRIT events to share on our Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as in our weekly e-newsletter. Through the guidance of the Rectors, I have featured community partners, volunteers, neighbors, and parishioners that are contributing their time and skills to our church community (e.g. Sally Griffith's work with the Flower Committee, Kevin Hart of The Hart of Catering, Staff Demetrius Swinson's Operations Work, etc). This content serves a dual purpose: to educate those who are unfamiliar with our church about our religious programming and community ministries, and to engage our active community members through meaningful outreach and storytelling.

Working in collaboration with the Rectors and the Revenue Committee, I have understood our financial goals in the context of our Vivid Vision. We have prioritized grants as a source of revenue, and with guidance from the NonProfit Financial Fund, we will



## Development & Communications Report cont.

file our nonprofit paperwork soon. Nonprofit status for Open Hearts Café will mean that Holy Trinity becomes eligible for several more grants, increasing our capacity to raise funds.

Along with grant-making, I continue to center our annual pledge/giving campaigns within our development plan, finding ways for active parishioners and Vestry members to inspire and invite individuals and families to make pledges toward the church. After attending the Pennsylvania Diocese's trainings on relational stewardship facilitated by Joseph D. Merlino (Emergent Mission), I am enthusiastic to work with the Revenue Committee Members to integrate more opportunities to form transformative relationships with parishioners and community members to cultivate stewardship.

We continue to utilize our platforms of Ministry Designs for our website and Constant Contact for our e-newsletter. Our fundraising information is on REALM, and I am exploring ways to systematize our donor database, as well as optimize our giving data to strategically create our development campaigns.

I have learned more about the religious practices of the Episcopal faith by creating the weekly bulletins for Sunday Service, with support from Rachel and Ben, and attending Adult Classes whenever possible.

I am undoubtedly blessed to be working with John, Karen, Robyn, Demetrius, Ben, Therese, and Kristin, as well as our Deacon-in-Training Robbin. And with Rachel, my dear friend, who made this a home for me, accepted me, and showed me the power of God's healing. Through and with you, I feel God more closely, and I am better person for it. I intend to reflect this love back to you.

Without hesitation, I know that God has placed me in this church community. I carry the weight of the work ahead of me, and I know I have much to contribute to our community. There is so much ahead of us, and my faith reassures me that we will do good for all who we serve. Of this, I am sure beyond measure.



**Humbly and ecstatically grateful,  
Inaara Neal-Shiraz  
Director of Development & Communications**

# Rentals Report

It's been another busy year at the Church with events increasing consistently.

We have had the pleasure of hosting many new groups to our church as well as welcoming recurring groups. They all have given high praise for our amazing acoustics, and for the beauty of our church.

We have had several requests from out-of-state high school and college choruses and bands for the upcoming year. It is exciting to hear these young people and to welcome them to our church. We are expanding our reputation as a welcoming and streamlined venue!

It has been a fun and rewarding year to hear such beautiful music and to hear the appreciation for the service and hospitality we deliver.

I am looking forward to another such year and excited to continue expanding our events!

**Karen Majer**  
**Rentals & House Manager**



# Open Hearts Café



One of our congregation's biggest points of connection with the community is the Open Hearts Café. Every Sunday and Tuesday evening, we invite up to 120 neighbors to come into our Centennial Room to enjoy an evening of good food, community, and music. During that time, we offer other services such as free clothing and haircuts. All of our guests live below the poverty line, and most are unhoused. This ministry is a direct extension of our Baptismal promises to strive for peace and justice, and to respect the dignity of every human being. The Open Hearts Café is run mostly by volunteers, and our volunteer corps is composed of CHT worshipers and members of the community at large.



# Open Hearts Café, cont.

John Gardner  
Rector

We have made **several improvements** to our services over the past year. We **switched from disposable plates to real plates**. This allows our guests to feel like they are in a restaurant. By using real plates, we reduce our waste and carbon footprint. We have also **expanded our seating capacity from 56 to 74**. When we are able to remove more historical clutter from the space, we will be able to safely seat even more.



We also **entered into an amazing new partnership with Hart of Catering**. Located at 21st and Sansom, Hart of Catering is a successful sandwich shop and catering business. **The owners are heavily involved in the community**, supporting people in recovery and people who need help re-entering the workforce. Hart of Catering has **been providing half of our meals since January**. Though the value of Hart of Catering's food is likely much higher, we estimate that this partnership is saving us more than \$40,000 this year alone. We invite you to visit their café nearby for excellent food and atmosphere.







VESTRY  
& MINISTRY  
**REPORTS**

# Rector's Warden Report



**Simson Hui**  
Rector's Warden

## “It's a marathon, not a sprint.”

One thing I love most about running races is the need for honesty. How am I actually feeling? Am I running the best way for the conditions (Rain? Cold? Injury? Crowded?). Once I've been honest with myself, what are the adjustments I need to make to my effort, when do I refuel, with the goal of finishing the race I've been preparing for these past months.

As a Vestry, we've had numerous honest conversations through this year. How do we manage our endowment in this period of financial uncertainty? What things in this beautiful building need to be fixed or upgraded so we can better serve our neighbors who worship and use this space? How do we continue to energize our congregation and develop more lay leaders to do the work God calls us to do? We are now in the third year of our Vivid Vision and I am grateful for what has become a new reality for CHT: we see growth in the number of people worshipping on Sundays, in a space with a completed organ, a repaired roof, and refreshed wood floors. Open Hearts continues to feed and clothe hundreds of our neighbors, and God

has provided, with numerous volunteers serving and businesses like Hart of Catering donating meals. Our Saturday clothing sales on the square cover some of the expenses while increasing our visibility and helping us connect with our neighborhood, which continues to be a critical part of our Vision.

We are mid race, despite miles behind us, we have more miles to go. One important skill in marathon running is learning to recover as you keep moving forward - taking liquids or gels, adjusting to a more comfortable pace, knowing a fast flat section is coming soon. This year our Church will go through an important sabbatical, a time for rest

# Rector's Warden Report, cont.



and reflection, but a time also to enhance our readiness for the miles ahead. The Vestry has been working on plans for activities here at home so that we can stay spiritually connected with John and Rachel throughout the summer. We'll see them off with a celebration in June, and welcome them back with another party in October. In between, as a church, we will rest and reflect along with our Rectors, and we will keep moving forward realizing our Vivid Vision.



The final thing I'll say that I love about races is that you are in the community of runners. When the miles are fun and free, you have people to pace with. When every step is a struggle, the words of encouragement and reassuring nods make you feel lighter. In our church community, we run together in worship, in committees, at events, or just socially. If you are all plugged in, thank you so much! Your gifts of time, talent, and money help us become God's hands and feet in this neighborhood. If you are still considering joining, jump in! We have many different groups, all working towards our shared finish line - ask any of us already running and we'll get there together.



**I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.**

**2 Timothy 4:7**

# Financial Report

The CHT Vivid Vision continues to drive the Finance Committee's focus on financial transparency and fiscal responsibility. We strive to ensure that the church's fiscal priorities are in line with the Vivid Vision's focus on greater engagement within the community and our long-term goal of serving our surrounding communities. We have tried to balance our desire to be fiscally conservative with the need to perform long-overdue deferred maintenance on our building

## The Vestry completed the following achievements in 2024:

1. Continued to **develop an active and engaged Finance Committee**. The committee meets monthly and includes both Vestry Members and lay members.
2. Committed to **reducing the budgeted draw on the Endowment** to a maximum of 10%. This represents a continued decrease from previous years.
3. **Evaluated the budget on a monthly basis** to ensure that revenues and expenditures were in line with expectations.
4. Continued to **include church staff members in determining the budgets** for their areas of responsibility.
5. **Expanded and developed the Revenue Committee's** role in determining alternative sources of revenue (like grants, donations, and targeted requests). They also played a crucial role in leading an effective and well-run Stewardship Campaign.
6. In Q1 and Q2 of 2024, the Finance Committee **completed a deep dive of all budget categories** to ensure that they are in line with the church's mission and to trim costs where possible in 2024's budget.
7. Commenced the 2025 budgeting process in September 2024 to ensure that the **budget was approved and in place by the start of the fiscal year**.

## For 2025, we would like to focus on the following deliverables:

1. Continue to find ways to **develop the alternative forms of revenue** by sourcing new grants, continuing to increase our rental income, and finding additional ways to reduce costs
2. Begin the process of **mounting a Capital Campaign** to address accessibility and the exterior masonry repairs needed within the next 3-5 years
3. **Attracting new members** to join both the Finance Committee and the Revenue Committee
4. Commit to **finding ways to reduce our reliance on the Endowment draw** in 2025 and 2026

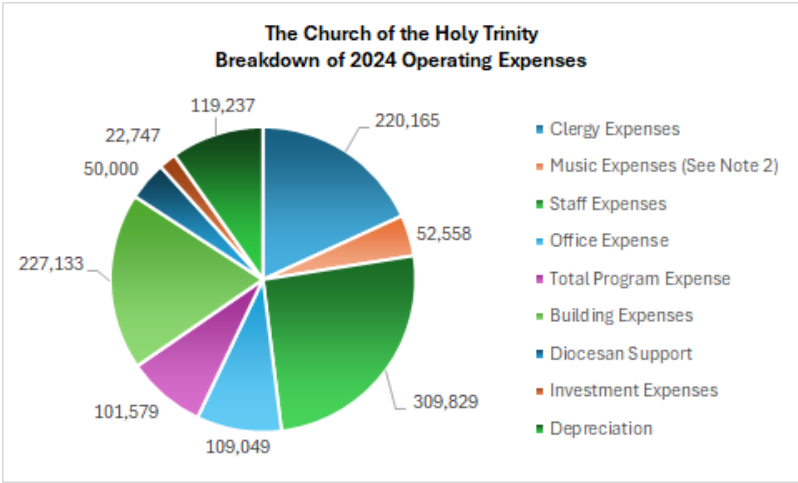
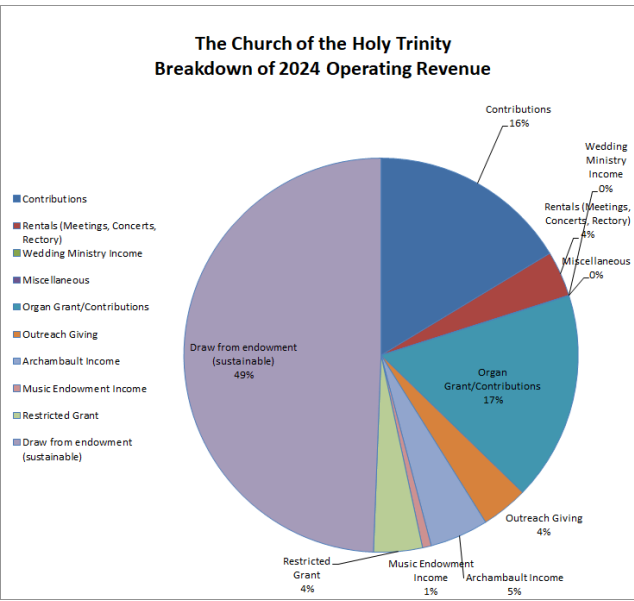
The steps above will strengthen CHT's financial base so that we can continue to serve our community for many years to come, in a building that is safe and well cared for. They will also provide a firm foundation to weather any economic uncertainty within the financial markets and the economy in the future.

We are tremendously thankful to each member of the Finance and Revenue Committees for their service in 2024.

# The Review In Year

	2024	2023
<b>Revenues</b>		
Operating Income		
Contributions	245,601	260,211
Rentals (Meetings, Concerts)	55,979	37,257
Parish Programs (Music)	400	805
Wedding Ministry Income	-	8,875
Miscellaneous	-	-
Organ Grant/Contributions	257,540	249,641
Outreach Giving	57,628	65,596
Restricted Grant - Sabbatical	60,000	-
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>677,148</b>	<b>622,385</b>
<b>Endowment Support</b>		
Investment Interest & Dividends (Note 1)	154,992	142,907
Portfolio change in market value	440,263	642,632
Archambault Income	72,087	75,616
Music Endowment Income	10,794	10,217
Endowment Income	678,136	871,372
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,355,284</b>	<b>1,493,757</b>

	2024	2023
<b>Expenses</b>		
Clergy Expenses	220,165	249,415
Music Expenses (See Note 2)	52,558	58,783
Staff Expenses	309,829	306,487
Office Expense	109,049	105,757
Sabbatical Expense	60,000	
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>101,579</b>	<b>126,524</b>
Building Expenses	227,133	221,484
Diocesan Support	50,000	45,000
Investment Expenses	22,747	24,108
Depreciation	119,237	102,785
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,272,297</b>	<b>1,240,343</b>



**Finance Committee Members:** Gregory Maughan\*, Monica Heuer\*, Philip Duffy\*, Alyssa Force\*, Martha Lipscomb\*, Margaret Hughes\*, Simson Hui\*, and Frank LeMay.

**Revenue Committee Members:** Gregory Maughan\*, Monica Heuer\*, Rob Robinson\*, Margaret Hughes\*, and Ashley Del Bianco (\* Vestry members)

# Property Report

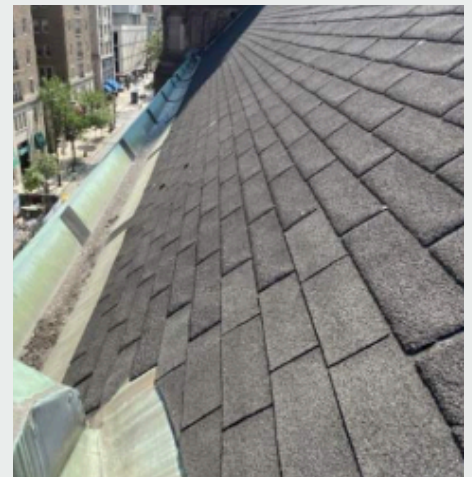
The Property Committee of the Church of the Holy Trinity met monthly to address issues of building maintenance and identifying and overseeing capital projects. The committee works closely with the church office staff, and welcomes Robyn Schnieders to the role of Dir. of Operations & Administration.

Although there were some smaller maintenance issues, the committee focused its work on the following projects:

## Capital Projects

### Roof

The roof replacement project, which took two full years to complete, was finished in November of 2024. The project experienced significant delays in the delivery of the skylight that is installed over the laylight in the church choir area. During this period, water infiltration caused damage to the plaster of the apse, which has become increasingly unsightly. In addition, a project accident resulted in minor damage to the church's Tiffany lay-light. The committee, with the assistance of an attorney and the church staff, is negotiating with the roofers regarding repair costs.



### Painting

A painting contractor was retained to address the long-neglected woodwork and railings of the church, and work was completed by the end of 2024. For budgetary reasons, one side (the north) was addressed this year; it is hoped that more can be done in subsequent years. We were able to include the three front doors and corner wooden sign in the project, giving a fresh appearance to the church exterior.

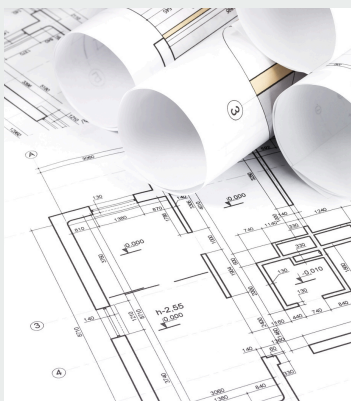
### Maintenance

A new railing was installed at the Walnut Street entrance to the Parish House. The railing on the ramp in the breezeway, which was in poor condition, was replaced. Problems with the glass front doors of the church were addressed.

# Planning

## Accessibility

The committee continues to work to create a plan for physical accessibility at the church, and have looked at both short- and long-term solutions. We currently have a proposal from an architect to study possibilities and make recommendations which we hope to fund.



## Space Allocation

The Transitions Committee of the Diocese has been in touch with the church regarding some ideas for more productively using the space the church currently has. A study is underway to determine what space the church needs for its own programming – now and in the future – so that we will be in a better position to address this request.



In addition, the committee worked with Bicycle Transit Systems (Indego Bikes) to have a bike station installed on the Walnut Street side of the church. Indego reports it is among the most used in the city. The committee looks forward to undertaking additional projects as funds become available.

## Property Committee

Susan Leidy, Philip Duffy, Ali Shott, Emily Stromberg, Joshua Karstendick, Jen Flanagan, Simson Hui, Rachel Gardner, Robyn Schnieders

# Evangelism & Parish Life Report

submitted by Ali Shott, Evangelism Chair

The Property Committee of the Church of the Holy Trinity (Andrew Gutknecht, Monica Heuer, Gregory Maughan, James Otwell, and Ali Shott) met monthly to develop and begin executing an Evangelism structure for CHT. The Committee is building their plan from The Episcopal Church's Invite, Welcome, and Connect model.

In 2025, the Parish Life Committee (Gail Caruso, Martha Lipscomb, and Nancy Rasmussen) will be folded into the Evangelism Committee to cover the range of Parish engagement, from inviting first-time visitors to engagement of members.

## 2024 Focus

In 2024, the committee was focused on building out the committee and developing an Evangelism strategy. Outcomes include:

- Developing and beginning to implement top priorities of welcoming, inviting, and connecting
- Completing a walk-through of the physical space of the church to make it more inviting and accessible
- Hosted the 2024 Pancake Supper (led by Parish Life)
- Started the birthday and celebrations blessings

## 2025 Goals

- Partner with the Property Committee to prioritize low- and no-cost changes to make the space more inviting and accessible
- Improve signage and wayfinding through the sanctuary and Parish House
- Implement a full welcome process for new members
- Support Parish engagement during the Rectors' sabbatical

The committee is looking for anyone interested in getting involved in the welcoming and connecting of new members. Please reach out to Ali at [ali.shott@gmail.com](mailto:ali.shott@gmail.com) if you'd like to join.



# Ministry Reports



**The Flower Guild** provided floral arrangements for Christmas, Palm Sunday, the Sundays of Easter season, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and several other Sundays during the Fall. The Sunday team in 2024/2025 included Margaret Dowling, Sally Griffith, Gail Caruso, Emily Stromberg, Maggie Reeder-Thornton, Andy Gutknecht, and Ben Leiby. A special thanks to Gail Caruso for refreshing the silk and dried flower arrangements for use during the Fall and Winter. Many members of the congregation also assisted with the greening of the church in preparation for Christmas. We are always eager to add new members to our team. Those with or without previous experience are welcome to join us. If you have an interest, please email Sally Griffith ([sforemangriffith@gmail.com](mailto:sforemangriffith@gmail.com)) or contact the church office.

**Ushers and Snack Providers:** The church usually has two ushers for the 11:00 a.m. service - greeting arrivals, handing out bulletins, passing the offertory plates, and directing the congregation for communion. These volunteers are integral to the welcoming presence of the church and the smooth operation of the service. Seasonal Sign-Up Geniuses are sent out to coordinate availability, with email reminders two days before the service. Along with its importance, serving as an usher is a wonderful way to welcome and get to know other worshippers at CHT!

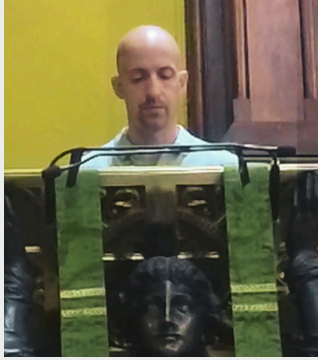


There are still several Sundays where we only have one usher, causing back up if anyone needs to enter via the breezeway and a scramble to find a second helper for the Offertory and Communion.

We also need “snack providers” for those who gather for fellowship after the service. Anything goes... a homemade goodie, store-bought cookies, healthy (or not-necessarily-healthy) snacks! Gail continues to make her famous, delicious coffee and there’s a stash of paper plates or napkins if needed. Sign-Up Genius is used for sign up. Please contact Nancy Rasmussen to volunteer for either or both of these ministries. Although they are “small” and simple, they’re extremely important from the minute anyone walks in the doors at CHT until they leave after a cup of coffee and cookie!



# Ministry Reports



**Lectors** in our baptismal covenant, we promise to “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.” We live out that promise in our Sunday worship and our team of lectors participate by reading the lessons and Prayers of the People at the Sunday services. Services are streamed so our voices carry outside the church walls. We have a large group of parishioners serving in this ministry.

Currently serving: Veronica Aplenc, Gail Caruso, Margaret Dowling, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Sally Griffith, Andy Gutknecht, Joshua Karstendick, Frank LaMay, Thomas Lipscomb, Greg Maughan, Marshall McMain, James Otwell, Mark Ritter, Ali Shott, Shreve Simpson, and Jeannie Welsh (coordinator).

If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.

**Worship Ministries:** We have a small but dedicated team of acolytes, altar guild, and chalice bearers that help with our worship service.

**Acolytes** play an important role in our liturgies, assisting with the preparation and smooth flow of our services. Their presence in the church, lighting candles, helping to serve communion, and leading the procession with the cross, helps to set a reverent presence for the congregation. We have 8 acolytes, and could use more - please reach out if you're interested.

**The Altar Guild** faithfully maintains the beauty and sanctity of our worship space. They are responsible for preparing the altar, setting the liturgical items, and ensuring everything is in place for each service. Their behind-the-scenes work is crucial in creating an environment conducive to worship, and their attention to detail is greatly appreciated. We have 4 members who are actively serving each week - if you are interested in joining us, please reach out. Together, these ministries have contributed immensely to the richness of our worship, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication and service throughout the year.





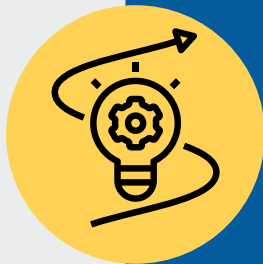
VESTRY  
**NOMINEES**

# Core Values



## INCLUSION/WELCOME

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.



## INNOVATION

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing things when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.



## COLLABORATION

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.



## COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

# THANK YOU

Three of our Vestry Members will be ending their service on vestry as of the Annual Meeting. We will also be electing new Wardens to lead the vestry for the next 2 years.

**Martha Lipscomb** has served on the Vestry for the past four years, leading the Parish Life Committee and then chairing the Finance Committee. In this role, she was instrumental in growing the committee and reshaping the church's budget process.

**Emily Stromberg** has completed two full terms on the Vestry. She played a key role in the Design Collaborative process and has been a dedicated member of the Property Committee for the last four years.

**Gregory Maughan** has served as Accounting Warden for the past two years and has been a member of the Vestry for nearly four years. He was also part of the COVID response team and managed the church's finances during this challenging time.

**Simson Hui** will remain on the Vestry to complete his term but will be stepping down as Rector's Warden. He has played a crucial role in reorganizing Vestry processes and revitalizing the work across our committees.

We are deeply grateful for all that you have done! **THANK YOU!**



# Vestry Nominees



## Jeff McEldowney

*1st Term (2025-2028)*

I'm Jeff McEldowney, and I'm a candidate for vestry here at The Church of the Holy Trinity.

I've been involved in the Episcopal Church for more than 30 years, starting in Montclair, NJ where I served on the Vestry, and also attended the College for Congregational Development. I spent time there on the Property Committee and with Stewardship.

I attended Saint Marks Episcopal Church in Seattle for eight years, and was involved with Adult Education, Confirmation, Finance, and served as a lector and a eucharistic minister. I moved to Philadelphia a little over a year ago, and found CHT shortly thereafter.

My career was in banking operations and technology, in New York and London. I have two daughters on the east coast, with three grandchildren. I'm looking forward to engaging with the work of CHT, and getting to know more of the family in our community.

## Susan Leidy

*2nd Term (2025-2028)*

Susan, a native of Bucks county, moved back to Philadelphia 6 years ago and has served on Vestry since 2022. In 2023 she took over as chair of the Property Committee, which grew and organized under her leadership.



She currently consults with cultural organizations on planning, particularly for capital projects, and enjoys travel and spending time with her grandchildren. Susan was active in churches in Washington and New York and served on the vestry of St. Paul's (Concord NH, the home church of Bishop Gene Robinson) and Christ and St. Luke's, Norfolk, VA.

# Vestry Nominees



## Daniel Tancredi

*1st Term (2025-2028)*

Daniel joined Church of the Holy Trinity in April of 2023 after looking around for a church home in Philadelphia. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, he moved to Philly in August of 2016 to attend the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

After graduating in May of 2020 with a B.S. in Economics, he started a career in finance as a quantitative trader at Susquehanna International Group (SIG). Since leaving SIG this fall, he has spent his time visiting friends and family, learning guitar, and training for the Love Run half marathon. He enjoys fly fishing and grew up playing football and lacrosse. He follows Notre Dame sports and has become a Philly sports fan since moving here. He has served at Open Hearts and is excited to increase his involvement in the church this year.

## Karen Vannasdall

*1st Term (2025-2028)*



I have been attending Holy Trinity since 2021 when Larry and I moved to Philadelphia from Covington, KY. As a life-long Episcopalian, I was thrilled to find CHT so close to our home. I was impressed with the dedication to the health and welfare of the congregation during Covid and with the hands on service to the underserved population of our community.

We have three children & seven grandchildren. Prior to retiring, I worked for 34 years as an Account Administrator with a large Investment Council firm in Cincinnati.

My involvement in church activities include Search Committee and ECW on the Diocesan level in St. Louis, Lay Reader, Altar Guild, and Vestry. I currently work with Don McKenzie on Altar Guild.

Holy Trinity has offered me tradition, a sense of community and knowing I am not alone. A beautiful place to find peace and wonderful music.



**THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY**  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE