



**January 28, 2024**  
**9:15 AM**

*In Person and Live-Streaming on Zoom  
from*

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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***Faith • Compassion • Community***



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, Missouri**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**In-Person and Live-Streaming from the Nave**  
January 28, 2024  
**AGENDA**

**9:15 a.m.**

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Order**

Prayer for the Parish Family (*BCP 817*)

Appointment of Secretary: Erin Shetler, Vestry Clerk

Introduction of Confirmands for 2024

**9:25 a.m.** The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

**10:30 a.m.** Recess for Food, Fellowship, & Flower Pots in the Parish Hall

**11:15 a.m.** Reconvene with *Prayer for A Church Meeting (BCP 818)*

05 m **Highlights of the Year**

05 m Minutes from the January Jan 29, 2023 Annual Meeting

15 m **Vestry Report:** Phil Jeffery

Introduction of Nominees: *Vestry:* **Benisha Brudy, Eleanor McCune, Jamie McCune, Grace Nichols**

Further Nominations for Positions Listed Below:

*TEA/ACE Funds; Program Development Fund: Nominating Committee: One 3-yr term; one 2-yr. term, each*

Distribution of Ballots for In-Person Attendees; Explanation of Voting Process on Zoom  
Voting

10 m **EYE & Anytown Presentation:** Patrice Itoka

05 m **Committee Reports, by Title:** Erin Shetler

05 m **A Minute for Music:** John Hawn

05 m **Stewardship Report:** Jacob Taylor

10 m **2023 Treasurer's Report:** Jacob Taylor

10 m **2023 Parish Budget** (Presentation & Discussion): Jacob Taylor and Finance Committee

05 m **Thank You to Ralph Bruns, Treasurer** (*8 years, Acting Treasurer, one year; Bookkeeper/Accountant, one year*)

05 m **Senior Warden's Remarks:** Phil Jeffery

05 m **Junior Warden's Remarks:** David Westfall

30m **Trinity Grows:** Rebecca Jones, including **Deacon's Remarks:** Elizabeth Bowen

03m **Hymn of Promise**

05 m **Recognition of Vestry and Staff**

01 m **Results of Parish Elections**

**Closing Prayer, Hymn: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart, and Adjournment**



# INTRODUCTION

## *How do you do?*

Meet the Trinity Parish Staff

## *That was then . . .*

Rector's Report to Jan 29, 2023 Annual Meeting  
Minutes to the Jan 29, 2023 Annual Meeting  
2023 Parish Statistics

## *This is now . . .*

Wardens' Reports to Jan 28, 2024 Annual Meeting  
2024 Nominees for Parish Leaders

# 2023 Parish Staff



## Michelle Heitman

Hello, again, Trinity! The primary of 2023 continues to be was not keeping people connected and informed. Our parish e-mail list currently has 169 subscribers, with between 60—70% “open rate” (that is VERY high for a group list!).

As for me, personally, 2023 was not exactly what you’d call a “banner year,” but we all have those. I’m grateful for the kindness and supported offered me and my family by the Trinity Community

I intend to keep our email list active and engaging, to follow Bible Studies and special events on

**Ashley Bunton** is our babysitter. When the Nursery is open—which it has for most of 2023, Ashley staffs the Parish Nursery each Sunday from 7:45 AM until after the second service. She provides a safe and warm environment for our children, ages 0 – four (and older).

In 2020, Ashley began her regular duties with enthusiasm and love. Then the church building closed—and, as we well know, did not reopen in 2020. In June 2021, Ashley, Tara Leitch, Erin Shetler, and Amy Shetler gave the Nursery a thorough cleaning, disinfecting, rearrangement, and evaluation (purging) of toys. That massive effort was in expectation of reopening in the summer with the ability to use the Nursery space for childcare. As we know, thanks to COVID-19 variant (Delta) that did not happen either! Things looked good for an Advent re-gathering, if not in the Nursery itself, in a larger space where the children could spread out safely. Before we could reopen-again, in 2022, we had to move all the stored furniture and other “stuff” that was moved in there when we began the renovation in the church. Then Ashley had to do another major cleaning! The Nursery has been open since.



## John Hawn

In February of 2022, I returned to Trinity after completing a five-year Music Ministry at St. John UCC in Collinsville, IL. While there I administered a diverse music program consisting of Adult Choir, Children’s Choir, Bell Choir, produced Children’s programs, Christmas Choral programs and a large organ rebuild project by the Wicks Organ Company, which was completed during the Pandemic. Also, during this time my “day job” was in the O’Fallon, IL school district as an aide in the pre-school program.

Returning to Trinity feels right and good I missed you all a lot during my exile to the East. The choir has been busy singing anthems and cantatas and such on a regular basis. Before my official return I was here helping for some final choir area and organ planning preparing the organ to be out of service while the Sanctuary was under reconstruction. We will continue to rebuild our program post pandemic together. I

also continue to work in public education but now in the St. Louis Public Schools at Oak Hill Elementary as an aide in a cross category Special Education Room. Again, it is a joy for me to be back here in this very special place.

## Erika Jackson-Essiem

The Rev. Erika Jackson-Essiem is a native of South Bend, Indiana, who moved to the St. Louis area in 2021. Rev. Erika is a mother of two, and grandmother of three. She graduated from Boston University School of Theology and Virginia Theological Seminary, but she also likes people to know that she attended Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA before it closed in 2017. Rev. Erika enjoys reading, knitting, and coloring, in addition to spending time with her dog, Frankie. She has lived in St. Louis for three years, and is enjoying exploring the city and discovering what it has to offer. She has been at Trinity Church in St. Charles since June, 2023 and is enjoying being with the people of Trinity. She preaches on the 2nd Sunday of the month, supplies for the Rector when necessary, and plans to do weekly scripture reflections in a podcast, starting in 2024.



## 2023 Parish Staff, *continued*



**Elizabeth (Betty) Bowen** is our “officially retired Deacon” (March 9, 2014), but then, who retires from living out the Gospel! Betty continues to help where needed in our Worship Services and continues to preach on Maundy Thursday and whenever the need arises. Betty is committed to her ‘Servant Ministry’ because that is the ministry of a Deacon; she continues to help with the Share A Meal Program and is now an Honorary Member of the GIVING GARDEN. Betty encourages others to look outside the church to offer Love, Hope and Hospitality to those in the St Charles Community, such as to the international students at Lindenwood University, and the Share A Meal Program when Trinity serves lunch 4 times a year to those in need. Betty saw the need for people to get together to share stories about their faith and so became the birth of a Small Group Ministry which is now going into its third year; and has had a successful turnout with all the Studies. With the help of Father Michael, Lori Cooper and Carolyn Stuhsatz, there is now a Prayer Ministry at Trinity. Betty continues to serve as Deacon to the Bishop on his visitation to Churches without a Deacon. Betty is also serving on two Committees in the Diocese – The Church Architecture & Allied Arts, and the newly formed Gathering Space Feasibility Taskforce. As she tries to slow down and after 16 years as Deacon, Betty has stated that while there is breath in her body, she will continue to serve God where needed.

**In January 2023, Fr. Michael wrote this bio for the Annual Report:** Time flies fast. I have been here for a quarter of a year already. I joined Trinity Church after one year working as a parish priest Calvary Church/Louisiana, MO, and St. John’s Church/Eolia, MO. I was born and raised in Tanzania. After high school I studied Biblical studies for two years (Msalato Theological College), Higher certificate in Biblical and cross-Cultural Studies (All Nations Christian College in the United Kingdom), bachelor’s degree in mass communication (St. Paul University in Kenya), Masters in Community Development (Dodoma University in Tanzania), master’s in theological studies (Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, MO). Currently I am enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program at the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN. I was ordained in 2010, I have worked as parish priest, a chaplain at Dodoma University in Tanzania, a book publisher for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, National Coordinator for Integrity of Creation in Tanzania for the Christian Council of Tanzania, and I, with my wife, Jemima, we run a small Vocational Training Center in Dodoma, Tanzania. God has blessed my wife and me with four kids, Chiha, Liyeko, Witumbilo and Motesswa, three of them are grown up and the last born, Motesswa, is still in high school—she is still with us as our baby.



I enjoy reading books, walking, seeing nature, fishing, and enjoying talk to different people and exchanging ideas and I love history of the world and the Church. I am happy to be part of Trinity and all the ministries we have embarked on.

### Addendum to Michael Nchimbi’s Bio for the Year 2023

In August 2022, right before Fr. Michael officially joined us at Trinity Church, his oldest child, daughter Chiha, was married in Tanzania. Unable to get the proper visa, Fr. Michael had to watch the service and celebrations on What’s App video. In July 2023, his first grandchild was born. Chiha and her husband named their son Darren. Here in the United States, Michael contributed greatly to the life and ministries of Trinity Church. He preached regularly, led Bible study, and pitched in wherever he saw a need. When His wife, Jemima came to visit in March 2023, the two led three presentations to Adult Forum about the Vocational Training School they had started in Tanzania not too long before Michael came to the U.S. to study at Eden Seminary. When Jemima came to visit, they had not seen each other in person in more than four years, during which time, Jemima had run the school, recruited teachers and students, and had begun implementing plans to build their own buildings. (The Diocese of Tanzania, from which they rented space, required its return.) When he returned to Tanzania in late October 2023, Fr. Michael had not been home nor seen his children in person in five years.

In 2023, Fr. Michael worked with Deacon Betty to expand Trinity’s relationship with international students at Lindenwood University and establish a recognized campus ministry. Because of significant hurdles and hoops, that effort did not succeed; however, Lindenwood international students do know where and who we are, and like us for the food and fun, if nothing else! At this point, further diocesan funding for campus ministry at Lindenwood is on hold. In Bible study, Michael both delighted and challenged the members of the group. On the diocesan level, Michael represented Jackson Kemper Convocation on Diocesan Council and encouraged Mtippe Kogani, also from Tanzania, to establish “Grace African Christian Connections” at Christ Church Cathedral. That group moved to St. Barnabas’ Church in Florissant in July, meeting weekly on Sunday afternoons, rather than monthly on Saturdays. Also in 2023, Fr. Michael met regularly with the Vestry and challenged that group to remember that they are, first and foremost, leaders—elders—of the congregation (chronological age notwithstanding), far more than a corporate board with its focus finance above mission. Fr. Michael continued his summer Doctor of Ministry classes in Tennessee. In his own curiosity and willingness to listen invited us own stories, but listening to us share our stories, not only with each other, but with those who come to us—and to listen hard.

## Tamsen Whistler

Thank you for the gift of another year in ministry with Trinity Church as your Rector! It's hard to believe that 2023 was our 28th year together! When Bob and I and Will arrived in 1995, Will was 16 months old. He began the Year 2023 with his 29th birthday (Jan 1). Two days later, I entered a new decade, celebrating with Trinity Church in a special coffee hour after each service on January 8, organized by my sisters, Helena, and Amy—here from Sonoma County, CA—and cheering Bob's Jan 10 birthday, too. (In honor of my big birthday, I bought myself a shirt: I Survived the 60's—Twice!)



As a spiritual discipline, and as continuing education, I joined a 12-week online course introducing the Enneagram. Our leader was from the Church of St. Michael and St. George/Clayton. We had participants from coast to coast from a variety of backgrounds, vocations, and religious traditions. Ask me about the Enneagram when you have a little time. I found the course fascinating and enriching, an excellent Lenten discipline—and I have much more to learn!

Bob and I were able to travel to California to visit my sisters and their families, my stepmother, and one of Bob's first cousins. Bob and I, my sister Amy, and her husband John made the trip Bob has been wanting to make for most of our marriage—a visit to Yosemite National Park. The park was spectacular, even more so than I remember from family visits years ago. Bob loved it. We plan return and spend more time! The day after we visited Yosemite, we visited two cemeteries in Fresno, one, where my great-great grandparents are buried; one where my great-grandparents and their two daughters, my grandmother and my great-aunt are buried, as well as my father's younger brother, my uncle. It was a powerful experience to stand there, knowing that Amy and I represented a fifth generation of our father's family, and our children, a sixth, connecting generations long before us and all I hope will come after us—a microcosm of the Communion of Saints.

In November, Bob and I celebrated 40 years of marriage with a great meal, a new tie-tack for him, and a new dress for me. We were married in the chapel at Seabury-Western Seminary in 1983—here we are all these years later in St. Charles, Missouri, full of ups and downs and gratitude. We thank you for your part—the Trinity Church community—in shaping and supporting us in our commitment to each other.

In December, we travelled to Richmond, Virginia, for Will's college graduation. His journey started at Missouri S&T in 2012 with a major in aerospace engineering. He was graduated magna cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University on Dec 8 with two bachelor's degrees, one in Cultural Anthropology and another in Financial Engineering Technology. The proud parents were there, and Chelsea, and Chelsea's mother, Peggy, to cheer him on. Two days later, in the middle of his graduation party, Will announced, "Gather round, everybody. Chelsea and I are getting married now." And "now" was right that moment! The only people at the graduation party who did NOT know that the party was really a wedding were Bob and I and Peggy, three parents, totally surprised and completely overjoyed!

As far as "regular" life goes, Bob continues to teach at St. Cletus School. He has a Fifth-Grade homeroom, teaching fifth grade reading and language arts; fifth and sixth grade science; sixth, seventh, and eighth grade social studies. While he thoroughly enjoys his work, he still misses the flexibility of a multiple-job schedule, especially his time as an engineer on the Zooline Railroad, aka, the "Zoo Train." He misses the work itself, the children and families who ride the train, feeding the friendly chipmunks, and most of all, camaraderie among the engineers. He plans to return to that role one day.

I remain so grateful to be your rector, and for the trust you give me to share your lives in times of pain and grief and joy. Thank you for the time we have had. I look forward to 2024.

**Rector's Address to the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting  
(Sermon and Report on the Year 2022)  
January 29, 2023**

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles.  
They will run and not be weary;  
they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 NIV*

About three weeks ago, I wrote a reflection for the Vestry meeting. I began it with the verse from Isaiah 40:31 that I just read aloud, from the New International Version of the Bible, because that is the version quoted on the poster in the church office. I invite you to go look at it when you have an opportunity.

For a portion of this address, I'm going to be quoting myself—similar to repeating myself, I guess, but at least I'm doing it on purpose. I ask you to bear with me, because I think some what I wrote then and later sent out in the Mini-Tidings bears repeating, not just to you, but to myself. .

I remind you that I was reviewing the year-end financial reports—the ones for December 2022. As you will hear very soon, the numbers are grim:

So, dear friends, I was reviewing the financial reports for December 2022 and becoming depressed. In my gloom, I was having trouble coming up with a reflection for tonight, the last regular Vestry meeting before the 2023 Annual Meeting. If we just look at the numbers, things look pretty bad—deficit, deficit, deficit.

I walked out of my office into Michelle's with the intention of burying my sorrows in popcorn and chocolate. I looked up, as I always do when I walk into the office toward the copier (and the food) and took a good look at the eagle poster on the wall above the copier. A bald eagle is flying under cloudy skies, with just the hint of blue, and an even fainter hint of a wispy cloud or the remnant of a rainbow. I read the words on this poster often, but I realized this afternoon that I wasn't actually reading it; I was beginning where it began and then going on with a more familiar translation. I'm used to "wait upon the Lord" and either "rise up" or "mount up" with wings like eagles. The NIV here says, "hope," and "soar."

Both hope and soar struck me as particularly powerful words today, more lively, energetic words than wait upon and rise up. Hope is an active form of waiting; soaring is a glorious form of rising on updrafts and floating. Both hoping and soaring require that we decide to act. We must choose to hope; we must engage our wings to soar. We make these choices, trusting that the Lord provides the wind in which we can soar with the eagle and the assurance of hope for the people who think there is none.

Trinity Church is far more than the financial reports that show us in deficit. The choices we have made that have put us in our current financial position are choices for life and growth, hope, and the wings to soar into the third decade of the 21st Century. Taking risks in response to the work of the Holy Spirit is what we have done and what we are called to do. If we look at all of Isaiah 40, we see hopelessness and fear, suffering and separation. We see, too, God's enduring promise. If we make our choices prayerfully, in response to the call of God to serve God's people, to engage in God's mission to the world; if we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as disciples of Jesus Christ, we will continue to take the big risks, hope in the Lord, and soar. It is not and will not be easy; it will be good.

The worship space we have just renovated was essentially unchanged for sixty years—and that space, this building, was built in 1961 with great risk and great hope. In 1961, in our building at Clark and Benton Streets—a building we occupied for ninety years—our Vestry faced what looked like an impossible choice, to close for lack of resources or take the risk to move. The financial situation was bordering on desperate, and they had no more room to grow. Hoping against hope, the Vestry chose to act. They flapped their wings and chose to soar. They took the risk to build a new church. Details fell into place that made it clear that their decision to take that risk was the right decision. It wasn't easy; finances stayed shaky for a long time; but they did it. They trusted God to provide. We affirm that trust today.

### *The Year Past*

Look at the parish statistics page. You will see some of the results of returning to church in the numbers and types of services, whether they were online or in person or both (hybrid). Review the reports of our ministries in Faith. Compassion. Community. Watch the power point presentations Gary McKiddy has created for the year 2022.

Note some details:

Many weekday services online, but fewer than 2021.

A variety of special worship services, online and in person.

FOUR visits from our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson:

Ongoing flexibility in furniture arrangement and conduct of worship in our reconfigured space—note that three big events in June required three different configurations, all beautiful and each unique, never to be seen exactly as they were again! Creative pivoting has become a way of life!



## Rector's Address in 2023, continued

One Baptism: Grayson Frederick Waaso on The Day of Pentecost, June 5.

One Rededication of Worship Space with outdoor Reception: June 12.

One Ordination: The Rev. Margaret Barry Goldstein, June 26.

One Adult Forum at Bishop's Visitation, Feb 27 from St. Hilda Room.

Two celebrations for marriage: The Blessing of Rings for the marriage of Julia Vogel and Adam Hansen in April 2020; The Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Cynthia Dougherty and Barry Dougherty on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

No Confirmations.

No Sunday School Classes.

Thriving Community Garden.

New Small Group Studies

We need to continue the good work that God has been doing in us for the past one hundred and 187 years.

The Year Ahead

Looking forward in hope, we have some obvious things to focus on:

Hospitality

Increasing our efforts in to invite people to share in our ministries, making the events and activities known widely, and simply, inviting a friend to church!

Increasing our efforts and process to welcome those whom we've invited.

Pastoral Care

Increasing our efforts to care for our own parishioners when they are ill

Expanding the "Card Ministry"

Outreach

Feeding the Hungry Coordinating our other outreach efforts

Looking for new ways to serve the people outside our doors.

Rejuvenating our Social Justice Advocacy Group

Increasing our offerings and efforts in Christian spiritual formation:

Expanding small groups in prayer, study, and service

Providing regular adult Sunday formation—Adult Forum, Lunch & Learn

Providing a variety of formation opportunities for children and youth, Sunday school in some format, certainly, but also other days and other forms of fellowship, service, and growing as Christian disciples

Stewardship

Increasing understanding that everything we are and have and give

Rebuilding a Solid Financial Foundation.

And one more thing ahead to add to moving into our future:

Turning 70 is a big deal for me, personally, and it is lovely to have shared that milestone with you just about three weeks ago. My turning 70 is significant for all of us, however, as retirement age for Episcopal priests and bishops is age 72.

Unlike an airline pilot, I do not automatically have to retire on my birthday. With the permission of the Bishop at the request of the Vestry, I can delay that date. I would very much like to do so, because NOT to do so will be to miss a couple of milestones that, God willing, I really want to be able to share with the people of Trinity Church. On Feb 24, 2025, I will celebrate the 40th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. On May 1, 2025, we—all of us, this congregation, and my family and I—will mark 30 years of ministry in St. Charles, Missouri together. I don't want to miss that day; I don't want to miss Feb. 24 before it. And I don't want to turn in my keys that day either.

The Vestry and I will be discussing how we might best "do" this thing. We will have conversation with the Bishop and the Canon to the Ordinary; Bob and I will have to be involved together in some of the logistics; but the biggest work for Trinity Church begins now and continues, possibly for at least a couple of years, after I leave.

In the meantime, we have plenty to do as we minister together in St. Charles. With gratitude for the Year 2022, we move forward into 2023. May we hope and soar! —TEW

# 2023 PARISH STATISTICS

## Number of Services & Service Attendance

Total Sunday Holy Eucharists: 93      Weekday Holy Eucharists: 9      Total Private Holy Communion: 58  
Total Sunday Daily Offices: 0      Total Weekday Daily Offices: 23  
Total Special Services: 38      Total Number of Worship Services: 221

Total In-Person Sunday Attendance: 3672      Total Online Sunday Attendance: 707  
Total Weekday In-Person Attendance: 1053      Total Online Weekday Attendance: 90+ (The + is FB Live)  
Total Sunday Attendance, In-person & Online: 5522

## Membership Information Recorded in 2023

### Baptisms – 4

**Adult** Patrice Philetta Gracie Itoka daughter of Lucinda Dennis-Itoka & Alvin Barry Itoka      Sep 10, 2023      +DKJ  
**Infant** Dove Charlotte Braucksick, daughter of Kendra Braucksick & Andrew Bolhofner      May 21, 2023      TEW  
**Infant** Emma Barbara Morrison, daughter of Christine Ogawa & Oneal Morrison      Sep 10, 2023      +DKJ  
**Infant** Emily Hilda Morrison, daughter of Christine Ogawa & Oneal Morrison      Sep 10, 2023      +DKJ

### Confirmations, Receptions, Renewal of Baptismal Vows – 4 Bishop's Visitation      Sep 10, 2023

+DKJ

Patrice Philetta Gracie Itoka, *Confirmed*

Scarlet Brent Jones, *Confirmed*

Carolyn Stuhlsatz, *Received*

Lucinda Patricia Isabella Dennis-Itoka, *Renewed*

### Marriage — 1

Oct 29      Karon Rae (Yates) Goodrich & Dereck Michael Goodrich      Trinity Church      TEW

## 2022 Deaths, Burials & Memorial Services Recorded in Trinity Church Parish Record Book - 15

*Services held at Trinity Church, and with the Rector presiding, unless otherwise noted*

Jan 27	(The Rev. Dr.) Richard Beresford Tudor *+DKJ/TEW/EAB/MHN (Trinity & JBNC)	May 29, 1942—Jan 20, 2023
Apr 22	Norma Jeanne Solomon *TEW (Trinity Church & Garden)	Jan 16, 1926—Apr 11, 2023
Apr 28	Elizabeth Ann "Buffie" Balling *TEW/MHN (JBNC Committal Service)	July 23 1955—July 11, 2022
Apr 28	Angela Fay Rose *TEW (Trinity Church & Garden)	Dec 2, 1963—Apr 15, 2023
Apr 28	Norma Rose Fanto *TEW (Trinity Church & Garden)	Mar 7, 1932—Jan 15, 2016
Apr 28	John Fanto *TEW (Trinity Church & Garden)	Aug 9, 1928—Nov 6, 2009
Jun 10	James Kenyon Heitman (J.B. Smith FH; Oak Hill Cemetery, Kirkwood MO)	July 6, 1990—May 3, 2023
July 6	Patricia Dianne (Wilson) Jensen *TEW	Nov 23, 1955—Jun 29, 2023
July 26	Sara Lynn (Neal) Lundin *TEW/EAB (Baue on Jefferson, St. Charles)	Jun 16, 1969—July 19, 2023
July 27	David Lee Hood *TEW/EAB/MHN (Trinity Church & St. Charles M. Garden)	Oct 10, 1936—July 22, 2023
Aug 5	Denise Eileen (Rossman) Funderburk *EAB (Newcomer FH & Trinity Garden)	July 21, 1941—July 13, 2023
Sep 7	Nancy Lee (Schneider) Aehle *TEW/EAB/MHN (Trinity Church & Garden)	Nov 2, 1944—Aug 28, 2023
Nov 25	Blaine Neil Stockstrom *DCW (Valhalla Cemetery, St. Louis)	Jan 11, 1991—Oct 24, 2023
Dec 15	Yvonne Rachel (Davis) Rankin *TEW/EAB (Baue FH, O'Fallon)	Sep 22, 1927—Nov 26, 2023
	Bianca Bowen	xx1989—Dec 12, 2023

\*+DKJ = The Right Rev. Deon K. Johnson, *Eleventh Bishop of Missouri*

\*TEW = The Rev. Tamsen E. Whistler, *Rector*

\*EAB = The Rev. Elizabeth A. Bowen, *Deacon*

\*MHN = The Rev. Michael H. Nchimbi, *Assisting Priest*

\*DCW = The Rev. Doris C. Westfall, *Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Missouri*

JBNC = *Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery*

**Trinity Episcopal Church 318 S. Duchesne Drive St. Charles, MO 63301**

**Zoom & In-Person**

**Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2023**

**9:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Call to Order:** Tamsen Whistler called the annual meeting to order after brunch and appointed the secretary, Karen Graham, vestry clerk

**Highlights of the Year:** Gary McKiddy shared a series of pictures from the highlights of 2023.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Tamsen explained the issue with last year's annual meeting – unable to retrieve the meeting recording from the Zoom account. Tamsen gave highlights from last year's meeting.

**Rector's Address:** Isaiah 41 (Tamsen Whistler)

Hope and soar—energetic words. We desire to act—choose to hope, engage to fly. New space has encouraged us to do things in new ways. The coming year we will get our house in order financially before the rector retires.

**Vestry Report:** Gary McKiddy shared the following:

- Review of the year
- Jacob is our new Treasurer and will work with Ralph Bruns on Transition

**New Vestry members: Three-Year Terms, ending in Jan 2026**

- David Westfall, Lucenda Dennis-lotoka, John Barnard
- Need two more nominees from the floor:
- Erin Shetler, for Three-Year Term, ending Jan 2026
- Lori Cooper for Two-Year Term, ending Jan 2025

**Convention Delegate (Three-Year Terms, ending Jan 2025)**

- Elected Elizabeth Meyer for Convention Delegate.
- Motion to temporarily suspend bylaws for Convention Delegates while a committee works to make updates.
- The motion was approved—all online voted yes.

It was noted that anyone can be a nominee and we will pray for someone to answer the call.

**Nominating Committee: Elected from the Floor, One-Year term, ending 2024; three-year term, ending 2026**

Elected Carolyn Hackman and Marty Neuman, decision for who serves one year or three years to them

**Committee Reports** Karen Graham – Read list of reports submitted by title

**A Minute for Music – John Hawn shared instrument updates:**

- John shared the plan for the piano and organ now renovations are nearing completion.
- The choir can always use more people.

He is planning a program for February 19<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the organ

**Stewardship Report-Gary Mckiddy**

- Gary shared a list of ideas the stewardship committee has suggested:
  - Fliers
  - Continue becoming a ministry center
  - Speakers
  - Wealth, wisdom and work
  - Note: see statistics on slide
  - Campaign planned for additional chairs; parking lot light replacement.

Betty and others suggested fundraiser ideas.

## **2022 Treasurer's Report-Ralph**

- Ralph explained the audit procedures and internal controls.
- Balance Sheet: Ralph pointed out the deficit by area. The Calvert Fund decreased due to market conditions.
- Ralph recommended that we find a school to rent the basement. There is enough money to stay solvent until summer 2025.
- John Barnard asked about the diocesan pledge and that there are churches that don't give full amount.
- Betty asked how the diocese creates the amount. Ralph explained how this is done—it is basically 12.5% of the church's operating budget. Mark asked if that has been consistent; Tamsen said yes. Rich asked if there is a diocesan report. Tamsen answered that information is available as a report from diocesan website.
- Ralph emphasized that we need to take a hard look at the finances and all work together to improve finances.
- Ralph reviewed the capital projects. Those are complete and we need to improve operating budget.
- Ralph explained how all the Mary Jane Wagner Bequest was spent.
- Motions were made and there was a unanimous vote to receive the budget.

Introduction of new treasurer—Jacob Taylor; treasurer can be part of the Vestry until the Vestry term expires. The treasurer's term is five years.

Senior Warden's Remarks: Gary

Our building is used 7 days a week. Gary gave overview of all the outreach ministries. He encouraged congregation to get together more often for more fellowship.

Junior Warden's Remarks: Phil

Thanked everyone for work done on the renovations.

Assisting Priest's Remarks: Michael thanked everyone for welcoming him. He is looking forward to proper ministry with the international students in 2023.

Deacon's Remarks: Betty thanked everyone for all the outreach and shared about the small group ministry.

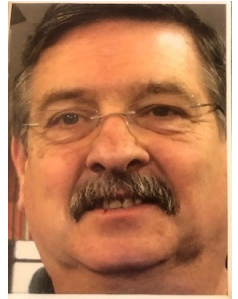
Recognition of Vestry and Staff—Tamsen thanked all members of staff and vestry.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Graham, Vestry Clerk

# WARDENS' REPORTS

## Trinity Episcopal Church - St. Charles

### Senior Warden (Rector's Warden) Report to the 2024 Annual Meeting for the Year 2023



I would like to start by thanking God for the many blessings we have received this past year! For our Clergy, Tamsen our Rector, Rich our Associate who was called home to Jesus in January, and Betty our Deacon, Michael our Assisting Priest who we had to say good bye to as he went home to Africa to be with his family and we welcomed Erika our most recent addition, for the Care, Support, Love and Spiritual Guidance they tirelessly give to the Vestry, Staff and most importantly the members of Trinity Episcopal Church, our family. I would like to thank Trinity's Staff, John our Minister of Music, Michelle our Office Administrator, Ashley our Nursery Attendant and for Jacob our Treasurer and Ralph our retired Treasurer who sacrificed himself to our service for the entire year. For the outstanding job they do with little recognition and not nearly enough praise. What would we do without them? I would also like to thank all the ministry chairpersons, the members of all the ministries here at Trinity! I will not begin to name them all. Finally, I want to thank the Vestry of Trinity for their love and dedication to the members of Trinity.

Wow!!!! Who could have predicted the year we have experienced in 2023??? The Renovation of the Sanctuary was completed. We are back to business as usual. Not Really! The new Business as Usual to be more exact. In person and Virtual Church services every week! Who would have thought it was possible! Morning Prayer on Facebook Live, Evening Prayer and Compline on GoTo Meeting or ZOOM. Vestry Meetings in person and via Zoom or GOTO Meeting, Weekly Staff Meetings both in person and virtually. If anyone would have told me this would be normal 4 years ago, I doubt I would have taken them seriously. We have a full staff of volunteers who lend their talents to make these things possible. We still have some more technology being completed in the near future that deals with lighting.

The Vestry has three primary roles; 1) To Administer Funds, 2) To Maintain Buildings, 3) To Choose Leadership and Representatives. Included in these roles are to facilitate Communication, to give Leadership in Parish Programs, Ministries, and Worship and To Pray for the Parish and Its Leadership.

Trinity Episcopal Church has accomplished much this past year. The completion of the renovation to the Sanctuary as I mentioned above. We started the Fund-Raising activities with many Musical events planned by John and Jacob, The Priceless Yard Sale planned by Grace Nichols, our new Trinity Beloved Group expanding our outreach. Despite all we have accomplished in 2023 we have been hit with a Financial Crunch and when we asked our family here at Trinity to help with this financial shortcoming you all responded with selfless generosity and Blessed Trinity once again. We cannot begin to thank you enough for the gifts you share with Trinity Episcopal Church. Because of all of you I know that in 2024 we will Trinity Blessed once again.

I look forward to 2024 and sincerely hope that you all do as well.

May God Bless you all and keep you safe always!

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Jeffery

Senior Warden, Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, MO

### Junior Warden (People's Warden) Report to the 2024 Annual Meeting for the Year 2023



Work on various projects throughout the church continues on an ad hoc basis. The main projects are listed below. Parking lot lighting still needs to be addressed.

#### **New Computers**

Several new computers were acquired during the year, replacing outdated systems used by Michelle, John, Michael, and Jacob/Vestry. The Jackson-Kemper room was slightly reorganized with an improved space for finance. The new computer is internet connected and will permit the Treasurer to work either at the church or at home running the new financial software – QuickBooks for Non-Profit.

#### **New Shed**

This has been a busy year with the best change being the replacement of the old shed with the new Community Garden shed. We had significant help with the demolition of the old shed by garden partners in Chesterfield and O'Fallon. The new shed was pre-built by Cook Portable Warehouses and purchased locally.

#### **New Lights**

Several of the ceiling lights in the Welcome space have been replaced with LED panels and additional replacements are planned. One fixture in the upstairs hallway was also replaced with an LED panel. The plan is to replace all the fluorescent fixtures with LEDs, which will reduce our electricity bills. It is a challenge to replace these fixtures due to the age of the building and how it was built. It seems each light that has been replaced brings about new challenges.

David Westfall, *Junior Warden*

# NOMINEES FOR PARISH LEADERS

## Nominating Committee Report – 2023-2024

**Members:** Rebecca Jones, John Hawn, Jacob Taylor, Tamsen Whistler

The Nominating Committee each year is supposed to include all retiring Vestry members and three-at large members elected to staggered terms, one per year, at the Annual Parish Meeting.



At the Annual Meeting January 30, 2022 we elected Barbara Gossow to serve as an at-large member of the Nominating Committee for a three-year term, ending Jan 2025. At the Annual Meeting last year, Jan 29, 2023, we discussed the need to elect two more people from the floor, terms ending in 2024 and 2026, to replace Avril Arthurton-Brudy, who had resigned but whose term was to end in 2024. We elected Marty Neuman and Carolyn Hackman, leaving the decision to them as to who would serve which term. However, we failed to contact Barbara, Marty, or Carolyn in 2023, having lost track of the fact that we had elected them. (This will NOT happen again.) The Nominating Committee in 2023, therefore, consisted solely of the retiring members of the Vestry: Jennifer Bax, Karen Graham, Rebecca Jones, and Jacob Taylor. Other members of the Vestry, notably the Senior Warden, Phil Jeffery, also helped. As you see, they worked very hard and recruited a stellar group of Vestry nominees, but no one for other parish leadership positions, including the Nominating Committee. Therefore, at the meeting, we will be requesting nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee, TEA and ACE Funds, Program Development Funds.

*The Vestry, with the Rector, is the governing body of a parish church. Trinity's Vestry meets on the Second Thursday of the month, generally excepting July. Diocesan Canons: "The Vestry shall take charge of the property of the Parish; attend to and regulate all its temporal concerns; provide for the support of the Rector, and, in the case of the Rector's death, resignation or removal, supply, with the Bishop's advice and consent, the Rector's place as soon as possible. The Vestry shall also assist the Rector in the proclamation of the Gospel, the public worship of the Congregation, the nurture of persons of all ages, the alleviation of human suffering and promotion of justice ... "*



## NOMINEES FOR PARISH LEADERS—VESTRY

**Eleanor McCune:** I am a native Iowan having been born and raised in the small town of Hamburg. Following high school graduation, I attended the University of Nebraska from which both my husband, Larry, and I graduated and we have remained loyal Husker fans through thick and thin (mostly thin lately!).

Following graduation, Larry accepted a job as an engineer with McDonnell-Douglas so we moved to the St. Louis area and have lived in St. Charles since 1970. After teaching for a few years and taking time to raise our two sons, I enjoyed working in real estate where I met many nice folks and one of the nicest couples with whom I worked were Tamsen Whistler, Bob, and toddler Will Brown. Tamsen and I have remained friends for 29 years, so Larry & I felt very welcomed when we followed our children and grandchildren, David, Michelle, Ben, and Betsy to Trinity Church several years ago.

I have enjoyed the conversations at Forum, working with outreach missions, the Bell Choir, as well as working to refresh the St. Hilda room. Lately, my focus has been the garden and I have been working very hard with Sarah Horning to build on Bill's foundation of constantly improving the garden, growing and distributing more food each year, involving the community in the garden, as well as developing a beautiful pollinator garden in which we were successful in attracting good numbers of beautiful butterflies, honey bees, and beautiful blooms in our first year. I enjoy growing things and that includes growing our church, our programming, our outreach, as well as our future in the community. I look forward to working with the Vestry as well as the congregation in meeting these goals!



**Please Note:** Eleanor McCune and Jamie McCune **ARE NOT** related to each other, though they have the same last name!



## NOMINEES FOR PARISH LEADERS (Continued)

### Grace Nichols:

Member Trinity since 1968; on Vestry from 1970; Senior Warden twice; Layreader

for 20 years.

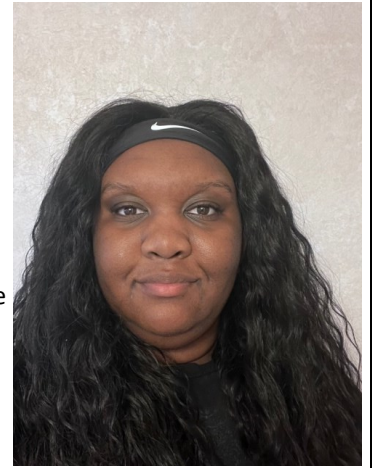
Attorney, Mayor St Charles 1987-1995; St Charles Circuit Judge, then Senior Circuit Judge; St Charles Chamber of Commerce President; Member MO Hwy & Transp. Commission

Widow John Nichols; sons Michael, Scott and John, Granddaughter Crystal Little, grandsons Trenton, Cameron, Trevor, Colin, great grandson Conner.



### Benisha Brudy: Hi there!

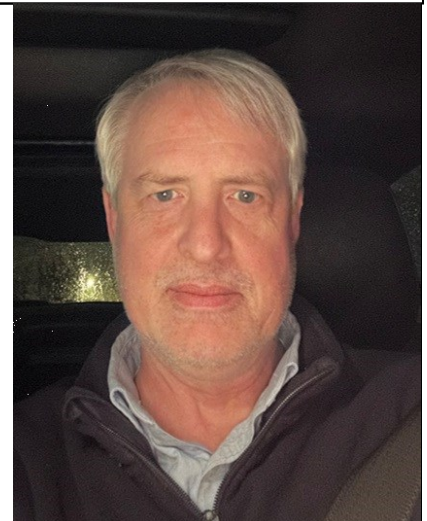
My name is Benisha Brudy. I've been a part of Trinity Church quite literally since I've been born. Since that time—19 years this month—I've been busied myself with a bunch of church events such as our pageants, youth Sundays within our church, and much, much more. I serve as Lector and an Acolyte, and since last year, as a member of Trinity's worship streaming team. Soon, I hope to be trained to be a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM). I have been involved in diocesan youth events, and I was one of 17 teenagers from the nine Provinces of the Episcopal Church around the world who prepared to serve as the Official Youth Presence (OYP) at the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention in July 2021. Sadly, that did not work out for us because of COVID-19. I'm a 2023 graduate of Fort Zumwalt East High School and I'm working full-time with plans for college in the near future. I'm super excited to be a part of the best Vestry and make a difference within the church community, no matter how small.



### Jamie McCune (James P. McCune III)

James P. McCune III, known to members at Trinity Church as Jamie, is a Senior Trial Attorney for All State Insurance Company. He is married to Elizabeth (Betsy) McCune, and they have a daughter, Maeve, who is an eighth grader at St. Cletus School. Jamie is a regular 8 AM Usher, a welcoming person to everyone who comes to the doors of the church. He joins ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for breakfast at JJ's Diner on S. Duchesne when he is free and helps around Trinity Church in other ways as he's able. He and his family like to travel, not only to attend dance competitions and other events in which Maeve has been involved, and to spend time with family, but also to see the larger world. Most recently, he and Betsy and Maeve visited Williamsburg, VA and other historic sites with Betsy's parents, Lee and Nancy West. Jamie brings to the Vestry his background as an attorney, his awareness of property and other issues, and his love for the church.

**Please Note:** Eleanor McCune and Jamie McCune **ARE NOT** related to each other, though they have the same last name!



**Nominating Committee Member-at-Large:** One person, term ending Annual Meeting 2026; one ending 2027  
*The Nominating Committee consists of three at-large members, elected to staggered three-year terms by the Annual Parish meeting—one member elected each year—together with all retiring members of the Vestry for any given year. The Nominating Committee is to begin meeting in September or October, prayerfully to consider the needs of the church for the different parish offices, and to discern among themselves who might be called to different positions of elected leadership. Having developed a group of possible nominees, members of the Nominating Committee contact those people, in person, and ask that they pray about whether or not to accept the position they are being asked to consider.*

**Nominations to be made from the floor.**