

# REPORTS TO THE 164<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF TRINITY

*The Episcopal Church in Oshkosh*

A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY OF  
THE DIOCESE OF FOND DU LAC

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## Agenda

Call to Order of the 164th Annual Parish Meeting  
Opening Prayer  
Appointment of Clerk of the Meeting  
Elections  
Parish Reports – *The reports that are required by canon law are the reports from the Rector and Wardens. Most reports have been filed and are found in this booklet*  
Presentation of 2018 Proposed Budget  
Rector's Address  
Courtesy Resolutions  
Closing prayer and Adjournment

## Introduction

Canon Law directs every congregation to have an Annual Parish Meeting, which includes  
Reports from Rector, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden  
Election of elected officers, including but not limited to Vestry members, Wardens, and  
Delegates to Diocesan Convention  
Presentation and discussion of the Budget, which has been approved by the Vestry at its January  
meeting  
Other optional reports as received.

## Candidates for Elected Office

The deadline for nominations was noon on Thursday the 18th, and thus we have the following slate  
of candidates for elected offices.  
For Senior Warden: Chrissy Roth  
For Junior Warden:  
For Vestry: Natalie Johnson, Cathy Cowling, Karen Jacobs  
For Convention Delegate: Cathy Cowling, Steph Rogers, Marcia Smith-Leslie  
For Alternate Convention Delegate: Celeste Williams

## Rector's Statistical Report

In 2017 there were:

- 89 Sunday Eucharists
- 61 weekday Eucharists
- 21 Private or other Eucharists (including Bella Vista and Evergreen)
- 19 celebrations of the Daily Office
- 1 wedding
- 9 funerals

Easter Attendance (Vigil and Sunday) 154  
Christmas Attendance (Eve and Day) 149  
Total Sunday attendance 3478  
Average Sunday Attendance 65.6 (-11.4%)

**Christian Burial – 9**

Lila Overton  
Jean Fuller  
Gene Goodwin  
Anne DeVoe  
Shirley Wyman

Larry Schneske  
Ellie Baynes  
Katharine Blaauw (committal)  
Mary Jo Hergert

**Holy Matrimony – 1**

Shannon Brand and Dan Bartlett

**Baptism — 1**

Oswin Arthur Freund

**Confirmation – 0**

## Senior Warden's Report

Dear Trinity Parish Family,

Thank You!

Thank all of you who have made a commitment to our church with your 2018 pledges.

Thank all of you who continuously offer time and talent to our worship service.

Thank all of you who go forth into the community to serve others through Trinity's ministries.

Thank all of you who create a warm, friendly, and loving environment for Trinity.

Thank all of you for lifting our church and its members in prayer.

Thank all of you for allowing me the honor to serve as your Senior Warden.

Thanks to Father Chris and Celeste for their presence and spiritual guidance.

Finally, thank Him for this wonderful family He has created in Trinity.

*God's Peace,*

*Chris Boycks*

*Sr. Warden*

## Junior Warden's Report

It has been another busy year serving as your Junior Warden in 2017. Thanks for the volunteers helping to keep on top of the ongoing maintenance needs of Trinity's two buildings and grounds. Our part time custodian, Peter Chmelik, works 15 hours a week at Trinity in the afternoons and is at Christ Lutheran Church in the mornings. I have been working with him in getting him familiar with our facility and our needs.

We have been blessed with people volunteering in taking on projects such as landscape cleanup and maintaince and the painting of the rest rooms in the church. Just like you home there are always things that need to be taken care of.

Trinity's 20+ year old low pressure steam heating system is showing its age with needed repairs this past fall and winter. Some of its piping has developed major leaks. One section of piping was been replaced in December and another section was temporarily patched and will be replaced this coming summer.

### **Buildings and Grounds Future Projects**

- Complete inventory of all the important things in both buildings for insurance purposes.
- Landscaping of side yard next to church.
- High Street parking lot resurfacing.
- Stained glass window repairs of East and West sides of the building.
- Repair cracked and water damaged plaster at large East window in the church.
- Replacing a damaged fence at south end of side yard.
- Painting financial assistant's office.
- Painting of upstairs kitchen and south entrance hall way.
- Replace wall paper of parish hall entrance and main floor hallways.
- Professionally resurface main floor of church.
- Repairs to the organ. A major mechanical tune up.

Thanks to Peter Chmelik, our part time custodian, and volunteers for keeping our buildings and grounds looking good on a daily basis this past year. When you see these people take the time to thank them for their work.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Mike Murray*  
*Junior Warden*

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **2017 Financial Recap and 2018 Budget Considerations**

We saw several changes in 2017. Alicia Thornton resigned as Treasurer in the summer and Tami Goodwin took over the position in July. After making very significant cuts from the start to the 2017 budget, the Vestry continued to monitor our expenses and worked to reduce our reliance on the General Endowment to cover our operating expenses. Although it was painful at times, we were able to reduce the 2017 draw on the endowment for the operating budget to just \$18,500, down 76% from 2016, and down \$132,806 from our highest draw in 2013. The Vestry thanks the parish for its patience as we continue to work to hold down our expenses and strive to fund all regular operations from our annual contributions. Excellent market conditions and reduced draws saw the value of the General Endowment increase 17% and the Specific 11% in 2017.

Our very successful 2017 Stewardship program, which emphasized what God calls us to give, resulted in our pledges increasing 22% over 2016, and 19% over actual giving in 2017. The generosity of our parish members for 2018 has allowed us to increase funding for the office

administrator position and hire a nursery caregiver while at the same time reduce our reliance on the Endowments to fund our regular operations. Our budget also shows the Vestry's commitment to evangelism through advertising in the new local weekly Oshkosh Herald newspaper as we strive to get the word out about Trinity and our programs. You will see other program enhancements in the 2018 Budget that was approved by the Vestry at the January 2018 meeting.

Of particular note in 2018 is that we are not budgeting to take any funds from the Endowment, although the Line of Credit will continue to be used for checking account shortfalls. This final budget does show a shortfall by year's end, but we are looking forward to the generosity of parishioners and visitors to help make up for the difference.

I would especially like to thank Alicia Thornton for her continued support as I learn the ropes of my new position and Mary Kallin for all the extra time and work she has put in taking on additional responsibilities and learning alongside me. There are actually people in this world who enjoy bookkeeping work and making the financial records clear and accurate. It's been a pleasure working with her and I look forward to her continued assistance in 2018.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Tamera R. Goodwin, MBA*  
*Treasurer*

## **Stewardship Report**

After a one-year break from having a formal Stewardship drive, in 2017 we used the New Consecration Sunday program. This is a program based on the question, "What percentage of your income is God calling you to give?" Herb Miller, the creator of the program writes, "Jesus summed up the spiritual connection between money and God this way: 'Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.' (Luke 12:34). Financial stewardship is treasure management that helps us to escape the trap of selfishness by keeping ourselves spiritually focused on God."

With presentations during the services throughout the month of October, Consecration Sunday was held on October 29, 2017. The day included a Jazz Mass with a four-piece jazz ensemble, a guest preacher, Fr. Aran Walter, who gave a beautiful sermon on the Trinity, individuals and families walking to the altar to place the Estimate of Giving Cards in the basket as part of our worship, a luncheon catered by Benvenuto's Restaurant in Oshkosh, and a report on the giving for that Sunday. As pledges continued to come in during November and December, we are able to update that report here:

- 2017 Giving: \$184,876 (includes pledges and giving through general contributions since we didn't have a pledge drive)
- 2018 Pledges: \$224,093 (Pledges of \$185,340 and estimated 2018 general contributions of \$38,753 to compare to 2017)
- Total Increase: \$39,217 Percentage increase: 21%
- Range: \$52 - \$16,000
- Household Average: \$3,038
- Giving Units Pledged: 61

- # Increased: 47 #No Change: 7 # Decreased: 7

Comparing this year to last has been challenging since many people who pledged in past years didn't make a pledge in 2017. This necessitated including general contributions to our comparisons of 2018 to 2017. Comparing 2018 to 2016 also shows a significant 22% increase in pledges alone (without counting the general contributions).

Our Stewardship committee worked tirelessly to plan a wonderful celebration of our financial gifts to God. Members were Dawn Arnold, Cathy Cowling, Tami Goodwin, Jim Killinger, Chris Rogers, and Fr. Chris Arnold. We thank all who attended New Consecration Sunday, all who pledged, and all who continue to provide their financial support to God through our ministries at Trinity.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tami Goodwin  
Stewardship Committee Chair*

## **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild serves our Lord and Trinity Church by preparing the Altar for the celebration of Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning and special week-day services also for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. We clean up after the services by cleansing and putting away the vessels used.

Our current members are Nancy Behm, Marianne Chaudoir, Karen Jacobs, Jen Marty, Sandra Muinde, Carol San Filippo, Marcia Smith-Leslie, Rosemary Turner, Jacquie Wesenberg, and Nancy Murray. There are three members laundering the linens after services, Jen Marty, Sandra Muinde and Jacquie Wesenberg. A big thank you to each of you for serving.

Serving on the Altar Guild gives you time to reflect on who our Lord is in the bread and wine along with enjoying the beauty of the church in the quietness of the moment while preparing the altar for worship or preparing the altar for rest.

Each member serves about one week-end and week day service every other month, setting up for the 8:00 and 10:00 am, and cleaning up after the services.

We welcome and are in need of new members and will help you until you are comfortable with the set ups. Most of our work is done on the week-ends. Please pray and consider sharing your time and talent serving your church on the Altar Guild. If you have any questions concerning serving on the Altar Guild or would like to see what we do, I would be happy to talk with you or ask any member of the Altar Guild.

*Submitted by Nancy Murray*

## Episcopal Church Women

The ECW continues to play a vital part in the activities of the women of the parish.

Two days a month the TRINITY BOUTIQUE is open for shopping. The items for sale are provided by parish members including gently used clothing and household goods. Behind the scenes work includes keeping the sales room in order, cleaning and changing the seasonal displays. Parish members volunteer their time to keep the shop open. Money collected from the sales is used for ECW projects of outreach and needs in the parish.

This year we have donated over \$2700 to various charities and projects. Our biggest donation was \$1000 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. \$250 was given to each including ERD, Christine Ann Center, and Take 5 Club. A donation of \$500 was presented to the Day by Day Warming Shelter. Tokens for Teens received \$150. Heifer International was given \$200. Other donations were presented to Growing Oshkosh, Our Little Roses and to the Youth Group at Trinity. Money was donated toward the sound system for the activities in the upper hall.

Our programs are varied with a different theme each month. We are a welcoming group and enjoy the fellowship with each other. Come and join us on the second Thursday each month at 10 a.m. Our meetings end with our famous salad bar or lunch at a local restaurant. The fun and fellowship we share is what makes this group so special.

*Respectfully submitted.*  
*Betty Paterson.*

## Youth Ministries

Our Youth Group is regularly attended by a younger and highly enthusiastic group of truly beautiful children. This group is comprised of youth both inside and outside of our parish and from inside and outside the city of Oshkosh. Many of these fascinating kids are beginning their faith journey with Christ and inviting us along. What a true blessing this is!

We start our weekly meetings by breaking bread together and sharing in a full sit down family meal. This is a great time to talk with the kids about a wide variety of subjects. Following meal time, we do something different every week. Some of these activities include community service projects, service projects for our church, activities with other Episcopal churches and other denominations, hot topic nights, diocesan events like Happenings, New Beginnings, Lock-Ins and Church Camp, as well as others. We also have some good old fashion fun nights filled with games and laughter. We are always trying and do something that will strengthen the "Faith" of our youth.

This past summer we had one student out of three from the diocese, Emma Armstrong, attend the national EYE event in Oklahoma City, OK where she experienced spiritual growth and a sense of a strong Christian community. We had a very successful fund raising Casino event to help differ the cost of Church Camp, Mission Trips and special events. Claire Armstrong, Jen Marty and Celeste Williams were an iatrical part in making this a huge success and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication to this event. It was a fantastic evening with fellowship and fun.

We are very blessed to have such awesome volunteers that help us. I would like to extend a great big “Thank You” to Natasha Walth, John Milos and Fr. Chris Arnold for their weekly dedication to this group. I would also like to thank the parents, parish, and community for the support they give. In addition to your financial support, we thank you for providing rides for the youth and for making fantastic homemade meals so we may break bread together. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and never goes unnoticed!

I feel really positive about our youth group. With your continued support and prayers, I feel that our mission of bringing Christ to the youth will flourish for years to come. I feel the youth that attend just want a safe place to go and talk with people they can trust. They want to have fun with each other, all the while, being able to talk freely about their faith and the path they take on this journey. I believe we at Trinity, offer this for them. I know that my volunteers and I love working on behalf of Trinity Episcopal Church with this remarkable group of young people. We all want to be there to help where we can by praying, listening, talking or whatever else we can do to help. Thank you for being there for all of us.

*Thank you for your support,  
Jill Milos*

## **Deacon’s Report from Sandy Muinde**

Dear Trinity Friends,

Reflecting on the Year 2017 brings joys and disappointments to all of us. I am happy to be here at Trinity to serve the parish and participate in worship and activities. I’m blessed to serve with Fr. Chris, who continues to inspire us with great preaching and teaching, Deacon Nancy, who generously shares her time with us and Suamico, and Deacon Susan, who is always willing to help out by serving when asked or needed.

I continue to serve alternating Sundays with Deacon Nancy. My parish activities remain the same - Altar Guild, Flower Committee, Worship Committee, Choir, Daughters of the King, occasional coffee hours and Loaves and Fishes.

I volunteered to be in the office for a few hours, 2 days a week, from December 2016 to August.

I did take some time away this year visiting family in February in Florida, a short trip with Sam to New Orleans in May and then 3 weeks to Kenya in September.

Outside of Trinity, I volunteer at the warming shelter, participate in P.E.O., a women’s group and serve on the Board at Evergreen.

I regret that I have had to give up my Diocesan activities to do better self-care. I do plan, however, to fulfill my commitment to attending General Convention in July.

May God continue to bless us here at Trinity.

*Deacon Sandy Muinde*

## **Pastoral Care Report**

We are most grateful for those who give of themselves to make others feel comforted, cared for and remembered.

Thanks to Peg Wachtel for delivering flowers during this year. Scott Radford is away during the winter months, but helps when he's here. We could really use some help with the flowers. Often they are not enjoyed by anyone during the week.

We have small numbers in care facilities and retirement communities, but we continue to have monthly services at Evergreen and Bella Vista. We look forward to services in the new chapel at Evergreen. Thanks to Mary Kay Vacheresse and Fran Shoemaker for their assistance. Thanks also to Sherry Simon for her assistance at Bella Vista when I was on vacation.

I'm happy to say we have a continued presence at both hospitals in Oshkosh. A phone call is made and if someone is in, a visit is made or communicated to clergy. Sincere thanks to Fran Shoemaker, Nancy and Mike Murray and Rosemary Martin for their commitment in doing this.

Joan Horejs continues to send greetings to those that are unable to come to church. Thank you Joan! Betty Paterson and Fran Shoemaker are able to do home communions upon request. Thanks to Cathy Cowling for coordinating meals that were needed in the parish this fall. Thanks to Rob Paterson for recording the services. Thanks also to Jen Marty who has helped out this year and is also able to do home communions upon request.

I'd encourage anyone to join us the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays at Evergreen or the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays of the month at Bella Vista.

If you have any interest in helping out with any type of pastoral care, please let me know. We welcome your help.

Please pray for those who serve and are served.

*Deacon Sandy Muinde*

## **Daughters of the King**

The Bethany Chapter of the Daughters of the King meets on the second Sunday of the month following the 10 a.m. Eucharist. We had a former member join our group this year. Six women of the parish participate in this ministry. We offer prayers daily for our Rector, the Bishop and Deacons. We also offer daily prayers for special needs as requested. This is all done confidentially.

Special requests can be given to one of the members. Fran Shoemaker, Marianne Chaudoir, Betty Paterson, Joan Horejs, Deacon Sandy and Tammy Goodwin are the members to contact.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Paterson*

## Flower Committee Report

The beauty of our sanctuary is always enhanced by the flowers on the altar and by the seasonal decorations. This year weekly flowers were taken care of by our faithful members: Nancy Behm, Joan Horejs, Sandy Muinde, Stephanie Rogers, Fran Shoemaker, Mary Kay Vacheresse and myself. Flowers are usually purchased from Hrnak's and delivered on Saturday mornings. During the gardening season our flowers may come from the Farmer's Market or our own gardens.

Special thanks to these people who helped in different ways throughout the year:  
Dawn Arnold, who organized all of the decorating for Advent and Christmas  
Larry Lang, for maintaining the Trinity gardens and for delivering spring tulips to nursing homes  
Ann Muscavitch, for helping to arrange Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias  
Chris and Katie Boycks for donating the Christmas tree  
Thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for the holidays.

Submitted by Marianne Chadoir

## Director of Music Report

Music and liturgy played an important part of the life of Trinity during 2017. Our faithful choir members sang at the 10 am Eucharist from September to Trinity Sunday. Singers this year were Steve Mueller, James Chadoir, Rob Paterson, RJ Freund, Joan Cason, Risa Freund, Paul Holzschuh, Ann Muscavitch, Denise Robson, Lynn Schultz, Jen Wenner, Betty Paterson, Sandy Muinde and Rebecca Spurlock.

During the seasons of Advent and Lent we sang the psalms with the leadership of our cantors, Risa and RJ Freund.

Ingathering Sunday was celebrated with the Matt Buchman trio leading a Jazz Mass. It was a wonderful departure from the norm and raised the spirits of the congregation.

Trinity was host for the Lessons and Carols programs presented by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers. Our rector, Chris Arnold was the officiant and I accompanied choir and congregation on our beautiful organ. We are fortunate to have such a lovely instrument and worship space to share with the community.

I am very blessed to have been the organist and choir director at Trinity for the past 33 years. I am thankful that I have been given the liberty and the encouragement to use various types of music in worship and to have the opportunity to compose music for our use. I am grateful for the faithful choir members who give of their talents each week and lead us as we *sing to the Lord!*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Chadoir  
Director of Music*

## Finance Committee Report

Members:

Tim Turner, Chair

Jeff Armstrong, Tami Goodwin, Larry Lang, Paul Wagner, Alicia Thornton

The Finance Committee met quarterly at 6:30pm in the parish hall activity room when possible.

Our first meeting for 2017 was on March 7<sup>th</sup> there was a review of the past quarter spending and a presentation by Larry Lang on how to choose an investment advisor. The following meeting was by e-mail correspondence June 6<sup>th</sup> to prepare questions for US Bank, which holds our endowment portfolio.

July 20<sup>th</sup> we met with Andrew Wilson and Ray Juidici, representatives from US Bank. Ray presented a market and economic update of the current conditions for the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>. Andrew reported on the history of asset growth for Trinity Specific Trust and Trinity General Trust PLG. The total return from January to June was 9.15% in the Trinity General Trust PLG and 6.52% in the Trinity Specific Trust. Andrew thought these were good returns for the period. There were questions from the finance committee wondering if there could be better returns if the portfolio was actively managed. Andrew is able to participate in more active management of the account if we send him a letter requesting what we would like to change.

September 5<sup>th</sup> we began budget planning for 2018 and reviewed the meeting with US Bank. We would like to see more active management of the endowment accounts. The activity is good but we feel it could be better, another meeting is in order with US Bank.

Our last meeting of 2017 was held December 5<sup>th</sup> where we agreed to have semiannual meetings with US Bank. The budget was modified and prepared for Vestry review. I announced that I would be leaving as Chair of the Finance Committee as the Chairperson should also be a member of the Vestry.

Finance meeting dates for 2018 will be March 6, June 5, September 4, and December 4.

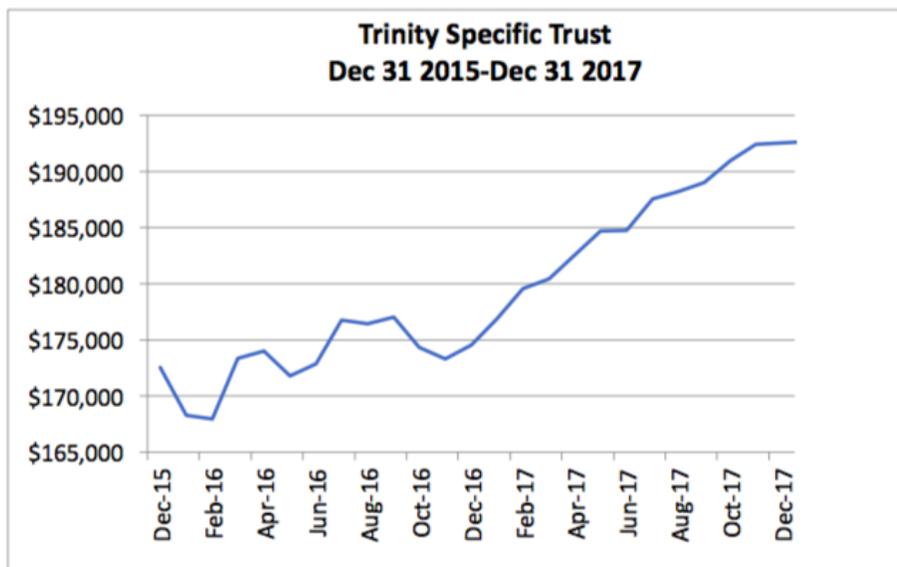
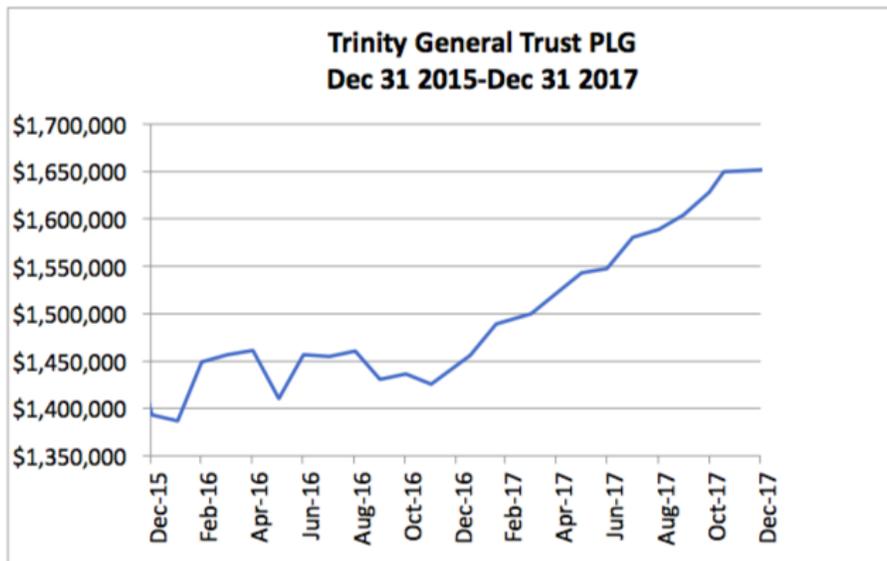
*Respectfully submitted,*

*Tim Turner*

*Trinity Finance Committee Chairperson*

Trinity Trusts Performance 2017

	Trinity Specific Trust	Trinity General Trust PLG
<b>January 1</b>	\$174,523.85	\$1,425,764.98
<b>December 31</b>	\$193,968.57	\$1,666,810.20
<b>Gain (Loss)</b>	\$19,444.72	\$241,045.22
<b>Percent Gain (Loss)</b>	11.5%	17%



## Courtesy Resolutions

### Resolution #1

**WHEREAS:** Jeff Armstrong and Tim Turner have served Trinity Church faithfully as members of the Vestry; and

**WHEREAS:** Chris Boycks has served faithfully as Senior Warden; and

**WHEREAS:** Mike Murray has served faithfully and for many years as Junior Warden; and

**WHEREAS:** they will complete this phase of their personal ministries at the election of their successors, therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that this 164th Annual Parish Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, convened on January 28, 2018, hereby offer our most sincere gratitude and thanks for their commitment of time and energy to this parish, and especially for their continued love and support.

### Resolution #2

**WHEREAS:** Trinity Episcopal Church is thankful for the many years of mutual love, support, and leadership from bishops and rectors with whom we have served in ministry; therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that this 164th Annual Parish Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, convened on January 28, 2018, send our warmest greetings to the Rt Rev Matthew Gunter, assuring him of our continued commitment and devotion to the Diocese and to his ministry as our bishop, and to the bishops and rectors who have served with us in the past: Rt. Rev. Russell Jacobus, Rector Emeritus The Rev. Charles E. Cason, Jr., The Rev. Steven Powers, and The Rev. Marcus T. Cunningham, assuring them of our love and concern for their well-being and wishing them God's blessing and peace.

### Resolution #3

**WHEREAS:** James Chaudoir assumed the leadership of Trinity's Loaves and Fishes ministry in 2015, ensuring that hundreds of meals were served to the hungry over the intervening years, and

**WHEREAS:** he concluded his work in this capacity at the end of 2017; therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that this 164th Annual Parish Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church, convened on January 28, 2018, expresses its admiration and gratitude for his faithful and devoted ministry to our Parish, to the poor of our community, and to Christ's call to serve the last and the least among us.