

# 2023 Annual Report

## Trinity Episcopal Church, Folsom 2023 Annual Report

## Contents

| Rector's Report                                     | 5  |
|---|----|
| Assistant Rector's Report                           | 7  |
| Senior Warden's Report                              | 9  |
| Junior Warden's Report                              | 11 |
| Treasurer's Report                                  | 12 |
| Outreach Committee Report                           | 14 |
| Director of Children's and Youth Ministries' Report |    |
| Director of Music's Report                          |    |
| Altar Guild Report                                  | 21 |
| Flower Guild Report                                 |    |
| Thrift Shop Report                                  | 25 |

## Rector's Report

It seems more appropriate to title this the Quarterly Report of the Interim Rector, since I can only speak of what I have experienced since my arrival in August of 2023. I arrived to discover a vibrant parish committed to being the body of Christ in Folsom. The words I use to describe this parish are joyous, welcoming, curious, thoughtful, and deliberate. I met a community grieving the loss of a deeply respected leader , preparing to begin a new chapter in the life of Trinity Church. This is a community justifiably proud of the achievements of the past ten years as you have grown into the largest parish in the diocese of Northern California.

And now, with that growth comes the moment of learning how to live in this new body. It's a bit like a teenager at the end of a growth spurt learning how to make this new and strange body work. As your interim, much of my time has been devoted to equipping the parish to learn how to live in this new body. How to support and deepen all the activity going on in the parish, from very thoughtful worship and engaging Christian Education to energetic outreach through the Thrift Shop, work with Powerhouse Ministries, Twin Lakes Food Bank, Christmas Around Town, as we welcome a steady stream of people coming here to enter into a vibrant faith journey.

Over the past decade, Trinity has grown from a small congregation to a complex organization. Things that were once done informally now require careful planning.

And now, you are preparing to step into the next stage of your life of making Christ known to individuals and to the wider community,

This is hard work. This is exciting work. But above all it is the work of God!

None of this work is possible without the support of the outstanding staff of the parish whose energy, creativity, and dedication contribute to the dynamism that is Trinity Church.

To Mtr Anne Smith who provides wisdom, possesses a rare gift for pastoral care, and has a passion for outreach that touches everyone in the community.

To Mtr Libby Vincent who has the rare ability to see to the heart of an issue, to speak good news with grace and clarity, and is always possessed of insight into the heart of the parish community.

To Brett Judson whose gifted musicianship raises our worship and prayers to the heights of joy and deepens our discipleship. His leadership of the Stephen Ministry provides us with a valuable resource for companionship for our faith journeys.

To Tim Knight who has revived our ministries to children and youth. His is the quiet, engaged presence always inviting our younger members to explore and deepen their faith.

To Kelley Robinson-Abello, the Operations Manager of the parish, whose grace, dedication, sensitivity, and commitment have been crucial to the parish community as you make the transition from a small church into a larger church congregation.

To the staff: Thank You!

Finally, we give thanks to the vestry who, under Tovi Abello's leadership, has led the Trinity Congregation through the interim time with calmness and an unshakable commitment to being the people of God at the corner of Figueroa and Wool Streets.

Thank you for the privilege of being the interim rector of an amazing community in this time preparation and anticipation for the next phase of your mission and ministry in Folsom.

Merritt Greenwood+

### Assistant Rector's Report

The year 2023 had a few surprises for me as Assistant Rector, the first being the news of Fr. Todd Bruce's planned departure at the end of February. That meant I was occupied with taking on tasks from him and giving him a good send-off. The changes in staffing and expansion of my portfolio presented some daunting challenges, but along with the remaining staff and leadership I was determined to keep Trinity going strong.

New tasks included:

- Teaching Sunday school
- Convening and cofacilitating Sacred Ground at Trinity
- Writing and compiling the Tidings
- Scheduling the clergy for services
- Leading staff meetings
- Making liturgical plans and working with Brett to plan music
- Working with and guiding the Altar Guild in our preparations for worship
- Maintaining the parish Prayer List
- Sunday announcements
- An increased role in working with the Vestry
- Helping facilitate the changes in parish infrastructure and policy that our increased size requires, including a unified calendar of events, in order for us to realize our vision
- Onboarding our interim rector

Ongoing responsibilities included:

- Providing pastoral care, or ensuring that pastoral care was provided
- Leading and supporting the work of the Outreach Committee
- Preaching and presiding with excellence

In order to have time for new activities, I did reduce or suspend my involvement in some areas. Trinity Stitchers are on hiatus. I made fewer appearances at St. Martha's Guild meetings. I stopped participating in making meals for the Powerhouse Women and Children's Center. I spent less time with the Stephen Ministers in continuing education and supervision. I took a break from the Wednesday book discussion group in the last quarter of the year.

I am particularly pleased that in 2023 I was able to bring Sacred Ground to Trinity. I co-facilitated our first Sacred Ground Circle with Dan and Sheryl Trainor of Our Saviour, Placerville. I'm also pleased that I could support a new meals ministry, connecting parishioners with families in hard circumstances.

I am proud of the way Mtr. Libby and I partnered to provide continuity in clergy leadership and service, especially in the five months during which Trinity did not have a rector. I've gotten better at asking for support, and trusting God and others. I've had to work on taking time off and taking care of myself. I believe the work I have done to become a more skillful singer has borne good fruit.

Looking to 2024, I plan to continue supporting our transition to a program-size parish. We require new structures to support our size, and the culture of the parish will be challenged to change as well. Formalized procedures will be put in place. And the congregation will need to raise up new volunteers to make it all happen. I am grateful for this strong, loving, and dedicated parish. It is a privilege to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Mtr. Anne Smith

## Senior Warden's Report

Dear Trinitarians,

As I reflected on the last year, I found it helpful to take a longer look back, at the last five years; please join me in my flashback:

- In January 2020, we had had just completed the groundwork for our capital campaign project to expand and restore our beautiful-but-aging church and campus, and through your generous support, we were fresh off raising almost all of the \$3M needed to complete this ambitious undertaking. Dr. Brett Judson enthusiastically joined us during the year prior to lead our music programs, and no one had ever heard of COVID.
- In January 2021, it felt like COVID was all we knew. Then in the middle of the global pandemic, we learned how to worship, care for others, and enjoy fellowship online. Because of your faithful support and compassion, we increased our Outreach programs to help our neighbors in need, both locally and around the world. To make things more interesting, we began demolition and construction to restore our beautiful Gold Rush-era church and campus to its historical beauty, while doubling our church's capacity.
- In January 2022, we had re-opened our doors and restarted in-person worship, and we did so with vigor. We were blessed to have had Mtr. Anne joyfully join the Trinity team in the year prior. You helped fellow Trinitarians to find, book, and even drive to vaccination appointments. The mighty Trinity Thrift Shop re-opened to the delight of the community as well as to the benefit of our Outreach programs. Masks were everywhere (even on the choir!), but we together flexed and adjusted to an ever-changing world.
- In January 2023, we celebrated our capital campaign loan balance falling to zero, and we did so in style—our early payoff saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest. Masks came off, then back on, and then off again.

Mtr. Anne and Mtr. Libby gracefully led us through Fr. Todd's summer sabbatical, none of us knowing this was a dress rehearsal for later in the year!

• And now, in January 2024, we have had as much excitement as any of the prior years! We said goodbye to Fr. Todd, Barbara, and Travis, all well-loved members of the Trinity team. Mtr. Anne and Mtr. Libby took the reins, gracefully leading us for five months without a hitch. We were introduced to Merritt, whose deep experience as an Interim is helping guide us through this time. Tim Knight joined us to lead Children's and Youth ministries with gusto and skill, and Kelley Robinson-Abello officially joined the team, and has been instrumental as Operations Manager, deftly organizing and managing the complexity that underlies Trinity Folsom.

I'm no fortune teller, but I'll confidently predict that 2024 will be another year of change at Trinity. The work to call our next Rector has already begun, with our dynamic Parish Profile committee hard at work. There will be further steps, with the Search Committee and the Office of the Bishop, but I'm confident that we'll soon meet our new Rector, and we'll welcome each other with open arms.

Transitions are hard. But together we have adapted and adjusted to every single transition we've faced. You've hit every curveball the universe has thrown at Trinity Folsom, and I look forward to swinging at 2024 with you.

I am blessed and grateful to have been alongside this vestry, and I thank Charlie, Christy, Janice, Jon, Judith, Katie, Katriona and Kim for their teamwork and leadership, and especially for agreeing to extend our terms by +1 year. The best is yet to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Tovi Abello, Sr. Warden

## Junior Warden's Report

It has been an enlightening year. Thinking that we were in good shape facility wise, I thought being Junior Warden again should be easier than my last three times. But God has a sense of humor. I started with walking the buildings; learning the thermostats, etc. (we have gone high tech and I'm low tech.); finding out who vendors are—it has been a learning experience.

The original Parish Hall doors, installed twenty-seven years ago in 1996, were failing and no parts were to be found. The doors are steel doors in a metal frame that had to be custom made. The doors are finally replaced, and they will be painted in 2024. We have had all our scheduled maintenance with our fire alarm and HVAC systems. Numerous locks and doors have been repaired—some old, some not quite installed correctly. I think we are almost finished with the doors and locks, but there are a few changes still needed, and our doors and locks get a lot of use and require repeated adjustments. Leaks in the church have been repaired, door frames redone, and redesign of the smoke beam sensor in the church is underway.

It has taken this year to find out what needs repairing inside and outside our buildings, and to learn how to modify our landscaping and irrigation requirements as we transitioned to drought-tolerant plants. We are exploring how to conserve energy consumption moving forward. The job of keeping our facilities up and running is ongoing. This is typical of any old buildings even when they are updated and taken care of.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

If you would like to be part of the team for handyman-type repairs or landscaping, please let me know.

It is my pleasure to serve as your Junior Warden.

Janice Freeberg

## Treasurer's Report

#### 2023 Summary

The Parish enjoyed another financially successful year in 2023. Total offering revenues were \$883,000 which exceeded our budgeted offering revenues by \$33,000 (3.8%) and were \$56,000 (6.3%) greater than 2022 offering revenues. Other revenues totaled \$84,600 which were \$400 (-.5%) less than budget and \$9,700 (11.5%) higher than 2022. Total expenses were \$867,000 which was \$68,000 below budget and \$34,800 less than 2022. The reduction in expenses was mainly due to the open position of Rector. This results in a net income of \$100,000 before allocation of our surplus for the year.

The surplus of excess revenue of \$100,000 was tithed at 10% to Outreach, \$60,000 directed to Vestry Designated Savings, and the remainder allocated to prefund 2024 expenses and fund our Rector search. This allocation by the Vestry is reflective of our ongoing commitment to continuing and growing our outreach programs to help those in need, as well as saving money for future projects. The pre-funding of our Rector search ensures we have ample resources to for success during this time of transition.

In addition, our balance sheet reflects a strong cash position. Our total assets consisting of operating cash, investments and restricted cash balances are \$779,000 as of December 31, 2023, as compared to \$670,000 at the end of last year. Our total liabilities balance is \$0 compared to \$37,000 as of last year, which was the outstanding balance on the building loan. This puts the Parish in a solid financial position as we enter 2024.

#### 2024 Budget

As we look forward, our 2024 budget takes a conservative approach during our search for a new Rector. The budgeted pledge offering revenues are decreased by \$72,000 as compared to the 2023 budget, and plate offerings are increased by

\$7,000. Other revenues are budgeted to increase slightly, by \$5,000, primarily for Thrift Shop trends. Overall total expenses for 2024 are budgeted about \$61,000 less than 2023. This decrease is primarily the result of decreased salary and benefit expenses.

This year promises to be one of change as we continue to realign our administration functions to dovetail with the Episcopal Church's *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs* while seeking a new permanent Rector. The 2024 budget reflects our dedication to fiscal responsibility and commitment to the community by once again including a significant commitment to Outreach. As in the past, any excess of revenues over expenses for 2024 will be considered for allocation to Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Sutherland

Financials were distributed at the annual meeting.

If you wish to see a copy, please contact the office.

## Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach Committee serves Trinity by choosing, with the guidance of the Spirit, the ways Trinity will use its Outreach budget and offer other opportunities for us to serve our neighbors, particularly those who are disadvantaged. In 2023, Janice Freeberg, Connie Buckley, Jessica Hodge, Nancy Kendall-McHenry, Richard Miner, and Yvonne Bossert served along with me. Nancy and Richard both took meeting minutes at our monthly meetings.

As a parish, Trinity is working toward giving 10% of our operating budget for outreach. In 2023, outreach giving amounted to 9.4% of our operating budget, the highest we have achieved yet. Funds were allocated in various ways.

Grants provide reliable monthly income for:

- Powerhouse Ministries: \$9600 (\$800/month)
- Twin Lakes Food Bank: \$9600 (\$800/month)
- HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team of Folsom): \$2400 (\$200/month)
- Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank: \$1200 (\$100/month)

An additional one-time grant was made to RIP Medical Debt, which buys and forgives medical debt for pennies on the dollar to prevent people from being cast into poverty because they needed medical care (\$6000).

A lot of our local outreach was focused on supporting the activities of Powerhouse Ministries, which does remarkable work helping people break the cycles of addiction, homelessness, and abuse. We provided:

- Food and fellowship for the Women's Center four nights a month
- \$700 for scholarships for parents to attend a parenting-skills conference
- \$10,043.22 to support the new Men's Residential Recovery Center
- 31 Christmas gift bags for under-resourced Folsom seniors

Trinity once again committed to stock, inventory, and staff the women's and appliances stores at Christmas Around Town, helping to create a shopping mall at Lakeside Church to provide low-income Folsom residents an opportunity to buy gifts at a fraction of the cost. Christmas Around Town is also organized by Powerhouse, and once again Janice Freeberg led the gargantuan effort to bring it off. In addition to \$3,467 worth of in-kind donations, parishioners donated \$2,570 to support CAT.

In the spring, Trinity hosted a week at the HART of Folsom Winter Shelter. Churches around town provided space for homeless people to shelter January through March when the nights are cold. More than 30 Trinity volunteers provided dinners, coordinated breakfasts, supervised overnight, and helped guests with other services at Oak Hills Church, the shelter site during our week. A tip of the hat to all our volunteers and especially Janice Freeberg, who was the host lead.

Trinity again took a leadership role in the Folsom Community Day of Service, partnering with the LDS and several other churches to pass out and collect bags for the city-wide food drive. Over the course of a week, more than 50 parishioners visited thousands of doorsteps, dropping off bags and then picking up food donations and taking them to the food bank.

Other local outreach activities included providing Christmas gifts to 11 residents at the Folsom Senior Care Center, and \$1,059 worth of baby-care items (rash cream, diapers, food, etc.) to the IRC Welcome Center, which serves our local refugee population.

Additional special outreach fundraisers during the year supplied:

- Easter baskets for Twin Lakes Food Bank clients: 90 baskets plus \$980 donated
- Easter hams for Twin Lakes Food Bank (TLFB): 54 hams and \$430 donated
- Mother's Day Diaper Drive: Almost \$2,000 worth of diapers, tampons, pads, and additional in-kind donations plus over \$1,500 given to the

Twin Lakes Food Bank and the Folsom Cordova Community Partnership Diaper Bank

- Back-to-School Drive for TLFB: \$2,739 for school supplies for children in need, plus in-kind donations worth about \$1,350
- Thanksgiving Food Drive for TLFB: 476 pounds of food (\$832 worth) plus \$2,530 donated
- Christmas Greens Sale: \$798 for Heifer International

Further gifts were also made to the Twin Lakes Food Bank (\$2,167), Orangevale Food Bank (\$190.82), and HART (\$1,006).

As opportunities arose through the year, we sent additional funds particularly for crisis relief:

- Tornado Relief (Diocese of Mississippi): \$1,000
- Heifer International (10x match): \$1,000 from Outreach budget plus \$2,480 in donations from parishioners
- Maui Fire Relief: \$1,000 from Outreach budget plus \$2,225 from parishioners
- Episcopal Relief and Development Middle East Fund for humanitarian aid: \$1,000 from Outreach budget plus \$3,531 from parishioners

Finally, clergy of the parish provided \$6,722.93 in financial assistance to those in need through the Parish Discretionary Fund, a fund restricted for charitable purposes and funded by a grant from the operating budget, special gifts, and honoraria given by parishioners to the clergy for performing baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

We were not able to schedule a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event in 2023 due to incompatible schedules, but we aim to do one in 2024. We plan to increase support for the IRC Welcome Center's monthly "baby shower," so that we can better provide refugees with essentials for caring for infants and toddlers. And we are excited to provide meals and fellowship at the Powerhouse Men's Residential Recovery Center, which opened in January 2024. The Outreach Committee will continue to discern new opportunities for relational outreach and the giving of time and talent as well as monetary support. We pray that God will continue to give us compassionate and loving hearts and wise and discerning minds in service of God and our neighbor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mtr. Anne Smith, on behalf of the Outreach Committee

## Director of Children's and Youth Ministries' Report

This has been a year of change for our Children's and Youth Ministries. It was a full first half of the year with many events for the youth and children. Our Youth Group had many excursions, including mini-golf, roller-skating, and ax-throwing. Our Children's Ministry offerings included many of our traditional events such as Shrove Tuesday pancake racing, burying the Alleluias for Lent, and capping off with a successful VBS in June. I want to extend a hearty thanks to all the volunteers and donors who made that possible.

The second half of the year was one of transition. We bade farewell to Travis Baldwin and our team of nursery workers. On taking the position, my first goal was to build up a nursery staff and volunteer team for Sunday School. Many of you answered the call to serve and now provide wonderful opportunities for our children and youth to grow in God. We hired a new team of childcare workers who dedicate themselves to ensuring we can offer weekly Children's Chapel and Nursery, and to supporting our special events.

Once our volunteer and childcare teams were up and running, we were able to have a fun (and water balloon filled) return to our program year. October saw an enjoyable Harvest Festival with the return of trunk-or-treating. (Many thanks to those who decorated their cars for the occasion!) The Youth Group also returned with monthly activities including a scavenger-hunt, movie night, and an iceskating-turned-hot-chocolate-at-Snooks-due-to-rain event.

In 2024, we are looking to continue to host events for the children and youth while also returning and expanding existing programs. We will have new activities for the children, and Youth Group will become a weekly event with games and lessons. Sunday School for high school students is also making a return this year.

I want to thank you all for your support for our children and youth, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year to see this ministry grow.

Tim Knight

## Director of Music's Report

#### Music Ministry

Looking forward to 2024, this is the year of the new organ at Trinity! Buying an organ is no small project for a church. If you are interested in donating to this fund or learning more about the organ project, I encourage you to speak with me.

The choirs have shown steady progress in musical skill and growing together as a community. We invited guest presenters to our choir retreats, most notably Robin Fisher and Julie Miller of California State University, Sacramento. Our section leaders from Sac State greatly support Trinity's choirs, making it possible to present 4-part music (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).

Trinity Children's Choir continues to meet on a weekly basis during the program year. We are still rebuilding the ensemble so that they can sing worship about once a month. Mrs. Katriona McLean-Lucas helps to bring great support, levity, and snacks each week, making this program more comprehensive and engaging.

A special thank you to Kelley Robinson-Abello and Katriona McLean-Lucas for their unwavering commitment to serving as leaders in Trinity's music ministry. Their contributions are essential to offering a quality church music program.

Maybe you've been thinking about getting involved in music somehow at Trinity this year. Singing in a choir has many benefits for health, spirituality, community, and musical skill. Please consider joining us in helping to offer beautiful music in our services. I would love to speak with you about what it means to sing together and build community.

#### Stephen Ministry

Trinity's Stephen Ministers continue to make a tremendous difference in the life of their care receivers in weekly caring meetings, and bi-weekly meetings for continuing education and supervision. Mtr. Anne and I are grateful for their commitment to this caring ministry, which helps people through difficult times. If you ever feel that you might need a Stephen Minister, please reach out to me. Our goal is that no one suffers alone in our parish, no matter what a person may be going through. I send out four grief booklets over a year to loved ones who are experiencing grief. If you or someone you know may benefit from receiving these grief booklets, please let me know so that I can show Trinity's care and concern for people needing extra support.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett A. Judson, D.M.A.

## Altar Guild Report

The focus of Altar Guild (AG) has always been to serve our priests and prepare our church for worship. Our commitment to this ministry remains the same. Over the years, we've made some necessary adjustments as we went through a church rebuild/renovation, COVID restrictions, a change in leadership, and welcoming an interim priest. Through all this, Altar Guild continued to have a wonderful group of incredibly dedicated ladies. Many have been part of the guild for years and we've recently welcomed some new volunteers as well. Every week these ladies humbly, tirelessly, and reverently prepare our church for Sunday services and set the Lord's table for Communion. Last year they counted out over 10,000 wafers and measured over 175 cups of wine!

Altar Guild finished 2023 within our budget. The majority of our expenses, which came out of the church Operating Fund, were consumable goods, including wine, wafers, and candles. The remainder, taken from our AG account, was used to purchase priest's vestments, kneelers, and sacristy supplies. A new paschal candle stand was purchased when our old one could not be repaired. Going into 2024, we anticipate a slight increase in our budget from last year as we look to repair or replace more of our priest's vestments, replace some of our oil-filled candles with wax, and replace two brass candle snuffers.

In the fall of 2023, after discussions with Fr. Merritt and with approval from the Vestry, it was decided that in 2024 the monies from the AG Koerber Fund (\$18,685.42 as of December 2023) would be combined with the Altar Guild checking account funds (\$3,452.99 as of December 2023) and the total amount (\$22,138.41) would be placed in the Diocesan Trust Fund. The newly combined funds would be referred to as the Koerber Altar Guild Fund. Any future donations to Altar Guild would be placed in this fund. Each year, eighty percent (80%) of the interest from the income of the Koerber Fund would be made available to Altar Guild for the purchase of permanent goods for worship. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of the interest from the account would be placed

back into the Fund. If any funds remain from the 80%, they would be returned to the same fund. Any purchases that exceed the 80% spending limit would need to be approved in advance by the Rector and the Altar Guild Director.

As with every ministry here at Trinity, we welcome all newcomers to share in our fellowship as we show our dedication and service to God.

Submitted by

Carol Perek, Altar Guild Director

## Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild's mission is to arrange flowers for the glory of God on a weekly basis for Sunday services, as needed for special services, and to lead and implement the decorating design and efforts at Easter and Christmas. This work is done to enhance the worship services and to glorify God with thanksgiving by sharing His bounty of beautiful flowers to adorn the sanctuary.

Once again Trinity's Flower Guild can look back on a year filled with flowers lovingly arranged by our team, whether for a regular Sunday, a funeral for a newly departed, or one of the big church holidays, Easter or Christmas.

The highlights, and busiest times, of the year are always Holy Week and Christmas, but this year we are also thankful for our new brass vases, selected by the Rev'd J. Todd Bruce before he left to serve at St. David's Episcopal Church in Baltimore.

A lot of preparation goes into what is seen on our reredos on Sunday mornings. Flower Guild members are pretty much always thinking about flowers: designing and purchasing, then hydrating and arranging—all is done with love and care for God's beautiful flowers and for His people. In the past year, our team sourced flowers from local grocery stores, farmers' markets, wholesale outlets, backyards, and the side of country roads. Looking ahead to 2024, Flower Guild hopes to incorporate more locally sourced flowers into our arrangements on a regular basis.

A unique part of Flower Guild's work is to re-arrange Sunday's flowers into several smaller bouquets, which are delivered to parishioners as a means for the church to come alongside them to cheer, comfort and celebrate. Flower Guild is grateful for the assistance of Trinity's Flower Delivery Team in this important ministry.

While the number of personal dedications for Sunday flowers may be decreasing, feedback from the congregation shows how much the Sunday flowers are appreciated by all at Trinity. Everyone on the Flower Guild team considers it an

honor and privilege to be part of this ministry and this report is submitted on their behalf.

Jette K. Shears, Director of Flower Guild

## Thrift Shop Report

We are proud to report that once again, Trinity Thrift Shop revenue of slightly more than \$50,000 met the annual goal set by the Vestry and as a result, provides continuing support for Trinity's critical community outreach efforts. This is despite intermittent closures in 2023 due to the January storms and construction repairs to the building.

Quality donations, from parishioners and others, combined with a dedicated staff of nearly 50 volunteers make our success possible. Our all-volunteer staff processes donations daily, sets up amazing in-store displays, supports a strong social media presence, and most importantly, is present to offer a warm atmosphere and friendly help to customers. We always keep in mind that our welcoming atmosphere which draws in many "regulars" from the community also serves as one of Trinity's many outreach efforts.

We scheduled three successful Open House events on Sundays. This included a Spring celebration, a Christmas-in-July event with a week of sales, and a kick-off to the December Christmas shopping season, timed to attract shoppers attending Sutter Street events and the latter with Trinity's annual St. Nicholas Fair. We find the Open House days are an excellent opportunity to attract new customers and introduce the Shop to parishioners who have not previously visited us.

We are grateful for the landscaping concept and work provided by Karrie Reid, along with a crew of volunteers, giving the Shop entrance a fresh, new, and sustainable look.

Sue Mack continues to manage this ambitious and growing endeavor along with a group of daily managers. Our vision for the future is to continue to stock only merchandise in excellent and like-new condition, and to welcome more volunteers providing fresh new ideas and possibly enabling an expansion of hours the Shop is open. If you, a family member, or a friend may be interested in

learning more about volunteer opportunities at the Shop, we encourage you to contact Sue or other members of the volunteer staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Borasi, on behalf of Sue Mack, General Manager