

# PARISH PROFILE 2023

## TRINITY CHURCH

Fishkill, N.Y.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II  
In Person and Livestream

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# TRINITY CHURCH

## Parish Profile 2022

### OVERVIEW

Trinity Church is a small parish located in the village of Fishkill, a historic location in the beautiful Hudson Valley of New York State. Our parish was founded in 1756 as a result of missionary visits to the area by Samuel Seabury, whose son became the first American bishop. The church building dates from approximately 1760; it was used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War.

Our congregation is known as a friendly, welcoming group. We are called to proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, both within and outside our parish family. We are committed to doing God's work by ministering to each other, to our local community, and to the world. We take ministry seriously, and share the joy in serving God's people.

We are rich in history; we are richer still in Christ. We seek a Rector who will provide invigorating leadership that challenges us to advance our present ministries and embark on new paths.



## **Mission and Commitments**

### **Our Mission**

Blessed by God's Grace and enriched by our heritage, our mission is to glorify God, proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ, and serve God's people.

### **Our Commitments**

We will:

- Welcome all people into the fellowship of Trinity Church;
- Bear witness to our faith in and love for God and Jesus Christ through worship, music, and service;
- Strive to be a community that is joyful, cares for the needs of all ages and stages, and values deep and reflective spirituality;
- Use our time, talents and treasure for God's work by practicing stewardship as discipleship;
- Sustain a thriving program of Christian Education that is based upon scripture, tradition, and reason;
- Work toward justice and peace by respecting the dignity of all people.

## WORSHIP

We celebrate the Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00 am from September through June. In July and August, the service is usually at 9:00 am. The 10:00 Eucharist generally uses Rite II from the Prayer Book. Recently we have also incorporated elements from *Enriching Our Worship*.

We observe Holy Week with a full schedule of services. The Liturgy of the Palms Eucharist on Palm Sunday; Eucharist with foot washing on Maundy Thursday; a Night Watch until the morning Good Friday; the Good Friday liturgy, and Choral Eucharist on Easter morning.

We often observe two choral candlelit Christmas services: an early service with children participating and the blessing of the creche with another Eucharist later that evening. A “said” service is held on Christmas Day morning.

We strive to make our services meaningful and joyful. Lay people, who represent a wide range of age groups, serve as Altar Guild members, Choir, Eucharistic ministers, Acolytes, Lectors and Ushers. Periodic Sundays have featured a sermon composed for and addressed to children. We also appreciate an Instructed Eucharist.

We highly value informed and challenging preaching that relates to modern everyday life. We seek a Rector whose sermons are intellectually stimulating, emotionally engaging, spiritually enriching and emphasize how themes from scripture and the liturgical season apply to our life experiences.





## MUSIC

2022 was the year that marked the return to in-person worshipping, and the beginning of my music ministry with Trinity Church. And our choir was so ready to lift their voices in the joy of singing. Because of the restrictions placed on singing, the choir members and I “sang” together-remotely-on the “Go to meeting” app which the parish subscribes to. It is so difficult to sing together this way but at least we did get to know each other better. We rehearsed this way for several weeks until we were permitted to rehearse together-masked following the Diocesan recommendations for singing together. And of course, we had the “pleasure” of singing while wearing masks. It is quite difficult to sing with masks on but it is better than not singing at all. Anyway, we carried on and began our music making life together.

We began singing anthems in mid Lent. The enthusiasm which each member brought to our worship was wonderful. They had missed the contribution which they make. And I would like to include the names of the original seven singers. In alphabetical order - Steven Blanks, Pam and Wayne Bunker, Jan Humbert, Nancy Lecker, Beth Shanahan, and Marilyn Sullivan. In the fall, we added two more members - Mary Gilkes and Cliff Chapin. Their hard work and love of singing has shared their joy in our worship.

The choir and I are enjoying finding music, for our anthems, from a wide range of musical styles. We continue to find selections from the wonderful catalogue of music in the filing cabinets in the Parish Hall. To this, we are adding new music by contemporary composers as well as music from the Gospel tradition. And we have enjoyed working with Cliff Chapin as a talented guitar player.

We are a thriving group who welcome any other member of the parish who would like to join in singing. We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. We would love to share our joy of singing with you.

Sincerely,  
John Corrie, Choir Monster



## **PASTORAL CARE**

Members of Trinity Church provide pastoral care for the people in our parish. Lay Eucharistic Visitors make visits and offer Communion to those who are homebound or in a care facility.

An intercessory prayer list is maintained and parishioners' names are updated periodically as requested.

During the peak of COVID the members of our vestry connected with parishioners through a program called Core Care. Parishioners were contacted by phone calls, emails, postcards and/or personal interaction and notified of upcoming programs and activities within the church.

Pastoral care is an essential part of our ministry at Trinity. We believe that our Rector should visit and connect with parishioners in the hospital, a care facility, or at home so that even if parishioners are not attending a church service, they will still feel connected to Trinity.

We are seeking a Rector who will make pastoral care a priority and encourage and enable more parishioners to be involved.

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Trinity continues to have a volunteer church school coordinator and several faithful, caring teachers who strive to create a fun and engaging learning environment for our children. At present, we have a small group of elementary school age children and we continue to use the 'Lesson Plans That Work, Episcopal Church' curriculum. This is a lectionary-based lesson plan that has been tailored for different age groups. The children continue to learn the stories from the bible, play games, and work on crafts related to the weekly stories.

We started this program approximately 5 years ago using the lessons for older children as we had a one room class of children in the middle-high school age at that time. the classroom and hallway were filled with all of their lesson creations! During the Pandemic, the coordinator continued to keep in touch with all of the students weekly by sending them the lesson plans, reviewing the lessons, suggesting the weekly craft or activity that they could do as a family. We even attempted ZOOM meetings a couple times. Last year, the older group started to focus on one of the new curriculum modules dealing with Climate Injustice and they are currently working on the completion of their hallway mural with regard to this issue. The younger children have also enjoyed helping with the painting of this mural. Another project that was started last year as a result of the lessons learned about climate change was our Children's Garden. We keep adding to it little by little each Spring and the kids really like this activity.



Throughout the years, we have also stressed the importance of caring for others in our community. The children have enjoyed participating in the annual CROP WALK which we held at Sarah Taylor Park during the Pandemic, and our Food Pantry.





## **PARISH LIFE**

A sense of joy is key to our experience of fellowship at Trinity Parish.

Coffee Hour, after the 10:00 am Sunday service, is our most regular time of parish fellowship. Food and beverages are generously provided by a rotating list of volunteers throughout the entire year. Coffee Hour becomes a place to introduce and integrate visitors and new members with current parishioners. Coffee Hour also sustains relationships between parishioners, giving all a space to relax and relate with each other on a more personal level.

Ongoing fellowship events have focused on seasonal themes. Picnics during the summer, a stewardship Sunday brunch in the Fall, Candlelight Carols in December, a potluck lunch at the annual meeting, and Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers are some examples. Following services at Easter a few families dedicate themselves to a very special Coffee Hour—we all look forward to chocolate chip cookies and homemade treats. There are Easter egg hunts for the children.

In the past we have had parish-wide dinners, plays and talent shows hosted by parishioners or guests. There have also been parish-wide celebrations of historic milestones with actors portraying colonial leaders—founding fathers and their wives. Willing parishioners have championed social events such as progressive dinners, attending movies, or traveling to museums or special locales for hiking or walking. These opportunities have deepened our friendships within a fun setting that builds a healthier community—a way for parishioners to be better known and specific interests explored and celebrated together. While we have not been able to sustain some of the activities listed above at the level we did in years past, we hope to repeat some of these and introduce new activities of interest.

The rummage sale, held once a year, is both a fundraiser and a fellowship event. The parish hall is filled wall-to-wall with clothing, household items, books and toys which are all set up by the Trinity Networking Team (TNT). Each sale takes five days--three days to set up and two days open to the public. Fishkill townspeople look forward to our rummage sales and line up at the door on opening morning. During COVID we were unable to hold these sales. We look forward to what's ahead in the future.

Trinity Parish is composed of dedicated parishioners in common mission sustained by fellowship. Our fellowship fosters positive relationships and sustains us in community as we serve others and experience the love of God.







## OUTREACH

Trinity Parish has always taken “it is more blessed to give than to receive” seriously. Whether it be local or global, the parishioners of Trinity have taken on the challenge to help someone else in need.

Hunger, housing and health have been the keywords for our missions. For several years we had a food pantry which was operated by Trinity volunteers. Our congregation generously contributed food to help stock the shelves. This year we tried a different approach. We invited a boy who wanted to do an Eagle Scout project for S.D.H.C. (Southern Dutchess Homeless Coalition) to construct a mini food pantry on our property. This has become a very popular place for us to provide emergency food for those in need and it also encourages our community to become involved making donations. Fishkill churches are now working together on an Ecumenical project to fill and maintain the pantry.

In the past we have undertaken many outreach efforts that had a positive impact in the lives of people outside of the church. We had a Migrant Ministry program providing lunches to the children of Hudson Valley migrant agricultural workers. In August Trinity participates in Rural and Migrant Ministry’s backpack program and parishioners donate school supplies which are distributed to the children during summer camp.

Several parishioners have been involved in Episcobuild, a division of Habitat for Humanity, in the Newburgh and Poughkeepsie areas. We have also partnered with the Vassar Haiti Project in building a school and a medical clinic in the mountain village of Chermaitre, Haiti.

Members of our parish took on the challenge of preventing the spread of malaria through an Episcopal Relief and Development project. Parishioners donated malaria nets which were sent to families in Africa.

The holidays provide many outreach opportunities at Trinity. At Thanksgiving we provide food baskets for local families in need or gift cards to Grace Smith House shelter for women and children. At Christmas we've had an angel tree to help make a Christmas wish come true for the children at House of Hope. We've also provided gifts for a family in need. This Christmas we held a sweatshirt drive for our local migrant families whose children have recently been reunited with them.

Our St. Pauly shed is a very popular way for our community to visit to recycle their used clothing year-round.

These are only a few examples of the programs that Trinity has been involved in. We are a generous and giving congregation, and outreach is something that we want to keep at the core of our identity. When there is a specific need, we meet the challenge. We are always searching for new ways to serve our neighbors in need.





## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Trinity's property is located near the intersection of U.S. Route 9 and N.Y. Route 52 in the village of Fishkill. Our buildings include the church, the parish house and two rental houses.

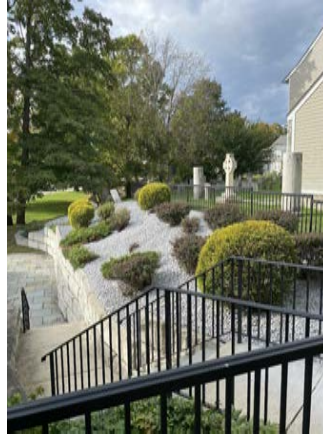
The exterior of the church building looks much as it did in the eighteenth century. The interior was remodeled in the 1870's to appear more Gothic and again in 1962 to return it to the colonial appearance that you see today (the hinged doors on the pews are cut down versions of the original box pew doors). The nave has ten large, arch top windows; the end wall behind the altar has a large stained-glass window (currently undergoing an extensive restoration). A priest's sacristy and a work sacristy are adjacent to the sanctuary. The building has central heating (added in 1921 and updated to natural gas in 2006 when central air conditioning was added). The roof was replaced and the interior and exterior were repainted in 2020.

The two-story Parish House was constructed in 1955 and enlarged in 1984. The lower floor has a large fellowship room fully equipped kitchen and accessible bathroom with Koala Kare station. The upper floor has six education rooms, the parish office, a library, restrooms, and private offices for the Rector and music director. The heating system was converted to natural gas in 2016 and all fluorescent fixtures were converted to LEDs in 2022.

The church building faces route 52 and is connected to the second floor of the Parish House by a paved walkway. The Parish House first floor opens to a parking lot that is accessed from Route 9 via Elm Street. The church has a large carved sign that fronts route 52. The Parish House has a painted sign on the side of the building.

The rental properties, acquired in 1994, have been renovated largely by church volunteers, and are located on the south side of the church building.

The churchyard surrounding the church building has gravesites dating back to colonial times; it is now closed to burials. A columbarium is located in a sheltered courtyard outside the church and lower floor of the Parish House. There is a small playground with an adjacent children's flower garden on the south side of the Parish House.



## HISTORY

Trinity Church has a long and rich history. Our roots extend to the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods. In addition, the lives of three famous early Episcopal leaders – Seabury, Chase and Hobart – are woven into our story.

In 1755, The Rev. Samuel Seabury first traveled from Hempstead, Long Island to Dutchess County on a missionary visit sponsored by the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG). Rev. Seabury's efforts resulted in the founding of the first congregation and construction of our church building by October, 1768. We continue to worship in the same church today. A Bible and Prayer Book sent by the SPG at the time of the church's founding is still used on special occasions.

Church services were suspended in 1776 because its rector, Rev. John Beardsley, a loyalist to the crown, had been put under house arrest. The church building was used as a hospital during the war and church grounds have a number of burials from this period. The building was also used by the New York Provincial Congress for a meeting in 1776.

In the early nineteenth century, Rev. Philander Chase served as rector before he began his famous missionary work in the West. Significant remodeling was done in the church in 1870 creating a more Victorian appearance. In 1881 (during the tenure of Rev. John H. Hobart, a descendant of the famous New York bishop) the stained-glass window that is currently behind the altar was installed.

In 1954 the Parish House was erected during a period of significant church growth. In 1962 most of the changes made in 1870 were removed and the church was restored to a more colonial architecture. It is likely that the current interior appearance is similar to the original.

As the area continued to grow through the 1970s and 80s Trinity's congregation grew as well. In 1983-84 the Parish House was upgraded and expanded. Major improvements to the church were also made throughout the 1980s.

In the last few decades our energies have been more directed towards building our relationships with one another and our ministries than on our facilities. We look forward to writing the next chapter of Trinity's history with our next rector.



## SUMMARY

Trinity Church today is a committed, caring group of people who look forward to growing in numbers, in stewardship and in ministry.

Times of transition can be challenging for any organization. Trinity finds itself challenged in a number of ways. At present we rely on a small core group to sustain programs and ministries at a manageable level.

We seek a leader who will engage with and motivate our members to rediscover their gifts and reinvigorate their ministries—to the glory of God.



## PARISH SURVEY

Parishioners were asked to provide five responses to each question. Below we have included the Survey question and the five most often used responses to the questions.

1. Name five things that are important to you with regard to Trinity.
  - a. Sense of community
  - b. Music
  - c. Parish History
  - d. Finding a priest
  - e. Outreach
2. List up to five concerns, challenges or issues that you feel are impacting Trinity.
  - a. Declining number of parishioners
  - b. Finding a priest
  - c. Financial longevity
  - d. Buildings and grounds maintenance
  - e. Struggle attracting new people
3. What are five things that you think we have collectively learned during the pandemic?
  - a. Respect/concern for everyone's health and safety
  - b. Ability to provide remote worship
  - c. Patience dealing with differing views
  - d. Need for keeping parishioners actively engaged
  - e. Parish stands strong in crisis
4. List up to five opportunities in our surrounding community that can benefit from our ministry.
  - a. Outreach
  - b. Food Pantry
  - c. Area homeless
  - d. Apartments and parish hall for rent
  - e. Spread teaching of Christ
5. What are five attributes, qualities, skills, gifts, etc. that you believe we should be seeking in a priest for Trinity?
  - a. Teacher
  - b. Welcoming/nurturing/approachable
  - c. Leader
  - d. Excellent preacher (relevant)
  - e. Good communicator/delegator

## APPENDIX I: Our Community

Fishkill is a village within the Town of Fishkill in southern Dutchess County, New York. The village has a population of approximately 2,200; the surrounding area (a three-mile radius) has slightly more than 24,000 residents. Fishkill is located in the Hudson Valley region of New York State, on the east side of the Hudson River and 60 miles north of New York City. The area was settled by the Dutch in 1714. The name "Fishkill" evolved from two Dutch words, *vis* (fish) and *kil* (stream or creek).

The village is at the intersection of Interstate 84 (the major east-west route between southern New York State and New England) and U.S. Route 9 (the Albany Post Road of colonial days, and still the major north-south artery of Dutchess County). Fishkill is easily accessible from New York City by car, bus and train. Metro North commuter rail service is available at the nearby Beacon station; Amtrak service is available at Poughkeepsie. The Fishkill area today is regarded as a suburb of New York City, with the number of commuters growing steadily.

The Fishkill area is expected to grow (in population and number of households) about 3% in the next five years. The median age of Fishkill residents is about 47 years (one year older than New York State as a whole). The fastest-growing segment of the population is the 55+ years group. However, the number of elementary school age children is expected to grow about 4% in the next five years.

The population of Fishkill is diverse in terms of ethnicity (73% white, 14% African American, 15% Latino, 4% Asian). In 2020, the median income was \$86,000. Household income and per capita income are expected to increase in the coming years.

Fishkill has had to adjust to the economic impact of the closing of Texaco's research center in Beacon and the downsizing and sale of IBM's East Fishkill site. Local professional employment is generally in the fields of health care, government, and education. Blue collar employment is primarily in the service industries. The tourism and arts communities are also significant factors in the local economy.

High-quality medical care in southern Dutchess is provided by numerous practitioners in a variety of settings. Optum Medical and Mid-Hudson Medical are large group practices with locations in and around Fishkill. Two hospitals are located in Poughkeepsie: Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital of the Westchester Medical Center and Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

The Fishkill area is served by two school districts: Wappingers Central School District and Beacon City School District. Most of the town of Fishkill is located within the Wappingers district, which has ten elementary schools (including Fishkill School in the village), two middle

schools and two high schools. The Beacon district has four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Dutchess County BOCES in Poughkeepsie offers alternative education career and technical education for youth and adults. Dutchess Community College, also located in Poughkeepsie, is the area's community college. Dutchess Community College has opened a Fishkill Satellite Campus which offers many different courses appealing to a diverse student body. Colleges in the region include SUNY New Paltz, Bard College, Marist College, Vassar College and the Culinary Institute of America.

The Mid-Hudson area is famous for its many recreational opportunities. There are many rail trails for walking, biking, and jogging throughout the region, notably the Walkway Over the Hudson, the world's longest pedestrian bridge. The Town of Fishkill Recreation Center offers a variety of fitness programs. Dutchess Stadium, home of the Class High A minor league baseball Hudson Valley Renegades, is located in the town. Boating and fishing on the Hudson River are enjoyed by many. In the winter, downhill skiing is a short drive away at ski areas in the Catskills.

The village of Fishkill and city of Beacon offer entertainment, antiques, shops, and gallery spaces. A wide variety of entertainment is also available in Poughkeepsie. The Bardavon 1869 Opera House offers a year-round schedule of events including the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Broadway shows and dance and music performances. Due to the proximity of the Culinary Institute of America, the area has a number of award-winning restaurants serving many different types of cuisine.

Fishkill claims a proud history, enjoys a beautiful location and offers an excellent quality of life.

## APPENDIX II: Financial Profile

	2019	2020	2021	9/2022
Income				
Members	94	82	72	
Pledging units	40	35	31	27
Pledge amount	\$140,392	\$134,470	\$99,634	\$91,042
Average attendance	36	35	31	
----youth in good standing	11	10	8	
Financial Assets				
Cash	\$145,069	\$7,456	\$108,855	\$95,531
Investments	\$640,926	\$711,254	\$881,923	\$652,026
Total	\$785,995	\$718,710	\$990,778	\$747,557
Operating Reports				
Offering Income	\$67,256	\$131,185	\$103,788	\$137,494
Rental Income	\$33,035	\$29,463	\$32,699	\$28,127
Dividend income	\$69,455	\$70,329	\$700	\$(55,172)
Capital Fund	\$21,010	\$21,010	\$21,010	\$21,010
Columbarium Fund			165	165
Withdrawal from Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Total Income	\$190,756	\$251,987	\$158,362	\$131,624
Expenses				
Outreach	\$3,335	\$3,000	\$3,010	\$325
Diocesan Assessment	\$25,427	\$22,484	\$20,512	\$11,217
----assessment not paid	\$13,921	\$8,921	\$3,923	\$0
Priest-in-Charge	\$70,756	\$72,012	\$51,623	\$11,090
Music Director	\$18,235	\$21,042	\$20,323	\$16,240
Parish Administrator	\$20,100	\$20,937	\$20,100	\$15,912
Facilities	\$43,223	\$37,244	\$44,505	\$40,747
Other expenses	\$14,719	\$83,234	\$38,685	\$58,317
(non-operating)				
Total Expenses	\$195,805	\$222,709	\$198,758	\$153,848