

2020 Parish Committee Reports

ALTAR GUILD

Chairpersons: Kathy Mohylsky and Rosalyn Benson

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

For the first two and a half months of 2020 the Altar Guild continued its regular activities in preparing the church and altar for Sunday services. As the Covid Pandemic became reality, and following instructions by Bishop Breidenthal, the last Eucharistic service in the church was held on March 13, 2020. On June 7 the first recorded Liturgy of the Word with Interim Rector Terri Thornton was broadcast. These recorded liturgies continued for the remainder of the year and Altar Guild assisted at these Saturday recordings by preparing a scaled down altar setup with veiled chalice and some arrangement of altar flowers and/or greenery (from AG member gardens during the summer). On Christmas Eve, communion wafers consecrated by Rev. Thornton and prepared for pickup by Altar Guild members were available to all church members who wished to include the Eucharist in the recorded Christmas day service.

Two members of the Altar Guild withdrew from active service due to Covid concerns and at the end of the year Ellen Reister, chair for the past five years, resigned when she moved to Cincinnati. Rosalyn Benson and Kathy Mohylsky assumed her responsibilities as co-chairs in December. Currently, the Altar Guild has only 3 active members and is seeking 1-2 new recruits in anticipation of having church services expand in 2021.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

Just about everything related to church preparation and altar setup for liturgies was curtailed during 2020.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

The Holy Trinity Altar Guild will work closely with Interim Rector Terri Thornton as Sunday's liturgy gradually expands to include in-person services with communion. The AG will continue efforts to attract a few new members.

ARTS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Sarah Michael

Members: Robert Benson, Phillip Roberts, Rex Man, Susan Kay

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Activities:

The committee seeks to promote the arts to the parish and the community of greater Oxford. This year we initiated a Red Door Community Concert Series of 4 concerts of diverse secular music. We hope to engage artists from diverse backgrounds to perform music from varied cultures.

The pandemic has been isolating to all. Mental health, political and other stresses have caused a need for community. Music speaks to all and is a way to sooth and bring us together, even when we can't be physically together.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

The Arts Committee is relatively new. In the recent past there have been live concerts for special occasions such as the inaugural organ concert, special performances by the Holy Trinity Choir, and performances by Bruce Murray. We have not been able to do such live concerts because of Covid. Nor have we been able to do other art-related programming, implementing ideas for visual and other performing arts.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

We hope to continue to schedule concerts and have them live as well as on YouTube for people who are unable to attend in person for whatever reason.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Elaine Brandner

Members: Sarah Michael

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Due to the church not being open, the primary activities were the ongoing preventative maintenance—boilers, water treatment, pest control, elevator, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire suppression. A leak in the mechanical room required replacing a section of rusted pipe. A lightning strike burned out the motors on the shades in the undercroft, and they all had to be replaced.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions

We would have done more repairs and upgrades, but due to a limited budget, we have deferred them.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

We have a substantial list of deferred maintenance that requires attention, in particular a beam that needs to be repaired in the attic. The bell tower has issues with a roof that was repaired a couple years ago but requires a more substantial fix. The front door is delaminating and should be replaced.

We are always looking for people who would like to join us, so please contact us if you'd like to be on the committee.

CHORAL MUSIC

Choir Director: Rex Man

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

We were lucky to have four choral scholars, Lauren (soprano), Kate (alto), Madi (new alto who replaced Kate in Nov), Eric (tenor), and Nate (bass), Rex (choir director) and Phillip (organist) to support music-making at HT during the pandemic. We sang a bunch of A capella music and occasionally had Phillip to play for us. The scholars not only performed choral anthems weekly in a quartet setting, but also pre-recorded solo movements from Handel's Messiah for Advent.

In addition to the music-making by our hired musicians, we were thankful that some of our church members were eager to participate in the virtual choir which was a successful attempt. From the middle of November, these singers formed a chamber choir to substitute our choral scholars who were out of town during the winter break. Unfortunately, we decided not to continue this from January because the virus seemed to become stronger during that time.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

We were not able to include all of the singers in the rehearsal like the usual times and hire instrumentalists for special feasts. Our music-making was only limited to a vocal quartet, a conductor, and an accompanist.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

We will need to continue searching for a new choral scholar (alto) as Madi decided not to return after the winter break. We still have not received any applications. The choir director is a countertenor who is able to sing the alto part temporarily, but he will not be

able to work for HT starting from next choral season due to work-visa issues. That said, we also need to start searching for a new choir director at some point.

ECW

Chairperson: Betty Julian

Before Covid ECW met at the Knolls Café for lunch. After no meetings for several months we began meeting on the church patio. This worked well until the weather got cold, so for the last few months we have been meeting on ZOOM Terri has arranged it and made it easy.

We usually have 10 or more people joining in. We have talked about books we liked, memories of where we grew up, and creative and interesting things we have done to entertain ourselves during isolation.

If you are free the first Tuesday of the month about 12:00 P.M. please join us for an enjoyable and relaxing hour or so. Contact Betty Julian for more information.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Chairperson: John Harper

Members: Rosalyn Benson, Sally Southard, Perter Sturni, Bonnie Kretchmer, Elaine Brandner

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

In 2019-20

Delivered Vacation Bible School supplies to participating families, sent digital cards at Thanksgiving, and mailed cards with notes at Christmas

Because of Covid, did not offer Godly Play stories and worship, but did have some opportunities to gather:

- Provided opportunities for young people to participate in the drive through Blessing of the Animals. Although the younger youth declined due to Covid concerns, Henry Harper assisted with sign making and posting.
- Several young people recorded lessons from home for a zoom Lessons and Carols service
- Two of the older acolytes participated in the recording of Advent and Christmas Eve services

- 2021 – Valentine’s Day project - seven young people agreed to make/purchase cards to send to Holy Trinity parishioners who were homebound due to Covid. The addresses were provided by the Pastoral Care committee and each young person sent 4 valentines.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

We did not offer Godly Play stories and worship

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

- observe several sessions of digital Godly Play with storyteller and children with plan to offer Godly Play after Easter
- contacting parents for observation of their child (children') learning and interest in Godly Play for the future
- contacting former presenters and potential storytellers/ assistants for participation in choosing future curriculum
- planning family activity packets for summer

GARDENS AND GROUNDS

Chairperson: Sally Southard, Interim Coordinator

Members: Carol Baker, Marianne Dice, Sarah and Jim Michael, Peter Lindsay, Jean Lutz, Kathy Mohylsky, Judi Nelson, Margaret Smith, Sally Southard, Diana Uhlman

Further Volunteers: Michele and Jeff Ittel, Jack Keegan, Stephanie Southard

Volunteers with years of service no longer with us: Jesse Dixon, Mary and Neil Poppendeck

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

- Weed and trim bushes in the 10 gardens around 4 sides of Holy Trinity.
- Water gardens and lawns.
- Seek professional counsel for pruning lilac tree and oak leaf hydrangeas.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

- Weeding, trimming, and watering not regular.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

- Prune lilac tree and oak leaf hydrangeas (March 2021).
- Seek new volunteers and expand committee.
- Seek new coordinator.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Committee or Ministry: Human Resources Committee

Chairperson: Karen Maitland Schilling

Members: Robert Benson, Peter Lindsay, Jim Michael, Mary Fuller (part of the year), Sara Palmer and Terri Thornton (each part of the year)

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

1. Assured that all reviews of personnel were completed by Rector Palmer prior to her departure.
2. Developed a recommendation to the Vestry regarding appointment of the Transitional Priest in Charge.
3. Reviewed compensation levels, including recommendations for increments.
4. Oversaw personnel adjustments in working from home because of COVID and transitions in supervision because of changes in clergy.
5. Discussed transitions in the music program .

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

none

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

Continue oversight of personnel matters for all non-clergy personnel.

LAY READERS

Chairperson: Rosalyn Benson

2020 members from January – March

Caroline Baker	Glenn Julian
Jacob Bryant	Jim Michael
Kathleen Carels	Dick Nault
Mila Ganeva	Ellen Reister

Mary Hay
Henry Harper
Thomas Harper
Kat Hayes

Toni Saldivar
Karen Schilling
Sharon Seidel

2020 members from March – December

Robert Benson
Elaine Brandner
Jacob Bryant
Mila Ganeva
Ken Grabach
Thomas Harper
Kat Hayes

Pete Lindsay
Jim Michael
Kathy Mohylsky
Dick Nault
Judi Nelson
Ellen Reister

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Charge or Mission Statement

To contribute to the worship service in a meaningful and clear way through reading the scriptures assigned for each service. Good reading enables the congregation to hear God's Word with clarity and reverence, perhaps even in a new light. Holy Trinity is blessed to have many wonderful readers who make a significant contribution to the worship service. In January through March there were three readers who read during each service.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

Covid-19 brought changes as the services were no longer in person. This meant that some readers were uncomfortable or unable to attend the filming of the service on Saturdays. During the months of June through December, two readers were assigned for each Saturday filmed service presented on Sunday. We were also fortunate to have new readers, who were also willing to attend the filming of the service. Their participation was appreciated. The service of Lessons and Carols was challenging as it was all recorded. Readers read from home and sent their recorded lessons to John Harper who inserted them in the appropriate place as part of the recorded service

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

As Holy Trinity returns to in person worship, it would be appropriate to have three readers for the services again. Although we will return to in person worship, the services will continue to be filmed. This means that it will be imperative that the readers are heard and that their reading is intentional. There are necessary plans to have lay reader training that includes introducing the readings and additional instructions for volume and clarity.

The chair will continue to schedule readers in six month increments. This will be added to the Rota/Ordo chart that Rev. Thornton is establishing.

The chair will continue to schedule readers for special services and attempt to include people who are not regular lay readers to increase participation by all who would like to read, but may not want a regularly scheduled assignment.

OUTREACH

Committee Co-Chairs: Bonnie Mason and Margaret Smith

Members active in 2020: Barbara Cox, Kathie Lennertz, Jacob Bryant, Margaret Smith, Judith de Luce, Peter Lindsay, David Guilfoyle, Kathleen Carels (chair until June 2020), Rev. Terri Thornton (ex officio)

Activities During 2020

Holy Trinity continued its tradition of monthly community dinners January and February 2020, until the COVID-19 pandemic forced shut-down. Giving away personal care and household cleaning supplies and offering books provided by the Oxford Literacy Team, which had happened alongside the meals, were stopped as well.

In November 2020 volunteers started planning to offer hot meals to-go from the church kitchen. Guests were invited to drive up to the kitchen to receive food as well as important hygiene products and cleaning supplies. Although the December 2020 and January 2021 dinners did not attract many guests, there was a surplus of enthusiastic volunteers. Better weather and targeted efforts by several people to publicize the event brought many more guests February 24, 2021.

Another Holy Trinity tradition, the Mitten Tree, was accomplished by having a collection bin in the Bishop's foyer during December. Generous parishioners filled several large boxes with warm mittens, gloves, etc. In the first week of January 2021 items were delivered to a social worker at Kramer Elementary School for distribution to students in need.

Planning began in December to rejuvenate a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Meetings by Zoom started in February 2021, to knit and crochet shawls or similar hand-made items to give comfort during difficult times or special joys.

Until early March 2020 the committee met on a regular basis, deliberating the use of funds donated for Outreach. Distributions aligned with the results of the 2019 Outreach survey of the parish, with TOPSS, Family Resource Center and Episcopal Relief and Development being the major recipients during 2020.

The Upcoming Year

Early in 2021 Bonnie Mason and Margaret Smith were asked to be co-chairs of the committee, both serving on Vestry. New members Stephanie Southard, Mila Ganeva and Mary Bausano will bring new ideas and energy. Sub-committees are being formed. Regularly scheduled meetings will happen via Zoom until we can meet in-person. Emphasis will be placed on fostering more hands-on ministry opportunities for our parish.

Active ministries will include

- Community dinners, transitioning back indoors, accompanied by offering personal care and household items and books from Oxford Literacy Team
- Collection of non-perishable food donations and delivery of that food to the local food pantry (TOPSS)
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Volunteers assisting clients at TOPSS food pantry
- Mitten Tree in December

PASTORAL CARE

Chairperson: Sarah Michael

Members: Mary Hay, Judi Nelson, Susan Kay

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Providing meals, transportation, errands, visits to Parishioners who have been, ill, grieving, or in need of support. We do not need not keep track of the numbers here, but also ask other members of the parish to help out, for example, when food is needed for out-of-town family members here for a funeral.

During the pandemic we have also made fairly regular calls to many to stay in touch and be aware of needs. We have also sent numerous notes and birthday and other cards. 30 poinsettias were delivered to bereaved, ill, or shut-ins at Christmas.

The committee assembled and delivered cookies and hot chocolate to approximately 50 households in lieu of our annual Lessons and Carols potluck.

The committee sent valentines to about 100 individuals for Valentine's Day. Children of the parish also contributed a number of homemade Valentines which they sent to people at the Knolls and Woodland Manor.

PRAYER GROUP

Chairperson: There is no designated chairperson; this was started by a group of women who believe in the power of prayer and realized that Holy Trinity needed to be uplifted in prayer as it wanted to be a light to our community in this dark world.

Members: any and all are welcome at any time. As of March 3, 2020 the following ladies were attending regularly, every Tuesday morning at 11:00 am in the gathering room of the new wing.

Carol Baker
Judy Evans
Mary Hay
Michelle Ittel
Anne Lodge
Judy Nelson
Dorothy Samter
Carol Wilson

Describe activities of the group during 2020:

Up until the March 2020 closing of Holy T, we prayed for Those in Great Need; for Those in the Service; for Special Needs; for Those Who Have Died; for Thanksgiving; for Continued Help and Healing; for Guidance and Strength; for Travelers; for The Prayer Circle and for each other. Since we have not been able to meet, we have tried to keep in touch when there have been prayer requests brought to our attention. It has not been very satisfactory and I sense a real distancing of our parishioners from each other because of being isolated by the Covid virus.

Describe traditional activities of the group which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions:

March 3, 2020 was the last time we were able to meet as the Holy T building was closed to all services due to the Covid pandemic. We have not met as a group because not all women have been vaccinated as yet.

Describe intentions or agendas for the group in the upcoming year:

We would dearly love to meet again together in the gathering room of the new wing once our Bishop has Ok'd the church building to be accessible. We believe that Prayer is a very important part of ministering to our congregation, the Vestry, our priest and to our community.

WE REMOVE LITTER (replacing IHL)

Chairperson: Sally Southard, Coordinator

Members: Boone-Sullivan Family (Hazel, Michelle, Neil); Harper Family (Thomas, Henry, Suzanne, John); Sturni Family (Edith, Ruth, Peter); Taylor Family (Will, Sam, Elizabeth, Chris); Kathy Lennertz and Leland Coxe; Sarah and Jim Michael; Sally and Jack Southard; Diana Uhlman

Service for many years no longer with us: Jesse Dixon, Mary and Neil Poppendeck

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Litter removed once per weekend, i.e., Saturday or Sunday

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

Litter removed Saturday AND Sunday (before 10:30 am service)

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

Remove litter regularly on Saturday and Sunday.

Remove litter before church services: Christmas, Lent, weddings, funerals

Recruit new volunteers.

WORSHIP LEADERS (Eucharistic Ministry and Evening Prayer leaders)

Chairperson: Robert Benson

2020 Members from January – March (EMs)

Rich Bement Bob Benson, Kathleen Carels, Barbara Cox, Martin Ganev, Ken Grabach, Bill Houk, Marilyn Kinzler, Jacob Bryant, Neil Poppendeck, Dan Pratt, Pete Lindsay

2020 Members from March – December 2020 (EPs)

Bob Benson, Elaine Brandner, Jacob Bryant, Ken Grabach, Pete Lindsay, Jim Michael, Ellen Reister

Describe activities of the committee during 2020:

Charge or Mission Statement

Eucharistic Ministers are lay worship leaders who reverently assist the Rector and Deacon at the altar during Eucharist and, when needed, in other ways and at other services. They are trained to execute such duties as carrying the Gospel Book in

processions, reading scripture or leading the Prayers of the People in place of a Lector who happens to be absent as well as serving at the altar during the Consecration, distributing the wine at Communion, and helping with the Ablutions.

Describe traditional activities of the committee which were not possible due to the Covid response restrictions.

With the onset of COVID, the traditional activities of the Eucharistic Ministers were suspended because the Eucharist was no longer celebrated and there were no in-person services in the church building.

However, any Eucharistic Minister who wished was scheduled to be a regular leader of on-line Evening Prayer on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Those who took on this activity have shown great commitment and have been very valuable to the presence of Holy Trinity in the community during the pandemic.

Describe intentions or agendas for the committee in the upcoming year.

As Holy Trinity returns to in-person worship, two Eucharistic ministers will participate in Eucharistic services again. Because daily Evening Prayer has become an important contribution to the life of the parish, it will continue. The chair will continue to seek and train new EMs and EP Leaders to take part in these rewarding contributions to the spiritual life of the parish.

The chair will schedule Sunday EMs in six-month increments. This will be added to the Rota/Ordo chart that Rev. Thornton is establishing.