

Volume 1

January, 2014

2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

## From the Priest-in-Charge

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Dear Friends,

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17

The day on which we celebrate Christ’s birth has come and gone, but the gift of Christmas remains! For Christ did not come to condemn the world but He came so that all people who believe in him might be saved and have eternal life! And as much as we would like to stay and bask in the wonders of Christmas Day, time moves on and we enter into a ‘New Year’ the year 2014. And as we move forward we should always remember the once for all gift that we have received by grace through faith!

For while we do not yet know what the next year holds in store for us, the gift we received is one thing that we know will never change and never disappoint. Knowing what we have in Christ, let us then do as the author of Hebrews encourages us to do, “let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”

It is my prayer that we run our race together trusting in Jesus to bring us safely to where we need to be, and not only this coming year but each and every year that we are given here on earth, until we are at last brought to our eternal home. May God bless you and yours this New Year!

Blessings,  
*Fr. Bob+*

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### January Birthdays

2 Charley Day  
2 Wendell Moser  
9 Don Scheck  
14 Ingeborg Yeich  
19 Ed Benintende  
20 Bonnie O'Brien  
23 Carolyn Tolley  
23 Janet Orner  
23 Cindy Hill



### January

#### Anniversaries

17 Peter & Linda Salmon  
21 Leroy & Dorothy Reaves

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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## January Calendar of Events

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 - Christmas Holiday, Office Closed

Jan. 8 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Jan. 12 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

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## Reflections

Once again we have reached the beginning of a New Year - a time for making resolutions? perhaps. Before we look forward, it might be a good idea to look back over the past year; what persons have we been in touch with during the process of living? What kind of person have I been for the past twelve months? How can I change my life in 2014 to have more of the qualities of Christ - or perhaps I should just give up eating chocolates!

A few weeks ago I attended Choral Eucharist at Beverly Minster in England; a huge building, dwarfing the center of a small town in the gloom of late afternoon. The service was taken from the 1928 version of the Book of Common Prayer with the choir of men and boys singing music by Merbeck, Bird and Tallis.

Somewhat antiquated in this modern age? - maybe, but it all seemed so relevant to me, particularly some of the words in "The Invitation to Confession" . These words give us a good example of a New Year resolution if seems to me and I will repeat some of them for you here:-

"Ye that do truly and earnestly repent from your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from henceforth in his holy ways" - well, if we try to live like that, it would be a good start for 2014. Or you could just give up eating chocolates.

M.J.G

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

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Mary Baker  
Ed Benintende  
Penny Clark  
Lee Connolly  
Fr. Bob & Neil Criste-Troutman  
Randy Criste-Troutman  
Bishop Jack & Marilyn Croneberger  
LeeAnn Daniels  
Victoria Forstein  
Claudia McClellan  
Becca McConnell  
Rob McMahan  
Jim Rawson

Christopher Rose  
Lois Rothrock  
Katrina Troutman  
Donald  
Will Klopp  
Jon & Austin  
Paige Kozak

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

## Peace Pages

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*WHAT IS PEACE? By Tom Sayer*

Peace is a word we use often, but rarely bother to define. Peace has a variety of meanings, so that even people of good will can misunderstand each other or work at cross-purposes. Let's look at those meanings, and see if we can detect a common thread.

1. Peace can mean the absence of war.
2. "Peace of mind" implies some degree of comfort and contentment.
3. The Peace of God or *Pax Dei* was a proclamation issued by the Church in Europe in the middle ages to protect innocent and helpless people from violence. It covered priests, nuns, peasants, children, widows, merchants, church property, and private property. The sanctions included excommunication.
4. The word Peace appears in 93 passages in the New Testament. Here are some examples:  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God (Matt. 5:9) Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword (Matt.10:34) Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division (Luke 12:51) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid (John 14:27) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Roman 5:1) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness. (Gal. 5:22)
5. The 4th verse of Hymn 661 reads: "The peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod. Yet let us pray for just one thing-the marvelous peace of God". What is this peace that is strife closed in the sod? The previous verse makes it clear: the disciples who were closest to Jesus died painfully.
6. There are three responses to violence: pacifism, non-violence, and violence. Pacifism doesn't work; it encourages the tormentors to further atrocities. Witness the Holocaust. Violence doesn't work either. Violence begets violence; war leads to more wars. The only approach that works is nonviolent confrontation, in that the benefits outlive the active public lives of the charismatic leaders. Witness Jesus, Ghandi, Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr. But non-violent confrontation is dangerous. When a self righteous, smug, pompous person is confronted with the truth that he is a hypocrite and viper, he is likely to respond with fear and hatred. That led to the death of Jesus, and the death of other Martyrs.

# Stewardship “Flourish in Faith”

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## Stewardship (“Flourish in faith” campaign --- updated figures)

As of December 13<sup>th</sup> 63 commitment cards have been returned, pledging a total of \$ 126,264 for 2014. This is \$ 19,180 (17.8%) more than was pledged (by 68 pledges) for 2013 (Note: two former parishioners recently notified the office that they are coming back to Trinity and will be returning a commitment card for 2014).

The 63 are made up of 35 parishioners who raised their respective pledges from last year, 17 parishioners pledging the same as in 2013, 2 parishioners who decreased their pledge from last year, and 8 new pledges.

Of the 68 who pledged in 2013 nearly 80% of those parishioners pledged for 2014.

Continuing thanks to all for responding so generously to the “Flourish in Faith” campaign.

For Trinity Church  
*Don Scheck*  
Stewardship Chair

## Food Pantry News

Hi Everyone,

I know this is such a busy time of the year. December's last activity at the Pantry will be giving out the turkeys and turning most all the duty to Operation Santa Claus. The Tobyhanna Army Depot Employees and the Boy Scout Troop 91 with friends and families will distribute the turkeys, paper goods and whatever else they have in the truck for our clients. This has been their tradition for many years now and it is welcomed by the clients.

As I have said November was our highest demand this year. December is still high at 327 families. Here is the statistics breakdown:

FAMILIES	327	as of December 11,2013 =	ADULTS	588
			CHILDREN	360
			SENIORS	132

Total People served      1080

New Families signed in 11.

Gods Blessings be with you and yours in this holy season and let's all pray for help to come to these families in need.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

*Lorraine Naiko*

# A meditation from Deepak Choprah

## Day 15 How Can I Serve?

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

Anne Frank

Today we delve more deeply into what it means to be of service. When we serve others from a place of love, we are also serving ourselves.

For many of us, when we think of service, we envision great feats, sacrifices, large philanthropic donations, and other grand gestures. While service can be all those things, service can be much more accessible in our daily lives. Giving to others through service is simply recognizing what you do best in any given moment and offering that as a gift to someone else. For instance, in this moment, you may be sitting in a coffee shop across from someone who looks like she could really use a warm smile and, in this moment, you offer a smile in service to brighten her day. Giving can be that simple.

Think about how good you feel when you give someone a gift in this way and notice how serving someone else is a gift to yourself as well.

### Mindful Moment

*Let today be your day to share random acts of kindness with generosity and joy. If you encounter someone in need offer a gift from the heart, be it a kind word, a joke, or a cup of tea. Hold the door open for someone, just because. Call a friend and share a kind word. When you are engaged in activity, give your full attention to it, knowing that when you are fully present, you are doing something with love and serving the world with your time and talent. Enjoy the energy that comes back to you as you walk through each moment with a giving and caring heart.*

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## Christmas Memories

My very first memory of any kind is of my grandparents' home when I was three years old and the tree was ten feet tall. A few years later, when we were living with them, to decorate the tree my sister and I made construction paper chains link by link by hanging them in the stairwell until they reached from our third floor bedrooms to the front hall. We weren't allowed to take part in the actual decoration: we hung our stockings by the living room fireplace and went to bed. The next morning we found curtains drawn across the living room entrance so we couldn't peek at the transformation inside until the grownups were ready. But they (or Santa) had pinned our now filled stockings to the outside of the curtains, which kept us entertained until they were ready to get up. As we got older, the heart of Christmas became putting on a puppet show of the Christmas story for our family on Christmas Eve. We made the characters and scenery, read the lines and sang the carols, little realizing that this was rehearsal time for me to be ready to help with 28 years of Trinity Christmas pageants, a central feature of our Christmases today.

*Peter Salmon*

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Here you go...

I grew up in a house that was full of Christmas spirit. It was the one time of year my parents splurged, the rest of the year's celebrations were saved for necessities, like underwear :) The house was always decorated, lists were repeated and distributed and we kids got to stay up late to attend Christmas Eve Mass, which was always a special treat. I can remember one year after Mass sneaking downstairs and hiding in the vestibule between our farmhouse storm doors in hopes of catching Santa. My Dad pretending not to see me & waiting until I fell asleep to put me back to bed. Another year, Christmas Caroling with the youth group, who was lucky enough to take us younger ones out :) and then going back to one of their houses to sled & have hot chocolate by a fire. And then the year we got ski's but had to hunt through the house to find the presents! The memories are strong with celebrating the birth of Christ, filled with love, family and traditions and the spirit of the season. It will always be my favorite time of year.

*Kristin Lindsey-Cook*

# HELP WANTED/WANTS HELP-ED

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One of the many complaints about our political leaders these days is that they order studies to find solutions to problems, but never act on the results of those studies. Instead, they go on doing the things that are not working.

We don't want to fall into that hole. You may have wondered if Trinity is doing anything to implement the parish study last summer that suggested many ways we could expand our ministry to serve our members and the community around us. We want to assure you that some of these efforts are in progress and we hope there are more to come.

How will this come about? With God's help. In the semi mythical stories that begin the Bible, people were not shy about talking to God (sometimes complaining or arguing) and asking for help. Maybe we're too polite to bother God or too realistic to think God has time for our small problems, but it's not so. We can still talk to and question God with confidence that we will be answered.

We could, for example, take the questions God asks a congregation in the Baptism service, and ask them of him. "Will you persevere in resisting evil; will you love your neighbor as yourself; will you strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being?" And God will answer, "I will, with your help."

God is spirit and thought, we are God's physical eyes, ears, hands and feet, able to carry out his vision for us. None of us can save the world, but all of us can make a difference in our part of it. This is the vision that underlies the ideas for Trinity's mission.

Now, to be specific, these things are in progress and also need helpers:

\*A high point in our worship service comes when the children bring up the weekly collection of donated food to be blessed and soon distributed to families in need. We helped to begin the Ecumenical Hunger Ministry almost 30 years ago, and it's still going strong, with plenty of help from Trinity.

But the needs it serves keep growing too, calling upon us to continue donating food and money and volunteering our time for a service that is at the heart of the gospel we follow. In response to your suggestions, Rich and Lorraine Naiko have arranged an additional way to promote the Hunger Ministry and let people know about Trinity. Shop-Rite in Mt. Pocono has agreed to let us set up tables on two Tuesdays in March, to provide information and to ask for donations of canned goods right there. Volunteers are needed to carry out this mission, which will have 2 shifts: 10 to noon, and noon to 2.

\*This has been another week of Family Promise, now in its 4th year at Trinity. In general, this excellent program has helped three homeless families every three months find places to live, jobs and family counseling. Under Cindy Hill's devoted direction, once every three months we all have an opportunity to sign up for the specific, limited tasks that make the program work. Your ongoing support is needed and appreciated.

\*Guided by Bev Abel, we now have meetings every Thursday from 7-8 PM to learn and practice the valuable art of meditation. These will continue except for December 26th (or bad weather), putting another of your suggestions to work. We welcome more of you to join this rewarding centering and calming experience.

\*Another suggestion, a Shepherd's Committee, has helped fellow parishioners in need during the past year, but is in need itself - of more helpers and more organization. *Please* let Father Bob or Jan know if you are willing to help in any of these ways: calling or visiting home-bound members; writing notes to them; driving people to church who would otherwise be homebound; providing prepared meals; helping with chores or errands. We also hope some of you will volunteer to help organize these activities, recruiting people to help and scheduling them to provide that help. We also need to hear from those who would like to receive this help.

\*We are also drawing up a regular schedule of visits for home communion by Father Bob or those who are licensed to perform this service. If you are homebound, please let the office know if and how often you would like to have such a visit.

\*John and Grace Ferrantino have been directing a monthly family fun night, at which families are certainly having fun. Linda and I dressed up for the Halloween one for the first time since we were kids and were impressed by the turnout and the ingenuity of the costumes. (But I didn't trust my remaining teeth to bob for apples.) In the same vein, John Vicich continues to direct his almost-monthly "popcorn/movie night", which begin with his knowledgeable film introductions, followed by a short subject and classic feature film, all served with popcorn and root beer floats.

\*Arts on the Mountain has begun a 25th season with the current show of Bev Abel's paintings. But Kathryn Ritter-Vicich and Linda and I have been putting on this well-received program for the whole 25 years and we would really appreciate a fresh influx of ideas and help, as our internal combustion engines are running on fumes by now. New energy could lead to a real artistic revival.

\*Many of you suggested that we make greater use of the labyrinth, especially inviting the public to use it. You may have noticed that Linda has been making a stalwart effort to use our signs on 611 to advertise changing activities at Trinity. We're ready to advertise the labyrinth that way too, but need someone to volunteer to make a few directional signs to guide visitors to the labyrinth once they come here. In better weather, we hope to arrange guided meditational walks there as well.

\*Other ideas developed last summer are still under active consideration. The Vestry will hold an extra meeting in January on this single topic. Please feel free to offer any ideas you have about Trinity's "Mission and Ministry" to Father Bob, Jan, or any Vestry member. These are the working plans and materials for the renewal we seek. And will find, with God's help.

*Peter Salmon*

## 2013 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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Despite the rather cold and snowy weather, the bazaar was a rousing success making a total of \$ 2390. We were pleased to have numerous shoppers coming through and we sold many lovely items. Thanks go to all who worked on this project – our knitters & stitchers, Janice, Linda, Carol, Deb & Margaret and woodworkers, Dick & Bill. Jan & Carolyn did a great job with the baked goods table. John and Grace took great care of the luncheon and Mary Ellen, along with Joan & Margot did a fantastic job with the “gently used” items – that area was just about cleaned out by the end of the day. Father Bob and his elves went way above & beyond the call taking care of the children’s shopping area. The smiles on those children's faces clutching their wrapped gifts was worth the price of admission. On Sunday, the volunteers who helped clean up were great – Marvin, Bob Gower, Bob Butiste and several others who jumped in to assist. Thanks also to Jill Long who handled publicity.

This project is a large fund-raiser for the parish and more, younger folks making things and being there to offer them for sale would be a great help.

The raffle was again a big success due to the great work of Carol & Bob Butiste. The raffle itself raised \$940.00. We were rather happy to see all the prizes go to parishioners, especially the quilt, which was won by Cindy Hill – we all know how hard she works on Family Promise, so that was especially nice. Other winners were Hank Kennedy, Linda Salmon, Liz Leary and Fr. Jim Mills.

Once again, thanks to all who helped, *Inge* and *Kathie*

## TALES FROM A WELSH CORGI by Patricia Goodwin

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Greetings, one and all at this wonderful time of year. Pretty soon a few humans will be thinking of resolutions for the New Year. I was thinking, what better way to start than by getting rid of the notion of not getting along with someone , even when we don't really want to get along. This idea just has to go. Not that I personally can say I'm good at it, but I'm trying and if this stubborn, stiff-necked Welshman can try, trust me, it is bound to be easier for the rest of you. My story begins thus:

This is a story of cat vs. dog. You see, there was this cat that came to our house everyday, and there are usually never any cats wandering in our neighborhood ever. It all started out with her meowing loudly at the door or following mom when she went outside. You know mom, she couldn't resist and even tried to feed her but the cat didn't want any food. As for me, you all know that I turn down nothing, ever, so I couldn't figure this cat out. She just seemed to want to come inside.

One day mom and I returned from our walk and would you believe the nerve of that cat, she was sitting right at our back door. Of course, I let her know whose house it was and barked up a storm, the cat arched her back but didn't hiss, mom kept saying to me 'be nice, now , be nice, now'. The cat knew she was safe since I was being restrained on my leash! After a few seconds the cat relaxed and I stopped barking and mom took me into the house. The cat kept coming around every day for about a week and then when the really cold weather came - mom was worried about her being outside then - the cat stopped coming. We hoped that meant her family was keeping her inside.

Funny thing, I still look for the cat every time I go outside. We didn't became friends but we tolerated each other when we did come nose to nose a couple of times after our first encounter. Sometime it is hard to get along with some folks , both animals and humans, but we need to keep on trying to 'be nice, now', as mom urged me.

Have a good Christmas and Happy 2014. Don't eat too much plum pudding, mince pies or gingerbread cookies.....Cheerio for now, your friend, *Huw Morgan*

## Christmas Memories Continued.....

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This is a true story, written from memories long ago. I have sent this to only a few friends and family, those I think would like to know this little story and most of all, will understand it.

'YES, PATSY, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS'

It was 1945, or thereabouts, in East St. Louis, Illinois where I grew up. The war was over, not so much was rationed so this had the promise of a good Christmas. I must have been about 6 years old. I announced at supper one night that I didn't think Santa Claus was real! I can still see the shocked look on my dad's face. He was hurt and sad, too. My mother said nothing. Dad just said 'I guess that means you can go pick out your own presents'. I had never had this happen before, to be told that I could pick out my own toys! I clearly remember how excited I was, riding in the car on the way. As always, my little legs were cold, back then girls didn't wear pants or jeans, mostly dresses and it was a normal, cold December and the heater just didn't ever seem to warm up to where I was in the back seat. So shopping we did go from store to store, back way before there were such things as malls. Christmas music blared from the different stores, all lit with lovely, colored lights. The sounds of footsteps on the sidewalk and voices of happy shoppers are still in my memory. I picked out a dolly with long brown hair, and a doll high chair in one store, and a tea set in another store and roller skates in yet another. This was so much more fun than wondering what I would find under the tree on Christmas morning!! Dad and I took all of the toys and put them into the trunk of our car and then went back to do more shopping. Mom's birthday was right before Christmas so then we went to shop for her presents. I can still remember how happy I was, knowing my favorite toys were already picked out and in the trunk of the car.

Ready to go home finally we took the presents for my mother and went to put them into the trunk with the toys. To my astonishment, when dad opened the trunk, it was empty! My beautiful toys were gone. I stared into the dark emptiness, saying nothing. My dad was quiet for awhile and then said 'I guess there is a Santa and the elves didn't like you picking out your toys so they took them'. I was speechless on the silent ride home. I remember lying in bed later that night thinking I would have no toys from anyone at Christmas, they were all gone, the trunk was empty. I had nothing to look forward to.

On Christmas morning imagine my excitement when I went into the living room and under the tree were the exact toys I had chosen !! There was my dolly, the high chair, the tea set, the roller skates, lovingly placed under the tree. My dad loved me so much he didn't want me to stop believing, he wanted to keep me young forever, or at least a little while longer. How blessed I was, not because of my toys, but to have such love, someone that cared that much. I was grown and married before I found out just what my dad had done, the lengths he had gone to so that I would keep believing. You see, my dad arranged for my cousin to come to the parking lot that night and get the toys out of the trunk of the car. Because of love for me. Through the years I have learned that love is the most important gift at Christmas, more important than any toys. It is still true today. I wish you love, more than anything, this Christmas. Love of family, friends and love of God and His Son. We really need nothing else.

*Patricia Lawson Goodwin*

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I grew up in Port Washington, on Long Island, and at one time we counted over a hundred kids in our neighborhood of about 4 square blocks. We did everything together-- Trick or Treating, summer carnivals, berry-picking in the woods, ice skating on the shallow pond at the foot of our street, and all of our dogs trailed happily along. But my most enduring memory is of our annual Christmas Caroling. Most of us belonged to the church choirs at the Congregational Church of Manhasset (I think there were about 6!), so we knew all the harmonies as well as all of the verses of just about every carol in the book. We would go out after the Family Service, and cover the entire neighborhood; even the couple of Jewish families eagerly awaited our arrival; and we were kept warm and refreshed by offering of hot chocolate and cookies. But what really fueled our enthusiasm was our goal--to collect contributions for the Waldemar Cancer Research Foundation that was located in our town, in memory of the father of one of our members, who died of lung cancer at a much-too-early age. I still have the certificate of appreciation that Waldemar gave to each of us in thanks for our efforts--but it really wasn't an "effort" for us--I think of it as a gift, that we cared for each other so much (and still do), and learned at a very early age that the true blessing of Christmas is living the love we share.

Peace,  
*Kathryn*



Vestry

Patricia Goodwin  
Daniel Harris  
Andrea Hauck  
Becky Hendricks  
Susan Kennedy  
Rob McMahon  
Peter Salmon  
Nigel VanGronigen  
Tim Vincent

**Worship Services: Sunday, Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m.**  
**Adult Education, 9:00 a.m. September - June**  
**Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. September - June**  
**Tuesday, Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 2pm**

The Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem  
The Rt. Rev. John P. Croneberger, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Robert J. Criste-Troutman, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Ralph C. Roth, Rector Emeritus  
Carolyn Tolley, Sr. Warden  
Richard Naiko, Jr. Warden  
Virginia Parry, Organist & Choirmaster  
Jan Anglemire, Parish Administrator  
Peter Gonze, Treasurer  
Deborah Gower, Clerk of the Vestry

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