

Trinity Alliance Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Saturday, January 27, 2024

6:30 PM

Trinity Alliance Church



Trinity Alliance Church
2023 Annual Report

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Trinity Alliance Church

Active Membership List

Bell, Michael
Bjorklund, Heather
Capito, Al
Capito, Theresa
Conley, Jeff
Conley, Gena
Conley, James
Conley, Donna
Corbin, Dorothy
Darpino, Tony
Darpino, Emily
Darpino, Debby
DeStefano, Alfred
DeStefano, Karena
DiCicco, Nicholas
DiCicco, Jayne
DiCicco, Tori
DiCicco, Nicholas
Flint, Rosalie
Frecon, Phil
Frecon, Shannon
Guenther, Fred
Guenther, Margaret
Hobson, Rick
Hobson, Vickie
Jensen, James
Jensen, Sheila
Johnson, Charles
Johnson, Leah
Johnson, Richard
Kosh, Barbara
Kruse, William Jr.
Kruse, Annette
Kruse, Daniel
Kruse, Marion
Kruse, Bill III
Kruse, Tabitha
LaBor, James
LaBor, Frances
Love, Tom
Lyons, Raymond
Lyons, Betty
Mandes, Jay
Mandes, Julie

Mannering, John Jr.
Matulevich, Robert
Matulevich, Michele
Milza, Joseph
Milza, Christina
Mooney, Jill
Morris, Morgan
Morris, Cathy
Muchler, Michael
Muchler, Veronica
Phillips, Mary Lou
Putiri, Ralph
Putiri, Joyce
Roe, Deb
Ross, Michael
Ross, Thea
Sarabella, Peter
Sarabella, Louise
Siddons, Gail
Smith, April
Smith, Rory
Smith, Jennifer
Spissinger, Paul
Steuber, Candace
Taclan, Rob
Taclan, Michelle
Taylor, Glenn
Taylor, Patty
Wakeley, David
Wakeley, Linda
Warburton, Kathy
Watson, Charlotte
Witmer, John
Witmer, Patricia
Witmer, Eric
Witmer, Cheri

Witmer, Joshua
Witmer, Amanda
Witmer, Dylan

FRATERNAL MEMBERS

Atkinson, Adam
Atkinson, Laura
Hurst, Eric
Hurst, Elise
Reynolds, Brad
Reynolds, Tina
Winslow, Bob
Winslow, Heidi

Trinity Alliance Church

2023 Statistics

If any information is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office.

Baptisms

Coretta Kruse
Jannette Lumley
Moria Lumley
Shannon Frecon
Marie Mannering
Kira Murdock
Charis Ross
Kaylah Ross
Jim Jacobson
Keely Rowan
Jenna Crawford

Deaths

Jonathan Witmer
Justin LaBor

Marriages

Tony & Marie (Weidling) Kwiatak
Paul & Joanne Spissinger
Christopher & Rachel (Jensen) Lopez
Jared & Lada (Doukhnai) Jensen
Matthew & Caitlyn (Santosuosso)
Carter
Samuel & Moria (Lumley) Arlia
George & Geri Reese

Births

Ethan Avritt
Drew Hinklein
Ophelia Hughes
Vienna Gansereit
Eden Rowan
Zayda Darpino

New Members

Dedications

Victorie Frecon

SR. PASTOR REPORT 2023

"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." Numbers 19:3-6

God wants His people to be in His presence. He calls us His most treasured possession in all the earth. Not only that but He has set us apart to reflect His glory and character that the whole earth may know Him. What an amazing purpose and hope in a purposeless and hopeless world. What an identity we get to carry! Let us go into this new year with an understanding of God and His plan and a passion for Him.

We had great plans for 2020 to grow the church and deepen discipleship and by March all those plans went out the window and we did all we could in the face of the pandemic that lasted well into 2021. 2021 was even harder to plan as the pandemic continued and we looked for creative ways to love one another and continue to grow in Christ. 2022 was like coming out of a cave back into the light. There was not much ability to plan because we first had to look around and assess where we were, how everyone was, and what the needs were. As we approached 2023, I was confident we knew where we were and the directions we needed to go. I needed a rest first because I was tired and worn from loss and from holding everything together through the pandemic. I wanted to make sure I was at my best before I could lead what was looking to be an exciting year as we were poised for growth and deep discipleship in 2023 so I took a 2-month sabbatical the first 2 months of 2023. I hoped with a rested and excited pastor, a new youth director, elders who were excited and a people coming out of a pandemic ready to go, that 2023 was going to be historic at Trinity. Little did we know there was a perfect storm brewing.

In January, several families joined John and Jess Mol, to plant Awaken church in Smithville. This took 1 elder, our administrator of 20+ years, two worship leaders and a few families who served Trinity for years. We knew this plant was coming and we were excited to send them to help grow the kingdom here in Atlantic County. We knew things were going to be tight for the elder and worship team, but we trusted God would provide. We did not know that we would also lose Jonathan Witmer in January. His death profoundly affected our church family, and particularly the extended Witmer family. His father, Eric, and mother, Cheri, have been backbones in our leadership and worship ministries for years.

We also did not know that Shawn and Kristy, our youth ministers, also had things looming this year that would require us to carry them through some impossible times. When it was all said and done, they had to step away from worship team, youth and family ministries and eventually Trinity as a whole. With all these losses in leadership; 2 elders, associate pastor, youth and family directors and 6 worship team leaders in such a short time, the church could have been in real trouble, BUT GOD.

But God has better plans for us. His ways are better than our ways and His thoughts higher than ours! A few new elders stepped in and grew quickly. Glen Taylor, Rick Hobson, Dan Kruse, Chuck Johnson and Rory Smith all joined together and carried this church through probably the roughest year we have ever had. Rory got licensed this year as an assistant Pastor. (We need to celebrate that this year!! It got overshadowed by everything going on.) His leadership, preaching and friendship has become invaluable to me and Trinity. God brought in new experienced worship leaders and others who had been in the background, stepped up. Under Tony Darpino's prayerful leadership and the incredible grace and provision of God our worship is more diverse in style and deeper than ever with an ever-growing talented group. We even have a saxophone and violin.

For youth we had 15 leaders step up to serve and lead our youth during the fall. These leaders are building relationships and building a solid lasting youth group that will help maintain a foundation for the rest of their lives. Our Mason Jar ministry and care ministry is serving and reaching more people than ever with an ever-expanding group of servants. Each week God is bringing in new families and new people with gifts that are helping our church family grow. Even though we do miss all the leaders and friends who have served with us for so long, God has provided above and beyond what we need. So many others who would have not moved into the roles are now allowing God to stretch them and use them. Praise God! In a year that could have set us far back, God has used so many hard things to grow His Church and call His people.

I have learned that unless God builds this house it will not stand. I plan, but God builds. For the last 4 years I have made plans in the beginning of the year that God changes things for our good. So, I lay out our 2024 "plan" and "goals" knowing full well God is in control and will have His way in our church, and I would not want it any other way.

If you look at Acts 2 you see the very beginning of the church. After all we have been through in the last 4 years, I believe starting at the beginning is a really good place. You see the church in Acts doing 5 main things. They worshiped together in person at the temple, met in each other's homes to eat together, took

care of each other's needs, they prayed together and devoted themselves to the apostles teaching (the Gospel).

This year is not complicated. Our goals are not lofty, but it will require all of us to do it. I am asking Trinity to commit to:

- 1). In-person Sunday morning service.
- 2). Having one another over and intentionally building deep friendships this year.
- 3). Continuing to be generous in our giving and tithes and meeting each other's needs as we are given the grace.
- 4). Be devoted in prayer.
- 5). Get to know God deeper through studying His word personally.

If each of us commits to these things on our own and the leadership and church seek to also provide larger scale opportunities for engagement, I believe we will grow as God has intended us to.

I am excited for 2024, not because of our potential for growth, but that through the difficult times God protects and draws family closer. As we walk closer together it will enable us to walk closer to Him.

Once again, I want to thank you for giving me and my family the opportunity to serve this amazing church. We are loved and supported so well by each of you. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jeff Conley - Sr. Pastor

ELDER REPORT 2023

"The heart of a man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

This verse came to mind when I began to think over this past year at Trinity. The plans we had made going into 2023 did not work out the way we had thought. The year started out with the loss of loved ones, sickness, missionaries and staff members stepping down, and uncertainty as we saw many move away, a drop in attendance, and budget reports that were concerning. Even a sabbatical that Pastor Jeff was taking, to recharge and rest, didn't go as planned since it was cut a bit short, and he was sick through a lot of it (don't think he'll try taking off anymore!). Starting off we can look at all these events and get discouraged and overwhelmed as our heart's plans are changed, however, peace comes in knowing the Lord establishes our steps.

As the Lord led, we had Marion come on as secretary and she has been a blessing to us and we are thankful for her and the work she does. The youth group has been growing and we have had the young adults step up to serve which is great to see the desire of Christ in them and the growth that shows forth. We have had the privilege of meeting many new people that the Lord has brought to Trinity and many of them have already gotten involved in serving. What a blessing of fellowship Christ has given to us. The budget has been slim, but Jim and Rick have done a great job in the treasury department, and we have made some changes that have helped with our finances, and we have still been able to use the money God has provided to bless those that were and are in need. We have seen, by the grace of God, people healed physically and spiritually, and we pray without ceasing for continued healing where needed. The Lord doesn't promise that our steps that He establishes will be easy ones to take, but He does promise that His plans for us are for peace and not evil and to give us a future and a hope (Jerimiah 29:11).

Another blessing this year has been the Spanish church that started meeting here at Trinity back in October. We were able to take an opportunity God provided to us and help reach a group of people that we would have never been able to minister to ourselves. Pastor Geovanny has a wonderful heart for the Lord and is following by faith the calling he has received, even by reaching out in faith to a church he didn't know, to see if he could use the building to continue his ministry.

We as an Elder Board strive to make sure our foundation is set on the Lord and that we are following His lead and not our own. We thank you for your service and love for the Lord. If we are going to succeed, we need to use our God given gifts to edify the body of Christ, support each other, pray continuously, and remain in the fellowship of the believers. We continue to ask for prayer as we serve the

Lord and you here at Trinity. The Pastors and Elders continue to pray for you, and we look forward to serving the Lord for another year in 2024.

In His Service,

Rory Smith - Elder

CARE & OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT 2023

The Care Ministry has been very busy this year in trying to serve Trinity the best way possible. We cover an array of ministries including the ushers, security, meal train, mason jar, greeters, mission outreach, decorators, and helping hands to name a few. We are here to make people feel welcome, needed, supported, and loved through Christ and His church. We are not perfect but do our best to serve when and where needed. We pray many are blessed through the ministry.

The Care Ministry works by the service of those in the church, who we are very thankful for. Running all these ministries ourselves would be next to impossible and not done well, so having people willing to be placed in a ministry and run with it has been a blessing. We thank all those who have stepped up this year to oversee their respective ministry.

We started a Birthday Ministry which has people, who signed up, receiving ecards to acknowledge their special day. Visitors coming in have been recognized and reached out to much more consistently and it is great to see many of them getting involved. Meals have been going out to those who have been in need, and we have received many thanks for the love and support shown from those who were in need. The church decorating is done by volunteers willing to give their time to make the church look great. From the sanctuary to the fellowship hall, they have made it look beautiful through their time and service.

Two of our largest ministries are the Mason Jar Ministry and the Meal Train Ministry, which has done well and really has exploded since the fall. For the Mason Jar Ministry, 125 care packages have gone out from September 1 to December 31. These care packages have gone out to newcomers, those struggling physically, and to those just needing encouragement. Added to that, the Mason Jar Ministry has branched out into celebrating events (births, baptisms, dedications, etc.). The thinking behind this is that as a church family we not only mourn, encourage and support together, but we also celebrate together. Each care package consists of a combination of flowers, cards, crafts, snacks, devotionals, and more. The ministry has been blessed by amazing support from the church in the form of soup, cookies, muffins, bread, snacks, cards, candles, etc. Cathy Morris and Leah Johnson are the main contacts for this ministry. It is encouraging to see this team of two grow to four with the addition of Donna Hudson and MaryEllen Mehler who help in purchasing needed materials and assembling care packages. In the new year, we will be looking to assemble a group of drivers that can deliver care packages throughout the week.

The Meal Train Ministry was moved to be a branch of the Mason Jar Ministry. This ministry provides full meals for individuals and/or families that need help for an extended period of time based on a variety of needs (surgery, new baby, etc.). This year the meal ministry provided six families with meals for two weeks. The church has been generous with their time and talents in helping with this ministry. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Leah Johnson at 609-204-4393.

Again, we thank everyone who is involved in helping run or serve in these ministries, they cannot be done without you. We thank God for His continued blessings in providing the people and supplies needed to make these ministries successful. If you have any desire to serve, please contact Rory or Jennifer Smith and we will guide you in the right direction. We look forward to serving and growing in 2024.

In His Service,
Rory and Jennifer Smith – Care Ministry Directors

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT 2023

There is never a dull moment in Youth Ministry and this year was no exception. I would like to begin by thanking Shawn and Kristy, Liz, Thea, and Marybeth who faithfully served the youth through the spring semester. The youth finished their study on Mark, went to the spring retreat at Spruce Lake and finished the spring with a trip to Lancaster.

Sadly, Shawn and Kristy could not continue as our Youth Directors, and we had to put together a new Youth Ministry for the fall. To my amazement God once again provided in abundance. 15 youth leaders, lead by Dylan Witmer, answered the call and quickly began to plan and put together a new Youth Ministry. I was given the opportunity to guide this group and train them. With so many leaders we decided to be small group driven, where the focus could be narrowed down for each individual student. The goal this past semester was to get to know where each student was in their walk with Christ and build relationships so we could speak truth to the students. The youth had an opportunity to go to the Philly Project in Philadelphia this past fall, and were able to serve next to each other, which always helps us grow. We will be attempting this trip each year, around the first week of October.

For this upcoming semester, we will continue our small group focus but will be working on challenging the youth to take the next step in their relationship with Christ. We are planning to go to Lake Champion in March. Information will be available about the trip mid-January.

Please pray for our leaders as they learn and lead. Pray for the students. Some students don't know Christ while others are firm in their walk. Pray that each would take the opportunity to take the next steps in their journey with Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Youth Team

MISSIONS MINISTRY REPORT 2023

"Come here and listen, O nations of the earth; let the world and everything in it hear my words." Isaiah 34:1

With the inspiration and motivation of the Alliance and Trinity Church, the Missions Committee has endeavored to keep various missionary themes in focus throughout the year and to improve communications with both our missionaries and Board of Elders. As well, we provided support for our missionaries in many important ways.

For example, a team from Trinity traveled to Louisiana for a one-week mission trip to assist Eric Hurst with repairs to homes damaged by storms. In addition, the team meets monthly, researches ways to increase exposure and dialogue among elders, congregants, and the missions team itself. We have also added a fourth member to the committee.

We have regularly reported our activities and plans to the Elders and the Communications team and sought their input and approval when appropriate. We have provided informative, short-themed monthly videos that were developed by the Alliance. We have expanded our space on the new bulletin board in the church lobby and posted regular and updated messages and prayer requests from our Trinity missionaries. We have provided a monthly opportunity for congregants to pray for our missionaries. We encourage your participation in this prayer event every second Saturday of the month at 11 AM.

We met separately with two local Christian workers, Joey Milza and Briana Golden, who receive support from our church. We organized a Missions Conference weekend to focus on Alliance missionary work in selected mission fields. The conference included our guest missionary, Jenni Hampshire, and local workers Joey Milza (FCA) and Brianna Golden (CRU) who shared their experiences and successes in our local school and college systems.

Team members are/were always available for interaction and assistance regarding missions' activities and needs whenever required. We are always interested in new ideas, more committee/missionary support, and in your continued prayer and financial support for our dedicated missionaries.

Our church now formally supports the Atkinsons in Florida, the Hursts in Louisiana, the Winslows in France, Joey Milza in the Upper Township Middle School (FCA), and Brianna Golden in several NJ college campuses (CRU).

Your participation in our church mission activities is greatly appreciated by our team and the missionaries our church supports.

In His Service,

Morgan Morris, Kathy Warburton, Michelle Matulevich and Ralph Putiri

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT 2023

The worship ministry team has gone through a major rebuilding year in 2023. In the process we have developed into an extremely flexible ministry, adaptive to the essential call of leading the Trinity Alliance congregation in worship to our God and King.

After working with the Churchfront team we were able to get a plan to reconfigure our sound system to better fit the needs of our sanctuary's sound system and livestream setup. They also helped us with tools moving forward to better equip future sound and visual techs as we incorporate new individuals to the team.

As we move into 2024, the worship team is looking forward to seeing what God has in store for our team and our church. As the ministry team leader, I am so blessed to serve the Lord in worship with such an incredibly diverse group of musicians and singers. It is only by God's grace that we are able to serve him in the ministry of music and song.

In the process of a rebuilding year, our team has been greatly encouraged by a congregation ready and willing to worship our Lord together!

Praise the Lord!

Respectfully,
Tony Darpino

Communications Team Report

The Communications Team was created to include the Secretary and any other individuals who assist in aspects of communication (website, social media, etc.) within the church. This team currently meets on the 3rd Monday of each month with the Pastor, Elders, Treasurer/Finance Team, and a Team Leader representing the following areas of Ministry within Trinity: Children, Youth & Family, Young Adults, Adult Discipleship, Care & Outreach, Missions, and Worship.

The purpose of the monthly meeting is to gather important ministry updates and planning details so that we can communicate information to you in a timely manner. It has also been a great encouragement for the various Team Leaders to hear about what is happening within other ministry areas and find ways to partner together for support.

We encourage everyone to stay connected to our website and subscribe for the weekly email newsletter. They are the most reliable ways to stay connected on a regular basis. Additional questions can be directed to the Church Office. We hope these resources will help keep you connected and informed of what's happening in our church family and how to best communicate with us!

General Church Info + Communication...

- Website: www.tachurch.com
- Primary Email: trinityalliance@comcast.net
- Secondary Email: tac.trinityalliance@gmail.com
- To subscribe to our weekly email, please email us and we will add you to the mailing list.

Social Media...

- Facebook Page (public): Trinity Alliance Church
- Facebook Group (private): TAC Prayer & Praise
- Instagram: @wearetachurch
- Facebook Youth Page (private): Trinity Alliance Youth

Nominating Committee Report 2023

The Nominating Committee consisted of 2 members appointed by the Congregation on December 17, 2023. The 2 members selected were Joyce Putiri and Bob Matulevich. The other members of the Nominating Committee were Pastor Jeff Conley, Elder Rick Hobson, and Elder Charles Johnson.

After prayerful consideration the committee on December 27, 2023, has put forth the following individuals for the position of Elder:

Rory Smith: one (1) 3-year term

Dan Kruse: one (1) 3-year term

Respectfully Submitted,

The Nominating Committee 2023