



**Trinity Episcopal Church  
2012 Annual Report  
January 29, 2012**

## The Vestry of Trinity Church

**Barb Davis**, *Rector's Warden, Human Resources*  
**Katherine Driggs**, *Accounting Warden, Finance Committee*  
**Nancy McGarvey**, *Communications*  
**Brian Phillips**, *Stewardship, Planned Giving*  
**Gretchen Pendleton**, *Property*  
**Steve Skinner**, *Stewardship, Planned Giving*  
**Leslie Vacante**, *Mission & Outreach*  
**Kate Ferguson**, *Formation/WOFO*  
**Kristin Woods**, *Communications*  
**Addie Johnson**, *Parish Life*  
**Ed Mahler**, *Mission & Outreach*  
**Mark Bilodeau**, *Property*

[b2bdavis@verizon.net](mailto:b2bdavis@verizon.net)  
[ekojm@msn.com](mailto:ekojm@msn.com)  
[mccgarveynb@gmail.com](mailto:mccgarveynb@gmail.com)  
[bop3294@yahoo.com](mailto:bop3294@yahoo.com)  
[geeprana@yahoo.com](mailto:geeprana@yahoo.com)  
[skinner1056@aol.com](mailto:skinner1056@aol.com)  
[les816@msn.com](mailto:les816@msn.com)  
[Kate1abbott@gmail.com](mailto:Kate1abbott@gmail.com)  
[K4waskowicz@mac.com](mailto:K4waskowicz@mac.com)  
[draddie@verizon.net](mailto:draddie@verizon.net)  
[edwmahler@verizon.net](mailto:edwmahler@verizon.net)  
[Kate.mark@verizon.net](mailto:Kate.mark@verizon.net)

## The Staff of Trinity Church

**The Rev. David A. Canan**, *Rector*  
**The Rev. Mary McCullough**, *Associate Rector*  
**Stephen Schreiber**, *Director of Music*  
**John Dziel**, *Financial & IT Administrator*  
*Webmaster*  
**Karen Richter**, *Office Administrator*  
**Carole Allsop**, *Christian Education Director*  
**Kelly Rupprecht**, *Youth Minister, Nursery Supervisor*  
**Kelly Moylan**, *Treasurer*  
**Evelyn Carpenter**, *Altar Flowers*

[rector@trinityambler.com](mailto:rector@trinityambler.com)  
[mary@trinityambler.com](mailto:mary@trinityambler.com)  
[rns89@aol.com](mailto:rns89@aol.com)  
[accounting@trinityambler.com](mailto:accounting@trinityambler.com)  
[office@trinityambler.com](mailto:office@trinityambler.com)  
[fcmallsop@yahoo.com](mailto:fcmallsop@yahoo.com)  
[kellyrupprecht101@msn.com](mailto:kellyrupprecht101@msn.com)  
[kmoylan@talamoregroup.com](mailto:kmoylan@talamoregroup.com)  
[evelynfcarpenter@yahoo.com](mailto:evelynfcarpenter@yahoo.com)

**AGENDA**  
***The 2011 Annual Meeting of Trinity Church***  
***Sunday, January 29, 2012***

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Review of Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2010
- III. Table Discussions
- IV. Voting for Convention/Deanery Delegates
- V. LUNCH
- VI. Reports
- VII. 2011 Budget Presentation
- VIII. Election Results
- IX. Closing Prayer

Remembering those who died in 2011

**Lily May Boulton**  
**Thesta W. Clarke**  
**Audrey Elizabeth Patch**  
**Robert Powell**  
**Allison Schumacher**  
**Mollie Elizabeth Wilson**  
**Betty Hesketh**  
**Sophia Stankiewitch**

## Rector's Report

**By faith Abraham obeyed when he set out for a place  
that he was to receive as an inheritance;  
and he set out not knowing where he was going.**

***Hebrews 11:8***

Bob Dylan once crooned: "the times they're a-changing." I have been singing those words off and on for a few days as I have thought, prayed, and talked about what to write in this annual report.

The times are changing. At clergy conference several weeks ago, author and church historian Diana Butler Bass said to us: "please know that the Episcopal Church is not in decline. It has collapsed." In his State of the Diocese letter Bishop Bennison noted that: "60 of our 141 churches (or 43%) are, or are soon to become, "non-traditional," i.e. unable to sustain a traditional ministry with a full-time priest, property, and program."

Trinity Church is not sitting on the verge of collapse. Our average Sunday attendance increased from 204 to 211 people last year. After a significant increase in the previous year our giving increased slightly this year which is cause for great celebration! We have lots and lots of kids in church school. Last year we saw folks put their gifts and talents to work in the church school, youth group, the choir and music program, the various worship ministries, in pastoral care and in all those things we do which make church, church. We also had some real creative use of gifts and talents in things like creating Byzantine Stations of the Cross and in a dramatic portrayal of the Palm Sunday Passion story. Our newsletter the Chimes is so attractive with so many photos. We continue to expand the ways we communicate using the web page, blast emails, Facebook and maybe even Twitter. We have many adults involved in Education for Ministry, book discussions, and Bible Studies. Our congregation is engaged in various forms of mission and outreach. Our teens have gone out on mission trips for 12 consecutive summers. We have Rite I and Rite II worship on Sundays and Rite who knows what number on Saturdays! Attendance at our midweek healing Eucharists has grown tremendously. ***We are a vital congregation.***

We are also a congregation with one huge challenge. We spend more than we take in. Last year we took in about \$339,000 and we sent out about \$504,000. That means about \$165,000 has been taken from our reserved funds to make up the difference. One does not need to be a financial whiz to figure out that one day, and not too far in the distant future, if something doesn't change there will be no more reserved funds from which to draw. We have two options: decrease expenses and increase income. We need to do not one or the other but both.

It looks like we will have to make some major changes. How many bake sales, car washes, and carnivals would we need to do to make a significant change in our budget? My fear is

that while trying to close the gap in the budget we will lose sight of our mission and purpose to love God and neighbor. My fear is that we will work ourselves to death; literally.

I did not leave clergy conference and I am not looking toward the year ahead fearful and depressed about the future of the church. I am hopeful and excited. The rest of Butler Bass's presentation was that we are at the beginning of a great awakening! We are in the beginnings of new understandings and experiences of God and church. Trinity Church is in a good place for that!

The rub is that great awakenings are always preceded by great turmoil. Right now, turmoil's not just in this country and it's not just the church going through it; education, politics, health care, the financial markets, the world over, all seem to be falling apart. The excitement and the challenge of a great awakening is knowing that we have to look at new ways of being church, not having any idea what will work or where that will lead us. ***The church will be like Abraham setting out, not knowing where we are going.***

There is a whole generation out there somewhere that see themselves as spiritual but not religious. They want God in their lives but not the institution, not the church. Our sexual misconduct scandals, our in-fighting over theology, our public lawsuits over property, our preoccupation with doctrine has made folks think and feel like the last place they could find God is in the church. This generation, out there somewhere, wants to experience God.

We're pretty good at Trinity about making room for doubts and questions, providing times and occasions for experiencing God, and for remaining open to new possibilities, and change. All of that will serve us well as we seek to love God, neighbor, and self in this rapidly changing world. ***We're already heading where we don't know where we are going!***

Do you know what the scripture calls setting out, not knowing where we are going? ***FAITH.***

Looking forward to the Adventure,  
Fr. Dave

## Associate Rector's Report

For what was – Thanks be to God.  
For what is – Thanks be to God.  
For what will be – Thanks be to God.

Besides enjoying a delicious soup luncheon, Annual Meetings are about taking time to look back over the year at Trinity Church to notice where we've been, observe where we are now, and to discern where we might be headed.

Reflecting back, I am filled with gratitude for the people of Trinity Church. As of January 29, 2012, I will have had the privilege to serve this church as its Associate Rector for one thousand, two hundred and thirty two days (3 years and about 4 months). And what a privilege it's been. You have blessed me with your care, your trust, your love, and have opened doors for me to grow. One of the things I love about this place is coming together with others in a variety of formal and informal venues to wrestle with as well as proclaim our faith, to share our joys and our sorrows, and to give thanks to the Lord for life as it's been given. This is a place of nourishment for the soul. And thanks be to God, I believe we are well fed.

As I look at where we are now, I give thanks for the openness and willingness of this congregation to explore together the fact that the church (in the larger sense) is going through a period of "Awakening". Most of you have heard Fr. Dave and I speak about visioning for the emerging church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What you may not know is that our experimental worship venue called the "Koinonia" service, a service of extensive participation, has been touted in a newly published book entitled Congregational Connections: Uniting Six Generations in the Church, written by Carroll Sheppard and Nancy Dilliplane – a book I recommend to help understand the challenges and possibilities churches face as we become mindful of a wide array of generational differences, and what that means for future visions. I like to think that we are paving the way for future generations.

This brings me to looking ahead. Knowing that a prime value at Trinity is 'community', how do we best use our resources, and the strength of our community life, to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ – loving God and serving our neighbor – in new ways? This will require change in ways we think and live. This will invite us to consider fresh and daring possibilities. We will need to engage in some "out-of-the-box" thinking as we move toward bold toward new vision. It will demand patience, perseverance, energy and a willingness to concede some of what we hold dearly.

All in all, all is well. And for that -----

We bless this year for all we learned,  
for all we loved and lost  
and for the quiet way it brought us  
nearer to our invisible destination.

*John O'Donahue*

Mary+

## **Rector's Warden Report**

Trinity is a special place. I hear this a lot. And I completely agree. We have a real sense of community, even family here. We have two wonderful priests to guide us. We have kids in Sunday School, and lots of them! We have a thriving Youth Group. We have sent our High School Youth Group on mission trips for many years. We have two EFM groups. We have weekly healing services. We have several of our members in seminary. We are doing mission and outreach. And we have a wonderful choir (if I do say so myself). Trinity Church is alive and vital.

That being said, we still have challenges to overcome. We continue to outspend our income. And by a great deal. We can't continue to do this or we'll spend down our investment account in just a few years.

But there is more. I think we are on the verge of something. Something very special. There are big changes coming to the church (not just Trinity, but the church in general). The church of the future will not look like the church of the past. Change is coming. We have to be ready for change. And change is scary.

There are so many things about Trinity that I don't want to change. But if change is coming, how do we incorporate change, how do we welcome change, how do we lead this change, but at the same time, how do we keep the things that make us a special place?

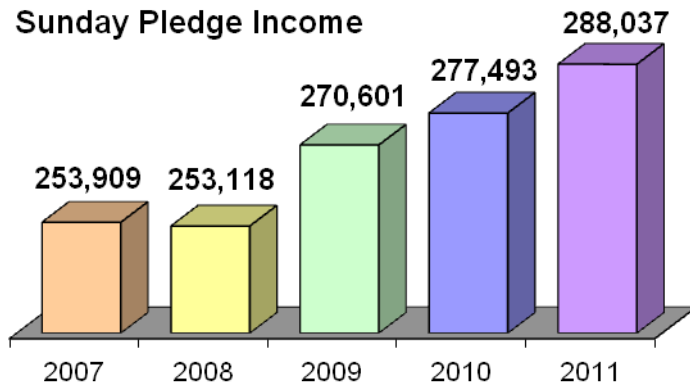
We have challenges ahead of us. We need to embrace them in faith and hope, trusting that God will get us to the place we are supposed to be. Because no matter what changes and challenges we might face, one thing that doesn't change is God's love for us.

Barb Davis  
Rector's Warden

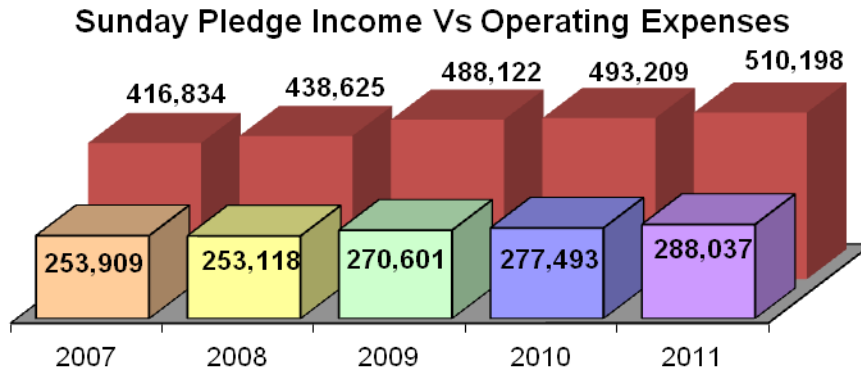
## Accounting Warden Report

As Father Dave and Mary have been preaching of late, Trinity is at a cross roads for transformation. Our total membership is 513 with the average weekly Sunday attendance in 2011 at 211, has not had much fluctuation over the past 5 years.

Over the last ten years or so, the church's income has grown steadily, primarily through increased pledge and plate income. This reflects the increased church attendance experienced during the period (which appears to have peaked somewhat in 2007).



In spite of our growing membership, Trinity has had to rely on outside investments to "balance" its budget and make up the difference between our expense obligations and the pledged income, as our pledge, offering plate income, and fundraisers, etc. have simply not been enough to support overall operations.



At December 31, 2011 the church had \$1.29 million in cash, fixed income, and equity investments, versus \$1.53 million at December 31, 2010. This decrease in value was a result of \$201,548 in transfers from our investment accounts to subsidize operations in 2011 which was slightly offset by \$31,665 in Dividends and interest. There was an additional negative impact of (\$67,954) due to the market downturn in 2011.

Trinity's outside investments have come from a number of sources, including net proceeds (after reconstruction costs) from the insurance policy held on the original church (destroyed by fire in 1986), several major bequests, disposition of an apartment building bequeathed to the church in the 1980's, and proceeds from a life insurance policy held on a former rector (Father Schultz). However, it should also be noted that Fr. Shultz's insurance benefit in 2008

was the last addition to the investment accounts. Prior to that contribution to the endowment, there was a sizable bequest in 2005 and a very large contribution bequeathed in the late 1990's. I mention this to point out that it has been a long time since the endowment funds have received any in-flows to the principal.

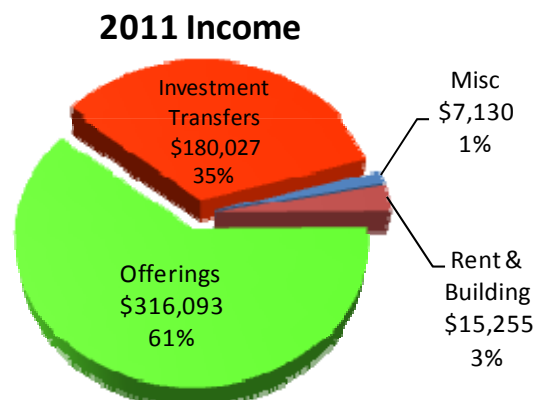
<b>2011 Vs. 2010 Investment Summary</b>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance as of 31 December 2011</b>	<b>Balance as of 31 Dec 2010</b>
Endowment	868,680	912,220
Scholarship	12,524	12,676
Sylvan Handley	67,517	86,450
Boyer Operating	275,825	472,204
Money Market	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,224,546</b>	<b>1,483,550</b>

*Note: The overall Decrease in investment value for 2011 was \$251,182, less \$201,548 in transfers [for a net change of (\$49,634)]. Nearly 100% of the transfers from the investment accounts were made from the Boyer Operating Fund. Please also note that this table does not include other financial holdings (checking accounts, etc..) and therefore is less than the overall \$1.29M listed above.*

During the last decade, the church has made major investments in personnel to serve its growing congregation and expanding mission. When Father Dave arrived at Trinity in September 1999, there were two other employees--Sheila Bistany (Office Administrator) and Steve Schreiber (Organist). (John Dziel, current Financial and IT Administrator, was an outside contractor and became an employee in 2002.) New positions were added subsequently, including directors of Christian education (2001) and adult formation (added in 2002 and discontinued in 2007), a youth minister (Kelly Rupprecht—2006), and Associate Rector, Mary McCullough, who came to Trinity in September 2008. In 2011, Sheila retired and a part-time office assistant was brought on, Karen Richter.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, many of these historical trends continued, especially pledge and offering plate income, which increased **3%** over the prior year despite the very adverse economic environment. (It is important to note, however, that **98%** of budgeted pledge revenue was actually collected in 2011; sadly, some longstanding parishioners passed away during the year, which partially impacted our overall collection rate, while other members did not pay their full pledge.)

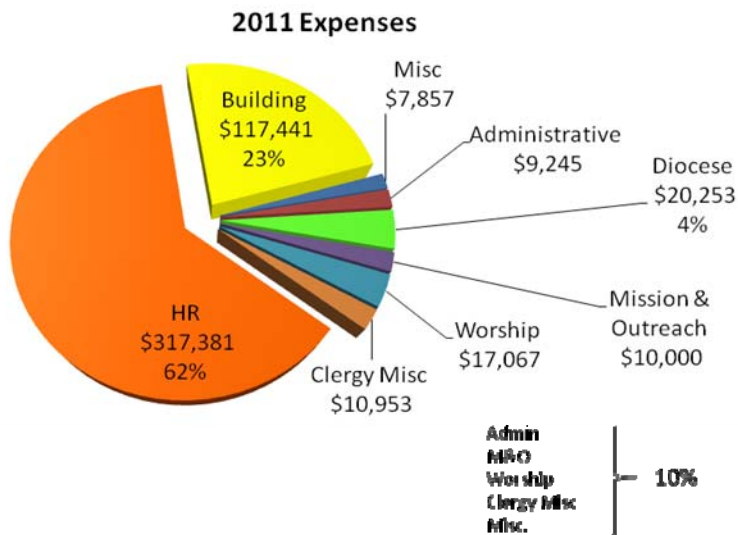
Overall operating performance improved as well; while budgeted expenses were \$535,154, actual expenditures were \$510,198, largely due to deferral of major property repairs and improvements and several departments spending less than



their allocated budgets. At the end of 2010, a comprehensive review of benefit plans was undertaken, which included a review of compliance with various guidelines and provisions pertaining to those plans. It was discovered that an error in the treatment of retirement benefits existed and corrective action was taken. The corrective action resulted in an additional transfer of funds from the investment accounts in the amount of \$29,000 – if not for this transfer, the operating expenses would have resulted in a lower \$480,000. This illustrates the degree to which the Church leadership has been focused on prudent spending and efforts at controlling costs where possible. This large operating expense,

however, still exceeds the pledged income of the parishioners and speaks to the financial cross-roads the church currently faces.

(Note: These reduced spending levels were taken into account when constructing the 2011 budget.)



### 2012 Budget Highlights:

- The 2012 operating expense budget is **\$ 548,934**, an increase of approximately **7.6%** over 2011 actual expenses. **78%** of this increase relates to previously deferred maintenance/repairs to our infrastructure, expected increases to utility expense, and premium increases in insurance experienced in 2011 and anticipated in 2012. **12%** of this increase was due to increased Human Resources expense (Primarily driven by increased benefit costs as well as a modest 2.5% increase to staff salaries which had been frozen for the last two years). **8%** of the increase can be attributed to increased administrative costs which were deferred until 2012.
- Budgeted pledges (\$290,000) and plate income (\$9,500) together represent **55%** of operating expenses, versus **58%** budgeted in 2011 (actual results were 59.5%). This is due in part to a decrease in budgeted pledge income based on the 2011 shortfall in collected pledges noted above.
- In early 2011, a number of longstanding employee benefit issues have been addressed based on a comprehensive review initiated by the Accounting Warden. Some of these changes increased our employee benefit expense. We are also seeing significant cost increases for our group health insurance; to partially offset this, larger co-payments have been instituted for all employees in 2012. Many of these changes are being made in light of the new **Denominational Health Plan** adopted by the national church for implementation by **January 1, 2013**. The **Diocese of Pennsylvania implemented this**

for 2012. This plan requires parity of benefits between clergy and lay employees; the Vestry will continue to monitor the plan's impact.

- The 2012 budget contemplates investment transfers of **\$212,000** to cover shortfalls in operating expenses; these transfers represent **38.6%** of operating expenses (versus a budget of 35.4% in 2011 and actual performance of 34%). The entire amount may not be required, depending on actual cash flow patterns and unexpected extraordinary expenses or project deferrals/delays. **It is clearly necessary to find ways to grow our congregation (and diversify our sources of income) in order to minimize investment transfers and preserve the viability of these portfolios.**

<b>2011 Operating Budget Summary</b>				
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Income	518,522	505,800	12,722	Favorable actual vs Budget due to unbudgeted contributions to Rector's Discretionary Fund and Special Offerings not planned
Expenses	510,198	535,154	-24,956	Favorable actual vs Budget due to deferred property maintenance/repairs ;lower expenses than budgeted for many departments
<b>Net</b>	<b>8,324</b>	<b>-29,354</b>	<b>37,678</b>	

Note: See the "Trinity 2012 Budget Versus 2011 Actual performance" that follows for additional information regarding the 2011 performance and 2012 Budget.

<b>2011 Mission &amp; Outreach Fund Activity</b>	
Income	30,943
Expenses	26,052
<b>Net</b>	<b>4,891</b>

Note: The Mission & Outreach fund receives \$10,000/yr from the church's operating budget to fund such activities as the Ambler Food Cupboard, Interfaith housing, Real Men Cook, and Episcopal Community Services. Additional income represents proceeds from rummage/yard sales, book sales, and other fundraisers held during the year.

<b>2011 Episcopal Youth Mission Fund Activity</b>	
Income	8,078
Expenses	7,622
<b>Net</b>	<b>456</b>

Note: This account represents activities conducted by multiple entities, not only Trinity-based groups.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine A. Driggs, Accounting Warden, 215-661-0933, [ekojm@msn.com](mailto:ekojm@msn.com)

## 2012 Trinity Budget Summary Vs. 2011 Actual Performance

	2010 Budget	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2012 Variance to 2011 Actual	% Change to 2011 Act	% of total variance
<b>INCOME</b>							
<b>Misc. Income</b>							
Flower Income	-	6,000	5,657	5,500	(157)	-2.8%	10.5%
Grants			1,000				
Parish Events	-	500	270	300	30	11.1%	-2.0%
Fundraising			-				
Other	2,446	500	220	5,000	4,780	2175.0%	-319.9%
<b>Total Misc. Income</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>-244.4%</b>
<b>Rent &amp; Building</b>							
Building Use	5,000	6,500	8,185	6,000	(2,185)	-26.7%	146.2%
Rental	12,000	10,800	7,070	13,200	6,130	86.7%	-410.2%
<b>Total Rent &amp; Building</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,300</b>	<b>\$ 15,255</b>	<b>\$ 19,200</b>	<b>\$ 3,945</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>-264.0%</b>
<b>Offerings Income</b>							
Plate	\$ 8,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 16,259	\$ 9,500	(6,759)	-41.6%	452.2%
Pledge	320,000	300,000	294,174	290,000	(4,174)	-1.4%	279.3%
Special Offerings	5,000	12,000	5,660	7,500	1,840	32.5%	-123.1%
<b>Total Offerings Income</b>	<b>\$ 333,500</b>	<b>\$ 321,500</b>	<b>\$ 316,093</b>	<b>\$ 307,000</b>	<b>\$ (9,093)</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>608.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 352,946</b>	<b>\$ 345,800</b>	<b>\$ 338,494</b>	<b>\$ 337,000</b>	<b>\$ (1,494)</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Misc. Expense</b>							
Administration	\$ 14,435	\$ 11,600	\$ 9,245	\$ 12,420	3,175	34.3%	8.2%
Adult Formation	2,475	2,125	1,951	2,225	274	14.0%	0.7%
Advertising & Communication	1,750	1,150	1,153	2,126	973	84.4%	2.5%
Diocese & General Church	18,500	20,253	20,253	21,265	1,012	5.0%	2.6%
Discernment	-	1,300	1,267	1,300	33	2.6%	0.1%
Education	5,100	1,500	348	1,250	902	259.5%	2.3%
Mission and Outreach Expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%	0.0%
Pastoral Care	900	150	-	150	150	#DIV/0!	0.4%
Stewardship Committee	1,450	1,635	781	1,535	754	96.6%	1.9%
Vestry Expenditures	500	1,075	974	1,075	101	10.3%	0.3%
Youth Group	2,000	1,500	1,387	2,250	863	62.2%	2.2%
<b>Total Misc. Expense</b>	<b>\$ 57,110</b>	<b>\$ 52,288</b>	<b>\$ 47,359</b>	<b>\$ 55,596</b>	<b>8,237</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>
<b>Worship/Svc Expense</b>							
Altar Supplies & Equipment	1,750	2,000	1,621	2,000	379	23.4%	1.0%
Flowers	-	6,410	6,550	6,410	(140)	-2.1%	-0.4%
Hospitality	2,150	2,400	2,612	2,550	(62)	-2.4%	-0.2%
Music	6,700	4,458	4,980	6,100	1,120	22.5%	2.9%
Worship Ministries	500	750	1,302	1,650	348	26.7%	0.9%
<b>Total Worship/Svc Exp.</b>	<b>\$ 11,100</b>	<b>\$ 16,018</b>	<b>\$ 17,065</b>	<b>\$ 18,710</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Clergy Exp</b>							
Clergy	8,100	4,677	4,290	4,500	210	4.9%	0.5%
Rector's fund			6,662		(6,662)		-17.2%
<b>Human Resources</b>							
Salaries/benefits	317,027	313,802	312,381	311,071	(1,310)	-0.4%	-3.4%
Other Staff Expenses			1,000		(1,000)		-2.6%
Paid choir/ guest musicians		10,475	4,000	11,137	7,137	178.4%	18.4%
<b>Total Human Resources</b>	<b>317,027</b>	<b>324,277</b>	<b>317,381</b>	<b>322,208</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Building Expense</b>							
Property Building	50,921	62,360	46,957	75,800	28,843	61.4%	74.5%
Property Grounds	13,920	19,120	15,169	12,120	(3,049)	-20.1%	-7.9%
Insurance	14,892	12,926	13,564	15,000	1,436	10.6%	3.7%
Utilities	47,706	43,488	41,750	45,000	3,250	7.8%	8.4%
<b>Total Building Expense</b>	<b>\$ 127,439</b>	<b>\$ 137,894</b>	<b>\$ 117,440</b>	<b>\$ 147,920</b>	<b>30,480</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>78.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES *</b>	<b>\$ 520,776</b>	<b>\$ 535,154</b>	<b>\$ 510,197</b>	<b>\$ 548,934</b>	<b>\$ 38,737</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Investment transfers (from operating account)</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>172,500</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>(12,500)</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>	
<b>Investment transfers (from property fund)</b>				<b>51,934</b>	<b>51,934</b>		
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>172,500</b>	<b>211,934</b>	<b>39,434</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)**</b>	<b>\$ (7,830)</b>	<b>\$ (29,354)</b>	<b>\$ 797</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>(797)</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	

\* Does not include extraordinary payment of \$29,023 for retroactive retirement plan contributions in 2011.

\*\* Before impact of 2011 investment performance; to be updated for annual meeting.

## Church School

We had another great Church school year. Along with regular classes we did two sessions using a different approach.

The post-Easter season used the Koinonia service format in the Parish hall at 10 a.m., the gospel was presented each week using music, art and play acting. The children really enjoy being involved in the entire service, from the Gospel presentation, questions following, taking collection, helping to serve communion and taking the left over bread and wine outside to be returned to the earth. The parent's and children attend this service together.

A new class for 6th, 7th and 8th graders was started led by Jessica and Liz.

We began the fall session with a picnic and ended with Advent Adventures.

Advent Adventures, held beginning at 9 am, the 4 Sundays of Advent, had a new focus each week, and were intergenerational at the 9 am hour. Week one, Advent wreaths were made, week 2, meals for Aids patients, including cookies and cards, week 3, we made Chrismons with a picture of the person who made it, to hang on the tree in the Narthex. Advent 4 we moved to the Church for the Paper Bag Pageant, presented by Father Dave, and participants picked from the congregation very intergenerational. Each person as they were picked for a part, came forward to receive the costume part to represent their part. When all were ready, the Christmas story was read, with every one entering to represent their part in the story. It was a hit, and will probably be seen again.

As always this program could not be done without all the support from parent's who teach and door-keep, and the clergy. I thank each and every one of you.

Carole Allsop  
Church School

## Music Department Report

The music department at Trinity continues to be reflective of the parish at large; people's lives change, and they move in and out of our own lives. Change is constant. Yet, the music program provides evidence of the health and vitality of the parish.

### **The Choirs:**

The choir system at Trinity is currently comprised of two choirs, the Youth Choir, which includes those who are at least in third grade or eight years and older; and the Trinity Choir, which is the adult choir. The basic responsibility of the choirs is to assist the rector in leading the congregation through the musical liturgy of the worship service. Their presentation of anthems and other music enhances the services and, hopefully, inspires the congregation.

The Cherub Choir, which was comprised largely of enthusiastic children in Godly Play, was dormant this past fall. Hopefully, in the New Year we will reestablish this choir. In the past, this choir has been directed by women and mothers in the parish.

The Youth Choir membership reflects the cyclical nature of volunteer choirs. Membership is slightly lower than last season, and now numbers five. Meetings have been sporadic this season, but they usually rehearse for a brief time on Sundays following the Eucharist. This choir is indicative of what is happening in society outside of Trinity Parish: the older youth become increasingly active young adults, and there is just no time in their schedules during the week for rehearsing. It is my feeling that perhaps the Sunday rehearsal schedule is not working, either, and we need to find a more dedicated time. This season we had hoped to implement a training system from the Royal School of Church Music in America. This is a structured music program which uplifts the spiritual lives of its participants through high quality music and training. The program is very flexible and can be adapted to the limited rehearsal time of the choir. This system is used by numerous Episcopal churches in the area, and it is time for Trinity, with its rich music tradition, to implement it as well.

The Trinity Choir continues to experience growth in membership, and now consists of 32 members when all are present. For me, this is very exciting as well as gratifying. This choir is sizable for a volunteer Episcopal choir in a parish the size of Trinity. The commitment and dedication to weekly rehearsals and participation in the worship service easily make this group in my opinion the most dedicated one in the parish. Additionally, very few volunteer choirs are able to sing music of this caliber. In keeping with the philosophy of the Director of Music, no auditions are necessary and everyone is welcome regardless of musical ability. In other words, if you can carry a tune, you are welcome to join us. There is exceptional talent in this choir, and their offerings of solos add much to the worship service. Special thanks go to Barb and Bill Davis, Joy Kohne, Nancy Dixon and Doug Purvis. The Trinity Choir currently has one section leader: Herb Ruzann, Bass. A search is continuing for a replacement for Andrea Petska, Trinity's former alto section leader, who returned to the Midwest. The choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 and sings from the Sunday after

Labor Day to sometime in June, as well as various holidays during the Church Year. My heartfelt thanks are extended to each and every member, with special thanks to Maureen McCauley, who handles the robe inventory.

I would still like to pursue the idea of forming a Family Choir, where children and adults who are usually unable to commit the time to being in a choir regularly will be able occasionally to get together as a choir on a Sunday morning to sing something uncomplicated, yet still be in a choir.

### **Instrumentalists:**

Trinity is blessed with much talent within the parish and further blessed in that its members so voluntarily offer their talents to the worship service. Some are actual music professionals and others are eager volunteers who just play or sing beautifully. There are so many people to thank that one risks omitting a name, but our thanks are extended to Anne Canan, Mindy Cutcher, Jane Cutcher and Maureen McCauley. Beth Purvis, cellist, graces us with her music when she is home from college. At this point, I would like to specially acknowledge Ernest Wells' years of service and dedication to the Trinity Choir after he retired from a career in teaching and church music. Ernest occasionally substituted for the Director of Music and performed as pianist in the choir's annual Christmas Concerts.

### **Musical Instruments:**

Trinity's Schantz pipe organ continues to attract attention both locally and nationally because of its unique and successful design, as well as its magnificent sound. Occasionally, requests are made from organizations outside of Trinity who wish to utilize it. Pipe organs are complicated mechanisms, and Trinity's is no exception. Trinity's organ is tuned only twice a year compared to the usual three or four times other churches' organs require. This is largely due to the stability in temperature in the sanctuary. This fall the decision was made to change organ technicians, and the organ is now being maintained by Emery Brothers. In addition to the Schantz organ, Trinity also has a Rogers electronic organ in the parish hall, a gift of Susan Adair from the estate of Elizabeth "Betty" Adair.

Trinity currently has three pianos: an Everett grand piano from the estate of Elizabeth Adair; a Baldwin spinet from the estate of Robert "Bob" Gallagher; and a Sambrick console from the family of Gladys Gould. They were all maintained by George Husted of North Wales who, regrettably passed away earlier in 2009. The pianos are currently maintained by Cunningham Piano of Germantown. Both the Baldwin spinet and the Sambrick pianos are beginning to "show their age" in that their design was not meant for the use they get in a church-institutional setting, and they are nearing the end of their ability to hold both tune and tone. Their cost and viability of repair are questionable.

### **Conclusion:**

The Music Department, in conclusion, had an active year. Trinity's annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols was presented on December 4. This was followed by a successful concert of Christmas music on the afternoon of December 18. The decision was made to not

perform a Christmas pageant this year, but instead present a pageant for Epiphany, Harold Friedell's "The Feast of the Star" on Epiphany Sunday in January, 2012. All of this music was in addition to the other Sundays and commemorative events of the Church Year, such as Ash Wednesday and the Holy Week services.

The success of the Trinity Choir and the accomplishments of Trinity Parish in its vibrant life in the community come from the same source. It is because the people here at Trinity live out their ministries in their organizations, care for one another and wish to help one another as a way of spreading Christ's gospel. One can trace this directly to Father Canan's own philosophy and his ministry with the assistance and support of the Rev. Mary McCullough. I am honored and yet grateful to be a part of this organization.

The Grace of Our Lord be with you.

Steve

Stephen Schreiber, Director of Music

## **Altar Guild**

Altar Guild is a ministry that few see at work but all who attend any type of service at Trinity Ambler would miss if not functioning. We set the table and do the dishes so to speak. Communion is an important part of services at Trinity Ambler from Sunday services to Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Each weekend a different team readies the church for all the various services. We do this with dedication and commitment. This year Mary DeViso resigned due to her job. And we added 2 new members Amy Durie and Ellen McCaffrey.

Below is a list of the teams.

Veronica Grogan, Jill Hayes, Virginia Nelson

Adele Butler, Evelyn Carpenter, Nancy McGarvey

Ellen McCaffrey, Pat Pfeiffer, Karen Reid

Cheryl Bayard, Amy Durie, Veronica Gallwey, Annette Irvin

We are always looking for new members. Many hands make light work. Our budget pays for candles, wine, communion wafers. This year we went over budget and didn't purchase anything other than needed supplies. We try to replace linens as needed and when we can afford them which didn't happen this year.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Bayard

## Property Committee Annual Report – 2011

Along with the day-to-day operations of the church buildings there are 3 significant updates from 2011.

- The cottage went through some minor renovations in the fall since Jay Walton's departure during the summer. In preparing to rent the cottage to new tenants, and with the help of a handyman, we purchased a new refrigerator, cleaned and painted the kitchen cabinets, replaced the kitchen floor, replaced broken windows and did an overall cleanup of the cottage. There are some longer term renovations that need to be done over the next couple/few years, those projects will be evaluated and done based on budgetary constraints.
- The Property Committee was reorganized into the Property Team, under new leadership since Piers Prater and Jay Walton left the Vestry. Each area of responsibility now has a coordinator who is responsible for all aspects of their assigned area.
  - John Dziel – IT, Electrical, Sound system, Fire Alarm
  - Piers Prater – landscaping and snow removal
  - Kristina McGee – Heating, Ventilation and A/C
  - Andrew Pendleton – Cleaning services
  - Bill Davis – Plumbing
  - Dave McCullough – Roof
  - Jane Saunders - Gardens
- The biggest area of concern for 2011 came at the end of the summer with the impact of Hurricanes Irene and Lee within a week of each other. Significant flooding and damage occurred, and as a result mold damage erupted in different areas in the church building – sanctuary, parish halls, downstairs classrooms, narthex, sacristy/robing areas. With the help of Kristen Woods, steps were taken to take care of the mold until a permanent water seepage solution can be found. The sacristy/robing area carpet has been replaced with tile to prevent further mold and dampness and make cleanup of future flooding easier. Long term solutions are being investigated – grading of the lawn, roof drainage, groundwater drainage, sump pump “integrity,” etc. These issues are not new to Trinity, but they came to a head this summer/fall with the significant amount of rainfall in a short period of time. Ongoing efforts are being made to inventory the rainfall and water seepage with each storm as well as other remedial actions we can take to limit our exposure to future flooding and resulting mold.

Submitted by

Mark Bilodeau and Gretchen Pendleton, Property Co-Chairs

# **Daughters of the King**

## **Anam Cara Chapter 2011**

By Addie M. Johnson, President

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a religious order, not an organization. Each daughter takes a lifetime vow to live by the Rule of the Order which requires a spiritual discipline of daily prayer, service and evangelism. At Trinity Church, we are named "Anam Cara" or "Soul Friend". Our Diocesan Chaplain is the Rev. Fr. David Canan; Mrs. Anne Canan is the current Diocesan President. Below are summarized the many activities in which we have engaged during the 2011 church year.

January 2011: During January through March/April our DOK became engaged in the ECS Pre-School Butterfly Program as part of our Diocesan DOK Outreach Program this year. Carol Szwajkos, Vice President, contacted Victoria Bennett, Director at the ECS St. Barnabas Shelter in West Philadelphia to obtain an idea of their needs. They requested assistance in obtaining a computer and games/puzzles for young children to utilize as part of a learning project.

February: In February our DOK offered a presentation and potluck dinner featuring "Zina", a woman who converted from Islam to Christianity. The affair, utilizing a Valentine Day theme, was open to all members of our parish. Kudos to Nancy Militello, and all daughters who served on the committee for creating an unusual and enjoyable afternoon.

Several of our Anam Cara DOK enjoyed the conference at St. Thomas, Whitemarsh entitled, "Changing the World for Women and Girls". Both Anne Canan and Rev. Wil Gafney served on the committee to create an informative weekend conference for women.

Our February Self-Denial Fund which is sent to the National Order yearly was dedicated to the memory of Fred Allsop this year.

March: Our main March activity offered a skit designed by Carol Szwajkos and Carol Allsop entitled "The Hungry Caterpillar" featuring our Sunday School children as actors; the skit was used to kick off our campaign to accept donations for the ECS Butterfly Program. Beautiful costumes and narrations were created by Carol and Joan Whitney. Ms. Dana Nuble, program representative, addressed our parish. Numerous members of our DOK morning and evening groups served at tables for three Sundays in April to accept donations. The program was presented with a check for \$2000 in early May.

Rev. Mary led a deeply moving and wonderfully thought provoking Lenten Quiet Day which our DOK hosted for the entire parish on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

April: The Diocesan DOK offers two assemblies, one in the Fall, the other in Spring to bring together all daughters for a Healing Service and Eucharist in addition to discussion of planned business events and proposed outreach activities. The Spring Assembly was held at

Calvary and St. Augustine Church in West Philadelphia on April 30<sup>th</sup> where a new DOK chapter was installed. \$200 was collected for "Nets for Life", a partner of the Episcopal Relief and Development Project. The Fall Assembly was held at Good Samaritan Church in Paoli in October 2011; a presentation was made by Maria Newman, Development Associate for St. James School to solicit assistance from our Diocesan DOK.

May: On May 26-28, both the AM and PM DOK groups created interesting baskets to be raffled for the Parsons Porch to be featured at the Children's Carnival.

In late May of 2011, several DOK members including Rev. Mary, Anne Canan, Addie Johnson, Lynda Basham, and Linda Wagner attended an information session presented by Mr. David Kasievich, Executive Director of the new St. James Church Academy located in Allegheny/West. As a result of this meeting, Rev. Mary started a parish drive for donations of cleaning goods for the use of the school and the church.

In addition, a few of our DOK members offered to clean the church (vacant since 2006) for use by the school for religious services twice a month. On one occasion, two members of other DOK groups joined us. Kudos are given to Pam Hawthorne, Lynda Basham, Addie Johnson, Anne Canan, Barbara Junginger, Diana Evans and a parish guest, Laura Gergen for an on-going program of church cleaning and upkeep from July to December of 2011.

June/July/August: During late June and July, current members of our DOK spent several sessions preparing our new "Daughters in Training" for their installation in November 2011.

Several of our DOK members attended the Diocesan Cape May Retreat in August; kudos to Diane Powell for her inspiring presentations. The main text for discussions featured a book by Sara Miles, priest at St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco entitled "Take this Bread" which described not only her coming into the priesthood but her assistance in establishing a much needed Food Pantry that now serves about 800 people.

September: September is a key month of preparation for our Annual Retreat in meeting our financial obligations; we offer kudos to Jan McLemore, DOK treasurer who has done a marvelous job in maintaining financial records (for six years) and obtaining our retreat venue for each following year. Diane Powell is acknowledged for her artistic efforts in enabling our DOK to design Self-Denial Jars with inspirational themes for our donation to National the following February.

October: October 14-16 were the dates of our Annual DOK Retreat in Mendham New Jersey at the Convent of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist. Several Trinity members also attended. Our Rev. Mary McCullough presented an awe-inspiring retreat program based on the topic "Discerning Faith Through Women in Scripture". Mary ended our retreat with a totally memorable Candle Lit Floor Cross to light our path into maintaining ourselves as women of faith.

November: Throughout early November, Lynda Basham and Nancy Militello led us in creating and stuffing our gift boxes for Samaritan Purse, an international project sponsoring donations to needy children.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> our Daughters in Training were installed during the morning service after which we re-dedicated ourselves by renewing our DOK vows. Most welcome as new daughters in the Anam Cara chapter are: Dorothy Jennings, Diana Evans, Virginia Nelson, and Edith North. The service was followed by a memorial for Mollie Wilson our beloved daughter who passed in October. A welcome luncheon was held at the Rectory in honor of our newly admitted daughters.

December: December activities consisted of: (1) our new DOK Banner applique donated by Nancy Militello, Vice President, and sent on to Joan Whitney for completion by her and other members for next year; our DOK History Committee formulating plans for a booklet and disk, and (3) last but not least, a combined morning and evening DOK Christmas Luncheon hosted graciously by Pam Hawthorne at her home.

Throughout the year, Welcome Baskets are prepared by DOK members and transported to the homes of visitors to Trinity; Annette Irvin and Lynda Basham oversee this activity.

## **Mission and Outreach**

Ed Mahler

Even within strict budget boundaries Trinity Ambler was able to make significant Outreach progress, locally, regionally, nationwide and internationally in 2011.

We maintained our annual contributions of \$200 per month each to Inter Faith Housing, The Community Cupboard and Episcopal Community Services. In addition, Real Men cook provided meals for those in need in our local community. Also we had almost weekly contributions of needed items, ie: food and cleaning materials for The Community Cupboard, in addition to our monthly contribution of money.

Coins For Chester was a very successful regional effort on our part to help Chester Eastside. Toward the end of the year we saw the start of our SHARE Food program, which provides quality food at significantly lower prices than Super markets, to local people in need of such a program, especially with no grocery store in Ambler. We plan an expansion of the Program in 2012 to reach the greater Ambler community.

We were one of the early participants in the effort to assist flood victims of Irene in Ambler. In fact Father Dave was one of the earliest to go to the flooded area to assist and be a part of an overall assistance program for Ambler. A committee, working with FEMA, meets periodically here at Trinity.

Also, we have contributed \$500 to the Ambler YMCA scholarship program for youth in need. We raised some \$2200 from our always successful Rummage sale. This year we added a modest sum from a Children's Carnival to our Mission and Outreach efforts.

In April we again worked with Inter Faith Housing to have three families living in our church, though not all of them for the entire month. All in all, there were four adults and six children with us.

Our Christmas tree gifts this year went to children through Episcopal Community Services. In addition we provided gifts for eight mothers at Hope Gardens. At the international level we were entertained by and contributed to BOKAMOSA to help needy young African boys and girls to have a successful start in life. All this in addition to those many wonderful things you do as individual members of our Congregation and by The Daughters Of The King whose sizable contributions are noted in another section.

## **Trinity Life**

TRINITY LIFE comprises several groups that support an ongoing program for maintaining our church as a living Christian community dedicated to seeking God's love with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

### **New Member Welcome**

An important part of Trinity ministry is to enable newcomers to become familiar with Trinity parishioners. This program is designed to match members of the vestry and parish based on the interests of new members.

### **Trinity Action Groups**

This past year Trinity life programs consisted of Trinity Action Groups which emerged around varied interests of our parish members including Homelessness and Hunger, Visual & Performing Arts, At-Risk Youth, International Missions, Environmental Issues to name a few and led by Fr. Dave and Rev. Mary. Each of these groups have been engaged in their own type of outreach.

### **Hospitality**

An ongoing program is that of our Sunday Morning Hospitality previously led by Leigh Irvin and now coordinated by Rebecca Curlett; this year several new members to Trinity have joined this ministry. Kathy Evans continues to serve as our shopper. This year we added Fifth Sunday Breakfasts hosted by "Good Men Cook" and coordinated by Roger Clarke.

Another important ministry is that of our Funeral Hospitality group coordinated by Nancy Militello and Barbara Shields we express our gratitude for their on-call services.

## **Trinity Parish Trips**

Jane Frassenei is the Trinity Trip Coordinator who sponsors trips to various locations of interest. On Sunday, November 20th Trinity Church members and friends went by Perkiomen Bus to hear a special organ concert played by Felix Hell at The Cadet Chapel US Military Academy, West Point, NY. The concert celebrated the 100th anniversary of the organ. The cadet chapel organ is the largest church organ in the world with 23,500 pipes. Our group also enjoyed a tour of the campus and a buffet luncheon at The Thayer Hotel.

## **Communications Report**

The Communications Committee has been working a great deal behind the scenes fine-tuning the works of our predecessors and moving forward implementing the gifts of our current teams and the technology available to us today. This is necessary to synergize with the extraordinary generational differences we have in our own congregation as well as to reach out beyond our doors.

Each area mentioned below is overseen by amazing teams of dedicated parishioners with the unending support from clergy and staff – this is truly a group effort and we are ever grateful to those who bring their time and talents to the scene each and every day.

Communications can be broken down into two categories: Print and Internet.

### **Print includes:**

Information (Bulletin) Boards - a continuing source of information to share with the communities who gather weekly at Trinity. This includes, but is not limited to: Upcoming Events/Sign-Ups, 'In The News', 'Military', 'Slices of Life' Photos, College Updates, Diocesan News, Trinity Ministries, Youth Programs, Church School Programs, Community Programs, and Business Cards.

Narthex Photo Wall--being updated with current photos of new and existing members

The Chimes Newsletter is published 10 times a year. September thru May. Our summer issue covers June thru August. The Chimes is printed on a limited basis, as well as posted on-line via Trinity's website and Facebook. Advertising will be included in 2012 issues to cover our budget.

### **Internet includes:**

Facebook – we have 76 – 80 known followers with a weekly reach of up to 240 and potential reach of 20, 040. Interesting to note, many of our followers reside outside the State of Pennsylvania. Facebook is used for Trinity events, announcements, photos, and theological discussions. Find us on Facebook at Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler, PA

Twitter - Find us today @TrinityAmbler

The Jingle - in print in the service leaflet each week but also emailed from the office so those who cannot attend a service during the week will still be up-to-date on activities.

### Trinity Website

Sermon Podcasts - we are pursuing ways to share our fabulous sermons with those who are unable to attend our services. Stay tuned for more information!

### Yahoo Groups

WiFi- we are working to extend WiFi access beyond the Library area. There a few challenges to overcome but we are getting there.

The Communications Committee is constantly evolving to meet the demands of the times and the ever-changing Church as we know it – typos included. In 2012, we hope to fine tune what was started in 2011, and to continue to explore our options as we grow in community and Spirit.

Grace and Peace,  
Kristin W. Woods and Nancy McGarvey

## **Seminarians' Reports**



Dear Trinity,

It was wonderful being home over the Christmas holiday. I miss worshipping at Trinity in the midst of such a supportive congregation, and I was very pleased to see so many of you again. Back here at VTS, the fast-paced schedule has resumed, but the entire experience has been everything I'd hoped it would be. A typical day starts with Morning Prayer in the Chapel at 8, Eucharist at Noon, Lunch at 1, and Evening Prayer at 5:30. Between services, we are in classes (or studying to get ready for them). The intentionality of worship, meals, classes, and recreational activities as a collective whole has truly brought the entire campus together. From the start, one enters a community of students and professors that is easy to call home.

Classes have been fascinating to this point. Last semester was a great introduction to the academic demands and expectations of seminary life, but just about everything has been enjoyable. So far, I've taken Church History until 1600, Greek, Intro. to the Old Testament, Intro. to the New Testament, Re-envisioning Parish Ministry, Theology of Practical Ministry,

and Choir. Greek is quite the experience—I wasn't sure I was going to like it, but the language continues to make its way into almost every other course. It's a challenge, and I'm excited to learn much more. Perhaps the most interesting course thus far is the January Term course I'm about to finish—Sacrifice: History, Meaning, Faith. For two weeks, our professors have approached the topic of sacrifice through Biblical accounts in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, the Gospels, and Hebrews. Also, we've examined how we understand sacrifice through baptism, Eucharist, anthropological and sociological lenses, in regard to war and 20<sup>th</sup> century history, and the Feminist movement. It was one of best courses I've ever taken, and I'm very thankful for entire experience.

Moving forward, I can't wait to start the upcoming semester. In addition to more New Testament and Greek, I'll start a class on the Reformation as well as a course on Canon Law. This semester is also important for future plans—I should learn which local parish will host me for Field Education, and also, where I will be completing Clinical Pastoral Education. In the meantime, I've met some great friends here—we try to spend our free time playing sports, music, and visiting some of the sights of Washington.

This time and this place are blessings for which I'm very thankful to God. I give thanks also for you, the people of Trinity, who have been so supportive and caring throughout this whole process. Your prayers have certainly been felt—please know that you are all in my mine!

Yours in Christ,  
Dennis

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Greetings from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, CA. When Father Dave first asked me to write something, I thought seminary life is really pretty boring and very structured so what could I say. On any given day, my schedule includes attending class, studying, writing papers, reading and my work-study job. But then I started thinking about life being boring. Life here is anything but boring. Last semester, I learned Greek, Studied Anglican Tradition and Life, Learned the Old Testament and studied the History of Christianity through the year 1400 C.E.. Attending my classes is like having good theological discussion among friends. For instance, this past semester, my History of Christianity professor compared the Trinity to a perfect grilled cheese sandwich (Figure that one out.) Writing papers, whether they are academic research papers or personal reflection papers, are always challenging and time consuming. Of course finding time to read the



required books is always challenging. We are expected to read between two and three hours for every hour we are in class. So for a typical three-hour class, there is nine hours of reading and we take 4 classes per semester. There are just not enough hours in the day to get everything accomplished. Seminary is not only classroom learning though. We are also expected to attend and take part in chapel services three times per day: Morning Prayer at 7:30, Noonday Eucharist and Evening Prayer at 5:30. This past semester I have been able to participate in planning services at the chapel as well as explore the liturgies of the Episcopal Church. We rotate between Rite I, Rite II, and enriching our Worship.

Besides being a lot of work, seminary is also fun. The San Francisco Bay area is an incredibly diverse place. When I need to take a break from the concerns of studying, it is nice to be able to hop on public transit and go to places like Chinatown or Fisherman's Wharf for lunch or dinner. But the fun is also in visiting different churches. Every Sunday I have been trying to attend a different church and after church, I spend some time exploring the area surrounding the church. That has been such a positive experience and a way for me to get to know the city. From those church visits, I will choose my field education site where I will spend working Sundays during the second year.

Some of the greatest learning's that I have had thus far have not happened during class but rather have happened while I wrestle with the all experiences that I have had in my time out here. I could have attended seminary anywhere, but what drew me to CDSP was the way in which I am challenged to arrive at my own beliefs. In classes, we are not taught the Episcopal way, we are taught a way, and each student must then interpret their own path to learning. For me, that path has been one of self-discovery and amazement of all the blessing I have been given.

January 30 marks the start of my second term and I look forward to the new challenges that my classes will bring. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I continue to walk this journey.

Yours in Christ,  
Jay Walton



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Hi Father Dave,  
Seminary life, this quarter, is busy as I am taking four classes instead of the normal three. Plus, one class is a doctoral seminar which means more reading than a master's level class. The doctoral class focuses on the Eucharist. Another one of my classes is on the Pentateuch which is the first five books of the Bible. I am in my second quarter of learning the Hebrew language so I can translate parts of the Bible from their original language. My final class is a

counseling elective class on conflict and conciliation which looks at conflicts and how one deals with them. Outside of seminary, I have been active as a youth group volunteer with the church I have been attending since I have arrived in California. My activities include youth group, the confirmation class, and other retreats such as the thirty hour famine.

I do not know what is next for me. I aspire to be ordained as a priest. As I write this, I am getting ready to attend the Pre-Postulancy Conference next weekend. If I get their approval, I will become ordained as a priest; although, I am not sure if it will entail another year at an Episcopal seminary or if I will have to work six months before taking my General Ordination Exams. If I do not get approved, I will have to reconfigure my next steps.

Sincerely,  
Greg Gibson

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Fr. Dave,

I just got your FB message! FB doesn't send emails anymore when you get a message and I always forget to log in to the site to check things. I update my status from an outside client (tweetdeck on my mac).

Anyway, here is a picture and here are a few paragraphs about seminary and what is next for us:

Peace and blessings from Chelsea Square in NYC! This is an exciting time for our family, as Cori and I are busy with school, work, and learning to be new parents. Charlotte is 9 months old and getting bigger and more active by the second. Cori works for General Seminary at the pre-school, and is fortunate to work only one floor below our apartment. Seminary is winding down for me, and this period is one of transition and discernment for us. This past month I took the General Ordination Exams, and once they were completed, I was able to turn my focus to discerning a first call to ministry. While we would like to return to the Diocese of Pennsylvania, we are open to wherever the Holy Spirit may lead us. Your prayers and support are appreciated as we begin to plan our new life and new ministry.

My final semester of seminary is about to begin, and I am very excited for a promising term. I am studying a wide range of topics, from church leadership to eucharistic celebration. My GPA qualified me to do a thesis, and so I am in full swing writing a thesis that combines several of my interests: spirituality, art, and interfaith dialogue. I hope to graduate with Honors in May. My field education is with an exciting parish, St. James, in the diocese of

Newark. This semester I will be leading several adult forums, a Lenten spirituality group, and planning our Holy Week liturgies.

Cori and I miss you all dearly, and eagerly anticipate our next visit to you. God willing and the people consenting, we will be able to update you soon on my approval for ordination including a date to save for my ordination to the transitional diaconate. May the Holy Spirit continue to bring you fullness of life in Christ.

Ben Wallis

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What a journey this has been! I transferred from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia last year to General with desires to enter Holy Orders through the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, but God always surprises us. As many of you by now know, I was denied the opportunity just before Thanksgiving, 2011. My heart was broken and I felt as though I had failed to fulfill the work I was given to do. "What should I do now?" Advent and Christmas have always been my favorite season of the Church year. This year, I found no enthusiasm until I arrived at Church of the Holy Spirit, for the Christmas Eve service. Everything I grieved about somehow began to fill once again in joy.

I went home from the service and opened my Bible. I turned to Hebrews 1:2: *"But in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom God created the world."* As I sat and reflected on this scripture, I remembered something key to my faith. I am God's child. Every cell in my body belongs to God, and God has not abandoned me. God makes no mistakes. I am going to continue to live and serve Christ in this life and I am not going to waste time trying to search for understanding. My continued prayer is quite simple: *God, help me live this day for you-as though it is my last day on this earth and do not let me waste any moments in bitterness and anger; just love.*

Father Dave has asked to give the congregation an update on my seminary experience to share with the congregation. My seminary experiences have been challenging at times, but I am most grateful to all of you-every person of Trinity who has nurtured, prayed, and advised me throughout seminary. Trinity is clearly the manifestation of Christ and when I graduate this May, I can't wait to start giving back to all of you what I have received. This is the time when we give focus to the mission of the church and so I leave you with the words of Dwight Liles who wrote this hymn in 1957: *"We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use*

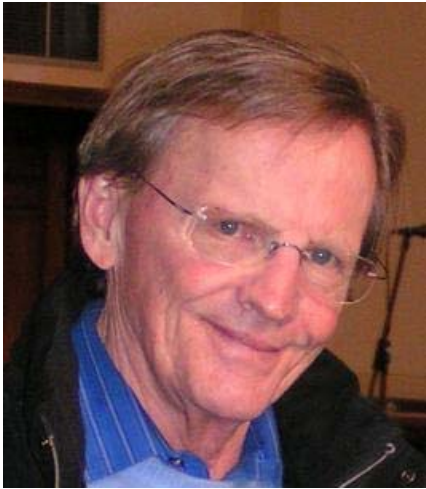
*our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you: we are an offering."*

Judy L. Landis

## **Vestry Candidates**

The following are bios of the candidates running for Vestry.

### **John Guerin**



I am a Clinical, Organizational and Forensic Psychologist. I am also a Mediator and Parent Coordinator, and have recently obtained credentials as a Chartered Financial Consultant and Certified Divorce Financial Analyst. I've been in practice for thirty+ years, and currently operate from an office in Fort Washington.

I come from a large family, and am the second of eleven children. I have three sisters and seven brothers, thirty-one nieces and nephews, and five or six grandnieces. I am honored to be the godfather to four nieces/nephews. I am married to Kathy, who is a financial planner. She and I work together in Envision Wealth Advisors. This is a collaboration that she and I have developed over many years, because we have long realized that there is a deep psychology and emotions that money becomes the crucible for, and an enhanced awareness of the relationship between money and "true" wealth is very important to a good emotional and spiritual life. We have one daughter, Shannon, who will be thirteen on Groundhog Day. She is a young woman of beguiling depth and many talents.

I was raised in the Roman rite, and Kathy was baptized Lutheran and raised in the UCC. We undertook a search for a common ground several years ago, and decided that the Episcopal rite was comfortable for both of us. We began attending Trinity in 2001, but went to every other Episcopal church in the area, some of them several times, before settling upon Trinity. We made our decision to come to Trinity because of the warmth and diversity of the congregation, and the fact that we felt spiritually uplifted after attending services.

I had a difficult time adjusting to any church that sang all of the verses of hymns, as I was not accustomed to that, but I adjusted. The Roman Church seemed to insist upon a more rapid turnover in services.

I have sung in the choir for many years. I served on the Pastoral Care committee for a year or two, I'm not sure how long. I served on the PACM for Ted Olson. Kathy and I have also given trainings in Couples and Money. I had an interest and began an effort to have Trinity serve as an exchange place for custody transfers in high conflict divorce cases, but that effort did not appear to move forward.

### **Kathy Evans**

I am retired from retailing (department stores, small home furnishing shops and an antique shop). I now volunteer at CH Hospital in the Auxiliary, Main Street Fair, co-chair and buyer for the Gift Shop.

My husband and I have been married for 52 years and have 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

I enjoy playing bridge, belong to a Book Club, volunteer at Monkey Business and enjoy spending time in NH.

I have been at Trinity for 10+ years.

I have been involved in the Carnival, Parsons Porch, Rummage Sale, shopping for IFHN guests, shopping for kitchen supplies, coffee hour, and I am a teller.

I came to Trinity because I was invited by Judy Grieve.

What I love most about Trinity is the diversity of the congregation and the wonderful Fr. Dave and Mary.



### **Mark Bilodeau**

I work in drug discovery as a medicinal chemist. I've been married to Kate Early for 21 years and have two boys Tim and Jake. Kate and I coach an Odyssey of the Mind team, foster dogs and enjoy attending our kids' sporting and violin playing events. We have been attending Trinity for about 5 years. (I think!)

I have been involved in coordinating the hosting of the guests from the Inter-faith Hospitality Network since joining the church.

We had been looking for a church home for many years and after visiting Trinity our family finally felt that we had found the place for us. Trinity has a warm, welcoming environment and a great church for our kids.

### **Jessica Fields**

Hello! I'm Jessica, and I am a mom, blessed enough to stay home with my boys, and I'm also a Mary Kay consultant. Before having children, I taught High School English in Maryland and New Jersey. My husband John and I have two young boys; Johnny is 2 1/2 and Reese is 7 months. As a family, we love all things hockey; playing, watching, and for my husband, coaching. We recently got Johnny on the ice and he LOVES it! John and I also enjoy playing golf, and visit Myrtle Beach a couple of times a year to play. Generally, anything involving our family and our friends makes us happy!



We have been attending Trinity for a little over 5 years. I was new to the area and newly engaged, so my first priority was to find a church to join. I had scheduled to visit 5 different churches, but Trinity was the first, and the last, that I visited! I love being a member of Trinity, I was married and both of my sons were baptized here. I have made some amazing friends through the church, and feel truly at home.

I started slowly at Trinity, attending the Saturday evening service (which I highly recommend) and coming sporadically on Sundays. When the carnival came, I decided to help sell tickets, and was so happy to meet so many people! I then began helping with coffee hour and the nursery. I more recently became the junior high teacher for "Living the Good News", which I'm truly enjoying. I have also enjoyed the many fellowship opportunities that Trinity offers. The golf outing and small area meetings were a couple of my favorites! I am truly looking forward to helping serve our Trinity Community, and hope to be able to encourage new membership and young families to find their home here as well!

## Parish Statistics

### *Membership -*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total # of Baptized Persons	506	495	507	499	513

### *Worship Attendance -*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Easter Day Attendance	427	348	366	459	465
Average Sunday Attendance	211	198	199	204	211

### *Church School -*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children in Church School	63	65	60	61	69

### *Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions -*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$262,303	\$262,242	\$283,503	\$292,232	\$310,433

### *Pledges -*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Pledges	137	141	139	136	136
Total Amount Pledged	\$251,617	\$243,262	240,870	278,378	278,658