

2007 Annual Report

Trinity Episcopal Church



January 27, 2008

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
708 SOUTH BETHLEHEM PIKE
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002

www.trinityambler.com

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Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Call to Order
- III. Review of Minutes from previous Annual Meeting
- IV. Remembering those who have died since the last Annual Meeting
- V. Voting for Vestry and Delegates

Lunch Break – We pause after balloting for lunch

- VI. Reports
- VII. 2007 Budget Presentation
- VIII. Recognition of retiring Vestry members: Tim Bauder, Jane Saunders
- IX. Election Results
- X. Closing Prayer

Memorials

Remembering those members of the parish family who have died since the last annual meeting.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer, especially:

Dwight Dundore and Stewart Wagoner

Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

MINUTES FROM THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Jan. 28, 2007

OPENING: Meeting began at 11:35

Sang the "Church's One Foundation"

Prayer offered

Remembered Robert McLemore

Last year's Annual Meeting Minutes were approved

Voting took place for Vestry Members and Deanery and Convention Delegates

Paused for lunch.

MEETING RECONVENED

Fr. Dave thanked the retiring members Dennis Reid, Jill Leiby, and Robin Chambers Dixon.

He announced the voting results:

Deanery and Convention Delegates: Cheryl Bayard, Andrew Pendelton, Stephanie Reid

Deanery and Convention Delegate Alternates: Donald Davis, John Dively, Justin Stroh

Vestry 3 year term: Cheryl Bayard, Ernie Dixon, Karen Reid, Pam Guzzie

Vestry Alternate: Eileen Warren

RECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Fr. Dave drew everyone's attention to the front cover of the Annual Report which showed a bar graph of our increasing attendance over a ten year period. We are growing. This growing is a blessing but it is also a difficult phase. We are becoming too large for our space and having only just one rector. To correct this, we must either become larger or get more members for more pledges to pay for this or we will become smaller. Finding a part time rector and adding space will not be cheap. One of our top priority items was dry Sunday School rooms with a bathroom and running water. We also need to dig up

shrubbery on the far side of the Parish Hall and install a plastic barrier along the basement wall. Through all of this change, we need to keep the mission of love for one another in the forefront.

2. Fr. Dave discussed the new procedure on prayer and asked if there were any questions. None were asked.

FINANCE REPORT-

Dennis Reid

Dennis thanked everyone for their help over the past 6 years.

Recap of 2006

1. Last year we operated with a deficient budget of \$29,000
2. Late summer, were very concerned that it was looking more like a \$30,000 deficient.

At this time, a letter was sent to the congregation explaining the situation.

3. Things brightened in the fall. Pledging increased 105%. Two bequests came in and were not designated to any one area. Special offerings were higher. Expenses were less than anticipated. Utilities were down because of warm weather. Committees kept their expenses down. Did not have to draw down any additional dollars than those already planned for.
4. We can be very proud of our outreach. We budget \$10,000 for outreach. \$15,000 is raised in other areas, the Carnival, fall rummage sale, Christmas table. We contribute \$16,490 to the Diocese which is used for outreach. Our total to outreach is \$41,725.

Investments

1. 2006 was a stellar year for our investments. We saw an 11 ½% increase. Our Fund started when we sold the Boyer House. This was 1.75 million invested with Merrill Lynch. Wendell Barnett was our advisor. When he left Merrill Lynch and went to Wachovia, we followed him with our investments. We were able to save \$5,000 in fees with Wachovia. Wendell had more freedom at Wachovia to adjust our investments. We had 1.5 million and after a 25% draw down, we are still worth 1.12 million today.

2007 Budget

1. Ministry teams presented their budgets. The budget for this year is \$428,108 which represents a 6% growth. The team has pledged not to draw down more than \$110,000. Each year will try to decrease this amount. The budget is still in deficient but is \$26,000 this year which is \$3,000 less than last year.
2. Goals for the future are to figure out ways to get to a balanced budget and ways to raise more money and to cut down expenses.
3. Annual pledge to the diocese. We are putting the money aside. But will withhold funding until the matter with the Bishop is resolved. We will start a new account with Wachovia to hold this money.
4. Dennis thanked Fr. Dave, the Vestry and the Ministry teams. He also thanked John Dziel for handling the day to day financial items of the church.

Meeting Continues with Fr. Dave

1. Our size church—200 a Sunday. Have to spend more than we have. Need to get to 250 to get to be large enough to get the money needed. The average size of an Episcopal church is 75 people a Sunday.
2. Issue with Bishop-The Standing Committee made a complaint to the Presiding Bishop about the spending of certain funds. She has until Feb. 6 to refuse it or turn it over to the House of Bishops
3. The issue of the Sexual Abuse has been turned over to the National Church since 4 Bishops were involved in the cover up.
4. Next Vestry meeting in Feb. - the Bishop has asked to attend.

Ended at 12:55 with the enthusiastic singing of “Lift High the Cross”.

Candidates for Vestry



Sue Adair

My first visit to Trinity was the second Sunday of Fr. Dave’s arrival as our priest. I had known him for several years before and as I was looking for a new church “home”, this was a very happy experience. By the third Sunday I was in the choir, having also known Steve Schreiber for years. But the most moving part of my first visits was all the other people here who were warm, welcoming, and genuine. I quickly felt at home!

I have had the privilege of owning a small business, Feast and Fancy Inc, in Spring House, where, by the Grace of God, I have wonderful customers and great employees. We are starting our 24th year in business.

In addition, my interests include being a Grammie (3 girls, 1 boy), all things culinary, music, and quilting.

I am active in the choir and as a “reader.” I am also involved in our healing prayer ministry and our ongoing intercessory prayers. In the last three years on the Vestry I have been involved with Pastoral Care and the Worship Committee.

I can rejoice in the wonderful growth of our Parish family – our amazing friendliness and caring among young and old alike, and our willingness to involve ourselves and our families in so many diverse activities.

Thanks be to God!



Barb Davis

A life-long Episcopalian, Barb has been a member of Trinity for almost 15 years, and she and Bill were married here 12 years ago. Barb has one daughter, Erica, who is now 9 years old. She also has 2 step-children (Laura is 25 and Liam is 21). She is a speech therapist, and works 3 days a week with preschoolers. In her free time she likes to sew and quilt, read and play the piano.

Barb is a past member of the vestry, where she served two terms. She has been involved in many various ministries through the years. She is currently doing her third year of EFM. Barb sings in the choir, and also is on the Human

Resources Committee.



Brian O. Phillips

It is an honor for me to be nominated to serve on the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church. Trinity has been an important part of my life since I moved up to the Philadelphia area from Washington, DC. I started attending services at Trinity in the spring of 2003, and was received by Bishop Coleridge in February of 2004. I was originally drawn to Trinity because of the traditional, liturgical service, the beautiful music, and Father Dave’s thoughtful sermons. From the start, I felt welcome at Trinity and loved the sense of community at the Church. My wife, Megan, and I were married at Trinity in October of 2004.

I am grateful for all the opportunities for service that Trinity has afforded me. Since joining Trinity Church I have served as a lay reader, a ministry I particularly enjoy. I’ve been the DJ at 3 or 4 Trinity Carnivals, helped out with grounds and church maintenance, and have been the “official” photographer for the photo wall and other Church needs and events.

After I moved up from Washington I had the crazy idea to change careers and go to law school. When family and friends would ask why, after 12 years of working in the documentary film/video business I decided to go to law school, I would respond with a verse from Luke's Gospel, chapter 12. During my first semester, Father Dave gave a sermon on this chapter in Luke and I realized that this verse was the answer to the question: "From those to whom much has been given, much is expected."

I believe everyone at Trinity has gifts and talents which can and should be tapped so that we can serve our neighbors, as Christ has taught us. As a vestry member, I would seek to tap the vast resources that we have in Trinity's members, so that our programs of community outreach and service can be successful, and can be expanded.

I truly appreciate your consideration of me as a member of the Vestry for Trinity Episcopal Church.



Piers Prater

Jennifer and I have been members of Trinity Episcopal Church for seven years. We reside in North Wales and have two sons, Ryan and Adam. Outside of Trinity I am involved as an Assistant Den Leader for Adam in the Pack 84 Tiger Cubs in North Wales and volunteer regularly with the North Penn Aquatic Club for Ryan. Professionally my background includes 10 years in the Landscaping industry and 13 years in the Relocation industry.

I was approached three years ago about joining the Vestry. Upon election in my first year I oversaw the Mission and Outreach Committee. This role allowed me the opportunity to learn just how involved our congregation is in the surrounding community. Then in my following two years I was given the chance to work with the energetic and talented Laura Gergen on the Property Committee. This has proven to be a ministry in need of attention. Thanks to the dedicated crew of Trinity volunteers we have made tremendous headway in addressing many of the issues on the property. However, not to be outdone our agenda is again full for 2008.

I have greatly enjoyed learning all that I have about the church and its members while being part of a cohesive Vestry Committee that diligently works to solve whatever issue it put on the table. High praises must be given for the fact that all Vestry members routinely work together for the common good of the church while always respecting the opinions and concerns of others. These credentials provide a positive atmosphere in which to work together for the prosperity of Trinity Ambler.

I look forward to continuing this endeavor and serving Trinity Church for the next three years on the Vestry Committee.

Candidates for Convention

Nolan Atkinson

Eddie Black

Donald Davis

Karynjean Dickhoff

Jan Jones

Ben Wallis

The Rector's Report

Fr Dave Canan

FELLOWSHIP

In the baptismal covenant we promise to devote ourselves to the apostles teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of the bread and the prayers. The basis of that baptismal promise is from a description of the earliest church in the Book of Acts.

In Greek, the language of the New Testament, the word for fellowship is koinonia. The essential meaning of koinonia embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms: fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, sharing and intimacy. The word appears 19 times in most editions of the Greek New Testament. In the [New Testament](#), the basis of fellowship begins with a mystical joining of [Jesus Christ](#) with each believer. This union is to be experienced in practical daily life. The same bonds that link the individual to [Jesus](#) also link him or her with other believers. The [New Testament](#) letters describe those bonds as so vital and genuine that a deep level of intimacy can be experienced among the members of a local church.

That's what I desire for Trinity Church: bonds so vital and genuine that deep levels of intimacy with God and one another can be experienced among our members.

A couple of months ago one of our every Sunday members was very hurt. She had been absent 8 Sundays and I hadn't noticed. I was devastated by my oversight because I cherish this person. This was not the first or only person whose absence I didn't notice and I pray that it won't be the last. I was just thankful that this member did not leave us.

As I was beating myself up because of this oversight a colleague reminded me that it's not just the Rector, but every member of Trinity Church, who is responsible for our community. This colleague also reminded me that in a parish of our size we must be very intentional in developing "systems" for our mutual care.

To strengthen, deepen, and provide for meaningful fellowship at Trinity Church we are implementing several practices.

1. Every member or family who has not been in church for one month will be contacted by me or a vestry member to make sure everything is alright and what we might do to help them get to church.
2. We will offer several welcome classes each year to orient newcomers to Trinity church, allow them to meet parish leaders, and to connect them to people and ministries at the church.
3. We will provide more opportunities for members to get to know each other like dinners or outreach projects.
4. We will continue to provide small group opportunities where relationships are formed like mid-week Eucharists, Bible studies, the choir, and Education for Ministry.

Now here's what our leaders and each one of our members need to do so that we will have meaningful fellowship.

1. Attend Church regularly; regularly is most Sundays.
2. Become involved in a small group worship, study, fellowship or ministry.
3. Introduce yourself to people you don't know. That's the work of every one of us no matter if we have been here 3 weeks or 30 years.
4. Let me or a vestry member know if you see someone is missing. We'll follow up. Let us know when someone is hurting.
5. If you have a need, let us know; this church loves to care for its members but we have to know!!
6. Saving the most important for the last, because of that mystical union with Jesus part of koinonia is to practice the essential Christian disciplines of daily prayer and scripture meditation.

That's it; that's my vision for 2008. Koinonia.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dave

The Rector's Warden Report

Jane Saunders

Fellowship, or koinonia, is the theme for this year's annual meeting. In a church, community and fellowship work and exist together to be effective. The parishioners that make up a church must be in community and fellowship with each other to practice the work of Christ. This has always been true. Christ shows us this in the Bible, in fact when telling his disciples to spread the word; he sent them out in pairs. Followers of Christ, then and now, work and share their experiences together.

For the past 10 years, Trinity has continued to grow into a welcoming and friendly church. That is a direct reflection on our members and Fr Dave. Everyone at Trinity has worked hard and volunteered for many ministries to help our church grow. Now Trinity has reached an important stage of development. We are currently at a size that is the most difficult to keep track of individuals and how they are doing in their lives away from Trinity. It was easy when 100 people came to church on Sunday, but in 2007 we averaged 211 each week.

This is where koinonia, or fellowship, comes in. As Fr Dave states in his report, each of us must become more conscious of everyone around us. The best way to do this is to become active in small groups and ministries. Some ministries Trinity offers are listed in the annual report. There is also a ministries pamphlet in the narthex and online that describes various ones in which to become involved. A lot of ministries come from an idea that a parishioner has. One person can make a difference with new ideas or new ways to do what we are currently working on. Trinity has everything from mission and outreach ministries to crafting ministries. Each ministry should become a small community where we look out and care for one another. Where we can share with each other. If you can't commit to one particular group at this time, parish dinners are being planned. These are always fun and a fabulous way to meet other parishioners. If anyone would like help finding a ministry that is right for them, I would be happy to assist.

We should all be proud of everything we have accomplished at Trinity. The youth ministries are growing. The music program is thriving. There are services 5 days a week. There are two Education for Ministry classes. There is a Bible Study class offered. A strong and devoted core of LEMs take communion to the sick and homebound. We have a weekly Lenten program offered each year. Basically, there is always something happening everyday at Trinity.

On a personal note, as I am leaving my Vestry ministry after seven years I would like to thank Fr Dave and everyone I have worked with these years. I very special thank you to John Dziel, Sheila Bistany, and Eddie Black for all the help they have been to me. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve on Vestry and I encourage everyone to think of serving Trinity in this way.

The Accounting Warden's Report

Ernest Dixon

Trinity Ambler continues to be financially solid! Although 2007 presented financial challenges, we met all financial obligations and our investments appreciated over the past year. Our total 2007 operating budget was \$420,852. Our pledge and plate offerings total just over \$271,000, which was an increase of 5% over 2006. We successfully funded various outreach programs (approximately \$32,000) from our operating budget and through parish events including the Carnival, rummage sale and Christmas craft fair. **We funded various maintenance projects including a new basement bathroom.** Our investments totaled \$1,841,123, which increased approximately 7% over the past year.

Key Points in 2008 and Beyond:

- The 2008 operating budget is \$445,814. It includes a spending deficit of approximately \$25,000. Past budgets have included deficits and we overcame these deficits through reduced spending and higher income (plate, pledges, bequests, etc). In 2007, however, our deficit was partially covered by an increase in withdrawals from our investments (\$6,000). This year, we expect to cover our deficit without increasing our planned withdrawals from our investments. We will continue to count on your pledges and gifts.
- As in the past, withdrawal from our Boyer Fund investment makes up a considerable portion of our operating income. The balance in the Fund as of 31 December 2007 is \$963,372. In 2007, we withdrew \$120,000 from the Fund, which represented 28.5% of our operating income. For 2008, we plan to withdraw \$114,000, which is 27.1% of our operating income. Although the trend is positive, we must strive to reduce our withdrawals from investments to cover operating expenses. A withdrawal rate equal to 25% of budgeted income shows no immediate problem. However, if we will continue to withdraw at this rate, the Fund will be exhausted in about 10 years.
- Ministry leaders and their teams have done an excellent job raising money for ministries and controlling expenses. We - the entire congregation - should be proud of our achievements. We look forward to continued leadership and support.

2007 Operating Budget Recap:

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Notes
Income	\$401,750	\$420,852	\$19,102	Actual inclds \$10,000 additional transfer from Boyer Fund
Expenses	(\$428,108)	(\$416,713)	\$11,395	
Net	(\$26,358)	\$4,139		

Highlights and Major Factors for Variance:

- Income – First Sunday Plate Offerings (Rectors Discretionary Fund) higher than planned by approximately \$10,000
- Income – Pledge income lower than plan by approximately \$8,400
- Income – Additional \$10,000 transferred from Boyer Fund to cover expected end of the year deficit
- Expenses – Clergy higher than plan due to hiring of deacon, approximately \$4,000
- RDF income was \$10,686, more than twice the amount in 2006.

2007 Mission and Outreach Recap

	Actual
Income	\$32,036
Expenses	(\$28,720)
Net	\$3,316

2007 Episcopal Youth Mission Recap

	Actual
Income	\$32,208
Expenses	(\$33,606)
Net	(\$1,398)

Highlights:

- Net proceeds from events were: Carnival - \$13,000, Rummage Sale - \$3,600, and Christmas Craft Fair - \$650

2007 Investment Performance Recap

Fund	Balance as of 31 Dec 2006	Balance as of 31 Dec 2007	Deposits/ (Withdrawals) in 2007	Investment Return
Endowment	\$708,477	\$758,683	\$0	7.1%
Scholarship	\$12,197	\$13,258	\$0	8.7%
Sylvan Handley	\$99,568	\$105,810	\$0	6.3%
Boyer Operating	\$1,012,569	\$963,372	(\$120,000)	7.0%
Totals	\$1,832,811	\$1,841,123	(\$120,000)	7.0%

2008 Operating Budget:

	Budget
Income	\$420,750
Expenses	(\$445,814)
Net	(\$25,064)

Highlights:

- Pledge income of \$275,000 is 65% of budgeted income.
- Transfers of \$114,000 from the Boyer Operating fund is 27% of budgeted income.
- Mission and Outreach receive \$10,000 from operating budget for Ambler Food Cupboard, Interfaith, Real Men Cook, Five Talents and ECS.
- Church door replacement budgeted

The Music Director's Report

Stephen Schreiber

The year 2007 was an exciting time for the music program here at Trinity. The music department 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 continues to grow and provides evidence of the health and vitality of the parish.

The Choirs:

The choir system at Trinity is comprised of three choirs, the Cherub Choir for children younger than eight years of age, the Youth Choir, which includes those 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 parts of the worship service. Their presentation of anthems and other music enhances the services and, hopefully, inspires the congregation.

The Cherub Choir is comprised largely of enthusiastic children in Godly Play. Under the direction of Maureen McCauley with occasional assistance from Barb Davis and Mindy Cutcher, these children sing usually on the first Sunday of the month. Maureen is always looking for assistance, so if you'd like to help, please contact her.

One of the exciting things that occurred in the music department this past fall was the revival of the Youth Choir. We now have enough people to form a viable choir. They meet and rehearse for a brief time on Sundays following the Eucharist. My wish would be that older youth would join the choir, but older youth become increasingly active young adults, and there is just no time in their schedules for rehearsing.

The Trinity Choir continues to experience growth in membership, and now consists of 33 members when all are present. Two additional people have indicated that they will shortly join the choir. For me, this is very exciting as well as gratifying. 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. 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, Doug Purvis and Joe DeTato. The Trinity Choir has two section leaders: Andrea Petska, Alto, and Herb Ruzann, Bass. The search for a tenor section leader continues. The choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 and sings from the Sunday after Labor Day to the end of 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, and Nancy Dixon, who helps as the Trinity Choir's librarian.

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, John Dively, Patricia Martin, Maureen McCauley and Joe DeTato. Special thanks go to Ernest Wells, who occasionally substitutes for the Director of Music and helped accompany an anthem at the Trinity Choir's Christmas Concert.

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. It continues to be maintained by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates, Inc. 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. 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 are all maintained by George Husted of North Wales.

Conclusion:

The Music Department, in conclusion, had an active year. Trinity's annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols was presented on December 2. A new Christmas Pageant, "Christmas with St. Mary," in conjunction with the Church School, was presented on December 16 with much success, followed in the afternoon by a spectacular concert given by the Trinity Choir and soloists and instrumentalists. This is in addition to the other Sundays and commemorative events of the Church Year, such as Ash Wednesday and the Vigil of Easter.

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. I am honored and yet grateful to be part of this organization.

The Grace of Our Lord be with you.

Parish Statistics

Membership – Growing – Parish list has been updated this year to reflect “active” members.

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total # of Baptized Persons	406	422	463	506

Worship Attendance –

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Easter Day Attendance	440	395	408	427
Average Sunday Attendance	196	199	216	211

Church School – Holding steady

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Children in Church School	51	45	49	63

Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions –

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$211,201	\$240,799	\$255,175	\$262,303

Pledges –

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of Pledges	127	138	132	137
Total Amount Pledged	\$164,667	\$227,066	\$241,012	\$251,617

Other – The Carnival continues to be a great community event, providing substantial funds to Mission & Outreach!

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Community Carnival Proceeds	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$13,350

Committee Reports

Adult Formation

Cheryl Bayard

We offer a variety of ways for adults to continue their spiritual journey here at Trinity Ambler. Year round programs include EFM-“Education for Ministry” which is a four year program of Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology. And a separate group that is doing a bible study of the Synoptic Gospels. EFM has two separate sessions; one on Monday evening and one Wednesday morning. The EFM mentors are Fr. Dave, Jeff Lawrence, Al Mathis and Jay Walton. The bible study group is lead by Karen Reid and meets Friday at noon.

Last year on March 9 and 10, we held a Discovery Workshop which was a two day seminar exploring such questions as: Why are we here? What do we do best? What do we value? This workshop will be repeated in 2008. We had a quiet day in Lent and in Advent. The one in Lent was sponsored by the Diocese and the one in Advent was put on by our own members. Both were dealing with spirituality and creativity.

We had a variety of offerings during the Wednesdays in Lent. We began with a potluck supper and ended with the Stations of the Cross. In between, children, youth and adults had a variety of choices. Eddie Black led a discussion on 5 DVDs on the Foundation of Christianity: Mystery, Conversion, Faith, Hope and Love. Another group lead by Ben Wallis did a more in depth discussion of The Secret Message of Jesus by Brian McLaren. A third group packaged 50 meals each evening to be sent to ECS for distribution to homebound people. The young people finished the paintings of the Stations of Jesus Life lead by Cheryl Bayard and Samantha Guzzie and Kelly Rupperecht lead the youth in a special Lenten activity. Also during Lent, a series of DVDs and discussions on such topics as what kind of power does God have? were held on Sunday evening after the Come as you are Service.

On July 27, a potluck supper and a discussion of the book The Velvet Elvis by Rob Bell was held. On Aug. 31, a potluck supper and a discussion of the book Not on Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond was held. The Daughters of the King had a retreat on Oct 12 thru Oct 14 entitled A Closer Walk with God for Women on the Run. And on Nov. 26, a group from Trinity Ambler went to hear Rob Bell’s speaking tour on “The Gods Aren’t Angry”.

Altar Guild

Karen Reid

Imagine coming into Church when no one is here... it is peaceful and quiet.....and in this beautiful setting, you set about preparing for the worship of our Lord. It is a ministry that thousands have done before you, for centuries, in all manner of places...tiny country churches, prisons, grand cathedrals, at sea, on the battlefield, in hospitals, by a lake, in a cellar during the 1st century....

It is a ministry that never grows old or tiring, even during the busiest times of the Church year. What makes this a joy and not a job is that the focus is on God - we are preparing for Him.

Sure, there is work to do – polishing silver and brass, changing candles and removing candle wax from places that don't even see the light of day! Linens need washing and ironing, wine and wafers are always being ordered, and it's a job to keep the votive holders filled in the Holy Family Chapel! We have 5 different services during a normal week that use 5 different communion sets – try and keep that straight! At Christmas and Easter, the Sanctuary gets turned inside out and upside down for all of the cleaning and polishing we do, and yet, it is our favorite time!

Thank you to my fellow Altar Guild members:

Cheryl Bayard	Annette Irvin
Adele Butler	Nancy McGarvey
Evelyn Carpenter	Susan Ody
Veronica Gallwey	Pat Pfeifer
Joan Goodhart	Cathy Reid
Veronica Grogan	Eileen Warren

Jill Hayes

Cheryl Bayard, Veronica Gallwey and Evelyn Carpenter have taken on the extra job of washing and ironing all of the linens, and we all thank them for this task done so well. Evelyn also has the job of organizing donors for the flowers on the Altar and then ensuring that the flowers are delivered to shut-ins. Thank you, Evelyn.

Please talk to any of these Altar Guild members or to myself, if you would like to join us in this Ministry – we welcome all men and women from the 8:00, 10:00 or 5:00 services. No experience is necessary!

Carnival

Carol Allsop

Trinity showed its wonderful community spirit again during our 4 days of the Trinity Carnival, resulting in making \$13,350.00, to be used towards Mission and Outreach and the Sylvan fund.

Several months of preparation led up to 4 days of hard work, community spirit, family fun on the carnival rides, lots of good food, and a chance to get to know one another better.

Everyone who headed up a committee group from canvassing area businesses for the Parson's Porch, set up, tear down, ordering and cooking mountains of food, tellers and runners that kept the financial side in order, white elephant sale, bake sale, music and announcements and entertainment, security, truly deserve a huge thank you. I could not have asked to work with a better group of dedicated people.

Unfortunately we again had a nasty incident with teenagers on Thursday night. The police were involved and several teens were arrested. Because of this we added more paid police security on Friday and Saturday Carnival times. Increasing our budget on security, which of course affected profit.

Because of the above incident, and at a meeting after the Carnival, it was decided by Father Dave, the Vestry and input from the committee that we will not have another Carnival at Trinity. We simply cannot risk the safety of everyone who participates in this event from the youngest to the oldest.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make our last Carnival wonderful memory.

Church School

Carol Allsop

We have had another great year with our Church School Children. It is always a privilege to work with the children and watch them grasp the meaning of scripture through Godly Play and then build on this knowledge and begin to test their own spiritual growth. By the time they are in 4th grade and up, they can ask some pretty daunting questions. We are truly blessed here at Trinity to have so many families who make Church and Church School a commitment both on Sunday and through out the week.

Over the summer we cleaned out a storage room for Church School and made another class room. The dumpster got well fed and we have a lovely new room. Thanks to Fred Allsop for all his hard work on this project.

But the best gift we received this year IS OUR NEW BATHROOM, now this may not sound to exciting to most of you, but now we do not have to climb 2 flights of stairs to take a child to the bathroom, and we can do some messy projects that require clean up and hand washing. Father Dave blessed the bathroom after church in September. Thank you to David Manchester and his crew for making this possible.

With our new room we again re-structured our classes. As we keep growing in size we need to adjust the class rooms accordingly. We now have Godly Play for ages 4-1st grade, and a separate class for grades 2-3. The fourth and fifth graders have been using a new curriculum called Exploring the Bible. which they and Bernadette Baird, their teacher, love.

The sixth graders and above have class with Kelly our Youth leader.

We continued with our Cherub choir singing on the first Sunday of the month. They also learned the first verse of 4 Christmas Carol's to sing at the Advent Candle.

The Christmas Pageant, St. Mary, was the highlight of the year. This is the third pageant researched and written by Trinity parishioners Eleanor Sypher and Darrell Walters. We truly have some talent amongst our children and adult parishioners. Everyone was a star on Sunday December 15th.

As always this program could not be continued in any way without the support and time of the teachers, doorkeepers and others who help to keep the program going on a weekly basis.

Communications

Tim Bauder

One of the difficult aspects of publishing the Chimes newsletter and maintaining the web site is the lack of feedback. It's hard to know what people think of the way things are being done in the absence of any input. So early in the year we solicited feedback about the Chimes by handing out a short questionnaire. The majority of the comments about the contents of the Chimes were positive so we seem to be on the right track.

Several years ago we stopped mailing out the Chimes to every parishioner and made it available for downloading from the web site. An email notice let everyone know when a new issue was available. The primary goal was to reduce the mailing costs and to a lesser extent the printing costs for distributing each issue and to allow the Chimes to be viewed in full color (we were only printing in black and white at the time). For anyone still wishing to receive a printed copy in the mail we maintained a list for mailing. It occurred to the committee that we had no way to measure whether or not people in the parish were actually taking the time to download the Chimes and read it. So we included a section on the questionnaire to assess preferences for receiving the Chimes. What we found is that the vast majority of parishioners would prefer a printed copy. In fact most of the people that had requested a copy mailed to their homes really just wanted a printed copy so that they did not have to download it and were willing to pick it up on Sunday morning to help save the mailing costs. Based on this feedback we adopted a practice of printing a large number of full color copies for distribution in the narthex. Our cost to print these in color has come down significantly in recent years so it is no longer prohibitive to do so. A holder was placed on the wall to the right of the main doors as you exit the Narthex toward the parking lot and it contains the current issue as well as some back issues. We still send out the emails and the current and past issues of the Chimes are available on the web site for download at any time. In addition anyone who wants the Chimes mailed to them may still receive it by contacting the office. We hope that this will strike the proper balance of making it convenient for everyone to obtain the Chimes while still controlling costs.

John Dziel continues to update our web site and add new items. This is another area where we receive very little feedback so please let us know if you have ideas for improvements in any area.

Web site suggestions office@trinityambler.com

Chimes suggestions chimes@trinityambler.com

Daughters of the King

Carol Swajkos

CARA CHAPTER ANAM

The Anam Cara Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) has continued to grow and serve our parish. During 2007, our accomplishments included the training and installation of eight new members in July. Our membership now numbers 23 Daughters, with two Daughters-at-Large, Karynjean Dickhoff and Denise Elliott, who have moved to different locations. We miss them both dearly.

Currently, our chapter offers two meeting times for prayer and Bible study. One group meets at 7:00 PM in the Rectory on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of the month. The other group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 10:00 AM in Trinity's Conference Room. Several times during the year, we have a Saturday morning meeting so that all members can meet together for worship, study and brunch. Our last Saturday gathering was on November 10th and two more are planned for the winter and spring of 2008.

Throughout this year, we have continued our prayer ministry to the parish. We have also served our parish by preparing small welcome baskets and delivering them to families who had visited on a Sunday morning. Each basket contains homemade baked goods and literature about Trinity Church. During 2007, we delivered approximately 26 baskets. Our chapter also contributed a basket of goodies for our parish carnival Parson's Porch.

Since the beginning of this fall, our chapter has participated in Trinity's Ministry Fair and sponsored our Third Annual Women's Retreat the weekend of October 12-14 at St. Marguerite's Retreat House in Mendham, NJ. Twenty-eight (28) women attended this year's retreat! The retreat planning committee and Reverend Maxine Maddox-Dorneman chose the theme "A Closer Walk with God for Women on the Run" and began preparing for the retreat last spring. For the retreat, Maxine asked us to bring our favorite coffee/tea mug and we shared stories about our mugs. During the weekend, our empty mugs were filled with words of wisdom from Maxine on topics including "openness", "brokenness", "compassion" and "fulfillment". She also taught us the technique of the "breath prayer", especially wonderful for all of us on the run. Ginny Guyer, our "Music Czarina", and Nina Greco led us in making joyful noises and songs to the Lord! On Saturday, we had the opportunity to participate in a video being made for the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, take a tour of the convent, and participate in Vespers in the convent chapel. The afternoon also included time for quiet meditation, reading, naps, and walks around the lovely grounds and labyrinth. In addition, there were special times for relaxation, conversations, laughter, sing-alongs and beauty treatments. As we left St. Marguerite's on Sunday, plans were already being made for our retreat in October 2008!

Mission and Outreach

Ed Mahler

Trinity Ambler continued its dedication to Mission & Outreach activities in 2007. We met our outreach goals of helping people locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. A lot of what everyone does weekly at Trinity is Mission and Outreach. Here is some of what we accomplished in the community.

Again last year we successfully hosted a family of a mom and dad and six children in April in our annual participation in the Inter Faith Housing Network. We did it with many of you who graciously volunteered in providing dinners, transportation, linen laundering, and overnight company to the Family. For Easter, the Outreach budget provided money to purchase Easter basket items for all of the children.

A happy note: soon after the family left church they found affordable housing in Ambler and settled into a new home. The mother who had been pregnant in April, had her baby in June and a few volunteers from Trinity brought her meals to make things easier for the family. A true example of our compassion and

willingness to help. We have Mark Bilodeau to thank for coordinating this most successful effort with an assist from his wife Kate and of course many of you.

Next, we gave financial assistance again to both The Community Cupboard and Inter Faith Housing giving each \$2400 over the course of the year.

Real Men Cook again prepared frozen meals and soups for, Aid for Friends in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties for which we contributed \$700.

Over the year we also gave \$2400 to Episcopal Services to carry on their essential work.

The 2007 Spring Carnival afforded us \$7500 to allocate among seven worthy recipients. They were: \$2000 to the Diocese of Mississippi to carry on their rebuilding work, \$1000 to Chester Eastside, \$1050 to MWMBBA (an organization dedicated to helping talented young women and men receive an education they would never have been able to realize without help), \$1000 to Campus Ministries(and organization to lead college youth into a closer relationship with Christ), \$1000 to the Church Of The Advocate (an organization who along with other churches serves hot meals to 150 to 200 people per day among other community activities), \$1000 to our Seminarian Karynjean Dickoff and \$450 to the Visiting Nurse Association to help a local disabled family make their house completely clean and livable.

From the above report you may see that our Mission & Outreach activities are in full swing and we may be proud of our accomplishments while realizing there is more we can do in 2008.

A final note: Steve Chester and I had an opportunity to deliver a number of Christmas gifts to a mother with six children living in Ambler. The look of amazement, joy, gratitude on her face showed how vital and rewarding Outreach can be.

Parish Life

Eileen Warren and Karen Reid

When you arrive at Church on Sunday morning, isn't it wonderful to smell coffee brewing!

If we smell coffee brewing, we know that after our time together in Worship we will be able to continue our fellowship together in the Parish Hall at Coffee Hour. Thanks to the following 20 fellow parishioners (and others who sign up for the summer) we have hot coffee and delicious, savory treats for snacks:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Bunny Ashmore | Diana Griffith | Cathy Reid |
| Elizabeth Atkinson | Veronica Grogan | Karen Reid |
| Evelyn Carpenter | Janet Himes | Barbara Shields |
| Kathleen Chester | Skip Kershner | Carol Szwajkos |
| Becky Curlett | Jill Leiby | Eileen Warren |
| Laura Gergen | Carol and Solon Morgan | Liz Wendt |
| | Nancy Militello | |

We are also blessed to have two parishioners, Barbara Shields and Nancy Militello, who coordinate funeral receptions and lunches. This is an important and gracious ministry to the family of the deceased and a great help to the Hospitality Coordinator.

In the fall of 2007, Eileen Warren assumed the responsibility for coordinating the Parish Life offerings at Trinity. If you would like to join the Hospitality Team and help to get the coffee brewing, please talk to Eileen!

Pastoral Care

Addie M. Johnson

The Pastoral Care program at Trinity offers several essential services structured to address the needs and concerns of all members of our Trinity Family.

- *Lay Eucharistic Visitors/Ministers*

The ministry of this group serves to expand and supplement the work of the rector. Roger Clarke, Al Mathis, Addie Johnson, Scotti Kershner, and Rita Detweiler minister and bring communion to Trinity members who are unable to attend Mass. Our Eucharistic Ministers visit a number of different parishioners on a continuous basis both at home and in hospital/hospice situations.

Our group has also engaged in several seminars this year to expand our knowledge base in serving our parishioners thereby improving our abilities in providing this ministry.

- *Trinity's Parish Nurse*

Mrs. Jennifer Prater faithfully continues to serve our Trinity Family in this capacity by providing knowledge and information regarding available medical services in Montgomery County. She has enabled both individuals and families to access services specific to their needs.

- *Meals for Individuals and Families in Special Circumstances*

Mrs. Lynda Basham and Mrs. Annette Irvin coordinate the volunteers who provide this periodically much needed ministry to our parishioners. Persons in need of these services contact Fr. Dave for a referral to this committee. This year we have served several individuals and families.

- *Transportation for our Elderly and Disabled*

Need a ride to church for Mass? Kindly contact Mr. Stephen Chester or Mr. Roy Irwin for assistance. Kudos to Mr. Chester who brings a parishioner to church on a regular basis.

- *Parents of Teens Library and Websites*

The library is located directly beneath the mailboxes in the Narthex. Especially selected texts that address adolescent guidance are available for borrowing. Parents who have borrowed texts and left mini-reviews have helped other borrowers.

Newer texts have been added to the original collections that address specific problems of young people; some discuss problems elementary school students face i.e., bullying and/or teasing. Others assist specific family and youngster needs such as improved relationships of separated/divorced households. Yet others serve to provide advice on strengthening mother-daughter and father-son relationships.

If you borrow a book, kindly leave a brief review for the next parent. We ask that parents pre-read all texts that are written expressly for teens to ascertain that the philosophy coincides with that of their family.

Book reviews are now being posted in the Chimes. Useful websites addressing adolescent/parent assistance are listed on the Chimes Winter 2006 Pastoral Care Corner; these are still applicable to today's situation.

Property

Piers Prater and Laura Gergen

Similar to our congregation here at Trinity, over the course of 2007 the Property Committee has continued its upward momentum. Our diligent and dedicated small group of volunteers has once again gone above and beyond to improve our building and grounds for everyone to enjoy.

The Property Committee has again tackled some very necessary and large scale projects that have saved Trinity an extensive amount of money. Aside from the ongoing leak-prevention in the buildings and general painting and light bulb maintenance, the volunteer crew completed the following:

- Spring Clean-up of the Grounds.
- Sealing of the Sanctuary floor.
- Mulching the outside landscape beds over the summer.
- Installation of the church kitchen garbage disposal.
- Installation of the Church School restroom in the basement.
- Fall Clean-up and extensive small stump removal.
- Installation of weed-mat and decorative stone outside around the office air handling units.
- Pruning of the Oak trees along Bethlehem Pike for liability reasons.
- Installation of a water softener system in the Rectory.
- Overdue installation of drainage devices around the Rectory allowing for a dry basement, the first time in years!
- An involved and extremely laborious job of grading a drainage swale on the parking lot side of the rectory in November.
- Partial completion of paving over the handicapped-access at the rear entrance of the church.

Although this list is far from complete, it does exemplify the efforts of our volunteers. Thank you one and all for your time and talents you have given to Trinity in 2007.

A huge thank you must also be extended to the Finance Committee and Jay Walton. The Finance Committee has diligently worked to accommodate Property's request for funds into the budget the last two years. We have put in extensive time to realize the actual needs of the property and include those projects in the proposed budget. Without the support and effort of the Finance Committee, the property would be far from its present level of well-being. Additionally, Jay Walton has personally completed an extreme amount of work while living in the church cottage. Aside from assisting with weed pulling and the planting of

annuals, he has cut down overgrown brush, had the interior of the cottage completely painted and has worked at clearing out the leftover debris and old appliances in the basement from years past. *Thank you.*

The coming months are set to be just as busy for the Property Committee. Again, we have plans for completing projects that are very much needed. Some of these projects are: resolving the drainage problem on the Rhododendron-side of the Parish Hall, removing the carpet and installing commercial tile floors in the remaining church school rooms, inspecting and possibly replacing the Cottage furnace, seal coating and striping the parking lot all while continuing with the outside grounds maintenance, roofing needs on all buildings, indoor painting projects, and ceiling tile / light bulb replacement needs throughout the buildings.

If you have any time to help, have talents that compliment any of the past or future projects, or simply like to see immediate results for your effort, please speak with one of us or a member of the Property Committee.

Stewardship

Nancy McGarvey

The mission of the Stewardship Team is to help the entire congregation understand that everything we have is a gift from God. Our time, talent, and treasure are all freely given by God and as good stewards we will share these gifts as much as possible with others in honor of him.

The weekend of March 9/10, 2007 found 30 members of the congregation gathered at the Lifekeys Discovery Workshop sponsored by the Stewardship Team. Presented by Fr. Dave, Eddie Black, and Ed Mahler the workshop is designed to help participants discern their gifts and how and where those gifts might be best used.

The Stewardship Team attended the Province I conference, "From Fear to Grace". This was the third time the team attended this conference for stewardship, evangelism, and congregational development. It is a good place to exchange ideas and pick up new insights.

The Ministries Fair in September has become an annual tradition now. This is a great opportunity for everyone to meet and greet each other, get to know the ministry leaders and decide which opportunities are best for them. We encourage folks to sign up at the Fair, but anyone can sign on to any ministry at any time. Current copies of the *Servant Ministries* booklet are available in the Narthex (or online); this booklet outlines all the various opportunities available.

We've continued the column "Stewardship: It's Not (Always) About the Money in the *Chimes*. This column touches on all facets of stewardship, almost always avoiding the topic of money!

Our pledge campaign theme this year was First Fruits and we'd like to thank everyone for their willing participation. As of this date we have had a total of 140 pledges, totaling \$241,088. Since this parish depends heavily on its pledged income we thank everyone who has shown their strong commitment to the church by making a pledge.

Thanks be to God!

Stewardship Team members: Carole Allsop, Dave Canan, John Dively, Scottie Kershner, Skip Kershner, Ed Mahler, Nancy McGarvey, Pat Pfeifer, Jane Saunders, Ben Wallis.

Worship

Sue Adair

Holy, Holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity. “

The worship committee meets on a quarterly basis to plan upcoming services and special events. In addition to the regular Sunday services, plans must be made for the special highlights of the liturgical year – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lenten activities, Holy week, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and All Saints.

We thank all who organize and schedule this small and loving army of participants: acolytes, crucifers, LEMs, chalicists, readers, alter guild, ushers, greeters, tellers, and hospitality.

Our Third Sunday Service, the 5 p.m. “come as you are”, continues to be a success. Held mostly in the Parish Hall, this service offers contemporary music, Gospel reading, homily, and prayers. Some parishioners make it their regular service, but many others drop in when they can’t make it to the 8 or 10 a.m. Teens enjoy it!

Our weekday services include the Wednesday a.m. and Thursday p.m. Eucharists, as well as the Tuesday evening service of Compline, Wednesday evening prayer, Thursday morning prayer, and Friday noonday prayer. During the summer on Wednesday evenings, many participated in a service of prayer and reflection with harp music.

Another aspect of our worship involves the Healing Prayer Ministry. Healing prayer, anointing with oil, and laying on of hands is available at most services. This powerful and comforting ministry has become an important part of many of our lives, both as receivers of prayer, and as the teams that pray with others! If you would like to participate as part of a prayer team, contact the parish office.

The recently established new “prayers of the people” format has become quite relevant to our current petitions and thanksgivings. Ongoing concerns will be prayed for by parish members for 30 days. Urgent prayer is always available by contacting the parish office.

SOMETHING NEW!!! The 2008 Lenten Daily Devotional for Trinity.

Several parishioners have agreed to reflect on an individually assigned scripture passage, and write their thoughts and prayers in that regard. These reflections will be available as a booklet in time for Ash Wednesday.

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“Praise God from Whom all blessings flow”

Youth Ministries

Youth Minister Report

Kelly Rupprecht

When God tells us that love is kind, He means we are to look for the best in other people. We are to spend our energies and time encouraging and building up each other, and not tearing others down. You see God takes our circumstances of life and builds them in a constructive way for personal growth and are for better use toward each other. God is not treating us as an object to be manipulated and controlled because He has given us free will, so we should do the same with each other. Therefore we always need to be seeking the healing of relationships, and be cautious in our judgments toward others. The Youth at Trinity are constantly building relationships with one another and learning the important lesson of love.

The Youth Group meets on Sundays after the "Come as You Are Service". The group ranges from 16- 20 students (on a consistent basis) with the assistance of some wonderful adult volunteers. We focus on building community and developing friendships, exploring our faith lives, and participating in a variety of fun fellowship activities. We have already experienced a variety of discussion, game, and movie nights; painting and service activities; Christmas Caroling and the Bishop's Ball. Many students bring friends from outside the church community who have enhanced and enriched our group immensely. We are learning so much from one another and it has been amazing to see how important a consistent community of friends can be in our different life circumstances. We all are in different places on our faith journey but meet each other where we are and support one another on the not so easy path towards young adulthood. The Youth Group looks forward to another amazing Mission trip to Florida this June.

SEARCH (JR. High SUNDAY SCHOOL)

The Junior High Students participate in SEARCH every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am. The purpose of this group is to explore and challenge the life application of biblical principles in a dynamic and fun way. Students have discussed who Jesus really was and what his teachings mean in our everyday lives. They are creating personal prayer and reflection journals and have discussed the many methods of prayer that enhances a personal relationship with God. They reflected on scripture and created prayers to accompany the pictures of the Stations of the Cross. We often reflect on the current events in our community and the world and discuss how God is present. We usually can be heard down the hallway during our discussions as our group can be quite animated and fun! Any student in grades 6-8 is welcome to join us any Sunday.

Summer Service Camp

Fr Dave Canan

Summer Service Camp was a very different event in 2007. We traveled to Chester as we had done in past years and we continued our partnership with Chester Eastside Ministries but the program was different. In the past we did a different work project each day and visited different sites or listened to different speakers each afternoon. This year the young people worked along side Chester youth as camp counselors in Chester Eastside Ministries summer day camp.

Chester Eastside's Summer Day Camp provides a variety of educational and cultural events and just plain organized fun! Kids worked on math and writing skills and participated in music enrichment classes. Day trips to a great pool in Swathmore and an amusement park broke up the routine.

Middle School Service Camp was scheduled at a completely different time and we did not partner with St. Matthew's as we had from the very beginning. The group was small but the bonding was great! If we do the camp again this summer, we will work on defining the roles of our kids within the camp and building relationships between our teens and CEM counselors.

Mission: Possible 2007 New Orleans

Fr Dave Canan

Again in the summer of 2007 Trinity Church cooperated with Christ Church, Pottstown; St. Matthew's, Maple Glen; and St. Thomas', Church, Whitmarsh for our annual summer mission trip. This was for us, the largest group ever: 35 teens and 10 adults. With such a large group it should have been no surprise that the luggage of 5 of us did not arrive in New Orleans when we did!

The group was so large that we were housed in two facilities that were across town from each other, Grace Lutheran Church and the Urban Ministries Center. The Urban Ministry Center is a Victorian house next to the Episcopal Cathedral in New Orleans that was purchased and restored for the purpose of housing hurricane recovery volunteers. Both facilities provided beds and air mattresses: a real treat!

The destruction of Hurricane Katrina was evident everywhere. We came to New Orleans expecting to gut and repair homes destroyed by the storm. We arrived at a point of transition in the recovery work. The first big change was the gutting efforts had concluded just as we arrived. (Mind you that was 2 years after the hurricane and only the gutting had concluded.) Another change was that the Episcopal Jericho Road project had that week begun a cooperative effort with another recovery ministry to coordinate and supervise construction efforts. It turned out that the people doing the actual coordination and supervision were never told about the new cooperative venture and there was not enough work for our group so our mission trip was designed on the spot. Even with this huge challenge we accomplished much.

1. Neighborhood clean up.
2. Landscaping at a new home sites and Grace Church.
3. Visiting homebound folks serviced by the Diocese of New Orleans mobile respite unit.
4. Working at an Episcopal day camp.
5. Finishing work on recovery projects at Grace Church.
6. Finishing repair projects for elderly members of Grace Church.

We left New Orleans with a deep respect for the courage and strength of the good people of New Orleans. We left very proud of the many well coordinated recovery efforts of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. We left humbled by the grace and faith of people who had endured so much.

The Staff at Trinity Church

The Rev. David A. Canan – Rector

Stephen Schreiber – Director of Music

John Dziel – Financial and IT Administrator

Sheila Bistany – Office Administrator

Carole Allsop – Christian Education Director

Kelly Rupprecht – Youth Minister

Morgan Beam – Nursery Supervisor

The 2007 Vestry

Jane Saunders – Rector’s Warden / Human Resources

Ernest Dixon – Accounting Warden

Cheryl Bayard – Clerk of Vestry / Christian Formation

Laura Gergen – Property

Piers Prater – Property

Addie Johnson – Pastoral Care

Karen Reid - New Members

Eileen Warren – Parish Life

Sue Adair – Worship

Tim Bauder – Communications

Ed Mahler – Mission and Outreach

Nancy McGarvey – Stewardship