



**Trinity Episcopal Church
Annual Report
for the year 2012
January 27, 2013**

The Vestry of Trinity Church

Barb Davis, *Rector's Warden, Human Resources*
Katherine Driggs, *Accounting Warden, Finance Committee*
Leslie Vacante, *Mission & Outreach, Clerk*
Brian Phillips, *Stewardship, Planned Giving*
Gretchen Pendleton, *Property*
Stephen Skinner, *Stewardship*
Jessica Fields, *New Members*
Kate Ferguson, *Mission and Outreach*
Kristin Woods, *Communications*
Kathy Evans, *Hospitality*
John Guerin, *Pastoral Care*
Ellen McCaffrey, *Property*

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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*
Kelly Rupprecht, *Children & Youth Ministries*
Kelly Moylan, *Treasurer*
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AGENDA
The 2012 Annual Meeting of Trinity Church
Sunday, January 27, 2013

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Review of Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2011
- III. Table Discussions
- IV. Voting for Convention/Deanery Delegates
- V. LUNCH
- VI. Reports
- VII. 2012 Budget Presentation
- VIII. Election Results
- IX. Closing Prayer

Remembering those who died since our last meeting in 2012

John Randall
George Dalby Clarke
Dorothy Jane Jennings
Patricia Saunders
W. Ernest Wells

Rector's Report

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

I celebrated the 22nd anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. For 14 of those 22 years I have been the Rector of Trinity Church. Although I was reluctant to leave St. Paul's Church in Rahway to come to Trinity I have never regretted the decision for one minute. I love this parish. What I love most about us is us! I do believe that we do our best to live into our mission statement to *be a community of Christian people striving to love God with all of our heart, soul, minds, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

This has been a difficult year in saying goodbye to 10 families who moved from our area to for employment in other parts of the country. It was difficult year in which we buried 3 very active beloved members.

One of the families that moved away was Ben, Cori, and Charlotte Wallis. They moved after Ben's ordination and call to serve at the Church of the Epiphany in Danville, VA as Associate Rector and chaplain to the school. Here's something that sets this parish apart from almost all other parishes: in addition to Ben, we have two other members in seminary right now: Jay Walton and Dennis Reid, Jr.

At the 10 a.m. service on Annual Meeting Sunday we are blessing the charter of the newest branch of the Girl's Friendly Society in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The motto of the Girls Friendly is *to bear one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ.* The law of Christ is to love God, neighbor, and self.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. This parish family does that by their financial commitment to the mission and ministry of this church.

Bear One Another's Burdens. I see that all the time at Trinity! The response to superstorm Sandy was nearly spontaneous and it was generous. This parish responds generously to the needs of others in ongoing contributions to the Community Cupboard and by volunteering at St. James' School.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. We saw our young people learning that through experience in Middle School Service Camp and the senior high mission trip. In our own community and in New York City our young people served the hungry and homeless.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. It happens here on Wednesdays and Thursdays when we pray for healing and wholeness for each other and wrestle with scripture.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. That happens on Mondays and Wednesdays when Education for Ministry takes place. In EFM participants share their stories and their struggles as they reflect on scripture, church history, and theology and as they pray and worship together.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. The Daughters of the King are doing that every day as they keep their promises of prayer, service and evangelism. The Daughters do it every time they gather and pray for each other and for the prayer needs of our entire community.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. I see that happening in the choir of all places! Where a web of friendship and concern is woven as these men and women sing to God's glory.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. We do that when real men cook and send meals to Aid for Friends. We do it when host homeless families in our Parish Hall in April, collect food for the Community Cupboard, send Christmas gifts to children through Episcopal Community Services and Chester Eastside Ministries.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. We do that each time we send folks to Springfield Residence, the Psych Ward at Abington Hospital and Springhouse Estates to share communion.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. We believe that we are forming Christians through children's formation and youth group who will grow into adults who will bear others' burdens as part of their daily lives.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. We hope that all the behind the scenes ministries and all the worship ministries are making us all people of God who do that in their daily lives.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens. That's what we are trying to do with St. Dunstan's. We are not entering into this noble experiment to be patrons or benefactors. We are entering into this noble experiment to find new ways to share resources so that together we can love God, neighbor and self and so fulfill the law of Christ more effectively that we can do it alone.

Bearing One Another's Burdens is not easy. It costs us time, money, and energy. It requires of us to put the needs of others before our own. That, my friends, is the definition of Christ love and that is what pulses through this place. I thank God for each of you.

Fr. Dave

Associate Rector's Report

In our rapidly changing culture, where diverse values appear to reign over shared ones, where an abundance of organizations fulfill a variety of needs and services; where age old denominational and doctrinal significance now dwarf the movement that favors spiritual experiential exploration, here are some questions that have arisen over this past year –

How does the church add value to people's lives?

What challenges in the fulfillment of mission does our church face?

What is it that we are doing when we gather to worship?

Fr. Dave and I would tell you that these questions have been uppermost in our minds, impressed on our hearts, and continuous in our prayers over 2012. The ensuing question becomes: How does Trinity Church face its transformative challenges in the coming years?

2012 provided an opportunity for Trinity to explore these questions. One way that happened was that Carole Allsop, Kate Ferguson, Kate Early (before she moved), Diane Powell, Fr. Dave, and myself engaged in a six-month program designed to pay attention to congregational development called "Transforming Congregations" led by the Kaleidoscope Institute, an organization engaged by the Diocese of Pennsylvania to help us focus on community transformation. The goal that came out of those workshops was the Listening Groups hosted in September of 2012.

Another venue where these questions arose was in the context of the Diocesan Clergy Conference held in late November where we were blessed with a thoughtful, insightful presentation by author Sara Miles ([Take this Bread](#), and [Jesus Freak](#)). Sara reminded us, "If you want to be a follower of Jesus, you need to follow him". We were challenged to notice that what we do together – particularly on Sunday morning. What we do, she said, speaks our theology. In other words, how we are with one another, speaks to what we believe God is like.

The aforementioned questions are not ones that have once and done answers, but rather thoughtful queries that require ongoing examination. And they need to be examined in light of who we believe we are as children of God, followers of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

What is clear to me is that one of the basic overriding values of Trinity Church, is the importance placed on relationship – with God, with one another, and with those in need. With a grateful heart, I am blessed to be a part of this church with you, where collectively we represent the Body of Christ – loving, learning and ever transforming.

May the Holy Spirit be loosed among us, enliven our hearts and open our minds to what we can learn from each other and from God. May God give us grace to relinquish things past without fear, and embrace the new things now declared through the gifts of people who are different from ourselves; that in all our diversity, we may be one in the holy and blessed Trinity.

In faith, love and affection, Mary

Deacon's Report

I asked to be assigned to Trinity Episcopal Church Ambler as my parish placement portion of my diaconal training. I am so glad that I did! This is one of my last steps before (God willing) ordination in 2014. I continue monthly meetings and training with my fellow deacon postulants. My seminary studies continue and are in fact, in overdrive!

During my short time here I have had the opportunity to help with the presentation of the film "The Line" and the discussion about poverty in America today. I have assisted in a number of on going programs as well as assisting during Sunday services on the altar. One of the things that I was surprised to learn that I actually enjoyed has been writing and giving my sermons.

Deacon candidates in the Episcopal Church are charged in the name of Jesus Christ, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. They are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. These are powerful and radical instructions if done properly, faithfully and consistently.

I have been tasked with working with all of you in serving God's people in a real and concrete expression of the Gospels. As part of that I have been working with Father Dave and Reverend Mary on several projects for the upcoming year that will allow everyone an opportunity to participate in various ways to support these Gospel projects.

Trinity has been and continues to be a warm, inviting and loving community that is helping me along the path to become a deacon. It has been a big change for me. My old parish was much smaller in building and congregation size. But being here is such a terrific learning experience for me. I look forward to the rest of the year working with all of you. If you have a suggestion or want to participate in a program, please come and speak with me.

Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.' - Matthew 25:40

Peace and all good,
Phillip Geliebter
Deacon in training

Rector's Warden Report

Love, Loss and Change

I sit here thinking about what to write for this year's Annual Report, and can't help but think that perhaps my recent experiences are reflective of a more general truth. Change is both necessary and challenging. I have watched two very close loved ones die in the past few months. Two people who have guided my steps throughout my life. Two people of faith. Two people whose deaths have and will continue to change my life.

Change. There's that word. We all face change in different ways. Some of us eagerly embrace change while others have to be dragged kicking and screaming toward anything that might even hint of change. I'm probably the kicking and screaming type. I like to feel comfortable. I like things to feel familiar. I don't really like change. But it seems that just when I do feel comfortable and maybe even complacent, change happens. Whether I like it or not.

We stand on the threshold of something that could potentially bring much change to our community, to our church family.

We are currently in the beginning phases of our experiment with St Dunstan's Church. We are here today to think about and talk about things that we love about Trinity and things that make Trinity a special place for each of us. Maybe even things that we individually and collectively would not want to change. We are gathering this information to better know each other and to give Father Dave, Mary and the Vestry insight as we move forward.

We are on the threshold of something. Thresholds can be scary. Do we jump or do we wait to be pushed?

With much love,
Barb Davis
Rector's Warden

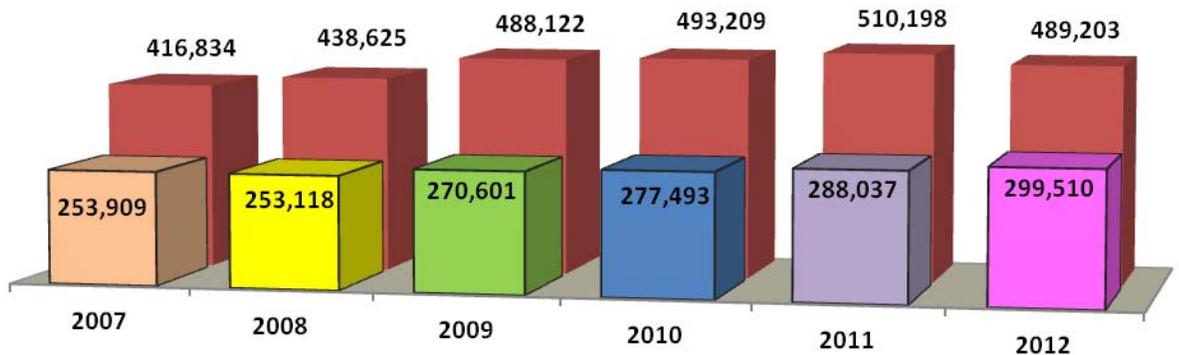
Accounting Warden Report

2012

Change, challenge, adaptation, exploration, perseverance, examination – all words which describe what Trinity has experienced in the past year. Our total membership has dropped to 465 (last year reported at 513) due to 11 families who have left (all for employment/ life circumstance – out of this area) and the passing of 3 long standing members. Average weekly Sunday attendance in 2012 was 195, which was down from the prior year by 6% but within a 5% range of up/down fluctuation experienced over the past 5 years.

In spite of this, the collected

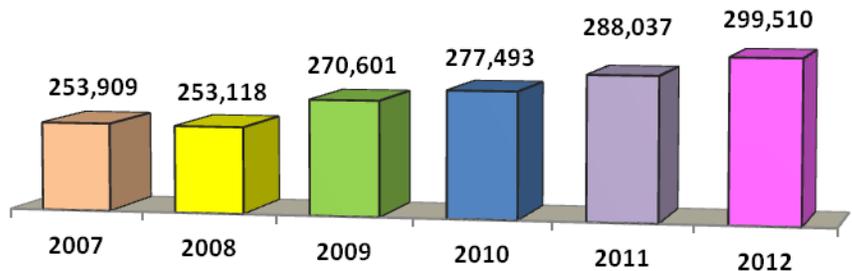
Sunday Pledge Income Vs Operating Expenses



contributions exceeded the amount pledged for 2012. We continue to look inward to identify how we can evolve to tackle our financial challenges and are exploring ways to change the paradigm on what Christian mission looks like within the Episcopal tradition. It is within this context that I offer the following report on Trinity’s financial performance for 2012.

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.

Sunday Pledge Income



As of December 31, 2012 the church had \$1.24 million in cash, fixed income, and equity investments, versus \$1.29 million at December 31, 2011. This decrease in value was a result of \$138,971 in transfers from our investment accounts to subsidize operations in 2012 which was offset by dividends, interest and market growth. While 2012 market performance significantly offset the drawdown on overall holdings, Trinity cannot count on this helping in the future.

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.

Due to the uncertainties of the stock market, Trinity's Finance committee decided in October 2012 to move the remaining \$166,651 of funds in the Boyer Operating fund from an indexed portfolio fund into a bond fund. While this account will no longer reap the benefits of an upturn in the stock market, given the concerns over the volatility of the stock market and the expectation of continued low interest rates in the next few years compounded by the church's need to rely on this account for covering the short-fall of contributions against expenses, this decision was made to protect the principal within this account. If Trinity meets its expectation of funds transfer in the coming year, it is likely that the Boyer operating fund will be closed and other sources of funds will have to be identified.

2012 Vs 2011 Investment Summary

Fund	Balance as of 31 December 2012	Balance as of 31 December 2011	Variance
Endowment	\$968,208	\$868,680	\$99,528
Scholarship	\$14,278	\$12,524	\$1,754
Sylvan Handley	\$58,580	\$67,517	(\$8,937)
Boyer Operating	\$166,651	\$275,826	(\$109,174)
Money Market	-	-	
Totals	\$1,207,717	\$1,224,547	(\$16,829)

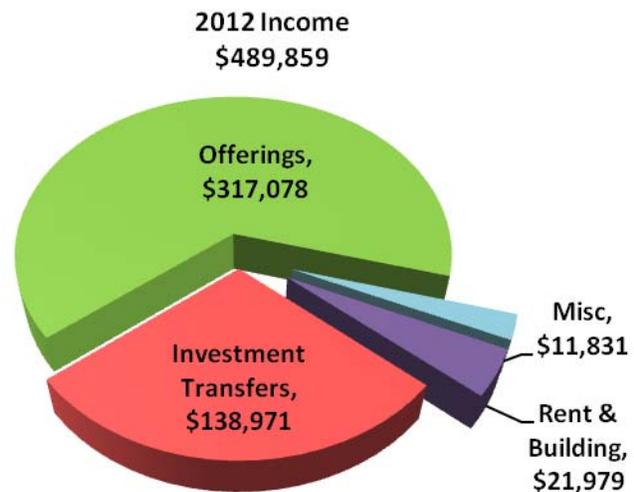
Note: The

overall Decrease in investment value for 2012 was \$16,829. When the \$138,971 drawdown is taken into consideration, the offset from market growth was \$122,000. 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 \$1.26M 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 Ruprecht—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.

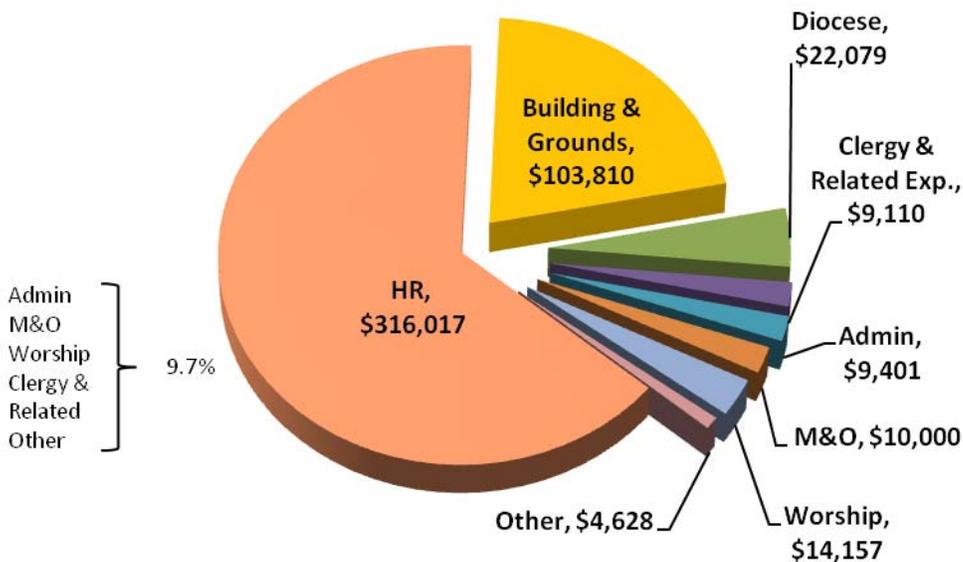
For the year ended December 31, 2012, pledge and offering plate income increased **4%** over the prior year, despite the very adverse economic environment. (It is important to note **103%** of budgeted pledge revenue was actually collected in 2012 even through some long-time parishioners passed away and several families moved out of the area due to employment opportunities.)

Overall operating performance improved as well; while budgeted expenses were \$548,934, actual expenditures were \$489,203 largely due to deferral of major property repairs and improvements and several departments spending less than their allocated budgets.



This large operating expense, however, still exceeds the pledged income of the parishioners, and speaks to the financial cross-roads the church continues to face.

2012 Expenses
\$489,203



(Note: These reduced spending levels were taken into account when constructing the 2013 budget.)

2012 Operating Budget Summary

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Income Before Transfers	350,888	337,000	13,888	Favorable actual vs Budget due to unbudgeted contributions to Rector's Discretionary Fund[\$4,315], increased income from Building use [\$2,779] in addition to \$8,100 in pledge funds which exceeded budget
Investment Transfers	138,971	211,934	-72,963	Required less in transfers versus budget, as expenses were less than anticipated and income more than planned
Total Income	489,859	548,934	-59,075	
Expenses	489,203	548,934	-59,732	Favorable actual vs Budget due to deferred property maintenance/repairs ;lower expenses than budgeted for in many departments
Net	656	0	656	

Note: See the "Trinity 2013 Budget Versus 2012 Actual performance" that follows for additional information regarding the 2012 performance and 2013 Budget.

2012 Mission & Outreach Fund Activity	
Income	\$21,178
Expenses	\$27,968
Net	(\$6,790)

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.

2012 Episcopal Youth Mission Fund Activity	
Income	\$4,007
Expenses	\$4,422
Net	(\$415)

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

2013 Budget Highlights:

The full 2013 Budget can be found on the last page of this report.

- The 2013 operating expense budget is **\$ 531,182**, an increase of approximately **9.5%** over 2012 actual expenses. **81%** of this increase relates to previously deferred maintenance/repairs to our infrastructure, expected utility expense, and premium increases in insurance experienced in 2012 and anticipated in 2013. **1%** of this increase was due to increased Human Resources expense (Primarily driven by increased benefit costs). **It is important to note, due to the continued expected short fall of income versus expenses in 2013, the salaries of all staff members have been frozen at 2012 levels for 2013.** Additionally, to offset the growing healthcare insurance expense, the contribution from participating staff members has increased to **15%**.
- Budgeted pledges (\$300,000) and plate income (\$9,500) together represent **58%** of operating expenses, versus **55%** budgeted in 2012 (actual 2012 results were 64%). This is due in part to an increase in budgeted pledge income based on the 2012 rise in collected pledges noted above.
- The 2013 budget contemplates investment transfers of **\$180,182** to cover shortfalls in operating expenses; these transfers represent **34%** of operating expenses (versus a budget of 39% in 2012 and actual performance of 29%). The entire amount may not be required, depending on actual cash flow patterns and unexpected extraordinary expenses or project deferrals/delays. And, given the balance of the Boyer Operating fund, it is expected that a portion of this amount will come from the Sylvan Handley Property fund. **It is clearly necessary to find ways to grow our congregation and/or diversify our sources of income in order to minimize investment transfers and preserve the viability of these portfolios.**
- It should also be noted that the “Grand Experiment” with St. Dunstan’s was not factored into the 2013 budget for Trinity. If the relationship moves forward, it is expected that an off-setting contribution against Clergy compensation will be sought from St. Dunstan’s. At the time of the 2013 budget discussions, Trinity’s relationship with St. Dunstan’s was and continues to be in its infancy and nothing concrete has been determined in order to confidently include potential contributions resulting from this partnership.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine A. Driggs, Accounting Warden.

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2013 Trinity Budget Summary Vs. 2012 Actual Performance

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2013 Variance to 2012 Actual	% Change to 2012 Actual	% of Total Variance
INCOME						
Misc. Income						
Flower Income	5,500	5,012	5,500	489	9.7%	9.5%
Parish Events	300	2,043	300	(1,743)	-85.3%	-34.0%
other	5,000	4,072	5,000	928	22.8%	18.1%
Total Misc. Income	10,800	11,127	10,800	(327)	-2.9%	
Rent & Building						
Building Use	6,000	9,941	10,000	59	0.6%	1.1%
Rental	13,200	12,038	13,200	1,162	9.7%	22.6%
Total Rent & Building	\$ 19,200	\$ 21,979	\$ 23,200	\$ 1,221	5.6%	
Offerings Income						
Plate	\$ 9,500	\$ 10,295	\$ 9,500	\$ (796)	-7.7%	-15.5%
Pledge	290,000	298,160	300,000	1,840	0.6%	35.9%
Special Offerings	7,500	4,307	7,500	3,193	74.1%	62.2%
Total Offerings Income	\$ 307,000	\$ 312,763	\$ 317,000	\$ 4,237	1.4%	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 337,000	\$ 345,868	\$ 351,000	\$ 5,132	1.5%	100.0%
EXPENSES						
Misc. Expense						
Administration	\$ 12,420	\$ 9,401	\$ 10,520	1,119	11.9%	2.4%
Adult Formation	2,225	\$ 1,309	2,225	916	70.0%	2.0%
Advertising & Communication	2,126	\$ 948	2,126	1,178	124.3%	2.5%
Diocese & General Church	21,265	\$ 22,079	22,255	176	0.8%	0.4%
Discernment	1,300	\$ -	-	-		
Education	1,250	117	1,250	1,133	968.9%	2.4%
Mission and Outreach Expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%	0.0%
Pastoral Care	150	-	150	150		0.3%
Stewardship Committee	1,535	578	900	322	55.7%	0.7%
Vestry Expenditures	1,075	618	925	307	49.8%	0.7%
Youth Group	2,250	1,058	2,250	1,192	112.6%	2.6%
Total Misc. Expense	\$ 55,596	\$ 46,108	\$ 52,601	\$ 6,493	14.1%	
Worship/Svc Expense						
Altar Supplies & Equipment	2,000	1,738	2,000	262	15.1%	0.6%
Flowers	6,410	6,901	6,410	(491)	-7.1%	-1.1%
Hospitality	2,550	1,576	2,000	424	26.9%	0.9%
Music	6,100	3,664	6,100	2,436	66.5%	5.3%
Worship Ministries	1,650	278	1,200	922	331.5%	2.0%
Total Worship/Svc Exp.	\$ 18,710	\$ 14,157	\$ 17,710	\$ 3,553	25.1%	
Clergy Exp						
Clergy	4,500	4,795	5,000	205	4.3%	0.4%
Human Resources						
Salaries/benefits	311,071	316,017	308,834			
Paid choir/ guest musicians	11,137		11,137			
Total Human Resources	322,208	316,017	319,971	3,953	1.3%	8.5%
Building Expense						
Property Building	75,800	47,654	69,650	21,996	46.2%	47.5%
Property Grounds	12,120	9,202	12,420	3,218	35.0%	7.0%
Insurance	15,000	14,600	15,000	400	2.7%	0.9%
Utilities	45,000	32,354	38,830	6,476	20.0%	14.0%
Total Building Expense	\$ 147,920	\$ 103,810	\$ 135,900	\$ 32,090	30.9%	
TOTAL EXPENSES *	\$ 548,934	\$ 484,887	\$ 531,182	\$ 46,295	9.5%	100.0%
Investment transfers (from operating account)	160,000	138,971	130,182			
Investment transfers (from property fund)	52,000		50,000			
Total Transfers	\$ 212,000	\$ 138,971	\$ 180,182	\$ 41,211	29.7%	
TOTAL SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ 66	\$ (48)	\$ -	\$ 48	-100%	

Our Noble Experiment

The church is changing. Not just Trinity Church. Not just the Episcopal Church. The church; the body of Christ is changing.

Church historian Phyllis Tickle says that Christianity goes through “a revision” about every 500 years. She writes that we are presently at the beginning of a new five hundred year cycle; a new revision. Another church historian, Diana Butler Bass declares that the Episcopal Church is in collapse. A whole slew of other authors tell us that the church has become irrelevant and remind us that there is a spiritual hunger all around us but the church is the last place people look to have that hunger fed. These writers tell us that we have lost sight of our primary mission and instead have gotten busy with the business of church. We have forgotten that the mission of the church is to bring God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We have forgotten Christ’s call to give drink to the thirsty, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner and the sick.

As I think and pray about this I wonder what we can do differently? I wonder how parishes can share resources in a way that will make both congregations stronger and allow both congregations to do the mission and not just the business of the church. That really is the beginning of our noble experiment with St. Dunstan’s.

This is where we are at with this experiment. We decided to date before we got married! We decided to get to know each other a little before we enter into any formal agreement or plan. Mary and I have shared leadership of St. Dunstan’s 9 a.m. Sunday service. The Vestry at St. Dunstan’s has decided that they would like to move forward in the noble experiment.

The next step is that a task force or committee of three members from each parish is being formed to raise up issues and concerns that might need to be addressed before we can move forward in any significant way. For example, I feel like a change in service times will be needed so that Mary and I can be present at all Sunday services. The finance committee reminds us that there needs to be some frank discussion about money. Our Vestry believes that both congregations need to be clear about their end goal in this adventure.

The table discussions at this Annual Meeting are a part of the process. Identifying, in both congregations, what brought us to this church and what keeps us here is a first step in identifying what is important to us and therefore helping us to articulate our goals.

This noble experiment really is a walk in faith. Rather than borrow a system of 5 year plans with measurable goals and objectives we are trying to do what St. Paul recommends: walk by faith, not by sight. We will do that by looking for God’s blessing and guidance each step of the way; through listening to each other, through prayer, and by always seeking to serve God and God’s people on the way.

Faithfully,
Fr. Dave

Summary of Listening Groups

During the month of September, on 8 separate occasions, 50 enthusiastic and active members of Trinity gathered in members' homes and the rectory with Fr. Dave and participants in transforming congregations: Carole Allsop, Kate Ferguson and Diane Powell.

Fr. Dave generally shared the following information at each gathering:

Trinity Church is a vital congregation. We are one of very few parishes that has grown and sustained growth over a 10 year period. We can also boast that the size and number of pledges has grown almost every year. Yet, we have also been operating in a deficit budget for many years.

During this year, we have seen about 8 families or 26 people move away from our area to find work in other parts of the country. We have also seen about 6 families move from almost every Sunday attendance to sporadic infrequent attendance for health reasons, which includes about 10 folks. Another dozen or so folks have disappeared for a variety of reasons. This is affecting our average Sunday attendance. (Average Sunday attendance is the primary measure the church uses to evaluate parish strengths and is part of the annual parochial report.)

However, it does not seem to be not affecting us financially: Year to date we have transferred \$10,000 less from investments than last year. (Actually its \$40,000 but \$30,000 last year was a one time catch up expense for employee pensions.) Compared to September 2011; pledge income is up; expenses are down. *Our* actual pledges are \$176,000; and the collected pledges \$194,000

We are entering into a noble experiment with St. Dunstan's Church in the near future where Fr. Dave and Mary will provide pastoral oversight to St. D's. In the beginning phase St. Dunstan's will pay Trinity what they would pay a supply priest.

Our operating fund stands at about 204,000 Our endowment funds are at 941,000. Total about \$1,045,000) At \$10,000 month that money will run out in about 9 years.

After sharing this information the conversation generally centered on these two questions:

What do you consider to be parts or signs of a vital congregation?

What does Trinity need to do to remain a vital congregation?

These are the basic responses to the sign of a vital congregation at Trinity:

1. We have so many kids and the kids are involved in the worship service.
2. Our diversity.
3. The variety of programs and activities which occur at Trinity Church.
4. Our worship service and our choir and music program (Steve Schreiber!)

5. That there are so many people involved in Sunday morning worship ministries
6. The preaching and the pastoral leadership of Fr. Dave and Mary
7. That Fr. Dave and Mary are approachable and down to earth
8. The energy around the paper bag sermons
9. Healing prayers during the Eucharist
10. The buzz of activity in the Narthex each Sunday.
11. The variety of outreach opportunities
12. That we are not afraid to try new things such as the Koinonia service
13. That the people of Trinity care for one another
14. Bus trips and senior luncheons

What does the church need to do to continue to be a vital congregation:

1. It is important to note that people were extremely hesitant to discuss finances and that no one in any group was willing to suggest ways of cutting expenses.
2. It was suggested that we not be paralyzed by finances, but to focus on the mission and ministry of the church and the money will follow.
3. John and Kathy Guerin talked about Giving Circles and Talent Banks as means of increasing income and tapping into the talents and abilities of our members.
4. Suggestions were made for a variety of ways to raise money: spaghetti suppers, election day soup sales, silent auctions, and the like.
5. It was suggested many times that we be more aggressive in promoting what we do. Specific suggestions about Ambler and Upper Dublin Patch.
6. More social events such as the Halloween Party sponsored by the Youth Group.
7. Applebee's breakfast idea
8. Find outreach projects that engage the entire congregation in a variety of ways
9. Making Trinity property available for Farmers' Market
10. Find a way of reviving and revising the pastoral calling we were doing
11. Encourage members to bring friends to church, remind members that is everyone's responsibility to greet and welcome visitors.

What was very wonderful about these listening groups is that some of our members have already taken on the Election Day Soup Sales idea and the Silent Auction at the Rummage Sale ideas.

The Transforming Congregations Group with Fr. Dave and Mary want to suggest the implementation of the following ideas/suggestions:

1. This summer do a vacation bible school and promote it in through Patch and in the nearby neighborhood. At VBS we will feed the families of the kids who come, while the children enjoy the program parents have free time, then end each evening with family prayer time. Vacation Bible School is a concrete idea for an outreach program that will engage the entire congregation. We have already had a member step forward to coordinate the program!

2. Post all of our coming events in the Ambler Patch and the Upper Dublin Patch. We are moving towards making this a responsibility of one of our new office volunteers.
3. Actively pursue planned giving program.
4. Make property available for local farmers' market.

The financial information that is printed in the *Jingle* isn't concrete or clear enough to make an impact on the congregation. Perhaps something like: Last Week Attendance 167, Offerings \$16,450. Paid electric bill \$4,959.25 We certainly feel that each time we move \$10,000 from reserved funds that we should report that transaction that week... It would be fantastic if the Accounting Warden, Treasurer and Finance Team provide other pertinent finance information in the Jingle and use graphics to emphasize.

Stewardship

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.

A Ministries fair, highlighting all the programs at Trinity, was held in September. It is always an impressive presentation to see all the programs/ministries presented in one place. Members of the teams had treats at their tables and members were encouraged to sign up for ministries that they were interested in.

The pledge campaign this year was successful and we would like to thank everyone who participated with a pledge to support all that we do here at Trinity.

Total committed was \$256,292.00

Increased pledges: 48

Decreased pledges: 13

Same: 49

New: 6

No pledge: 14

Total # of cards: 130

We are grateful, that even in this continued challenging economic time that Trinity's parishioners continue to be generous.

Stewardship team members : Carole Allsop, Anne Canan, Dave Canan, Ed Mahler, Pat Pfieler, Jane Saunders, Marjorie Parsons , Liz Wendt.

Submitted by Carole Allsop

Children and Youth Ministries

Mission 2012

Church School Report

It has been a wonderful transition period from January 2012 until today as I have been learning and directing the Church School Program at Trinity Church Ambler. I feel extremely honored to be entrusted with such an important role and am eager to continue leading our youngest disciples with the help of many talented people. Carole Allsop, our former Director of Children Ministries for 10 years, retired in January 2012 yet has continued to be an active and supportive mentor for me throughout this transition. Her guidance and experience has been extremely invaluable. Teachers and Doorkeepers have kept our children engaged and excited throughout 2012 and into 2013! Several of our teachers were involved in Godly Play Training at the beginning of the school year which helped to refresh and reinvigorate them regarding our curriculum. We look forward to subsequent trainings to continue strengthening our church school team.

The Church School Program is full of young eager faces (ages 4 years old to 8th grade). They have been working on our wonderful Godly Play Curriculum which is for children ages 4 years old through 3rd grade. Children in 4th and 5th grade worked with Ms. Baird in "Hands on Bible" while children in 6th, 7th and 8th grade worked to "Reveal the Gospel in Today's World" with Jen and Piers Praters and Ms. Jessica Fields. We also have had many wonderful teens who have volunteered to assist within the church school classrooms and our Nursery. During our Lenten season in 2012, we embarked on a Journey to Easter and gathered together in the Parish Hall. The children experienced stories, activities, crafts, and songs as well as group worship with Father Dave and/or Mother Mary. It was a wonderful experience for all as well as a multi-sensory approach to learning about the Lenten season.

Since October 2012 Mr. Al Tenney has been teaching our Godly Play classes a song about Noah which will be soon be performed during a Church Service. Ms. Kristin Woods directed our St. Nicholas Christmas Pageant and it was a wonderful success and helped us prepare during the Advent season. Many hands have been involved in ministering to the children and have served as the "true Body of Christ".

I have listed the names of our church school teachers, doorkeepers, and volunteers below. Saying a simple 'thank you' does not seem to suffice. I thank God for the wonderful people at Trinity each and every day and am so blessed to be working among them!

Teachers/Doorkeeper/Volunteers:

Carole Allsop, Bernadette Baird, John Bayard, Davis Beam, Becky Curlett, John Curlett, Mindy Cutcher, Catherine Derbyshire, Diana Evans, Jessica Fields, Stephanie Gold, Leigh Irvin, Ellen McCaffrey, Sarah Mooers, Ben Powley, Piers Prater, Jennifer Prater, Brittany Revels, Kelly Rupprecht, Jocelyn Tenney, Elizabeth Wendt, Wendy Wezner, Kristin Woods

Mission Trip 2012

Mission 2012 to New York City!

Eight teens and three adults embarked upon their Mission Trip to New York City this August with humble expectations and returned with hearts filled with Grace and a better understanding of how we are called to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Our Mission was facilitated through an organization called YSOP -which stands for Youth Services Opportunities Project. We were broken into two teams for the week and led out into the city to experience a variety of service opportunities focusing on the needs of the homeless in the Big Apple. Some of our experiences included serving in soup kitchens housed within churches and storefronts which daily served the hungry with both food and hope, community gardens surrounded by urban decay but abounding with new life and love, and other programs tending to the children of inmates, homeless men and women, and anyone experiencing hunger. We also were able to embark independently in New York City when we were not working which was an adventure in itself! We discovered God's Grace throughout the week in many small but meaningful ways from encounters on the Subways, to hungry men and women in the parks, the awe and over stimulation of Time Square with its mass of Gods people and lights, the teamwork and community we built through the entire experience, and the beautiful sunset gifted to us from God on our last night together. Please feel free to ask any of the participants their testimony of their individual experience. I have also included some of the organizations we served below so you can continue to learn more about the Homeless and Hungry population in New York City.

Our Mission for 2013 is to San Francisco, CA. It is my prayer that our experience will be as inspirational and educational as our trip to New York City. Thanks for all of your prayers and support.

Summer Service Camp 2012

Over the past summer we coordinated a wonderful program for students in Middle School at Trinity. It involved "field trips" in the morning to different organizations in the surrounding community to learn about service opportunities and the variety of needs in our local area. The students engaged in a variety of activities including cleaning St. James Church and their grounds, cleaning and landscaping Hope Gardens Playground and Picnic area, helping out at St. Barnabas mission as well as at Chester East Side Ministries. The afternoons were spent in fun and fellowship and included typical camp activities such as water wars, craft projects, and a de-briefing of our morning experiences. Worship was also an important piece to camp as well as journaling. We were so blessed to have Father Dave and Ellen McCaffrey help lead the students. We look forward to another successful Summer Service Camp 2013.

Youth Group

The Junior and Senior High Youth Group have also been busy over the past year. We have been blessed with many wonderful adult volunteers including, Davis Beam, Ben Powley, Ellen McCaffrey and John Bayard. We averaged a membership of 20-25 teenagers per week and our community quickly became one of friendship and fellowship! We have discussed many different topics including... "Who am I?" , "Who is God?" and "Looking for God in everyday places." We also have played many different games and devoured more than our share of pizza! Our attention was also focused upon fundraising efforts for Mission 2012 and we thank you for your support in all of our endeavors. The beginning of the 2012 school year began with a bang. Our weekly attendance has continued to be large and has represented most of the local school districts. Students have been invaluable in the ministry at Trinity as many volunteer to help in the church school program and the nursery as well as numerous service efforts. Their energy is contagious and continues to put me in awe. It is a great honor to Minister to the teens at Trinity Ambler and to be a part of our close knit community. I have heard it said that "A child can teach an adult three things: to be happy for no reason, to always be busy with something, and to know how to demand with all his might that which he desires." There is a wonderful amount of passion and joy here on Sunday nights from 6-8 pm and we welcome visitors and friends at anytime grades 6th-12th! God Bless!

Kelly Rupprecht

Children and Youth Ministries @ Trinity Ambler

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 is comprised largely of enthusiastic children in Godly Play, has been supervised by Trinity Choir member Al Tenney. Al's philosophy is that when the children are ready they will sing. Formerly, this choir has been directed by women and mothers in the parish.

The Youth Choir membership reflects the cyclical nature of volunteer choirs. Membership had been decreasing in past seasons, but now numbers ten, almost double

from last season. 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, but requires dedication and commitment in terms of attendance. 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, as with the Youth Choir, reflects a cyclical nature found with volunteer organizations. This, in simple terms, is due to life in general – people’s lives change. They retire and move out of the area, they move out of the area to take a new job, they experience illness, they want to “take a break.” The Trinity Choir this season experienced a serious decrease in membership, nearly 30 percent. There are now 22 members when all are present. Yet, 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. For me, this is gratifying as well as exciting. It continually amazes me that this choir is able to maintain both its quality of tone and repertoire. 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 Al Tenney. The Trinity Choir currently has two section leaders: Herb Ruzann, Bass, and Betty Meister Prescod, Alto. 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.

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. This year we were graced with beautiful string music provided by Fiyi, Jolade and Feyi Adebekun, three young members of Trinity. At times such as this we see the Circle of Life: three children continue making music while we mourn the passing of Ernest Wells, and acknowledge his years of

service and dedication to the Trinity Choir. His presence is still felt among the Trinity Choir and the people of Trinity, as well.

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. The 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. The organ is now being maintained by Emery Brothers. In addition to the Schantz organ, Trinity 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. The pianos are currently maintained by Lawrence Fornaci. 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 2. The Christmas Pageant was presented on December 9. This was followed by a successful concert of Christmas music on the afternoon of December 16. 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. 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, and communion wafers. Due to breakage, one ceramic chalice was replaced this year by an Altar Guild member. One plastic inset for the holy water font was cracked and replaced by another Altar Guild member. This year we again were near to or 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 again this year.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Bayard

Property Committee Annual Report

Trinity is beautiful, what a lovely place to worship! There is nothing so holy as to walk toward the church and reflect, as you enter worship. What a holy place to meet with God! It is also home to our Priest and his family, and a family who rent the Sexton's cottage. It is a gathering place for many clubs: Girls' Friendly Society, Boy Scouts, AA, Daughters of the King, EfM, Real Men Cook, Montco RRC, and the Czech-Slavic School and others. In April, it is home to Interfaith Housing Alliance Guests.

Yet like all earthly vessels, they age. Trinity is no different. The roof leaks, the lights need new bulbs, the doors need replacing, the drains need snaking, batteries replaced, lawns mowed, leaves raked, gardens tended, gutters cleared and the countless other normal day to day tasks. Thank you, the church family, for all you do during the year to help with this ongoing upkeep, for the innumerable volunteers that came out to help with the Property Cleanup day in November. Thank you to the volunteers who weeded gardens, raked leaves, and bundled tree branches for Township collection. Thank you to all the volunteers who "shored" up the Church, Rectory and Sexton's Cottage the day before Hurricane Sandy hit. The generator was set up, rugs were rolled up, the Sunday School was elevated to prevent

damage from flooding, buckets were situated in locations known to leak. This was a totally unplanned rally of troops, bless you all!!

The ongoing repairs from Hurricane Irene (2011) are almost completed, new floors were put down in the Vesting area and Sacristy and most of the damaged ceiling tiles have been replaced.

The Sexton's cottage was repaired, and has been creating income for a full year. The last of the new doors was installed early in 2012. In September, one of our Sump Pumps died. In the week prior to Hurricane Sandy, a new pump was purchased, picked up, and installed by Bill Davis. Miraculously, we only had minor damage from the hurricane; the Bradford Pear trees across from the Rectory were damaged and needed removal. New memorial trees will be donated and dedicated in April 2013.

The Library received a facelift over Christmas and the choir now has breathing room to robe. A fresh coat of paint and outstanding craftsmanship to "match" the existing woodwork gives the room a whole new look.

Behind the scenes, 100+ new LED bulbs, estimated to last 50,000 hours each, have been installed in the ceiling of the church and the Narthex. The finance committee will be looking forward to the substantial energy savings. Also, new PECO thermostats were placed throughout the building, promising more energy savings with our HVAC system. The roof on the Church is under constant maintenance, the gutters are on a clean-out schedule, and the leaks are attended to at each discovery.

Additional goals for 2013 outside of the general maintenance include

At the Rectory:

- repair the back porch
- address several roofing leaks
- repair ceiling damage
- paint the exterior trim of the decorative roof
- replace the kitchen countertops

In the Church:

- install a generator
- connect both Rectory's and Sexton's Cottage's sump pumps to it, in an effort to prevent flooding in all three basements.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen McCaffrey

Vestment Sewing Group

It has been a pleasure, in recent years, to prepare vestments for the newly ordained Deacons and Priests associated with Trinity Church. Just as each person is different and unique, so to are the Stoles and Chasubles that we design and sew.

The design process is always interesting! We begin with a *vague* idea in mind: colors, symbols, style, etc. While shopping for fabric the design begins to take shape; while cutting fabric and laying out pieces, the design *changes* - some ideas are added, some thrown out; when the symbols have been created and placed on the garment, the design changes *yet again!* The initial, vague idea, has been transformed into something quite different than what we had envisioned and looks beautiful.....and, we are always surprised! The Holy Spirit is the 4th member of the group!

To date, we have made vestments for The Rev. Dr. Will Gafney, The Rev. Mary McCullough, The Rev. David Canan and The Rev. Benjamin Wallis.

Anne Canan, Barb Davis, Karen Reid



Communications Report

The Communications Committee has been working at 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 online.

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, 'Military', 'Slices of Life' Photos, College Updates, Diocesan News, Trinity Ministries, Youth Programs, Church School Programs, Community Programs, and Business Cards. We welcome the Girls Friendly Society!!

Narthex Photo Wall--is constantly growing/changing with that of the parish.

The Chimes Newsletter is now published 6 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.

Online includes:

Facebook – we have 133 known followers - almost twice the number as last year - with a weekly reach of up to 900 and potential reach of 33,250. Many of our followers reside outside the State of Pennsylvania. Facebook is used for Trinity events, weekly announcements, photos, and theological discussions, i.e Advent Reflections. 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.

WiFi- is now accessible in the narthex, parish hall, and library!

The Communications Committee is constantly evolving to meet the demands of the times and the ever-changing Church as we know it – typos included. We are constantly looking into ways to enhance our social media – in both print and online. In 2013, we hope to fine tune what was started in 2011, and to continue to explore our options as we grow in community and Spirit.

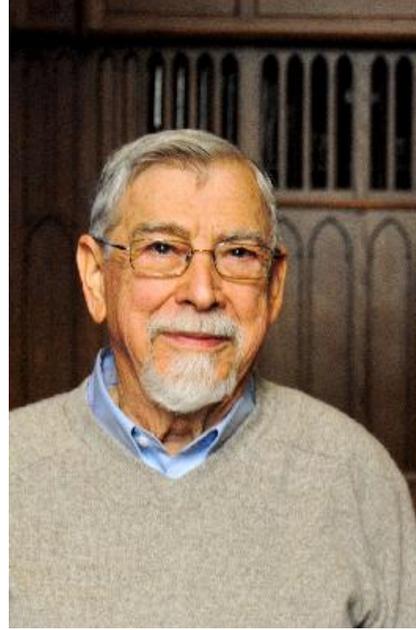
Grace and Peace,
Kristin W. Woods

Vestry Candidates

The following are photos of the candidates running for Vestry.



Carole Allsop



Ben Powley



Katherine Driggs



Leslie Vacante

Parish Statistics

Membership - Parish list has been updated this year to reflect "active" members.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total # of Baptized Persons	495	507	499	513	465

Worship Attendance -

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Easter Day Attendance	348	366	459	465	458
Average Sunday Attendance	198	199	204	211	195

Church School - Growing

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children in Church School	65	60	61	69	76

Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions -

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$262,242	\$283,503	\$292,232	\$303,407	\$308,445

Pledges -

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Number of Pledges	141	139	136	136	118
Total Amount Pledged	\$243,262	240,870	278,378	278,658	257,832

* As of 1/25/2013