



**Trinity Episcopal Church  
Annual Report  
for the calendar year 2014  
February 8, 2015**

## The Vestry of Trinity Church

**Robin Chambers-Dixon, Rector's Warden**

*Human Resources*

**Rob Gergen, Accounting Warden**

**Jane Mathis, Clerk**

**Ben Powley, Property**

**Martha Arnold, Planned Giving**

**John Guerin, New Members**

**Jane Saunders, Mission and Outreach**

**Kristin Woods, Communications**

**Sue Bofinger, Hospitality**

**Walt Bunting, Property**

**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*

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**Karen Richter, Office Administrator**

**Kelly Rupprecht, Children and Youth Ministries**

**Kelly Moylan, Treasurer**

**Evelyn Carpenter, Altar Flowers**

**Jennifer Prater, Parish Nurse**

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## AGENDA

### **The 2014 Annual Meeting of Trinity Church Sunday, February 8, 2015**

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Review of Minutes from the Annual Meeting held on January 26, 2014
- III. Voting
- IV. Financial Presentation
- V. Closing Prayer

Remembering those who died since our last meeting in 2014

Patricia Campbell  
Roy Irvin  
Jane Colman  
Leslie H. Vacante  
Clement Comly IV  
Harold Lincoln Saunders  
Virginia Wilkinson

## **THE RECTOR'S REPORT: DISCERNING GOD'S WILL FOR TRINITY/GCI ADOPTION MERGER**

Dear Friends:

In 2014 Trinity Church began an exciting, challenging and question filled process of investigating a merger with Grace Church and the Incarnation in the Port Richmond Section of Philadelphia. Since then about 40 folks from Trinity participated in the Annual Back-Pack Festival through which GCI distributes school supplies to about 100 neighborhood kids. Various members of Trinity have been down to GCI to assist with its outreach to kids, Family Friday. Fr. Dave and Mary with musicians from Trinity have shared leadership of GCI's Sunday worship. Our Vestries have met together and we have formed a Guiding Coalition of three members from each parish with Fr. Dave, Mary, and Fr. John.

Nearly a year ago Trinity Church was approached by GCI to explore the possibility of our two congregations entering into an Adoption form of merger. GCI came to us with this invitation after two years of self study under the direction of consultant Wally Fletcher and largely by working through a book, *Better Together*.

In *Better Together*, Jim Tomberlin and Warren Bird describe an adoption merger in this way: *adoption mergers are typically stable or stuck churches that integrate under the vision of a stronger, vibrant, and typically larger church.*

In our exploration with GCI, Trinity is the stronger, vibrant, and typically larger church while Grace Church and the Incarnation is the stable or stuck church.

I believe that the vision under which Grace would like to integrate is our mission and ministry to children.

In the past most church mergers were two failing congregations coming together at one of the two sites. The goal was to somehow survive by cutting the expenses in half by operating out of one location and supporting one staff.

What is important in the adoption method is that the smaller congregation is still engaged in ministry in its neighborhood and the purpose of the merger isn't to survive but to continue and even expand its ministries to the community.

If Grace Church and the Incarnation were to close what would the Port Richmond Community lose? They would lose an after school program and summer day camp that serves 40 neighborhood kids. If there were no GCI there would be no Fall Back-pack Festivals or Family Fridays that gather neighborhood children around a meal, a child friendly Eucharist, and games and music. If GCI were to close, there would be no Girls' Friendly or Boy Scouts to serve Port Richmond kids.

This adoption process is not without benefit to Trinity Church. While GCI is few in number of members the church is not poor; its endowments are larger than those of Trinity. If the merger proceeds eventually Trinity Church with its Grace Church and the Incarnation campus would be staffed by two full time priests and a deacon. (Bishop Dan has already appointed a deacon, Donna Lima-Monteiro to be a part of this process) GCI budgets for a half-time priest. That budgeted money

would be applied to Trinity's clergy expense, saving us the equivalent of a half-time clergy package and REDUCING TRINITY'S DEFICIT.

In the weeks ahead, we will be gathering in small groups at Trinity to hear our questions and concerns, ideas and insights as we move to a concrete and firm decision about a merger. We are planning some activities for us to get to know one another, The Guiding Coalition and the vestries will continue to meet together.

Please keep your questions and thoughts and feelings coming they are hugely important in the outcome of this process.

Faithfully,



Fr. Dave

## **A POSSIBLE MERGER WITH GRACE CHURCH AND THE INCARNATION**

### **Where are we in the process?**

1. Feels like GCI is ready to move forward.
2. At Trinity we need to answer questions. (Harder to communicate to 600 than 40)  
At Trinity I sense some opposition and lots of questions. We will have small group meetings to listen to the questions and thoughts and when it is possible to answer questions after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services on **Sundays March 1 and 15**.
3. A Guiding Coalition of Fr. Dave, Rev. Mary., Fr. John, 3 members of GCI and Dennis Reid, Jane Saunders, and Robin Dixon is working to discover, communicate and address issues which might arise along the way

### **See GCI as a Mission Center, serving the neighborhood**

1. Family Fridays. Girls' Friendly, Boy Scouts
2. Services for addictions
3. After School Program and Summer Camp (somehow save spaces for neighborhood kids)
4. Some sort of middle school ministry
5. Continue to look for needs in the neighborhood

### **How will we staff this?**

1. Two full-time priests
2. Deacon Donna Lima-Montiero has been appointed by Bishop Dan. (see her biography)
3. A servant year intern (an idea not a reality!)

4. Trinity volunteers for special projects
5. Trinity office staff

### **What are some other changes that might happen?**

1. Accounting and bulletins etc. done through Trinity office (which will be Trinity GCI office!)
2. Fr. Dave will keep “office hours” two days a week at GCI
3. *We will need to change Sunday service schedule, at both locations*
4. Link our web sites
5. Is there a way to have GCI phones ring through both locations?
6. Trinity preacher leads GCI Sunday service and Trinity Saturday

### **What does each congregation bring to this partnership?**

1. Trinity brings people and staff resources and a pool of helping hands
2. GCI gives Trinity a hands-on mission project and the possibility of reducing Trinity’s deficit by applying the halftime priest expense to Trinity clergy expense.

## **WELCOME TO OUR DEACON**

### **THE REVEREND DONNA L. LIMA-MONTEIRO**

Donna is a Philadelphian by birth with her journey beginning in South Philadelphia. She moved with her family to Mount Airy, and in her twenties married and moved to Germantown. Donna is a cradle Episcopalian. She attended Christ Church and St. Michael’s Church in Germantown and says that she feels blessed to have had the Reverend Hamilton H. Aulenbach as her Rector. She lived in White Plains, New York for eleven years before returning to her beloved Philadelphia six and a half years ago. Donna attended The Cecilian Academy from 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and is fond of saying, “I was raised in part by the Sisters of Saint Joseph”. The SSJs were outstanding educators and it was at Cecilian that Donna began to contemplate the possibility of religious vocation.

Donna is a graduate of Temple University, and holds a BA in Political Science and a Minor in Dance. She has been dancing since the age of three, studying at dance studios both here and in New York, including several years at the Pennsylvania Ballet School. She has performed in Regional, Dinner, and Community Theatre productions.

She says that it took many years of reflection and discernment to understand that she was being called to the diaconate. Instrumental in that decision were the ministries that were offered by Grace Episcopal Church in White, New York through their non-profit organization Grace Church Community Center. It was at Grace where Donna was introduced to her first Deacon and her calling began to crystallize. During her time in White Plains, Donna became a member of the Episcopal Diocese of New York’s Congregational Development Committee.

As part of her Diaconal Formation requirement, she began working on units of Clinical Pastoral Education. Donna so loved the role of Chaplaincy that she currently a Residency at the Hospital of

the University Of Pennsylvania, and is in her forth unit of CPE. Donna wishes to thank her family for their love and support, especially her daughter Jael who has shared with Donna her “dancing through life” journey. She shares this day (her ordination on January 17) with her mother Louise, daughter Jael, grandchildren Frankie and Mia, her five brothers, her many other relatives and friends.

She also wants to thank her church families at: Advent Hatboro, Christ Church and St. Michael's, Germantown, Grace Episcopal Church, White Plains, and St. James' Langhorne for their faith and encouragement.

## **ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT**

Annual Meeting Reports reflect on the life and the work of the parish over the last year. When I prepare to write this report each year, I leaf through my calendar for the previous year and determine where my time was spent. In so doing, it becomes clearer to me how my ministry at Trinity Church has manifested itself as well as highlights what is valued. 2014 highlights became clear as I perused each month. Worship, pastoral care and spiritual formation were the significant, prevalent areas tended to.

### ***Worship***

Trinity Church hosts a worship service on Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m., two worship services on Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., as well as two Healing Services through the week, Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. Those are formal, public worship opportunities. Add in weddings, funerals, and diocesan events and it becomes clear that our central focus in this place is worship. Worship honors and glorifies God, bonds us together, helps us to re-focus our energy on loving and serving God. We pray to God, we pray for others, we give thanks for the blessings of this life and our very presence supports and sustains our fellow worshippers in their faith journeys as well. Not only has Trinity church centered itself on worship in this space, but we are engaging in dialogue with Grace and the Incarnation in Port Richmond Philadelphia in a process of discernment as to whether we'd like to engage in a merger-adoption process - which in general means that Grace would ultimately become an off-site campus of Trinity church. Worship services there are on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and there is a Family Friday service at 6 p.m. inviting families to engage in formation, a meal and the Holy Eucharist. Over the past year, Fr. John Atkins, Fr. Dave and myself have taken turns leading worship both at Grace and the Incarnation and Trinity Church.

### ***Pastoral Care***

Pastoral Care is about care - caring for others in both their joys and sorrows. It can involve caring for one who is struggling with a particular difficulty; it means being present with others in times of pain and praying. Pastoral care includes visiting folks, hospital visits, conversations in the office, phone calls, and prayer while providing emotional and spiritual support. Much of my time this year was devoted to pastoral care for which I am humbled and grateful. To walk with others on this life's journey is an incredible gift. Remember - I am here if you want ever want to talk.

### ***Spiritual Formation***

Learning and growing in our understanding of God is foundational to our very beings. Who are we as people of God? What does that mean? Spiritual formation involves an intentional commitment to seek out and discover the presence of God in our daily lives. In so doing, one finds that our lives are a constant process of discernment. That is another important word which characterizes this past year. Discernment can be described as a process of decision making that works with our intellect and

affectivity while at the same time we are illumined and influenced by our faith. Formation and discernment go hand in hand.

2014 carried over from 2013 a spiritual practices group. Using Jana Reiss' book "Flunking Sainthood" as a guide, a group of 30 undertook the practice of a particularly assigned spiritual discipline each month. We gathered once a month to reflect on the past month's practice, discerned whether it was a practice that fed our souls - or not and then together prepared to engage in another practice for the upcoming month.

The season of Lent has always been a prime time for spiritual learning and growth. Our book study for that season in 2014 was "What are we talking about when we talk about God?" written by Rob Bell. In addition, Fr. Dave and Mary wrote Lenten devotions online and invited response and conversation. Stations of the Cross were offered as devotional prayer time.

Education for Ministry (EFM) hosted a Wednesday morning group. Education for Ministry is a four year adult theological education program that enhances knowledge of scripture, theological reflection and is geared to helping participants to discern their unique call to serve god in this world with their particular gifts. This program runs from September through May and meets once a week for about 2 ½ to 3 hours. I hope you might consider joining this group. Anyone who has ever done it has been enriched beyond words.

Our second annual Vacation Bible School was a huge success this past summer. The theme was "Gotta Love". Over 60 children between the ages of 3 and 14 were treated to spiritual formation through stories, games and crafts (and dinner too!!) At least 40 adults contributed their time, energy and effort to make the week a great opportunity of fellowship and learning.

Each and every fall, the Daughters of the King sponsor a women's retreat at St. John the Baptist convent in Mendham, New Jersey. This year was no exception. Taking a weekend in October, 25 women retreated from the routine of life for rest and renewal, meditation and contemplation, refreshes the Spirit and centers the soul - all contributing to spiritual formation.

This fall we began a confirmation Class. The curriculum being used is entitled "Confirm, not Conform". It's basic premise is to teach teens so that they can make an informed decision about whether or not they will choose to be confirmed in this faith tradition when the Bishop visits in 2015. This is a specific process of spiritual formation which I believe will help them in their own faith journeys.

During the month of December, I undertook reading daily devotions written by Richard Rohr. Each day I extracted one sentence that particularly stood out to me and wrote it on my calendar. I close this report with some of his well worded thoughts that I hope will spark your soul.

"When we say 'thy kingdom come' - we need also to be saying 'my kingdom go'.

" Perfect fullness is always to come - we do not need to demand it now."

"You do not catch a butterfly by chasing it. You sit still and it alights on your shoulder."

"God will lead each of us by a different path."



Worship, pastoral care, and spiritual formation help us in our lifelong work to express God's likeness in our unique ways. I am privileged to serve as Associate Rector at Trinity Church and give thanks for your support, encouragement and love. I am truly blessed to share in this faith journey with you.

God bless you all,  
With a grateful heart,  
Mary+

## **RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT**

Blessings to all, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler. It is a privilege to serve as your Rector's Warden. It has been a year of energetic activities and the ministries of Fr. Dave and Rev. Mary have guided us.

This year has been a very active one for our parish. Specifically, this year has been marked with weddings, baptisms, a celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the loss of beloved parishioners, the arrival of new members and, of course, a year of discernment the potential adoption process of Grace Church of the Incarnation. Jay Walton and Dennis Reid, of our parish, have been ordained as priests. We offer well-earned congratulations to Jay and Dennis!!

Our offerings for spiritual growth continue to flourish:

- Education for Ministry classes for adults
- Sunday School for our youngest worshippers
- Youth Group yearly mission and outreach trip
- Choir and Music to uplift us as we worship

All people in this parish make Trinity a wonderful community filled with God's gifts. May we be guided by His indefatigable love.

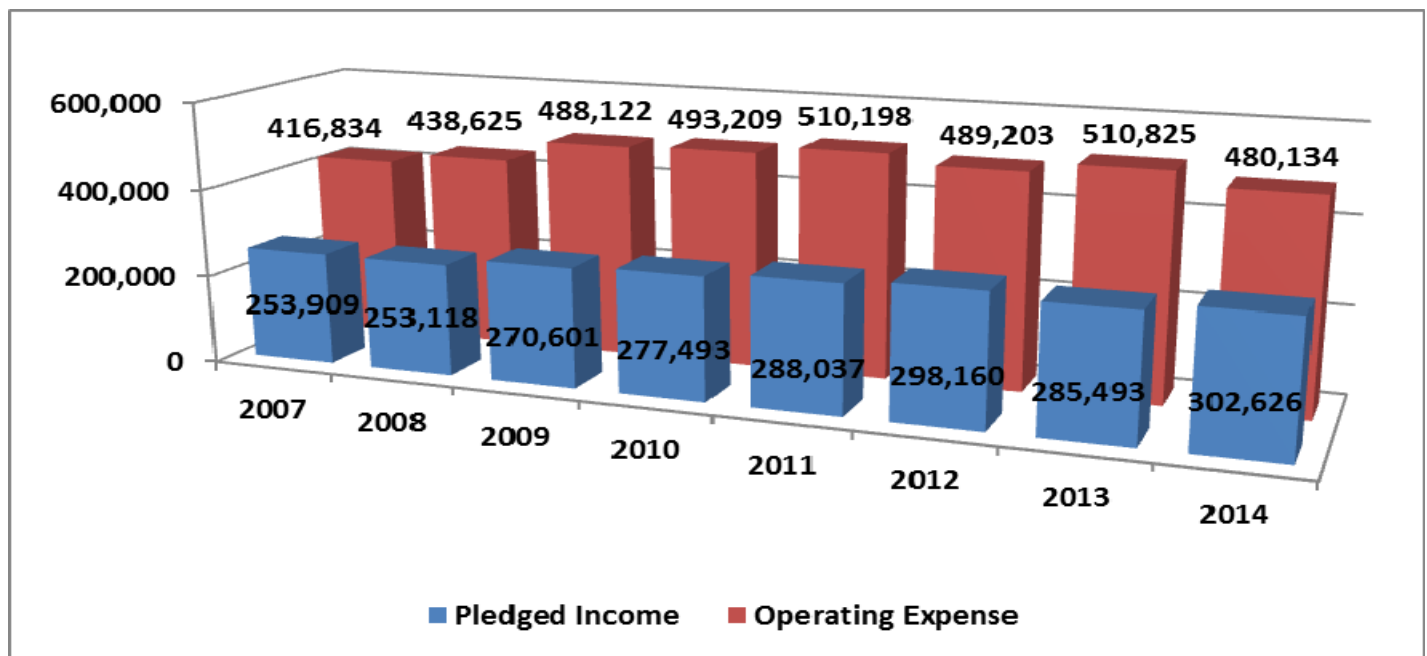
Sincerely,

Robin Chambers Dixon  
Rector's Warden

## ACCOUNTING WARDEN REPORT 2014

Trinity Ambler continues to grow both spiritually and in terms of population. Membership has increased to 515 congregants from 506 at this same time last year. This total change incorporates 16 new members and 7 departures. The average Sunday attendance over 2014 was 202 parishioners and we have 98 children enrolled in Church School at present.

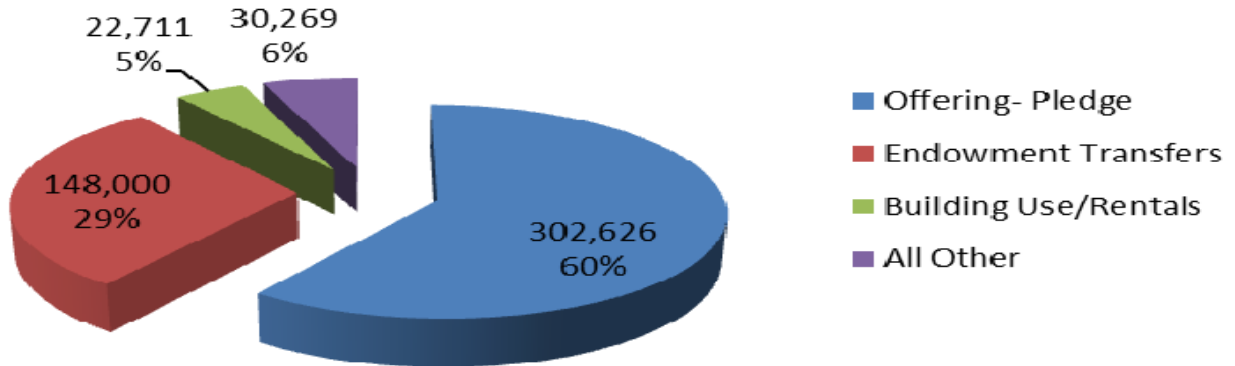
During 2014, a group of three Trinity members performed a “self-audit” of our financial methods and processes using a approach prescribed by the Episcopal Church “Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs”. There were no significant findings in the audit but there were three suggestions made by this group to enhance our performance. These were 1) formal approval of all financial reports submitted to the Vestry, 2) establishment of a planned giving program to enhance our endowment and 3) establishment and implementation of a standard agreement document for outside groups who use church property. The first two of these recommendations have been implemented and the third is under review.



Since 2007, revenues have climbed steadily. Historically, pledged income has represented between 55-60% of total expenses for any given year. In 2014, that percentage rose to the highest level over this period and pledged income covered about 63% of parish expenses. Still, there was almost a \$180,000 difference between this source of income and total expenses.

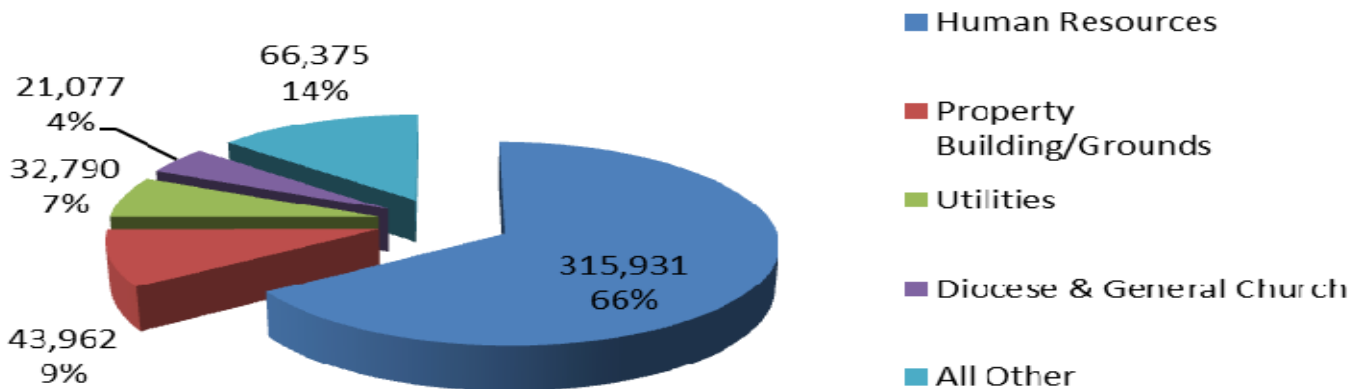
In 2014, we experienced a new high mark in collecting more than \$302,000 of pledged income in support of Trinity’s operations. This was slightly higher than the budgeted amount of \$300,000. Together with other sources of revenue such as plate offerings, building rentals/use fees and other miscellaneous income, we were able to produce over \$355,000 toward meeting Trinity’s 2014 expenses.

### Trinity 2014 Actual Income



Our actual expenses for 2014 of ~\$480,000 came in under our budget of ~\$511,000. The main reason for this was certain deferred capital projects and lesser maintenance costs for the Church property and grounds (roughly \$24,000). The costs associated with property vary the most from year to year as requirements for capital investment and maintenance change according to the assessment of the most current needs.

### Trinity 2014 Actual Expense



As had been the case for some time now, we continue to rely on transfers from our endowment funds to cover the operating deficit in our accounts. This year was no exception. We pulled \$148,000 from our funds to cover 2014 expenses not met by our income. Still, the total was less than the \$161,000 of transfers that we budgeted in 2014 for this purpose.

## Fund Investment Summary

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance as of 31 December 2014</b>	<b>Balance as of 31 December 2013</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Endowment	\$ 1,073,161	\$ 1,124,321	\$ (51,160)
Scholarship	\$ 23,367	\$ 21,844	\$ 1,523
Sylvan Handley	\$ 42,221	\$ 41,073	\$ 1,148
Boyer Operating	\$ -	\$ 38,745	\$ (38,745)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,138,749</b>	<b>\$ 1,225,983</b>	<b>\$ (87,234)</b>

In 2014, we made the last of our transfers from the Boyer operating fund and closed out this account. Our investment fund holdings are now at ~\$1,139,000 which is down ~\$87,000 from the end of 2013. If one takes into account our transfers to cover expenses, our fund portfolio actually would have risen by ~\$61,000. Trinity's cash on hand fell from ~\$32,000 to ~\$29,000 over the year while other investments rose by ~\$1,000 and our checking balance also rose by ~\$32,000. The amounts in these latter accounts fluctuate with the income and payments cycles of the Church's transactions. The net result of all this activity is an ~\$11,000 increase in financial holdings from year to year.

For the 2015 budget, we have assumed income flat to the 2014 budget at roughly \$511,000. This does represent a \$9,000 rise over the actual income from 2014. As was the case in 2014, it is assumed that we will draw \$162,000 from our endowment funds to make this number and balance out our expected expenses.

On the expense side, we also expect to be flat to the 2014 budget at the same figure of \$511,000. This compares with total actual expenses of \$480,000 for 2014. The main reason for the rise is anticipated investment in building property and grounds that was deferred from the planned 2014 spending.

It should be noted that some minor additional expenses of ~\$2,000 associated with the Grace Church partnership in which we are engaged are expected for 2015. The potential for income from sharing clergy with Grace Church, however, is not built into the 2015 budget since there is no formal agreement on this accord yet. If this income does materialize, it would produce a material offset to Trinity's human resources expense for this year.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the current state of Trinity finances.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gergen  
215 542-7997  
[robert.gergen@pfizer.com](mailto:robert.gergen@pfizer.com)

	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015
	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Building Use</b>	9,205.52	10,000.00	-794.48	92.06%	10,000.00
<b>Endowment Transfers</b>	148,000.00	162,717.73	-14,717.73	90.96%	162,650.00
<b>Flowers Income</b>	4,615.00	5,500.00	-885.00	83.91%	5,500.00
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	7,340.00	5,000.00	2,340.00	146.8%	5,000.00
<b>Mission and Outreach Inflows</b>	250.00				
<b>Offering- Plate</b>	10,308.10	9,500.00	808.10	108.51%	9,500.00
<b>Offering- Pledge</b>	302,625.50	300,000.00	2,625.50	100.88%	300,000.00
<b>Parish Events</b>	444.98	300.00	144.98	148.33%	404.50
<b>Rentals</b>	13,505.00	13,200.00	305.00	102.31%	13,200.00
<b>Special Offerings</b>	2,995.60	5,000.00	-2,004.40	59.91%	5,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>499,289.70</b>	<b>511,217.73</b>	<b>-11,928.03</b>	<b>97.67%</b>	<b>511,254.50</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>Administration</b>	10,635.17	11,011.00	-375.83	96.59%	11,282.00
<b>Adult Formation *</b>	943.66	1,625.00	-681.34	58.07%	1,225.00
<b>Advertising &amp; Communication</b>	1,796.43	1,800.00	-3.57	99.8%	1,900.00
<b>Altar Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	1,510.77	2,000.00	-489.23	75.54%	2,000.00
<b>Clergy</b>	4,036.03	5,000.00	-963.97	80.72%	4,650.00
<b>Diocese &amp; General Church</b>	21,077.00	21,417.00	-340.00	98.41%	23,777.00
<b>Education</b>	812.01	1,250.00	-437.99	64.96%	1,075.00
<b>Flowers</b>	6,283.00	6,410.00	-127.00	98.02%	6,500.00
<b>Grace Church</b>	530.22				2,500.00
<b>Hospitality</b>	1,315.66	2,000.00	-684.34	65.78%	2,000.00
<b>Human Resources</b>	315,930.81	322,082.60	-6,151.79	98.09%	323,924.50
<b>Insurance</b>	13,710.00	14,200.00	-490.00	96.55%	13,750.00
<b>Mission and Outreach Expenses</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.0%	10,000.00
<b>Music</b>	7,584.24	6,100.00	1,484.24	124.33%	4,600.00
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%	150.00
<b>Property Building</b>	32,594.84	55,300.00	-22,705.16	58.94%	52,600.00
<b>Property Grounds</b>	11,367.55	12,300.00	-932.45	92.42%	11,836.00
<b>Stewardship Committee</b>	842.34	900.00	-57.66	93.59%	1,015.00
<b>Utilities</b>	32,789.51	33,597.13	-807.62	97.6%	33,500.00
<b>Vestry Expenditures</b>	377.50	625.00	-247.50	60.4%	400.00
<b>Worship Ministries</b>	1,239.83	1,200.00	39.83	103.32%	1,070.00
<b>Youth Group</b>	442.84	2,250.00	-1,807.16	19.68%	1,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>475,819.41</b>	<b>511,217.73</b>	<b>-35,398.32</b>	<b>93.08%</b>	<b>511,254.50</b>

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

2014 has been a wonderful year at Trinity Church thus far for the Children and Youth. We continue to implement some small changes to better equip families for a welcoming and comfortable experience such as using our offices for Quiet Rooms as well as providing KidPacks for the little ones who need just a little something extra to do when they rejoin church at the Peace. The nursery is bustling with babies and we are so thankful for all of the volunteers and parents who have cared for the little ones 0-3 years old. We are currently looking to employ a Nursery Teacher to provide consistency within the nursery on a weekly basis.

Our Godly Play Classrooms are brimming with children and our Church School Storytellers and Doorkeepers. Mr. Al Tenney had been a constant support lending his singing talents every Sunday and teaching the children new songs. Our 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade Hands-on Bible classroom has been equally as busy with their teacher, Mrs. Bernadette Baird.

The Junior High students grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> embarked on a formation program that is entitled “Stories and Rituals” which encourages them to explore and reflect on the “big ideas” and themes of faith through community building, storytelling, discussion, and ritual prayer and reflection experiences. We have three teachers working with the Junior High Students: Mrs. Elaine Perry, Mrs. Wendy Wezner, and Ms. Liz Wendt.

We look forward to the children singing their songs in church and sharing their stories with us! We will also look forward to summer and begin preparations for Vacation Bible School 2015!

It is a joy to work with the Church School Program as I have learned so much from the teachers, storytellers, doorkeepers and children each and every Sunday!

**THE EDGE:** The Edge (Trinity’s Youth Group for teens in 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets on Sunday nights from 6-8pm in the Church Narthex. We utilize the PA Episcopal Diocese’s curriculum entitled “Stories and Rituals” each week to discuss a “Big Theme” and scripture. This reinforces the material that students receive on Sunday mornings and introduces it to other students. We begin each night of Youth Group with check-ins and then move to a large circle where announcements and the schedule for the evening are shared. Games that relate to the content are played and we usually take a break for a snack or two! The evening closes at the altar or other reflection place where students can freely share any insights that they may have and where we close for the night.

We have enjoyed several activities together in 2014 including the Corn Maze at Merry Mead Farms, Vintage Family Game Night, Advent Nightwatch, and the Christmas Concert featuring “Lost and Found”. We are looking to join other local churches to further engage our High School students in social, service, and learning opportunities.

As we move forward into 2015 we will continue to utilize the “Stories and Rituals” curriculum exploring the narrative of the Bible from Genesis through the New Testament in a fun a relevant way!

We look forward to 2015 and what the new year will bring including an opportunity for the teens to participate in Lenten Nightwatch, a Diocesan activity that provides youth with an opportunity to meet other Episcopal young people and further explore their spiritual side. This year it will be held at St.

Thomas Church Whitemarsh on March 13-14, 2015.

We also are excited for a Diocesan Lock-in held at the Highpoint Athletic Club on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be an all night event where teens from all over the Diocese can come together to enjoy rock climbing, swimming, racquetball and many other activities as well as a Closing Eucharist. If your teen is interested in attending please contact Kelly Rupprecht.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to build relationships with such insightful and inspiring teens! A huge thank you to the adult youth minister volunteers who make the program possible: Mr. Piers Prater, Mr. John Bayard, Mr. Frank Vacante, and Ms. Liz Wendt.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the EDGE, please contact Kelly Rupprecht at [youth@trinityambler.com](mailto:youth@trinityambler.com).

**Mission 2015 is to Boston!** June 27 - July 4! The trip is open to students entering grade 9 through college freshmen. Permission forms will be distributed after the first of the year. We will then begin fundraising efforts so we thank you in advance for your support!

**Confirmation Class 2014-2015:**

Our Confirmation Class this year at Trinity consists of lively and active group of young men and women who have meet together bi-weekly since early October. We have been utilizing a curriculum entitled "Confirm not Conform" or "CNC" that gives youth a voice and a choice and is relevant to the challenges of teenagers in today's world. Confirmands are expected and encouraged to attend church during this process and each are assigned an adult mentor to journey with them.

The Bishop will be visiting Trinity Church on Sunday, March 22<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the Confirmation Liturgy. We thank all of the adult mentors and confirmands who are engaged in this exciting process as well as the confirmation teachers: Reverend Mary McCullough, Mr. Dan Citrone, Ms. Liz Wendt, and Mrs. Kelly Rupprecht.

**Storytellers, Teachers, Doorkeepers, Volunteers, Youth Minister Volunteers, and Confirmation Class Teachers:**

Cheryl Bayard	Stephanie Gold	Al Tenney
John Bayard	Leigh Irvin	Joceyln Tenney
Bernadette Baird	Sarah Mooers	Frank Vacante
Dan Citrone	Elaine Perry	Elizabeth Wendt
Becky Curlett	Piers Prater	Wendy Wezner
Kathy Derbyshire	Norlaine Romano	Kristin Woods

Thank you for all that you do to make Trinity Church a warm and welcoming place for our children and youth!

Submitted by Kelly Rupprecht

## ALTAR GUILD

On any given Friday or Saturday morning you will find the Altar Guild ladies bustling about the Sanctuary dusting, changing linens, polishing brass and setting up the Chapels and the main Altar for weekly services, Weddings and for Funerals. We work in Teams of 3 or 4 so the adage of 'many hands make light work' holds true!



Our Altar Guild budget covers wine and wafers, the Altar wax candles and Chapel votive candles and some linens. In an effort to save money and wear on the Altar Fair Linens (due to wax dripping from candles) we are testing the use of oil candles on the main Altar. In the coming year, we will need to replace some wine/water cruets, Altar fair linens and some smaller linens that have seen years of weekly use and wear.

If you would like to remember a loved one who has died, or perhaps honor someone who is still by your side, please talk to me, Father Dave or Rev. Mary about contributing money as a memorial.

Thank you to the wonderful women who work behind the scenes each week:

Team 1	Sue Bofinger, Jill Hayes, Yolán Giczi, Veronica Grogan
Team 2	Adele Butler, Evelyn Carpenter, Nancy McGarvey
Team 3	Ellen McCaffrey, Pat Pfeifer, Karen Reid
Team 4	Cheryl Bayard, Veronica Gallwey, Annette Irvin, Marge Maloney.

A special thank you to Cheryl Bayard who retired as Altar Guild Director after guiding the group for 4 years. Thank you also to Evelyn Carpenter and to Cheryl Bayard who are responsible for ironing linens each week – it is an important job that takes a lot of time, skill and patience. And,



thank you to Connie Stephens who is an unofficial member and yet works diligently with Team 3 and other Teams as needed.

Submitted by *Karen Reid*

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

We have been working diligently to execute Trinity's Mission Statement using the following communication technologies to extend our reach: print, internet, and digital recording. Each area mentioned below is overseen by amazing teams of dedicated parishioners, with the generous support from clergy and staff. This is truly a group effort and we are grateful to those who bring their time and talents to the scene each and every day. We welcome all who have an interest in connecting with others through the technologies listed and those who would simply like to learn how to use them.

**Print: Information (Bulletin) Boards** - a source of information to share with the diverse communities who gather weekly at Trinity. This includes, but not limited to: Upcoming Event/Sign-Ups, 'Slices of Life', Trinity Ministries, Youth Programs, Community Programs, and Business Cards. Many thanks to Lynda Basham and Pam Hawthorne for their monthly background vigilance.

**Narthex Photo Wall & Pictorial Directory** - As our parish grows and changes, so does our narthex photo wall & pictorial directory. Please contact Ed and Janice Doyle if you would like to add your photo to the wall or update! Photos taken will be added to the pictorial directory.

**The Chimes Newsletter** - The Chimes is published 4-5 times a year, September thru June. Our summer issue covers June thru August. The newsletter is printed on a limited basis, as well as posted on-line via Trinity's website and Facebook. A special thanks to our layout editor, Nicole Skinner; proofreaders (Joe Grogan, Veronica Grogan, and Sue Bofinger) and photo hounds (Liz Wendt, Katherine Driggs, Bernadette Baird, and Mary McCullough). Please all submissions directly to the Editor at [chimes@trinityambler.com](mailto:chimes@trinityambler.com).

**Brochures and Welcome Tri-Folds** - We have been working to update Trinity brochures and Welcome tri-folds available for those who walk through our doors each and every day.

**Internet** - Trinity has successfully branched out in the social media through Facebook. We hope to expand our reach to other social media including but not limited to Twitter, Google+ and Instagram.

Our **Facebook** page has 240 known followers with a weekly reach between 300 - 900 and potential reach of 60,000. FB is used for Trinity events, weekly announcements, photos, and theological discussion. Find us on FB at *Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler, PA*.

**Twitter** is an online social networking and microblogging service that enables users to send and read "tweets", which are text messages limited to 140 characters. Find us today on twitter *@TrinityAmbler*.

The Vestry and the Communications Committee have been using **Wiggio**. **Wiggio** allows for 'running discussion board, much like the news feed in facebook, document (word and excel) sharing

in a wiki-style (meaning you can collaborate on the same document without having to download, save and re-import with changes), audio and video chatting, calendar scheduling (much like doodle where you indicate available times and participants sign-up for slots), group email distribution, link sharing, plus a whole lot more. Using Wiggio also cuts down paper consumption as all documentation can be created and/or found on-line.

**Trinity's website**, [www.trinityambler.com](http://www.trinityambler.com), has been going through modifications and will continue to do so through 2015.

Our weekly **Jingle** serves a dual purpose in print and on-line. Please send announcements to Karen Richter at [office@trinityambler.com](mailto:office@trinityambler.com). Deadlines: Monday morning.

**Wi-Fi** continues to be accessible in the narthex, parish hall, and library!

**Sound System Support** – we purchased sound equipment, through the guidance of John Dziel, to support and enhance our sanctuary experience, including both services and special events, i.e. pageants. Special thanks to John Dziel for his continued support and expertise in this area.

A **Podcast** is a multimedia digital file made available on the Internet for downloading to a portable media player, computer, etc. Our goal for 2015 is to record services/events taking place in the sanctuary and upload onto the website.

**Portable speakers/power strip** were purchased to be used in conjunction with Trinity's projector.

A **Digital Camera** was purchased to support out in-house needs, including, but not limited to the narthex photo wall, special events, and church services.

**Public Relations/Marketing:** The public relations/marketing time was busy working with Trinity's Vacation Bible School 2014 "Gotta Love" as well as 'Up From The Ashes' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our building celebration.

**Road Signs:** We are looking to purchase two 'Trinity Episcopal Church' road signs to be placed one mile outside Trinity walls. A **roadside sandwich board** was purchased to be used outside our walls to help advertise ongoing special events, i.e. organ recitals, etc.

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 2015, we hope to fine tune what was started in 2014, and to continue to explore our options as we grow in community and Spirit.

Grace and Peace,  
Kristin W. Woods

## HOSPITALITY

Hospitality organized one large dinner on December 7th, 2014. "Up From the Ashes" was a celebration of the rebuilding of Trinity Church after a disastrous fire 25 years ago reduced it to rubble. Dan Citrone and Sue Bofinger prepared the meal which included beef and chicken main dishes along with rice, two vegetables, salad, rolls and two decorated cakes for dessert. We served well over 120 people after a service at which the Bishop spoke. We even had enough food left over for folks to take home "doggie bags"! It was tiring but lots of fun.

Including the money from Sue Adair's quilt raffle, the plate collection from the service and the tickets sold for the dinner, we managed to clear over \$2,165 after expenses. Half of this went to ECS - the other half went into the Property Fund.

We had four "fifth Sundays" in 2014 and Dan proposed hosting brunches on these Sundays between the two services. Although holidays conflicted with two of them, we did have two delicious brunches with good attendance.

We hope to have another big dinner this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Bofinger

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT 2014

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 things are at the same time cyclical. The music program provides evidence of the health and vitality of the parish.

### **The Choirs:**

The choir system at Trinity is currently comprised of three choirs, the Youth Choir, which includes those who are at least in third grade or eight years and older; the Trinity Choir, which is the adult choir, and the Cherub Choir. 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 had 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, the same for the last two seasons. However, this number is due to the fact that older choir members still wish to sing with this choir, rather than join the Trinity Choir. 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 likewise 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." There are now 24 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. Looking into the future, one never knows what will happen, but the people of Trinity need to realize that this choir, in all frankness, is aging. If we want to maintain a choir with quality, we need more people to join us, in order to relieve what some see is a demanding schedule. 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 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 until the Sunday after Trinity, as well as on 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, Kingsley Stroh and Maureen McCauley. This year we were graced with beautiful string music provided by Fiyi, Jolade and Feyi Adebekun, three young members of Trinity.

**Musical Instruments:**

Trinity's Schantz pipe organ continues to attract attention both locally and nationally because of its unique and successful design, as well as its magnificent sound. Occasionally, requests are made from organizations outside of Trinity who wish to utilize it. Pipe organs are complicated mechanisms, and Trinity's is no exception. Trinity's organ is tuned only twice a year compared to the usual three or four times other churches' organs require. This is largely due to the stability in temperature in the sanctuary. However, after 25 years, the only electronic stop on the organ, the 32' Soubasse, needed to be replaced. Special thanks go to John Dziel, who investigated replacement, and actually with the help of Robert Betty (the Schantz consultant) removed the old speakers from the organ case and replaced them with new ones through an elaborate pulley system. The organ is now being maintained by Emery Brothers. In addition to the Schantz organ, Trinity also has a Rogers electronic organ in the parish hall, a gift of Susan Adair from the estate of Elizabeth "Betty" Adair.

Since the time that Trinity Church was rebuilt, some families have donated pianos. Pianos that were constructed for homes rather than institutional use wear out, and over the years we have disposed of those no longer suitable for use through either gifting or selling. Up until the end of 2014 Trinity had two pianos: an Everett grand piano in the church, which came from the estate of Elizabeth Adair, and a Sambrick studio upright purchased through memorial funds given by Barbara and William Davis in memory of Muriel Wood Parsons, Earl H. Parsons and William T. Davis. This December Trinity received funds donated by Susan Adair to purchase a Baldwin grand piano belonging to Robert Betty that had been kept in the parish hall. The pianos are currently maintained by Lawrence Fornaci.

**Conclusion:**

The Music Department, in conclusion, had an active year. Trinity's annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols was replaced this year by a Festive Evensong on December 7. The Christmas Pageant, *Christmas with Saint Francis*, was presented on December 21. 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

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

This year was to be the year to “Beautify the Sexton’s Cottage”, but foundational tasks happened first. With the incredible help of Bill Hecker, Tim Bauder and Libby Hahn, the Sexton’s Cottage got many, many minor “honey-do list” items fixed. The sump-pump, washer and dryer were repaired. Windows were caulked, replaced, glazed. Doors in the bathroom and on Kitchen cabinets were fixed. Additionally, three fundraisers added \$1800 to future paint of the exterior of the property.

The Rectory also saw some invaluable repair work from volunteers Bill Hecker, Ed Doyle and Dave Manchester. Dehumidifiers were added to the basement, the basement stair risers were reinforced, the Bilco doors were reattached, and the screen doors on both front and back doors were fixed. A tree limb, that threatened to cut through the electrical wire of the Rectory, was also removed by a volunteer.

The Church building had very few leaks and David McCullough has done a marvelous job of keeping our roof in good repair. John Dziel, who is all things regarding sound equipment, replaced the organ speakers, installed new speakers behind the acolytes, and turned his talents to upgrading the lights in the church to LED in the basement, both office areas, the sacristy, the vesting areas and the kitchen. Bill Hecker was his assistant. Bill also repaired the Freezer for Real Men Cook, the thermal-coupler in the oven, which decided to die the day of Up from the Ashes dinner and events, and replaced the gauges in the boiler system. Liz Wendt offered her kind assistance to the Sprinkler clearance in the Basement Project Room. Finally on the exterior of the Church, Bill Hecker re-cemented areas of the sidewalks that were unsafe.

Thank you to all the uncounted, unnamed volunteers who carried scaffold pieces up stairs. Thank you for all who helped clean our grounds with the Boy Scouts and Scotti and Skip Kerschner.

We could not do it without you!

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McCaffrey  
Walt Bunting

## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Jane Saunders  
Ellen McCaffrey  
Both candidates will be filling  
a second term.

Jill Marsceill  
Elaine Perry  
Each candidate will be elected  
to a first term.

### Diocesan Delegates:

Liz Wendt, Barb Davis, Piers Prater    Alternate: Ernie Dixon

## PARISH STATISTICS

### *Membership*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total # of Baptized Persons	495	507	499	513	465	506	515

### *Worship Attendance*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Easter Day	348	366	459	465	458	407	438
Average Sunday Attendance	198	199	204	211	195	209	202

### *Church School - Growing!*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Children in Church School	65	60	61	69	76	76	98

### *Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Plate Offerings	\$262,242	\$283,503	\$292,232	\$303,407	\$308,445	\$303,200	317,248

### *Pledges -*

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of Pledges	139	136	136	118	122	141	132
Total Amount Pledged	240,870	278,378	278,658	257,832	260,918	275,090	252,462