

2008 Annual Report

Trinity Episcopal Church



January 25, 2009

Trinity Episcopal Church

708 S. Bethlehem Pike

Ambler, PA 19002

www.trinityambler.com

Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Call to Order
- III. Review of Minutes from previous Annual Meeting
- IV. The Exaltation of the retiring Vestry member and Property Diva
- V. Voting for Vestry and Delegates

Lunch Break – We pause after balloting for lunch

- VI. Reports
- VII. 2008 Budget Presentation
- VIII. Election Results
- IX. Closing Prayer

Annual Meeting Minutes for 2008

Opening Activity:

The meeting began by filling out name tags and then mixing up the people at each table according to numbers on their name tags. At the tables, each person was asked to share their answers to three questions:

1. What is your first memory of church?
 2. What is your first memory of Trinity Ambler?
 3. Share a moment of knowing God in your life.
- 11:45 Meeting began

Minutes of last year's meeting

Ed Mahler moved the minutes be approved. Addie Johnson seconded. Approved

Remembered members that had died this year: Dwight Dundore and Stewart Wagoner

Voting for Vestry Members

With four vacancies and only 4 running, Barbara Shields moved and Fred Allsop seconded to accept them by acclamation. Passed

Voted on Deanery/Convention Delegates

Jane Saunders, Nancy Dixon, Scotti Kershner went out to count votes.

Had Lunch

Deanery/Convention Delegates

Nolan Atkinson, Eddie Black, Karyn Jean Dickhoff are the winners

Donald Davis, Jan Jones, Ben Wallis are the alternates.

Rector's Report

We are a transitional size church. Need to work on our interaction with others or will lose members. We are organizing the Vestry to look out for those who are absent. We need to be working on caring for each other.

Reports

It was moved to accept the reports by Laura Gergen. Seconded by Barbara Shields. So moved.

Finance

Ernie Dixon the Accounting Warden recognized the Tellers and those on the Finance Committee.

2007

1. We had a 7% return on our investments.
2. Had an operating budget of \$420,852

3. Thought we would be \$26,000 over budget but we controlled expenses and had additional income (we transferred money from investments)
4. \$10,000 of our Operating Budget goes to outreach and \$13,000 went to outreach which was raised from the Carnival.

2008

1. We will have a \$25,000 deficit again this year, but hoping to overcome again with less spending and additional income.
2. \$10,000 is going to outreach again.
3. \$10,000 is going for new doors.
4. We have 4 investments managed by Wachovia.
 - a. The endowment fund
 - b. Sylvan Hanley Fund
 - c. Boyer Operating Fund which we use to cover short falls.
 - d. Scholarship fund
5. If we keep drawing down from the Boyer Fund, it will be exhausted in 10 years.
6. We are diversified so are not getting hit by the recent market downturn.
7. Questions

a. Are we socially responsible with our investments?

Yes, we asked Wendell (financial advisors to do this)

b. Are investments diversified?

Yes, very diversified.

c. How is the Church heated?

Gas and we have zone heating.

Father Dave thanked Tim Bauder who could not be there for his time on Vestry.

Father Dave thanked Jane Saunders for her 7 and ½ years on Vestry and gave her a present.

Fr. Dave named new members of Vestry: Sue Adair, Barb Davis, Brian Phillips, and Piers Prater.

Closed with prayer.

Rector's Report

BOKAMOSO: FUTURE!



Dear Friends:

What a gift it is to have Bokamoso with us at Trinity Church. What a blessing it is to have a group like Bokamoso working in South Africa to insure a good future to young people whose future might be anything but good without them.

Future. I know that when I was writing my report for last year's annual meeting I did not in any way, shape, or form believe or imagine that the future of our country, our world, would include an economic melt-down, a collapse of the housing market, and all the ripple effects of those events. I did not know last year, that this year we would be celebrating the inauguration of Barak Obama as America's first black president. This time last year, I had no idea that Trinity would be profoundly blessed by the coming of Mary McCullough as our new Associate Rector.

The truth is that none of us really knows what the future holds. Yet we can be sure that there will be some good and some bad and everything in between. Some of what happens will be predictable while other events will be out and out surprises! Kurt Vonnegut says that history is just a list of surprises.

This past year I have been in a group comprising clergy from parishes in our diocese that have young families and young adults. That's not true in all parishes. Together we have been studying all sorts of writings that have to deal with the future of the church and of Christianity.

In many readings we have learned that each generation has its own needs, desires, and issues which affect their lives and the ways in which they live out their faith. Popular theologian and author Phyllis Tickle says that every 500 years or so the church goes through profound change which reflects the huge changes going on within the culture around it. Tickle writes that as the printing press brought about the Great Reformation 500 years ago, the explosion of electronic media and communication in today's world has brought us to the beginning of a new era in church history: the Great Emergence. Each 500 year cycle brings new light and new emphasis to the Gospel.

The theology of the Great Emergence can be seen in the writing of people like Brian McLaren who authored *The Secret Message of Jesus* and *Everything Must Change*. I am sure I am oversimplifying McLaren to say that the message of Jesus is that the kingdom of heaven is now and that the work of the church is to make the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

At this annual meeting we will be considering what we do as mission and outreach at Trinity Church to bring about the kingdom of heaven now. We want to be sure that what we do is relevant and accessible to our members so that as many of us as possible can be involved in God's work, living out our baptismal promises.

Very soon you will be hearing about small group meetings that will be offered at many different times and in a variety of places so that most of us can participate. Our goal in these meetings will be to learn what will make worship services and all of our educational and formational events relevant and accessible to people of all ages. We want to be a church that reaches people under 40 while keeping people over 60!

I bet that about 15 or 20 years ago if you asked the leaders and people of Trinity Church about its future they would not have imagined that on an average Sunday in 2008 there would be over 200 people coming to church at three very different services. 15 or 20 years ago people at other Episcopal churches would tell you that Trinity Church was a place filled with angry people who hated their clergy and one another. Today I bet they would tell you that we are a happy, healthy, lively parish trying to be faithful to God and the people of God. History is a list of surprises.

Our God is a God of history. Our God is a God of surprises. Our God is a God of love.

Our God is a God of hope. Our God is a God of wonder. Our God is a God of wonder. Our God is a God of adventure. Our God lives and moves and has his meaning among us.

Faithfully,

Fr. Dave



Associate Rector's Report

“The Church's present is always a mixture of past and future: it can't thrive if it tries to hear only one of these.”

Barbara Crafton

“The Almost Daily eMo from GeraniumFarm”

The Annual Parish Meeting provides an opportunity to remember, acknowledge and give thanks for the past year. Though still a relative newcomer on the scene, I am grateful for the variety of ministries that take place at Trinity Church. I acknowledge and give thanks for the courage it took to invest in the future by inviting me in to your fold. In so doing, the work now is to discern God's call to us to love and to serve others more fully in the midst of this vibrant and energizing parish.

Barbara Crafton, a gifted spiritual writer, says “You always need a mix of old and new, of experience and the freshness of an intelligent naiveté. The Church's present is always a mixture of past and future: it can't thrive if it tries to hear only one of these.” I applaud the willingness of this parish to treasure and honor the traditions of the past that have fed and nurtured the hearts and souls of so many, while at the same time listening for the Holy Spirit with receptivity and openness to future possibilities.

One of our newest ventures has been the creation of the Pastoral Care Team whose ministry is one of calling parishioners on a regular basis and then gathering to pray for them and for their prayer requests. Also, a Worship – Formation Study Design Team has been formed. Originally starting as two groups - one for formation and one for worship – it became clear after a few meetings that both worship and formation overlap in significant ways and so the two have become one. Their ministry is to discern what kind of formational and worship venues might be incorporated that will strengthen and enhance the Christian faith of this

community. Thanks be to God for those who have accepted the responsibility of these ministries on behalf of this congregation.

The past has provided strength and stability. The future is full of possibility. The present accords us the opportunity to give thanks and praise to the One who guides and directs us in all our doings. May we be given the grace and wisdom to love and serve God with all our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

For what has been, thanks be to God.

For what is, thanks be to God.

For what will be, thanks be to God.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Mary McCullough

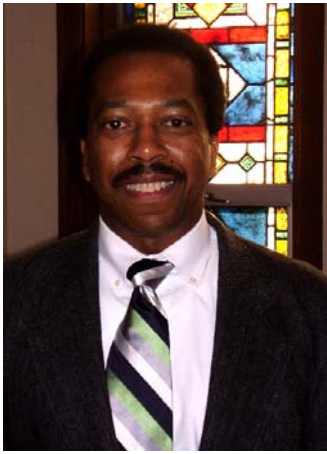


Rector's Warden Report

Barb Davis

As I look back on my first year as Rector's Warden, I see a year of excitement and change here at Trinity. The most exciting part has, of course, been the hiring of Rev. Mary McCullough as our Assistant Rector. Mary came to us in September as a member of the Transitional Diaconate, and many of us were able to attend her Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests. Mary brings extraordinary gifts to Trinity, and we are so lucky to have her with us.

Our congregation continues to grow, our worship continues to inspire, and our Church School continues to nurture our children and youth. But what about the future? Where do we want to be? Who do we want to be? As we sort out our vision for Mission and Outreach we will, hopefully, begin to find the answer. How will we continue our mission to be "a community of Christian people seeking to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves"?



Accounting Warden Report

Ernie Dixon

During 2008, Trinity Ambler Church met all our operating financial obligations despite the woes of the financial market. Our investments, however, lost value due to the sharp downturn in the financial market. Our total 2008 operating budget was \$429,919. Our pledge and plate offerings totaled just over \$268,000, which was a 1% decrease from 2007. We successfully funded various outreach programs (approximately \$21,000) from our operating budget and through parish events. We funded various maintenance projects including new doors.

Our investment balance at the end of 2008 was \$1,360,204, which represents a decrease of \$483,798 from the past year due to transfers and -25% rate of return.

Key Points in 2009 and Beyond:

- The 2009 operating budget is \$509,981, which is a 14.3% increase over the 2008 budget. The addition of an associate rector is the major reason for this year's budget increase. The 2009 budget includes transfers of \$175,000 from our investment accounts to cover our operating expenses. In planning this year's budget, ministry leaders worked hard to maintain or reduce spending from 2008. Additionally, thanks to your pledge increases, we were able to minimize the planned transfers from the investment accounts.
- As in the past, withdrawal from our Boyer Fund investment makes up a considerable portion of our operating income. The balance in the Fund (Boyer Operating plus Money Market) is \$632,889 as of 31 December 2008. In 2008, we withdrew \$134,119 from the Fund, which represented 31% of our operating income. For 2009, we plan to withdraw \$175,000, which is 34% of our operating income. As the size and strength of our parish grows, we expect the portion of investment transfers to decrease in the upcoming years. The Finance Committee and Vestry will continue to monitor investment transfers and look for ways to reduce Trinity Ambler's dependency on investment transfers to cover operating expenses. We must do this to avoid exhausting the Fund.
- In 2008, we adjusted our investment portfolio in response to the changing financial market. We established and moved a portion of the Boyer Operating funds into a money market account to protect our investments from market volatility (specifically downturns). We changed the Endowment Fund to a professionally managed account for better maintenance and rebalancing. In 2009, we will continue to work closely with our investment manager, Wachovia, to protect our investment and make prudent decisions in light of this uncertain market.

2008 Operating Budget Recap:

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Notes
Income	\$420,754	\$429,919	\$9,165	Actual inclds \$134,119 transfer from Boyer Fund, which is \$20,000 over budget
Expenses	(\$445,806)	(\$438,625)	\$7,181	Actual expns lower than budget
Net	(\$25,052)	(\$8,706)		

Highlights and Major Factors for Variance:

- Income – Pledge, Plate and First Sunday Plate Offerings income lower than plan by approximately \$23.8k.
- Income – Additional \$20k transferred from Boyer Fund to cover expenses
- Expenses – Clergy higher than plan due to hiring of assistant rector, approximately \$19k
- Expenses – Buildings and Grounds approximately \$10.2k less than plan
- Expenses – Utilities approximately \$11.3k less than plan

2008 Mission and Outreach Recap

	Actual
Income	\$20,095
Expenses	(\$21,103)
Net	(\$1,008)

2008 Episcopal Youth Mission Recap

	Actual
Income	\$13,308
Expenses	(\$13,867)
Net	(\$559)

2008 Investment Performance Recap

Fund	Balance as of 31 Dec 2007	Balance as of 31 Dec 2008	Deposits/ (Withdrawals) in 2008	Rate of Return (Money Weighted)
Endowment	\$758,683	\$645,517	\$135,054	-29.8%
Scholarship	\$13,258	\$7,734	(\$1,380)	-23.6%
Sylvan Handley	\$105,879	\$74,064	(\$6,015)	-25.0%
Boyer Operating	\$966,182	\$497,789	(\$269,118)	-22.4%
Money Market	\$0	\$135,100	\$135,000	
Totals	\$1,844,002	\$1,360,204	(\$6,459)	

Notes:

1. Data from Wachovia Securities requested Historical Performance Report
2. Dow Jones lost about 33% value in 2008

2009 Operating Budget:

	Budget
Income	\$322,150
Investment Transfers	\$175,000
Expenses	(\$511,967)
Net	(\$14,817)

Highlights:

- Pledge income of \$280,000 is 55% of operating expenses.
- Transfers of \$175,000 from investments are 34% of operating expenses.
- Mission and Outreach receive \$10,000 from operating budget for Ambler Food Cupboard, Interfaith, Real Men Cook, and ECS.

Parish Statistics

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

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total # of Baptized Persons	422	463	506	495

Worship Attendance –

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Easter Day Attendance	395	408	427	348
Average Sunday Attendance	199	216	211	198

Church School – Holding steady

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Children in Church School	45	49	63	65

Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions –

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$240,799	\$255,175	\$262,303	262,242

Pledges –

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Pledges	138	132	137	141
Total Amount Pledged	\$227,066	\$241,012	\$251,617	\$243,262

Other –

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Community Carnival Proceeds	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$13,350	Discontinued

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Adult Formation

Cheryl Bayard

We offer a variety of ways for adults to continue their spiritual journey here at Trinity Ambler. Year round programs include EFM-“Education for Ministry” which is a four year program of Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology. And a separate group that is doing a bible study of the Synoptic Gospels. EFM has two separate sessions; one on Monday evening and one Wednesday morning. The EFM mentors are Karyn Jean Dickhoff, Al Mathis and Jay Walton. The bible study group was led by Karen Reid and met on Fridays until the end of May.

This year we held a Discovery Workshop which was a two day seminar exploring such questions as: Why are we here? What do we do best? What do we value? We had a quiet day in Lent and in Advent. The one in Lent was sponsored by the Diocese and the one in Advent was at Trinity and led by Mary McCullough.

We had a variety of offerings during the Wednesdays in Lent. We began with a potluck supper and ended with the Stations of the Cross. In between, children, youth and adults had a variety of choices. John Bayard led a group on the History of the Episcopal Church. Another group led by Helen Mirkil and Brian Peterson discussed the book The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen. A third group led by Fr. Dave Canan dealt with the topic of “Everything you always wanted to know about Prayer”. The property committee did several jobs around the church on these evenings. Kelly Rupprecht worked with topics with the youth group.

Helen Mirkil and Brian Peterson also led a discussion in the fall on the book The Shack by William P. Young. Rev. Mary McCullough will be leading a group in the new year looking at the entire area of Christian Formation.



Altar Guild

Karen Reid

‘For minds to think, and hearts to love and hands to serve...we thank you Lord’
A Litany of Thanksgiving, The Book of Common Prayer

The members of the Altar Guild are grateful for the opportunity to serve each week. Because the work is spread among four teams, each group taking one week a month, the job is light and becomes a joy.

This year we were blessed to have several families contribute to the purchase of a Sarum Blue set of Altar hangings, vestments and communion linens for use during the Advent season.

The set is truly beautiful and we thank Cheryl, John and Elissa Bayard; Jill and Art Hayes; and Evelyn Carpenter and Harriet Flint for these gifts in memory of their loved ones.

We are thankful for Anne Canan and Barb Davis who used their gifts of sewing and embroidery to make linens for the credence table and other smaller serving tables. This too, is a wonderful act of stewardship in taking larger, worn linens and changing them into new, smaller but still beautiful and usable, pieces.

Two women have joined the ranks of faithful Altar Guild workers: Mary DeViso and Virginia Nelson. I thank them and their fellow team members Jill Hayes, Veronica Grogan, Adele Butler, Evelyn Carpenter, Nancy McGarvy, Pat Peiffer, Joan Goodhart, Cheryl Bayard, Veronica Gallwey and Annette Irvin for their dedication each week.



Church School

Carole Allsop
Church School Director

We continue to have a vital and growing Church school at Trinity. It's success it enabled by the wonderful and dedicated ministry that the teachers and teacher assistants give to the children each week.

The Cherub choir continues to sing on most of the 1st Sunday's of the month.

Over the past few years we have made considerable improvements to the Church school space. All the rooms have been painted and updated with new book shelves and when needed curriculum. Another class room was found by cleaning out a storage room and giving it a good clean and paint and some new ceiling tiles. And of course the wonderful bathroom installed in '07. This past summer old carpeting was removed from 3 rooms and new tile floors installed. They look great. Know the rooms have to be maintained with regular checks in all the rooms.

Thank to you all the people in the parish that make all the above possible.

Communications Report

Brian Phillips, Esq.

In 2008, our biggest step toward keeping the members of Trinity Church better informed about the latest news, events and activities at the church was implementing the system to email the "Jingle" every week to everyone who signed up with the Trinity Yahoo Group. We can also use the Trinity Yahoo Group to send out important notices, so we encourage everyone to sign up. You can do so by joining the Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/trinityambler/>



We worked to create more public awareness of the many community-oriented programs with which Trinity is involved. Trinity's support for the Episcopal Unity Build, both financially and hands-on, was terrific; and the program has been well publicized throughout the community where the home is being constructed. We have developed contacts with the local papers serving Ambler and the surrounding towns to spread the word when Trinity hosts special events, such as the White Elephant Sale and Choir Christmas Concert. This year, programs like our Youth Mission Trip will be publicized, so that a larger community will be made aware of the great work our young people perform to help and serve others.

It is our goal to keep the members of Trinity Church aware and informed of all the avenues and opportunities that Trinity offers for ministry and service. We hope that by keeping all of you more informed, you can become more involved. We also hope that by telling the stories of what we are doing here at Trinity to the larger community, more people will be called to join us in our worship and service to God.



Daughters of the King

LaTanya McLean Barkley

ANAM CARA CHAPTER

During 2008, the Anam Cara Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) kept extremely busy! Throughout the year we delivered welcome baskets to visiting families. Each welcome basket contains homemade baked goods, a Daily Prayer Booklet, and literature about our Trinity Church Family and its offerings. There were 24 baskets delivered in 2008.

The Daughters have continued making contributions to our Community Cupboard as well. In March, while some of our members attended our Spring Assembly, others prepared breakfast and lunch for a Cursillo gathering at Trinity.

During April, some of our members volunteered to make dinners for families staying at our parish from the Interfaith Housing Alliance. For Province III (end of May), our Chapter was in charge of setting up the Prayer Room. We supplied relaxing music, spiritual reading materials, and bookmarks that were made especially for Province III. In June, we organized a book signing for Rev. Wil Gaffney, Ph.D. The evening started with a potluck dinner followed by a lecture from Rev. Gaffney about her book titled *Daughters of Miriam*.

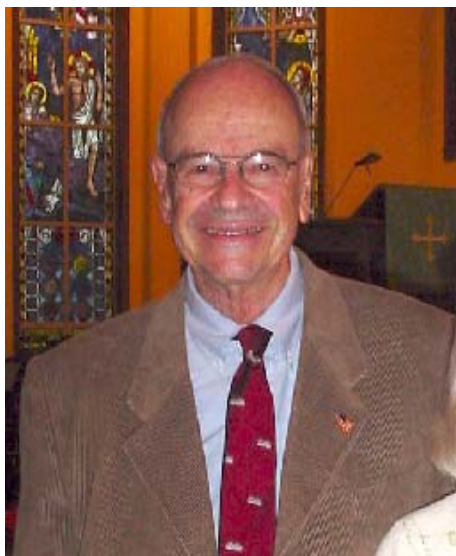
Over our summer break we started preparing for our Fall Retreat. The second weekend of October, we sponsored the 4th Annual Women's Retreat at St. Marguerite's Retreat House in Mendham, NJ. Nineteen women attended this year's retreat. The retreat planning committee and Reverend Maxine Maddox-Dorneman chose the theme "Our Relationships in Christ". Over the weekend Maxine discussed the six sided figure of wellness and how to balance it in our lives. The six sided figure of wellness consists of: spiritual wellness, intellectual wellness, physical wellness, occupational wellness, emotional wellness, and social wellness. Ginny Guyer led us in making joyful songs to the Lord! In preparation for the retreat everyone was asked to bring a prop. Our participants were surprised when finding out they needed to use their props to

create a skit during our Saturday evening session. At the end of the weekend, we left feeling relaxed, refreshed and renewed. We are hoping to have a Retreat reunion sometime in May 2009.

A week after our retreat, we participated in Trinity's Fall Rummage Sale. Leftover business suits and dresses from the sale were collected and donated. Some suits were donated to the local Salvation Army and others were donated to the Career Wardrobe, a local nonprofit organization that serves thousands of women in transition by providing free professional clothing. On October 19th, our new officers were installed! During the 10 am service, we had our Installation Service and Renewal of Vows. Our new officers are LaTanya McLean Barkley (President), Lynda Basham (Vice President), Jan McLemore (Treasurer), and Annette Irvin (Secretary).

The Anam Cara Chapter offers two meeting times. Our morning group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 10 am. Our evening group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7pm. Both morning and evening meetings are held at our Church. Our morning group meets in the Library and our evening group meets in the Chapel. Our membership now numbers 22 Daughters, with one Daughter –at-Large. While our meeting time is devoted to prayer, study, and business aspects, we practice a life of daily prayer and evangelism. We keep a list of prayer requests that parishioners have submitted using the prayer cards. We pray daily for those on the prayer list as well as those on our own list.

If you are interested in joining, please speak with any Daughter or come to one of our meetings. We are hoping to train new members in 2009. So, please join us in our life of prayer, service, and evangelism.



Mission & Outreach

Ed Mahler

Mission and Outreach continued as one of Trinity's top priorities in 2008. While in '08 we had no Carnival which did not allow us to make sizable cash contributions to worthy charities and organizations, we were still very active in our efforts to reach out locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

At the outset let me say that in addition to our formalized activities at Trinity, the individual and group efforts that so many of you are involved with are a tremendous asset to our contributions to our Outreach effectiveness.

So many of us, from Father Dave, to all members of our Congregation, give of their time, talent, energy, money and love, to so many worthy causes as God wishes for us to do.

A few weeks ago we watched a homeless man show our congregation a model of a church with a lock on its door. Why, he wondered aloud, didn't churches open their doors to the homeless. It's a good question, and while we might have thought about what more Trinity could be doing to serve the homeless people in our area, we may also feel very good about the work we do with the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance.

Every April, we open our doors to families in need of shelter, meals and support. Last April was no different. We housed three families, all single mothers struggling to support their children. A host of volunteers took turns providing meals, sleeping overnight at the church and even baby sitting so one young mother could go to a job interview. Since the women all had their own cars and didn't need transportation, Trinity welcomed them into our church with gift gas cards. Trinity's participation in the Inter-Faith Program offers us all the chance to answer the call of the gospel to serve those in need. Don't miss the opportunity to get involved this coming April.

We continued our monthly support of the Community Cupboard and Interfaith Housing giving each \$2400 over the course of the year. In addition, in November, we just completed a successful month long effort of providing cleaning materials to the Community Cupboard which were badly needed. We contributed about 50 bags of soap and food. In December we began a request for toilet tissue. We plan to continue this effort in '09

Over the year we contributed \$2400 to Episcopal Community Services to continue their valuable work

Our major effort in '08 was our involvement with the Episcopal Unity Build Program, to provide a home for a worthy family in North Hills. This was a joint effort with several area churches and we certainly did our part in helping in the construction of the home, in addition to a contribution of \$7122. This money came from several sources. From the receipts from our Rummage Sale, from your generous contributions of spare change in jars designated for that purpose and from the brilliant idea of selling coffee and buns to voters who came to the polling place at Trinity on election day.

So, as you may see, we have been quite productive in the past year and will certainly continue to be so in 2009, as Mission and Outreach continues to be one of the major and most important goals of Trinity.



Music Department

Stephen Schreiber, Director of Music

The year 2008 was an exciting time for the music program here at Trinity. The music department continues to be reflective of the parish at large; people's lives change, and they move in and out of our own lives. Change is constant. Yet, the music program continues to grow and provides evidence of the health and vitality of the parish.

The Choirs:

The choir system at Trinity is comprised of three choirs, the Cherub Choir for children younger than eight years of age; the Youth Choir, which includes those eight years and older; and the Trinity Choir, which is the adult choir.

The basic responsibility of the choirs is to assist the rector in leading the congregation through the musical liturgy of the worship service. Their presentation of anthems and other music enhances the services and, hopefully, inspires the congregation.

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

The Youth Choir continues to grow from last season, and now numbers eight. They meet and rehearse for a brief time on Sundays following the Eucharist. My wish would be that older youth would join the choir, but older youth become increasingly active young adults, and there is just no time in their schedules for rehearsing. We have exciting plans for 2009, in that we plan to implement a training system from the Royal School of Church Music America. This is a structured music program which uplifts the spiritual lives of its participants through high quality music. The program is very flexible and can be adapted to the limited rehearsal time of the choir. This system is used by numerous Episcopal churches in the area, and it is time for Trinity, with its rich music tradition, to implement it as well.

The Trinity Choir continues to experience relative stability in membership, and now consists of 31 members when all are present. For me, this is very exciting as well as gratifying. This choir is sizable for a volunteer Episcopal choir. 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. The quality of the music this choir sings is very high in its praise and adoration of Almighty God. Very few volunteer choirs are able to sing music of this caliber. In keeping with the philosophy of the Director of Music, no auditions are necessary and everyone is welcome regardless of musical ability. In other words, if you can carry a tune, you are welcome to join us. There is exceptional talent in this choir, and their offerings of solos add much to the worship service. Special thanks go to Barb and Bill Davis, Doug Purvis and Leigh and Joe DeTato. The Trinity Choir has two section leaders: Andrea Petska, Alto, and Herb Ruzann, Bass. The search for a tenor section leader continues. The choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 and sings from the Sunday after Labor Day to 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, and Nancy Dixon, who helps as the Trinity Choir's librarian.

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

Instrumentalists:

Trinity is blessed with much talent within the parish and further blessed in that its members so voluntarily offer their talents to the worship service. Some are actual music professionals and others are eager volunteers who just play or sing beautifully. There are so many people to thank that one risks omitting a name, but our thanks are extended to Anne Canan, Mindy Cutcher, John Dively, Patricia Martin, Maureen McCauley and Joe DeTato. Special thanks go to Ernest Wells, who occasionally substitutes for the Director of Music and helped accompany an anthem at the Trinity Choir's Christmas Concert.

Musical Instruments:

Trinity's Schantz pipe organ continues to attract attention both locally and nationally because of its unique and successful design, as well as its magnificent sound. Occasionally, requests are made from organizations outside of Trinity who wish to utilize it. Pipe organs are complicated mechanisms, and

Trinity's is no exception. It continues to be maintained by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates, Inc. Trinity's organ is tuned only twice a year compared to the usual three or four times other churches' organs require. This is largely due to the stability in temperature in the sanctuary. In addition to the Schantz organ, Trinity also has a Rogers electronic organ in the parish hall, a gift of Susan Adair from the estate of Elizabeth "Betty" Adair.

Trinity currently has three pianos: an Everett grand piano from the estate of Elizabeth Adair; a Baldwin spinet from the estate of Robert "Bob" Gallagher; and a Sambrick console from the family of Gladys Gould. They are all maintained by George Husted of North Wales.

Conclusion:

The Music Department, in conclusion, had an active year. Trinity's annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols was presented on December 7. "Christmas With St. Francis," the first of the parish's Christmas pageants in a three-year cycle, was presented on December 21 in conjunction with the Church School. That same afternoon a spectacular concert was presented by the Trinity Choir and soloists and instrumentalists. All of this music was in addition to the other Sundays and commemorative events of the Church Year, such as Ash Wednesday and the Vigil of Easter.

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

The Grace of Our Lord be with you.

Steve



New Members

Karen Reid

'You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.'

Ephesians 2:19

We have all been strangers and sojourners at some point when we searched for a Church. It can feel uncomfortable to enter a Church on Sunday morning not knowing a soul...to exchange the Peace part way through the service when everyone is using first names in greeting...and then...the dreaded Coffee Hour!

Trinity Church is trying to help the individual, couple or family visiting our Parish for the first time to feel comfortable when they walk through the door. Our Greeters are a friendly and genuine 'welcome' for the first-time visitor. They will greet the visitor again after the service to answer questions and to obtain pertinent info so that we may be in touch with them. The Daughters of the King prepare a basket of baked goods and info on the Parish to deliver that afternoon or sometime during the week. Father Dave or Mary will follow up shortly after that with a call or note thanking the newcomer for visiting. We have an informal new member welcome lunch or dinner where a group of newcomers gather with Dave, Mary and members of the Vestry and their spouses to get to know each other and to hopefully ease their integration into the Parish community.

The point of all of this is not about growing the Church or improving our attendance numbers, but welcoming our Brothers and Sisters in Christ as that – family.



Pastoral Care

Addie Johnson

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

- Lay Eucharistic Visitors/Ministers

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

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

- Trinity's Parish Nurse

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

As of December 2008, a Nurse Corp is in the process of being formed to have nurse personnel available at all three services. Serving at 8 AM: Ms. Adele Butler; 10 AM Mrs. Jen Prater and others to be announced; 5 PM: Mrs. Mary Ann Miller.

Red Cross Boxes, one with CPR a mask, have been purchased and are located in the Parish Hall and downstairs Sunday School room. In addition, Hand Sanitizers are being purchased for use in similar destinations.

- *Meals and Visits for Individuals and Families in Special Circumstances*

Mrs. Lynda Basham and Mrs. Annette Irvin coordinate the volunteers who provide this periodically much needed ministry to our parishioners. Persons in need of these services contact Fr. Dave for a referral to this committee. This year we have served several individuals and families. There are 20 volunteers available to provide these services.

- *Transportation for our Elderly and Disabled*

Incapacitated and need a ride to church for Mass? Kindly contact Mr. Roy Irwin for assistance in finding a person in your area. Kudos to Mrs. Jocelyn Tenney and Mr. Stephen Chester who bring parishioners to church on a regular basis.

- *Parents of Teens Library and Websites*

The library is located directly beneath the mailboxes in the Narthex. Especially selected texts that address adolescent guidance are available for borrowing. Parents who have borrowed texts and left mini-reviews have helped other borrowers. This December the library will almost be complete with the addition of 20 new texts.

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

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

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

A new checkout system has been developed to maintain the privacy of library borrowers. The process is found in the yellow book in the book rack.



Property

Laura Gergen and Piers Prater

Welcome to Trinity Church! You're invited to come on in! That's what our new red doors say to people coming up to our building. The selection, purchase and installation of the new exterior doors in the Narthex and office wing were the major project for the Property committee this year.



We will continue the replacement of damaged exterior doors over the next couple of years. Expect new doors in the breezeway in 2009.

Curb appeal, or should we say parking lot appeal, was also on our list of accomplishments in 2008. The main parking lot was resealed and restriped and we expanded the handicap parking area by paving over a grassy strip between the parking spots and the sidewalk. This makes it easier for folks with wheelchairs and walkers to maneuver from their vehicles and into the church without getting stuck in the mud on their way in.

Three of the church school rooms got a face/floor-lift this year as well. Property removed the water damaged carpets and installed new floor tiles in the classrooms so that any future water leaks will have less impact on the classrooms. Thanks to the many volunteers who came out and got on their hands and knees (literally) to put down the tiles and also to the youth group for painting the rooms (and Father Dave too!).

You might remember that one of the stained glass windows in the Parish Hall was accidentally damaged last spring. Luckily for us, the original artists who made the window are still in business in Philadelphia and had the window removed, repaired and reinstalled before we could say boo! Thank you to the anonymous donor who paid our insurance deductible for the repair!

The scaffolding was also assembled again in 2008. We had a great ground crew and daring monkeys who climbed to replace burned out lights in the Narthex and sanctuary (take a look at those pendant fixtures hanging over the pews and imagine how hard it is to change the many light bulbs in there while standing on a platform 24 feet above the ground—I'm getting sweaty palms just thinking about it!). We also painted some of the old water damaged places on the ceiling in the Narthex and sanctuary.

Many other, less visible, but equally important, projects were completed in 2008 as well. We had the sanctuary, offices and Narthex treated for termites; the office hallway was painted; the slate floor by the new office door was repaired; new faucets were installed in the kitchen; a new furnace was installed in the Sexton's cottage; the hose bib was repaired at the rectory; the rectory back porch was repaired; the kitchen was completely cleaned and organized; etc., etc., etc.

Outside, Sylvan Handley's landscaping company did a great job again maintaining the grounds. We also had some super volunteers out there pulling weeds and cleaning up the beds for Sylvan and company to mulch. The pear trees were also pruned in 2008 in the hopes that they will stay healthy for years to come.



Stewardship

Nancy McGarvey

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

In March the Team attended the Province I annual Conference on Stewardship, Evangelism, and Congregational Development in Westborough, Massachusetts. This conference re-energizes us and sparks new ideas for use here at Trinity (U2-charist anyone?)

That's it for 2008. Come on out in 2009 and join in the fun!

We changed the annual Ministries Fair in September slightly this year.

It was still a great opportunity for everyone to meet and greet each other, get to know the ministry leaders, and decide which opportunities are best for them. We encourage everyone to sign up to participate in the ministries at this fair, but anyone can sign up at any time. Copies of the *Servant Ministries* booklet which outlines the various opportunities are available in the Narthex (or online).

We have continued the column "Stewardship: It's Not (Always) About the Money" in the *Chimes*. This column attempts to show that good stewardship applies to all aspects of our lives, not just in a monetary sense.

We had a successful pledge campaign this fall which we tagged as "Blessing Flow". As of this writing we have 136 pledges contributing \$241,870. Given the current economic climate we were delighted to not only match last year's amount, but to exceed it ever so slightly.

We are thankful for each and every pledge because this income will enable Trinity to continue its mission.

Thanks be to God!

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



Worship Committee

Sue Adair

O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE
O GRATEFULLY SING HIS POWER AND HIS LOVE

The worship committee meets on a quarterly basis to plan upcoming services and special events.

In addition to the regular Sunday services, plans must be made for the special highlights of the liturgical year- Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lenten activities, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and All Saints .

Regular services are Sundays 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm, with child care available at all three. Weekday services are Wed. morning and Thurs. evening, with the Eucharist. During the Summer on Wed. evenings, there is a service of prayer and reflection, with harp music.

We thank all who organize and schedule this small and loving army of participants: acolytes, crucifers, chalicists, readers, altar guild, ushers, greeters, tellers, and hospitality. This year many new people signed up at the Ministries Fair, to participate in these various aspects of our worship.

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

Last Fall, the Worship & Formation Study and Design Team was formed to explore new approaches to our worship that might be relevant to our growing parish, especially as concerns our younger families. Presently we are constructing some way to gather information, parish-wide, that will help us understand more fully "what do people want at worship".

The 2009 Lenten Daily Devotional for Trinity! This booklet, so well received last year, will be available again. Several parishioners have agreed to reflect on an individually assigned scripture passage, and write their thoughts and prayers in that regard. This booklet will be available in time for Ash Wednesday.

To all these worship activities, we welcome The Rev. Mary McCullough, who will share the liturgical duties, as well as many others, with Fr. Dave. THANKS BE TO GOD



Youth Group

Kelly Rupprecht, Youth Minister

The Youth Group at Trinity has been quite active this year. Approximately 15-20 students attend each Sunday night from 6-8pm for fellowship, fun, and worship. We are fortunate to have many fine adult leaders who volunteer weekly to mentor and support our youth.

So what have we been up to?

We have delved into many topics of discussion thus far such as “Who am I”, “A Compartmentalized Life”, “Who is Jesus”, and “When Have I Experienced God”. We have tried not only to participate in discussion but also to take the time to get to know one another through games and movies, weekly meals, and informal worship directed by the teens. The Youth Group has participated in several outings outside of Trinity. They recently lent their voices while Christmas Caroling to our Homebound members. The group also helped to prepare the annual ECS Christmas Angel Tree and have started discussion on the Justice Mission Series.

We were blessed to have a special guest speaker, Matthew, who visited our church throughout the month of December and spoke to the youth about his life experiences as a homeless man as well as his personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition, several of our students coordinated a memorial service for Ebony Dorsey which drew many people from the local community to our church. It has been an exciting, prayerful, and community centered year thus far with much to look forward to in the future!

What’s Coming Up?

In the new year of 2009 we will be learning about the twelve disciples and devoting a week each month to serve our community. The annual Bishop’s Ball is also quickly approaching and an overnight with several other church youth programs is in the process of being planned. Please continue to look for our students as they fundraise for the Mission Possible Trip in the New Year. We are always so grateful for the tremendous support from the parishioner’s at Trinity!

We continue to pray that our group will grow in faith, friendship, and love. All are welcome to attend. If you would like further details on the Youth Group or up to date pictures of our meetings/events please check the church website and the Youth Activities section.

God Bless you and thanks for continuing to support the youth of Trinity.



Mission Possible: 2009

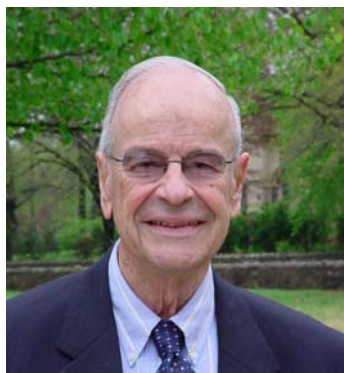
Dennis Reid, Jr.

Summer is a special time of year for many teenagers. With school finally over, it's time to relax, head to the shore, spend time with friends, or beat the heat at the pool. But for a motivated group of Trinity teens, it was a time to make a difference in the community of Sarasota, Florida. ...but we had to get out of the airport first!

Traveling always seems to be part of the fun for a Mission Trip, especially when the trip takes longer than expected. It's not like this group has never been lost (see West Virginia and New York trips) or had to wait in a long line at an airport (see previous Florida trip). And usually, the wait is a great time for a game of hearts, a quick nap, or simply enjoying the company of group. However, after 12 hours in the Philadelphia International Airport, we were ready to get going. After finally landing, we still had a nice hour-long drive to St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church. Incredibly, Jackie Hartley was waiting for us at four in the morning. Jackie, a veteran of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, is the Director of Youth and Family

Ministries at St. Margaret's. She was a terrific host for us, making sure we were comfortable for the duration of our stay. Needless to say, we were tired. After getting some much-needed sleep, we headed out on Saturday morning to work a few hours with Habitat for Humanity. That night, we had the chance to travel to Tampa to see a Rays baseball game – a walk-off win for the home team! It was time for church the following morning, and Reverend Everett P. Walk (“Rev. Ev”) graciously welcomed our group during services. Following services, we spent the afternoon cleaning weeds a national park. The remaining four days of work brought us to Catholic Charities in Arcadia, Florida. Arcadia is a small town in which the main industry is fruit-picking, mainly oranges during the summer. Migrant farm workers travel the region according to where work is available. They also travel to North Carolina and even as far as Minnesota during different picking seasons. This constant traveling leads to living in desolate trailers with up to 50 other people. Unfortunately, the combination of a very low-paying job and poor living conditions directly affects the lives of the children in these communities.

Vestry Nominees



Ed Mahler

Over the past 5 years Trinity has become increasingly more meaningful and important in my life. My ministries here at Trinity have given me enjoyment and reward. I love Ushering, Greeting, Reading, my role on the Stewardship Team, the Pageant and my recent term on the Vestry. Trinity has wonderful Pastoral guidance and leadership, especially now, with the addition of Mary McCullough. Also a loving, warm and outgoing congregation, which is a joy to be with is another asset which makes this such a remarkable place. As we look ahead, 2009 will be a difficult and challenging year, as probably 2010 will be also. It would be a privilege to serve another term on the Vestry and along with you and other Vestry members, help Trinity cope successfully with the challenges ahead and remain as we are today, a home for fulfilling and spreading the word of our Lord.



Addie M. Johnson, Ed.D

As a member of the Trinity Ambler Church Vestry for the past three years, it is my desire to continue to serve our parish in the area of Pastoral Care. I believe my activities have enhanced not only my role but the roles of all others serving this essential ministry.

As Eucharistic Lay Minister I have visited, prayed with, and supported many of our Trinity parish members. This is an important ministry for me because I have the opportunity to bring God's love, His hope, and His comfort to those who are in need. Visitations have included those in nursing homes, hospitals, and hospice. I have also served to present and formulate seminar discussions for all of our Eucharistic Lay Ministers for the past few years. I continue to serve as a Chalice Bearer.

As an extension of this ministry, I served as Lay Episcopal Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for the past 4 and ½ years. During that time I also attended various seminars on "Medicine and Spirituality" at the University of Pennsylvania's monthly chaplain/physician presentations.

My Diocesan training in Pastoral Care also led me to play a major role in planning Educational Seminars for Institutional Chaplains in the metropolitan area for the 2007-8 years. Preparation for Pastoral Care included working at the Liturgical Institute at the Cathedral for one year.

At Trinity, I established the Parent Resource Library that is now coming into completion utilizing a better privacy borrowing process. Website references and book reviews for topics of interest to Parents of Adolescents are available in back issues of the Chimes. Monthly book reviews for parents will be forthcoming starting in 2009.

I also have to opportunity to coordinate volunteer efforts to provide Food and Visits for Families during times of critical need as identified by our rector. This ministry has become quite meaningful for parishioners experiencing crisis situations.

Working with our parish nurse, Jennifer Prater, has fostered the creation of a Nurse Corp to serve the needs of our parish while attending services; this service will start early 2009.

In terms of theological studies, I was able to complete three years of EFM which I thoroughly enjoyed. I have also taken several courses at Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia in New Testament and “Women of the Old Testament” in addition to various seminars.

I look forward to continuing these ministries.

I have also served on committees and projects at Trinity including Mission and Outreach, Interfaith, ECS Angel Gift Project, Carnival, Rummage Sale, etc.



Nancy McGarvey

My name is Nancy McGarvey and I am running for my second term on the Vestry here at Trinity. I’ve been an Episcopalian all my life, attending both Church of the Messiah and St. Thomas’ before coming here in 1999 when Fr. Dave arrived.

I love the sense of community here at Trinity and the sense of caring for each other. It is wonderful to be part of a congregation where you know almost everyone, and it’s especially fun to watch the children of the congregation grow up. I think there a real feeling here that the whole congregation is involved in their Christian upbringing.

I joined the Altar Guild almost immediately after joining Trinity, and served as its chair for two years. I’ve made many friends through this simple, rewarding ministry.

I currently serve as vestry liaison for Stewardship. I’ve been involved with the Stewardship Team for the past eight years and do truly believe “it’s not about the money”, even though we are responsible for the pledge campaign. I hope my column in the Chimes has helped others to realize other important aspects of stewardship.

In 2004 I was part of the Strategic Planning Committee which prepared the first “Plan for Ministry”. With the fulfillment of that plan in 2008 I worked with the vestry this summer to formulate the new “Plan for Parish Life”.

We have tackled many important issues during my first term, including the hiring of an additional clergy member to lighten the load on Fr. Dave. I am looking forward to serving another term to follow through on what we’ve started. I come with an open mind but a sincere wish to continue to do the very best to benefit Trinity.



Jay Walton

I'm Jay Walton. I moved into the cottage right behind church 2 years ago after going through a divorce. I have a wonderful 6 yr old son, Ryan who lives with his mother in Tucson, AZ and I spend a weekend a month in Tucson with him. I went to Muhlenberg College in Allentown graduating with a Business Major in 1993. I work in Lansdale for my families' business, Clyde S Walton, Inc, where I am the sales manager.

I was initially drawn to Trinity while looking for a new church family because of the warm and welcoming atmosphere I encountered when I walked through the door. What convinced me to make this my home, was the incredible spirituality that each member possessed individually that when combined formed the church soul. Since I have become a member of Trinity, I have participated in the mission trips, property committee, youth group, co-mentor of an EFM group in Gratersford Prison, and am currently a co-mentor of the Monday night EFM group as well as the coordinator for EFM within the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

What I bring to the Vestry is a love for this parish coupled with the business skills I have attained in my professional life. Having chosen the Episcopal Church for my adult faith journey after growing up Lutheran has given me a diverse perspective on faith communities. A perspective I hope that will allow me to bring new and interesting insights to Trinity. I believe these two attributes together make me a strong candidate for helping this church.

Candidates for Deanery/Convention Delegates



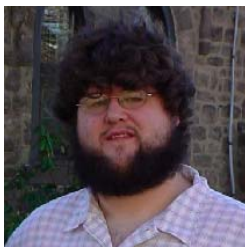
*Nolan Atkinson



*Jan Jones



*Karynjean Dickhoff



*Ben Wallis



*Cheryl Bayard

Liz Wendt

*Have previously served as Deanery/Convention Delegate. The Top three vote getters will be named delegates; the other three as alternates. It is hoped that all six will participate in all deanery events.

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