



***Celebrating the Body of Christ***

**The 2009 Annual Report**  
*for*  
*The Trinity Church Annual Meeting*  
*January 31, 2010*

## Staff of Trinity Church

The Rev. David A. Canan	Rector
The Rev. Mary McCullough	Associate Rector
The Rev. Joseph Dietz	Deacon
Stephen Schreiber	Director of Music
John Dziel	Financial and IT Administrator, Webmaster
Sheila Bistany	Office Administrator
Carole Allsop	Christian Education Director
Kelly Rupprecht	Youth Minister
Morgan Beam	Nursery Supervisor

## Trinity's Vestry

Barb Davis	Rector's Warden
Ernie Dixon	Accounting Warden
Jay Walton	Property
Cheryl Bayard	Clerk of Vestry/ Christian Formation
Addie Johnson	Pastoral Care
Karen Reid	New Members
Eileen Warren	Parish Life
Sue Adair	Worship
Brian Phillips	Communications
Ed Mahler	Mission and Outreach
Nancy McGarvey	Stewardship
Piers Prater	Property

**AGENDA**  
***The 2010 Annual Meeting of Trinity Church***  
***Sunday, January 31, 2010***

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Review of Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2009
- III. Table Discussions: Celebrating the Body of Christ
- IV. Voting for Convention/Deanery Delegates
- V. LUNCH
- VI. Reports
- VII. 2010 Budget Presentation
- VIII. Election Results
- IX. Closing Prayer

***Remembering those  
who died in 2009***

Frances Atkinson  
Mary Ayres  
Walter Butterworth  
Phyllis Ceniviva  
Regina Creato  
Leroy E. Edwards, Jr.  
Alvin Fries

Frederick Goodhart  
Helen Jordan  
Wilhelmina Rickert  
Corbett Saunders  
Graham Sudlow  
William Wilson  
Marjorie Wolf

## Table Discussions: One Body with Many Members

### I Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## FORMAT FOR THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

1. Fr. Dave will read the passage aloud to the whole meeting
2. After a moment or two of silence, then each person at the table reads the passage to themselves.
3. After a moment or two of silence, The table groups discuss the following questions, one question at a time:
  - a. What word or phrase jumped out to you? (Only answering with a word or phrase!)
  - b. What does the passage say to you?
  - c. Do you see anything in this passage to that may be important for us to remember as a parish church in 2010?

## Rector's Report

### *Celebrating the Body of the Christ!*

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it  
I Corinthians 12:17

I love Paul's image of the church as the body of Christ. The body imagery reminds us that we have many parts, the parts are different and should be, each part has an important function and that no part of the body is more important than the other.

There are many parts of the body which we call Trinity Church that are cause for great joy and celebration!

The pledged income for this program year has increased 19%! The Vestry, Mary, and I stand in awe of this result. We are so very grateful to members who were able to increase their giving, for those who wanted to but could not, and even those who had to reduce their pledges, because when the parts came together; what the whole body did was nearly miraculous! In today's economic climate I am certain that there are very few parishes with a 19% increase in pledges. Thank you.

40 members came together in four separate groups, meeting many times for long hours, helping four members: Karyn Jean Dickhoff, Ted Olson, Dennis Reid, Jr., and Ben Wallis discern their particular calls to the priesthood. These groups called Parish Advisory Committees on Ministry have concluded their work and affirmed the callings of the 4 aspirants. Karyn Jean, Ted, Dennis, and Ben now continue along a very lengthy process that is months or even years from its conclusion. What is amazing to me is that so many members of Trinity Church gave so much of themselves, and what's even more amazing is knowing that there were so many others who would have responded to the call! What's also amazing about this body we call Trinity Church is that I am told that this may be the first time in our Diocese that any church raised up at one time 4 members for ordained ministry!

Talk about one body, many parts; last March about 170 members gathered in 22 small group meetings throughout the month of March to talk about the life of Trinity Church. Many of the suggestions made at those meetings have been implemented, many are "in process" and many still to be tackled. Every single one of the listening groups ended with the realization that we really liked the experience of being in small groups together, getting to know folks a little better and having some serious discussion.

The Stewardship team brought us the most amazing celebration of the body of Christ on Saturday evening October 24! Kristen Woods assembled, coordinated, directed, encouraged, and staged an incredible cast of Trinity members using their performing arts gifts and talents. John Ziel stepped out from behind his financial and technologies administrator's desk using his lighting genius gifts to transform the church into a nearly professional theater! Then there were the visual arts. The photographs, the paintings, delicate knitting, liturgical vestments all produced by members of the parish. One body

with many parts, that has talents and gifts running deeply through it like blood coursing through the veins of our own bodies.

The image of the church as a body is helpful because it reminds us that the body is always changing and that change is not always easy. When I was a kid I had a year when I had a huge growth spurt. It was like my pants fit one day and the next day they were 3 inches too short! More than the pants, I remember the growing pains; the actual physical pain mostly in the legs, whose only cause was growth. More fellowship, formation, and worship, mission and outreach opportunities puts more stress and strain on the body of Christ! More demands on the staff, more space, more energy. The Vestry and other ministry leaders are challenged to meet these needs. We will try new things, will succeed, some will flop. Sometimes it will feel good and sometimes it will hurt.

The body image is helpful in another way. When I look at people who live full happy lives into their 90's and beyond there is one constant: they keep on moving. They don't sit down, they barely slow down, they keep on moving! So we will keep on keeping on with the tried and true; we will keep trying new and different things, keep on listening, and in doing that we will keep on living, keep on serving, and keep on growing.

Yours as one part of this fabulous body, Trinity Church,  
*Fr. Dave*

### Associate Rector's Report

Diana Bass Butler, in her book entitled Christianity for the Rest of Us, describes 'testimony' as the stories of our lives told in the community of faith. Testimony relates "who we are and who we are becoming". "There is power in peoples' stories to change us, a continuing work of the Holy Spirit." "Testimony reminds us of where we have been, helps us see where we are, and directs us toward unanticipated paths." In reflecting on this past year at Trinity Church, I realized how valuable our stories are, not only for our own growth, but for the growth of each other.

In March of 2009, Dave and I undertook a commitment to listen. We formed "Listening groups", invited you all to participate, and joined with many of you in the homes of fellow parishioners willing to invite us in, shared hospitality and talked about church. Because of your willingness to tell stories and listen to each other's stories and experiences, together we were transformed by coming to know one another more deeply and discovering how we might enhance our common faith life together.

The creation of devotional booklets for the season of Lent and Advent invited parishioners to offer their own reflections on scripture passages. By sharing our understanding of scripture, regardless of whether we agree or not, helps us to articulate our faith and to grapple with the rough roads we travel. Reflecting on scripture informs how we choose to live, thus influencing our life story.

The Pastoral Care Team continues its work of regularly calling parishioners. These phone calls invite confidential conversation about important pastoral matters as well as provide a means of community prayer for your concerns.

The Healing Prayer ministry on Sunday mornings ministers to those who desire personal prayers for personal situations. Our concerns are integral to our stories. The Worship and Formation Team gathers periodically to brainstorm and discern matters relative to this church's process of worship and to discover new ways to help make worship and formation accessible and relevant, always attentive to people's stories.

Our Christian Education program for children, led by the dedicated Carole Allsop, offers formation to the young among us regularly on Sunday mornings. The children are formed by hearing God's stories and reflecting on them in age appropriate ways.

Two "Education for Ministry" classes meet weekly to discover and learn about the life in Christ, as well as sharing their personal stories. Their work includes exploring how one's personal story and God's story intersect and connect with each other.

Our stories vibrate with the Spirit's wisdom. One finds one's identity in the on-going story about the self through discovering our faith, living faith, and struggling in faith. In the process of telling and listening to each other's story people are transformed. "God speaks through God's people." ". . . we are transformed in unanticipated ways."

"There is the power of stories to change us, a continuing work of the Holy Spirit." May God bless us as we continue sharing our unique selves through our stories in this sometimes confusing, tumultuous world. The journey may lead us to travel unanticipated, unfamiliar, yet exciting roads strengthening us in faith and connecting us ever more deeply to the faith community.

*Mary*

## Deacon's Report

Greetings friends. It was with the blessings of Bishop Rodney Michael that I began my ministry with you in October 2009. During the past few months I have been trying to put names and faces together. Please bear with me as I continue to work on this project.

Your rector, David, and I have met with Kelly Rupperecht to discuss ways to help the congregation discern the call to ministry to young people in the Ambler area. We continue to work on this discernment process to determine what God is asking us to do in this ministry.

I have been a presence at the altar for the Sunday services, reading the Gospel, performing liturgical duties and preaching as assigned. It has also been rewarding to meet with the healing ministry and assist them in that process on Sunday mornings.

Secularly, I continue to volunteer as a driver for the New Hanover Fire Company and work in my picture framing shop in my home. I have been a per diem chaplain with Montgomery Hospice for many years. On January 15, 2010 I took a half time position



with this same hospice service. Unfortunately this will affect my ministry at Trinity as I will not be available for weekday assignments, but will be present on Sundays and some evening assignments.

I look forward to continued service with Trinity Church and being a part of the ministry team.

Yours in Christ's service,

*Joseph B. Dietz*, Deacon

### Rector's Warden

The past year has been another exciting one for us here at Trinity. We celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Dave's ministry here at Trinity with a special service, a festive coffee hour, and the presentation of a scrapbook in which members of the congregation shared their thanksgivings for Dave's ministry.

Here at Trinity, our worship continues to inspire, our formation programs continue to teach both children and adults, our youth group continues to give our middle school and high school young people social and spiritual activities. Babies are baptized, couples are married, parishoners are laid to rest. Prayers are prayed and prayers are answered. We have been blessed to welcome Deacon Joe into our midst. Dave, Mary and Joe preach sermons on a weekly basis that touch our lives. Our LEMs visit our shut-in members. John and Sheila continue to keep the office humming efficiently. The choir continues to provide music during Sunday services, special music at special services, as well as the offerings of other talented musicians. We all share our talents in other ways too as we care for the altar, count the collection, fix up the property, bake and serve for Hospitality, teach in Sunday School, lead the Youth Group, usher, read the lessons, act as greeters, and serve as acolytes. We were entertained this year by many of our members singing, dancing, reading poetry, playing instruments, demonstrating cooking, and even a little gymnastics in our Talent Show. And we have had the incredible blessing of four members of our congregation going through the PACM process as they discern their calls to the ministry!

***"Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.***

***Ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriend thee."***

*Hymn 390*

God is truly at work here at Trinity, and it causes me to wonder what is in store for us in the coming year.

*Barb Davis, Rector's Warden*

## Accounting Warden

The 2009 financial results for Trinity Ambler Church improved over the previous year. Our operating budget was \$511,967 and total expenses were below budget. Our pledge and plate offerings totaled just over \$280,000, which was a 4.5% increase from 2008. We continued to fund various outreach programs (\$18,000) from our operating budget and through parish events. We funded the Episcopal Youth Mission in the amount of \$10,586. Our investment performance improved showing an increase of approximately \$94,000 over the previous year.

The 2009 financial performance improvement is due to us meeting our pledge goals (nearly 98%) and holding the line on expenses. Additionally, the positive market performance allowed us to increase our investment balance despite \$153,160 withdrawals to meet operating expenses.

### Key Points in 2010 and Beyond:

- The 2010 operating budget is \$521,277 which is a 2.0% increase over the 2009 budget. This modest increase was made possible mainly by maintaining 2009 salary levels. The 2010 budget includes transfers of \$160,000 from our investment accounts to cover our operating expenses. This transfer is *9% less* than the budgeted transfer for 2009. The reduced budgeted transfer is due to the tremendous increase in 2010 pledges. The 2010 budgeted pledge is 14% (\$40,000) over the 2009 budget thanks to your pledges. In planning this year's budget, ministry leaders worked hard to maintain or reduce spending from 2009.
- As in the past, withdrawal from our Boyer Fund investment makes up a considerable portion of our operating income. In 2009, we withdrew \$153,160 from the Fund, which represented 31.9% of our operating expenses. The 2009 Fund withdrawals were 87.5% of budget (good news) due to lower than budget expenses. For 2010, we plan to withdraw \$160,000, which is 30.7% of our budgeted operating expenses. As the size and strength of our parish grows, we expect the portion of investment transfers to continue to decrease. 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 established and moved a portion of the Boyer Operating funds into a money market account to protect our investments from market volatility (specifically downturns). In 2009, all the investment transfers came entirely from the money market account. No withdrawals made from the Boyer Operating account which allowed the balance to appreciate at the fund rate. The money market will be exhausted in early 2010, and subsequent investment withdrawals will come from the Boyer Operating account. The Finance Committee in consultation with our Wachovia advisor determined that the market conditions no longer warranted the need for a money market fund. We will continue to work closely with Wachovia to make prudent investment decisions.

## 2009 Operating Budget Recap:

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Notes
<b>Income</b>	\$497,150	\$481,280	(\$15,870)	Actual inclds \$153,160 transfer from investments, which is \$20,000 under budget Inclds \$10k from DIOPA for new hire
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$511,967)	(\$490,178)	\$21,789	Actual expns lower than budget
<b>Net</b>	(\$14,817)	(\$8,898)		

### *Highlights and Major Factors for Variance:*

- Income variance of \$16k (lower than budget) due to:
  - Investment transfers approximately \$20k less than plan.
  - Net of other incomes approximately \$4k above plan
  - Pledge, Plate and Special Offerings – 98% of plan
- Expense variance of \$22k (lower than budget) due to:
  - Buildings and Grounds approximately \$19.6k less than plan
  - Music approximately \$7k less than plan
  - Net of other expenses approximately \$4.6k above plan

## 2009 Mission and Outreach Recap

	Actual
<b>Income</b>	\$18,091
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$18,000)
<b>Net</b>	\$91

## 2009 Episcopal Youth Mission Recap

	Actual
<b>Income</b>	\$7,962
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$10,586)
<b>Net</b>	(\$2,624)

## 2009 Investment Performance Recap

(2009 balance to be confirmed with Wachovia end-of-year statement)

Fund	Balance as of 31 Dec 2008	Balance as of 31 Dec 2009
Endowment	\$645,517	\$796,320
Scholarship	\$7,734	\$11,562
Sylvan Handley	\$74,064	\$83,939
Boyer Operating	\$497,789	\$510,488
Money Market	\$135,100	\$52,329
Totals	\$1,360,204	\$1,454,637

## 2010 Operating Budget:

	Budget
Income	\$362,950
Investment Transfers	\$160,000
Expenses	(\$521,277)
Net	\$1,673

### *Highlights:*

- Pledge income of \$320,000 is 61% of operating expenses (5% improvement over 2009).
- Transfers of \$160,000 from investments are 31% of operating expenses.
- Mission and Outreach receive \$10,000 from operating budget for Ambler Food Cupboard, Interfaith, Real Men Cook, and ECS.

*Ernie Dixon, Accounting Warden*

## Parish Statistics

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

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total # of Baptized Persons	463	506	495	507

**Worship Attendance –**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Easter Day Attendance	408	427	348	366
Average Sunday Attendance	216	211	198	199

**Church School – Holding steady**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Children in Church School	49	63	65	60

**Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions –**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Plate Offerings and Pledge Contributions	\$255,175	\$262,303	\$262,242	\$283,503

**Pledges –**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Pledges	132	137	141	139
Total Amount Pledged	\$241,012	\$251,617	\$243,262	240,870

## Choir and Music Programs

The music department at Trinity continues to be reflective of the parish at large; people’s lives change, and they move in and out of our own lives. Change is constant. Yet, the music program 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 who are at least in third grade or eight years and older; and the Trinity Choir, which is the adult choir. The basic responsibility of the choirs is to assist the rector in leading the congregation through the musical liturgy of the worship service. Their presentation of anthems and other music enhances the services and, hopefully, inspires the congregation.

The Cherub Choir is comprised largely of enthusiastic children in Godly Play. Under the direction of several women from the parish, these children sing usually on the first Sunday of the month.

The Youth Choir continues to grow from last season now numbers eight. Meetings have been sporadic this season, but they usually 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. This season we had hoped 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 30 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. Additionally, very few volunteer choirs are able to sing music of this caliber. In keeping with the philosophy of the Director of Music, no auditions are necessary and everyone is welcome regardless of musical ability. In other words, if you can carry a tune, you are welcome to join us. There is exceptional talent in this choir, and their offerings of solos add much to the worship service. Special thanks go to Barb and Bill Davis, Doug Purvis and Leigh and Joe DeTato. The Trinity Choir has two section leaders: Andrea Petska, Alto, and Herb Ruzann, Bass. 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, Maureen McCauley and Joe DeTato. Special thanks go to Ernest Wells, who occasionally substitutes for the Director of Music and helped perform an organ duet 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 6. Then Mother Nature let us know who was in charge. Both "Christmas With St. Nicholas," the second of the parish's Christmas pageants in a three-year cycle, and the Trinity Choir's Christmas concert were postponed due to snow, and were presented on December 27. 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

Stephen Schreiber, Director of Music

# Committee Reports

## Property

Over the past months of 2009 the Property Committee has been working a great deal behind the scenes. As with any volunteer organization, if weren't for our faithful group of workers our list of accomplishments would be far shorter.

As with any property Trinity has a virtually endless list of projects needing our attention. Some of the church projects we completed in 2009 include the ever-constant roof repairs and gutter cleaning, the replacement of the outdated Parish Hall sprinkler heads, installation of a new robing room water heater and the purchasing of new Godly Play shelving. Aside from the ongoing painting and organization projects downstairs, the classroom floors were stripped and resealed over the summer months also.

The rectory and cottage were not left off of our list. The leaking rectory toilets and sinks were updated with new hardware, the dead built-in microwave was replaced and finally the ailing rear porch was replaced with weather-resistant material in early Fall. The porch was a project that caught many of us by surprise! Over in the cottage one large project was paying for a badly-needed new furnace.

Over the coming months we have a great deal of things to accomplish. Aside from the ongoing general painting and upkeep, we need to install an access panel in the ceiling above the parish hall stage, add soil across the exterior of the robing room doors, drag out the scaffolding to replace many bulbs in the narthex and sanctuary areas, redo the library-conference room, replace the rusting boiler shut-off valves, install a new ladies' room fan, re-glaze all of the cottage windows, seal the basement windows of the cottage and repair the ailing basement steps in the rectory. There has also been discussion of redoing the entrance beds outside the main church doors to make it more inviting.

We do have major things that need to be done; however, due to budget restrictions they have not been budgeted for in 2010. These include replacing the parish hall carpeting, professionally resealing all of the church flat roof areas and professionally stripping and repainting the exterior 'gingerbread' trim atop both the rectory and cottage structures, a very involved task.

As mentioned earlier, thank you to our faithful group of volunteers who continue to give of themselves. If you would like to help Trinity, please feel free to contact Piers Prater or Jay Walton with any questions. And remember, even if you only have one hour to give, we can find something that will allow Trinity Church to benefit from you!

*Piers Prater*  
*Jay Walton*



## Church School

The past year has seen a continued growth in our Church School attendance. The classrooms are busy places on Sunday mornings, as the children engage with their teachers and doorkeepers in their continued journey through the bible.

Last January a group of teens from Africa called Bokomoso performed on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. After church the group entertained our children during the annual meeting and everyone had a terrific time.

We had the first annual picnic in June with food and games to celebrate the end of the Church School year.

Over the summer we recruited several more teachers and door-keepers, and this has allowed us to have a much more manageable teaching schedule for all of the adults involved in our program.

October brought the talent show, and a chance for the children to really shine. We have some talented young people.

The Christmas pageant this year was held the Sunday after Christmas due to a major snow storm the week before.

As I have said before this program could not function at the level it does without all the dedicated young people and adults who engage our children every week as they explore the bible stories and learn about themselves and the world around them.

*Carole Allsop*  
*Church School Director*

## Youth Group

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. Our students are in grades 7-12 and attend various schools in our area. Some students are members of Trinity and many are teenagers from the local community who have sought out a safe haven and become a part of our family. We have also started to include students who have graduated High School and want to be Young Adult Mentors. We are fortunate to have many fine adult leaders as well as young adults who volunteer weekly to support our youth.

### **So what have we been up to?:**

We have had a year full of community building and restructuring as many of our teens graduated last year and an influx of new students have joined us. It has been a wonderful time and the group is full of passion and excitement. The Young Adult mentors have

added a needed element to the group and have proven to be responsible contributors to our discussions, games, and worship time together. As in the past, we have been on several outings together including the Movies, Mini Golf, Ice Cream adventures, and a trip to see the Bokomoso performance in Swarthmore. Our fellowship meetings at church have included service projects, reflection and prayer time, crafts, games, sports, discussions, guest speakers, movies, and dinners together. We were fortunate to have a congregation member, Gretchen Pendleton, speak to us about her mission to Africa to build and distribute bikes to people in need. Our teens were inspired by her story and are thinking of a Mission Trip there someday. It is also customary for us to spend time eating together as a “Youth Group family” discussing our week, issues we are going through including both the positive and negative experiences in our lives. Our “family” has proven to be a great support to all members and is welcoming of any friends who may want to join. We have teens who faithfully attend and some that pass in and out of the meetings as their schedules allow. All are welcome whenever they are able and each has so many gifts to share!

### **What’s Coming Up?**

In the new year of 2010 we have been continuing our fellowship with one another on a weekly basis. The annual Bishop’s Bash is quickly approaching and is to be held at the YMCA in Lansdale. There is opportunity for sports, swimming, a concert, and Eucharist. We are also planning to go skiing and tubing soon and are excited for several other outings for dinner, the movies, and some spring time fun! We hope to visit the National Cathedral in June with Trinity as well.

The Youth Group is planning the Mission Trip to City Camp in Philadelphia this year and is excited to contribute to our close neighbor’s community. We had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Andrew Kellner, the Youth Diocesan Minister with regards to tremendous work done by teens at City Camp and eager to participate! Please look for us at church as we begin to raise funds for the Mission Trip. We will be Babysitting for the Valentine’s Day Dinner as well as many other fund raising efforts and are always so grateful for the tremendous support from the parishioner’s at Trinity!

One of our Adult Leaders, Ben Wallis, recently returned from India and we are eager to hear a presentation regarding his experience there. A church member, Dr. Arthur Hayes, will be returning from Haiti soon and has graciously agreed to give a presentation about his experiences as well. We are eager to learn from the members of Trinity and love when adults visit with their gifts, talents, and experiences. If you are interested in sharing with us please contact Kelly Rupprecht.

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 or speak with Kelly Rupprecht.

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

*Kelly Rupprecht, Youth Minister*

## Worship

“I was glad when they said to me let us go into the house of the Lord” Psalm 122

There are many opportunities for worship at Trinity. The 8 & 10 AM services on Sundays, Wed morning and Thurs evening with healing prayers and Gospel reflection, and our new Sat evening service, which is attracting a core of “regulars” and a substantial number of “oftens”.

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

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

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!

The Worship & Formation Study and Design Team continues to meet on a regular basis to explore new approaches to our worship that might be relevant to our growing parish.

Last fall we made available the first Advent devotional booklet, much like the previous Lenten booklets. It was very well received. This year’s Lenten devotional booklet will soon be available. We thank all who participate in the making of these devotional endeavors.

We give thanks for the blessing of Fr. Dave, Mary McCullough and Deacon Joe, who lead us in our worship and so lovingly tend our flock.

THANKS BE TO GOD

*Sue Adair*

## Pastoral Care

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

- ***Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors***

The ministry of this group serves to expand and supplement the work of the rector and 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.

- ***Episcopal Services Community Training:*** An initial six week program to train additional Pastoral Care Visitors was instituted in March 2009 at Trinity; several members of Trinity attended as well as those from other parishes. The Fr. Carl Metzger presided and has continued to meet with the group for review sessions.

- ***Trinity's Parish Nurse Corps***

Mrs. Jennifer Prater faithfully continues to serve our Trinity Family as head of this essential service. Other members are Ms. Adele Butler, Mrs. Rebecca Curlett, Mrs. Mary Ann Miller, and Mrs. Jane Mathis. Our nurses are available to provide knowledge and information regarding available medical, psychological and senior specific services in Montgomery County. They enable both individuals and families to access services specific to their needs.

**Updates:** Every third Sunday our Nurse Corp members offer blood pressure screenings, and flyers on current medical and pharmaceutical concerns.

Jingle Announcements have been an on-going event during this past flu season reminding our congregation of alternative methods of accepting the Eucharist and of passing the Peace.

This past year, Hand Sanitizers have been purchased and are situated both in the Narthex, Parish Hall, and Sunday School basement areas. Red Cross boxes, one with a CPR mask, are also positioned in similar areas.

- ***Special Services for Parishioners***

- **Meals for Individuals and Families in Special Circumstances:** These services are coordinated by Mrs. Lynda Basham and Mrs. Annette Irvin based on referrals from our rector and associate rector. We appreciate and are grateful to the 10-12 volunteers of our Parish Family who have served several members of our congregation in this capacity this past year.
- **Transportation for our Elderly and Disabled:** Kudos to Stephen and Kathleen Chester, Jocelyn Tenney, Leslie Vacante, and Nancy Militello, among others, who have graciously provided transportation to Sunday services for our elderly parishioners.

- ***Parent Resource Library and Websites***

- **Update:** Book reviews of interesting titles are frequently offered in editions of the Chimes, some of which are written by parents of young people.

The library is located directly beneath the mailboxes in the Narthex. Especially selected texts that address adolescent guidance are available for borrowing.

Newer texts that address concerns of youngsters in the 9-11 age range as well as adolescents have been added this past year. Texts concerning problems of youth i.e., bullying and/or teasing, establishing good relationships with other youngsters, handling sensitive areas such as those of separated/divorced household, and dealing with the adult child are available.

Several texts provide advice on successfully managing those teen years academically and socially in addition to strengthening mother-daughter and father-son relationships. Websites are listed in the 2006 edition of the Chimes newsletter.

*Addie M. Johnson*

## Stewardship

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

The Ministries Fair in September has become an annual tradition now. This is a great opportunity for everyone to meet and greet each other, get to know the ministry leaders and decide which opportunities are best for them. We encourage folks to sign up at the Fair, but anyone can sign on to any ministry at any time. Current copies of the *Servant Ministries* booklet are available in the Narthex (or online); this booklet outlines all the various opportunities available. This year we actually had two Ministries Fairs, one in the spring and one in the fall. This was an attempt to sign up folks in the spring for the worship and formation ministries (at the end of one program year) so that they would be trained and in place for the beginning of the next program year. The other ministry opportunities were represented at the September fair.

We've continued the column "Stewardship: It's Not (Always) About the Money in the Chimes, although it was more sporadic this year than it has been in the past. This column touches on all facets of stewardship, almost always avoiding the topic of money!

Our pledge campaign theme this year was "Yes We CAN" and we'd like to thank everyone for their willing participation. We took this slogan because we used canned goods as our visual for indicating the level of pledged income. For each \$1000 pledged we donated one can of food to the Community Cupboard. As of this date we have had just over \$278,000 pledged. This is 136 pledges, 64 of which are increases over last year,

with 7 new pledges. We are so grateful that even in this economic situation our folks have been so generous.

In October we sponsored a Pig Roast and Trinity's Got Talent talent show. All kinds of talent were represented, from the fine arts to theater and music. A wonderful time was had by all who attended (over 120 people!).

Stewardship Team members: Carole Allsop, Anne Cana, Dave Canan, John Dively, Ed Mahler, Nancy McGarvey, Pat Pfeifer, Jane Saunders, Jay Walton.

*Nancy McGarvey*

## Communications

2009 had most individuals, families and organizations tightening their fiscal belts. Through a number of factors, we only spent 55% of the funds budgeted for Advertising & Communication in 2009. The main factor was our increasing use of technology to communicate to the members of Trinity Church. We cut printing and mailing expenses for the Chimes newsletter in 2009 because many members began receiving the Chimes via email or going to Trinity Church's website, [www.trinityambler.com](http://www.trinityambler.com), to read and print the Chimes.

With the establishment of Trinity's Yahoo Group, we have been able to quickly and efficiently communicate (via email) with all of the members who have signed up for the Yahoo Group. Notices, schedule changes, and reminders to the members of Trinity are now easily sent out. The 'Jingle' is emailed out every week, so that folks can keep current with the schedules and upcoming events at Trinity. All of the various groups at Trinity can use the Yahoo Group network as a communication tool in their ministries. If you have not yet signed up for the Trinity Yahoo Group, or have recently changed your email address, please go to the Trinity website and click on the "Trinityambler Group" link on the left side of the home page. A new window will open where you can click on the "Join This Group" button, and sign up to receive the emails.

In 2010, we will continue to explore the ways we can use Trinity's website and Yahoo Group to better communicate with the members of Trinity, and keep everyone "in the loop" with all the opportunities for fellowship and service here at Trinity. We will also continue to spread the word to the public about the great things happening here at Trinity as we strive to live the example of Christ by helping our brothers and sisters, both near and far. I pray that in 2010, we regain the confidence and hope we will need to grow as a church, and as the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Brian O. Phillips, Esq.*

## Mission and Outreach

Trinity, again in 2009, demonstrated that Mission And Outreach is one of it's key goals and we certainly demonstrated it last year.

Our participation in the Episcopal Community Build continued. In addition to the \$7,122 we contributed last year, we were a key factor in the dedication of the new home to its occupants. We contributed a huge box of household supplies to help maintain and clean the home in an effort to help the new family get started, (a woman with three young children). In addition we gave \$585 to Habitat to help further their efforts.

We again worked closely with Interfaith Housing in April, providing housing in the church for their deserving families. Working with their new Director we had at times one mother and one child and another mother with three children. As you may recall, Interfaith Housing's goal is to provide deserving families with a home until they are able to manage on their own. As a result some of the families we helped moved out during the month and were replaced by another. This is such a worthwhile cause in helping families until they can help themselves. In addition, we contributed \$200 monthly to Interfaith to help them in their important work.

Our other financial assistance efforts included, \$200 monthly to the Community Cupboard here in Ambler, \$200 monthly to Episcopal Community Services and \$800 to Real Men Cook who distribute their food locally to families in need.

Proceeds from the Rummage Sale allowed us to make contributions of \$500 to Samaritan Counseling Services, \$500 to Chester Eastside and \$400 to MWAMBA to pay for a young boy's education in Africa. We also contributed \$500 for Christmas Assistance to families and \$500 to the PA Diocese's Servant Year Program.

Our Christmas Tree Gift program last year enabled us to deliver needed gifts to Chester Eastside children and the children we met on our Mission trip in the Restart Program in West Virginia. Finally, we were also able to raise almost \$4000 last January to assist Bokamosa.

But, as we all know, money, while urgently needed, isn't everything. Of equal, if not more valuable, are the individual efforts of all of you as you use your time, and energy and God given talents in your everyday ministries.

*Ed Mahler*

## New Members

We have all been strangers 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, going to 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 while they are here. At the door, our Greeters are genuinely welcoming; Eddie Black does a wonderful job after the service greeting newcomers again, answering questions and asking for info so that we may stay in contact; the Daughters of the King deliver a basket of baked goods and info about Trinity to the newcomer's home either that afternoon or during the week; and Father Dave or Mary will follow up shortly after that with a call or note thanking the newcomer for visiting. Once a Quarter we have an informal lunch or dinner with newcomers and members of the Vestry and Clergy to get to know each other and to ease their integration into the Trinity family.

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.*

Respectfully,

*Karen Reid*

## Altar Guild

To serve on the Altar Guild is a ministry that never grows old or tiring, even during the busiest times of the Church year. It truly is a joy to prepare the Sanctuary for the services held each week, as these services are part of our Christian journey.

We begin our journey at the Font in Baptism, receive strength for the journey during weekly celebrations of the Eucharist, reaffirm our commitment at Confirmation, celebrate the blessing of our Marriage, receive anointing for our healing and, at the end, celebrate the joy of our resurrection. Along that journey, how many times have we celebrated the birth of Jesus singing Silent Night in candlelight...received ashes on our foreheads and traveled the long journey of Lent and Holy Week...shed tears of joy during the Great Vigil of Easter as the sun breaks through the stained glass windows, the bells ring and we hear 'The Lord is risen!'...

How many times have we come to this Sanctuary to pray? To pray in times of national tragedy and in times of war...to pray for our loved ones or ourselves. How many times have we come to this Sanctuary just to be in this place because it was the only place *to be*...



So much of our life is spent in this hallowed space. So, to prepare this place each week – whether for a normal service or for a funeral or wedding, is not a job but a joy. We have a team of very dedicated women who share in this ministry:

Veronica Grogan	Mary DeViso
Jill Hayes	Pat Pfeiffer
Virginia Nelson	Karen Reid
Adele Butler	Cheryl Bayard
Evelyn Carpenter	Veronica Gallwey
Nancy McGarvey	Annete Irvin

Please talk to any of these members or to myself, if you would like to join us in this ministry – we welcome all men and women – no experience necessary!

Respectfully,

*Karen Reid*

## Parish Life

In response to the 3-year plan adopted by the Vestry, Parish Life was expanded to encompass several committees under the Parish Life umbrella. Hospitality, once a committee in and of itself was aligned to the Parish Life Committee along with several other committees rounding out a very active Parish Life Committee.

***Teams were created and Team Leads assigned to each team:***

### **Hospitality Hour**

- Leigh Irvin was assigned as the Sunday Hospitality Hour scheduler; Kathe Owens as our shopper; Nancy Militello and Barbara Shields as the Funeral Hospitality coordinators.
- Due to the growing attendance during the Sunday hospitality hour, we created teams of bakers who are scheduled to supply baked goods on a monthly basis. Those folks include: Nancy McGarvey; Edith North; Megan Phillips; Lynda Basham; Cheryl Bayard; Robin Stancato; Margaret Manchester; Anne Canan; Carole Allsop; Laura Bauder
- Hospitality Hour currently has 5 teams with 4 teams having 2 members each and one team with 3 members: Carol & Solon Morgan; Skip Kershner; Evelyn Carpenter; Karen Reid; Laura Gergen; Nancy Militello; Barbara Shields; Leigh Irvin; Eileen Warren and Kathleen Chester

### **Trip Coordinator**

- Jane Frassenei was assigned as the Trinity Trip Coordinator and during the 2009 season, coordinated the Reading Phillies Game in which a good time was had by all who attended. In June, we are planning a trip to the National Cathedral and hope to have many folks take advantage of this great opportunity to attend a service at the Cathedral, take a tour and visit one of the Smithsonian Institutes while we are in the area.

### **Christmas Cookie Exchange**

- Carol Lawrence coordinated this 1<sup>st</sup> annual Trinity activity. The exchange included baking additional batches to be given to our home bound members during the annual Christmas caroling event.

### **Advent Wreath Making**

- This “inter-generational” activity took place in mid November coordinated by Kristin Woods.

### **Picnics; Breakfasts; Special Hospitality Hours; Dinners:**

- April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, was not only a joyous day for all Christians, but Trinity members had the opportunity to experience a very celebratory hospitality hour after both the 8am and 10am services.
- Once again, we had provided a “special” hospitality hour after the 10am service to welcome the Bishop on April 19.
- Parish Life collaborated with “Real Men Cook” as they prepared and served breakfast for Mother’s Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This event was enjoyed by many as we savored every bite the men provided for us. This day also provided an opportunity for those who regularly attend the 8am service to meet with those from the 10am service as the breakfast was held during the break between the two services.
- We collaborated with the Church School on June 7<sup>th</sup> as we held a parish picnic on the Trinity grounds. Fun, Games and good food helped make this day a success.
- We held a very celebratory event after the 10am service on September 13 in celebration of Father Dave’s 20 years here at Trinity.
- Next big event at Trinity is the Valentine’s Dinner Party on February 13. We hope you all will be able to join in on the fun and fellowship we have planned.

*Eileen Warren*