

2007

Annual Report

February 3rd, 2008

Agenda for the Annual Meeting

- Gathering for Annual Meeting
- Invocation
- Appointment of the Secretary of the Annual Meeting
- Report of Nominating Committee and Parish Elections
- Appointment of Wardens for 2008
- Rector's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Report of Stewardship and Finance Committees
- Wardens' Report
- Summation and Commendation of the Annual Report
- New Business
- Closing Prayer

The Rector's Report 2008

The Rev. Marshall K. Shelly+

My brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace to you as we begin a new year in ministry and fellowship as the parish of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury. This past year has marked a series of dramatic changes for us as a parish community, but the Spirit of God continues to be evident in the grace, strength and commitment this family of God invests in its parish life. In so many ways, there is much to celebrate. Thanks to Otho Kerr and the Stewardship Ministry, we have never seen such positive response and commitment from the people who call this place their spiritual home. The Finance Committee, under Dave Griffith and administrative staff (Debbie, Anne and Cindy) have worked with devotion and discipline to keep us healthy and on track with our budget. Financially, we are in a better place than I have ever seen this parish, and it is due to the hard work of everyone involved.

Trinity continues to grow and we have welcomed, literally, dozens of households to membership in the Body of Christ in this place over the last few years. We have seen the parish's ministries and programs expand as well, with increasing involvement of our membership in works of peace, justice and mercy to those in need around the world, from inner-city Philadelphia and the devotion of our parish to Mission Philadelphia, to efforts with our companions in the Diocese of Guatemala to the many who have committed time, talent and treasure to Tabasamu and Mwamba ministries, to the local outreach efforts that feed, clothe and shelter the needy of Bucks County, some of whom are our neighbors and who live quite literally just down the road. In all these things, Christ is served and the Body of Christ is glorified.

I also want to celebrate the fellowship and mutual care for each other that I have seen exercised in this family of God. As we gathered for the many, many social and spiritual events this parish celebrates together, I have seen the grace and commitment of every one of us to the joy of being together to celebrate life. This year's Lobsterfest, House Tour, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner...really and truly ALL of the events that mark the seasons of the church and calendar year for us here at Trinity have been occasions when, without fail, people continue to say just how much they enjoy participating in, and are fed by, the way we walk together in faith and fellowship. Our Music program has also flourished this past year with the inspired leadership of Tim Harrell, our organist and director of Music. From leading the choirs of the parish to coordinating the ambitious and remarkable offerings of the Trinity Music series, we have been blessed with the art and spirit of the world-famous talents of artists like David Higgs and Olivier Latry, as well as the renowned talents of our own choir, with full-house performances of Handel's Messiah, the spring concerts and the many deeply moving Sunday mornings, festal liturgies and moving Evensong offerings that are offered up throughout the Church Year.

In a perfect world, these changes would mark a new and exciting time for us as a parish, and the reality is that as we have grown and changed, we now have an opportunity—the leadership alongside the membership—to learn how to absorb these dramatic shifts in not only who we are as Trinity, but how we can function in healthy and beneficial ways as a parish that has quite literally doubled in size in the past ten years. We are no longer who and what we have been. For many, including myself, this has meant being willing to listen and hear how changes in practice, attitude and a deep willingness to open up to how all of us are feeling. This may mean some very basic and dramatic alterations in how we speak, act and respond to each other. Your Vestry and I are working

very hard, and prayerfully, to create and support deeper and more effective channels of communication and connection between us all, so that as we explore just what it will mean to be Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury in 2008 and beyond, we will be responding with compassion and the love of Christ to each other. We have a lot of God's work ahead of us, and I expect each individual in this parish, regardless of age, position or seniority in leadership to be open to the self-study and examination that lies before us as we re-vision our common call to serve the world in Christ.

In 2007, we have seen significant changes occur in staff, with the calling of an assistant rector, The Rev. Mariclaire Partee, and an interim Wednesday Night Youth Ministry Coordinator, Jenn Blumenstock. These two additions to staff have given us the opportunity to welcome the considerable gifts, talents and spirits of individuals called to serve alongside us in service to the parish and the community. Both have distinguished themselves, Mariclaire+ in her first six months of priesthood with excellent sermons, willing and talented leadership of the lay pastoral care and spiritual life ministries and her own gifts of pastoral and liturgical leadership in support of my work in caring for this parish. Jenn has distinguished herself in her ability to maintain, lead, and grow the ministries of our Youth and Youth Sponsors during the time of Kyle Evans' sabbatical leave last fall and now during the interim period of our search for a new Director of the Youth and Church School ministries.

We have marked the departures in September of Caroline McCarthy as Lay Assistant and in January of 2008 of Kyle Evans as the Director of Youth and Family Ministries/Liaison for Outreach and of Cindy Baker as Parish Secretary. Even as the search processes for the Youth and Family Ministries Director's and Parish Secretary's successors get underway, it is important for us to mark and celebrate the contributions that these three remarkable women have offered up to Trinity and to God. Without their faithful witness, you would not see the vitality and grace around you that fills our weekly calendar with moments of prayer, spiritual formation, and service in Christ that mark Trinity as a flagship parish of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. They begin new chapters in their journeys in Christ, and we celebrate that renewal...and though we will miss their support, we also acknowledge that we have a high calling to continue to grow and develop the vineyards of spirit and service that they have tended, and to care for and support those who succeed them.

A new era of pastoral relationship also begins with our seasonal Sunday Associate, The Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay. Ginny+ has, for the past five years, served as a pastoral and liturgical support on Sundays to me, to our former rector and during the interim. During that tenure, she has distinguished herself in her ministry to us, with fine sermons, passionate leadership of worship, counsel and support to the membership and, above and beyond her call, as a spiritual leader and teacher to us with numerous Quiet Days and Forums. Ginny+ and I have, after a period of mutual discernment, signed a letter of agreement, that will keep her with us for the exercise of those gifts of teaching, preaching and particular support in the areas congregational development and newcomers/welcoming ministries as Priest Associate. We will not see her as often on Sunday mornings, but the impact of this remarkable priest, one of the first women to be ordained in the Episcopal Church, will continue to feed and nourish us all.

Throughout these changes to our staff, we have also been the recipient of the profound gifts of a group of parishioners who have stepped up and offered their talents in the area of Human Resources. Betty Stagg, Jean Evans, Beryl Hirsch and Julie Loftus have worked with devotion and

skill to support me in working with staff transitions, the organization of a Parish Employee's Handbook, the collation of uniform job descriptions for staff, the creation and editing of standard letters of agreement, memos of understanding and offers of work and have assisted in the formation of general reviews for all employees and their positions. They have brought a new level of clarity and health to the increasingly complex workings of a growing staff, and for that we offer them sincere thanks.

We have a great deal of work to accomplish in the name of Christ in 2008. By the grace of God we have been given incredible gifts in the offerings of time, talent and treasure by the membership of this parish, and I continue to count my blessings as your rector as I look around and see the devotion and love exercised amongst us for the inbreaking kingdom of God. Trinity has, truly, worked to embody its mission:

In response to the love and challenge of Jesus Christ, the mission of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury is to:

**WORSHIP GOD IN CHRIST
WELCOME ALL PEOPLE
GROW IN FELLOWSHIP
GROW IN KNOWLEDGE
GIVE OF OURSELVES
CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER
SERVE THE WORLD
PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST**

My brothers and sisters, Trinity is preparing to open a new chapter in its life story as 2008 begins. We will mark the 10th anniversary of the fire that so radically invigorated and transformed this parish, giving it a sense of renewed mission and energy, even as it weathered one of the greatest tragedies a parish can possible experience. We will celebrate our 132nd year here on Upper York Road with, I pray, a deepening sense of connection to each other, and to a history of hope and spirit that calls us into a future of exciting new possibilities. In this year we will welcome a new Director of Youth and Family Ministries, a new Parish Secretary, new souls to fellowship and new opportunities to serve, love and embody Christ. We have been given so many abundant and glorious gifts...let us rejoice in them and offer them up in service to the one who gives us life and hope: Jesus Christ our Lord.

It has been beyond a blessing to serve as your rector these past three years, and with every bump and blessing along the way. You have taught me so much about what it means to be a priest in this Church, to be a child of God in love with Christ...and I love you all for that experience and for the relationship we share in service to each other.

God is good, all the time!

Rector's Warden

Dick Henriques

Coming to the end of two years supporting Marshall and serving Trinity, I feel blessed by and in awe of the generosity, Christian spirit and diversity of this parish. Under the leadership of Marshall, the Vestry and with the support of a wonderfully dedicated staff, Trinity actively supports more than one hundred ministries, has both a balanced budget and a "rainy day" fund (!) and called the remarkable Reverend Mariclaire Partee to be our clergy assistant. Youth, music, outreach, church school, Day School..... the list goes on. Finally, and humbly, I celebrate the open dialogue in this community and truly appreciate the willingness of many to share their varied perspectives and opinions. It is through such transparent conversation that we can appreciate each other and continue to be led together by the spirit of Christ.

Peoples' Warden

Sue Eavenson

2007 has been a year of many blessings and many challenges for Trinity Church. With God's help and grace, we enter 2008 with an energized and renewed commitment to do God's work not only in this place but around the world.

One of the many successes at home can be measured by the joy of the children in our Sunday school classes. Every week there seems to be some new cherub faces enthusiastically entering the sanctuary. We continue to have the births and the baptisms of many new members. Sadly, we have said, "Good bye" to some of our beloved parishioners who were called into God's care and keeping. We will miss them.

Lobsterfest and Mission Philadelphia continue to flourish and grow, bringing many new and exciting opportunities for outreach for the entire Trinity community. The opportunities for community involvement continue throughout the world with the success of Tabasamu and our Guatemala outreach project, among many others.

Closer to home, Trinity House Tour 2007 was said to be "the best ever." Of course, you know I'm a little biased! We sold over 600 tickets and had close to 200 volunteers! As always our challenge is to continually secure new leadership for these projects, fund raisers, and ministries.

In the fall the vestry with our rector, embarked on a three day discernment process that hopefully, will bring new vision and direction for all of us. With the arrival of the new vestry, we will continue to strive for improvements in spirituality, fellowship, and communication.

As I reflect on my year as People's Warden, I wish to thank all of you for the support and love that you have given to me. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity. I am always reminded of how we are abundantly blessed by God in this wonderful community!

Assistant Rector Report

The Rev. Mariclaire Partee

In my first six months as assistant rector of Trinity Church, I have spent most of my time getting to know the people and ministries of this parish. My hope coming into this place was to let the culture of Trinity wash over me as an outsider, in order to build a proper foundation for my work in the areas of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Life. Though this is still a work in progress, I feel that I have made a good amount of headway. Looking over my schedule since July 15, 2007, I have averaged around six pastoral visits per week, including regular visits to our elder members in Pennswood and Pinerun Retirement villages, and I have incorporated newer parishioners into these visits in an effort to share experience for personal growth. For example, one parishioner who is the caretaker of her elderly father on the West Coast has become a regular visitor to Pennswood. In this way she is becoming more familiar with institutional aging while the Trinitarians she visits, some geographically separated from their own children, enjoy companionship in Christian community. I have tried to think holistically about pastoral care in this way, so as to make connections within our own membership. In addition to visiting with church members in their homes or other extra-parochial environments, I've intentionally created a habit of informal chats in the rectory, and kept in contact via telephone, email, and written notes with many others. I haven't kept records of these, but I have had to restock my stationery drawer twice.

My ministry started concurrently with the summer Step Up Suppers, and I have gratefully experienced Trinity's hospitality ever since, in countless meals, dinner parties, Peacemeals, Foyers events, etc. This has been a particularly helpful way of getting to know the individuals who make up Trinity, not to mention a wonderful opportunity gastronomically. My impression before becoming a part of this church family was that Trinity was a place where hospitality was lived, and at six months this is an indisputable fact of the culture. Trinitarians seem happiest when gathered in fellowship, not just parties but all real opportunities to come together over a shared table and discuss their faith. In light of this, I have worked with the Spiritual Life and Forum committees to develop a Lenten program of Tuesday simple suppers with the option of two classes, one taught by the rector, the other by me, following, beginning this February. I have worked with these ministries to transition from oversight of Caroline McCarthy, and have relied heavily on her preparation to maintain the 2007-2008 program year. The 2008-2009 program year is now being planned, with a tentative theme of Unity in Diversity: Celebrating the Trinity Community. The hope is to focus on "in-reach" in order to develop our outreach as a parish, all as progress from the tensions of this fall to a stronger, healthier community in 2008.

Personally, I have celebrated my first Eucharist, experienced the passing of my first beloved parishioner, baptized my first baby, and assisted with my first wedding, now many times over. I am still growing and developing as a priest, but have found an authority in myself both liturgically and pastorally of which I am proud. I have also learned the importance of humility in this vocation, and will continue to work towards the daily remembrance of the model set for me in ministry by Christ. To put it simply: I am happy and satisfied that I am doing good work in this uniquely wonderful place!

Priest Associate

The Rev. Dr. Virginia M. Sheay

Providing Sunday clergy assistance at the services is my main responsibility. Serving at the discretion of the Rector, you will find me officiating, preaching, or assisting with healing on any given service during the program year. As needed, I also assist on special feast days such as Christmas, Evensong, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and the Easter Vigil.

In 2007 I offered two quiet day retreats. During Lent, I led reflections on two works of the Spanish mystic and poet, St. John of the Cross. These works were: *Verses on Christ and the Soul* and *The Spiritual Canticle*. During Advent, I teamed up with Dr. James Wells and led “Praying the Advent Hymns”. This Lent, on Saturday, February 16, I shall lead a quiet retreat on “Mother Teresa: Her Spiritual Journey through the Dark Night of the Soul.” It will be held at Cuttalossa Farm from 9:00 AM – Noon.

It is hopeful in 2008 that I might provide consultation and mutual support to the Newcomers’ Ministry which was the emphasis of my doctoral dissertation.

While being licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, I am canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey where I serve on two Diocesan Committees, one of which is Congregational Development. Being retired, my husband, Ron, and I reside in the summer on Southport Island, Maine. We attend All Saints by-the-Sea, the summer chapel on the island. From time to time I am scheduled to conduct some of the Sunday services, offer assistance in the various ministries, and chair the Music Committee.

Finance

Dave Griffith, Vestry Liaison

In 2007 the Parish was able to end the year with a slight deficit of \$2,649.00 and rainy day funds of \$66810.00, and restricted property funds available for current projects of \$14,830. We have a balanced budget for 2008 which includes our current staff plus the addition of a youth director during the year. We also will forecast a rainy day fund of some \$91,810 based on known bequests. Key will be the increase in stewardship continuing and the achievement of our fund raising goals. We were able to manage our expenses very tightly and as a result, we are in very strong financial shape; both in terms of balance sheet and budget. Any questions please contact the finance committee members. Copies of the budget are available in the parish office.

Revenues	Budget 2007	Actual 2007
Pledges	\$ 603,000.00	\$ 588,976.00
Plate	\$ 32,800.00	\$ 29,026.00
Fund Raising	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 68,350.00
Other Income	\$ 22,200.00	\$ 29,665.00
Restricted Gifts *	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Unrestricted Gifts **	\$ 66,810.94	\$ 66,810.00
Total Income	\$ 814,810.94	\$ 802,827.00
Expenses		
Personnel	\$ 429,354.00	\$ 428,420.00
Utilities	\$ 45,891.00	\$ 41,796.00
Maintenance	\$ 79,010.00	\$ 70,435.00
Building Equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 12,645.00
Music	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,964.00
W&S Life	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,820.00
Youth	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 4,544.00
Church School	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 8,624.00
Office	\$ 54,222.00	\$ 45,277.00
Parish Life	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,199.00
Communications	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 1,674.00
Stewardship	\$ 350.00	\$ 428.00

Charitable	\$	43,206.00	\$	54,184.00
Other	\$	-	\$	447.00
Debt Service	\$	41,320.00	\$	42,209.00
Total Expenses	\$	725,803.00	\$	718,666.00
Net Total	\$	89,007.94	\$	84,161.00
Less Unrestricted	\$	22,197.00	\$	17,351.00
Less Restricted			\$	(2,649.00)

Revenues

Pledges	\$605,000.00	\$568,000 in 2007
Plate	\$33,000.00	
Fund Raising		
Lobster fest	\$21,000.00	Last Year Income
House Tour	\$17,000.00	Need owner
Grandma's Attic	\$5,000.00	G. Harbaugh
Golf Tournament	\$3,500.00	R. White and J. Sager
X-Mass Shop	\$10,000.00	Parish Life
Other Income	\$23,000.00	
UnRestricted Funds	\$25,000.00	
Restricted Gifts	\$14,830.00	07 Restr. Property Funds
Total Income	\$757,330.00	

Expenses

Personnel

Rector	\$158,560.00
Assistant	\$91,576.00
Priest Associate	\$3,000.00
Director Youth	\$39,000.00
Parish Admin	\$58,585.00
Parish Secretary	\$26,802.00
Director of Music	\$46,164.00
Vacation Organist	\$1,400.00
Search	\$0.00
FICA	\$9,202.00
Financial Sec	\$8,000.00
Total Personnel	\$442,289.00

Utilities	\$47,000.00
Maintenance	\$61,816.00

Estimate but close
New Sexton contract

Building Equipment	\$30,000.00	12K-52K Range	Mid Range
Music	\$3,500.00		
W&S Life	\$5,300.00		
Youth	\$10,000.00		With 4K Van Rental
Church School	\$8,650.00		One less babysitter
Office	\$50,000.00		Insurance Changes
Parish Life	\$1,000.00		
Communications	\$2,000.00		Estimate
Charitable	\$56,000.00	10K Increase	
Other			
Debt Service	\$40,620.00		Actual Numbers
Total Expenses	\$758,175.00		
Projected Net	-\$845.00		
Unrestricted Funds	\$66,810.00		Actual
	\$65,965.00	Rainy Day Fund	

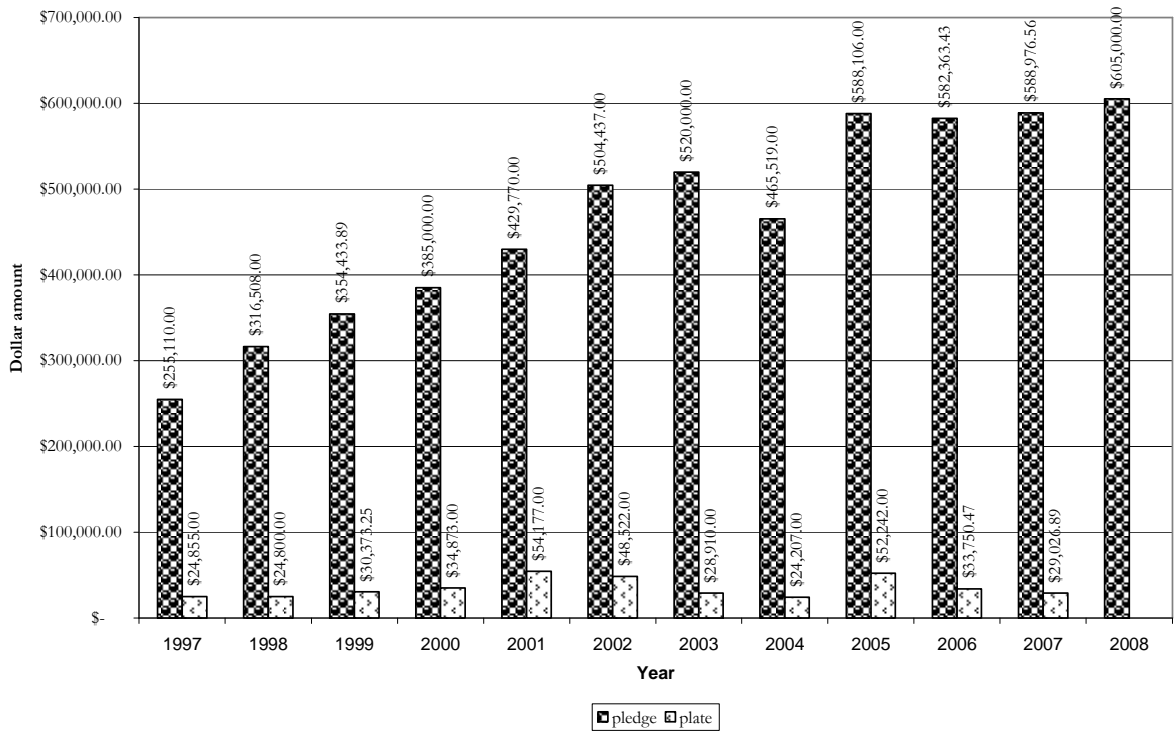
Vital Statistics Of Trinity Episcopal Church 2005-2007

Sunday Services	Number			Total Attend. (2007)
	2005	2006	2007	
<u>8:00 AM</u>	50	51	53	
<u>9:15 AM</u>	56	58	50	
<u>11:30 AM</u>	40	37	39	
<u>Evening liturgies</u>	1	5	7	Vigil, special, etc.
<u>Evensongs</u>	3	3	3	
<u>Total</u>	150	154	152	13,897 total attendance
Weekdays	2005	2006	2007	
<u>Holy Eucharists</u>	47	63	64	
<u>Morning Prayer</u>	42	53	33	
<u>Centering Prayer</u>	47	44	50	
<u>Home</u>				
<u>Communions</u>	38	52	57	(est.) Home, Hospital, Care facilities Healing liturgies, special prayer services
<u>Other</u>	18	8	14	
<u>Total</u>	192	220	218	1,267.00 (est)
	2005	2006	2007	
Baptisms	16	9	17	
Confirmations	0	6	9	
Receptions	0	5	5	
Reaffirmations of Baptismal				
Vows	0	2	1	
Weddings	9	9	8	Membership= 321 Households/963 members
New/Returning Households	18	13	13	
	2005	2006	2007	
Burials				
<u>Funerals</u>	7	12	12	
<u>Interments in</u>				
<u>Cemetary</u>	4	7 ?		
	2005	2006	2007	
Letters of Transfer				
<u>Requested</u>	3	10	4	
<u>Received</u>	7	11	9	
<u>New Families</u>	16	11	7	

Sunday Average Attendance

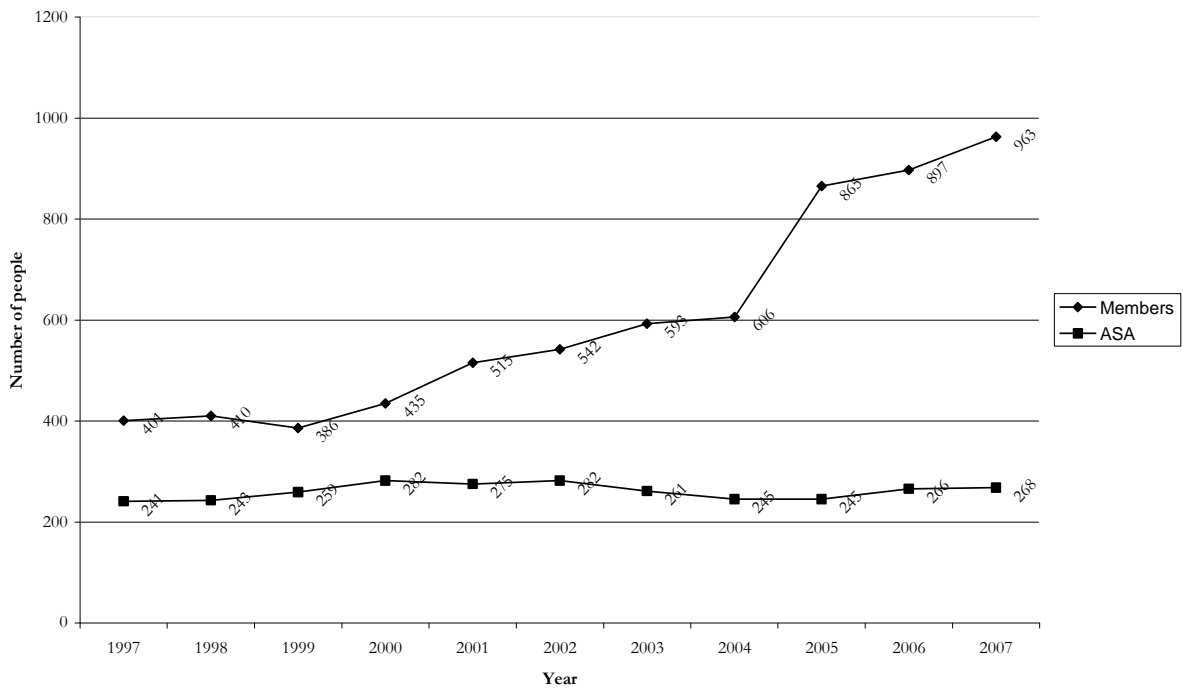
Service	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	11:30 AM	YE/Evening	Total
2005	38	181	35	62	251
2006	31	190	38	116.5	265
2007	30	188	32	148	268

Income for pledge and plate 1997-2007

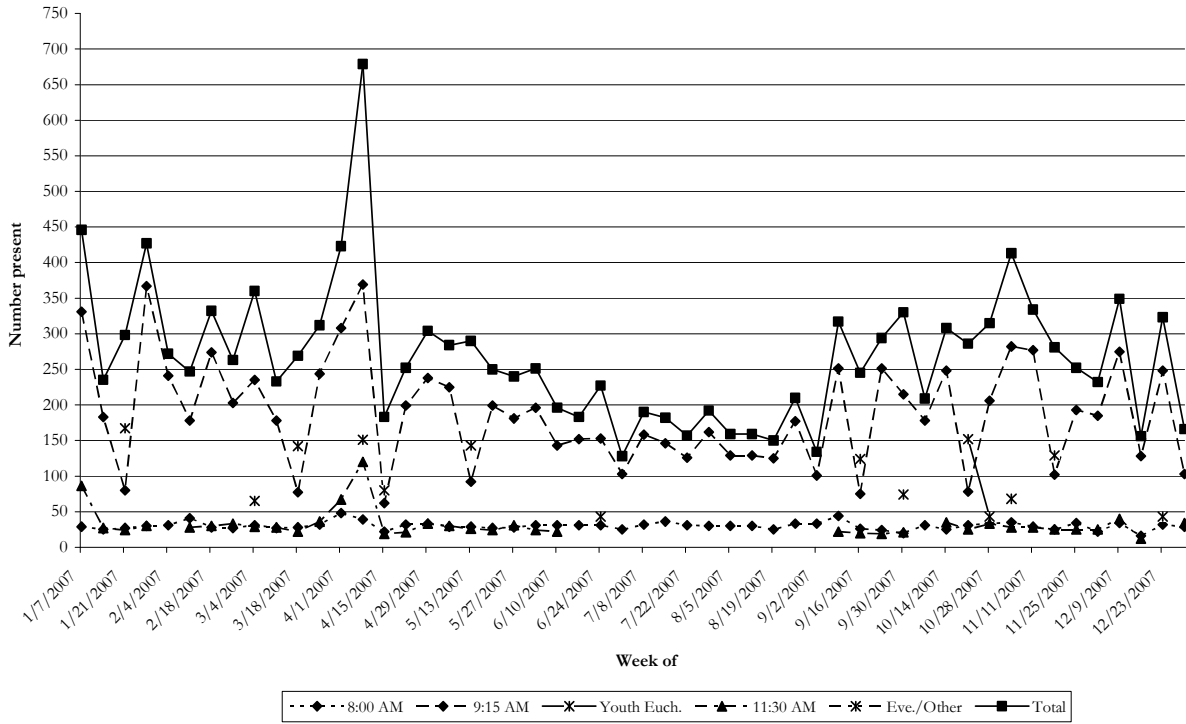


Membership growth 1997-2007

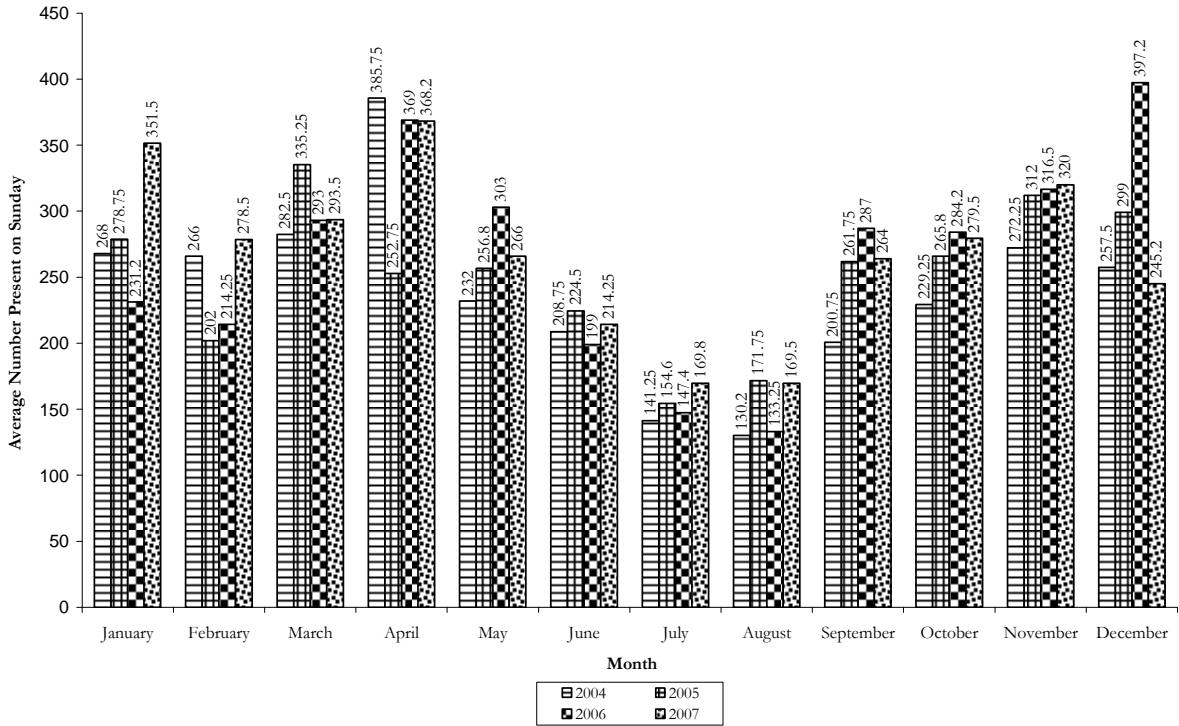
Note: Parish Records reviewed, cleansed and updated in June 2005



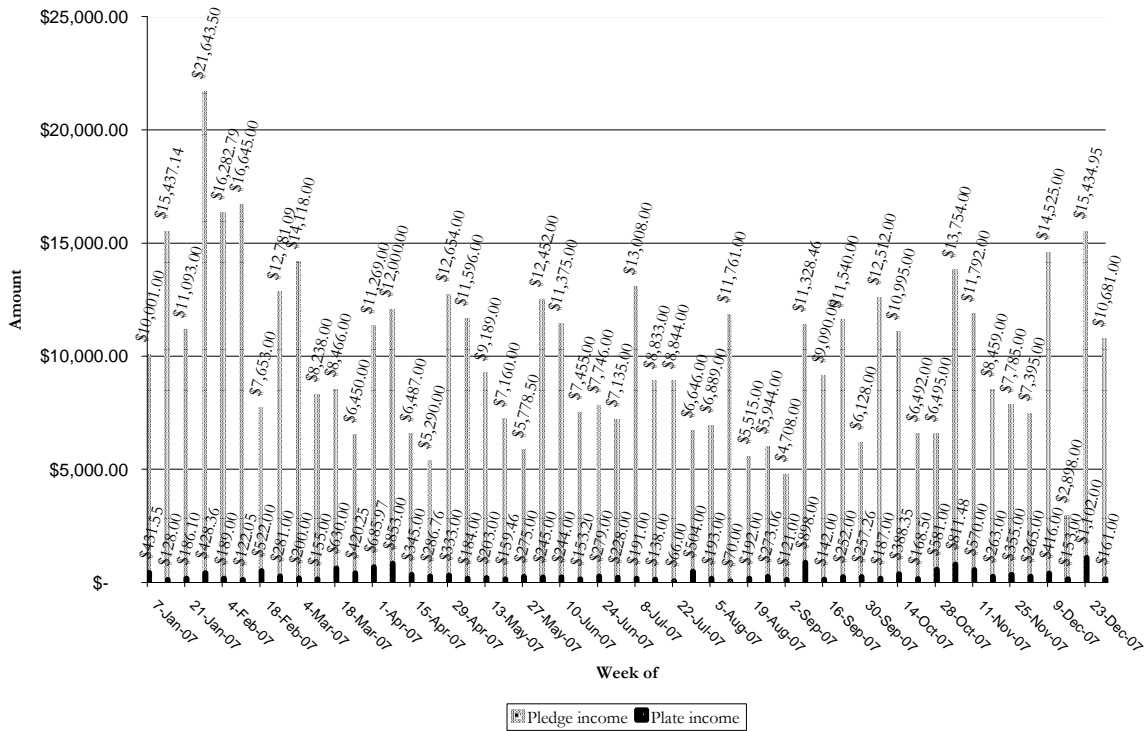
Average Sunday Attendance 2007



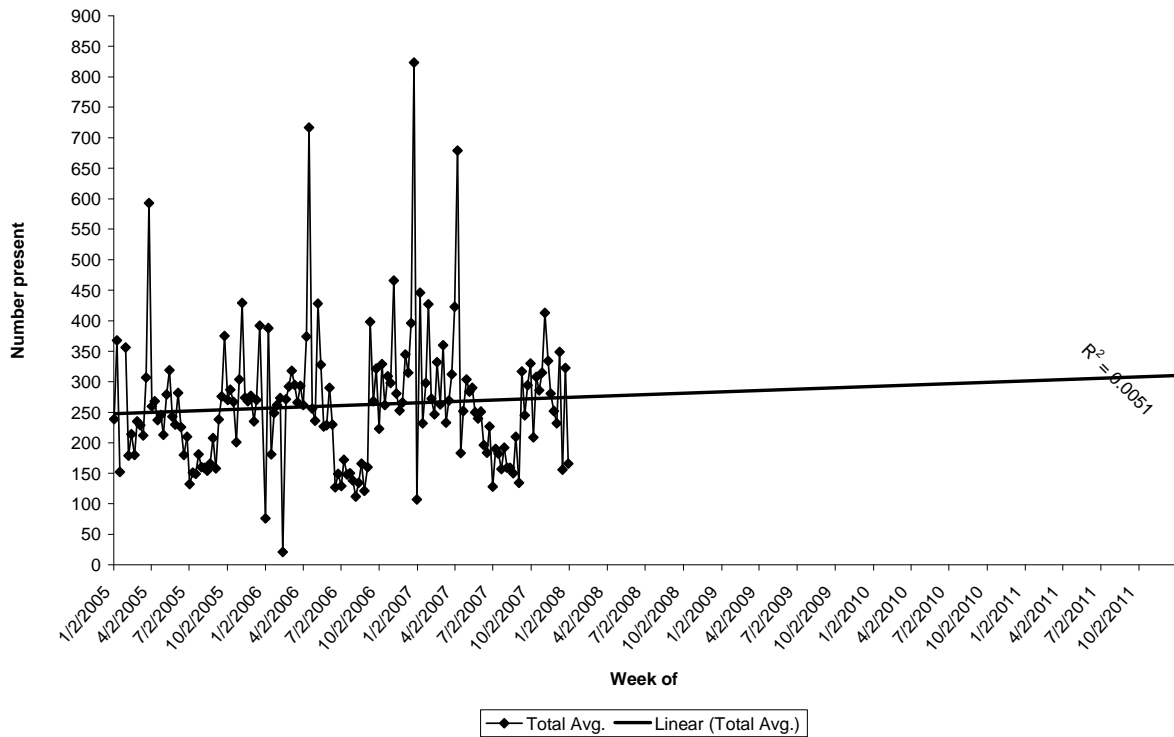
Average Monthly Attendance 2004-2007



Giving in Pledge and Plate



Sunday Attendance 2005-2007



Church School

Ann Bamford, Vestry Liaison

With your help, our goal is to inspire the young people of Trinity to be the best children of God that they know how to be. We continue to have over 60 active volunteers in this ministry who teach classes, organize and run special events and programs such as Vacation Bible School, the Christmas Pageant, the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with Santa. The average Sunday attendance is approximately 70 children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Church School classes continue to convene at 9:10 and are dismissed in time for children to join their families at the "PEACE" during the church service. A volunteer usher monitors the church service and gives a "5-minute warning" to all teachers so that they can bring class to a close.

The Church School curriculum used this year is the last year of a three-year cycle of the Episcopal Children's Curriculum that is biblically based and liturgically oriented. Other curriculums are currently being carefully examined so that we can make an informed decision about what will be used beginning in September of 2008.

Some of the classes participated in outreach efforts this year. The 6th through 8th grade group ordered, sorted, prepared and manned the Guatemala crafts stand at the Christmas Bazaar. That group also helped ready younger children for the All Saint's Day Parade. Many of the 4th and 5th graders represented Trinity in the AIDS Walk. Some children also made table decorations for the Peacemeal Thanksgiving dinner.

The childcare program that Trinity offers, for children not yet old enough to attend the youngest church school class, falls within the Church School budget. It has been the practice for this program to be staffed by four paid childcare workers. In the fall of 2007, two of the paid staff were replaced by volunteers from Trinity. Each Sunday two volunteers are made available to help the two remaining paid staff. Usually, one is an adult and the other a member of the youth group. This new program has allowed us to decrease the church school budget by \$3500. A volunteer coordinator position was established. This person recruits volunteers and makes up a schedule. A church office volunteer makes weekly reminder calls to ensure that the volunteers will be on duty.

The Church School Advisory Board was resurrected, after a period of being inactive. Its purpose is to trouble shoot any issues as they arise, to plan for things coming up on the calendar and to share ideas for the ongoing success of the program. With the departure of our Director of Children and Youth, this group will be taking on some of the responsibilities that may have formerly been handled by Kyle. Ann Bamford, Vestry Liaison for the Church School, will facilitate these meetings.

Communications Ministry

Roger White, Vestry Liaison

The Communications Ministry offers a variety of Stewardship opportunities. Working closely with other ministries, building communications strategies and producing materials that invite, inform and inspire.

Along with the communications need in each ministry there is also an opportunity to step up and help promote a number of Trinity events.

Trinity Web Site

Jon Hayward chairs the Web team. The Trinity Web Site has proven to be an invaluable communications tool for our parish. It is updated on a continuous basis and is extremely user friendly. This Web Site has exceeded all expectations.

Tidings

Production stopped during last summer and a reassessment of Tidings effectiveness was reviewed. The first major change was revising the format, making it easier to lay out. The other change was to make the actual production and management of Tidings a part of the functions of The Church Administration.

Church Directory

Another major change was the production of the church directory. Touchlife was brought in to not only take photographs of the parishioners but to also to produce the Trinity Directory, saving staff hours and production costs.

It has been a challenging and rewarding three years. I am encouraged that the parish recognizes the importance of this ministry. This Vestry position is currently open and I am praying that someone will be called to this dynamic ministry.

Trinity Day School

Heidi Luke- Vestry Liaison

Cindy Bove- School Director

School Year 2006-2007

Trinity Day School bid a fond farewell to its kindergarten teacher and the kindergarten program at the close of the school year. Though tremendously successful over its many years of operation, the Board elected to eliminate the kindergarten program as it was no longer financially viable once New Hope-Solebury began its offering of full-day kindergarten. The board also eliminated the 5 day program for four year olds after studying a pattern of declining enrollment over the past few years. The school closed out its financials for the school year 2006-2007 with a significant deficit. This deficit was anticipated, and was planned for by using reserves from prior years' earnings.

School Year 2007-2008

The Day School opened its doors to 65 students on September 4 for its 49th year of service to the community. Two exciting new programs were introduced to replace former offerings. The new Kindergrow program for older 4's and 5 year olds is hugely successful and has 13 students enrolled (maximum is 15). The Day School also lowered its age for eligibility from 3 to 2 ½ with its new Toddlergrow class. The intention was to attract children at a younger age who might otherwise go to other schools who accept younger children. This class has 8 children enrolled (maximum is 10) and has exceeded expectations in its operations to date.

The Day School continues to note declining enrollment in its 3 years old classes, and is studying population trends in the New Hope-Solebury and surrounding communities. The school director and Board remain committed to adjusting programs and offerings to meet the needs and demands of the community it serves.

In other matters, the school director is appreciative of energy and support from the Parents Committee and the Board. Current energies and efforts are focused on improving the school environment. It has been recognized that the Day School and the Church School have inhabited the education building for 8+ years now, and no painting or re-investing in the building has been done. Volunteer efforts to date are the painting of a child-centered mural on the school wall, repainting of the halls in the education wing, and building of a custom cabinet to clean up hallway clutter. The Monte Carlo Committee is in the midst of its planning for the March 2008 fundraiser. Proceeds from this event will be used to further improve the school environment.

Outreach

Jean Evans, Vestry Liaison

The Outreach Ministry at Trinity includes many opportunities for service locally, nationally and internationally. All are invited to become a part of Outreach, either by joining an effort already in progress or by bringing new opportunities into our midst. Some of our 2007 Outreach projects included:

Peacemeal Dinners – where we served an average of 35 HIV/AIDS clients of Family Services each month.

Aid For Friends meals – extra portions of dinners that parishioners prepared and froze at home, that were distributed to the elderly and home-bound in Bucks county.

Seamen's Church Institute – close to 50 hand-knit watch caps and many bags of gently used men's clothing were taken to the Institute to be distributed to merchant seamen docking at the Philadelphia ports.

Lambertville Food Pantry – parishioners donated an average of 3 grocery bags of non-perishable food each week to the Food Pantry.

NGA – new clothing that will be distributed to men, women and children in Bucks County through various agencies.

In 2007, the Outreach committee asked local agencies to formally request a grant from Trinity. Included in the request was a statement describing the purpose of the agency and the use to which any awarded funds would be dedicated. We were pleased to award a \$2,000 grant to A Woman's Place; \$1,500 to FISH; \$1,000 to Bucks County Opportunity Council; and \$1,500 to VITA Education Services. In addition, the Outreach Committee sent a \$200 donation to the Stockton Fire Company and a \$200 donation to the Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad.

Property Ministry

Jerry Harbaugh, Vestry Liaison

The year 2007 was a very successful year for maintaining and improving the Trinity campus through the support from members of the Artistic Advisory and Cemetery committees. Budget constraints delayed completion of other desired projects.

The 'Garden angels' group maintained many of the beautiful gardens between the semi-annual major landscape maintenance performed compliments of Lisa Leydon's company.

The Spring and Fall workdays completed many projects, including major pruning in the Cemetery and along the driveways. The garage was also reorganized to be a more functional storage facility, primarily for Lobsterfest equipment and Mission Philadelphia materials.

Property members have assisted with the building cleaning change program since the resignation of Bill Burke; this project is still being evaluated and refined.

Assisted with the disposal of the Trinity Van to the The Purple Heart association.

There is a need to refinish the main Sanctuary floors, which was planned for Fall 2007, now scheduled for the 1st quarter of 2008.

The final phase of the Organ project was completed with the addition of a railing behind the Altar.

The Trinity campus was the benefactor of funds from several bequeaths designated for 'Capital Improvements' which were used for:

- McArthur Hall ceiling fans
- Mc Arthur Hall kitchen food mixer
- Roof deicing equipment for the McArthur Hall East entrance to reduce the sidewalk icing problem.
- Several other projects are being considered for completion from these Capital funds:
- A rework and finishing of the balcony; i.e., floor covering and furnishings.
- A sound system for McArthur Hall
- A sprinkler system for the gardens around the Chapel and Mc Arthur Hall.

Proposed maintenance projects for 2008, pending funding.

- Paint a large portion of the building interior
- Reseal and stripe all the driveway surfaces.
- Develop plan for completion of the Undercroft

As the buildings age there are the unexpected items just like your home; this past year we encountered items such as:

- A \$4,000 heat pump required replacement
- The main boiler controls modified for improved efficiency, \$2,500.
- The kitchen hot water heater replaced for \$6,500.

Parish Life Ministry centers its efforts on welcoming members and helping existing members find their own personal ministries at Trinity Church. There is a place for everyone in God's house, please help Trinity welcome all.

Welcome Committee locates and greets newcomers on Sunday mornings to give them a warm welcome to Trinity. They provide visitors with information and invite them to the Trinity family. This year we took and filled orders for engraved name tags for all members, we will take orders once a year to include everyone. Contact the church office with your order. (There is a \$5 cost per name tag.)

The Hospitality Committee oversees all aspects of Trinity gatherings and celebrations; annual meeting, children's communion, Deanery meetings, and celebrations of New Ministries. The busiest time of year is Lent and Holy week; with Lenten Simple Suppers, Agape dinner and Easter Vigil; please plan to join us during the weeks ahead. Other areas of this ministry are Coffee Hour; hostesses are arranged by this committee.

Coffee Hour is a vital fellowship ministry that requires the participation of many. It provides an opportunity to get to know one another and to offer a warm welcome to all who join us on Sunday morning. (On the website you will find your assigned Sunday to provide treats for coffee hour. If there is a conflict for that day and you can't serve - First: find a substitute; Second: notify the Church Office with the name of your sub.) Everyone's participation is greatly appreciated. Another part of this ministry is linens, once a month a parishioner signs up to wash the linens and put them back in the kitchen; please call Renee to sign up for a month and help with this important and easy ministry.

Cookie Bake/Christmas Breakfast with St. Nicholas has been a tradition of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury for over sixty years. Come join the fun in baking, decorating, and packaging about 16,000 cookies. The Christmas Bazaar is opened for gifts and fun. Featured are crafts of Trinity's own artisans and specialty food items for both gift giving and decorating. If you have a craft to offer please contact Renee.

Clothing Sale/Grandma's Attic is a fundraiser for the church. It provides affordable clothing for the community and contributes a truckload of clothes to the Trenton Rescue Mission. Many hands make light work so please help and make this a community event. Call Gail Harbaugh with questions and times.

I am looking for people to begin one of Trinity's finest and most memorable ministries; please contact Renee and let's start what Trinity has always been known for.... Hospitality. I will be looking to form a committee in the weeks ahead please work with me to make this happen; I can't do it alone.

Trinity Youth Group Ministry
John Daukas, Vestry Liason

2007 has been both a blessing and a challenge. With the news of Kyle's departure we were able to get Jenn Blumenstock to lead the Wednesday Night Youth Meetings, the Fall Mensch Mill retreat and the monthly Youth Eucharist in McArthur Hall. The core of the youth activities still resides with the Wednesday night meetings. Jenn is assisted in doing this by a group of 10 devoted adult sponsors. The group is typically divided into three age groups comprised of 6th & 7th grades, 8th & 9th grades and 10th thru 12th grade.

Highlights of the year include:

- Wednesday Night Youth Fellowship Meetings
- Wednesday Night "Once A Month" Youth Dinners
- Fall and Spring retreats at the Mensch Mill Retreat Center.
- Monthly Youth Eucharist in McArthur Hall (including the TYG Band)
- Senior Sendoff (a tribute to graduating high school seniors)
- Stations of the Cross & Tenebrae
- The Annual Youth Group Ski Trip
- Lobsterfest and the Car Raffle
- Mission Philadelphia
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Breakfast with St. Nick
- And of course the efforts with Mwamba Church Ministries International and our own Dr. Trey Wilson's efforts with Tabasamu and the wonderful efforts of him and his team.

In the upcoming year we have a challenge ahead of us, replacing the youth director and continuation of the mission. Now that the budget for 2008 is finalized, the vestry has approved that a search advisory committee be formed to assist our rector in the process of replacing this critical position. I would like to take this time to extend an invitation to anyone interested in working with the youth group to either talk to myself, one of the other adult sponsors, or any of the youth group members. We would love your support and participation.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Geraldine Broadbent, Vestry Liaison

The Vestry will reorganize the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry for 2008. Thus far, there has been one vestry liaison for all of the committees that lead, organize, plan and maintain the worship and spiritual life of Trinity. The vestry, recognizing the importance of the work of these ministries to the life of Trinity, has voted to expand vestry representation and oversight and replace the single Worship & Spiritual Life vestry position with three areas of Vestry oversight:

- **Worship and Music** – serving under the direction of the Rector with the support of the parish clergy and the Music Director
- **Pastoral Care** – oversight by a vestry liaison with the goal of supporting and further developing lay ministry leadership and coordinating it with clergy support
- **Spiritual Life** – a vestry liaison with oversight of all adult spiritual formation programs such as forums, quiet days, retreats, bible studies.

We thank Caroline Oakes McCarthy for her leadership, vision and dedication during her tenure as Lay Assistant and the associate on staff for the coordination of Spiritual Life Programming. The new Spiritual Life vestry ministry will continue to build on the foundation and framework that Caroline put in place.

We thank Carlie Zaroff for her leadership of the flower guild and Ann Bamford who has stepped up to be the new head of the flower guild (in addition to her responsibilities as vestry liaison for Church School.)

We thank Carlie Zaroff for her years of scheduling the lectors and chalice bearers. The final schedule that she will prepare will be February 2008 through August 2008.

We thank everyone who volunteers their time and energy to the work of the committees of Worship and Spiritual Life.

We continue to seek a Head Lector and a scheduler for the lectors and chalice bearers, beginning with the September 2008 through January 2008 schedule. We have a real need for more volunteers and invite people to join all of our committees and guilds – altar guild, flower guild, ushers, acolytes, lay Eucharistic ministers, lectors and chalice bearers, choirs, spiritual life committees and pastoral care.

Stewardship Ministry – Otho Kerr, Vestry Liaison



The Stewardship Ministry at Trinity Church seeks to engage parishioners at Trinity to become true stewards of Trinity Church and of all that God has given to us. At Trinity Church, we believe that stewardship is a three-fold ministry. While stewardship is often described as our pledge or our financial commitment to the church, we believe that our stewardship is measured just as importantly in terms of our time and talent. Our time, our talents and our treasure are all created by God and given to us.

The Stewardship Ministry has two primary committees: 1) The Stewardship Committee, and 2) the Newcomers' Committee.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee has primary responsibility for developing Trinity's annual pledge campaign, coordinating the *STEP-UP!* Suppers and coordinating the annual campaign to recruit time and talent. Committee members meet once a month.

In 2007, the Stewardship Committee developed a theme that it believes embraces the concept of stewardship – “Step Up and Reach Out”. We hope that members of Trinity will not only embrace the concept of stepping up as far as pledging, but more importantly, we hope that Trinitarians will step up and reach out to fellow parishioners and all of God's children who might benefit from our love and support in the many ways that they can be manifested. We understand that the ability to step up and reach out may need to be nurtured with a strong spiritual foundation; so we hope that our work with the Spiritual Formation ministry might fill all of us with the spiritual nourishment to eagerly step up and reach out. Indeed, we read jointly with Spiritual Formation Henri Nouwen's book, *Reaching Out*. (Don Roberts generously created the Step Up and Reach Out banners that have been hanging in MacArthur Hall.)

In 2007, the Stewardship Committee was pleased to introduce *STEP-UP!* Suppers to Trinity. *STEP-UP!* Suppers are a renewed experience at Trinity Church. Led by Sally Henriques and Nancy Cullen, these potluck suppers were an opportunity for parishioners to reach out and meet one another in an informal, fun environment. And they afforded parishioners an opportunity to have frank, honest conversations and to discuss our commitment to Trinity as stewards of God's church and God's gifts to us. *STEP-UP!* Suppers were hosted in about 10 homes and about 150 parishioners participated in the suppers. We believe that the *STEP-UP!* Suppers played a crucial part in the overall success of the 2008 Stewardship Campaign in that they helped parishioners understand the importance of their pledge while also explaining Trinity's financial needs. Early pledges in this year's Stewardship Campaign were meaningfully higher on average than in years past.

The 2008 Stewardship Campaign began with a rousing start on Kick Off Sunday, September 9th, and concluded on Stewardship Sunday, November 4th. The Committee moved up the timing of the Stewardship Campaign in order to assist the Vestry in developing a realistic budget. In years past, the budget was often approved prior to the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign. This year, we positioned ourselves to have the months of November and December to insure that we reached our stewardship dollar goals. And we took full advantage of that opportunity.

The Stewardship Committee began a tradition of asking a household to lead the stewardship campaign and asked the Johnsons (Marvin, Angela, Marvin III and Tyler Johnson) to serve as this year's ChairFamily. In the course of the Stewardship Campaign, the Johnsons were especially effective in speaking about the importance of teaching stewardship to young people. Not only did Marvin III and Tyler initiate the *Change for Change* campaign for young people, they have also visited each church school class to talk about the importance of stewardship.

Together with the Johnsons, the Stewardship Committee established a goal of \$600,000 in total pledges with 70% participation. The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that Trinity exceeded the pledge goal and now has pledges totaling \$605,404 (vs. \$568,771 in 2007). This is a record for Trinity. We received 195 pledges for a 61% participation rate (vs. 196 and 61% in 2007). The average pledge was \$3,105 (vs. \$2,902 in 2007), a 7% increase. *While we are delighted and blessed with these numbers, we need to underscore that the average pledge must be much closer to \$4,000 going forward in order for Trinity to offer the programs and achieve the goals that our members seek.*

Pledge History

	Families	Pledges	Particip%	Total	Average
2001-02	327	205	63%	\$504,107	\$2,459
2002-03	330	216	65%	\$497,100	\$2,301
2003-04	334	185	55%	\$465,519	\$2,516
2004-05	314	185	59%	\$492,497	\$2,662
2005-06	280	193	69%	\$584,212	\$3,027
2006-07	319	196	61%	\$568,771	\$2,902
2007-08	319	195	61%	\$605,404	\$3,105

Also in support of the Stewardship Campaign, the Stewardship Committee invited parishioners to write about or periodically speak to the congregation about their perspectives on stewardship. We are grateful to the many people who offered their time and talent to the overall stewardship effort.

As we begin 2008, Sandy Ryon is leading an effort to recruit parishioners to offer their time and talent to the various ministries of Trinity. We hope that this more proactive approach will be a more effective way of engaging parishioners in the life of the church. In support of this effort, the Communications Ministry and Stewardship Committee created a Pew Brochure that generally outlines the ministries of the church.

I also want to thank Prue Day, Megg King, Fred Koberna and Wally Sellers for their important contributions to the success of the Stewardship Committee.

Newcomers' Committee

Megg King and Trey Wilson chair the Newcomers' Committee, which is responsible for the Newcomers' program, which has three essential components: 1) Greeting, 2) Newcomer Mentoring, and 3) Membership. The Newcomers' Committee is a quiet committee that works effectively behind the scenes to make newcomers feel at home. The Committee is responsible for coordinating Trinity's Greeters and managing the Newcomers' Mentoring program. This Committee is also responsible for Newcomers' Dinners and the orientation of newcomers. This committee welcomes new committee members as well as greeters and hosts for persons that are new to Trinity.

The Newcomers' Mentoring Program is being revitalized. Barrie Summers is working hard to insure that newcomers to Trinity are assigned a mentor who will follow the newcomer(s) for a period of time to make sure that the newcomer can find their way around Trinity in a way that meets their personal needs.

And Megg King and Trey Wilson are working to insure that we have three robust Newcomers' Dinners per year, each one followed by an orientation program for interested newcomers. And Betty Stagg's contributions and overall leadership have been greatly appreciated.

Parish Administrator – Debbie Stedman

2007 brought new challenges to the office with introduction of PayPal, the Lexus Raffle, and the start of a new ministry – Human Resources. We have had to endure the death of many beloved Trinity members and their loved ones who were left behind, the loss of Bill Burke and Co., Caroline McCarthy and the news that Kyle Evans and Cindy Baker would be leaving by January 2008. Other challenges were with the new cleaning service –JanPro. As you may have notice we have has our share of many new Sunday Sexton's and cleaning persons these past 6 months. We hope to rectify this situation this coming year. We are happy to announce that we have new volunteers who have accepted to work on a specific day and time slot during the week, and we have new substitutes that are eager to help out when they are available. This is all due to the hard work of Betty Stagg who is our Volunteer Coordinator.

The office staff continues to support all the ministries in:

mailings, sign ups, move the recordings from the Sunday services to the webteam, maintain the calendar, maintain and track contributions that come to the office and make copies so that the committees are able to track who had contributed, Sunday Bulletins, the Notices and inserts, update all church records and post all event information.

Tidings, our Parish newsletter has a new editor, Michele Summerson. Michele has a done a great job in giving the Tidings a new look and feel. We have also shorten the Tidings in trying to keep the articles short, and interesting and cost effective.

Anne Yarnall our Parish Finance Secretary continues to work closely with Julie Loftus, Doug McArthur, Finance Chair, Dave Griffith and myself. Anne and I, along with the help of program directors, Finance Chair and Vestry we have been able to control the purchase orders and help supervise the budget more efficiently.

We hired a company called Churchlife to produce the new Church Directory. The company came in the fall and took professional pictures of Trinity members for the directory, and at this time we are still waiting for the finish product. Our hope is for March 2008.