



*2009 Annual Report*

*February 21, 2010*



# The Church of the Holy Trinity

## *2009 Annual Report Index*

### **Ministries and Activities**

Welcome Ministry	Don Stout	pg. 4
Men's Breakfast	Don Stout	pg. 4
Shepherd's Hands	Cindy Kern	pg. 5
TWIG	Ann Wilcox	pg. 7
Communications Committee	Judith Shannon	pg. 8
ECW	Ann Wilcox	pg. 8
Altar Guild	Jane Brigman	pg. 9
Church School	Church School Team	pg. 10
Music Ministry	Andrew Hauze	pg. 12
Handbell Choir	Elaine Cumens	pg. 14
Stephen Ministry	Elsbeth Zaayenga & Cathy Smith	pg. 15
Sarah's Circle	Jane Gillem and Betty Voorhees	pg. 16
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Orr	pg. 16
EFM	Tom and Pat Platt	pg. 17
Library	Pat Dean	pg. 18
West Chester Area Child Access Center	Sandy Fischler	pg. 19
Acolyte Annual Report	Stu McKee	pg. 20
Accounting Warden's Report	Nancy Needhammer	pg. 21
Cafe	Lars Knutsen	pg. 25
Catacomb Closet	Alice Calvert & Dolores Glatts	pg. 26
2008 Annual Meeting Minutes	Judith Shannon	pg. 28
Community Dinners	Hallie Romanowski	pg. 30

If you wish to get involved in a particular ministry or receive more information about a particular ministry or activity, contact the leader as shown above or contact one of the clergy. For a complete listing and description of the ministries of Holy Trinity please pick up a copy of ***Pathway to Participation*** from the narthex.

## BAPTISMS

Veronica Faye Heichel	January 11
Aiden Patrick Palloni	January 11
Jackson Jan Clark	April 11
Chase Alexander Hogan	April 11
Justin Robert Hadfield	April 11
Zoe Elizabeth Throup	May 31
Dylan Richard Smart	May 31
Charles Jacob Platt	August 16
Anelah Jones McComas	August 16
Leah Rose Elafari	August 16
Lucas Neal Zoski	August 16
Abigail Karen Zoski	August 16
Sydney Rae Snow	August 16
Michael Patrick Murphy	August 16
Sienna K. Warner	November 1

## MARRIAGES

Alexandra Hacking & Justin Hadfield	June 7
Jacqueline Dougherty & Russell Frank Leo	June 20
Sangitha Purushotam & David Lorenz	August 15
Kimberly Glick & Brian Althouse	October 2

## BURIALS

Carolyn P. Yates	March 27
Cecilia (Cherry) Beda	April 15
Helen F. Macleary	April 17
William J. Bonine, Jr.	May 25
Sally P. Ashworth	July 19
Mary Klouse	July 5
Kenneth Williams	August 17
Priscilla Stokes	August 31
Pauline Harewood	September 4
Alfred Cumens	November 6
Nancy S. Howard	December 1
Adelaide D. Woodward	December 5
Paul Scheuritzel	December 11

## TRANSFERS OUT

Ann Gilmore	February 25
John Turgeon & Cortie Ervin	September 9

## TRANSFERS IN

Lisa Homa	May 9
Debbie Backman	May 9
Louise McGinnis	May 9
Barbara Burri	May 9
Stephanie Payzant	July 9
Joseph McAllister	July 9
Sam Rotella	December 9
Philore Robertson	December 9

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## WELCOME MINISTRY

The Welcome Ministry in 2009 continued to build on last year's progress toward our goal:

*To establish and maintain an ongoing ministry of welcoming and incorporating new people into Holy Trinity.*

Some of the 2009 activities in support of that goal:

- *Usher/Greeters:* Our Ushers and Greeters welcome our Sunday visitors, assist new families with children, provide guidance as needed, and help to identify newcomers. Training was provided for all who serve in this ministry.
- *Welcome Gift Bags:* A welcome gift bag with small tokens for our visitors may be presented to them. Many thanks to Mary Johnson who has been assembling the bags.
- *The Magnetic Church Conference:* A dozen parishioners attended this workshop and conference held at Church of the Advent in Kennett Square in June. Many practical tools are being considered and implemented at Holy Trinity, including the addition of a Welcome Table in the Narthex.
- *Long Range Plan:* The committee is developing a plan to present to the Vestry.

Discussions are underway to build on these activities and to develop a more in-depth shepherding ministry as part of Holy Trinity's incorporation of new members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Stout  
Chair, Welcome Ministry

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## MEN'S BREAKFAST

20 years and counting! The men of the parish meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (except during July and August) at 7:30 AM. Yes, it's early, but the food, fellowship and Bible study bring us together and wake us up!

Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday we spend time in fellowship and in studying the Sunday's lectionary to prepare for our weekly worship. This past Fall, we started a study on *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller, discussing a chapter at each meeting. Many of us were able to help prepare and serve at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. And we are always open to opportunities for ministry in and around the parish and the larger community.

We welcome all men of Holy Trinity to join us for this special time of men's fellowship—and a chance to enjoy excellent cooking and carbs!

Don Stout  
(Just one of the cooks!)

# THE SHEPHERD'S HANDS

## Mission Statement

As participants in The Prayer Shawl Ministry, The Shepherd's Hands provides items of comfort made with prayers and compassion for those in need of spiritual support irrespective of faith affiliation.

### Projects for 2009:

We have attempted to keep count of the number of items of each type that we have completed this year. Unfortunately that has proven to be impossible. An estimate is given for all items except the ones for the St. Agnes Day Room.

**Prayer Shawls:** We continued to support the parish-wide ministry for prayer shawls with over 50 shawls. Rita Lynn and Mary Ann Shaw have made sure that we are never without prayer shawls. This ministry is open to all members of the parish and is not restricted to any particular group of people.

**Lap Robes:** Lap Robes continued to be completed and distributed throughout the parish and beyond. Most of the lap robes are currently being made by Anna Wolfrey and we are all grateful that she has made around 30 of them this year.

**Baptismal Gifts:** A large number of car seat covers were made for the Parents Group. They have asked this fall that we keep them well supplied with the colorful crocheted ones that Anna Wolfrey makes.

**Women's Shelter Project and Family Support:** Unfortunately, the Women's Shelter Project was unable to complete construction this year. There was some confusion over whether we ought to make items for them or not and we learned of this too late to support this project. Eileen Bonine and Eileen Levinstein made items for our family support as well as for the St. Agnes Day Room project.

**St. Agnes Day Room:** In early January we learned of the massive need among the members of our community who receive services through the St. Agnes Day Room. We put out a call to the churches of West Chester and were overwhelmed by the response. Clothing and food came from as far away as Ambler and Coatesville; items were provided for people of all ages from infant to elderly. We acted as a collection point in this effort and many of the group purchased emergency mittens, gloves, hats, sweaters, etc. as well as knitting and crocheting what we could as quickly as we could. The Catacomb Closet generously donated items as well as providing \$100 for the purchase of children's sweaters. It was at this point that many more people joined in with us to be The Shepherd's Hands even though they cannot attend meetings.

*Continued on Page 6*

## Shepherd's Hands Report (cont)

We knew that winter would return with just as much need, so we started working on clothing items for the children: mittens, hats, scarves, and sweaters. We were able to keep an accurate count as we centralized the collection process until the items were delivered to the St. Agnes Day Room. In 2009 we made and delivered: 20 scarves, 50 hats, 34 pairs of mittens, and 12 sweaters as well as delivering 5 pairs of donated gloves and 5 pairs of donated socks.

### **Projects for 2010:**

**Prayer Shawls:** We will continue to make prayer shawls and lap robes as the main focus of the group.

**Adopted Families:** We will continue to support our adopted family ministry in any way that we can, as well as assisting other families that may be in need of items for winter.

**New Projects:** We are discussing supporting the Seaman's Institute as well as the massive need for winter items for distribution through the St. Agnes Day Room. This past year the plea for assistance was expanded to include women and children from infants to adult. It is only too possible that this may expand even further. We will just make as much as we can while realizing that we cannot do it all ourselves. When we talk about this project with friends, acquaintances, and even strangers we give them the chance to be part of something bigger than themselves as well.

### **Changes:**

We have lost two members in the years that we have been in existence and those to a move away and to a career obligation. We would like as a group to recognize and honor two of our founders who are no longer part of our group: Fran Williams and Bette Twaddell. Fran does not attend because of her stroke, although we would love to just have her there with us. Bette moved to Cleveland this fall. We miss them both.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Kern

## **TWIG (Trinity Women's Intergenerational Group)**

TWIG began 2009 with a community outreach project, OPERATION BABY BLESSINGS to benefit the OB/GYN Clinic at Chester County Hospital. Directors at the clinic asked for assistance in supplying layette items for newborns of low-income mothers with little or no support in the home. The parish-wide project was launched at the third annual "Happy Unbirthday Party" on the first Saturday in February. The generosity of the Holy Trinity family resulted in over a hundred gift items being delivered to the clinic. Cash donations provided for the purchase of ten car seats required by law to facilitate the safe transport of newborns to their homes after release from the hospital.

Continuing in its stated objectives of community outreach, TWIG supported the Food Cupboard with regular contributions of non-perishable food items and paper goods. Volunteers helped to fill the Thanksgiving "baskets" for needy families in West Chester. Support of the Adopt-a-Family program under the direction of TWIG Coordinating Committee member, Carol Samuelson, was a year-long effort. A donation of \$500.00 was forwarded to Safe Harbor to aid in raising funds for the construction of its new facility in the Borough.

An early Fall Harvest Pot-Luck supper wound up the year with an enjoyable evening of good fellowship with an emphasis on thanksgiving to God not only for His continued blessing in providing for "all our wants to be supplied" but for the success of our outreach efforts and the generosity of the Parish family.

At year's end, after consultation and discussion with the two groups involved, a merger of TWIG and ECW into a new entity, WOMEN OF HOLY TRINITY, was accomplished. Combining TWIG's emphasis on Outreach and ECW's pursuit of spiritual growth projects, a pre-Christmas luncheon was held. Our guests were Deacon Mimi Greenwood and Fr. Tom Platt. Mimi gave a delightful talk on the scriptural symbols which decorate our Christmas trees.

The Coordinating Committee of the WOMEN OF HOLY TRINITY will continue to meet several times a year to plan and facilitate events, and will be happy to hear comments and suggestions. They are: Agnes Antonowich, Betsy Benner, Elaine Cumens, Betty Engan, Sue Greenwood, Mary Johnson, Joan Orr, Carol Samuelson, Alice Soldon, Ann Wilcox and Fran Williams.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Wilcox

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

In 2009 the Communications Committee worked to support the Magnetic Church Commission to ensure Holy Trinity is a hospitable, welcoming place for all.

Communications work is time intensive, so this small team set its first priority on improving and updating publications, under the able leadership of Ginny Zahn. Everyone today can see the results of this work with appealing informational materials available for newcomers and visitors, as well as a redesigned, professionally presented Narthex News.

Church members also see continuing improvements in the Sunday bulletins.

The other key priority is the church website. Today's communications environment demands that a church have a competitive website, because the internet is usually the first place newcomers look for information about a church. Under Earl Needhammer's leadership, the website has been going through upgrades, including expanded content.

Looking ahead, the committee's work will continue to focus on publications and the website. We're aiming for updated and expanded website content, and all ministry groups are being asked to update or add to information for the website. A key committee goal will be ensuring current information is on the website (this is a real challenge when working with volunteers who have limited time!).

Communications at Holy Trinity depends on volunteer contributions of time and talent. Your support and feedback are always welcome!

Judith Shannon (chair), Earl Needhammer, Ginny Zahn, Patrick Johnson, Hallie Romanowski

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

Our Spring monthly meetings (Second Thursdays 12-1) centered on a DVD featuring a very entertaining lady lecturer called "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible". From September through November we viewed the PBS DVD on the lives of the 12 apostles. In December, we decided to have a luncheon and invited the Rev. Mimi Greenwood as our guest. Mimi gave a talk on the Christmas symbols we put on our Christmas trees.

All women are invited to join us. Bring a bag lunch. (We provide water for tea.) We welcome your ideas for programs for the future.

Betty Engan

## ALTAR GUILD

During 2009 the Altar Guild members have had one of their busiest years in recent memory. Working closely with our priests, the members have carefully prepared the altar and the church for the many baptisms, weddings, funerals, concerts, and services that took place throughout the year.

In order to accomplish these duties, the members are divided into four groups by weeks. Each group accepts the responsibility for the services and special events during their designated week. We are also fortunate to have some members who are on “stand by” to substitute in one of the weeks or to help with special chores or events.

We are grateful for the love, patience, and support shown us by Father Paul and Pastor Pat as they continue to teach and guide us as we prepare for each liturgical season and each new service.

We are blessed to have many talented parishioners who make themselves available to help us when we call upon them. Barbara Buckley and Mark Bockrath have been generous with their time and talent. Jackie Starr, Elaine Cumens, and Meryl Dowdy have continued to use their sewing and needlepoint skills to finish the stoles and chasuble for the Advent set.

I would, also, like to thank all of the members for their flexibility, patience, dedication and willingness to accept this ministry.

We would like to invite those persons who may be interested persons to join this important ministry. If you are so inclined, please contact Jane Brigman at the Church Office at 610-696-4640, or any of the following members of the Altar Guild: Anita O’Neill, Mary Letzkus, Connie Gombatz, Kerry Gombatz, Bonnie Kuzmin, Eileen Riley, Florence Butcher, Harriet Carroll, Kay Croll, Ingrid Tomlinson, Judy Spangler, Betty Voorhees, Mary Ann Shaw, Rita McGuane, Pat Dean, Anne Fuller, Virginia Hines, Von DeLeath Kersey, Meryl Dowdy, and Jim Voorhees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Pengelly Brigman  
Altar Guild Directress

## CHURCH SCHOOL

### Classes and the curriculum that they use:

2-3 year olds -- Living the Good News

4 - 5 year olds -- Godly Play

Grades 1 and 2 --- Godly Play

Grades 3 and 4 -- Living the Good News

Grade 5 -- Living the Good News

Grades 6 and 7 -- Journey To Adulthood (Rite 13)

High School -- No formal curriculum. Mentors and adolescents use life experiences to talk about where they find God. The model that they use is a circular model where they all reflect on their life experiences using scripture, tradition, reason and their own understanding of God. They all look at their lives and current events using this model.

### New This Year

The 2008-09 church school year ended with the children participating in a Pentecost play that told the story of Jesus from his ride through Jerusalem, to his crucifixion and resurrection, to Pentecost. Children from all grade levels were involved with this in age-appropriate ways.

Carol Samuelson retired at the end of the 08-09 school year and was honored for her many years of service to the church school. Carol still decorates the bulletin board to reflect the liturgical seasons and what is going on in the church school.

A new Church School Team (Michele Duvivier, Kate Gouery, Heather Robino) was formed for the 2009-10 school year to take care of the church school's administrative details and support the teachers. They are the face of the church school for the parents and children. They open the church school and make sure that things run smoothly on Sunday morning. They order curriculum, supplies, snack and--most importantly--they are an advisory council for clergy.

Each class has music with Andrew Hauze once a month, which has been very successful. The children really seem to enjoy their time with Andrew.

During the Advent season of 2009, the Church School was involved in a parish outreach project to collect school supplies for children in Haiti. They will also participate in Operation Baby Blessing during Epiphany, and there will be other opportunities for the children to participate in the ministry of local and global outreach in the future.

Finally, to end 2009, the children participated in the annual Christmas Pageant at the Christmas Eve family service. As with the Pentecost play, children volunteered to participate in age-appropriate ways, and several members of the Rite 13 class served as important stage hands.

Thank you to parents, children, teachers, the clergy and everyone in the parish who has supported the growth and activities of Holy Trinity's church school.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Church School Team

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Dear friends,

2009 was a year of transition and new beginnings for much of the Music Ministry at Holy Trinity. I joined the staff as Minister of Music in July, and it has been such a joy to become part of the Holy Trinity family, to lead the music of worship, and to begin to oversee such an exciting and growing ministry of the church. I would like to once more thank and commend Dave Spitko for his extraordinary interim leadership of the music program. Dave put so much in place, both artistically and administratively, that my arrival on the job was as smooth as it could possibly be.

When I arrived in the summer, I drafted a list of goals and projects for the music ministry for the '09-10 year, which I presented to the vestry and to the congregation at the October vestry forum. I use this list to organize my own planning, beyond the day-to-day operations of the Music Ministry, and with the help of so many people, I am pleased to report that we have already met more of these goals than I could have imagined. For space reasons, I will only write about some of the highlights here.

The Chancel Choir grew this fall, so that we now have 29 members (you can see the chancel getting crowded!). I am so delighted to work with this dedicated and talented group, who spend a huge amount of time each week either in rehearsal or singing in services, and they handle an enormous variety of music with great passion and aplomb.

One of the first things to determine on my arrival was the role of music in the Church School. Pastor Pat, the Church School Team and Teachers, and I all met; we all agreed that it was important to make music a regular part of our children's faith. As the cornerstone of the program, I began a rotation in which I go to each Church School class every month, to teach the children songs that relate to the day and lesson, and to try to show them over time many of the ways that our faith can be lived out in song. I also helped to organize the Christmas Pageant, and to gather an ensemble of youth musicians to play at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. Over the coming year we plan to involve more and more young musicians in worship and at special events.

I am delighted that Elaine Cumens continues to direct our Hand Bell Choir. We celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Elaine's work as Hand Bell Choir director in October, and I rejoice in the special musical offering made by Elaine and the dedicated members of her choir every month when they play in worship. In November we had the first of a series of collaborations between the Hand Bell and Chancel Choirs, and Elaine are planning more and more music that unites the different groups of our Music Ministry.

Special thanks also goes to Rosalie Jerrehian for her inspired leadership of our Children's Choir. Rosalie has a wonderful gift for communicating with the children, and her joyful approach to music is infectious.

In October we began a Thursday noontime concert series in the sanctuary, called *Lunch and Listen*, which I view as part of our musical outreach. We have averaged over 50 attendees of all ages at the two concerts that have taken place at this writing, and over the next year we plan to publish a schedule for a regular series of concerts, so that the community can come to count on Holy Trinity as a place to come for great music.

2009 was a wonderful year of growth, planning, and new beginning, and I am so looking forward to the flurry of musical activity that we have planned for 2010!

Yours in Christ,

Andrew  
Minister of Music

Ringling with Praise

### The Bell Ringers Hymn

We raise the bells for ringing  
With ready mind and will,  
And come before thee bringing,  
Our hearts, our strength and skill.

The Holy Trinity Handbell Choir has completed another year of ringing praises to God's glory. For the past twenty years the devoted members of our choir have practiced year round to improve their skills and to learn new techniques. It is our hope and prayer that our joyful ringing adds beauty and meaning to the worship service.

Did you know that handbells need to be tuned? Well, they do and they also need repairs on occasion. This year we had to send several bells back to the factory for repairs. We also need new table covers as ours are becoming threadbare and faded. Keeping the handbells and equipment in good condition is an ongoing expense, but they are an asset to the music ministry and are worthy of our care and attention.

One of the highlights of the past year was the organizing of a Junior Handchime Choir. The boys and girls started rehearsing after the new year and played in church on Music Sunday in May. It is my hope and intention to recruit enough young people to regroup and play again before summer.

Collaborating with Andrew Hauze and the Chancel Choir is an exciting opportunity for us to expand our skills. Andrew's talent for arranging handbell music has provided us with the opportunity to work in partnership with the choir on several occasions. We are truly blessed to have his support and encouragement.

Our devoted ringers are: Eileen Bonine, Barbara Cropper, Roberta Feder, Rosalie Jerrehian, Eileen Levinstein, Helyn Pague, Carol Samuelson and Ann Wilcox.

Sadly we said goodbye to two longtime members, Judy McKay and Rita Lynn. We mourned the loss of Dorothy Rogers, who passed away in January.

We welcomed three new members: Hannah Bonine, Steve Bonine and Laura Zahn.

Our willing and faithful substitutes are: Martin Feder, Jane Fenicle and Heather Robino.

Playing handbells is great fun and a wonderful way to glorify God. If you can read music and would like to try ringing bells, we invite you to join us on Monday evenings between 6:45 and 8:15.

As always, we would like to thank our fellow parishioners for their kind words of support and praise.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine B. Cumens

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which trained people provide confidential one-to-one, Christian support for those experiencing difficulties in their lives. It is a long or short term helping relationship focusing on the need of the individual who could benefit from an effective and caring relationship.

At present we have nine trained and experienced Stephen Ministers. Betty Engan, Kate Gouery and Judy McKay were in our first class. Joan Childs, John Klanderman, Judy Klanderman, Lars Knutsen, Bill Letzkus and Bill McKay were our class. All of our Stephen Ministers have met with at least one person over the past year. Two of our ministers have cared for three persons, several have met with two care receivers and all four of our men are currently meeting with care receivers!

Copies of the series "Journeying Through Grief" have been sent to eight families who have experienced the loss of a loved one this past year.

Stephen Ministry meets regularly twice a month on Tuesday evenings for Supervision and Continuing Education. Guest speakers this year included Barbara Kricka, of West Chester Counseling, Joanne Perry, Senior Consultant, Celebrating Families, Mary Sheldon, Better Solutions for Seniors and Pastor Pat Steltz. We plan to invite representatives from different organizations such as hospice, drug and alcohol rehab, job placement advisors (Joseph's Brothers), Volunteers in Medicine and prison ministry to keep us informed of available programs in the community.

In February a meeting of the newly formed Stephen Leaders Network will meet at Holy Trinity. It is hoped that an active and vibrant network can be established locally where leadership concerns can be addressed and a knowledge of and cooperation among other Stephen Ministry groups in this area be established. Training could be shared and thus more Stephen Ministers available for those in need of a caring, listening Christian friend.

Again this year, it is hoped that Holy Trinity will be able to send someone to training as a Stephen Leader in August, in Pittsburgh, so we can continue to grow and serve in this special ministry. Stephen Ministers are committed to serve for two years after commissioning. Our first class has already served and are continuing. Another Stephen Leader is needed to assist in future training. You do not need to be a Stephen Minister in order to take the leader training although it does help. If anyone is interested please contact Cathy or Elspeth for more information.

Stephen Leaders: Cathy Smith and Elspeth Zaayenga

## **SARAH'S CIRCLE**

Sarah's Circle is a quilting group that meets in the parish hall each Monday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for fellowship and quilting. We bring a bag lunch and enjoy "time-out" to eat and chat. We have occasional workshops, excursions for fabric shopping and trips to local quilt shows. We generally have a large quilt in progress and also some smaller projects such as crib quilts or table runners. We make several crib quilts throughout the year which are available for purchase.

In early December we hold a mini Christmas Bazaar to sell holiday items made by our members. Proceeds from this sale go to parish and community projects that support women and children. Through the generous support of our parish, this year we have been able to support the Rector's Discretionary Fund, Baby Blessings, the Haiti Project, Safe Harbor, Vacation Bible School, the purchase of Bibles for the EfM program at Graterford Prison and the Wentworth Home. We sincerely appreciate the support we receive from the parish that allows us to contribute to these worthwhile projects.

We cordially invite anyone to join us whether interested in quilting or sewing or just to participate in the fellowship we enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Gillem and Betty Voorhees

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## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

To be a Eucharistic Minister is a mission of love and service. It is the Eucharistic Minister who serves the wine at the Communion at all services and on special occasions such as weddings and funerals. All other services such as special times including Ash Wednesday, during Lent, Wednesday morning services and all other times when a Eucharist is observed.

It is a fulfilling and deeply reverent mission.

Training sessions are held regularly and it is planned in the future that Eucharistic Ministers will take the Communion to shut ins.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Orr

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year extension program from the School of Theology of the University of the South, designed for lay people who want to learn more about the Bible, Church History and Theology. The program requires considerable commitment and discipline, since members spend several hours a week reading their study chapters. In addition we meet together for 2 1/2 hours a week from September through May. During our weekly sessions we discuss what we have learned, and we also use a process called Theological Reflection to connect our faith with our everyday lives. Holy Trinity is blessed to have had an EfM group since 1985.

Congratulations to Jane Brigman, Pat Dean, Pat Kryszan and Russ Morrow, our 2009 EfM graduates. The Diocese of Pennsylvania acknowledges all the EfM graduates from the Diocese each year by having a special celebration of the Eucharist, during which a well-earned certificate from the School of Theology of the University of the South is awarded to each graduate. Well done, Jane, Pat, Pat, and Russ!

The 2009-2010 EfM group started meeting in September, with 4<sup>th</sup> year students Jane and George Fenicle, Mary Ann Shaw, and Betty Voorhees; 2<sup>nd</sup> year students Karen Kaminiskas, Hallie Romanowski, and Julie Smink,; and 1<sup>st</sup> year students Debbie Backman, Lisa Homa, Don Lundberg, and Judith Shannon.

Co-Mentors  
Fr. Tom Platt  
Pat Platt

## LIBRARY MINISTRY

In this fast moving, high tech world of Internet, iPhones, Kindles, Facebook, Twitter and Tweet, it's good to know that there is a quiet place for us where information is available, too - your Holy Trinity library. No hard wire, simply books and CD's to enrich your spirituality, your life with God. How blessed we are.

### 2009 Additions to the library:

Adult books: 6      AV: 1 Video

Children books: 1

### New Additions:

242 A - Adam, David - The edge of glory; prayers in the Celtic tradition

242 Q - Quoist, Michel - Prayers

261.57 B - Beckett, Sister Wendy - The gaze of love; meditations on art and spiritual transformation

291.43 R - Roth, Nancy - An invitation to Christian yoga, with CD

299.16 N - Newell, J. Philip - Each day and each night; a weekly cycle of prayers from Iona

811.54 M - Mosby, Katherine - The book of uncommon prayer

Video 263.043 J - Jerusalem (a video recording)

Fic Sil j - Silverstein, Shel - The giving tree (a children's book for all ages)

The new additions are gifts from those who want to share their readings with all of us. More blessings!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Dean, Librarian

"DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN"

## **WEST CHESTER AREA CHILD ACCESS CENTER**

The West Chester Area Child Access Center was opened September 2007 after a year of research by a committee of Judge Platt, lawyers and members of the Church of Holy Trinity. After two days of training 27 volunteers by The Children's Rights Council we began with exchanges of children from the custodial parent to the non-custodial parent for week-end visitations. After a very active first year, in September of 2008 we expanded into Saturday morning supervised visitations for non-custodial parent and child/children sent to us through the courts.

Over these past two years we have served 29 families ranging from intake meetings only to supervision of parent and child over a year's span. We currently have 22 volunteer monitors from the parish and surrounding communities in Chester County. We have lost volunteers due to illness and change in work schedules. However, we have added four new volunteers over the last three months. On two different occasions this year we had to stop enrollment of families due to lack of sufficient space!

We have no budget as all expenses to date have been covered through donations.

We would like more volunteers! If you would like to join us for a session to see if this could be your ministry call Sandy Fischler at the church office at 610.696.4640.

## ACOLYTE ANNUAL REPORT

This past year has been a busy one. Though not so busy as to forget our Heritage and our duties.

The Acolyte Guild is made up of a group of dedicated members ranging in age from 8 to 78 with a long history of service to Holy Trinity. The word “Acolyte” means “companion” or “one who serves”. Acolytes serve as a companion to the clergy, helping them perform a number of duties before, during and after the close of the worship service. Their duties range from lighting and extinguishing the Altar candles, carrying the processional cross and torches, helping with the collection and assisting the priest in preparation of communion.

Our program is such that new and younger Acolytes generally start as torch bearers and with time and experience move up to crucifer and server. However all Acolytes are cross trained to cover all duties.

Starting this year we are incorporating 2 younger candidates as “Acolytes in Training”. Introducing them to duties as Trainees (to observe while actually taking an active part in the service.)

In addition to hosting and helping with the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper several Acolytes shared in helping to serve and clean up after a weekly Friday night supper for the needy and homeless.

Though our numbers continue to increase we will be losing 2 of our older experienced Acolytes (Lexi Leone and Miles Spagnola) who will be leaving us in the fall for college. They will be missed. Once again we invite anyone interested in joining us, young or older, to please contact Stu McKee or Pastor Pat at the church office at 610.696.4640

Respectfully Submitted

Stu McKee  
Acolyte Director

## ACCOUNTING WARDEN'S REPORT

On the reverse side are the financial results for 2009 and the budget for 2010. There was a very good response to the stewardship campaign. Many parishioners responded by increasing their pledges. This increase helped to offset half of the \$27,000 in pledges which were lost due to moves, retirement and death. Due to the drop in income, expenses for 2010 have been reduced for almost all programs. In addition the clergy and staff are not receiving salary increases. In fact, Father Paul volunteered to reduce his salary by \$4,000 to aid in reducing the deficit..

The projected \$45,000 deficit is the result of the Vestry's decision to invest in the future. And the results of the investment are already evident.

- Andrew is developing a vibrant and inspiring music program. The first two Lunch and Listen programs attracted 50 people. So many people have joined the choir that the choir is outgrowing the space in the chancel.
- Pastor Pat spent a year researching and implementing Rite 13. The future lies with our children and we are accountable for their education. There is no question that the expanded Christian education program will reap dividends throughout our children's lives.
- 2009 saw an increase in the need to pastoral care. There were 22 funerals in the last 14 months. Can you imagine not having two ministers so that each family could be supported and cared for?

Balancing the 2010 budget would require cutting staff and/or virtually eliminating all major program expenses. Instead, believing we are on the right path, the Vestry has chosen to invest in the future of our collective spiritual growth and lifelong journey as a congregation. We have invested in a staff with the gifts, experience and vision to lead us in doing Christ's work. Anyone who has experienced lesser church leadership can attest to the detrimental effects it has on both attendance and spiritual growth and energy.

What is asked of all the people of Holy Trinity is to think about God's call to us. What is He asking each of us to offer to the mission of Holy Trinity through time, treasure and prayer? What role will you accept to keep our spiritual and program investments growing while reducing our financial debt? In thanksgiving for the gift of salvation, I would ask each of us to consider moving closer to tithing our talent and treasure. I can't wait to see what changes the Holy Spirit will inspire us to make in 2010!

## CAFÉ 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The weekly program, Christian Adult Formation and Education, brings together adults during the Sunday School program year. There are a variety of programs (hence the nickname, CAFÉ), and the group meets in the St. Andrew's Room at 09.30 on Sundays, while children and youth attend Sunday School.

CAFÉ provides a forum for the study and consideration of what our faith means personally to us in the modern world - we grasp this opportunity with openness and honesty, by listening to each other in the context of Holy Scripture.

As the CAFÉ group moved into the 2009 Lenten season, we studied a new DVD drama "GOD ON TRIAL" which asked each of us to consider some provocative questions. In the post-Easter period, we studied parables that Jesus used to describe the Kingdom of heaven, and it was remarkable how the Holy Trinity leadership, especially Father Paul managed to draw new lessons from these ancient but highly relevant tales. Then in late Spring we watched the excellent French classic silent movie for all ages, "The Red Balloon," and asked ourselves about how does this modern day parable affect me? Where do I fit into the story, and how does the story speak to me?

Once the post-summer program got underway, we had two sessions discussing an article in Narthex News about the "Blackberry Generation", and followed that with a much-needed session about simplifying and de-cluttering our lives, easy to say but harder to do.

The group then focused several sessions on the meaning of the word Covenant, and found out why the Old Testament is also called the Old Covenant, followed by a New Covenant with Christ, based on a relationship with him. Then we had two sessions on "Living out our Baptismal Covenant", led by the Platts. After a pre-advent visit from our sisters from St. Margaret's, Haiti, we finished the year's program with sessions on how we protect our children in an electronic age, where they are media consumers from an early age.

CAFÉ is making a dynamic start in 2010, with very healthy attendances for a series of congregation-led topics including prayer and church history. Topics under consideration for the Spring 2010 sessions include a series entitled "Speaking of Faith" where individual members of the church explain what their faith means to them, and how Holy Trinity helps them to practice and grow in their daily walk with God. We are always happy to receive program and topic suggestions from members of Holy Trinity.

Respectfully submitted,

Lars Knutsen, Vestry Liaison for Christian Formation

## CATACOMB CLOSET

Catacomb Closet has had another very successful year. We are grateful for the generous donations of items and the dedication of our volunteers who work a half a day on Fridays from September 'til mid-June. For the sixth year, we held a great sale of Christmas items in the Parish Hall in November.

The dedicated group that does the pricing and sorting on Wednesday mornings includes: Dolores Glatts (co-chair), Barbara Ramsay (treasurer), Pat Ritter (sign maker), Alice Calvert (co-chair), Harriett Carroll, Anita O'Neill, Connie Gombatz and Betsy Benner.

We have a small space from which to sell our goods (sharing a room with Sunday School and Alanon) and a small storage area for out-of-season items. We ask that leave only CLEAN, USBLE CLOTHING which is ready to wear and items that are CLEAN, NOT BROKEN and WITHOUT MISSING PARTS.

We regularly need:

Jewelry	Dolls	Pillowcases	Dishes
*Books	Shoes	Towels	Glasses
Toys	Handbags	Drapes	Utensils
Games	Sheets	Curtains	Potts and Pans
Puzzles	Bric-a-brac	Small Appliances	

\*No text books or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.

We are always happy to have new volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Glatts/Alice Calvert

Friday Volunteers: Elva Andrews, Martha Butts, Alice Calvert, Harriet Carroll, Janet Cranmer, Doris Field, Jane Gillem, Dolores Glatts, Sue Greenwood, Ann & Amy Hemphill, Tina Newell, Anne Pippin, Barbara Ramsay, Pat Ritter, Irene Morgan

Catacomb Closet (continued)

**Catacomb Closet Financial Statement**

January 1, 2009—December 31, 2009

**DONATIONS:**

American Red Cross	\$250.00
Camp Dream Catcher-sponsor one child for Aids Camp	\$500.00
Canine Partners for Life	\$100.00
Citadel Federal Credit Union-Fund for family victims of Coatesville Fires	\$100.00
Church of the Holy Trinity-EfM Scholarships	\$250.00
Church of the Holy Trinity-Rector's Discretionary Fund for Local Outreach	\$2,550.00
Doctors Without Borders	\$700.00
Domestic Violence Center	\$200.00
Domestic Violence Center-Christmas stockings	\$195.30
Maternal and Child Health Consortium	\$200.00
Ntambala, The Rev. George-Tuition for son's education in Uganda	\$860.00
Safe Harbor-Building Fund	\$500.00
Saint Agnes Church-Collection for Children's Mittens	\$117.00
Salvation Army	\$500.00
Seaman's Church Institute	\$200.00
Wentworth Home	\$200.00

**TOTAL DONATIONS—2009** \$7,422.30

<b>INCOME:</b>		
Balance January 1, 2009	\$2,880.57	
Catacomb Closet Sales	\$9,306.54	
		<u>\$12,187.11</u>

<b>EXPENSE:</b>		
Donations	\$7,422.30	
Operating	\$ 206.05	
Cash on Hand—12/31/09	\$4,558.76	
		<u>\$12,187.11</u>

## **ANNUAL MEETING February 22, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Paul Hunt, Rector of Holy Trinity.

Fr. Paul appointed Judith Shannon to serve as secretary to the annual meeting.

The secretary declared a quorum.

The motion was offered to amend the agenda to add Election of Deanery Delegates. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote, without objection.

Fr. Paul asked all to refer to the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting, as printed in the annual report distributed to all present. One language modification was proposed. A motion to accept the minutes as revised was seconded and approved without objection.

Vestry candidates for the four positions were identified by Ann Barbarin, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Candidates include: Gwen Gouery, John Klanderman and Nancy Needhammer. Sue Graef was nominated as the fourth candidate to meet requirements of the by-laws. As the election was uncontested, Fr. Paul asked for a motion to have the secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented. It was moved to elect the four candidates; the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote, without objection.

Candidates for Convention deputies were identified: Bill Letzkus, Judith Shannon, and Bill Zahn. Carol Samuelson volunteered to serve as an alternate. It was moved, seconded and approved without objection to elect the candidates and alternate named.

Before electing Deanery deputies, Fr. Paul explained the role of these representatives as facilitating information flow and relationships among deanery congregations, as well as participating at two deanery meetings each year. Mary Letzkus, Judy McKay and Elspeth Zaayenga volunteered to stand as candidates. It was moved, seconded and approved without objection to elect these candidates.

Ann Barbarin presented the Senior Warden's report, highlighting accomplishments in 2008 as we welcomed our new rector and his family. She described key improvements in the church, including a new sound system and monitors so the choir can see the service, as well as lighting and other property improvements. She also highlighted Vestry work on our organizational and ministry structure, as well as Vestry commitment to on-going communications and future quarterly forums. She emphasized our preparations for the spring stewardship gatherings as we all work to hear what God calls us to do.

Pastor Pat Stelz presented the Associate Rector's Report. Last year she had anticipated moving to another church after interim service at Holy Trinity, but she is very happy to have been invited to stay. She noted various changes in liturgy with more youth readers and acolytes in training, and people working together on projects across ministries.

David Spitko presented his report as Interim Music Director. He highlighted the weekly Sunday School music program, the Children's Choir led by Rosalie Jerrehian, start of a new Youth

Hand Chimes Choir under Handbell Choir Director Elaine Cumens, and the on-going work of the Chancel Choir as it strives to deliver more challenging a cappella (without accompaniment) music.

A question and answer session followed. The first questioner asked about the new rector's vision for the music program. Fr. Paul said he envisions a program drawing on a wide range of hymnals and music styles, with new groups including those described above, and he said recruitment is underway to hire a new Music Director. A parishioner acknowledged the excellent work by Ann Barbarin as Senior Warden and everyone applauded Ann's work. Another expressed appreciation for Pastor Pat's work and everyone applauded her work; that parishioner also called for improved church and parish hall accessibility, so disabled individuals can fully access Holy Trinity. A questioner raised the issue of the out-of-date Holy Trinity website; Fr. Paul said website updates to be launched very soon will bring the site to a minimally-acceptable level with regular updates, but he also said the church urgently needs volunteer(s) able to help take the website to the next quality level. A parishioner expressed appreciation for the work of the Discernment Committee, and a standing ovation was given. A questioner asked about any effort to improve energy consumption; Fr. Paul described planned repairs to address window cracks to reduce heating demand. Another parishioner urged consideration of solar panels, and then he asked about the status of the Christian Education Center (CEC); Fr. Paul noted the Accounting Warden's report would address the status of CEC contributions which have been held in a separate fund. He reiterated his belief that given our current financial situation, Holy Trinity could not be ready in less than three years to re-activate work to establish a CEC. Fr. Paul said the Vestry is expecting to consider a three-year lease with the current tenant of the Barnard Street property. Another individual noted the parking congestion and called for parishioners to avoid parking more than one car per family, reminding all that parking also is available in the borough parking lot. Finally, a parishioner urged improved parking lot maintenance in winter weather to avoid icy spots.

Sue Graef presented the 2008 report from the Finance Committee and the Accounting Warden, as printed in the annual report, and she reviewed the details in the attachments distributed at the meeting. She praised the generous giving in 2008 but reminded parishioners that we still ended 2008 with a deficit of \$34,000. She called attention to special gifts that enabled Holy Trinity to make urgently-needed repairs. For 2009, another deficit of \$35,000 is forecast. Investments are managed conservatively; CEC funds are invested conservatively in money market accounts. Finally, she urged parishioners to be concerned about depending on endowments to cover recurring, annual deficits. A parishioner asked that the Committee and Accounting Warden watch carefully for opportunities to invest funds to achieve better returns, and Sue said the Finance Committee is watching for these opportunities. Another parishioner called on the congregation to express its appreciation to Sue for her excellent work, and applause followed for Sue and Sue then acknowledged Marty Feder and others who provided support to her in the role.

Finally, Fr. Paul asked that his Annual Address presented during the preceding Eucharistic Service and the Senior Warden's report be incorporated in the minutes of the annual meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Shannon  
Clerk of the Vestry

## Community Dinners Annual Report

In 2009 the Community Dinner Program was blessed with both volunteer support and a new-found level of organization.

We've added 9 new faces to the corps of regular weekly volunteer staff which includes Holy Trinity, Grove Methodist and Providence church parishioners as well as students from West Chester University, Patton Middle School, Unionville High School and St Joe's CYO. As volunteers continue to come forth and express interest in supporting this much needed community effort we're hopeful that 2010 will see even more growth in the program and its services.

As you can imagine the tracking of inventory, spending, donations, plates served etc...are extremely important tasks that require time and attention to detail. Now more so than ever, these numbers are important in order for us to assess our potential for the future and our ability to better serve the local community. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Don Lundberg and Joe McAllister, the program has a whole new level of organization which will serve as the foundation for us to evaluate ways to build upon this cornerstone program.

Other highlights of the year include

- Yet another successful Silent Auction and Wine Tasting
- A truly magical Holiday Dinner at which we served approximately 120 meals while Andrew accompanied our guests with carols on the piano
- Support of the Rite 13 kids on several Fridays which made the meals extra special with things like homemade applesauce, baked goods and wonderfully decorated holiday gift bags

Overall the program expenses ran close to \$26,000 and we find we're serving approximately 50 people per week and upwards of 75 meals (including seconds).

For over 20 years this program has provided a much needed service to the community thanks to the time, talent and gifts of so many. There's no denying, the Holy Spirit is ever present and guiding us into 2010!

Hallie Romanowski