

# ANNUAL MEETING

Trinity Episcopal Church  
44 East Market Street, Bethlehem PA 18018  
January 25, 2009

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**OPENING PRAYER**..... The Rev. Laura Thomas Howell, Rector  
**MINUTES OF 2008 ANNUAL MEETING**..... Shelly Smith, Clerk of the Vestry  
**REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**..... Vestry

**Nominations - Vestry:**

- Loraine Johnson
- Sheri Majczan
- Bob Mickus
- Bob Romeril
- Gaby Whittier (Incumbent)

**Thank You to Retiring Vestry Members**

- Jennifer Bradley
- Sara Klingner
- Wendy Lega
- Ken Magee
- Gaby Whittier (nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

**Candidates for Diocesan Convention (4 Alternates):**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATIONS FOR CENTENNIAL FUND AWARD**..... Outreach Committee

• **EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**

“Episcopal Relief and Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to end human suffering in the world. Hearing God’s call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being. Episcopal Relief and Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.”

• **NEW HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The mission of the “New Hope” capital campaign “is to help the Sudanese Diocese of Kajo-Keji—with which the Bethlehem diocese holds a companion relationship—rebuild its college and cathedral, and support its students financially. The campaign “also aims to plant churches in the Bethlehem diocese and to support parish outreach”.

• **ST. LUKE’S NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**

The Nurse-Family Partnership “supports communities in implementing a cost-effective, evidence-based nurse home visitation program to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, and self sufficiency for eligible, first-time parents – benefiting multiple generations”.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**FINANCIAL REPORT**..... Finance Committee & Treasurer

**RESOLUTIONS OF COURTESY** ..... Shelly Smith

**CLOSING PRAYER**..... The Rev. Laura Thomas Howell, Rector

## ADJOURNMENT

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**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2008**  
**Attendance: 74**

The meeting began at 11:45 a.m., the Vestry Warden being in the chair and with Mother Laura Howell leading in prayer.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of January 28, 2007 were presented by Shelly Smith, Clerk of the Vestry. (**Motion:** To approve the minutes; Dixie White, **2nd** Suzanne Boundy, **passed**).

Elections:

Nominations for **Vestry** were presented:

- Suzanne Stylers Boundy
- Robert Deets
- Jack Vickrey
- Gabriele Whittier

Bob Romeril stated there will only be 3 men on the Vestry which concerned him and other parishioners. Andrew McIntosh was nominated from the floor, and accepted the nomination.

(**Motion:** To accept Andrew McIntosh as a nomination from the floor; Jan Illick, **2nd** Bob Romeril, **passed**).

(**Motion:** Joan Jones moved that nominations be closed for Vestry; **2nd** Bill Vitalos, **passed**).

Thanks and gratitude were expressed to the retiring Vestry members.

Nominations for **Candidates for Diocesan Convention:**

- Sandy Mesics
- Bob Mickus
- Ann Mickus
- Dixie White

There were no nominations from the floor.

(**Motion:** To accept nominations for Diocesan Convention 2008, Joan Jones; **2nd** Bill Vitalos, **passed**).

Joan Jones moved to vote for Diocesan Delegates numerically, the candidate receiving the highest numbers of votes will be the delegate; the remaining candidates will be the alternates in order of number of votes received.

Nominations for **Recipient of Centennial Fund Award:**

- Near: The Nurse-Family Partnership of St. Luke's
- US: The elementary school on the Lakota Sioux Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota
- Afar: The Longira School in Kajo Keji

There was a presentation and explanation of the fund by Marcie Lightwood; Outreach and Karen Ernst-Reiner; Treasurer. Bill Harding presented a question inquiring if extra nominations for the Centennial Fund could be taken from the floor. Bill asked that the other 3 nominees be stricken from the agenda in favor of Habitat for Humanity. Marcie Lightwood suggested that Habitat for Humanity be added as a fourth nomination. (**Motion:** To accept 4 nominations for the Centennial Fund; Karen Ernst, **2nd** Bernice Gardiner, **passed**).

Votes for Vestry, Diocesan Convention, and The Centennial Fund Award were cast by secret ballot.

Committee Reports:

Marius Bressoud reported a reorganization meeting for Pastoral Care was held on Jan. 23, 2008. A request was made to any parishioners who can help with flower deliveries and writing.

Sally McIntosh expressed thanks to everyone who donated money and items to Victory House.

Margy Segaline spoke about the animal food bank's need for a van.

Gloria Tarby spoke about the Quilters group and inquired about any parishioners who might be interested in joining.

Dixie White along with Liz Miller was appointed to Diocesan Social Ministry to distribute to the local New Hope Fund. There was a request for donations to help support New Hope.

Andrew McIntosh expressed thanks to everyone involved in the Children and Youth committees and all volunteers.

Violet McCandless spoke about the Daughters of the King and invited all women to join if they think it is something they would like to participate in. Violet also invited parishioners to join the Newcomers Committee.

Financial Report:

Karen Ernst-Reiner; Treasurer, reported on the finances of 2007. The budget for the year 2008 was presented to the parish for review. There was also a request for more 'counter' volunteers. Treasurer's report was accepted and approved by acclamation.

Resolutions of Courtesy, prepared by Suzanne Boundy and Shelly Smith were presented to the parish by Shelly Smith.

Mother Laura made a formal request to keep Sara Klingner on as Vestry Warden for one more year during her transition as Rector of Trinity.

Results of Ballot Tabulations:

**Vestry Members 2008:**

Siobhan Ardizzone  
Marcie Lightwood  
Jennifer Bradley  
Katie Simmons  
Andrew McIntosh

**Diocesan Convention:**

Delegate: Sandy Mesics  
Alternates: Bob Mickus, Ann Mickus, Dixie White

**Centennial Fund Award Recipient:**

The Nurse-Family Partnership of St. Luke's

The meeting ended with closing devotions

**(Motion:** To adjourn; Marcie Lightwood, **2nd** Joan Jones, **passed**).

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shelly Smith

## **RESOLUTIONS OF COURTESY**

For the year 2007  
Presented at  
The Annual Meeting  
January 27, 2008

WHEREAS, this is the day that the members of Trinity Parish meet in unity at the annual meeting to celebrate the successes of the past year, be it resolved that we as a parish show our APPRECIATION of the dedication to Trinity of the following persons:

WHEREAS, the staff and clergy have served us as spiritual leaders with unlimited energy and dedication in all their work and ministries, be it worship, counseling, teaching, youth ministries, the health ministry, the soup kitchen, preaching, maintenance and secretarial support, they have promoted the vision of Christ's love both within our parish and the community at large, let us give thanks for the many blessings we have because of their presence among us;

WHEREAS, all Assisting Clergy and guest speakers have gone above and beyond their call and have served us faithfully and been an inspiration to us all;

WHEREAS, the congregation thanks Father Dick Ditterline, Trinity's son, for accepting Trinity's call in becoming our Interim Priest until a new rector was found;

WHEREAS, the congregation thanks Bishop Paul and all of the many folks who assisted in Mother Laura's institution as Trinity's Rector;

WHEREAS, we give thanks always for the faithful ministry of music offered by the members of our ever-faithful choir;

WHEREAS, many individuals have dedicated themselves to the musical life of this parish, including our Interim and Supply Organists, and Peter and Wendy Lega, have shown great dedication to the younger musicians and the parish as Children's Choir Directors, let them realize they have been a blessing.

WHEREAS, the currently retiring Vestry members, George Hurchalla, Rector's Warden, Ed Schatkowski, and Mary Ann Swiatek have served this parish faithfully, let them be remembered.

WHEREAS, Gaby Whittier, Sister Patricia Michael, and Mother Laura have given extraordinary time and energy to guide the Prayer Beaders group, we thank them for their tireless work, and those who volunteer in the prayer bead ministry, and for providing helping prayers for many all over the world.

The Congregation further gives its sincere thanks to the following members who have contributed to the life of the parish:

To all members of Trinity for their faithfulness to this Parish and for making it a warm and welcoming community.

For Gaby Whittier and Connie Derr serving so ably as Trinity's Associate for Administration, and Bookkeeper.

For Dennis Perkins as Sexton to our Parish, helping to maintain our building and grounds.

For members of the Worship Committee, who work diligently behind the scenes to coordinate services throughout the year.

For all Vestry members, especially Sara Klingner, the Vestry Warden, for their ceaseless energy and caring for

this congregation upon the resignation of our rector.

For Donna and Bob Lawrence, for scheduling Ushers, Chalice bearers, readers, crucifers and acolytes, and to Donna for organizing coffee hour.

For all Nursery volunteers.

For all members of the Stewardship Committee and the Consecration Sunday Committee, for helping people to understand the importance of recognizing all forms of stewardship in their lives.

For all who volunteer at the Soup Kitchen, who cook, serve and clean up, and for Deacon Liz, their organizer and cheer leader.

For Bob Romeril's leadership on Building and Grounds and his perseverance in all he does for Trinity.

For all on the Buildings and Grounds Committee who paint, plant, replace, repair and re-build.

For Peter Lega and the volunteers who have helped install the new security system.

For Karen Ernst, volunteer "Treasurer for Life".

For all of the counters who put in 'countless' hours

For all parishioners who research and submit articles for the monthly Newsletter, for those who submit on behalf of their committees and those who have contributed to the Saints series. And for all who volunteer and help with the folding, sealing and mailing of the Newsletter.

For Jeanne Deets, Jean Hurchalla and Carol Vickrey for organizing the music library.

For all Designer Soup-a-Thon cooks extraordinaire and everyone who supported this fundraising event.

For all who coordinated and acted as car shepherds for the Musikfest Parking fundraiser and for all of the volunteers who helped make it a success.

For all volunteers of the Pastoral Care Committee, all who deliver flowers each week, and those who write to our college students and military personnel.

For our now-retired Freddie Washco, for calling parishioners weekly and scheduling the flower deliveries to our sick and shut-in parishioners.

For Gloria Tarby with the assistance of Ken, for accepting the call to organize flower deliveries weekly to our sick and shut-in parishioners.

For "The Trinity Church Mouse", who sends cards to everyone on their birthdays and anniversaries.

For Marius Bressoud for being a lively and knowledgeable introduction to Trinity for new members.

For the Evangelism Committee for recognizing the importance of sharing the good news that is Trinity.

For Ellyn Siftar and all of the Godly Play Facilitators for giving so generously to the children and youth of the parish.

For Trinity youth and adults who went out to the Gulf Coast, Suzanne Boundy, Joanna Majczan, Sophie Newman, Vanessa Segaline and Sarah Tax.

For Crop Walk walkers and Steve Filko, coordinator, and for those who participated in Walk a Mile In Their Shoes--the Diocesan Walk-a-Thon in April.

For the Baltimore Consort for bringing their unique music to our sanctuary.

For Trinity members who contribute to the many requests for school supplies, pet food, Christmas gifts, Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas and Easter hams.

For John Zukowski for running the new spiritual movie group.

For those involved in Contemplative Communities.

For Tom Ardizzone for teaching Tai Chi on Saturdays.

For the legions who presented fine receptions and promoted all kinds of fellowship throughout 2007.

For all the Trinity folks who volunteer and organize parish luncheons and after Church coffee hours.

For Barbara Subber, Chair of the Altar Guild and all who assist her, including the Wednesday morning group.

For all who donated and arranged altar flowers and seasonal decorations, and especially Jack and Lynn Norman, who chair the Decorating Committee.

For Roger Walter, Parish Archivist, for documenting the life and history of the parish.

For all who speak at Adult Forum and who offer adult education classes, enriching the intellectual and spiritual life of the congregation.

For the Quilters group who make beautiful original quilts for needy children, and also for the knitters who knit caps and booties for babies, and caps for adults undergoing chemo therapy.

For Father Cliff for writing Prayers of the People faithfully each week.

For Bob Lukens and Marius Bressoud for leading Morning Prayer in the Chapel Monday through Friday each week.

For the Daughters of the King for all of their good work, their prayers, and their role in fellowship and making newcomers feel welcome at Trinity.

For the volunteers who run the Family Support Program.

For all Taize participants and musicians.

For the Lehigh Valley Labyrinth Project who sponsored a labyrinth-walk during First Night Bethlehem.

For Vanessa and Margy Segaline for running the Animal Food Bank and Clinics to help people in need care for their animal companions.

For all who have volunteered to participate on the Search Committee in our quest for a new rector.

And thanks to those many Christians from Trinity who minister during the services as ushers, readers, intercessors, torch bearers, crucifers and chalicers, who carry flowers to shut-ins, visit the sick, comfort the grieving, tend to the suffering, witness about injustice, visit prisoners, work to better the larger community, and toil in many ways, some unnoticed but all appreciated, who share of their time, talent and treasure in countless ways both here at church and in the larger world.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we give thanks to God for the many blessings all these people bring to Trinity Church and to those around them.

--Respectfully submitted on behalf of Trinity by Shelly Smith and Suzanne Boundy

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Mo. Laura Howell

Adult Education sponsors the Sunday morning Forum series during the academic year with a variety of guest speakers from the parish and community. Topics ranged from Bible studies, parishioners' faith journeys, and the spirituality of animals to political and economic issues. Adult Education also sponsors the Bonaventure Group, an ongoing reading group, led by Jack Vickrey. This year, the group studied John Donne's "Holy Sonnets", C.S. Lewis' "Space Trilogy" and the ancient Anglo-Saxon epic "Beowulf". Howard Fegan began the Kerygma Bible Study Series.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Barbara Subber, Chair

This has been another busy year for Trinity's Altar Guild. Our group has prepared the altar for all Saturday and Sunday services as well as weddings, funerals and holidays. Thank you to all of you who have so faithfully given of your time and talent.

I want to express our gratitude to Sally Hampson who has retired after giving so much to the guild for so many years. Thanks also to Mary Billets and Ann Fegan for taking care of the mid-week services in the chapel, and to Anne Connors and Nancy Muzyka for their assistance during Holy Week.

The Altar Guild purchased all necessary supplies for the services this year. We also were able to invest in glass chimneys for our torches as well as for the altar candles in the chapel.

We hope to add 2 or 3 people to the Guild in the coming year. The commitment is for 5 or 6 Sundays a year, of your own choosing. If think you might be interested, please let me know - I would love to talk with you about it.

## **ANIMAL FOOD BANK OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY**

Margie Segaline, Coordinator of Services

As the Animal Food Bank reaches its fourth anniversary, it has become a vital resource to economically challenged members of our community and their pets. Over 3,000 animals have received services. The food bank has become a resource for the newly unemployed, as well as, the shelters where many of these families go to surrender their animals. People are being referred to the Animal Food Bank as a means of keeping their family intact. Animal rescue shelters are being given supplemental assistance from the food bank, as their own food sources are being stretched to the limit. The referral-based spay/neuter program continues as an additional resource to the guests of Trinity Soup Kitchen. Trinity's community-based animal inoculation clinic is temporarily "on hold", as we await the volunteer staffing of veterinarians. It is anticipated that sometime during the first half of 2009, the clinic will be reinstated. The number of alliances with community agencies and shelters continue to grow on a weekly basis. The development of additional support services are being considered for the future. In an attempt to increase awareness and improve communications, during December, the food bank went live via the web.

The address is as follows: [www.animalfoodbanklehighvalley.com](http://www.animalfoodbanklehighvalley.com).

Due to the continuing growth of the food bank, a board of directors has been formed for the purpose of oversight, as well as, for the development of policies and procedures, etc. During the first meeting of the board on December 30th, 2008, it was decided to change the name of the animal food bank to "The Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley", due to the areas now serviced by the food bank. I, Margaret Segaline, was named as the coordinator of animal food bank services. The following are the board of directors for The Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley:

The Reverend Clifford Carr

The Reverend Dr. Richard Ditterline

Linda Henry, Esquire

David Howell

The Reverend Laura Howell

Barbara Loch (also Director of CAHW)

The Reverend Elizabeth Miller

Karen Ernst-Reiner

Margaret Segaline, Coordinator

Vanessa Segaline, Founder

The distribution of thousands of pounds of food and supplies would not have been possible without the ongoing support of members of Trinity (children, youth and adults), individuals and families throughout the community, organizations and businesses. Numerous businesses chose The Animal Food Bank as the recipient of their collection drives this Christmas season. The *Be An Angel Campaign of 2008*, brought new volunteers and increased financial donations substantially.

Thank you for all your support.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Bob Romeril, Chair

Buildings and Grounds continued its efforts to improve the facilities while providing the services necessary for ongoing maintenance. During the year there were the usual visits by the roofers, the plumber and electrician, air conditioning and heating system inspections and adjustments, and carpet cleaners.

Renovation and improvements to the Rector's office begun last year were completed early in the year. Flex Illick doing much of the carpentry work, and Jim McCandless the electrical work and the floor, highlighted a group that included many painters including Cliff Carr, Marjorie Buckley, Suzanne Boundy, and George Kondash .

Tom Bradley completed the installation of storm windows and screens in the Ambulatory.

Eleven storm windows were added to the chapel. An additional seven storm windows were added to the library, Curate's and treasurer's offices. George Kondash worked on these installations that are intended to save fuel and make the areas more comfortable.

B & G worked with Deacon Liz to have the kitchen painted and the cabinets refurbished.

Electrical outlets were added in the Parish Hall, the Kitchen, Treasurers Office, Electrical Room (for the Security System), and Fellowship Hall (for A/C units provided by the AA group)

We acquired reproducible prints of much of the existing facilities.

The base for the Sacristy cabinet that serves the Chapel was rebuilt.

At the direction of the Rector and Vestry, B&G worked with architects in two studies. The first was an evaluation of options to make each of the floors handicap accessible. A number of options have been identified and estimates developed. This project is currently on hold.

Working with a second architect, the clergy, and other parishioners, a plan for a Memorial Garden has been developed. Regular reports on progress were made to the Vestry. It is possible that, field work can begin in April, with completion in early summer. Of particular note is the excellent picture that Marius Bressoud produced showing Trinity with the new garden in place. It should be noted that incorporated into the plan for the Memorial garden is resolution of the water problems long associated with this area and discussed in the 2007 Annual Report.

Our Sexton, Dennis Perkins, continues daily to clean, polish and care for our facilities. His dedication, his dependability and good humor are a significant contribution to the life of the Parish.

There are many members of our Parish family who daily help to maintain the facilities. A few of those who made an impact on major projects during the past year are mentioned here. In addition to the members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, many parishioners contribute their time and talents to the maintenance and beautification of our facilities. All of these gifts of time and talent, although anonymous here, are most gratefully appreciated.

## **CURATE**

The Rev. Hillary Raining

I began my curacy at Trinity in July of 2008 and was ordained to the Priesthood in August of the same year. In the six months that I have been here, I have already been richly blessed by the new experiences that I have been able to have and the people I have interacted with. In addition to the priestly duties of making pastoral calls, preaching, teaching and serving in the worship life of Trinity, I

have also been working in certain ministry areas which have specific foci. The first ministry area that I was exposed to was the Soup Kitchen. Under the guidance of Deacon Liz, I have learned some of the ins-and-outs of this major operation. The Soup Kitchen truly changes the lives of all that gather there and I learn something new there every day. Since then I have branched out into the realm of Children & Youth Ministries. Working with Ellyn Siftar, our Director of Religious Education has been a joy and we have been busy helping to envision the next step for Trinity's Youth. With the help of others, we started a youth forum called C.A.Y.A. (Come As You Are). This forum's emphasis is centered on the linking of spirituality with everyday life. C.A.Y.A will be a wonderful bridge into our next program, Journey to Adulthood which we will be implementing later this year. (To read more about the Youth Program, See the "Sunday School" Annual Report). Another area of growth for Trinity which I have been involved with is our new Alternative Worship Committee. Beginning in January, this committee will be trying to bring new styles of worship to Trinity. To do this they will be involved in education, preparation and evangelizing these exciting new ways to worship. Looking toward the future, I expect to be involved with a movement to focuses Trinity's Evangelism goals. It is truly a joy, honor and blessing to be working at Trinity and I thank God and this parish for the opportunity.

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

### **Constance and Her Companions**

The Constance and her Companions Chapter was instituted in 2006 at Trinity Episcopal Church with four members. Since then the chapter has grown to nine members. Members take vows and follow a Rule of Life based on Prayer, Evangelism and Service. The primary focus is to support the clergy in this parish, daily prayer and work for spiritual renewal here at Trinity. We meet once a month to pray, work on projects that benefit the church and bible study. We attend an Assembly once a year with Bishop Paul, host an Advent Quiet Day yearly, and attend retreats offered by the Diocese for spiritual growth. During the summer of 2008 we hosted a luncheon honoring the female clergy of Trinity. The Daughters maintain a Prayer Box for confidential prayer requests, located in the rear of the church. Every girl of nine and above and all women are eligible to join "The Daughters of the King". Any Daughter, identified by her Cross may be contacted for further information.

President - Hattye Magee  
Vice President - Pat Talijan  
Treasurer - Joan Jones  
Secretary - Loretta Brobst  
Carol Propsner – Chaplain

Mother Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril - Spiritual Advisor  
Lois Howell  
Suzanne Boundy  
Violet McCandless

## **HEALTH MINISTRY**

Mo. Laura Howell

Health Ministry works closely with the Pastoral Care Committee to provide transportation to parishioners, both to medical visits and church. It is also concerned with the health and well-being of the parish and arranges health-related classes and programs. In 2008, Tom Ardizzone continued his tai chi classes on Saturday mornings at 10:00. Katie Simmons offered a yoga class for four weeks on Saturdays at 11:00. Donations from both classes go toward support of the Soup Kitchen. Mary Rosenberger has two ongoing yoga classes on Tuesday evenings. There is a charge for these classes--call for information if you are interested. Health Ministry also maintains a list of health professionals in the parish and community, who are available to assist parishioners with understanding medical issues. Other members of Health Ministry knit caps for chemo patients who are losing their hair.

## **INSURANCE OFFICER**

Violet McCandless

Each renewal Insurance Policy is reviewed yearly, for additions or corrections to provide adequate coverage for the operation of Trinity Church.

A form was created by the Vestry, to be completed by each outside group that uses our Church, listing our guidelines for use, as well as our requirements regarding adequate underlying limits of liability, to insure our protection. Contracts are also reviewed when maintenance work is done at the church, to insure proper liability coverage for our protection.

Presently a committee is working on completing an inventory of the building, to establish full value of our contents.

## **LIBRARY**

Suzanne Styers Boundy

Trinity's Library continues to serve the Parish. It is available during the hours the church is open; feel free to check it out.

As the new year begins, please check your book shelves and return any tapes, videos or books that are outstanding. Thank you.

## **NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE**

Gaby Whittier

In 2008 the Vestry made welcoming newcomers a priority. The Newcomers Committee meets mostly via email, and is spearheaded by Gaby Whittier, Jennifer Bradley, Marcie Lightwood and Sue Zumas. The committee also works closely with the youth program to incorporate the families of children who join the Sunday School programs. Visitors are welcomed and offered information about Trinity by a committee member and/or a Vestry member at each Sunday service. And, of course, the parish as a whole is very welcoming to our visitors. Welcome Brochures, visitor's cards and promotional materials are constantly being prepared and updated and offered to our visitors. Marius Bressoud continues, as he has for years, to follow-up and contact each person that signs the Visitors Book or fills out a visitors card.

There is much more that needs to be done in this area of making visitors and newcomers welcome and incorporating them into the life of Trinity Parish. We continue to seek those who would be interested in working with us to develop an effective program. Please speak to the Rector or any member of the Vestry if you would like to become a part of this ministry.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Margie Segaline, Co-Chair

Marie Lisby and Margaret Segaline were named co-chairs of the Outreach Committee. Marcie Lightwood needed to step down as chair, due to work responsibilities and schedules. Thank you, Marcie, for your many years of hard work and dedication as chair to the Outreach Committee.

Since October of 2008, the Outreach Committee has been busily researching, proposing and voting on potential programs to be recipients of the General Outreach Fund. The recipients of the General Outreach Fund were as follows:

- Episcopal Relief and Development- \$1,649.
- Northeast Ministry, Bethlehem- \$445.
- St. Luke's Neighborhood Center, Allentown- \$378.
- Second Harvest Food Bank, Allentown- \$1,109.
- South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center- \$495.
- Stephen's Place, Bethlehem- \$553.
- Turning Point, Bethlehem- \$330.

There was an Outreach Fair in the spring to enable social-service non-profits to publicize their activities and attract new volunteers from the parish.

The Outreach Committee has also examined and discussed additional potential outreach projects which may be carried out in the future.

A Centennial Fund Suggestion box was made available during the month of December for parishioners to submit suggestions for nominations. A suggestion form was also provided in the newsletter. Two to three nominees will be chosen from the suggested organizations. The Centennial Fund recipient from the 2008 annual meeting was the VNA Nurse-Family Partnership.

The Outreach Committee welcomes your visit to the monthly meetings which are held the first Wednesday of each month in the library. New ideas are always welcome, as changes in our society sometimes require changes in how we reach out to those in need.

## **PARISH ARCHIVIST**

Roger L. Walter

The position of Parish Archivist for Trinity Bethlehem was first established in July 2001 when the undersigned answered the call for a volunteer by Rector Nick Knisely.

The Archivist's mission is to preserve and make available documentary evidence of the ongoing life and work of the Church and to offer a useful information service to its leadership, its members and to the general public. In pursuit of this goal, the Archivist actively documents all aspects of mission and ministry, lay and ordained.

As of 28 DEC 2008 the Trinity Family Database contained 7,547 individuals, 2,439 marriages, 1,402 baptisms, and 1,189 burials. There are 2,914 different surnames in our database. In addition to creating the Family Database, we have begun to digitize the remaining material deemed worth saving. These digital files have been organized thus far) into thirty folders, as follows:

Annual Meetings, Annual Reports, Baptisms, Bulletins, Burials, Census, Center for Spiritual Growth, Chapel, Confirmations, Deaths, Diocese, Families Database, Fotos, Marriages, Men's Club, Music, National Church, News Clips, Newsletters, Organization, Parish History, Property, Soup Kitchen, St. Agnes Guild, Sunday School, Transfers, Treasurer's Reports, Vestry Minutes, Work Underway, WW II Honor Roll, and Yearbooks.

Parish members who have material they believe should be archived, or historical questions they would like to have researched, may contact me via e-mail at: [roger10288@cs.com](mailto:roger10288@cs.com)., by telephone at 610-866-2850, via the church mailboxes, or via US Postal System at 4035 Ross Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18020-7683.

## **IN MEMORIUM (2008)**

**James W. Niemeyer**, 86, of Bethlehem, died Thursday, January 3, 2008 in St. Lukes Hospital. He was the husband of Virginia (Tavener) Niemeyer. They celebrated their 62nd anniversary in April. Born in Dunmore, Pa., he was a son of the late Walter J. and Myra (Hills) Niemeyer. Jim, a member of the class of 1943, graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in chemical engineering. He served his country as a pharmacist's mate in the Navy during World War II. Jim married his wife, Ginna, in 1945 and began working at Kay and McDonald Co., West Orange, N.J. He and Ginna raised a family of six kids in Livingston, N.J. Jim was active in Boy Scouts of Americas (being an Eagle Scout himself), St. Peters Episcopal Church, and was past president of the Northern New Jersey Lehigh Alumni Club. In 1969, Jim moved his family to Bethlehem to work for the Lehigh University Alumni Association. He retired in 1983 after serving as the executive director of the Alumni Association for 15 years. In retirement, Jim continued a long voluntary service career with Lehigh University. He received the Lehigh University Outstanding Alumni Award, was active with the Lehigh Wrestling Club and served as a member of the Archives Committee for the Lehigh University Athletics Hall of Fame. A super fan of all Lehigh sports, Jim owned season tickets for football, wrestling, and basketball. Jim was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. Survivors: He will be lovingly remembered by his wife; son, Richard and his wife, Christina, of Cincinnati, Ohio; daughter, Martha Harward and her husband, Richard, of Park City, Utah; daughter, Barbara Holman and her husband, David, of Western Springs, Ill.; son, Robert of Burbank, Calif.; daughter, Cynthia OToole and her husband, Bobby, of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; son, David and his wife, Judi, of Salem, N.H.; 11 grandchildren, a great-grandchild. He was predeceased by sisters, Mary Hollinger and Frances Marshall. Services: A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, January 11, 2008 in Packer Memorial Church, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., immediately followed by a reception on campus. Arrangements by Pearson Funeral Home, 1901 Linden Street, Bethlehem. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Lehigh University, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 12, Livingston, NJ, or the American Cancer Society.

**EDITH WILSON**, 85, of Bethlehem, died late Thursday evening, January 10, 2008, in Hospice House of the V.N.A. of St. Lukes', Lower Saucon Township, surrounded by her loving family and the caring hospice staff. Born in Utica, N.Y., to the late Samuel and Edith M. (Joiner) Wilson, she was one of 18 siblings and lifelong companion to her sister, Edna Cieply, who died in 2006. Edith was a dedicated member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, where she enjoyed volunteering for and meeting the guests of the Soup Kitchen and assisted in making beautiful items with the ABC Quilters. An Army Nurse during World War II, Edith continued her profession in both Utica and Massachusetts, serving as an administrator at various nursing homes. She resided with her niece, Donna Cieply of Allentown, along with Nancy Adams, and is survived by her brother, Richard Wilson of Whitesboro, N.Y., along with a host of nieces, nephews and sisters-in-law. She was predeceased by her many siblings. Services: 2 p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2008, in the church, 44 E. Market St., Bethlehem, with Rev. Laura Thomas Howell, Obl.S.B., presiding. Her family will receive guests following the service at a reception in the church. Arrangements are by Gilbert Funeral Home, Whitehall. Contributions: Are suggested to the Soup Kitchen of the church, PA 18018. Published in the Morning Call on 1/13/2008.

**ELMER L. DRUSBA** of Bethlehem, Pa. and Seminole, Fla., passed away on Monday, Feb. 4, 2008 in Tampa General Hospital. He was the son of the late Joseph and Mary Drusba of Bethlehem and the loving husband of Dorothy Stacy Drusba and the late Norma Sanne Drusba. He retired from the Air Force in 1962 as a lieutenant colonel. He flew in the Berlin Airlift in World War II, was a member of the 330th Transport Squadron, and was honored by the National Hurricane Center in Miami as the first pilot to fly a B29 into hurricanes on weather missions. He was an avid amateur radio operator and was a member of the American Legion Post 252 in Seminole, Fla. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem and St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church, Seminole. Survivors: Include his wife, Dorothy Stacy Drusba; three stepsons, Richard, Darryl and Keith Stacy; stepgrandson, Scott; stepgreat-granddaughter, Riley. Services: memorial, will be held Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 2 p.m. in Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem. Inurnment will be in Arlington National Cemetery. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church.

**MATHEW J. POST SR.**, 82, formerly of Bethlehem, passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2008, in Hospice House of the V.N.A. of St. Lukes, Bethlehem. Born on June 25, 1925, in Newark, N.J., he was a son of the late Jesse Sr. and Jennie (Broadway) Post. Mathew retired from Bethlehem Steel Corp. in 1985. He was a dedicated patriot, joining the New Jersey National Guard in 1939. When World War II broke out, Mathew served his country with the Army. His extensive career in the Army took him to Antigua, Texas and Fort Indiantown Gap, where he served in the Military Police, as well as a tour of duty in the South Pacific, serving as a paratrooper. It was in the service that Mathew met his future wife, the former Carol Peters. They celebrated 59 years of marriage when Carol passed away in 2004. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem. In their spare time, Mathew and his wife enjoyed traveling, camping and surf fishing. Survivors: Two sons, Mathew J. Jr. and his wife Zhen of Whitehall, Brian of Lower Nazareth Township; daughter, Sharon, wife of William Wright of Lower Nazareth Township; two brothers, Richard of Chesapeake, Virginia, George of Berkley Heights, New Jersey; two sisters, Mary Cicconi of Deluth, Georgia, Audrey Richard of North Plainfield, New Jersey; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren. Brothers, Jesse Jr. and Everitt, a sister, Alice Stima, and a great-grandchild all died earlier. Services: 11 a.m. Tuesday, Schmidt Funeral Home P.C., 407 Belvidere St., Nazareth. Friends are invited to call 7-9 p.m. Monday and 10-11 a.m. Tuesday in the funeral home. Burial in Belfast Union Cemetery will follow the services. To view Mathews tribute page or sign the guest book, please visit [www.schmidtfuneralhomepc.com](http://www.schmidtfuneralhomepc.com). Contributions: In Mathews memory, may be offered to the Soup Kitchen, attn: Mother Laura Howell, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 44 E. Market St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

**JOLEITA WAGNER YURCHAK**, 68, of Bethlehem, entered eternal life while in the care of the VNA Hospice of St. Lukes on May 25, 2008. She was the beloved wife of W. Russell Yurchak, with whom she shared 45 years of marriage. Born in Bath, she was the beloved daughter of Alberta (Steiner) Wagner of the Masonic Village, Elizabethtown, and the late Walter E. Wagner. She was a 1962 graduate of Muhlenberg College, where she received a bachelors degree in German and had taught English and German briefly at Slatington High School. She was an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church Bethlehem, where she served on the vestry and the altar guild. She was a member of the American Association of University Women; was a past board member and treasurer of St. Lukes Hospital Auxiliary, where she also volunteered. She also served as secretary of the Womens Council of The Boys and Girls Club and was a past president of the Childrens Theater, Bethlehem. Survivors: In addition to her mother and husband are a son, Kirk Elliott Yurchak and his wife, Patricia, of Coopersburg; brother, Ralph Wagner of Doylestown; grandsons, Konnor Emmitt Yurchak and Kullen Emerson Yurchak. She was preceded in death by a son, Kraig Eric Yurchak, who died in 1981, and a brother, Richard Wagner, who died in March 2008. Services: Funeral services will be held Friday, May 30, 2008 at 10 a.m. in Trinity Episcopal Church, 44 E. Market Street, Bethlehem, 18018, with burial to follow in Bethlehem Memorial Park Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. in the Long Funeral Home, 500 Linden Street, Bethlehem. Online condolences may be made at: [www.longfuneralhome.com](http://www.longfuneralhome.com). Contributions: In lieu of flowers, a donation in memory of Joleita may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church.

**JOHN TAYLOR SHAFFER**, a long time resident of the Bethlehem area died on Friday, May 30, 2008. John was a resident of the Atria Residential Care Facility. John's wife, Emily Johnson Shaffer, predeceased John in 1997. John was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of Dr. Floyd E. Shaffer and Mary Taylor Shaffer. Dr. Shaffer was a physician and former medical director for Bethlehem Steel Corporation. John was born in 1926 and spent his early years in the Baltimore area and moved to Bethlehem to begin working at Bethlehem Steel, where he was a lifelong employee and retired as assistant treasurer. His brother, Floyd S. Shaffer, predeceased John. John was a graduate of Randolph Macon Military Academy and also was a graduate of Duke University. John was of the Episcopal faith and in the tradition of his family was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, for many years. John was a member of Saucon Valley Country Club. Both he and his wife were avid golfers. Survivors: John is survived by his cousin, Ingolf Kiland of Virginia Beach, Va., his wife, Ann Kiland and their two children, Taylor and Ingolf; two nephews, Floyd Shaffer and James Shaffer. Services: graveside, at the family plot in Nisky Hill Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2008. Arrangements, Downing Funeral Home, Bethlehem.

**REV. CANON A. MALCOLM MACMILLAN**, Fr. Mac, died September 9, 2008, in Westminster Village, Allentown. Born on January 13, 1921 in Atlanta, Ga., he was the son of John Harrison and Jimmie Mozell White MacMillan. He was ordained a deacon in 1945 and a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1945, and served Holy Trinity, Memphis, Tenn., Church of the Ascension, St. Louis, Mo., St. Johns, Sharon, and Church of the Mediator, Allentown, as a rector. He retired in 1989 and moved to Chautauqua, N.Y., with his first wife, Sarah Jane Mark, where he successfully spearheaded the renovation of the Episcopal Chapel. Sally preceded Fr. Mac in death in March of 1999. He spent his retirement doing supply work in the dioceses of Northwestern Pa. and Western Pa. He was an Eagle Scout, and a Boy Scouts leader for many years. He was active in the national church by attending many General Conventions, and being a member of the Prayer Book Committee, Committee to Revise the Catechism, and National Department of Christian Education. He was a consultant to the National Liturgical Commission, a founding member of The Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, a vice president of the Appalachian Peoples Service Organization, a president of Rotary Clubs in Sharon, Allentown, and Westfield/Mayville, N.Y. He served on many boards, including the United Way of Pa., Shenango Valley Urban League and Lehigh Valley Hospital. He received many awards for community service, which included the Leonard Pool Award, which in turn helped found Lehigh Valley Hospital Hospice, the Hanna Solomon Award, Keystone Award, Paul Harris Fellowship Award, Ecumenical Service Award, Service Award of Valley Youth House, and the Bishops Outstanding Service Award from the Diocese of Western New York. He spent many years as a Group Dynamics Laboratory leader in the United States, England, Australia and Japan. Survivors: Present wife of 6 years, Rev. Dr. Patricia Dwyer MacMillan; three children, Dr. Alexander Malcolm MacMillan Jr. of Boston, Mass., Rev. J. David MacMillan of Washington, D.C., Rev. Elizabeth Miller, Coordinator of Trinity Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, Bethlehem; two grandchildren, Lisa MacMillan of New York City, Ian MacMillan of Washington, D.C.; several nieces and nephews. Services: The family arranged a Memorial Service to be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2008, in Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 3rd and Wyandotte streets, Bethlehem. Online condolences may be made at [www.downingfuneralhome.com](http://www.downingfuneralhome.com). Contributions: In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Trinity Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, 44 E. Market St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

**DR. JOSEPH H. RENO**, born March 5, 1915, in Allentown, son of Harvey Reno and Olive Mae Wilson Reno, died October 29, 2008 in Sedona AZ. His wife of 63 years, Maude Olivia Reno died previously in May of 2005. He is survived by two sisters, Gertrude Petzel, (Henry) of Bethlehem, and Marion McGinnis (Walt) of Dallas, Texas, and one sister-in-law, Bonnie Reno of Phoenix, AZ. A brother, Harvey Reno died previously. Dr. Reno is also survived by his four children, Sally Jo Elliott (Hal) of Austin, Texas, J. David Reno (Anna) of Boston, MA, Diana J. Farber-Reno (Warren) of Peterborough, NH and Deborah M. Reno (John) of Albuquerque, NM, plus five grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Dr. Reno attended Central Boys High School, Temple University, and Temple Medical School, in Philadelphia, PA. He did his residency in orthopedics at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, Texas. He practiced medicine first in Bethlehem, for 23 years and then in Flagstaff, Arizona from 1971 until his retirement. He established the first practice in Orthopedic Medicine in Northern Arizona. He was nationally known for his early innovations in hip surgery techniques. He volunteered many hours working with the Easter Seals Children's Clinics in the aftermath of the polio epidemics of the 1950's. Dr. Reno always involved himself as a team physician in college athletics, first at Lehigh University, then at Northern Arizona University where they established the Dr. Joseph H. Reno Scholarship for trainers in Flagstaff, AZ. He was hired for 7 years as the athletic physician for Arizona State University after retiring from active practice. Dr. Reno was a Mason and a York Rite Knights Templar, receiving his 55 year pin in the Spring of 2008 from the Grand Lodge of Arizona. He was also an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and horseman, competing in 100-mile competitive trail rides and travelling to Arizona and Wyoming to hunt even while living on the East Coast. Services: graveside, 12:15 PM, Monday, November 10, 2008 in Nisky Hill Cemetery. A viewing will be from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon on

Monday in the Snyder-Hinkle & Lunsford Funeral Home, 527 Center Street, Bethlehem. Online condolences may be made at [www.shlfh.com](http://www.shlfh.com)

**DUSHANE PATTERSON**, 78, of Bethlehem, died Sunday, September 14, 2008, in St. Lukes Hospital. He was the husband of Carey (Dunning) Patterson. They celebrated their 56th anniversary in June. Born in Baltimore, he was a son of the late Sterling Sr. and Harriet (Penniman) Patterson. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, he was employed as a purchasing agent by the Bethlehem Steel Corp. for 33 years. After retirement, he established Patterson Industries, Inc. under which he owned and operated Eichler Wood Products for ten years, and the Typing Center since the early 1980s. A member of Trinity Episcopal Church, he sang in the choir for more than 35 years and served as a former vestry member. Dushane will be remembered as a kind and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Survivors: Surviving with his wife are his four daughters: Frances Patterson Svetec, and her husband Charles of Bethlehem, C. Bayne Northern, and her husband Keith of Ardmore, Brucie Patterson Russell, and her husband Charles of Falls Church, Vir., and M. Vaughn Patterson of Newtown; a brother, Sterling Patterson, Jr., of Baltimore; and nine grandchildren, Mary Fran, Ellen, and Carly Svetec, Jim Bowyer, T. Kelly Northern, Chris (Thara) Russell, Carey Russell, Matt and Andy Schnur. Services: A Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in Trinity Episcopal Church. There will be no calling hours. Interment will be private. Arrangements by Pearson Funeral Home, 1901 Linden St., Bethlehem. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church music program, 44 E. Market St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, or the American Diabetes Association, 65 E. Elizabeth Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

## **PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Marius Bressoud, Chair

Organization of the Committee has changed radically during the past twelve months. With the widespread use of email, the aging and illnesses of former, long-time members and changes in pastoral care, we have shifted to bi-monthly meetings and new ways of getting our work done.

Membership in the Committee has become much less formal. Individual parishioners are recruited for single tasks or tasks of limited duration. Gloria Tarby handles the recruitment of Sunday Altar Bouquet deliveries entirely by email. Lynn Tax does the same with the recruitment of contact persons to be in touch with the children of parishioners who are in college. Other tasks are performed similarly with contacts by email, phone, in person and now, rarely, by US Mail. Few members are willing or able to commit to maintaining long term and regular visits to those who are ill or shut-in. With one or two exceptions, that work now falls entirely to the clergy. We would welcome more lay help in that area.

Still, it should be noted that much unorganized pastoral caring happens naturally and spontaneously between parishioners as we continue to care for each other in response to known crises, often simply by providing transportation when that is needed. The major problem with that approach is that some critical needs for help go unobserved and unreported. It is essential that every parishioner consider herself/himself a participant in the ministry of making needs known.

Our \$280 Program Budget was used primarily for the purchase of pastoral care literature and for Lenten and Advent meditations, all for free distribution at the back of the church or in the tract racks. Together with postage and other office supply costs we finished the year with a \$16 balance.

Restricted Fund Income: We began the year with \$1,338.65. \$600 of this was given to two organizations outside the parish (\$300 to each): the Nurse/Family Program of the Visiting Nurse Association and the Visual Impairment and Blindness Services for its work with visually impaired children. The balance of \$738.65 was used for pastoral care needs within the parish. At the time this report is written all but \$140.31 has been expended. New restricted funds available for grants in 2009 should total about \$1,200, to which any unspent balance from 2008 will be added.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Jack Vickrey

The Personnel Committee held meetings with Mother Laura, Deaconess Elizabeth Miller, Gaby Whittier, Ellyn Siftar, and Dennis Perkins during January, 2009, but after committee reports were due in the parish office.

## **PRAYER BEAD MINISTRY**

Gabriele Whittier, Facilitator

The prayer beadners continue to meet for fellowship, to make prayer beads, prepare kits and workshop materials and to pray.

We continue to provide free prayer beads at Trinity, at Diocesan functions and special requests.

Our group also works closely with Pastoral Care and the Health Ministry at Trinity, providing prayer beads to those in our parish where the need is greatest. In addition, we continue to make appropriate chaplets and pray for various ministries of our congregation.

All of this work is done through donations and contributions. We are always ready to accept whatever help anyone can provide. We are looking for people to join us in our monthly meetings (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, beginning with a shared meal at 6:00 pm). We are also pleased to receive beads and crosses to be recycled into prayer beads (these are sometimes available at flea markets and garage sales, or in attics). Items to be recycled can be put in Gaby's box in the mailroom, or dropped off in the parish office. If there is anyone who would like to donate time and or talents, please talk to Mother Laura or Gaby Whittier.

## **SOUP KITCHEN**

Deacon Elizabeth Miller and Siobhan Ardizzone

Trinity's Soup Kitchen continues to feed and minister to the hungry in Bethlehem. Volunteers served 30,822 meals in 2008, and the kitchen was closed for an unprecedented two weeks for remodeling. A cleaner, brighter, more efficient kitchen greeted Soup Kitchen volunteers and guests in mid July. Deacon Elizabeth Miller oversaw a refurbishing project that included freshly painted cabinets and walls, repaired drawers and shelves, new door handles and drawer pulls. Before the paint cans could be opened, Deacon Liz and Mother Hillary purged the contents of the cabinets. There's report of an empty shelf or two!

Marcie Lightwood is the acting social worker ministering in the Soup Kitchen.

More than 200 guests shared the Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts, an increase of more than 50 over last year. Daily attendance continues to rise as well. Many thanks to the many volunteers who donate food, and who cook, serve and clean up after the feasts and meals throughout the years!

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Mo. Laura Howell

The Quiet Contemplative Life at Trinity continues strong. In addition to ongoing Morning Prayer at 9:00 Monday through Friday, we now offer Evening Prayer weekdays at 4:30. A Spiritual Journaling Group and Movie Group on spiritual themes met for several months. Taize Evening Prayer meets on the first and third Sundays for an hour of chant and meditation. We offered a three-day retreat for the parish and the diocese on Benedictine Spirituality of Work. The Going Deeper Benedictine Spirituality Group continues on the first and third Monday evenings with modified monastic Evening Prayer, Compline and a discussion of our readings. The Prayerbeads group meets most months and provided hundreds of beads at no cost (although donations are welcome!) to pray-ers at home and abroad.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Karen Ernst and Sara Klingner

The Stewardship Committee thanks every Trinity member who has completed an estimate of giving card for 2009 and for the continuing financial support of Trinity's ministries and programs.

In keeping with our 'Trinity Grows Green' initiative we will not be sending individual thank you letters; however, contribution statements will be mailed by the end of January 2009.

Because of the difficult economy, the results for 2009 are mixed. As of December 24, 119 estimate of giving cards have been received totaling \$262,473 with perhaps a dozen cards still expected. For

2008, 127 estimate of giving cards were received totaling \$285,603; however some of those cards were from members who have either moved from Trinity or have passed away. For 2009, approximate 52 of the cards received represented increases in giving; however, 20 of those cards represented decreases in giving. If you have not yet completed an estimate of giving card for 2009 and wish to do so, please contact Karen Ernst.

We encourage everyone to consider that stewardship is not only about paying bills, but about giving back to God what God has given to us. The offerings of time, talents and treasure are a way of saying thank you to God and to the other members of our community of faith. We recognize that not everyone is able to make an estimate of giving but are very appreciative of all financial contributions that are received.

As a reminder, the Stewardship Committee continues to provide coordination for fundraising efforts within the parish. If your group wishes to have a special fundraising effort, please contact either Sara Klingner or Karen Ernst.

### **Trinity Quilters Ministry**

Submitted by Gloria Tarby

The Trinity Church ABC Quilts Ministry was formed in January 1997. Since that time we have made and donated over 500 quilts and 350 sets of baby booties and hats to institutions caring for babies born with crack addiction or are HIV positive.

Up until 2007 we met at the Victory House on the southside of Bethlehem. In 2007 we relocated to Trinity, meeting in the Fellowship Hall every Monday morning. We have also changed our focus and are making baby quilts and booties and hats for the babies in the VNA Nurse-Family Support Program. With this program we get periodic feedback from the Executive Director which makes us feel personally involved with the program. Since we have refocused our efforts we have fittingly changed our name to Trinity Quilters Ministry.

We are six (6) strong. This past year we lost our founder, Edith Wilson, but remember her philosophy of always caring for others. As in the past we still need knitters and anyone who would be interested in learning to make baby quilts. We have a compatible group and are always looking for more busy hands to help our ministry of helping needy young mothers and their babies in our community.

### **VICTORY HOUSE OF LEHIGH VALLEY**

Sally McIntosh

Trinity's Representative to Victory House

Last year I reported that we had built a new addition secured partly by a VA Homeless shelter grant. It added rooms for 12 new beds, a large bathroom, 2 staff offices, a health room and a much needed commons room. This year I am pleased to announce that the building is completely paid for due to a City of Bethlehem \$200K grant. This was more than we expected and a great relief. Now some of our fundraising will be aimed at important programs for our clients. We are always looking for new ways to help the men integrate back to the community.

Various organizations designated the shelter as a recipient of their charity events. They include ABC (Associated Builders and Contractors), Beth Morning Star and LVMAC (Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council). In addition we held our second annual golf tournament at Morgan Hill in Easton-a great success. For the golfers at Trinity keep in mind early October for this fun event.

One of the new projects that I found exciting was the creation of a large vegetable garden. One of our board members started out simply with a few tomato plants. However, by the summer the clients got so involved they were growing many other vegetables and herbs. One of the clients built a wooded enclosure complete with gazebo! This a great example of how the clients can participate in the life of the shelter.

Once again I want to thank everyone who help me buy the Christmas presents or who brought items to the church. Every year I am overwhelmed with your generosity and so are the clients. Due to the

economic situation facing our country at this time, we expect to see a greater need than ever for homeless shelters. Please keep us in your prayers.

## **WORSHIP and MUSIC**

Mo. Laura Howell, Rector

Our Worship and Music programs have been particularly blessed this year. Following the resignation of our previous organist at the end of 2007, the two organists in the parish, Joyce Meinke and Mary Schatkowski volunteered to fill the spot. Together with some marvelously talented supply organists, they met the challenge and went far beyond the call of duty to continue the music that helps us pray and delight in the Beauty of God. Our choir worked diligently this year during the interim to keep the skill and momentum up, and successfully attracted new members. Brass at Easter and Christmas made these holy days special ones. An Organist Search Committee was constituted and worked extremely hard throughout the year, examining resumes for prospective organist-choir directors, communicating with them, meeting for auditions and interviews and, finally, at the end of the year appointing Dr. Timothy E. Smith, who will begin his tenure on February 22, 2009.

Worship Committee meets on the first Monday of the month to plan our church and chapel services. Members of the altar guild, music, clergy, staff, youth ministries, and parishioners work far in advance of the liturgical calendar trying to get every detail, no matter how small, in place so our worship services can be times of joy and awe. We always need new members, because each member brings a differing experience and talent to the table. If you would like to see something happen in Worship, please join this busy committee that works quietly behind the scenes.

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

Ellyn Siftar, Director of Youth Ministries

### **NURSERY**

The nursery opens at 9 am for the forum and second service, closing at noon. This year we have four paid nursery staff who have, with great care and consistency, shepherded up to 12 little ones a week. Much gratitude to Vanessa Segaline, Heather Lawrence, Sweena Sarong and Caitlyn Vauter who have playfully shared their gifts of laughter and negotiating skills every week!

### **GODLY PLAY**

This is our third year of offering Godly Play, a Montessori approach to faith formation written by Episcopal priest, The Rev. Dr. Jerome W. Berryman, to Trinity's children from preschool to grade 5. We now have 25 children registered for the program and some days are full to bursting! Hearty gratitude to Jennifer Bradley and all the doorkeepers who have been consistently committed and gracious!

### **CAYA (Come As You Are)**

CAYA is our newest addition to Sunday mornings for middle school and high school and youth. This group of 6 youth has met most Sundays during the adult forum time and has covered such topics such as peace, Mandalas, yoga, pop culture, sacred space, leadership in addition to some fellowship at Billy's. A grateful thank you to Mother Hillary who has written the curriculum and provided the backbone, and to all who have volunteered to assist.

### **GARDEN GATE**

This group is a mix of Trinity members and neighborhood parents and their babies and toddlers. Meeting weekly on Friday mornings, this group plays, snacks, crafts and prays together. We strive to share wisdom, strength and experience to encourage Christ-centered parenting.

### **J2A (THE JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD)**

Beginning Sunday, March 1, 2009, Trinity will be launching the Journey to Adulthood program for our youth. The Journey to Adulthood program, more commonly referred to as J2A is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to help youth understand what it

means to be a Christian Adult in the world today. The program does this in three two-year segments (<http://leaderresources.org/j2a>):

- **Rite-13:** The first two years (6th & 7th or 7th & 8th graders) that focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. The Rite-13 liturgy (A celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this and a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood.
- **J2A:** The middle portion of the program (8th & 9th or 9th and 10th graders), engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. The youth plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of this segment. This experience is often the spiritual highlight of their youth.
- **YAC:** This is a mentor-based program that helps older teens (11th and 12th graders) discern and carry out a ministry within their church or in the larger community. Vocation and development of a personal credo are also emphasized. A final rite of passage sends them out into the world as ambassadors of Christ.

If you have any questions or would like to help please see Mo. Hillary Raining or Ellyn Siftar

### **COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The committee has been meeting for the past two years to support the children and youth programs at Trinity. This year we will be focusing on developing a mission statement, beginning the Journey to Adulthood program, recruiting teachers, coordinating an Earth Day clean-up, planning a Godly Play training weekend. Blessings to all who have been faithful members of this group since its inception and have been patient while it was budding, and, now that the fruit is ripening, have renewed their commitment to following through to the benefit of not only the youth, but the entire body of Christ.

This year has been one of incredible growth in all of our Sunday school rooms and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you all.