

2006 Annual Report

Rector's Report and Commendation - the Rev. Marshall Keith Shelly

This Sunday's Gospel reading is a powerful one. Often referred to as "The Miraculous Draft of Fishes," it stands as an illustration of the experience of the early Church as it began to preach and teach their experience of Jesus, Messiah-the Holy One of God. Luke chooses to illustrate the calling of the first disciples as something rather haphazard. Some fishermen, undistinguished from the greater crowd gathered around the Christ as he preached, is challenged after a long and fruitless night of work to put out a bit into the harbor "for a catch of fish." Seeking to humor the rabbi, Simon (Peter) as leader offers up the futility of the act—but they would do it anyway. A wet net is as good as a dry one at this point, it is still empty.

Imagine their surprise when the leads on the net begin to creak, as the boat begins to heel over and as their precious nets—their livelihood—begin to strain against their own muscles with the weight of an impossible bounty. "Don't worry," says the rabbi. From now on, you will be fishing for people.

Ironically, and beautifully, as we gather for this moment of time as the parish of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, this lesson of scripture could not ring a truer note. In some ways, we are coming off a night of low yield and frustrating work. Stewardship continues to challenge us...and yet, even as we obey the Christ and throw out our proverbial nets into the waters of life here in Bucks County, what comes to us is an incredible draft of "fishes," human souls seeking the Good News of Christ.

We would like the work to be easy, the burden light; but if we are going to learn anything from these indulgent fishermen, it is this: from time to time we have to be ready for the growth God chooses to bestow on us. Sometimes that is in "numbers" and sometimes it is in "challenges." Rarely are we given moments of true quiet and rest. As disciples and apprentice fishers-after-people, there is little time to waste! Trinity has experienced that time and again this year, from the funerals and leavetaking of beloved members lost to us while at the same time we discover new kinfolk in the many people who have chosen Trinity as their parish home in the past 12 months that the life of Christ is always renewing and challenging us to live deeply into our call to discipleship.

You will hear enumerated below, and throughout the course of this meeting, many of the challenges and graces Trinity is experiencing at this moment in time. We have a lot of good work ahead of us, and a great deal to celebrate in how God has guided us to this point. There is a new clergy assistant to call, new opportunities in ministry and mission to explore and new ways to discover deeper paths in our experience of the Divine One who calls us all by our secret names.

Let us be honest and forthright with each other about our joys and our worries, our confidence and our willingness to commit to the Alpha and Omega of us all. In stewardship and in service, let us be fearless. In faith, let us allow God to guide our judgment. We have a lot to do, a lot to celebrate and much to remember about those who have given us a Church that will, God willing, be a gift from us to our children's children's children.

My brothers and sisters, read, mark and inwardly digest what these reports offer us. This is our own experience of that miraculous draft, our own response to God's call to cast our nets over the side in preparation *for what is about to become our transformed life in Christ!*

May God continue to shine the light of blessing upon our common work and joy, and may we always remember to "Welcome All" in the name of our risen Lord. -MKS+

Rector's Warden - Dick Henriques

During its monthly meetings over the past year, the Vestry discussed, debated and discerned the health and direction of the many current and future ministries of Trinity. Some of the many highlights are described below.

Early in June, the Vestry met at Cutalossa Farm (with many thanks to the Lowes) for their first Mutual Ministry review. The discussion focused first on what is "whole and healthy" at Trinity and how the positive energy which makes good things happen could be applied to areas where the Parish is "stuck". Five areas of attention emerged: 1)

Communication, including active listening to the Parish, 2) Celebrating new members of the parish, 3) Reaffirming relationships with long term members, 4) Discerning the role of a Vestry member and 5) How best to call new members to the Vestry.

The Vestry began prayerful discernment of the need to call a clergy associate to Trinity. The discernment reached closure at the July 25th Vestry meeting, when the leadership of the parish came to consensus that now is the time to actively embrace the process of issuing a call for a clergy associate to serve the parish. Trinity is growing and faces a critical juncture in our development as a parish. With a large and diverse population to serve, the parish is beyond the ability of one priest to tend to all in the membership for its pastoral and sacramental needs. With active lay pastoral leadership addressing many issues, Trinity has been able to grow, but still faces a need for greater breadth and diversity in clergy staffing. Trinity has been blessed in the past with three clergy associates in both part- and full-time roles. By calling a new, full-time clergy associate, a more diverse clergy team will offer broader pastoral care and leadership in liturgical, preaching and teaching styles along with an infusion of the gifts that someone newly trained/ordained brings to the community. The Vestry decided to passionately endorse the effort to call a new associate no later than June of 2007 and make it the top priority for the 2007 budget.

The Vestry endorsed the creation of a 501c3 corporation called TYG, Inc., to engage teens and youth in community service and outreach programs to benefit the needy and low income households in the Delaware Valley. In particular, the mission of TYG, Inc. is only to provide a vehicle through which "Mission Philadelphia" can seek funding from foundations and corporations that do not support religious organizations. A small working team has met to begin preparing the ground for how TYG, Inc. will work. The working group is currently looking for people both inside and outside the parish who have experience with grant writing, website development and background in non-profit financial management to join the first Board of TYG, Inc.; or just a passion for such a mission.

The Vestry must also continuously re-invent itself and with the support and active engagement of our rector, Marshall Shelly+ a wonderful and dedicated group of Vestry nominees were identified. The passion, vitality and engagement of the Trinity Vestry is sure to continue.

People's Warden – Nancy Cullen

It has been another full and eventful year at Trinity.

Trinity had a successful program year in 2006. Our ministries have worked very hard by trying new initiatives, welcoming new families, and expanding our outreach efforts, to name a few. The success was due to the dedication and hard work of the Trinity staff, vestry, and numerous volunteers. Thank you so much for all you do for Trinity!

It was also a full year in terms of the care and keeping of our parishioners. Trinity experienced an upswing in church attendance, membership, births, and baptisms. We celebrated the lives of Trinity members who have gone to God and extended our sympathy to many members who have experienced the loss of loved ones. It was also a year of healing prayers for those needing medical care and mindful prayer for those needing assistance, and those serving the peace of the world at home and abroad.

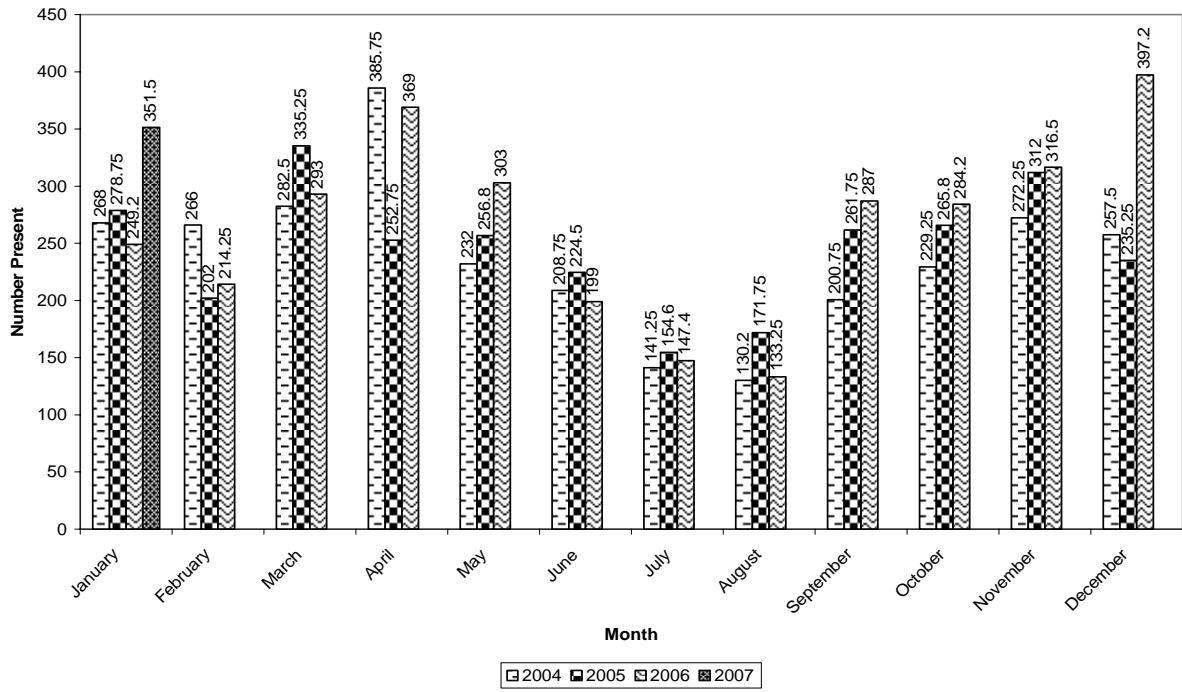
No matter the joy or sorrows in a year, Trinity is a family that comes together to watch out for, feed, visit, write to, and call on our fellow parishioners, letting them know we are here, ready to help in any way we can. It is one reason Trinity is like no other and why Trinity is loved by so many.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Trinity's People's Warden these past 2-1/2 years. It has not always been easy, but it has always been rewarding. I leave the next People's Warden with these words: *listen and discern with an open heart and an open mind and God will help with the rest.*

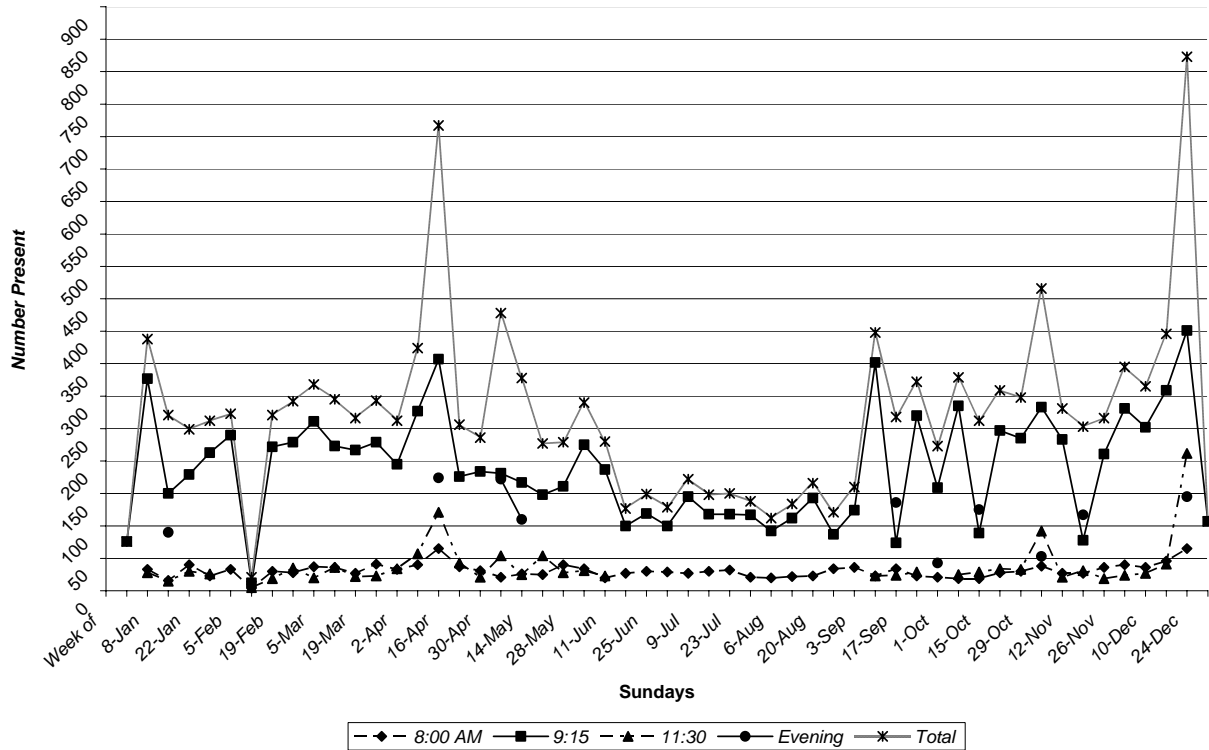
I thank all of you for your support, friendship, advice, and confidence. I look forward to my next call within Trinity – may it be as rewarding as this one has been!

Thanks be to God!

Monthly Average Attendance



Sunday Attendance 2006



Vital Statistics Of Trinity Episcopal Church 2005/2006

Sunday Services	Number		Total Attend. (2006)	
	2005	2006		
<u>8:00 AM</u> -	50	51		
<u>9:15 AM</u> -	56	58		
<u>11:30 AM</u> -	40	37		
<u>Evening liturgies</u>	1	5	Vigil, special, etc.	
<u>Evensongs</u> -	3	3		
<u>Total</u> -	150	154	14241	
Weekdays	2005	2006		
<u>Holy Eucharists</u>	47	63		
<u>Morning Prayer</u>	42	53		
<u>Centering Prayer</u>	47	44		
<u>Home Communions</u>	38	52	(est.)	Home, Hospital, Care facilities Healing liturgies, special prayer services
<u>Other</u> -	18	8		
<u>Total</u> -	192	220	1576	(est)
	2005	2006		
Baptisms -	16	9		
Confirmations -	0	6		
Receptions -	0	5		
Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows	0	2		
Weddings -	9	9		
New/Returning Households	18	13		
	2005	2006		
Burials				
<u>Funerals</u> -	7	12		
<u>Interments in Cemetery</u>	4	7		
	2005	2006		
Letters of Transfer				
<u>Requested</u> -	3	10		
<u>Received</u> -	7	11		
<u>New Families</u>	16	11		

Sunday Average Attendance

Service	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	11:30 AM	Evening	Total
2005	38	181	35	62	316
2006	31	190	38	116.5	375.5

Stewardship - Patrick Summers, Vestry Liaison

The year 2006 has been a very active year for stewardship with a special challenge of providing the resources to call an associate clergy member in 2007. Our focus has been that stewardship is doing the work of the church, in all its forms, with our time, talent and treasure. Not just the giving (or pledging) of money to help pay the expenses of the church (as important as that is, over 85 % of our expenses must be paid by our pledges) but also the giving of our lives and our abilities to further the mission of Trinity and to help those in need. We have continued with our organization of stewardship into (1) membership, (2) education and (3) communications activities.

We have met regularly each month to plan activities and to think creatively about how to increase stewardship awareness and involvement. I am very grateful to all of the current members of the stewardship committee for their contributions and hard work (Jennifer Blumenstock, Colin Cooke, Nancy Cullen, Sue Datin, Prue Day, Sally Henriques, Megg King, Fred Koberna, Wally Sellers, Betty Stagg, Roger White) plus the advice and participation of Marshall Shelly, our rector. As we look forward to 2007 I am hopeful that we can continue to add new members to this vital parish ministry and to bring out new leaders for stewardship. Our challenge for 2007 will be to continue the growth in stewardship, so that we can meet the increasing financial needs of this parish and to expand our efforts in outreach and help to those in need.

Each of our sub-groups within stewardship - membership, education, communication - has brought ideas and suggestions to our monthly stewardship meetings, from which we developed a stewardship program. Over the past year we have made the following notable achievements:

- Book Study : Read, reflected upon and discussed a book entitled “The Passionate Steward” as a way for us to discern the true meaning of stewardship
- Booklet of Reflections : Published a booklet “Thought for the Day” of reflections on stewardship by members of the parish for use in October as part of the annual pledge effort.
- Brochure : Issued a stewardship brochure outlining the meaning of stewardship at Trinity, the various ministries and the financial needs of the parish.
- Dinner : Held a potluck supper (Italian Dinner) for stewardship in late October in McArthur Hall
- Every Member Canvas : Issued the call for annual pledges in October, conducted follow up and mailed thank-you-for-your-pledge letters.
- Forum : Conducted a forum in McArthur Hall in October on stewardship featuring personal testimony from parish members (Susan Piette, Andrew Powell, Megg King, Doug McArthur)
- Prayers of the People : Included special stewardship prayers-of-the-people in services on October and November
- Skit : Performed a special stewardship skit in the main Sanctuary as part of the pot-luck supper in October
- Stewardship Prayer : Revised and updated our stewardship prayer which was used at all services in October and November.
- Theme for the Year : Created a theme for the year of “Grow in the Spirit, Act in Love”
- Tidings Articles : Wrote monthly articles on stewardship for Tidings
- Time and Talent Survey : Conducted a time and talent survey of the parish in May
- Website Development : developed and published a special section in the Trinity web-site devoted to stewardship, activities and links to other sites on stewardship.

Especially, we planned and conducted the annual gathering of our pledges for 2007. At the time of writing this report (2/1/07) we have received 187 pledges from 319 parish families totaling \$558,191. This is to be compared with the total number of pledges received for last year (2006) of 193 totaling \$584,212. A history of pledging at Trinity for the past 6 years is as follows:

YEAR	# OF FAMILIES	# OF PLEDGES	AMOUNT PLEDGED	AVERAGE PLEDGE
2002	327	205	\$504,107	\$2,459
2003	330	216	\$497,100	\$2,301
2004	334	185	\$465,519	\$2,516
2005	314	185	\$492,497	\$2,662
2006	280	193	\$584,212	\$3,027
2007	317	187	\$558,191 (\$603,000 proj.)	\$2,985

Property Ministry - Jerry Harbaugh, Vestry Liaison

The year 2006 was a very successful year for maintaining and improving the Trinity campus through the support from members of the Artistic Advisory and Cemetery committees. Budget constraints delayed completion of other desired projects Major accomplishments included:

- Assisting with the pipe organ installation.
- Completion of Choir Loft and adjoining areas.
- Rework of Rectory grounds drainage system
- Exterior painting of the Rectory
- Installation of a water treatment system.
- Re-lamped most of main sanctuary
- Volunteers have adopted some gardens for maintenance.
- Restricted parking on Cemetery grounds.

Goals for 2007, subject to financing abilities:

- Convert Rectory basement to dry, well lit storage space.
- Install ceiling fans in McArthur Hall
- Install Deicing system on McArthur Hall roof.
- Refinish floors in main Sanctuary
- Develop plan for completion of the Undercroft
- Develop plan for painting many interior areas.

Outreach – Jean Evans, Vestry Liaison

The Outreach Ministry at Trinity touches the lives of many, from people surviving in Bucks County with HIV/AIDS, to animals in local shelters, to dental education in Kenya. Highlights of 2006's Outreach efforts include:

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

Aid For Friends meals – including over 350 “cook-in” meals plus over 150 individually prepared meals. In addition, we gave Aid For Friends a \$300 cash donation.

Seamen's Church Institute – 44 hand-knit watch caps, several scarves and several bags of gently used men's clothing.

Lambertville Food Pantry – parishioners donated an average of 3 grocery bags of food per week to the Food Pantry. In addition, we gave the Food Pantry through the Delaware Valley Council of Churches, cash donations totaling \$1,800.

NGA – New clothing that will be distributed to men, women and children in Bucks County through various agencies. Through judicious shopping and several donations, approximately \$4,000 worth of clothing was collected at Trinity for a total outlay of less than \$500.

The Outreach budget for cash donations in 2006 was \$10,000. In addition to the above donations, other recipients of cash in 2006 included A Woman's Place, Bucks County Opportunity Council, Bucks County Housing Group, The Free Clinic of Doylestown, FISH, Samaritan Counseling and Volunteers for Homeless, Inc.

We also celebrate in increasing awareness of our connection to the wider work of Christ's Church in the world, with trips by our members to Kenya, Guatemala and the Gulf Coast region as it continues its recovery from the 2005 hurricane season.

In 2007, Outreach will be asking local agencies to formally request a grant from Trinity in order to be considered for funding. A copy of the grant request is available on the Trinity website and those agencies who have received funds in the past have received a letter describing this change.

Church School - Lorri Perkins, Vestry Liaison
Kyle Evans, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

Providing sound Christian education and enriching the young spiritual lives of our children is what we do. We continue to have over 50 active volunteers in this ministry who teach, run special programs such as Vacation Bible School, the Christmas Pageant, the Easter Egg Hunt and many efforts of outreach and service. Additionally, there are those who serve as active leaders ensuring our programs are well organized, well communicated, and continuing to serve the needs of our families.

This year was primarily marked by the implementation of the change to a new Church School schedule which started in February. This change was announced at the 2006 Annual Meeting, and we are happy to report a relatively seamless transition to our new format. Teachers have enjoyed starting their day of worship in the classroom with their students, the children have benefited from the routine and predictability of the schedule, and our families have been able to join together at God's table to share in the Holy Communion. Additionally, adults have been able to "be present" in the worship service without the responsibility of young children. We appreciate the patience and the feedback from the parish as we continue to smooth out the process of the children joining in the worship service during The Peace.

Special events mark special learning for the children. Our children were involved in several activities that further nurture and support their Christian growth- special curriculum and crafts in preparation for the All Saints' Parade, Advent wreath making, Children's Early Communion Instruction, Bible distribution for the 3rd grade class as well as outreach efforts which include participation in Peace Meal, the Alternative Gift Program and support of those in need through the Christmas Giving Tree and campaigns for Katrina Relief.

New leadership in 2007 will ensure fresh energy and continued improvements of this valued ministry. In particular, it is anticipated that the organizational model for Church School will need to grow, requiring more volunteers and leaders to sustain this vital program.

Sunday Clergy Associate- The Rev. Dr. Virginia M. Sheay

The primary ministry to which I am called is Sunday Liturgical Assistant. I am present at all three services and function at the discretion of the Rector. You will find me officiating, preaching, and assisting with healing, on any given Sunday during the program year. Once a month when there is an overlap between the Youth Eucharist and Eucharist in the Sanctuary, the Rector and I will officiate at each one of them. On special occasions such as Christmas, Evensong, Holy Week, and the Easter Vigil, I assist at these services as well. There are times during the year when Holy Days are celebrated, that I will officiate.

In addition to assisting in the liturgies, during Lent on Saturday, March 11, 2006, I offered a Quiet Day entitled, *A Ray of Light in Darkness*. We contemplated the Light of Christ in the cross, meditating upon Tielhard de Chardin's

statement, (a visionary French Jesuit and philosopher), that we should climb in the light of the cross rather than swoon under its shadow.

In Advent on Saturday, December 16, 2006 at Cuttalossa Farm, I lead another Quiet Day entitled, *On Bended Knees*. This time we meditated on the little known private prayers of Queen Elizabeth I. Known as “A Book of Devotions,” she wrote these prayers not only in English, but also French, Italian, Latin, and Greek. Twenty-five persons were present.

For Lent of this year, on Saturday, March 17, from 9 AM – Noon, also at Cuttalossa Farm, I will lead reflections on St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), a Spanish mystic and poet who founded the Discalced (shoeless) Carmelites. We shall be meditating on two lesser known works of his – *Verses on Christ and the Soul* and *The Spiritual Canticle*. We shall be contrasting two images of Christ in these works: Christ as Shepherd and Christ as Bridegroom.

While licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, I am canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey where I chair two Diocesan Committees and serve on another. Being retired, my husband, Ron, and I spend the summer on Southport Island, Maine at our cottage. We attend All Saints by-the-Sea, the summer chapel on the Island, and I conduct some of the services there and chair the Music Committee.

Worship and Spiritual Life - Geraldine Broadbent, Vestry Liaison

Lay Assistant – Caroline Oakes McCarthy (*Associate on Staff; Coordination of Spiritual Life Programming*)

We recognize the following people for their dedication and service to the worship and liturgy at Trinity:

- **Valerie Crane**, for her able leadership as Head Lector. We continue to seek a successor.
- **Amy Glascott**, for her service in maintaining the Usher assignment schedule and we thank **Karen Dewar** for assuming this important role.
- **Earlene Austin, Fred Koberna and Sandy Ryon** for making sure that those in pastoral need have the knowledge of true and prayerful support of Trinity Church, from simple visits to Home Communion visitation.
- **Phyllis Mathieu** and **Barbara Slack** for their leadership of the Altar Guild, **Carlie Zaroff** for her leadership of the Flower Guild and scheduling of the Lectors and Chalice Bearers, **Sue Eavenson** for leading the Ushers and **Susan Piette** for leading the Acolytes.
- **Bill Wolf**, for the many tasks that he quietly assumes, some of which are putting up the Advent wreath, draping the veils on the cross during Lent and caring for all of our silver altar pieces.

We begin 2007 with the understanding that our most important goal is to recruit more people to serve in the worship ministries. While all ministries require assistance, the Altar Guild, with only twelve members, has a particular need.

This year at Trinity, each of the primary ministries of the Vestry’s Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry – Worship and Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Spiritual Life – continue to thrive and grow in the Spirit.

Worship and Liturgy

- A monthly Mindfulness Meditation was introduced this year on third Mondays of the month; a three-hour Mindfulness Meditation was introduced on Good Friday.
- Mid-week offerings of Eucharist, Centering Prayer and Thursday Morning Prayer continued this year as vital time of mid-week prayer.
- Growth in Sunday liturgies, with increased attendance at Evensongs, Youth Eucharists, Sunday morning liturgies, Healing Sunday, etc.

Pastoral Care

As the Lay Assistant position no longer includes responsibility for coordination of Trinity's Pastoral Care; however, several lay leaders at Trinity have assumed significant pastoral care leadership responsibilities in other aspects of the ministry at this time, including coordination of Eucharist visitation, organization of healing ministry scheduling, coordination of pastoral care gift distribution at Christmas and Easter, publicity of Laying on of Hands services, and the management, organization, and communication of Trinity's prayer list concerns.

- Anointing and Laying on of Hands has become a mainstay of Trinity's Pastoral Care Ministry, with an increasing number of parishioners now aware of this offering by the Pastoral Care Ministry and members of the parish to gather together to bring spiritual healing to those experiencing any kind of crisis, sending out, or upcoming surgery.
- Trinity's Weekly Prayer Concern Email is sent by Sue Eavenson at the end of each week to now more than one hundred parishioners who have made request to receive it; this means of communicating more detailed weekly prayer concerns continues to be a wonderful pastoral care tool, enabling members of Trinity to be integrally involved in each other's care.
- Earlene Austin now leads Trinity's Lay Visitation Ministry and has organized a new system to enable clergy, staff and Pastoral Care members to continue to be up-to-date on pastoral care calls and visitations;
- Under the leadership of Val Jopling and Maire Vieth, the Trinity Cares frozen food ministry distributed meals year-round to homebound parishioners.
- New member Inez Bing offered a training retreat to members of the Pastoral Care Ministry on bereavement, grieving, and finding God in our grieving
- With several dedicated Lay Eucharistic Ministers in place, Trinity has offered a significant number of home communions this year to those parishioners who are home or hospital bound.
- Upcoming year:
 - *Several parishioners working in psycho-therapeutic vocations have offered to assist Trinity in offering pastoral care to the parish in times of crisis or grief, and it is hoped a ministry will develop this year to embrace this offering*
 - *The Pastoral Care Ministry is offering the parish a Saturday seminar Listening to God as We Grieve, led by Inez Bind, who will present an overview of the seminar at a Trinity Forum the following Sunday.*

Spiritual Life

Trinity's Lay Assistant position continues responsibility for spiritual life programming at Trinity, including oversight and coordination of Trinity's Spiritual Life Ministry, mid-week prayer groups -- Centering Prayer and Morning Prayer -- monthly Mindfulness Meditation, adult education and spiritual formation courses, Trinity Forum Ministry, formation workshops, Lenten and Advent Quiet Days, parish monastic retreats, creation and implementation of yearly programming focus for the parish, assistance with Inquirers' Series, and publicity to the parish and community of the above events.

- Laura Huestis has assumed leadership of, and brought her sense of call and vitality to, this new ministry, created last year at Trinity under the auspices of Worship and Spiritual Life. The Spiritual Life Ministry continues to be responsible for envisioning, planning, and implementing vital, coordinated, theme-focused and well-publicized spiritual life programming primarily for adults at Trinity.
- Under the leadership of Mort Ryon, Trinity Forums have helped focus this year's spiritual life programming on "Listening with the Heart."

- Trinity member Jeffrey Harrison offered a Mindfulness Meditation Eight-Week Series and Retreat to the parish. The series was very popular and created shifts in understanding of how to purposefully attend to our lives and to the world around us in the present moment in a non-judgmental way.
- After being first introduced last year, Trinity’s film nights, called “Popcorn and a Movie Nights” continued with the showing of the film *Chocolat* during the season of Lent, and *The Secret Garden* prior to St. Francis Day.
- Monastic retreats were taken both to The Convent of St. Helena last March and to Holy Cross Monastery in October, with retreat reflection times led by the monastics of these Episcopal orders.

Upcoming year:

- A Mindfulness Meditation Series will again be offered this year.
- As we continue the spiritual formation progression from *Call and Discernment (2005)* to *Listening (2006)*, we look forward to focusing on *Creating Balance and a Sense of Mission in Our Lives* in the next program years.
- As there continues to be strong interest in a spiritual life focus on parenting and partner relationships, we will offer a Saturday workshop on Parenting in the Spring, and hope to offer a workshop on the art of Listening and Being Heard in Our Closest Relationships later in the year.
- The Spiritual Life Ministry is researching possible comprehensive Adult Education programs such as *Disciples of Christ in Community* to determine the feasibility of offering such a program at Trinity in the near future.

Trinity Forums

1. Of One Beat: Holy Listening in the Drumming Circle – Erin Behe, Drum Circle Leader;
2. Sacred Listening With Our Life Partner: How to Listen and Feel Heard in our Closest Relationships – Maya Kollman, Imago Therapy Marriage Counselor and Workshop Facilitator
3. Listening As An Offering of Ourselves: Trinity Stewardship Stories; Trinity Stewardship Ministry
4. Listening to the Other: Hearing God’s Voice in Our Daily Encounters; Kay Steinkirchner
5. Listen To the Voices, Listen to the People; Trinity Outreach Ministry
6. During the Holiday Season – Tom Lloyd, Director, Bucks County Choral Society
7. Listening to the Body, Capital B – The Rev. Marshall Shelly
8. Listening With the Ears of Our Hearts: The Practice of Mindfulness Meditation – Jeffrey Harrison

Upcoming Forums

February 11	<u>How to Talk So Your Children Will Listen and Listen So Your Children Will Talk</u> -- Suzanne Spanton; Program Development Specialist, Parenting Resource and Education Network
February 25	<u>Listening to God From Our Deepest Center: Some Perspectives from Christian and Islamic Mystics</u> -- The Rev. Sharline Fulton
March 11	<u>Listening to God As We Grieve</u> -- Inez Bing, Grief Counselor, Spiritual Director
March 25	<u>Listening to Our Christian Ancestors: Holy Week from an Early Christian Perspective</u> -- The Rev. Paul Farwell, professor, General Theological Seminary
April 15	<u>Listening to A Voice of the Continent: The De-Christianization of Europe</u> -- Sebastyen Gorka

May 13

Listening to Our World Neighbors: Global Reconciliation – The Rev.
Michael Kinman

Flower Guild Report – 2006

Each week, the Flower Guild arranges flowers donated by various parishioners for Sundays plus Easter and Christmas. For Holy Week and Easter, we added new weaving of palms as well as the palm strips for Palm Sunday; through a special donation we set up a Garden of Gethsemane for the Night Watch on Maundy Thursday. For Christmas, we oversaw the decorating of the Church and Chapel, both inside and outside, in partnership with the Property Ministry.

Our challenges during the year were in the communications and financial areas. The cost of flowers continues to rise and donations for the major feast days were down in 2006. We also have had difficulty in attracting new participants to this ministry.

In 2007, we will be increasing the weekly contribution and looking to revisit the delivery mode for floral arrangements if we are not able to attract new members to this ministry.

Lector's Report – 2006

The lectors for the parish continue to support the various services, ranging from Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist services, both on Sundays and for major Feast Days during the year. We shifted to emailing the schedule to members with email which has saved on postage expenses. The Church Office volunteers provide support in reminder phone calls each week for assignments.

Our challenge going into 2007 is participation in this ministry for the 8:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and weekday major Feast Day services. In addition, we continue to seek someone to serve as Head Lector with responsibility for coordinating this ministry in support of the Rector and to manage recruitment and training of new members to the ministry.

Music - Tim Harrell, Organist/Choirmaster

Last year when writing this report I was basking in the joy of having visited our Pasi Opus 17 thrilling to the sounds emanating from those wonderful pipes in the shop in Roy, Washington. I was eager beyond words for the congregation to experience the fulfillment of years of dreaming and planning for Trinity's entry into the small circle of churches housing fine pipe organs. Now, almost a year later, we have begun an era that will continue to attract lovers of great church music to an already blossoming choral program including children and adults in a congregation that is alive, welcoming and realizing the magnificent Episcopal heritage that is ours. I was privileged to play the inaugural recitals and dedication service led by our Rector and consecrated by The Bishop of Pennsylvania. We experienced the recital played by the internationally acclaimed David Higgs, Head of the Organ Department at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. That concert was superb and many visitors and organ enthusiasts joined our congregation for that signal event.

Other organists from the surrounding areas have visited to play the Pasi and have responded with great accolades, as do visitors who have heard of our music program. The Trinity Choirs make a joyful sound sung with well-practiced voices. Our eighth annual performance of Handel's Messiah attracted a near capacity audience and was hailed as unquestionably best of all previous performances.

Our goals include the continuation of outstanding recitalists, with my own presentation of an annual recital, choir concerts, including children's choirs, choral Evensong, and the liturgical celebrations seasonally which are

hallmarks of the Episcopal tradition. I love my ministry in music in Trinity Church, the very best place for me. Thanks be to God!

**Trinity Youth Group-Mark Glidden, Vestry Liaison
Kyle Evans, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry**

During the 2006 calendar year the Trinity Youth Group was blessed to be involved with and leading many events on the local, regional and world stage. The core of the Youth activities center on the Wednesday night TYG meetings that form the foundation of the ministry. The meetings are lead by a group of about 10 devoted adult sponsors who lead three individual age groups (Grades 6-7, 8-9, 10-12). The adult involvement with TYG has greatly expanded this year with more and more adults from Trinity and outside Trinity expressing interest in our youth program.

A list of the highlights of the Trinity Youth Group for 2006

- Fall and spring retreats at Mensch Mill Retreat Center – a weekend of spiritual journey and fun for any youth members and sponsors.
- Monthly Youth Eucharist held in the chapel – a youth led service of praise and worship with an emphasis on youth participation and contemporary Christian music led by the TYG band. This liturgy is open to the entire Trinity community. Beginning in January 2007 the Youth Eucharist began taking place in McArthur Hall. This special service has gained a substantial following and the need for additional space is being addressed through this move.
- Senior sendoff in the spring and late summer – a tribute to graduating Seniors as they prepare to leave home for school, work and adult life.
- Stations of the Cross & Tenebrae – During Holy Week, TYG students present the annual Stations of the Cross, a prepared liturgy showcasing an experience of the death and resurrection of Christ using art and creative process. In addition, they lead a powerful, reflective worship drama at 3 p.m. on Good Friday. Both services are open to all members of the Trinity congregation.
- Lobsterfest – the annual fundraising event that has become a rite of spring for Trinity members as well as the community as large. This event raised funds for the annual Trinity Church and through its Outreach this event helps to fund our annual youth mission trip Mission Philadelphia. This past year net revenues exceeded \$20,000.

During 2006, the Lobsterfest leadership team, under the remarkable leadership of parishioner Patty Gill-Webber, engaged in a helpful evaluation process on this fund raising effort. In addition to developing new and different ways to increase the profit margin the team had also succeeded in developing an operation manual. The manual will be used for Lobsterfest 2007.

- Mission Philadelphia – a week of outreach by age eligible TYG members. Youth and sponsors stay on the campus of St Joe's University in Philadelphia and work daily on projects to enhance, improve and touch the lives of those less fortunate in inner city Philadelphia. Projects typically involve building playgrounds, gardens, building as well as continuing relationships with children and adults in the communities in which we work.
- The annual TYG ski trip – a weekend of fun with youth and sponsors in the Poconos enjoying each other in a snowy setting.
- Again in May 2006, Kyle Evans helped to coordinate the annual trip to the Kitale Diocese of Kenya through Mwamba Church Ministries International. One youth, Tara Stedman, and one young adult, Kathleen Davie, were among those involved. In October of 2006 Kyle Evans also participated in Operation Tabasamu, coordinated by Dr. Trey Wilson. One youth, Kaylyn Koberna and other Trinity adults, Gerry Harbaugh, Otho Kerr and Megg King were included in the team of 12. Although not a part of Trinity Youth Group, this exciting ministry has gained substantial interest by not only our Youth Leader but many youth as well.
- In July of 2006, 1 Trinity young adult sponsor, Andy Allison, traveled to Guatemala as part of the Diocesan Mission Trip Guatemala. 10 days of outreach and cultural exchange with youth and adults of our Companion Diocese
- Additionally, through the leadership of Andrew and Evan Powell, several trips have been staged to Guatemala to deliver donated computers as well as begin to explore ways of helping to fund the purchase

of a church property for our Padre Cuc and the parish in Solala. Evan helped extensively to run the sale of Guatemalan crafts during the annual Holiday Sale to our parish. Proceeds are going toward outreach to our new friends in Guatemala. This is also an exciting and vital piece of youth and outreach ministries here at Trinity.

TYG members also play an ever-present role in regular activities including:

- Peacemeal
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
- Breakfast with St Nick.

Given the strength, breadth and growing membership of Trinity Youth Group, the ministry leadership is intentional about growing volunteer involvement parish-wide. This will be a primary goal for 2007.

Parish Life – Renee Leister, Vestry Liaison

The Parish elected me last year to participate in Vestry under the title of Special Events Coordinator. This was a new position charged with the role of liaising with event committees and the Vestry. What I found to be the most significant challenge was the solicitation of volunteers for such events. I saw a church with the pews full; but the same people were coordinating and helping with the same events. As a result of this observation, I decided to take on Lobestfest volunteer recruiting. For all of those many that contributed their time & efforts, a heart-felt “Thank you” for making that day the most successful Lobesterfest ever.

I was just beginning to understand my role as Special Events Coordinator when I was called by Vestry to do something else:

Parish Life Ministry. With my love for God in Christ and for all people I felt that I could really enjoy this position. This Vestry position was vacant for one year. Furthermore, the same people were (thankfully) performing the same tasks for many years. Without the angelic efforts of Jane McNeill, Barrie Summers, Sue Eavenson and Betty Stagg, the Parish Life Ministry would have struggled and the congregation would have suffered.

It is my challenge to reestablish a broader range of participants through committees under Parish Life by getting many to give of themselves for the benefit of the entire congregation.

The Parish Life Ministry provides for all In-reach or Fellowship at Trinity and consists of the following sub-committees:

- Hospitality
- Trinity Cares
- Coffee Hour Hosts
- Foyers
- Men’s Breakfast
- Cookie Bake
- Breakfast with St. Nick
- Simple Suppers
- Welcome Committee
- New Member Registry & Mentoring
- Newcomers Dinners
- Greens
- Christmas Bazaar

Throughout the year, Parish Life strives to ensure the interaction of all members of the church in a variety of social and hospitable efforts.

There is so much to this “behind the scenes” Ministry. We identify visitors to the Parish, welcome them and introduce them to Trinity in hopes they will join our family. We then invite them to a Newcomers Dinner and Orientation.

We are developing a revised mentoring program for prospective and/or new members.

Hospitality began with a Newcomers Dinner in the fall. Time kept marching on with the 2006 Cookie Bake and 16,350 cookies made and sold. Breakfast with St. Nick, the Christmas Bazaar and Greens always come together with dedicated people with a passion for Trinity.
Thank you all!

We provided dinner for the Early Communicants in January with the help of visionary parents. We held a "Mad Hatters' Tea" event in early February to introduce Parish Life to our congregation members and invite them to join our committees.

Our Simple Suppers, Agape Dinner, Easter Vigil and Easter Morning Coffee Hours during Holy Week all need new and returning committee participants and support in order to bring new life to the Ministry.

Parish Life promotes our congregation’s Mission Statement through fellowship and goodwill. We embrace the diversity of our congregation so that through our differences we find our common interests and results.

This year holds many challenges with hope of developing a new order to Parish Life; please join me every second Friday of the month in McArthur hall at 9:30am for Parish Life meetings. I look forward to redeveloping and redefining ministries under Parish Life, so this Ministry can thrive for years to come.

Finances - Julie Loftus, Vestry Liaison

Trinity’s financial position at the end of year 2006 was weaker than expected. We ended the year with a loss of \$14 revenues (pledges, plate and fundraisers) over expenses (personnel, building maintenance, ministries outreach and debt service). Revenues were equal to the budget, while expenses closed 3% over budget. Most of the expense overrun was a result of increased health and auto insurance costs. Trinity received unrestricted bequests totaling \$41k in 2006. These gifts are set aside as a reserve on the balance sheet; they are not included in the operating budget. Cash on hand at the year-end was \$140k, comparable to prior years.

We have been challenged in preparing our 2007 budget. Pledge commitments are similar in amount to last year. However, our Vestry and the Parish see the immediate need for an Assistant Rector. We are called to bring on an assistant Rector who will provide support to all our ministries at Trinity and beyond. At this point the Finance Ministry has recommended to our Vestry that we defer some of the expenses while the Stewardship Ministry continues their effort to increase pledge participation. Because we are not cutting personnel and/or benefits and our overhead expenses are fixed, our recommendations for expense deferral include building repairs and outreach with some cuts across the board for Youth and Worship & Spiritual Life:

- Cancel funding for Clergy Assistant move \$8,000
- Defer Property repairs \$20,000
- Defer Computer training for staff \$3,200
- Defer 20,000 for outreach grants; defer \$12,000 other gifts (theological education, etc.); restrict Mission Philadelphia to 2006 expenditures \$10,000 while absorbing fundraising income from Lobsterfest, etc.
- Defer \$13,500 from ministries and programs: \$3,500 from Worship and Spiritual Life, \$9,000 from Youth (youth van and insurance), and \$1,000 from Parish Life (takes support to \$0)

Our ministries and our parish membership are still growing, and for the last several years have had no increases in the budgets for programs and outreach. With the hiring of an Assistant Rector we anticipate the following for 2007:

EXPENSES	2007 (EST.)	2006 (ACTUAL)	2005 (ACTUAL)
Salaries and benefits (plus Clergy Associate for 6 months)	419,463	409,731	396,750
Property	196,476	178,526	165,454
Outreach (includes mandatory Diocesan Support)	44,802	50,146	67,306
Debt Service	35,763	41,528	43,365
Ministries and programs	31,496	36,124	39,103
Total	728,000	716,145	711,978
Income			
Pledge Commitments	603,000 projected (558,191 to date)	582,363	540,853
Plate contributions	32,800	33,750	52,242
Fund Raising	70,000	56,670	60,114
Other income (Day School, rental fees, etc.)	22,200	29,389	39,595
Total	728,000	702,262	692,804
	<i>0</i>	<i>(13,883)</i>	<i>(19,174)</i>

Note: Detailed copies of the 2006 Year End Statements and 2007 Budget are available at the rectory or upon request from the office administrative personnel.

Counters – Doug McArthur, Treasurer

Every Sunday a pair of Counters faithfully gather the weeks collection of: pledges, plate, Tabasamu, Memorials, Guatemala Coffee, Flowers, Holy Cross retreats, Easter and Christmas envelopes, Church rent, Peacemeal, House Tour, Breakfast with St. Nick, Cookies, Raffles, Interest, Pipe Organ, Lobsterfest, Bucks Cooks, Cemetery, Ski trips, VBS, Alternative Gifts, etc. .etc....

Many thanks to our volunteers in this vital Sunday morning (and afternoon at times) ministry:

Tim and Millena Coffey
Frank and Jean Evans
Dick and Cathi Dafrico
Bob and Anita Howard
Kim and Jim Laughlin
Chris and Dos Hermann
Megg King and Doug McArthur

Communications Ministry – Roger White, Vestry Liaison

The Communications Ministry strives to offer a number of communication vehicles to promote a number of church events, reports and opinions. We strive to make sure this information is timely, accurate and easily accessible.

The Communications Ministry offers a number of different opportunities for personal growth inside your church community, whether it's Tidings, a communications staple for numerous parishioners, chaired by Christian Godshall; or the dynamic and extensive website chaired by Jonathan Hayward; or the rich photo gallery chaired by Alex Bove.

Webteam report:

This year we made significant progress in enhancing our web presence with the relaunch of the Trinity website.

Besides a "new look and feel", the major objective was three-fold:

- to create a relevant site
- to create a site that could be easily maintained
- to create a support infrastructure for the website

Thanks to the hard work of our webteam, we were able to reach our goals. I would like to thank my co-chair Laura Shelly, and the other team members: Frank Evans, Debbie Stedman, and Sue Walsh for their continued efforts and dedication.

Among the features we have been able to bring to the website:

- A home page that has "the things you want to know for THIS week" - such as service types and times updated every Monday.
- Bulletins and notices posted PRIOR to Sunday services.
- A unified calendar for the entire church organization.
- Special pages for major events (Lobsterfest, Mission Philly, House Tour, etc)
- Recordings of sermons, services, and forums.
- An online archive of past publications and events.
- An online version of the Book of Common Prayer.
- Adjustable text size for the visually impaired.
- Support for Carol Lansill's recordings of Trinity members remembrances.

As a webteam committee member, we each take one month's rotation at maintaining the website. Each committee member has the chance to learn HTML and website maintenance techniques. I believe that everyone has found it interesting and stimulating. As committee chair, it is my personal goal to encourage everyone to learn at their own pace in a non-threatening and supportive environment, so that this becomes an experience of growth and enjoyment for everyone.

I especially want to thank Laura for her endless hours of work. Without her, it simply would not have been possible to launch the site.

Tidings – Christine Godshall, Editor

I have been editing Tidings since September 2006, and the newsletter has been published monthly. Vestry, staff and others are assigned articles and photos, with mixed results. Vestry and staff are consistently well past deadline with their submissions, which delays production and complicates mailing, often causing the administrative staff to stay after hours.

We continue to have difficulty assessing the effectiveness of Tidings. Survey results have been too meager to be useful, and response to calls for volunteers in Tidings articles across most ministries has been low. The overall look and layout of Tidings is excellent, although time-consuming.

2007 will see suggested changes, such as an update page, front and back, with STRICT deadlines every month, and perhaps a quarterly 12-page Tidings.

The Tidings team could use some extra hands, for proofreading, writing and photo editing, and unless deadlines are met, Tidings will need a new editor as well.

Photo Gallery Report (Alex Bove):

Many people have enthusiastically embraced this work, making themselves available at all events. The happy challenge now is finding a place to house the photographs securely and make them readily accessible for church use. The webteam is poised to work with the photo gallery committee and bring this to fruition.

There are several additional opportunities here available for involvement. They are:

- ▶ Photo editing
- ▶ Photoshopping
- ▶ Archiving past prints
- ▶ Database management

I want to thank everyone for his or her hard work, especially the sub-committee chairs. Their tireless dedication exemplifies the spirit and level of commitment to Christ's work.

**Trinity Day School – Heidi Luke - Vestry Liaison
Cindy Bove – School Director**

School Year 2005-06

Trinity Day School reports school year 2005-2006 to have been another successful year, both financially and in general day-to-day operations. One key area of strategic focus was to advertise and promote the kindergarten program in order to sustain it in the face of New Hope-Solebury offering full-day kindergarten fall 2006.

School Year 2006 and 07 To Date

The Day School opened its doors to 63 students on September 5 for the school year 2006-2007, and its 48th year of service to the community. Despite significant promotional efforts, there were only 7 students enrolled in kindergarten, and it was additionally noted that pre-school enrollment was lower than it had been in several years. These two factors created a financial deficit for the 06-07 budget. This projected deficit will be covered by the use of reserves from prior years' earnings, and from a Monte Carlo night fund raiser scheduled for February 2007.

The Director and the Board turned their focus to creating new programs which might better meet the needs of our changing community. It was decided that kindergarten would no longer be offered, and in its place for fall 2007 will be a new program, "Kindergrow" specifically designed for the older 4 or younger 5 child who is not ready for the demands of kindergarten. The school will also lower its age for eligibility from 3 to 2 ½, thereby attracting children who might otherwise go to other schools who accept younger children.

In other matters, the Director is appreciative of renewed energy and support from the Board and the Parents Committee to help the Day School move through this challenging transition time. We have served the community for 48 years, and with God's help, we are looking to do so for at least another 48 years!!!

Parish Administrator – Debbie Stedman

2006 was the beginning of a first complete year with the Rector in office. With an established staff Marshall brought new ideas and new directives that needed to be explained and understood to us in order to support the needs of the church.

The office staff continues to support all the ministries in:

1. mailings, sign ups, maintain and track contributions that come to the office and make copies so that the committees are able to track who had contributed.
2. The office has taken on a new challenge where Cindy Baker moves the recordings from the Sunday services to the webteam from her computer. I too have learned how to make edits on the website, maintain the calendar, (which at times is a real challenge when there are several changes to the calendar in one day).
3. Cindy works with Marshall and Tim with the bulletins. One of the new changes was the size of the 9:15 and 11:30 bulletin copied on to 11x 17 lengthwise. This decision was made in order to meet the request of some parishioners to have more of the service in the leaflet and also we went with the larger paper to cut cost of the paper and printing.
4. Cindy also supervises our wonderful multi tasked volunteers. These volunteers have stepped in many times this year to help cover for one another when the need was there. We still are in need of volunteers to help out in the office since we have some vacancies.

The Tidings newsletter continues to be a challenge each month with article and printing deadlines. We've had to move the mailing dates out to another day or week and that creates a problem with getting enough help with the next date. We have a new editor, Christine Godshall who has done a wonderful job in giving the Tidings a new look and feel. We have also shortened the Tidings in trying to keep the articles short, and interesting and cost effective.

Anne Yarnall our Parish Finance Secretary continues to work closely with Julie Loftus, Doug McArthur and myself. Anne has done a wonderful job with learning the accounting program and keeps up with all the requests from Finance and continues to meet the many challenges of our purchase order and reimbursement systems. This continues to be a work in progress.

The office staff, office volunteers, Jon Hayward, Anita Howard, and Carlie Zaroff, have started the process of a new directory, which we hope to have out Feb. 2007.

One other challenge that the office staff endured was the passing of many of the beloved parishioners that died this past year. This was very stressful for we too suffered the loss. Having the church prepared and any receptions was not work, more of a service of our time in their honor.