

2009

Annual Report

February 7th, 2010

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INTERIM RECTOR'S REPORT

Beginning work the week of Easter, my first concerns were the scheduling of services and becoming familiar with the schedule of meetings plus being available for those desiring to meet with the clergy. Visiting with those in assisted living facilities and nursing homes and hospitals were a high priority. The Junior Warden was a valuable resource in visiting these members and both wardens set up a conference call each week since the Senior Warden was in New York City during the week. Planning for the worship services of the Church including time for sermon preparation was a challenge that has required some flexibility. The first Inquirers Class/Refresher Membership Study was very successful and while the Sunday schedule has been demanding, it has been manageable and rewarding.

The regular duties have shaped the work week and the encouragement and help of the leaders and members has been enormously helpful. Following the expectations of our Bishop initially involved attempted outreach to those persons having withdrawn from active involvement in the church. This included a letter to all those whose names were provided me by our office Staff which numbered 46 family units. I received answers from about a dozen and had conversation by telephone with half of them. I was invited to a home meeting with a group of between 16 and 18 people sharing their feelings about the church. I have remained willing to talk with anyone desiring to share her/his experience and feelings, but have not suggested any further meetings. The welcome remains open to all who would choose to worship and engage in fellowship with the congregation.

The engagement of a consultant from The Alban Institute resulted in a number of conversations with a cross section of congregants and the leaders, and a report of that process has been available on the ushers' table in the Narthex as has been a thorough Mutual Ministry Review involving the Vestry and Clergy. The Bishop's visit and interactive Forum enabled Bishop Michel to get a feel for the heartbeat of Trinity Church. I was delighted by his way of coming through a firsthand process to a valid assessment of the life of this parish. That life has been encouraging in terms of its vitality and its joyful mood. We are unquestionably moving forward and people are enjoying their church. The Wardens and Vestry have been outstanding in their steady leadership and bathed in a healthy spirituality.

Our ongoing challenge is in the area of stewardship. Growth in pledges and outreach will occupy our dedicated efforts in 2010. Defining our membership more realistically we will attempt to increase appreciation for our Episcopal heritage by being intentional and thorough in offering membership training, confirmation preparation, and discipleship opportunities. Welcoming new people and including all those who come to us offering the full opportunities for growth in Christian service beginning with vital worship in the Episcopal tradition is our goal. I look forward to serving with you in this vital spiritual community of faith

Yours in the love of Christ,

Emory Byrum, Interim Rector

PRIEST ASSOCIATE – *The Rev. Canon Dr. Virginia M. Sheay*

It was on Sunday, January 25, 2003, that I began as priest associate at Trinity Church. That morning I was to officiate at the Youth Eucharist and do my first paper bag sermon! Leah Hunt was the chosen one and in her bag was a little angel. I shall never forget. Seven years have gone by so quickly.

What do I do at Trinity? My primary ministry is assisting at the Sunday services. I am present at all the services and function at the discretion of the Rector. This means that I might be officiating, preaching, or on Youth Eucharist Sundays, I will be officiating at either that service or Morning Prayer. On special occasions such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, the Easter Vigil, and at the service of Evensong, I will be present.

In addition to the liturgies, I conduct two Quiet Days during the year. In Lent, we reflected on a selection of poems George Herbert wrote for Lent and Holy Week.

Due to an illness, I was unable to conduct the December Advent Quiet Day. However, Susan Wells, a great teacher, one most knowledgeable in the Bible, Church History, Music, Liturgy, Art, Poetry (and much more!) led the participants through meditations on the Annunciation to the Magnificat. Our special thanks to Susan who filled in on such short notice, and leading an outstanding Quiet Day.

For the Quiet Day, to be held on Saturday, March 13, during this Lenten season, I shall be leading the participants through a little known work by T. S. Eliot, called *Choruses from The Rock*, a play written not long after his conversion to Anglicanism. His commitment to the Christian faith and the church, as expressed in this play, is most compelling.

While I am licensed by the Bishop of Pennsylvania to officiate, I am nonetheless canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey. Many of you know that I am retired and that with my husband, Ron, we spend the summers on the coast of Maine and worship at All Saints by-the-Sea, where I occasionally conduct some of the services and serve as chair of the Music Committee.

"Praise and Thanks"

Senior Warden's Report

Otho E. Kerr III

On the Sunday following this year's Feast of the Epiphany, Emory preached on that glorious moment when Jesus was praying and received the Holy Spirit. Emory expounded on how Jesus prayed prior to every magnificent moment chronicled in the Gospels, giving praise and thanks to God as he did so. In reporting on the past year in my capacity as Senior Warden, it would be easy to lick one's wounds. However, it is actually far more joyful for me to follow Jesus' lead and to give God praise and thanks for the blessings that were bestowed upon us in 2009, blessings that allowed me, and hopefully this entire parish, to fully appreciate the magnificence of God's glory in the face of adversity. Today, as I step down as Senior Warden, I give praise and thanks to God.

I give praise and thanks to God for leading Trinity toward recovery. With the average pledge at Trinity up about 20% this past year, we enter 2010 financially sound. Trinity feels vibrant, and we are beginning to look outwardly at the needs of others rather than our own needs. We have not fully recovered, but we are well on our way.

I give praise and thanks for a church staff that never stopped fulfilling its promise to do God's work and to keep this church functioning. Despite the turmoil swirling all around you, you remained steadfast in your willingness to give your heart to the ongoing operations of Trinity. Each one of you -- Ginny, Debbie, Tim, Cindy, Ed, Anne, Joel, Steve and Lynn -- was reliably helpful at every turn, and you always sought to do what needed to be done to insure the vitality of this church.

I give praise and thanks for a Vestry that assumed responsibilities it had never imagined it would assume. Before you knew it, you were fully responsible for insuring that nothing fell between the cracks in the operation of your ministries. As you lost members, you gained truly helpful, joyful members who were determined to do God's work, and you embraced the importance of loving each other and defaulting toward love. Oh how I loved working with each of you -- Sandy, Val, Fred, Dave, John, Kim, Laura, Jane, Richard, Susan, and Earlene, and officers Megg, Doug, and Dave. Each one of you has been steadfast, thoughtful, caring, and hard working. What has been especially compelling about you has been your indefatigable, loving concern for those Trinity friends who found it necessary to step away from Trinity in the past year. You are the model of an outstanding Vestry.

I give praise and thanks for the gift of time that was given to us by resigning Vestry members Chris, Irma, Angela, Ann and Kimberly.

I give praise and thanks for Rev. Christine Ritter and Rev. Bill Wood who last year were a daily presence in the lives of the wardens. With love and care, you were the wind beneath our wings, helping us to stay the course when the light at the end of the tunnel seemed to be but a dream.

I give praise and thanks to Caroline Oakes McCarthy, Jeff Harrison, Kyle Evans, Ann Koberna, Dick Henriques and Betty Stagg who offered immeasurable counsel. Your opinions always resonated with me. You each have spiritually-led wisdom that deserves attention, and your influence on me and on my decisions was profound.

I give praise and thanks for parishioners like Patrick and Barrie Summers and Kim Laughlin. You each understand the importance of speaking truth to power when wrongs are recklessly rendered. You are proof that if you stand up for a cause with grace and dignity, change is indeed possible.

I give praise and thanks for parishioners like Natalie Thomas and Kristen Steuber, who are just some of the wonderful volunteers who took on major projects at Trinity last year and then give it their all. Trinity relies on volunteers like you to assume roles that are not Vestry positions, but that are arguably just as critical. We didn't need to concern ourselves with whether you were doing your job. You just did it!

I give praise and thanks for our friends who have left Trinity because they are a part of who we are. You have influenced each of us in many ways. Perhaps with my stepping down as warden, you will find that it might be just the right time for you to return to your church home. You are loved and missed.

I give praise and thanks for the lives of Wally Sellers and Monty Montgomery. They may no longer be with us, but they supported Sue and me in ways that have outlived them and that will serve as a wonderful legacy to their names. And maybe, just maybe, many of our friends who had not returned to Trinity in many months until Monty's funeral will have discovered that Trinity still resonates as their church home.

I give praise and thanks for the Van Slykes. You not only took on the onerous task of leading the stewardship campaign in the most challenging year imaginable, but you are responsible for reintroducing me to 1 Corinthians 13, in which we are reminded of the importance of love: “⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

I give praise and thanks for Trey Wilson for his love and counsel as he lived through all of this with me.

I give praise and thanks for Emory Byrum for all of the stupendously obvious reasons. You see the goodness in Trinity. Love and joy ooze out of your pores, infecting others in such a way that

peace and tranquility and have returned to Trinity in a profound way. You inspire us and you educate us. You're a special pastoral presence that makes us feel cared for. The Vestry showed informed insight in calling you because you are exactly what Trinity needed.

God, I give praise and thanks for Sue Eavenson, Trinity's Junior Warden. Sue, you are an angel. You have never had a hidden agenda; you wear it on your sleeve. All you care about is serving God and doing what is in the best interest of Trinity. In the face of baseless criticism and unfounded accusations, you stayed true and unshaken. Forgiveness and outreach are the norm for you. With you, Trinity was never at risk of having anything fall between the cracks after we lost both our Rector and our Assistant Rector last year. You are a divinely bionic woman who carried this church on your shoulders beyond the term of your office. Trinity will be forever indebted to you.

Finally, I give praise and thanks to everyone who is at Trinity today because your presence is evidence that you have done your part to help Trinity recover, and I thank you for that. Under the leadership of your two presumptive wardens, Dave Griffith and Lorri Perkins, Trinity enters 2010 in good shape to recover further. If we learn to truly default to love in how we engage each other, the road ahead will be nothing but glorious.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent church.

Annual Report for 2009

Junior Warden

As I write my final report to you as the Junior Warden, I reflect on a year filled with many transitions. God has led us through some very challenging times in the life of this parish. I am delighted to report that I believe we are in a very good place right now. Under the dedicated and caring leadership of our interim rector, Rev. Dr. Emory Byrum, we continue to grow and prosper in the love of God and one another in this wonderful faith based community.

We have much to celebrate as we enter a new decade and begin to write the next chapter for Trinity Church. We baptized many new babies and welcomed them into our parish and into the life of Christ. We continue to welcome new families both young and old regularly. It is such a joy to see these new faces in our midst. In June Bishop Michel will confirm and receive new members into the Episcopal Church. Rev. Byrum will provide instruction on the educational process of becoming an Episcopalian. It is my hope that many will take this opportunity to become fully engaged in the church.

With Natalie Thomas at the helm, we had the best house tour since moving to the fall date. Lobsterfest and Mission Philly continue to be the premiere youth outreach projects. Sadly, we did have to say, "Good bye" to Joel Escala who was called to parish ministry closer to home and family. However, we were so fortunate to be able to hire Steve Wilson as our Interim Youth Director. Steve continues to grow and develop the youth and church school programs. What a blessing Steve has been!

There is a renewed energy around volunteerism, the likes of which I have not seen in a very long time! 2010 will have a full roster of vestry members! I can't remember when that has occurred. Look for these

leaders to grow and develop their ministries in the coming months. I urge each and everyone to get involved. Join one of the many ministries that are available. Surely, there is something for everyone.

Under Rev. Byrum and Earlene Austin's watchful eye, pastoral care has reached a new level of Trinity caring for one another. Rev. Byrum's dedication to those in need has been unprecedented. Rev. Byrum began to visit and make pastoral care calls long before his contract had been finalized because he saw that the needs were great.

Trinity's Christian hospitality has returned under the apt leadership of Jane McNeill and her parish life group. Pot luck suppers, Newcomers' Dinners, and A Night to Remember have been robustly embraced by members of the parish. We look for continued opportunities to embrace Trinity fellowship with one another.

Betty Stagg and Jane McNeill assumed the Herculean task of overseeing Cookie Bake and the making of 14,000 cookies. I am happy to report that all the boxes of cookies were sold much to the chagrin of some who did not preorder!

The Spiritual Life Committee under Laura Huestis's leadership has provided spiritual guidance and educational opportunities for the parish throughout the entire year. They continue to look at new ways for all of us to grow in Christ.

Susan Wells and her outreach committee have continued to support those in need both locally and internationally. It is my hope that Trinity will continue to expand our capacity for outreach in the coming year.

Doug McArthur, our treasurer, with the help of the Finance Committee has again done an incredible job. The challenges were many, but this dedicated group never lost faith that God would provide and prevail. Finances will continue to challenge Trinity in 2010.

I could go on and on with all the many blessings that have been given to us this year, but that would leave little room for others, so forgive me if I have not mentioned you directly. Each and every ministry of this Vestry has contributed significantly to the overall well-being of this church and community. Their hours of dedication should be applauded. Please take the time to thank them.

I have no doubt that 2010 will be an exciting time for Trinity. We have much to do before calling a full time rector. It is my hope, however, that we can just enjoy a few moments of God's grace and peace. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Warden. It has been an honor and a challenge. As we move forward together in Christ, I leave you with a scripture from John. I believe that Jesus asks us to follow his example in loving and serving others. Surely, if we follow his commandment, we will remain on a godly course.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13: 34-35

God's peace

Sue Eavenson

Church School - Vestry Liaison, Kim Sager

This year the church school program made some experimental changes. We combined some of the younger classes and radically changed the structure of our 6th-12th grade classes. Through my time at Trinity, as a church school teacher and now as church school vestry liaison, I have seen the class sizes grow and shrink from year to year. As with much of Solebury Township, the population of children at Trinity is growing older. This has made combining classes and teacher resources a prudent use of our dollars and our volunteer man/woman hours.

The structural change that we made to the 6th through 12th grade involved a once monthly meeting of that age group in the chapel. This takes place on the 1st Sunday of each month and is lead by one of our long time church school teachers. On the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month we encourage the young people of this age group to sit together, as a community of faith, in the balcony. On the 3rd Sunday of the month we encourage them to not only attend Youth Eucharist, but to be active participants. These changes were made because we listened to the young people who wanted to be in the sanctuary, together, for the entire service. Although I am cycling off vestry, I am sure Steve Wilson and the new vestry liaison will evaluate this programs success, and take appropriate steps for next year.

The church school community was very fortunate to have the leadership of Steve Wilson this year. Steve was a TYG veteran, but had not previously been involved in the church school community. He has brought his simple loving and caring ways to the church school program, and I think he and the program will continue to flourish.

This year we are blessed with over 20 teachers. Some have been teaching for many years, and several have chosen this as their first steps as volunteers at Trinity. We continued with the curriculum adopted last year, Living the Good News. It has proven to be a positive change, and is very teacher friendly. The church school program is always in need of new teachers, for either a 6 week rotation or as a substitute. If you are interested in pursuing this calling at Trinity, please contact Steve Wilson at [swilson @trinitysolebury.org](mailto:swilson@trinitysolebury.org).

Communications & Technology- Fred Koberna, Vestry Liaison

The Communication & Technology Ministry seeks to facilitate effective communication within the Trinity community and with the wider community in which we live.

Trinity Web Site

The Trinity web site continues to be a valuable communications vehicle for our parish. Debbie Stedman chairs the Web team, which includes Jon Hayward, Bob Boser, Frank Evans and Sue Walsh. The web team is responsible for keeping the site up-to-date with the weekly activities, service leaflets, bulletins and recordings of the sermon. All major events are highlighted on the site's home page to ensure they are broadly communicated to the Trinity family and to the broader community.

Day School Website

Caroline Hacker has graciously offered to implement and maintain a website for the Trinity Day School.

Tidings Newsletter

The *Trinity Tidings* newsletter is the centerpiece of our Trinity communications. We published 10 issues of the *Trinity Tidings* in 2009 (monthly except during July and August).

The Tidings went through a few transitions during the year, with three different editors being responsible for publishing the newsletter. Michelle Summerson stepped down as the Tidings' editor after the February edition. Debbie Stedman took over as an interim editor (in addition to her myriad of other jobs) and was responsible for publishing the March through June editions. Our current Tidings editor is Jim Sontag, who took over with the September issue and is utilizing his creative talents to enhance the look and feel of our newsletter.

In an effort to be responsible stewards of our financial and environmental resources, as well as being mindful of the staff's time, the primary distribution of the Tidings newsletter changed from a mass mailing to an electronic system, effective with the March edition. We did, however, mail the September and December issues, in addition to sending them electronically, in order to ensure that we reached as many people as possible. If you have access to a computer, we would prefer that you receive the Tidings electronically. Alternatively, printed copies are available in the church Narthex. However, if you would like to receive a hard copy of the Tidings through the mail, we will mail it to you at no charge. In order to receive a hard copy each month, please call Debbie Stedman in the church office (215 297-5135 x223) with your request and provide her with your mailing address.

Trinity News emails

Since email has become the principle source of communication for almost all of us, the Trinity email list is an invaluable tool for disseminating information in an efficient and timely manner. Trinity News newsletters, which are coordinated by Debbie Stedman, are emailed on a weekly basis and provide information regarding the week's events. The Trinity email list is also used to disseminate information about major events and announcements. Just this month, Jon Hayward updated the look of the individual emails we send to add the Trinity masthead and give them a more professional appearance.

If your email address is not included in the Trinity distribution list, please provide it to Debbie Stedman at dstedman@trinitysolebury.org.

Vestry Minutes

In order to make the Vestry minutes available to the Parish in a more timely and accessible manner, two changes in the distribution of the minutes were made: 1) the minutes are now available on the main page of the Trinity web site under Recent Publications and 2) a large sized copy of the minutes are displayed on a kiosk in McArthur Hall.

Printed Materials

Jon Hayward partnered with members of other committees to develop a range of printed materials, including the Lobsterfest mailer, poster, sponsorship letter and ad book and the House Tour mailer, poster and tickets. Importantly, Jon created these documents in Microsoft Word, which allows anyone to revise them for use in future years.

Technology

Jon Hayward is also responsible for the "Technology" aspects of this ministry. In addition to managing the web site, Jon was responsible for keeping the office computers running, handling email maintenance, maintaining the computers used for recording the sermons and for the selection and installation of the new Servant Keeper database management software. He also migrated our accounting system from a proprietary package to QuickBooks.

Church Directory

Debbie Stedman contracted with Lifetouch to create a revised Church Directory and coordinated the taking of parishioners' pictures during the summer. Due to staff changes within the company of Lifetouch the directory production has been delayed and is currently under revisions and is expected to be complete and delivered by the end of March.

2010 Objectives

The main objective of Communication & Technology Ministry is to continually improve the overall level of communication with the congregation, both in terms of keeping you up-to-date on key information and decisions and in obtaining feedback from you. Specific objectives for 2010 include:

Recruiting a person to be responsible for updating the content and photos on the web site on a regular basis in order to keep the site accurate and fresh (this is separate from the weekly updating of new events).

Soliciting and obtaining current photos of Trinity events from parishioners to use in the Tidings and web site.

Ensuring that all parishioners and potential new members who have an email address are included in the Trinity email list (or at least one member of the family) in order to increase the breadth of our communication.

Understanding the traffic and use of the web site and its various pages in order to help us prioritize our efforts.

Leveraging the use of the "whitebooks" share sites by all ministries in order to enhance collaboration and efficiencies by being able to easily access both current and historic documents.

Augmenting the effective and thoughtful integration of prospective new members through the use of Servant Keeper.

Ensuring the accuracy of the Parish census reporting to the diocese.

Implementing a website, calendar and Facebook sites for the Trinity Youth Group.

If you have any suggestions that will help us meet these objectives, please feel free to communicate them to Fred Koberna at communications@tinitysolebury.org.

Finance Committee – *Dave Griffith, Vestry Liaison*

The following information is as of 12/31/2009. The day school and cemetery report is not included in this report. Their budgets are available in the parish office.

Given the challenges of 2009 with the economy and rector transitions, our parish is in very strong financial condition. With respect to the balance sheet, please note that as of 12/31/2009 between checking and our investment accounts we had \$241,803.00 on hand.

We had an outstanding mortgage loan balance of \$245,420.00 with an annual obligation of \$41,000/year. We have restricted funds balance of \$179,110.00 and unrestricted funds balance of \$97,429.00.

Through 2009, we had income of \$568,092 and expense of \$576,286 for a operating loss of \$8194.00. or a 1.4% variance. 60% of our expenses were associated with personnel and 24.9% of our expense went to building and physical plant. The remaining 15% went to ministries and outreach. Given the decline in revenues of \$59,000 from budget the staff and Vestry did an excellent job of managing expenses while maintaining an extraordinary range of programs and ministries. Obviously the entire parish contributed time, talent and treasure to making Trinity the vibrant community it is.

We anticipate a 2010 budget of \$578,000 in revenues and expenses in the range of \$602,500 for a budget with an operating loss of \$25,000. We will present the challenge budget at the annual meeting. While we have unrestricted funds available, these funds are clearly intended for significant financial emergencies or emergency community outreach. You never know when a boiler blows or a flood affects the community. Frankly, we see several opportunities for a break even budget.

Pledge income is currently at \$427,000 and plate is forecasted at \$73,000. This represents some 131 families out of a potential 251 families. With our pledge target of \$550,000.00, if achieved, we could significantly grow our outreach and ministries once the operating loss is reduced well beyond current budget.

So, the bottom line? We are in strong financial shape and can operate securely; but we have the opportunity to significantly grow our ministries and outreach efforts beyond current levels with pledge growth. That is why we call this a challenge budget.

Finance committee meets the second Monday of the month and is open to all members of the parish and if you have an interest, your participation in this ministry is most welcome.

Trinity 2009 Actual Performance

Revenues

Pledge	\$ 396,070.00
Plate	\$ 91,822.00
Fundraising	\$ 48,597.00
Restricted	\$ -
Other	\$ 31,601.00
	\$ 568,090.00

Expenses

		Percent of Revenues
Personnel	\$ 341,623.00	60%
Property	\$ 99,308.00	17%
Office	\$ 45,900.00	8%
Ministry	\$ 11,741.00	2%
Outreach *	\$ 33,578.00	6%
Professional Fees	\$ 1,686.00	0%
Debt	\$ 42,440.00	7%
	\$ 576,276.00	
	\$ (8,186.00)	

* \$7500 also from restricted went to outreach

Also note \$5780 did not get reflected in 2009 pledge as in was booked in 1/2010 as it came in.

Trinity 2010's "Challenge" Budget

Revenues

Pledge	\$ 428,500.00
Plate	\$ 74,500.00
Fundraising	\$ 46,500.00
Restricted	\$ 6,000.00
Other	\$ 28,000.00
	\$ 583,500.00

Expenses

		Percent of Revenues
Personnel	\$ 323,900.00	56%
Property	\$ 111,000.00	19%
Office	\$ 51,000.00	9%
Ministry	\$ 23,600.00	4%
Outreach	\$ 52,100.00	9%
Professional Fees	\$ 6,000.00	1%
Debt	\$ 41,000.00	7%
	\$ 608,600.00	

\$ (25,100.00) *

\$ 0

Additions to Ministry
and Outreach

Comments: *

1. Plate at \$74500 vs. \$ 91000 in 2009
2. Pledges do not reflect some 100 pledge units
3. We have \$91,000 in unrestricted rainy day fund available as a buffer
4. We finished last year essentially break even, down \$8K, but with \$5780 late pledges in January.

Challenge Budget: as in we have the faith to do the following:

1. Raise long time employees 4% after 3 year freeze
2. Add \$7500 to building maintenance to avoid trouble later.
3. Add funding to ministries as requested, \$11859.
4. Add \$2500 to outreach.
5. Anticipate a \$6000 professional fee if required.
6. Hold other spending at 2009 levels. Address plowing and insurance increases.
7. Be in position when we close gap, to fund dollar for dollar ministry and outreach above current challenge budget levels.

Note detailed budget, P&L and balance sheet are available to any parish member in the parish office and the finance committee chair or wardens are happy to address any questions on this at any time.

Governance – *Dave Rees, Vestry Liaison*

The Governance Ministry is responsible for the following:

- Ensuring that Trinity has and abides by accurate by-laws
- Ensuring an orderly process for nominating parishioners to the Vestry
- Leading Trinity in an evaluation of its mission statement
- Strategic planning

Activities in 2009

The Governance Ministry accomplished three goals this year. First, we reviewed and updated Trinity's by-laws and recommended revised by-laws to the Vestry. The by-law's work is continuing as it incorporates comments on the recommended changes from the Vestry. Seven individuals represent the Parish on the by-law committee. They are:

- Earlene Austin
- Allen Black
- Russell Keep
- David Griffiths
- Jeff Nicholas
- Betty Stagg
- Patrick Summers

Second, the Governance Ministry revised the process for nominating members of the Parish for election to the Vestry. The new process ensures that parishioners know who nominees are and why they're qualified for Vestry service. It also ensures that parishioners have information about individuals who may be nominated from the floor of the annual meeting.

Third, as required by Trinity's by-laws, the Governance Ministry convened a Nominating Committee to identify individuals who have an interest in and qualifications for Vestry service. The Committee began its work in October and recommended a slate of nominees to the Vestry in January 2010. The Nominating Committee members:

- The Reverend Emory Byrum (Chair)
- Inez Bing
- John Daukus
- Dave Rees
- Kim Saeger
- Matt Summers
- Bill Wolfe

Outreach – *Susan Wells, Vestry Liaison*

The Outreach Committee seeks to demonstrate care for all people throughout God's world utilizing our principal parish resources: time, talent, and treasure. Everyone is encouraged to participate in its activities. Serving communities both locally and globally, the various outreach ministries have had very a successful year. This is largely due to the willing hands and open hearts of individuals who lead and support programs in which they have a special interest and calling.

Locally, time, talent and treasure were devoted especially to Peace Meal, Aid for Friends, Fisherman's Mark, the Delaware Valley Interfaith Food Pantry, Pearl Street Kids (a TYG Outreach event), and individual efforts for Habitat for Humanity and other projects. Major additional disbursements are noted below.

PEACE MEAL

- Monthly dinners and community building opportunities are provided at Trinity, Solebury, for those with HIV/AIDS.
- Chef Paul Licitra (owner of the Tuscany restaurant on the Towpath) continues to organize the menu, shopping lists, and cook the entrees.
- Volunteers from Trinity Solebury, St. Phillip's and Trinity Buckingham bring side dishes and desserts, set up and take down the room. Barrie Summers makes calls, Henry Ford arranges entertainment, Sean Tucker and the Wolfs shop and all join together in a great shared meal.

AID FOR FRIENDS

- In 2009, Over 400 meals were made, packaged and delivered by the folks engaged in Aid for Friends at Trinity.
- Cinda Ball plans menus and organizes a group of @ 14 to bring ingredients and cook. Helen and Monty Montgomery have been delivering the meals to the Doylestown Food Pantry from which they are delivered to the isolated homebound.

FISHERMAN'S MARK

- Herb and Joy Haines lead this effort. Weekly food offerings are brought by parishioners and are taken to Lambertville. Up to 900 people a month are served. All members of the parish are requested to bring food (flyers of suggested items are on the harvest table in the narthex).
- TYG raised money and bought Christmas gifts for children served here. Steve Wilson organized and ran this event.

DELAWARE VALLEY INTER-FAITH COUNCIL/ Lambertville Food Pantry #2

- Deborah Faust and Barrie and Patrick Summers are attending the meetings. Deborah is our point person to the shifting leadership of the food pantry and reports on the meetings.
- The focus of this pantry is women and children: about 1200 people a month are served.
- Souper Bowl Sunday 2009 at Trinity raised \$625.00 for this effort.

PEARL STREET KIDS

- Trinity Youth Group raised funds @ 1200.00 and bought Christmas gifts for children involved in the Mission Philadelphia Project. Steve Wilson organized and ran this event.

MISSION PHILADELPHIA

- About 40 members of the Trinity Youth Group went to Philadelphia and, with the help of local residents and members of St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, spent a week working on existing projects. Please see the youth ministry report.

Globally, Trinity members are deeply committed to reaching out to those in need of education, medical care, and economic /community development. Particularly exciting this year was our Missioner Kyle Evans' work in Haiti. Please see her report.

Mwamba Church Ministries International Scholarship Program for Students

- Sally Drayer and Kyle Evans co-ordinate this ministry.
- Currently, 28 students in Kitale, Kenya, are supported by Trinity members, organizations and friends. The majority of the secondary school students are young women orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- The \$400.00 scholarships provide room, board and education. This is life and world changing; parishioners are urged to contact Sally Drayer about this ministry and, even partially, support a student.

Tabasamu

- Trey Wilson organizes, enlists volunteers and fundraises for Tabasamu, a dental outreach project. The mission of Tabasamu to provide dental care, support and education in Haiti and/or Kitale, Kenya.
- The 2009 Tabasamu Mission was to Haiti; this was in conjunction with Kyle's work.
- As of 12/2009, Trey had planned to Haiti in @ May, 2010.

Mayan Hands and [Juan Ana](#) Free- Trade Coffee

- Andrew Powell organized and ran a very successful program this winter; fair –trade Guatemalan crafts were available to two local churches.
- These items enable families to begin to raise themselves from extreme poverty and give them hope
- Guatemalan coffee is available to purchase in MacArthur Hall.

Seamen's Institute

- Jean Evans maintained and organized the knitting and collection of caps for the Seamen's institute along with a knitted doll project for Haiti.
- Jean also organized a drive, collected, and with Frank, delivered used men's clothing To the seamen's institute in Philadelphia

End of Year Disbursements Beyond Those Areas Noted Above:

A. A Woman's Place	\$2,000
B. Fisherman's Mark Lambertville	\$500.
C. Bucks County Opportunity Council	\$1,000.
D. The Free Clinic of Doylestown	\$ 500.
E. Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad	\$ 200.

(first responder to Trinity in an emergency)	
F. Eagle Firehouse	
(first responder to Trinity in an emergency)	\$200.
G. Samaritan Counseling Center	\$150.
H. Bucks County Housing Group	\$1,000.
I. FISH (Doylestown Area)	\$1,000.
J. Covenant House (Bed & Blanket Matching Fund)	\$250.
K. Episcopal Community Services	\$ 250.

2010 Objectives: The Outreach Ministry looks forward to greater hands on engagement by Trinity parishioners: focusing projects to the talents of Trinity and the needs of our local and global community remains in our hopes and dreams!

Specifically:

- Trinity is actually working with the Millennium Goals but these can be more effectively communicated to the parish and people given an opportunity to adopt/engage in interesting and necessary work.
- Mwamba scholarships need a clearer time-line and security
- Haitian relief and the Tabasamu effort should be vigorously promoted
- Peacemeal leadership is in the process of changing: parish-wide support for this ministry is desired
- We must clarify the needs and opportunities of the 2 Lambertville food pantries we serve and focus our time and donations more specifically
- Habitat and Habitat Disaster Relief are among the organizations we would like to actively support.

Parish Life – *Jane McNeill, Vestry Liaison*

We started off the year with monthly Pot Luck Dinners which were enthusiastically attended. We were all so happy to be together. Folks of all ages came to join in the fun. These will continue throughout the upcoming year as well.

Newcomers held three dinners as well, with the friendly leadership of Megg King and Trey Wilson, welcoming a total of 20 families for a total of 48 new members.

The House Tour this year was spectacular under the leadership of Natalie Thomas and an able committee. We had lovely houses and a very successful lunch at the Carversville Inn. We sold many more tickets this year than ever before (since we moved it from Christmas), so we were very pleased all went so well.

Cookie Bake, too, was a great success. Our pre-orders have been a great tool for us on the planning side. We also trained quite a few new “Day Chairs” and that system seems to work well. We even had a few non-parishioners come and help. They all loved the fellowship, and commented on how warm and welcoming everyone was.

Hospitality continues to do a great job under Cinda Ball's capable hands. The busiest time for the that Committee is around Easter with Agape Supper, the Vigil reception and Easter Sunday. Their contribution doesn't end there and the committee is happy to jump in whenever needed.

Aid for Friends is flourishing under the guidance of Cinda Ball. It has grown to a great number of people who help. They put together between 50-60 meals a month that are taken to Doylestown Pres. Church for distribution.

This year, we formed a "Funeral Committee" along with Pastoral Care. This set guidelines that we put in place will be helpful to families needing answers to questions. We hope that we will make this painful process a little less easier to navigate.

Also, new this year is our "Coffee Committee". Under the guidance of Betsy Thomas and Barbara Yount, they take care of obtaining all the supplies necessary for our Coffee Hours and schedule folks to take care of washing the tablecloths on a monthly basis. It's one of those thankless jobs that is necessary, but one ever thinks about it. It just "gets done". Thanks so much to Betsy and Barbara.

All in all this has been a very positive year. I think the Parish as a whole has pulled together in both worship and Parish Life. I feel very positive energy and growing love for each other. I look forward to an even more energized year next year. Thank you all for everything you do.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to Parish Life this year. It is a very long list, and whether the contribution is small or large every effort is appreciated and cherished.

Pastoral Care – *Earlene Austin, Vestry Liaison*

2009 was a challenging year in many ways. We had one rector leave and several interactions with the Philadelphia Diocese in the appointment of our current interim rector. In addition, several parishioners have left but we have also had several new parishioners begin their worship at Trinity.

Whenever there is transition or change in a congregation, it is difficult to ascertain the "temperature" of the people. Suffice to say we have been weathering the storm and, I believe, have reached a level plane on which to continue to build our membership and our finances.

The Pastoral Care Providers have met monthly since February 2009. This is a strong group of people (30+) who are committed to the well-being of the parish and of each other. We meet to discuss parishioners' concerns and needs as often as required and this has resulted in the resurrection of several activities. We have re-instituted the Laying on of Hands for a parishioner who is facing surgery, we have reached out to sister parishes to share resources, we have held retreats and day-trainings for our Pastoral Care Providers.

The Pastoral Care ministry touches every other ministry on the Vestry.

Together we share strengths and skills, opportunities and support. Our prayer list speaks volumes of who needs our prayers and comfort and we have been blessed with the energy and focus of so many to keep this list accurate and vital.

With our interim rector who has provided a guiding light to the needs of our parish, we have been able to move forward in the daily operation of a healthy and active church. Our rector, along with the Providers, send cards and visit parishioners on a regular basis to bring Holy Eucharist, healing, comfort and cookies!

The Ministry Fair in October further educated the congregation of the activities of each of our ministries and, I believe, new and veteran members were surprised and pleased to learn about how they can participate. We have added youth members to our Pastoral Care team as well as new members and those who heretofore were on the fence.

It is heartwarming to meet with these wonderful people on a consistent basis to ease the burden of need while sharing in the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters.

If you feel a call to Pastoral Care, please let me know: 215.208.5128 or email: Earlene1211@comcast.net.

Property – *Richard Dodds, Vestry Liaison*

In 2009 the Property Committee was in maintenance mode. Activities such as the spring and fall cleanup as well as changing light bulbs were focused around the ability of a handful of individuals to participate. The committee numbers have dwindled following the turmoil of 2008-2009. With that said, the focus in the year to come will include a heavy recruitment campaign.

Planned for 2010 are:

- Painting of MacArthur Hall
- Repairing the ceiling leak in the downstairs men's bathroom – then repairing the ceiling.
- Repair and painting of the North wall of the chapel.
- Spring and Fall outdoor clean-up.
- Continued replacement of light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs.
- Reworking the drainage across the driveway near the education wing entrance.
- Planning the future of the garage.
- Continued maintenance contracts on all HVAC equipment.
- Recruitment of individuals to the cemetery and property committees.
- Recruiting individuals willing to take leadership roles in both the cemetery and property committees.

Any and all are welcome and encouraged to participate in Property Committee activities. If you have an interest in building maintenance, know where to purchase supplies (oil, paper products,... etc) inexpensively, or know how to use a screw driver – the Property Committee needs you. Most importantly, this year we will need to find individuals who will serve as the Vestry Liaison to the Property and Cemetery committees.

Spiritual Life Ministry – *Laura Huestis, Vestry Liaison*

The mission of the Spiritual Life Ministry is to offer opportunities for each member of Trinity to deepen his/her spirituality and to grow in knowledge of the Bible, the Episcopal Church and Christianity in the world.

In 2009, the Spiritual Life Ministry lived into its mission statement by offering the following opportunities for spiritual enrichment:

1. Parish Book Study – “St. Benedict’s Toolbox” by Jane Tomaine – Committee
2. Monastic Retreat – Jesuit Center at Wernersville – Mariclaire Partee
3. Forum on Guatemala - Mary Miller
4. Mindfulness Meditation Program – Jeff Harrison
5. Centering Prayer – Ongoing -Meeting weekly
6. Lenten Quiet Day – Ginny Sheay – on George Herbert
7. Parenting Workshop – Nancy Harrison
8. Spiritual Spa Day – Organized by Inez Bing and Sue Eavenson
9. Spiritual Yoga – Ardith Talbot – offered both summer and winter
10. Inquirer’s Class – Emory Byrum
11. Monastic Retreat at Holy Cross – Earlene Austin was the shepherd for the group
12. Special Forums - Katie Gorkha – November 8th – Understanding Islam
13. Advent Book Table – Susan Wells and the Committee
14. Advent Quiet Day – Susan Wells – From the Annunciation to the Magnificat – Angels as Messengers of God
15. Parish Book Study – “The Heart of Christianity” by Marcus Borg– Emory Byrum

Committee Members: Laura Huestis, Chair; Inez Bing, Barrie Summers, Patrick Summers, Sue Walsh, Sue Eavenson, Sandy Ryon, Ardith Talbott, Anita Howard, Susan Wells, Lisa Leydon, Caroline Oakes McCarthy.

All are invited to attend meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of each month at 5:45pm in the Rectory.

Stewardship – *Erik Van Slyke, Honorary Chair*

This past year was a year of transition for the Stewardship Ministry, and for much of the year we operated without a Vestry Liaison. As a result, our focus for the second half was centered solely on the Stewardship Campaign and securing the pledges needed to meet our financial requirements for 2010.

This fall we had a pledge goal of \$550,000 and 185 families, and finished our campaign with pledges of \$427,417, representing 134 families. While on the surface we fell short of our objective, this actually represents a tremendous result.

- Last year we had 178 families pledge \$454,000.
- This year we had 44 fewer families pledge, but received only \$27,000 less than last year.
- Our average pledge increased by 25%, from \$2,550.56 to \$3,189.79. This is not the result of one or two large gifts. It represents an increase that is evenly distributed across our pledging families.
- We gained 26 new pledging families. This began to offset the 40 regular pledging families we lost to moves, changing church preferences or other circumstances.
- Many families who have pledged in the past, and who want to pledge again, were unable to make a commitment this year. This is significantly the result of the challenges in our national and local economies. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers.
- We received a remarkable \$90,000 in the offering plate this year.

Given all that has taken place during the past year in the economy and in our parish, I think we can say that Trinity has joyful and dedicated givers. So, in keeping with our Step Up and Reach Out stewardship theme, Trinity clearly Stepped Up.

As we look toward the upcoming year, the our first objective is to rebuild a Stewardship Committee and renew our energy and commitment to our broader stewardship objectives. By moving forward together in faith and love we will find abundant ways to welcome and apply the gifts of time, talent and treasure needed to sustain our vibrant community.

Trinity Day School – *Valerie Jopling, Vestry Liaison*

Trinity celebrates another joy-filled year echoing with children's laughter and play!

I love to see the kids learning those important pre-school skills from our nurturing and devoted teachers. I feel blessed to be a part of this special Christian-based school.

Since last year's annual meeting we held a wonderful Monte Carlo fund raising event. With the \$6,000. profit we managed to do a serious overhaul with the mulch on the playground making it comfortable and safe for all of the children who play outside here at Trinity. As for the '08 -'09 year, financially we closed out at a close to break even point.

The '09 -'10 school year has challenged us with our lowest enrollment in 10 years with only 42 students. Other pre-schools in the region have been similarly affected by a down economy and slowed population growth in New Hope/Solebury. We prepared and passed a deficit budget and will cover it with reserves from past successful years. We are constantly evaluating ourselves to cut costs and to stay current and competitive with other area pre-schools. In an effort to meet the needs of the community, we've extended our hours adding lunch to the daily routine. We've also implemented a Mommy and Me class – inviting moms and their younger children to join the Trinity Day School fold. We're very excited about this new program and ask you to please get the word out!

This year, with only a few students enrolled in our Kindergrow class (designed for the older 4 year or younger 5 year olds who may not quite be ready for Kindergarten), we combined them with the 4 year old – five day program and have seen wonderful results for all of the children involved. The younger ones learn from the older children (only the good behaviors!) and the older ones get a chance to be the teacher's helpers. We maintain classes for 3 and 4 year olds who come 3 days a week (or more) and in our Toddlergrow program (for 2 ½ year olds) there is never a dull moment!

Given the low enrollment for this year, a group of parents joined together to create a marketing committee in order to raise money for advertising. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of the Day School parents, a bake sale was born and creative and delicious baked goods came in droves earning us \$700. With that money we have, put ads in the local papers, and created our very own website. High praise to the parent who has taken this task on and is busy creating our new look!

Coming up please join us on March 6th for a WINE TASTING fundraiser in coordination with the parish. Usually this money goes toward the betterment of the school, affording us to maintain the school and grounds but this year it will likely go toward decreasing the deficit. We ask that you come and enjoy one another and support Trinity's Day School at this new and exciting event.

Lastly I ask you to spread the word of Trinity Day School – tell them about the beautiful school that has been teaching our community's children for more than 50 years with nurturing and loving education.

Trinity Youth Group – *John Daukas, Vestry Liaison*

If this sounds like last year, it is because this year has once again been a blessing and a challenge. Our “new” permanent youth director last year, Joel Esala, had several wonderful things happen last year, the opportunity to become a priest, and the opportunity to move back home to Ohio. We wish him the best of Luck. We also would like to welcome our new interim Youth Director who started in September. Since I don't think that anyone at Trinity doesn't know Steve Wilson, I think it is safe to say we are blessed with his leadership. We had another wonderful year at the Fall Retreat at Mench Mill and with the Youth group Christmas events. As you read this, the Annual Ski Trip will have just finished and from the preliminary planning sounds like it will be wonderful. In the near future, we can expect the Passion Reading, Stations of the Cross, Tenebrae, the Spring Retreat at Mench Mill (which includes Senior Sendoff and the ever popular theme dance), Lobster Fest and finally Mission Philadelphia.

The budget for the year is once again finalized and planning is progressing for both Lobster Fest and Mission Philadelphia. After the wonderful results of last years Mission Philly and the huge amounts of produce the gardens generated, the planning team has a challenge ahead in trying to top last years results. Fortunately there is an extremely talented group working being led by George Kuebrich and a host of TYG alumni for the preparations. Initial concepts for the gardens in Philadelphia are still undergoing review and revisions by the team and look spectacular.

Since this is my last report as the Youth Vestry Liaison (my term is ending), I like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the youth of the church and would encourage everyone to become an active participant in the youth programs.

Worship & Music - *Sandy Ryon, Vestry Liaison*

The Worship & Music Ministry was established in 2008. The following mission statement was created to define its purpose:

It is the mission of the Worship & Music ministry to make sure that all worship and music glorifies, proclaims, and ministers the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to glorify God and all the teachings set forth by the Bible in the spirit of the Book of Common Prayer. The committee acts as an advisory body to the Clergy and Music Director at Trinity Church.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to the ministries that are represented by the following leaders:

Acolytes - Jeff Harrison - Jeff stepped into this job with energy and enthusiasm. With Emory's help, he has recruited and trained young people in grades 5-12 who assist in numerous parts of the service. This ministry seems to be running more smoothly than it ever has.

Altar Guild - Phyllis Mathieu - Phyllis has done a great job training new members. She can always be counted on to step in to fill any gaps ensuring that the altar is always appropriately prepared.

Chalice Bearers/Lectors - Bill Wolf - We thank Bill for recruiting, training and scheduling Chalice Bearers who serve during the Eucharist and Lectors who read the Lessons and Prayers of the People each week.

Flower Guild - Betsy Thomas - Betsy has stepped up to chair the Flower Guild. This wonderful group of talented ladies (men are also welcome!) share their talent by creating beautiful flower arrangements for our services. Betsy is responsible for scheduling, following up on memorials, and donations to maintain this ministry. We welcome Betsy!

Music Ministries - Tim Harrell, Organist and Choir Master - Tim oversees all of Trinity's music programs and has earned us a well-deserved reputation for the exceptional quality of it.

Usher Guild - Michael Wheelan - Michael has recently become our Head Usher. He will be in charge of helping to train those serving in this important ministry. Thanks also to **Karen Dewar** for continuing to do the scheduling for the ushers!

Worship & Music Ministry - We appreciate the valuable input of the rest of the committee who loyally attend the meetings and offer their ideas and advice. Thank you...Whitney Chandor, Sue Eavenson, Gretchen Hampt, Linda Kenyon, Josh Opdyke, and Susan Wells.

Accomplishments 2009:

My term as Worship and Music liaison to the Vestry began mid-stream in April. Happily it coincided with the arrival of Emory as our Interim Rector. As I reported at the Mutual Ministry Review in November, this is a strong and dedicated committee that has essentially been rebuilt. It has been

extremely gratifying to observe how willing our parishioners are to step up and take on time consuming responsibilities. We have worked hard, with Emory's leadership, to be sure that we're in compliance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Some changes that have occurred at the recommendation of this Ministry are the elimination of the 11:30 service, the scheduling of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday of the month and Inquirers classes for newcomers. More of an effort is being made to maintain quiet in the Sanctuary, particularly before the services.

To do in 2010:

We will make every effort to publicize the function of each guild or sub-ministry within Worship & Music with the hope of encouraging new members.

Parish Administrator – *Debbie Stedman*

2009 was a full year of many emotions and changes in staff. Rev. Marshall Shelly left his position in January, Rev. Mariclaire Partee left to go to another church in Bethlehem, PA in March, Joel Escala, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries was called to another church closer to his home in Ohio, July to be a Pastor in Youth Ministries, and yes I lost another secretary, Lynne Benson. And if those changes were not enough, I also lost another Editor to Tidings, Michelle Summerson. But as they say, "with every bad thing that happens something good will come along." That is so true. Rev. Emory Byrum was and is the best thing that has happened to our Staff here at Trinity. We as a staff were very happy to hear that he had accepted the position as Interim Rector and we were also united when we felt the disappointment and hurt of those parishioners who were trying to stop his licensing at the Diocese. All good things came through and Emory was granted his license and we now had a leader to help put the office back into order. We also hired a Interim of Youth and Family Ministries, Mr. Steve Wilson. Steve has been a great addition to our staff. Joining the staff in November was Jane Ellen Nugent our newest Parish Secretary. She too has been a great addition. If you have not met Jane Ellen yet, please stop into the office and give her a warm welcome. I am also happy to say that Jim Sontag, a parishioner at Trinity stepped up to be the Editor. Thank goodness he has been a true "God Send" and a savior to my sanity. Anne Yarnall, Financial Secretary has been with Trinity for the past 6 years and continues to do a great job with keeping up with all the financials. This year Anne changed financial programs from our old ACS (Automated Church Systems) to QuickBooks with the help of Jon Hayward and Julie Loftus. This new change has allowed the Financial Reports to be more easily read. Ed Goeller, Sexton for Trinity continues to clean the church to best of his abilities within the 28 hours that he is here. Many parishioners have come to me to tell me of how happy they are that he is here and what a nice job he is doing. Tim Harrell, Director of Music my other staple co-worker has been here for over 11 years. Tim was a great support during the time when we there was no Parish Secretary. He help layout the bulletins with the correct Liturgy and Music. We worked as a team to continue to produce the Sunday bulletins.

As with our volunteers you could not find the most loving, caring and loyal group of women. There too we have had some turnovers, but we have also gained a few new volunteers who I continue to challenge their computer skills. Some have been taught the new census program (Servant Keeper) that was installed in January. They are able to update census information from the computer that they have on their desk.

The mailing group that has been a part of Trinity for many years has been not too active since we decided to email the Tidings 3 times a year, but when they get together it's like "old homes week". It's wonderful to hear them tell their stories and enjoy their time here in the office. If you would like to have your Tidings mailed to your home instead of having it emailed to you please call me and I will add your name to the mailing list.

Twice a year the staff and the volunteers enjoy each other's company by having a Christmas Luncheon hosted by the staff as well as a mid-year gathering at Betty Stagg's house. At that time we share lunch and discuss any concerns of the volunteers and introduce any new volunteers or staff.

There are a few slots available during the week that need to be filled. If anyone is available please contact me at 215-297-5135 or Betty Stagg who is our Volunteer Coordinator at 215-297-5707.

As your Parish Administrator for the past 8 years I would like to thank all those who have been here to support the staff these past few years. It is your love and support as a community that gives us the joy to work for you. So, Thank you!