



2011 Annual Report

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And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, those who have been called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28

You are invited to join the congregation of Trinity
Sunday, February 19th, 2012, 12:00 P.M.
for a time of fellowship, praise for God's blessings
in 2011 and a glimpse into 2012.

The annual meeting will follow the morning worship service.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to:

- 1) **Receive** annual reports filed by Church committees including accounts of Church finances as of December 31, 2011 and the 2012 Church Budget, and approve minutes of the 2011 Congregational meeting of February 13th, 2011; and
- 2) **Hear** other informational items which the Pastor and the Session wish to share with the congregation.

In preparation for this time of celebration, please **read** this Annual Report, **direct** any questions and suggestions to session members and **pray** for our congregation as we enter 2012.

GUIDE FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

CALL OF A MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Active Members) shall be held on the second Sunday in February or such other Sunday in February as may be determined and called for by the Session, with due notice. The business of the meeting may include annual reports from governing bodies; financial reports from the preceding year; the current-year budget; changes in the terms of call for the pastor(s); and such other business as may be specified in the meeting notice.

Adequate public notice of all congregational meetings shall be given. Congregations shall provide by their own rule for minimum notification requirements and give notice at regular services of worship prior to the meeting. (G-1.0502)

Special meetings of the Congregation may be called and conducted as provided in the Book of Order. The Session may call a special meeting of the Congregation by giving due notice of the meeting time and place and the business to be conducted.

All congregational meetings may deal with both corporate and ecclesiastical matters.

QUORUM: Congregations shall provide by their own rule the quorum necessary to conduct business (G-1.0501). Trinity has 235 active members and continues to use the ten percent of active members as a quorum.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY: All active members of the congregation present at the annual meeting are entitled to vote. (G-10501).

MODERATOR: The Pastor shall serve as Moderator of meetings of the Congregation. The Pastor is not a member of the Congregation and may not vote at meetings of the Congregation. (G-1.0504).

MINUTES: The Clerk of the Session shall serve as secretary for all meetings of the congregation. The secretary shall record the actions of the congregation in minutes of the meeting. (G-1.0505).

REPORTS: All organizations of the church report to the Session, and Session submits the reports to the congregation at the annual meeting. The annual report is presented in written form for all members at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

BUDGET: The constitution gives the authority over the budget to the Session, not the congregation. The Session may, and should, report the budget to the congregation for information. Action by the congregation for changes in the budget on any item except the salary of the Pastor and Associate Pastor should properly be referred to the Session for its consideration.

POWERS OF A CONGREGATION: The governing principle of the Presbyterian Church is representative democracy. The powers of a congregation essentially are:

1. To elect a nominating committee to nominate a pastor, to elect a pastor, and to approve terms for the call annually.
2. To elect representatives to the nominating committee for nominating church officers (Bylaws Article VI, Section 1), and to elect church officers.
3. To establish its own rules (bylaws) in harmony with the Book of Order.
4. To act upon any matter which the Session properly brings before it.
5. To inform Presbytery of any matter properly needing action of that body.

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2011
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting was opened at 11:45 am with prayer by Elder Marjorie Haun.

The Annual Report for 2010 was received with the addition of the wedding of Deborah Kraft and Karl Bruening on March 20, 2010 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. It was officiated by Reverend Tom Letts.

The 2010 financial report and the 2011 budget were presented by Lee Huskey. Discussion followed on the state of Trinity's finances. Concerns were aired over the lack of a choir director, decrease in the administrative hours, the loss of monies for brass at the worship services, and the decrease in our Presbytery giving. It was agreed that the financial state of the church would be communicated to the congregation on a more regular basis.

The pastors' 2011 compensation package was approved.

Assessment of ministry tools are being explored and will be put in place this year.

James Kirkland was elected for a 1st term and Lee Huskey for a 2nd term to the board of Elders.

The following members were elected to the Deacons:

Todd Carter
Tim Holliday
Ames and Connie Luce (shared position)

The following members were elected to the nominating team:

Richard Wilson
Suzie Longacre
Pam Tonora

The position of Fellowship Elder remains vacant at this time.

The meeting was closed with small group prayer lead by Rev. Tom Letts and the singing of the Doxology at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by,
Deb Normandin, Recording Secretary

Attested to,
Connie Nebesky, Clerk of Session

Administration Report

Lee Huskey, Administration Elder

Three teams are included in the Administration Report. Buildings and Grounds, Personnel, and Finance are the responsibility of the Administration Elder.

Buildings and Grounds

Committee members: Roland Van Doorne (ELT), Jeff Bentz, Jim Gill, Ed Cowling, John Russell, Dean Southam, Karl Bruening

The Buildings and Grounds Committee worked on upkeep of our building, replacing lights, fixing plumbing, and other minor repairs required for an aging building.

This year our major project was to respond to the Fire Department's safety inspection of our building. This involved activities such as replacing emergency lighting, installing signage, and repairs in the furnace rooms. Various groups got involved in painting projects both inside and outside the building.

Teams were set up for mowing the lawn, shoveling the snow, and opening and closing the building each Sunday.

Thanks to everyone who participated in maintaining and repairing the Church this year. Please let someone on the team know if you are interested in helping to care for our building in the coming year.

Personnel

Committee members: Jim Gill (ELT), Mary Anne Southam, and Karen Gordon

Trinity works to provide a workplace in which employees are able to grow both professionally and spiritually. Central to this is an environment where the staff feels free to discuss job concerns. The Personnel Team has attempted to create these conditions by staying in touch with the staff and their concerns. Throughout the year we have conducted reviews with the non-ordained staff. The reviews provide an opportunity to promote staff growth and address concerns as well as celebrate personal accomplishments. The team worked extensively with Megan Holliday refining her role at Trinity and supporting her long term educational goals.

The Personnel Team helped in the recruitment of Barb Clubb as a replacement for Lisa Darnell as the Pastor's Assistant. We thank Lisa for her many years of service and welcome Barb to the staff.

We have been blessed with a staff that is both efficient and sacrificial. We have also been fortunate to have had minimum staff turnover. The non-ordained staff include: Abby Carter (Worship Arts Assistant), Cam Cartland (Worship Arts Director), Barb Clubb (Pastor's Assistant), Laurie Tweit (Church Administrator), Megan Holliday (Children's Ministry), Alison Lausten (Website Administrator), and Yvonne LaChar (Nursery Caregiver).

ADMINISTRATION REPORT CONTINUED...

The personnel team also helped in the preparation of the personnel budget for 2012.

The non-ordained staff often serves Trinity “behind the scenes.” When you see them be sure to add your thanks to ours for a job done well.

Finance

Committee members: Susan Reynolds (ELT), Lori Johnston, Rick McCrorie.

Finance officers: Lori Johnston (Treasurer) and Bob White (Finance Clerk)

The finance team provides oversight and guidance on Trinity’s budget. The finance team has developed and continues to improve on a set of spending guidelines that give direction on spending to everyone who has spending authority.

The team also monitors monthly spending and income and makes this information available to session on a regular basis. This information compares spending and income to the current budget and to past years. These efforts, in past years, have defined significant year-long trends in both giving and spending. Tracking serves as an early warning system for any potential budget problems. This year the finance information has been delivered to session in a timely fashion.

In 2010 Trinity introduced on-line giving as an option for offerings. Information about online giving can be found on the Trinity website. We continue to monitor online participation as it grows as a means of giving. The team maintains the gift policy and its associated forms are available on the website.

In addition to their service on the team, we want to thank Lori and Bob for the time they contribute as Treasurer and Finance Clerk.

The following chart compares Trinity’s spending for 2011 with the budget for that year. These numbers do not include spending on ‘Gifts and Memorials’ or Special Offerings. When these two items are included Trinity’s Total Expenditure in 2011 was \$743,644.

Trinity’s total income for 2011 was \$762,965. Our 2011 income was \$35,624 more than in 2010. Trinity increased its savings in 2011 by almost \$15,000, ending with a cash balance of \$211,820. Thank you for your tithes and offerings.

A Budget vs. Spending Comparison follows on the next page. The 2012 Budget will be included as an addendum to this report.

Trinity Fiscal Comparison 2011
Budget versus Actual Spending

	Total Actual Expenditure 2011	Total Budgeted Expenditure 2011
Personnel	\$427,473	\$421,516
Office Expenses**	\$89,500	\$73,531
Buildings and Grounds	\$70,477	\$79,204
Special Ministries	\$25,998	\$24,945^
Worship	\$20,400	\$11,052
Connections, Discipleship, and Ministry	\$13,592	\$20,230
Mission/Outreach	\$75,504	\$78,669
Total Spending*	\$722,943	\$709,147

*Net of Gifts and Memorials and Special Offerings. Includes direct and general fund spending.

** includes member services.

^ Almost 60% of this is direct spending for retreats and other participant-paid activities.

Children's Ministry

Megan Holliday, Director

The past year has had ups and downs, but God is evident in all! Keep reading for a few highlights from 2011 in Children's Ministry.

Date Night

Date Night continues to be one of Trinity's most consistent outreach events and the primary way we serve Huffman families on a monthly basis. Date Night is staffed by volunteers and is attended by kids from all over. We have 20-25 kids at Trinity on one Friday night per month, more than half from families who don't regularly attend Trinity. It is one of my personal favorite activities and, while chaotic at times, reaches kids and families in a meaningful way.

We recently added a Biblical element to Date Night. Kids play games, do crafts and watch a movie, hear a story from the Bible and spend a moment or two in conversation about it. We also pray with them. Our hope and prayer is to point them to a God who loves them in a place that has now become safe.

Please keep Date Night in your prayers. While there are many wonderful things about Date Night, we are beginning to notice the strain of asking parents of kids at Trinity to staff this event. They have, faithfully, for almost three years now and we are praying for new and creative ways to staff this event and how it may grow. We are considering adding a parent element, which could include a "parent seminar" twice a year on topics that are relevant to the families who attend.

BLAST 45

BLAST 45 is our "pre-youth group" for 4th & 5th graders. BLAST stands for Belonging, Learning and Serving Together. This group gets together twice per month for a combination of service and social activities. So far this year we've made meals for some of our friends at Trinity, packed boxes for Adopt-a-Chaplain, shopped for the Food Closet, played at H2Oasis, had a movie night and celebrated Christmas with a party!

Personally, BLAST 45 is the highlight of my job. These kids are creative, energetic and very kind. It's a true joy to watch them grow in their faith and friendship. They pray together and for each other each time we meet. If you haven't experienced the pleasure of praying with a child, I invite you to BLAST or Kids Church to be a part of what it means to have "faith like a child." There is no prayer too big, no part of the world or their lives God can't touch. I am regularly moved to tears.

Please keep BLAST 45 in your prayers. Pray for the kids as they grow in their faith – that they'll hear the answers to big questions, experience the joy of Christ in their lives daily and have the courage to share their joy with others.

Kids Fun Week

Trinity has a beautiful history of faithful commitment to the spiritual development of children. Vacation Bible School, which became Kids Fun Week, is a major part of our history. This year we tried to continue a program we have maintained for half a century. We discovered many things have changed in the last years, which made the continuation of Kids Fun Week difficult. Culture around us has changed – we had fewer registrations than ever. Culture within us has changed – we, as a community, no longer show enthusiasm for a program of this kind.

We are aware that this could be due to a number of factors: morning programs may be difficult for those who work, more parents work than did even 10 years ago, and we are all committed in many other areas of life. These are not complaints - they are realities. We recognize them and seek God's guidance in how to move forward.

Please keep summer programming for kids in your prayers. Kids Fun Week as it has existed in the past will not continue. We are working on some "experiments" to try and are trusting God is moving us in a new direction that will bring more kids into a life-long relationship with Him. Pray for God's guidance for the Children's Ministry Team as they navigate the changing cultural waters and how God might be calling us forward. Pray also for creativity in finding new ways to engage our neighborhood and our congregation.

God's blessings continue to cover Children's Ministry and I am always surprised at how He is growing up kids in our community. I am so fortunate to be a part of their lives and yours. Thank you for all of your encouragement and the ways you chose to partner with Children's Ministry. Continue to pray for the kids, for me, for the Team and how God might be calling you to serve the children at Trinity.



Clerk of Session
Connie Nebesky, Clerk
Deb Normandin, Recording Secretary

Six Elders served on the session in 2011:

Marjorie Haun – Connections
Lee Huskey – Administration
Chuck Stillwell – Special Ministries
Connie Nebesky – Worship
James Kirkland – Ministry Mobilization
Megan Tompkins – Discipleship (Missions and Outreach)

Session held business meetings each month of the year. Most months, Session also held a second meeting for spiritual growth and fellowship. Two special meetings were held to examine new member candidates.

The annual congregational meeting was held on February 13, 2011. James Kirkland was elected as elder.

Baptism was administered to Max Walter Cernich, Garin Jerrold Cernich, Jeffrey Allan Davis, Isaiah Erwin Davis, Fiona May Beattie, and Mary Addison Humphrey

Weddings officiated by Rev. Tom Letts:

December 29, 2010 Dylan Corrigan Kutzer and Elyse Ann Shellenbaum at O'Malley on the Green
June 18, 2011 Alan Hymel and Katherine Johnston in Houston, Texas
August 4, 2011 Bryan Jacob Thomas and Katharine Marie Munter at Tanglewood

Weddings officiated by Rev. Tamara Letts:

June 11, 2011 Justin James Frank and Kelsey Nicole Janes at Big Lake

Memorial services were held:

November 4, 2011 Nancy Welch
December 13, 2011 John Toney

Trinity began the year with 235 active members. A total of 12 new members were added to the church rolls; 9 by confessions of faith and 3 by letter of transfer. A total of 34 members were removed from the membership rolls; 3 by transfer to other churches, 2 deaths, 3 requests for removal and 26 as inactive dismissals. As of December 31, 2011, Trinity has 213 active members.

Deacons

Kelli Miller, Moderator

The Deacons continue to serve as a pastoral arm of the church. We are always available to provide loving support, encouragement, service, and comfort.

Over the past year the deacons have helped organize and plan the memorial services for several Trinity members who have gone to be with the Lord. Thank you to Donna Gerwin and Barbara Henningsen for helping with the services, and to the many others who provided food for the receptions following the services.

The deacons organized, set-up, and helped serve communion, including to those who were shut-in or in the hospital. We conducted in-depth training in regard to hospital visitations and helping those who are grieving. Several deacons are currently involved with Love INC through their home groups. Marty Smith is Trinity's liaison with Love INC. Many Trinity members have assisted with Love INC by providing linens and conducting service projects and furniture deliveries. The deacons also look forward to starting Stephen Ministries sometime in the future.

The deacon food closet is stocked with food provided by Trinity's congregation. Thank you to those who donated food to the baskets around the church. Remember you can always accept the "Charlie Toole Challenge" by bring non-perishable food in on your birthday!! (Charlie Toole lives away from Alaska now, but was a deacon during his long membership at Trinity). The deacons provide food to families within the church and deliver food to two different food pantries each month, (F.I.S.H., located on the grounds of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, and the food pantry at Mountain View Baptist Church), where it is given to those in need. The deacons also serve lunch at Bean's Cafe once a month.

We thank James Kirkland for his leadership as Elder overseeing the Deacons. Kelli Miller has finished her 6-year term as deacon. We welcome Todd Carter, Tim Holliday, and Ames and Connie Luce as our newest deacons. Thanks also to the current members of the deacon team: Ed Cowling, John Colliander, and Janine Welch.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another. - Charles Dickens

Men's Ministry

Chuck Stilwell, Elder

For 2011, Trinity Men's Ministry continued to offer men coming to Trinity, or anyone who is looking, opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, study of God's word, fellowship, and service with other Christian men.

Summer Retreat: The annual men's summer retreat was held in early June at Kenai Lake. Approximately 30 men of all ages participated in the retreat. Held in a cozy cabin setting on beautiful Kenai Lake, thoughtful lessons, study time, and prayer were interspersed with laughter, heart food, conversation, fellowship, and outdoor recreating.

Alaska Men's Retreat: In the fall, a representation of Trinity Men again participated in the Alaska Men's Retreat, at Victory Bible Camp in November. Up to 24 churches from the south-central Alaska region were represented at the retreat.

Tuesday Prayer Group: Jeff Bentz has an on-going prayer group that meets in his home every Tuesday morning from 6:30-7:45 a.m. All guys that are interested are welcome to come.

Thursday Bible Study: Every Thursday morning from 6:30 to 7:30am, a group of men meet in the church library to read, study and discuss the Bible. Free-flowing conversation about particular chapters of the Bible allow for a deeper understanding of God's word. Oh yeah, you get free coffee and morning snacks, too. In 2011, the group covered a lot of ground, in books such as Luke and Genesis.

Service Projects: As in years past, many Trinity men continued to contribute quietly, in groups and individually, to multiple service projects and lending a hand where needed. While no formal Men's projects occurred in 2011, Trinity men provide a backbone to keeping the church building physical plant and ministries functional, to participating in local projects, and beyond Alaska.



Ministry Mobilization

James Kirkland, Elder

Mobilizing ministry and ministers (i.e. members in service) span the boundaries of all ministry areas of Trinity in two distinct ways: First, building teams that provide direct ministry care and leadership in both the spiritual and physical needs of the church and community. These teams include the Deacons, Pastor Care Team, and Prayer Team. Second, Ministry Mobilization brings "personnel support" to all ministry areas matching the gifts and heart of the individual to the opportunities for service both within and outside of Trinity and equipping them for service by developing and providing training. Groups or teams that fall in this category as their primary mission include: Nominating Committee, Ministry and Outreach Fairs and SHAPE.

DEACONS Led by Kelli Miller, Deacons at Trinity are a delightful group of ordained individuals with huge servant hearts. Participating in governance and many ministries at Trinity, Deacons earnestly work to fulfill their vows which include: seeking to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, loving their neighbors and working for the reconciliation of the world; promising to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church; seeking to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love; and being faithful deacons, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, showing the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

PASTOR CARE TEAM – The Pastor Care Team is a covenant group that meets with Tom Letts. The team, Jeff Bentz, Gene Ervine and Kim Rice, focus their time in prayer, growth, fellowship, and seeking God's leading, wisdom, direction, and guidance for Pastor Tom in all aspects of his life and ministry.

PRAYER TEAM – Under the leadership of Sandi Bentz, the team works together helping Trinity become a "House of Prayer". The Prayer Team supplies prayer support at the end of worship services, and praying over, typing, and distributing prayer requests submitted during worship each Sunday morning.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The Nominating Committee is a standing Committee made up of individuals that represent various leadership groups within Trinity, as outlined in the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, Book of Order*, Section G14.0223-5. Members include: Elder Reps. James Kirkland and Rich Wilson; Deacon Rep. Kelli Miller and members-at-large, Suzi Longacre and Pam Tanora. This has been a very active year for the nominating committee since they have sought to fill a number of Session seats occupied by Elders who plan to relocate outside Alaska in early 2012.

PUT ME IN COACH; I'M READY TO PLAY – was the theme of our Fall Kick-Off Ministry/Outreach Fair held August 28, 2011. The guiding scripture was "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13. Showcasing ministries within and outside Trinity, members learned about opportunities to serve so they can: Grow in friendships, knowledge and their spiritual journey; Give back to ministries that touch them in a meaningful way and make a difference in someone else's life, and Glorify God, sharing the love of Jesus in concrete ways. There was fun, food, and plenty of good sportsmanship!

S.H.A.P.E. - **S**piritual Gifts, **H**earth, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality and **E**xperiences is a dynamic, inspiring training program designed so each person individually can explore their gifts and find places of fulfillment in service at or through Trinity. Serving should be a way of life that helps us grow and develop in our faith following Christ's example of developing and training disciples by sending them out to actively minister in the world and community. It is the hope and prayer of the leadership at Trinity that this ministry be reinstated and revitalized in 2012.

TRAINING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - This is a ministry area that exists informally throughout Trinity. This area of ministry develops, provides and supports training to Elders and ELT's on the history of the Church, Presbyterian governance, and leadership development in the roles/responsibilities of elders, deacons and ELT's seeking God's call for Trinity. This year we continued the ACTS 16:5 training and enjoyed return visits with Pastor E. Stanley Ott, President of the Vital Church Institute, and most recently author of *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*.

Missions and Outreach Annual Report 2011

Megan Tompkins, Elder

Missions Team:

Rhonda Schlereth, Suzie Longacre, Johann Bruns, Joann Bantz, LeeAnn Crumbley, ELT Dean Southam

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.”

-Psalm 67

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

-Matthew 25:35

Trinity’s vision to be Filled up and Poured out is evident in our partnerships in local and global missions. You, the members of Trinity, have evidenced God’s love for your neighbors through ministry all year long. Our partners have been accomplishing great things also. Here is a glimpse of what they have been up to this year:

Since **Dan Voigt** left Trinity staff as a Youth Ministry Associate, he attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Your mission dollars helped Dan complete his seminary training. This past fall, Dan was ordained and is now serving as pastor of United Trinity Church and he and his wife Blair now live in Hamburg, Iowa. To read about his ordination go to: <http://fpcluverne.com/category/ministry/>.



The **Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission** has completed another successful year, and they are looking to growth in 2012. They have been working for over 6 years to coordinate with the planning and zoning commission to make arrangements that will better suit their needs. With progress towards proper zoning, they will be able to accommodate more residents for short and long term stays.



It has been a number of years since members of Trinity traveled to help support God's work in Albania. This past summer Terry Keith was part of a team of 13 Americans from churches in Alaska, California, South Carolina and Florida to join **Albanian Alongside Ministries** partners Gail and Doni Lilo.

In addition to the above ministries, in 2011 Trinity continued to partner with the following:

Alaska Christian College
Alaska Sudan Medical Project
Alongside Ministries: Doni and Gail Lilo, James and Cheryl Cloyd, and Arjan Larashi
Anchorage Rescue Mission
Bean's Cafe
Compassion International
Crisis Pregnancy Center
Habitat for Humanity
Intervention Helpline
Mary Magdalene Home Alaska
Network of Presbyterian Women in Leadership
Parachutes Ministries
Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Seward Seamen's Ministry
Tayal Partnership
Wycliff Bible Translators
Young Life
Young Lives

Parish Nursing

Janet Gill and Sherry Teeter, Parish Nurses

In the summer of 2011 Trinity's Session endorsed the idea of Parish Nursing at Trinity. Two RNs, Janet Gill and Sherry Teeter, both trained Parish Nurses, began this ministry after presenting the program to the congregation in June.

What is a Parish Nurse? Faith community/Parish nursing is a recognized specialty by the American Nurses Association. In Alaska, a Parish Nurse is a licensed registered nurse who has completed advanced education in this specialty. The nurse practices under his/her Alaska RN license and is accountable to the scope and standards of practice as set forth by the State of Alaska Board of Nursing. The Parish nurse seeks to integrate the practices of faith and nursing in his/her faith community by focusing on the whole person--body, mind, and spirit.

How did Parish Nursing get its start? This idea was the brain child of a man named Granger Westberg and was initially started as a pilot program in Tucson, Arizona, and other cities, with the major action/research project being funded out of Lutheran General Hospital in Chicago in the mid-eighties. Westberg's premise was that there was something missing in the care of sick people and that "the spiritual dimension of the person has generally been neglected in the scientific environment." The project began as an experiment to see if, in the area of preventive medicine, a "nurse in the church" could provide the link between science and religion. Since then, the concept/idea has blossomed throughout the country with many churches actually having a Parish Nurse on their staff.

What does a faith community nurse do? The faith community nurse promotes health through advocacy, referrals, education, resource information, support and guidance while evaluating the care needs of individuals and families in the faith community. Resources in the church and community are utilized to meet these needs. He/she is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of individuals just as any other health care provider. Therefore, any personal information provided by faith community members to the nurse is kept in a locked file.

The first step taken as this ministry began at Trinity was to take a congregational survey. A short summary of results reflected a majority of people's concern about trying to live a healthy life style. Many people mentioned looking for encouragement in raising children and in supporting marriages. A surprising number listed sadness and a sense of loneliness in their lives. These surveys were anonymous, with the only markers being age range and gender. The results were shared with the pastoral staff and the Parish Nurses are considering ways to address some of the issues indicated in the survey.

Your Parish Nurses have provided Blood Pressure Clinics, activities such as the Journey to Bethlehem exercise and study, classes on healthy living with chronic conditions, information tables on topics such as summer safety, back to school information, breast cancer awareness, prostate health, etc. There is also a bulletin board dedicated to healthy living/medical topics in the church lobby.

Your nurses have also visited folks in the hospital as well as in their homes, taken congregation members to some of their doctor visits, and provided referral information.

Janet and Sherry are available by contacting the church office either by email or phone. They are both excited and glad to be able to provide this new ministry and look forward to further opportunities to serve Trinity's faith community.

Women's Ministry

Rev. Tamara Letts

Trinity's Women's Ministry seeks to meet the unique needs of women within and beyond Trinity with regularly scheduled groups and special events. We offer a variety of opportunities for outreach, discipleship and enjoyment.

Bible Studies:

1. **Tuesday Evening** – In the fall, a group of women met each Tuesday and took on the study of “Revelation”, by Beth Moore.
2. **Wednesday Morning** (TPW) – Barclay's study on Mark, taught by Rev. Alice Green.
3. **Anna Kirk Circle** (4th Tuesday) – (TPW) The Horizon's Study on Beatitudes

2011 Special Events:

1. **Trinity Spring Luncheon** - May 7th – This special event was for all women of Trinity and about 60 attended. The theme “Let's Get Growing” was inspired by the scripture from John 15:5. Our featured speaker was Donna Basinger who brought the message about growing and thriving in Christ. A delicious brunch was prepared and served by Chas Baki. The event offered different “stations” related to gardening and spiritual growth. The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering was collected.
2. **TPW Harvest Tea** – September 24th – A Fall Tea for fellowship and to support *Faithful Women's Fund* (honors Trinity women who have gone to be with their Lord) with a silent auction for mission.
3. **Women's Retreat** – November 4th-6th – This year the retreat was held at the Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood and attended by 55 women. Gail Rodgers from Edmonton, Alberta spoke on the theme for the year, “Living the Vine Life” and taught from John 15:5. The worship leaders included Laurie Tweit, Katie Owens, and Megan Holliday. The women worked on several mission projects including wrapping shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and making cards for the Mary Magdalene House. Other activities included small group discussions, hiking, swimming, group games and skits, and fellowship time. The retreat concluded with a worship and communion service. A special word of thanks must be given to the planning team: Lisa Darnell, Deb Normandin, Rhonda Schlereth, MaryAnn Southam, and Katie Owens.
4. **TPW Christmas Craft Night** – October 28th - Women gathered to make crafts together including Advent calendars, Christmas cards, bead pins and many others, and supported the *Presbyterian Women Thank Offering* for missions around the world.

Trinity Presbyterian Women (TPW):

Jo Ann Bantz and Pam Bruno Co-Moderators

“Presbyterian Women (PW) is an organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women. The programming and resource options for the organization offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community.” TPW are women who connect with the larger PW mission. TPW supports our local women’s programs and joins with other women from across Yukon Presbytery and PC(USA) for Presbyterian Women mission projects, Bible study, prayer, and nurturing each other.

During 2011, in addition to the activities above, TPW supported the following missions and projects: Trinity Women’s Retreat Scholarships; Mary Magdalene Home Alaska; Cancelled Stamp Project; Healthy Women/Healthy Families Mothers’ Day Project; Presbyterian Worldwide Missions. TPW attended the Yukon Spring Gathering and the Fall Gathering. TPW sold the video, “50 Years of Northern Light” by Caven Keith, son of Bill and Terry Keith. The Presbyterian Coffee Project which promotes fairly traded coffee, tea,

Worship Team

Connie Nebesky, Elder

Joyfully responding to God's love through music and art, being who we are created to be.

Trinity's Worship Arts Team – Tom Letts, Tammy Letts, Connie Nebesky, Cameron Cartland, Abby Carter, and Megan Holliday – meets bi-weekly to plan worship and special services. Through music ministry, sound, and media, we seek to sing and play of Christ's love, leading and facilitating worship.

As a worship team, we seek to...

Create an environment where people meet God and feel His presence

Find new ways to be Christ to our community of musicians in Anchorage

Continue to grow as one body of worshipers seeing our unity in Christ

2011 was a great year for worship at Trinity. God continues to work in and through us as a worshipping body. We continue to be blessed with many musicians and tech people and have a solid team of people dedicated to leading and facilitating worship.

The praise band, made up of musicians from all over the Anchorage music community, plays on Sunday mornings and evenings, and occasionally for other events. The Sunday morning band meets on a weekly basis to rehearse and fellowship.

The praise band functions as an outreach ministry as well, bringing in musicians from all over Anchorage to join us for Sunday morning and other events, as well as playing out in the community as a band and as individuals. Most members of the band are actively involved in the Anchorage music community. In 2011, the band played for Presbytery functions, and played for the Mary Magdalene House fundraising tea and auction. We continue to look for more ways to be involved in our community.

The hand bell choir, directed by Cindy Cowling, continues to meet and play occasionally before and after worship, and in special services. We look forward to furthering their involvement in worship ministry and outreach.

In December, Trinity continued its tradition of hosting Christmas concerts in the lobby. Every Advent, Trinity becomes the only non-school concert venue on the south side of Anchorage. These concerts serve as great outreach events with proceeds going to benefit a number of charities including the Mary Magdalene House, the Alaska Sudan Medical Project, and Compassion International. Unfortunately, in 2011 we had to cancel two of the concerts due to weather. We look forward to continuing the concerts next year.

Trinity has deepened its connection with the Anchorage Jazz Ensemble that meets Monday nights in the Ralph Weeks room, partnering numerous times to raise money for

missions. We hosted a Big Band and Burgers event in the summer, showcasing the band, and raising money for Mary Magdalene House AK. We look forward to continuing this partnership.

We have a talented team of dedicated people who work hard running sound, light, & media tech on Sunday mornings and for special services. They continue to meet the challenge of providing 'state-of-the-art' support with equipment that is stretched to the maximum of its capacity. We invested in a new light board and dimmers to replace broken/outdated equipment. We are currently looking at ways to improve the acoustical space of the worship center and also ways to improve the sound equipment we use for worship. We are always looking for more people to get involved in the Sound/Tech ministry. We're looking forward to a few projects in 2012 - building a new sound desk and platform, and reorganizing the stage.



When we reflect on what God has done, and respond in worship, our understanding of God grows. - J. Ortberg

Youth Ministry Report

Adam Muhr, Director of Youth Ministry

Trinity Presbyterian Church has an amazing group of teens and parents. They are working hard to grow our youth group into a community of teens who are growing spiritually, growing in love for each other and serving those outside the walls of our church. The goal of our group is to develop disciples that are formed in a loving and supportive community, and who are passionate about living for God every day of the week.

The youth ministry at Trinity is relationship based. Many of the youth meetings include sharing meals together. The senior high and middle school groups look very different, but they follow a similar philosophy of ministry based on a “life together” discipleship model.

Middle School Youth: The middle school youth group includes all youth in grades 6 through 8. They meet every Sunday from noon to 1:30. The group shares lunch together. Lunch is generally provided by parents of youth. After lunch, the group plays an active game followed by group sharing, a short Bible lesson, and prayer. This is our regular weekly pattern. Once a month, the group does a fun activity like sledding or hiking. The middle school group also has a number of events during the year. Last year, the group participated in the following events: Middle School retreat, 30 Hour Famine, Winter Lock-In, Hiking Trip, State Fair Day, Summer Small groups, and various service projects. Our average weekly attendance is 13 youth. Our biggest event this past year was a Lock-In with 21 middle school students. Marla McCrorie and Tim Holliday are weekly volunteer staff for the middle school group. We also had two ministry interns that worked with the group over the summer, Daniel Lewis from Georgia and Rory VanWickle from California. The interns helped plan and lead our summer small group ministry.

Senior High Youth: The senior high youth group includes all youth in 9th through 12th grades. Our group has been small this past year. We have a group of 8 youth, but it can be a challenge to get everyone together. Our average gathering is four teens per week. After experimenting with a number of ideas over the past year, the group recently developed a schedule that has worked quite well. We meet each Sunday night at 5:30. The group cooks a meal together from scratch, and then share life together as we eat and hang out. Along with our weekly meeting, most of the senior high youth are part of confirmation classes that meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. The Senior High youth have also participated in a number of events and service projects: Anaktuvuk Pass trip, 30 Hour Famine, Summer small groups, hiking trip, State Fair Day, and a number of service projects. Katie Casanova is currently a regular weekly volunteer staff for the senior high group. Over the past year, Tim Holliday and Dora Soria have also been an important part of several senior high events. We also had a ministry intern, Joe Klinger from Pennsylvania, who worked with the senior high group over the summer. He developed our summer small group program and helped out with a number of events.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Tamara Letts

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving at Trinity Presbyterian Church as the Associate Pastor for Ministry Mobilization. Our beliefs for this ministry have been summarized in the significant book, The Equipping Church: *“The church exists to equip people in order to release them back into the world, grounded in truth and community, dangerous for the gospel. God has created a new movement of churches that equip people, according to their calling and gifts, to be salt and light in their churches, communities, family, workplace, media, and government – in the whole of society.”*

Ministry Mobilization

We strive towards being a church that positively enhances the spiritual and personal lives of its people while making a genuine difference in the community and culture on behalf of our Lord. We adhere to becoming a people who are filled up with God’s gifts and power, only to be poured out for the sake of the Gospel. As Dr. Darrell Guder writes,

“But it has taken us decades to realize that mission is not just a program of the church. It defines the church as God’s sent people. Either we are defined by mission, or we reduce the scope of the gospel and the mandate of the church. Thus our challenge today is to move from church with mission to missional church.” (Guder, Darrell. The Missional Church. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)

Since we are a medium-sized church, in one way or another I find this position touches almost all the ministry areas of this church. Although our church has seen some lay leadership changes, my role continues to develop and work with the various ministry teams as they envision together, build community, encourage each other, and initiate new ways of leading this congregation. There is wonderful, holy and Godly work being done by gifted people all over this place; in the youth ministry team, the home group ministry team, the adult education ministry team, and the children’s ministry team to name a few. I am equally aware of the ministry areas which are waiting on the Lord to raise up people who are excited and called to serve and lead; such as women’s ministry team, congregational connections team, or men’s ministry team to name a few. As we continue to be a church committed to transformational ministry, we must work together as a community of faith. This church is full of gifted, quality, and blessed people. Each of us is a vital part of this particular body of Christ, whether or not one serves on a ministry team. While Trinity continues to be a “light on a hill”, it is vital for us to intentionally seek creative ways for more of us to join in the common ministry and mission. We will grow by improving the quality of our ministry teams. We will grow by raising the bar of our

effectiveness and engagement. We will grow when we decide to become involved with others who share the passion and desires that God has given us.

We will grow when we choose to shift from our present hopes for our congregation's future to the high expectations that God has a vital future for us. (Stan Ott)

Acts 16:5 Initiative: Perhaps one of the more encouraging aspects of this year was the implementation of the Acts 16:5 Initiative. Dr. Stan Ott, Presbyterian pastor, author and consultant of Vital Churches Institute has visited with the leadership of Trinity and the Yukon Presbytery twice in 2010 and twice in 2011. The Acts 16:5 Initiative is a process designed to invite congregations to engage in a deliberate process with the following aims:

1. To design ministry to the specific needs of the congregation and surrounding community.
2. Find ways to review and affirm the past and present ministries while designing for the future.
3. Offer guidance and support in the process of transformation and change.

In 2011, we officially formed an Acts 16:5 Visioning Team for Trinity. The team members are Marjorie Haun, John Kauffman, Jim Miller, Megan Holliday, Tom Letts, Stephanie Musselman, David Zumbro, and Tammy Letts. This team is blessed by the session to meet together to engage in a process of ministry assessment, ministry design, and leadership development. In partnership with the session, the visioning team will develop specific ministry proposals appropriate to the needs of the congregation and the opportunities in our community.

Fall Kick Off Ministry Fair: Once again we went all out for the fall kick off and ministry fair. "Put Me In Coach, I'm Ready to Play" became the theme for every ministry area. We offered the fair on August 28th, involving as many areas for ministry and missions as possible. Each area had a table with banners, balloons, treats, activities, and information that surrounded a football theme. The whole church got involved in one way or another. It turned out to be a great time for everyone, with lots of enthusiasm and joy; even a "tailgate party" lunch. Personally, I was very humbled and grateful for the way this church understands and demonstrates a faith in Christ. It was a huge witness to the work of God in our midst. I am blessed to work with countless others who pitched in and created an atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving.

Home Groups

Sara Stoops' gifted leadership and vision has been a huge blessing to the home group ministry. This team consists of Dan Clark, Sara Stoops, Anna Forbes, Carl Bruening, Irene Miller, Cort McCotter, Marjorie Haun and me. We meet regularly for prayer, planning, dreaming, evaluating; all with the focus to build the body of Christ. The team crafted new key objectives for the Home Group Ministry:

1. Provide the opportunity for groups of people to meet in a home environment to probe deeper into the Word through specific Bible studies.

2. Foster authentic community through the greater intimacy that is facilitated through meeting in homes.
3. Maximize participation of the TPC congregation.
4. Encourage/facilitate groups in service.
5. Improve Communications
6. Leadership Development and Training

The focus for 2011 was the implementation of two church-wide home group events. We began the year with a six week study on “40 Days of Love” with Rick Warren; and in the fall, “Sermon on the Mount” with the study guide by John Stott. In 2011, Trinity established 15 Home Groups consisting of about 160 individuals. Future hopes include further leadership retreat, new leader recruitment, all home group celebrations, and birthing of new groups. Home groups are vital to helping all of us grow in understanding and commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word. They are an important means to experiencing authentic Christian community, supporting each other and serving our Lord in mission and outreach. Home groups are critically poised to unleash the church for ministry in powerful, surprising, and refreshing ways.

Summer Ministry Interns

At Trinity, interns are not seen as “extra help so we can rest from our work.” Interns are called to activate, energize and partner with this community of faith for the sake of the Gospel. They make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Interns are part of our commitment to developing leaders for God’s Kingdom, wherever they may work. The program itself consists of three tracks: professional development in ministry areas, spiritual formation and mentorship, and theological education and proficiency. Due to financial limitations, we did not host summer interns in 2011. It is our hope that as the church grows into her calling and mission the intern program will resume.

Membership

Together with Tom Letts, Holly Morris and Marjorie Haun, I help facilitate the new member’s classes for 2011. We made some changes and are giving it a fresh name; **iConnect 2.0**. The primary reason for the change was to differentiate the membership class from an opportunity to just “inquire” about Trinity. Recognizing that we still needed to offer opportunities for others to “inquire” and gain an introduction to the church, we started a “Lunch with the Pastors”. This new program is a monthly lunch with the pastors to informally meet and talk about Trinity. As a by-product, it provides an opportunity for newcomers to meet other newcomers and hopefully make new connections and friendships.

Other Joys

Besides working in these particular areas and general pastoral duties (teaching, preaching, weddings, funerals, counseling, supervising, visitation...), I’ve enjoyed serving with women’s ministry, adult spiritual formation team, the worship team, membership/connections, the sabbatical team, staff gatherings, and session. I continue

to serve in the Yukon Presbytery as the chair for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, on Presbytery Council, and on the Missional Task Force. I continue to work for renewal in the PC(USA) and serve on the board of Presbyterians for Renewal. I am grateful for the Associate Pastor Care Team who grants wisdom and support. Thank you for your prayers, your grace, your commitment and most of all, your love in Christ!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church

and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21

Senior Pastor's Annual Report

Rev. Tom Letts

There is so much to report on the Trinity front from where I stand: the Lilly grant, healthy home groups, children's ministry growing in depth and numbers while reaching out to the community in powerful ways, a youth ministry on the rise, adult Sunday school and bible studies that continue to raise up disciples, a vital music ministry, worship that gathers and inspires, the Acts 16:5 visioning team surveying the Trinity/Anchorage landscape, deacons that bring timely and competent care, a godly session navigating difficult transitions, men's and women's retreats that change lives, a growing sense of our identity being shaped by Jesus' Great Commission to 'Go!' a staff enthused for the service of each day, finishing 2011 in the black, honoring our missions partners and our denomination and presbytery in finances and service, a growing and vital contemplative prayer group, young adults coming to Trinity in ever-increasing numbers...

Yes, a lot to celebrate. Concerns abound as well. Continue, would you, to place these before the Lord with me: an overly-large aging building and its furnishings, a Trinity budget paralyzed by the recession and loss of key members/givers as they move, a denomination in turmoil and its impact on some at Trinity, those seeking ways to leave Trinity over denominational issues, an over-burdened staff working for 'a church that was', 'the church that is', and 'a church waiting to be born', a congregation trying to understand what that means, the utter decay of the bush community churches and their leadership, the communities around each of us every day as they await our testimony to the Present Love of Christ...

But, were someone to ask me what stood out for me, as a pastor at Trinity in 2011, I would mention a 'silent revival' that began to whisper through the congregation. I see it, or rather, God has granted me eyes to see it. I am truly, deeply grateful both for the eyes to see and the truth of this new movement of the Spirit among us. I feel sadness and pity for those so tied up in denominational issues or 'Christianity' or their own tepid hearts that they don't simply fall down on their faces with me and say, 'Lord, we are yours, all of us, all of us.' I feel no resentment or frustration, simply a deep sorrow that any eye could miss the beauty, power and purity of this new movement of the Spirit among us. For those of you who do desire to see, to hear, to bow with me, allow me...

I see it in your faces on Sunday mornings, I read it in your emails, read it in your faces as you come to the office. I see it in the countenance of those moving from the adult Sunday school class to worship each Sunday, in the faces of your children (young and old). I see it in the profound growth in the lives of the contemplative prayer group, saints formed large in Love and Truth. I see it in the ways our neighbors speak in almost hushed tones about the ways they are loved by us. I see it in the Face of Christ, in the giggle of the Spirit, in the embrace of I AM... 'Trinity is growing in stature, alive to My touch, light in My hands, Light to the World.' Need more? Come see me. We'll talk.

Trinity, it is an honor,

Rev. Thomas C. Letts