



2012 Annual Report

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Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever. - Psalm 118:1

You are invited to join the congregation of Trinity
Sunday, February 24th, 2013, 12:00 P.M.
for a time of fellowship, praise for God's blessings
in 2012 and a glimpse into 2013.

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, 2012 and the 2013 Church Budget, and approve minutes of the 2012 Congregational meetings; 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 2013.

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.

Public notice of a meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays. The meeting may be held on the second Sunday following the first notice. (G-7.0303)

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: A quorum for a meeting of the Congregation shall consist of at least ten percent of the active members. (G-7.0305). (Trinity has 209 active members)

VOTING ELIGIBILITY: Only Active Members on the roll shall be eligible to vote on Church matters. There shall be no voting by proxy on any corporate or congregational matter unless otherwise required by law. (G-7.0404).

RULES OF ORDER: The business of Congregational meetings shall be conducted as provided in the Book of Order (G-7.0300).

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-7.0308).

MINUTES: The Clerk of the Session shall serve as secretary of Congregational meetings. Minutes shall be kept by the Clerk and may be approved by either the Session or the Congregation. (G-7.0307).

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 19, 2012
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting was opened at 12 noon with prayer by Reverend Tamara Letts.

The Minutes of the 2011 Annual meeting were approved without correction.

The Annual Report for 2011 was received as written without correction.

Reverend Karlin Bilcher was introduced and welcomed as Parish Associate.

Toms' Sabbatical team offered an update on Tom's upcoming sabbatical which includes a study portion, monastic portion, and family portion.

Tom explained the change in Megan Holliday's job title change to Children's Ministry and Community Outreach. She is also beginning work on a Masters in Applied Ministry.

The children's ministry team and Megan Holliday offered an update on the direction of children's ministry and the arts camp planned for this summer.

The 2011 financial report and the 2012 budget were presented by Lee Huskey. Discussion followed on the improved state of Trinity's finances.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the call and compensation package for Reverend Tom Letts and Reverend Tamara Letts.

The following members were elected to the board of Elders:

Sandi Bentz--- Class of 2014
David Zumbro ---Class of 2012
Holly Morris---Class of 2014
Kirby Kauffman---Class of 2014
Deb Normandin ---Class of 2013

The position of Special Ministries Elder remains vacant at this time.

Sandy Schoff was elected as Deacon----Class of 2014.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Reverend Karlin Bilcher at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Normandin, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2012
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The clerk determined a quorum was present.

The Meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor Tammy Letts at 12 noon.

This meeting was called for the purpose of electing nominating team members and for Bylaw revisions and additions.

It was moved, seconded and passed that Robert's Rules of Order be established as the parliamentary authority for congregational meetings.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the following be elected to the Nomination team:

Jim Miller
Kim Rice

Other team members are:

James Kirkland (current elder)
Jeff Bentz (designated by session)
Edgar Cowling (designated by Deacons)

A motion by Deb Normandin was seconded and adopted to add *ruling elder* wherever the term *elder* appears in the bylaws.

Following is a copy of the sections of the bylaws presented for amendment and additions. Two sections were amended at this meeting changing the Sessions' recommendations.

The recommended revision is designated by striking the current text and inserting new text in its place as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added is in italics]

ARTICLE IV
THE SESSION AND CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Board of Directors. The business affairs of the Church shall be managed by the Session, which shall serve as the board of directors of the Corporation. The Session shall have all of the rights and powers granted to a Board of Directors by the laws of the State of Alaska. The Session shall consist of the Pastor, Associate Pastors and Elders in Active Service. ~~There shall be not less than seven nor more than 16 Elders in Active Service on the Session at any given time, as determined from time to time by the Session.~~

There shall be not less than five nor more than eleven ruling Elders in Active Service on the Session at any given time, as determined from time to time by the Session.

It was moved by Janet Gill that the recommended change be amended to say: *There shall be not less than seven nor more than eleven ruling Elders in active service on the Session at any given time, as determined from time to time by the Session.* This was seconded and passed.

- **ARTICLE IV Section five was recommended revision by striking the current text and inserting new text in its place as follows:**

Section 5. Quorum. ~~A quorum shall be a simple majority of the Elders serving on Session.~~ *A quorum shall be one third of the ruling Elders serving on Session.*

A motion was made by Sandi Bentz to change the proposed amendment to: *A quorum shall be a simple majority of the ruling Elders serving on Session.* This was seconded and passed.

- **ARTICLE IV Section 3 was recommended revision by striking the third sentence as follows:**

Section 3. Terms. No ruling Elder shall be elected for a term of more than three years. No ruling Elder may serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, that exceed six consecutive years. ~~There shall be no fewer than two or more than three "classes" of Elders serving on the Session.~~ Each class of ruling Elders shall be as nearly equal in number as possible.

ARTICLE VI
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- **ARTICLE VI Section Two was recommended revision by striking the current text and inserting new text in its place**

Section 2. Election. ~~The Nominating Committee shall be composed of not less than seven or more than 11 members as determined from time to time by the Session. *The Nominating Committee shall be composed of not less than five or more than seven members as determined from time to time by the Session.* At least two members of the committee shall be ruling elders designated by the Session, at least one of whom is currently serving on Session. At least one member shall be a current member of the Board of Deacons and shall be designated by the Board of Deacons. The other members of the committee shall be elected by the Congregation.~~

It was moved by Marjorie Haun, seconded and passed to adopt the amendments and the additions to the bylaws of Trinity Presbyterian Church.
As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Normandin, Clerk of Session

Administration

Lee Huskey and David Zumbro, Administration Elders

Three teams are included in the Administration Report: Buildings and Grounds; Personnel; and Finance are the responsibility of the Administration Elder. The work of each of these teams is reviewed below.

Buildings and Grounds

Committee members: Roland Van Doorne (ELT), Jeff Bentz, Jim Gill, Ed Cowling, John Russell, Dean Southam, Karl Bruening. Roland and his family moved from Anchorage in the fall and the team currently has no ELT.

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

The team organized two workdays this summer to spruce up the outside of the building. Teams were set up for mowing the lawn, shoveling the snow, and opening and closing the building each Sunday.

This year we welcomed Young Life as residents of our building.

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 hopes 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 personnel team also helped in the preparation of the personnel budget for 2013.

For a number of years we have been fortunate to have minimum staff turnover. In 2012 two of our staff left Trinity. Adam Muhr completed his planned time as head of Youth Ministry. The Personnel Team working with a Youth Director Search Committee hired Aimee Ronning as the new Youth Director. In 2012 Megan Anderson announced that she would be leaving Trinity to take a position with a new church in Illinois. We thank them both for their service to our kids.

We have been blessed with a staff that is both efficient and sacrificial. The non-ordained staff include: Megan Anderson (Children's Ministry), Abby Carter (Worship Arts Assistant), Cam Cartland (Worship Arts Director), Barb Clubb (Pastor's Assistant), Laurie Tweit (Church

Administrator), Alison Lausten (Website Administrator), Yvonne LaChar (Nursery Caregiver) and Aimee Ronning (Youth Ministry).

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, Bob White, and Bev English.

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 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 online 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.

Trinity’s total income for 2012 was \$757,238. While our 2012 income was about \$6,000 less than in 2011, Trinity was able to increase its savings in 2012 by almost \$44,000. Trinity ended 2011 with a cash balance of \$211,820 and ended 2012 with a cash balance of \$255,904. Thank you for your tithes and offerings.

The 2012 Budget is included as an addendum to this report.

The chart on the following page compares Trinity’s spending for 2012 with the budget for that year. These numbers do not include spending on ‘Gifts and Memorials’ or Special Offerings. When ‘Gifts and Memorials’ or Special Offerings are included Trinity’s Total Expenditure in 2012 was \$713,153.



Trinity Fiscal Comparison 2012
Budget versus Actual Spending

	Total Actual Expenditure 2012	Total Budgeted Expenditure 2012
Personnel	\$424,651	\$447,841
Office Expenses and Members services	\$64,815	\$62,268
Buildings and Grounds	\$77,602	\$77,729
Special Ministries	\$20,470	\$25,925
Worship ^B	\$18,331	\$10,416
Connections, Discipleship, and Ministry	\$18,434	\$19,220
Mission/Outreach	\$74,983	\$78,200
Total Spending ^A	\$699,285	\$721,599

A. Includes spending from all sources and is net of Gifts and Memorials and Special Offerings.

B. The difference between budgeted and actual spending for Worship primarily reflects a shift in the way musicians were paid. More musicians were paid using honorariums (budgeted in Worship) than by contract (budgeted in Personnel). The change in the way musicians were paid also accounts for spending less than budgeted in Personnel.



Children's Ministry

Megan Anderson, Director

2012. What a year for Children's Ministry! This year was marked by a lot of new experiments, big miracles in small ways and a lot of transition. I'm going to take a bit of time in this report to share some of the best stories from the year and my final thoughts as this is the last report I will prepare for Trinity.

Fine Arts Summer Series

It has been very clear over the last few years that Vacation Bible School/Kids Fun Week is no longer a sustainable ministry at Trinity. Volunteerism has dramatically dropped and registrations waned. After last summer, the Children's Ministry Team spent serious time evaluating summer programming at Trinity to come up with an alternate plan. The question we asked was, "How do we connect natural skill/talent/interest of congregation members to kids?" We know adults at Trinity care about kids and their spiritual development, but we can't seem to find volunteers for special events. So what if we came up with a special event that really interested adults and used their natural interests to bring kids closer to Jesus? As we surveyed the landscape of Trinity we realized we have a lot of skills in the Fine Arts in our little community. We began conversations with folks about their involvement in a Fine Arts Summer Series. Our policy was to build a program around those who said yes to participating, rather than have an idea of what we wanted and try to fill slots.

The result? Every Tuesday evening in June for 2 hours we welcomed kids of all ages AND THEIR PARENTS to participate in the Fine Arts Summer Series. As a large group we talked about worship: What is it? Why is it important? How can we worship? And we talked about God-given creativity. After some large group time, participants would go to a Fine Arts Class to have small group Bible time and learn a new Fine Arts skill. Classes included percussion, ceramics, sound tech, vocal music, creative writing, photography, drama, puppet making and a survey of art class. Teachers were enthusiastic, kids got hands-on experience in really cool art forms by extremely skilled instructors and we all learned something about worshipping God in all ways!

Thanks to all our instructors: Cameron Cartland, Cassie Stenehjem, Kirby Kauffman, Brenda Clark, Abby Clark, Erin Kirkland, Jami Kubitskey, Steve Gordon and Tennie Mackie. Thanks also to their partners and small group leaders!

BLAST 45

Ah, BLAST 45! My favorite group of all. I know I'm not supposed to have a favorite, but this is it. (Shh...don't tell!!) BLAST 45 is our pre-youth group for 4th & 5th graders. BLAST stands for "Belonging, Learning and Serving Together." We alternate between service and social activities. 2012 included some epic events. Our lock-in at the end of the school year is always a hit. We stay up late playing crazy games outside and inside the building. If you've never experienced a game of Aliens with 4th and 5th graders, you are missing out! It completes my life :). This summer we went go-carting and hiking. This fall we were able to spend an overnight at the Seward Sea Life Center! We had the whole place to ourselves, got to play at the touch tank and learned about cephalopods and bioluminescence. We slept next to the Sea Lion enclosure. So awesome! Service activities included serving dinner at the Children's Lunchbox, taking cookies and cocoa to Westchester Lagoon for skaters, making meals for families and more!

One of the greatest joys of BLAST 45 is the way these kids grow in their trust of God through prayer. Each time we're together we share prayer requests and pray around the circle. The "rule" is everyone prays. Even if it's only one sentence we all pray out loud. If you can't think of anything to say, think of something you're thankful for and tell God 'thank you'. Watching their prayers grow is nothing short of miraculous. They began only praying for their own requests. This grew to praying for things outside their own sphere (pray for the sick, pray for those who don't know Jesus, etc.) to then praying for each other's requests. Now they pray profound things for others outside our little circle. They pray for the congregation, staff members...they even prayed for me! They are praying for the next Children's Ministry Director, they are praying for the kids in Illinois I'll be working with. I can't tell you how they move me to pray.

Christmas Eve

We have a history at Trinity of some really wonderful, worshipful Christmas Eve services, and this year was no exception. For the past couple years we have put together a pageant, involved kids, learned songs and put on a bit of a Christmas production. I've loved those programs, and so have the kids! This year we wanted to make sure to continue to involve kids, but really wanted a way for them to take on the worship leadership part of the service. We put together a "kid band," operating under the same premise as the Fine Arts Series, which was to put something together based on those who said yes, not by trying to fill pre-determined slots. We ended up with 6 vocalists, 2 piano/keyboard players, a guitarist, 3 trumpet players, a saxophonist, and a French horn player - all under the age of 18! We put together the whole service and practiced all through Advent. To me, the greatest part of doing the service this way was to see the kids grow in their skills and talents through worship. They loved being a part of the leadership. I hope you'll see much more of them up front in the future :).

On Christmas Eve we also threw together a Christmas Pageant in 3 minutes. We had costumes and ALL kids who wanted to be in the pageant got to be. We had almost 40 kids participate! The adults who partnered with me and I all heard great comments from parents, like, "Thank you for putting this together like you did! My child wouldn't have been able to come to rehearsals, but is so happy to have been a part of the service!" It was a wonderful evening!

Final Words

I hope most of you have had the chance to hear my goodbye messages to the congregation through the month of January. If not, they are available on Trinity's website, Trinity's Facebook page, and my Facebook page. They really are my final words to you all and I hope you have a chance to hear them directly from me - rather than simply written down.

I'm not going to type out everything I said, but I want to reemphasize a few points. First, I want to remind you of the promise we make to our kids through baptism. Each time we, as a congregation, say "yes" to the vows made at baptism, we are promising to partner with parents (not just those on the stage at the time) to raise their kids to know and love Jesus. This means getting to know families outside your demographic, seeking ways to partner with and promote/work toward the spiritual formation of *others* and that the natural inclination of your heart is toward kids (meaning: 'yes' is the natural response, asking how can I help). The Children's Ministry Team is looking to you for your support - not financially, but with your time. They have energy and passion, but that will fade without partners. Most importantly: These kids NEED you. They need YOU. Their parents need you. Even more than that: you need THEM. They have taught me more about God, Jesus' love, prayer and caring for others than I ever thought possible. For your own sake, get to know them. You do have something to offer. Talk to the Team and see what that might be :).

Second, you need to know how thankful I am for you. This church has raised me in lots of different ways. I have been here since I was about 12 years old. I came to personal faith here. I was given my first job here. The ways I've been cared for, encouraged, taught and loved are profound and too many to mention. This is my family. I'm grateful each day that I've been fortunate enough to come from a place like Trinity. Know that my future successes are really yours too. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Kingdom in the ways you have prepared me to be sent out from here. Never forget that I am an example of how investing TIME in the life of a kid matters and how you can help a young person develop. I was once a kid in Trinity's Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry, and Young Adult Ministry. I was met where I was, and was loved. Don't forget that...and do it again and again and again for the kids here now. The result will be a lifelong love of Jesus - for all of you!

Blessings to you all. I love you more than I can say.

Megan Anderson

Clerk of Session

Deb Normandin, Clerk

The following Elders served on session in 2012:

Lee Huskey—Administration (also buildings and grounds)
David Zumbro—Administration
Holly Morris—Connections (also children's ministry)
Kirby Kauffman—Worship
James Kirkland—Ministry Mobilization (also youth ministry)
Megan Tompkins-- Missions and Outreach (Resigned 9/10/12)
Sandi Bentz—Discipleship (also men's and women's ministries)
Deb Normandin—Clerk of session

The special ministries elder and fellowship elder positions were vacant this year.

Session held business meetings each month of the year. Most months, session also held a second meeting for spiritual growth and fellowship. Six special meetings were held to examine new member candidates and one special congregational meeting was held to elect a nominating team and to approve revisions to bylaws.

The annual congregational meeting was held on February 19, 2012. Elders elected at that time were: Sandi Bentz, David Zumbro, Holly Morris, Kirby Kauffman and Deb Normandin.

Baptism was administered to Natalia Rose McCotter, Henry Crewe Southam, Kaley Ann Wobick, Meredith Kate Blakley, Benjamin Maxwell Vano, Samantha Leigh Zumbro and Thomas Kristian Lynn Jones.

Weddings officiated by Rev. Tom Letts:

October 6, 2012 Colin Ashby Ossiander and Katherine Virginia Olson
November 17, 2012 Beth Irene Colliander and Michael David Petrillo

There were two memorial services held at Trinity this year. One for Jacob Lawrence Clare, Trinity member Jamie Kubitskey's nephew. It was held on June 1, 2012 and officiated by Rev. Tammy Letts. There was also one for a member of the Gologeram family on December 15, 2012 that was officiated by Chaplain Todd Carter. One member of Trinity, Helen Bruns, died while out of state on December 12, 2012.

Trinity began the year with 222 active members. A total of 19 new members were added to the church rolls; 18 by confessions of faith and 1 by transfer. A total of 22 members were removed from the membership rolls; 5 requests for removal, 1 death and 16 as inactive dismissals. As of December 31, 2012 there are 220 active members.

Connections **Holly Morris, Elder**

This year has been an eventful one; we have continued to grow in the Connections Ministry. It has truly been a privilege to work with Pastor Tammy, Pastor Tom and the supportive staff of Trinity.

Home Groups continue to be active; Sara Stoops is the ELT and is excellent with her team. In the spring, Home Groups followed “**The Life You Always Wanted**”: a 6 week study by John Ortberg. In the fall, they presented a Fall Kick-Off, complete with team building exercises and the garnering of suggestions from the congregation. I offer a special thanks to Rebecca Vano for her expertise with the team activities after the lunch. The fall series on the “**Life of Paul**” followed a sermon series as well. Home Groups continue to be a vital part of church life and community within the larger Trinity community.

Each Sunday we host a **Seven-Minute Party** for all new visitors to Trinity. Pastor Tammy and ELT Marjorie Haun as well as other volunteers, greet those new to Trinity and offer them a small bag with information about Trinity’s various ministries and chocolates. Frank Sears follows up with phone or e-mail contact from information provided on the yellow cards. Pastor’s Assistant Barb Clubb facilitates this piece by passing along information.

This year Pastor Tammy spent a lot of time re-structuring the Inquirer’s Class to be more streamlined with her presentation and teaching style. **iConnect** was created and offered **four** times during the year. During the class, lunch is served and childcare is offered. Pastors Tom and Tammy partner for the teaching piece, each teaching to their strengths. The new PowerPoint driven 2.5 hour class provides great information regarding the history of The Church as well as the governance that makes us Presbyterian.

A second, and equally important piece of iConnect is a **New Member Dinner** at the Letts’ Home. This personal contact is a valuable part of the iConnect class as it broadens the new folks’ personal connections with other members of Trinity. In this relaxed atmosphere, those desiring to become members meet elders and learn a bit more about Tom and Tammy’s personal faith walks.

The Second Sunday Lunches have transformed into **Fellowship Meals** coupled with after church events. Thanks to Steve Gordon and his group that worked with the 2nd Sunday Lunches. Those fellowship meals that have occurred this fall in conjunction with the Home Group Kick-off and the Operation Christmas Child box packing were done with help from Sandy Bentz and her home group as well as the loving and committed staff at Trinity.

A Place for you! We have vacancies for ELTs for the Fellowship, as well as Membership teams. Both ELTs will be folks with a heart to serve Trinity and a special gift for hospitality. (ELT stands for: “Expanded Leadership Team” An ELT serves as a leader of a ministry team, such as Fellowship).

Deacons

Edgar Cowling, 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 as well as our extended family who have gone to be with the Lord. Thank you 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 served (along with Elders) communion, including to those who were shut-in or in the hospital. Thank you to Kelli Miller for organizing and setting up communion for our church services each month. We conducted in-depth training for hospital visitations and supporting those who are grieving. We continue to work with Love INC through home groups. Trinity members have been assisting with Love INC and others by providing linens, conducting service projects, and making furniture deliveries.

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. We would like to give a big thank you to Megan Anderson for organizing and running the Second Annual Construction event this past fall. What a huge success! Remember you can always accept the "Charlie Toole Challenge" by bringing 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 where it is given to those in need. (F.I.S.H. - located on the grounds of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, and the food pantry at Mountain View Baptist Church) The deacons organize Trinity's lunch serve at Bean's Café once a month.

We welcome Sandy Schoff as our newest deacon. We wish to thank Janine Welch and Tim Holliday for their service while deacons. Also, thanks to our presently serving deacons Todd Carter, Ames & Connie Luce and Sandy Schoff.



DISCIPLESHIP

Sandi Bentz, Elder

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayer” Acts 2:42

In my 8 months as elder for Discipleship, the focus has mainly been upon offering venues where the study of God's Word is made available. In the beginning of 2012, the Adult Spiritual Formation Team offered at the 9:00 a.m. hour on Sunday mornings, a Kerygma study on the Gospel of John and the finale of the study on Handel's "Messiah" as we entered into the Lenten season. The Fall course offered was another Kerygma study of the Psalms. I would like to thank Rev. Tammy Letts, Rick McCrorie and Scott Mackie, serving on the Adult Spiritual Formation Team for the excellent choices and for leading these studies. They continue to be a blessing to all who take advantage of them.

Financial Peace University: During the summer, Trinity offered a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class on finances. This 10 week course was led by Roland and Lisa VanDoorne. Also on this team were Brenda Clark and Jeff Bentz. We had 18 attendees.

In the fall, we again offered an updated FPU class for 9 weeks. We had 15 attendees. Along with the class we also offered a children's curriculum of Financial Peace University which Megan Anderson adapted for our group. Thank you to Sandy Beattie who led the children's program every week. Thank you to Yvonne LaChar for providing nursery care. Also in the fall, Adam Muhr, Dan and Brenda Clark and John and Jill Jones led a teen class of Financial Peace University during the youth group time.

Women's Ministry: Our fall retreat this year took a few interesting turns, but we know that God is faithful. We had two fund raisers to help with scholarships for the retreat. A bake sale held around Father's Day and a "Trash and Treasure Sale" on Labor Day weekend was not only a blast, but helped to offset expenses and offer a few scholarships. There was a wonderful mix of intergenerational woman who gathered at Alyeska Prince Hotel on October 12-14 for a wonderful weekend of worship, fellowship, prayer & study of God's Word. Our leader and facilitator was Rev. Tammy Letts. Worship was led by Doris Benjamin and ladies from Trinity. Thank you to Katie Owens, Deb Normandin, MaryAnne Southam & Rev. Tammy Letts for their leadership for the retreat.

More information about Women's Ministry can be found later in this report.

We give God the glory for this year and look for great and wonderful opportunities to "make disciples of all nations..." in 2013.

Men's Ministry

For 2012, Trinity Men's Ministry continued to offer Trinity men, 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 July at Kenai Lake. Approximately 50 men of all ages participated in the retreat. Held once again at the Brownsberger's cabin, thoughtful lessons, study time, and prayer were interspersed with laughter, heart food, conversation, fellowship, and outdoor recreating. The speaker was Phil Herndon from Sage Hill Ministries. (Clinical director from The Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) in Nashville, Tennessee). 46 men attended the retreat.

"The theme for the weekend was examining and understanding father and son relationships. We looked at our relationships with our family of origin. We learned about the language of the human heart and understanding what emotions our hearts express. We learned about healthy expressions of emotions and toxic expressions that can develop into addictions. We looked at the parable of the prodigal son and the relationship of father God to the prodigal sons' returning home. The men's service project was to build a bridge over Shackleford Creek. " -Steve Gordon

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.

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 2012, Trinity men provide a backbone to keeping the church building physical plant and ministries functional, to participating in local projects, and beyond Alaska.

Rescue Mission Bible Study: Each week, men from Trinity lead a bible study for men at the Anchorage Rescue mission.



Missions and Outreach

The Missions Team recognizes the importance of the intentional distribution of resources since there are endless worthy and important causes, but limited funds.

We seek opportunities to increase Trinity's impact on our neighbors, community, and world, through financial contributions, physical presence and the relational investment of time and energy.

The organizations and agencies that are part of the Missions budget of Trinity Presbyterian Church are chosen for the following reasons:

1. Relationships with members of Trinity measured through past history and significance.
2. New relationships with members of Trinity expressed through growing interest.
3. Ability of members of Trinity to partner through time, effort, and resources.
4. The changing needs of our community, state, and world.

The complete list of those ministries we contribute to financially appears in the church budget document. Also, a list of organizations that we support either financially, or with our time and/or talent can be found on Trinity's website. We invite the Trinity family to be actively involved. Many of our mission causes benefit from "hands-on" service, and provide opportunities for volunteers.

The Missions Team meets usually once a month, and we would welcome new members. Current members are JoAnn Bantz, Johann Bruns, LeeAnn Crumbley, Suzi Longacre, and Megan Tompkins.

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 “Deuteronomy”, by Beth Moore.
2. **Wednesday Morning** (TPW) – Barclay's John study vol. 1; Sept.-May 10am in library, various facilitators, Rev. Alice Green, Teacher Emeritus
3. **Anna Kirk Circle** (4th Tuesday) – (TPW) The Horizon's Study “Dispatches to God's Household: the General Epistles. Sept.-May 7pm in library, various leaders with Rev. Alice Green, Teacher Emeritus

2012 Special Events:

1. **Trinity Spring Luncheon** - May 12, 2012 – This special event was for all women of Trinity and about 60 attended. The nautical theme “Catch the Wind” was inspired by the scripture from James 4. Our featured speaker was Sandi Bentz who brought the message.
Special music was provided by our wind ensemble: Kirby Kauffman, Marla McCrorie, Carrie McCrorie and Stephanie Musselman. A delicious brunch was prepared and served by Chas Baki. The event offered different “stations” related to the theme. The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering was collected.
2. **TPW Harvest Tea** – Fall Harvest Tea Sept. 22: PW Thank Offering; Paper/cleaning supplies for Mary Magdalene Home Alaska; The Silent Auction for Faithful Women honors Trinity women who have gone to be with their Lord. Ginny Gerboth, storyteller and Katie Casanova, shared highlights of the PW Church wide Gathering.
3. **Women' Retreat** – October 12-14 – This year the retreat was held at the Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood and attended by 50 women. The theme for the year was “**RENEWED HOPE, REVIVED HEARTS**” and was taught from Psalm 25:5. The worship leaders included Delores Benjamin, Laurie Tweit, Katie Owens, Barb Russell, and Megan Anderson. The women worked on mission projects including wrapping shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and made crafts. 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: Deb Normandin, Sandi Bentz, MaryAnn Southam, and Katie Owens.
4. **TPW Christmas Craft Night** – The Christmas Craft Night was cancelled this year.

Trinity Presbyterian Women (TPW):

Jo Ann Bantz and Katie Casanova Co-Moderators

Purpose of Presbyterian Women:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- To support the mission of the church worldwide,
- To work for justice and peace, and
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom

Trinity Presbyterian Women are connected to Presbyterian Women of Yukon Presbytery, PW of Synod Alaska-Northwest as well as PW—Church wide, at the national level. Katie Casanova attended Presbyterian Women Church wide Gathering in Orlando as TPW Representative.

During 2012, in addition to the activities above, TPW supported the following missions and projects: Mary Magdalene Home Alaska; Cancelled Stamp Project; Least Coin Offering; Healthy Women/Healthy Families—Church wide Mothers' Day Project; Presbyterian Worldwide Missions; and the Presbyterian Coffee Project.



Worship

Kirby Kauffman, Elder

Trinity's Worship Arts Team – Tom Letts, Tammy Letts, Kirby Kauffman, Cameron Cartland, Abby Carter, Megan Anderson, Aimee Ronning, and Will Tompkins – met weekly to plan worship and special services.

As a worship team, we seek to...

Foster an environment where people meet God and feel His presence
Find new ways to be Christ to our community of Anchorage
Continue to grow as one body of worshipers seeing our unity in Christ

At Trinity our worship is a witness to our faith. Empty or full, joyful or desolate we are met here each week by our community and by the One who loves us in every state.

We give our best to God, audience of One.

The community of musicians at Trinity led and ministered to by Cameron Cartland, Worship Arts Director, consists of professional musicians and volunteers. This year we've also had the gift of Christmas Choir music, led by Megan Letts, and Bells in worship led by Cindy Cowling. It's not rare to hear that the worship music at our church is like no other. If you have seen and heard the communication up front: the look, a breath, a movement... the medium is the message. This is what we are to be to one another, the body of Christ; different gifts, the same spirit. Playing as one, our lives as one witness.

In Worship at Trinity...

Greeters welcome all who come with hospitality, and Ushers welcome and watch over the orderliness and safety of worship.

Ken Welch has watched over Sunday greeting this year, and Connie Luce (new ELT) now organizes our monthly greeter rotation. Our faithful and long-serving ushers are lead by Frank Sears taking care of details that make the service run smoothly – seating, bulletins, candles, offering. Their support and leadership are key in implementing the emergency response plan designed this year by Megan Anderson and Children's Ministries. We had a drill during worship on June 10th, 2012 to practice exiting the building safely and reuniting parents with nursery/school age children.

Technical production shows consistency and professionalism.

Trinity is blessed with a dedicated team of tech volunteers, committed to excellence and continued improvement in production, media, sound and lighting.

Worship Arts Assistant Abby Carter libraries our music and charts as well as overseeing the media/videos on screens in worship and media tech volunteer rotation.

This year 5 Trinity folks attended a 1-day sound training in Anchorage presented by Craig Anderton, we updated our media software, and took advantage of the capability of our light board, purchased in 2011. We have a goal to send a Trinity representative to a light training class at UAA in 2013, to further develop this resource.

Buildings and Grounds partnered with Worship to keep our lights shining in the worship center and lobby, loaning lifts and fixing ballasts, thanks to Jeff Bentz and JR Russell. We did a full refresh of colored gels on our theatre lights in August and at Advent, which makes a huge improvement to the quality of light onstage.

Trinity sermons have been available for listening online on the Trinity website, on the sermon.net iPhone app, and via iTunes since June 2011. This year we've improved the quality of sermon audio and have added copies of the bulletin and sermon PowerPoint to the podcasts. Megan Letts mixed our 6pm and 9pm Christmas Eve Services in their entirety for upload with both music and sermon.

In 2013 we will work towards the goal of making live broadcasts available for weekly services and improving the quality of our music recording. The quality, consistency and professionalism of our podcasts and online presence communicate and connect to our community near and far, and let people searching, or new to Trinity find out what worship is about.

Visual theology expressed through banners and staging.

This is an area of potential growth for 2013, expressing Trinity's vision statement in our lobby and worship center through print, art, photography and other visual media.

2012 saw a cleaner stage set-up; our risers are now in use in the Fellowship Hall for Kids' Church, and the communion table and banner balance one another upfront.

Liturgical expressions of communion, baptism and membership are opened and explained in a way that is winsome and clear.

In 2012 we began including children in the monthly communion celebration. Tom Letts and Megan Anderson have shared intentionally about the meaning and "why" (What does it mean to say "I do" and "I will"?) of our sacraments and the liturgy of membership, in the Children's Message and during the communion and baptism services. Megan Anderson offered support and resources to parents on baptism and communion through Children's Ministries.

We offer our confession and brokenness to God through guided contemplative prayer.

Cam has taken new leadership this year in our Guided prayer time in service; with assistance from Todd Carter and Kirby Kauffman.

The Word is preached with insight and integrity.

Tom Letts, Senior Pastor, along with Tammy Letts, Associate Pastor and guest pastors including Rick Benjamin led in preaching this year. Sermon series included:

Magnificent 7 (7 Big themes in our lives: War/Peace, Freedom, Courage, Sacrifice, Reconciliation, Hope, Joy, Community)

The Life You've Always Wanted (following the John Ortberg spring Home Group series),
It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian -Tammy Letts' summer series based on the session book study by Tod Bolsinger.

This Is How We Know - Rick Benjamin's series on 1 John,
Five Formative Moments from Sabbatical - Tom Letts' gifts of sabbatical study and time away

Jesus' Mission Among Us: Jesus' Earthly Ministry in Luke 5-6,
All Creation Made New: The Life and Teaching of the Apostle Paul (A life transformed by grace in

Christ) following our fall home group series

Advent/Epiphany What to Expect When You're Expecting (The gestational stages of spiritual birth)

Communion celebrated with reverence

Elders and deacons have commented this year on the honor and privilege of looking into each face when serving communion at morning worship. It is truly a holy moment. I'm grateful for Kelli Miller's leadership and service in preparing the sacraments and coordinating servers each month.

A 707 worshipper said it best... "The Word became Flesh, and we ate it."

Community life communicated with energy and joy

Leadership this year came from elders and vision team members and Will Tompkins (our new 707/606 ELT). We've been intentional about putting these folks up front so new people can start to recognize Trinity regulars and lay leadership as a part of the service.

Prayers for each other and the world offered with sincerity and thoughtfulness

Every week Tammy leads the congregation in opening prayer and weaves our prayers for the world and for each other during Congregational prayer time. Sandi Bentz coordinates the prayer list team, helping us pray for specific requests during the week. Anonymous or confidential prayer requests are always prayed over by staff.

We bring God's tithes and our offerings

Financial gifts each week support the ministry of Trinity in Anchorage and beyond. We participate with other churches in our denomination in PC(USA) special offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing. This year as in previous, 100% of Christmas Eve offerings (\$4,904.00) went to support our mission partners. For 2012, the Christmas offering went to: Alaska Sudan Medical Project (Todd Hardesty and Megan Tompkins represent Trinity in this mission); Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission; Doni and Gail Lilo (with Alongside Ministries in Albania); and the Trinity Deacon's Fund, (which is used to assist Trinity and community members as needed).

Our love for one another shown in the fellowship that continues after worship is ended

This year we've celebrated leavings and returnings, appreciation and mission projects together with food and fellowship after worship. Some of our mission projects include the Operation Christmas Child box packing, the Thanksgiving Eve Hanging of the Greens/Pie Social, and love in action with the annual 30 minute service.

707/606

The Sunday evening service, 707, was our family's entrance to Trinity in 2009, so this service is near to my heart. 707, now meeting at 606, continues to grow as a worshipping community. This group lead by Megan and Cam, took over planning and leadership of itself during Tom's sabbatical; meeting in homes and sharing fellowship, meals and service projects together. The honesty, faith and intention of this group are palpable and a gift to Trinity. This year Will Tompkins has taken on leadership as 707/606 ELT and represents this group at worship team meetings.

Christmas Concert Series and other Worship Outreach

It's been a gift this year to see the distinctions between inside Trinity and outside Trinity, between worship and other ministry areas; the celebration of our faith in worship and love in action blur in a beautiful way. Our summer Big Band and Burgers to benefit Mary Magdalene Home Alaska, and the Christmas Concert Series are great examples of this. After weather cancellations last year, we had great turnouts at the 2012 Christmas Series. John Damberg's Latin Jazz Quintet raised \$335 plus food donations for Food Bank of Alaska; Trinity supported Rebecca Nelson and the South High Choir with \$226; and the Date Night/Dance with the

Anchorage Jazz Ensemble raised \$398 for Huffman PTA. The Anchorage Jazz Ensemble continues to rehearse Monday nights at Trinity; we love this group! Dan MacElrath, a regular Trinity pianist, listed Sunday Worship for Sept. 16, 2012 on his Alaska tour schedule when the Dan Mac Quartet led worship here that Sunday. We look forward to continued relationship and collaboration with these groups in 2013.

Some budget items

Worship has made three budget-neutral changes to the 2013 budget: combining Cam's Worship Arts Director and Musician hourly rates into one salaried amount, moving money from "Personnel: Musicians" to "Honorarium" to reflect the greater participation of community musicians in worship, and setting aside \$1000 this year to save toward replacements for our aging worship center projectors. (Thanks Dave Ramsey!)

Grateful...

...For our congregation's response to the Sweetheart Dinner 2012. Thank you for supporting the ministry of, and to musicians in Anchorage. The funds raised go to Musicians in Worship and our Worship Arts Outreach Fund. This year Worship Arts Outreach supported hosting the Count Basie Orchestra during their Anchorage School District residency and concert. Cameron Cartland led this effort, coordinating meals and transportation for the band during their time here. Worship Arts Outreach also supported our children's Fine Arts Summer Series.

...I'm grateful for Megan Anderson's leadership up front musically and by her presence for all the time our family has been at Trinity. I think we will only fully know in her absence the extent to which she has been an anchor for us in worship. We will miss you Megan!

...For partnership with the Finance Team, especially Lori Johnston and Susan Reynolds, who have taken extra time and energy this year to develop new ways to account for worship outreach events like our Christmas Concert series, making it easier for people to give to our mission partners through these events.

...For help from Paul Cartland, Dan Anteau (UAA), and Howard Berger who all gave expert technical help and referrals this year; fixing our sound board, advising us on lighting, fixing lights, and helping with our dimmer maintenance.

...For partnership with Children's Ministries in the Fine Arts Summer Series (Theme: Psalm 100 and Worship), and the first-ever "By Kids, For Kids 6pm Christmas Eve Service."

...For gifts of Tom's Sabbatical time and Cam's professional development time in Oslo and Taize (possibly the most effective intentional Christian ministry to young adults in the world, based on music and the contemplative tradition.) And for the leadership that grew and developed to carry worship during their time away.

Finally...

This year I have seen connections grow between Trinity and a person and then to their musical ensemble, from Trinity to a musical ensemble and then to a person, and from a person to their whole family. Cam said it best: "We've grown over the last year in the feeling, vibe of worship. There have been many little things that contribute to an overall feeling of "Us", more care for people involved in worship ministry, more partnership in events, more people involved. It's never felt more like an "us", being filled up and poured out through music and art. Our hope for 2013 is to continue that growth, learning about who we are as worshippers and telling, singing, painting, playing God's love to the community of Anchorage."

Freed and forgiven much, we also love much. The fragrance of worship remains on us as we go out. Blessings Trinity.

Youth Ministry

Aimee Ronning, Director for Youth Ministries

***Youth Director Search committee report:** Knowing that Youth Director Adam Muhr would complete his contract in September 2012, a search team for a new director was formed in early spring. Dan Clark (chair), Karen Gordon, Jim Miller, Tim Holliday and Tammy Letts worked many months nationwide to find a new person. After much prayer (and a slight miracle) we were pleased to hire Aimee Ronning as the new Director for Youth Ministry. Welcome Aimee!*

Aimee speaking...

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.

In the Spring of 2012, Adam Muhr taught a 4 month **confirmation** class each week. Upon completion, eight students joined in April as active members of Trinity. It was a great celebration for the church.

In the summer, the youth participated in **Project Y.E.S.** (Youth Exploring Service). This particular mission was sponsored through the Yukon Presbytery and focused on youth leadership development. Trinity youth, together with the youth of the Chapel in the Mountains in Anaktuvuk Pass (AKP), attended leadership training for several days and were led by Sally Johnston. Then both AKP and Trinity embarked on a joint mission trip to Wainwright where they led Vacation Bible School and youth groups. It was a huge success which reached many children and students with the Gospel.

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 starts by sharing lunch together. The middle school youth are blessed by the parents each week, who take turns providing lunch for them. Afterwards, they gather together for lesson time. Then they break into small groups, one for boys and one for girls, where they answer discussion questions, share about their weeks and pray together. Youth group ends

with some time for active games, which are held either in the fellowship hall or outside. This is our regular weekly pattern. Once a month, the group does a fun activity like a game night, or hanging out time at Aimee's house. The middle school group also has a number of events during the year. Last year, the group participated in the following events: a city wide middle school retreat, 30 Hour Famine, Huffman's Fall Carnival, Hiking Trip, Summer Small groups, and various service projects. Our average weekly attendance is 13 youth. Our biggest event this past year was a Christmas party with 20 middle school students. Dan Ronning and Dustin Madden are weekly volunteer staff for the middle school group. Additionally, the leaders try to get one on one time with some of the students a couple of times per month, as well as make it to their sports games and music performances.

Senior High Youth: The senior high youth group includes all youth in 9th through 12th grades. The group has been small this past year. There are 7 youth who attend regularly. We meet each Sunday night at 5:30. Parents provide dinner, so the youth group can share a meal together and hang out. After dinner they gather for lesson time followed by games. The games vary weekly between active and board games, but there is always a lot of laughter. 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, and a number of service projects. Dan Ronning is currently a regular weekly volunteer staff for the senior high group. Over the past year, Katie Casanova has also been an important part of several senior high events. Additionally, the leaders try to get one on one time with some of the students a couple of times per month, as well as make it to their sports games and music performances.



Associate Pastor

Rev. Tamara Letts

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: 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. My role continues to develop and work with almost all the 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 just 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 the equipping team, women’s ministry team, outreach team, fellowship/ connections team, or men’s ministry team. 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 ongoing work of the Acts 16:5 Initiative. 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.

The Acts 16:5 Visioning Team for Trinity are Marjorie Haun, John Kauffman, Jim Miller, Megan Anderson, 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. We unveiled our mission statement in 2012:

Trinity is ..."Filled Up, Poured Out"
Jesus, The Source,
Gathers us to One Community
Sends Us to All Communities

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

We began the year with a six week study on "The Life of Paul". Trinity has 15 Home Groups consisting of about 160 individuals. We celebrated the Home Group ministry with an all-church fall group kick off led by Rebecca Vano. Future hopes include further leadership retreats, 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.

Membership

Together with Holly Morris and Tom Letts, I facilitated the new members classes for 2012 called **iConnect 2.0**. This is offered 4 times a year. Topics include what we believe, church history, vision of Trinity, and distinctives of Reformed faith.

Sabbatical

This year was a little different in that Tom received a grant for a sabbatical which allowed him to travel and be away from Trinity for four months. During his absence Trinity formed a sabbatical team to oversee the ministries and direction. I was honored to preach on a regular basis, moderate session, and provide pastoral care. The gift of being with our family for five weeks was something for which I will always be thankful.

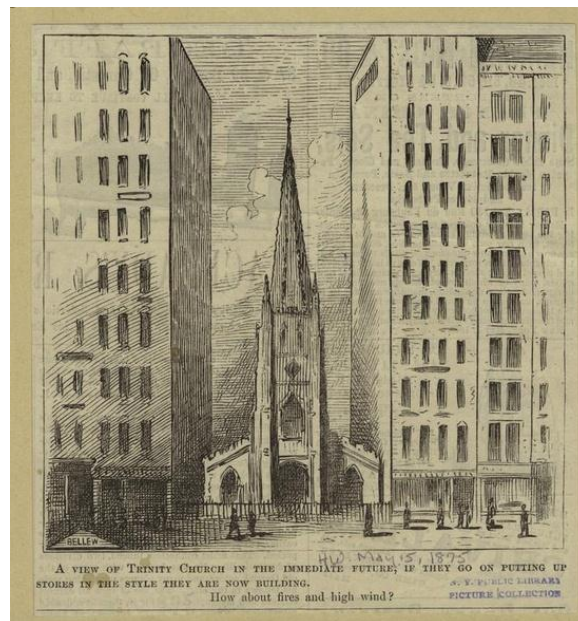
Other Joys

Besides working in these particular areas and general pastoral duties (teaching, preaching, weddings, funerals, counseling, supervising, visitation...), I serve in women's ministry, adult formation, worship, membership/connections, the sabbatical team, staff gatherings, and session. A significant part of this year included the development and oversight of the Director for Youth Ministry search.

Presbytery

I completed my 6 year term as the chair for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Presbytery Council. I remain on the Missional Task Force. I currently serve on the Theological Task Force for the Yukon Presbytery.

I am grateful for the Associate Pastor Care Team who grants me wisdom and support. You all are awesome!!! Thank you for your prayers, your grace, your commitment and most of all, your love in Christ!



...Not our Trinity!

Senior Pastor Rev. Tom Letts

Four key events shaped 2012 for me: the four-month Lilly **sabbatical** (which continues to shape my life and leadership); the **session's role in the conflict** over ordination and sexuality standards in the PC(USA) (they led beautifully but, man, it was draining); the continued beauty and power of the **music ministry as an outreach** to un-churched musicians (we continue to build both a reputation as a unique place to play, and these men and women are being transformed by the love they meet here); and the growth in both depth and numbers of those participating in the **contemplative prayer** offerings at Trinity, (now with 'remote participants' in four states).

Four 2012 pieces that fly under the radar: the work of the **Acts 16:5** team in gathering and expressing vision and mission for Trinity; **staffing** changes with the addition of Aimee Ronning in Youth and Kelly Miller in Children's; my role as a coach in the PC(USA)'s **1001 Worshiping Communities** initiative; and the **Huffman** Elementary School business partnership.

Four concerns for 2013: the **stress on a staff** attempting to serve both an old model of ministry (caring primarily for the congregation, building, etc.) and the 'new model' of living as a missional community existing primarily as a witness to our neighbors; the weight upon our congregation of 220 of **an aging building** meant to support an active congregation of 500-800; the **loss of Megan Anderson**, particularly as she functioned as my primary partner in outreach to the community; the **utter decay of the bush community churches** and their leadership.

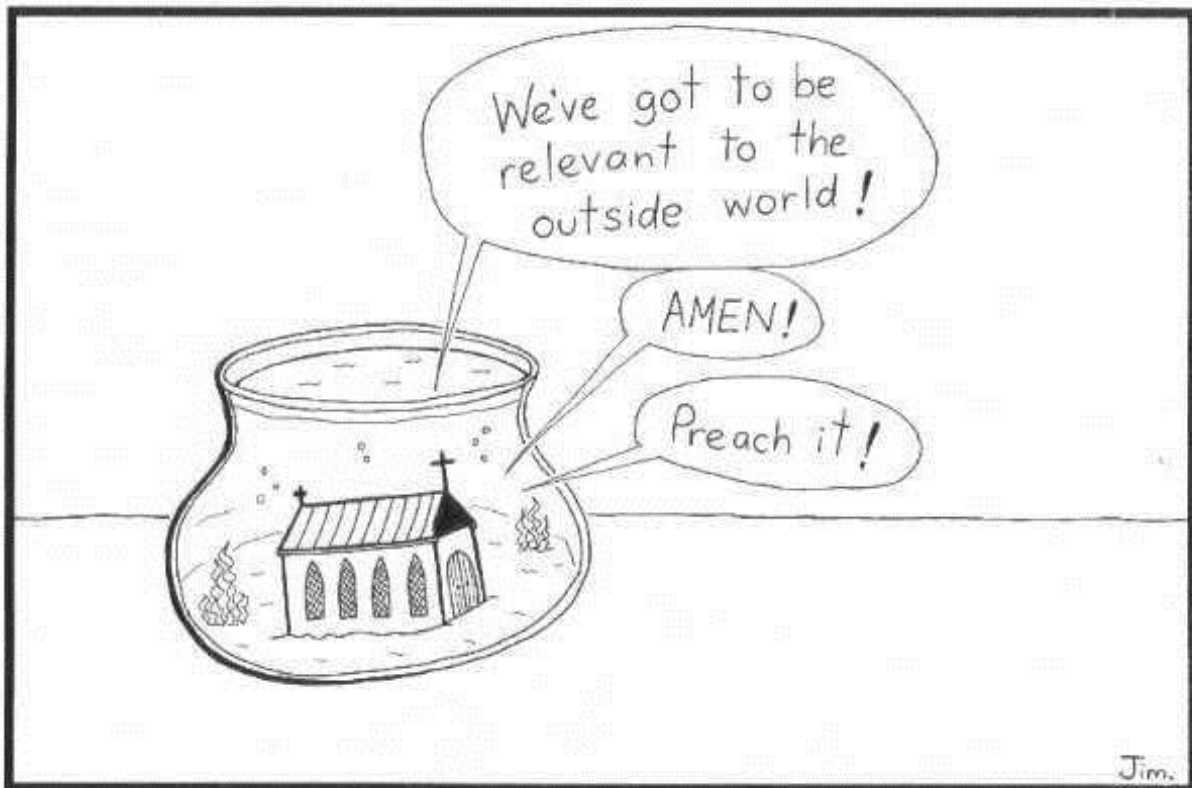
Four hopes for 2013: Broadening an already strong **home-group ministry** to grow in numbers, pastoral care and outreach to their neighborhoods; **freedom** for those primarily invested in: denominational issues, or 'Christianity', or their own tepid hearts to simply see what the session does, and say, 'Lord, we are yours, all of us, all of us. We will go.'; the **Financial Peace University** will bring financial freedom to many of our people; the work of the **Acts 16:5** team would 'infect our hearts, minds and actions' as Trinity becomes truly **'Filled up, Poured out...knowing Jesus as the source, being gathered into community, and sent into our communities.**

Continued on the next page...

I see the movement of the Holy Spirit among us... 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 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.'

Trinity, it is an honor.

Rev. Thomas C. Letts



...Also not our Trinity!

ADDENDUM

At the request of Trinity's Board of Elders, the following two documents are included with this report:

1. Trinity's finalized Vision Statement from the Acts 16:5 Visioning Team
2. Session's Response to the changes in the PC(USA)'s ordination standards.

Vision Statement

Trinity is...

Filled Up, Poured Out

Jesus, The Source

“Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst, the water that I give will become a fountain springing up to eternal life.” John 4:14

We are seeking...

To deepen our relationship with God through prayer

To abide in Christ through his Word

To embrace the loving presence of the Holy Spirit through spiritual practice/disciplines

Gathers Us to One Community

“They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship...and prayer...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God.” Acts 2:46-47

We come together ...

In worship, to celebrate God’s daily presence in our lives

In fellowship, to deepen relationships, affirming the gift of each person

In equipping, each of us, for the mission and ministry of God

Sends Us to All Communities

“Be my witnesses both here...and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

We choose to go together to...

Share the Good News that freedom in Christ is a gift to all

See and love all people as our neighbors, serving their needs

Provide hope to the marginalized and the powerless in our world

Our Current Response

The session of Trinity is prayerfully working through the challenges we are currently facing given the ever-changing landscape of the PCUSA. We embrace our Presbyterian and Reformed heritage which calls us to be a living witness to our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church. We reaffirm our commitment to lead this congregation as carefully and prayerfully as we know how, in order that we may carry out her mission to serve Jesus Christ as faithful disciples; “filled up and poured out”. As a response to the current climate in our church history, we offer the following “Confession, Reaffirmation and Call” to be a guide for our future together.

We Humbly Confess:

- We live in a broken and hurting world, separated from God, ourselves, one another and creation (sin). All of us are broken, even reprobates, and in need of God’s grace in Jesus Christ, our only Savior.
- Individually and collectively, we have contributed, (often unknowingly), to injuring the unity of Christ’s church. We grieve over the division currently experienced within the PCUSA specifically as it relates to changes in the polity regarding ordination standards.
- Knowing that we come from many faith histories and experiences, and affirming God alone is Lord of our conscience, we are varied in our response to the PCUSA changes.

We Readily Reaffirm:

- The Holy Scriptures (the Old and New Testaments) are our only rule of faith and practice for us as disciples and as a church. (BOO F-3.0107) They are the authoritative witness to the Way of the triune God in the world. The Scripture is God’s Word because it is inspired by the Spirit of God. It is ‘useful in teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.’(2 Tim. 3:16) We gladly place ourselves under Scripture’s loving authority, and in accountability to one another, by God’s grace.
- The creeds and the confessions currently in our Book of Confessions, beautifully and powerfully express our faith and gives witness to Jesus Christ. We affirm our guidance by them and our commitment to the Reformed expression of our faith.
- We know our church is only a local expression of the universal and diverse Church of Jesus Christ. Our visible oneness as a connectional church is an important sign of the unity of God’s people and one we take seriously. We consider our connection with other Reformed churches, through our shared profession of faith and governance, a gift from God.

- We see ordination to be the church's responsibility to prayerfully discern the movement of God's Spirit, its current needs together with the discernment by persons, congregations and presbyteries. It is a gift that Christ gives, not a right of persons or groups.
- All persons in leadership positions of the church (ordained or not) respond to God's grace through the covenants of baptism and membership; confessing repentant (remorseful) heart for their brokenness and a desire to follow Christ in all they do and say. Ordination is extended to those who seek to live in obedience to the scriptures and guided by our creeds and confessions.

We Are Called:

- We seek to live and love as Christ Himself, in both grace and truth. We have a predisposition for not living up to God's standards of right relationships both in our personal life and our corporate life; in our home life and in our congregational life. We are grateful that God offers us that same forgiving and costly love that the father extended to the prodigal son (Luke 15).
- We seek to uphold our best understanding of biblical truth while welcoming all, as we meet the brokenness of our age, such as the expressions we encounter of: individualism, entitlement, consumerism, sexual brokenness, materialism, parochialism, the vilification of enemies, and the like.
- We want to hear one another even when we disagree yet strive to not injure the unity of Christ's body. We choose to respect and not judge others who see the complexity of ordination differently from ourselves.
- We are called to uphold our covenantal relationships where Christ has currently placed us in the family of faith. While the present actions of the PC(USA) do not require any change in our nomination process of leadership here at Trinity, it may change the process for some of other churches in the PCUSA. We will continue to monitor and work through the changing landscape of our denomination. Formal relationships with organizations such as "the Fellowship" will continue to be a part of our consideration if/when they assist us in fulfilling our mission as reflected in our vision statement. We commit to uphold the mission and vision of Trinity, her character and calling. God has a plan for us – a plan with a future and a hope.

Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21