

February 2009

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past few weeks we have had a very important vestry retreat and an Annual Meeting. At least three important items arose out of those discussions.

First, our general operating budget for 2009 will have a deficit of over \$40,000. The reason this shortfall is so much larger than last year is that our endowment was reduced over the past year by over \$600,000 in stock market losses and by about another \$300,000 in capital expenses (anyone interested in the details should consult our Annual Report). The underlying cause of the deficit is that our membership contributions cover only about half of our parish expenses. While our stewardship has been increasing, we still have much work to do to achieve a sustainable long-term budget that does not rely heavily on endowment income. After significant discussion, the vestry decided to cut many program expenses, but not any staff positions for this year and to take an additional \$42,000 out of the endowment. We many need to make different decisions next year, however.

Second, we decided not to proceed with the capital improvement project that included building a new ground-level entrance and elevator in the former A&B Building. Even with the generous campaign commitments and other funding we received, we would still need at least \$150,000 in additional funds. Given our operating budget and endowment losses, the vestry decided that we could not move forward at this time. Instead, we will focus on dealing with deferred maintenance issues such as plaster and plumbing that would have been done as part of the larger project. We will be selling all of the A&B Building and Bill's buildings to Kurt Smith. A letter will

be going out in early February to all campaign contributors informing them of the change, and asking them to consider keeping at least some of their commitment to help Trinity. The discussion at the Annual Meeting about what people felt they would want to do with their commitments was very good and lively, and the vestry will consider this input at the February meeting before we send out these letters.



Third, commitment to our parish life was discussed in great detail. The level of commitment and participation by our parish family is not enough to help our parish grow. While there are many reasons for this lack of attendance, without a decision from all of us to be at church on Sunday and to be involved in at least one weekly ministry, the choir, or a study group, we will likely continue to lack the critical mass necessary to bring new people into a relationship with God and become active, committed Christians. Over the coming weeks and months, the vestry and I will be offering a variety of opportunities for ministry involvement and for discussions about what we are willing to expect from one another. I hope you will decide to be part of those next steps in our life together.

Special thanks to all of those who participated in the vestry retreat and annual meeting. The discussions on all of these issues showed a care for our life together, a thoughtfulness, and a love and trust of each other that is a tribute to our parish. May God continue to bless our work here.

Peace,



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
RESUMES  
FEBRUARY 1 - 9:15AM**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
& VESTRY ELECTIONS**

## Trainings—Sunday, February 15

Training for Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors and Worship Leaders is set for Sunday February 15 between the services.

This training is for those currently licensed or those who would like to be licensed for any of these ministries. Any adult communicant in good standing may serve.

The following is from Title III, Canon 4, Section 6 of national canons:

***Eucharistic Minister:*** Is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

***Eucharistic Visitor:*** Is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

***Worship Leader:*** Is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

If you feel you are called to any of these ministries or have any questions, plan to be present and see where God is leading you.

Our annual meeting was held last Sunday. During his sermon Adam spoke about our many blessings and the challenges we are facing.

During the meeting, and after reviewing the 2008 budget, the discussion focused on the 2009 deficit budget, the cuts made in programs and the need for the church to stop relying on the endowment to operate. Though the giving is more than it has ever been, we still rely on endowment income for day to day operations. The current market situation has made it more evident as to why we need to be a self sustaining church.

There was much discussion on the buildings and the decisions made by the vestry at the retreat held on January 17. Letters will be sent to all who have pledged or contributed to the capital stewardship campaign outlining these changes and options.

Sharon Drennen, Pat Hesch, Elaine Rhodes and Bill Shultz were chosen to serve on vestry.

Extra copies of the annual report are available in the office or on the web at [www.trinitywarren.org](http://www.trinitywarren.org).

Many thanks to those who helped with the brunch following the meeting. Sharon Drennen volunteered to organize the brunch and set up assisted by hubby, Tom. Sharon along with Donna Ball, Renee Cunningham, Krissy Dyer, Chris Memser, Connie Michell, and Siby Thomas made scrumptious casseroles and other goodies for all to enjoy. The clean-up crew made short work of the task—thanks to the Drennens, Siby & Jocelin Thomas, and Jim & Lynda McCollough.

## Coffee Hour

Thank you to *Dee Stewart, Donna Ball, and Jim & Lynda McCollough* for hosting and cleaning up after coffee hour in January.

If you would like to host a Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the narthex.

## Lenten Programs

Last year on Friday evenings during Lent we gathered together at 6:00pm for Evening Prayer followed by a simple vegetarian and no dessert pot luck supper. Different programs were then presented each week by parishioners and others from the community to include Chris Mesmer discussing a book by Joan Chittister, Deacon Gail spoke on healing, Lynn Shultz presented a program entitled "The Miracle of Christ," Buddy Ward, pastor of North Warren Presbyterian Church presented a program on the church in Egypt, and Paul & Liam Boger presented a program on their work and ministry at a dental clinic in Guatemala.

We are planning to follow the same format this year. We have received a few suggestions for programs already, so if you have one in mind, please call the office or speak to Pat Hesch. Mark your calendars for March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

## Trinity Women's Guild

At our meeting in January, we decided to pursue an outreach ministry to the women of A Safe Place.

We will be making up baskets of personal care products to be given to women when they arrive at A Safe Place.

If you would like to donate any item for these baskets, please place them in the box in the narthex. (Full-size –not hotel size– shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotion, etc.)

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 18 beginning with a tureen dinner at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

**The Food Pantry shelves are getting bare.  
Any non-perishable food is appreciated.  
Pasta & sauce, Mac & Cheese, Soup**

## Aladdin

Warren Player's Jack-In-The-Box Production will present Aladdin at the Struthers Library Theatre in February. This youth performance of "Aladdin" will feature our own *Taylor John* as the princess!

Show times are Thursday through Saturday, February 19 - 21st at 7:00 pm and Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 pm. For show and ticket information contact the theatre at 723-7231.

## Homebuyers

Family Services and the PNC Foundation are bringing a four part Homebuyer's Club to Warren.

It begins on Feb. 4 and will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm during the month of February at the Warren Public Library. It is designed for low-to-moderate income folks who are contemplating if home ownership is from them. The sessions will cover budgeting basics, credit repair, legal issues, different options for buying a home, etc. It's designed to walk folks through the process in a classroom setting so they are empowered to make well-informed decisions in the real world. Getting a home is a good thing -- keeping one is even better!

## Part-Time Position Available

The Crossing (a new Christian coffeehouse/ nightclub) is seeking a responsible adult in managing the operations of the facility. Applicant must be willing to work evenings, somewhat flexible, oversee volunteers, and schedule events. He or she should have great people skills. If interested, please email either Stephanie Rodrigue at [stephaniegomon@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniegomon@yahoo.com) or Keith Price at [kcprice1@atlanticbb.net](mailto:kcprice1@atlanticbb.net). Call Stephanie with questions at 728-2639.



Updated parish directories are available in the narthex.

## Capital Stewardship Campaign

To date, we have received 58 pledges for a total of \$317,730.

### 2009 Pledges

To date we have received 61 pledges for \$114,588. Seven new pledges have been received, along with twenty-four pledgers who are sharing additional blessings received from God by increasing their pledge this year. You may return your pledge by mail, by placing it in the box in the narthex, or placing it in the offering plate. If you misplaced your 2009 pledge form, extras are available in the narthex or you may call the office.

2009 offering envelopes are available in the narthex. If you want envelopes and can't find a box with your name, please see Barb.

**Please note:** If you are making a contribution to any fund other than your pledge to the General Operating Fund, please indicate on your check to what fund you are giving your contribution. You may write one check, but please **indicate on the memo line** how it is to be distributed. In addition, **green renovation envelopes** are available in the narthex and office for your Capital Stewardship Pledge, if you would like to use them. Any check or cash placed in your white offering envelope which states "FOR MAINTENANCE AND PROMOTION OF THE CHURCH'S WORK" is for the general operating budget of the church and not capital stewardship projects. If you have any questions, please call the office. Thank you!!

### Treasurer's Report To December 31, 2008

	2008 Actual	2008 Budget	2009 Proposed Budget
<b>Endowment Income</b>	\$124,380	\$124,380	\$77,831
<b>Member Contributions</b>	\$124,516	\$122,584	\$136,174
<b>Plate Income</b>	\$1,332	\$2,000	\$1,500
<b>Other Income</b>	\$4,994	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Total Income</b>	\$255,222	\$251,464	\$218,005
<b>Expenses</b>	\$264,886	\$280,942	\$259,525
<b>Operating Budget Deficit</b>	\$-9664		\$-41,520

### Prayer for Trinity

*Almighty and gracious God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear my prayer for the rector, vestry and parish family of Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church. By the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, enlighten and strengthen us for your service. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to know what is right, and give us courage to pursue it and grace to accomplish it. Renew us in faith, hope and charity. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, make us always thankful for your providence, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind with your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prayers

The Diocesan Health team requests prayers for the development of a comprehensive mission strategy.

**At Home:** Denny Brown, Jon, Ettinger, Judy Nobles, Steve Steele

**In nursing/assisted living homes:** Lillian Lemmon (Cambridge), Margaret Gilson (Rouse Suites), Bernetta Brant, Donna Check, Betty DeLong, Bernadine Goyda (Rouse Home), Barb Weiland (Warren Manor) Rhea Waples (Watson Home)

**Illness/Surgery/Other Needs:** Steven Ettinger, Cody Stalder, Amy & Midge Hindman, Kathy Fleming, Cleo DiFiore, Dick, Ed Brant, Billy Moriarity, Mary Klancher, Lori Brusso, Gar Spicher, Scott Mitchell, Debra Gibson, Hayden Turner, JoAnn Kosthorst, Mary Massa, Mary Simmons, Judy Trask, Marjorie McClenathan, Tim Strohmeyer, Karen Conrad, Sam Hill, Alex Patch, Teri Gruver, Leslie Kershaw, Jeff Washburn, Patty J., Rita Gibson, Eloise Metz, Kim, Martha Phelps, Janet Ely, Lewis Conroy, Alan Crone, Terry Brant, John Wallo, Jane Betts, Samuel Lindell, Neil Orchard, Silke Pumphrey, Frances, Jack Fiske, Patrick Nuhfer, Eric Lindell, Mary Lou Watt, Derek Allan, Jerry Trambley, Alice & Arun Moore, Colin Hillard, Gary McCollough, J.T. McCollough, Barb Carr, Jim Ciprich, Sr., Jill Lasecki, Kara Donaldson, Carole Kinnunen, Kurt Glarner, Rob Glarner, Dave Johnson, Emily, Lisa Jackson, Anna, Jessica, Shane, Kathleen, Gloria Mitchell, Dante Dyer, David Thomson

**Serving in the Armed Services:** Christopher Holmes, Jake Glenn, members of the Third Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, GA, (serving in Iraq, ), Paul Hernandez, Kristine Burne, Peter Landrio, Nathan Stewart, Nathan Heltzel, Parker Hahn, Michael Miller, Marc Miller, Annette, Toby Williams, Cody Williams, Jeremy Williams, Matthew Hammond

**Serving justice and peace:** Christian Peacemaker Teams; House of Hope, Birds of the Sky, and Good Samaritan House in India

**Bishops:** Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury; Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop

**The Clergy:** Martha Ishman, Canon to the Ordinary, Adam Trambley, our priest, Gail Winslow our deacon and archdeacon of the diocese

**The Vestry:** Leslie Baldensperger, Mary Lou Campbell - *Clerk*, Lana Creal, Sharon Drennen, Rita Gibson, Clare Glarner - *Sr. Warden*, Pat Hesch-*Treasurer*, Keith Hinsdale - *Jr. Warden*, Tom Jensen, Addy Landrio, Elaine Rhodes, Bill Shultz

The February issue of the diocesan newsletter *The Forward* is available in the narthex or on the web at [www.dionwpa.org](http://www.dionwpa.org).

**Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church**

444 Pennsylvania Avenue West

Warren, PA 16365

(814)723-9360

E-mail: trinity@trinitywarren.org

Website: www.trinitywarren.org

**Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Warren, PA 16365  
Permit No. 13**



**Come join us Friday evenings  
during Lent.**

**March 6, 13, 20, 27  
and April 3.**

**The evening schedule will be:**

**6:00 PM Evening Prayer**

**6:15 PM Vegetarian Pot Luck  
Dinner—Please, no  
meat or desserts**

**7:00 PM Program**

**Sunday Schedule**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Healing Prayer in the Chapel  
Sunday School  
Adult Study Group  
Mother's Group
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

*Coffee & Fellowship before, between and after services*

**2nd Sunday of the Month**

- 12:00 PM Vestry Meeting

**3rd Sunday of the Month**

- 4:00 PM Knitting Group

**Monday**

- 7:00 PM Women's Study Group

**Wednesday**

- 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

**Thursday**

- 7:00 PM Men's Study Group

**Office Hours**

- 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday