

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EMC Chairs.....	2
How Much to Give	3
By the Numbers	3
Treasurer's Report.....	4
Young Adult Ministry	4
Refugee Assistance	5
Parish Finances	7
Budget Wish List	8 ▶



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Vision and finances are profoundly connected Holy Trinity Lives Out Its Mission Through Programs and Worship

For the past several years, Holy Trinity has held a parish business meeting in early September. The treasurer has presented a report on income and expenses, and taken questions from the floor. This year, the Sept. 9 business meeting included discussion about the rector's vision for the year ahead.

The business and vision of the church are "profoundly connected," Rector Tim Patterson said at the meeting. "Any talk about business, stewardship, money and the finances of the church—it's all about supporting our vision and our mission."

Holy Trinity's mission is "To know Christ and to make him known, through an inward journey of faith and an outward journey of service, giving thanks to God in all things."

"In essence, that is what we are doing here," Tim said. "All the different activities, programs and ministries – it's all about knowing Christ—knowing Christ and making him known."

We are called to be instruments of Christ's love through kindness, caring, compassion and service to others. We do that through our inward journey of faith and outward journey of service.

That inward journey of faith includes worship, music, teaching, formation, prayer, creativity and relationships in community, Tim said.

"And our vision is to do this same thing and this same quality of work all across the board, supporting this inward journey of faith for every age and stage of life," he added.

The outward journey of service makes God's love visible in our lives and in our world.

"And don't ever think that your love doesn't matter. Your

love matters," Tim emphasized. "Your love is an essential piece of the puzzle, an essential part of what God is trying to do in our world and here at Holy Trinity."

Giving thanks to God in all things is the "larger context for consideration of the business and financial affairs of the church," Tim said. "God's love is so immense and so profoundly life-giving. It's what we are created for, that we are moved to gratitude, thanksgiving, Eucharist. We are moved to want to give back, to give of ourselves, through faithful stewardship of our time, our talents and our treasure."

Tim talked about four areas of increased focus or change for the coming year: worship, youth, developing our properties and young adults.

Worship

The goal is to deepen the spiritual vitality of worship through the use of Taizé music and opportunity for silent, contemplative prayer.

Taizé (pronounced teh-ZAY) music is prayer chants of repeated simple phrases, usually from the Psalms or other scripture. The repetition is designed to help prayer and meditation.

Taizé music is used during communion on Sundays and at the Wednesday evening services.

Tim said he hoped the music would "deepen and enrich our experience of communion with God, increase participation in singing, and draw people into an enhanced experience of prayer in community."

The Wednesday service, Stillpoint (which refers to a line

//We are very excited to be kicking off a new program year with a strong sense of energy, direction and purpose.//

– Tim Patterson

continued on page 6

EMC Chairs Are Called to Lead the Congregation Chairs See Giving to the Church as a Spiritual Discipline

“There’s a new energy at Holy Trinity Church. We see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work throughout our church community. Thanks to the gifts of clergy, staff, and laity, all things seem to be working together for good to the glory of God,” reflected EMC leaders Steve LaFrance and Hattie Aderholdt.

The Every Member Canvass (EMC) is Holy Trinity’s annual pledge campaign. Money pledged funds the church’s day to day operations and ministries.

The 2012 EMC leaders are vestry members Steve LaFrance, EMC chair, and Hattie Aderholdt, EMC co-chair. Both say they were called to the job because of their love and dedication to Holy Trinity. They see this time as a season of renewal and commitment.

Steve has attended Holy Trinity for about eight years and been confirmed for three. He grew up in the Catholic Church, his wife in the Methodist Church.

Steve said he particularly appreciates that the Episcopal Church in general and Holy Trinity in particular are “thoughtful and open minded and invite people to question things.”

Hattie is a life-long Holy Trinity member. She was baptized, confirmed and married at Holy Trinity, and her parents are buried in the columbarium.

“It’s a central part of my life and always has been,” she said.

Hattie went to Holy Trinity Day School and remembers sitting in the chapel in Kindergarten and thinking there was no better place on earth.

Both Steve and Hattie felt called to the job of EMC chair and co-chair.

“It is an honor to be asked,” said Steve. “We are all called to do different things in the church, and I thought maybe I could put a new voice to the campaign and a new perspective.”

Hattie said, “Agreeing to co-chair the EMC is my way of using my gifts and skills to give back to the church and do something important for the church. I feel like everyone needs to use what-

ever talents they have to contribute to the church. The clergy can’t do it all.”

A belief in the spiritual importance of giving also played a role in Steve and Hattie agreeing to head the EMC.

“I am a true believer that success is a blessing and it did not occur in a vacuum,” Steve said. “Whether it’s success we achieve or treasures we have, it all ultimately comes from God. We’re just the custodians. God says ‘Here it is, what are you going to do with it?’”

Hattie agreed. “I think it’s important to give to the church because I believe that God has given us so much, and that we need to give back part of what he has given us. It’s important for that giving back to be to Holy Trinity since Holy Trinity is so important to the community.

“I heard a sermon about putting money in the collection plate,” Hattie said. “When the plate goes up to the altar, and it is blessed, your assets are blessed. So, even though I have my pledge drafted, I always put something in the plate so my assets are blessed.”

There are many ways to be good stewards of the blessings God has given us, and to return a portion of our blessings to the ministries of the church.



Photo by VanderVeen Photography

We are custodians of the gifts God has given – use your gifts to further the mission and ministry of the church.

“In gratitude for the blessings received, we give back to God a portion of our time, talents, and treasure. We give tangible expression to our Christian commitment through faithful acts of love, giving of our time and talents in service to God and neighbor. We give of our financial and material resources to support the continuing ministry of Christ, making God’s love visible in our world,” noted Steve and Hattie.

Steve saw the truest picture of Holy Trinity at Glory Ridge three years ago.

“That really pulled it together for me,” he says. “That’s a different camp of people from the others I’d met, and I thought how wonderful it was that one church could be home to all these different sorts of people. At this point, I can’t remember not being at Holy Trinity.”

Steve can’t imagine not being a part of Holy Trinity, and Hattie doesn’t plan to leave.

“I want a niche in the columbarium in one of the columns across from the Day School room where I went to kindergarten,” she said. “I want to come full circle right here at Holy Trinity.”

How Much Should You Give? Making Your Annual Pledge to the Church

It’s that time of year. Time to decide how much—maybe even whether—to pledge to the church.

What’s the right amount? How do you get started if you’ve never given? Do you even have to pledge?

Ginny Inman, assistant to the rector, remembers going to a conference where the speaker told the audience, “Get out your checkbook and look at the last 10 checks. If someone looked at your checkbook, could they tell you’re a Christian?”

“It was a turning point for thinking about giving as something you do all the time,” Ginny said.

She suggested that before people think about a dollar amount, they think about why to give.

“We give because of the generosity of God and the abundance of his blessing,” Ginny said. “Our giving is an outpouring of that. We give to the glory of God and to help others.”

Ginny believes that Holy Trinity is on the right track. “Holy Trinity is living its mission in its financial structure,” she said. “I think we do a good job of trying to put resources in places where there are deep needs. Sometimes the need is a hunger for God and sometimes the need is a physical need, like housing.”

“Giving is like any other spiritual practice – walking the labyrinth, contemplative prayer, getting up every Sunday to come to church – it can be hard,” said Ginny. “But you find a stronger sense of grace because you are aligning your heart with the heart of God, and God is always generous.”

For parishioners who don’t give to the church, the way to get started is simply to start, Ginny said. But how much should you give?

Traditionally, Christians are called to tithe, give 10 percent of their income. “That’s daunting for people when they’re just getting started,” Ginny said.

Ginny said the story of the widow’s mite is the basis for the theology of giving. Luke 21:1-4 reads, “And he

looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and he saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So he said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

Gordon Cosby, one of the founders of Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C., has written of the time he was minister of a small church in Virginia and was asked to visit a member of the congregation, a widow with six children. The woman was tithing, giving \$4 a month. Cosby was to let the widow know that she should not feel obligated to continue to give. “I told her as graciously and as supportively as I knew how that she was relieved of the responsibility of giving. As I talked with her...tears came to her eyes. ‘I want to tell you,’ she said, ‘that you are taking away the last thing that gives my life dignity and meaning.’”

Giving is a privilege. Like the widow who gave two mites, Gordon Cosby’s church member understood the need to give.

“We need to understand money as means of freedom versus something we cling to,” Ginny said. “As you give you realize you are receiving and want to give more.”

Start small if necessary. “Anything you give can change the world and make a difference in someone’s life,” Ginny said. “No gift is too small to build the kingdom of God.

“Jesus talked about money more than anything else in the Gospel,” said Ginny. “He understood the hold it has. It becomes an idol, the thing that we trust in more than God. But it’s important there be a different narrative. Money is a means to a life lived fully. We need to love God and neighbor, even with our money. When we do that, there’s coherence and we feel good about life in Christ.”

– Harriette Knox

Holy Trinity by the numbers

The worship services held Sunday mornings are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all Holy Trinity offers and hosts throughout the week. Below are all the events that take place the week of October 14–20.

Worship

4 worship services: 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m. on Sunday and 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday

Christian Formation

7 classes for children and youth, 4 Adult SS classes, 3 Youth Groups, 2 Covenant Groups, 2 misc. formation groups, 2 Children’s Chapels, 1 ECW Chapter, and 1 EFM group

Music

7 Kindermusik classes, 3 children’s choirs, 2 adult choirs, 1 Taizé service

Servant Leadership School

6 core classes, 6 companion classes, 1 monthly labyrinth prayer walk

Outside Groups

4 UNCG Emeritus Classes, 1 AA group, 1 League of Women Voters Lunch Meeting

Other Events

2 Clergy Meetings, Jr./Sr. High Fall Retreat, CROP Walk, Staff Meeting, Bookclub, Fit ‘N Fun, Kids of the Kingdom, Nursery Care for Infants and Toddlers, Wednesday Night Supper, Styrofoam Recycling, Thursday Lunches, Zumba, HTDS Fall Fun Day, Caregivers Support Group Meeting

For Children

(may be listed above as well)

7 Day School Classes, 4 Sunday School classes, 4 nurseries, 3 choirs, 1 Children’s Chapel, 1 HTDS Fall Fun Day

Money Matters Our Treasurer's Report

It is with a strong sense of appreciation that I felt your love in honoring me at the Annual Business Meeting on September 9. We have come a long way in becoming transparent over the past years, and hopefully we can continue that tradition. You, as a faithful and loyal parish, have allowed us to continue the many programs at Holy Trinity during a period of time when other churches of all sizes have been forced to make major curtailments in their programs and outreach. You also deserve a round of applause.

Before long, it will be time to reach out to you again for a commitment for 2013. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to do. In the meantime, please also keep up your 2012 pledge so that we might continue those efforts we are just beginning to bring on line.

At the business meeting, I mentioned that we had been able to replace some of the Holy Trinity Reserve Funds as a result of two bequests. We often ask you to remember the church in your last plans, but these two gifts were some specific ways that you could remember the church. One was a direction that ten percent (a tithe) of the estate be given to Holy Trinity, the other was a direction that the balance of a 401K retirement savings account be given to the church, both have important tax saving implications, and are just two of the many alternatives that can be included in a will.

Thanks again for your support and as we move into the fall season, participate, enjoy the offerings at Holy Trinity, and where you can, give through volunteering.

Finally, as I have said before, if you have questions about our church finances, please contact me at jcompton1@triad.rr.com. As your Treasurer and a parishioner, I believe that the fiscal strength of our parish is important, and I am committed to making the finances of Holy Trinity transparent to all parishioners.

Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace.

— Mother Teresa



John Compton is a parishioner and serves as Holy Trinity's treasurer. He can be reached via e-mail at jcompton1@triad.rr.com.

Young Adult Ministry Sacred Space for Honest Conversation

“When a young adult walks into a church, it's a significant moment, because no one expects her to go and nothing pressures her to attend; instead, she enters the church looking for something. She searches for connection in her displacement: connection with God through spiritual practices, connection with her neighbors through an intergenerational community, and connection with the world through social justice outreach,” notes Rev. Carol Howard Merritt in her book *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*.

Connection is exactly what Holy Trinity's young adult ministry is seeking to provide to young adults in their 20s and 30s. Even the name of the group—*Unitas* (yOOñētās) meaning oneness, unity, concord—reflects this sense of connection.

Under the leadership of staff members Dr. Ryan Danker, the Rev. Greg Farland, the Rev. Ginny Bain Inman and Hope Tyler, and in conjunction with the young adult leadership team, *Unitas* has taken shape.

“It's our goal to create spaces for real, honest dialogue where folks can articulate their struggles with faith, life and God,” said Greg.

In this group there are no right answers, no dogma to learn and follow. There is simply a space for a community to form, where questions can be asked, and spirituality in a post-modern world can be explored.

Unitas meets on Sunday mornings for Theology on Tap: Coffee Edition. This

class, the staple of the program, is a safe space to ask honest questions, wrestle with faith in the real world, and for each person to grow in their unique spiritual journey.

When trying to attract young adults, many churches think that a contemporary style worship service complete with guitars, drums, screens and videos will do the trick. And they do attract some young adults, but not all.

“Young adults are attracted to liturgical churches—they desire the connection to history and tradition; something ancient that our commercial driven world doesn't provide. The liturgy of the Episcopal church transcends the ever changing nature of our culture,” reflected Ryan.

Sunday mornings may be the staple of the program, but *Unitas* is active in other ways as well. They get together for fellowship like the Low Country Boil held in August and their fall kickoff event at 1618 Wine Bar in September. In November, the group will meet for a service event to bake cookies to hand out to the hungry.

“I think that the idea that this ministry gives us an outlet for so many things—service, friendship, and spiritual growth—creates something that everyone can be drawn to, no matter what their need may be,” said Martha Chaires, leadership team member.

With a renewed focus on young adult ministry, Holy Trinity has provided the space and intention for this new ministry to flourish.

— Jo Owens

Holy Trinity Actively Assists Refugees Transitional Housing Provides Space and Time for Refugee Families

Holy Trinity and Ginny Herring got involved in refugee ministry by total immersion.

“On my first day at Holy Trinity in 1999, Tim Patterson handed me a message slip from Lutheran Family Services, who had called trying to find churches to take in a refugee family,” Ginny remembered. “Tim told me the names of the parishioners on the transitional housing committee and told me to handle it. So I said, ‘I guess we'll let this family move in.’”

Holy Trinity had a transitional housing committee helping a welfare-to-work family in the Simpson Street house, but the duplex on Smith Street was available.

When Ginny called, Lutheran Family Services said the refugees would arrive several days later and could someone meet them at the airport?

“I was immediately working with Holy Trinity people new to me; Greensboro was new to me; I was building the airplane in flight,” Ginny remembered. “But we welcomed the Ramadani family that week. There were five of them and all their possessions fit in gym bags.”

The entire transitional housing committee became devoted to the Ramadanis. Today, thanks to Holy Trinity's help, they're a success story.

They have bought a house and the father serves on the board of a refugee coordination agency housed at Holy Trinity.

Since that first refugee family, Holy Trinity properties have been home to families from Afghanistan and Vietnam and to families moving from welfare to self-sufficiency who were mostly managed by agencies like Mary's House. While all types of families present opportunities and challenges, parishioners found out that new immigrants are labor intensive.

“You're taking about people who have been in very different circumstances—perhaps living in a tent in a refugee camp for the last 12 years—and you plop them down in this society and expect them to learn the language, get a job, and function,” Ginny said. “They need an enormous amount of help.”

Refugees to the United States get assistance through various agencies for three months, Ginny said. During those three months, the refugees are expected to learn the language, find housing, and find a job. Some extended assistance is available, but after six months, refugees are expected to be on their own.

“We learned a lot,” said Ginny, “and one thing we learned was that there was no agency to coordinate aid

to these families. We also found out that we couldn't manage three new refugee families at a time in our three available homes.”

As the parish's experience with refugees expanded, Ginny began to work with other agencies to coordinate available assistance.

“Our group began calling meetings with people from the school system, health department, and refugee services so that we all had a chance to talk to each other,” Ginny said. “What evolved was the Refugee and Immigrant Network of Guilford (RING).”

RING has grants from other agencies for operating expenses, and Holy Trinity is providing space in a house on Simpson Street for a year, rent-free, while RING evaluates how best to help refugees to the area.

Holy Trinity was also evaluating how to best help refugees. Coincidentally, all the families in Holy Trinity properties moved out in the last year.

“The houses had not had major maintenance in years, so we took the opportunity to regroup and do some work,” Ginny said.

The Holy Trinity committee had come to the conclusion that the best use of parish property and parishioner time was to help refugees, but “not fresh-off-the-boat refugees,” Ginny said.

“We found that there are refugee families who may have been here a while, but despite doing their best to be self-sufficient, they just can't get over the hump,” Ginny explained. “Rents in Guilford County are terribly high. Think about a family of five living on one minimum wage salary with no health insurance. They have food stamps but the cheapest apartment is \$700 a month. You can't do that.”

The vestry agreed to rent Holy Trinity's properties to refugees who need more time to become self-sufficient. The rent is affordable, and Holy Trinity puts half the rent into an escrow account. That money is given back to the family at the end of the lease.

Parishioners are helping refugees in a variety of ways: donating money, teaching refugee women to sew and to make and sell handicrafts, and acting as mentors for women organizing their communities.

The bottom line, Ginny said, is “we help folks who need the extra oomph so that they can get their feet on the ground.”

— Harriette Knox

State of the Parish *(continued from page 1)*

in a T. S. Eliot poem, “at the still point of the turning world”), will be a 30-minute Eucharist with Taizé rather than folk music. Instead of a three-minute homily, there will be several minutes of contemplative silence. At the close of the service, people may leave in silence or stay for 15 minutes of contemplative prayer framed with music and spoken words.

“Our hope is that Wednesday evening can be a still point in our turning week and our often spinning lives, a time to re-center our lives in God,” said Tim.

Youth

Part two of the vision for the coming year is a recommitment to youth and youth ministry.

“There were a lot of hard things about what we went through last year but, for me, the worst was the effect on our young people at what is a critical point in their journey of faith, and also the impact on our adult youth advisors,” Tim said.

New staff members—the Rev. Greg Farrand, Marjorie Donnelly and Hope Tyler—have brought healing and new energy to youth ministry at Holy Trinity. This summer the church renovated the inside and outside of the youth ministry building on the corner of Greene and Smith Streets, giving young people an attractive space to gather.

Parish Property

Holy Trinity owns outright all of the buildings on the block except for the one on the corner of Smith and Simpson Streets.

The last strategic plan called for a major capital campaign to completely rebuild the parish hall building and to relocate the Holy Trinity Day School to a new ground-level building. Currently the day school is grandfathered in to building codes that do not allow pre-school classrooms to be above ground level.

Then the financial crisis of 2008 struck.

“The vestry and I are very cautious about the church taking on debt, and I am very grateful that we were not financially overextended when that economic crisis hit,” Tim said. “We made the decision, for the near- to mid-term, to use the buildings that we have and to renovate the ones that needed it, as we are able, without going into debt and without conducting a major capital campaign.”

The Holy Trinity Music School, housed in a Fisher Park historic building on Greene Street, was renovated in 2011.

Holy Trinity’s transitional housing ministry is now focused on serving refugees. A duplex on Smith Street and a house on Simpson Street were upgraded this year for three refugee families. The Julian House on Simpson Street has become a resource center for a community-wide refugee ministry.

The two houses and grounds on Fisher Avenue were renovated in 2007 to become the Servant Leadership School, Sacred Garden Bookstore and the McLendon Meditation Garden.

Add to those buildings the church, labyrinth, community garden, and youth building.

“If people want to know what Holy Trinity Church is about, they can come and see,” Tim said.

While a capital campaign may be necessary down the road, the church is improving properties on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Young Adults

The fourth area of emphasis is a revitalized ministry for young adults (loosely defined as 20s and 30s).

“When I arrived at Holy Trinity 23 years ago, I was 36 years old,” Tim said. “So, young adult ministry flowed very naturally here for a good number of years and we really grew and solidified that generation as a vital part of this church.”

Tim noted that since he had aged out of the young adult category and would soon be eligible for TWIGS membership, “We have kind of neglected bringing an intentional focus to that age group in recent years.”

This fall Greg Farrand, Ginny Inman and Dr. Ryan Danker, the new Gateway and Engagement coordinator, will reinvigorate young adult efforts. They and a core group of young adults have planned social events, service opportunities and a Sunday morning class.



Young adults enjoy food and fellowship at their summer Low Country Boil.

The Coming Year

Increased spiritual vitality through worship, recommitment to youth, continuing development of the parish properties as a witness to our mission, and a renewed focus on engaging the next generation of young adults will shape the work of the parish for the next year.

“We are doing all of this within the financial constraints of our current economic conditions,” Tim said. “We are doing more with less. We are very excited to be kicking off a new program year with a strong sense of energy, direction and purpose.”

– Harriette Knox

Parish Finances are a Balancing Act Making the Most Out of the Funds We Have

For several years, Holy Trinity has been in a hold-the-line budgeting mode, according to John Compton, treasurer. Each year’s Every Member Canvass, or annual pledge drive, is based on receiving total pledges of at least as much as the year before.

About 90 percent of the operating budget at Holy Trinity comes from pledges. Designated gifts and the Holy Trinity Foundation make up the rest by paying directly for some qualifying expenses.

When pledges fall short, budgeting becomes a balancing act. The 2012 budget started with close to \$100,000 less money pledged than 2011. The 2012 budget was based on \$1.54 million in pledges; 2011 was based on \$1.6 million.

“We save where we can,” John said. For example, Ginny Inman and Greg Farrand are part time; priests like Nathan Finnan and Russ Ingersoll fill in and preach some Sundays; and there haven’t been across-the-board salary increases in years.

There are some areas where it is sometimes impossible to save money.

“We spent money on the block last year,” John said. “We put on a new roof, made repairs to the slate roof, and a few weeks ago had scaffolding on the front of the church to waterproof. I was ushering and people kept asking me if we were spending money. I told them that this old church leaks and the plaster bubbles and we have to fix it.”

If more money came in, John said it could get spent in several places.

“We might spend it on clergy,” he said. “For a church our size, we’re understaffed compared to other churches. A parishioner who used to be a Methodist minister recently

told me that a Methodist church our size would have five clergy. We have the equivalent of two and a half.”

The parish saves money with part-time staff in the communications, gateway coordinator, and assistant treasurer positions. Restructuring the kitchen ministry has resulted in better than expected returns. We follow the recommendations of an environmental audit to save on utility expenses.

“We’re being as tight-fisted as we can,” John said.

The budget process also accounts for pledges that never get paid. That number is about one percent of all pledges, although that number is currently higher for 2012, at about three percent.

“We can continue to hold the line, although a robust EMC would give us a comfort zone,” said John.

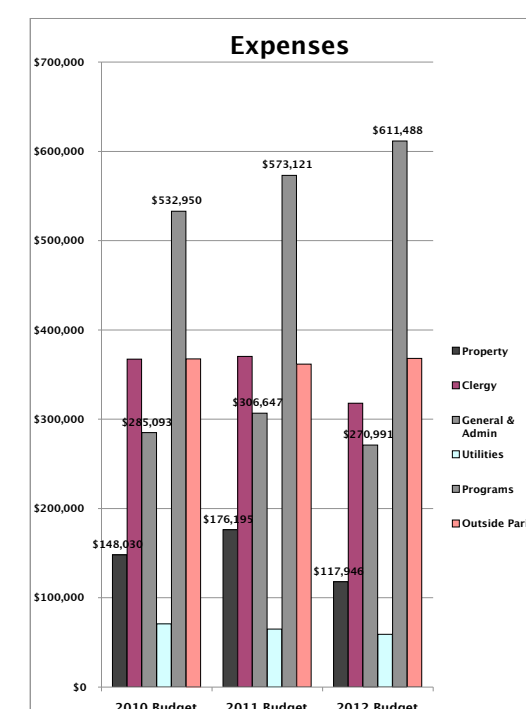
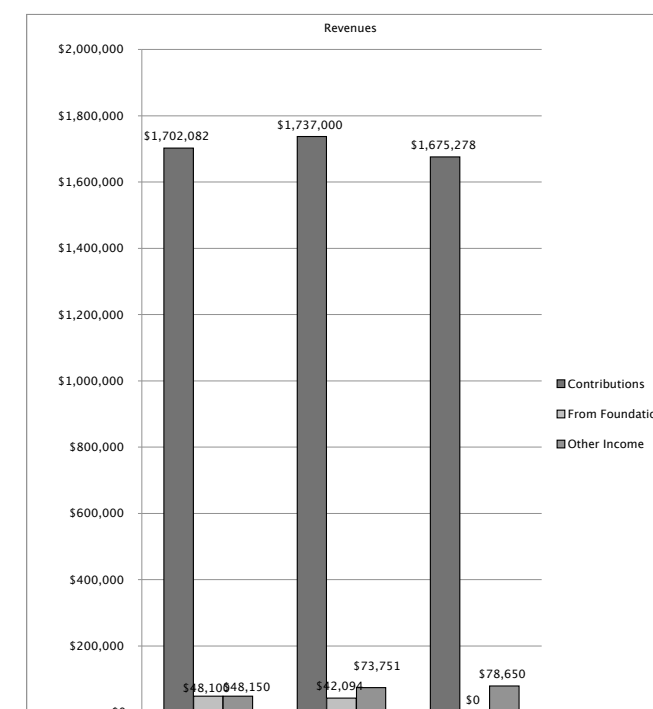
It’s not all gloom and doom. John points out that the money we spend is showing a good return.

“This year we invested in youth and Christian formation and in young adults, and it’s paying off. We had a huge crowd of young people at the first EYC Sunday night meeting,” he said.

In his vision speech at the parish business meeting on Sept. 9, Tim pointed out that we’re improving our ministries and properties as we can without going into debt.

“We’re financially stable, especially since we don’t carry debt, but budgeting is tight and an unexpected large expense, like the air conditioning system needing replacement, would throw us off balance,” Tim said. “We do more with less, and we are using our ministries and our properties as a visible witness to our mission as a church.”

– Harriette Knox



The Rev. Timothy J. Patterson
Rector

Return service requested

The Rev. Virginia N. Herring
The Rev. Ginny Bain Inman
Assistants

Budget Wish List Revisited

The good, the bad and the ugly of church improvement projects

In every church, there are projects that inevitably end up on a list to accomplish one day. Many of these projects deal with facility improvements, and Holy Trinity has its own list to keep up with the needs of an aging physical property.

The good: A lot has been accomplished in 2012

Most recently, renovations were done on the Youth House. These upgrades included new carpet, paint, furniture and multimedia equipment. Through the hard work of a few folks and the monies provided by designated funds, the Youth House has undergone a complete transformation.

A few months ago you may remember the scaffolding that was up around the sanctuary. This work was to waterproof the stone exterior to prevent water bubbles, peeling paint and other damage to the interior of the church. Waterproofing was included on last year's wish list, and though part of the church was completed, it will stay on this year's wish list to complete the rest.

Last spring Holy Trinity hosted the Co-Creation Conference, and in preparation, the peeling directional signs received a face lift. The signs, part of last year's wish list, are crossed off the list.



The sign on the left was featured in the October 2011 Post as part of the wish list. The sign on the right illustrates the improvements made.

Another item from last year's list is the computer main-frame server. This piece of equipment is vital to the day-to-day running of the church connecting staff with the internet, email and the database. Though the server itself has not been replaced, part of the heavy load it was carrying has been reduced. Automated Church Systems (ACS), our database, has been transferred to the cloud and is now hosted on the ACS server in South Carolina. Church email will move to the cloud next.

This year has seen a number of improvements to Holy Trinity's campus, and the church was able to show its beauty and grace to the hundreds of guests who visted throughout the year.

The bad: Many items from the 2012 wish list will remain

The 2012 wish list included items such as a new chiller (\$100,000), replacing the HVAC computer control system to better control the temperature throughout the property (\$15,000), completing the waterproofing on the building (\$12,500), replacing the server (\$15,000), and staff expansion (\$50,000). All of these items will remain on the 2013 wish list. Thankfully, though routine maintenance and upgrades are always being done, no new large items have been added to the 2013 budget wish list.

The ugly: Items remaining are the most costly

From the dollar amounts associated with each of the upgrades listed above, it's plain to see why these improvements have not been made. There are plans to continue the waterproofing in the next budget cycle, which will cross that item off the list. The rest of the list will be addressed as need and funds allow.

- Jo Owens