

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

## *The Church of the Holy Trinity*

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## Annual Parish Meeting 28 January 2007

The annual meeting of the Society of The Church of The Holy Trinity was called to order by the parish clerk at 9:00 a.m. with the reading of the warrant. Following the Eucharist, the business portion of the meeting commenced.

**Minutes:** The reading of the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting was waived and the minutes accepted as written.

**Parish Group Reports:** The Reverend Maggie Minnick, Rector, asked all who were involved in church activities and organizations to stand and be recognized. It was noted that all present were standing. Maggie gave thanks to God for the time and efforts of all. A motion was made and seconded to accept all the parish group reports presented. The vote was affirmative. Maggie invited all who wanted to try a ministry, and all who thought they would like to start a new ministry to do so.

**Financial:** The Treasurer's report was presented. The Treasurer reported the church had a net profit for 2006 of \$36,485. Included in the net profit was an operating loss of \$3,548 and withdrawals from the endowment of \$39,899. There were no questions asked regarding the 2006 budget actuals.

The 2007 operating budget as accepted by the Vestry and printed in the 2006 Annual Report, was presented. Gordon Adams urged the vestry to change our power supplier to a green power provider. A motion was made and seconded to have the vestry change to green energy immediately. A discussion followed. Chuck Russo explained how he has researched the cost to the parish to go to green power, stating that we first have to look at how we use our electricity. CL&P Co. has a program that, if they approve an energy-saving proposal that we would make, the company would provide us with a three-year interest free loan, and ultimately, a 50% rebate. After this procedure, we would look into green energy.

Eric Rennie stated that this is all part of a larger study with a consultant to help us become more efficient. We need to look at all aspects in order to become more efficient. Bev Byrd said that in the long term, we might actually save dollars, with a combination of re-lamping and more efficient energy options.

The motion was amended to read: A motion was made and seconded to have the vestry investigate green energy immediately.

Fran DiStefano said that when he compared costs, a change to green energy would result in a 13% increase in our electricity costs. He pointed out that the proposed budget already showed a \$53,000 budget deficit before withdrawal from the endowment.

Many of the parishioners present spoke for and against an immediate change in our electric energy supplier.

The question was called. The motion was defeated by a majority vote against.

Discussion on the 2007 operating budget continued. Although pledged contributions show an increase, there is a projected deficit due to increased costs of insurance, energy, and building costs. It was noted that the 2007 operating budget is a "no frills" budget. It was further noted

that we give only 10% to the Diocese, rather than the 12 ½ % standard. We are hopeful that a mild winter and less snow clearance might help lower expenses.

Maggie said that Pam Ferguson has agreed to chair a planned giving committee. Bill Wasch volunteered to serve on the committee.

A \$5,000 gift was received from the Czuba family at the end of 2006. This gift in memory of Peter Czuba and Will Costello is to be used for youth programs and music programs.

Eric Rennie said that so much is given in time and talent by our parishioners that we cannot budget.

There being no further questions on the budget, the Society accepted the Vestry operating budget for 2007.

**Strategic Plan Report:** Eric referred those present to Appendix B, Strategic Plan Review, in the Annual Report. Of the many goals already reached, Eric mentioned the wearing of nametags and our reconfigured sanctuary. He also noted that attendance at Services is up 12%, and income has increased. He said we should be pleased with our progress to date, but reminded us that there are still challenges ahead. *A motion made by the Building Strategy Committee resolution stated that it will reconvene a group to look at building needs, and do a feasibility study. The committee will report to the vestry in one year. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.* Any questions regarding our goals can be referred to parish leaders who are listed in the back of the Sunday bulletin each week. *A motion was made to charge the Vestry to appoint a Building Strategy Committee. The motion was seconded, and the vote was in the affirmative.*

**Old Business:** Bell Tower: Bill Wasch has contacted State Representative Raymond Kalinowski, re the status of the Grant awarded our church for repair work on the bell tower.

**New Business:** Elections: Maggie read the Rules of Order for Elections. The following names of candidates for office were presented:

**Officers - One-Year Term**

Warden: Eric Rennie  
Warden: Stephanie Brandon  
Treasurer: Francis DiStefano  
Clerk: Diane Reid

**Vestry Persons - Three-Year Term**

Steven Horst Sue Scibilia Judith Felton

**Vestry Person - One Year Term**

Sharon Sheedy

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Pam Ferguson Steven Horst

**Alternate Delegate**

Eric Rennie

Nominations were invited from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the above slate. The slate was voted in unanimously.

Outgoing vestry members Bev Byrd, Pam Ferguson, and Laura Wardner were presented with gifts and thanked for their service. Steve Ling will be ordained Deacon on Sunday, March 25 in Pennsylvania. He was presented with a gift, and thanked for his faithful service to our congregation.

Eric Rennie, who manages our website, mentioned in particular the work done by Hospitality Coordinator Laura Wardner. She has provided him with newcomer email addresses. We now have over 150 email addresses of parishioners. He said that Laura makes an absolute difference in turning that process around. He said that Carol Rawlins has volunteered to take on the Hospitality Coordinator responsibilities.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The vote was affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 11:55a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Day Reid, Clerk

### **Rector's Report**

2007 has been a special year in many ways both for Holy Trinity and for me. Thanks to all of you I was given Sabbatical Leave and vacation time from after Easter until the end of July. During that time I explored my call at a CREDO conference in Florida, spent time reading and relaxing on Cape Cod and in Florida, and followed the Silk Route across China on a once in a lifetime trip! None of this would have been possible without the willingness of the Revs. Ted Coolidge and Steve Ling to cover worship services and pastoral care and the wardens, Eric Rennie and Stephanie Brandon, along with our secretary, Valerie Manecke, to oversee the life of the parish. I am deeply grateful to them and to all the many lay leaders who stepped in and kept Holy Trinity running smoothly while I was away.

Indeed, many new things began in my absence. Our praise band continued to grow and evolve – playing our first Saturday Contemporary Eucharist in June and creating Joyful Noise Ministry to sponsor Christian concerts and worship events. While I was away the state bonding commission released our \$50,000 grant and the process for repairing the bell tower and making other much needed capital repairs got underway.

My Sabbatical was refreshing and rejuvenating and I came back to a wonderful month of shared worship with Trinity in Portland. Unfortunately, September brought an outbreak of very painful inflammatory arthritis caused by calcium crystals in my joints. While that has hampered my enthusiastic return, it has not slowed down the life of Holy Trinity. The Sunday school continues to grow and a junior choir is being added to our other musical offerings. With a terrific new sound system and some enthusiastic new members, the praise band continues to add to our already wonderful music ministry and beginning in December the Contemporary Eucharist is being held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

In November we rejoiced in Steve Ling's ordination to the priesthood and agreed to a shared ministry relationship with Trinity, Portland so that he remains with us on a part-time basis and serves as Priest-in-charge part-time across the river. November also marked a new beginning in the life of our youth with the opening up of the third floor room. Having been a youth room in

the past, our young people are hard at work making it a safe and hospitable place for young adults and youth to gather in the future.

I continue to be amazed at the love and commitment all of you have to Holy Trinity and to one another. This truly is a most unusual community of faith and I am privileged to serve in your midst! Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,

*Maggie Minnick+*

## **Wardens' Report**

With 2007 behind us and a new year beginning, we have reached a halfway point in our five-year strategic plan, which included a number of ambitious goals meant to revitalize our congregation and strengthen our mission to the community we have served for more than 250 years. Looking back, there is much to encourage us. Looking ahead, there are still many critical challenges that will test our faith and resourcefulness.

In 2006, we reversed more than 30 years of declining enrollments and finances. These upward trends continued last year. Sunday attendance has risen more than 15% since 2005, and contributions income was up over 18% during that same period. Sunday school enrollments are on the rebound, and last spring we confirmed 11 young people, the largest number in years. Our music program now features a full range of traditional and contemporary offerings with the addition of the Praise Band and junior choir. We have a vibrant new youth ministry: the Joyful Noise Ministry which sponsored our first contemporary religious music concert last summer. We continue to provide programs for parishioners to deepen their faith, including Adult Forum, Bible study and spiritual direction. In December, we stepped in on short notice when Middletown's Eddy Shelter was unable to provide sufficient extra beds for the winter and reopened Fabian's Place at Holy Trinity as an emergency homeless shelter.

We have taken some important steps towards a more robust future, but significant challenges remain. Parishioners are contributing significantly more toward the financial support of our parish, but the number of contributors has not kept pace with the growth in attendance. We have made no progress in reducing reliance on endowment income to balance our budget. Long-term, we must become a much larger congregation if we are to adequately fund our programs and maintain our buildings. This in turn will require that we live out our call to evangelism.

At the risk of slighting the many members of our community who have given so much to the life of our community, we would like to give special recognition to a few who have made singular contributions to our betterment over the past few years. They include:

- Our music directors and coordinators, especially our minister of music, Mike Fazio; Praise Band leader Sue Scibilia; and junior choir director Ron Burlette, along with the chancel choir, bell choir, junior choir, the young people in the Praise Band and the Thread City Brass. They bring real distinction to our worship.
- The teachers and leaders of your children and youth, including our Christian Education director, Linda Menosky; our Sunday school teachers, Susan Colby, Janice Drescher, Rhonda Lentini and Christine Powell; our confirmation class leader, Bev Byrd; and our youth group coordinator, Sue Scibilia. The future of this parish is literally in their hands.

- Laura Wardner, who coordinates coffee hour volunteers, schedules ushers and greeters and follows up with newcomers. If Holy Trinity has become a more welcoming church in the past few years, Laura has a lot to do with it.
- Sharon Sheedy, who managed the English Tea Garden and Gift Shop, which has just ended a long and distinguished run as a fixture on Broad Street. Sharon has gone on to a well-deserved retirement – but we hope she has not retired as a pillar of this church.
- And finally our rector, Maggie Minnick, is usually the first to hear about it when things go wrong but also needs to get some credit when things go right. Two things stand out in our minds. She has almost single-handedly made this the “people’s church” on Main Street. And she has nurtured an atmosphere at Holy Trinity where lay people who are called to ministry can live out their calling.

Two years ago we took an important step toward “total common ministry” by formally commissioning 10 ministry coordinators to do the work of our parish. Since then we have commissioned others. But we really should be commissioning everybody who ministers in this parish – all those who help conduct worship services, provide pastoral care, welcome newcomers, perform outreach to the community, educate children and adults and keep our buildings in good repair. And so that’s what we will do at our annual meeting today. Our thanks to them all!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Brandon                      Eric Rennie

### **Acolytes**

The Church of The Holy Trinity is blessed with a wonderful group of acolytes who assist with the worship services on Sundays and with countless special services throughout the year. This band of adults and young people carry crosses and torches in processions, serve at the altar during the Eucharist, and receive the gifts during the Offertory. They carry the word of God in the form of the Gospel Book. They are all to be commended for their dedicated service to God and His church.

Our current acolytes are:

Alexa Augeri	Pam Ferguson	Kasey Scibilia
Rachael Burlette	David Lamb	Keith Voets
Nicole Egan	Jonathan Luysterborghs	Cory Wade
Eva Elmore	Diane Reid	Russell Wade

Thanks to all of you for your very special service to our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Reid

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is the “quiet” group in the church. We don’t sing, we don’t ring bells, we don’t hold forums. We do go about the important task of setting the Lord’s Table every Sunday. We are also responsible for special services such as funerals, wedding and baptisms.

We clean, we polish, and we wash and iron. Most of the women in the past few years have been working alone. They need partners! If you are considering a way to serve your Lord and your church but don't have much time, this is the organization for you. A once a month commitment, of approximately 2 hours on a Saturday morning, will do it.

In November, a beautiful chalice and flagon were acquired to replace the stolen ones. They were purchased from the memorial funds for Helen B. Spencer and Fannie E. Harris, mother and mother-in-law of Marion Harris. They were dedicated and used for the first time at our 4 p.m. Christmas family service and then at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We thank Marion and all those who contributed to the fund.

If interested and need more information, please contact:

Lois Dragone	347-5373	or	Ruth E. Hubbard	343-0171
Barbara Barrow	343-0096		Sandy Denz-Wade	349-3659
Bobbi Dudeck	345-8636		Veronika Webb	345-2610
Helen Feeley	346-4913			

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dragone

### **Altar Memorial Flower Fund Report For 2007**

Bal. 1-1-07 Citizens Checking Acct.	2,056.22
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Receipts:

Memorials		
Regular	1,775.00	
Palm & Easter	1,435.00	
Christmas	<u>1,520.00</u>	
		<u>4,730.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,786.22
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Disbursements:

Memorials	
Regular	1,554.00
Palm & Easter	660.67
Christmas	743.09
Supplies	89.33
Miscellaneous	<u>1,679.80</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>4,726.89</u>
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Bal. Citizens Checking Acct 12-31-07	2,059.33
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Bal. Citizens Bus. Money Market Acct 12-31-07	<u>16,248.42</u>
	18,307.75

Amt. Earmarked for Brass Insurance for Replacement and /or Repair	- 10,000.00
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TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 12-31-07	8,307.75
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## Supplies

Postage Stamps	32.80
Saucers	16.53
Oasis	<u>40.00</u>
	89.33

## Miscellaneous

Am Cancer Society - Daffodils	70.00
Bouts- Over 80 Service	75.00
S. Ling Gift & Reception	34.80
Rectors Discretionary Fund	500.00
CHT – Operating Budget	<u>1,000.00</u>
	1,679.80

The Altar Memorial Flower Committee continues on with four dedicated volunteers. *We desperately need some new members.* Please give some thought to joining the Flower Committee. Many hands make light work and we will give you the necessary training. We decorate the Lord's House with flowers for Sunday services, holidays, weddings, funerals and some special occasions.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth K. Wiese

## **Building**

### **Major accomplishments 2007**

- 1) Entered into a contract with Connecticut Cooling and Heating to service the boiler and overall HVAC system. CT Cooling and Heating installed the system in 2000 and has the technical expertise to maintain our complex commercial system at peak efficiency as well as execute repairs in a timely, effective fashion. Their services should result in reduced operating and repair costs.
- 2) Luke Hansen hired to maintain the grounds and assist with building security and general repairs and maintenance. Luke's enthusiasm and work ethic has resulted in noticeable improvement in the appearance of the building.
- 3) Numerous Pews repaired and/or strengthened through the talent and dedication of Richard Bengston and Scott Morgan
- 4) Fire alarm system checked and repaired along with annual fire extinguisher inspection through the effort of Scott Morgan.
- 5) With assistance from Scott Morgan various light fixtures inside and out installed or repaired. Of note installation of a photo and motion activated sensor to control lights above side ramp entrance. Control turns lights on at dusk for a period then dims them for security. Lights come on at full brightness when someone approaches then dim again when no motion is sensed.
- 6) Scott Morgan met with Middletown Fire Marshall to review items of special note in the report following inspection of parish house.
- 7) Short-term review committee met to establish the status of the State Grant for Bell Tower repairs and to prioritize the major repairs to the overall building. The discussion resulted in a motion to charge the Vestry to begin the process of calling for a Capital Campaign.

- 8) Pam Ferguson organized annual basement clean-up day with the assistance of a small group of willing volunteers including members of the Praise Band whose young muscles were a very big help!
- 9) Replaced 45 incandescent bulbs consuming a total of 9,000 watts of electric power with Compact Fluorescent bulbs rated at a total 2700 watts in the Sanctuary. This is a reduction in energy consumption used during services of 60% with a 60% increase in light level over the pews. Life expectancy for the new bulbs is between 8000 and 10000 hours resulting in lower maintenance costs through their longer service life. Much welcome assistance provided by Jon and Jill Irwin, Bill Menosky, Luke Hansen and Bob Feeley.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Russo  
Buildings Ministry Coordinator

### **Christian Education - Adult**

The Adult Forum is a discussion group held most Sundays between the two services, led by volunteers within the parish and by invited outside speakers. We began the year with a three-part series entitled "Anglicanism 101" taught by David Lamb. Quinnipiac University Professor Dennis Richardson joined us in February (and again in October) to discuss the Bawa Health Initiative, a non-profit organization devoted to reducing death and suffering due to malaria and water-borne diseases. This was followed by a forum on issues of aging by elder law attorney Christine Andrew. Eric Rennie led a five-part series in Lent on "Parables of the Kingdom." After Easter, parishioner and psychotherapist Susan Nathiel discussed her new book, *Daughters of Madness*. The spring program ended with an extended Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles led by David Lamb. The Adult Forum resumed in the fall with Eric Rennie's three-part series entitled "Einstein's God," using study materials from the PBS radio program *Speaking of Faith*. He also led a follow-up series in November on Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. Other fall highlights included Maggie Minnick's slide show on her trip to China and the Rev. Emmett Jarrett's discussion of non-violence. We ended the year with a four-part Advent series on the Gospel of St. Matthew led by Ted Coolidge and David Lamb. Our thanks to all the discussion leaders and participants who continue to make the forums a most stimulating hour on Sunday mornings.

Eric Rennie

### **Children's Christian Education**

The Christian Education ministry at Holy Trinity has experienced a slight upswing during 2007. We have more students attending school and there has been an increased awareness of the need for Children's Christian Education throughout the congregation. There is still a lot of work to be done though to bring the children and youth into the congregation and include them in the service. They are the future of Holy Trinity. It is up to us to welcome them, educate them and make their young years at Holy Trinity memorable ones.

Some of the ways the children have been able to be participate in the service and interact with the congregation include the Christmas Pageant, the Three Kings procession, and hosting and serving at coffee hour.

In May 2007 we had our second Children and Youth service. The children participated in all aspects of the service from ushering, reading, singing, playing music, writing the prayers to

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giving the sermon. It was a wonderful experience for the kids and a great way for the parish to really see how great these kids are and what they can do.

In 2008 we will continue to bring the children and the adults closer together and find ways to have the children involved including having another Children's Service.

We have over 35 students registered for our 2007-2008 school year including our confirmation class and some exciting changes in our programs.

#### Sunday School Program – K-6<sup>th</sup> grade

We are continuing to use the lectionary-based curriculum call Living the Good Word and it is going very well. There is more interaction between the students and the teachers and flexibility within the program to accommodate situations such as having 2 students once week and 10 the next. Our lessons each week follow the liturgy which gives families a great opportunity to discuss the gospel on the way home from church or at Sunday dinner. We also supplement the curriculum with other material and have themes that run for several weeks. In our 4<sup>th</sup> grade class we are preparing some of the children to receive communion. We start after Christmas and are prepared to receive on Easter Sunday. The Children's Fellowship program meets on the first Sunday of the month and is open to all children. There are bible stories, crafts, snacks and songs. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with this program especially those that would like to read a story, help the children with a craft project or share their musical talents by playing an instrument or teach a song. It is a great way to meet the children.

#### Young Teen Program – 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up

This class is geared for the youth in 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The class usually includes: reading a lectionary passage from the bible, discussion on the passage and relating the lesson to everyday life. This is the transition class from Sunday School to Confirmation.

#### Confirmation

The confirmation program is designed for those in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through adult. The diocese has issued new guidelines for confirmation which include having a two year plan so we have designed a program that meets this requirement. Year 1 explores our Old Testament roots and God's relationship to humankind from The Beginning. Year 2 explores what it means to be Christian and compares how different denominations define Christianity. In May 2007 first class of the new two year program was confirmed along with classes from other churches in the Deanery. It was a very special day for the confirmands and their families. We then celebrated with the Holy Trinity parish family with a special coffee hour. In September 2007 we started Year 1 with a new class. They will be confirmed in May 2009.

We are always looking for people who are interested in sharing their talents with the youth of our church. The children are a special part of our Holy Trinity family and it is essential to be able to offer various programs to enrich their Christian Education.

A special thank you to the volunteers who are called to this ministry:

Beverly Byrd   Susan Colby   Janice Drescher  
Rhonda Lentini   Christine Powell   Linda Menosky

Christian Education at Holy Trinity is changing again. Be a part of it!

Linda Simmons Menosky

## **Convalescent Home Ministry**

A lay team from Holy Trinity has been conducting monthly Morning Prayer services at Highview and Middlesex convalescent homes in Middletown since the 1970s. Our regulars this past year included Marilyn Bengtson, Marion Harris, Eric Rennie and Susan Spaeth. Our thanks to them and to convalescent home staffs who assisted with patients.

Eric Rennie

## **English Tea Garden, Parish Gift Shop and House of Talents**

This is a very hard page to turn in the lives of many people in our parish. The reality is, the Tea Room can no longer remain viable as it stands. In 5 or 6 months time we can no longer sustain the bills for operating the property and the parish will have to pay. Times have changed. We live in a different generation, one with new attitudes and responsibilities. Consequently, people are not looking to do volunteer work or in most cases, do not have the time. Enough of the boo-hoos!

We (all the past and present volunteers), have had a great run. Never once a regret. The friendships made, lasting relationships that have sustained many through hard times, the financial rewards, all add up to wonderful experiences. Much of the money raised through the restaurant and the selling of the ABC wall charts has been used for operating expenses and upkeep. Donations were made to different causes and outreach projects over the years. We supported all outside groups (schools, churches, chamber functions) with gift baskets or donations. The Salvation Army day care was a very important project of ours and we hosted and entertained the group four times a year with a luncheon and show. Also the Red Cross transportation for the elderly received some of our contributions as did so many others.

So many over the last 45 years have participated. It was a huge part of their lives; after retirement, a productive place to go, work and socialize.

Up to 3 years ago we had 40 plus volunteers sign on to work and that is huge. Numbers of course have now dwindled and so the time has come for the restaurant and gift shop to close.

For all the volunteers, no one can adequately tell you how important you were to this whole operation. I hope you will continue at the House of Many Talents and/or help in some way at Holy Trinity.

The House of Talents will continue to meet on Thursdays at 148 Broad St. until a move to the church is warranted. The ladies meet from 10:30 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. Bring a sandwich. We will have beverages and a dessert. We are always in need of more volunteers. There are many jobs to do. You don't need to know how to sew. Not only do they produce the ABC's, but all the favors for the Shut-In services, the kids Christmas tree and of course the fair items. If you can trace, cut, glue, decorate and/or sew, come in and join the group. (If and when the house is sold, the House of Talents will have a lovely space in the church to continue.)

I ask all parishioners to be aware of the ABC charts when in need of a baby gift. We will need your full support to sell these now that the gift shop is closed. They can be ordered through the office, Anne Ross or Sharon Sheedy. The cost is \$30 plus \$1.80 TAX, and can be sent anywhere for the price of postage.

The shop is now closed. We still have some merchandise to sell, especially Easter items. There will be an indoor tag sale for this stuff in March, you may visit on a Thursday when the ladies are there and you can look around and shop.

The church has benefited from much of our kitchen equipment; we brought down whatever we thought could be used here. St. Luke's was also a recipient of things from the shop. After the tag sale, we will box up and use the items for our fall tag sale for the church or give it to the Goodwill.

Thanks again VOLUNTEERS for all the wonderful memories. We now turn the page.

God Bless – Sharon

Sharon 346-7937      Anne Ross 347-4348      Office 347-2591

### **TEA GARDEN AND HOUSE OF TALENTS 2007**

Customers Served – 366

**Took in –**

Food		\$ 1,687.35
	TAX	101.24
Cards & gifts		8,176.52
	TAX	490.59
Consignment		6,767.87
	TAX	406.07
TAX EXEMPT Consignment		<u>1,195.00</u>
		\$18,824.64

**Spent –**

Food		\$ 4,929.48 (includes funerals, receptions, Tea Room)
Rest. Supplies & Repairs		3,023.66
Gifts & Cards		531.64
Crafts (Supplies)		501.10
Oil		5,870.83
AT&T		832.79
CL&P		1,705.70
Taxes		1,377.66
Brodeur's Pest Control		386.00
Donations		1,945.60
Postage		85.50
Advertising		2,118.96
Labor		113.00
Consignment		<u>5,958.25</u>
		\$29,380.17
Bank account as of 12/31/07		\$ 8,677.52

\$1,000 will be deposited into a separate account for the House of Talents to continue with their work.

**Merchandise donated to St. Luke's**

Cards	\$ 600.00
pictures, misc.	500.00
Christmas tree (decorated)	<u>500.00</u>
	\$ (1600.00) approximately

**Donated to church**

Pantry pots & pans, chair, dishes and 40 wineglasses	\$ 1500.00
punch bowls, antique cake platter, fixtures & display racks	\$ 500.00
tea table	\$ 200.00
antique display items for Quilt Show	\$ 200.00
Christmas décor	\$ 100.00
stereo	\$ <u>400.00</u>
	\$ (2900.00 approx.)

Baskets donated for Quilt Fair in June  
7 large baskets filled \$ 350.00 approx. value

Inventory left over of approximately \$5,000. Not included are the kitchen appliances and fixtures. Inventory left over will be sold at March indoor tag sale, then boxed up for later church tag sale or for Goodwill.

**Episcopal Church Women**

ECW had a busy and exciting year in 2007. Our members dedicate their time, energy and talents to make our many projects successful. We also develop wonderful friendships and have a terrific time while accomplishing our goals.

Our events this past year include the following:

Wednesday, February 21 – Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon

ECW hosted a luncheon following the Ash Wednesday Ecumenical service held at Church of The Holy Trinity.

Monday, May 14 – Potluck Supper / Business Meeting

Our first meeting of the year was held in the Chapel and was very well attended. The following officers for 2007 were elected:

President	Pam Ferguson
Vice President	Stephanie Brandon
Treasurer/ Secretary	Linda Simmons

Thursday, May 31 – Shut-In Service

For over 25 years ECW has been sponsoring shut-in services for homebound church parishioners and for residents of area convalescent homes. This event includes Eucharist, healing prayers, a luncheon and special music. The Bristol Old Time Fiddlers provided the musical entertainment as well as our own soloist Stephanie Brandon. We would like to thank the many parishioners who help to make this event possible: the Chalicers, the lay readers, the greeters, the sandwich preparers, the House of Talents for the boutonnieres, Susan Spaeth for arranging and coordinating all the transportation, and Peggy Schmitz for scheduling the lay readers and chalicers.

Thursday, June 14 - Hot Dog Sale

We sold hot dogs, chips, sodas, coffee and baked goods as a fund raiser. This took place on our front lawn during Middletown's annual cruise night.

Sunday, June 17 – 80 & Over Birthday Celebration

Following our first 9:00am service a reception was held in honor of the special members of our church family who are 80 years old and older.

Monday, September 10 – Potluck Supper / Business Meeting

At our second meeting of the year we, as usual, enjoyed all the terrific dishes that our members prepared for supper. We also spent time planning for our upcoming Holiday Fair.

Sunday, October 14 - Hot Dog Sale

We sold hot dogs, chips, sodas, coffee and hot chocolate as a fund raiser. This took place on our front lawn during Middletown's second annual cruise afternoon.

Sunday, October 4 – Shopping Fund Raiser

A shopping fund raiser was held at Trendz a Boutique and the owner donated 10% of sales to ECW.

Saturday, November 17 – Holiday Fair

Once again the Holiday Fair was a success thanks to lots of hard work by many, many volunteers. We sold holiday cookies as well as pumpkin pies and we thank everyone who baked for this. We especially want to thank Agnes DiStefano for the lovely afghan. The Fair provides the ECW with most of the funds that allow us to do our many activities including the shut-in service, outreach activities, and other charities that we support.

ECW is also involved in other activities such as supporting two children through World Vision, the National Cathedral, the Seaman's Institute, providing Camp Washington scholarships and supporting various parish needs and events. All members of the Episcopal Church are automatically members of the ECW and we invite everyone to join us in our endeavors. Our next potluck supper meeting will be in May. Please watch the bulletin for the exact date and plan to attend.

Pam Ferguson, President

**ECW**  
**Profit and Loss - FYE 12/31/07**

	<u>Jan - Dec 07</u>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Total Contributions Income</b>	\$ 1,741
<b>Total Fund Raisers</b>	10,210
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	30
<b>Total Shut-In Service</b>	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>11,981</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	3,894
<b>ECW Activities</b>	
<b>Total Events</b>	1,350
<b>Total Fundraising Expenses</b>	303
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,031
<b>Postage and Delivery</b>	16
<b>Total ECW Activities</b>	<u>2,700</u>
<b>Parish Support</b>	
<b>Diocesan Proportionate Share</b>	750
<b>Family/Church Activities</b>	161
<b>Music Fund</b>	500
<b>Organ Repairs</b>	400
<b>Parish Heat</b>	1,000
<b>Parish House Improvements</b>	1,000
<b>Rector's Discretionary Fund</b>	800
<b>Strategic Plan Support</b>	-
<b>Total Parish Support</b>	<u>4,611</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>11,205</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	776
<b>Interest Income</b>	8
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>\$ 784</u></u>
<b>Cash - Citizens Bank</b>	<b>\$ 8,476</b>

### **Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism Committee did not host special events this year. Evangelistic efforts were, however, made on a number of fronts. The Healing Team was available during Sunday worship for those wanting to turn their lives over to Jesus. We were also available as prayer counselors for the Joyful Noise concert in the Summer. And two evangelism pamphlets were designed at that time: "Beginning a New Life in Jesus" and "OK, So I'm Saved...Now What?" While these pamphlets were originally designed for use at the concert, they are available with our other literature at the entrances.

Steven Horst

### **Healing Team & Prayer Team**

Laying on the hands is offered during the 8:00 a.m. service on the first and third Sunday of each month and every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.. Healing team members, in addition to the clergy are:

Cherry Czuba, Steven Horst, Eric Rennie, Anne Ross, Peggy Schmitz, Laura Wardner, Doretta Wildes and Chris Williams.

We are also blessed by a powerful Prayer Chain; a telephone call to any of the Prayer Team members starts this prayer chain. Those praying are:

Nancy Brennan	347-8281	Anne Ross	347-4348
Cheryl Czuba	345-4856	Peg Schmitz	346-1620
Marion Harris	347-4376	Laura Wardner	635-2308
Jonathan Luysterborghs	349-1885	Doretta Wildes	342-1355
		Chris & Tracy Williams	704-0598

## Hospitality

**(Welcome Committee - Callers & Visitors, Greeters, Ushers and Coffee Hour volunteers)**

**Coffee Hour** – Perhaps the most visible activity in the hospitality lineup is Coffee Hour, a weekly gathering after the 10:15 a.m. service, where all can meet and greet one another over a cup of coffee (or tea, or juice) and a variety of snacks. Coffee Hour flourished in the past year, with excellent attendance and a large number of participating hosts. From February to June, **Carol Rawlins** served as coordinator; **Laura Wardner** the rest of the year. Thanks are due to participating Coffee Hour hosts **Valerie Bailey, Lindsey Britt; Beverly Byrd, Christine Powell and the Confirmation Class; Katchen Coley, Cherry Czuba, Lois Dragone, Nancy Duchardt, Taylor Duckworth, Beth Durso, Pam Ferguson, Janice Hickey, Dot Kowaleski, Steve and Thea Ling, Peter Spinner, Jean Stebinger; Sustainable Living group members Ted Coolidge, Joan Hedrick, Laura Wardner, and Dortha Willets; Barbara Tibbets, Sue and Bill Wasch, and Carlton and Catherine Winslow who provided a memorable feast in celebration of the Baptism of their son, 9 months old Dylan Winslow, on December 9th. The Sustainable Living group provided an all organic/locally grown Coffee Hour menu on December 2nd.** Lots of cookies, juice and milk were served to the children after the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service and there were cookies and cider after the 10 p.m. service. A special Coffee Hour cake recognized **Trinity Sunday** on June 3rd, and the anniversary of **Maggie Minnick's ordination** on November 18<sup>th</sup>. **Extra thanks go to Veronika Webb for baking and freezing loaf cakes to be defrosted for Coffee Hour exigencies, and to Ann Coward, Cherry Czuba, Lois Dragone and Luke Hansen who always jump in to help when they see help is needed.**

**Ushers and Greeters** – Ushers fall into two categories, as they are part of the Worship Service when they bring up the elements, collect the offertory, and guide worshipers to Communion, but are part of the Hospitality Ministry when they meet church goers at the door. During the year **John Banks, Julia Claude, Katchen Coley, Helen and Bob Feeley, Jill and Jon Irwin, Rhonda Lentini, Pat Lord, Crystal Luysterborghs, Linda and Bill Menosky, Fran Preston, Eric Rennie and Peggy Schmitz served as ushers** at the Sunday morning services and on Christmas Eve. **Fran Preston** had to discontinue for health reasons. **Jean Stebinger** had to quit for scheduling reasons and was replaced by **Jean Maynard. Scott Morgan, Jean Stebinger and Sue Wasch** volunteered to substitute when needed and their schedule permits. In addition, **Bill Menosky and Ron Reid** graciously filled in occasionally on the spur-of-the-moment.

**Greeters** work cooperatively with ushers to notice and assist newcomers as they enter, make a point of greeting them during the Peace, and/or at the end of the service. While **Betty Horne, David Lamb, Pat Nielsen and Laura Wardner served as designated greeters it must be**

**noted** that various undesignated members of the congregation do reach out a friendly hand to others, just because they care. This goes a long way toward making Church of the Holy Trinity a place where all are welcome. **Pat Nielson** had to discontinue in June for health reasons and was replaced in December by **Rhonda Lentini**. Thirteen visitors completed Visitor's Cards, 2 requested a clergy visit. **Ted Coolidge** made a clergy visit while **Maggie Minnick** was on vacation/sabbatical. One home visit was made by lay visitors **Laura Wardner** and **Lois Dragone**. Five visitors asked how to become members of the congregation, 2 visitors requested only that they be added to the mailing list, while 3 made no request at all, but gave us their addresses and were added to the mailing list.

**Foyer Groups** – During the first half of the year, 24 individuals had been divided into 3 groups which met for food and fellowship, taking turns in each others' homes. Three new Foyer Groups were formed in the Fall with 24 individuals, some the same, some different, and are currently underway. **Ted Coolidge, Bob & Helen Feeley, and Steve Ling** each led a group in the first part of the year, while Ted, Steve and **Steve Horst** are current leaders.

Laura Wardner

### **Joyful Noise Ministry**

Joyful Noise Ministry was formed in the Fall of 2006 for the initial purpose of providing a contemporary music program at Church of the Holy Trinity, as well as youth and young adult programs. The core idea is that if we provide relevant and attractive opportunities for Youth and Young Adults within our parish, they won't leave after Confirmation; rather, their Christian formation will continue, and they will assume vital roles within the parish they were raised in. Bryan Scibilia was the catalyst for Joyful Noise, and the ministry began with the formation of our Praise Band, which is discussed in the Music Ministry portion of the Annual Report.

During 2007, Joyful Noise held the first "Joyful Noise in Downtown Middletown" Concert, which featured two popular Christian music groups, Holyfire and Unspoken. The principal financial support for the concert came from Halloran & Sage, LLP, a law firm, but also from the Rector's Discretionary Fund, utilizing a gift from the family of Will Costello, and from a host of other corporate sponsors. The concert was well-attended and received local Christian radio coverage, and we intend to hold the second Joyful Noise Concert this summer.

Joyful Noise also supports the contemporary music efforts of other local congregations. We had the opportunity to host a Youth concert held by House of God a few months ago. Holy Trinity will encourage more churches and youth groups to utilize our beautiful worship space with fantastic acoustics and new sound system during 2008.

Members of the ministry attended Soulfest 2007, an annual gathering of 15,000 Christians of all denominations and over 150 Christian bands, in Guilford New Hampshire. This year, Joyful Noise will organize a trip to Soulfest 2008 to be held July 30 to August 2, 2008. We hope to dovetail that with planned Mission Trips for our high schoolers and our young adult leaders.

One of the goals of Joyful Noise is to provide a program designed and led by young adults that will support high school and middle school Christians – both members of our own parish and of other churches. In this way, we can provide leadership opportunities in the Church for those who have graduated from high school, as they continue to explore and strengthen their faith, for the benefit of those who have not yet graduated from high school and whose faith and commitment is likely challenged daily. An equally important aspect of the nurturing and scripture-based program is to encourage youth to invite their non-Christian friends, thus exposing more kids to Christ, and a Christian life and commitment.

During 2007, the process of developing this program began. The third floor space of our building was designated as the space for the Young Adult and Youth Program, and both the physical and planning work was begun in earnest. All resources and labor have been donated to date, and we plan to continue to seek contributions of necessary time, materials, and labor. Through the stellar efforts and commitment of several of our young adults and “full grown” adults, we hope to kickoff the core program on the Third Floor during February. The excitement and energy of all involved is apparent.

Sue Scibilia has coordinated the various components of Joyful Noise, along with young adults Bryan Scibilia, Emalee Schilling, and Jake Doolittle. Ron Burlette has been a vital force in all aspects of Joyful Noise since we began, and we welcome Fred Kmietek, who brings a wealth of energy and talent, and the assistance and increasing participation of so many others. We work closely and in coordination with Linda Menosky, Youth Program Coordinator.

Joyful Noise’s goals for 2008 are lofty, without question. But its overall purposes, from Praise Band, to mission trips and musical events, to providing a continuum of contemporary programs and relevant Christian support for and by our young adults to youth, and from them to those coming up after them, are joyful endeavors. Thanks to Maggie, Ted, our Wardens and Vestry, and the congregation for all of the support given to this young ministry during 2007.

Suzanne Scibilia

### **Lay Eucharistic Ministry**

The Lay Eucharistic Ministry team (LEM) is comprised of a few members of the church who are called to this very important part of the Pastoral Care ministry. We visit the ill and aged parishioners who can no longer come to worship and bring them the Word of the Lord and share His Body and Blood with them. To those we visit as LEM’s we represent the church by being the connection to the church community and are a reminder that they are part of the Body of Christ.

Prospective LEM’s must be interviewed by the Rector and approved by the Bishop. They go through a training process with other experienced LEM’s before beginning on their own. Some members of the team go in pairs while others go alone.

The LEM team has continued to serve our homebound parishioners throughout the year with monthly visits bringing spiritual company, peace, prayers of comfort and the Holy Eucharist.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the LEM team who were called to this ministry over the past year – David Lamb, Steve Ling, Jonathan and Crystal Luysterborghs, Linda and Bill Menosky.

Linda Menosky

### **Lay Reader and Chalicers**

The Readers and Chalicers list has grown considerably this year. We have 7 new Readers and 5 new Chalicers. This makes scheduling much easier, especially during the Holiday Seasons. Now with these new assistants we have a total of 26 people available to serve each month. This by no way means that we will not accept more volunteers. It is not a closed society. So talk to me at any time if you feel you have the calling for one of these services.

Thank you all for the last 12 months of service.

Veronika R. Webb

## **Memorial Funds**

In 2007 two families named the Church of the Holy Trinity as a place for Memorial contributions to honor their loved ones. Some funds are earmarked for special gifts and others are undesignated so they can be used as the Church needs. There have also been times when our parishioners have felt better giving a gift to Holy Trinity Memorial Funds rather than a charity designated by the family. Please consider both designating Holy Trinity for memorial gifts and including Holy Trinity in your will.

In November, a beautiful chalice and flagon were purchased from the memorial funds for Helen B. Spencer and Fannie E. Harris, mother and mother-in-law of Marion Harris.

Maggie Minnick

## **Ministry Development Team**

The Ministry Development Team has not met this year and is “on hold”.

Members of the MDT : Susan Nathiel and Cherry Czuba, co-chairs; Eric Rennie, Lois Dragone, Susan Spaeth, Laura Wardener, Steve Horst.

Susan Nathiel

## **Music Ministry**

This year, the music ministry of Holy Trinity has expanded dramatically to become more inclusive, so that we appeal to diverse groups both from within and outside the parish community. Suzanne Scibilia has taken the responsibility for Praise Band, a contemporary music group which is part of the new *Joyful Noise Ministry*; Ron Burlette has stepped forward to coordinate the Junior Choir; and Stephanie Brandon continues to direct the Bell Choir. While there are folks that cross between two or even all of the various ministries, we look forward to attracting still more members to the music ministry at Church of the Holy Trinity.

### **Chancel Choir**

The Chancel Choir has had a wonderful year. Along with the regular members, we are delighted to welcome some new members: Sue Omicioli, (Maureen Fleet’s sister,) Pam Accola, and Kent Berwick. Other singers have come to sing with the choir (including some members of Middletown Chorale) most notably for the wonderful performance of Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem* last spring. Of course, we all appreciate those regular members who arrive nearly every Thursday to learn new anthems, new service music and occasionally new ways of sung praise. Then, there are Sunday mornings: yet more practice; vesting; and trying to read, sing and walk simultaneously in the procession: Dick Bengtson, Bill Wasch, Gordon Adams, Ron Burlette, Travis Hedrick, Ted Hoey, Joan Hedrick, Dortha Willetts, Nancy Duchardt, Marya Pyrek, Maureen Fleet and Stephanie Brandon. Doretta Wildes, Sue Scibilia, Emmie Schilling and Tracy Halstead are on a bit of a sabbatical,-managing busy life schedules.

## Junior Choir

This year, we saw the restoration of the Junior Choir. New groups often grow slowly, but we have grown from just a couple to nearly a dozen youngsters, with an average weekly attendance of about 6. We meet on Sunday mornings, around 9:00, following the 8:00 Mass. Ron and Mike always appreciate any help from parents, some of whom sit in the choir room every week with us. They have performed for a couple of Sunday services and Christmas evening.

## Praise Band

During 2007, Praise Band's first full year, our Praise Band's role has expanded dramatically. Our membership increased from the original group of Bryan Scibilia, Jake Doolittle, Ron Burlette, Nancy Duchardt, Maureen Fleet, Sue Omicioli, Heather Skaanning and Sue Scibilia, to include parishioners Emmalee Schilling, Lindsay Kmietek, and Fred Kmietek. Derek Klick, our fabulous drummer, is now a full-fledged member as well. We've had support from other churches' musical talents through the participation of Zak Perry and Brendan Plake (Fellowship Baptist), and Mark Rose (Grace Lutheran).

2007 saw Praise Band begin Saturday 5:00 pm services at Holy Trinity, which is continuing into 2008 as the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month service, in addition to participating in Sunday morning services once a month or more. Our Praise Band acquired a new sound system in 2007, and hopes to obtain additional necessary musical equipment during 2008. Holy Trinity's Praise Band, which has received widespread congregation support, has become an occasional but incorporated part of our worship services, and hopes to continue that trend in 2008.

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## Bells

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The bells performed *When Morning Fills the Sky* last Easter. This fall we experimented with a new idea: playing easier pieces more often with whichever members of our group were available for rehearsals and a particular service. The good news about this change was that the bells played 4 times since September: Sunday, Oct. 21; Nov. 10 for Steve Ling's ordination; Dec. 2 for first Advent; and again for Lessons and Carols on Dec. 23. The bad news was that we did not play on Christmas Eve, but we will plan to play next Christmas as in the past. We expanded our ringers this year with a number of young folks whose good humor kept us all on our toes: Emmie Schilling, Eddy Jones, and Kasey Scibilia and special guest ringer from Concordia College, Chris Schmidt. Veteran ringers for 2007 included Bryan Scibilia, Ted Hoey, Jake Doolittle, Diane Reid, Janet Tibbets, Debbie Kraner, Jean Anderson, Judith Felton, Maureen Fleet, and Sue Scibilia. We look forward to an exciting anthem for Easter 2008 and will begin rehearsals again soon. Thanks to all the ringers and to all parishioners for their support of this wonderful ministry.

## The Pipe Organ

Many folks have noticed that the horizontal State Trumpet (the *Horns*) are no longer in the back of the church! They have been removed and are currently in the pipe shop at Austin Organs in Hartford. They have not been working properly for many years, and we have decided to remove them and renovate them at this time...

Since there was no money budgeted for this expense (a project that could possibly exceed \$25,000.), we chose to utilize the organ maintenance budget for two years, 2007 and 2008, to cover the cost. In addition, any cost exceeding our routine organ maintenance budget, including

required routine maintenance and tuning work, will be the gift of Austin Organs... Aside from this project, the organ is holding together for the moment, but there are still several areas/components in the instrument that have not been replaced or repaired since the original 1925 installation; they continue to deteriorate, and we can only hope that these components will hold together for another few years when we can address them in a future budget.

Mike Fazio +

### **Outreach**

Holy Trinity revived its Fabian Place emergency drop-in center on short notice in December when the Eddy Shelter was temporarily unable to provide additional beds for homeless people in cold weather. Eddy Shelter subsequently provided 10 additional beds. However, Fabian's Place will remain open during the winter to provide shelter for up to five people per night who cannot find accommodations elsewhere. Fabian's Place operates with volunteer staff and donations of funds and supplies from the parish and the Middletown community.

Through another arrangement with St. Vincent de Paul, the emergency needs of many people are met by monthly contributions from more than 27 churches/organizations including Holy Trinity. Volunteers from our church continue to serve dinner at the soup kitchen several Sundays during the year. Our thanks to our outreach coordinator, Lindsey Britt, who led this effort in 2007.

Treasure, time and talent are also shared by many through a great variety of programs including: ABC Women's Shelter, Book Buddies, the annual Shut-in Service, and St. Luke's Faith in Action, the Salvation Army Christmas program, Covenant to Care collections throughout the year and The English Tea Garden /House of Talents. Thanks to all our efforts people's lives are changed for the better.

Thanks to our building many other people's lives are changed as well. We host eight 12 step meetings every week, a number of monthly administrative meetings, and the annual 24 hour gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Middletown Chorale calls Holy Trinity home with an office on the second floor and numerous concerts in the Sanctuary. We continue to host the Middletown Symphonic Band Concerts and meetings of groups like the Connecticut Peace Coalition.

Maggie Minnick

### **Amazing Grace/We Are a Tuna Church**

During the past year we continued to donate between 50 – 70 cans of tuna each month. We also received many other food items such as pasta, stew, dish detergent, canned chicken, soups and many other items from people who do not wish to give tuna for various reasons. This year we also took a large basket of mixed food items that the children of our Sunday School brought in for their Thanksgiving offering. We will continue to receive and deliver any items you put in the basket in the Church narthex. Thanks to all who give so generously.

Veronika & Alan Webb

## Parish Secretary

We have begun having weekly staff meetings on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. to discuss issues that come up. Present are usually Maggie, myself, Ted Coolidge, Steve Ling, Eric Rennie, Stephanie Brandon and Luke Hansen.

A new copier arrived late last year. It still seems to be having some jamming problems which we are working on trying to correct, but overall it is much faster than the old copier. Steve Ling has been rearranging the copy room and the new copier has been moved in there. Anyone who needs to use the copier should contact me to have a brief lesson on how to use the machine, especially for making booklets.

A visit from the Geek Squad left us with a new CD drive, an easier back up system, and a wireless router, so the financial office now has an internet connection as well.

Thank you SO MUCH to Anne Ross and the ladies at St. Luke's who help me out every month with the folding, labeling, and stamping of the Trumpet. I could not do it without them.

As always, please continue to support your Parish Newsletter by sending in your articles to the office email, [office@holytrinityct.org](mailto:office@holytrinityct.org). The deadlines are usually around the Monday of the 3rd week of the month. Parishioners do look forward to receiving the Trumpet and reading what is happening in the life of the church; all articles are welcome!

The office hours continue to be Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Valerie Manecke

## Sustainable Living

*“Sustainable living is a life that is deeply satisfying, fulfilling and appealing because it is socially, environmentally, and economically responsible”*

For five weeks during Lent, Tom Worthley, UCONN Cooperative Extension Educator, Forestry Stewardship and Cherry Czuba and parishioners from Holy Trinity and Trinity, Portland looked at ways our environmental, social and economic values are reflected and not reflected by our individual behavior patterns. Following the series we decided to meet once a month to support each other and to learn more about living sustainably.

The group has been active. Since February we have had workshops on alternative energy sources, food and sustainable life style and the Jonah project. The group has organized two coffee hours- in July and December. Valerie Manecke has put together a list of web sites. During Advent, the Reverend Ted Coolidge focused a retreat, the Prayers of the People and Adult Forums on living more sustainably. The group also discussed developing a “Rule of Life”.

The new year began with a planning meeting on January 9th and a potluck supper and showing of the “What a Way to Go: Life at the End of the Empire” organized by Susan Nathiel on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Future meetings, held the fourth Tuesday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm, will focus on the book “Simpler Living Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective”. The book’s major themes include: money, economics and justice; extending our circle of compassion; simplicity in personal, everyday life and history and theology applied to everyday life. All are welcome to attend all or any of the sessions. This is also an opportunity to invite others, who are not members of Holy Trinity.

Cherry Czuba

## **Rules of Order for Election**

**The Vestry recommends** to the Annual Meeting the following procedures governing the balloting process for adoption by the Annual Meeting of 2007:

1. Election will be by simple majority of those present and voting on each ballot.
2. Where contests exist to fill more than one opening, each ballot must be marked for the same number of candidates as there are openings to be filled or the ballot will be discarded for that office.
3. In the election for the office of Warden should two persons be elected on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest vote count will be dropped from the second ballot.
4. In the election for Vestry, should three persons not be elected on the first ballot, the two candidates with the lowest vote count will be dropped from the second ballot. Should the election not be completed on the second ballot, the candidate with the lowest vote count on that ballot will be dropped from the third ballot.

### **Nominations**

*For the Office of Warden (Vote for 2)*

- Eric Rennie
- Pam Ferguson

*For the Office of Treasurer (Vote For 1)*

- Keith Voets

*For the Clerk of the Vestry (Vote for 1)*

- Diane Reid

*Vestry persons for Three years (Vote for 3)*

- Kay Briggs
- Jonathan Luysterborghs
- Stephanie Brandon

*Delegates Diocesan Convention (Vote for 2)*

- Pam Ferguson
- Steven Horst

*Alternate Delegate (Vote for 1)*

- Keith Voets