

2008 Annual Report of the Vestry
The Mission and Ministry of Trinity Cathedral Parish

- presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, December 14, 2008

I. Local and Extended Missions

A. Diocesan Support

Trinity's Diocesan assessment for 2008 was \$406,770, a number that was derived from the average of the last three years of Trinity's revenues. That money supports the Diocese of Upper South Carolina and the mission and ministry of Bishop Dorsey Henderson.

B. Global Outreach

School in Morne Michel, Haiti: \$80,000 has been collected over the last 5 years to build a new school for 467 students; \$50,512 was sent in 2007 and the final \$29,488 is being sent in November 2008. Progress on construction is slow, but it will happen. The recent hurricanes slowed work down. Remember, there is no water or electricity at the site, and building materials have to be taken up on donkeys. Trinity sent soccer balls (for every boy) and jump ropes (for each girl) in November. It is what the students told us they wanted most.

C. Local Outreach

Sunday Morning Breakfast: Trinity served 13,380 meals at \$3.74 per meal, which includes breakfast and a bag lunch. This ministry takes lots of volunteers, some of whom come from other churches. The 2008 budget for this effort was \$34,866.00.

Camp Bob is a traditional Christian summer camp for disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless children. An outreach program of the Kanuga Conference Center, Camp Bob served over 700 participants last year and had over 200 volunteers who dedicated one week of their time for children. All of the programs center on increasing self-esteem and providing a positive growth experience. Communities and organizations from around the southeast sponsor children in their area to attend Camp Bob for weeklong sessions. The youth typically attend at no cost and are recruited from mentoring programs, local clubs, or under-resourced public schools. We often use the terms "at-risk" or "disadvantaged" youth for the camper population that attends Camp Bob, but no term will fully describe the difficult lives these children actually lead. While the population can be challenging and different, in most ways they are just children who, for whatever reason, might not otherwise get to attend camp. The majority of the campers are between 8-12 years old. Trinity has been sponsoring this program for several years by paying for a week at Kanuga the first week in June each year and by providing the volunteer counselors for that session. We sponsored 57 children this year and had 5 volunteer counselors from Trinity.

There is no money in the budget for Camp Bob. All of the money is raised through contributions from the congregation over the course of the year. Camp Bob cost \$22,813.58 in 2008. We have a remaining balance in the account of \$5,745.88, which will be applied to Camp Bob in 2009.

W.A. Perry Middle School: Trinity's partnership with W.A. Perry Middle School, the middle school for our St. Lawrence Place families, began in the spring of 2003 in an effort to meet the school's stated needs with the gifts of Trinity parishioners. As a result, a Thursday enrichment program began and has now expanded to a four-prong commitment to the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This relationship-centered ministry has seen student participation continue to increase, averaging 120 each semester. Our volunteer base has expanded from fifteen to approximately forty volunteers on campus each week, with many more behind the scenes. More importantly, teachers and staff repeatedly share that the greatest gift has been the volunteers' faithful presence at the school and in the lives of our Perry children.

Trinity's creative enrichment and academic ministry includes Thursday enrichment clubs, Terrific Thursday learning activities with Terrific Food, Study Buddies academic support, and additional off campus experiences for the after school program students. This year volunteers have led six small group enrichment clubs - Cooking, Sewing, Fitness, Golf, Tennis and Soccer. On alternating weeks, students enjoy Terrific Thursdays with volunteer and teacher led educational games such as Scrabble, Life, math games, chess, map puzzles and crafts. Our Terrific Thursdays Terrific Food ministry has grown from healthy snacks to mini-meals for 180 students and staff- a 35% increase in numbers over last spring. Each Tuesday, requested academic support to increase student achievement is provided by 12 Trinity "Study Buddy" volunteers who work one-on-one with selected students on basic skills. In addition, a Reading Club has been added to foster reading interest and language skills. These programs have seen strong and important relationships grow between students and volunteers.

The 2007 outreach budget designated \$6,000 for our Perry ministry of which \$5,927 was spent on program support. Fifty percent of our budget is designated for Terrific Thursday/Terrific Food mini-meals, an ever-pressing and growing need. The purchase of three "close out" sewing machines provided much needed expansion and equipment to the sewing club. The remaining funds provide the needed supplies each semester for our enrichment clubs, additional games, crafts and art supplies for Terrific Thursdays, semester and end-of-year incentive awards for outstanding student involvement, book club books, flash cards and supplies for tutors. Gratefully, our 2008 budget has been increased to \$6,295. To date, we have \$3,641.95 to cover the remainder of our year.

Additional financial support from volunteers' personal contributions and the Daughters of the Holy Cross' \$500 yearly commitment help us meet the needs not covered by the general budget. Forest Lake Club, the James Clyburn Golf Center of Columbia, and local tennis instructors have provided pro bono professional instruction to our golf and tennis clubs. Donations or meals at cost have been provided by volunteers, Daughters of the Holy Cross, Providence Hospital, McDonald's, Birds On A Wire, and The Palmetto Club. The Dean's Outreach Fund and Richland One have made it possible to sponsor two end-of-year

incentive/educational trips – Charlotte’s Discovery Place (2007) and Charleston’s Aquarium with a Historic Walking Tour in 2008.

Local Outreach Grants: The Outreach Committee’s focus is normally on early childhood education. For 2008, however, the entire budget of \$24,150, plus the Christmas Offering (estimated at about \$10,000), has been allocated to the Homeless Center at Main and Elmwood.

Trinity Housing – St. Lawrence Place: Trinity budgeted \$38,740 in 2008 to support this ongoing transitional housing ministry under the leadership of its new director, Lila Ann Sauls.

Cooperative Ministry: Trinity budgeted \$19,370 to give to this important downtown ministry to the poor.

Soup Cellar: In addition to its own Sunday Morning breakfast, Trinity supports the soup kitchen at Washington Street United Methodist church with \$5,327 in financial support and volunteer support as well.

York Place: Trinity supports this 150 year-old ministry of the two dioceses of South Carolina, which provides residential treatment for children who are struggling with emotional and/or psychiatric problems.

Other Outreach Programs: Trinity has made other, unbudgeted commitments to support Harvest Hope Food Bank, to provide volunteers and food at the Winter Shelter, to support the Seeds of Hope Farmers Market, and many other important efforts.

Future: The Outreach Committee is always looking for new ideas on how to energize the congregation to participate more in outreach. Recent ideas being considered are participating in the construction of a Habitat House, volunteering for HomeWorks activities (repair of existing homes for the elderly), and ways in which to utilize the Trinity Center for outreach, although those discussions are on hold for 2008 and 2009 due to the use of the gym for church services during the restoration of the Cathedral.

II. Education and Christian Formation

A. Adult Education and Ministry

Canon Joye Cantrell led the Adult Education and Christian Formation Committee in 2008. With her encouragement, the Committee solicited more classes and teachers this year than in recent history. The Committee also entertained visiting speakers such as the Reverend Mr. Donald McPhai, former rector of Grace Church, Charleston, who spoke on foundation programs for study and conversation (Trinity Foundation for Christianity and Culture, or TFCC), and Mr. Nadim Nassar, who came in September to teach folks how to teach the Foundation classes.

For the current semester, there have been seven (7) regular Sunday morning classes in addition to the Newcomers’ class and a Sunday evening seminar.

Weekday classes are thriving and include the recently-concluded Alpha Marriage Program on Wednesdays, the very-well-attended and lively TFCC Wednesday evening class, and Canon Emmanuel Mercer's Thursday morning The Spiritual Life.

The budget of \$7,362 for this aspect of Trinity's mission to its parishioners is expended primarily upon curriculum materials, printing and supplies.

B. Children and Youth Education and Ministry

Trinity's ministry to its younger members is coordinated by the Children's and Youth Committee, which was intentionally formed as a joint committee in recognition of the need to work together. This allows for the building upon and bridging of the ministries to Trinity's children, adolescents, and teenagers. The committee continues to look at ways to bring in those from every generation to build a program that is intergenerational.

There were several undertakings this past year that bridged both ministries.

-The committee supported the redoubling of efforts to get adult volunteers certified through Safe Church training. This program is required in many instances and recommended in other circumstances by the Diocese and Church Pension Group. With strong committee support, we are getting closer and closer to a goal of complete compliance. The training enriches our programming on many levels.

-The committee supported the efforts to draft and implement a comprehensive Travel Policy and Procedures plan for those leading outings for our children and young people.

-Canon Jared Johnson became a member of the committee to help ensure that personnel involved with choir programming would work closely with those planning programming available to all children and young people. His membership has helped ensure the ministries are working together and not at cross-purposes. This has allowed a more comprehensive approach.

-The committee offered tremendous support to youth programming during the time of transitioning between Youth Ministers by assisting in planning the ABC Dinner, Shrimp Boil and parent meetings. Members of the committee were also instrumental in offering advice and spiritual support for the Search Committee.

-The committee studied and adopted a new curriculum to be used from nursery through 12th grade. It is *Living the Good News*, by Morehouse Publishing. Although Rite 13 and a later Confirmation were facets of the former curriculum for the youth, *Journey to Adulthood*, we will continue those practices.

The following are highlights from children's programming for 2008:

-Canon Roger Hutchison's expanded job description has allowed for some changes and growth in programming. His move into the TCMM has resulted in growing numbers of children participating in the Wednesday evening programs.

-VBS was tremendously successful this year. Over 300 children attended and of those, 30 were St. Lawrence Place residents. The children collected food for Harvest Hope and were treated to the talents of the Trinity Players. The 2008 VBS program worked with the Restoration Campaign in an effort to educate our youngest members on caring for the Cathedral. Again, there has been an ongoing focus to try to bridge ministries and bring in volunteers from all genders and generations.

-Staffing and support for Sunday School: nursery through 5th grade.

-Children's budget expenditures have been primarily for programming, including Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings (USC is working with us to provide enrichment programming for Wednesday evenings), Christian Formation and VBS, etc.

These are highlights from youth programming for 2008:

- Sunday evening programming. This saw a decline during the transition, but the Committee has great expectations of its revitalization under the leadership of Canon Brian Silldorff.

- Fundraising for youth mission and outreach. Our two primary fundraisers were the ABC Dinner and the Shrimp Boil. Funds from these efforts were placed in the Youth Fund. This money is housed in the Trinity Foundation.

-Planning, staffing and support of Camp WILD.

-Support for the Ski Trip.

-Planning, staffing and support of Home Works missions to Charleston and John's Island.

-Staffing and support of Sunday School: 6th through 12th grade.

-Youth budget expenditures were for Christian Formation; support of Camp WILD; support of Home Works trips; Sunday evening programs; support for recognition of participants in Rite 13, Confirmation and Graduate Sunday.

III. Liturgy, Prayer and Music

O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before His presence with a song. –Psalm 100.1

Worship and music remain central to everything that happens at Trinity Cathedral. On an average week Trinity offers 15 services of worship and celebrates the Eucharist 10 times. During the past year, as our Cathedral building has begun to be restored, the worship life of our congregation has continued to be more important than ever. Attendance has remained strong and our worship has continued to thrive. Our relocation to Averty Hall has been smooth and has allowed our common life to continue with as little inconvenience as possible. We give thanks for this wonderful space that is now a place of worship and our spiritual home for the duration of the Bicentennial Restoration.

The music of Trinity Cathedral is well represented by our choirs. Numbers tell part of the story: this year there are over one hundred members of the Cathedral Choirs, all of whom make a weekly commitment to rehearse and lead the music for our worship. In 2008 more than 20 children joined the choir, making enrollment in the Choir of Boys (20) and Choir of Girls (47) one of the highest in the nation. Our adult Cathedral Choir (42 members) continues to set a standard of excellence for the Cathedral and the Diocese. The offices of Evensong and Compline continue to be sung in the great tradition of our church. By the end of 2008 the choirs will have sung for approximately 150 liturgies, rendering nearly 300 different pieces of music! Over 1,000 hymns will have been played by Cathedral organists. Our choristers are learning and thriving more than ever, and are developing skills in music and leadership that will last forever. Many choristers attend two or three practices weekly to refine their skills. The music staff now offers 6 weekly rehearsals.

A brief overview of our special events this year shows some of the excitement of this program. In January, our Advanced Choristers (boys and girls earning the red ribbon) traveled to New York and New Haven, CT, to sing with the renowned choir of Trinity Church, New Haven. In February the Cathedral Choir sang at the Kanuga Parish weekend and also sang Evensong at Church of the Advent, Spartanburg. In March our choristers participated in the Royal School of Church Music Carolinas course in Charlotte. On Palm Sunday, our choirs offered Handel's complete *Messiah* with the SC Philharmonic. In June choir members led a Homeworks Mission week in Charleston, where high school students, including Trinity choristers, restored homes for those in need. In July adults and children sang five services at Washington National Cathedral, where their singing was praised by the clergy and music staff, and they were immediately invited to return annually. In August our choristers completed their fourth annual retreat at Camp St. Christopher. And in October our second CD recording, *Lift Every Voice*, was released. All of these special events, funded through Trinity's Friends of Music, have been designed to strengthen our music in worship and to make participation a deep reward. The special project of 2009 is our tour to the American Cathedral, Paris, and Canterbury Cathedral.

As our music program has grown, our staffing has adjusted. This year a creative re-organization of our present staff has created an efficient and effective structure for music, worship, and communications. Doak Wolfe remains Associate Organist but has also taken on oversight of Communications upon the departure of Allison Lee for work with the Episcopal Church in New York. Jared Johnson has taken on oversight of Liturgy as well as Music. Along with Elizabeth Hill, beloved Music Administrator, the music team now also manages liturgy and communications for the Cathedral, a major responsibility in a Cathedral of our size. In September, Frances Webb joined the music team as our part-time interim Assistant Organist. Trinity hopes to welcome a new Associate Musician on a full-time basis in 2009 to help handle these many responsibilities.

It is not possible to express in words or numbers the depth of music in worship. Sacred music is a way of knowing God and of drawing closer to God. First and foremost, music remains a sacred offering and is inextricably linked to our life of worship and prayer. Trinity has nurtured and sustained over many decades a commitment to excellence in music that is now held dear by all of us. Our choristers, in addition to their true commitment to service, have outstanding morale and sincerity of purpose. What's more, it is fun to make music at Trinity Cathedral. We hope and pray that the music offered

will be received in the spirit of worship in which it was intended, and that through music we will all hear the God who created us.

IV. Parish Life, Leadership and Communications

A. Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care incorporates many different ministries at Trinity. Each of these ministries performs important functions in serving a very large congregation; from birth to death, the clergy, the committees and a large and committed core of volunteers minister to the needs of Trinity. Clergy visit every person in the hospital each week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have also had 30 visits (as of October) made by lay people as part of our work on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Clergy are also on call twenty-four hours a day through Trinity's emergency telephone line. Clergy respond to each death with visits and planning for all funerals.

Care Teams: Care Teams have recently been added to Trinity's pastoral response. These teams are coordinated and trained under the supervision of the Parish Nurse. Each team consists of several lay people who try to meet the needs of a person or couple that wants to live at home but cannot without assistance. They do anything that the person needs – from grocery shopping to laundry – as a way to assist. Presently we have two functioning teams serving one single person and one couple. For one Care Team from October 2007 to October 2008 they have: prepared 109 meals; cleaned house 11 times; decorated 1 time; hosted one Christmas party; took the person to the doctor 9 times and visited them in the hospital 30+ times. For a husband and wife they have prepared 104 meals; done laundry 52 times and gone grocery shopping 52 times. We have mailed the Voice of Trinity to the 2 families for the past year [24 cds] also. We have an unusual case with a 58 year-old parishioner that has Alzheimer's. The Parish Nurse set up a calendar online for people to sign up to take her to lunch and they have taken her out 29 times. They also have brought her to church each Sunday, to book club, and to Daughters meetings. The Care Teams have been a wonderful addition. Not to be forgotten is our kitchen– Andrella Brunson takes the leftovers from our Wednesday night suppers and prepares plates that she and her volunteer staff deliver to shut-ins. Since January she has delivered 275+ meals.

After Care serves those who are coming home from the hospital. They have delivered 33 casseroles to those who wanted them. This team has also sent 44 get well cards and made 44 phone calls to parishioners on their release from the hospital to offer assistance. We also send out the flowers from the Sunday morning service to people who are in the hospital, coming home from the hospital or who are homebound. Fifty-eight parishioners have received flowers so far this year.

Bereaved Care prepares and sends a bag of paper goods to anyone who has had a death. They follow up after a death with cards and meals when necessary and they have the responsibility for a reception after a funeral. From January 2008 to October 2008 they have delivered 28 bags with a Kitchen Book; written 96 notes; made 33 phone calls and staged 9 receptions. All members of Trinity are asked if they would like a reception following the funeral.

We have a Quarterly Memorial service. For the first three Quarterly Memorial services this year we have sent 92 invitation letters, and for the All Souls service we have sent 112 invitations to family members to attend the Requiem Service. We also send follow-up letters by the clergy during the first year, with the Dean sending the last letter to every parishioner of Trinity who has experienced a death of an immediate family member. These include a book on grief. From October 2007-08, we have sent out 168 letters and books.

New Life Ministry: Each birth is recognized by Trinity with visits in the hospital and a team of people to deliver meals and information on baptism, nursery, and the Elsie Lamar Chapter to parishioners who have had new babies. They also work with families who have babies in the neonatal intensive care unit or who have lost a baby through miscarriage. During the past 12 months this wonderful group has delivered 23 meals. The group reports back to the Parish Nurse who follows up with the parents if there are any concerns or questions. This year she made about 7 follow-up calls.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion from the Eucharist each week to the sick and homebound. The Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the Diocese and function as ministers at Trinity.

The Order of St. Luke serves Trinity through healing ministry. Members are available at the 9:00 service in the Cathedral and after the 6:00 service in Keenan Chapel. They gather each week to study and pray for those who have asked for prayer and they are available for visits at home or in the hospital. We also have a healing service each week on Thursday at 12:15 led by clergy.

B. Parish Life

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is flourishing as a vibrant and dynamic community of faith. During a very challenging decade on many fronts, the life of our parish has grown in membership, participation, and reaching out both within and beyond our walls.

At the very heart of our identity as a Christian community of faith is our corporate worship. Worship at Trinity, especially the celebration of the sacraments, is the locus from which all else emanates. The classic definition of a sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.” A brief look at the numbers for 2008 illustrates this very truth:

Baptisms 40

Burials 19

Marriages 13

Confirmations 31

Eucharist 213 Sundays 254 Weekdays

Home Communion 218

Perhaps another aspect of Trinity's "sacramental life" is found in our fellowship around meals. We are a community of faith that loves to get together at the church for programs and meals—hundreds and hundreds of meals are served each year! This seems to be one of the reasons that Trinity, although now more than 4,000 members, is able to maintain a strong sense of knowing one another, intimate caring, and community.

Finally, the strength of our parish life at Trinity has been greatly enhanced by the addition of the Trinity Center for Mission and Ministry. This beautiful facility has opened up even more avenues for parish life to explore as we continue to seek to strengthen our community of faith, so that Trinity may continue to faithfully serve the mission of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond.

C. Vestry

The Vestry is comprised of 18 laypersons who serve staggered terms of three years, along with the Junior and Senior Warden, who each serve one-year terms. The Dean is the Chair of the Vestry. The Chair of the Trinity Foundation, the President of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, the Senior Warden Emeritus, and the Cathedral's Treasurer and Chancellor also serve in ex-officio capacities. The Episcopal Church in the United States vests all decision-making authority regarding temporal matters in the elected members of the Vestry, leaving decisions regarding all spiritual matters to the rector, or, in Trinity's case, the Dean.

Trinity's Vestry met once per month in 2008 to monitor the Cathedral's finances and the progress of the Restoration Campaign. It also attempted to revitalize its role as the clearinghouse of information from Trinity's various committees and other constituencies. In the midst of all the work on the Cathedral's physical foundations, the Vestry also completed the review of Trinity's bylaws, which form the foundation for how it conducts business.

D. Communications

Trinity communicates with its parishioners in a variety of ways in recognition that there is not one method to disseminate information to a parish of over 4,000 souls. Following the completion of a communications survey in 2007, Trinity made some changes to its communications methods in 2008. We closed the book on *The Voice of Trinity* after acknowledging that the effectiveness of AM radio broadcasts can no longer justify that \$14,528 that they cost per year, particularly in light of the success and evolving role of Trinity's website. The *Tidings* took on a new look in 2008, coinciding with Allison Lee's departure and Doak Wolfe's transition into her former role.

Because the costs of printing and postage will consume over \$65,000 from Trinity's budget in 2008, parishioners are urged to consider relying more on Trinity's digital communications than its paper ones.

V. Administration, Facilities and Grounds

A. Bicentennial Restoration Campaign

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. ~Luke 12:48

The Trinity Foundation has continued to focus upon the Bicentennial Restoration Campaign to restore Trinity Cathedral. Fundraising efforts have met with remarkable success, despite the downturn in the local and national economy. In fact, even though the construction work has ramped up since the summer, collections have kept pace with expenditures to date. Over the past 15 months, over 50 solicitors have secured pledges and gifts from more than 400 donors who have pledged over \$5,122,000 to the Campaign. Additionally, the Trinity Foundation has committed \$100,000 per year for five years. To honor this commitment, the Foundation relies upon gifts in memory and in honor of family and friends as well as its return on its unrestricted investments.

The Vestry has likewise committed an additional \$50,000 from the Cathedral's operating fund for five years. The \$750,000 total from the Foundation and the Cathedral operating funds, plus the gifts from parishioners, results in a grand total of **\$5,872,617.61**. However, as noted in the following progress report from project manager, Wilson Farrell, there is still much work to be done for the restoration to be completed successfully:

Thank you for your patience with the disruption to worship at Trinity Cathedral. I hope you appreciate the absolute necessity of making these repairs.

The decision to remove and replace the stucco was a good one. A much larger proportion of the stucco is delaminated than we first thought, and removing all of it is revealing many problems that need attention. You can now begin to see the results of that work, as portions of the scaffolding have been removed from the north side of the Cathedral.

There is no doubt that the original color was tan/brown/sandstone. After much experimentation, mixing, and rejection, we resolved the formula to achieve the proper color. This is far from an exact science, and the results are beautifully varied and mottled.

Scoring seems simple, but the layout of the score lines can be affected by the trueness of the horizontal lines of the original building, its windows, and other openings. The elements must be scored so that the lines match the way stone would have been cut for each particular location since the various dimensions of the original work are not consistent. We simply have to work around the problems, but it does slow the process.

We have repaired the structure beneath the floors and are now working on the structure of the main roof over the nave and the roofs over the side aisles, the pinnacles beneath the spires, and the masonry walls.

We are removing trim and boxing from the trusses and finding that while key structural elements are in as bad, or worse, condition than we expected, other elements which were suspect do not have to be removed. The scaffolding holds up the work platform and also the roof while the structure is removed and replaced. In turn, the scaffolding is supported by shoring in the undercroft so that the loads are carried to the ground.

I hope you all have seen the portion of one of the trusses that we put on the flower preparation counter. It shows the truly bad condition of the wood. Structurally, damage to a minor area can destroy the load capacity of the entire truss, just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

You may remember my talking about the need to install 24-foot lumber between walls, 22 feet apart. We determined that the potential damage to the building walls from that work was just not warranted, and we have worked out a solution which is structurally sound and will not be visible as it is covered by trim and boxing. This work is being done by Palmetto Craftsmen from Charleston. Buddy Hill and I selected them based on their experience with such work on numerous church projects in the Lowcountry, among them St. Luke's, St. Paul's, Grace Episcopal, and Bethel Methodist in Charleston.

We have also found that portions of the structure supporting the roofs over the side aisles and the ceilings on both sides must be repaired or replaced. The ends of the beams have deteriorated -- essentially, the same problems occur in the low roof support system as in the nave trusses. And the accumulated load of two roof applications has over-stressed the beams and purlins, which we now must replace or strengthen.

To make these repairs we had to remove the ceilings and the pews, a task I truly had hoped to avoid. But we now realize removing, repairing, and refinishing the pews is one of the most valuable things we are doing. We have found some badly needed repairs, and even some termite damage. I promise you that we are not trying to make them look like new. While still showing that they have served well and long, they will also show that they are well cared for and loved. Nicholas Grant is a genius with wood and fusses over his responsibility assiduously. Those of you who are yourselves grandchildren can rest easy with the assurance that your own grandchildren and great-grandchildren will sit in these same pews. That is a tradition of Trinity that will not be disturbed.

Because we had to remove the ceilings for the structural repairs, the opportunity arose to add a sprinkler system. The piping will run in the narrow interstitial space between the ceiling and the roof, but just as importantly, we will have sprinklers under the wood floors. Getting the necessary piping up to the ceilings and hiding it from sight will be a challenge, but every effort will be made to avoid any visual impact on the Cathedral. I think we will all rest easier with a sprinkler system to protect

this building whose primary structural element is wood, some of it at least 200 years old (if you include the “growing time” before it was cut to build Trinity). We have a temporary fire alarm system in place and operating in the Cathedral, based on heat detectors above the floor and in the undercroft. When the project is completed we will have a system that employs several kinds of devices, but the undercroft heat detectors will remain in place.

It has been some 18 months since we began work. A great deal has been accomplished: a new heating and air conditioning system has been installed, an adult vesting space has been created, the narthex entrances and the handicapped ramp have been re-built, renovation of the sacristy has begun (although it cannot be completed until we finish the other work in the Cathedral). We have repaired termite damage to the undercroft. Twenty-five percent of the structural repair work has been accomplished. We have replaced the electrical service to the Cathedral building. About a quarter of the stucco work has been accomplished, and the tower louvers and about half the spires have been replaced. The stained glass window work is one-third complete. The structural problems and the necessity of replacing or repairing the interior trusses and the suspicion that we would find other serious problems led to the realization that Trinity – its worship, its spirit and its life -- would have to move for the work to be done. The disruption attendant to that move has always been accepted with wonderful patience. I think it has been a vivid example of the Christian spirit and a strong statement to Columbia that Trinity is much more than just bricks and mortar.

B. Churchyard

Caring for the churchyard is a labor of love for those hardy folks who brave extreme temperatures and other physical discomforts to clean grave markers and perform other maintenance in the cemetery and elsewhere on Trinity’s campus each year. Maintenance of the grounds is not inexpensive. Over thirty-eight thousand dollars was budgeted in 2008 for landscaping expenses, trash service, and caring for the cemetery. The hands-on work by parishioners is free, of course, and the reward to the volunteers is worth far more than the “sweat equity” they invest.

C. Trinity Learning Center

Trinity Learning Center is a full-time early childhood development ministry of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral which reaches out to all of the families of the Columbia Midlands and surrounding communities and has been in operation for 30 years. It is currently participating in re-licensing by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

The Learning Center receives funding, monitoring, and training from the South Carolina Department of Social Services as a participant in the Child and Adult Care Food Program which provides breakfast, hot lunch, and snacks through USDA approved menus. It actively supports the National Association of

Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards and is enrolled in the current self-study for accreditation.

The Learning Center also receives funding, ratings, and training through a grant by Richland County First Steps as participants of the RCFS National Accreditation teams with projected NAEYC Accreditation occurring within the next year. It is a recognized center of early childhood excellence by the educational community at large and serves as a Practicum location and Laboratory site for students at the University of South Carolina and Benedict College working towards a variety of degrees including Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Nursing, Speech, Hearing, Occupational Therapy Specialists, and Social Work.

Canon Roger Hutchison began to serve as the Learning Center's "lay chaplain" this, which has allowed him to strengthen the Cathedral's connection and relationship with its staff, students and parents. He now visits classrooms regularly and leads the weekly chapel service. This fall, the students have studied the Beatitudes.

D. Trinity Center for Mission and Ministry

In the spring, Canon Roger Hutchison was named the director of the TCMM, where he now has his office. In June the TCMM became Trinity's worship space during the Restoration, and the unfinished space below the gym floor became the workshop to house and restore the pews. The elevator equipment was transformed into the Sacristy. This fall, the Bazaar made full use of the building for vendors selling art, clothing, toys and other items. The building has been an invaluable resource during 2008—in ways that likely never envisioned when it was constructed.

The TCMM is open 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 and is staffed by Erik Parsons and/or Roger Hutchison during those times. The downstairs gallery houses historical artifacts that tell the story of Trinity's history and has begun to host seasonal art exhibits. The rooms on the third floor are used for Bible studies, yoga and Weight Watchers classes, and meetings of St. Lawrence Place staff and Trinity's youth, among many others. Plans are in place for a "health fair" in the TCMM in February.

VI. Finance and Personnel

Trinity's 2008 personnel budget of \$1,551,800 funded 5 clergy, 3 non-clergy Canon staff, 21 other staff members, and stipends for the Cathedral Choir. This fall, we welcomed the newest members of the Canon staff, Charles Davis, Sr., who accepted a ¼ time position to assist with pastoral and liturgical duties, and Mr. Brian Silldorff, who is Trinity's new Canon for Youth Ministries. Trinity is blessed with a staff of many talents, some of which are highlighted in this report. However, some of those talents go unnoticed by those who are not privy to what happens behind the scenes at Trinity. An inordinate amount of preparation and coordination is required for Trinity to fulfill the role it plays in the community. Much of that work is done at a staff level.

Trinity operates on a lean budget. Its working capital, built up incrementally from small operating surpluses realized over many years, is currently tied up in the Trinity Center for Mission and Ministry, while we await the final closeout of the Cornerstone capital campaign. This situation makes it challenging to manage Trinity's cash flow and is one reason among many why the Vestry has urged the members of our congregation to keep current with their pledges.

We hope this report highlights how much this community of faith is able to accomplish with scarce resources. Trinity's stewardship has been generous for many years, but it is not what it can be. Our hope is for an increase in this generosity in times to come.