

# TRINITY CATHEDRAL PARISH

## 2009-2012 Strategic Plan

### Overview of the Planning Process

In early 2009, the Vestry of Trinity Cathedral Parish voted to undertake a planning process to provide direction for the parish both in the short-term (the next year-three years) and longer-term (3-5 years and beyond). Although the parish focused its efforts on the building of the Trinity Center for Mission and Ministry from 2003-06 and the restoration of the Cathedral from 2007 to the present, the last formal, written strategic plan developed for Trinity was drafted in 1998.

Trinity engaged the services of Alexander Haas, a consulting firm from Atlanta, GA, to direct the process, facilitate meetings, compile information and draft the planning document.

The planning process began with two Vestry focus groups facilitated by the Wardens that collected responses to a series of questions posed by the consultant in preparation for a Vestry Retreat.

A Vestry retreat was conducted on May 8-9, 2009, facilitated by Jerry W. Henry, Partner, of Alexander Haas. As a result of the retreat, a Strategic Planning Task Force was named by the Wardens to oversee the drafting of the plan. Members of this Task Force are: Kirby Shealy, Senior Warden; Mary Belser, Junior Warden; The Very Reverend Dr. Philip Linder, Dean; and Brett Frantz, Kirsten Moorman, Wade Mullins, and Helen Taylor, Vestry members.

On May 26, 2009, Mr. Henry facilitated a half-day staff meeting to collect planning information and to have input from the staff.

In order to provide for parish member input, two separate opportunities were provided to collect information in a "town hall" format. These gatherings were conducted on Wednesday evening, June 14, 2009 and Sunday, June 28, 2009 following the 10 a.m. worship service.

The responses and collected data from all previous meetings were compiled and presented to the Strategic Planning Committee on July 7, 2009.

Overall the process identified many areas of great strength and effectiveness, both internally and for the community at large. Key strengths identified include:

- Worship/Liturgy and outstanding music
- Faithful, talented and committed parishioners
- Children and youth ministry
- Community service/missions/outreach
- History and tradition of Trinity Cathedral Parish

At the same time, areas needing new or enhanced focus were identified. The variety of opportunities were categorized and prioritized by the Strategic Planning Task Force to form the basis of the strategic plan.

Opportunities expressed during the sessions included:

- Increasing spiritual life opportunities
- Determining ways to fully engage members in the life of the parish
- Enhancing the Christian formation opportunities for all ages
- Improving stewardship
- Improving administration and oversight of all parish operations – finances, facilities, communication, etc.

Therefore, our overarching initiatives for 2009-2014 are:

1. To deepen the **spiritual life** we have with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by helping us grow in our faith, knowledge, and service, both individually and corporately, through our worship, music, Christian formation, and outreach ministries.
2. To strengthen our **community of faith** so that people experience vital, life-giving relationships with God and with one another by engaging our members and newcomers.
3. To broaden and increase **stewardship** and thus ensure that Trinity Cathedral has ample resources of time, talent and treasure available to accomplish its mission and ministry.
4. To improve the **operational effectiveness** of our parish through staff restructuring that focuses upon personnel and facilities management.

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The Mission of Trinity Cathedral Parish is:

*To know Christ and to make him known.*

We know Christ by

- Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, both individually and corporately
- Making Eucharist, corporate worship and prayer a central part of our lives
- Following Christ's example of engaging the individual gifts of the people of God in mission and ministry
- Exploring our Christian faith by studying Holy Scripture, honoring our Anglican tradition and using reason.

We make Christ known by:

- Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves
- Welcoming all who seek Christ
- Responding to the needs of our parish family, the broader community and the world.