

CHAPTER EIGHT: 2000 – 2005 Our “Good Times” Roll

by **Jean Reynolds**

In the years from 2000 to 2005, Trinity saw many changes in staff and programs, but our losses (by death and other departures) totaled 185. As of June 30, 2005, membership was 454.

Staff

Vic and Marian MacAnallen served as Parish Visitors for a year when Jim and Barbara Vincent moved to Connecticut. **Linda Owens**, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, served likewise for a year, succeeded by **Joe Gernoske**, a member of Black Mountain Church who had just completed WNC Presbytery’s Commissioned Lay Pastor training. Meanwhile an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was working and in April 2002, **John Odom** joined our staff as **Associate Pastor**. In addition, **Sandie Salvaggio Walker** returned as Director of the Junior Choirs. **Leslie Zarnowski** replaced her in 2005.

Program and Events

- A monthly Healing and Wholeness Service (second Sundays at 5:00 PM) was added in the fall of 2002.
- Worship Committee commissioned four new banners from the “Great Ends of the Church” series, and these were completed in 2003 by **Jay Barr, Ruth Sampson, Judy King, and Bea Miller**. **Eleanor Reim** joined the Worship Committee to take charge of procuring frequent professional guest musicians to augment our worship program.
- **Mel Bringle** presented a “sermon in song” in November 2001 and has written hymns for Trinity, including one for our 40th anniversary in 2005. She received the Emerging Hymn Text Writer award from the Hymn Society in the US and Canada in 2001.
- **Marea Stratton** wrote “The Story Retold,” our first Christmas pageant in many years. Great success made these an annual event.
- **Rob Tolleson’s** musical colleagues, occasionally musicians in our worship services, presented benefit concerts, Instruments for Peace in 2003 and in 2005 for tsunami relief.
- Trinity’s first **Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan** celebration in November 2003 was so successful that it was repeated in 2004 and 2005, with Phil King as Beadle.
- Lenten programs features a **Festival of Faith and Arts** with exhibition of works by Trinity artists in 2003 and a series of presentations on religious art by the Rev. Barbara Miller in 2004.
- **David Sigmon**, who grew up in Trinity, graduated from McCormick Seminary. Called to be a resident staff intern at Chicago’s Fourth Presbyterian Church, David chose to be ordained here in early 2004. He was duly “anointed” by the Trinity children that day.
- **General Assembly moderator Susan Anderson** also visited us in 2004.
- We joined Methodists, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Roman Catholics in **Henderson County Churches Uniting**.

Mission

- Trinity’s Mission and Outreach became stronger. Mission trips were undertaken to Puentes de Cristo in Mexico; Nicaragua; NC’s Outer Banks (disaster relief from

Hurricane Floyd), the Heifer International Farm in Massachusetts; and after we adopted a sister church, **Fuente de Vida in Guatemala, Carole Ball and Bev Luzadder** visited there, where we are now part of our presbytery's partnership.

- We expanded our Faith Link mission of helping families that are striving to survive without welfare by agreeing to host **LEEP (Learning, Enhancement, Enrichment Program)** for young people as part of our Wonderful Wednesday programming.

Home "Improvement": Changes and Additions

- We revised our by-laws, developed a website (**Russ Russell** as webmaster), added voice mail and phone tree capabilities to our phone system, and redesigned *Tidings* with **LeAnn Keefer** as editor.
- Three beautiful stained glass windows, designed and created for our upper sanctuary windows by **Elder Gene Carman**, were completed, the final one for Easter 2004.
- Late in 2003 the Long Range Planning Task Force began a Congregational Visioning project led by **Dr. Edward Brenegar**. Some 200 people engaged in cottage meetings to ascertain new directions for Trinity. **Jane Swafford** chaired the committee who analyzed the results and brought recommendations to Session, which were approved for implementation.
- In March 2004, **Dr Tom Blair left Trinity** to answer a call to ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.
- Associate Pastor **John Odom** was **acting Head of Staff** until **Interim Bruce Ingles** from Michigan joined us in August. His untimely death from an aortic aneurysm in early January 2005 numbed the congregation. John Odom then served as Interim Head of Staff, truly doing yeoman's duty, until our Pastor Nominating Committee could complete its work.
- In April the Pastor Nominating Committee recommended the **Reverend Mark Stanley** from the Staunton, VA, area. He was accepted unanimously, began his ministry June 1, and was installed by Presbytery on June 26.
- Weekly catered **Wonderful Wednesday** suppers were followed by choirs and Orff instrument rehearsals, as well as meetings, education, and entertainment on specific Wednesdays. Lent was observed with a **Seder Dinner** as a Wonderful Wednesday program.
- **Pentecost** was a most joyful and spirit-filled occasion with Trinity's first recent "contemporary" service.
- Trinity's 40th year in ministry was celebrated with the creation of history chapters (such as this one) in *Tidings*, a Homecoming Picnic, a dinner and silent auction for members, guest speakers, and more. A banner proclaiming the anniversary, designed by Bob Stratton (who also designed a commemorative coffee cup) was carried in a parade of banners at a Western NC presbytery festival.

Thus our 40th year, despite its sad beginning, ended as a great one, leading into a new era of Trinity life and ministry.