

CHAPTER Nine: 2005 – 2010 **“New Pastor, 40th Anniversary, Burning the Mortgage”**

by Edith Clark, Marian Lowry

After it was determined that another interim pastor would not be called, **The Reverend Mark Stanley became Head of Staff** on June 1, 2005. **John Odom** left (2006) to become a senior pastor of Starmount Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC. **Lynn Moore** resigned as choir director (2006) after twenty years of service and was replaced by **Stephen Klein**, who also continued to serve as organist. **Dwight Christenbury** became Trinity’s Christian Educator in 2007 and then was Ordained and Installed as Associate Pastor on December 7, 2008. **Joe Gernoske** continued to be the Parish Visitor, staffing a very active diaconate. A Deacon attended a meeting of the Session quarterly. Joe started an Alzheimer’s Support Group for caregivers and initiated having about twenty-five Trinity Friends visit regularly with members having a particularly difficult time.

A monthly **service of healing and wholeness** began and was held on the second Sunday of the month. A monthly **Taizé worship** experience was tried. **Kids Up**, a children’s worship service began, as did the first **Community Vacation Bible School**. VBS continues to meet at Trinity with five congregations from Henderson County Churches Uniting participating. **Trinity Fellowship Thirty** after the 11AM service was initiated as a time to gather for refreshments and conversation and to meet visitors and prospective Trinity members.

Wonderful Wednesday supper and programming successfully began with about 20% of the membership participating. Families working with IAM trying to get off of welfare joined Trinity members on Wednesday nights and were part of a gathering with an IAM staff member while their children were tutored by Trinity members. Dwight led **Friends of Jesus** as a complement to the **IAM Learning Enrichment Enhancement Program (LEEP)**. **Suppers for 6** was re-invented, and in 2010 Trinity experienced a Seder Meal.

Members visited our **partner church, Fuente de Vida** in Guatemala, in 2005, and hosted mission partners from there in 2006. Two from Trinity went to Guatemala in 2007. Through the years, that Global mission project succeeded with thanks to Carole Ball and then Carole and Beverly Luzadder.

Continuing to uphold the principles that were established when Trinity was founded — that Trinity’s doors would be open to any and all and that all members were to be ministers— Trinity hosted **"Love Welcomes All"** conferences and invited the community to participate in educating and encouraging everyone to accept LGBTQ folks into fellowship. Mark continues to meet with like-minded pastors, and the group, through their ministerial association, hosts events through the year and an especially meaningful interfaith New Year’s Eve service at Trinity.

Local Missions supported Connie Moore in a new endeavor involving congregations in Henderson County to prepare and serve a Friday night meal to the children at the Boys and Girls Club so they would have a nutritious meal before two days without school or community meals being available. The need and program, **Feed the Kids** continue to grow. Local Missions placed a cupboard in the narthex for the **"Bring a Can When You Can"** food drive for IAM, resulting in 3000 pounds of food being collected in 2009. This program also continues to grow because of the economy.

The core of a **youth group** was developed by the Christian Nurture Ministry. Six members of the group were part of a **Mission Team** sent to the Baja peninsula of Mexico.

Building and Grounds replaced windows and a seriously deficient fire alarm system, Jim Beardsley designed Memorial Garden improvements, and Jim Norris led a renovation of the Fellowship Hall.

For over 15 years, **men of the church** met once a month at the Waverly Inn for lunch, fellowship and guest speakers. In 2008 they lost their main leadership. Presbyterian Women started a new tradition, naming a "**Trinity Woman of the Year,**" with Mary Bell being the first.