

CHAPTER TEN: 2010 – 2015 “Leading into Our Jubilee Year”

by Edith Clark, Marian Lowry

Continuing the **renovation efforts** at Trinity, the Preschool upgraded and renovated its playground with the help of volunteers, staff, and parents.

A **New Members** packet was designed and given to new persons joining Trinity. Appreciation is often expressed for **Trinity Thirty**, a time to meet and greet after the 11:00 service, and for the Origami flowers made by Ken Sugawara that are given out at the visitors table with name tags.

Trinity was blessed with a generous **gift from Peggy and Ray Hannan** to be used for the music program, particularly for encouraging music in children. “This has been a great asset to the music ministry, and determining how to best use this gift has necessitated much study and led us to pursue an ongoing season of Congregational Discernment, assisted by, noted consultant in the field of ‘Congregational Song’, John Thornburg.”

Trinity’s Stewardship process revealed the depths of the financial challenges many of our members are experiencing. This meant our Session and congregation have had to prayerfully **rethink Mission priorities**. We continue to host the HCCU Vacation Church School. When the LEEP tutoring program was terminated in 2013, participants were encouraged to continue receiving help through the Boys and Girls Club. The Beardsley Education Fund, in honor of Eleanor and Jim who oversaw the endeavor for many years, was created. Its purpose is to facilitate the development of young children through enrichment programs.

Building & Grounds replaced aging AC units and the emergency lighting system, installed new carpet, and embarked on a major remodeling of the lounge. It has replaced the roof, and will upgrade the drainage system around the church. Jim Beardsley, who died in December 2011, was an architect who served 20 years, beginning with the planning and construction of the current sanctuary, the Memory Garden, and the remodeling of the lounge. We lost Mike Cook, our cook extraordinaire for Wonderful Wednesdays and ever-willing painter, when he moved back home to Missouri.

Trinity Preschool experienced major changes when the Finance Ministry challenged the Preschool Advisory Board to reduce the amount of financial support it received from the church. When the Preschool Director resigned, Peggy Hunnicutt became Director and ably oversaw the daunting task! The granting of scholarships came under the control of the Advisory Board. Teachers were re-interviewed – with some resigning but many returning. Peggy and her staff volunteered to present a Christmas program to the congregation on Sunday, December 4, 2011 – a very special event for the church! The Preschool is now recognized for its outstanding program. In 2012 the Trinity Preschool initiated a Transitional Kindergarten, with Darlene Tribby as the teacher. The children are totally prepared for a successful transition to kindergarten.

The PW (**Presbyterian Women**) hosted the Presbytery Spring Gathering for 263 women representing 25 churches in 2011. Their Circles and Coordinating team are committed to nurturing faith, supporting the church’s mission, working for justice and peace, and building community. In 2014, they lost the Lois Circle due to age but have gained the Deborah Circle, which meets in the evening. In March 2015, they hosted a successful *Stop Hunger Now* packaging event. There were 132 volunteers, many from the community.

At the Annual Meeting, of January 2012, members were told that Parish Meetings would be held for open dialogue concerning the Mission of Trinity and Trinity's future plans. Don Widmayer headed the visioning process and coordinated the work with a professional church consultant. On February 17, 2013, there was one worship service, lunch, and table talk conducted by the **Visioning Task Force**. This led to approval by the Session in September 2013 of the *Vision Statement: Trinity Presbyterian Church will grow as a family in faith, trusting and following the compassionate example of Jesus Christ. In a diverse world Trinity will provide a safe haven by welcoming and nurturing all people while reaching out to identify and serve the needs of our communities near and far. We will strive to be a joyful and humble family believing that the greatest commandment is love.* There are six ministry initiatives the Visioning Task Force believes must be implemented in order to fulfill this vision for the future of Trinity.

The summer of 2012 saw Mark using a grant he received to share his first **Sabbatical** with his daughter Emily, and their cameras, for twelve weeks of extensive travel throughout the United States in "search of signs of ecological peril alongside great natural beauty". At the conclusion of this portion of the Sabbatical, Mark and Becky joined Emily for orientation at UNC/Chapel Hill and then celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

With Mark away, **Dwight serving as Acting Head of Staff**, assumed additional responsibilities. He prepared for this assignment by participating in Auburn Seminary's Coaching Institute.

After an especially challenging stewardship season in 2011, the **Stewardship Ministry** was formed by Session, separating it from the Finance Committee. Elder Bob Forsythe led his committee and the membership through a new approach by utilizing the 'New Consecration Sunday' strategy. The program teaches stewardship on the basis of the need for the giver to give for his or her own spiritual benefit, rather than on the basis of the need of the church to balance its budget. The first year success was a unifying source of light for all of the church family.

A **Music and Drama Camp** led by Cindy Clark, the out-of town daughter of Edie and Al Clark, was a special week-long event in August, supported by the Christian Nurture Endowment and the Hannan Fund. Eighteen children from Trinity and the community enthusiastically participated in 'The Promises of God'. After the performances, plans were immediately made for the next year's Music and Drama Camp which has continued either before or after VBS.

Beside preschool, elementary, tweens, and youth classes, there are five adult classes that meet during the **Learning Hour**. The pastors continue to lead study classes for the members. The Ohmann Lectures attract members not only because of their educational value but for the reputation of the speakers themselves.

The **library** and its handy atrium book cart added 163 new resources during 2012. Jane Presseau purchased books, DVDs and 108 gift books.

The **Fellowship Ministry's** charge is to make 'each member feel known and cared for'. In addition to Wednesday night dinners and programming, Fellowship also sponsors an Easter Morning Breakfast, Dinner on the Grounds, an Annual Church Picnic at Camp Tekoa, Summer Pool Parties hosted by Carole Ball, and Trunk or Treat for all youth and children at Halloween.

The **Finance Ministry** is fortunate to have a dedicated and competent volunteer team led by Tom Karvonen, Treasurer. Kathy Wylde retired in 2011 after 20 years of service handling confidential financial information with sensitivity and competence.

The **Global Missions** and **Local Missions** Ministries contribute to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly as part of their connectional church commitment. Global selects national and international causes. Carole Ball, Beverly Luzzader and the Global Missions Ministry coordinated with our partner church in Guatemala and arranged a visit to Trinity by three women in 2011. In 2012, the **Guatemala Partnership** celebrated its eighth year of partnership with Fuente de Vida and its seventh year of sponsoring children's scholarships. Trinity sponsored seven primary, four middle school, and one university student, as well as three vocational students and one seminary student. In 2014, Mark Stanley joined the group going to Guatemala.

The **Local Missions** Ministry continues to Reach Out and Serve, as its brochure states, to meet human needs by initiating solutions, volunteering, and allocating funds to over 20 agencies in Henderson County. It also seeks to address urgent community or member needs. Rather than initiating new agencies to address education, homelessness, and hunger, the ministry is focusing on collaboration and use of the church building and other in-kind giving to help people in a way that they can help themselves and then help others. Because of Trinity's openness, a Cub Scout Pack asked to meet in the church. They competed in a District Webelos Expedition and received the Presidents' Award for the Best Pack.

The **New Member Ministry** sent out "Glad you popped in" cards with a package of microwave popcorn to visitors and is now experimenting with new ideas to welcome and encourage first-time visitors. It recruits volunteers for Trinity Thirty and supports Fred Van Itallie as Trinity's Webmaster. The website is the conduit for Trinity's advertising and public relations activities. With fine leadership by Susan Mangrum, a new directory of members was published.

The **Hannan Music Task Force** evolved into a permanent committee attached to the Worship Ministry. It hired four choir section leaders to enhance Trinity's worship and it purchased a drum set for the church. Rob Tolleson arranges for a wide range of musicians to supplement Sunday morning services and to perform on Wednesday nights and at other functions. The pastors and the Worship Ministry plan services that might occasionally bother traditionalists but they are lively and meaningful for most of the congregation. The Jazz Vespers services on weekday evenings are a new addition.

On September 14, 2013, the new **Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God***, was dedicated. Of special note is that Trinity's own Mel Bringle was chairman of the PCUSA committee that assembled the hymnal.

The year 2014 saw the creation of the **Community Music Center**, with Brandilyn Davidson as its head. When she left to pursue her education, Andrew Hiler took over. There are many learning opportunities open to all ages in the community. An added bonus is that Andrew meets with the Preschool.

Beginning January 1, 2015, Lynn Moore returned to the Trinity staff by assuming the position of **Parish Visitor**, which Joe Gernoske faithfully filled for thirteen and a half years. Trinity is grateful to have Ginny and Joe now as just plain active members of Trinity!