

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Bowie, Maryland

2012 Annual Reports compilation - unofficial

Rector's Report

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting

March 4, 2012

The Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis

We come to the end of another year together. Soon, in April, I will celebrate my fourth year with this wonderful community. It seems hard to believe that we have been together that long and yet on the other hand it is clear that we still have much work to do! But let's take a moment and look back at this last year.

We of course had the requisite number of Sunday services, no snow days but we did have a hurricane blow through and disrupt one Sunday and we had an earthquake as well which caused us to worship in the parish hall one Sunday, a day when we all pretended we were at church camp and Bonnie Branham made s'mores for coffee hour. Thankfully we had fewer funerals this year and although all funerals have their share of heartbreak, the loss this past summer of Jenny and Samantha was one so deeply felt by this community. The compassionate and caring ministry of this community during those events and in the wake of them was and will remain a stellar example of Christian giving for me.

The wardens and I pursued financial recompense with both RAM construction and our insurance company around the damage to

the addition on our rectory to no avail and the wardens vestry and I decided that to pursue litigation would be more costly than the church could bear and then could be recouped. Therefore we will proceed with scaled down plans--for which we hope to have approval from the historic commission this spring--and lots of sweat equity.

The hunger committee continues its work toward the eradication of world hunger, their final glory in last year a Heifer International project during Advent raising over \$1100 toward the purchase of a camel or camels.

Our ministry to the homeless in our community continues with another week this year in which we hosted Warm Nights here. Many thanks to Rod Manning for his leadership in that endeavor this year and to all of you who came to help.

We continue our partnership with Glory Ministries in Haiti. Kelechi Udihuri travels to Haiti on a fairly regular basis ministering to the children and those who work in the orphanage.

Our school continues to thrive under the leadership of our new Head of School Mike Mullin. Mike's inaugural initiative meant a big step forward in technology with the addition of Brightlink boards in all of our classrooms and additional computer equipment to go along with them. The school has hosted numerous open houses inviting members of the community in to see what a truly amazing place this is and what incredible opportunities exist for education their children. Thank you to Mike and all of the faculty and staff for their hard and dedicated work.

Our choir under the direction of Peggy Stern continues to grow both in numbers and in musical abilities. Peggy has also gifted us

with two performances from the jazz choir she directs and there promises to be more musical offerings in the future.

Much of my time this last year was spent with work in the diocese as a member of the Transition Committee for the election of our new bishop Mariann Budde. From planning the walkabouts, to running around the diocese with the candidates for the walkabouts to the glorious celebration of her consecration, this work while long and trying at times, it was also a great joy and a gift to see our diocese in all its variation and to see our church at work in the world. Thank you for the opportunity to undertake such work.

This was our second year using the New Consecration Sunday stewardship program and there continues to be good work in deepening our understanding of stewardship as part of our spiritual discipline.

As 2012 began we undertook the planning of celebrations of our 300th year as a worshipping body. Stay tuned for an enhanced parish picnic and a visit from the presiding bishop to recognize this amazing fact.

In closing, let me say thank you again for the honor of being your rector and for the many blessings you share with me on a regular basis.

Faithfully,

Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis

Warm Nights 2012 Report

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and Day School held a Warm Nights homeless ministry from January 29th through February 5th 2012. Warm Nights

is a hypothermia shelter program sponsored by Prince Georges County and administered by Community Crisis Services Incorporated (CCSI). Churches and other organizations host homeless guests for a week providing shelter, food, and services.

I want to personally thank the Church and Day School for their participation in Holy Trinity's Warm Nights program 2012. Through their support we sheltered and fed an average of seventeen guests per night for one week. Church and School volunteers feed our guests and provided need services like clothes mending; resume preparation; and a health fair.

A special thank you is given to Elizabeth Chamberlain, who provided outstanding support in replenishing the daily supplies needed to feed our guests; Senior Warden Steve Eschmacher, for his support throughout the week; The Hunger Committee for their financial and volunteer support; to the anonymous parishioner who donated \$700.00 to Warm Nights; to all of the volunteers who donated their time and talents to feed and shelter our guests; and especially those brave souls who volunteered to come in at 5 AM to serve breakfast to our guests.

Your gifts were well appreciated by our guests and are a wonderful expression of God's love for all people. I am sure that our guests will not soon forget Holy Trinity and the hospitality that they felt during our week. Thanks again.

Rod Manning

Holy Trinity Warm Nights Coordinator 2012

Hunger Committee Annual Report

Holy Trinity's Hunger Committee decided at its October 2011 meeting to fund the following:

- \$150.00 was given to Rev. Leslie in support of a parishioner who needed help.

- \$100.00 was used to purchase Shares of food from the Bowie Lions Club in October, November and December.
- \$500.00 will be given to Moveable Feast's Ride for the Feast in 2012 to sponsor Steve Esmacher and David Andrews.
- \$1000.00 was given to sponsor Warm Nights in January 2012, the same amount that the Hunger Committee gave in 2011 for this program.
- \$1000.00 was used to purchase Safeway Certificates. \$500.00 of the certificates was given to Rev. Leslie as part of her discretionary fund for the next year. \$500.00 of the certificates will be used by the Hunger Committee as needed to support other ministries.
- \$1000.00 will be given in support of the Bowie Pantry in the spring of 2012.
- \$500.00 was given to the Chapel Forge Special Center which uses the money to provide holiday meals to needy families of students at its school.
- \$105.00 was given to sponsor ChildFund International (Holy Trinity's foster child).

In addition to the above, the Hunger Committee has continued or will continue its work to end hunger by:

- The sale of tickets for the prayer quilt created by parishioner Arleen Kirkland. The money raised went to Doctors Without Borders.
- The distribution of arks and the collection of money during Advent for Heifer International--raising more than enough to buy a camel.
- The hosting of the annual Chili Cook Off in March.
- The continuation of the collection food for the Bowie Pantry every Sunday.
- The participation, with the 300th Anniversary Committee, in sponsoring a 12th Night Party in January that consisted of a jazz concert and a dessert reception.
- The selling of Script gift cards during October and November.
- The continuation of putting the hunger envelopes in the pews one Sunday a month.
The money collected is given directly to the Diocese in support of its efforts to end hunger.
- The planning, once again, to have a crab feast in September. This event, the Hunger Committee's biggest fundraiser of the year, supports most of the Hunger Committee's on-going charities.

The Hunger Committee has spent or pledged almost all of its available funds. The group will continue working throughout the year on its efforts to end hunger.

Hunger Committee meetings are usually the first Sunday of every month following the 10:00 AM service. The Committee is always looking for new members and new ideas. If you have any interest, please join the group. Please check Holy Trinity's online calendar, weekly e-mail announcements, and The Trinity Tidings for meeting dates.

As always, each of us on the Hunger Committee thanks the parish for its continued support of the group's efforts to end hunger locally, nationally, and internationally.

Young adult/Youth program Report for 2012 Annual Meeting:

The young adult/youth program continued to be lead by Liz Zarate and Ken Wenzel. The program numbers has about a dozen total participants. That number does vary from week to week and from event to event simply due to competing demands made on the youth.

The highlight of the program this year was the confirmation of five (5) youth. Confirmation was held at the Cathedral in February 2012, after being postponed from its original date in November 2011 due to damage suffered to the Cathedral during the August 2011 earthquake. It was a very special event for a very special group of young adults. It was also the unique honor for the group of youths from Holy Trinity to be the first parish confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde the 9th Bishop of Washington at the Cathedral.

The youth took part in a wide and diverse number of programs this year. The youth and young adults again took part in warm night's program help and assistance when needed. The youth also participated in the Operation Christmas child program. Small packages, about the size of a shoebox with gifts inside for an age specific boy or girl were put together. The packages where then shipped by the Operation Christmas Child program to a child in need. The youth also helped make some of the cornstarch ornaments that were one of the crafts at the Holy Trinity Advent event. The youth also sponsored the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper which also acted as a fund raiser.

The youth also had time for a few fellowship activities one at the beginning of summer as a way to close out the year, and one at the beginning and end of summer as a way to start the year.

The program continues to look for and encourages all the young adults and youth of the parish to participate in the program. For

more information about the program contact one of the coordinators.

Marketing/Communications Ministry Annual Report 2012

The Marketing/Communications Ministry had a busy year in 2011. The Ministry increased exposure in local media outlets, which includes the Bowie Blade and Patch, and created a Holy Trinity Facebook page. We executed a plan of promoting Holy Trinity with distributing over 200 personalized fabric bags and pens at the Annual Bowie Fest. In December, the Ministry sent out 1000 postcards to local residents about our Christmas services and Jazz Vespers.

In 2012, we look forward to sending out similar postcards for services during Holy Week and are also working on ways to make improve Holy Trinity's website.

Finally, if you are not receiving the regular church emails, you can add your name to the list by going to the Holy Trinity Church website: <http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org> and clicking on the link on the left hand side of the page which says Holy Trinity News: Subscribe. Then add your name and email and a password and you will then be a regular recipient of the emails sent out by the Administrator, Rector and others.

ALTAR GUILD

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Holy Trinity Altar Guild renders a service of value at the center point of Christian worship. Our work is both highly specialized and of deep spiritual significance. The Altar Guild's goal is to assist the Rector in his or her preparation for each worship service, caring for the chancel, sacristy and all the vessels, candles, linens and hangings. For each service a member prepares the church, including readying the sacraments and cleaning, and afterwards, cleans up and prepares for the next service.

During Easter and Christmas, the entire Guild comes together to clean and decorate the church for the holidays. An Altar Guild member is on duty for two weeks approximately every three months. S/he is in attendance at each service; s/he is usually the first person to arrive and the last to leave. Altar Guild members also help with weddings and funeral services.

The year of 2011 saw us prepare for 8 funeral/memorial services, 6 baptisms and special services, in addition to the regular Sunday services.

Members of the church give flowers for the altar as memorials or celebrations for each Sunday. The Altar Guild coordinates with Bowie Florist each week concerning the flower arrangement choices for Sunday services as well as special occasions. At the discretion of the rector, the flowers may be left on the altar for the Day School's Children's Chapel or they may be taken to a sick or homebound church member by the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the sanctuary candle that is given every week by a member of the church as a memorial to a loved one or in thanks for the blessings in his or her life. Julie Jones manages the dedications found in the weekly bulletin for the weekly flowers and sanctuary candles as well as for the lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas.

All members of the Altar Guild take turns caring for the weekly linens used during the services. Barbara Arnold and Arlene Kirtland have contributed their sewing skills to mending or replacing worn linens.

The Altar Guild is a non-fund raising organization, but is dependent upon gifts to purchase necessary supplies and linens. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our group and sharing this rewarding experience. Please notify the Rector or an Altar Guild member of your interest.

Present Altar Guild members are: Jillian Anderson, Barbara Arnold, Julie Gordon, Pam Harman (director), Julie Jones (flower and candle dedications) Kirt Kirtland, Bess Sharland, Bonnie Williams, Yvette Galloway, Charlotte Zarate.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Harman

RECTORY READERS

Annual Report

Rectory Readers meet on Mondays from 8 to 10 AM in the Media Center. Our morning begins with a light breakfast brought by members who take turns providing the meal. The first half hour is the time for food and fellowship. Also shared is the responsibility of discussion leader for the day. The discussion portion of the meeting begins promptly at 8:30 with a prayer. While only chapters of books are read each week (this is supposed to be fun, not work) being the leader does require some extra time to formulate thoughtful questions that require some analysis of the subject. It is the leader's job to keep the discussion focused and elicit contributions from all.

The decision of which book to read next is decided by the group, generally from recommendations from members who have already read the book. During the summer individuals read what they choose and in September report on and recommend, or not, those appropriate for the group. The requirements are that it be an interesting book and one that will generate provocative discussions. Additional books are recommended throughout the year and voted on. Since the 2011 Annual Report books read were: *Ladies of Liberty* by Cokie Roberts, *The Gunpowder Plot: Queen Elizabeth's Forbidden Priests and the Hatching of the Gunpowder Plot* by Alice Hogge, *The Tenth Parallel* by Eliza Griswold, the first half of *The Reformation* (313 pages covering from 1490 to 1570) by Diarmid MacCulloch. The group is currently finishing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. At 10 AM the meeting is closed with a prayer

The program year for Rectory Readers is from September to early June; this is the seventh year. It offers spiritual, intellectual and

social growth to its members. New members are welcome to join any time during the year. There are currently 16 members, most of whom joined that first September in 2004. The group is comprised almost equally of men and women. The entire book club was saddened by the loss of Bob Laurenson, an original member, in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Yuhas

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The 2011-2012 Sunday school year began in September and marked the third year in our current format. This format has the children meet first with Jesse Lackey for musical instruction and singing. They then go to their respective classrooms where the focus is on key Bible stories and themes. They first have storytelling and then a project related to that day's lesson.

To date we have 17 children registered for Sunday school. However, we have had several children that did not register in the fall drop in on classes from week to week. The following is a breakdown by age group:

Nursery/Pre-K/Kindergarten: 6

1st through 5th grades: 11

The younger students are taught by Audrey Denison and Karen Lanouette. The grade school children are taught by Cathy Clark.

Due to inconsistent attendance we have been forced to combine the classes over the last month and this will continue unless our attendance increases. We have been averaging just 4 to 5 students over the last few months.

Major activities besides regular classes include an Advent Sunday craft day and an Easter egg hunt. The school year begins in September with registration and concludes in mid-June.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave & Donna Rand

EL HOGAR CLOTHING MINISTRY – HONDURAS 2011 Annual Report

THIRTY packages, 750 lbs., of boy's clothing and school supplies were shipped to EL Hogar - Honduras, during 2011. The average shipping cost per package was \$21.50.

The average weight per package was 25 lbs. Shipping funds, for UPS-Ground service to the El Hogar staging location at Hialeah, FL., was provided by Parish members.

The Holy Trinity Day School donated 866 pieces of clothing, making 2011, the largest and busiest year in our Clothing Ministry. Members of the congregation donated twelve packages of clothing and school supplies which assisted in making 2011 our most successful year to date.

As we support El Hogar in 2012, we continue to ask for slightly used, boy's clothing and school supplies (pencils, erasers, rulers, and single subject spiral notebooks). On 2/20/12 we received a phone call from El Hogar Ministries, Inc. asking that our donation "need" list also contain the following items: tooth paste, tooth brushes, razor blades and hair shampoo.

Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Office, marked for "EL HOGAR" or by calling the Holy Trinity Coordinator, Nelson Denison at 301-464-1209, to arrange for donation pickup.

Submitted by: N. C. Denison

Ushers Annual Report for 2012 Annual Meeting

During Calendar year 2011, fifteen (15) members of Holy Trinity were pleased to offer their services as regularly scheduled ushers. These members were the first to arrive and the last to depart each service in their efforts to assist the members of the parish in their worship.

The Ushers group currently consists of the following members: Rick Anderson, Annie Beckley, Dick Blass, Roland Curbelo, Barbarol James, Julie Jones, Tom Kirby, Kirt Kirtland, Gerry Perez, Mark Powell, Nick Short, Tom Sykes, Daphne Taylor, Harlan Tucker, and Darrel Williams.

--Harlan Tucker, Head Usher

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND - Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School (HTEDS or the School) was founded in 1963 by members of Holy Trinity Parish as a preschool and has grown to become a coeducational day school for preschool through Grade 8. HTEDS is a member of, and accredited by, the Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS). HTEDS is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). The school was most recently accredited by AIMS in 2006 and is due for re-accreditation in 2015.

Currently, HTEDS has an enrollment of 518 students. It offers a rigorous academic program that is supplemented with a wide range of courses in physical education, art, music and technology. The school also provides its families a before and after care program as well as an extensive summer camp program. The school's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. The website is updated frequently and is a great source of

information about the School and its programs. You are encouraged to visit the school's web site at www.htrinity.org to learn more.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION – To help insure the smooth operation of the school and the implementation of its program and Episcopal ethos, the school is led by a team of administrators. They include the new Head of School, Michael S. Mullin, who assumed his duties July 1 of 2011, Mrs. Juanita Nell, Head of the PreSchool/Kindergarten Division, Mrs. Cindy Canzanella, Head of the Lower School Division, Mr. Gene Esposito, Head of the Middle School Division, Mr. John Reger, Chief Operations Officer, Ms. Rosalyn Cruz-Williams, Director of Admissions, Ms. Becky Williams, Director of Extended Day, and Mrs. Karen Falk, Director of Development.

GOVERNANCE- The Board of Trustees (the Board) was created and empowered by the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church. Through this empowerment, the board is charged with an important role in the life of HTEDS – that of trustee or custodian to see the School operates in the best interests of its students, faculty, staff, and parents. Another major role for the Board is the appointment of the Head of School and delegating the day to day operation of the School's affairs to the Head of School. The Board is also responsible for the financial health of the school.

The Board is currently comprised of seventeen members. Members were selected by Holy Trinity Parish and the Board. Board members include: Mr. Terrence Beverly, Chair of the Board, Ms. Athena Groves, Vice Chair of the Board, Rev. Leslie St. Louis, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Mr. Steve Esmacher, Ms. Kerstin DeLeaver, Mr. Jason Fenwick, Mr. Alan Robinson, Mr. Walter Hill, Mr. James Grant, Ms. Deneen Spruill, Ms. Katherine Mathis, Ms. Laural Hooper-Rowe, Ms. Marti Traci Clowers, Ms. Shari Goodman-Berry, Mr. Barbarol (BJ) James, and Mr. Alfred Nicholas. Mr. Michael S. Mullin, Head of School, is an ex officio member.

BOARD COMMITTEES – The majority of the business of the Board of Trustees is done in committee with reports to the full Board at the monthly meetings. The Board has four standing committees: Finance, Development, Long Range Planning and Governance.

The **Finance Committee** works with the COO and the Head of School to provide the School's financial information to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. The committee also monitors the financial health of the School. Specific recommendations concerning the School's budget, as well as areas of financial policy and planning, are made to the Board by the Finance Committee. The Board of Trustees, guided by the Finance Committee, is committed to the financial goals of prudent investment and responsible spending.

The **Development Committee's** primary activity is the Annual Giving Campaign, *Annual Fund for Excellence*, which comes to a close at the end of the school year. The Board is thankful for all of the contributions made to the *Annual Fund for Excellence* campaign and every year strives to increase the percentage of families who participate in this fund. During the 2010-2011 campaign, *the Annual Fund for Excellence* raised approximately \$66,000.00.

The **Long Range Planning Committee** is charged with setting goals and reviewing School policies. The annual review of the Long Range Plan is the responsibility of this committee, although the goals themselves are the collaborative work of the Board.

The **Governance Committee's** role is to present new candidates to the Board of Trustees, and to provide new Board members with guidance in the areas of membership and participation. The Committee is also responsible for developing and implementing the Head of School evaluation and the Board's self-evaluation.

2010-2011 Summary of the Board's Significant Goals and Objectives

- Conducted a nationwide search for a new Head of School, which culminated in the hiring of Michael S. Mullin.
- Instituted a new technology initiative which resulted in the purchase and installation of a Brite-Links Interactive Projector in each classroom, three mobile carts, two in the middle school and one in the lower school, containing 24 netbooks for student use and the purchase and a new technology curriculum for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.
- Hired a new technology instructor for the Middle School.
- Undertook a curriculum mapping program to create a cohesive and comprehensive curriculum in all subject areas and for all grades.
- Moved standardized testing from Spring to Fall. This enables us to assess students' strengths and weaknesses in a timely way.
- Created a new Student Council program in the Middle School to foster student leadership and organizational skills.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael S. Mullin
Head of School

Building and Grounds Committee

Tree Removal

During April 2011 we contracted with Jimmy Kidwell to remove five dead trees in the front of the Church property. Two dead trees were removed between the two garages near the parking. The cost was \$960.

Earthquake

During August the East Coast of the United States suffered a hard earthquake. The Church Building remained in sound condition. We thank Darrel and Bonnie Williams for funding the special Church cleaning.

Repair Work in the Church Cemetery

Thirty six grave stones were repaired and reset in August. Many of these stones were over 100-150 years old. The cost of \$5975.00 was paid from the Oden Bowie Cemetery Fund. Additional grave stones will be repaired and reset during 2012.

Parish Hall Repairs and Code Upgrades

Craig Ryan and John Reger installed a new front door on the Parish Hall in December. The \$ 1700.00 was paid from the Parish Hall Escrow Fund.

On December 27, 2011 Harris Fire Protection Company Inc., Baltimore Maryland replaced six nozzles on the wet chemical kitchen hood fire suppression system. We are now in compliance with the manufacturer's specifications, NFPA, and local codes.

Project cost \$890.00 which was paid from Parish Hall Escrow Fund.

Rectory Restoration

- November 2011: all of the exterior brick work was completed by a professional masonry company; re-building of the front porch was begun by church volunteers.
 - Both chimneys were repaired, including the replacement of missing bricks.
 - All openings through the brick for doors, ductwork, wiring, etc. on the wall where the wing was taken down were bricked in, so as to secure the building from weather and vermin. *The door openings were bricked-in with only one course of brick so as to provide for ease of re-opening once the wing is re-built.
 - All mortar joints on the entire building were re-pointed where necessary.
 - The front porch structural framing was begun. Help was provided by Gerry Perez, Ellen Glover, John Reger, Joe Antonelli, Ken Wenzel.
- January 2012: the roof was replaced by a licensed roofing contractor; more front porch work was completed by church volunteers.
 - All existing shingles were removed. It was discovered that there was a layer of cedar shakes below the shingles, which was also removed. The underlayment below was also sub-standard. A new layer of plywood under-layment was applied over the entire roof area.
 - Drip-edges were installed on all of the roof edges (eaves and rakes). *There were no drip-edges before.
 - New copper flashing was installed to replace the existing copper flashing.
 - New Certainteed 50-year shingles were installed over 30 lb. roofing paper.

- Grading below the porch was sloped away from the building to provide run-off. A layer of 6-mil. black polyethylene (plastic) was placed over the area and covered with a 2" layer of construction gravel, so as to control mud and weeds below the porch area. Help was provided by Joe Antonelli and Ken Wenzel.
- Upcoming this spring:
 - New 6" aluminum gutters and downspouts will be installed (by a siding contractor).
 - The front porch will be completed by church volunteers:
 - The porch decking will be 5/4" x 4", tongue and groove Cambera mahogany.
 - The porch roof columns will be re-installed and the temporary posts will be removed.
 - New porch steps will be constructed to replace the original.
 - Repair of the porch roof trim will begin.

Blue Jeans Saturday

On November 19, 2011, dedicated members arrived to rake leaves and then drag tarps to designated areas in the woods. We thank Tom Sykes; Dick Blass; Craig Yuhas; Steve Esmacher; Bernadette and Frank Dragotto; Karen Sharp; Steve and Ben Thompkins; Petey Nettles (who supplied coffee and donuts, also); Pam Harman; Julie Gordon; Tom Jones; Tom Lackey; Harold Sandy; and Grounds Committee Chair Curt Reiber for their great support!

Adorning the Cemetery with Wreaths for Advent and Christmas 2011

On Saturday, November 26, 2011, parishioners and family members assembled to decorate for Advent and Christmas the

historic cemetery of Holy Trinity Church. Volunteers laid wreaths on the graves of adults and teddy bears, hobby horses, dolls and candy canes on the graves of children.

This ministry is the special project of Sherrill Bower who has made it her mission to see that all of Holy Trinity Cemetery's graves are decorated for the holiday Season.

Before the decorating began, Rev. Leslie led all assembled in a prayer she had prepared especially for the occasion.

Diane Clark, Susan Croft, Curt Reiber, and Karen Sharp prepared the wreaths the day before. Those laying wreaths were Diane Clark, Susan Croft, Lauren Gracie, Tom Jones, Marge Kreutter Malarkey, Marty Malarkey, Sandra McGrady, Curt Reiber, Karen Sharp, Sandy Short, Emily Short, Lydia St. Louis, Terry St. Louis, Rev. Leslie St. Louis, Tom Sykes, and Mary Yuhas.

Susan and Jack Croft provided wreaths for the Bowie Family Cemetery at Fairview. Susan, Jack and Curt Reiber decorated the Bowie Cemetery.

Upon completion of the project, volunteers retired to the Parish Hall kitchen to sip mulled apple cider and eat delicious, homemade goodies prepared for the occasion by Diane Clark.

Removal of the Wreaths

Many thanks to Susan Croft, Silvia Evans, Tom Kirby, Arleen Kirtland, Curt Reiber, and Karen Sharp, who, on Thursday, January 5, 2012, the day before Epiphany, removed all the wreaths that parishioners and friends had placed in late November to decorate the historic Cemeteries for Advent and Christmas.

While the group was hard at work "undecorating" the Cemetery, Harold Sandy and Dick Blass were working on the long-term project of laying the stone along the edges of the macadam driveway.

Thanks also to Harold Sandy who, on Sunday, January 1, 2012, helped Karen Sharp remove poinsettias from the Cemetery, and Susan and Jack Croft for removing the wreaths from the Oden Bowie Cemetery in the first week of January 2012.

Special Thanks

Harold Sandy, Dick Blass, and Craig Yuhas volunteered weekly. Thanks also go to Don Evans and BJ James. We thank all who help to make the grounds of Holy Trinity beautiful.

Curtis Reiber, Chair, Building and Grounds

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Reiber, Chair, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Karen Sharp, Recorder, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and Coordinator, Wreath Ministry

Foster Child Ministry

The Holy Trinity Foster Child Program has sponsored a child during the developmental years through ChildFund International for more than 30 years. ChildFund delivers needed educational and health services to the children it serves; our sponsorship is tied to a specific child: 6-year-old Denise Faith Galias of the Philippines. In addition to our monetary support, we write cards and letters of encouragement, which introduces the child and her family to our church family and the compassion of God's good work.

Holy Trinity's support continues to be \$35.00 per month (\$420 per year) and additional gifts of \$25.00-\$40.00 each for Denise Faith's birthday (June 30th) and Christmas. Over the years, the Hunger and Mission committees, ECW, and individual parish members have given funds for this small, beneficial ministry. In 2011, the Hunger Committee and a couple of parish members supported this ministry.

In my 4th year as Foster Child Coordinator, Denise Faith's mother, Junalen, and I



shared notes and well wishes. Denise Faith also wrote notes this year--she is in first grade, and is growing strong and beautiful. I hang notes and progress reports on the parish bulletin board. In the ChildFund July 2010-June 2011 progress report, Denise Faith writes,

Dear Holy Trinity, We are very lucky and blessed having you as my sponsor. Thank you very much for everything. I love you and God bless always. Love, Denise Faith.

Our small contribution to Denise Faith's care makes a difference to her health, development, and future. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Holy Trinity in such a meaningful ministry. Parish members who would like to join in funding our support can make their checks payable to "ChildFund International" and place "Denise Faith Galias #135/42708/3005" in the note and forward the gift to the Parish Office, Holy Trinity Foster Child Coordinator.

Submitted by: Chris Wehrenberg