

Trinity Parish

November 2005 • Camp Hill, PA • www.trinitycamphill.org

Faith in Action Outreach Celebrates Volunteer Efforts

by **Donna L. Popky**, Project Director

It is not an easy task to choose a single volunteer to honor with special recognition because all the volunteers in the *Faith in Action Outreach* program are so outstanding. However, it is easy to celebrate the efforts of David Spear who has been helping Dennis for several years. David began his volunteer efforts with *Faith in Action Outreach* in October 2002. His congregation, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, has been part of this interfaith coalition administered by Jewish Family Services of Greater Harrisburg since January 2002. The coalition has been working to answer the unmet non-medical needs of homebound, isolated physically disabled adults up to 65 years of age in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties.

David recognized immediately that Dennis had multiple needs, not just the phone calls, visits or grocery shopping that was too difficult for him to accomplish on his own without adequate supports. Dennis, who has use of just one arm and can't walk more than short distances unassisted, lives on his Social Security Disability which presents its own set of economic challenges. Other health concerns compromise his everyday living as well. Along with Joyce Grier, Trinity's congregational liaison, David was responsible for finding new carpeting that could be donated for his apartment. It helped brighten up an otherwise dreary setting in his city apartment. He was also able to find Dennis a used computer that a friend was giving away and he helped set it up for him. Recently a neighbor passed away and David was able to retrieve a discarded television to replace Dennis' old one. He has helped explore housing options for him as he lives in substandard section 8 housing. Dennis is still on a waiting list for HUD housing and hopes to be able to move soon. The best gift David has given to Dennis, however, has been his friendship and willingness to listen. David tells me that when Dennis feels up to it they plan to take a drive to Annville, his old hometown. As David has said:



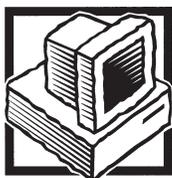
“My involvement with *Faith in Action Outreach* began when our congregational liaison invited me to help. Volunteering has always brought pleasure and fulfillment to my life, and I was aware of the need for these services, so I immediately agreed to participate.

It's been an enjoyable adventure, full of new opportunities, a new friend, and a new mission. Dennis is always pleasant and helpful, and I look forward to our visits. He is also a great source of stories about the history of central Pennsylvania. This endeavor has broadened my understanding of Harrisburg and the varieties of human experience, as it has taken me to places I had rarely visited. Dennis has also taught me a great deal about the social services that are available and the difficulties in having one's basic needs met.

It's been fulfilling to realize that another person's life has been made easier because of my small efforts. And as someone who has received similar assistance in the past, it has been an additional pleasure to pass on the generosity to someone else.”

David's sensitive and caring nature was celebrated when *Faith in Action Outreach* awarded him this year's Volunteer of the Year award at our Volunteer Recognition event on November 8 at the Jewish Community Center in Harrisburg.

David is certainly a testament to the heart of *Faith in Action Outreach*. When asked about how his efforts have changed his life, Dennis replied, “This is one of the best services I have ever had. I am glad that *Faith in Action Outreach* is here for me and others like me.” For information, or to make a referral for individuals needing help, call Joyce Grier at 566-2294.



Staff Notes

By The Reverend Nancy R. Easton

The Ad Man Cometh

During a recent fund-raising drive at our local public radio station, one of the hosts waxed eloquently about the surpassing qualities of radio. She opined, "Radio is with you wherever you go. Radio is intimate. Radio meets your every need."

Well, if those remarks didn't make you want to rush right over to your checkbook or charge card and send the station \$120, I don't know what would!

Note my sarcasm in that last paragraph. So many things in our world pitch themselves as being our end-all or proclaim themselves as being the thing we really need . . . for happiness, for status, for self-affirmation, for security. Simply take out the word "radio" and insert any word of your choice. If you're at a loss for words, just watch a commercial or two, or scan the advertisements in the newspaper. You'll discover plenty of pitches, particularly at this time of the year. Why, even a credit card company pitches itself as being everywhere we are. Is it any wonder we rack up so much debt, purchasing things we think we need?

The problem isn't the pitch. The problem is we believe the pitch. Or at least we want to believe the pitch. We want to believe the pitch because we do indeed hunger for something (or someone) to be with us wherever we go. We do indeed hunger for intimacy—to be fully known and loved. We do indeed have needs that we can't possibly meet ourselves. And so we search for that elusive "thing" that sets it all right.

It is in this season of Advent, every year, where a pitch is made anew to us. The Lord God, through his prophets like Isaiah, pitches anew to us that our end-all is to be with Him, to have new life with Him in a kingdom where *shalom*—true peace—will reign. Through those prophets we hear that God will restore us to himself, in spite of our sin.

But this glorious end-all cannot be purchased with a credit card nor financed with monthly installments of good deeds. It is God's free gift to his creation. It is God's free gift of himself, through the person of the Son, Jesus Christ. We hear the pitch from John the Baptist, who declares someone is coming, greater than he, to be with us. You and I know that pitch is to be believed, for this someone, this Jesus, this *Emmanuel* (which means "God-with-us"), entered our history 2,000 years ago. This *Emmanuel* will, at the end of time, come to be with us again. And when he comes, he will envelop us in an enduring intimacy with our Creator where we will be fully known and loved. It is this Advent promise of that intimacy that provides us with what we really need.

And so we wait. Come, Lord Jesus.



Happy Birthday

Homebound Birthdays

December 1

Pauline Middleton

The Woods at Cedar Run - Apt. # 315
824 Lisburn Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

December 11

Gladys Smeal

7 Marshall Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011

December 24

Bob Wallower

Seidel Hospital Living Care Center
120 Filbert Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

December 31

Grace Bolton

P.O. Box # 39334
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339

Staff Birthdays

December 2

Pastor Easton

December 25

Leslie Engers

Have you made any household changes?

New address, phone number,
e-mail address, birth of a child?

Do you have a student in college or has your child graduated and moved to their own home?

A family member serving in the military?

Please call the church office at (717) 737-8635 or e-mail at: trinluth@trinitycamphill.org

The deadline for submission of material for the January issue of *Trinity Parish* will be Sunday, December 10. No exceptions.

Advent Worship Opportunities

WEDNESDAYS

November 30; December 7, 14, 21
Communion Service - 7:00 a.m. - Chapel

THURSDAYS

December 1, 8, 15, 22
Communion Service - 6:30 p.m. - Chapel

SATURDAYS

November 26; December 3, 10, 17
5:30 p.m. - Communion Service - Fellowship Hall

SUNDAYS

November 27; December 4, 11, 18
Traditional Worship - 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. - Nave
Contemporary Worship - 10:45 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

December 18
Holy Communion and Service of Healing
3:30 p.m. - Chapel

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Family Service - Nave
7:00 p.m. - Contemporary Service
with Communion - Fellowship Hall
8:30 p.m. - Lessons and Carols
with Communion - Nave
11:00 a.m. - Candlelight Service - Nave

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. - Holy Communion - Nave
5:30 p.m. - Holy Communion - Fellowship Hall

Lutheran Men in Mission Calendar of Events

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) needs the help of all able men to erect and trim the Christmas trees. If you can help, please contact either Bard Rupp or George Enney. LMM will meet at the church on Saturday, December 3 at 8:00 a.m. to erect and trim the trees.

Other upcoming events include:

January Family Bowling

Report to the Congregation

1915 Market Street

On February 27, 2005, the congregation voted to approve the purchase of the property located at 1915 Market Street for \$300,000, which purchase was initially funded with unrestricted quasi-endowment funds. The authorizing resolution required that Trinity's Finance Committee report to the congregation with respect to a permanent financing plan.

On October 17, 2005, the Finance Committee determined that it would defer a decision to permanently finance the property until May, 2008, the maturity date of Trinity's *Building for God's Ministry Capital Campaign* loan. Although the Finance Committee continues to believe that capital acquisitions should be funded with borrowed funds, Trinity's current financial stresses (which include a leveling of regular membership giving during this time of rising fuel and insurance costs; the capital campaign; and the congregation's disaster assistance response) lead the committee to conclude that additional financing should be deferred until these stresses are relieved.

In the meantime, anonymous donors have contributed an additional \$10,000 (in excess of annual pledged amounts) to fund repairs and maintenance of the property and the Finance Committee has established an investment subcommittee to oversee Trinity's investment accounts and develop a policy regarding use of endowment funds.

A tall red taper burns below
a holly wreath. The crystal snow
flings back the silver light
of stars. Still is the night. . .
and all the world recalls a birth,
an angel song, and peach on earth.

Virginia Moore



Letters to Trinity

We give thee but thine own. What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee. Amen.

Dear Pastors, Members and Women of Trinity,

Thank you so much for the visits, cards, prayers and calls during my recent surgery.

I feel blessed to be a member of such a caring church family. All helped in my recovery.

God bless,

Adele Confair

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Thank you for your visits, cards, prayers, food contributions and concern after my recent accident. Recovery has been slow, but it truly was comforting to know others cared when I was down.

I now have a much greater appreciation of this loving, caring church family and am proud to be a member of Trinity Lutheran.

With gratitude,

Tina and Bruce Stauffer

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity,

Esther Luley and Ed Shuey join me in expressing heartfelt thanks to the men who provide us valet service for the traditional worship service every Sunday.

When we arrive at the door they are always faithfully waiting for us in all kinds of weather. Without them we could no longer attend church regularly because we are unable to walk into church from the available parking spaces.

We encourage other people to take advantage of this caring Christian service.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Herold

Dear Members of Trinity,

Many thanks for the arrangement of fall flowers that were given to me. The colors are so bright and beautiful. Knowing they were on the altar made me feel good.

Also, I appreciated hearing from the *Women of Trinity*.

Many thanks!

Dorothy Miller

Dear Members of Trinity,

Thanks to the men of Trinity who cleared leaves off our property. This was a great help as we are unable to do it.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Allan and Mary Hull

Dear Members of Trinity,

Once again I received help from the Trinity men's group. It was great to see what quick work they made of odd jobs that would have taken me days to complete. In fact, some of the heavier jobs probably wouldn't have been done at all.

Their willingness and smiling faces make it a day I look forward to each spring and fall. Thank you so much for your help and God bless all of you.

Arlene Corso

From the Vicar

Greetings in Christ!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Marie Meeks. I am a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where I live with my 14 year old son Daniel, two dogs, a cat, and a guinea pig. Needless to say my life is pretty exciting!

I began my internship year here at Trinity Lutheran Camp Hill last July, and I will be here for a year. I cannot adequately express how welcome Daniel and I have felt here at Trinity. Everyone we have met has made us feel right at home here.

As I approach the half way point in my time at Trinity I want to let you all know what I have been up to so far, and what my plans are for the rest of my year with you. I have been here since July 18 and I have participated in many of the ministries of the congregation. I have learned a great deal about how a church operates and how the individual members of this congregation "do ministry."

You truly are a priesthood of all believers here at Trinity! I am impressed by your dedication to being a place where interns can come to learn about ministry and service in the Lutheran Church. Thank you all for the many valuable comments so far, your kindness and honesty are much appreciated.

This spring as part of my intern year I will be doing a project in order to learn how to initiate and organize a ministry program. I will be sharing with you my passion for the least, last, and lost that Jesus calls us to care for in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

I will be leading an Adult Sunday Church School series early next year on Prison Ministry. The speaker for two of the classes will be Reverend Larry Coleman, Chaplain at the Dauphin County Prison. I hope to see you there.

I am truly looking forward to continuing my education with Trinity. I am sure that next July will come far too soon.

Vicar Marie

**“Women of Trinity”
Christmas Luncheon**

Saturday, December 10, 2005

12:00 – Catered Luncheon *

Fellowship Hall

Featured Guest Speaker: Cheryl Hornung
Program Theme: “Caitlin’s Smile Charity”

We will begin this event at 11:00 a.m. by gathering and packing cookies for our at-home members. If you wish to donate cookies for this event, please drop them off in the church kitchen during the week or prior to packing time. Please label them “WOT Christmas Party”.

**A sign up sheet will be available at the Information Desk
in the Gathering Space beginning
November 20, 2005*

All WOT and Guests are invited.

BLOOD BANK NEWS

Sign Up for the January 15, 2006, blood drive will be held on January 1 and 8 following all services. Look for us in the Gathering Space. Signing up ahead of time makes it much easier to keep things moving along.

The Central PA Blood Bank will be bringing their Blood Mobile. However, report to Room 126 on January 15 after you eat breakfast.

There is a good possibility that we will reach 200 units for 2005. A unit of blood would make a fantastic Christmas gift for up to four people, plus making Jeanie very happy.

If you donate at the area hospitals, blood donor centers, or the Community Blood Drives, be sure to tell them our number 157, or Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill. Have a question? Call Jeanie Bentzel at 766-3526.

Artist of the Month

As a student at Grove City College (PA), Richard (Dick) Michaelian took his first course in painting and enjoyed the experience of creating art. Yet, it has only been in the past seven years that he became more serious in pursuing the hobby of watercolor painting. Through classes at the Harrisburg Art Association, Dick learned and studied under David Lenker, a local artist with many professional accomplishments.

Dick was raised in Newport News, Virginia, and has been influenced by the Williamsburg and Tidewater regions for subjects to paint. The use of color with an eye for specific detail has allowed Dick to paint from a realist perspective. He has won several awards at the Harrisburg Art Association and many of his works and prints have been sold throughout the Harrisburg area.

Having been members of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church for over fifteen years, Dick, his wife Becky, and their three school-aged children enjoy many of the activities at the church. As a past Deacon and Elder and as a current Sunday school leader and Confirmation Mentor, Dick has been involved with numerous programs.

Dick considers his art to be a ministry and testament to his faith. All that he creates and all that he accomplishes is rooted in the knowledge that all of his gifts come from God.

And when they had opened their treasurers,
they presented unto him gifts; gold,
and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

*We do not obtain the most precious gifts
by going in search of them but by
waiting for them.*

Simone Weil

*There is an old tradition that on Christmas Eve, the little
boy Jesus again walks the earth; and in the old country,
the mother always sets a lighted candle in the window to
light Him on His way.*

**WOT COLLECTING
DONATIONS**

Women of Trinity are collecting donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats for the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. Baby, youth, teen, and adult sizes are needed. Anyone talented in knitting or crocheting will find instructions for these items in the Collection Closet.

A container will be placed in the Gathering Space near the closet for your donations until December 18.

Circle the date now:
Sunday, January 8, 2006
EPIPHANY EVENT

Fellowship Hall

5 - 8 p.m.

Pastor Brock, our featured speaker, will tell us about his trip to India this past summer.

We encourage you all; men, women, families with your children, to be a part of this event.

TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

This is an opportunity to participate in our giving to others at Christmas time. The **Giving Tree** will be in the Gathering Space again this year and you will have a choice of five organizations to give to. Look for these tags:

- Angels – gifts for the Prison Ministry children
- Trees – gifts for the men who are cared for at Frank's Place in Camden, N.J.
- Books – gifts for our Sudanese men
- Teddy Bears – gifts for our own members at Trinity in need
- Mittens – gifts for women and children at Delta House

Bring your gifts and tag ornament by December 11, or 18 at the latest, and place under the tree. The tags will tell if you need to wrap the gifts.

If you are looking for a special gift to send to someone in your family that will be very meaningful, check out the Missions Bulletin Board for gifts to World Hunger or gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog or the Lutheran World Relief catalog.

Thank you for your support in giving to those who are most grateful for your caring and sharing.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Our Nursery needs helpers! Thanks to Stacey Martin's outstanding work as Nursery Care Coordinator, the nursery population on Sunday morning has boomed. What a wonderful problem to have! More helpers are needed for the early service on Sunday, the Church School hour, and the two later services. If you would like to help in the nursery at any of these times, please contact Stacey Martin at 259-1163 or through the church office. Or contact Christopher Couch, Director of Learning Ministries.

CUT

THE ARTS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU (and all the members of your family!)

There are so many ways to get involved in the Arts at Trinity!

Listed below are some possibilities. Please check all that interest anyone in your family. Turn in this completed form to any usher or place it in the box on the Receptionist's Desk in the Gathering Space. Call Cathy Nye (697-2796) if you would like more information regarding Arts activities at Trinity.

- I'd like to be on the Arts Committee.
- I'd like to help serve refreshments after a concert.
- I'd like to supply some refreshments for an after-concert reception.
- I'd like to get involved in a Liturgical Dance group.
- I'd like to get involved in a Puppet Production group.
- I'd like to get involved in a Drama group.
- I'd like to get involved in a Summer Arts group.
- I have a suggestion for an "Artist of the Month."
- I have an "Arts" idea that hasn't been named above.

PS: This is not intended to be a life-long commitment. Any help you can give, a little or a lot, will be appreciated by the Arts Committee, and eventually by everyone at Trinity!

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Trinity Parish is published 11 times a year by the Publicity and Communications Committee of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut St., Camp Hill, PA 17011 717-737-8635, trinluth@trinitycamphill.org.

J. Stewart Hardy, Senior Pastor
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Nancy R. Easton, Assistant Pastor
Guy S. Edmiston Jr., Support Pastor in Residence
Marie Meeks, Vicar
Christopher Couch, Director of Learning Ministries
Peter Fox, Director of Youth Ministries
H. Timothy Koch, Director of Music Ministries
Debra Wilson, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Donna V. Sprowls, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas at Trinity

Sunday, December 4, 2005 * 4:00 p.m.
Faith X and Children's Choirs Concert

Sunday, December 11, 2005 * 4:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir and Adult Bell Choir Christmas Concert
with Orchestra

Sunday, December 18, 2005 * 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Lutheran Vespers
Matus Choir and Youth Choir