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Incumbent's Report to Vestry 2009

It was just a year ago, February 12, that I visited Toronto for my interview with the Selection Committee. There were piles of snow everywhere then, too. Since the beginning of June, when I arrived, I have been absorbing the culture of Holy Trinity and Toronto, meeting people and building networks of relationships in the community.

Arriving at the beginning of summer made for a more relaxed introduction to the parish—never dull, though. We were able to watch the weekly progress of the installation of the new organ, wondering how all the parts and pipes strewn around the church were all going to fit in the north transept.

Some of my most important work was with the Transition Committee and the cottage meeting process we used to discuss governance issues. People enjoyed gathering in one another's living rooms to wrestle with our common life. Collaborating with the San Esteban community has been a stretching experience for me. I never would have preached in Spanish but for their encouragement. Lee Creal invited me to join the Multi-Faith Alliance to End Homelessness, where we work together on the Community Engagement Committee. Dick Moore has connected me with the Senior Pride Network.

One of the highlights for me was the Celebration of New Ministry, a full-throttled, multicultural, dancing-in-the-aisles, only-at-Holy-Trinity type of service. In December, I sojourned in the world of Christmas Story, greeting audiences and filling in roles as needed.

I mentioned some of my work beyond the parish above. I am also a Board member of the North American Association for the Catechumenate, whose annual conference this year will be held in Niagara Falls.

After eight months, I am very encouraged by what I have experienced so far of the life of Holy Trinity. We have a lot on our plate, including some serious challenges, but we also have a rich, hope-filled future to look forward to.

Sherman Hesselgrave

Wardens' Report

In the wardens' report of 2007, we ended with the phrase that "2008 will likely be another challenging year." While there is some satisfaction in making accurate predictions, we did not know how accurate it would prove to be. Clearly it was a year of transition and the uncertainties and the challenges took their toll.

The year started with the welcome of two new wardens – Dick Moore and Beth Baskin. The team worked with Dianne Mesh, our interim priest for the first 6 months of the year. Despite being an interim appointment, Dianne Mesh carried out the job with strong leadership. As she challenged the congregation, so she challenged us – to turn our eyes forward and outward, setting our minds to the continued growth of the congregation.

It was not a year without conflict. For instance, we struggled with internal conflicts related to the drop-in on Sunday morning. When we were approached by a parishioner who felt unsafe and had an incident between a staff member and a participant in the drop-in, the wardens responded by consulting people experienced in the management of such programs and introduced what we thought was a measured reaction on a trial basis. For some, that was an able compromise. For others, it was an affront to their beliefs. Who was right or wrong is not the ultimate issue – the underlying conflict was an example of something that we can ill afford. Ultimately, the wardens retracted their decision and although the issue

was unresolved, we hoped that it would send a signal that we were trying to listen actively and do our best to improve our communication and openness.

Although the wardens themselves were personally affected by this conflict, under the leadership of both Dianne Mesh and later, Sherman Hesselgrave, we managed to rebuild and today have a strong and functioning team. We did it, not by ignoring our differences, but by embracing them. We went back to our fundamental beliefs and now start each meeting with a personal “check-in,” reminding us that we are neighbours and friends. We have done a number of team-building events to keep our spirit, and we end each meeting with a prayer for unity – for ourselves and our church.

It was a year of celebration and sadness. We marked the departure of Dianne, and we said good bye with sadness, but, thanks to the efforts of many in this congregation, we mounted a second farewell which truly was a celebration. Later in the year, the news that Dianne had found a new congregation added to our joy.

In sadness, Ron Panter's absence due to illness has been felt both among the wardens and in our community. Ron was a tremendous worker and his contribution, his knowledge and dedicated work to the parish as a senior warden have been missed these past few months. The wardens stepped in to cover for him – as did others in the congregation. Jim Love stepped in to take double duty as finance warden and property warden, with others covering additional areas that Jim had formerly done.

As a congregation, we have a number of accomplishments this year of which we can all be proud. The new organ has brought a rich and vibrant voice to our church; we welcomed a record number of refugees to Canada, and several major construction projects were undertaken. The perpetual negotiations with our tenants and the management of the buildings continued to challenge us. We applaud the volunteers who have done so much to make these things happen! A great deal of money has been raised, an enormous effort has been put into the activities, and for a year that was supposed to be one of “transition,” there was a lot accomplished in the way of building. For all – not just the wardens – it was exhausting and strenuous at times, but very rewarding.

Then we had the joy of welcoming our new incumbent, Sherman Hesselgrave, to Holy Trinity. This is not something that the wardens take credit for; it is something that we as a community should feel proud of. We came through a period of transition this year and that transition was well managed. Both the selection committee and the transition committee did amazing work in choosing an incredible new incumbent and smoothly shifting into a new era at Holy Trinity. The hiring was a model of professionalism and his welcoming celebration was a high point of the year for many of us. Sherman has brought enthusiasm, energy and a belief in us all to our wardens’ meetings. He is skilled at building bridges and is quietly challenging. He is respectful and has listened to our stories and history; yet, he challenges us to think of the future.

This past year, we thanked Marty Crowder for working as treasurer for four years and welcomed Malcolm Savage as our new treasurer. Although Holy Trinity continues to face challenges, our financial position is still sound, due to the prudence of past treasurers such as Tim Wainwright and Marty Crowder, who helped us build up reserves which we dearly needed this year as our cash position went up and down. In 2008, we raised a record amount of money that was both due to the extraordinary effort of the congregation and to the bequest of a former parishioner who made a most generous gift to us. While we finished the year in a relatively good financial position, the fiscal signs are there – we must grow. We look forward to focusing on this goal in 2009.

We have seen the congregation move through transition. We have a strong and able incumbent with the energy to lead us forward. We have shown strength in fund raising that has been quite amazing. We see that when we focus on a collective goal, when we put the right people on it, let them do their job with and offer our faith in them and our support, we can achieve wonderful things. If you stand back and look at all that we have accomplished in this year of transition you can rightly be proud of this community. We are also a stronger team as wardens and although we say goodbye to our two senior wardens, Ron Panter and Alice Prichard, we look forward to welcoming two new wardens to our group in 2009.

So, as we end a year that was composed of strife and sadness, but also joy and excitement, we are able to learn from our mistakes and welcome this year with optimistic anticipation. We hope that our final note will be as accurate as that of the prior year, which promised a “challenging year.” Now, we see a new beginning, a congregation that is driven to grow and a group that has demonstrated that adversity can be overcome with humility and faith in our fundamental beliefs.

*Respectfully submitted, The Wardens of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Toronto
Beth Baskin, Jim Love, Dick Moore, Ron Panter, Rena Post, and Alice Prichard*

Envelope Secretary's Report

The total amount of parishioners' donations is down from last year, at \$104,146.00. This represents a decrease of approximately \$27,854 and falls short of our 2008 budgeted amount of \$132,000. There were, however, significant donations made by parishioners to two other HT projects in 2008. Parishioner donations to the refugee fund in 2008 total approximately \$15,229. Parishioner donations to the Organ Fund in 2008 total approximately \$16,681. (These figures do not include non-parish donations to these two accounts.)

We currently have 77 parishioners (a decrease from 80 in 2007) who give regularly. Of those, 54 give by pre-authorized donation, totaling about \$84,360 of the yearly givings.

These represent unaudited figures.

Linda Love, Envelope Secretary



REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING of PARROQUIA SAN ESTEBAN at THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, February 22nd 2009 Anno Domini

INTRODUCTION:

Parroquia San Esteban is pleased to report our progress during 2008, our second year at The Church of The Holy Trinity. At the beginning, we heard comments that this experiment has risks, but with happiness and gratitude to God, we can say that this has been a great opportunity to show that when there is respect and acceptance, the synergy of two communities is translated into a blessing and testimony of an inclusive Christian Gospel.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Steering Committee is the vehicle of dialogue and understanding between our congregations. We want to express gratitude to all members of this committee for their time, dedication, commitment, and creativity working together for one common cause, the proclamation of the inclusive gospel in downtown Toronto. The committee's works has been guided by the Agreement, called "**Between Friends**", now called "**In Friendship**" in order to be inclusive language when translated into Spanish. During 2008, we included two new addenda to the original, to allow more interaction between the congregations and clergy. We must remember, that the agreement "In Friendship" is used by the Diocese of Toronto as a precedent for similar initiatives for other parishes.

[See San Esteban/Holy Trinity Steering Committee report below for revised Agreement.]

LITURGY:

Gradually, we started to experiment with our learning process at Holy Trinity. To be more fluent, we celebrated joint services. We thank the clergy and staff for facilitating this process, especially to The Rev'd Dianne Mesh and Father Sherman Hesselgrave and Becca Whitla. They helped us explore more options, including **language, rites, music and liturgical dance** with support and encouragement. In these two years, we revised our printed liturgical materials to make the language more **inclusive**. We are exploring the further use of the **space** of the building to feel more **identity** and **ownership** of our common house that we share.

EDUCATION:

Education is fundamental to teaching new immigrants to Canada what it means to express their spirituality through Anglicanism. We are three preachers who deliver the homily every Sunday in a very **interactive methodology**. We teach about liturgy through the role of deacon, communion minister and altar guild. This methodology of **learning by doing** allows people to understand what is happening during the progress of every service. During 2008, we prepared 15 candidates for **Confirmation**, an opportunity to teach about sacramental life, doctrine, history and Anglican spirituality in the context of diversity and multiculturalism. Those who are able to speak and understand more English attended a workshop for wardens and treasurers and a workshop to learn about sexual misconduct, organized by the diocese and the deanery. The education also involved other issues such as ecumenism, women's rights, immigration, and equity. We are still working towards a consistent

Sunday School to provide proper education to children under 10 years old. Usually, new immigrants are young people without children or the rest of the family arrives when the first person is settled with immigration papers.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

The congregational life at San Esteban is growing in a deeper way. In our second year at The Church of the Holy Trinity, we can repeat again, that we feel integrated, part of your ministry. People embrace more and more the profile of the advocacy of Holy Trinity. We feel the strong support in good and bad times, as we experienced this year with 13 members deported. This journey is not easy, it is painful but in the middle of adversity, we still can sing and dance, as we did every Friday at #6 Trinity Square, from 6 to 7:30 pm. at our dance lessons. This helps relieve stress, knit a new network, and promote the musical culture with diverse groups of people. Our congregation also experienced an exodus of people to other cities in Ontario with lower costs of living, like Hamilton. In Hamilton, we provide pastoral care in coordination with All Saints' Cathedral, Diocese of Niagara. We can increase in number, but we also suffer the uncertain situation for many people without status. We are supporting emblematic cases. We support the cause of a young mother with two children, victims of the violence in Mexico, with an order of deportation, but protected by a dozen activist groups in defense of women's rights. We are working and supporting "Mujeres al Frente" (a support group for Latin American women and transgender persons).

DIAKONIA or OUTREACH:

We run a food bank which also includes clothes and household equipment. Thanks to links with other programs, institutions and especially with St. Paul's Church (Runnymede), we are able to help hundreds of people (parishioners or unknown people). We are generous; as we receive, we also give to others, like Yonge Street Mission, St. Peter's Church (Carlton Street) and All Saints' Church (Sherbourne & Dundas). The outreach is also a way of education about Christian charity, an opportunity to give a message of solidarity to our neighbours. Our parish was able to give a symbolic contribution to the Refugee Committee through the fund raising of our Craft Fair on November 29-30, 2008. We asked Insomnia Resto Café to sponsor our neediest family of four orphaned Peruvian children (the youngest less than 1 year old) and were able to deliver almost \$ 3,000 of needed goods and groceries.

INTEGRATION:

Through time, members of our congregation started to be more involved in different programs and committees of Holy Trinity, such as: Steering Committee, Green Team, Refugee Committee, Finance Committee, Sanctuary Coalition, Christmas Story, Organ Fund, etc. We are pleased to say that we contributed \$1,300 to the Organ Fund as an expression of commitment to being full partners in ministry. Integration is a gradual process which allows us to learn from each other, even with the gap of language. We are happy to see the great and kind gesture during joint services, where we can use both languages to worship together, and through the brochure "Self Guide to visiting Holy Trinity," which is now also available in Spanish. This is a real message of embracing multiculturalism and bilingualism as we did through the six joint services.

PASTORAL DUTIES:

During 2008 we celebrated 43 Holy Eucharists, 1 Evensong, 2 funerals, 2 baptisms, preparation of 15 candidates for confirmation, 11 blessings of homes and the annual blessing of the animals. I attended 5 diocesan meetings, 4 meetings with Bishop Poole, 4 ecumenical services, 11 clericus meetings in 3 deaneries, 2 retreats and 11 parish councils. Even though it is not part of my report about my duties at Parroquia San Esteban, as a part-time clergy, I continue my pastoral and administrative duties in the **Multilingual Ministry of the Diocese of Toronto**, which includes St. Paul's, Runnymede, in English (Deanery Toronto West), The Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Italian and St. Anne's Church in Portuguese (Deanery of Parkdale).

GRATITUDE: It is difficult to express gratitude without excluding by accident some names. I want to be fair, to thank every single person for their support, for their generosity, for their time, their attendance, and for their commitment. Special thanks to Fr. Sherman and all the clergy at Holy Trinity, to Margot, Junior, Paul and Leonel, Becca Whitla, Archbishop Michael Peers, to members of San Esteban Parish Council, to all members who are involved in our different committees and commissions, to everybody who works anonymously, may God bless you for your way of proclaiming the faith in Christ, in works and words.

PROJECTIONS: The year 2008 was a year of blessing, but also we know in advance that the year 2009 will see the divine providence in our lives and in our congregation. **We** will continue to explore with Holy Trinity a ministry at Ryerson Campus, as part of an urban initiative. **We** believe that our commitment to God will bless our parish, our work as missionaries in our neighbourhood, and in our city. **We** believe that we must work hard to grow with our sisters and brothers, and to reach others, especially from our neighbourhood. **We** believe that God will be with us and we will pass the torch to future generations as we received it from the previous generations, allowing us to enjoy their legacy of Christian faith.

FINAL WORDS: How to finish a report of a complete year and not forget everything? I will ask for your understanding, if I missed anything: **The Anglican Church of Canada** during 2008 faced the sad decision from separatist groups focused on human sexuality to leave the church. The groups joined the fundamentalist Province of Southern Cone, from where I was originally but which I left because of their lack of tolerance for the interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. The national church is calling us to proclaim prophetically an inclusive Gospel. Then, last summer, **The Lambeth Conference** appealed to **The Anglican Communion** to work ahead and fight against child poverty, AIDS, injustice against women, xenophobia, homophobia, all kinds of violence, and overall the acceptance of diversity instead of weakening the message of the Church through division. **The Diocese of Toronto** is calling all the Vestry Meetings this month to pass the motion to fight against poverty in our city, province and country. This is another **Prophetic Call** to us this year and in the future. We are blessed to belong to a prophetic church, The Anglican Communion, and we are suffering the price of playing this role, but only time will confirm that this inclusive message is a message for the evangelization of the XXI Century, the same message that people are looking for from our city and from our neighbourhood. Let us keep in our prayers *our leaders at all levels, that God will guide us with wisdom and love.*

God bless you always,
Fr. Maurice Francois+

REPORTS FROM HOLY TRINITY COMMITTEES and RELATED GROUPS

Archives Committee

We are pleased to report that the archives continue to be re-organized in order to provide easier access to information requested by members of the public. We have generally been able to answer most queries received from people through the church website over the last year, and the work of converting materials to digital format goes on.

Patrick Nurse, the tenant relations representative for Cadillac Fairview is being very helpful in assisting us with this task, and he is able to secure commercial scanning and transfer to disc capacity for large items such as full newspaper pages, allowing us to prepare new public displays that will be appearing later this year. There is no cost to us for this valuable resource.

For Malcolm Savage and Anna Dohler,
Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Smyth.

Christmas Story 2008

This year, the Christmas Story cast, crew and volunteers presented 11 performances of the pageant to 2,400 audience members.

For the first time, we tried a slightly different configuration of dates, opening a week later on December 12th and then running weekday matinees on December 22, 23 and 24th. The weekday matinees had smaller audiences than we anticipated, but it's difficult to pin down what the factors may have been.

We were impacted both by the economic downturn and an ongoing series of winter storms throughout the second part of our run. Our average "no-show" rate of reserved audience hit an all-time high of 42%. Total attendance this year was down 13% from 2007. In addition, when big single donations are excluded, the average donation per person was down 10%. The combination of lower attendance and lower donations resulted in a 25% drop in anticipated revenue – almost \$7,000.

Christmas Story managed to mitigate the impact of this revenue drop somewhat by tightly controlling expenditures. Our 2008 expenses were more than \$3,000 under what had been budgeted. This means the net loss this year from Christmas Story this year is anticipated to be \$3,641.42.

Going forward, the Christmas Story Committee will be examining how best to eliminate the shortfall in 2009. Two options to be explored will be a focused fundraising campaign in advance of the production, as well as increased publicity efforts.

On the up side, Christmas Story was pleased to welcome Sherman Hesselgrave into the cast in the roles of Simeon and Zacharias. For the first time we also had cast members from San Esteban - Calixto and Fernando. Both of them really enjoyed the experience and we hope that more members of San Esteban will join the cast next year. San Esteban also organized a special outing to watch the pageant on Sunday, December 14th after their regular service.

2009 will bring more changes. We will be saying good-bye to Hannah Barnett-Kemper in her formal role as Assistant Director. Hannah has brought terrific energy and expertise to the pageant over the past number of years. She will be focusing her energies more fully on her own acting career, but we hope she will be able to participate in the cast on at least a few occasions.

Emma Cunningham, a long-time cast member, will be stepping up into the role of Assistant Producer. In particular, Emma is spearheading an effort early in the year to connect with bus tours who would be interested in bringing groups to the Christmas Story.

2008 also saw the passing of a long-time, past cast member, Shelley Lipsey. Shelley had played the role of high priest for many years. A memorial for Shelley will be held at the Free Times Café on Sunday, March 1st.

As always, the Christmas Story is a huge team effort. We are grateful for the tremendous support we receive from the Holy Trinity community, not just through performing, but sitting on committees, setting up displays, designing posters and publicity, taking reservations, setting props, tracking Responsible Ministry requirements, supervising children, welcoming the audience, ushering and counting donations. In particular, significant contributions are made behind the scenes by Doug Moffat (Committee Chair, Front-of-House and Finances), Peter Colleran (poster design and advertising) Keith Nunn and Ian Digby (website management).

Susan Watson

1Fabric Fund Report

The Fabric Fund is administered by a joint parish- diocesan committee which disburses monies from the fund established to pay for capital work at the Church of the Holy Trinity.

In 2008, the members of the committee were: the Revered Judith Herron-Graham, Regional Dean and *de facto* chair; Brian Mills, Planning Officer, Diocese of Toronto; David Thornton, diocesan appointee; James Johnson and Ron Panter, parish appointees. David Taylor was appointed to the committee upon Brian Mills' retirement mid-year and James Love stepped in during Ron Panter's illness. The Incumbent also sits on the Committee but has no voting role.

Projects in 2008 included:

	Purchase and partial installation of the new pipe organ:
	\$150,000
Refinishing of the nave floor:	13,090
Organ installation	

33,459

Not yet disbursed but approved in 2008: \$7,000 for the renovation of the nave kitchen. This project is now in progress and will be finished by the Spring of 2009.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee by Margot Linken

Homeless Memorial

The Homeless Memorial is a modest monument just outside the south doors of the Church. At noon on the second Tuesday of each month, rain or shine, summer's heat or winter's cold, a small group gathers there to remember those who have died on the streets of Toronto. Each month new names are read out and added. Over 575 names are recorded there, and Tanya Gulliver of Toronto Disaster relief Committee, who gathers the names, believes we know only a quarter of the deaths that really take place. There is no central body in Toronto to record such deaths.

Time is given to mourn each loss. Some are known to the homeless community, and to us; some are only known to God. Bonnie Briggs reads a poem which she has written, Tom Smarda sings one of his songs. A few times, the Raging Grannies have joined us. We all get strength from Tanya and from Street Nurse Cathy Crowe. Announcements and information about events within the network and homeless community are shared.

This has been a year of changes. Sherman Hesselgrave now takes the lead in MCing the Memorial. Many of the 'regulars' who have been with us for years now have housing, for which we all give thanks and hope it will last. New faces with new problems and smaller turnouts now seem to be resolving.

Holy Trinity provides the lunch for everyone after the service. Ian Sowton, with Fran's contributions, has joined the team; as well as Kitty Quish, who comes all the way from North York with hot food each month; and Carole Clark is our backup. Having only cold water then no water then no kitchen has been a challenge. But we persevere. Thank you to Junior Harbans for his continuing support.

The Homeless Memorial lunch has no budget. It is paid for by donations and by the sale of Toronto Dollars. So please see Maggie if you haven't purchased your Toronto Dollars lately.

Respectfully submitted, Merylie Houston and Maggie Panter

In Touch

During the past year, no issues of In Touch were produced. Steve Loweth and I co-edited In Touch for about three years and both decided not to continue last year. There are efforts underway to make our parish website more accessible, which would allow members to post information and share news more readily. A briefer, more frequent form of In Touch might be a good adjunct to the website, especially for those who do not use the internet. If someone is interested in considering taking this on, please speak with Sherman.

Vivian Harrower

John Frank Place

John Frank Place is a non-profit housing development committed to providing quality housing to persons with low to medium incomes. The building was opened eleven years ago as the result of a lot of hard work on the part

of Holy Trinity parishioners working together with St. James Cathedral and Metropolitan United Church. All three have representation on the board, and there are also three board members appointed by the tenants. Current Holy Trinity representatives are Coral Petzoldt and Carole Clark.

A major task towards the beginning of the year was the renegotiation of the management contract. Our existing contract had expired and a new one had to be negotiated. This entailed a fair amount of work necessitating calling for tenders, arranging tours of the building and interviewing applicants. After much deliberation, Samuel Property Management was reappointed for the next three years.

The Tenants' Association has been active and has introduced many programs, including Spanish lessons and a library. A Christmas Party for the tenants was well attended. Relations between the board and the Tenants' Association have been cordial.

The board is reviewing an Energy Management Proposal which should result in considerable cost savings over the next 10 years. Another ongoing issue is a dispute between the city and the building about the size and materials used in the outdoor sign facing Church Street. Revenue from this sign is an important part of our budget. We hope to have this issue settled soon.

Generally, 2008 was a very successful year.

Submitted by Coral Petzoldt

Mary Lambert Swale Housing Board

Mary Lambert Swale Non-Profit Housing is one of the housing projects that Holy Trinity has started. It is a 75-unit apartment building on Jarvis near Dundas. There are two directors appointed by Holy Trinity, Marty Crowder and David McKee; two residents, Pat Reinhardt and Gloria Roy; Jenny Formanek from St. James Cathedral and Christopher Hoover from Metropolitan United. There is still a vacancy from the other sponsoring organization, Central Neighbourhood House.

The year has been one of relative calm after some previous difficult times. While crack is a constant menace, we have not had the problems that developed in the past. Generally the tenants are much happier with the building, and it shows. One of the residents is running a group for adolescent women that is proving to be a great success. Despite best efforts of our funding sources we continue to be financially stable, showing a balanced set of books for 2008. Our partnering agreements with Romero House (a refugee organization) and Seaton House (a City- run shelter) are working well (including a recent referral of one of the refugee families sponsored by Holy Trinity).

Mary Lambert Swale continues to fulfill its original purpose of providing low-cost housing to those who need it.

David McKee and Marty Crowder

Organ Fundraising Committee

This committee undertook the task of raising \$50,000 toward the costs of acquiring the Deer Park Rathgeb Memorial Organ. The amount was exclusive of money to be received from the Fabric Fund, the total to cover the costs of the organ and installation, and any structural modifications necessary. The purchase of the organ was approved at a special Vestry meeting in 2007.

The response from members of Holy Trinity and friends has been exceptional. To date we have raised, with outstanding pledges, over \$41,000, or better than three quarters of our total. The largest part of this fund has been raised from individuals. We received \$4200 US from the Marriott Hotel, and there have been some funds raised from events, most notably two wine tours.

The Committee is now looking at one or two events to complete this project. The beautiful organ is installed and a number of organ recitals are planned for the near future. A dedication Evensong service will take place in March. The committee's experience over the last several months has given us invaluable insights into the possibilities, prospects and problems for future fundraising at Holy Trinity.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the committee and everyone who helped us in this task. Particularly I must acknowledge the hard work of the staff – Becca Whitla, Sherman Hesselgrave, and Margot Linken - without whom this campaign would not have moved forward.

Gwenlyn Setterfield

People Presence

The following is an alphabetical list of all those who were volunteers at People Presence during 2008, and other congregation members who continue to make possible our continuing tradition of keeping the church open. People visit us for many reasons, and it's a privilege to have our church accessible to whomever seeks us out, for whatever purpose: ***Michael Creal, Anna Dohler, Sheila File, Alice Heap, Sara & Jim Houston, Maggie Panter, Jody Perrin, Coral Petzoldt, Rena Post, Stella & Malcolm Savage, Brenda Valenteyn, Nancy Whitla, Ken West***

We are looking forward once again to Doors Open Toronto 2009 and hopefully we will be able to secure significant donations from visitors, as in 2008.

People Presence volunteers contribute over 1,200 hours a year to keeping the church open for the public, and normally remits in the area of \$4,000 a year from donations received during the hours between 11.00am and 3pm. However, during 2008 donations amounted to only \$1,870. This is likely because of the organ installation, with almost half of the nave used for storage of parts and pipes and the chancel inaccessible to the public for quiet contemplation.

Response to our Saturday sign-up sheet kept in the People Presence binder has been good, and anyone who is interested in helping keep the church open on Saturdays is welcome to sign up for any individual Saturday during the year. Since Heather Sutherland has left us, there is no formal coordination of People Presence volunteers for that day. The Sunday hours are essentially between 12:00 and 2 pm., with consideration to the needs of the San Esteban congregation. We're hoping that someone who attends Sunday services regularly will be willing to attend to this need, as required.

New information brochures are being produced, and delivery of all the new materials will be completed before Doors Open 2009. New public displays have also entered rotation in the nave display cases.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Smyth.

Property Committee Report

1. We still have meeting room space in #6 and #10 that is available for daytime use. Please think of those rooms if you know causes that do not require accessible space.
2. #10 has been spruced up considerably with new windows and paint and new carpet should be installed in the community room this year. The addition of new furniture for the community room has improved it as a meeting space.
3. Much planning, discussion and consultation over the year has finally resulted in the work getting started in early February to renew the Nave kitchen.
4. The installation of the organ was the year's major undertaking that is now successfully completed with the cooperation of all. This year we will be looking at how to best use the space that we now have available where the old organ works were housed.
5. There were a number of updating tasks: hot water heater, lights in the cafe, etc. These will continue to make the space more energy efficient and usable. As well, we are at the point that some systems require modernization: audio system for assisted hearing, heaters and heating system controls, lighting, security, etc. The Green Team and Property will work together in 2009 to coordinate the sequence and time line for these updates. There is also preliminary consideration being given to a wheel chair ramp to make the narthex accessible.
6. The Fabric Fund continues to be of utmost importance to maintaining our buildings. Roof work on the church and #10 needs to be done this year and has the potential to be costly. The question of what funds to use to update #6 is unresolved. It requires new windows (\$25,000 -\$30,000) and flooring repairs.
7. We dearly miss all of the work that Ron Panter has done over the years: painting and signage, climbing into the ceiling to lower our massive lights, etc. etc. I hope that Ron continues to get better and look forward to his return to the committee for his well reasoned thinking.
8. The Nave floor was refinished for the first time in 25 years after it had darkened considerably and had started to splinter. The new finish is projected to last 20 years and should not darken to the same extent. The previous work required subsequent treatments which added to the darkening and splintering. The new surface requires no such additional treatments so long as the floor is washed and vacuumed regularly to keep the surface grit free.

Jim Dolmage

Refugee Committee

In the past year, Holy Trinity's Refugee Committee seems to have used the word "unprecedented" an unprecedented number of times! This is because we had an unprecedented *three families* arrive within a period of eight months. Two of them arrived *within two weeks of each other*. Although the committee tries to coordinate arrivals by spacing out our sponsorship applications, each estimated time of arrival is really little more than an educated guess, and this has certainly been well demonstrated this year.

At the present time, things are a little quieter. The Mahmood family's sponsorship ends February 12, 2009. They moved to a subsidized one bedroom apartment at Mary Lambert Swale in January, and are busy getting acquainted with their new neighbourhood.

Mulualem Limeneh and her daughter Elnathan have adapted well to their new country. Elnathan is an excellent student who is looking forward to her first year of university in the fall. Her mother is working on Grade 12 credits, hoping eventually to study nursing. Their sponsorship ends in September 2009.

The Niyonzima family's sponsorship was ended early, on January 31, 2009. They are moving to Quebec where, as francophones, they hope to make an easier transition to Canada. Citizenship and Immigration requires that refugees live in the same community as their sponsors so it is not possible for us to continue to support them. We wish them well in their new province.

Presently we are tracking the progress of four other sponsorships. Woinshet and her five-year-old daughter Hawi are Ethiopians, presently in Rwanda. Marie Rose is a young Rwandan woman also in Nairobi. Holy Trinity has full financial responsibility for these two sponsorships.

In addition, we will partner with the federal government to support Abdul Karim, a Burmese man now in Islamabad, Pakistan, and, with Canadian family members, to bring Amal Jama, her daughter, Asha, and four grandchildren, originally from Somalia and now in Egypt. Asha's husband is being held captive in Somalia; she has asked that he be included in the sponsorship if he manages to escape. It is not anticipated that these two sponsorships will require financial support from Holy Trinity, but we will help with the work of resettlement - SIN cards, OHIP, school enrolment, language evaluation and other necessary "red tape".

The support of Holy Trinity members, their families and friends is essential to every sponsorship our parish undertakes. Your gifts of clothing and household goods enable us to stretch our precious dollars much farther. Our funds are raised through the committee's annual June book sale, the parish budget, and from a few private donors, so that we can give each family enough to pay rent, groceries and personal items, and TTC tickets.

Thank you for the love and generosity you have shown to these newcomers. You have changed their lives and given them new hope for a life free from danger and fear.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Holland, Co-chair, February 2009

Sanctuary Coalition

The Sanctuary Coalition is currently meeting at the Romero Centre because all but two of its members live or work in the West End, not far from the Centre. We still regard Holy Trinity as our home base, however, and I have continued as Chair.

The most long-standing sanctuary case in Canada is that of Abdulkader Belaoui who took sanctuary in St Gabriel's Church in Montreal in January of 2006. Kader is a blind Algerian whose place of business in Algeria was devastated by Algerian rebels and who fears for his safety should he return to Algeria. That long stretch of time – stretching through the terms of several Ministers – has put a damper on the sanctuary movement although there have been several "successful" sanctuary cases in the interim, the most recent being that of a Nigerian refugee claimant who spent almost two years in Holy Trinity Church Mississauga before she was allowed to go free and await the outcome of a Humanitarian and

Compassionate Appeal. Her “release” occurred last October. Steve Mackison is the priest at Holy Trinity.

Besides our connection with the two cases referred to above we have been involved, over the past year, with several other cases where we have sought to find alternatives to sanctuary, though recognizing sanctuary as a possible last resort in some instances. Making use of provisions in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and with the help of expert lawyers, the problems of some refugee claimants can be resolved without resort to sanctuary. In this respect we have the advice of some of the best refugee lawyers in the country. There are many refugees who fall through cracks in the system and the problems for many arise out of bad legal (and sometimes pseudo-legal) advice. Though the difficulties are many, members of the Coalition feel the work can’t be abandoned.

-Michael Creal

San Esteban/ Holy Trinity Steering Committee

Our two congregations held joint services again this year during Lent and Easter and at Pentecost and Christmas. Responses to a questionnaire distributed in the spring were, for the most part, positive. They indicated a desire for more opportunities to get to know one another better, to break down some barriers around communication and to find ways to work together for justice.

The Steering Group is presenting the revised Agreement below for approval at this Vestry. Changes from the original text are underlined and/or [bracketed].

We continue to seek ways to enhance our relationship and to indeed make it one of friendship or ‘*amistad*.’

Vivian Harrower, Steering Group member

[En Amistad/ In Friendship]

Revised Agreement between The Church of the Holy Trinity,
the Congregation of San Esteban, and the Diocese of Toronto
February 2009

I. Naming the Moment

[At Epiphany 2007, The Church of the Holy Trinity and the Congregation of San Esteban formally entered into an agreement we called “Between Friends.” We agreed to a trial period to help us grow in our relationship and to name how we might live together as two congregations under one roof.]

Our trial period has ended. A questionnaire distributed in Spring 2008 indicated overall enthusiasm for continuing our journey together and named some areas for expanded cooperation and clarification.

We wish now to commit to continuing our relationship in a spirit of friendship with the marks of mutuality, respect and learning from each other.]

Both communities:

- anticipate being changed as we continue to learn from one another;

- commit to exploring opportunities for common ministry and exchange;
- intend to retain our unique identities as distinct worshipping communities, while being open to exploring new models;
- seek to determine ways to nurture our development as people of God.

II. Worship

A. **Separate-** Holy Trinity will hold worship services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. San Esteban's will offer its Spanish-language liturgy at 2 p.m. Sunday, unless otherwise agreed.

B. Joint worship

By mutual consent, bilingual celebrations will be held during major holidays or other times. These services will be prepared jointly, include both English and Spanish and retain a commitment to inclusive language. In addition, the congregations may worship together at other times, without the service being bilingual.

C. Worship Committee

For the purposes of planning shared worship, a representative from San Esteban's may participate in meetings of Holy Trinity's Worship Committee and will receive the regular minutes of these meetings.

III. Space

- Holy Trinity will continue to provide an office for San Esteban's clergy, at no charge.
- San Esteban's will worship in the nave, unless it is previously booked and then they will make use of the chapel. San Esteban's will be consulted if there is a need to allow another group to use the nave at their normal time of worship.
- San Esteban's will have access to the meeting space available at Holy Trinity. Meeting space must be booked through the Holy Trinity administrator. Arrangements must be made through the administrator for any separate caretaking that is required.
- San Esteban's will share use of and responsibility for the sacristy.
- Holy Trinity seeks to be a scent-free environment for reasons of health. Use of incense will be limited out of concern for those with allergies to scents. We encourage members to help create a scent-free environment.

IV. Finances

A. Salary

The salary of San Esteban's clergy is the responsibility of the Diocese of Toronto.

B. Donations/ Sunday offerings

Offerings by members of San Esteban's will be recorded separately from those of Holy Trinity donors, but become part of the income of Holy Trinity. This income is not to increase the Diocesan assessment paid by Holy Trinity.

C. Financial records/ bookkeeping

The finances of San Esteban's are included as part of Holy Trinity's financial statements, while being recorded distinctly.

San Esteban's will set its own budget for ministry expenses.

D. [Sharing of resources]

Holy Trinity will provide Communion elements, photocopying, local telephone and Internet access, donation envelopes, and financial record-keeping (as well as office space for clergy) [and caretaking as required.] San Esteban's will undertake is responsible for preparing its own worship bulletins and other administrative tasks. Preparation of bulletins for joint services will be mutually determined.

[_San Esteban's will undertake to increase its financial contributions to help defray the costs being borne by Holy Trinity.]

E. Finance Committee

The Treasurer for San Esteban's will sit on the Finance Committee of Holy Trinity.

V. Governance

A. A Steering Group will continue to seek to strengthen the relationship between the two congregations, in consultation with other committees. It is responsible to the Holy Trinity wardens and the San Esteban governing board.

Representatives of San Esteban's may participate in meetings of the wardens of Holy Trinity from time to time (or the wardens and board may meet).

B. Terms of Reference for the Steering Group

1. Membership

- includes San Esteban clergy and the Holy Trinity incumbent
- includes at least one lay representation from each community
- includes one warden from Holy Trinity

2. Meetings

- meets at times determined by the group, at least quarterly
- minutes of the meetings will be kept
- a member from each congregation will be a co-chair
- ensures translation needs are met

3. Responsibilities of the Steering Group

- To commit to ongoing learning about this cross-cultural ministry experiment and to deepen the exchange between both communities
- To address issues of concern from each community
- To develop joint communication and advertising
- To communicate with both congregations and the wider church on an ongoing basis
- To work at improving translation capacity
- To explore opportunities for joint ministry/program
- To be responsible to the Holy Trinity Wardens for the financial oversight of this agreement
- To report to both congregations on a regular basis

[VI. Role of the clergy]

While we recognize that the Holy Trinity incumbency is full time and the San Esteban priest-in-charge is a part-time position, both priests share equally in the ministry of the priesthood, ministering together supportively and with mutual respect.

Their role includes planning and leadership of joint services.

Both congregations and both priests participate in deciding when these services are to be held and how and when both languages are used in them.

We recognize that it is highly desirable that both priests be present at all joint services, but realize that, given the responsibilities of the San Esteban's priest in another parish (St. Paul's, Runnymede), this is not always possible. We need flexibility and creativity to respond to this reality.

Possible ways of dealing with this might include:

- Some joint Sunday services may be held at 2 p.m. (San Esteban's regular worship time) rather than at 10:30 a.m. (Holy Trinity's regular time.)
- The timing of special services on days other than Sunday (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Holy Week) needs to be coordinated with the worship schedule of St. Paul's, Runnymede.
- An honorary assistant will be sought for St. Paul's, Runnymede. That person would then be in place to cover for the San Esteban's priest when San Esteban and Holy Trinity hold joint services on Sunday mornings.]

VII. Role of the Diocese

San Esteban is a ministry of the Diocese of Toronto, which has responsibility for the financial and pastoral support of clergy of San Esteban, as well as appropriate episcopal oversight through the appointed Bishop.

VIII. Term of the Agreement

[This Agreement shall be in place until June 30, 2014.]

IX. Review of the Agreement

[A review of the Agreement by the three parties shall be completed by December 31, 2013.]

Selection Committee Final Report

Process:

Following the announcement by the Rev. Sara Boyles that she would be resigning after 13 years as Incumbent of the Church of the Holy Trinity effective June 30, 2007, the Holy Trinity Selection Committee was elected by Vestry on 25th February 2007. The Selection Committee was composed of Steven Loweth and Alice Prichard named from the Wardens; Tim Wainwright as lay delegate to Synod; Marilyn Dolmage and Dick Moore elected; and Gail Holland, Christopher Lind, and Jean Robinson elected as joint members of both the Transition and Selection Committees. A budget was established, to be shared with the Transition Committee. The Selection Committee incurred costs for the Parish Profile, advertising, candidate travel, and moving expenses for the new Incumbent.

In March of 2007, within eight days of election, the combined committees conducted their first meeting, which included a visit from our Diocesan Congregational Development Consultant, David Robinson. The first step was to write a Parish Profile, used to inform prospective candidates about us, and this required that we know ourselves and what direction we envisaged for ourselves over the next five to ten years. Obviously, input from the whole Parish was needed to define these goals. The joint

committees elected Cathy Goring, Christopher Lind, Jean Robinson and Roy Suthons to a working group to devise a method to gather opinions from the congregation, staff and stakeholders.

In April, the working group decided a survey would help start the information gathering and designed thirteen questions. Tim Wainwright set up these questions in the software tool “Survey Monkey” so that the answers could be collected electronically. Although approximately 90% of the congregation have email access, manual copies were sent out simultaneously to those without electronic access. There was a 61.3% response rate which Cathy Goring and Christopher Lind analysed, identifying four key themes for discussion at a ‘town hall’ meeting held 29th April 2007. Concurrently in April, Gail Holland and Christopher Lind co-managed the collection of the rest of the data, statistics and reports for the Parish Profile from committees and stakeholders.

In May, after meetings with Area Bishop Patrick Yu, the Bishop made a recommendation for an Interim Priest-in-charge. We met with the candidate, the Rev. Dianne Mesh, prior to her appointment to apprise her of parish issues and concerns and to answer any questions she might have. Dianne agreed to serve from August to December 2007.

In July, after the celebrations to mark Sara’s departure in June, the Selection Committee elected Christopher Lind as its chair with Dick Moore and Jean Robinson volunteering to act as Recording Secretaries. The Parish Profile was posted on the Holy Trinity web site with accolades from Bishop Yu, who described it as the “new gold standard for Parish Profiles”. The job advertising strategy was designed and implemented, using the Profile and the Incumbent’s job description, with a closing date of 30th September 2007. The position was advertised on the Diocesan website, the Anglican Church of Canada’s website, the Episcopal Church of the USA’s Deployment Office website, as well as in the *Church Times* of the Church of England and the *Lutheran* and the *Canadian Lutheran*, two publications reaching Lutheran pastors across North America. A meeting with Bishop Yu clarified and defined the search process. The Bishop agreed that all the resumés would be forwarded to the Committee, who would prepare the initial list. The Bishop would then undertake episcopal reference checks.

In September, the Committee requested that the congregation forward to the committee any candidates’ names they would like considered, before the closing date of September 30th 2007. Alice Prichard designed a “scoring tool” using the six clusters of Incumbent qualities we had identified so that each application would be treated in exactly the same way.

In October, the committee scored the resumés of over 30 candidates from all over the world, and by consensus arrived at the first-cut “short list” to discuss with Bishop Yu on October 22nd 2007. The latter did not want to be involved with the initial scoring process. At that meeting, the Committee identified the top-scoring candidates for interview, and Bishop Yu undertook to do the episcopal reference checks.

After a prolonged negotiation with Bishop Yu and Bishop Johnson, the Committee proceeded to interviews with some very strong candidates but was unable to make a successful recommendation. As the process was taking longer than expected, a request was made to the Bishop asking that the Interim Priest-in-charge, the Rev. Dianne Mesh, extend her time at Holy Trinity. Dianne agreed to stay, first until Easter, and then until May 31, 2008.

After the Christmas break, the Committee returned to the applications which now numbered 40. A new list of potential applicants was created and episcopal reference checks were undertaken. More interviews occurred, and the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Bishop Yu, and the

Bishop agreed, that the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave be appointed as Incumbent of the Church of the Holy Trinity effective June 1, 2008.

Problems & Recommendations:

In November 2007, the Committee signaled to the congregation that we had encountered some road blocks in our negotiations with the Diocese. As we put it in our November Update “The Diocese discriminates in its employment practices and continues to do so.” Specifically, we learned that the Diocese was refusing to appoint priestly candidates from outside the Diocese who were in committed same-sex relationships. A small delegation representing the Wardens and the Selection Committee met with our Area Bishop, Patrick Yu, and our Diocesan Bishop, Colin Johnson. We learned that this was not a formal policy but a practice specific to the “anomalous” situation currently found in the Anglican Church of Canada. We also learned that this practice came at Bishop Johnson’s initiative. We challenged this practice on theological grounds, legal grounds and on the grounds of common sense and logical inconsistency. We were unsuccessful in changing the practice. After considerable reflection, the Committee decided to proceed with the selection process while continuing to advocate for other candidates.

In order to be clear, we want you to know that the Selection Committee undertook a ‘blind review’ of the applications prior to both sets of interviews. This meant that the Committee Chair removed all reference to same-sex marital or partnership status from the applications before the applications were forwarded to committee members. After this screen was applied, several candidates scored highly enough to warrant interviews but we were denied the opportunity because of their marital status to same-sex partners. We consider this an offence to God and our community, not to mention a gross injustice to the candidates involved. Consequently, we make the following recommendations to the Vestry of the Church of the Holy Trinity:

1. We recommend that overtures be made to other sympathetic parishes in order to support one or more motions being placed before the next meeting of Diocesan Synod.
2. We recommend that the Church of the Holy Trinity place before Synod a motion directing Bishop Johnson to end the Diocesan practice of discriminating against the appointment of otherwise qualified, married gay clergy.
3. We recommend that the Parish return to the issues and values identified in the Town Hall meeting and described in the Parish Profile as valuable input to a future strategic planning process.
4. We recommend that this final report of the Selection Committee be accepted and the Selection Committee be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted to the Wardens and Parish Vestry by the members of the Selection Committee:
Marilyn Dolmage, Gail Holland, Christopher Lind, Steve Loweth, Dick Moore, Alice Prichard, Jean Robinson, Tim Wainwright. September 2008.

Social Justice Committee

There is very little to report this year, although individual committee members continue to be engaged in various issues such as support for U.S war resisters seeking to remain in Canada, with one of our members achieving some notoriety while protesting against the Canadian arms industry. There continues to be a degree of involvement in groups such as Kairos, TDRC, Toronto Dollar, and others.

Lee Creal continues her valuable work with the Diocese on affordable housing issues, and there will be an increased emphasis from the Social Justice Committee on this subject starting in spring, 2009.

With regard to the ongoing discussions on the HT governance model, we will be having a meeting in the spring to examine the nature of our committee, future prospects, and its place within the HT family.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Smyth

Sunday Drop-in

The Sunday Drop-in is an extension of the People Presence Ministry. Approximately 12 people are on the roster of volunteers who come to the church Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and "be present" for an hour and a half. Anywhere from 20 to 40 men and women attend the drop-in. *Cathy Goring*

Transition Committee

The Transition Committee came out of a day-long consultation on Nov. 4, 2006 of the parish with Dave Robinson of Toronto Diocese. With Sara Boyles intending to retire in June, 2007, HT would be the first parish in the Diocese to go through a conscious transition process. On Jan.21, 2007 the Annual Vestry elected Hannah Barnett-Kemper, Jim Love, Jennifer Colleran, Merylie Houston, and Nancy Whitla to add to Christopher Lind, Gail Holland, and Jean Robinson, members of the Selection Committee, to form the Transition Committee. Hannah and Gail later resigned from membership on the Committee for personal reasons.

Over the past two years the Transition Committee:

- 1-Planned an evening of celebration and final service for Sara Boyles,
- 2- Welcomed Dianne Mesh as interim-priest-in-charge and invited her to join the Transition Committee. Planned Dianne's final service and farewell, June '08.
- 3- Welcomed Sherman Hesselgrave in June '08, and assisted the Selection Committee in helping Sherman to settle in Toronto. Planned Sherman's induction service and celebration. Sherman became part of the Transition Committee.
- 4- Worked on governance of the parish, an issue which had been identified as a problem in the survey leading up to the Parish Profile, 2007. Lack of transparency, lack of accountability, and problems of conflict resolution were also mentioned in the Parish Profile as problems. As well, community meetings following Sunday morning worship did not always lead to a solution of problems.
- 5- Circles of Ministry and "cottage meetings":

In the summer of '08, committee members read *Celtic Gifts: Orders of Ministry in the Celtic Church* by Robert Van De Weyer, a different way of looking at governance, suggesting that the church may be divided into circles of ministry.

In the fall we planned “cottage meetings” in locations across the city to involve as many parishioners as possible and to provide a relaxed setting for discussion. Diagrams for proposed governance models were provided. Parishioners facilitated and hosted the meetings. Sherman attended each one. Later a meeting was convened after worship one Sunday for a time to ask questions and receive feedback

The response was that people liked the process of meeting in small groups, but were still unclear how circles of ministry would function within the proposed structure, which included vestry, wardens, committees, etc.

The Transition Committee continued to work on issues identified in #4 above. We concluded that we should propose motions to Vestry for a plan for governance. We would also forward a governance diagram adjusted to incorporate parish feedback and our committee’s further discussion. We will dissolve our committee as of this Vestry, as we believe it is the ongoing task of the Parish and those elected to work out governance issues further.

Nancy Whitla, Chair

Worship Committee Report

The Worship Committee meets once a month and is responsible for developing and coordinating leadership for the ongoing liturgical life of the community. It provides reference and direction on questions of liturgical practice, as well as administering the annual worship budget and finances. This has been an eventful year for the Worship Committee. The pastor is a key member of the committee and Sherman's arrival has given us new and insightful leadership as we work to improve the liturgical flow of the service and how we incorporate the particular gifts of our community into our worship while maintaining continuity and being open to creative new ideas. The Worship Committee had a day-long retreat in November facilitated by Sherman and Becca in which we all were invited to reflect on our liturgical strengths and challenges and discuss ways in which we might incorporate the findings in our services. One result was that we decided to be more intentional in assigning coordinators and have them coordinate a series of services to provide more continuity. Another worship retreat is planned for March where we will review past services and hopefully fine-tune future services.

We continue to enjoy the participation of our sister congregation, San Esteban's, in planning occasional joint services. Members of both communities worked very hard to make these joint services happen and we thank them for their contribution.

Holy Trinity is an inclusive community, and we want to broaden our circle. We plan to work on being more inclusive of people with disabilities in our worship in 2009.

The children's program comes under the jurisdiction of the worship committee and we are planning and hope to hire a coordinator for the program in 2009. Many thanks to Joyce and her team that includes many parents who have coordinated the children's program throughout the past year. We have had more participation of the children and youth over the past year and will continue to do so in 2009.

We are very grateful to Becca Whitla. Her many musical gifts and gracious leadership continues to enrich our worship. Our hearty thanks also for the contributions of the hymn writers, liturgical dancers, musicians, poets, preachers, readers, coordinators, sacristans and greeters- too many to list here.

Current members of the worship committee are Joyce Barnett, Carole Clarke, Lee Creal, Marilyn Ferrel, Jame Harbeck, Alice Heap, Jennifer and Isabella Henry, Merylie Houston, Sherman Hesselgrave, Tim Wainright, Becca Whitla, Bill Whitla, Nancy Whitla. Morgan Baskin-Nunn and Elizabeth Raybould and others join us on Worship Retreats.

Lee Creal, Chair

Tenants and Related Community Organizations

Canadian Pensioners Concerned

1. We continue to publish and distribute our quarterly "Viewpoint".
2. We made a presentation to Dwight Duncan, the Provincial Minister of Finance at his pre-budget hearings.
3. We took part in discussions related to the Aging at Home Strategy enabling seniors to live safely at home with dignity and independence.
4. We held a forum jointly with P.O.I.N.T. in North Toronto focusing on Poverty
5. CPC's Health and Environment Committee continues to focus on the delivery of services within a not-for-profit model. This year a community group called Older Persons Mental Health and Addictions Network (OPMHAN) ceased operation due to funding issues. A speakers bureau that was part of their outreach and focused on seniors' mental health issues, particularly depression, has now come under the umbrella of CPC.
6. CPC's Housing Committee continues to develop a networking group in Simcoe County and other parts of East Central Ontario.
7. We continue our participation on The Seniors Liaison Committee of the Provincial Secretariat and its sub-committees on housing and long-term care.
8. The Metro Chapter of CPC participates on seniors advocacy councils of The City of Toronto and makes presentations to committees of Council.
9. Representatives of CPC attend many community meetings and sit on boards lending support within the social justice community.
10. The Annual General Meeting was held in April. The keynote speaker was Dr. Paul Williams speaking on the importance of home and community care.
The Annual Jean Woodsworth Award was presented to Dr. Mark Nowaczynski whose medical practice takes him into the homes of his frail and elderly patients.
11. By invitation we made a presentation to the Senate Committee on Aging.
12. CPC Ontario supports the work of CPC National by writing letters, presenting briefs to federal and provincial governments on issues of significance to the health and welfare of all Canadians.

February 2009

Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation Group continues to offer a pastoral service through the Church of the Holy Trinity. We continue to provide teachings, meditative prayer practice and a supportive community each Friday from noon to 1:00 p.m.

The group continues with about 20 very committed people and others who newly discover its existence or whose circumstances allow them to be in the area. Our weekly attendance averages 12 - 15 persons. As leader/ facilitator of the group, I am inspired by the members' spirit, commitment and growing sense of community. What a gift it is to be a part of this mission!

Joseph F. Bergeron

Circles of Support and Accountability

We would like to thank the Church of the Holy Trinity for permitting us to serve the community from your wonderful facilities at 6 Trinity Square in downtown Toronto during the year 2008. We are a project of the Mennonite Central Committee that reaches out and builds community with people who have been released from prison. Hence, we really appreciate the safe and central location that your church community offers. During 2008 we continued to build support and accountability groups involving members of the community around men who carry the label *sex offender*. We rejoiced at small and large milestones that many of our "core members" made as they make pro-social choices in their journey back to the community. At the same time we mourned the death and setbacks of others. But, thank God, we seem to be making a substantial difference. The Church of the Holy Trinity has enabled us to make that positive difference in the form of transformed lives and a safer community.

Blessings,
Adrian (Ed) Vandenberg

Distress Centres

Distress Centres continued to provide Toronto's only 24/7 helpline in 2008. 125 of the 400 volunteers filled their shifts at 10 Trinity Square, and all of them worked together to respond to more than 120,000 calls. The line truly reflects the impact of social isolation, chronic mental health and new and emerging social issues; during the last three months alone there was a 30% increase in calls related to financial difficulties and struggles to meet basic needs.

The Survivor Support Programme continued to provide face-to-face grief counselling to individuals and families bereaved by suicide. Through active participation on a network responding to neighbourhood trauma, the number of homicide survivors we served doubled in 2008. Additional services provided by Distress Centres included two dedicated lines, an EMS warm transfer line and the PAIRO (Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario) line for doctors in training and their families in crisis.

Our Community Education and Outreach Programme provided training and consultation to other community organizations as well as contributing to Toronto Public Health's Psychosocial Emergency Response & Recovery Services as part of their community disaster response plan.

We are deeply indebted to the Church of the Holy Trinity for the opportunity to provide our life-sustaining support services from this unique and very special facility.

Karen Letofsky,
Executive Director, Distress Centres

The Echo Women's Choir

ECHO is an 80-member strong choir of women from all walks of life, all ages, and professions based in Toronto. The choir is committed to inclusive membership, a rich repertoire, musical excellence and passionate expression. We celebrate diversity in our members and our music. We are a community-based, non-affiliated organization. Echo welcomes any woman who loves to sing and can make the weekly rehearsal commitment. By singing together, we aim to build a strong, varied and vibrant culture and community. ECHO is dedicated to remaining an accessible community to all people in Toronto by allowing a sliding scale for membership fees and for concert tickets. Along with our semi-annual concerts, we often sing at grass-roots events around the city. With enough notice, we might be able to sing at your event - keep us in mind!! Our spring concert is here at Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 10th at 3pm. Our website is: www.echowomenschoir.ca and we are a registered charity. Echo is led by Becca Whitla and Alan Gasser and boasts roughly a dozen members who are also members of Holy Trinity. Thanks for continuing to welcome us in your space!!

-Becca Whitla and Alan Gasser

INFACT Canada

INFACT Canada is a non-profit organization working to promote infant health through the protection and support of breastfeeding. We work on both local and international levels.

Our three-person staff works out of the building at 6 Trinity Square, which also houses our storeroom of breastfeeding resources. We develop posters, action kits, pamphlets, and educational tools, which are distributed to health facilities and community centres in order to inform health workers and parents about the important health benefits associated with breastfeeding. We also distribute a quarterly newsletter featuring breastfeeding news from around the world.

In recent years we have become increasingly focused on staging lactation management training courses in Toronto and across Canada, which are well-attended by nurses, lactation consultants, midwives, and other professionals who work with mothers. By teaching these women to facilitate breastfeeding with the mothers they work with, we hope to spread breastfeeding support throughout Canada's healthcare system.

Elisabeth Sterken, our national director, is a member of the UN's Standing Committee on Nutrition, and participates in policy-setting meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. INFACT Canada is the regional coordinator for the International Baby Food Action Network, and is part of an international effort to monitor and document the marketing practices of the infant formula industry. We are also the North American director of the Nestlé Boycott campaign, which targets the Swiss corporation for its unethical marketing of infant formula.

[Ben Spurr, ben@infactcanada.ca](mailto:ben@infactcanada.ca), 416 595-9819

Toastmasters – Drew Chapter

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization based on Rancho Santa Margarita, California U.S.A. Its mission is that through club activities and conferences, Toastmasters helps its members improve their communication and leadership skills while fostering self-confidence and personal growth. So far more than three million men and women of varying ages and occupations have benefited from Toastmasters training worldwide. Many of these individuals have become leaders in business, religious denominations, and service and charitable organizations.

Our club, DREW Toastmasters, is part of “C” Division in the downtown Toronto core. It is a community club and is open to all members of the public. Our meetings are every Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. We have about 20 members who come from all segments of society. Most of our employers pay the membership fees and make the time available to enable us to avail ourselves of the Toastmasters opportunities. We adhere to the Toastmasters promise (attached). In Drew’s weekly one-hour meetings our members learn the following skills:

1. Public speaking
2. Impromptu speaking
3. Positive evaluations
4. Organizing and conducting a meeting
5. Leadership

For those members who were born and raised in non-English-speaking countries, Toastmasters clubs offer such supportive, nonjudgmental environment so that these members feel both encouraged and empowered at each step of the way. We learn by doing and our growth is evaluated in a positive way that members improve in successive meetings.

The Toastmaster year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Each year a new executive team is elected and they ensure the normal operation of DREW Toastmasters and provide a leadership structure to train more and more members.

Our 2008-2009 Theme is; ***The DREW TEAMM = Toastmasters Excelling And Making our Mark.***

For Further Information about DREW Toastmasters, please contact our President, Donna Braniff at 416-699-8303.

Marcus Huang, Secretary

Toronto Disaster Relief Committee

A call for action: Sign the Recession Relief Fund Declaration

Go to www.tdrc.net to sign the declaration

February 9, 2009

Dear Friends,

First I'd like to thank the Church of the Holy Trinity for continuing to welcome us as a tenant and for your support of our work.

Here is a sampling of our recent work. In the last few months we have:

- Launched a new national coalition called the ***Recession Relief Fund Coalition***, chaired by John Andras. Over 200 organizations and 1,000 individuals have signed the declaration which calls for federal aid including a doubling of the national homeless program to provide badly needed aid during this economic downturn. A well-received public forum was held at HT.
- Called for warming centres all winter long and responded to the tragic death of a young aboriginal man who received third-degree burns to 80% of his body while sheltering in a BMO bank machine vestibule.
- Worked with the Institute of Contemporary Culture at the Royal Ontario Museum to develop programming which honours Tent City in the exhibit ***Housepaint*** (on until June 2009).
- Played a lead role working with a team of legal experts to pursue a court challenge on the 'right to housing'. In addition, we have presented to the Ontario Human Rights Commission on human rights and violations against homeless adults and families with children.
- Presented to Miloon Kothari, the UN Rapporteur on Affordable Housing.
- Hosted a number of forums, vigils and press conferences highlighting conditions and emerging issues that are negatively impacting homeless people. Continue to be engaged in the monthly Homeless Memorial.
- Continued to partner with the Canadian Peace Alliance in our ***Housing Not War*** campaign.

Thanks for your tremendous support.

Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse

Trinity Square Enterprises (TSE) or “The Café”

Trinity Square Café provides work orientation and training for people who are recovering from mental health issues. We are a registered charity and a not-for-profit organization funded by the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (now the Local Health Integration Network or LHINs). We are categorized by our funder as a Community-based Mental Health Program in their Vocational/ Employment stream. We are one of the only programs in the province providing the service we do. We do not provide therapeutic interventions; rather, we utilize a whole person-centred model where each participant learns to work with the reality of their own health recovery while building or rebuilding employability skills.

Our program has been undergoing some reforms. These are a result both of our funders' imminent (2009-2011) review of all Ontario mental health programs as well as our own need to update and refine our program at all levels. As of now, we are down to a staff of four (Executive Director David, Café Manager Lesley, and two Program Workers, Melissa and Caroline). We are keeping our staffing at this number but may make one additional change during the year, switching from generic program worker jobs to more specific social service worker positions. We also are implementing a series of small part-time jobs at minimum wage (contracts) with participants in our program as well as creating a part-time kitchen helper position targeted to people coming out of job training programs. By making these changes, we are reaching out again into the broader community. We are also hoping to engage a Master's in Social Work student placement later this year to assist us with creating qualitative tools and methods to measure success in our program. Again, our biggest challenge remains our 100% reliance on one funder (LHINs). Our Board of Directors hopes to broaden our funding base this year, though this is very hard to do in these difficult times.

One thing we can rely on is our continuing relationship with the Holy Trinity Church community. We are thankful to be here and to be part of the community activities and good work of Holy Trinity. Again, we want to sincerely thank Margot Linken and the Church staff (Junior, Paul, Leonel) and others for their professional and personable service to us. We feel at home here, and our participants are able to find peace of mind and quiet vocation in the tranquil sanctuary of the café. We hope to sustain this relationship for many more years.

David Greig, MSW
Executive Director, Trinity Square Cafe Inc.