

---

Report of the Senior Pastor  
April 21- May 31, 2008

In addition to my regular duties I presided at three baptisms, one wedding, and three funerals. I met with six people for spiritual direction and had fifty-seven significant pastoral conversations.

In a time where errant youth make the headlines and people wring their hands over what is beaconing of the younger generation it is a refreshing reality to meet with our Affirmation of Baptism group. I was privileged to meet with them and discuss questions they asked me and later to meet with them and discuss their theological understanding of the principal issues they had studied since last September. Once past the usual adolescent discomfort over talking with adults they are surprising in their insights and understandings. Contrary to popular opinion the youth, at least the youth we see, are responsible, accountable, thoughtful and courteous. It will be an honor to preside over their affirmation of their baptism.

We continue to offer worship services at Dauphin County Prison. God does work in mysterious ways. I arrived at the prison to find we only had four volunteers none of whom could play the piano. Wouldn't you know it. That evening we had a record attendance of 60+ men. We sang hymns they knew without accompaniment and made the rafters ring. Inmates assisted reading the lessons and the psalm and we had a deeply reverent and spiritual service. Such services include individual anointing, individual prayer, and Holy Communion.

We are indeed blessed with exceptional music at Trinity, The Faith X Band Concert was outstanding and played to a packed house. The children stole the show and Pastor Easton was her wonderful self. The heart of the celebration was thankfulness for ten years faithful service. Thank you Debbie Wilson, Pastor Easton and Faith X.

I never thought I would see the day when the rafters of the nave actually shook. That was the case with the Duke Ellington Sacred Music presentation. The place really rocked. Thank you Tim for an outstanding music program.

Perhaps one of the most daunting tasks we face is the writing and revising of policy pages. Yet these pages provide the guidance for the administrative and voluntary functions of the congregation. So it was that I rewrote the A&P policy page and then spent a half day with a select committee from A&P (Judy Hunter, Bob Frymoyer, Doug Bonsall, and Craig Erdman) to review and revise it. That page is in its final stages of editing and will come to Council in the near future.

A good staff working harmoniously to guide and support the ministry and mission of the congregation is a great blessing. We have such a staff. The staff supervisors are concluding this years round of evaluations and goal setting for next year is under way. I want to record my deep appreciation for the work and support of Nancy Martin who for the past nineteen years has provided me with excellent support, assistance, and, direction. I want to thank Pastor Brock who has been ready, willing, and able to step to the helm in my absence and who has launched a vital and growing Saturday 5:30 p.m. service. I want to thank Pastor Easton who stands tall leading a packed 10:45 service and provides essential support to our pastoral and program staff. Then there is Tim, what can I say. During the Duke Ellington Concert he sang in the choir. At the end of the show he was brought forward and received a thunderous standing ovation. These are the staff members it has been my privilege to supervise. They are an outstanding team. Trinity is blessed and really fortunate to have them. They will carry Trinity through the coming changes

and ensure a seamless transition from my ministry, through the interim, to the arrival of a new senior pastor.

Congratulations Peter Fox on ten years of faithful and outstanding service. Not only has Peter built up the youth group but he himself writes all the instructional programs. Parents frequently report how thankful they are for Peter and how he has helped their youth.

There are two meetings that I attend each month. One is with the other senior pastors from large congregations in the synod. The greatest concern for all of us currently is the ongoing faltering of the economy and its impact on our parishioners and our churches. Our congregation continues to be the most fiscally stable which is due to our careful budgeting and our refusal to dip into endowment principal to boost our budget or meet current or unexpected expenses. Thank you Daryl Ackerman and the Finance Committee.

The other meeting I attend is the Quality Assurance Committee of Hospice of Central Pennsylvania. That committee monitors all facets of the hospice program to ensure the highest possible quality of care. Did you know that there are a number of hospice agencies in our community? Hospice of Central Pennsylvania stands out as the oldest hospice program that is not for profit and includes the only hospice residence for those who are unable to be cared for in a home. It is an honor to serve them.

And, of course, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve Christ Jesus and His flock here at Trinity.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Stewart Hardy