

Report of the Senior Pastor
October 12 - November 9, 2009

In addition to my regular duties I have presided at two baptisms and one funeral. I have met with seven people for spiritual direction and I have had 42 significant pastoral conversations.

It was a privilege to meet our incoming Interim Senior Pastor, Pastor Glenn Ludwig and his wife when they were invited here to tour the facility and meet with our pastoral staff, council, and committee chairpersons. I believe he will be an outstanding interim pastor and will be greatly missed when it comes time for him to leave.

For some years now I have met in the fall with the small group hosted by Tim and Judy Trissler. Our small group ministry is a vital part of our overall mission.

Hoover Elementary School Fourth Grade invited me to participate in an interview project they were conducting. I was interviewed by two lively young men who told me as much about themselves as they elicited from me. We all enjoyed the experience.

I spent a day with our Seniors at their Fall Retreat at Camp Hebron. The topic was "Retirement." They had much to tell me and I was able to share my plans with them. I believe I was the participant who benefitted the most. If you ever have the opportunity to join the Seniors in retreat I would highly recommend it. Judy Messinger did an excellent job of coordinating and hosting the event.

The Senior Pastors met in Gettysburg where the topic was budgeting. Our strict budgeting efforts here at Trinity have kept us in the black. My colleagues, I am sad to say, are all facing deficits. We share a common concern as to the health of the economy and how that might impact on giving next year.

As you know I delight in teaching. I have just concluded a two week assignment with the Affirmation of Faith Class where we studied the birth and death narratives as they tell the story of Jesus birth and death. Though they are very quiet they are certainly listening and thinking. They are bright and fun to teach.

Last Wednesday I attended a meeting of the Camp Hill Historical Society led by Les Bishop. Their program focused on the history of Trinity and much comment and discussion occurred during Les' presentation. Following the program Les Bishop and George Wirt took participants on a tour of the church.

As a background to all of this comes the steady work of my preparation for retirement. To this point I have visited with and communed eighteen of our home bound members with the intention of visiting and communing them all before Christmas. The visits do take a little time as there is much to talk about. As well, I am slowly emptying my office and checking through files.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pastor H. H. H. H.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.