

2008

Secular and Ecumenical Context

The war continued in Iraq with many casualties of our service people. President Bush proposed a stimulus package to help home owners and prevent foreclosures. Winter tornados killed and injured many in the Midwest. The stock market plunged due to the economy. The suspects that were accused in the Sep 11, 2001 attack on the US were arraigned. The primaries were in full swing with the first African-American running in the Democrat party. The Summer Olympics were held in China. Connecticut joined Massachusetts and California in approving same-sex marriages. Unemployment was reaching a high with the auto industries begging for a bail-out from the government. The election showed Barack Obama winning the presidency over John McCain. He chose Joe Biden for his running mate. Ted Kennedy developed a brain tumor and was able to work only part time.

Items of Interest

Rev David Rinas was the pastor, performing all his duties and guiding the church to help its growth.

Heidi Jakoby, hired as Director of Discipleship, worked with the congregation and Sunday school, youth group and confirmation classes. She also led the woman's bible study.

A Discernment, Discipleship and Oversight (DDO) Committee was formed to handle goals set for Pastor and Director of Discipleship because of controversy. The council chose to engage a consultant, Stewart Lanier from LAOS Consulting as a facilitator who would be experienced and impartial to help heal and also mentor us to be more effective church leaders. Job descriptions were written and the council worked to mend hurt feelings and explain the causes of change. It was decided that there was not enough preplanning before a Director of Discipleship was hired. Because of financial reasons, the economy, layoffs and a reduction in pledges, the position was discontinued as of November.

The Property Committee

It does not have a chairman and was struggling to maintain the property. With the help of volunteers things are kept up. Bob Donnelly remains as sexton and does a remarkable job taking care of the inside of the building.

Worship and Music Committee

It has done a great job with Sunday services, working with Patrick who does a remarkable job as organist, choir director and directing the bell choirs. There is some interest in holding a Healing service. The committee also took over the nursery and set some rules as to ages of children that should be in there. No one 5 years or older should be attending.

The Altar Guild

They have kept the necessary robes, cloths, etc. cleaned and pressed. They purchased a new stoneware communion set, new purificators and baptismal napkins. A job description was written for a wedding coordinator to oversee church weddings, especially for non-church members.

Social Ministry Committee

It was an active group with many members. The members each selected a project that they were in charge of, some of which are: Orphan Ministry; Habitat for Humanity; Open Pantry; My Father's House; Lowell Transitional Living Center; World Hunger; Seafarers Mission; refugee Immigration Ministry and Lutheran Disaster Response. An Ethnic supper was held; prayer shawls and balaclavas were made. A Care & Sharing group furnished food to members of Trinity who were experiencing serious illnesses or a death in the family. The Quilting group made fifty-one quilts that were dedicated in June, ten were given to the NH Atrim Girls Home and the rest shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Larry Thatcher handles the shipping for us.

Trinity Seniors

They had their usual activities: luncheons at Nashoba Tech school; pot luck luncheons at church with programs such as Pastor's "How to Plan a Funeral" and Enute Ogren from ELCA on "How to leave money to the church". The usual spring bus trip was to Sandwich Glass Museum with lunch at the Daniel Webster Inn on Cape Cod. The fall bus trip was to Yankee Candle factory with lunch at Chandler's restaurant at Deerfield, MA. We thank Alice Ekstrom for planning programs for the group. Sally Warren has been assisting.

Library Committee

They purchased sixty-nine new books plus some CDs and DVDs; some books have been donated through the Memorial Fund. Jan Kolba and her helpers continue to run a great library which is appreciated by many members as well as the Sunday school.

Mary Martha Circle

They continue to meet monthly in homes and sometimes at the church. The membership has declined due to illnesses. Sally Warren has become the topic leader which is appreciated.

Christian Education

The teachers have been active using the Akaloo and Here-We-Stand material. Attendance has increased and people have benefited from the teaching. All the teachers and substitutes are greatly appreciated and the work done under the direction of Art Noorgard.

Memorial Committee

Thanks to Priscilla Mason for her many years of dedicated service to the committee. Memorial funds are put to good use for the church and grounds, such as books, flowering shrubs and bushes, bulbs, pictures, etc. The Memorial Garden is under their care.

Evangelism Committee

They are stressing to have greeters and others become more of a welcoming group to fellow members as well as visitors. People should reach out to make people feel at home in our church. We are a caring group.

2008 TLC Statistical Data

Church membership - Winter months 202, Summer months 128
Membership - 1,020 Baptized members, 662 Confirmed members

Baptisms - 16

Rebecca Sarah Walters

Rochelle Roberts

Henrique Emmanuel Nea Urey

Schnea Krystal Urey

Carly Rae Pearl

Shawn Roberts

Princess Wilson

Prince Wilson

Brianna Neema Merere

Spencer Nathaniel Goltz

Jordon Antionette Drouin

Annalise Martha Wilson

Emma Elizabeth Sponholtz

Calvin James Sponholtz

Luke Mason McGrory

James Wehylin McGrory

Confirmations - 7

Max Blankenship

Christa Bodemann

Caroline Case

Alicia Kirk

Brian Massawe

Kaylee Morrison

Gabrielle Polce

Weddings - 2

Candice Savory & Gary Lindsey

Heather Profitt & Carl Tortola

Funerals - 5

Robert E. Anderson

Richard Sawyer

Esther Queenan

Margaret Donnelly

Janet Steele

New Members - 20

Members removed - no number given

Church Leadership

Pastor - The Rev David Rinas

Congregational President - Jim Ray

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