

History of 2012

Secular and Ecumenical Context

The Syrian Civil War continues with numerous casualties throughout the year. The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II is marked on February 6, celebrating 60 years of her reign. London hosts the summer Olympic Games. Tornadoes kill at least 27 people in Indiana and Kentucky. Vladimir Putin wins the Russian presidential election amid allegations of voter fraud. Mid-Atlantic storms in the United States kill 13 and leave millions without power in Ohio, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Monsoon rain in East India kills at least 79 people and leaves 2.2 million homeless. The American Episcopal Church becomes the first to approve a rite for blessing gay marriages. The US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, is stormed, looted and burned down, killing five people, including the US ambassador. Hurricane Sandy makes landfall in New Jersey resulting in 110 deaths and \$50 billion in damage and forces the New York stock exchange to close. Barak Obama is re-elected President of the United States. 28 people, including 20 children, are shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The Mayan calendar reaches the end of its current cycle.

Rev David Rinas is the pastor, performing all his duties and guiding the church to help its growth. He teaches a bible study "From Here to Community" during the week for adults and makes numerous visits to shut-ins and hospital patients. The church hosts its second annual TrinityFest, a cookout with music, games, and other activities aimed at community outreach. In June, Pastor Rinas is nominated as one of seven candidates to be considered as the next bishop of the New England Synod. Pastor continues his study of Spanish and makes a trip to Honduras. David Lussier is the organist and Jim Ray the president of the congregation.

Stewardship Committee

This group of people works hard at keeping the art of giving in the foremost of the congregation's minds. There are newsletter articles, Temple Talks, bulletin inserts, tithing sermons, pledging, and time and talent sheets. Education is their purpose. A group of dedicated people work to instill in the congregation the joy of giving.

Committee members are: Richard Grove, Ed Jonson, Scott Morrison, Joe Nardoni, Pastor David Rinas

Worship and Music

David Lussier is the organist and directs two voice choirs, the bell choir, leads the Praise Band, and consults with the Brass Choir. The committee plans special services including mid-week Lenten services, Holy Week services, mid-week Advent services, and Christmas services. They select hymns a few times a year. Outdoor services are held one Sunday of each summer month, weather permitting. Christmas Eve services were well attended with a children's service, a 7 pm service and the 11 pm with various choirs, brass choir and bells.

Jon Soule, Chairperson.

Altar Guild Committee

This is a subcommittee of Worship and Music. They take care of the altar flowers each week. They prepare the altar area (paraments, hymn numbers, candles, flowers, and communion) and the baptismal area for church services. Twice a year they do a more complete caring and cleaning of robes, pewter, silver, candles and other items that may need attention. Communion supplies are kept stocked and baptismal needs cared for. They also prepare luminaries for Christmas Eve services as well as celebration candles and place pew torches for special occasions.

Ritva Ojanen, Coordinator

Christian Education

Around 40 families registered for Sunday school. We run a Sunday School program, Confirmation, High School, and CCC (Coffee, Conversation, and Christ) adult group on Sunday mornings.

Vacation Bible School was held in August using a cooking theme. Lutheran II for confirmands and Bibles for graduation gifts were given to students. The congregation was invited to mark verses and leave notes in the gift books. Confirmation instruction is by Pastor Rinas, Ed Jonson, Tracy Post, and Larissa Fagundes; Acolyte training by Ed Jonson; Cradle Roll by Susanne Pearson; and Book Club by David Kramer/Helen Mallory.

Tim & Jessie O'Leary: Co-Committee Chairs

Library Committee

A total of 84 books were added to the library, the majority of which were donated. Also added were 21 new DVDs and 2 Sermon CDs. Sunday school classes scheduled story times in the library. Children were read books which were discussed and then they were given the opportunity to check out a book and become familiar with the library. There are seven members on the committee.

Jan Kolba. Coordinator

Memorial Committee

All memorial gifts over \$50.00 are recorded in the Book of Remembrances located in the Repository table in the rear of the sanctuary. Memorial gift expenditures of \$100 or more are approved by the Church Council. On All Saints Day, for that year, all memorials and special gifts are dedicated in the Service of Commemoration and Blessing. This past year special gifts were given:

- ☉ Table lamps for the lounge were given in memory of Viola Cole.

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson, Annette Badmington, Viola Cole, Louis Cote, Don Flaherty, Lieselotte Jablonski, Warren "Scotty" Lees, Priscilla Mason, Esther Queenan, Sandy Smith, and Ellen Vogelsang.

Marcia Kalarites. Chairperson

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee continued hosting a first service coffee hour, the card ministry, the tape ministry, and TLC Greeters. The Tape Ministry is handled by Karl Molander and other volunteers. Greeters are scheduled for each service by Gwen Donovan. Pastor Dave and Helen Johnson extended invitations to neighbors to attend TrinityFest, thereby "planting seed" for future growth.

Helen Johnson, Chairperson

Fellowship Committee

The coffee hour was headed by Karen Merrill, with volunteers supplying refreshments and help each Sunday. The Fellowship Committee coordinated the Lenten simple suppers with the help of the other committees, as well as funeral lunches with volunteers supplying food and workers. Lunch and Learn luncheons are held throughout the year on Sunday mornings with various topics. Nancy Grove ran the butterfly notes program that lifts the spirits of many members. A Women's Night Out meeting was held once a month just for a social time. Also a women's weekend is held at Camp Calumet every fall.

Gail Langner, Chairperson

Property Committee

This committee has grown. It has ten members; Jim Ray is the council liaison. They are responsible for overseeing all of the physical church property, including the buildings, the contents of the buildings and the grounds. The committee develops and supervises a preventative maintenance schedule for our property. It oversees the work of employed maintenance staff and outside contractors. Many jobs were

done this year, such as planting, seeding and mulching gardens and lawns; updating the fire alarm system; replacing or repairing fixtures in the bathrooms; setting up/taking down the Chrismon Tree and Nativity Scene; and purchasing a new lawn tractor. A contractor was hired to replace hot water pipes that feed the Sacristy and bathrooms by the Music Room. Also contracted out was replacing a circulator pump and several corroded pipes on the main boiler. Bob Donnelly, our church sexton, maintained the property and Bruce Schnepfer kept the driveways and parking lot plowed and sanded for the 2011/2012 winter. Marty's Landscaping was contracted for snow plowing/sanding during the 2012/2013 winter as Bruce Schnepfer has moved out of the area. TLC is facing some major property issues, or will be in the near future, so Jim Ray developed a Property Major Projects Fund which was approved by various committees and the church Council in December 2012 and was presented at the annual meeting in 2013.

No Chairperson.

Social Ministry

Food ministries: Monthly donations to The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell and the Chelmsford Community Exchange. Congregational members serve dinner once a month at the Lowell Transitional Living Center and also donate clothing items to this shelter. Nancy Grove helps lead the Table of Plenty Ministry on Tuesdays at First Parish Unitarian Church in Chelmsford center where some of our members have served supper throughout the year. Members share God's love to others throughout the world by making quilts sent through Lutheran World Relief to many countries in the world; crocheting Prayer Shawls; participating in the BREAD for the WORLD Letter Writing and Offering of Letters campaign; New England Seafarer's Mission visits; and collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits. The Refugee Ministry helped bring a family of 5 from Somalia via Saudi Arabia and Syria and also continued to accompany the Sambella family in their acculturation here in the US. The Alternative Giving Fair was held in December featuring Anneliese Fidler's beautiful handmade jewelry and varied crafts for sale. All proceeds went to World Hunger (\$4,835.30) or the Malaria Campaign (\$420).
Doreen Rinas, Chairman

Trinity Seniors

Meetings for the year started in March with a luncheon at the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton. In April the group dined at Princeton Station in North Chelmsford. In May, Panera Bread supplied us with soup and salad at Trinity. In June we carpooled to Fitchburg to visit the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens. In September we had lunch at Feng Shui restaurant in Chelmsford. In October we took a bus trip to North Shore Music Theatre to see "Guys and Dolls". November we went to Nashoba Technical High School for our annual Thanksgiving dinner at "The Elegant Chef". We continue to celebrate our church holidays with our homebound seniors by visiting, telephoning and prayers. We support those who are in need of medical devices and appointments.

Alice Ekstrom, Coordinator

Youth Ministry Committee

The TLC Disciples youth group is open to all students in grades 7 through 12. The Disciples hosted three fundraisers for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. These were the Annual Meeting lunch, Easter Breakfast, and a Mardi Gras celebration. Eleven youth and three chaperones attended the ELCA Youth Gathering. In February, the group went to Camp Calumet for the Iditarod Race and in September they had the annual Hammonasset trip hosted by the New England Synod. New this year was a mini-golfing event at Kimball's. Youth Sunday was March 18th. In October we helped paint the Boy Scout Barn during property work day, and in December we decorated the Chrismon Tree in the sanctuary.

Brandon Van Corbach, Chairperson

2012 TLC Statistical Data

Average Attendance:

September – May 168

June – August 114

Membership:

716 Baptized Membership

451 Confirmed Membership

New Members – 6

Dorene Boyle

Carol Giffin

Karen & Naomi Goltz

Peggy & Eugene Gschwind

Baptisms – 9

4/29 Aiden James Brasley

4/29 Alexander Van Dowding

4/29 Colby Martin Downer

4/29 Zachary Daniel Kressin

4/29 Steven Michael LaCasse

6/24 Liliana Rose Colacchio

6/24 Thomas Stuart Bradley

9/16 Angeleena Trinity Touch

9/26 Vincent Michael Sponholtz

Confirmations – 4

5/20 Stephanie Case

5/20 Anna Constance Hatke

5/20 Olivia Hunker

5/20 Caroline Elizabeth Moomjian

Funerals – 12

2/25 Priscilla Ruth Mason

3/19 Donald Flaherty

6/30 Christopher Mark DaCunha

7/6 Leon Schnepfer

7/12 Beatrice Anderson

7/17 Robert Beals

7/30 Anthony L. DaCunha

9/19 Sanford B. Smith

10/5 Lieselotte Jablonski

11/21 Warren “Scotty” Lees

12/8 Jean Every Dettman

12/14 Donald Ray Smith

Marriages –

6/24 Rebecca Rose Butler & Kenneth Paul Brasley

Church Leadership

Pastor – The Reverend David Rinas

Congregational President – Jim Ray

Edited by Laura Soule, September 2013