

2017 Annual Parish Meeting – January 22, 2017
Senior Warden's Report - Norah Grimball

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden this past year.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with, and learn from, so many wonderful and talented people – clergy, staff, Vestry members, other lay leaders and parishioners. What a blessing!

And I cannot adequately thank the exceptional wardens with whom I have worked, first as a Vestry member and then as Junior and Senior Warden – Lee Ayers, Dan Fritze, Jack Godbold and David Danforth. Thank you for your guidance and support!

Serving as a warden has given me a unique opportunity to observe first-hand how dedicated our clergy and staff are to the work in this place and how many parishioners work tirelessly to serve. I wish I could mention each of you individually for your unique contributions but time does not permit. Please know how much I appreciate you and what you do.

Thinking about where we have been at Trinity, are now, and will be going, called to mind the reports made by the two previous wardens.

Dan Fritze, in his 2015 Senior Warden's report, gave us four challenges:

1. to answer the call of the Trinity Forward Campaign to help us reach a place of financial strength,
2. to grow our Operating Budget which is holding us back from what we can and should be doing,
3. to engage at Trinity which means being involved with a deeper, more personal level of feeling and involvement, and
4. regardless of whatever disagreements, disappointments, or differences we may have, to not lose sight of our mission, our calling at Trinity.

Last January, in his report, Jack Godbold spoke about how much we have to be thankful for at Trinity and all of the things that take place within this block. I wholeheartedly agree. We are truly blessed with wonderful music, liturgies, programs, opportunities for ministry, fellowship, and facilities.

Yet I don't think everyone realizes these blessings, nor do I think we are being good stewards of them.

The same challenges Dan spoke of in 2015 are still before us today:

- pledges and gifts to Trinity Forward are about \$1.5 million short of our initial \$3.9 million goal,
- our Operating Budget is having to shrink each year due to fewer pledges and gifts,
- many parishioners are not engaged – simply attending church services doesn't translate to engagement – we are called to do much more
- and all of this negatively impacts our ability to do the work God is calling us to do.

In reflecting on why this is the situation, I thought back to some comments I've heard from parishioners and I realized that these comments were about what they were not receiving here. I understand and know that we all have times and situations when we feel that way. It's human nature.

However, we need to remember that the Church is not an institution that is here to serve and please us. We ARE the Church and the Church is the body that is called to serve Christ by serving others. Each person has an important gift to offer. For us to BE Church, for Trinity to flourish and allow us to continue to provide (much less enhance) the ministries and programs that we offer, as well as to maintain the treasured facilities we are blessed to have, everyone needs to be involved.

So I call on you to focus not on what you are receiving here but on what you can give to God's kingdom through Trinity. Remember these familiar words:

- from Isaiah 6:8, "Hear am I, Lord. Send me!"
- from the Eucharist, "... we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies..." and
- from the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "...it is in giving that we receive..."

And I invite you to:

- first, prayerfully consider some aspect of Trinity's mission and ministry in which you can offer your unique gifts and get involved,
- then, participate through sacrificial financial giving in support of the God's work in and through this Cathedral, preferably through an annual pledge, and
- finally, enjoy the blessings you experience as a result.

Thank you for your support over the past year and for the honor of serving as your Senior Warden.