



Trinity Dove

November 21, 2010 + Reign of Christ + Grace
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne & Anne Anderson, pastors + Jennifer Famme, intern + Bob Thaler, preacher
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+ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sun., Nov. 21 ~ Reign of Christ + Pr. Nadine Returns!

- + Anchor & Sanctuary Worship at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am). Pastor Nadine Nicholds preaches.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am. Pastor Nadine reminisces on her years at Trinity.
- + Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
- + Anniversary Hamburger Soup lunch at 11:30 am.

Sunday, November 28 ~ Advent 1

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am).
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Faith Adventures at 10:45 am. Adults: In Mission for others 2/4: ROOF
- + Sanctuary Worship at 11:30 am.

Sunday, December 5 ~ Advent 2

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am).
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Faith Adventures at 10:45 am. Adults: In Mission for others 3/4: CLWR.
- + Sanctuary Worship at 11:30 am.

Sunday, December 12 ~ Advent 3

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am).
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am. Autographing of the Real Men of Trinity calendars.
- + Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
- + Sanctuary Worship at 11:30 am.

Sunday, December 19 ~ Advent 4

- + Joint Anchor & Sanctuary Church Music Celebration at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am).
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Faith Adventures Christmas Program at 11 am.
- + Joint Anchor & Sanctuary Pot-luck at 11:50 am.

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- + Carols, Communion & Christmas Story hosted by the Sanctuary Community at 5 pm.
- + Celebration hosted by the Anchor Community with the Affirmation Singers and Trinity Choir at 7 pm.

Sunday, December 26 ~ Christmas 1

- + Joint Anchor & Sanctuary Community Worship at 9:30 am (parish update, 9:20 am).
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.

+ *andré lavergne*

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+ Pr. André ~ Grace

Grace to you and peace.

Sometime ago, I received a leadership award from the Eastern Synod. In my acceptance speech, I mentioned four people who had mentored me and to whom I owed a dept of gratitude. Among them was Eric Reble. I said that Eric had taught me the arts of pastoral care. I might have added that he also taught me much about grace.

Eric died on October 19. He had been ill for a long while. His last significant act "in harness" was the adult learning session he led at Trinity a few months ago. It was a lovely moment.

Back when I was an intern, Eric and I, together with another seminarian, took a bunch of St. Peter's kids to camp. We were lying in our bunks at the end of the day when George Wawin asked Eric from out of the dark: "Do you believe in universal salvation?"

Eric pondered aloud in his Eric Reble sort of way and replied: "That is not our *belief*. That is our *hope*."

What an astonishing and deft witness. My world and my theology were reframed and reshaped in an instant. For Eric, it was always about *grace*. Long and short: As an expression of God's grace, everyone was to be welcomed, everyone was to be included. No exceptions. Full stop. That was Eric's light against the darkness of the night.

In his funeral sermon, Bishop Pryse captured this reality beautifully. That sermon is reprinted on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of TRINITY DOVE.

On December 10, 1961, at a human rights rally, Peter Benenson, the founder of Amnesty International, spoke a few words familiar from the American Christophers from whose motto (1945) they were borrowed: "Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." (A candle encircled by barbed-wire has been the symbol of Amnesty International ever since. Christopher means "light-bearer".)

In his life-time, Eric kindled a great many candles where others might simply have cursed the darkness; candles of grace; candles of welcome; candles of inclusion.

I owe Eric a great deal. For his place in my life and for his profound and oft-repeated witness over a lifetime, I say "Thanks be to God."



+ andré lavergne

+ Anniversary News

Pastor Nadine Visits for Hamburger Soup!

On Sunday, November 21, former Trinity pastor, Nadine Nicholds, will be at worship at 9:30 am and reminiscing at 10:30 am. A "Trinity's Famous Hamburger Soup" & sandwich lunch follows at 11:30 am. All welcome!

Cookbooks Have Arrived!

We ordered 700 books and, at last count, some 550 had gone out the door! At \$12 each, they make terrific Christmas gifts. All proceeds will benefit CLWR and Wilmot Family Resource Centre.

The Three Bells Named

Trinity's bells shall be called "Faith, Hope and Love" per Paul's 1 Corinthians 13:13. This suggestion was made more often than any other and found greatest favour both in the Anniversary Task Group and at the Congregational Council.

Of course, the greatest of our bells shall be called "Love".

Ernie's HISTORY Coming Together

The chapters are unfolding. Michel has done some lovely graphics work. The editorial process will begin soon.

+ larry gravill & friends

+ Sanctuary News

Every week, we look forward to seeing new faces at Sanctuary where Vicar Jennifer and I are working together to shape our worship and community life.

We have an **Anniversary Hamburger Soup Lunch** scheduled for November 21 (after combined Sanctuary and Anchor Community worship and after Pastor Nadine concludes her reminiscing). Guests and walk-ins are always welcome!

We have a **Christmas potluck** scheduled for Sunday, December 19, at 11:50 am, following our Faith Adventures Christmas Program. Join us as we welcome our Faith Adventures families and make some new connections!

+ anne anderson

+ Sacraments & Seasons

Confirmations

On November 7, All Saints, Jessica Gascon, Krystalyn Johnston, Brody Lagace-Roote, Devon Merner, Mackenzie Normandeau, Willow Racho, Michelle Rogers, Travis Thompson and Caroline Wiechers affirmed their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation. Wonderful!

Neighbourhoods

We welcome Rob & Carol Murray (14) and Joe & Holly Trafford (12) into our cadre of shepherds.

Death

Our community grieves the death, November 3, of Florence Herman, at the age of 95. Blessed are they who mourn.

December Birthdays

1 - Scott Leu, Brandon Morrison; 2 - Wendy Chapman, Kathy Bingeman; 3 - Wendy Schwartz, Carol Ann Weichel, Alexander Buehlow, Emily Kalbfleisch, Madison Yost, Tanner Snyder, Sara Rundstedler; 4 - Logan Kleine; 6 - Brendan McCutchen, Brandon Stewart; 7 - Susan Rogers, Ruby Farr; 9 - Chantelle Junker, Emma Wiechers; 10 - Kathy Bender, Eric Noseworthy, Paige Gingerich, Nate Anderson; 11 - Krystalyn Johnston, Jordan Steinman, Tia DeRuiter, Hawkins Becker; 12 - Doris Weicker, Tony Beavis, Kathy Scheerer, Murray Ludington, Brad Becker, Trevor Deckert, Stephanie Martin, Kaden Eichler; 13 - Joanne Roth, Carl Hallberg, Ron Schaaf, Wally Mueller, Doug Hammer, Crista Coughlin, Stephanie May, Kendra Danner, Meghan Dale; 14 - Doris Doering, Ross Eichler, Susan Danner, Julie Kalbfleish; 15 - Heather Kienapple; 16 - Lotus Hammer, Kimberley Murray, Greg Steinberg, Christianne Mann, Mason Runstedler, Ryleigh O'Brien; 17 - Betty Minnie, Earl Nickolas, Bruce Jantzi, Marcus Scheid; 18 - Lorraine Zoeller, John Hillar, Travis Deckert, Joshua Otto, Zachary Becker; 19 - Betty Ritz, Ken Barnes, Brenda McCutchen, Rachel Gueguen; 20 - Kaye Pauli, Megan Clarke; 21 - Catherine Deckert; 22 - Grace Nauman, Tracey Erb, Sherri Keller, Andrew Hatchwell; 23 - Greta Mello, Holly McCurdy, Charlotte Speers, Kristal Preidt; 24 - Holly Koehler; 25 - Kay Hofstetter; 26 - Florence Sebert, Sheila Zoeller, Joe Ziegler, Katie Murray; 27 - Shannon Snyder, Lucas Haffner, Shayne Grebinski; 28 - Jean Schaaf; 30 - John Parsons, Kylie Becker, Alyson Lockie, Tricia Hammer; 31 - Jennifer Barnes, Sydney Ferguson.



Happy birthday, friends!

December Anniversaries

7 - Ron & Terralene Johnston; 11 - Bill Bradley & Amy Arbuckle-Bradley; 23 - August & Margot Popp; 28 - Joyce & Lyle Roth; 29 - Dee & Kitch Radke; 31 - Anita & John Hanson, Ann & James Patton, André & Barbara Lavergne.

Happy anniversary, friends.

+ jill merner

+ Advent Preparation

Knitters, there's yarn in the narthex, and it's time to be doing your stuff! The **Advent Mitten Tree** will be up on Sunday, November 21, the Feast of the Reign of Christ. We'll be putting the bloom to it beginning on Advent 1, November 28.

Need a Christmas gift idea? How about a garden? ...or a granary? What about a goat? Take a look at the **Gifts from the**

Heart leaflet enclosed in TRINITY DOVE & available in the narthex.

Have you seen the bright yellow **We Care Bags** at church? We're encouraging people to fill them according to the list provided. The bags will be sent out through CLWR to children all over the world, including Haiti.

Please consider taking a bag or two as part of your family's Advent ministry. Fill and return them to the church as soon as possible. A contribution of \$5 (cheque made out to Trinity in an envelope marked "CLWR") should accompany each bag to cover shipping.

+ andré lavergne

+ Nurturing Faith ~ Adults

Sunday Morning Adult Learning

In November/December, we are exploring Trinity's mission in our wider community and global community.

November 28 ~ ROOF presentation with Sandy Dietrich Bell. Back by popular demand!

December 5 ~ CLWR presentation with Brenda Malloch.

+ andré lavergne & friends

+ God's Grace; Eric's Grace

Dear friends ... we gather today to seek comfort from Word and Sacrament ... to seek comfort in one another's presence ... holding hands, seeking strength and encouragement as we mourn the earthly death of a beloved child of God ... Pastor Eric Reble.

It really does seem strange and almost inappropriate for us to speak of Eric in past tense verbs ... to say that we "knew" him. But that is part of our new reality. Our relationships have been re-ordered. And although he continues to be a father, a neighbour, a colleague and a friend —instead of experiencing him "here and now," we shift into a new way of relating and encounter Eric through our stories and memories, both private and shared.

An engaging smile. An infectious laugh. A mind that was always inquisitive and curious. Eric always made sure to identify some new area of inquiry in his annual confidential report to the bishop.

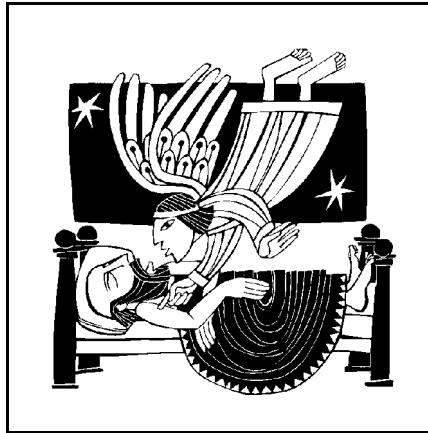
A man of prayer; and I mean *real* prayer! Most of us have prayed with Eric, whether in church, a living room or at a sickbed. And when Eric prayed, he was never reciting a simple formula, he was talking to someone whom he had come to know intimately through a lifetime of rich conversation; conversation that was characterized by a full spectrum of tone: yearning, need, anger, resignation, lamentation, thanksgiving, delight. When you prayed with Eric, you truly prayed.

Pastor Mark tells of charging off to see Eric in the emergency room at a local hospital earlier this year. He finds Eric with monitors and tubes of all kind protruding. They have a brief conversation and Pastor Mark, quite properly, asks, "Eric, would you like to pray now?" "Oh, ah, yes, yes ... Eric responds. "Heavenly father, thank you for bringing Pastor Mark here and for the doctors and ...

What a great story! That is *so Eric!* The ... "oh, ah, yes ... right ... —there were lots of those moments with Eric!

But Mark's story also speaks of the Eric who could and would pray at the drop of a hat. The language of prayer was a natural vocabulary for Eric. I think it was a family trait. Eric had been shaped by a time when, young in his ministry, his father, J. H. Reble, also a beloved pastor, had come to visit him in Normanby. His father accompanied him on a visit to a dying parishioner. Upon greeting the gathered folks, his dad dropped to his knees at the bedside and offered a prayer. Eric's ministry would be forever shaped in that moment.

Could anyone be kinder or more loving to those he encountered over the course of his ministry? As a parish pastor, in Normanby and Carrick Townships, in Bridgeport, at Kody School in India, in Kingston and, of course, here at St. Peter's, he was respected and beloved ... by parishioners, community members, colleagues and friends across the vast territory of the church. In all things, a faithful servant of the gospel. He engaged everyone equally and on the same terms. There were no favourites or "better-thans" to this fine and good Christian gentleman!



Eric was a much loved man. And I trust and hope that he was blessed to know something of that truth ... I think he did ... to know something of the difference that he had made in the lives of so many people. It's a lesson all of us would do well to take to heart, as we reflect on the state of our important relationships and what we have, or haven't, taken the time to say to one another.

Those things can make a difference in circumstances such as this, in events where there is no avoiding the fact that sickness and old age can ravage and weaken us, that death —regardless of the circumstances—brings a trauma and pain that cuts and wounds us to the quick. And certainly, if God's power is to be seen only in God's capacity to control painful circumstances ... then God is cruel in the seeming silence of such moments and powerless in the finality of any death.

But that is not the God in whose name we have gathered this day and it is certainly not the God whom Eric's ministry was modelled upon. No, our God is the God of today's Gospel lesson. The God who says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Eric's ministry always pointed toward one who was greater than he and it would drive him crazy to be set in stained glass today! But that was what made him special. He knew his own frailties enough to know that none of this story was about him. It wasn't about Eric. It was about the Gospel. It was about the grace of God he had experienced in the life, person and ministry of Jesus.

But Eric's engagement with that Jesus was a dynamic one. It was a relationship that moved and grew throughout his lifetime; like all relationships should. And that's the focus I would like to bring to our reflections today, indeed, the focus that Eric asked me to bring to this message when we spoke about his funeral earlier this year. We've heard some wonderful reflections about Eric's life and journey today — And what a journey it was!— but he wanted me to make sure you knew where he had ended up, after a lifetime of experience in ministry, a lifetime engaged in trying to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

In a sermon he preached here at St. Peter's in 2007, Eric

laid it out for us. He was nervous about preaching it. In fact, he came to the office a week prior with a text that he wanted me to review for fear that he might cause me or the wider church some grief through what he wanted to say. I read it and said go for it! People need to hear what you have to say Eric! Here, in part is what he preached that day. He speaks of today's Gospel lesson.

"How many times in my life have I read with all sincerity those words, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by me. Must I give those up? No, for that claim is true for me. It is by the person and life and teachings of Jesus the Christ that I have come to know the Eternal One, a gracious God, who has made me his child, knows me inside out, who still loves me and forgives me. He daily cares for me and has prepared a heavenly home for me. But I make that divine Creator far too small if I restrict the revelation of his justice and grace to my Christian experience alone. God has shined his light, poured his spirit, into the whole world and who am I to restrict it to my faith and experience alone."



As I said earlier this has been a soul-changing Epiphany for me and I want to stress—now this is Eric the diplomat, not wanting anyone else to take responsibility for his opinions—and I want to stress that I have spoken very personally, and not as a spokesperson for St. Peter's or our Lutheran Church." SOOOO Eric!

Then, quoting from a church publication, he writes, "One simply cannot ignore the evidence in these readings that Jesus was consistently breaking down walls between tribes, between women and men, between the powerful and the marginalized, between Gentiles and Jews, family and stranger, clean and unclean." And "our own tribalism or exclusiveness today is still challenged by Jesus' fierce inclusiveness. We cannot blithely accept our defensive loyalty to family, school, denomination, neighbourhood, class, religion, country, or any other tribe of exclusion in the face of Jesus' teaching and actions."

To which Eric adds simply, "Praise be to God." How many times have we heard him say that! And then he concludes, "The challenge for you and me is to live that love, live that inclusiveness. Love our God, love our neighbour whoever he or she might be. If we do, it's likely that you and I will be able to change our lives and the lives of others from water into wine."

Nobody loved Jesus Christ more than Eric Reble. Nobody loved the church more than Eric Reble. But here's the point. The Christ Eric came to know through a lifetime of ministry had taken him to a place where he recognized

more and more that the church, which he loved, was also capable of hurting and excluding precisely those persons for whom Christ carried the deepest concern and love. And so, he challenged us to rally round the clarion call of grace and to make the church a gospel honouring community from which no one was excluded, a family of faith that was truly and fully open to everyone.

Eric's God was a God of capital "G" grace, and that, ultimately was what Eric's ministry was all about. That's the God in whose name we have gathered today. A God who never, ever gives up on any of us. A God who desires to live with us for all eternity! A God who loves us with an intensity and level of intimacy that is beyond our imagining! And that's the bottom line—the ultimate foundation upon which we are gathered here today.

May God bless us with the knowledge and the strength of that promise as we continue here our course on earth. May God infuse us with a deepened and renewed experience of the one who is the source, the beginning and end of that promise; the way, truth and life as Eric knew it!

And may God inspire us to honour Pastor Eric's life—and the gift that he is, has and will continue to be for each one of us here—by going forward and committing ourselves to serve as faithful and generously extravagant ambassadors of grace in our lives and in our ministries! Amen.

✝ *michael pryse*

✝ TYGers

Real Men of Trinity Calendar ~ The enthusiasm has been terrific. The pictures are wonderful. Sample calendars are now available. The price is \$20.

December 17 ~ TYGers Caroling ~ We will have our third annual caroling event on Friday, December 17, at 6:30 pm. We'll meet at the church and head out into the Trinity neighbourhood for some singing and then return to the church for hot chocolate, cookies and a movie. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

December 30-31 ~ Lock in ~ We will be having a lock-in during the Christmas school break. There will be games, food, movies and more for an overnight event here at the church. We gather Friday evening at 7 pm and will be finished Saturday morning at 8 am. Cost will be \$5 to cover food. TYGers and friends welcome. Please sign-up!

✝ *anne anderson & friends*

+ Tintinnabulations

November 22 ~ Blood Donor Clinic ~ Gather from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at the Legion.

December 6 ~ Women of Trinity ~ Gather, 12:30 noon.

December 7 ~ Prayer Circle Update ~ Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

December 8 ~ Nurturing Faith (Children) Team ~ We gather at 7 pm.

December 9 ~ DOVE Prep Team ~ The Team gathers at 9 am.

December 13 ~ Christmas Cheer Plates prepared by Women of Trinity at 9 am. Cookies should be brought to the church kitchen on Sunday, December 12.

December 13 ~ Mitten Tree comes down. Christmas Tree goes up at 7 pm.

December 14 ~ Christmas Hampers prepared by Women of Trinity at 9 am.

December 14 ~ Gentle Friends Readers ~ Gather, 7 pm, in Trinity Hall. This month: GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY by Shaffer & Barrows. Copies available at New Hamburg Library.

December 18 ~ Trinity-Optimist Christmas Breakfast Begins at 8 am.

December 27 ~ Trinity's Christmas Blood Donor Clinic ~ Gather from 1:30 to 7:30 pm at the W-O Cafeteria.

Mondays, 8 pm ~ Motivated Mommies ~ Meet in Trinity Hall. Look for our Facebook page!

Tuesdays, 6:45 pm ~ TOPS ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly in the Martin Luther Room.

First Wednesdays, 11:30 am ~ Congregate Dining ~ Gather at Zion United Church unless otherwise announced.

Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A ~ A/A open meeting in Trinity Hall.

+ *andré lavergne & jill merner*

+ October Council News

- Every month, Council sends a number of thank-you notes. This month, we thanked Judi Harris (Anniversary), Kris Lund, Emily Ritz and Jennifer Famme (Sunday adult learning sessions).

- Our Life-long Learning Plan sees us looking ahead well into 2011.

- We are in good financial shape as reported in recent issues of TRINITY DOVE. We've begun work on a 2011 program budget. The Mutual Ministry Team is meeting to work on salaries and benefits. We're also contemplating possible 2011 Endowment Fund expenditures for recommendation to the congregation at the February 13, 2011, annual meeting.

- Trinity's energy-conservation Capital projects are completed and an inspection booked. (The inspection transpired shortly after the Council meeting.) Rebates are expected late this year or

early next year.

- Stewardship materials will be placed in the November issue of TRINITY DOVE.

+ *krista durrer and friends*

+ Property Update

We've had a busy year around property concerns. Recent work includes...

Church ~ Repairs to, and exterior painting of, the main church windows has been completed. Several sills and window frame members were repaired or replaced.

Peel Street Parsonage ~ Work is being completed around the October kitchen grease fire.

Wilmot Street Parsonage ~ Insulation of the basement walls has been completed with great thanks to Mike Gascon for his work on the walls.

Energy Conservation ~ The second (post-remedial work) energy audit has been completed on all projects and everything approved. We are unlikely, however, to see the rebate cheques until the end of 2010 or into 2011.

+ *ken seltzer et al*



+ Financial Update to October 31

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 227,832	\$ 19,123	\$ 37,162
Outgo	223,296	27,218	31,900
Balance	\$ 4,536	(\$ 8,095)	\$ 5,262

The **General Fund** benefits from our reallocation of resources to cover our reconfigured Pastoral Leadership Team. Offerings in the General Fund are even with those of last year.

The deficit in the **Capital Fund** is covered by an accumulated surplus (budgeted at the annual meeting) and by still-to-come government rebates for our energy conservation work.

2011 **offering envelope sets** are out. Please collect yours at the church.

+ bob ruthig & rick ritz



+ Nurturing Faith ~ Children & Youth

F/A Christmas Program ~ This year we will be trying a new idea for our Christmas program. With Vicar Jennifer's help, we will be creating our own home-grown Christmas program on Sunday mornings during our regular Faith adventures time. On December 19 we will share our efforts around the Christmas story at 11 am in the sanctuary.

Following the program, we'll gather for a potluck in Trinity hall and get to know some of our families. All welcome!

Spark Worship Leaflets ~ We will be handing out worship inserts every Sunday for kids at our Anchor and Sanctuary services beginning in Advent.

These worship leaflets will have activities and stories that reflect the worship readings along with the material they learn in Faith Adventures.

+ anne anderson

+ The Women of Trinity

On October 23, a group of Trinity's women and Pastor Syd attended a Celebration of Women's Ministries at St. Paul's, Cambridge. It was a day to commemorate the past work of the ELW and to look forward to the future work of Eastern Synod women. What a wonderful day and what a group of inspiring, positive and willing women.

Waterloo Seminary's Dr. David Pfrimmer said, in his closing address, "sometimes an end can be a gift".

It is clear that the end of the ELW organization is also a beginning of something new and wonderful in our women's ministries. We can honour and continue our traditional work and we can also look outward in our communities and encourage the young women of our parishes to help us identify new and exciting opportunities for mission and ministry.

In early November, a good cross section of Trinity's women—from second to ninth decades of life!—attended a first annual Women of Trinity retreat at Hidden Acres. We had a wonderful time of inspiration, introspection, laughter, fellowship and terrific food.

Thank you, Pastor Anne, it was just great!

+ pat schmetzer

+ 2011 Stewardship Kit

The **2011 Stewardship Materials** are enclosed in this issue of TRINITY DOVE. In 2011, we will celebrate a century of good stewardship in our current church building. Please consider the stewardship efforts of our forebears, who often had far fewer conveniences and generally less disposable income than we enjoy. Yet, they made the commitment to build the magnificent worship space and facilities we now inhabit. They considered the gifts they had been given and responded generously in time, talent and finances to build and maintain Trinity's facilities and ministry.

First: Please review the **Invitation to Ministry**, and complete the form, indicating your intention to lend your time and talents to our many ministries in 2011. Second: Please review the **Invitation to Financial Commitment** and complete the form indicating your intentions around financial stewardship for 2011. Third: Review the **Invitation to PAR** and revise your information if you are already subscribed or consider joining-up if you are not.

As always, your financial commitment and PAR information may be revised at any time.

Your continued good stewardship is appreciated by the entire congregation and the countless others who benefit from Trinity's extensive ministry.

+ rick ritz