

OFFICE OF TRANSITION MINISTRY – **Community Portfolio data form**

December 2012

Basic InformationName of Church/Institution: **OLD TRINITY CHURCH**Position Title: **Part Time Rector** Diocese: **Easton, Maryland** Current Status: **Interim Rector**Receiving
names until
OpenInstitution location
(address)**1716 Taylors Island Road, PO Box 157, Church Creek, MD 21622**Institution phone
410-228-2940Institution email
info@oldtrinity.netWeekly Average
Sunday Attendance
12-30Number of Weekend
Worship Services
1Number of Other per
Month Worship Services
0**Built in the late 1600s, this church is a destination place for many who come to Dorchester County. Old Trinity Church is on most historical maps of the area.****Compensation, Housing & Benefits: Salary Package Information Available Upon Request****3 Bedroom Waterfront Rectory, Utilities included.****Narrative** *In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to four (4) of the following questions (max 250 words, each response). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.***The following summarized responses are from the parishioners of Old Trinity Church.****Describe a moment that was a high point, when you felt our church was doing God's work and fulfilling its mission.****The Good Neighbor Project**

Old Trinity Church serves the southern part of Dorchester County, which has large areas of salt marsh and is thinly populated predominantly by old families of farmers, watermen and working class; most of whom have been here for generations. As part of Old Trinity's Good Neighbor Project, we tried to reach out to the community by sponsoring speakers of interest to the community, for example on emergency preparedness, but these efforts met with almost no success. A new approach was needed.

With the guidance of a community consultant, we organized what came to be called the South Dorchester Community Conversation. Last spring, on a rainy April Sunday afternoon, 85 members of the community and representatives from service organizations gathered together to find ways to better support and help people in need. We were amazed by the turn out. We were heartened by the excitement and enthusiasm. This was a high point, when we felt our church was doing God's work and fulfilling its mission.

One outcome of the event is that Old Trinity's Good Neighbor Project has become the South Dorchester Good Neighbor Project. Led by members of Old Trinity, a group of 15 to 20 people meet on a monthly basis and work to make connections between available services and the people in South Dorchester. The group has kept the local Senior Center open and doubled the days on-demand bus service which is available for elderly community members. They are currently working on getting a cell tower in the area. They continue to do God's work and fulfill the mission of Old Trinity, which is to serve those in need.

Name the three things you value most about your congregation.

Most congregants feel that given our historical surroundings, and the antiquity of our church we tend to embrace the traditional style of worship because of its reverence and dignity. We feel compelled to preserve both style of service as well as the bricks and mortar of this intimate church built in the late 1600s.

It goes without saying that the members are an important asset of the congregation. It is a small congregation of friendly, welcoming, hardworking members with a strong sense of unity and unique skill sets.

We look forward to our music selections for each and every service. Our organist has been with us for eight years, yet we are continually surprised by each of her solo pieces because she has the voice of an angel.

Thinking back over an entire lifetime, recall a time when you most appreciated the ministry of a priest. Describe what happened and what you appreciated.

When a priest has provided counsel during an emotionally stressful time in one's life such as death, marriage, divorce, or transitioning into midlife. The empathy and words of wisdom have provided much comfort in those times of need and over the course of a person's life.

Within the past few years at Old Trinity, the majority of congregants attended service because they wanted to and not because they had to. The sermons were engaging, informative, historical in nature at times, and insightful. Several of us would ask questions after the service and had the burning desire to continue exploring the meaning of the sermon.

What will be your congregation’s three most exciting, energizing, and important accomplishments over the next three years?

Growth in our faith. In our continual spiritual journey with our new rector, we hope to continue to learn about our religion and faith. Each service will help develop our sense of who we are and where we are going. It will enable us to develop our own mission statement.

Grow in our mission to serve. The introduction of the South Dorchester Community Conversation has made us aware of what our purpose as a church is and has allowed us to establish our role in the community. This is the beginning of being outward in our outlook to the needs of others within our community and to further develop our outreach program

We look forward to welcoming new members and visitors to the church and hopefully expanding the congregation.

Connections

Your Worshipping Community’s website
www.OldTrinityChurch.com

Languages significantly represented in your worshipping community
English

Approximate number of people:
35

Provide worship or classes in the following languages
English

Comments

References:

Bishop Name
The Rt. Rev. James J. Shand

Bishop Contact Information
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Diocesan Transition Minister Name
The Rev. Canon Heather E. Cook

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