

Trinity Outreach Survey

February 2014

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Background, objectives and method

Background – A new Outreach committee was formed in the Fall, 2013. In order to help re-energize Outreach ministries and help the committee discern what Trinity is called to do, the OC wishes to understand Trinity's current attitudes about and interests in Outreach.

Objectives

- To find out what ministries Trinity members are aware of and have supported recently, inside and outside of Trinity.
- What they would like to support in the future.
- What is needed to re-energize outreach. What barriers and drivers exist to Outreach participation/support.
- To identify potential new ideas/unmet needs.
- To identify potential leaders within the Trinity with a passion for Outreach.

Method:

- A survey invitation was emailed to parishioners with an email address (~290), and hard copies were available in the Narthex.
- Survey Monkey was the software program used to field and tab the results.
- The survey was launched on February xx, and closed on March 18.
- 109 people responded (37% response); 87 actually completed the survey.
- multiple members of a household could complete a survey
- The list of outreach ministries asked about came from the Trinity website.

Summary of Key findings

- Awareness of specific ministries is high -- over 80% for 9 out of the 12 ministries listed.
 - Lack of awareness appears to be a reason for lower support of St. Barnabas.
 - Crop walk and Mwamba also have relatively low awareness.
- There is a high level of interest in Outreach at this time with 68% of respondents saying they are extremely/very interested in supporting Outreach.
 - 80% of respondents under the age of 65 are extremely/very interested.
 - Those who are most interested say that Outreach is vital to our mission and an important part of church life. Those less interested cite other time commitments including jobs, family, other volunteer work.
 - Some say that Pastoral care, church school, and music is their Outreach.
 - Presumably those who did not respond are less interested.
- Three ministries have received a high level of "recent support" (time or donation by 60-75% of respondents for Mission Philly, Lambertville Food Pantry, Christmas giving to Philly children).
 - In general, most respondents support with donations rather than time.
- Four programs are most likely to be supported with time: MLK Day, Mission Philly, Aid for Friends, and Peacemeal; 36-46 respondents said they would support at least one of these with their time.
 - Respondents want to focus primarily on local Outreach work and secondarily on regional and global work. Most indicate that a mix is of all 3 is important.
- **"If mission is to become a priority, we first need... " . The main categories of response in order of mentions...**
 - Focus on core set of activities/discern who we are/what called to do/define mission/organize ideas
 - Leadership/point person for each ministry/pulpit/sponsorship
 - More parish support/more people/commitment/enthusiasm
 - Better communication/more awareness of benefits/raise visibility for opportunities/tell stories/create community dialog
 - Budget/resources

Summary of Key findings (cont'd)

- Most respondents said the size of Outreach is currently “just right”; the remainder were evenly divided between too large and too small.
- A number of new programs were suggested; some respondents are willing to help lead. There were 7 people who suggested a new program and are willing to help lead the effort.
 - There is also a group willing to participate in a focus group.
- Most respondents are also supporting local/international volunteer programs or charities outside of Trinity. Many of these have to do with children, health, and hunger.

Preliminary conclusions & recommendations

- A Plan: There is a need for the OC to create and document a focused, clear and simple, Outreach plan.
- Identify ways to support/expand the 3 most popular ministries: MLK/Day of Service, Mission Philly, Aid for Friends, and Peacemeal.
 - Plan activities that are Accessible to our diverse members (different ages, working people, families, people in different parts of the County??,etc).
 - Consider a theme/Focus for local Outreach—a need such as hunger in Bucks Co. or Lambertville (Aid for Friends, Lambertville Food Pantry, and possibly volunteer for the Bucks Co. Opportunity Council food programs.)
 - Consider an parish wide Outreach day, possibly life MLK day, once or twice a year.
 - Utilize ECS resources to enhance the plan.
- Leadership: Identify leadership for each Outreach ministry, actions and timeline.
 - Consider having 3 leaders...one for local, one for regional, and one for international with specific existing specific ministries grouped under each leader.
 - Recruit a young person (<25) to be on the OC.
 - Mission Philly, as one of Trinity's main ministries, needs an OC representative.
 - Tap younger (under 65) parishioners interested in Outreach to help with leadership.
 - Reach out to the 75 who are most interested and organize opportunities available for all to participate actively in Outreach. On the other hand, respect the commitments/priorities of people who have less interest on Trinity Outreach at this time.
 - NB : Given that there are 60 or so enthusiastic parishioners, and 12 programs to support, consideration has to be given to how often we ask the same people to do or support different things.

Preliminary conclusions & recommendations (cont'd)

- Communication: Better Communication from the OC is needed.
 - Renew commitment to our baptismal covenant. Rick Vinson and the OC would hopefully jointly inspire outreach, including how it brings us closer to God as well as benefiting others.
 - Wherever possible, personalize invitations to participate, rather than the simple “announcement” on Sunday mornings.
 - E.G. Create and maintain an Outreach Bulletin Board to inspire people with “stories”. (OC member assigned to coordinate)
 - Have a monthly Outreach column in Tidings for help wanted and stories (OC assignment).
- A budget for Outreach is needed with an accompanying rationale.
 - Budget request should probably follow the presentation of an Outreach plan.
 - The OC should have Written criteria for selecting which ministry to support with funds.
 - Consider setting aside a special holiday donation (e.g. Easter) or event during the year to fund Outreach budget, similar to the way Mission Philly and music is funded.

- Maybe a focus group should be convened once the OC has a vision and plan.

Follow ups:

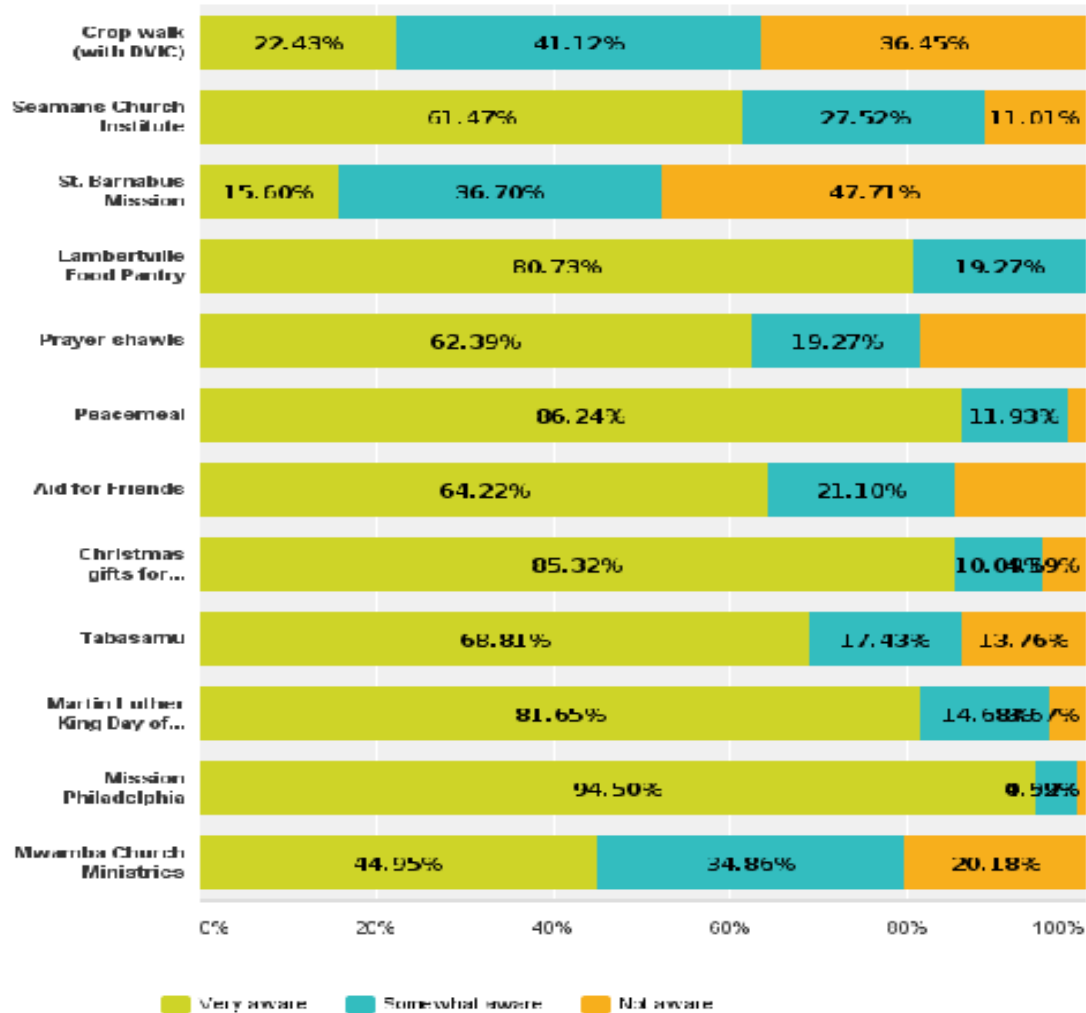
- leader of each outreach ministry – study survey results and implications....be open to new ideas to re-energize the ministry. Write steps/goals to re energize and communicate . Share with OC by x date.
- Identify all those who said “extremely/very interested” and get them involved if they are not already.
- Volunteer for Bulletin board and Tidings....communication.
- Present plan to vestry in April.
- release survey topline to congregation in May Tidings.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Mission Philly, Peacemeal, and Christmas Giving have the highest level of “very aware”. On the other hand, awareness of not Crop Walk, and St. Barnabas Mission is low. There’s an opportunity to build awareness from somewhat to very aware for other programs, even Lambertville food pantry, Aid for Friends, and Tabasamu.

Q1 Which of the following Trinity Outreach Ministries are you aware of?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 1



Mission Philadelphia, Lambertville Food Pantry, or Christmas gifts have received recent support from over 60 respondents. 19-44 have recently supported 5 other outreach ministries. 15 or fewer support Mwamba, prayer shawls, St Barnabus, Crop Walk, or other ministries. (A separate analysis of the data suggests that low awareness may be a factor for St. Barnabus support, but is not the cause of lack of support for Mwamba or prayer shawls.)

Which of the following outreach programs have you have supported recently?

Support includes donations of either time, goods, or funds.

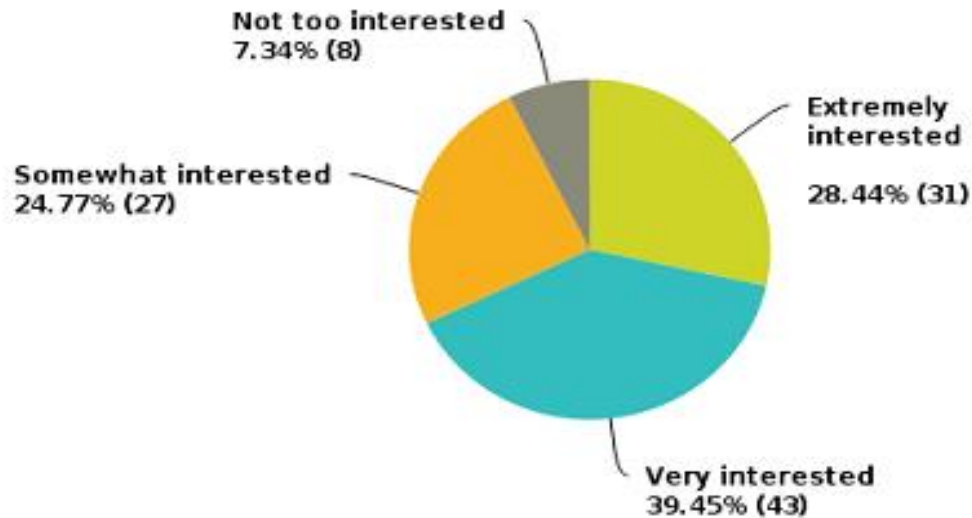
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	
Mission Philadelphia	68.6%	72	Tier 1 (60 or more)
Lambertville Food Pantry	67.6%	71	
Christmas gifts for Philadelphia children	61.0%	64	
Martin Luther King Day of service (DVIC)	41.9%	44	Tier 2 (19-44)
Aid for Friends	28.6%	30	
Tabasamu	26.7%	28	
Peacemeal	22.9%	24	
Seamans Church Institute	18.1%	19	
Mwamba	14.3%	15	Tier 3 (15 or fewer)
Prayer shawls	12.4%	13	
St Barnabus Mission for homeless women in Philadelphia	11.4%	12	
Other (specify)*	8.6%	9	
Crop Walk (DVIC)	2.9%	3	

* Other missions supported include Julie Burd in Haiti (3), Friends of Music, ECS, prayer list, house tour, lay eucharist visitors, Souper Bowl Sunday, and others.

64 respondents (68% of total), said they are Extremely/Very interested in supporting Trinity Outreach ministries. 25% are somewhat interested and 7% said Not too interested.

Q3 In general, how interested are you yourself in supporting Trinity outreach ministries with time, talent or treasure at the present time or in the near future?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 1



Those who are extremely/very interested say Outreach is an important part of our mission as a church and the meaning for their personal lives. Those who are less interested mention other time commitments (caring for family is frequently mentioned). Balancing the budget is seen as a higher priority than Outreach by a few.

Q4 Why do you say you are... at the present time.

Extremely/very interested (n=72)

- **Always supported Outreach** 17
- **Vital to our Mission** 10
- **Important part of my Church life** 9
- **Helping the poor/People** 8
- **Necessary to help** 7
- **Restart Outreach** 6
- **Called as Christians** 5
- Mission Philly is very important 4
- Reach out to community 4
- Interested as schedule permits 3
- It's fun and goes to good cause 2
- Tabasamu 2
- Would like to extend my efforts 3
- Faith in action 1
- Must go further explore new options 1
- Feels right 1

Somewhat/not too interested (n=33)

- **Other time commitments (job, family, other non-Trinity community jobs)** 18
- **Support vs balance budget** 5
- More support for community 2
- Not sure/don't know ministries 2
- Physical limitations 2
- Burnout 1
- Need encouragement 1
- Who I would work with 1
- Unsure of time 1

A few Quotes

Extremely/Very interested:

- We are called as Christians to reach out to others.
- I am very interested to be supportive of Trinity's outreach endeavors but I feel we must go much further to explore new options. I feel like we live in a bubble and are not reaching people who live very close to us and need help. We are isolated from the real world.
- I feel outreach is part of the Trinity family and we need some revitalization.
- I miss trinity's past engagement with the whole varied community. The emphasis on the delval ministry is rather limited and engages fewer folks except for 1 day
- I am extremely interested because I feel that out-reach is an action and practice that reflects loving others as God loves us. However, I have been disheartened by the way decisions have been made about financial choices and decisions about TYG. Part of our out-reach is also about teaching our youth that our actions are representative of our beliefs.

Somewhat/Not Too interested:

- continue to be very busy with jobs and family responsibilities
- I support other programs not connected with Trinity. I give what I can to a few of Trinity's outreach programs.
- My schedule is stretched this with work, family and I live about 30 minutes from Trinity and attend just about every Sunday. However, if there were certain outreach projects that were available on a Saturday that i could participate in, I would be interested
- Need more encouragement
- Support of Friends of Music and the Trinity music program are my priority.
- I often have schedule conflicts because of working full time and having two young kids.
- Trinity is not my main focus of outreach activity
- I think we need to take care of our church right now. There seems to be so much concern for outreach. I'd rather see more emphasis spent on nurturing Trinity.

MLK Day of Service, Mission Philly, Aid for Friends, and Peacemeal are the ministries that are most likely to receive support in terms of time. Overall, respondents are more likely to support with donations than time. Over half are likely to make donations to Lambertville food pantry, Christmas gifts, Mission Philly, and Tabasamu.

Ministries likely to support with a donation of goods or time (# not %)

Answered=94, skipped:16

Answer Options	Time (total)	Donations (total)	Both Time & Donation	More likely to give TIME	More likely to make DONATIONS	Not likely to support	Don't know
Martin Luther King Day of service	46	31	19	27	12	17	19
Mission Philadelphia	44	65	30	14	35	7	8
Aid for Friends	37	46	21	16	25	12	21
Peacemeal	36	38	18	18	20	20	16
Christmas gifts for Pearl Street, Philadelphia children	27	68	23	4	45	11	9
Lambertville Food Pantry	23	76	14	9	62	4	5
Prayer shawls	19	18	5	14	13	42	22
Tabasamu mission to Haiti	16	51	11	5	40	17	19
Crop Walk (DVIC)	15	12	5	10	7	37	34
Seamans Church Institute	13	33	5	8	28	32	20
Mwamba Church Ministries	10	32	7	3	25	26	31
Donations for St Barnabus Mission	6	23	3	3	20	27	40

Q5. For each of the following Trinity outreach ministries, please indicate which one(s) you are likely to support with a donation of goods or time. Please refer to the previous list of program descriptions if you need to.

Mentions of other outreach ministries likely to support with goods or time (Q5)

Would like more collaboration with ECS (2)

Supporting mission work in Kenya and Haiti related to our people which are related to but separate from Tabasamu and Mwamba

Our missionaries Julie Bird and Kyle Evans, vacation Bible school!

ESL Program for residents of New Hope and Lambertville; grocery card donations for those residents in need in NH or Lambertville

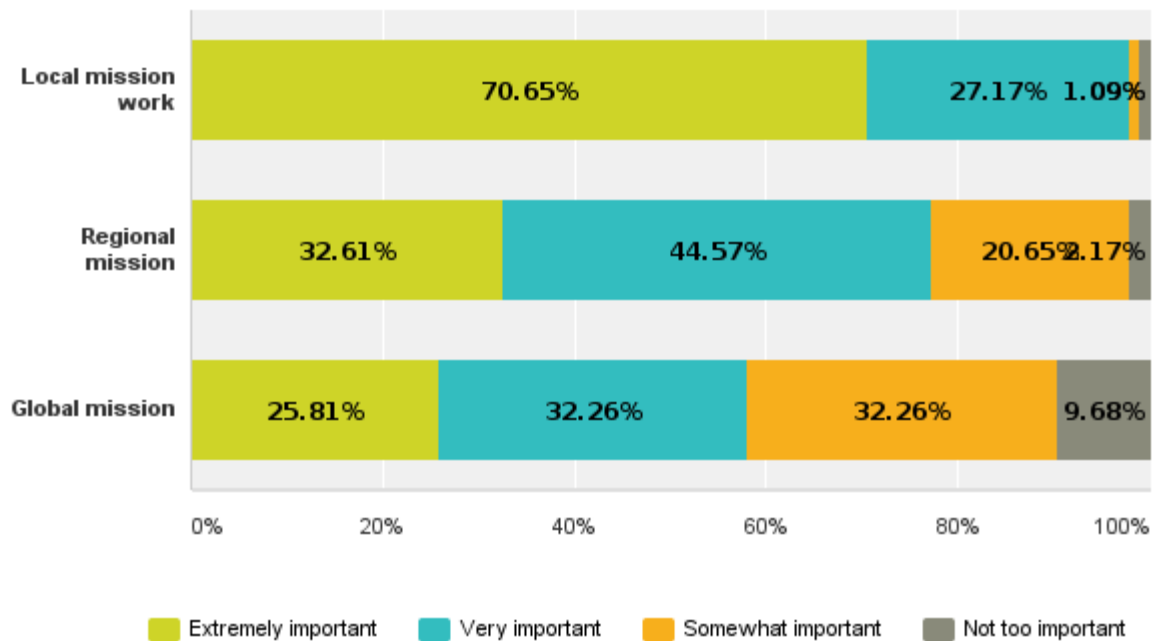
PASTORAL CARE

Not likely to support does not mean I don't respect and support those that are interested.

7 out of 10 say it is extremely important to include local mission work; 1 in 3 say regional mission work is extremely important and 1 in 4 say global work is extremely important. Respondents are more likely to say that regional and global work is “very important” than “extremely important”.

Q6 How important is it that Trinity outreach include ...

Answered: 94 Skipped: 16



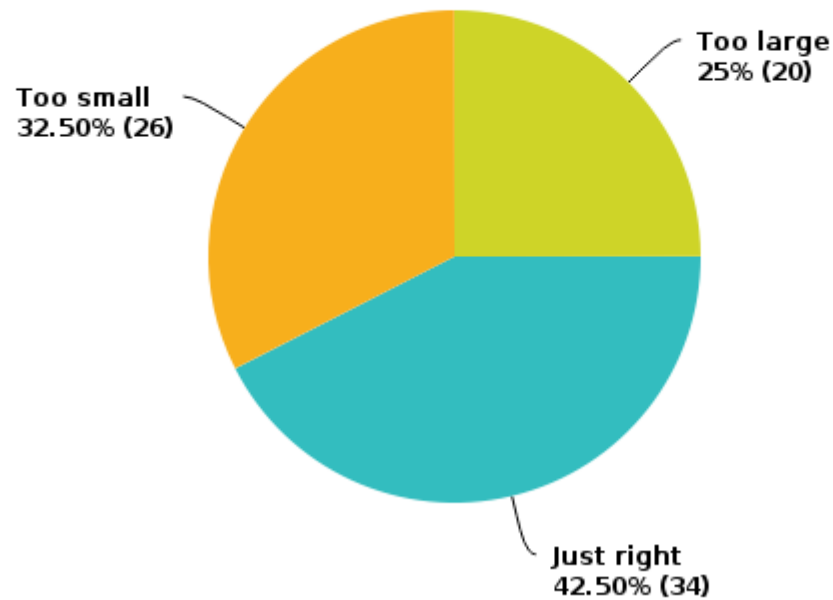
Quotes on local/regional/global...

- Trinity's local, regional and global mission has helped to form countless young people through the years. Many have, in fact, go on to pursue careers in the nonprofit and social service arena. To diminish the commitment to these forms of outreach also reduces the impact of life changing experiences for tomorrow's leaders
- I think we need to think globally and act locally, as there is still great need in the local area. That doesn't mean we shouldn't get involved in global efforts through the Episcopal Church - this is still important.
- After having worked in international aid programs, I support international development, but not on a church level. This type of aid is better run through a professionally managed national organization. I think that our church has done some interesting work.
- A strong balance is important. There are many models for this type of project that reach community, local, state/domestic, and international!
- While all outreach is important, I believe that most of our efforts should be directed to those who are close to home
- We are spread too thin for our size and budget.

There isn't a consensus about the size of the current outreach program. About 4 in 10 feel the current program is just right, 3 in 10 feel it is too small, and 2 in 10 feel it is too large.

Q7 Do you feel our current ongoing program is:

Answered: 80 Skipped: 30



About 60 respondents mentioned other Outreach activities they are involved in outside of Trinity, mentioning a mix of local, regional and global organizations. There are considerable mentions of children and the hungry.

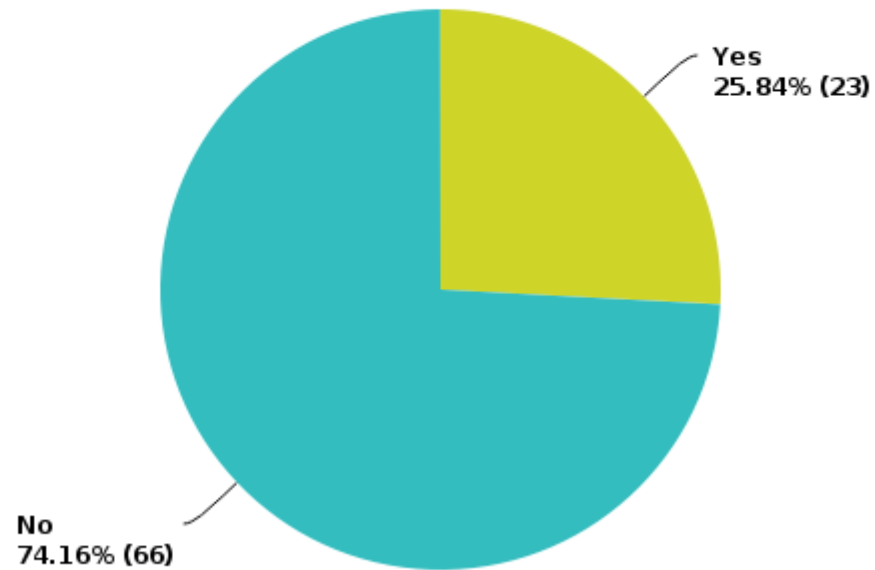
Q9. What outreach activities outside of Trinity are you committed to, if any?

Children International, Compassion international,
Program for Special needs children
Support for the physically and mentally disabled, foster children
Easter seals
Pearl Buck foundation (child sponsorship), and Fresh Air Fund
OFA - organizing for action. (organization that concerns itself with issues such as: sensible gun control, immigration reform, Affordable Care Act and activity supporting political candidates).
Philabundance
Fishermans Mark
Lambertville Food Pantry
ECS, ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development)
One-on-one helping of friends/neighbors
My family
Temple Hospital, Lung organisation, Sabeel, colleges
Sports and school
FBLA and KEY club with my school, school functions
Relay for Life
Doylestown Hospital
Doylestown Homeless shelter
Continuing and regular involvement with a single mom (abused Pakistani woman who fled to "A Woman's Place") and her 2 daughters.....Often take dinner and splay scrabble with an elderly shut-in who has been a Trinity member for years
ESL,Lambertville NAMI ,Bucks Pathways for Housing DC, Elixir Fund (Support for cancer patients
Red Cross blood drives
an environmental organization,
Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
Volunteer work with the aged
Rotary International
Habitat for Humanity (with St. Paul's Doylestown)
Heifer Intl., World food program, IRC

23 respondents have a new outreach program they would like Trinity to consider.

Q10 Is there a new outreach program you would like Trinity to consider?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 21



Programs for the OC to consider

For many of the programs suggested, there is an organization to either sponsor or coordinate volunteers (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, ECS, etc).

Local

- Habitat for Humanity (2)
- homelessness, sheltering those in need during harsh weather (2)
- Supporting a shelter by cooking and delivering and serving meals.
- There has been some discussion re: a quilting or sewing project
- Find out the needs in the local community. For example day laborers in Lambertville
- Support to programs and individuals for the mentally disabled; ARC, Special Equestrians, etc.
- Fisherman's Mark
- A Woman's Place that I mentioned before. Also grade-school tutoring.

International

- become more involved in Kyle Evans missioner work.
- HATTI
- I'd like to see cultural exchange & mission done at the local, national and international level, especially with our middle school and high school students. A formalized program would form our students worldviews and prepare them for a brighter future, religiously, socially and even economically.
- Support for ERD Christmas Gift program - similar to Heifer Project

Regional

- ECS

- would like discussion of priorities before taking anything more on.

15 respondents said they would provide leadership to help with the project they suggested.

If yes, would you be willing to provide leadership to help with this new outreach project?

- Yes 44% (15)
- No 56% (19)

Comments by those saying “yes” ...

- “Yes, absolutely”... This person said I'd like to see cultural exchange & mission done at the local, national and international level, especially with our middle school and high school students. A formalized program would form our students worldviews and prepare them for a brighter future, religiously, socially and even economically.
- I'm unable to chair, but would like to be an on-call driver.
- Will work with someone two by two
- Yes - as Trinity liaison in an established program. My time is limited at this time.
- I would provide funding and my wife is already supporting Kyle separately.
- As ED I think we can dial this one in.

Discernment of what we are called to do and prioritize... Leadership from the OC and pulpit.
 Communicate the opportunities. Budget.

Please complete the sentence: If mission is to become a priority, we first need...

Major Response categories:	(87)
Focus on core set of activities/discern who we are/what called to do/define mission/organize ideas	17
Leadership/point person for each ministry/pulpit/sponsorship	11
More parish support/more people/commitment/enthusiasm	11
Better communication/more awareness of benefits/raise visibility for opportunities/tell stories/create community dialog	10
Needs budget/resources	10
What is needed in the community	2
Take care of our own /church needs/kind to one another	4
Stable, well funded church/address issue of resource allocation first/secure building, restore staff	4

Two thirds of respondents are female; one third is male. There is good representation of 25-64 year olds (44%) and 65-84 year olds (45%). 15% have children under 18. 9% of respondents are under the age of 25.

What is your gender?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Female	64.7%	55
Male	35.3%	30
<i>answered question</i>		85

What is your age?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
under 25	9.3%	8
25 to 44	5.8%	5
45 to 64	38.4%	33
65 to 84	45.3%	39
85 or older	1.2%	1

Do you have any children under 18?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	15.5%	13
No	84.5%	71