

**The Grace and Holy Trinity Church Endowment Fund
Has Granted Funds to be used for a Church Bus...**

The Vestry Has Accepted This Grant...

Now We Need Your Help to Serve as a Driver.

The Grace and Holy Trinity Endowment Fund was established in 1949 by the Vestry of the Church and with funds derived from the sale of the Rectory. Since that time, with generous gifts and sound stewardship the Endowment has grown to approximately \$6,000,000. Each year between 3% to 5% of the Fund is used to support Grace and Holy Trinity Church. Traditionally this is for capital expenditures, for the building upkeep and maintenance, and for charitable purposes. Requests for grants are received from a number of parish ministries, reviewed by the Vestry and then forwarded to the Endowment Fund Trustees.

This year grants from the Endowment Fund will support a variety of ministries- music, mission, and outreach in greater Richmond and in Central America, campus ministry and beyond. In addition this year, a grant was made for \$60,000 to fund and support the purchase of a church bus. This grant will be given in \$20,000 increments over three years. The grant will allow the Church to purchase the bus and also create a reserve of approximately \$10,000 to be used for maintenance.

This bus will be used to support our current ministries and programs, and will also empower us to expand our ministries, thereby facilitating greater participation by more people inside and outside Grace and Holy Trinity Church.

One of the programs we hope to start, with leadership from the Pastoral Care Team and its Vestry liaison Bill Derry, is to bring some of our older cherished members to church on Sunday. We plan to begin by developing a route to serve Westminster Canterbury as this facility is home to the largest group of GHTC members. Letters and telephone calls were made to GHTC members asking if there is support for use of the bus. Four people expressed strong support, while others said that they are still driving but could see that in the future they would need transportation. We think that support will continue to grow when we actually begin to offer this service. Owning a bus for this purpose makes sense. If we wanted to rent a van for Sundays to offer such a program it would cost us \$389 per Sunday, not counting gas. If we did it every week for a year, that would cost over \$20,000. And that is providing we could actually get a van when we needed it, which is not always the case.

This is where we need your help. We want to make sure that we have the volunteer corps necessary to operate the bus on Sunday (and at other times as the program expands) prior to finalizing a purchase. You will be trained and the church carries insurance (see below). But we need to have a fairly large group of volunteers so the ministry can be shared. Can you help? Please call the Pastoral Care Team leader, Bill Derry at 697-1375 or send him an e-mail: bill.derry@troutmansanders.com.

In addition to Sunday mornings, owning a bus will also allow us to bring groups to special events, Lenten dinners, and church picnics. We could also organize great day trips, such as to Washington, DC or to other places.

Our Youth and Campus Ministry programs will also use the church bus. Currently these groups take between 8 to 10 trips in a year. They have to utilize a three day rental at a cost of \$600. At 8 events a year this costs \$4800.

The insurance for the bus will be paid by the operating budget at a cost of \$1650 per year. This includes liability for the driver up to \$1,000,000. Typically, the church group using the bus would pay for the gas that is used. This will come out of the operating budget. Sunday morning trips to pick up members would be paid

for from the general operating budget. This will be an increased expense but is one that we consider well worth it in order to facilitate greater participation and expanded service to the community. A special driver's license is not need for the bus. We will do training for our drivers, as well as conduct driver's license background checks.

It is always the right time to build for the future and we are pleased that the trustees are helping Grace and Holy Trinity Church support its members and expand its mission. We would be interested in knowing how you might like to use the bus and if you can volunteer as a driver!

If you have questions and ideas, please contact the Rev. Bo Millner, Rector , Dr. Kinloch Nelson, President of the GHTC Endowment Fund or Bill Derry, Vestry Member and liaison with Pastoral Care.