Twenty years ago this coming February, a group of concerned individuals with a vision for quality Christian education founded Trinity Christian School of Fairfax. The reality of what Trinity has become over the ensuing years has supplemented but it has not supplanted their vision. The commitment to educating students to the glory of God by pursuing excellence for the mind and heart remains at the core of its institutional objectives. For almost two decades God has sustained Trinity’s mission and providentially supplied talented faculty, gifted administrators, devoted staff, and faithful trustees. He has blessed the school with a 26-acre campus and wonderful classroom facilities. He has gathered to Trinity a unique community of families and students that will by His grace prove to be salt and light to our nation and to our culture for generations to come. Truly, this is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This edition of Mind & Heart includes the annual report for the 2004-2005 school year. It is filled with many occasions for giving thanks to the Lord and numerous instances for recounting His tender mercies and steadfast care. It is a reminder to us that the Lord has blessed Trinity heretofore and that He remains the one true source of all good things for the future. It also issues a call to each one of us to emulate those who have so ably served Trinity in the past and to strive to build wisely upon the foundation that has been passed to us by their fruitful labors.

Moving Forward

continued on page 2
A Message from the Board of Trustees

As we approach the close of the year 2005 at Trinity Christian School we have much for which to be thankful. This has been a year of grace in which God has richly blessed the school and caused it to go from strength to strength.

After completing the East Wing of the new building early in the school year, we learned in the spring that our beloved headmaster, Dr. Todd Williams, would be leaving Trinity in the summer to return to his alma mater, Philadelphia Biblical University, as provost. When we learned of his decision, the board unanimously felt there was only one man we could look to with total confidence to carry the Trinity vision as interim headmaster while we exercised our collective responsibility to conduct a search process to select Dr. Williams’ successor. That is why we were so thrilled and delighted when Dr. David Vanderpoel and his wife, Cyndi, agreed to answer the call to lead Trinity through this vitally important season. I am pleased to report that the selection process is proceeding on schedule under the leadership of committee chair John Colston, and the board expects to be in a position to make an announcement concerning a permanent appointment in January.

In the meantime, there is much to be done. Encouraged by Dr. Vanderpoel’s outstanding leadership, the board voted unanimously in September to pursue the completion of the Braddock Road campus by launching a year-end fundraising campaign and commissioning plans to build a combined gymnasium/fine arts/education facility, with a target occupancy date of September 2008.

Please join us in praying for God’s wisdom and will as the decision is made concerning a permanent appointment as headmaster and as plans and designs for the new building are developed and reviewed.

Finally, we ask you to give generously to the new fundraising campaign. Questions concerning contributions may be addressed to advancement committee chair Arne Christenson at 703-273-0966 or to any member of the board of trustees.

Thank you for your commitment to the Trinity community. God’s blessings to you and your family at this joyous season.

Nancy Zins
Upper School Principal
Hometown: Harmony, NJ
Years on staff: 2
Married to Rob Zins
Children: Lexie (31), Zechariah (25), Luke (22)
Education: B.S. Biology, M.Ed. from Springfield College, MA
Current responsibilities: Administration of the academic program of the upper school, including course scheduling and tracking students’ credits, and student discipline; administering the PSAT, the Advance Placement tests, and the SAT to students with accommodations; overseeing the athletic program, college counseling, and events such as the junior mid-course celebration breakfast, worldview weekend, homecoming, commencement, Lessons and Carols, and faculty in-service training.

Professional experience: Math and science teacher at the high school and college level; Lasell College, Dean of Students; Brown University, Academic Dean of Freshmen; Springfield College, Dean of Women; Headmaster at Scofield Christian School, Rutland Area Christian School, and Ad Fontes Academy; Guidance Counselor at Trinity Christian Academy.

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Reflections on Trinity: I am pleased to work at Trinity where there is intentional effort to keep the Lord high and lifted up in the education of children. Trinity is a treasure. May our school remain faithful in the teaching and preaching of the Word of God to a dying world.

Stephen Shipp
Technology Teacher
Hometown: Dallas, GA
Years on staff: 1
Married to Sarah Shipp
Children: Nora Kathryn Shipp (3 months)
Education: B.A. Public Policy from Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA
Current responsibilities: Teach technology classes to first through sixth grade; provide IT support for student computer labs and administrative support for the Office of the Headmaster.

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PTO Spring Event  
Focuses on the Capital Campaign

Trinity’s Parent Teacher Organization is hosting its annual spring event to benefit the new gymnasium and fine arts facility capital campaign. Plans are well underway for what promises to be an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Last year’s PTO spring event, “Swing into Spring,” raised over $100,000 for the school’s lending library and learning resource center. Event chair Laura Ann Mullins is optimistic that this year’s efforts will help to give added impetus to the new building campaign.

Friends and supporters of the school will be treated to an elegant evening of classic jazz sounds, hors d’oeuvres, and unique silent and live auction items in all price ranges. The event, “Jazz in the Spotlight,” will be held on March 31, 2006, at the Country Club of Fairfax. Look for your invitation in the mail!

Worldview Camp 2005

Camp Wabanna Conference Center in Maryland hosted the junior and senior upper school classes for a Worldview Weekend in Film held October 14-16. Sixty-six Trinity students accompanied by nine faculty and administrators attended the three-day event.

Additional faculty joined them Saturday for a special session on the integration of faith and learning. Mr. Mark Eckel, Director of Faith and Learning at Heritage Christian School in Indianapolis, Indiana, led the sessions. Using dozens of film clips and two full-length feature films, Mr. Eckel challenged our students to think about how we should watch film. Everyone believes something and everyone reflects that belief in the way he or she lives.

Film makers are no exception. Issues such as beliefs, culture, education, and experience will affect any cinematic product and it is important to ascertain the perspective and presuppositions of the filmmaker. Every film “preaches” a particular worldview and it is important for our students to be able to discern where and how such worldviews diverge from the biblical presentation of reality.

The seminar began with a review of basic worldview questions that should be asked of any work: What is the nature of reality, or what is real? What are the implications of God’s existence, or who is number one? What makes us human? What is our purpose, or what is God’s will? Where do we get knowledge? What should I do? How do we understand sin? How do we understand death? Mr. Eckel asked the students to compare words from a book with images on a screen and to consider the differences in the way they impact us. Why, he asked, are Christians called people of “The Book,” not “the DVD?”

Mr. Eckel also offered a number of questions that should be asked of every film: What is the main idea of the film and what key ideas were repeated? Can you list examples of that main idea? How do the values of the story, development, ethical choices, or even the mood of the movie? Was sex, violence, or evil sensationalized, glorified, or glamorized in the film and was it acceptable? What metaphors, images, colors, changes, music, or symbols are used in the film? Who tells the story? Is there an agenda? Did the editing of the film in any way change the tenor of the picture? What moral choices do characters make in the movie?
Third grader Katherine Holley learned much about the nature of the job of headmaster in her role of “Headmaster for a Day” on November 14. Her day began with leading the lower school students during chapel in the school prayer, scripture reading, and the singing of the school hymn, “May the Mind of Christ Our Savior.” She approved a request for a student prayer group to meet before school in Mrs. Zins’ office, visited classrooms and staff offices with Dr. Vanderpoel, met with him in his office, and had a business lunch with Mrs. Anger. Katherine concluded the day by writing a memo to the faculty, staff, and student body, giving account of the Samaritan’s Purse box contributions, reminding them of casual Friday, and encouraging them with Psalm 100:4. Thank you, Katherine, for honoring the Lord and faithfully carrying out the duties of headmaster.

“Headmaster for a Day” is available as a part of an auction package at the PTO spring event, known as Trinity Treasures. It includes a reserved parking space, special lunches for a year and much more. Look for the opportunity to purchase Trinity Treasures for your student(s) at the upcoming Jazz in the Spotlight fundraising event on March 31, 2006.

PTO Annual Family Picnic

The PTO Annual Fall Picnic once again proved to be a delightful tradition for Trinity families. This year the picnic, traditionally the last Sunday in September, was held at Bull Run Park Pavilion with over 600 in attendance. The old-fashioned picnic lunch included fried chicken and delicious side dishes, popcorn, and cotton candy, as well as ice cream served from push carts. There were plenty of activities for all ages: an inflatable rock climbing wall, three age-appropriate moon bounces, Twister games, and tug-of-war. Others could choose to participate in team sports such as volleyball, wiffle ball, and football. Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed trying to guess the baby pictures of faculty and staff members.

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Boys Soccer: The Strongest Finish Yet!

As Trinity’s soccer players have matured in skills and teamwork, the middle school and varsity boys teams have come into their own with exciting league play. Having a home field on campus kept the fans coming out to cheer on their teams after school, and concessions at varsity home games kept them fed while raising funds for the athletic department.

The middle school soccer team, under Coach Chuck Rickwald, finished the season with a very respectable record of 4-4-0 in league play against five other teams, and with two additional wins outside the Northern Virginia Independent Athletic Conference (NVIAC). The boys entered the playoffs seeded third. Captains Evan Reyle and Forrest Fisher led their team to clinch third place in the NVIAC tournament with a 5-1 victory over Calvary Road Christian School in the second round, but soundly beat Trinity at Meadow View in the consolation round to take third place in the tournament. More importantly, they won their second league award for character and sportsmanship. Coach Jeff Welgoss couldn’t be more proud of the way his team finished the season and the way they acted on the court.

Guardian Volleyball: Champions On and Off the Court

Although winless in their six matches of the regular season, the tenacious girls on the middle school volleyball team finished with a strong showing in the NVIAC tournament. In the first match of the playoff series, the girls picked up their very first victory of the season, beating Virginia Academy 2-0. They lost a close match to Calvary Road Christian School in the second round, but soundly beat Trinity at Meadow View in the consolation round to take third place in the tournament. More importantly, they won their second league award for character and sportsmanship. Coach Jeff Welgoss couldn’t be more proud of the way his team finished the season and the way they acted on the court.

continued on page 14
Mrs. Zins, upper school principal, who work tirelessly to provide an outstanding program of education for all of Trinity’s students.

- Our dedicated and hard-working PTO organization
- All the many volunteers who faithfully serve Trinity and who give regularly of their time and resources to further the school’s program and mission
- Our beautiful campus

Parents, that they would be encouraged by the work taking place in and through their students.

- The Class of 2006 as they plan for college and their future
- Trinity, that it would be a good testimony of God’s grace and the gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ in our surrounding community
- Safety for our campus, carpools, and students

Learning to Live for Others
Richard Wurmbrand Christian School

Among the characteristics we seek to instill in our students, two are of special importance: service to others, and the ability to envision a better world coupled with an understanding of how to implement that vision. This year our students are raising money to sponsor twelve students in a Romanian Christian school with a vision much like ours: “to train students according to high academic and character standards and to worthily represent Christ in all areas of the Romanian society.” But although Richard Wurmbrand Christian School’s 380 students have much in common with Trinity’s—age, curriculum, and profession—there are great differences. RWCS is the only Christian school in Iasi, Romania’s second-largest city. Decades of Communism and a totalitarian police state have eroded Christian values in the national culture and bred an environment of accusation and suspicion. The Christian community has not completely escaped this debilitating heritage and often experiences the fruits of past tensions and suspicions. WRCs functions as a significant unifying factor in the evangelical community.

The Director of RWCS, Professor Liliana Romaniuc, visited Trinity to thank our students for their generosity and spoke in chapel on November 7. She explained that many RWCS students live in deep poverty with parents who may be unemployed or earning as little as $50 per month. The annual tuition of $720 is a hardship for most, and impossible for many. With each Trinity student contributing just fifty cents a week, the gift of a full year of Christian education has been given to twelve Romanian students.

When our students take what they have and share with those who do not have the same resources, they become God’s agents of blessing in the world and in the body of Christ. It also affords them the opportunity to help fulfill the vision of bringing the salt and light of Christianity into the forefront of Romanian culture.

Love in a Shoebox
On November 14, the weekly chapel service looked like a Christmas party, as Trinity students and their families contributed over 250 gift-filled shoeboxes to “Operation Christmas Child,” a project of Samaritan’s Purse International Relief. This practical and personal service project touches the lives of 100 million children around the world who are suffering as a result of war, natural disaster, or extreme poverty. In 2004, the ministry collected over 7.4 million shoebox gifts and distributed them to children in 93 countries. Individuals and families who fill a box with crayons and simple school supplies, basic toiletries such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, a small toy or two, and a few lollipops and families who fill a box with crayons and simple school supplies, basic toiletries such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, a small toy or two, and a few lollipops become partners with Samaritan’s Purse in bringing hope to the needy. Not only will these shoeboxes reach children in 93 countries. Individuals and families who fill a box with crayons and simple school supplies, basic toiletries such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, a small toy or two, and a few lollipops become partners with Samaritan’s Purse in bringing hope to the needy. Not only will these shoeboxes reach children around the world, but they also go with the gospel of Jesus Christ, as Samaritan’s Purge evangelists in partnership with local churches tell the children and their families the greatest gift of all. In this service project, our students walk out the biblical motivation for service: “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matt. 25:40).
A new elective drama class at Trinity has drawn 38 students in grades nine through twelve to learn "the art of storytell ing through drama." Their teacher, Miss Kim Davis, says, "I am incred ibly impressed with their talent and performance skills. Even shy students who may be quiet in other classes come out of their shells in this class." During the first term, groups of six or seven students have created and performed skits based on Bible stories. They are honing their skills by learning monologues from world drama, such as plays by Moliere, and Antigone by Sophocles.

After Christmas, the students will design and construct the set and costumes, while learning the skills to stage the play. All 28 cast mem bers will be chosen from the class through auditions in January, and everyone will participate in the crew. Miss Davis, whose background is in communications and film, and who has broad experience in the performing arts in general, will facilitate the student-run production, with input from faculty and volunteers with related expertise.

In addition to enriching the intellectual development of our students, the drama program adds another dimension to Trinity's community life, as we create opportunities to celebrate each student's God-given talents.

Strike Up the Band

Visitors to Trinity's lower level on Tues days and Thursdays are likely to be greeted by the sound of Christmas music this month, as middle school band members practice in small ensembles during the performing arts period. Band teacher, Mr. Bill Siegfried, finds the Christmas music helps his students have fun while practicing, because playing familiar melodies is rewarding for beginners, and preparing for the December concert is motivating for the more advanced students. Mr. Siegfried, who joined the faculty this year, holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, and has been a private music instructor in the Fairfax area for over twenty years.

Trinity is blessed with highly qualified faculty members to teach students in the fine and performing arts programs. Creative scheduling and use of the current facility have allowed for chorus, band, and strings ensembles, and art classes for students in all divisions. The new drama offerings for middle and upper school members to teach students in the fine and performing arts programs. Creative scheduling and use of the current facility have allowed for chorus, band, and strings ensembles, and art classes for students in all divisions. The new drama offerings for middle and upper school members to teach students in the fine and performing arts programs. Creative scheduling and use of the current facility have allowed for chorus, band, and strings ensembles, and art classes for students in all divisions.

The annual operating budget for 2004-2005 was approximately $3.14 million. Total assets (including land, building, furniture, and equipment) at year end was $12.9 million. This figure is based on the 1997 land purchase price and the cost of construction. The outstanding short-term and long-term debt was $5.6 million. Trinity Christian School is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Annual financial statements are audited by Fitzgerald, Snyder and Company, P.C.

Enrollment during the 2004-2005 school year increased by more than nine percent over 2003-2004. The year ended in June with 486 students in grades one through twelve. The table shows the breakdown according to grade level. Enrollment for 2003-2004 was 448 in grades one through twelve.
The school year witnessed the establishment and continuation of tradition at Trinity in events such as the junior mid-course celebration, homecoming with the addition of an alumni brunch and college-life assembly, the lower school Christmas program, science fair, spelling bees, ...

The Year in Review

Looking back on the 2004-2005 school year reminds us of the Lord’s faithfulness and the many blessings He has showered upon us. One of the key ingredients in the education program at Trinity is the people that are providentially brought to serve with us. Last year, Paula Gossard moved back into the classroom as a full-time upper school teacher and chair of the science department. She has served with distinction as principal, athletic director, and teacher and has begun a Ph.D. program in science education. Mrs. Gossard’s move heralded the arrival of Nancy Zins as upper school principal. Mrs. Zins comes with over 30 years of education experience, having taught at both the secondary and college levels, and having served in a variety of administrative positions including that of headmaster.

In October of 2004, Jack Maier joined the staff as associate business manager. Mr. Maier has an engineering background and comes to us with many years of project management experience as a senior government executive. The position of registrar was added as Ellie Cole stepped in to build and improve our database and manage student records. October also saw the completion of the multi-purpose room floor, opening the room for chapel, large meetings, and athletic practices. The athletic program added varsity baseball in the spring and our young lacrosse team won its first games. The soccer field was re-graded and re-seeded and exterior signage was added to the campus.

PSAT Score Summary

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<th>Critical Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Writing Skills</th>
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<td>Class of 2006</td>
<td>(27 students tested – scores are for their junior year)</td>
<td>Critical Reading 59</td>
<td>Math 58</td>
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SAT Score Summary in Grade 12

Class of 2005 (15 students tested)

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<th>Subject</th>
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National Merit Qualifying Test

Class of 2005
1 Commended Scholar, 1 National Merit Finalist, 1 National Merit Scholar

Academic Initiatives for 2005-2006

- Latin was introduced into the curriculum for grades 4 and 5 in the lower school and grade 8 in the middle school.
- AP United States history, graphic arts, drama, and debate were added to the upper school course offerings.
- Thanks to the generous support of the PTO, both the lower school library and the middle/upper school computer lab were completed and opened to students.
- A middle school science specialist was added to the faculty for grades 6 and 7.
- Art, drama, and writing were added to the offerings for grade 7.
- The history curriculum for grades 4 and 5 was changed to focus on classical civilizations, followed by the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation.
- Lower school band was added as a co-curricular offering.

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Stanford 10 Achievement Test Results

By Grade Level: 2-8

Comparison: October 2003 and October 2004

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2004-2005 Board of Trustees

Trinity is blessed with the leadership of dedicated men and women who serve together as the board of trustees. This diverse and talented group is composed of ten individuals including the headmaster. The board provides strategic leadership and meaningful support to the educational mission of the school. Throughout its almost twenty-year history, Trinity has been the beneficiary of significant contributions of time, talent, and resources at the board level.

In addition to its regular governance responsibilities, the 2004-2005 board of trustees oversaw the completion of Phase I of the campus development, provided for the interim leadership of the school during the 2005-2006 school year, and established the search committee to recommend candidates to the board for the selection of Trinity’s next headmaster. It also completed the consolidation of a number of long-term board policies and procedures.

-Year in Review, continued-

the eighth grade trip and promotion ceremony, as well as the senior class cruise on the Potomac River. All these events are becoming part of the fabric of life at Trinity, as each additional class engages in these activities.

The Parent Teacher Organization is a great blessing to Trinity and last year gave abundant evidence of that fact with a very successful spring auction event that raised $103,000 for our new computer lab and lower school lending library. The PTO also hosted the annual family picnic, breaking bread nights at local restaurants, the special lunch program, and book fair. These and other undertakings, such as Trinity Gear and the gift wrap sale, help to fund the many ways in which the PTO contributes to the life and vitality of the school.

Each school year serves to undergird Trinity’s future ministry by providing fresh examples of the Lord’s faithfulness, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the abundant outpouring of gifts and service from our parent community. We look forward to the coming year with confidence in God’s sustaining grace and beseech the Lord that He may abundantly bless the work of all our hands to the glory of His Name.

Dr. David Vanderpoel
Interim Headmaster

Academic Report

Curriculum Enhancements

- Grades 1-5
  - All students in grades 1-5 received science instruction in a science lab taught in a co-teaching setting by the science specialist and classroom teacher.
  - The after-school strings instrumental program began for students in grades two through five.
  - The history and geography program of studies in grades one through five was revised.
  - The FitnessGram was incorporated into the physical education program in grades one through five.
  - Keyboarding was incorporated in the 5th grade technology program of studies.

- Grades 6-8
  - Curriculum mapping was completed for grades 6-8.
  - 7th and 8th grade VFW Patriot’s Pen essay contest.
  - 7th grade Gettysburg study trip.
  - 6th grade research project in language arts.
  - Accelerated math courses for grades 6-8.

- Grades 9-12
  - Academic departments were formed in the areas of English, mathematics, history and science.
  - Curriculum mapping for grades 9-12 within each department was completed.
  - Faculty development in the area of biblical integration was emphasized, including The Seven Laws of Teaching.
  - Co-curricular and athletic offerings were expanded:
    2. Joined the National Forensic League – formed a student debate team – debated public policy “Should the US Federal Government substantially support the UN peacekeeping efforts?” against schools in D.C. and Northern Virginia.
    3. Formed a Strings Ensemble.
    4. Added baseball as a varsity spring sport.
  - Math: Trinity finished first in Northern Virginia, eighth in the State of Virginia in Public/Private School Math Competition.

Assessment

The 2004-2005 school year was the second year in which Trinity students in grades 2-8 were tested using the Stanford 10 edition of the Stanford Achievement Test. The results again confirm that Trinity students are performing above average with regard to the national norms. In addition, there is marked improvement over the previous year’s scores in one or more categories in each grade level.

About Stanford Achievement Test Scores

This is not performance or criterion referenced test. It is a norm-referenced test that compares our students to a randomly selected group that was used to standardize the test (National Individual). PR represents the percentile rank and S represents the stanine of the national standardization sample. As an example of properly reading the scores, please consider the following: where Trinity seventh graders scored in the 91st percentile in total reading, “The average Trinity students performed as well as, or better than 91 percent of the students in the reference group.”