

# THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2017

## From the pastor

I Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 is about the anointing of David, and the gist of it is that God's choices are often unlikely ones. It contains the familiar quote, "for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart," and offers an explanation of why God what might be an obvious choice to our eyes may not be God's selection.

And so it was David's seven able-bodied, intelligent brothers stood there together, knowing that none of them were chosen for whatever it was, and were more bewildered when their youngest brother David was anointed to be king of Israel.

Might those unanointed brothers have sighed and wondered why. . . "why did I not get anointed? I was considered intelligent. I made a good first impression. I have a firm handshake. I was considered a quick learner. I had more life experience."

It's like when someone else is selected to head up the sales team at the office, or when a family friend is made executor of the estate instead of one of the children, or when the starring role in a stage production goes to someone else, or when a promotion is given to someone who hasn't worked for the company as long as others, or when an athlete doesn't make the cut, or when the events of our life make us feel like we are not the anointed one.

So how do we live with the truth that we were not the anointed one?

The beauty and the ambiguity of this story from I Samuel is that we may never know why. That's not a popular teaching, but God's ways are not our ways, and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. We are an explanation-seeking people but this story from Samuel demonstrates that sometimes no explanation is offered. For reasons known only to God, we may not be the anointed ones. And it is like the story that Jesus told about the kingdom of God—that the kingdom of God is like someone who scattered seed on the ground, goes about his or her daily business, the seed sprouts and grows, but that person doesn't know how it happened! Or like the mustard seed, the purpose of which escapes everyone until it grows up and becomes

a large bush and a home for birds. Unlikely, unexplainable choices and events are part of the fabric of our lives.

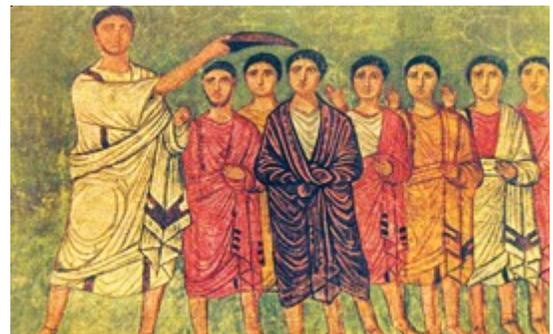
It's a mystery why David was anointed but not Eliab or Abinadab or Shammah or the other three brothers. It's a mystery why this person and not that person.

So those of us who are not anointed live our lives in a kind of obedient mystery instead of a sharp resentment or pointed jealousy. We live our lives knowing that God guides those who are anointed as well as those who are not anointed. Rolf Jacobson, a professor at Luther Seminary, writes, "God's guidance is usually not as discernable in the moment as it is in hindsight. We may not sense what God is doing in our midst or how God is leading us."

We live our lives believing that the life we have been given is part of God's greater purpose and plan, trusting in God's ability to look deeper into our hearts rather than judging on outward appearances. Or, as Ralph Klein says, "When we wonder why God does not choose us or anyone else, we do well to ask, 'What is the assignment that God would like me to carry out?'"

How do we live with the truth that we were not the anointed one?

David's remaining brothers were rarely mentioned in scripture again. Perhaps that is a good thing—no news is good news!—and that they lived their lives in a kind of obedient mystery which accepted, rather than resented, God's choices. Maybe they lived to see their unanointed lives at work alongside David's anointed one, not as either/or but as both/and, anointed and unanointed, creating together the incredible, unlikely and mysterious kingdom of God.



### Trinity Presbyterian Church

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*The Trinity Times* is published monthly. We welcome news items and other contributions from members and friends of Trinity. Bring your articles to the church or e-mail them to the editor, Judy Schomber ([schomberstat@aol.com](mailto:schomberstat@aol.com)), by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

#### TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Sally Hughes, Pastor

Simon Thomas Jacobs, Music Director

Linda Rogers, Office Manager

Charlie Bundy, Facilities Manager

#### SESSION MEMBERS

Phil Elbert (2019)

Matthew Rutherford (2019)

Allen Brown (2018)

Robert Rutherford (2018)

Bill Dougherty (2017),

Hank Schomber (2019)

Hank Howerton (2017)

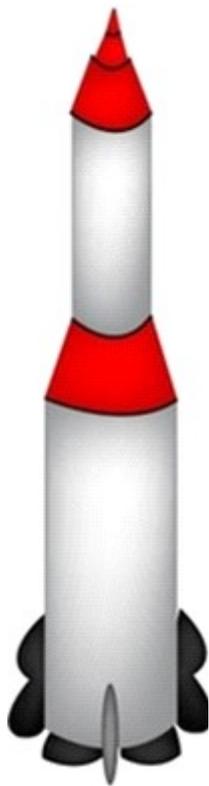
Cindy Turner (2018)

Lee Ann O'Brien (2017)

## LAUNCH DAY ON AUGUST 20

Trinity's annual "Launch Day", introducing the new Christian Education year, will begin with the Launch Day Breakfast on August 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee will provide a breakfast of pancakes and all the fixings, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea, and milk.

Join us for breakfast followed by a brief program at which you will receive this year's information about Sunday School, Adult Education, Choir, Presbyterian Women, and other Christian Education programs. If you would like to make an announcement about your CE group or you would like to organize a CE group, please let Sally know so you can be placed on the agenda.



## AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

**August 6 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;  
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

**August 13 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;  
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

**August 20 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;  
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

**August 27 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Exodus 1:8--2:10, Psalm 124;  
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

## ADVENTURES AND OUTINGS COMING UP!

Join us for some adventures! On Wednesday, August 23, we're heading out to lunch JUST FOR FUN! This is for any adults in the congregation who are interested in participating. We'll discuss possibilities for a monthly daytime adventure. Is there a local place you enjoy, but haven't seen in a long time? Is there some place you've never been and want to visit? Is there a restaurant where you'd like to go with the group? How about a play or a movie? Watch the weekly e-mail for details on time and lunch location. For now, SAVE THE DATE and ponder what would whet your adventuresome appetite!

## EXPERIENCE THE ECLIPSE AT TRINITY!

On August 21, we will have an eclipse gathering on Trinity's front lawn. We have purchased the proper eyewear with which to view the eclipse so come and join us on the lawn at 1:00. The eclipse begins earlier, but will be total by 1:28 PM. If you'd like more information on the eclipse, you can click on [Total Solar Eclipse 2017 - Interactive Google Map](#)



# MUSIC NOTES



by Simon Thomas Jacobs  
Music Director

On September 10 we look forward to welcoming back our excellent choir. While I know they have been missed, I am very grateful to all who have given of their time and talent to contribute musically to our worship this summer. I have also enjoyed hearing wonderful hymn singing from the congregation!

While we are very fortunate to have a number of paid singers in the choir, there is always room for more people. In fact, one of the primary reasons church music programs employ paid singers is to enable more amateur musicians to participate in leading worship. If you think you might be interested in joining our ranks, please speak to me directly.

Being August, it is, of course, appropriate that we start to think about Christmas...! Our annual service of Lessons & Carols will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 11 a.m. and there will be a Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. Make sure to mark your calendars!

In addition, I will be performing an organ recital at Trinity on Sunday, November 12 at 3 p.m. as part of the church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. I am very grateful that Trinity is so understanding of my need to be away on occasion to pursue my work as a solo performer so I am delighted to have an opportunity to play a recital "at home". More details will follow in due course, but I invite you all to visit my website [www.simonthomasjacobs.com](http://www.simonthomasjacobs.com) which contains a number of recordings and videos that may be of interest.



## COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT OFFERING ON AUGUST 13

Trinity has established a Special Offering to benefit Vanderbilt/Belmont UKIRK to be taken up on August 13, which is designated by the denomination as College and Young Adult Sunday. Please plan to make an extra contribution to the offering on that Sunday.

The local UKIRK serves both Vanderbilt students and Belmont students on their campuses. On Thursdays students gather for a meal provided by Presbyterian churches in the Nashville area and then stay after dinner for a full worship service, with communion once a month. The students meet at St. Augustine Chapel on campus for both the meal and worship. Rev. Lindsey Grove, who has preached at Trinity (most recently on June 25 when Sally was on vacation), is the campus minister for UKIRK.

Trinity provides a meal once each semester through the Fellowship Committee and with the help of additional Trinity volunteers who want to prepare and/or serve the meal. Everyone at Trinity is invited to participate in the meal and/or the worship service weekly. The meal is served at 6 p.m. followed by the worship service at 7 p.m.

During the year UKIRK students are engaged in mission and service projects around Nashville. They have several Bible study groups, invited speakers, book groups, and assist local churches with their worship, mission, and service. Students go on a mission trip during Spring Break each, alternating between out-of-town trips and out-of-country trips, for which UKIRK does fund-raising during the fall.

UKIRK receives a budgeted amount of funding from the Presbytery each year, but the majority of its funding comes from donations by individuals and individual churches. Please help UKIRK carry out its very important function on the Vanderbilt and Belmont campuses with your generous donation.



# ADULT EDUCATION IN AUGUST

“Walking Back Through Acts” (or “Acts Through Back Walking”)

On August 6th, the Adult Sunday school class is going to embark on something a little different. We are going to go through the Book of Acts—backwards! Starting with Acts, chapter 28, we will read and study chapters or sections until we get back to Acts 1. Why? Well, one reason would be just to mix things up a bit, but a better reason is that we often see or learn something new when we disrupt our normal reading patterns. We grow accustomed to how this passage leads into that story, but when we have to read them out of order—we might be surprised at what jumps out! **August readings will be:**

August 6th	Acts 28 and 27
August 13th	Acts 26 and 25
August 20th	Acts 24 and 23
August 27th	Acts 22 and 21

## OFFICE NOTES



*Salt and Light: God-flavors and God-colors*

Over the weekend, I took some time to get away. While “The Message,” a contemporary expression of the Bible, can be a bit controversial, I find it thought-provoking to read alongside more traditional versions of the Bible. As I prayed for Trinity and reflected on the winding path of the 10 years I’ve been here, Jesus speaking on salt and light in Matthew 5:13-16, hit home for me. In my opinion, it seems appropriate for this moment in time:

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand.

Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand - shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Praying that each of us affiliated with Trinity - members, regular attendees, staff - will reflect God’s love (God-flavors and God-colors) in our conversations and relationships. Continued thankfulness for the opportunity to serve as your office manager...

Love & Blessings,  
Linda



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School for children and youth will continue during the worship service (following the Time for Children) in the nursery area (for children) and parlor (for youth). Cindy Turner is the teacher.

As the children return from the sanctuary, there will be brief free play before the lesson begins. To open, the class will light a candle and then offer a prayer. The opening will be followed by a Bible story and a related activity. Sunday School will be closed with extinguishing the candle and prayer, and if weather permits, free play outside.

Through August, September, and mid-October, the focus of the Sunday lessons will come from the books of Genesis and Exodus. In the coming weeks, the class(es) will study the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Jacob and Esau, Jacob’s ladder, and Joseph sold by his brothers. Then the focus will shift to the story of Moses, beginning with Joseph’s interpretations of Pharaoh’s dreams, followed by Moses’ being drawn from the water, his flight from Egypt, the story of the burning bush, the plagues of Egypt which resulted in the freeing of the Hebrews from slavery, the Passover, and the journey to the Promised Land.

Please send your children (pre-school through elementary) with Cindy following the Time for Children for an interesting and informative series of Sunday School lessons.

## PUT NaCoMe ON YOUR MIND . . .

Eighteen adults and 6 children have signed up to attend Trinity's weekend (September 15-17) at the NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center in Pleasantville, TN. If you have not signed up, it's not too late to do so! It's a weekend to relax and enjoy being with one another, appreciate the beauty of creation and give thanks for God's love and care over us through worship and fellowship. Camp NaCoMe now has several "outdoor toys" like the zipline and the Giant Swing, and of course, there's hiking, creek walking, and ring tossing! A Trinity tradition is the horseshoe competition! An added bonus is that YOU don't have to plan, prepare or clean up a meal—just enjoy the food and conversation!

If you're interested in attending Trinity's time at Camp NaCoMe, please call or e-mail the church office (615-297-6513 or [office@trinitypresnashville.org](mailto:office@trinitypresnashville.org)) with the



names and number of people for whom you want to make reservations or need more information.

The camp is located about 1 ½ hour drive south of Nashville near Pleasantville, TN. The weekend gathering and activities will begin after supper on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> after worship/before lunch.

## SUMMER MOVIES TO SUIT YOUR TASTES

*David and Carol Phillipy are noted community film buffs. Several years ago, David hosted "Friday Night at the Movies" at Trinity.*

For all you movie buffs and movie geeks. Here is a short list of movies worth seeing in the weeks ahead. — David and Carol Phillipy

### **At Regal 16 in Green Hills**

*The Big Sick* based on a true story directed by Michael Showalter, about a couple playing themselves, Kumail Nanjiani and Emily Gordon, Nanjanani from Pakistan and Emily from the U.S. fall in love and later marry. By Pakistan tradition, marriages are arranged by the parents and therein lies the conflict and his parents disown him. Kumail is a standup comedian and during one of his shows is heckled by a man in the audience at which time his mother comes to his defense and they become reconciled. Emily ends up in a hospital with a brain disease and is put into a medically induced coma. Therein lies the rest of the tale.

**At Regal 16 and Regal Holly 27** *Dunkirk*, the true story of 400,000 British plus more French forces stranded on the beaches of Dunkirk, France during the worst phase of World War II. It describes the heroic story of how mostly British civilian and some British naval ships rescued the stranded soldiers. It is written, codirected and directed from Christopher Nolan. Nolan most likely will be nominated for an Academy Award for best movie and best director. We have seen it already and highly recommend it.

*Maudie*, based on a true story in Canada, is about Maude played by Sally Hawkins who has rheumatoid arthritis, is hunched over, and with crippled hands, and Everett Lewis, played by Ethan Hawk. Everett is a cantankerous bachelor who has Maude live with him as his housekeeper. In the bargain, Maude begins decorating with folk art created with what she sees around her. She became famous in Canada and the U.S., even selling her paintings to Richard Nixon. It deserves being nominated for best actor and actress at the Academy Awards.

### **Showing at Belcourt.**

Also showing at **Belcourt** is *Beatriz at Dinner*, a drama about Beatriz played by Salma Hyatt who is a massage therapist healer, and a Mexican immigrant. At dinner she sits next to an unethical billionaire played by John Lithgow. Sound familiar? They become antagonists. Therein hangs the tale of what is happening in America politically and culturally with anti-immigrant hostility toward undocumented Latin American immigrants and other refugees. Hyatt and Lithgow could be nominated for best acting awards.

Also at **Belcourt** is the documentary, *My Journey Through French Cinema*, directed by Tavenier, which traces the history of French cinema from 1895 to 1974.

## OFFICE HOURS FOR SALLY HUGHES

Sally has office hours Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and also by appointment if someone needs to come by earlier or later.

## THANK YOU FROM THE PEACH TRUCK

Thank you so much for hosting us for another peach season. We are beyond grateful.

Jessica and Stephen



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Evelyn Biggers – 4  
Norma DeJarnette - 7  
Sofia Monterroso - 11  
Pat Bowling - 12  
Frances Burns - 13  
Harrison Elbert - 14  
Frank Kirchner - 21  
Judy Schomber - 21

*Our apologies if we have missed your birthday or if it is incorrect. If we have missed or muffed your special day please call the church office at 297-6513 and let us know.*

## SPECIAL GROUP ACTIVITY MEETINGS

\*\*\***Presbyterian Women** meet the first Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Trinity parlor.

Presbyterian Women will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 11 a.m. in the parlor. We will begin our new study book, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, with the Introduction and Lesson One, "In Community with Jesus Christ".

\*\*\*You are invited to join the **Changing Gears** group for lunch and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian on Wednesday, August 23 Debbie Keller, President of Home & Office Transitions, will present a program on "What To Do With Your Stuff". Reservations for lunch are required by noon on the Friday before, and there is a \$10 charge for lunch. Call Jill at the Westminster church office (292-5526) for reservations or if you'd like more information.

## CHARLIE BUNDY WINS GOLD AT SENIOR OLYMPICS

Charlie Bundy, our Facilities Manager, won a gold medal in his age group in archery at the Tennessee Senior Olympics on June 24 at the Williamson County Agricultural Center.

He declined to pose for a picture, but sent a photo of his T-shirt. As a disclaimer, Charlie admitted that he was the only one in his category, but did get a better score than the person who beat him last year.



*photo by Charlie Bundy*

# THE ONLINE CALENDAR

For a complete list of activities, visit [www.trinitypresnashville.org](http://www.trinitypresnashville.org) and click on “church calendar”. The calendar is updated regularly as activities are added, deleted, or changed. If your committee or group schedules a meeting using the church’s facilities, please contact Linda Rogers (297-6513 or [linda@trinitypresnashville.org](mailto:linda@trinitypresnashville.org)) so your meeting can be placed on the calendar, or if there is a facilities conflict, it can be resolved before scheduling.

## TWO-PIANO CONCERT AT TRINITY



Will Berger and June Warren will present their annual two-piano concert at Trinity on Sunday, September 10, at 4 p.m., in the sanctuary. For many years, when both were at Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, the two played selections of classical, popular, dance, marches, and other pieces on two grand pianos. Many of their selections are written for the dual piano format.

The concert is free and open to the public. A reception will follow in the East Hall

## GIFT CARD SCAMS

If you buy gift cards...use caution! Don't judge the card by its package. Let me tell you about Kenneth. He has two grandsons in another state that he does not get to see as often as he would like. So for holidays and special occasions he likes to send them a gift card to say he is thinking of them. During Christmastime, he purchased a major brand gift card from a big box store and mailed it to his grandsons. Of course being so young, their mother was responsible for the gift card. Once, she opened the sealed packaging, she realized that her dad and sons had been scammed. A crook took a photocopy of the original card's barcode, affixed that copy to a different, worthless gift card, and put that into the packaging. Just with a quick glance, everything looked legit. Now all the scammer had to do was wait for money to be loaded on to it.

According to a unit chief with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it is very easy for scammers to see when the gift cards are activated because they use computer software that constantly checks the card balance. A couple of extra seconds spent looking at the visible barcode and Kenneth would have noticed that it was a fake.

How many of us actually take the time to flip over a sealed, intact cardboard package? What about the stack of loose gift cards that stare at us while in the checkout line? How

simple is it to grab a couple and copy the numbers. Once again, the scammer just has to sit back and wait for money to be loaded on it.

Here are some tips to protect yourself and the recipient of your gift. Double-check the packaging. Does it look like it has been tampered with?

\*Look at the barcode on the back. It should be shiny not dull.

\*The FBI suggests purchasing gift cards straight from the retailer online. Scammers do not have access to these cards.

\*Avoid purchasing gift cards displayed in the open. If you must, choose one from the middle of the stack.

\*Always keep your purchase receipt AND activation receipt just in case there is a problem.

\*Ensure that the gift card number matches the one on your activation receipt.

\*Bill collectors, reputable online sellers, law enforcement and/or government officials will **NEVER** ask you to pay via gift cards.

*Source: Consumer Reports, Giftcards.com & CBS News*

Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee  
95 White Bridge Rd., Suite 114 Nashville, TN

# FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear Friends,

As July began, I was in Leipzig, Germany, serving on the language services team for the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). It was wonderful to see the Reformed family gather from around the world. The WCRC includes more than 80 million Christians in over 220 churches from 109 countries, though not all member churches were able to send representatives to Leipzig. Though English was the dominant language, we worked in five additional languages: Spanish, French, German, Bahasa Indonesia, and Korean. My friend and colleague Elsa Tamez, who served as the first president of the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), offered two of the Bible studies. It was a joy for me to be able to interpret for Elsa, allowing those who didn't understand Spanish to enjoy her creative approach to Paul's letter to the Romans through the voice of Phoebe, the minister from the church in Cenchreae and bearer of the letter to the church in Rome (Rom. 16:1).

Other highlights of WCRC's General Council included the journey to Wittenberg for a worship service to celebrate the WCRC's association to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine on Justification, a document signed initially in 1999 by the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation. The preacher for the worship service was Najla Kassab, the first woman ordained by the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. A few days later, Najla was elected the new president of the WCRC, leading an executive committee which has a majority of women members. The General Council also approved a Declaration of Faith on Women's Ordination, calling on all member churches to ordain women. In Leipzig, I also met UBL student Julio Cesar Gonzalez, who was a youth delegate from the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela.

Now I am back at work at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) here in Costa Rica, where we are in the middle of our second semester of the year. I continue to accompany distance students working through courses in the history of Christianity and ethics. We are excited to see several students close to completing their bachelor's or licenciate theses. Our coordinating team is already making plans for next year, seeking ways to encourage more people to enter theological studies in Costa Rica and around Latin America, even as we continue to wait for the Costa Rican government to approve our on-line bachelor's programs.

Here at the UBL we are always glad to receive visitors from different parts of the world, who come to learn about what we are doing and to share their own academic research. On July 20, Dr. Margit Eckholt of the Institute for Catholic Theology at the University of Osnabruck in Germany will be sharing with us an ecumenical perspective on the Protestant

Reformation. Dr. Rachel Starr of the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in England is coming on July 28. She will be speaking on Christian theologies of marriage and domestic violence.

After months of planning, the Peacemaking and Climate Justice Travel Study Seminar organized by the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be coming to Costa Rica on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The nine participants will spend a week in Guatemala exploring the environmental impacts of mining before they come here. During the four program days in Costa Rica, we will be looking at the environmental struggles, including communities whose water sources are being contaminated by the chemicals used in the cultivation of pineapples and groups working to protect rivers and forests within the city of San Jose. The preparation work for the program has put me in touch with several interesting groups and people here. The program for this group ends on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the UBL's commitment to planetary life, we are translating and adapting Ched Myer's book on watershed discipleship to our Latin American context. Watershed discipleship aims to reroot the faith and practice of the churches in specific ecosystems, encouraging us to be disciples not only of Jesus, but also of the watersheds in which we live. As part of adapting the book, I have been interviewing groups here in Costa Rica who are working to protect watersheds. Our hope is that this book will encourage churches and groups of Christians to join in efforts to clean up water sources and rivers. On August 23, the UBL will be holding a presentation on watershed discipleship.

Javier was here in Costa Rica when I returned from Germany, but he is now in Nicaragua. The rains on our farm have been abundant so far this rainy season. It is so nice to see the pastures green and the cattle well-fed in the pictures Javier sends. Thank you to those of you who have inquired about Javier's health. I am glad to report that his diabetes is under good control. He has dropped more than 20 pounds and he is now off insulin. He is also feeling great.

Closing thoughts

As I close this letter, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways in which I am privileged to accompany Christian women and men who striving for a just and verdant world. I am thankful for the gifts and prayers that make my mission service in Central America possible. Thank you to all of you for walking this journey with me.

Blessings,

8 Karla

# **Cordial Conversation between Faiths**

An Open “Q and A” between Muslims and Christians

Featuring a panel of Muslim and Christian clergy who will speak and answer questions in order to promote better understanding between our faiths.

**Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 4:00 PM**

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
3201 Hillsboro Pike  
Nashville, TN 37215

Everyone is invited!

For more information, call 615-297-6513

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes

## STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

April 25, 2017

The session agreed to send letters to members who were behind in their pledges after the first quarter. Paula Agnew was received on letter of transfer from Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church. She is a psychiatrist now living and working in Nashville.

It was reported the Easter Egg hunt conducted with Linden Waldorf School was a success and strengthened the ties between the church and the school.

Cindy Turner and Allen Brown were selected as Trinity's representatives to the May 6, 2017 Presbytery meeting at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church.

Hank Schomber, Megan Rutherford and the pastor were named to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. A special service and dinner for November 5, 2017 were agreed to.

- Work on strengthening connection with LWS;
- Review lease/explore options/needs of LWS.

The discussion opened with Facilities Manager Charlie Bundy (who has the longest history with LWS as a parent and subsequently staff person) reviewing the history of the school and how it came to use Trinity's facilities. He also provided a background of the Waldorf education concept started in 1919.

The conversation turned to Trinity's relationship with the school since moving here in 2002. It was concluded with a motion that the session would send a letter to the school reaffirming the Joint Mission Statement between the two and expressing the session's desire to establish a formal long term space sharing agreement with LWS.

Hank Howerton and Robert Rutherford were selected to represent Trinity in discussions with the school about the space sharing agreement. (Hank Schomber and Allen Brown were later named to help those two prepare a "starting point" for Trinity in those discussions.)

Elders Lee Anne O'Brien and Bill Dougherty were named representatives to the July 22, 2017 Presbytery meeting at East Brentwood Presbyterian Church.

## STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

June 1, 2017

The agenda for this meeting centered around Trinity's relationship with Linden Waldorf School (LWS). Announced goals were:

- Familiarize ourselves with LWS; how and when they use our building;
- Renew Trinity's commitment to the relationship with LWS;

## INDIANOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SLEEPS OVER

The Trinity United Presbyterian Church Youth Group of Indianola, Iowa, received permission from the session to spend the night in the Fellowship Hall on their way to a Mission Trip in Atlanta, GA, on June 24, 2017.

A sleepy group of 38 youth and chaperones arrived about 10 p.m. and immediately set about preparing for bed. Hank and Judy Schomber met them, showed

them facilities, and a refrigerator and counter stocked with snacks and drinks for the teens.

We learned that sleeping bags are passé in favor of air mattresses and that the first need is outlets to charge electronic devices.



photos by Hank Schomber

## VESPERS AT TRINITY AMPHITHEATRE ON JULY 30

Trinity's Vespers Service was on Sunday, July 30, at 4 p.m. in the amphitheatre. Sally Hughes conducted the brief worship service, and Sara Crigger sang an anthem. Presbytery Executive Warner Durnell dropped in to join the dozen worshippers.



*photos by Hank Schomber*

## LWS CHORUS SINGS AT JULY 23 WORSHIP

The Linden Waldorf Chorus, under the direction of teacher Laura Duke, sang two selections in worship on July 23. For the anthem the chorus sang "Sing a Song for the Peace" and for the offertory, they sang "I Thank You". Members of the chorus are: Zachary Barnet, Gidgie Bass, Sebastian Bertaina, Mercy Cappellino, Trina Cappellino, Matthew Drake, Matthew Duke, Molly Duke, Sarah Edwards, Ivy Gose Elliot, Lily Greenberg, Madeline Lederman, Lian Lucca, Carolina Maynard, Aina Phelps, Finn McKinney-Harmon, Maggie Richards, Peter Swanson. We thank this group for their inspiring contributions to worship on July 23. A reception for congregation, chorus, parents, teachers, and friends followed the worship service.



*photos by Hank Schomber*





## TO BRING THE IMPRESS OF CHRIST UPON THE WORLD

*On November 1, 2017, Trinity will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the next few months we will take a look back at Trinity's history. That history is inalterably intertwined with founding pastor Dr. Thomas C. Barr and his tempestuous relationship with Nashville First Presbyterian Church. This month we focus on Dr. Barr.*

**By Hank Schomber**

**Thomas Calhoun Barr** was one of seven children (three brothers and three sisters) in the family of prominent Greenville, SC merchant Thomas Walter Barr and his wife Ella DuBarry Stuart Barr. He was born July 17, 1904. His father passed away when he was just 11 years old. Ella Barr was just 46 years old when her husband died. However she was a native of Greenville and had three siblings still living there.

Raised as a Presbyterian, Barr began developing a desire to go into church work very early. He recalled how as a child he had "a desire to preach to the needs of the people." He especially had "a genuine concern for the negro's welfare." He recounts a story about how as a youngster he became "a flaming evangelist" to the negro." He was moved to begin an afternoon Sunday School for the grandchildren of the Barr family's cook. He attempted to teach the Westminster Shorter Catechism, but admits, "Probably, I never got one word into their minds."

Following high school, Barr went off to Davidson College. He describes his collegiate career as unspectacular. He was not necessarily challenged by the conservative studies at the college. While at Davidson, he spent a summer as pastor at a small South Carolina church. But he also was exposed to New York City when he did youth work at a settlement house there. He graduated in 1926.

While leaning toward the New York's Union Seminary, Barr looked into several Southern seminaries as well. Whenever he mentioned his interest in Union he received caution replies. In conservative circles Union was very suspect. It had a reputation for being a leader "in the rise of higher criticism in the interpretation and study of the Bible." Additionally, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, considered by conservatives as "the notorious leader of the modernists" was a prominent member of the Union faculty.

Understanding his choice of seminary would profoundly impact the course of his life, Barr set off for New York City. Financially it would be a struggle. The conservative element of his Southern Church would not provide assistance and his mother's ability to help was limited. Essentially, he had a

\$400 work scholarship at the Greystone Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey. This was just enough to get him through his first year.

In summer 1927, he began to work with young adults at New York's First Presbyterian Church. The stipend was not enough to help with his expected fall expenses. He began to consider transferring back home. However, Union President, Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin arranged for a job that enabled him to continue in New York.

Having established a relationship with the young adults at First Presbyterian, Barr continued to meet with them. At one such occasion, he met Gladys Hutchison, a young lawyer from Albany, NY, who now had her own practice in New York City. They began a fast relationship and a year later (October 27, 1928) they were married.

By spring 1929, Barr was looking for church opportunities. By his own admission he "was not overwhelmed with call opportunities." For one thing, he was determined to come back to the South. One of his sisters was living in Memphis and approached her pastor, A.B. Currie, who knew his friend and associate, Dr. James I. Vance at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville was looking for an assistant. Vance sent a letter inviting Barr down to preach and for an interview.

The renowned pastor was not at First Church when Barr preached at two Sunday services. He returned the next day to meet the seminarian. Barr wasn't sure what to expect at that first meeting. Vance after all was considered one of the top 25 pastors in the country. Vance extolled the virtues of his church (it was one of the leading churches in the denomination and in Nashville). Barr recalled, "He almost made an effort to sell me on the job. From that time forward and in all the time I worked with him, we never had a disagreeable word or misunderstanding."

The Barrs took, what they described as a "honeymoon cruise," from New York to Savannah, GA where they visited the city and church where John Wesley preached. From there they went to Greenville, South Carolina so Gladys could spend some time with the Barr family. They arrived in Nashville by train on July 1, 1929. He was ordained

## TO BRING THE IMPRESS OF CHRIST UPON THE WORLD

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by the Nashville Presbytery shortly after being transferred from the New York Presbytery.

Barr's duties called for him to assist with the Sunday services, visitations of the sick, duties with funerals and congregational visits. Unlike the assistants who preceded him, Barr was expected to carry part of the preaching load. Dr. Vance had an agreement with First Church that he could be gone one week each month on "preaching missions." Barr was expected to fill the pulpit on those Sundays. He would also preach when Dr. Vance was away for his two months of vacation.

In 1934, Barr was awarded a Doctorate in Divinity from Southwestern at Memphis "for his outstanding contribution" to the church. His service and achievement was recognized by First Church which named him its first Associate Pastor.

Barr had been at First Church for seven troubled years (the Great Depression began just a few months after he arrived in Nashville) when he was called as the downtown church's pastor on November 29, 1936. He would succeed a longtime beloved pastor, who had served longer than anyone before him 32 years over two tenures.

Economically it was the worst of times as the nation continued suffering through the Great Depression. Many people were hurting economically. Church support and attendance everywhere, including at First Church, was down.

Although strongly supported by the congregation (he received 535 votes in favor of the call and just 78 opposed), there was opposition among the church officers from the beginning. Barr's preaching style brought the problems of the world to the pulpit in a style that was considered theologically modern and which some found offensive. He believed the church had an obligation to address the issues of the day. He used scripture to provide guidance for the actions of Christians. He also strongly believed in what he described as "freedom of the pulpit."

As the specter of World War advanced, Barr became an advocate for caution and application of Christian principle to an individual's views of these events. For many this was a sound word of reason, to others it was the cry of the pacifist. In a community which in almost every other area was speeding toward America's entry to the war, the message was at the least controversial.

In a 1936 newspaper article providing background information on the new Pastor, Barr, denounced fascism as the deadly enemy of "virile Christianity" and upheld Presbyterianism as undividedly opposed to the idea of totalitarianism. He stated, "the present

condition of the world convinces me of the need for a deeper dedication on the part of the church to its central task B namely, Christianizing the world.

"A crisis such as we find in Europe at the present time with several countries waiting to tear at each other's throats at a minute's notice may not seem to have any connection with the church. You probably don't think so, but there's where you are wrong. It is the duty of the church to bring the impress of Christ upon the life of the world. Christianity and democracy walk hand-in-hand. When one fails, the other falls too." These were strong sentiments from someone who eventually would be called a "pacifist" by those who objected to him.

Barr went on to describe his own ideal as that of making life happier and fuller for other persons. Asked about topics for his sermons, he responded, "I am strongly in favor of freedom of conscience. The Presbyterian Church has always emphasized this and it has always been on my personal points of emphasis. I try as far as possible in my sermons to stress the sympathetic note. I try to boost my ideal—helping people, instead of condemning people."

In May 1941, Dr. Barr delivered a sermon suggesting that the United States, as a neutral nation, could best serve the world by not acting like a country at war. This may have signaled the beginning of the embattled pastor's end at First Church. Barr did not consider himself a pacifist; however, he was concerned about, even "afraid of, the enthusiasm for war." He pointed to this sermon as alienating many in the congregation and with their branding him as a pacifist.

Barr later explained that in this sermon he "expressed doubt of the effectiveness of war in settling international disputes and (that) this nation, so far as it was able and without an 'open and unprovoked attack' (an omniscient premonition), should remain out of the war and conserve its resources for the rebuilding of a shattered world." He expressly stated that he personally could not accept the pacifist position of avoiding war at all costs. He was also clear that he did not consider those who disagreed with him as being unchristian. He also noted that in his view war could be a means, if victorious, of giving Christians another chance to do what they did not do in positive service for a lasting world peace after World War I.

A congregation raised under the fiery James Vance, well known for his pro World War I sermons, however, was not ready to accept such a position.

## August 2017

A calendar that includes all building use, including Linden Waldorf School (LWS), can be found on the church website: [www.trinitypresnashville.org](http://www.trinitypresnashville.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/Communion After worship: Fellowship Time 4 pm Cordial Conversations Between Faiths	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship After worship: Fellowship Time Ushers' Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Launch Day Breakfast 11:00 am Worship After worship: Fellowship Time Newsletter Articles Due	<b>21</b> 1 pm - Solar Eclipse Gathering on the Lawn	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Trinity Adventure Seekers Out to Lunch!	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Session	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship After worship: Fellowship Time	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		