

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2020

From the Pastor

When I graduated from high school, my parents bought me a Smith-Corona electric typewriter as a present. I had taken typing as a senior, and I was a pretty fast and accurate typist, but having that modern, Smith-Corona electric typewriter made me even faster. It had an off-white exterior with a blue background for the off-white keys. It was state of the art for what were called “portable electric typewriters.” It came in a padded, soft case that could be carried around like a purse (like a 40 pound purse!). My Smith-Corona was the perfect portable electric typewriter, and I typed many a letter and college paper on it. I also spent a lot of time threading the ribbon through the little slots at the opening of the keys, and even more time washing the ink off my fingers. I used that Smith-Corona portable typewriter through college, and then through seminary. It was beginning to show signs of age, though, because certain letters wouldn’t appear as clearly as others (which was not supposed to happen with electric typewriters—every key was automatic, not dependent on the strength on the human finger, as with manual typewriters). It became increasingly harder to find new ribbons in office supply stores. The gentle hum that I used to hear when I turned on my Smith-Corona had changed to a kind of grinding noise. During this period of my electric typewriter’s decline—inspired by the amount of research and writing he had to do for his dissertation—my husband Will bought an Apple II computer. It was amazing to watch him type, delete (without Liquid Paper!), edit without pulling out the paper in frustration, and have the whole thing emerge, perfect, from the printer. How did it DO that? For two years, I observed as Will wrote papers, sermons, Bible studies, and yes, his dissertation on that Apple II computer. I continued to limp along on my Smith-Corona, but there were times when I had to finish out a sermon by hand. Those examples are still in my files, with the first part of the sermon neatly typed, double-spaced; the second part of the sermon is scrawled in blue pen.

I wish I could remember the first sermon I wrote on the computer, or what prompted me to leave my Smith-Corona for the smoother, soft clicks of the Apple keyboard. All I know is that I never went back, and I’ve

never regretted it. I don’t need a lot of bells and whistles on a computer but I surely do love the features of saving what I’ve written, correcting without getting Liquid Paper on my fingers and paper, rearranging complete paragraphs without having to start from the beginning. I now use a 2014 MacBook Air laptop which weighs 37 pounds less than my 40 pounds Smith-Corona portable typewriter, and does quite a bit more!

This reflection about my Smith-Corona typewriter has been prompted by all the changes that are happening in the life of the church today. The current pandemic has prevented us from worshipping physically, and pushed us to venture into cyberspace. For churches, it’s no longer a question of whether you are worshipping online but what platform a church is using: YouTube, Facebook Live, Zoom, Google group, and many more options than I understand.

And when we are able to worship physically on Sunday morning, we’ll still be offering the service online because online worship, like the electric typewriter and laptop and the iPad, is a good thing. A number of people who live in different parts of the country now worship with Trinity online, and what a joy to see their names or read their comments! One woman told me that she waits until she is working in the garden in the afternoon to hear and see Trinity’s worship service. Another person texted me that online worship gave him a chance to see what our worship service was like—he was not raised in any church, and wanted some idea of what to expect. We keep connected with folks who have visited Trinity and live in another place. We have people who are over 90 years old watching, and little ones under 3 years old who are watching.

I won’t say that this pandemic is a good thing, but I will say that the pandemic stretched our congregation to another level of outreach. And that’s a good thing, and will always be a good thing! Technology has changed the church, and technology has affected our ministry. Now we need to push our imaginations into how we can be the church in the 21st century, whether we are physically restricted or not. I remember when I finally “joined” Facebook (and rest assured that if

(continued on page 3)

Trinity Presbyterian Church

3201 Hillsboro Road

Nashville, TN 37215

Phone: (615) 297-6513

Fax: (615) 292-6133

E-mail: Office @trinitypresnashville.org

www.trinitypresnashville.org

facebook.com/trinitypresbyterianchurchnashville/

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) by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Sally Hughes, Pastor

William E. Berger, Minister of Music

Linda Rogers, Office Manager

Jeff Durham, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sally Hughes, Moderator | Vira Baker (2020) |
| Lucas Bates (2022) | Vera Billington (2021) |
| Jackie Elbert (2022) | Hank Howerton (2020) |
| Paul Parker (2021) | Linda Rutherford (2020) |
| George Ward (2022) | Aad Zeeuw (2021) |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes Stated Meeting of June 2, 2020

As Metro Nashville moved to reopening following closure due to the 2020 Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic, the Session discussed the reopening of Trinity: Tentatively, the first Sunday of July was discussed as possibility of resuming worship services at Trinity. A Task Force to compile guidelines for reopening church was formed with elder Jackie Elbert as leader. Katy Wilson and Abby Crawford will assist with the protocols. It was also decided the task force will determine and recommend to the Session a date when Trinity can reopen for Sunday worship services. Space Sharing Agreement Committee reported Linden Waldorf has not determined when, or if, school will resume this Fall. They are unable to even determine possible enrollment at this time. There appears to be a very strong possibility LWS will not be able to maintain its current level of financial participation during the course of the Pandemic. The Session was cautioned to prepare for a drop in income. Because of the school's difficulty in determining how and when it might open for Fall Classes, an agreement was reached to extend the current Space Sharing Agreement, which was to end June 30 through July

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- August 2 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- August 9 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22;
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- August 16 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;
Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28
- August 23 **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**
Exodus 1:8—2:10; Psalm 124;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
- August 30 **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Exodus 3:1-15;
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; 45c;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16: 21-28

and perhaps beyond. A new two-year agreement is being reviewed by LWS, but may not be finalized before a school opening decision is reached. Jeff Durham was approved by the Session as Trinity's new Facilities Manager. Initially he will be at Trinity two days a week, Tuesday and Friday and/or Saturday, four hours per day and can come other times if needed. This will now be a part-time position. Jeff met with Charlie Bundy to learn what his duties entail. There will be a three-month probation period, to determine if both sides are satisfied with the arrangement.

Please remember to continue to make your contributions to Trinity. You can mail them to the church office, as the mail does get picked up on a regular basis. The address is



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Evelyn Biggers - 4
Norma DeJarnette - 7
Susan Ward -7
Sofia Monterroso – 11
Frances Burns – 13
Harrison Elbert – 14
Judy Schomber – 21
Eric Hobson – 24
John Kells - 28

STATE OF THE BUDGET

From Linda Rutherford, church treasurer

Thanks for all who have been continuing (or even enhancing) their contributions this year. Trinity recognizes, however, that this may not be possible for some folks in this difficult time.

As of June 30, Trinity's income is roughly \$21,000 below budget. On the other hand, expenses are down roughly \$9,000 leaving a budget deficit of roughly \$12,000. Given the current cash reserves, Trinity has an adequate amount of cash on hand.

In May, Trinity received a Small Business Administration Payment Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$42,105. This is being used for salaries and utilities. At a later time, the SBA will review Trinity's documentation for possible forgiveness of the loan or a portion of it.

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

someone my age used Facebook, the younger generation is already using some other more advanced social media!) that I made some happy connections. A teenager whose activities leave him with an insane schedule asked to be my friend on Facebook, and now keeps me informed of how he's doing and where he is. A member from the church that I first served caught up with me on Facebook. Facebook is only as good as the user of Facebook is!

And though the thought of it is often tempting (you know, lounging about in shorts, eating bon bons!) I don't want to be the minister of just an "online church." I like church, I like the people, and I like to hear their different voices, and I like to see their faces; to laugh and to cry with them; to pray with them and study the Bible with them. How we communicate with each other may change but what's important is THAT we communicate with each other. In the church, we learn to move forward, embracing whatever draws us closer to one another, using whatever helps us understand each other better, whatever connects us more completely. Yeah, I used to write long, handwritten letters which, would arrive via USPS the next day or the day after. I still write those letters on occasion. But now I'm glad for those times that I can let someone know in real time—via email, or text, or Facebook message that I'm thinking about him or her.

It's a new thing, and it's a good thing, too. Just as God says through the prophet Isaiah, "Behold, I am creating a new thing; can you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

See you online!

Trinity's Sunday Service is available each week at 11:00 a.m. on the Trinity Facebook page:

**facebook.com/trinitypresbyterianchurchnashville
Please join us!**

JEFF DURHAM NEW FACILITIES MANAGER

Sadly, we said "goodbye" to Charlie Bundy who retired on June 30 after serving as our facilities manager for 15 years. We will miss him, and a celebration of thanks for Charlie's service, will be scheduled when we are able to all gather together.

While we will never be able to replace Charlie, in June the session hired Jeff Durham as our part time facility manager at Trinity. Jeff will work for Trinity eight hours a week, approximately two four-hour days, usually on Tuesday and Friday. Jeff also serves as the Sexton at Church of the Redeemer at 920 Caldwell Lane. He lives quite close to Trinity Presbyterian, on Sweetbriar Avenue, and has lived there since 1999. Jeff has experience and basic skills in electricity, plumbing, landscaping, carpentry, painting, and building maintenance. He enjoys repairing what is broken and solving problems, but does not hesitate to call more experienced professionals if there is ever a question of safety or ability. Jeff has been a percussionist for a Scottish band and enjoys taking care of his parents who live in Middle Tennessee. Jeff's dog, Mahoney, travels with him wherever he goes! Welcome Jeff!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY

If you are interested in doing a monthly lesson online or by e-mail until we are able to gather again, please contact the office to order a study book and Judy Schomber will contact you as well to make arrangements.

It turns out that this year's book is quite timely, *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*, drawing from the Psalms, Job, John, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Luke, Revelation. Romans, Hosea, and Lamentations.



Jeff Durham, new Facilities Manager

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As long as we are separate from each other for an uncertain period, there is no reason that we cannot share congregational activities through e-mail, texting, Facebook, and other means of communication. If you have ideas for sharing worship, recreation, reading materials, games and puzzles, celebrations, or anything else which can allow the congregation to maintain touchless contact and communication with each other, please let Sally know through any of the means of communication listed above and she will assist (and enlist the assistance of others) in setting up and maintaining your idea.

Also welcome are your ideas for collecting resources and reaching out to those in the community who are in need of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, school supplies, etc. Arrangements can be made for pick-up and distribution in the community.

TRINITY'S BOOK CLUB LOOKS FORWARD TO AUGUST MEETING AND BEYOND!

The Trinity Book Club will meet by Zoom and in person (six feet apart) on Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 PM. The book for August is "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. At that meeting, we will consider a new suggestion list for our book club selections beginning in October. Please send to Katy or Carla any books you would like included in the list, and we will vote at the meeting.

Meeting day/time: September brings schedule changes for several folks--those who will return to physical offices, teachers of schools and universities, etc. Would you be willing or able to meet on Thursdays at 6 or even early on a Sunday afternoon or just after church?

September's book is "A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II" by Sonia Purnell.

If you'd like to be on the email list for the book club, have books you'd like to suggest, and/or want to share thoughts about the change in meeting time for September, please let Carla McDonough (carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net or) or Katy Wilson (katybwilson@gmail.com)

Suggestion List for Upcoming Books (please submit any of your own suggestions!):

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
The book is based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for one hundred and eleven years and warped the lives of thousands of children.

Heaven, My Home by Attica Locke

The thrilling follow-up to the award-winning *Bluebird, Bluebird*: Texas Ranger Darren Matthews is on the hunt for a boy who's gone missing - but it's the boy's family of white supremacists who are his real target .

Chances Are... by Richard Russo

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls* comes a new revelation: a riveting story about the abiding yet complex power of friendship.

Mrs. Saint and the Defectives by Julie Lawson Timmer

Critically acclaimed author Julie Lawson Timmer returns with a tale of how community can heal the brokenness in all of us.

A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the smash bestseller *Orphan Train*, a stunning and atmospheric novel of friendship, passion, and art, inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting *Christina's World*.

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

An international sensation, this hilarious, feel-good novel is narrated by an oddly charming and socially challenged genetics professor on an unusual quest: to find out if he is capable of true love.

--A charming book about the main character's scientific process for finding a wife. It has two sequels: *The Rosie Effect* and *The Rosie Result*. I thoroughly enjoyed these and laughed aloud a lot while reading.

The Number One Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

Precious Ramotswe has only just set up shop as Botswana's No.1 (and only) lady detective when she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love
by Dani Shapiro

The author of *Hourglass* now gives us a new memoir about identity, paternity, and family secrets—a real-time In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father.

The Last Girls
by Lee Smith

Revered for her powerful female characters, Lee Smith tells a perceptive story of how college pals who grew up in an era when they were still called "girls" have negotiated life as women.

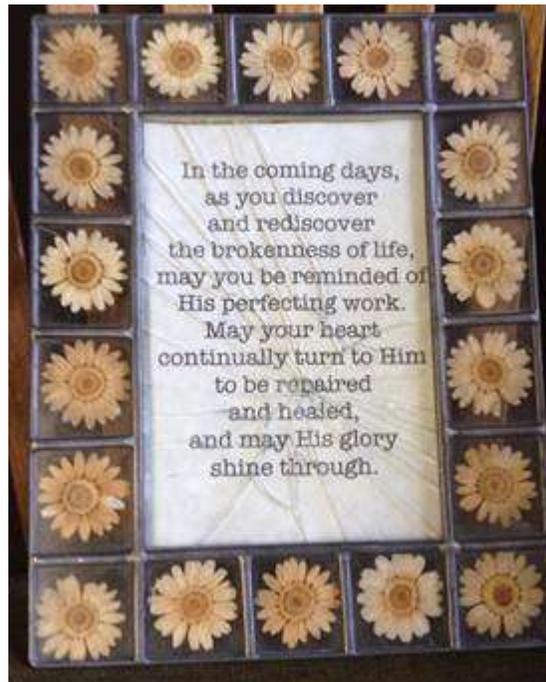
One Mississippi
by Mark Childress

This exuberantly acclaimed novel by the author of the bestselling *Crazy in Alabama* tells an uproarious and moving story about family, best friends, first love, and surviving the scariest years of your life.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE RATIFIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE!

Nashville Public Library invites everyone to join the celebration! Post a social media "selfie" ringing a bell – or as many bells as you can find now, and tag the Nashville Public Library in your post. When you check out the library's website for details, consider: Do you have ideas for Trinity's participation? If so, call or e-mail the church office. Then watch the Trinity congregational e-mail to see what develops by August 18!

Check website: www.library.nashville.org/research/votes-for-women<;<http://www.library.nashville.org/research/votes-for-women>>



FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL



Dear companions in mission,

Grace and peace to you in the living of these difficult days, as we move into the first days of August and the number of deaths around the world, but especially in our hemisphere, continues to climb. I hope and pray that this note finds each one of you safe.

Four months have passed since I decided, with the permission of Presbyterian World Mission, to stay here in Costa Rica. Early every morning Portia, my cat, comes and lays down beside my laptop, settling in for a day of work. Of course, she wants to be part of every Zoom meeting. Though I miss regular face-to-face interactions with my colleagues at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), I am grateful for the technology that allows us to continue our collaborative work. There is more time for cooking, so my husband, Javier, and I are eating well. I am even drinking less coffee!

At the time I decided to stay, only a handful of COVID-19 cases had been reported here in Costa Rica. The government has been very proactive in facing the pandemic, imposing sanitary restrictions on traffic and certain businesses while seeing that production and distribution of food and other basic items continues. In the first 100 days following the first confirmed case in the country, only 2000 cases and 12 deaths were reported. However, since the beginning of July, numbers have surged to well over 11,000 cases. Hospitalizations and deaths are also climbing. New restrictions have been imposed in areas with outbreaks and masks are now required in all public

settings as the government works to increase hospital capacity. I am thankful to be living in a country where healthcare is seen as a basic human right.

As in other contexts, the pandemic has shone a stark light on underlying injustices here. In June, conditions in the agricultural processing plants in the northern part of the country facilitated the spread of the virus among the workers, many of whom are undocumented migrants from Nicaragua. In recent days, many cases have emerged among people living in substandard housing here in the capital city, where families often crowd into a single room. The pandemic has also demonstrated the vulnerability inherent in an economy dependent on foreign tourists.

All of our teaching for the UBL is happening online these days and we experienced a surge in new students when our term began in May. Unfortunately, some of those folks have been unable to continue in classes. In my course on contextual theologies we began with a reading from James Cone, a leading voice in Black liberation theology who was my first theology professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In this particular course there are no students of African descent, though there are indigenous students. Of the fourteen students from five different countries, only two mentioned the Black populations of their own countries in their reflections. The United States is not the only country where racism is invisible to many.

Larger groups of students in our online courses allow for more creativity. In the introduction to the history of Christianity course, we held a virtual Council of Nicaea in which participants had to submit their arguments in writing or by video. The Arians almost won the debate! The students also put together a delightful virtual museum dedicated to the history of the orthodox churches of the East.

In addition to the activities on the platform, we are meeting weekly via Zoom, both to discuss class material and to check in. Peru has been hit very hard by the pandemic and several of our Peruvian students, those currently in Peru and those in residence here in Costa Rica, have lost friends and family members to the virus. One student in Peru believes he had COVID, but he did not get tested as the healthcare system there is overwhelmed. I ask for your prayers for these students. We are very concerned right now about our

three students from the Moravian Church of Honduras. The pandemic has now reached Ahuas, a remote community in the La Mosquitia region where medical services seriously lacking. Please keep Morlin, Charon and Maykol in your prayers. They are all ill or have close family members who are ill.

Our current term ends on August 14th. In the new term that starts on August 24th I will be teaching a seminar for our advanced students in history, theology and ethics that focuses on eschatology in times of climate change. Governments throughout the Americas, including here in Costa Rica, are using the pandemic as an excuse to ease environmental regulations. Now more than ever is the time to ask how our theology can help to build an alternative future that seeks to protect the capacity of the earth to sustain life.

I ask your prayers for the team at the UBL as we move into the last term of this academic year. All staff continue to work with reduced salaries and two administrative staff positions have been cut. It is so hard to see friends who have worked at the UBL for years join the growing ranks of the unemployed and I ask your prayers for these two women. As we begin to plan for next year, we know it will be a long time

before visiting groups arrive to stay on our campus. We will be looking for creative ways to keep offering theological training.

Each day I go out into the garden of this beautiful house to drink in a bit of peace and perspective which I try to capture with my camera to share. I am so thankful for this place to be, for the possibility of walking with women and men throughout Latin America who are looking to be light in their communities. It is an incredible privilege to be working at this time when so many people have lost livelihoods. Presbyterian World Mission has just renewed my appointment for another four years to continue serving here with the Latin American Biblical University. This is indeed a step of faith in these uncertain times. I am so grateful for the prayers and gifts that make it possible for me to serve. Thank you. I hope you will continue to walk with me. I look forward to connecting via Zoom or in some other way.

In resurrection hope,
Karla

[Karla's web page @presbyterianmission.org](https://www.presbyterianmission.org) |

BIRDS OF THE BIBLE

Sally's Summer Series of Sermons featured our feathered friends

Pigeon June 7
Ostrich June 14

Sparrow June 21
Pelican June 28

Quail July 5
Rooster July 12

Raven July 19
Vulture July 26

Eagle August 2
Hen August 9



Pigeon



Ostrich



Sparrow



Pelican



Quail



Rooster



Raven



Vulture



drawings .

Our children, who watched the Children's sermons on the birds, sent their own