

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2021

From the Pastor

I have often said that ministers should write books about the weddings and the funerals they have officiated. There are so many stories that...well, as the writer of John's gospel put it, "even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written." Ha!

So years ago, I was straightening and cleaning up my office on Tuesday afternoon when a young man appeared in my doorway. He was in his early thirties with a short-cropped beard, wearing a dark brown polo shirt and dark pants.

He asked if the pastor was in, and I said that I was, and he looked surprised but continued, "Do you think you could perform a marriage ceremony for me and my fiancé?" I said I could; when was he thinking about having the service? "Well, right now," he stammered. "She's sitting out in the car."

Years in the ministry never really prepares one for that answer, so I asked the next question that concerned me, "Do you have the license?" He nodded.

"And is there something I need to know before performing this ceremony? Are you a fugitive from the law? Will I be putting myself in some kind of trouble by marrying you two?" He looked shocked, but then assured me that, no, they had no skeletons in their closet, they lived in another county and were passing through town, and decided to get married. "Well, ok then—go get your bride," I said.

"Thank you, thank you!" he said as he exited. I gathered up my Book of Common Worship and found a pen. I was pleased that I had chosen to wear a skirt on this particular day, since I would hate to officiate at any wedding wearing long pants!

As I emerged from the office, the groom was opening the outside door. Behind him was his bride, a short, young woman with a pleasant smile. She was wearing a navy blue t-shirt which had on it some clever saying about the internet. She held the hand of a small blond-headed boy, about 5 or 6, who had

a buzz cut and big brown eyes. He waved enthusiastically at me with his left hand. "Hey, are you going to marry my mom and dad?" Well, yes I am, I replied, and then looked to see that behind him came an older woman (truth be told, she was my age—I now fall into the category of "older woman") who was carrying a younger version of the little blond-headed boy. I asked their names. The older one, who told me he was six, was named Corbin which he said with a lisp because he had a tooth missing. It sounded like "Corwin." His brother was Clint, and he was three. There was a sister, Sarah, who was home sick. She was five, and then Corbin told me in a loud whisper, "I have a brother who is eight but he don't live with us; he lives with his daddy."

This seemed to be everyone, and so we went into the sanctuary together. Corbin's eyes got even bigger as we walked in. "What IS this place?" he said, and his mother said to me, "He's never been in a church before." I told him it was a church, and gave a brief description of what a church was. He walked all around, very solemnly and said, "This is so pretty." Clint just sat in his grandmother's lap on one of the front pews.

I asked the couple, whose names were Mark and Kristan, to stand beside each other in front of me, and I began reading from the Book of Order, Christian Marriage Rite 1, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." For the vows, Mark and Kristan held hands and as I asked Mark to repeat after me, his voice quivered and shook with emotion, and at one point he stopped to wipe away tears. They held onto each other's hands tightly and unlike many couples, I didn't have to remind them to say their vows to each other and not to me! They stared steadily into each other's eyes. When Kristan completed her vows, I asked if there were rings. They nodded yes; and into my hands they placed a high school class ring, and a small novelty ring encircled with maybe dolphins or flowers. Kristan said, "They ain't much but it's all we got." I assured her that the value of the ring was in the faithfulness it represented, and they looked at each other and nodded.

(continued on page 2)

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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) 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 Virs Baker (2020)

Lucas Bates (2022) Vera Billington (20221)

Jackie Elbert (2022) Hank Howerton (2020)

Paul Parker (2021) Linda Rutherford (2020)

George Ward (2022) Aad Zeeuw (2021)

JOIN THE HANDBELL CHOIR!

If you are interested in learning how to play the handbells and being part of a handbell choir, please let Linda Rogers or Will Berger know. The handbell choir might be our next chancel choir, until singing is safe during worship.



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

February 7 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31 *and* Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 14 **Transfiguration of the Lord**

2 Kings 2:12 *and* Psalm 50:1-6;

February 21 **First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17 *and* Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15

February 28 **Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 *and* Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

F From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

After the prayer, I pronounced them husband and wife, told them that what God had joined, let no one separate, and then asked if they wanted to seal their covenant with a kiss. They did indeed, and after their kiss, he said to her, "I love you so much, Kristan" and she said, "I love you so much, Mark," and they both cried. Then Corbin clapped and Clint smiled and the grandmother took pictures with the camera.

The floral arrangement from Sunday's service was still in the sanctuary so I removed one red rose, handed it to Corbin and said, "take that to your mom," which he did. Then grandmother took more pictures of the happy couple, then the happy couple with children, and finally the happy couple with me.

As they were leaving, the couple thanked me for performing the service. I took that moment to ask Mark and Kristan why, of all days, did they choose today to get married? Was there something special about today or the date? Mark answered, "It took us awhile to save up the \$90 for the license." But Kristan looked me straight in the eye and said, "Don't you think it was about time?"

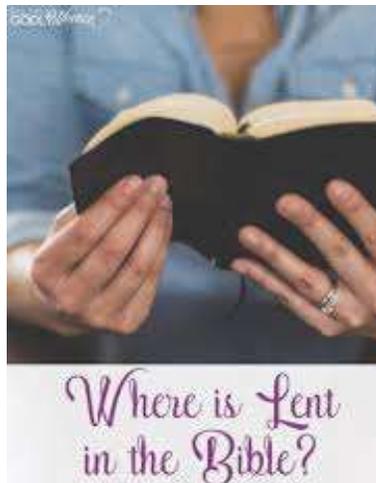
Corbin gave me a goodbye hug and assured me he'd see me Sunday, which was unlikely since they lived in another town. Still, I hoped they would find their way into a church on Sunday. But on that particular Tuesday, I was glad they found their way into ours.

JOIN US IN READING/SHARING LENTEN SCRIPTURES

From Sally:

Here's my great idea - for the 40 days of Lent, 40 people video themselves reading one or more of the Lenten scriptures using their phone or iPad/tablet and emailing it to me. Then, on the day of that reading, I will post it on our Facebook page throughout the season of Lent. If you are not sure you can record yourself reading a scripture passage, we'll find a time for you to come to the church and I'll record you (socially distanced and masked, of course!). Or, I'll come to you--socially distanced and masked, of course. I think this is one way we can "see" each other and also "hear" scripture as our Lenten devotional. You may choose one scripture passage and read it, or read all the selections. It's up to you.

I welcome children reading as well as families! I have simpler versions of scripture that can be used; in fact, I offer the same thing for adults!



Here is the link to the list of scriptures. The second column (Revised Common Lectionary reading) is the one from which we are choosing. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Daily-Readings-for-Lent-2021.pdf>

[2021.pdf](#)

[Daily Readings for Lent 2021 - Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1 Daily Readings for Lent 2021 Two-Year Daily Lectionary (Book of Common Worship) [Year 1] Revised Common Lectionary Daily

www.presbyterianmission.org

Peace and looking Lent-ward!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Doug Milam – 3

Vira Baker – 4

Vera Billington – 4

Susan Brockett – 5

Jon O'Brien – 8

Allessandro Ward – 15

Devan Stahl – 17

Eleanor Elbert – 19

Paul Berger – 22

Allen Brown – 26

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, February 2 at 11 a.m. on Zoom. We will study Lessons 4 and 5, "Lamenting Death" and "Lamenting Life" in *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. If you would like a study book, please call the office. Cost is \$10. If you have not signed up for the PW study, leave a message or email with the church office. We'll provide you with a Zoom link for the study.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be offered only by Zoom and will be Wednesday, February 10 at 6 p.m. The book for February is *The Last Girls* by Lee Smith. If you would like to be on the email list for the book club, please let Carla McDonough (carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net) or Katy Wilson (katybwilson@gmail.com) know. (Sneak peek for reading ahead: March 10 meeting – *A Piece of the World* by Kline.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS!

A big thank you to everyone who has been mailing their financial contribution to the church! That is so wonderful! Please continue to remember pledges and contributions to the church via the US Post office, or online if you have the ability to send payments through your bank. As always, we should be careful but not fearful. We should practice compassion as well as cleanliness. Whether sick or well, we are in the hands of a loving God.

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (from Psalm 27)

PRAYER TIME

On Friday mornings, Sally Hughes offers a Facebook Live prayer time beginning at 8:30 AM. This prayer time includes concerns and people for which we pray on Sunday, as well as any provided by members or friends. The prayer time will consist of opening words of scripture, a psalm reading, then prayer, and conclude with the Lord's prayer. If you are a Facebook member, you can submit prayer requests via the comments, and if you are not, you can send them via text to Sally (615-594-5765) or email. These Facebook prayer times will NOT be saved on the Facebook page as our worship services are saved.

COVID VACCINE FOR THOSE OVER 75 YEARS OF AGE

Here is the Metro/Davidson County link for scheduling a time to receive the vaccine if you qualify: <https://redcap.health.nashville.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=DHMKJ7J897>

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE!

One of our Girl Scout Troops, #1347, is making cookie sales available to our congregation. Below is a **Girl Scout cookie menu with the price per box**. Place your order by e-mailing the office: office@trinitypresnashville.org, and on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday of the following week between 12 noon and 2 p.m., you can call and schedule a time to pick up and pay for your cookies at the church office.

Lemon Ups (\$4.00 per box)



Do-si-dos (\$4.00 per box)



Tagalongs (\$4.00 per box)



Thin Mints (\$4.00 per box)



Samoas (\$4.00 per box)

Trefoils (\$4.00 per box)



NEW! S'mores (\$5.50 per box)

Toffee Tastics (Gluten Free - \$5.50 per box)



TRINITY TRACKINGS

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

If you would like the minister to offer prayer on your behalf or on behalf of someone else, please call the office and leave a message with a prayer request or email at sally.hughes@trinitypresnashville.org.

Sympathy to the family of Elizabeth (Betty) Browning, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday Jan 18,2021. Betty and Grant, and their daughters, Barbara and Beverly, were members of Trinity in the 1970s. "I am the resurrection and the life."

- The Rev. Beth Ann Miller, recovering from COVID19 in Morganton, NC.
- Denese Sanders Leonard, niece of Joan Dougherty, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- George Howton who has COVID19. He is father of the Rev. Erin Angel, a minister in our presbytery.
- Linda & Richard, cousin/friend of Sissy Leech. Linda is having health issues.
- Mary Anne Berger, Will's mother, who is in hospice care in Mississippi.
- Nancy Bond, who has moved to NHC at the Trace in Nashville, TN.

- Norma DeJarnette who has returned to her home.
- Steve Sanders, who is diagnosed with cancer.
- Friend of Joe Brady, Steve Johnson who has cancer
- Friends of Linda Rutherford: Diane Hubbs; Gordon Evans and his wife Susan
- Derrie Edge, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- These folks who are in assisted living facilities: **Frances Burns, Norma Johnson, John McRae**. Please consider sending these folks a letter or card, as they are not able to receive visitors at this time. If you don't have the addresses, please call the church office.
- Joel Guest, son of Sara and Bob Guest
- Bill and Joan Dougherty, at home. Joan is recovering from surgery. The biopsy from her surgery was a good report!
- Bill Barger and Kim Dougherty
- For those who care for loved ones who are unable to care for themselves.
- All those affected by COVID-19, whether physically, emotionally, spiritually or financially

ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Lila Kendrick Newton

April 10, 1925 – December 26, 2020

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds do follow them”

ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Elizabeth Allison Meggs Browning

April 7, 1932 - January 18, 2021

“I am the resurrection and the life”

PRISON MINISTRY

Trinity's prison ministry from previous years resulted in some prisoners on death row joining the church. One of those church members, Kennath Henderson, is asking for folks to correspond with him. If you would like to do so, please use the church address as your return address. When the office receives any response mail, it will be forwarded to your home address. Please limit sharing of personal information in your correspondence.

Kennath A. Henderson #250126
 RMSI Unit 2
 7475 Cockrill Bend Blvd.
 Nashville, TN 37209-1048

LEARN ABOUT THE TRANSFIGURATION

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday is February 14

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening *tableau vivant*, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition. With this vivid image, the gospel writers demonstrate the relationship of the human Word of God to the tradition of Israel and set forth the hermeneutic by which they read the Hebrew Scriptures.

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 148-149)

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

Source: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/transfiguration-lord/>