

# THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY, 2017

From Sally Hughes

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” Regardless of where you are on the creation story spectrum, forget everything you’ve heard for a moment and just go with those words given to us by the writer of Genesis. Go all the way past the date of your birth. Go past people and communities and houses and jobs and SUV controversies and popular music. Go past centuries of civilizations. Go all the way back before there were land masses and oceans and stars and planets. Go back to the primeval ooze, if you will, to something so unfamiliar to us that it defies description. There are no adequate adjectives to describe that which we have never experienced; nevertheless, someone tried and so wrote, “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.”

A world without light. At some point, a long time ago there was only darkness and confusion. An empty unfilled space in the blackness. There was no light. Can we imagine such a thing?

When I was child, it seemed like in the summertime, the lights would go out every time we had a storm. We would be watching television or listening to our stereo or just reading, and suddenly the darkness brought everything to a stunning halt. We would light candles and walk around the house, marvelling at how things looked in the dark, with just a little flicker of light to guide us. We looked out the windows and noticed how our street had been plunged into darkness, so that we weren’t even able to see where the neighbors’ houses were. That unexpected darkness was always fascinating, but only because we knew it would not be long before the Nashville Electric Service would restore our lights.

But these verses which describe when darkness covered the face of the deep, it was not a case of waiting, it was a case of creating. John Calvin expressed it, by saying, “Everything was confused emptiness” until God said, “Let there be light.” And as if God had struck a match, there was light. And with the light came the goodness of purpose and order. Interestingly though, God did not destroy the confusing, terrifying darkness; rather, God the

creator took the day and attached the darkness so that there would always be a little bit of day in even the darkest night, but the light would always prevail.

These verses of scripture teach us that in the beginning, the first thing that God does is bring light, and that first light chases away the darkness, gives purpose, establishes order.

On the first day of creation, God said, “let there be light,” and light flooded the world. And that light spread through the generations, creating hope and courage and peace and wisdom and love before coming to rest over a stable, in the form of a brilliant and unusual star which guided the way for angels and shepherds and wise men to follow. But that ancient light could also be seen shining within the stable, in the unlikely form of a little baby who was the creative light of heaven sent to dwell on earth among us, full of grace and truth. We behold God’s power in the rising of the star; we behold God’s love in the face of a little child. God is both above us and among us; watching over us and watching with us; creating light in our darkness, and making even our deepest darkness obedient to the light.

“For light is life,” wrote one theologian. “And light is guidance. In the night people grope and stumble. Until light comes they cannot be sure where they are or which way to go. The little child may be afraid to sleep in the dark, or what grown man or woman, at some time of illness or acute anxiety, has not felt the darkness lie like a dreadful weight, and long desperately for the break of day? With the dawn they were no longer haunted, but filled by the inexpressible comfort of the light. And the light brings beauty. All color vanishes in the dark, but the day brings back the blue of the sky, the green of the trees, the variety of flowers. What light brings to the physical earth, God the creator of light brings to the human soul: life, guidance, assurance, beauty.”

These few verses of scripture give us a way of explaining who God is—eternal, creative, lord over all things. No matter how many times we may read or hear about this world being out of control, such a statement is as false as the cover stories on tabloid magazines.

True, at times our faiths may stumble over tragic events that cause us to wonder, “Where is God?”

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### 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

Leigh Bonner, David Phillip, Clergy Colleagues

Devan Stahl, Candidate for the Ministry

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)

## JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- January 1**     **First Sunday after Christmas Day/  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
- January 8**     **Baptism of the Lord**  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 3:15-17
- January 15**    **Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- January 22**    **Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
- January 29**    **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/  
Annual Congregational Meeting/  
Chili and Soup Luncheon**  
Micah 6:1-8; {sa., 15};  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

## CHILI AND SOUP LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 29

Trinity's annual winter fellowship event, the Chili and Soup Luncheon, will be following worship and the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29. You are invited to bring your favorite soups and/or chilis and the Fellowship Committee will supply breads and accompaniments and condiments, drinks and desserts.

Soups and chilis are a welcome warm meal for typically cold January weather. The different kinds available are also a welcome treat.

The Luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If your dish needs to be kept warm, you may bring it in a crockpot, place it in the warming oven in the kitchen, or the Fellowship Committee will be glad to warm in on the stove or in the oven.

The warming oven is designed to keep food at the temperature at which it was brought, so if your dish needs to be heated, tell the Fellowship Committee so it can be warmed in the stove/oven.

Join us for hearty food and good fellowship at the chili and soup luncheon.



It's Perfect  
Weather  
for Chili!

## From Sally Hughes

(continued from page 1)

but the first verses of Genesis affirm that the same all-powerful God who was in the beginning, is the same all-loving God who created light. And with the light comes the goodness of order, but with the light also comes the goodness of hope and courage and peace and wisdom and love. And as dark as our chaotic little lives may get, darkness is only part of a light created by God and we wait in hope for heavenly illumination. Or when we come to a murky point in our lives, questioning our purpose in this life or whether our existence has meaning, the persistent light of God's purposes beams upon our moments and years, and we are comforted. At certain points in our lives, when we are plunged into confused emptiness by a great personal loss, we do not grieve as those who have no hope, but we

grieve as those who live by holding even the tiniest flicker of light eternal.

What makes this story important is not whether it proves or disproves the Biblical account of creation but the whether it sets ablaze within us a knowledge of God as the creator of light. The creative power and loving spirit of God which was in the beginning, is still at work in our lives and world today. The God powerful enough to create light is the God humble enough to walk among us, knowing our fear of the dark but showing us the light of salvation and truth. That light which enlightens every human being in every situation, came into the world and no darkness or formless void can extinguish it.

This is a story that speaks to our current human situation not as a flight of fancy or a test of orthodoxy but as an affirmation of faith.

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## OFFICE NOTES



Dear Trinity Friends,

I'm writing this, having just come from the Blue Christmas Service at Room in the Inn. Participating in this service as the greeter and helping as needed, has become a highlight of my Advent/Christmas season in recent years. Our Trinity family of the past and present came together in December, providing an amazing spread of finger foods for folks whose lives are in a constant state of transition. When Jeff Moles invited folks to share their prayer requests, the heartfelt needs and concerns were surprising. Very few requested prayer for themselves. There is such a deep sense of genuineness among the folks there.

Seeking to bring comfort during a friend's painful illness, a Christian writer wrote, "You cannot understand, or explain, but you know as well as I, that back of everything is God, and God is light—we shall see. God is love—we shall be satisfied. It may be a long while, but it will be worth waiting for."

Rembrandt's painting, "Christ at Emmaus," was an attempt to show the power of God's light, as it was revealed in the Emmaus Road story. After Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples have gathered for a meal, and not recognizing Jesus, they have invited this stranger with whom they have been walking and talking to stay and eat with them. Jesus enters a room filled with the darkness of despair, death, hopelessness, and disappointment. Then he breaks bread, and suddenly the eyes of the disciples are opened and they see the resurrected Jesus in their midst, and their hearts are filled with joy. Rembrandt has illuminated only the face of Christ, so that we are drawn to the radiance of Christ's face away from the darkened background.

As we flip the calendar, I'm excited about the new year, beginning my 10<sup>th</sup> year as your office manager! 2016 was truly challenging, but I can already see how God has allowed me to grow and be strengthened from the challenges. I deeply appreciate the commitment of Trinity's leadership and everyone's patience with me during 11 months without a pastor. Now, we are blessed to have on board new staff (Sally as pastor, Simon as music director) and new computer support (Bob), so I believe we will be functioning more effectively in every way.

And so it is in our daily lives. We are drawn away from the darkened background of our world by the light of Christ, and in the knowledge that in the beginning, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light, and in God's created, eternal, good light, we have been living ever since.

Praying that this will be a year of many great new things in the life of our congregation. Let's open our hearts and minds to see what God wants to do through our presence here!

Blessings,  
Linda

# ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

Beginning January 8, Sally Hughes will offer a Sunday school class on the Gospel of Matthew. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor to read and study Matthew. This is for all ages, and is a class for those who are familiar with Matthew as well as those who have never engaged in Bible study. Bring your questions and insights to Sunday school beginning January 8!

## SESSION RETREAT IN JANUARY

On Saturday, January 14, there will be a session retreat held at Trinity Presbyterian Church from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. All session members are encouraged to attend this retreat, as we engage in a little officer training, engage in discussion about Trinity's past, present and future, and set some short and long term goals for 2017. Lunch will be served. If you have not already let Sally know whether you will be attending, please let her know—or Linda Rogers know—by Wednesday, January 11.



**CHRISTMAS BREADS ON DECEMBER 18:** The congregation provided Christmas Bread before and after the service on December 18. All kinds of homemade and purchased sweet rolls, cakes, and similar goodies were present for the occasion. Following the morning session, the choir presented Lessons and Carols during worship.

*photo by Hank Schomber* 4

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 29

Mark your calendar for January 29, Following the worship service, we will hold the Annual Congregational Meeting, at which time the congregational will be updated on the state of the church and the official announcement of the installation of the new pastor, Rev. Sally Hughes, on February 12. At the conclusion of the brief meeting, Trinity will hold its annual Chili and Soup Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

## ELDER INSTALLATION ON JANUARY 15

Trinity will install three elders during the worship service on January 15. The recently elected elders were trained by pastor Sally Hughes: Bill Dougherty (2017), Allen Brown (2018), and Cindy Turner (2018). They will begin serving their terms immediately.

## WILL BERGER TO PREACH ON JANUARY 22

Rev. Will Berger will conduct the worship service and preach on January 22, when Sally Hughes fulfills a previous commitment. Dr. Berger is the Sally's husband and formerly was music director and co-pastor of Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Will is familiar with the Trinity pulpit, having led worship and memorial services in the past. Most recently, he directed the music for the Presbytery's Middle Tennessee Prayer Summit on World Communion Sunday (held at Trinity) and played for the Blue Christmas Service hosted by Trinity at Room in the Inn on December 22.

# **GATLINBURG WILDFIRE RESPONSE THE PRESBYTERY OF EAST TENNESSEE**

Friday, December 2, representatives of churches in the Presbytery of East Tennessee met to develop our response to the Gatlinburg wildfires.

Things to Know: The Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church was largely untouched. Two years ago, GPC converted several rooms into dormitory space for visiting groups. This space will be occupied soon by “All Hands,” a non-profit that addresses immediate and long-term needs of communities impacted by natural disasters by engaging volunteers, partner organizations and local communities.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be involved in long-term relief efforts in the area. While the Red Cross handles immediate disaster relief, PDA stays until the work is complete. They anticipate at least 2 years of recovery efforts.

RESOURCES NOT – NOT – NEEDED: ? Donations of water, food, clothing, etc. At this point, the biggest problem is where to store all of the of the resources. There will be needs down the road, but for right now, the Red Cross is asking us to wait to before sending anything. ? Volunteers (at present). Right now, volunteers are primarily being used to sort the overabundance of donations. Only today (Friday) are property owners and renters being allowed to assess the damage. As much as we want to help our neighbors, coordinators ask that we wait until we know more so that in our rush to help, we don’t create more of a problem.

RESOURCES NEEDED NOW: Monetary donations. We are encouraging congregations and individuals to donate to the Presbytery of East Tennessee Disaster Relief fund. You may make a check to your church and note “PET Disaster Relief”, or “Gatlinburg Fire,” or “PDA” in the memo line. You may also donate directly to PDA (see below).

Gas Cards. Many of those displaced by the fires are the most vulnerable – hourly workers who staff the resorts in Gatlinburg, and will have to find work, perhaps in Pigeon Forge or Sevierville. They can use the cards to help them get back and forth to work. We will collect those in the church office, and they will be given to the Red Cross in Gatlinburg for distribution.

Hosting sites. PDA will be looking for area churches to host volunteer groups coming in, and are asking for a two-year commitment.

CONTACT INFORMATION Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org) (U.S. Wildfires: DR000165 to designate to ET Fires)

Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless 888-556-0791 for longer-term housing needs.

Volunteer/Donations Distribution Center 865-804-1661 where donations are being received and sorted (the “Boyd’s Bears” building).

East Tennessee Volunteers [www.volunteernet.org](http://www.volunteernet.org) is clearinghouse for volunteers for immediate short-term volunteer opportunities

All Hands Volunteers [www.hands.org](http://www.hands.org) is the group staying at Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church to coordinate volunteer groups and efforts.

## USHERS FOR JANUARY

Hank Schomber

## OFFICE HOURS FOR SALLY HUGHES

Starting January 3rd, Sally will have 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.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sara Anne Berger – 3  
Thoma Parker – 5  
Meredith Maxwell - 18  
Melissa Custer - 21  
Peter O'Brien - 22  
Ruth Sims – 22  
Anna Reside – 26  
Alec Custer – 27

*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. Our next meeting is January 3. We will study Lesson 4 "According to John", in our study book, "Who Is Jesus?" Please bring a sandwich or salad for lunch and a time of fellowship after the meeting.

\*\*\*You are invited to join the **Changing Gears** group for lunch and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian on Wednesday, January 28. 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.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

Mary Virginia Bond  
1095 Pinellas Point Drive South  
Villa #302  
St Petersburg FL 33705  
Phone: 727-864-7302



## WITH THANKS FROM YOUR TRINITY STAFF:

We are so grateful to each of you for the Christmas staff gifts we received. We appreciate all the support that you give to us as we seek to serve at Trinity with you. As a staff, we give thanks for all the love and care we receive from you.

With our thanks and love,

Simon, Charlie, Linda, Cindy, Sharon, Sheryl,  
and Annie

# 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.

## EASTMINSTER PC FIRE UPDATE

On Sunday, December 11, 2016, the Eastminster Presbyterian Church in the Inglewood area of East Nashville experienced a consuming fire of its sanctuary and educational building. Once the fire was contained and deemed safe, some members of the Eastminster Church were able to get into the office section of the Education wing and retrieve some files, books and other valuable items. The Woodland Presbyterian Church has opened its doors to the Eastminster Church (both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking congregations) to hold its worship services in the coming weeks. Other churches of the Presbytery have also called to offer assistance as needed. A needed sound system and projector have been identified and thanks to all that contributed to these needs.

## INSTALLATION OF SALLY HUGHES ON FEBRUARY 12

Sally Hughes will be installed as designated pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 12, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Following the service of installation, there will be a reception honoring Sally in the Fellowship Hall.

Other needs as follows:

1. A table to leave on the stage where they can put a cross and their offering plates. Also would be used for communion.
2. A tall table or stand to put a projector and laptop on. They project scripture and songs in English and Spanish during their bilingual services.

Also, Eastminster Presbyterian Church has had a special account set up at USBank for anyone who would like to make monetary donations to Eastminster.

For more information regarding the above, please contact Connie Hamblen at [connie\\_hamblen@vfc.com](mailto:connie_hamblen@vfc.com). Please keep Eastminster Presbyterian Church lifted up in prayer, trusting that our God, who “gives beauty for ashes,” will surprise them with mercy and grace overwhelming!

# FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings as a new year begins. I hope and pray that the celebration of Jesus' birth has filled you with renewed energy for the challenges that lie ahead. Here in Costa Rica, Javier and I had a wonderful five days with our daughter, Tamara. Watching a sloth carry her infant through the treetops of the Cahuita National Park was definitely a highlight for me. Tamara is now back at work in the immigration law office in Portland, Oregon where she is a legal assistant. Needless to say, she has many clients who are very worried about what might happen to them and their families in the coming months.

Javier spent the month of December here in Costa Rica, doing lots of work around the beautiful house in which we are now living. He's planning to go to Nicaragua around January 5th. He has many plans for our farm now that the dry season is finally here. The near normal levels of rain over recent months, with a bit of a boost from Hurricane Otto at the end of November, have left the pastures in pretty good shape, though still far from the conditions before the drought of recent years. Like other farmers in Nicaragua, we continue to struggle with how to produce food as climate change alters weather patterns.

The Latin American Biblical University (UBL) officially opens on January 16. Before that date, I am hoping to have two very productive weeks to finish some writing and editing projects that I never seem able to make time for during the semester. Classes start on January 23. We have new students coming from Peru and Germany. I won't have an on-campus class this semester, but I will be working with several distance students. I also have lots of administrative work to keep me busy. The government agency that oversees private universities, CONESUP, has finally approved my appointment as chair of our theology department. I've been doing the work for more than a year, but now I can finally sign official forms. We have a lot of work ahead this year as we reformulate our masters' program and seek to improve the teaching

of basic academic skills in our courses. Much of my work as department chair involves advising students on their programs of study, so I am in touch with students throughout Latin America and beyond. The Presbyterian Church of Honduras, with the support of Presbyterian World Mission and the Honduras Mission Network, has invited the UBL to offer a two-year theological education program for their leadership through our Biblical Pastoral Institute program. We will be offering six courses every year to approximately 40 people.

The first of three workshops for 2017 will be held January 25-27. My colleague Nidia Fonseca and I will be traveling to Honduras to launch the program. As part of the workshop, I will be leading a session on Reformed identity today. The Honduran church has agreed to hire two of our graduates from their church, Blanca Aida Rivas and Betzabe Reyes, part-time to help facilitate the program. Both of these young women came to Costa Rica several years ago with the goal of preparing themselves to serve in their church. Finally, a space has opened up for them. I ask your prayers for Blanca and Betzabe, for the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, and for the workshop at the end of January. On January 28, my college roommate, Rebekah Richards, and her husband, Mike Hvidsten, are arriving to spend ten days here in Costa Rica. I am so grateful to have space for guests. I hope to be able to take a couple days off to explore Costa Rica with them. Javier will come back from Nicaragua at the end of their visit. They fly back to the freezing temperatures of Minnesota on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Reading corner:** In light of the upcoming inauguration of a new president in the United States, I pulled *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation* by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, a friend and former colleague, off of my shelf in search of a moral vision that can inspire hope and action for the years to come. Moe-Lobeda defines structural evil as ways of life that entail "consumption, production, and acquisition patterns that threaten Earth's capacity to

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# LEARN ABOUT BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7).

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.



An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 148) explains: The Baptism of the Lord is closely related to Epiphany and should be considered in relation to that feast. Jesus' ministry to bring in God's rule was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus and a sign of God's approval was heard. On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus' baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and with all of the baptized we are called to share in Jesus' ministry. In the waters of baptism we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us and we are declared the children of God.

Source:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/baptism-lord/>

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## FROM OUR MISSION WORKER

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sustain life as we know it, and exploit vast numbers of people worldwide, some even unto death." (p. 3) This structural evil, though beyond the power of individuals, resides in social and economic relationships that have been built by human beings and therefore can be changed by collective human action.

Structural evil is insidious because it is hidden from our view; we don't see the cost our overconsumption exacts from the Earth and from human communities. I find myself wondering what structural evil lurks in the promise "to make America great again", whatever that means. I invite you to join me in rethinking how we can love neighbor and the Earth in the coming months.

### Closing thoughts

I am starting the new year by trying to honor the requests I have had to send my prayer letters out a few days before the beginning of each month. I am grateful to the churches that put portions of my prayer letters in their own monthly newsletters or who include a link to my prayer letter in their electronic newsletters. I am also thankful for those churches who include prayer requests taken

from my prayer letters in their Sunday bulletins. I know there are individuals who also share my prayer letters with their own circle of friends. Thus, I know that I am supported by an ever-widening circle of prayer. I am grateful as well for the ongoing financial gifts that make it possible for me to serve here in Costa Rica. Please let me know if there are other ways that I can help you and your congregation feel more connected to the work we are doing here at the Latin American Biblical University. Soon I will write more about our plans for the new year. May the one who came among us as a child lead us into paths of life and light.

Blessings,

Karla

[Karla's Page @presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org)

### My mailing address is:

Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll  
Latin America Biblical University  
Apartado 901-1000  
San Jose, Costa Rica

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

**Moderator: Rev. John Larson**

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE SESSION November 2, 2016**

Having considered inquiries from several potential applicants, the Session, serving as the Pastor Search Committee had interviewed Leigh Bonner and Sally Hughes for the position of Designated Pastor. The Committee was unanimous in its decision to call Sally Hughes as the Designated Pastor for Trinity Presbyterian Church. Motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the Call and Terms of Call for Sally Hughes to be the Designated Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2017.

After hearing the report of the Music Director Search Committee, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to hire Simon Jacobs, provisionally, pending approval and ratification by the Designated Pastor, as the Music Director and organist of Trinity Presbyterian Church, commencing on November 15, 2016. Additionally, the Music Director was authorized to use the Sanctuary or Chapel to teach music students, provided such use is coordinated with Linda Rogers through the Church Office so it does not conflict with Linden Waldorf School events.

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE SESSION November 9, 2016**

The Session called a Congregational Meeting to be conducted immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on November 20, 2016, to be moderated by Reverend John Larson, for the purpose of announcing the Session Nominating Committee's choice for Designated Pastor and to present the Call and the Terms of Call for the Congregation's approval.

Elders Hank Schomber and Hank Howerton were authorized to meet with the Designated Pastor Nominee, on behalf of the Session, to select, in consultation with the Nominee, a Pastor Installation Committee and to establish a date and time for the installation service, in anticipation of approval of the Call by the Congregation.

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION November 20, 2016**

The Pastor Search Committee of Philip Elbert, Hank Howerton, Lee Anne O'Brien, Matthew Rutherford, Robert Rutherford, and Hank Schomber reported Sally Hughes was the unanimous choice of the Committee and Session to be Called to be the Designated Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church. A written vote of the

Congregation on the Terms of Call was called. The members present and voting approved the Call and Terms of Call unanimously.

## **STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION November 29, 2016**

The Moderator encouraged that an accurate count of members be done prior to the end of the year or early next year, to be provided to the three-member panel of the Presbytery assigned to oversee Trinity's progress.

Rev. Sally Hughes agreed to Terms of Call as Trinity's Designated Pastor. The Call and Terms of Call have been approved by the Congregation, reported to the liaison with the Committee on Ministry and the Call and Terms of Call have been approved by the Committee on Ministry. She will begin January 1. Sara Anne Berger, Sally Hughes' daughter, an ordained pastor, will preach at the 3:00 p.m., February 12, installation service. The session agreed to reimburse Rev. Berger's travel expenses.

A new server, upgrading the office computer system, has been purchased and is scheduled to be installed in December.

Correspondence was sent to Howell Produce requesting an update as to when payment of its 2016 pledge could be expected. Elder-Elect Allen Brown was delegated to follow up on this correspondence with a call to the Howell family.

The proposed 2017 budget was provisionally approved and will be reviewed again in January when the stewardship campaign is completed.

Simon Thomas Jacobs agreed to terms to serve as Trinity's Music Director pending approval of his hiring by Sally Hughes, it being the traditional prerogative of the Pastor to approve the choice of Music Director. They are scheduled to meet soon.

Rev. Hughes will teach Sunday School classes in January, in addition to handling her preaching duties.

Two requests to use the sanctuary for voice practice and recording were approved.

Request for use of the Chapel by the Middle Tennessee Anthroposophical Society for its Christmas Festival and use of the Sanctuary by



**Rev. Rosanna Anderson reads a story during the Time for Children on December 4. Children of all ages were present.**

*photo by Hank Schomber*

## **VOLUNTEER AT TRINITY IN 2017**

When you are putting down your New Year's resolutions for 2017, add "service to Trinity" to your list. With our smaller numbers and as we are growing again, we need for everyone to pitch in in both small and large ways to keep the spirit and works of Trinity alive and well. Here are some ways, both old and new, that you can lend a hand:

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION**

(continued from page 10)

Jocelyn Sprouse and Roger Weismeyer for "Mozart in Nashville: Classical Concerts for Public Charity," were also approved. Both requests came through Linden Waldorf School.

Pulpit Supply for December 4-Rosanna Anderson; 11-John Larson; 24-Betsy Bond; 25-Judy Schomber was approved. Pulpit supply for December 18 would not be necessary since it was the lessons and carols service.

A request from Smarter Gardens to set up a weekly drop-off and pick-up site at Trinity to support community-supported agriculture was approved.

A Session Retreat will be held 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on January 10, 2017.

January 29, 2017 was set for Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting.

Upon the recommendation and request of Rev. Hughes, T. Wes Moore was accepted as an inquirer under Trinity's care.

\*Sign up for flowers on the flower calendar or call the church office. You may also write a check to the Flower fund to assure that flowers be on the chancel table each Sunday.

\*Volunteer to usher. Ushers hand out bulletins, take up collection, and greet visitors. See Hank Schomber.

\*Be a liturgist. Sally has streamlined the liturgist's part in worship.

\*Volunteer to help with the immediate grounds maintenance (flower beds, shrubs, etc.). You may also write a check for Building and Grounds. Call the church office and leave a message for Charlie -- he will contact you.

\*Volunteer to bring refreshments for after worship or to serve on the Fellowship Committee, which prepares and/or hosts Fellowship events like the Soup and Chili Luncheon. You may also write a check for Fellowship Committee. See Judy Schomber.

\*Help to build the Christian Education program by attending Sunday School. Sally Hughes is teaching a Bible Study Class.

\*Offer to join one of Trinity's standing committees -- Administration, Worship and Music, Facilities, Growth and Membership, Community Ministries, or Christian Education. Speak to a Session member or the pastor about your interest.

\*Contribute your ideas for classes, programs, organization, or use of facilities. Tell the pastor or place your idea in the collection plate. A session member will contact you.

# January 2017

A calendar that includes all building use, including 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> 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship/Communion	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> 7:30-3 Tues-Fri LWS-> 11 am Presbyterian Women	<b>4</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> Church Office Closed 7:30-3 Mon-Fri LWS->	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> No Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8-30 am - 3:30 pm Session Retreat
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship 3 - 5 pm Girl Scouts	<b>16</b> Church Office Closed Martin Luther King, Jr Day	<b>17</b> 7:30-3 Tues-Fri LWS->	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed 7:30-3 Mon-Tues LWS->	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 7 pm Session Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting Chili and Soup Luncheon	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed 7:30-3 Mon-Fri LWS->	<b>31</b>	<b>7 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>			