

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH, 2019

From the pastor

¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21

This passage of scripture from Matthew is one of the passages traditionally included for Ash Wednesday. It's interesting, because "practicing one's piety" was visible to everyone, it would be seen in the black smudge (which is supposed look like a cross, by the way!) placed on one's forehead as part of this service. When we venture into some place public after an Ash Wednesday worship service—the grocery store, a restaurant, school—someone will notice that black mark on our forehead, and either that person will ask about it or will simply know that we've been to an Ash Wednesday service. I'm told—although I have no confirmation!—that the reason why some churches have their Ash Wednesday services at night is to

reduce the amount of time that one's smudge is visible to the general public.

So it's kind of odd that on Ash Wednesday we read Jesus' instructions to "look happy while fasting and step into a private place if you are going to pray." Jesus warned his disciples to beware of practicing their piety before others, but the important phrase in that warning is "before others." Practicing piety is not a bad thing, it's a good thing, as the original Middle English meaning of the word "pious" is "devoutly religious." However, the modern definition of pious "making a hypocritical display of virtue." So being devoutly religious is good, but not good when we fan out our pious feathers like a peacock.

"Pious" and "self-righteous" have become birds of a feather, but the kind of piety about which Jesus encouraged his disciples to practice was not the self-righteous kind, but the subtle, every day, devoutly religious kind. Far too many religious folks in Jesus' day took great pleasure in counting out their good deeds like putting big bills in the offering plate or having their good deeds known to all by having the sign above the soup kitchen's door bear their name. Jesus doesn't discourage piety but discourages public piety, which means, unfortunately, that some of our good deeds, some of our best deeds, may go completely unnoticed.

Who wants that? What's the point of private piety or unknown deeds? Don't all of us want to get credit for how many hours we served as a volunteer at a non-profit organization, or boast about what we are giving up for Lent or reveal that we take someone groceries every week? But Jesus explained further: you can't store up those good deeds because no one on earth will remember, leaving a big moth hole; or the deeds will get a bit rusty over time, or someone else will steal your thunder by doing a better, bigger good deed. No, better to keep that piety under wraps, between you and God and whoever is benefiting from your good heartedness. Your treasure is secure in God's grace and love.

I remember one of my teachers who, when she would return our tests, would put them face down on our desks, allow us to look at the grade, ask that we not share our grades with one another. Then she took them all back up. For a good student who received an A or even an A+, such a request not to

(continued on page 2)

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), 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

Charlie Bundy, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

Vira Baker (2020) Hank Howerton (2020)

Vera Billington (2021) Paul Parker (2021)

Bill Dougherty (2020), Matt Rutherford (2019)

Phil Elbert (2019) Hank Schomber (2019)

Aad Zeeuw (2021)

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

March 3 Transfiguration of the Lord/ Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 39;

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2;

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 10 First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2,9-16;

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 17 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18; Psalm 27;

Philippians 3:17--4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24 Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;

1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

From the pastor (continued from page 1)

tell or have evidence of the good grade was almost unbearable! But for students whose grades were not very good, her discretion was an act of kindness and grace. When we are just bursting with goodness, we want the world to sit up and take notice, but when we are less than perfect, or when we are working very hard to improve, or when we know this test wasn't our very best effort for whatever reason, anonymity becomes grace. For that moment in time, no one knew who was brilliant or average or struggling to pass.

The little black smudge on our foreheads that we receive on Ash Wednesday works in a similar way. We can't see one another's hearts as we move into the season of Lent. Maybe you are the kind of person who doesn't need the season of Lent to inspire you to perform pious acts because you routinely live that kind of life. Maybe you are the kind of person who looks forward to the season of Lent as time to become a better person and do more righteous things. Or maybe—if you are the kind of person whose life has contained few if any acts of piety, this Lenten season is your chance to change.

On Ash Wednesday, for a moment in time, we are all smudged and on equal footing.

And we start even in this Lenten season—I am no worse than you, you are no better than your neighbor, we were all created from dust, to dust we all shall return, and in life and in death, we are all kept and loved and forgiven and redeemed by the God who sees us not through our public or private piety, but through the person and work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

This little mark of ash is a reminder that when we practice our piety, it's not to get credit. We practice our piety out of love for God our Creator, out of thanksgiving for forgiveness of sin by Christ our Savior, and out of strength given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT TRINITY

Trinity's Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, March 6th at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Please feel free to bring a lunch so that afterward we may eat together in East Hall.



Do you enjoy singing? We invite those who wish to be part of our music ministry to do so by contacting Will Berger at will_berger@bellsouth.net. If you have special gifts to offer we encourage them.



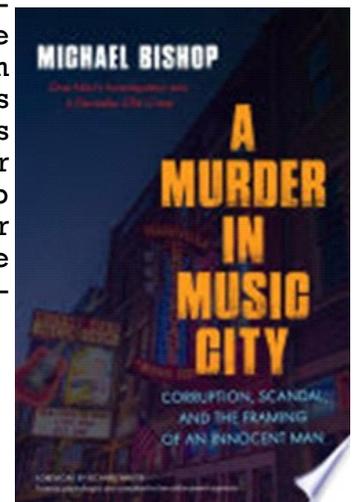
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 10



Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday evening, March 9!

AUTHOR MICHAEL BISHOP TO DISCUSS HIS *A MURDER IN MUSIC CITY* ON MARCH 21 AT TRINITY

Author Michael Bishop will speak at Trinity on Thursday, March 21 at 1 p.m. If you grew up in Nashville, enjoy reading and/or are captivated by a true murder mystery, you might want to read *A Murder in Music City* and plan to come hear the author talk about the book (OR just come and hear the author speak – and then you might want to read the book!). This captivating story is about the author's unraveling of the criminal trial in the 1960's that wrongfully convicted John Randolph Clarke of murdering Paula Herring. Following his presentation, there will be time for questions and answers and casual discussion. Books are available through Amazon or Parnassus Books. Refreshments will be provided. For a reservation, sign up in the East Hall or Narthex, call the church office at 615-297-6513, or e-mail office@trinitypres-nashville.org.



ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH

The Adult Sunday school class, with Sally leading, invites you to join it. This month the class will finish studying *Old Testament Stories from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Kalas is good at taking familiar Bible stories and presenting them in a creative way. The author is professor of Homilectics and has been part of the faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary since 1993. He has spent 38 years as a United Methodist pastor and five years in evangelism with the World Methodist Council. He has been a presenter on *DISCIPLE* videos, is the author of the *Christian Believer* study, and has written more than thirty books, including the popular "Back Side" series and *Longing to Pray: How the Psalms Teach Us to Talk with God*.

At the end of the month, the class will pick up Lenten themes until Easter. These topics will be announced in the Friday e-mail and the Sunday bulletins.

The class is a Bible Study class which focuses on different books of the Bible, and themes from the Bible approached from different and interesting perspectives. The class is designed for folks who know little about the Bible and those who know the Bible reasonably well. The only text for the class is the Bible, and for those who forget to bring one, there are plenty of Bibles available in the parlor. Led by Sally, the format is questions, answers, and discussion. Join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor for stimulating Bible study!

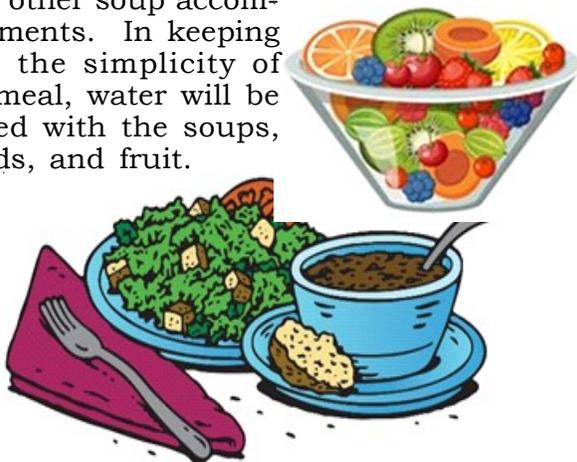
LENTEN LUNCH, STUDY TO FOLLOW WORSHIP ON MARCH 10

During this season of Lent, we are going to have an "All You Can Lent" Lunch on March 10th following worship. Instead of six Lenten studies, we're going to tackle all six in one Sunday--and have a Lenten Feast! Our study will be fun as well as focused on a most interesting disciple: Simon Peter. See if you can do a little research ahead of time and discover stories about Peter from the four gospels and Acts (and don't forget the letters of Peter--which may or may not have been written by him!).



Prior to the study, the Fellowship Committee will provide a simple Lenten Lunch, consisting of soups, salad, and fruit. The congregation is asked to bring salads to accompany the meal, and Fellowship will provide crackers bread,

and other soup accompaniments. In keeping with the simplicity of the meal, water will be served with the soups, salads, and fruit.



Girl Scout Troop #1347, which meets at Trinity, brought their famous cookies for sale following worship on February 3. Many members whose children are now grown, requested that the troop come to offer the beloved treats. There was a long line!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION January 29, 2019

A second inspector from the Fire Marshall's Office had visited Trinity and following his inspection said not to do anything about the previously requested Exit lights in the sanctuary until a complete final report is issued. It is possible sanctuary signs may not be necessary, although there may need to be signs in East Hall.

The session agreed to have the HVAC system and duct work cleaned. It has been at least five years since the ducts were last cleaned and this was an appropriate time. There will be discussions with Linden Waldorf about splitting the cost.

The session also approved entering into a Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement for the AC/Heating units. Facility Supervisor Charlie Bundy recommended the agreement, noting Trinity had previously had such an agreement.

The session heard a brief report about the Vision Team's November 29, 2018 initial meeting with Bill Wilson from the Center for Healthy Churches. The next Vision team meeting will be February 12 and a Congregational Conversation with Bill Wilson will follow worship on February 24.

The moderator reported on her January 15, 2019 meeting with the Oversight Committee which also was attended by Mr. Wilson and Vision Team member Bob Guest. The OC reported the session's December report was not the updated plan they hoped to receive and that they were dismayed that Trinity felt Presbytery was attempting to take its property. The moderator noted that Mr. Wilson countered many of the OC's concerns and claims, essentially championing Trinity's position. The OC remains focused on its position that Trinity reach 120 members by the end of 2019. It is possible the oversight will be extended into 2020.

The moderator brought to the session new members Kim Betty and Bailey Nunn. Both individuals completed membership questions and conversation with the Pastor via email. Sally explained the extenuating circumstances keeping each from being able to appear before the session. The session approved both.

Hank Schomber presented a report comparing Trinity's membership and financial situation to other Presbyterian Churches. It was noted how well Trinity's position looked in relation to the other churches, of our size and larger, both nationally and in the Presbytery.

The moderator reported meeting Linden Waldorf Board members. They met at the school's request on January 16. It was a very positive meeting with LWS assuring that it is very happy at Trinity and looked forward to becoming more involved with out church family, sharing projects and programs, etc. They said they would be happy to meet with the session to discuss some of their ideas. They also understand the situation we have with the Presbytery. They offered to meet with the OC to explain the school's situation and desire to remain on the property for the long term. It was noted that a Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA, hosts to a Waldorf School and that the school has a 20-year lease with the church.

The session approved the baptism of Lillian Ann Rutherford to be held on February 17, 2019 during morning worship.

The session agreed to explore the idea of establishing a Summer Camp Scholarship Fund for children associated with Trinity.

The PCUSA annual statistical report was presented, reviewed, and approved for submission.

The session approved weekly worship on Sundays and having communion services at least once a month in 2019.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 27, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held January 27. A packet of information reviewing Trinity's current status, including a summary of the yearend financial status and reviewing events of the past year, was distributed and an opportunity for questions was given.

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Change of address for:

Lucas, Mariah & Marceline Bates
658 W. Eastland St.
Gallatin, TN 37066



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kennath Henderson - 9

Bill Dougherty - 16

Matt Rutherford - 18

Benita Sims - 18

SPECIAL GROUP ACTIVITY MEETINGS

*****Wandering Presbyterians** Interested in making a reservation for the next adventure/tour? Sign up in the East Hall or Narthex, e-mail or call the church office

*****Presbyterian Women** meet Tuesday, March 5, at 11 a.m. in the Trinity parlor. We will study lesson 7, "God With Us As Emmanuel" from our study book, *God's Promise: I Am with You*. Please bring a sandwich or salad for lunch. Presbyterian Women meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through May.

PICK UP YOUR PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

New Pictorial Church Directories are ready! If you haven't yet picked up a new church directory they are available for you to pick up in the East Hall on Sundays or in the church office. Please call or e-mail the church office with any updates/corrections. Please respect that the directory is for use of participants in Trinity's ministry and is not to be forwarded to others or sent to a mailing list. Many thanks to Aad Zeeuw for taking most of the photos for this first self-produced picture directory!

PRESBYTERY CALLS CO-EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

At the February 25, 2019 Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, Ray and Robin Thomas were called as Co-Executive Presbyters. Ray Thomas has been pastor of The Holy Way Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ since 1995. His wife, Robin, is an ordained elder and Lay Leader for the Synod of the Southwest, serving four Presbyteries in two states. Sally chaired the Presbytery Search Committee which brought these outstanding individuals to Middle Tennessee. The co-Executive Presbyters will begin their duties in April.

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.

THE ONLINE CALENDAR

For a complete list of activities, visit 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 (297-6513 or office@trinitypresnashville.org) so your meeting can be placed on the calendar, or if there is a facilities conflict, it can be resolved before scheduling.

TRINITY TRACKINGS

If you have any news or announcements to share with the congregation, please pass them along to Sally via e-mail or word-of-mouth or drop a note in the offering plate on Sunday so they may be shared in the next Trinity Trackings column. Any and all tidbits of news are welcome!



Paul Berger and Shannon Jones took a trip to NYC and saw "Wicked," the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in addition to other sights.

Michael Cuppett will be added to the list of inquirers under care of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Eric Hobson and Carla McDonough have been hard at work grading mid-term exams and papers.

Lee Anne O'Brien has moved to her new home in Leipers Fork, TN.

Vanderbilt Baseball season has opened and among the fans are Allen Brown, Judy and Hank Schomber.

Jimbo Cook has been at Richland Health Center and hopes to return home soon

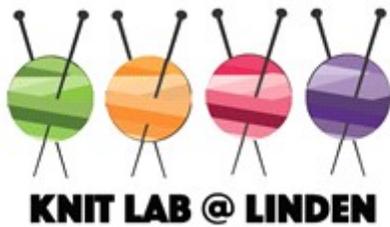
Sally Hughes chaired the Presbytery’s Search Committee for a new Executive Presbyter, and brought the search to a successful conclusion with the acceptance of the Committee’s recommendation of a call issued to co-Executive Presbyters Robin and Ray Thomas, at a called Presbytery meeting at Westminster on February 25.

ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Carol Butler Phillipy
December 9, 1946 - February 9, 2019

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.

LINDEN WALDORF SCHOOL NEWS



Dr. Melissa Gresalfi, a professor in the School of Education at Vanderbilt University, will be offering a workshop on knitting design for 5-8th grade students. Adults who have some familiarity with knitting are also welcome.

The workshop will take place on the Linden Waldorf School campus on Saturday, March 9. It will involve learning new knitting skills and, more importantly, learning how to use yarn to design things that are of personal value to students. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Gresalfi will provide all materials, as well as snacks, although students are encouraged to bring their own lunch and water bottles.

The workshop is part of a research study funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of the study is to investigate what students learn about problem-solving as they engage in design activities. KnitLabs have been held all over Nashville in libraries, schools, and after-school spaces, including in past years at Linden Waldorf School.

KnitLab workshops for 5th-8th graders are open to the public.

To register for one or both of the workshops, paste this link into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/qGyKhzgwuSDE5uI33>.

If you have any questions, you may email Melissa Gresalfi directly at: melissa.gresalfi@vanderbilt.edu



Bill Wiggins provided an Impromptu kettle drum class for Linden Waldorf School students when he rehearsed for the Feb 2 “Mozart in Nashville” Concert. The next concert will be March 30 at 3pm in the sanctuary.

RECITAL ON SUNDAY, MARCH 31

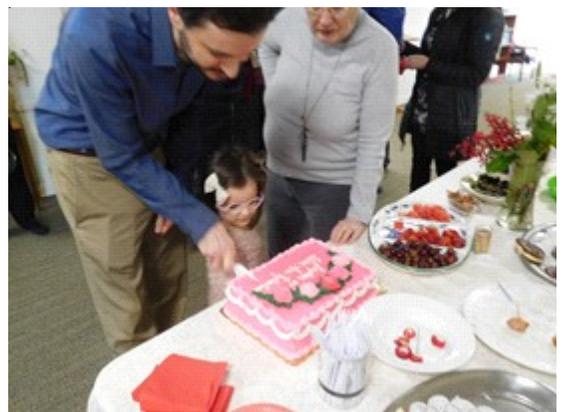
Justin Colón and Amanda Nelson Recital, Sunday, March 31, 6 p.m. in the sanctuary: With Spring blooming and love flourishing, baritone, Justin Colón and soprano, Amanda Nelson have compiled music from around the world that illustrates the colors of love. From the laughter that love brings in Donizetti’s Don Pasquale to love’s intensity in Thomas’s portrayal of Shakespeare’s infamous Hamlet, this opera power couple will have you, enchanted, captivated, and reminiscing throughout their recital series “Hues of Love.”



BAPTISM OF LILLIAN ANN RUTHERFORD



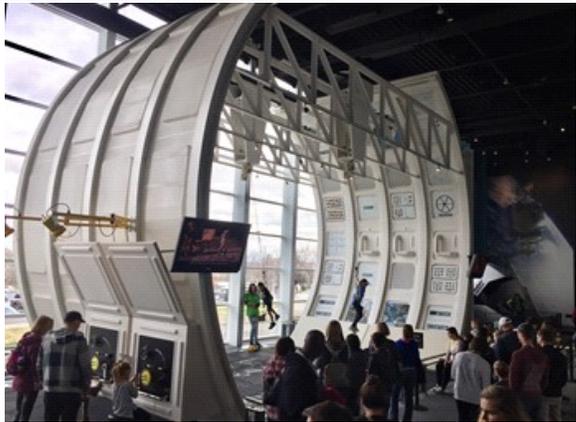
photos by Hank Schomber



WANDERING PRESBYTERIANS VISIT ADVENTURE SCIENCE CENTER PLANETARIUM



photos by staff



MOZART IN NASHVILLE CONCERT ON MARCH 30

Mozart in Nashville will present another Concert in its 2018-19 series, Saturday, March 30, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. As part of the Mozart Birthday Series, "Music for Double Reeds" will be the theme for this upcoming concert coordinated by Roger Weismeyer of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. This delightful afternoon of two concertos, will feature one for oboe and the other for TWO BASSOONS (remember two bassoons are FOUR TIMES AS FUNNY!).

The first piece is another Nashville Concerto Orchestra (NCO) premier by oboist composer, Dan Schwartz. Dan is a professor of Oboe at the University of Oklahoma and a graduate of Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. Dan explains, "'The Bull, The Philosopher and the Harlequin', my concerto for oboe string orchestra, is directing inspired by some of the people I love the most--my nieces and nephews. Writing this piece, I hoped to capture their incredible and incredibly different personalities, drawing out uniquely colors for each movement. I am beyond excited to be world-premiering this work with the Nashville Concerto Orchestra. Having lived my college years in Nashville, this truly feels like a returning home, and I couldn't think of a more appropriate place to premiere this very personal work!"

The second piece features the three bassoonists of the Nashville Symphony playing a classical double bassoon concerto for two bassoons by Czech composer, Johann Baptist Wanhal. The Nashville Concerto Orchestra prides itself on being a playground for musicians to experience their joy in music. In true NCO fashion, this concerto will be performed by three bassoons and will be tag teaming like we used to see in old time wrestling on TV! Donations accepted.

CAROL PHILLIPY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE RECEPTION, FEBRUARY 23, 2019



FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Costa Rica. The days are getting warmer as we move further into the dry season here in the Central Valley. Our winter visitors are still here, the Baltimore orioles and the rose-breasted grosbeaks. Rains were less than usual in November due to the El Niño phenomenon, which means this dry season is becoming a drought in some areas. Households are being urged to conserve water and my garden is beginning to look very sad. The drought this year is not expected to be as severe as the one in 2015, but climate models show Costa Rica experiencing more drought conditions as climate change progresses.

Our first term is in full swing at the Latin American Biblical University. Though only one student arrived from Peru at the start of the year, several new Costa Rican students have started classes. We are thankful for larger class sizes and increased interest in our programs. We are also incorporating new adjunct professors. Alberto Rojas, a professor from the National University who is teaching the introduction to sociology, recently shared with me his excitement at having students both in the classroom and online who are so engaged and interested in learning. I have six students here in San Jose with whom I am exploring the theology and practice of mission.

The solar panels have arrived! The electric company has issued the necessary permits and the installation is happening now. We are very grateful to all of our friends who have donated to this project that will significantly reduce our operating expenses and free up resources to be used for educational programs.

We are also moving forward with other efforts to promote ecological sustainability on campus. During the week of February 25th we will be conducting an audit of the garbage we produce. I am wondering what surprises we will find. We already try to avoid the use of non-biodegradable disposal products on campus. Much of our organic waste already goes to the compost pile in our community garden. We are hoping to improve participation in our recycling program as well as to diminish our use of single-use plastic. Our green team will be sharing the results of the waste audit in a community meeting that will set the context for our Ash Wednesday observance on March 6th.

For April and May, we are bringing eighteen students to campus from various countries for an intensive

seminar that will allow them to do produce their graduation papers in a group process. It is a new experience for us. Our students often have a hard time writing their theses in their home contexts, given the demands of ministry and their secular jobs. The students involved in the graduation seminar have already been working online since the end of last year to define their research topics. Three students have had to drop out of the process, unable to get away for two months. We are fortunate that Angel Roman, a Guatemalan who joined our faculty at the beginning of last year, has expertise in organizing research projects. I invite you to pray for these students as they prepare to come to Costa Rica and finish their degrees.

At the moment, my husband, Javier, and I have our home to ourselves. Our most recent houseguest was a young man from Nicaragua, the brother-in-law of a friend, who came to Costa Rica to complete his residency application for Holland. Though he did not face any direct political repression in Nicaragua, he doesn't see a future for himself as a young professional in his country. He has now joined his Dutch girlfriend in her country.

The exodus from Nicaragua to Costa Rica continues as the economic situation in the country grows desperate amid ongoing political repression. One of Javier's cousins is among the newly arrived. The refugees who have been here for months continue to struggle, especially to find work. The children of the family who we sheltered in our home started classes this month, but many other refugee children have not been accepted in local schools. At the Latin American Biblical University, we continue to be concerned about the lack of services to help refugees recover from the trauma they have suffered. We continue to look for partners who can help us meet this need. In the meantime, Javier and I continue to do what we can.

As I write, the government of Nicaragua has offered to reinstate a limited dialogue with representatives of the private business sector and the Civil Alliance. Many of the grassroots organizations, both in Nicaragua and here in exile, are demanding that the more than 700 political prisoners held by the regime be released as a precondition for negotiations. Please continue to pray for the situation in Nicaragua, that a peaceful path to greater democratization will be found through dialogue that includes a process of holding those who have committed violations of human rights accountable.

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

(continued from page 12)

As a faculty, we are also very concerned about the situation in Venezuela. In a recent interview, the executive council of the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela expressed their concern over the extreme political polarization in their country, a polarization which is also present within the church. They also reiterated their support for their constitution, with its clear separation between the executive and legislative branches of government. The church leaders emphatically reject ongoing foreign intervention in Venezuela. As part of the church of Jesus Christ, they desire to be part of the solution to their country's strife by holding out a vision of peace with justice. One of the members of the executive council, Julio César González, is a student of the UBL. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Venezuela.

As I write on February 26th, the leadership of Presbyterian World Mission is meeting in Cartagena, Colombia with representatives of our mission partner organizations from around Latin American and the Caribbean in the last of a series of regional consultations about future strategic directions for our work in mission. Elisabeth Cook, our president, is representing the UBL. Please pray that God's Spirit will move through the gathering and encourage the Presbyterian Church (USA) and our mission partners toward greater collaboration and support for one another as we all seek to be faithful to God's call to life.

The UBL community

This month, I don't have a profile of a community member to share with you, but I do want to invite you to pray for several members of our community. Anita Lang is one of our students in the United States. She is from Chile and serves as a pastor to a Spanish-speaking congregation of the United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. Anita's husband, Robert Lang, has just died after a long struggle with cancer. Please pray for Anita and her three teen-aged boys as they celebrate Robert's life and mourn his death. Our faculty colleague Nidia Fonseca retired at the end of 2018 to dedicate herself to caring for her mother, who is in the late stages of dementia. Nidia's prayer is that her mother's transition into the next phase of her life with God will be peaceful and not include prolonged suffering. Please pray with her. A few days ago, Damaris Alvarez, who works for our publications department, fell in her home and broke her leg. She is currently awaiting surgery to repair the break. Please pray for her healing. Here at the UBL, we know that our community

and its witness are sustained by the prayers of friends around the world. Thank you.

Closing thoughts

Each morning when I awake, I wonder what the day will hold as I work with my students and care for the refugees that have come into our lives. Even though I don't know what will happen each day, I do know that I am upheld in every moment by prayers and support coming from many churches and individuals. Thank you for being part of the service my colleagues and I here offer in mission. I am planning to spend the fall of this year in the United States sharing about the work you help make possible. Please watch your e-mail for announcements about possible visits. I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

In the hope of God's coming Reign,

Karla



My mailing address is:
Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll
Latin America Biblical University
Apartado 901-1000
San Jose, Costa Rica

March 2019

A calendar that includes all building use, including LWS, can be found on the church website: www.trinitypresnashville.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship/Communion After Worship: First Sunday Fellowship	4 * 8 pm AA Meeting	5 11 am Presbyterian Women	6 Ash Wednesday 11:30 am Ash Wednesday Service 12 noon Bring your Lunch/dine together	7 8 pm AA Meeting	8	9 8 am – 3 pm LWS Knit Lab
10 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: All You Can Lent Lunch	11 * 8 pm AA Meeting	12	13	14 8 pm AA Meeting	15	16
17 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	18 * 8 pm AA Meeting	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 1 pm Author Michael Bishop to speak 8 pm AA Meeting	22	23
24 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time 3:00 pm Girl Scouts	25 * 8 pm AA Meeting	26	27	28 8 pm AA Meeting	29	30 3 pm Mozart in Nashville Concert
31 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship Congregational Conversation 6:00 pm Colón/Nelson Recital						

* Church Office closed on Mondays