

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2020

From the pastor

If we follow Mark's chronology, no time passed between Jesus' baptism and his forty days spent in the wilderness. Immediately after the Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus and a voice from heaven declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased," that same Spirit shoves Jesus into the wilderness. Perhaps still dripping wet from his baptismal bath, Jesus moved from holy embrace to holy terror as Jesus in zero point four seconds.

Try as I might, I could not find a kinder, gentler, and still accurate translation which described the Spirit's action. The Greek word, 'ekballon' means "drove out" but that seems so jarring and rough. Other possible definitions of the word sounded even worse—threw, hurled, forced, pushed, compelled, impelled. A couple of Bible translations did tone down the verb a bit, using "the Spirit sent" or "the Spirit put" but overall, those uses are not very true to the actual meaning of the word.

No, "drove out" is how Mark described it. The Spirit who moments earlier had lovingly descended upon Jesus took a more forceful action in driving Jesus into the wilderness. It's an odd turn of events.

Immediately after his baptism, Jesus found himself in the lonely, desolate, God-forsaken wilderness. Surely he must have wondered what just happened? He must have had more than a few questions about where God was?

Suddenly finding oneself in the wilderness with no direction may be more common than we realize. Bad news, terrible events, puzzling situations happen suddenly, immediately. We answer the phone and the message we hear immediately changes our lives. We have a heart attack and immediately our usual routine changes. Sometimes the events of our lives are not gradual, but sudden and we know that feeling of going from beloved to bewildered, from faithful follower to confused disciple. Are we alone in all this? Was Jesus?

According to Mark, Jesus had at least three sets of companions: Satan and Satan's temptations, the wild beasts, and the angels. An odd group, for sure—like some weird version of the television show, Survivor.

Mark doesn't describe the temptations, nor tell us how many, nor share any dialogue between Jesus and Satan. Matthew and Luke describe three temptations—hunger, power and divinity but Mark remains silent. Mark leaves the nature and number of the temptations to our imaginations, which opens the door to imagining anything or everything. Whatever they were and however they happened, we know the end of the story because in verse 14, Jesus emerged from the wilderness to begin his ministry, having conquered any and all temptations. Humanly speaking Jesus was alone, but spiritually speaking, he was not alone because the wild beasts and the angels were with him.

Now, most of us do not think of wild beasts as companions. We think of wild beasts as predators, as animals to be avoided rather than welcomed. In this story, the wild beasts were not a danger, but evidence God's new and marvelous covenant with God's people, as described through the prophet Isaiah:

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people. . ."

Whatever the nature and number of Satan's temptation, the presence of the wild beasts, gave Jesus the sure knowledge of God's "new thing," which could turn rivers in deserts. The wild beasts were Jesus' evidence that he was not alone, but was filled with God's power.

And while we usually think of angels as heavenly beings who are present at Jesus' birth and present again at Jesus' resurrection, these angels in the wilderness are described as ministering to him, proclaiming God's hospitality even in the wilderness. Angels, who are messengers from God, bear God's sustaining presence, the sure knowledge that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. Whatever Satan's temptations were, Jesus had with him the wild beasts and the angels, companions

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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, Designated Pastor
 William E. Berger, Minister of Music
 Linda Rogers, Office Manager
 Charlie Bundy, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS
 Vira Baker (2020) Hank Howerton (2020)
 Lucas Bates (2020) Paul Parker (2021)
 Vera Billington (2021) Linda Rutherford (2022)
 Jackie Brawner (2022) George Ward (2022)
 Aad Zeeuw (2021)

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- March 1 First Sunday in Lent/Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
 Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- March 8 Second Sunday in Lent**
 Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- March 15 Third Sunday in Lent**
 Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11;
 John 4:5-42
- March 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- March 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent**
 Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
 John 11:1-45

From the pastor (continued from page 1)

sent by God to remind Jesus of God's unfailing promises and God's words of hope and healing. Jesus was alone, but he was not alone.

In the time it takes to hear a cancer diagnosis, lose a job, watch the eyes of someone dear to us close for the last time, be served with divorce papers—we are immediately driven into the wilderness, we are alone and wondering where God is. Wondering about our future. Wondering when it will stop hurting. Wondering if we should give up on our faith. Wondering if we should give up on God.

We think we are alone—but we are not alone. Mark's gospel tells us that our companions are the wild beasts, whom God has transformed from being our predators to being our companions. They remind us of God's power, surprising and transforming power, even in the midst of trouble and sorrow.

We think we are alone—but we are not alone. The angels minister to us, whom God has sent to bear God's word to a sinful and fearful world. They remind us of God's love, redeeming and healing love, even in the midst of despair and brokenness, of hunger and thirst.

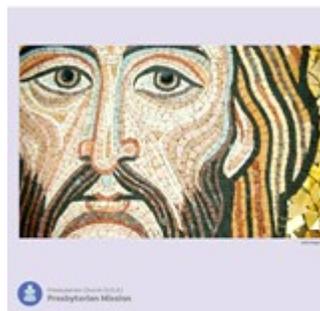
We think we are alone—but we are not alone. The wild beasts are our companions, the angels wait

upon us. With our hearts, we see God's covenant with us and love for us, bright as a rainbow, its divine brilliance chasing away the gloom, the darkness and the confusion of the wilderness. Even in the wilderness, God sends a light on our path through life, where we stand surrounded by wild beasts and angels, confident now that we are not alone, loved by One who is always with us.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE IN EAST HALL

The 2020 lenten devotional, "Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 journey to the cross" is available to pick up in the east hall.

Becoming a
 Beloved Community
 A Matthew 25 journey to the cross



MUSIC NOTES

Will Berger, Music Director

A word about our Pipe Organ:

The session has asked me share with you something about our pipe organ and work we hope to have done on it in the future. At our annual meeting this was mentioned and we knew the congregation has questions about that work and its cost. I'll say first, that I am happy to either answer or find the answer to any and every question about our instrument. You can talk with me or email me at will_berger@bellsouth.net.

The work we are looking to do is called releathering. Every pipe organ contains bellows, which are composed of leather. As leather ages it becomes brittle, causing bellows to leak and eventually blow out. The restoration process includes the use of tanned leathers, high quality canvas, rubber cloth etc. in order to apply new belts, corner pieces, pouches throughout the instrument. It is part of the basic larger maintenance of a pipe organ that is due usually every forty or so years.

Our instrument was built in 1968 by the Hillgreen and Lane Organ company of Alliance of Ohio (as an aside, many organ companies and stained glass companies are nestled in the Ohio valley as immigrant craftsmen came to this country). Organ companies are almost always family operations so that the company that built our organ no longer exists after the passing of the families. I'm fairly sure our instrument has never been releathered, so that may mean because we have performed routine maintenance and have valued our instrument since its installation we may have gotten over fifty years of mileage on the instrument without having to do this major work.

The Milnar organ company is based in nearby Eagleville, TN and provides our maintenance. Dennis Milnar established his shop there and the family (now grandchildren) continues the work of maintaining countless area pipe organs as well as our symphony organ. They also maintain the instrument that we installed in our previous church in Franklin, so I have a long and trusted relationship with them. We received an estimate from them two or three years ago so I will confirm an estimate from them in the near future.



FINALLY, I want to just share a tidbit of the spiritual value of a pipe organ. The first thing I love to share is that like a church, a pipe organ is a gathering of individual voices joined together. Each pipe has its own sound which it makes when air blows through it (hence the need for bellows). So the sound you hear from our pipe organ is not amplified sound like a recording, it is the real living voice of air carrying a musical note. Each voice is essential to the entire instrument WHICH was built by an organ building family specifically to meet the worship needs of the Trinity Presbyterian Church sanctuary and congregation. The pipes you see are only some of the pipes. There are some 1,000 pipes of various size packed in behind the pipes you see (kind of like sitting on a back pew). These are the voices that are added to our voices in worship. So, next time someone asks you how many we have in worship on Sunday, if you are feeling maybe a little smug you can answer, "We have over a thousand voices in worship each Sunday."



CONCERT CHORALE TO PRESENT ON MARCH 29

The Concert Choral of Nashville will perform Sunday, March 29 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. CCN will present a concert of choral favorites to benefit Living Waters for the World. Donations accepted.

ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH

Beginning March 1st, the adult Sunday school class will be studying *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton. This will be the Lenten study.

Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters.

If you would like a copy of the book, please sign the sheet in East Hall or at the back of the sanctuary, or call/email the church office.

The class is held in the parlor and begins at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Pastor Sally Hughes is the leader of the class. Come join the Sunday morning group for thoughtful and stimulating study and discussion!

NEXT KNIT AND CROCHET EVENT ON APRIL 4

Knit & Crochet TN at Trinity, April 4 - also known as The Big Stitch event: Do you like to knit or crochet OR want to learn more? The quarterly Big Stitch University will be held at Trinity on Saturday, April 4 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Instructions are free, but classes are by reservation only. For more details, visit KnitAndCrochetTN.org. For questions, e-mail deb@knitandcrochettn.org or call 615-410-0620.



The Big Stitch 4.6

Saturday
April 4, 2020
8:30 am - 2pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3201 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37215

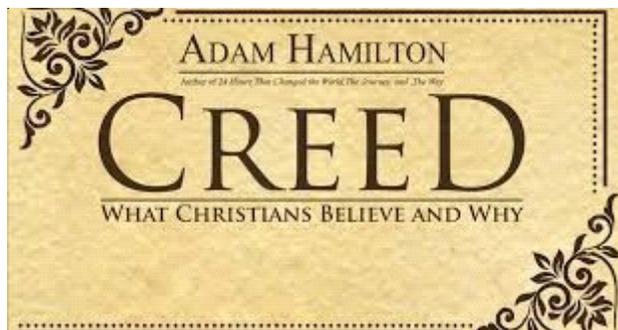
Bring a sack lunch, or lunch may be purchased.
Drinks are provided.

Door Prizes - FREE Instruction* - FREE Seminars - FREE Patterns
- Boutique with patterns, yarn, needles & hooks -

NEW CLASSES! Big Stitch University

*Instruction is FREE, however BSU classes are by reservation only.

For more details visit KnitAndCrochetTN.org
for questions email deb@knitandcrochettn.org
or call (615) 410-0620



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes
STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
January 28, 2020

Vira Baker was elected Clerk of Session.

Trinity ended 2019 with positive balance for the first time in four years—a sign of the church's solid recovery from the split. Another sign was seen in the 2020 budget which shows an increase of three pledges.

The session agreed to extend our coverage to include terrorism insurance. The Finance Committee will also explore insurance with a lower deductible.

Vera Billington represented Trinity at the February 1 Presbytery meeting in Tullahoma.

Trinity member Michael Culpett moved from inquirer to Candidate for Ministry at the Presbytery meeting.

The session committed to work with Project Thrive as we work to expand and strengthen our programs in meaningful ways.

Longtime Facility Manager Charlie Bundy will be retiring this Spring. The session is looking into how to best replace him.

MARCH 8
S E T
Y O U R
C L O C K S
F O R -
W A R D
B E F O R E
G O I N G
T O B E D
MARCH 7



A SPECIAL FEBRUARY 2



While Sally and Will were on study leave on February 2, the guest preacher was Jeanne Hoechst. She has been a part of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee since January of 1991, first as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Murfreesboro. While there she began training in pastoral counseling and worked with students at MTSU for nearly 20 years. She recently retired from ministry.



Chadasha, a Gospel choir from Belmont University, sang for us. In Hebrew, “chadasha” means “new” or “fresh”. It was used in the Old Testament, which was originally written in Hebrew, to describe God’s interaction with his people. Psalm 51:10 says, “create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew [chadash] a right spirit within me”. Chadasha is a student-led Christian choir which seeks to refresh not only its own members, but also the whole world. Chadasha participates in this through passionate music, intimate Bible study, and community cultivation.



Shonda Johnson served as guest musician and choir director on February 2.



First Sunday Fellowship featured a Super Bowl cake.

SERVICE FOR DAVID OLNEY

A Celebration of Life service for David Olney, musician and former Trinity member, will be Monday, March 9 at the Belcourt Theatre. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the service starts at 6:30. For more information: https://nashvilletennessean-tn.newsmemory.com/?publink=4cd926a4d_1343536



We are so proud of Michael Cuppett! He was received as a candidate for the ministry at the Presbytery meeting on February 1. The Rev Lindsey Groves delivered an excellent charge to Michael, to give him strength for his continued theological journey. The Rev. Mike Wilson, looking on, is from Downtown Presbyterian Church, and is the moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. What a joyful day!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Paige Stinnett - 3

Kennath Henderson - 9

Bill Dougherty - 16

Matt Rutherford - 18

Benita Sims - 18

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

*****Wandering Presbyterians.** Watch for information on the next outing of the Wandering Presbyterians in the Friday e-mail and the Sunday Bulletin.

*****Presbyterian Women** will meet Tuesday, March 3, in the Trinity Parlor We will cover Lesson 7 "Words of Love: Do Not Steal" from *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. Bring a lunch for a Fellowship time following the lesson.

*****Trinity Book Club's** next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for snacks followed by book club discussion from 6 - 7 p.m. in the parlor. The book for March is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.. If you have questions, contact Carla McDonough (carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net). In case you like to read ahead, the books chosen for discussion in the coming months are:

April 8 - *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan
 May 13 - *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
 June 10 - *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
 July 8 - *A Woman of No Consequence* by Maureen Kerr

HOW TO CONTACT NORMA DEJARNETTE

Norma DeJarnette has moved to Brookdale of Belle Meade (6767 Brookmont Terrace). She's in room 2116, which is on the first floor, to the right and down the hall.

Norma welcomes visitors (and her son, Tom, encourages them). She is still going to physical and occupational therapy but no schedule has been set. Tom suggests that you call ahead before coming to visit, so you don't miss her. If you want to send cards or notes, the address is:

Brookdale of Belle Meade
 6767 Brookmont Terrace
 Nashville, TN 37205

615-353-1990 (to call before going to see Norma)

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!



Vera Billington has been taking in the sights of Charlotte, NC as part of her work-away-from-home . . .
 Vanderbilt baseball has started for the Vanderbilt Commodores--and for Hank and Judy Schomber and Allen Brown!
 Mariah Lebron's mother came to visit Lucas, Mariah and Marceline recently . . .
 Paige Stinnett got engaged to Taylor Raboin on Sunday, February 16th . . .
 Ed Clegg is glad to be home after a long business trip out of town!
 Katy Wilson is getting stronger after having a heart attack last month . . .
 Abby Crawford and Jack Slagle just returned from a trip to Tahiti, Bora Bora, and Rangiroa . . .

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES A HIT WITH TRINITY



Two Girl Scout troops, #1347 and #1401 formerly known as Brownies, came to the East Hall on February 2 and February 23, to offer cookies after worship. As can be seen in the picture above right, there were quite a few Trinity takers!

photos by Hank Schomber

TRINITY CONTRIBUTIONS RECAP - AS OF JANUARY 2020

January	Year to Date	Budget YTD	Difference	Annual Budget
\$11,063	\$11,063	\$15,000	-\$3,937	\$180,000
Building Use (Rent) Recap				
\$14,900	\$14,900	\$14,906	-\$6	\$189,470

LES KERR PRESENTS ON HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS



Wandering Presbyterians were pleased to sponsor local musician Les Kerr, who provided a program related to the History of Mardi Gras on February 17. Will Berger prepared lunch for the group.



Staff photos



CLAUDE SPENCER, MICHAEL CUPPETT WORSHIP WITH US ON FEBRUARY 2

The congregation was enriched by the presence of members Claude "Spence" Spencer and Michael Cuppett on February 2. Everyone was delighted to see both of them in their home church.

Spence is currently living and working in Memphis but is actively looking for welding work in the Nashville area so he can move back here. Spence arrived in time for Sunday School and stayed to greet everyone at refreshment time after the service.

Michael was in town to be received as a candidate for the ministry at the February Presbytery meeting before returning to theological studies at Princeton University. Trinity is Michael's sponsoring church and Judy Schomber will serve as his Trinity mentor during his candidacy.



photos by Hank Schomber

