

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2019

From the pastor

My parents bought me a car when I graduated from high school. Lest you have visions of a convertible or some candy-red foreign car, it was a brown and white 1959 Ford Fairlane which had accumulated about five years of dents from the previous owner who was the elderly mother of a family friend. Her driving days were over; my driving days were just beginning! They paid \$75.00 cash for the car.

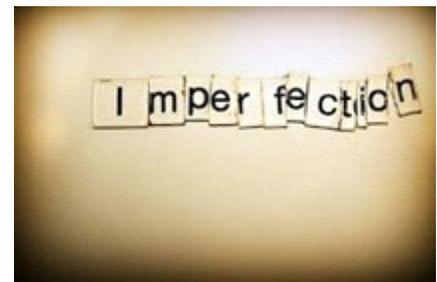
I drove that car to and from college, work, and church. The car had no seat belts and I quickly discovered that I could get eight—maybe nine—people in my car. If I had made use of the massively large trunk, I could have carried even more.

In addition to having no seat belts, the car had no heater or defroster. I bundled up whenever I drove in the winter, but rolled the window down so my breath wouldn't fog up the inside of the windshield. I had an ice scraper handy for when it did. The radio didn't work, so I bought a small transistor radio (only a handful of folks will know what a transistor radio is!) and taped it to the dashboard so that I could have a little music from the local AM stations. Having no heater and no radio seemed odd only when someone else would ride with me and say, "how do you manage without a heater?" or notice my transistor radio and say, "I'd go crazy without a real radio." I didn't mind; I had learned to live with my 1959 Ford Fairlane's imperfections. It served me well for five years.

Every car that I have driven since that 1959 Ford Fairlane has had a heater and a radio but also has had some kind of quirk. Maybe not as obvious as not having a heater or radio, but there has been something imperfect about every car. I have learned to live—and drive—with imperfection.

As obsessed as we are with perfection in this society (perfect hair, perfect teeth, perfect bodies, perfect lives), it is more Christlike to learn to live with imperfection. When we learn to live with and accept imperfections in ourselves and in others, we are more Christlike. It's not "I'll love you if you are a brand new 2019 car loaded with lots of cool features" but "I'll love you even if you are a dented 1959 Ford Fairlane with no heater or radio." This is not to suggest that we humans aren't supposed to try and live better lives or be better persons during our lives, but Christ didn't say, "Fix yourself up and then come follow me," he simply said, "Follow me" — dents, no seat belts, no heater, no radio and all.

Christ calls us all of us imperfect beings, and loves us with a graceful, not a critical eye. He calls us to follow him however we are, whoever we are, and he calls us to serve him with what we have been given, for as long as we live. So it is as we live with our imperfections in service to Christ that we find that we are loved perfectly.



Trinity Presbyterian Church
 3201 Hillsboro Road
 Nashville, TN 37215
 Phone: (615) 297-6513
 Fax: (615) 292-6133
 E-mail: office@trinitypresnashville.org
www.trinitypresnashville.org
facebook.com/trinitypresbyterianchurchnashville/

The Trinity Times is published monthly. We welcome news items and other contributions from members and friends of Trinity. Bring your articles to the church or e-mail them to the editor, Judy Schomber (schomberstat@aol.com), by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF
 Sally Hughes, Pastor
 William E. Berger, Minister of Music
 Linda Rogers, Office Manager
 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)

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- May 5 Third Sunday of Easter/Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
 Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 39;
 Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
- May 12 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17;
 John 10:22-30
- May 19 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6;
 John 13:31-35
- May 26 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
 Revelation 21:10; 21:22--22:5;
 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

TRINITY TO HOST MAY PRESBYTERY MEETING

Trinity will host the May 30 meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. The quarterly meeting is scheduled for most of the day, from 8 a.m. registration through 3 p.m. adjournment. About 125 persons from all areas of Middle Tennessee will be attending this meeting.

A special feature of the May 30 meeting will be the installation of the new Co-Executive Presbyters Ray and Robin Thomas. Ray was examined and called into the Presbytery as a teaching elder at a called meeting of the Presbytery on February 25. Robin, who is a ruling elder, was presented and called at the same meeting.

The daylong Thursday meeting will include a worship service, business meeting and lunch. Trinity will arrange for and serve the lunch.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Trinity," said Pastor Sally Hughes.

Trinity members are asked to volunteer for various roles at the Presbytery meeting. Specifically, volunteers are needed for the following:

- √ Two people to sit at the registration table and hand out name tags, etc.
- √ Two people to take money for lunch
- √ Six people to serve as ushers during the worship service
- √ Four elders to help serve communion
- √ Four or five people to help with parking cars
- √ Two people to show folks into the Fellowship Hall for lunch
- √ Four or five people to "float" around the church, answering questions, directing folks to restrooms, etc.

In addition to those responsibilities, we also need folks who would be willing to help set up for Presbytery (tables, etc) and who would help clean up after Presbytery is over.

This is a chance to show Trinity off to the rest of the church representatives in the Presbytery and to welcome our new leadership, Ray and Robin Thomas. Please lend a hand in whatever way you are able! Contact Linda Rogers at office@trinitypresnashville.org or e-mail Sally.

WORKDAY SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18

Saturday, May 18th will be a work day at Trinity so that we can get our grounds and building ready for presbytery. We need folks who can dust, clean up under the pews and around the pews, find and eliminate cobwebs, clean the tops of glass tables in the sanctuary and in East Hall, dust and straighten up in East Hall, spruce up the outside of the building (pick up trash, pull weeds, etc).



A list of tasks for all areas will be made available to the congregation so that all areas of the building and grounds can be spruced up. Please consider coming to work day on May 18. You can email Sally or Linda Rogers (office@trinitypresnashville.org) if you'd like to volunteer for a specific task.



THIRD CONVERSATION WITH BILL WILSON TO FOLLOW SUNDAY WORSHIP ON MAY 5

The third "Conversation" with Bill Wilson from the Center for Healthy Churches will follow worship on Sunday, May 5. Everyone -- members, friends, visitors -- is invited to attend and childcare will be available during the meeting. Mr. Wilson has been asked by the Session to help steer Trinity's future in a positive direction and a main part of his consultations is to gather information about the church and to make plans for achieving goals and stabilizing the congregation's membership, mission, and financial position.

At this third Conversation, we will talk about Trinity's future, building on our Past and Present conversations, and we'll be engaging in some vision casting and scenario exploration. We'll be asked to imagine a healthy and thriving future for the church, and begin planning for that future.

Lunch will be catered. Since planning for the church's future involves the ideas, contributions, and participation of everyone who is a part of Trinity's congregation in worship and other church activities, it is emphasized that everyone should come to this meeting.

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.



ADULT EDUCATION IN MAY

The Adult Sunday school class, with Sally leading, invites you to join it. For the months of May and June, the adult Sunday school class will take a deeper look at the passages selected for preaching on the following Sunday. Not only does this give the class an insight into next Sunday's sermon, it gives the pastor a chance to hear questions and conversations about the passage, which may improve the sermon! The passages for study and discussion are:

May 5th Acts 9:36 - 43
May 12th Acts 11: 1 - 18
May 19th Acts 16: 9 - 15
May 26th Acts 16:16 - 40
June 2nd Acts 2: 1 - 21
June 9th Romans 5: 1 - 5
June 16th Luke 8: 26 - 39
No Sunday school on June 23rd or 30th

Beginning in July, Dr. Will Berger is going to teach the Sunday school class, using Dr. John Meier's book, "A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus."

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Xinia Briceño became involved in the Rural Aqueduct Association of Milano when she realized that the water source for her community was being contaminated by agrochemicals used in the nearby pineapple plantations. Since 2009, she has led her community to hold the pineapple companies and the Costa Rican government responsible for cleaning up and protecting the springs that provide water for Milano. In 2015, the community took their case to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights in Washington, DC. Xinia is the vice president of the National Union of Communal Aqueducts and on the board of the National Front of Sectors Affected by Pineapple Production (FRENASAPP).



Xinia Briceño, Rural Aqueduct Association of Milano 4

Despite its image as an environmentally progressive nation, Costa Rica is now the world's leading exporter of pineapples. The ongoing expansion of this monoculture exposes more and more communities to contaminants in water and land. I am excited about the opportunity to accompany Xinia in her speaking tour as an international peacemaker. Xinia and I are available for visits from Friday, September 13th, and Monday, October 7th. If you are interested in having us come to your church, educational institution or community to share information about the struggles for environment justice in Costa Rica and our call as Christians to care for God's creation, please follow the link below for more information. Though invitations to International Peacemakers are usually extended by presbyteries, invitations can come from churches or other organizations. Questions? Please write to me.



Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll
Serving in San Jose, Costa Rica
Latin American Biblical University
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Mission Co-worker

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes
STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION March 26, 2019

Trinity received communication from the Office of the Fire Marshall reversing information received last month indicating it will not be necessary to have lighted "EXIT" signs placed in the Sanctuary. The latest information noted it will be necessary to have illuminated "Exit" signs in the Fellowship Hall, East Hall and any place where Linden Waldorf School holds classes. Failure to have these signs in place could result in the school being shut down. The session approved getting bids from three electrical contractors. The expense will be discussed with LWS.

The moderator encouraged all elders to attend the congregational conversation with Bill Wilson from The Center for Healthy Churches on March 31 following worship and asked that the elders urge all members to attend also. The meeting will be about "the church today."

The session heard a report about the radios for prison inmates which were approved in February. Two radios have been purchased and delivered. The church received a "wonderful" thank-you letter from one inmate who also asked to be placed on the mailing list for bulletins and newsletter.

The moderator noted that letters have been sent to various agencies letting them know our facilities are available for community/government meetings.

The session agreed to have Trinity host the Thursday May 30 Presbytery Meeting. It was noted the new Co-Presbytery Executives will be installed at this time and there being a Presbytery Business meeting. The Pastor will be meeting with the Stated Clerk of Presbytery to get more information.

There was discussion about the anticipated change in the Facility Manager as Charlie Bundy is expected to retire in the foreseeable future. The pastor will begin meetings with school personnel and Mr. Bundy to determine changes in the Job Description for the position.

Paul Parker and Bill Dougherty were selected as Communion Elders for April 7.

Elder Dougherty requested a Spring Work Day be scheduled to attend the church gardens and plantings.

The session approved daily Holy Week services at 12:30 p.m., along with a Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. on April 18 and an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. April 21.

TRINITY SHIRTS FOR SALE!

Megan Rutherford has drawn a wonderful Trinity Presbyterian shirt which is available for purchase. While we don't know the exact cost (until we know how many people want one), it will be \$20.00 or less. Please sign the sheet in East Hall or the narthex if you would like a shirt, along with your size. You may also e-mail the church (office@trinitypresnashville.org) with your information. We hope to be able to wear these shirts during the Presbytery meeting, to identify us as Trinity folks, but also hope we can find lots of occasions to wear this shirt and show our love for Trinity.

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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Erica Durnell - 2

Linda Rogers - 4

Jackie Brawner - 7

Stephen Nunn - 10

Molly Parker - 14

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** are heading to Barbara's Homecookin' on May 2! Carpool will meet at Trinity at 10:50 a.m. From chicken to catfish, meatloaf to crab cakes, Barbara's Homecookin' offers a wide variety of delicious menu items that range in price from \$8 - \$15. For a reservation, call the office at 615-297-6513.

*****Presbyterian Women** meet Tuesday, May 7, at 11 a.m. in the Trinity parlor. We will study lesson 9, "God With Us" 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.

THE BIG PAYBACK ON MAY 2

The Big Payback is a community-wide, 24-hour online giving challenge hosted by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. This charitable event will help area nonprofits raise much-needed dollars and bring awareness to pressing needs in our community.

In the past five years, The Big Payback has helped raise more than \$12.5 million for more than 1,000 local nonprofits – including schools and religious institutions. Participating organizations have received gifts from 24,716 NEW donors they may have not otherwise reached.

On Thursday, May, let's show everyone just how generous Middle Tennessee residents are when we support each other. The website for The Big Payback is <https://www.thebigpayback.org> or you can reach your preferred local nonprofit and give on its website.



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!



Norma DeJarnette enjoyed a visit from her son, Tom who lives in California...

Evie Rutherford enjoyed a dinosaur-filled 4th birthday AND she and Lillian are enjoyed the new swing set built in their backyard!

Among the 79 folks who worshipped at Trinity on Easter Sunday were these folks: John Wise, Tineke Colijn, Josh, Vicki, Jack and Sam Watson, Genette Norma, Jay Norman, George, Matteo, and Alessandro Ward, Allie Frutcherman, Allison Hibbs, Liz McGeachy, Ray and Robin Thomas...

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY ON MAY 19

Every year, Presbyterians celebrate Heritage Sunday, a day to reflect upon and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian church in America.

Heritage Sunday always falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789.

Each year the General Assembly chooses a Presbyterian to be honored on Heritage Sunday. This year Reverend Henry Highland Garnet, whose Vision of Justice served as foundations for the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution and Civil Rights legislation in the 1960's.

Soon after Congress passed the 13th Amendment in 1865, officially ending slavery in the United States, the Chaplain of Congress asked Reverend Henry Highland Garnet to preach in the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill.

In many ways Garnet was a logical choice for the Sunday worship service. The 50-

year-old pastor of Washington, D.C.'s Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church had escaped slavery as a child and grown up to become a leading abolitionist and orator. And yet Garnet was also an ardent and dedicated political activist who did not hold back when speaking out against injustice—no matter the audience.

Garnet's sermon of February 12, 1865, "Let the Monster Perish," detailed stark truths about slavery's lasting legacy and listed future steps needed for a just society, including full enfranchisement and education. Garnet said the work of emancipation is not complete until the "burdens of war and the blessings of peace are equally borne and enjoyed by all," and asked those gathered to see emancipation as an opportunity to live into their Christian faith and make manifest the love of justice seen in the Bible.



Source: <https://www.history.pcusa.org/history-online/presbyterian-history/heritage-sunday>

LEARN ABOUT “ASCENSION OF THE LORD” DAY ON MAY 30

The Ascension of the Lord has never been an important event on the Presbyterian church calendar. But perhaps it should be, as there are things we can learn from it.

The story of Jesus ascending into heaven after appearing to his followers in the 40 days after his resurrection does come with two significant challenges. First, as a rule, people do not simply float away into the sky. Just think of the nightmare that would pose for the Transportation Security Administration. Secondly, the story presents a picture of the universe we know not to be true. “Heaven” is not “up” and “hell” is not “down” and we do not live in “the middle.” So a literal reading of the story is not going to be helpful.

But stories of ascensions appear in both sacred and secular writings. Elijah is taken up into the heavens on a chariot of fire. “Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.” Plutarch, the historian, included an ascension story in his history of Rome. What are these stories trying to tell us?

Ascension stories offer us a new and exalted view of the one who ascends. When we say, in the words of the Apostles’ Creed, that Jesus “ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God,” we are proclaiming that Jesus is now exalted over all — the Lord of heaven and earth who heals the wounds of a broken humanity and breaks down the walls that divide us from each other and from God. The Ascension is a celebration of the church’s first creed: Jesus is Lord.

The Ascension also marks a critical turning point. In both the Gospel of Luke and in Acts, the Ascension marks the passing of Jesus’ message and mission to his disciples. What is to become of his story and work is now in their care and keeping. And the disciples will be able to continue Jesus’ work with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit that comes upon them at Pentecost, which is celebrated 10 days after the Ascension.

For us in the church, Ascension Sunday can be a time when we remind ourselves of the important work to which we have been called. Christ’s work is now our work. Without the Spirit’s empowering presence, our work cannot be faithfully offered. Ascension Sunday, thus, connects us to Pentecost and the gifts for ministry that the Spirit provides.

The Ascension story also includes a rather comical scene. The disciples are standing there, first looking at Jesus ascending and then staring at the clouds. They then hear a voice asking them what they are looking at.

“Uh, the sky.”

“Don’t you think you ought to get on with what Jesus told you to do?”

“Guess so.”

And there is one of the great challenges the church has always faced. Adoration or action. Worship or service. Contemplation or engagement. Let’s be clear. It’s not a choice. All are part of the life of a Christian. They feed each other.

Sometimes, though, we are a bit like those disciples, standing there with our feet on the ground and our heads in the clouds. We get a little distracted. We get a little preoccupied and sidetracked.

But then someone, or something, says, “What are you looking at?” And that is Ascension’s moment of grace. It is a moment when we are invited to reexamine our calling and our discipleship.



So it’s up to us. We can be so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good, or we can be about the work of expanding the realm of God.

What are you looking at?

How about a world made new? A world where there’s enough for all. A world where all people are treated justly and with love.

Sources: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0418-wpb/>
by Kevin Scott Fleming
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EASTER 2019



photos by Staff
and LeeAnne O'Brien



2019 EASTER EGG HUNT, APRIL 20

Over forty children (plus their parents and Trinity helpers) participated in the 2019 Easter Egg Hunt on the Trinity grounds. Although the grass was still wet from the recent rains, the hiders found clever ways to place the eggs so the children wouldn't get wet finding them. Following the hunt, egg-counting and refreshments took place in the Fellowship Hall.



staff photos





staff photos

May 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 11 am Wandering Pres carpool leaves for Barbara's <u>Homestead</u> 8 pm – AA Meeting	3 LWS Mayfair – half day of school	4
5 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship/Communion After Worship: Lunch and Congregational Conversation 3:00 pm Girl Scouts	6 8 pm – AA Meeting	7 11 am Presbyterian Women's Bible Study	8 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 8 pm – AA Meeting	10	11
12 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	13 8 pm – AA Meeting	14	15 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 8 pm – AA Meeting	17	18 Trinity Workday
19 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	20 Newsletter Articles Due 8 pm – AA Meeting	21	22 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 8 pm – AA Meeting	24 LWS last day of school	25 Trinity Workday If needed
26 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	27 8 pm – AA Meeting	28 7 pm – Session	29 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 8 am – 3 pm Presbytery Meeting at Trinity 8 pm – AA Meeting	31	

Note: Church office is closed on Mondays