

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2020

From the Pastor

Who in his or her right mind would raise a fund-raising appeal in the middle of a pandemic? Well, Will and I would (with the session's permission, of course!), and not because we are insensitive to the COVID19 virus, or unconcerned about social distancing and health issues or unaware. We are sending this fund-raising letter because this is a good time—and maybe the most appropriate time—to have important work done on our 1968 Hillgreen and Lane pipe organ. Music has always been at the heart of Trinity's ministry and so what better time to perform some much needed work than when the sanctuary is empty and work on the organ would cause no disruption of worship?

In addition, with so many small businesses suffering, this would provide work for those at Milner Organ Company, in Eagleville, TN. This family-owned business was established by Dennis Milner established years ago. Dennis, his children and his grandchildren now continue the work of maintaining countless area pipe organs, as well as maintaining the organ at the Schermerhorn Symphony Hall. Will has had a trusted relationship with Milner Organ since 1993.

The work we are hoping 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. We are fairly sure our instrument has never been releathered, so that may mean because routine maintenance has been performed on a regular basis, but regardless, we may have gotten, over fifty years of mileage on the instrument without having to do this major work.

The cost of this re-leathering is \$18,480. That may seem like a lot of money but we often talk about the

importance of keeping our church building and grounds well-maintained. Work on the organ is as important as a new HVAC or repairing a broken church wall or removing fallen trees (an ongoing event!). We can put off the re-leathering but it won't get cheaper. The price quoted to us by Milner Organ Company is the most reasonable quote, plus Milner Organ Company is familiar with Trinity's organ and performs its regular maintenance.

This isn't a fund-raising appeal with a lot of bells and whistles but a simple request to make a contribution to this important work. You can mail your contributions to the church (3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215) or drop it by the office, or speak with me or one of the elders about wanting to make a gift. I do want you to know that your contribution would be in addition to your normal contribution to the work and worship of Trinity Presbyterian Church, but it would ensure that the music program will continue for years to come.

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

Sally Hughes, Moderator Vira Baker (2020)

Lucas Bates (2022) Vera Billington ((2021)

Jackie Elbert (2022) Hank Howerton (2020)

Paul Parker (2021) Linda Rutherford (2020)

George Ward (2022) Aad Zeeuw (2021)

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- May 3 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- May 10 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 17 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 24 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11
- May 31 **Day of Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21 *or* Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 *or*
Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 *or*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes Stated Meeting of March 26, 2020

The Session agreed it is important to remind the congregation to keep up with church pledges and contributions as much as possible during this time.

Sunday worship services held in the sanctuary were suspended until further notice. In addition to notifying members and regularly attending friends, this notice was placed on the church road sign.

Charlie Bundy's retirement (effective at the end of May) was discussed, but no decision on a possible celebration was reached because of the Pandemic restrictions on meetings.

The pastor will attempt to set up a "Zoom" online meeting with Citywide Services to discuss Trinity's part in its anticipated agreement with Linden Waldorf.

Elder George Ward suggested the name of a possible part-time sexton to assume some of Charlie Bundy's church-related duties going forward. A meeting with

church elders and leaders will be arranged.

The session was made aware of Linden Waldorf's request to rework the Joint Capital Account, possibly making some funds available for building and grounds improvement. The Lease and Space Sharing Agreement Committee will continue to look into the possibility.

Joe Brady was received as a new member by Transfer of Letter.

**Trinity's Sunday Service is available
each week at 11:00 a.m. on the
Trinity Facebook page:**

facebook.com/trinitypresbyterianchurchnashville/

Please join us!

WHAT IS PENTECOST? WHY THE PENTECOST OFFERING?

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.) In 2020 we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 31.

The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or *Shavuot* (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/workship/christianyear/pentecost/>

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Please give generously on May 31 to support our young people.

Please remember to continue to make your contributions to Trinity. You can mail them to the church office, as the mail does get picked up on a regular basis. The address is Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank-you.

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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 . so they may be shared in the next Trinity Trackings column. Any and all tidbits of news are welcome!

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TRACKINGS

Vira's daughter, Kathy, graduates May 16 with a Master's Degree in Christian Counseling.

Daniel Brawner will graduate from Vanderbilt University in May.

Susan Ward and Karen Utterback have been taking an online art class.

Joe Brady was received as a member by transfer of letter at the March online session meeting.

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear companions in mission,

Five weeks have passed since I chose to remain in Costa Rica and continue my mission service here with the support of Presbyterian World Mission. I am very grateful to be here together with my husband, Javier Torrez, and my colleagues at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL). I have been keeping very busy, though I seldom leave our home. The rains have just started and the plants in our garden are rejoicing, full of new life.

As I write on April 25th, Costa Rica has registered 693 cases of the coronavirus, with only six deaths. Decisive government action guided by epidemiological principles has kept the spread of the virus to a minimum. Here there have been various restrictions and a curfew, but we have not experienced a full lockdown or quarantine as in other countries. The numbers of new cases reported each of the last few days have been in the single digits, so the government is expected to loosen some of the restrictions soon. As elsewhere, those who usually survive on what they can sell each day in the informal economy, including many refugees from Nicaragua, are the ones suffering the most in the economic downturn.

The staff at the UBL are all working with reduced salaries as of April 15th. This is especially hard on those with families who depend on these salaries, so I ask you to keep all of my colleagues in your prayers.

Our first term of 2020 has just ended. My inbox is full of final papers waiting to be graded. Some students have written histories of their own congregations or denominations. Others have reviewed books that have been important in the history of Latin American

Protestantism. In their final reflection paper for the course, I asked them to tell me their dreams for the churches in this region. Together with them, I hope

for churches that will prophetically denounce injustices, proclaim God's love in Christ to the world, and join together to work for more just societies and the care of God's creation.

Our new term starts on May 4th. Several new people are joining our student body, which means even larger class sizes. Now that all of our students are studying through our online platform, we have the challenge of providing the personalized accompaniment that has characterized the UBL. I will be teaching the introductory history of Christianity course, fifteen centuries in fifteen weeks, to over 30 students. I will also be exploring contextualized hermeneutics and theologies from around the world with a smaller group. I look forward to reaching out to these students through Zoom, in addition to the online platform, and I hope most will be able to connect.

One of the gifts I am enjoying during this time is being able to connect to churches in the United States. When I can, I join congregations for livestreamed worship. I also watch recorded services and devotions throughout the week. I am grateful for the sermons, the songs and prayers that encourage me and remind me of how we are all striving to follow Jesus in these difficult days. Churches here in Costa are also learning to worship in new ways by using Zoom or Whatsapp. My cup runs over with options for joining together with God's people in worship.

I am also learning to express myself in new ways. I hope you will take a few moments to follow the link below to a video I put together for Eastertide to say thank you for walking with me, my colleagues, and our students. I hope the pictures from Costa Rica will help you know how to keep praying for us here at the UBL. I am also available to connect via Zoom or Skype. I look forward to staying in touch.

Blessings,

Karla

“TRINITY LIVE” ON FACEBOOK

The Word of God continues to be heard.

Pandemics. Social Distancing.

They don't stop Our Lord's message from being spread.

Trinity like hundreds of other churches around the nation has been able to continue offering worship services through these current trying times via electronic means.

The services haven't been without their glitches, but as the weeks pass things get smoother.

“Every week is a learning experience but we are emboldened by your support and

What a treat!

Each week Sally sends out a “brief order of worship” to Trinity members and friends, so they can follow along and participate.

Services broadcasts began on Palm Sunday and “penetrated” the darkness of Tenebrae. Our Easter celebration and even communion followed.

More recently our Presbytery Co-executive Presbyter, Ray Thomas, delivered a sermon and even a children's sermon.

They are all apparently well received as the viewership numbers indicate over 200 tune-ins, including this message from Julia Nichols Arvidson, “God blessed me with meeting Sally through my work as a caregiver for one of your flock. I feel so blessed. Thank you Father God.”

If you miss the 11 a.m. service live broadcast, they remain available through Trinity's Facebook page.

It is important to note that you do not have to be a “Facebook” member to access the service.



Sally leads the Tenebrae service on Facebook

encouragement,” noted Pastor Sally Hughes.

Each Sunday Sally and Will go to the sanctuary and set-up the “broadcast” by cellphone. It's not HD, but certainly brings forth a great service and sermon.

While also serving as “producer and camerasetter,” Music Minister Will Berger also manages to bring us music from Trinity's piano and organ.



The tiniest Trinitarian watching our Facebook Live worship service on Sunday! Thanks, Matt Rutherford and Megan Rutherford!



Will Berger performs at Trinity's piano for a service on Facebook.

Sally shows off Trinity's new Communion Ware graciously donated recently by George Ward.

