

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER, 2018

From the pastor

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed

. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;

but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.”

—Isaiah 65: 17-25

I don't know if it's proper for ministers to have favorite passages of scripture, but this passage from Isaiah is one of my favorites. I love to read these verses and to hear these verses, in good times but especially in difficult times. I often choose these verses to read at a funeral because the description of what God is creating is so uplifting. And when grieving, we do need to be lifted above our darkness and despair into the light and peace of God's presence. So it is with these verses—lifting us from former things to a new heaven and a new earth; lifting us away from weeping into joy; lifting us into productive, healthy lives; lifting us into the arms of our God who answer us before we call and hears us before we even speak.

It sounds implausible. It seems unlikely. It's wishful thinking for daydreamers or do-gooders or preachers who love the sound of these words.

But this vision projected a great light over a troubled people at a time of deep darkness and gloom. If we can imagine a galaxy far, far away or the voyages of the Starship Enterprise, perhaps we can imagine in 587 BC when the people of Israel and Judah were conquered by a larger, more powerful enemy, Babylon. And Babylon captured a large group of important people from Israel and Judah and took them all the way to Babylon, where they remained in exile for 70 years, while a smaller group was left behind in Israel and Judah to fend for themselves. When those who had been in Babylon were released from captivity, and returned home, they found things in terrible shape. The country was still in ruins, the economy was awful, the land was unfit for planting, morale was low, the situation looked hopeless. The exiles from Babylon weren't welcomed home with a ticker-tape parade, but instead, were greeted with suspicion and mistrust. Quickly, conflicts arose over how to worship, how to rebuild the city, how to govern, how to live together as one people.

Imagine if a group of people came back to Nashville after living on the moon for 70 years and they said to our city officials, “We're back and now we're going to do things the way we used to do them.” 70 years ago would be 1948. Imagine—some things about 1948 might be charming—the town was smaller, everybody knew everybody, no traffic. But no civil rights for blacks and limited opportunities for women. Not too many safety laws like seatbelts, and smoking was acceptable in public places.

No, this is 2018 and we aren't going back to the way life was in 1948 and that's just what the people who were left behind in Jerusalem said to the people who returned from Babylon. There was tension, anger, difference of opinion. Returning families weren't happy with the living conditions. Remaining families didn't want to budge an inch on how they had been doing things for the last 70 years. The two groups had nothing in common...except God.

God was the God of the people left behind and God was the God of the people who returned after 70 years. God was the God of those whose lives had been abruptly changed and God was the God of those whose lives had slowly deteriorated. God sent the prophet Isaiah to both groups to speak a word of joy, of happiness, of enthusiasm, of a world made possible by a God for whom nothing is impossible. To both groups—the ones who remained and the

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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) Matthew Rutherford (2019)
 Allen Brown (2018) Robert Rutherford (2018)
 Bill Dougherty (2020), Hank Schomber (2019)
 Phil Elbert (2019) Cindy Turner (2018)
 Hank Howerton (2020)

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- November 4** **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
 Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146;
 Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
- November 11** **Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127;
 Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
- November 18** **Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10;
 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;
 Mark 13:1-8
- November 25** **Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
 2 Samuel 23:1-7;
 Psalm 132:1-12 (13-198);
 Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



**CATCH UP ON YOUR
 SLEEP ON NOVEMBER 4
 AND STILL BE ON TIME
 FOR WORSHIP!**

GIVE TO PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO MEET NEEDS OF HURRICANE VICTIMS

Will you stand in the "GAP" (Give/Act/Pray) to help the survivors of these terrible storms? Hurricanes Michael and Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut have caused extensive damage and loss of life. While the needs can feel overwhelming, continued prayer and giving will ensure that the whole church is able to respond. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, gifts to DRO00194 support our response to hurricanes and typhoons. Gifts can be made online at pma.pcusa.org/donate, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check, which can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



NASHVILLE CONCERTO ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM NOVEMBER 13

The Nashville Concerto Orchestra will perform the first of three concerts this season in the Trinity Sanctuary on Saturday, November 17 at 3 p.m. They will be offering a new work by Nashville composer Benjamin Jones called Presidential Suite, based on speeches made by presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter. Patrick Dunnevant will be our baritone soloist and Elias Salazar will direct. The other featured piece, also for baritone and orchestra, will be Ralph Vaughn Williams' Five Mystical Songs, sung and conducted by Shreyas Patel. Texts are by the Welsh Poet and Anglican priest George Herbert. The concert will benefit Girls Write Nashville, a 501(c)3 songwriting and production community for middle and high school girls in Nashville.. (www.girlswritenashville.com) [Save these dates for the other two 3 p.m. Nashville Concerto Orchestra concerts at Trinity in 2019: Saturday, February 2 and Saturday, March 30.]

The Nashville Concerto Orchestra is a volunteer-based community orchestra that provides soloists, conductors, and orchestra members the opportunity to perform from the vast concerto repertoire. The NCO's free (donations accepted) quarterly concerts allow members of the Nashville community a chance to enjoy performances from members of the Nashville Symphony, local professors and students from Nashville's many colleges and universities (including Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music), and session musicians from many of the hit albums recorded in Nashville, as well as providing amateur musicians with a comfortable place to perform as a part of an orchestra. Leaving their tuxedos and pit blacks at home, these musicians arrive dressed as themselves in their regular day wear, creating an intimate and casual atmosphere that invites the audience to get to know these talented volunteers.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO BLACK FRIDAY

Black Friday is traditionally a day of incredible deals. You can't believe how far your dollar will go.

In the same way, an even small alternative gift through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog can have a big impact on the lives of others. Leading up to Black Friday, consider the idea of alternative giving and choose gifts with lasting value.

There is a stack of Presbyterian Giving Catalogs on the table in the East Hall. Take one and pick a gift which will change a life for the better.

Among the possible gifts are rainwater catchment systems, fishing boats and accessories, supplies for displaced students, bunk beds for children, refugee food baskets, farming tools, sewing machines, bags of seeds, and kitchen kits. Gifts can cost as little as \$25 or as much as \$1200.



You may make your purchases online by going to <https://presbyteriangifts.org/gifts/> or you may fill out and mail the order form in the catalog.



ADULT EDUCATION IN NOVEMBER

The Adult Sunday school class will be studying the Song of Solomon for the month of November. The Song of Solomon—also called “Song of Songs”—celebrates the love between a man and a woman, a love which spills over into harmony with God’s creation. By celebrating that love, God is glorified even if God’s name is never mentioned. The book of Esther and Song of Songs are the two places in scripture where God’s name is never mentioned but God’s presence is felt and known. Join us for this interesting study of an often overlooked book of the Bible! (note: Song of Solomon can be found in the Old Testament after Ecclesiastes and before Isaiah).

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!

HELP GROW OUR CHURCH!

In August, 2016, the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee approved a three-year plan for encouraging the future of Trinity Presbyterian Church. One of the agreed upon goals in that plan is that by the end of 2020, the membership roll at Trinity would be 120 members. Presently, our membership roll is at 53 members. In order for us to meet the goal of 120 members, all of us need to be engaged in inviting folks to come and join Trinity! Please prayerfully consider folks who might be looking for a church home and invite them to worship! And if you have been worshipping at Trinity and would like to become a member, please let Sally or one of the elders know. We receive members by transfer of letter, reaffirmation of faith, or profession of faith.



The prayer group will begin meeting at 1 p.m. after worship every Sunday in November. This is open to anyone who would like to participate. We'll gather in the chapel. Childcare will be provided.

SAVE YOUR PENNIES!

Start saving your pennies and coins now! Trinity is joining Ms. Cheap’s Penny Drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. From November 1st – January 31st, you can make a big difference with the change in your pocket. With every \$1 donated to Second Harvest, 4 meals will be provided to our neighbors in need. Hunger is a reality for nearly 400,000 Middle Tennesseans! In the East Hall, there are cans available for collecting pennies. Take one home, fill it up, and return it to the church office. (Since 2009, this Drive has raised more than \$477,000, providing almost two million meals to hungry Middle Tennesseans!)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION September 25, 2018

There was discussion concerning the situation that "Revitalization Pledges" would not be part of this year's Stewardship Drive and that it might be good to send a reminder to those who had a revitalization pledge and ask them to consider rolling it into their 2019 Stewardship pledge.

Allen Brown reported he expects the church will receive a payment from Howell Farms this week and that we should receive full payment of their pledge by the end of October.

A report on health insurance benefit costs for 2019 that indicated they will increase. The Session agreed to continue our benefits package at its current level, making whatever adjustments that may be requested by the staff members.

Stewardship Sunday was scheduled for the Oct. 28. Speakers are scheduled for the last three Sunday's in October.

The pastor announced she will be meeting with Bill Wilson to discuss the Healthy Church program. A leadership team has been selected.

Matt Rutherford reported that Linden Waldorf School is reconsidering its roadside signage request.

We are still in contact with the Fire Marshall's Office regarding Exit signs in the Sanctuary.

There was lengthy discussion concerning Trinity's situation with Presbytery and its Oversight Committee. While Presbytery oversight is to go through 2019, there is indication the OC would like to turn in its report sooner.

The Session expressed its gratitude for the work of Music Director Simon Thomas Jacobs.

Trinity's portion of the October 7, Peace and Global Witness Offering will be directed to Thistle Farms programs in Nashville.

CALLED MEETING OF THE SESSION

A meeting of the Session was called on October 7, 2018 to receive new members (the Bates family), and to act on a proposal for the use of church property from Jim McLeod of Santa's Christmas Trees.

Prospective members Mariah and Lucas Bates discussed their backgrounds and responded to elders' questions about their church lives. The Session entertained a motion to approve membership and Lucas was received by baptism and reaffirmation of faith and Mariah by reaffirmation of faith with both actions held as part of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Their infant daughter, Marceline Suzette, will be baptized at a later date and added to the baptized roll.

The pastor presented the request from Jim McLeod for his business to open a Christmas tree lot on Trinity's front lawn in the area where the Howell produce tent is located. He would not begin before the Howell Farms people close at the end of October. Beginning set up in early November, sales would begin around November 17. After a brief discussion, the session approved the request.

TRINITY BREAK-IN RESULTS IN MINOR DAMAGE

Trinity was vandalized in the overnight hours of October 29-30 when a brick was thrown through the door in the education building. The steel tables in the kitchen were overturned, but no real damage was noted and, after inspection, nothing appeared to be missing.

The break-in was first discovered by an early arriving Linden Waldorf School teacher who notified Charlie Bundy, who was on his way to work.

Metro Police were notified and are investigating the incident.



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.

RIVERBEND CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

Trinity is once again participating in the Riverbend Prison Christmas Gift Bag program. We have agreed to provide 800 "snacks" for the "Gift Bags" that will be given to the inmates at Riverbend. The snacks would include individual size bags of chips, cheese cracker packages, candy bars, raisins, etc. Donation collection points will be available in the church office and East Hall. Deadline for giving is Monday, November 26.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Be alert to information about the new directory coming soon! Availability for pick-up will be announced in the Friday e-mail and the Sunday bulletin. This year's directory will add pictures of Trinity members and friends so you will be able to greet folks by name. Thanks to Aad Zeeuw for his photography!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Maya Monterroso – 8
Paul Parker - 19
Maddy McLean – 28
Will Berger - 29

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 OUT TO LUNCH Thursday, November 15! Char is a new southern-style modern steakhouse in Green Hills. The menu includes USDA Prime and Choice cuts of meat, fresh seafood, chicken, burgers, sandwiches and home style sides. Prices range from \$10 for a salad to \$24 for steak tenderloin. A sample menu is located by the clipboard sign-up sheets in the narthex and the East Hall. On Thursday, November 15, meet at the church 11 a.m. to carpool to the restaurant. Interested? Sign up in the East Hall or Narthex, call the office at 615-297-6513 or e-mail office@trinitypresnashville.org.

*****Presbyterian Women** meet the first Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Trinity parlor. Please bring a sandwich or salad for lunch. The next meeting of PW will be Tuesday, November 6. We will study lesson, "God With Us in Our Discouragement" from our study book, *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

***You are invited to join the **Changing Gears** group for lunch and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian on Wednesday November 14, at 11 a.m. Guest Speaker is Peter Rosenberger, President of Standing With Hope, author of *Hope For The Caregiver*, and syndicated radio host. Call Trisha Biggs at the Westminster church office (292-5526) for reservations or if you'd like more information.



It is with great joy that we share the news that Matt and Megan Rutherford have a new baby girl, Lillie, born on October 21! See attached picture of big sister Evie holding her new baby sister with Matt by their side.

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!



Congratulations to Matt, Megan, and Evie Rutherford, on the birth of Evie’s little sister, Lillie, on October 21 (see photo on previous page).

Cindy Turner, her daughter Annie, and granddaughters Sofia and Maya, recently enjoyed a weekend at Reelfoot Lake.

Sharon Spencer and her family took a trip to Florida.

Lucas, Mariah and Marceline Bates joined the church last month--welcome!

Sympathy to Megan Rutherford upon the death of her grandfather, Ray Vasquez.

Susan Brockett enjoyed time with her family in Sandestin, FL.

Tamara and Nick Castrinos and grandchildren, James and Morgan, will be visiting Hank and Judy Schomber the first week of November.

MICHAEL CUPPETT SEEKING INQUIRER STATUS

Trinity member Michael Cuppett has requested Trinity’s support in seeking Inquirer status under Trinity’s care in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Gaining Inquirer status is the first step toward becoming a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Michael, last year a student at Belmont University, joined Trinity last Fall. He is currently in his first year at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

Shortly after joining Trinity, Michael was asked by Presbytery to work with a group revitalizing Woodland Presbyterian Church, which he did until going off to Princeton this summer. He preferred to keep his membership at Trinity and the approval of the Session will send his request forward for official approval by the Presbytery.

Michael may join us during the Advent and Christmas season. Be sure to offer him congratulations on his new status and continued support by the congregation.

From the pastor

(continued from page 1)

ones who stayed—God said, “For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth, the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

Focus, God said. Everyone, focus on what I am about to create. Focus your hearts and eyes and minds on what is possible for God to create in our midst, in our lifetime, in our future.

So we don't ask, “How can God's new creation be possible?” We ask, “how do we get in on what God is creating?”

As Rev. Mary Eleanor Johns explains, “How can we get in on what God is creating? We are able to give one drink of cold water at a time. We are able to bring comfort to the poor and the wretched, one act of mercy at a time. One book given, one friendship claimed, one covenant of love, one can of beans, one moment of commendation, one confession of God's presence but for the asking, one moment in which another person is humanized rather than objectified, one challenge to the set order than maintains injustice, one declaration of the evil that is hiding in plain sight, one declaration that every person is a child of God.”

God calls us to participate in the building of God's new creation through these small, bold, graceful acts. We may think they don't matter, but they do. We may imagine the work before us to be impossible, but it isn't. We may be afraid that God's new heaven and new earth can be dismantled, but it can't be. It can't be because we are building on the foundation of small, bold, graceful acts which

were done before us, by those who worked for justice, loved kindness and walked humbly with God. We are following in the footsteps of the One who calls us to love and not fear, who promises to give us the words and the wisdom to speak and to use even in the face of persecution, against whom there is no defeat.

Dr. Richard Lischer, professor of preaching at Duke Divinity School, wrote that “The larger picture, that of the wolf and the lamb feeding out of the same trough, says: I can see miracles of peace; you don't have to crush your enemies to get to the new Jerusalem. Annihilation need not precede redemption. Winning does not constitute the sign of God's favor, but rather reconciliation does. If anyone is in Christ, that is the new creation: the old has passed away; behold, the new is come.”

We work alongside our God and we follow behind our Savior as we participate in what God is creating. We resist the urge to respond using our old ways, and through the Spirit, we choose God's new way. We comfort the broken-hearted, we welcome the outcast, we encourage those who have been ridiculed, we seek justice for those treated unfairly, we make our homes, our offices, our schools, our communities, our nation, our world into a holy mountain where no one is hurt and nothing is destroyed; where healing and life are all that exist.

Isaiah's vision of peace settles on anxious times, Isaiah's vision of unity blankets division; Isaiah's vision is God's blueprint for the new heavens and a new earth which God created, is creating, and will continue to create. God's vision is one in which we Christians live, and move and have our being.



MARK THE THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The annual Thanksgiving luncheon will take place following worship on November 18. There will be a Thanksgiving feast prepared by Trinity's Fellowship Committee with all the traditional foods and trimmings.

Fellowship Committee is asking the congregation to bring desserts for the meal, especially traditional holiday pies. The desserts will follow the meal of turkey and dressing, green beans, salad, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry

Everyone is invited to stay for the meal, so invite your neighbors, grandchildren, college students that you know, as well as your own family. There will be no charge for the meal but the Fellowship Committee will accept donations.

Fellowship will also accept offers of assistance to clean up after the meal. Reservation slips will be placed in the bulletin (so we will know how many to cook for!) and you can also indicate on the reservation slip if you wish to help with the clean-up.



PW CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

The Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women will be Saturday, November 10th at Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee from 2 PM to 4 PM. This is the 30th anniversary of the PW, and the theme is "Arise, shine, your light has come!" Nancy Bryson, PW Synod Moderator, will be the speaker. There is no registration fee but in order to ensure that there are enough refreshments, reservations need to be made by November 5th, 2018 to Joyce Harris (615-289-3760; jnixharris@comcast.net).

BABY TOYS NEEDED

The church needs new baby toys (newborn through 2 years) for our infants on Sunday morning. If you'd like to purchase baby toys, please do so and put the toy in the church office or outside of the office. It's nice to have babies for whom Trinity can buy new toys!!!



Many thanks to Pam Reed for her donation of baby strollers for use in the nursery!

WANDERING PRESBYTERIANS AT NATURE CENTER



Staff Photos



The Wandering Presbyterians took an October trip to Edwin Warner Park's Nature Center to see the wild bird capturing, registering and banding.



Afterwards, they enjoyed a great lunch at the Bellevue Diner for Greek and American specialties.

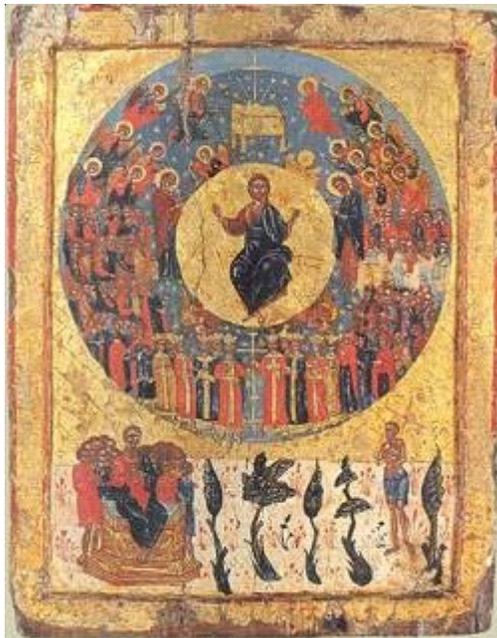


LEARN ABOUT ALL SAINTS' DAY

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her “birthday” as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs (particularly due to the persecution of Diocletian) that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. Previously it had been connected with the Easter season as a feast of all martyrs.



The Faithful of every generation

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a



time to claim our kinship with the “glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs” (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/all-saints-day/>

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear companions on the journey,

Every morning when I wake up, I wonder just what the day will hold. A trip to the hospital? A visit to the house by the police? A phone call from a family that have run out of food? Over and over again in recent months, I have been reminded that accompanying vulnerable people means entering into their vulnerability and experiencing the unpredictability of life for those who have fled to a new country in search of refuge. The two young people living with us are dealing not only with the trauma they experienced during the protests in Nicaragua, but also complicated family situations they left behind and different forms of abuse they suffered at the hands of those who helped them get out of Nicaragua. The family of five who were in our home for a month are in a very precarious situation, as they have found only sporadic work and many more family members have fled Nicaragua and crowded into their tiny two-room apartment. Every Tuesday the three kids come to the house to play in the garden while their mother cleans my house, a bit of respite from their current living conditions. The laughter and hugs from two little girls, as well as knowing that you are praying for us, keep me going.

Refugees here face an inefficient government bureaucracy, overextended NGOs, limited housing options, and discrimination at various levels. Human traffickers are also present, looking to take advantage of desperate people. Even the few Nicaraguans who have been granted identity cards while their applications for refugee status are being processed are not given permission to work. Meanwhile, Costa Ricans are worried about the ongoing strike of many public workers, who are protesting the government's plan to address the fiscal crisis here by cutting benefits for public workers and increasing the number of items subject to sales tax. In Costa Rica, like elsewhere in the Americas, the wealthier sectors refuse to pay for the running of the state. The strike has pushed the situation of Nicaraguan refugees here out of the media and out of the people's minds. And more refugees keep arriving.

At the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), we have been exploring how we might offer more systematic pastoral accompaniment to Nicaraguan refugees. We have a long history of training people in pastoral care and a strong administrative structure, but we don't have resources at the moment to provide care as all of our staff are already overextended. As of yet, we have not found any local churches willing to join the effort, but we have connected with a group of professors at the University of Costa Rica who are working with Nicaraguan university students who are here.

And it is raining. October is the height of the rainy season here, which adds its own complications to daily life. Areas of Nicaragua have seen major flooding. The home of the young woman from Matagalpa who is staying with us filled with water and a little girl from her neighborhood was carried away by the flood waters. More tragedy in the midst of the ongoing political crisis.

Classes continue as we enter the second half of the current term. The students in my masters' class on feminist historiography of religion are being stretched to think in new ways. Those who do not identify as Christians are coming to recognize that in many contexts Christianity has provided women with tools and inspiration to struggle against gender norms and forms of injustice. On the other hand, the Christians in the group are learning to critically analyze how religious institutions have used the images of women to impose norms of behavior. Many interesting ideas are emerging in our online discussions and I am looking forward to what I will learn from their final projects as they reread the life stories of women considered saints by the Roman Catholic Church.

By the end of October, the UBL needs to present our action plan for the next two year for the Green Seminary Initiative. The changes in curriculum are relatively easy, as we already have an institutional focus on planetary life. Other practical aspects are a bit more challenging. With the solar panels are on their way from China (donations still needed!), we are looking at ways

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

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to reduce water usage. Like so many other places around the world, our buildings and our campus were designed to drain the abundant rain water away, rather than capture it for uses onsite such as watering the grounds and flushing the *toilets*.

With November come activities that mark the end of our academic year. From the 15th to the 18th, I will be in Tegucigalpa with my colleague Nidia Fonseca to close the first phase of the theological formation program the UBL has been offering to the Presbyterian Church of Honduras over the last two years. I will be leading sessions on mission from a Reformed perspective. We don't yet have report as to how many of the 40 or so students have finished their coursework and will be graduating. We will also be conversing with the leadership of the church about how they hope to continue and expand the process of theological training.

Back here in San Jose, the UBL will be giving thanks for the activities of this year with an evening of celebration on Wednesday, November 21. As part of the celebration, we will be holding a graduation service at UBL for those who have finished their degrees, either in residence or at a distance,

during the course of this year. For those of you in the United States who will be celebrating Thanksgiving the following day, we ask that you also give thanks for the way the UBL continues to touch lives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

On November 25th, I will be heading to Ghana for the next meeting of the international Reformed-Pentecostal dialogue. I will share more about that meeting in the future.

Closing thoughts

Each morning as I await to see that the day will hold, I also give thanks for the people and the churches who make it possible for me to be here in this place at this time, walking with these students and these folks in need. Please continue to pray with us for a political solution that will bring greater justice and democracy to Nicaragua as well as for the social peace here in Costa Rica. I welcome your prayers and your messages.

Blessings,

Karla

Karla's Webpage @Presbyterian World Mission

Join us for Linden Waldorf School's
22nd Annual
Elves Faire
An Enchanting Festival for the Family

Saturday, November 10

Activities for Children and the Young at Heart

- Angel Room, a special place for children to shop
- Artisan Vendors
- Archery & Jacob's Ladder
- Pockets the Elf and Friends
- Natural Crafts
- Facepainting and Henna
- Jump Rope Winding
- Waldorf Puppet Shows
- Live Global Music, Dance & Storytelling
- Food Trucks and Other Tasty Offerings
- ... and much more!

9am-4pm. Tickets available at the door or at lindenwaldorf.org
\$5 admission (under 5 free) • Most Activities \$2-\$6

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Whole child, whole world.

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November 2018

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
				8 pm AA Meeting		
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship/Communion After Worship: Fellowship Time 1:00 pm Prayer Group 3:00 pm Girl Scouts	5 * 8 pm AA Meeting	6 11 am Presbyterian Women	7	8 8 pm AA Meeting	9	10 9 am - 4 pm Linden Waldorf School Elves' Faire
11 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time 1:00 pm Prayer Group	12 * 8 pm AA Meeting	13	14	15 11 am Wandering Presbyterians leave for Char Restaurant 8 pm AA Meeting	16	17 3 pm Nashville Concerto Orchestra Concert
18 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Thanksgiving Dinner 1:00 pm Prayer Group	19 * 8 pm AA Meeting	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21	22 * Happy Thanksgiving! 8 pm AA Meeting	23 *	24
25 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time 1:00 pm Prayer Group	26 * 8 pm AA Meeting	27 7 pm Session Meeting	28	29 8 pm AA Meeting	30	

* Church Office closed on Mondays and for the holiday