

# THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2020

## From the Pastor

I am writing this message on Monday, November 2, 2020, the day before the presidential election. I have been in verbal or email conversations with many folks who are anxious about this election, noting that anxiety is on both political sides. We may be tired of hearing that these are uncertain times, but these times ARE uncertain. We no more know what direction COVID19 will go in than we knew what direction Hurricane Zeta would go in. We can be aware of both, prepared for both, but we can't really control either. That's not a pessimistic view, it's a realistic view. A person who does all the right things in preparation for a hurricane—boarding up windows, placing sand bags around the house—may return the day after to find her house leveled. A person who does all the right things in the face of COVID19—wearing a mask, social distancing, staying home—may somehow contract this airborne disease. This truth doesn't release us from doing the right things, but it releases us from thinking that we are in control, rather than God.

The psalmist writes, "I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'you are my God.' My times are in your hands." Our times are in God's hands, and while that does not mean that we will not suffer or be discouraged or be without a care in the world, it does give us hope that God is with us and God is watching over us. However the election turns out, we still have hope that we are not forgotten or forsaken, for the Lord is our refuge.

In 1960, Frank Sinatra asked the former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, what one word of encouragement she had for his viewers. "That word would be 'hope,'" said Mrs. Roosevelt. Sinatra asked, "Just 'hope'?" She replied, "yes, it's the most neglected word in our language."

However this election turns/turned out, I hope that as Christians, we will continue to work for racial equality, gender and gender orientation equity, welcome the stranger and the outcast, visit the sick and those in prison. I hope that nothing will stop us from showing kindness to the least of these, our brothers and sisters in our family, our community, our city, our country, our world. Not because of who won the election, but because it's what Jesus calls us to do.

"Hope in God, for I shall again praise my help and my God." (Psalm 42:5,6)

## **IN-PERSON WORSHIP TO RESUME NOVEMBER 15**

The session has voted to resume in-person worship on Sunday, November 15 at 11 a.m. At the time of this writing, we will be following the mayor's guidelines, which limits attendance to 25 people. However, that number may change, so stay tuned!

When in-person worship resumes, we will be observing Trinity's COVID-19 guidelines, which are included in this newsletter (beginning on page 7) and also can be found on the church's website.

## Trinity Presbyterian Church

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*The Trinity Times* is published monthly. We welcome news items and other contributions from members and friends of Trinity. Bring your articles to the church or e-mail them to the editor, Judy Schomber (schomberstat@aol.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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  
Jeff Durham, 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)        |

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

**Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes**  
**Stated Meeting of September 24, 2020**

The Session reviewed and discussed a draft of 2021 budget and took no action.

A contract with Broken Mule Lawn Care, owned by Jeff Durham, for general mowing and yard care beginning in January 2021 was approved. Unlike the last few years this contract is for the entire church property. Linden Waldorf may contract for additional landscaping services at its expense.

At the time of the Session meeting Trinity was still waiting for a response from Linden Waldorf about the most recent lease proposal.

Tax Records of State Board of Equalization reflect that a determination was made on 03/22/1975 that Trinity's property is exempt from real property taxation. Tax Appraiser and State Board of Equalization unable to agree on this matter. All information and original letter is being sent to Administrative Committee of Presbytery for review.

Facebook Live worship, with second Sunday worship held outside as weather permits will continue.

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

November 1 **All Saints' Day**

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22;  
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 **Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Organ repair has been completed and paid for.

Jeff Durham supervised installation of rekeying church and manse. One keyless entry was installed to middle door facing Hillsboro for group meetings to reduce number of keys allotted.

Santa's Trees did very well with sales of Christmas trees in 2019 and agreed to pay Trinity \$15,000 dollars instead of \$10,000. They will return this year and open the second week in November.

Vira Baker elected as Elder commissioner to attend October 15, 2020 Presbytery meeting.

Hank Howerton and Vira Baker were elected to serve on Nominating Committee for elder class of 2023. The Pastor will ask for nominees to the committee from the members. A membership vote will be held at a later date to select the new committee.

The Session is reviewing painting the outside of church building and gutters which were last painted in 2006. Jeff Durham may be able to sand blast gutters to expose original copper which would reduce cost. George Ward will follow up with Jeff to assist with gutter work.

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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Roger Cunningham – 7  
Maya Monterroso – 8  
Kate Wilson Turner – 16  
Paul Parker – 19  
Jay Norman – 28



## JOIN THE HANDBELL CHOIR!

If you are interested in learning how to play the handbells and being part of a handbell choir, please let Linda Rogers or Will Berger know. The handbell choir might be our next chancel choir, until singing is safe during worship.



## TRINITY'S BOOK CLUB

The next meeting by Zoom and in person, will be Thursday, November 12 at 6 p.m. The book for November is *Just Mercy* by Stevenson. If you would like to be on the email list for the book club, please let Carla McDonough ([carla\\_mcdonough@bellsouth.net](mailto:carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net)) or Katy Wilson ([katybwilson@gmail.com](mailto:katybwilson@gmail.com)) know. (Sneak peek for reading ahead: December 10 meeting – *The Rosie Project* by Simson.)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO MEET BY ZOOM

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, November 3 at 11 a.m. The study book for this year is *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. We will cover Lesson 2, "Lamenting Together" this month. If you have not signed up for the PW study, leave a message or email with the church office. We'll provide you with a Zoom link for the study

## CANDY BARS FOR RIVERBEND GIFT BAGS

Trinity has been asked to provide 850 candy bars for the inmates of the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution for inclusion in the annual Christmas Gift Bags which are distributed to the prisoners. Please bring candy bars to the church office by Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Please e-mail or call the church before coming on a weekday to be sure Linda is in the office and not working from home!) Thanks for contributing!





## TRINITY TRACKINGS

### MICHAEL CUPPETT PASSES THREE OF FOUR ORDINATION EXAMS

Michael Cuppett, candidate whom Trinity is sponsoring for ordination to the ministry, has taken and passed three of the four required exams. Michael used the summer to study for the exams and took them in the late summer and early fall. It is highly unusual to take all four of the exams at the same time and we are very proud of Michael for his achievement. He passed the exams on worship and sacraments, polity (church governance), and Biblical exegesis (critical interpretation of a Biblical text to determine its intended meaning). He plans to retake the exam on theology during the winter 2121.

In his third year at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, Michael has been under Trinity's care since November, 2017, when he sought Inquirer status, the first step in seeking to become a Teaching Elder (Pastor) in the Presbyterian Church. At the Presbytery meeting in February, 2020, Michael was received as a Candidate for the ministry, under recommendations by the Trinity Session and the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Trinity will continue as his sponsor and Judy Schomber will be his mentor through the remainder of his candidacy.

#### **Please keep these folks in your prayers:**

-Friends of Linda Rutherford: Diane Hubbs; Gordon Evans and his wife Susan.

-Derrie Edge, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

-Hayden Rose Bagsby, who is home from the hospital and for her parents, Sammi and Chris Bagsby, as they care for her.

-These folks who are in assisted living facilities: **Norma Johnson, Frances Burns, Norma DeJarnette, John McCrae**. Please consider sending these folks a letter or card, as they are not able to receive visitors at this time. If you don't have the addresses, please call the church office.

-Joel Guest, son of Sara and Bob Guest

-Bill and Joan Dougherty, at home

-Bill Barger and Kim Dougherty

-Paula Arterburn, working for a solution to containing the virus

-Those who are grieving over the death of a loved one.

-All those affected by COVID 19, whether physically, emotionally, spiritually or financially

*If you would like the minister to offer prayer on your behalf or on behalf of someone else, please call the office and leave a message with a prayer request or email at [sally.hughes@trinitypresnashville.org](mailto:sally.hughes@trinitypresnashville.org).*

# LETTER FROM MICHAEL CUPPETT

Greetings Trinity family!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to write to you. It seems that most of my time as a member of Trinity has been long-distance, and this year is no exception. You all have truly been a gracious and inclusive community, not only in body but also across geographic bounds.

This September marked the beginning of my third year at Princeton Seminary. While I initially expected to graduate with my M.Div this year, I decided to add the Master of Art in Christian Education and Formation degree last fall. This will extend my time by a full year, and I now anticipate graduating in May of 2022 with the dual master degrees.

It's also been an eventful year for my journey towards ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Last February, I was examined by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as I moved to the candidacy phase. Sally delivered a wonderful prayer after the examination, and it has been a joy to continue my discernment. A few weeks ago, I took the "senior ordination exams," or the four standard exams in worship, theology, polity, and Biblical exegesis. I received satisfactory scores on three, which means I am well on my way to completing the ordination process!

The pandemic hit New Jersey particularly hard this past spring. Almost everything at the seminary has been fully online since March of this year, including courses, campus offices, worship, and community events. Fortunately, I have been able to begin organ lessons in the seminary chapel, and continue to stay active with music and worship in the area. I have been involved with quite a few projects over the past semester or two, including editing the seminary's Lenten Devotional, receiving recognition from a Presbyterian journal for my visual art, and a smattering of creative course projects. I think it is time to slow down!

There are wonderful works transpiring in both our lives apart and our life together. I hope that this coming season--and whatever it may hold--will bear the fruit of love, joy, and grace. We have only made it this far through these things. Please feel free to reach out by email or snail mail if you'd like to chat. You are in my prayers and my heart.

Yours in faith,  
Michael

## NEW LEASE AGREEMENT FINALIZED

Trinity and Linden Waldorf have agreed to a new two-year property-sharing agreement for 2020-2022. It is hoped this will be the last "short term" agreement with a longer 20-year or so lease coming up next.

The recently completed document includes a Covid-19 Addendum laying out protocols from both the school and church regarding required health procedures for each.

The Addendum also includes a reduction in the rent amount originally requested since Linden Waldorf has experienced a major enrollment drop because of the Covid Pandemic. While the reduction will be felt in Trinity's budget, it was agreed to in good faith to assist Linden Waldorf make it through this period where they have had to reduce their overall budget by 25% or more.

Looking ahead, Linden Waldorf is hopeful the long-term agreement will allow them to expand its presence on the property with a new building.

Paul Parker and Hank Schomber represented the Session working out the new Lease. Margaret Bean and Debbie Drew negotiated for Linden Waldorf.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

(continued from page 2)

Discussion on walking trail which would encompass a half mile circle on church grounds. Tree folks can chip up trees from tree work project and volunteers would be needed to spread over trail area. George Ward will design a trail and follow up with more information.

Session voted via email on October 4, 2020 to approve the lease agreement between LWS and Trinity Presbyterian Church with the stipulation that the garage basement is Trinity's space and location where Jeff Durham will store needed equipment.

## PRISON MINISTRY

Trinity's prison ministry from previous years resulted in some prisoners on death row joining the church. One of those church members, Kennath Henderson, is asking for folks to correspond with him. If you would like to do so, please use the church address as your return address. When the office receives any response mail, it will be forwarded to your home address. Please limit sharing of personal information in your correspondence.

Kennath A. Henderson #250126  
RMSI Unit 2  
7475 Cockrill Bend Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37209-1048

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS!

A big thank you to everyone who has been mailing their financial contribution to the church! That is so wonderful! Please continue to remember pledges and contributions to the church via the US Post office, or online if you have the ability to send payments through your bank. As always, we should be careful but not fearful. We should practice compassion as well

as cleanliness. Whether sick or well, we are in the hands of a loving God.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is stronghold of my life, of whom  
shall I be afraid?*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your  
heart take courage; wait for the  
Lord! (from Psalm 27)*

## PRAYER TIME CONTINUES ON FRIDAY MORNINGS

On Friday mornings, Sally Hughes is offering a Facebook Live prayer time beginning at 8:30 AM. This prayer time includes concerns and people for which we pray on Sunday, as well as any provided by members or friends. The prayer time will consist of opening words of scripture, a psalm reading, then prayer, and conclude with the Lord's prayer. If you are a Facebook member, you can submit prayer requests via the comments, and if you are not, you can send them via text to Sally (615-594-5765) or email. These Facebook prayer times will NOT be saved on the Facebook page as our worship services are saved.

## TRINITY BAKER BACK IN BUSINESS!

Trinity's resident baking enthusiast, Abby Crawford, has moved her business location to Mesa Komal kitchens, where she will be able to scale up her efforts. You can order cookies and other treats online at [www.mountainlaurelbakeshop.com](http://www.mountainlaurelbakeshop.com), for pickup on Sundays in front of the Trinity Office from 12:30 to 1:30, or you can email her at [abby@mountainlaurelbakeshop.com](mailto:abby@mountainlaurelbakeshop.com) if you need your goods delivered or want to pick up on a different day. Thank you so much for your support, and she looks forward to seeing y'all soon!

## **Protocol for Returning to Worship at Trinity Presbyterian Church**

While some restrictions are being lifted in some places and for some people, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 global pandemic will require that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While some may be able to attend worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home for some time. Please know, should you choose to continue to worship at home, we will continue to provide opportunities for you to do so. The services will continue to be live streamed just as they have been with opportunities for you to engage during the service. Just because we are beginning the process of resuming in-person worship does not mean that you are expected or even encouraged to attend. First and foremost is your safety. If you are more at risk or vulnerable, then please consider staying at home until we have reached a phase where things are less restricted and risky. If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to the virus, please stay home.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, we ask that you please do not attend worship at Trinity if you:

- a. have had COVID-19 and have not been in isolation for at least 2 weeks since the diagnosis;
- b. are experiencing any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, fever (over 100F), chills, muscle pain (not from exercise), headache, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell;
- c. have been around anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past two weeks; or,
- d. traveled internationally, but not completed the two-week self-quarantine period recommended by the CDC.

As this congregation begins to resume public activities, please know that we will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

It is in this spirit that we will begin the process of resuming in-person worship on July 12, 2020. In keeping with a phased and measured process and though the church building will be open for people to attend in person, the following measures have been put into place in order to stay safe and protect the vulnerable among us:

1. We will have only one point of entry into the church on Sunday mornings. That will be the main doors which open into the Narthex. The side door to the right side of the Narthex will also be accessible to those with wheelchair needs.
2. We are asking that those who attend worship during this phase wear masks. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you before you enter the sanctuary.
3. When you arrive, there will be a table located in the Narthex equipped with masks and hand sanitizer. Please use the sanitizer and put on a mask before entering the sanctuary.
4. There will also be an offering plate available on the table in the Narthex for you to please leave your offering either before or after service.
5. On days of sacrament, individual communion packets will be available at the table in the Narthex for each person to take with them to the pew to enjoy at the appropriate time during service as directed by Sally.

6. Upon entry into the sanctuary, please follow the signage directing traffic in between the isles and pews and throughout the sanctuary.
7. Certain pews will be marked off and will not be permitted to be utilized to allow for 6 feet social distancing. Please find an unmarked seat in an open pew and sit on the side where the bulletins are placed. Please refrain from sitting with anyone not in your family or immediate household.
8. We ask that once you are seated to please stay in your pews until the conclusion of service except to use the restroom or to leave the premises altogether.
9. One side door of the sanctuary near East Hall will be open to allow access to the restroom. One person will be permitted to use the restroom at a time. This goes without saying, but please be sure to wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds or longer after using the restroom. Hand sanitizer will be available at a table at the door located in East Hall to be used before re-entering the sanctuary.
10. Please refrain from any physical contact with each other inside the church and during the service and maintain 6 feet social distance between you and others at all times. (No handshakes, hugs, pats on the back, etc.)
11. There will be no childcare services provided during service at this time, but please allow your children to join us for worship. We welcome their sweet faces as well as their voices during worship!
12. There will be no bibles, hymnals or guest registration tablets available in the pews, but please feel free to bring your personal bibles and hymnals from home.
13. During service there will be no congregational singing and congregational readings will be kept to a minimum. Instrumental music and occasional solo performances will be enjoyed during the service.
14. Following the benediction, please exit the sanctuary by rows, beginning with the rows closest to the Narthex and following the directional arrows directing traffic flow. Please remember to maintain 6 feet of social distance between you and others exiting the sanctuary.
15. There will be no fellowship before or after service. Please feel free to bring a personal beverage with you to enjoy during service. There will be trash cans and recycle bins located at each exit door in the Narthex for you to dispose of bulletins, cups and trash following service. Please remember to pick up after yourselves to help keep our sanctuary clean.
16. Please avoid gathering in the following areas of the church: East Hall, Fellowship Hall, the chapel, kitchen, office and parlor.
17. A cleaning service and/or designated volunteers will be cleaning the church each week after worship in accordance with CDC guidelines. In order to maintain a sanitized space, the sanctuary will be closed off throughout the week except to Sally and Will.

Please understand we may make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to these new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment and grief. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness,

gentleness and self-control. However, there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity and faithfulness and we witness God's works among us.

Let us be faithful to God and to one another as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God.

Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

Grace and peace to each and every one of you.