

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2022

From the Pastor

Although I know I can do early voting, I still like to vote on the actual election day, and I like to vote as early as possible. It's always interesting and encouraging to see how many people are there at 7:30 AM, many of them carrying pajama-clad children (some of them looked like they themselves just rolled out of bed).

I continue to be grateful that I live in a country where we citizens have the privilege of exercising our right to vote, and since I was 18, I have exercised my right to vote. I don't believe—as some people do—that there are candidates for whom Christians should vote, because they espouse so-called Christians values. I believe that a candidate can serve our city, our county, our state, our nation well without having to tow a theological party line. I remember that a church member once asked me how I could be a Christian and yet support a certain candidate; and I remember, too, another church member who was surprised that I prayed for the President in my pastoral prayer, since that President was not the candidate whom I had supported. I consider both comments to be problematic, because there is no such thing as Christian candidate, and no matter who gets elected, that person needs our prayer.

It all goes back to who is really in charge, and the Psalmist expresses it well in Psalm 47: "God has

gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises, for God is the king of all the earth; God is king over the nations." God is the ruler over all nations, all peoples, all political parties, all voters, all candidates' hearts and minds. God gives us a mind to discern the person for whom we want to vote, but God will work out God's justice and mercy through any and every elected official. As Christians, what we should do is pray faithfully for those who get elected, and pray that each candidate follows the lead of the prophet Micah, to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." As Christians, we should not leave it up to the elected officials to right the wrongs of society or to help the poor and outcast, but we should perform those labors as our Savior called us to do for the "least of these."

Election day is just around the corner—or maybe you've already voted!—but even after we've cast our vote, we would be wise to remember that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than our ways and God's thoughts than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). Our nation and our elected officials—all nations and all elected officials!—rest in God's mighty and wise hands, and for that we are surely grateful.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 –
GET AN EXTRA HOUR OF
SLEEP! SET YOUR CLOCKS
BACK ON SATURDAY!**

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

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

Peyton Chandler, Office Manager

Jeff Durham, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

Sally Hughes, Moderator

Vira Baker (2023)

Jackie Elbert (2022)

Betsy Bond (2024)

Linda Rutherford (2022)

Jane Cooper (2023)

Benita Sims (2023)

Roger Cunningham (2024)

George Ward (2022)

Aad Zeeuw (2024)

November 6 **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Haggai 1:15b—2:2:9 *and*

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 *or* Psalm 98;

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13 **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 65:17-25 *and* Isaiah 12;

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 **Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *and* Luke 1:78-79;

Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 27 **First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5 *and* Psalm 122;

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Jeff Durham resigned as facilities manager for Trinity effective 12/31/2022. He will continue to provide lawn care services on the property. There is discussion about church members possibly picking up some of the jobs that Jeff handled or hire someone. Sally to provide a list of job duties.

Trinity may become a church partner with Glengarry School to assist in providing clothing, money and tutoring to name a few examples. Laura with the school will reach out on what needs Trinity may be able to assist with. School will also need to approve our becoming a church partner assisting with specific needs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Sara Hughes, Moderator
September, 2022

A complaint of Quiet Title was filed in the district court of Davidson County in behalf of Trinity on the 0.25 acre of church property now in dispute with a would be purchaser. A quiet title is a lawsuit filed to establish ownership of real estate when ownership is in question.

Trinity is awaiting an update from Emmanuel Glass on aluminum frame for chapel window.

Church is also waiting follow-up information from Simply Gutters.

Early Childhood pavilion: drainage work completed, and construction is underway on new pavilion.

The Trinity/Linden Waldorf Master Planning collaboration: is scheduled to meet next week. Members from Trinity are Bob Guest, Carla McDonough, Robert Rutherford, and Sally Hughes.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The November meeting of Presbyterian Women will be Tuesday, November 1, at 10 a.m. in the parlor. We will study Lesson 3 of our 2022-23 book, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Lesson Three is "Sabbath and Sunday". If you don't have your study book yet, Judy will have them for you at the meeting. They are \$10.00.

PRAYER & REFLECTION TIME

On Fridays at 8:30 a.m., Sally will offer prayer time and reflection via Facebook Live. If you have prayer concerns that you would like included in the prayer time, please text or email Sally (sally.hughes@trinitypresnashville.org)

COVID GUIDANCE/ MASKS NOW OPTIONAL

According to the latest CDC update, Davidson County is considered "medium" in the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, masks will be *optional* and will still be provided at each entrance. Hand sanitizer will also be available at the entrances. If you have not been vaccinated or had a booster shot, please do!

NEW ONLINE GIVING SYSTEM & QR CODE:

Trinity is excited to announce that you are now able to make financial contributions *virtually*, through our new online giving system, *Vanco*. On the last page of the Sunday worship bulletin, you will see a QR Code, which you can scan to access our virtual giving page. From there, you can support Trinity from the convenience of your smartphone. Also, the online giving system will soon be linked on Trinity's website. Stay tuned!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IS BACK

The Adult Sunday School Class **has** resumed Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. We are studying Rachel and Leah.



TRINITY TRACKINGS

Vera Billington's granddaughter, Kassidee, married Josh Walker, on Wednesday, October 26 at the Wedding Barn in Lebanon. Vera was in attendance, along with Aunt Vira Baker.

Livy Blizzard's senior music recital for her Belmont degree was online October 1, 2022.

Gail Crider and Jim Davis enjoyed a trip to Alaska and then Kentucky.

Bob and Sara Guest recently returned from a visit to their son Joel, who lives in Miami.

John and Mary Lu Kells are back home in Nashville after spending the summer in Massena, NY.

Aad Zeeuw's daughter, Manuela, was married in the Netherlands in September. Aad and Carolyn were in attendance.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT TRINITY

If you are searching for an opportunity to volunteer at Trinity, there are quite a few ways that you can help.

- The sanctuary needs to be "put back" after worship to accommodate the Linden Waldorf Strings classes
- There are photos which have fallen off the wall in East Hall and need to be re-hung (and maybe replaced with newer photos?)

The bulletin board in East Hall needs attention.

Talk with Sally if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities!

HOW TO HELP UKRAINE

GIVE: Gifts can be made 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.

PRAY: As this war continues to cause destruction and loss of life, please pray with us that the communities affected by this event and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met and be reminded of the hope found in God.

Through **PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, we can join together to help our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are suffering from Russi

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Roger Cunningham – 7

Maya Monterroso - 8

Katie Wilson - 16

Paul Parker - 19

Jay Norman - 28

Will Berger - 28

DONATE YOUR OLD LICENSE PLATE!

If you are getting a new Tennessee license plate and would like to dispose of your old license plate, we will have a box in the back of the sanctuary in which to collect them. Eric Hobson creates bird houses using old license plates as the lids and would love to have your old plate!

IF YOU'RE COMING TO THE CHURCH DURING THE WEEK . . .

Due to car lines for drop off for the Linden Waldorf School (includes COVID 19 temperature check) and pick up, you may want to plan your trips to the church to avoid these times: 7:45 – 8:30 a.m., 12:20 – 12: 50 p.m., 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

We're grateful to have our school friends using our property but even more grateful if we don't get tied up in school traffic! Also, please call the church office (615-297-6513 and leave a message so we can call you back) in advance to plan when you're coming by. Staff are often not within earshot of the doorbell or may be working remotely and we don't want to miss you!

WEEKLY CHOIR PRACTICE

Trinity Chancel Choir Practice will take place every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We'd love for you to join us! Please contact Will Berger at will_berger@bellsouth.net to learn more!

FOOD FOR THE SOUL SIGN-UPS

The volunteer sign-up sheets for Food for the Soul are positioned at each entrance/exit of the sanctuary on Sunday. We need volunteers to help set up on Saturday, October 8th at 10:00 a.m. and volunteers for Sunday, October 9th after worship to fill the bags. At least 15 volunteers are needed for Sunday's "back-packing." Your help is very much appreciated! Lunch will be provided prior to our packing on October 9th. (Thanks, Joe Brady!

PEYTON'S OFFICE HOURS

Since January, 2022, Peyton Chandler has served as Trinity's part time office manager. Along with his duties as office manager at Trinity, Peyton is also a fulltime student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and is pursuing ordination to be a PCUSA pastor. Ordination requires passing the Bible Content Exam (which Peyton recently did), passing Greek and Hebrew courses, passing the four ordination exams (Polity, Sacraments, Exegesis, and Theology) along with any additional requirements from Peyton's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

So, Peyton isn't always physically in the church office. Many times he is working "remotely," using his computer to check phone and email messages. BUT if you need to get in touch with Peyton and desire an immediate response, here is when Peyton will be able to respond:

Tuesdays, 2 PM to 3 PM

Wednesday, 3 PM to 4 PM

Thursdays, 2 PM to 3 PM

Friday, 2 PM to 3 PM

Peyton will be around the office at other times, getting Trinity's church work done, but these listed times are when Peyton is available if you need immediate assistance.

80/80 CELEBRATION

Our celebration of 80 years as a congregation and looking forward to 80 years more as a congregation (80/80) will be November 6th, 2022. We will have worship at 11:00 a.m., followed by a catered lunch (Calypso Cafe) in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have displays of old bulletins, session minutes, Trinity memorabilia and an opportunity to get together with friends, old and new. Reservations will be needed for lunch, so there's a sign-up sheet for that as well. *ALSO*, we are putting together a cookbook of recipes from Trinity folks and Linden Waldorf folks. Please send your recipes to the church office or drop them by the church office as soon as possible. If you have recipes from members who are now in the church triumphant, please include them as well. The time is drawing near but we can do this!

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Trinity will join with other churches in the Green Hills area for a Thanksgiving service on Tuesday November 22nd. We will meet at Calvary United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. for worship.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Our 2nd Holiday Market will take place Saturday, December 3rd, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Trinity. We will have baked goods (contact Vira Baker if you want to contribute) and other items for sale. If you are artistic or crafty and want to sell some of your work, please let Sally know so that can be included in our flyer!

TRINITY OBSERVES HALLOWEEN



NOT AT THE PRICE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH

Previously we learned how a small but determined group of officers at First Presbyterian Church of Nashville were able to force their will on a congregation of 2,700 containing much of the culture of the city. The dissolution of the pastorate of Dr. Thomas Barr was said to have shaken the religious life of the city to its foundations and had repercussions throughout the Southern Presbyterian Church.

Following its Sunday September 13 announcement calling for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Dr. Thomas Barr and First Presbyterian, The Presbytery Commission on the Pastor and His Work called for a détente of several months during which all seek the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The commission's appeal for unity did not last long. In fact, it dissolved even before it was announced. Saturday evening, September 12, before decision was officially presented to the congregation, seven First Church members supporting Dr. Barr met in reaction to the Commission decision and to discuss future plans. This group held to a strong set of principles-- majority rule, freedom of the pulpit and a rotary system of officers, which they had come to believe was what these unfortunate circumstances were really about. "Harmonious fellowship in the church may be highly desirable, but not at the price of the sacrifice of fundamental principles of our faith and our Church." They believed, that they had just witnessed a minority element cast those principles aside and that the Presbytery not only had approved the action, but also rewarded it by dissolving the relationship with a pastor supported by a substantial majority of the congregation. (The Commission had presented two questions to the congregation: "Do you extend to your Pastor, Dr. Thomas Calhoun Barr, a vote of confidence?" Members voted 570 to 273 (67.6%) extending confidence. On the second, "Do you desire that he continue as your leader in the work of the Lord?" the vote was 501 to 343 (59.4%) in favor of his continuing.) By night's end, this group was not feeling the Commission's call to reconciliation and set up a September 16 meeting for all persons not satisfied with the decision of the Commission.

An estimated 125 to 130 individuals attended the meeting. Essentially this was the foundation of a new congregation that before the end of the year would become Trinity Presbyterian Church with Dr. Barr as its pastor. No bitterness was reported, but a petition calling for Presbytery to establish a new church was signed by 127 that night.

The group organized a church service for that upcoming Sunday, September 20, and 300 people attended an independent service at the Belmont Theater. Dr. Barr preached. Sunday school classes were organized for September 27. By October 1, the group had located and secured property on West End Avenue, that it would use as a "church house" for its Sunday School classes, offices and in-week programs.

At its October 20 meeting Presbytery reaffirmed the action of the Commission. Dr. Barr, in keeping with his earlier pledge, offered his resignation. However, First Presbyterian Church objected, saying he waited too late to resign and he should now be removed. Presbytery determined it would dissolve the pastoral relationship with Dr. Barr's concurrence. The motion carried without a dissenting vote. Presbytery further required First Presbyterian Church to continue paying Dr. Barr through Dec. 15 unless he found a new position before then.

Members of the emerging church, presented a petition signed by 276 people appealing to be organized as a new Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery's initial response was a motion to defer any action. This was probably in part to support the initial suggestion of the Commission on the Pastor and His Work to place a moratorium on any actions of First Church leaders and members in an effort to maintain the unity of that church.

But the petitioners pressed their appeal. The group's speakers pointed out that they were already organized as a new congregation; had been meeting for nearly a month; had a piano, chairs, hymn books, offering plates, etc. and had accumulated approximately \$1,000 in the bank. (This would be equivalent to more than \$18,000 now.)

After further discussion during this meeting, barely a month after the Commission's call for a five-month moratorium, the new church's organization was authorized.

It was widely reported in the local news and noted in early Trinity histories that this "was the first new church in Nashville Presbytery in more than 25 years." However, Presbytery records show that on August 14, 1942, at "the request of eleven people of the Hopewell Community of Davidson County," a new church was ordered and a commission formed to effect the organization of a church. That organization took place at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16, 1942 at Rachel's Chapel. The organization service was reported at the October 20 Presbytery meeting and noted the eleven members chose the name Rachel's Chapel Presbyterian Church.

The organization service was held the evening of November 1 at Wightman Chapel, Scarritt College. Officers were elected that night. A session meeting was called and held the next day. Following the service on November 8, the congregation voted the name Trinity Presbyterian Church.

This article was adapted from ASPIRE TO GOD'S GREATNESS A History of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee By Hank Schomber

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's eNews. Stay connected with our Presbytery by exploring their latest eNews. www.presbyterymiddletennessee.org



The Stated Clerk Search Committee would like you to meet **Mary Catherine Sevier, RE** of First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro, candidate for Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Mary Catherine will be brought forth at the November 10, 2022, Presbytery meeting for election to assume the role of Stated Clerk beginning in 2023. Mary Catherine is a long-time resident of Murfreesboro where she finds joy serving in the community. She has a background in education and is looking forward to bringing her passion for learning and serving others to the Presbytery.

Many thanks to the SC Search Committee for their prayerful and dedicated work on behalf of the Presbytery:

RE Shelby Smith, Chair – First, Spring Hill

RE Ora Bransford Lux – St. Andrew's, Nashville

RE Lavona Russell – East Brentwood

TE Michael Davis – First, Hendersonville

TE Todd Jones – HR

TE Ray Thomas – Co-EP staff



I am honored to be considered for Stated Clerk of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery. I have attended First Presbyterian Murfreesboro since 1999, and I have found serving as an elder there and volunteering in various capacities rewarding. While I grew up in Murfreesboro,

attended Converse College in South Carolina, Vanderbilt University Law School, and Belmont University and I lived in Birmingham, AL as a young adult before moving back. My husband, David, and I enjoy hiking, cooking, and traveling together, and we especially enjoy spending time with our daughter, Mamie, who attends Centre College in Danville, KY where she participates in orchestra, varsity tennis, and Kappa Alpha Theta. One of our newest adventures is keeping bees with some dear friends, and despite the hard (and painful!) lessons we learn occasionally, we are finding it fascinating. On my own, I like to spend time reading, practicing yoga, and being with my friends or my two large dogs, Charlie Gunner and Ruthie. I particularly value my time spent with my neighborhood book club, the Craddock Study Club, and the Charity Circle of Murfreesboro. I am looking forward to learning more about the important service and work within the presbytery and forming professional and personal relationships in this role.

Mary Catherine's pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Hinkle, had these words to add:

It has been my great joy to serve as Mary Catherine Sevier's minister for the past fourteen years. I have observed over this time a disciple of Jesus Christ who is willing and wanting to follow her Savior into the world proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel. Mary Catherine has a love and passion for the local church. She takes her ordination vows seriously as a Ruling Elder, and she genuinely believes the local church is only as strong as her Session. I give thanks that Mary Catherine has heard the call to serve The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as our new Stated Clerk. Knowing her to be a woman of great integrity, she will serve our presbytery and our local churches with grace and gravitas.
