

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2020

From the Pastor

Years ago, I led an after-school Bible class for young children in the church that I served. We gathered for about an hour, and in that hour we would sing Bible songs, hear a Bible story, do a Bible craft, and have a snack which (sometimes) related to the Bible story. I count the time that I spent with those children as some of the happiest in my ministry.

One afternoon, I put large pieces of paper in front of each child, gave them their choice of coloring tools, and said, "Draw me a picture of the bible story you heard today." Many of the children quickly began to color or paint, a few chose colored pencils in order to put in more details. One little girl stared at her paper and said, "What should I draw?" And I answered, "Well, draw something you remember from the story." She implored me, "Tell me what I should draw. What do YOU want me to draw?" We had a tense moment as I told her that I wasn't going to tell her what to draw, she had to decide for herself.

When time was up, the children shared their stories. Some had chosen to draw the entire story, using connecting panels. Some had chosen to color the ending of the story. Others had focused on one part of the story. All the pictures were great. The little girl who didn't know what to draw drew a beautiful picture of one of the characters in the story. She was hesitant to show it, but when she did, everyone praised her efforts. I don't know if she was really all that pleased that I wouldn't tell her what to draw, but I hope that experience showed her that she didn't need to be told, she could imagine something for herself.

People as well as churches are often told who they should be, how they should be. In these times—referring to 21st century and not the pandemic!—we are invited to paint a picture of ourselves, and of our churches as we imagine it to be. Not how we were or how it was in the past, and not according to how the world thinks we should be or how the church should be, but how we can be with our resources and our limitations, with our hopes and our dreams, with God guiding us forward.

At this moment in time, we have before us a blank piece of paper. What do we want to draw? How can Trinity look and what will our ministry look like to our community? We could fill the blank page with color and detail and stories.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is part of Project Thrive, which is a program designed to strengthen small churches led by the faculty and consultants from the Charlie Curb Center for Faith Leadership at Belmont University. This is a five-year program of reading, meeting, reflection and activity aimed not at increasing numbers so much as increasing congregational strength and mission focus.

We had already begun to do some of this work when Dr. Bill Wilson came to be with us, and now we will begin a time of discernment in order to discover the work God has in store for us Trinity folks, in order to draw a picture on the blank page. As we begin to think about what we will put on this page, I would ask each one of you to think AGAIN about what is good about Trinity. What does Trinity do well? What makes you proud of Trinity?

Some of you will say, "We've answered that question before, " I will confirm that you have. But, don't we constantly need reminding of what is good? Or, to quote the Apostle Paul in the letter to Philipians, *"⁸ Finally, beloved—whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

Don't ask, "What do you want me to draw?" but pray and think and imagine what Trinity Presbyterian Church is and can be, and all of our pictures will be beautiful.

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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

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)

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

September 6 **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-41, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes
Stated Meeting of July 16, 2020

Trinity is in contact with Metro concerning its property tax status.

Trinity has all supplies and signage needed for re-opening. "Sneeze guards" have been attached to pulpit and lectern sides.

Discussions with Linden Waldorf lease agreement are continuing. Covid-19 Pandemic has a major impact on the school.

Jackie Elbert will attend Zoom Presbytery meeting on July 18th, 2020.

Jeff Durham, new facility manager works for Trinity part time, 8 hours a week, two 4-hour days (usually Tuesday and Friday or Saturday). Jeff has completed several jobs so far and currently is working on plumbing issues with the pump and water in the basement. Jeff also expressed interest in making a bid for the grass cutter job next year.

LWS presented several proposals it would need to be able to open in the Fall within Covid-19 guidelines, including the construction of several "Outdoor Shade

Pavillions." Session approved proposals and responses via group e-mail July 21, 2020.

The next stated meeting of the Session is August 25.

Facebook page:

facebook.com/trinitypresbyterianchurchnashville

Please join us on Sundays at 11 a.m.!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Norma Johnson – 7

Bob McAdams – 7

Annie Monterroso Green– 10

Xander Rutherford – 14

Matteo Ward – 15

Rob Rutherford - 19

Laurel Milam Goldin – 23

Carla McDonough – 25

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY

If you are interested in participating in Presbyterian Women electronically until we are able to meet in person, please contact Linda Rogers in the church office to sign up and to order this year's study book.

This year's book is quite timely, *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*, drawing from the Psalms, Job, John, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Luke, Revelation, Romans, Hosea, and Lamentations. The electronic format will be determined by the number interested and by the accessibility to the format. The Introduction and Lesson One will be on Tuesday, October 6, beginning at 11 a.m. unless the format dictates a time change.

JOIN US AT NaCoMe!



Trinity folks will have their chance to enjoy the beauty of NaCoMe on Saturday, September 19 through Sunday, September 20. The NaCoMe staff has set up COVID guidelines, which we will send to you if you are interested in going. Our schedule will include lunch on Saturday through lunch on Sunday.

It might be a good time for you to think about unwinding and resting your soul in God's creation.

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

WORSHIPPERS “EYEBALL” EACH OTHER AT OUTDOOR SERVICE

Our first outside worship was great fun! 35 people were there for outdoor worship, and another 15 joined via Facebook Live. The session has decided the second Sunday of the month will be outdoor worship, until we are able to move inside safely, or the weather gets too cold! Outdoor worship will be at the back of the sanctuary, between the church building and the church garage, where the handicapped spots are located. Chairs will be set out, 6 feet apart (unless you are related, and then you can get closer), or you can bring your own chairs. Those wanting to listen in their cars will be able to pull up behind the chairs. We'll be broadcasting via Facebook Live as well. And there are no rain plans--wear a raincoat or bring an umbrella if the clouds are "iffy." The next outdoor worship service will be September 13 at 11:00 AM.

Thanks to Jeff Durham, our facilities manager, for helping us set up, and the members who helped set up and "strike the set".



Photos by Staff



FACEBOOK LIVE PRAYER TIME BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18

Beginning Friday, September 18, Sally Hughes will offer a Facebook Live prayer time beginning at 8:30 a.m.. This prayer time will include 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.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Also beginning in September: another great experiment! Beginning Wednesday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m., we will embark on a Zoom Bible study! The book we will study is Adam Hamilton's "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality and Politics." In this time period before elections, this seemed like a good fit for a study. Hamilton explores different Bible passages in the context of how those passages are being interpreted in today's society. If you are interested in being part of this Zoom study, call or email the church office, or email Sally. We'll provide each participant with a Zoom link to the meeting. If you wish to order the book, you can order it via Amazon in the Kindle format, as well as the book format. However, because the book is pricey (\$16.00), I will be providing summaries of the material that we will be discussing ahead of time.



TRINITY TRACKINGS

Susan Bailey has been in Indiana, visiting her family in South Bend...
Livvy Blizzard, Jenny Coman, and Brynden Foster have all started back to school at Belmont, online...
Susan Brockett spent some time with her family in Atlanta...
Frances Burns is doing well at the Hearth, and can have visitors "via the window" if you call ahead...
Abby Crawford has started her Mountain Laurel Bakery business and has found a commercial kitchen out of which she is baking...
Roger Cunningham is in his third semester of nursing school...
Norma DeJarnette is enjoying watching the movies provided by Brookdale of Belle Meade...
Harrison Elbert and Eleanor Elbert have started the fall semester of their graduate studies online...
John and Mary Lu Kells have spent the summer at their home in Messina, NY...
Evie Rutherford has begun kindergarten at Lochland Elementary online...
Karen Utterback's daughter Christina was at worship on Sunday...

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

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.

- Please keep the administration, faculty and students of LWS in your prayers as they begin their school year outdoors, and keep them safe from COVID19.
- Sympathy to Abby Crawford upon the death of her uncle Myles Watkins, who died on Sunday, August 16, 2020.
- For Ben and Anna Lovell, who were in car accident in California. Ben is the son of Tom and Krista Lovell, and Anna is their daughter-in-law. Tom and Krista served in this presbytery as pastor and Christian educator
- For Hayden Rose Bagsby, who is home from the hospital and for her parents, Sammi and Chris Bagsby
- Norma Johnson, who is back at her assisted living apartment in Indiana, following a stroke.
- Frances Burns, at The Hearth of Franklin, 1035 Fulton Greer Lane, Franklin, TN 37064.
- Joel Guest, son of Sara and Bob Guest
- Norma DeJarnette, at Brookdale of Belle Meade, 6767 Brookmont Terr., Nashville, TN 37205
- Bill and Joan Dougherty, at home
- John McCrae, at Woodcrest in Nashville
- Bill Barger and Kim Dougherty
- Ellie Herpeche, who is expecting a baby in November, needs prayers for a heart condition with which she is dealing during her pregnancy.
- Paula Arterburn, working for a solution to containing the virus
- For those who have lost family or friends to cancer in the recent past.-All those affected by COVID 19, whether physically, emotionally, spiritually or financially
- Derrie Edge, as she undergoes cancer treatment

TRINITY'S BOOK CLUB

The next meeting by Zoom and in person, will be Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. The book for September is "A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Purnell. If you'd like to be on the email list for the book club, please let Carla McDonough (carla_mcdonough@bellsouth.net) or KatyWilson (katybwilson@gmail.com) know.

(Sneak peek for reading ahead: October - "The Number One Ladies Detective Agency" by Smith, & November - "Just Mercy" by Stevenson).

ORGAN REPAIR IS UNDERWAY!

Music has always been at the heart of Trinity's ministry and this is the ideal time to perform some much needed work on our Hillgreen and Lane pipe organ which was installed in 1968. Thanks to your response earlier this year for contributions to address these needs, plus the use of memorial funds, this long overdue work is now in progress! 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, 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 it appears we may have gotten over fifty years of mileage on the instrument without having to do this major work. (See photos of Milnar Organ Company staff at work in some of the rooms/spaces BEHIND the pipes you see from the sanctuary.)



Photos by Staff and Will Berger