



April 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1-2
Finance/Stewardship	2
Building & Grounds	2
Christian Education	3-7
Evangelism, Cong. Care	8
Fellowship	8
Presbyterian Women	9
Lectionary/B'days	10
Calendar	11

PASTORS VISITING HOURS AT CHURCH

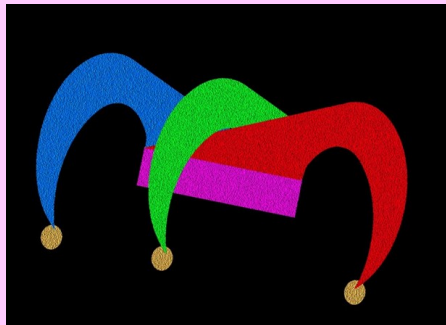
Effective Monday, March 26, 2018, the Pastors will have regular visiting hours at the church, as follows:

Monday 10:00—11:00 am

Wednesday 12:00—1:00 pm

Thursday 5:00— 6:00 pm

The pastors will be in the office at other times during the week as well, and are happy to meet people at their convenience, by calling the or texting the pastors at 248-845-8287.



What Kind of a Fool Do You Take Me For?!

The last time Easter fell on April Fools' Day was in 1956 and here we are again, experiencing this odd pairing. These might seem like totally incompatible observances – one a joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior and the other a day of often mean-spirited pranks and hoaxes. Last year, we began observing Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday that immediately follows Easter and we will do so again this year (April 8th). Laughter and levity are certainly not separate from our faith and calling, but what of this business with fools?

Well, the Bible has a lot to say about fools. Psalm 14:1 tells us that, "Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'" It continues to talk about, not atheists, but people who believe that they can commit any sin they'd like and God will be powerless to do anything about it. (Hint: they're wrong.)

cont'd on p.2

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Pastor's Pen cont.

Proverbs 10:14 teaches us, “The wise store up knowledge, but the babbling of a fool brings on ruin.” So, seeking wisdom is good and listening to fools is bad. That’s helpful, but how do we know who’s a fool? Proverbs 10:21 says, “The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.” This seems like we’re on a good track, here. The words of the righteous are life-giving. Wise, righteous people are spiritually well-fed and their words uplift others (unlike those darned fools!).

This is great – we’ll just amass all kinds of wisdom and shut out all the foolishness, right? But, Proverbs 12:15 reminds us, “Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice.” Okay, the Bible says no navel gazing. We need to hear each other’s wisdom, too. After all, Proverbs 18:2 reminds us, “A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing personal opinion.” Youch! In our age of screaming pundits and snarky Facebook memes, we might just need to bring this proverb up more often!

It is fascinating to me that when wisdom and foolishness are discussed in the Old Testament, they’re not talking about book learning or personal genius or public recognition. These passages talk about wisdom as the result of being transformed by God’s power and presence – of letting your life be changed by listening to God’s instruction and working for justice.

When we get into 1 Corinthians, Paul starts talking about wisdom and foolishness, too, but he’s looking at what Roman society considered wise. In contrast to the doubters and naysayers, Paul writes,

“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength... God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 25, 30).

Paul is urging his readers and hearers to break out of the limitations of what the world says is wise and proper. He’s telling them that if the world thinks you’re fools, that’s just fine. You know who you are in the eyes of your God. You know who you are as one who has died and risen with Christ. You know who you are as one who is carried by the Holy Spirit. The one who died in a way that the world said was weak and shameful – that one is the source of life, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. This might seem like foolishness to those who have not felt the grace that holds them up, but that’s alright.

We can live into the wisdom and the freedom that Christ granted us when he chose to lay down his life for his friends – for you and for me. And as he rises, let us rejoice that he has prepared a path for each one of us to follow him home to the Kingdom of Heaven. So, what kind of fools do we think we are? Fools for Christ! And so, may your Eastertide be filled with signs of new life, renewed hope, and joyful hallelujahs (even if we look a bit foolish)! Amen.

~Pastor Elana

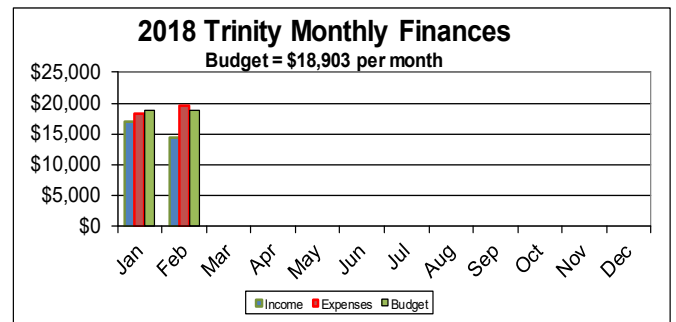
Building & Grounds bob block

We replaced the mailbox at church this month! Check it out! All spiffy and freshly painted, and not tilting toward the ground any longer. Thanks to Bob B. and Barry S. for taking care of this!

Respectfully, Bob Block



Finance/ Stewardship craig hanson



2018	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 31,347	\$ 37,743	\$ 37,806

I am very excited to once again be leading the Mission team at Trinity. We appreciate the support we have had and continue to receive from our church. We will continue to do what we do well, improve on what we do and explore new Mission opportunities to serve our community. A few highlights noted below:

Oklahoma School Walkout:

Assuming that the walkout happens on Apr. 2 we have built a quick plan to support elementary school children at our church that week. We will engage the children with some learning activities as well as food & fun. Please consider volunteering your time to support families during this pending the walkout.

Camp Trinity:

Mark your calendars for a summer of fun during Camp Trinity on June 12 & 26 and July 17 & 24. Camp Trinity was launched to support children from our church and the community. We started Camp Trinity as a great way to spend a Tuesday with lots of activities, food and fun. We will communicate the details on this program as the summer approaches.

Backpacks 4 Bixby (B4B):

Our Backpacks 4 Bixby program is closing out the ninth school year of delivering weekly food bags to children at two Bixby schools.

Donations of food are always welcome. The goal of the program is to provide healthy breakfast and lunch items to help feed children in need over the weekend. Please continue to donate food items this spring and thru the summer. We can always use:

Peanut butter & Jelly – Canned Tuna - Spaghetti/Ravioli - Canned chicken - Juice boxes, fruit cups, individually wrapped snack packs, & small cereal boxes

Other Activities:

We are discussing new Mission activities that focus on being good stewards of the environment. More to come on this as we develop plans and seek Session approval.

~Submitted by John Clawson

Serve with Love.



Christian Education sue chancellor

What is Grace

At the heart of the Presbyterian understanding of God is one thing: grace! Grace is God's love and acceptance freely given and not earned.

Grace is a gift not to people who desire it or to people because they are particularly special.

It is a gift given out of the generosity of God's love for all creation.

Grace is boundless and expansive, and, many believe, in the end, irresistible.

Grace affirms that it is not humanity that saves itself but God, who has acted in the past, still acts today, and will act tomorrow.

Grace is God's gift to undeserving children (regardless of age!).

Ted V. Foote and P. Alex Thorburg

"Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt"

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia! What joy that Christ's death on a cross is not the end of the story and what joy that God's grace is a gift to us all; just as we are! And because, Jesus has such endless love for all God's beloved children, let us celebrate that we can be genuine Easter people. We are blessed to be a blessing to others... let's step out and share many acts of kindness in the precious days ahead.

SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL IS 9:15-10:15)



Childcare for infants through preschool is always available every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship. Donna Bridenstine offers a nurturing engaging atmosphere for our very youngest. Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (whenever needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship.

Please note: Donna can be ready at 8:15 a.m. for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She's also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Jus let Sue know in advance.

MID-WEEK BOOK STUDY: Midweek Book Study has just embarked on an excellent new read, "Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt," by Ted V. Foote and P. Alex Thornburg. "We've just begun diving into this fresh perceptive book intent on helping youth, those who guide them, and any "confused Presbyterians." All are welcome to join the group every Wednesday morning in the Trinity Cafe at 11:00 a.m.

We'll be packing backpacks this month on April 4 and April 18 at 10:30 a.m. in Churchill Hall. Your help is much appreciated whenever you're able to come and give us a hand. This project serves 59 beautiful and grateful Bixby families.



ATTENTION TRINITY FAMILY

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT MAY DATES

May 12 Intergenerational Art Afternoon "Our Imaginations Ignite!" Begins at 2:00 p.m.

May 13 Senior Sunday Worship Service honoring Alec Wigton, Senior at Broken Arrow High School (Reception following)

May 21 Confirmation and Pentecost Worship Service (Reception following)

Also...Save the summer dates, July 8 through July 12...

for an adventurous thrilling 2018 VBS!! VBS Sunday Worship Service and Family Picnic: July 15

Prepare yourselves for the excitement that awaits kids and volunteers this summer.

We'll have a blast as we explore more ways to trust God and deeply feel his presence...

"Splash Canyon: God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride!"

(insert Splash Canyon image)



**C.E. and Book Study Group are proud and excited to host the first ever
Trinity Intergenerational Art-Afternoon on May 12 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Churchill Hall**

"Our Imaginations Ignite"

"The best place to go with a child is in their imagination"

All "kids" from ONE to ONE-O-ONE are enthusiastically invited to come (bring friends and family, too) and set your creative energies free. Folks can partner up with "kids" of different ages and create clever exquisite masterpieces from a variety of choices and mediums at various imagination stations! You can choose from stations such as: Puppet-mania, Fanciful Box-Construction, Glass Painting, Clay Creations, Collage-Collaborations, Sensational Sand Designs, Simply-Beautiful Banners, and the list goes on... Bring A fun snack that can help create "Edible Masterpieces"

YOUTH/KIDS/FAMILY NEWS

Our youth and kids are the best!! We love you tons!!! Thanks for all your work and help with Youth Sunday!! What an inspiring energetic service with a beautiful message..."Start With an Open Heart!" Your church family is very grateful to you and appreciates you very much!! Thanks to Pastor Elana for writing the uniquely clever script for the sermon! And many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this spectacular service!

Thanks to all who made our Andy B's adventure such a joyful one!! Good food, great fellowship, and fabulous (and yes, interesting :) bowling skills were all enjoyed by those who participated!


Kids are invited to help our theatre troupe in our Holy Humor play, as we are in need of kid actors/actresses to portray some feisty pigs in the last part of the play. If you can help us out, please plan on coming to practice this Saturday afternoon, March 31, at 4:00 p.m. We would love your participation in this fun production.

It's going to be a most grand Easter Egg Hunt this year! Thanks to lots of generous donations, we have a "ton" of fun-filled eggs to hide for our terrific "Trinity-kids egg hunters." Teens and adult volunteers are asked to be in the church parlor this Sunday, April 1, at 8:45 to grab some eggs for hiding on the church grounds in time for the 9:15 Easter Brunch in Churchill Hall. We'll gather the kids together at 10:00 in the youth lounge and get them prepared to start the hunt, and lead them out to the starting "gate." Sue is very grateful for all the youth's help with preparing the eggs too!

Congregational Care brenda cunningham

The Lunch Bunch ate at Rib Crib on March 18th and had a huge turnout – 20 folks enjoyed laughter and camaraderie over lunch. **THANKS** to everyone who joined us!! We had a suggestion for April’s Lunch Bunch of the new location of the Royal Dragon. Let us know if you like that idea or not!

Our team has created a list called the Trinity Concerns list. This is for any and all that may need a card, a phone, a visit, meals or assistance. Please keep us posted on folks that may need our help. This list is shared amongst our Congregational Care Team, our Pastors and anyone else who would like this list.

Please see the letter from Richard Churchill on the bulletin board updating us on his Mom’s (Florence Churchill’s) current condition. She is here in Tulsa at Inverness Village, but as Richard said, he does not discourage visitors but wants us to know she would not know if anyone came by to see her nor would she recognize anyone. He has listed his PO Box in Stillwater if anyone needs to contact him by mail. 
~Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

Evangelism ted adams

Members of our Evangelism team have been faced with many challenges, but we continue to hang in and do our best. We always are in need of greeters, especially since the number of visitors has increased. As Martha Stewart remarks "Its a Good Thing." We are amazed to see how visitors connect with our members from past history, neighborhoods and geographical connections. We are so pleased when our members find a connection with visitors from another locality, state, or especially another country. It is indeed a small world where we can run but cannot hide.

The Evangelism Team purchased a 6' banner recently. Please feel free to use it whenever you think it is appropriate.

Hopefully things will become more smooth and we can continue to contribute more. As always we are open to your suggestions and comments.

Best Regards,
The Evangelism Team

Fellowship News dwayne strasheim

The Fellowship Team hosted a dinner of pizza, salad, and dessert prior to the team meetings on March 14, and the Easter Brunch is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 1. May events will include receptions for Senior Sunday, May 13, and Confirmation Sunday, May 20.

Meanwhile, beginning with April 15, we have openings for folks to provide Sunday morning treats in the Trinity Café. The sign up sheet is on the counter between the kitchen and the café. Special thanks to those who have provided the treats over the past several months.
Thank you, Dwayne Strasheim

KNOWLEDGE IS THE BEST PROTECTION

2018 Senior Fraud Conference

From your mailbox to your computer, crooks have new ways to scam you.

We'll teach you how to protect yourself at these FREE events.

Topics include:

Medicare Fraud, Insurance Fraud, Investment Fraud & Banking Fraud.

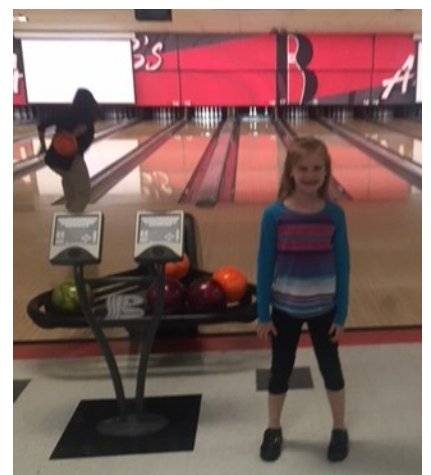
Tulsa April 10 8:30 am to 12:15 pm
Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills
1902 E. 71st St.
Council Oak Ballroom A-C
Tulsa, OK 74136
Registration begins at 7:30 am
Breakfast begins at 8:00 am

Broken Arrow May 1 8:30 am—12:15 pm
Stoney Creek Hotel
200 W. Albany St., Stone Room
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Registration begins at 7:30 am
Breakfast begins at 8:00 am

Register online at map.oid.ok.gov
Or by calling 1-800-763-2828



Bowling
Trip to
Andy B's
on Sun.,
March 25



Youth Sunday 2018

"Start with an Open Heart"

Easter Sunday—Apr. 1

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

2nd Sunday of Easter—Apr. 8

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter—Apr. 15

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

4th Sunday of Easter—Apr. 22

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

5th Sunday of Easter—Apr. 29

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



April

Bess Guthrie	4/6
Michelle Buttress	4/8
Greg Spencer	4/14
Sela Smith	4/22
Lois Rude	4/26
Tyler Eckert	4/27
Alec Wigton	4/30

earth day
april 22

WORD SEARCH



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Sue Lindsted
Grand Forks Herald 2012

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. EARTH | 5. RECYCLE | 9. WATER | 13. ENERGY |
| 2. DAY | 6. REUSE | 10. LAND | 14. CLIMATE |
| 3. APRIL | 7. REDUCE | 11. AIR | 15. POLLUTION |
| 4. ENVIRONMENT | 8. RESOURCES | 12. GLOBAL | 16. COMPOST |





APRIL 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 EASTER SUNDAY	2	3 Election Day	4 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Wk Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	5	6 <i>EOP Mtg. First Pres., Claremore</i>	7 <i>3:30 pm Trinity Theatre Group Practice</i>
8 HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY	9	10	11 9:45 am Presbyterian Wm. 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	12	13	14
15 11:30 am Lunch Bunch (Location TBA)	16	17	18 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group 6:30 pm Team Meetings	19	20	21
22 Earth Day Trinity Bike Ride	23	24 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	25 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	26	27	28
29	30					

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