



## December 2016

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### *From the Pastor's Pen*

Themes of light and darkness seem to be all around these days, as we get closer to the winter solstice. The dark seems to come earlier and earlier – wrapping around us like a cloak, limiting how far we can see without help, and causing us to travel just a little bit less. Psalm 36 speaks to this – how God comforts us, wrapping us in the shadow of wings that shelter and protect us, offering us food and drink that fill us to overflowing with kindness, life, and wakefulness. As we gather with families and friends for the holidays, this image of eating and drinking with the Divine fills me with hope – hope that we all eat at this one table, lit with the Eternal Light of love, faithfulness, justice, comfort, and even life itself.

But comfort is only the first step. After seeking comfort, we're then called to wake up and see the world with our eyes open. With open eyes, we can see that everyone carries a spark of Divine light – and when we work together, we can see it flare up, pushing back the darkness and offering full feasts of kindness and love to each other.

How can that be? After all, we do differ significantly from each other. As different as the color red from the color violet. Or green, or fuchsia, or burnt sienna – the list goes on and on. Just as there are many different denominations, and different churches within those denominations. Just as there are many different names for the Divine across many traditions – and even religions! But all people belong to the Divine light – just as all colors can be seen separating from light that passes through a prism. The Bible tells a story of God's promise to all of humanity being represented by a rainbow – the natural separation of light from the sun into a spectrum of color through millions of tiny water droplets that act as prisms. And the Psalmist reminds us that God is in and beyond the heights of the mountains, and the depths of the seas. That love and kindness abide in each and every one by the will of God, to be shared with each other until the cup of our souls fill to overflowing.

So let us thank the Divine light for filling us all, even when the darkness surrounds us. Even when we're not full yet, if we open our eyes just a little bit, we can see the divine light shining through everyone, everywhere.

~Rev. Lucus

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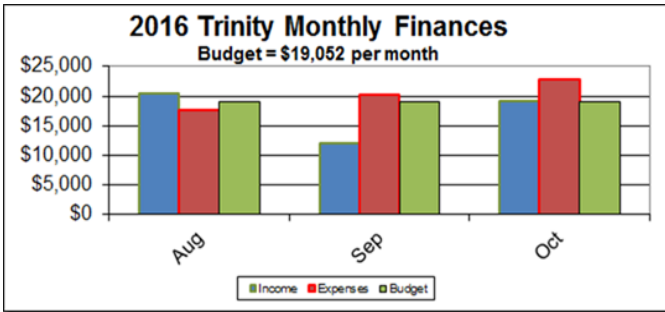
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*Finance/Stewardship* randy smith

2016	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 166,195	\$ 163,166	\$ 190,520



*Evangelism* brenda cunningham

A gifted singer and songwriter by the name of Gordon Jensen wrote a song some years ago, which mentions the fact that you and I, as Christians, may be the only "Jesus" that many people will see. It should be our goal and desire to be just a bit more like Jesus every day by sharing what Christ is like. We are to be "lights" in a dark world and if there is ever a time for people to see Christ in action through His people, it is today!

This is the goal of the Evangelism Team and I hope in some small way we have been successful in sharing not only our light but the Trinity light as well. I would like to think everyone that participated in our activities this past year, whether it be through attending team meetings, greeting, changing the sign, working the election, helping with the website, or other ways we have tried to spread the Christian word.

**Merry Christmas and Happy 2017!!**



~Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

*Congregational Care* margot ries

~Our thoughts and prayers to our college students as finals are coming up...they are Kelsey Johnson, Darby Campbell, Trevor Eckert, Luke Clawson and Logan Wagner.

~Lunch Bunch will be taking a break through the busy Christmas Holiday. Please join us on the 3rd Sunday in January, when we begin again with wonderful monthly gatherings at some of Tulsa's warmest eateries!

~The entire Congregational Care Team wishes each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and our prayers for a wonderful New Year. God Bless Everyone.



~Blessings, Margot

**Sound/Video Help Needed!!**

**We are in need of additional people to volunteer to help run sound and video during Worship services.**

**Training will be provided. Please contact Craig Hanson via e-mail or phone. [chanson@oneok.com](mailto:chanson@oneok.com) or 918-607-4171**

**Thank you in advance!!**

## *Christian Education* sue chancellor

**"A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
 Prepare the Way of the Lord:  
 Soften your hearts;  
 Heighten your hopes;  
 Forge a way where there is no way;  
 For Christ is coming to make all things new,  
 O, people of God, prepare the way of the Lord. Amen"**  
 -Pamela C. Hawkins

When we ponder, reflect, and meditate on those words for a bit, I believe we're actively engaging in an important practice this advent season. Let us take time during this season of advent to pray, serve, share, love, and grow spiritually as we prepare our hearts, minds and soul for the birth of our beloved Jesus.

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## *Sunday Morning Possibilities* *Please join us when you are able every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. for many learning possibilities:*

**Infants through preschool are invited to join Donna Bridenstine from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship in the childcare room.** She provides a safe, engaging, and nurturing atmosphere for the youngest of our Trinity family. Infants and toddlers can join her during the 9:15 Sunday School hour and children, preschool through kindergarten, can come in after Sunday School or "Time with Children" and stay through the close of Worship.

Parents needing childcare during choir practice can let Sue know in advance, and Donna will be in the nursery during these times.

## **Sunday Morning Discovery Classes for Small Ones through All Adults Beginning at 9:15**

### **This Sunday, Dec 4:**

**The Children's Multi-Age and Tweens/teens Sunday School classes will meet in the parlor at 9:15 a.m. for the "Lighting of the Advent Candles."**

**The Teen's/Tween's class will meet upstairs with John Clawson** following opening for their discussion/activities focusing on the theme: "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

**The Children's class will meet with Katy Reed** in the room by the side door as they learn about "Peace all Around" through a variety of hands-on experiences.

**All Children and Teens will meet with their pageant director Lynnette Kraft-Lindsey, upstairs at 10:00 a.m. to continue their rehearsals for the pageant, "Jesus means Christmas to Me."**

## Sunday Morning Discovery, Cont'd:

### Sunday, Dec 11:

All Children and Teens will meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. for their final practice for the Christmas pageant. Please come in your costumes.

### Sunday, Dec 18:

Everyone of All Ages: Come to Churchill Hall at 9:15 a.m. for our most delicious and cozy "Christmas Brunch." There are no Sunday School classes on this day. Be ready for scrumptious food and delightful fellowship. There will be some advent activities for the children to choose from in the youth lounge after they enjoy breakfast.

**Sunday, Dec 25:** There are no Sunday School classes but everyone is invited for a "Family Prayer Service" in the sanctuary at 10:30.

*(no childcare on Christmas Day)*

**Sunday, Jan 1:** Tweens and Teens, along with Vicky Adams, will host a "Morning Movie Extravaganza" in the youth lounge at 9:15. Munchy movie snacks will be provided. **Donna Bridenstine will provide childcare on New Year's Day from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship.**



## Adult Sunday School

**Dec. 4 and Dec. 11:** Adults, please join Liz Powell in Churchill Hall on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, as she continues to lead a thought-provoking discussion on "Statements of Faith." It's not too late to get on board and join in the stimulating conversation.

**Dec 18:** No Sunday School Classes. Please plan on attending Trinity's traditional "Christmas Brunch" at 9:15 a.m. in Churchill Hall.

**Dec 25:** Merry Christmas. Please join Reverends Elana and Lucas in the sanctuary for a "Family Prayer Service."

*Happy New Year*

### Jan 1:

**Attention All Adults:**

Reverends Lucas and Elana invite you to a stimulating class on "Commentary Diving." This will be a most lively and enlightening approach to study a passage in Luke. Be looking for more fun details for this New Year's Day adult class.

### Jan 8:

"The Screwtape Letters" discussion resumes in Churchill Hall. It's not too late to join this great group!

**Midweek Book Study:** The group continues their Wednesday morning conversation at 11:00 a.m. on Gregory Boyle's book, "Tatoos on the Heart." They will complete this inspiring compassionate book on their Dec. 14 class. **On Dec 21, everyone is invited to the cafe at 11:00 a.m. to share a fun food/snack and a favorite anecdote, story, scripture, poem, etc. Please plan on joining in the friendly fellowship, if you're in town.**

**\*\*Midweek book study will take a short break through the holidays, and resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2016 at 11:00 am\*\***



## CHILDREN/TEENS/FAMILY NEWS

### **It's Here...This Friday Night (12/2)...Parent's Night Out...**

Hosted by Sue and Royce Chancellor, John Clawson, Melinda Carver, Jonna Adams, and Rev. Lucus. We've got some great children coming and there's still room for more. Bring the kids to Churchill Hall at 5:30 pm. It will be a fun-filled evening with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Kids can be ready to enjoy an exciting array of activities from games to science/art activities with a funny video tossed in, when they want to curl up and rest for a bit.

**Attention: All kids/teens in the Christmas Pageant...**Two very important Saturday morning rehearsals coming on **Dec 3 and Dec 10 at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. Please plan on attending both Saturdays. Everyone will receive their costume on Dec 3 and ...Please come dressed in your costume to the Saturday, Dec 10, dress rehearsal. Snacks will be provided.

**Our Advent Midweek Evening Study continues Wed. Dec 7 at 6:30 pm...**Adults are invited to join Rev. Lucus as he leads a conversation on "Names for the Messiah," by **Walter Bruggeman**. Be ready to explore the origins and meanings of names such: Almighty God, Prince of Peace, and Wonderful Counselor! Children of all ages can join Sue in the parlor for an Advent experience of their own as they continue on their very active journey learning about Peace, Joy, and Love, during the Season of Advent. **The final Advent Study will be on Wednesday, Dec 21.**

**Families, please adopt a child from our angel tree found on the wall by the choir room.** This is a wonderful opportunity to shop together as a whole family to help bring joy to a very special child in our Bixby area. The gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, Dec 11 and will be delivered on Dec 16. **We won't be able to shop together as a Trinity group this year on December 11 with all the festivities going on that day.**



**Dec. 11 is a very special day...**The pageant, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me," will be presented during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and a reception in Churchill Hall honoring all the participants will follow the 10:30 service. Come and celebrate our marvelous teens, kids, pageant volunteers, and director, who worked so diligently on this beautiful pageant!

**Dec 18:** Meet in Churchill Hall at 9:15 a.m. for the Christmas Brunch during the Sunday School Hour followed by "Lessons and Carols" Worship in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

**Dec 24:** Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. with communion.  
Late night Christmas Eve Service at 11:30 p.m.



**Dec. 25:** Prayer Service at 10:30 am

Children of all ages are invited to this service; **No child care provided.**

## “Jesus Means Christmas to Me” Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Reception to honor the participants, director, and volunteers following presentation in Churchill Hall.

*Music Notes* erik collins

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
*A Festival of Lessons & Carols*  
 Sunday, December 18, 2016  
 10:30am service

*Featuring the music of*  
 John Rutter, Leo Sowerby, Doug Andrews & more

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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## A Festival of Lessons & Carols 2016

The Festival of **Lessons and Carols** is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, but also in some Roman Catholic, Lutheran parishes, and Presbyterian institutions. However numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

On Sunday, December 18, the choir will present its biennial service of Lessons and Carols. This year's repertoire will consist of our traditional processional, *Personent Hodie*, along with the music of Leo Sowerby, Doug Andrews and Paul Aitken. You won't want to miss it!

~Erik Collins, Director of Music



# Scenes from Trinity



**One of our newly formed theater troupes in action!!  
Trinity Players presenting,  
“Daniel and the Lion’s Den”**



Some of the gals doing their part  
in choosing from the Angel Tree!  
Let’s join them and see if we can  
accommodate all the requests  
this year!





# Baptism of Sophia Marie Kraft-Lindsey

11-21-16



## December Lectionary Readings

### 2nd Sunday of Advent—Dec. 4

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 ; Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

### 3rd Sunday of Advent—Dec. 11

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10 ; James: 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

### 4th Sunday of Advent—Dec. 18

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ; Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

### Christmas Day—Dec. 25

Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96 ; Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

## Happy Birthday to our friends and family born in December!

Sandy McDonald	12/04
Joe Cunningham	12/05
Cathy Hanson	12/08
Ann Reed	12/08
Howard Fenton	12/09
Sally Autin	12/11
Vicky Adams	12/14
Seve Smith	12/14
Barry Straabe	12/14
Ed Jolly	12/19
Randy Smith	12/22
Adam Spencer	12/29



## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Katy Reed and James Orrell** as they come together in marriage on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow in Churchill Hall, and all are invited! Please join us in celebrating this wonderful couple!





# December

# 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Parent's Night Out 5:30—9:00 pm	3 10:00 am Pageant practice
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY	5 Yoga Class 10:00 am  Turning Point 7:00 pm	6	7 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Wk. Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch F. Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Adult Book Study	8	9	10 10:00 am Pageant practice  2:00 pm Katy Reed & James Orrell Wedding
11 Children's Christmas Pageant, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me" with reception to follow <b>Angel Tree Gifts Due today</b>	12 Yoga Class 10:00 am  Turning Point 7:00 pm	13	14 9:45 am Pres. Women Grp. 11:00 am Mid-Wk. Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch F. Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Team Mtg. 6:00 dinner	15	16	17
18 9:15 am Christmas Brunch 10:30 am Lessons & Carols Worship Service	19 Yoga Class 10:00 am  Turning Point 7:00 pm	20 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	21 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Wk Bk Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch F. Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Adult Book Study	22	23	24 5:30 pm & 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Services
25 Christmas Day 10:30 am Prayer Service at Trinity	26 NO Yoga Class  Turning Point 7:00 pm	27	28 No Midweek Book Study—resumes Jan. 11th  1:00 pm Banner Making	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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