

Trinity Tidings



December 2017

From the Pastor's Pen

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Trinity Presbyterian Church
9303 E. 111th St. S.
Bixby, OK 74008
918-369-3690
trinitychurchbixby.org

SERVING YOU

Rev. Elana Levy, Co-Pastor
Rev. Lucus Keppel, Co-Pastor
(cell) 757-876-7025 (Elana)
(cell) 248-845-8287 (Lucus)
trinitypastor@olp.net

Sue Chancellor, Christian Educator
(cell) 918-764-5566
schancellor5@gmail.com

Erik Collins, Director of Music
(cell) 918-809-3418

Donna Bridenstine, Childcare
(cell) 918-982-5868

Kim Harvey, Admin. Assistant
(office) 918-369-3690



(Photo by Bubamara)

“Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.” -1 Peter 1:13

Advent has been celebrated by the church since at least 480. Some claim that the apostles themselves celebrated advent. Though its form and length have changed over the years, it is a time set aside for us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent comes from the Latin word “*adventus*,” which means “arrival” or “approach.” This was a translation of the Greek word “*parousia*,” which literally means “presence,” “arrival,” or “official visit.” It was used outside of the Christian world to talk about the visit of a king or an emperor. This regal arrival would inspire robust celebrations and fanfare. In the Bible and in the church, we use this word to refer to Christ returning in judgment and ushering in the kingdom of heaven – certainly a much bigger deal than a diplomatic visit by an earthly ruler.

So, Advent is about much, much more than just getting ready for Christmas Day and meditating on the itty bitty, adorable, precious, sweet, little baby Jesus. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, born in 1090, was a monk for forty years.

Cont'd on p.2

From the Pastor's Pen, Cont'd:

Over the course of his life, he was an abbot, confessor, and doctor of the church. In a book of homilies for the season of Advent, he urged us to consider three comings of Christ.

First, Christ came in flesh as a baby in Bethlehem. Second, we should remember that Christ comes into our hearts daily. Third, we eagerly await the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time.

If we look at Christ in this way, we can see that at the first coming, those physically present could see Jesus, whether they believed or not. In the third coming, all humanity will see the pure salvation of the Lord. But this middle coming, when Christ comes to our hearts day by day, that is hidden. Jesus chooses to come to us and we can see him working and growing in our own hearts. With each new arrival into our hearts, we can feel ourselves being saved in his love and tender mercy. Bernard writes, "The middle coming is like a road that leads from the first coming to the last. At the first, Christ was our redemption; at the last, he will become manifest as our life; but in this middle way he is our rest and our consolation."

My friends, Advent is not just about Christmas Day. Advent is our lifelong challenge. Can we see all the ways that Christ comes into the world? Are we living like those who have hope? Do we stand firm on the promises of God in this life and the next? May this season of preparation make our hearts ready for any task that Christ calls us to and may we be living messengers of hope, peace, joy, and love each day of our lives.

~Pastor Elana



TrinityPresbyterianChurch
presents

Joseph Martin's
APPALACHIAN WINTER

Sunday, December 10, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

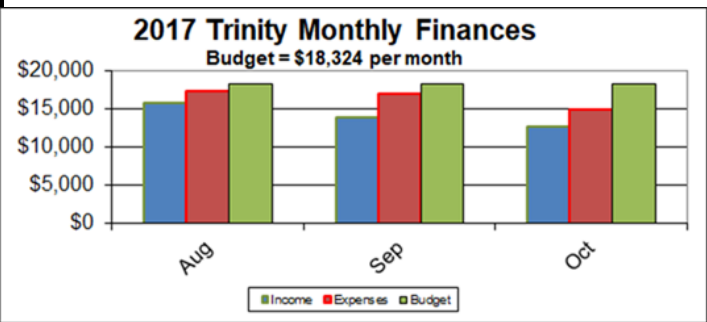
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For more information, please visit
www.trinitychurchbixby.org or call 918.369.3690

THIS EVENING IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Please consider bringing a canned good item that will
be donated to the *Bixby Outreach Center*.

Finance/Stewardship randy smith



2017 YTD	Income	Expenses	Budget
	\$174,710	\$176,786	\$183,240

~ Randy Smith



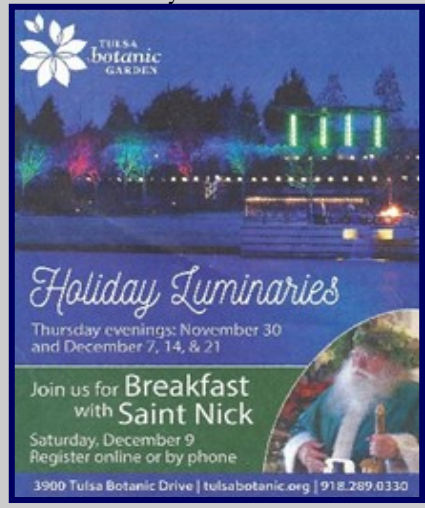
"The Real Story of Christmas"
is just around the corner! Dec. 17th at 10:30 am

Lynette Kraft-Lindsey and Pastor Elana have collaborated their talents for this year's delightful pageant, so come and enjoy this beautiful inspiring presentation during worship on December 17! A reception honoring all those magnificent folks and kids involved in the pageant follows worship in Churchill Hall!

Attention Families: A most important full dress rehearsal is on Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity's sanctuary! Please plan on bringing your children to this rehearsal! Snacks will be served.

Evangelism brenda cunningham

The highs and lows of the year seem to be brought to a pinnacle in December. As we raise our voices and hearts to the heavens, we enjoy all that Trinity offers at its best!



To that end, the Evangelism Team hopes you will join us on **Thur., Dec.14th for Holiday Luminaries at Tulsa Botanic Garden** from 5pm to 8pm. We can pick you up, all go together, or meet at the Garden. \$8 for 13+ yrs. and \$4 for 3-12 yrs. For more info, see Cindy Strasheim, Joe Cunningham, or me. 'Tis the season for fun and fellowship!

I wish to thank those who have been part of our 2017 Team: **Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim, Michelle and Otis Buttress, and Joe Cunningham.**

And also, a big thanks to **Barry Straabe, Millie Spencer, and Stephanie Smith** for changing the Trinity sign no matter what the Oklahoma weather throws at them!

Then there are the Greeters, who welcomed all that came through our doors: **Vicky and Ted Adams, Evelyn Fenton, Jackie Ballew, Cathy Harper, Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim, Michelle and Otis Buttress and Joe Cunningham.**

Filled with the Christmas Spirit!
Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

Christian Education sue chancellor

In our troubled times, the season of Advent invites us to step into uncertainty, to pray without ceasing, and to trust Christ's reassurance as we embrace the challenge of discipleship.

Creator God, you call us to step out of our comfort zones, to risk and move courageously in a world that continually threatens us for being faithful to your call. May we persevere in this Advent journey, paying attention to the ways your Spirit beckons from us a response. Amen.

Hierald Osorto (APTS student from Washington DC)

As we prepare our hearts, minds, and souls, for this Advent journey, may we embrace the challenge of discipleship, step out of our comfort zones, and truly pay attention to the way the Spirit beckons from us a response. Let's move through Advent and onto Christmas Day guided into loving active response by our most caring gracious God!

Sunday Morning Opportunities

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

Donna Bridenstine is available for childcare for infants through kindergarten from 9:00 a.m. until the close of Worship. Our youngest worshippers are invited to spend time with Donna and other nursery volunteers (when needed) in a safe, nurturing, and child-focused atmosphere. Childcare is available during choir practice and team meetings too; just let Sue or Donna know.

Multi-aged Sunday School for Pre-kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Children and teachers are all enjoying the hands-on learning experiences happening in the Sunday School room this winter. All kids are invited to the room closest by Donna to participate in special Advent devotions these next two weeks. There will be time before pageant practice at 10:00 for uplifting learning activities focused on bible stories and scripture preparing our hearts for the birth of baby Jesus this Advent season. Please join us at 9:15!

December 3	Katy Orell	"A Loving Greeting"
December 10	Pageant Rehearsal—upstairs	
December 17	Pageant Rehearsal:	"The Real Story of Christmas"
December 24	Melinda Carver	"Christmas Eve Morning Snacks and Movie"
December 31	John Clawson and Melinda Carver "More Movie Fun as Christmas Continues"	
January 7	Sue Chancellor	"Awesome"

Youth, Sixth Grade through Twelfth Grade:

The Trinity youth and all visiting youth are always welcome to join the Teen Sunday School leadership team upstairs in the room closest to the sound tech room, whenever they are able. Open honest conversation focuses around timely topics and biblical scripture. The youth will meet with the younger children's class on the last two Sundays in December in the youth lounge. They will have the opportunity to help engage the children with the movies and activities.

December 3	Royce Chancellor	"I Don't Have to Prove It"
December 10	Pageant Rehearsal—upstairs	
December 17	Pageant Rehearsal: "The Real Story of Christmas"	
December 24	Melinda Carver	"Christmas Eve Morning Snacks and Movie"
December 31	John Clawson and Melinda Carver "More Movie Fun as Christmas Continues"	

Teens and Kids: Please remember that Pageant rehearsal continues upstairs at 10:00 a.m. through December 10! On December 17, the participants will come in their costume and meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 for their last dress rehearsal run through!

Attention Confirmands:

Lots of excitement is stirring upstairs with both Youth Sunday School and Confirmation Class! Pastors Elana and Lucus continue to lead compelling insightful Confirmation classes and the December, January schedule follows:

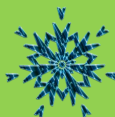
December 3	"Creation & Stewardship" (What is our role in creation?)
January 7	"God's Sovereignty and Providence" (What does it mean to say "God's in charge"?)
January 14	"Sin & Forgiveness" (What is sin? Who sins? Where did sin come from?)

Attention Adults of All Ages: You are cordially invited to the classroom off of Churchill Hall each Sunday morning for stimulating honest conversation with Richard Spencer and the class as they continue the DVD study: "Living the Questions 2." Each class is separate from the other so individuals can step in any time they can and pick up on the focus for that particular Sunday. Advent is a good time for individuals to reflect on their struggles and challenges as they continue on their personal faith journeys. This series shares insights of over twenty-five theologians including Nancy Ammerman, John Bell, Marcus Borg, Rita Nakashima Brock, Walter Brueggemann, Diana Butler Bass, Minerva Carcano, Tex Sample, and Brian McLaren. The compelling study continues into the New Year and beyond.

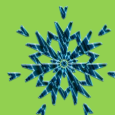
Midweek Book Study: Midweek Book Study group will finish their lively book, "When 'Spiritual but Not Religious' is Not Enough," on December 20 in the Trinity Cafe at 11:00 a.m. The group will resume on Wednesday, January 3 with a fun-filled "Sharing Time!" Folks can bring a brief story/article, prayer, poem, gift, etc. to share with one another during the hour. This is the perfect time for new folks to join in and check out all the uplifting fun this group enjoys! We'll also be packing backpacks at 10:30 in Churchill Hall that day too!

Kids/Teen/Family News

Wow! Our November bike ride along Washing Irving Trail was a blast!! And lunch at Dos Bandido's was scrumptious! A humongous thanks to all the kids, teens, and adults who biked together on a very bright sunny day (if not just a BIT windy:) It was indeed great fellowship and exercise!!



Thanks also goes out to the kids who participated in our Advent workshop! Your Advent creations and decorations are wonderful and will be enjoyed by your families and by your Trinity family! Thanks for sharing them!!



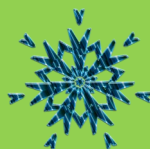
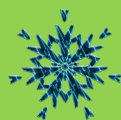
Almost Here: Parent's Night Out on December 8 in Churchill Hall beginning at 5:30 and ending by 9:00 p.m. We've got some great volunteers on hand and are still looking for more to help us with this special night when parents can have a date night knowing their kiddos are safe, sound, and enjoying a fun time at Trinity. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Lots of child-friendly activities are in the works and a grand time is on the horizon for ALL involved. No charge for the evening.



Coming Soon to the Target by Trinity: Big Shopping Spree for our Angel Tree Families on December 10!!! All youth, kids and families are invited to shop for angel tree gifts following worship on December 10. This is always a very special excursion as we try to put others first and focus on getting just the right gift these "angels" wish for! We'll grab lunch nearby at Charlie's Chicken, 10840 S. Memorial Dr. before the spree begins!



All families: Please plan on attending either or both of the wondrous Family Christmas Eve services at Trinity if you are in town!! 5:30 pm (early service) and 11:30 pm (late service).



Music Notes erik collins



Trinity presents Joseph Martin's *Appalachian Winter*

Once again, the Advent season welcomes us with warm hearts and gentle spirits. I would like to welcome you to Trinity Presbyterian Church's presentation of Joseph Martin's *Appalachian Winter*. This particular collection of music was carefully selected by the composer in a recreation of the story of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the coming of winter there is a blessed quietness that seems to settle upon the heart. The chill of frosty air and the season's lengthening shadows invite us to reflection and simplicity. As we retreat to the hearth and away from the cold, there is a subtle turning that seems to happen. Wary from struggle and frozen by distress, we find warmth and assurance inside our sanctuaries of contemplation. Peace falls like a gentle snow and we remember, with great hope, the promises of our faith. The candles of hope, peace, love and joy are once again kindled in our spirits. We gaze with longing into the silent night, seeking a star and listening for a song that will fill the deep silence and set our hearts to celebration.

It is then, above the whistle of the winter wind, the first notes of a distant Gloria arrives. Soft at first, it comes like a dream, and then in a great crescendo, it sweeps across our emptiness and fills our hearts with a symphony of angel wings. The mountains and canyons echo like cathedrals declaring the news: "Jesus the Savior is born. Glory to God in the Highest."

Overflowing with worship and surrounded by grace, we discover our miracle. Melody and message reach out and draw us close into their lavish embrace. Rejoicing, and filled with wonder, we join the music, lifting our praise into night. How amazing that in the very heart of winter's desolation, we have found our Song.

Composed in the spirit of folk music, Joseph Martin's cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements creating a blend that is fresh and pleasing. Popular American carols such as *Away In a Manger* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* dance with traditional spirituals such as *Children, Go Where I Send Thee* and *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*. Sacred Harp tunes are re-tooled for Advent and stand alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies. Thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and Scripture.

This sixty-minute work is filled with joyful songs of the season as well as introspective readings between each movement. The evening will close with a reflective piece entitled "Peace, Peace," in which the congregation will sing the familiar *Silent Night* in collaboration with the choir's part. As we take an inward look at the wonderful things that God has given us throughout the year, I invite you to celebrate those thoughts and feelings through the musical tidings presented by the choir this evening. From seasonal songs that lift our spirits to the peaceful carols in retrospect of past times, this great collection of music resonates through the warmth of God's grace. It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir, joined by some of Tulsa's finest musicians, in our presentation of *Appalachian Winter* on **Sunday evening, December 10th, at 7 P.M.**

Respectfully, Erik Collins

Fellowship News dwayne strasheim

The Fellowship Team will be busy during the holidays. Sunday, December 17, following worship, we will share with Christian Education in a reception celebrating participants in the annual Christmas Pageant.

Many thanks to all who contributed soups, sandwiches, desserts, or kitchen assistance to Fellowship's potluck after the Hanging of the Greens November 26. What a dedicated, supportive congregation we have here at Trinity!

Thanks also to those who have contributed Sunday treats in the Trinity Café during the past year. Be on the lookout for a new sign-up sheet for the first six months of 2018.

~Respectfully submitted, Dwayne Strasheim

Building & Grounds bob block

The new lights in the narthex are thanks to Bob Eckert! Also, the clearing on the west side of our church is almost complete, but we could use some more money to complete the job. Donations are welcome! The beauty of our church and grounds benefits everyone!

~Respectfully, Bob Block

Trinity Happenings





December Lectionary Readings

1st Sunday of Advent—Dec. 3

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

2nd Sunday of Advent—Dec. 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent—Dec. 17

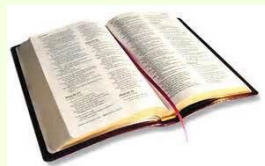
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent—Dec. 24— Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 15
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

1st Sunday after Christmas Day—Dec. 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



December Birthdays to celebrate!!

Cathie Harper	12/04
Joe Cunningham	12/05
Cathy Hanson	12/08
Ann Reed	12/08
Howard Fenton	12/09
Sally Autin	12/11
Hugh Bright	12/14
Seve Smith	12/14
Barry Straabe	12/14
Ed Jolly	12/19
Randy Smith	12/22
Adam Spencer	12/29
Melinda Carver	12/30





December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 3:00-4:00 pm Pageant rehearsal	2
3 Confirmation Class	4 10:00 am Yoga Class	5 7:00 pm Cantata practice	6 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	7 6:30 pm Advent Adult Study	8 5:30-9:00 pm Parents Night Out	9
10 9:15 am Pageant practice No Sunday School Youth Shopping Trip for Angel Tree Following worship 7:00 pm Christmas Cantata	11 No Yoga	12 7:00 pm Cantata practice	13 9:45 am-PW 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Team Meetings Dinner @ 6:00	14 5:00-8:00 pm Holiday Luminaries at Tulsa Bot. Gar. 6:30 pm Advent Adult Study	15	16 10:00 am Dress Rehearsal for Pageant
17 9:30 am Pageant Rehearsal Christmas Pageant & Reception	18 No Yoga Class	19 6:30 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm Cantata practice	20 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	21 6:30 pm Advent Adult Study	22	23
24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 31	25 No Yoga CHRISTMAS DAY Morning Service Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	28	29	30

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