

# trinity tidings

## FEBRUARY 2016

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### *From the Pastor's Pen*

When I was 23 years old I gave up smoking for Lent. Two factors were at play. First, I had just become engaged to David and he didn't smoke, and second, I had no money to buy a wedding gift. I thought the best gift I might give him was the gift of long life! I knew it was going to be tough and I couldn't do it alone. So ten days before we were married, when the season of Lent started, I turned to God. To not smoke became my Lenten discipline of self-denial. That was 52 years ago, and I can still remember the powerful presence of God when the going got tough.

That was the nature of Lent in the '60's. Spiritual practice was defined by what we gave up ... as if depriving ourselves of something we enjoy will make us a more committed Christian. And, for some, maybe it's still true – people give up desserts, chocolate, Starbuck's, movies – and that is good, especially when they donate what they would have spent to some favorite charity. Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter whereby Christians are called to prayer, penance, and repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial preparing for the glorious Easter morn! It's an ancient tradition dating back to 325 A.D., at the Council of Nicea. It's powerful in just the fact it's survived these many, many generations. How you do your personal spiritual discipline is up to you, but I invite – no – I implore you -- to join the Trinity community in a common spiritual practice.

*cont. pg 2*

*Pastor's Pen cont.*

Your Worship, Evangelism and Christian Education Ministry Teams have come together to gift to each family unit a copy of *Be Holy* by Rev. Brian Coulter, the son-in-law of Royce and Sue Chancellor. There are forty spiritual readings designed to help us keep our eye on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit within us. My hope and prayer is that as a church is willing to be *disciplined together*. Each day's reading is short! Read and talk with one another about them. Each ends with a breathing exercise consisting of a two-word phrase you *breathe in*, and another two word phrase you *breathe out*. Take those phrases and hang on to them all day. Let's do Lent together.

Blessings,

*Pastor Judy*

*Evangelism* brenda cunningham

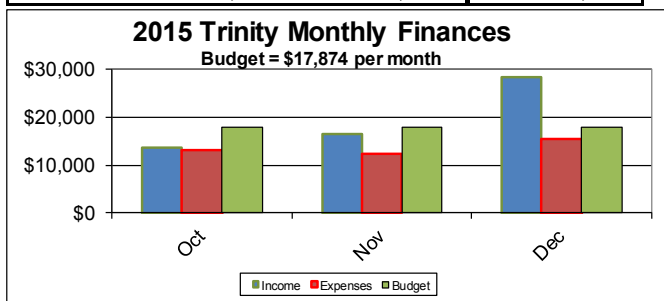
We are once again diligently working on the Trinity Pictorial Directory. We are emailing all the member families that have emails and asking them to update their address and phone numbers. Also we are checking to see who wants new pictures taken. If you don't hear from us soon, please see Brenda or Joe Cunningham, Ed or Deanna Jolly, or Laura Van Newkirk so we can get new pictures or updates. Please check the Member board often because we are putting up new member pictures and revised pages too.

Our group is working on the appearance of the Narthex to make it more inviting to potential new members and guests as well as us ole members, too. The café area is a great place to get together and we have tried to open it up a bit to make it easier to visit. We removed the "paper only trash can" in the entry and have replaced it with a nice basket at the back of the sanctuary for bulletins and other paper. We have also changed our Greeting Space around a bit, to ensure we have everything needed to show guests about Trinity without overpowering them. Please remember, we are ALL greeters and if you see new folks, please go over as say Hello!

Respectfully,  
Brenda Cunningham

*Finance/ Stewardship* randy smith

2015	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 197,875	\$ 168,485	\$ 214,487



*Congregational Care* margot ries

We'll have a "Lunch Bunch" get together after worship on Sunday, February 21. Location will be announced.

*Mission News* john clawson

## BACKPACKS 4 BIXBY (B4B)

Our Backpacks 4 Bixby program is in our seventh school year delivering weekly food bags to 75 children at four Bixby schools. We started the program in September of 2009 providing food to 15 children at one Bixby school.

We appreciate everyone who has signed up to deliver bags and there are still a few spots available to deliver after Spring Break. The sign up list is posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

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 that are posted in your Sunday bulletins.

Examples of items needed are:

1st Sunday - Peanut butter & Jelly

2nd Sunday - Tuna

3rd Sunday - Spaghetti/Ravioli

4th Sunday - Canned chicken

5th Sunday - Juice boxes, fruit cups, individually wrapped snack packs,  
small cereal boxes

Backpacks4 Bixby



Our donation basket is in the hallway outside the church office. Please remember that we can use whatever you bring; whenever you bring it. And as we noted in the Congregational Meeting, when you donate money to Trinity's General Fund you are supporting our B4B program financially.

We have more children this year and they need our help. We truly appreciate your generosity.



### BIXBY OUTREACH CENTER (BOC)

Our Youth Sunday will be collecting canned food and donations of money for the BOC. This event is also known as the "Souper Bowl" of Caring as it occurs on Super Bowl Sunday. As we enjoy the big game it is very much appreciated that you think of people in our community that are in need and help make their lives better.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Our Special offerings and other forms of Mission will be coming soon as our team meets to discuss how we can further support those in need.

Submitted by John Clawson

## *Worship* vicky adams / liz powell

**ASH WEDNESDAY** Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, **February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the sanctuary and will include both Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. This service will be held after the monthly team meetings which will begin at 6:00 pm. Dinner will not be served before these meetings in February.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL** Copies of *Be Holy, a Lenten Devotional* have been purchased for each family. Please take a copy of this thoughtful devotional home with you. It is our hope that each of us will take a moment every day during Lent to contemplate the daily scripture text and meditation.

**LITURGIST TRAINING** In the month of February the worship team will be conducting training for our Liturgists. This training is for both those who have served as a Liturgist in the past and those who may want to serve in the future. The time of this training will be announced before worship.

*Thank  
You*

The Worship Team would like to thank all of those who helped take down the Chrismon Tree and remove Advent/Christmas decorations from the sanctuary. Also, "Thanks" to those who took down what must have been some pretty dusty greenery from the ledges around the Sanctuary!

Submitted by Liz Powell

## *Christian Education* sue chancellor

Authenticity is a collection of choices that we have to make every day.

It's about the choice to show up and be real.

The choice to be honest.

The choice to let our true selves be seen.

Brene Brown

It can be scary to put ourselves out there. It can be intimidating to meet others.

But it is worth it. We were created in community and for community.

We have a communal calling. We are supposed to spend some time together.

It takes courage. It takes vulnerability. It takes authenticity.

And we can do it.

Rev. Brian Coulter

**As we proceed through the next week and into the beginning of the Lenten season,** may we each intentionally share our gifts with one another in community. Let us remember that our ever present God loves us completely and is always able to guide us through the challenging journey of life.

**Please join us whenever you can in a Sunday Morning class from 9:15-10:15.**

**Richard Spencer continues** to leads a most interesting discussion on the book of Genesis in the classroom off of Churchill Hall. You are enthusiastically invited to join this bright and friendly group as they share their thoughts ad insights together each week.

**Come join Bill Reynolds** and his class in the church library this winter for discerning conversation focused around the book, "The Four Loves," by CS Lewis. The group is really enjoying this study and are a very welcoming community to any new folks who can join them.

**Attention tweens and youth:** come upstairs and join a wonderful energetic team of teachers and tweens/youth as they engage in fun learning experiences focused on God's message of "Amazing Grace" for each of us. Lots of fun and fellowship await you as well as learning and growing in God's embracing love!

<b>February 7:</b>	<b>John Clawson</b>	<b>Practice for Youth Sunday,</b> "Peace Be With You" in Sanctuary
<b>February 14:</b>	<b>Sue Chancellor</b>	<b>"Jesus is Tempted"</b>
<b>February 21:</b>	<b>Royce Chancellor</b>	<b>"Jesus Laments"</b>
<b>February 28:</b>	<b>John Clawson</b>	<b>" Growing in Grace"</b>
<b>March 6:</b>	<b>Bob Eckert</b>	<b>"Amazing Grace"</b>
<b>March 13:</b>	<b>Sue Chancellor</b>	<b>"Abundant Love"</b>

**All Preschoolers through fourth graders** are invited to the Sunday School wing to join a cool team of teachers who are excited and ready to share the stories of Jesus through a variety of experiences engaging all the senses!

<b>February 7:</b>	<b>Sue Chancellor</b>	<b>Practice for Youth Sunday,</b> "Peace Be With You" in Sanctuary
<b>February 14:</b>	<b>Millie Spencer</b>	<b>"The Temptation"</b>
<b>February 21:</b>	<b>Katy Reed</b>	<b>"Oh Jerusalem"</b>
<b>February 28:</b>	<b>Vicky Adams</b>	<b>"Fig Tree's Second Chance"</b>
<b>March 6:</b>	<b>Sue Chancellor</b>	<b>"Thank you God"</b>
<b>March 13:</b>	<b>Katy Reed</b>	<b>"Generous Love"</b>



**Child Care** Donna Bridenstine is available at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. Just let Sue or Donna know ahead of time.

**Childcare** is always available for infants through kindergarten every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship. Donna provides a fun, safe, nurturing atmosphere for all the children. A strong caring support staff is in place for the times that more help is needed.



## YOUTH/KID NEWS

Kids of all ages have been busy planning, practicing and designing artwork for our Youth Sunday Worship Service coming very soon on February 7! It will be a beautiful inspiring and lively service full of litany, songs, scripture, skits, and prayers! We will be celebrating Jesus' words, "Peace be with You" and it promises to be a joyful Sunday morning! Please plan on coming and supporting our youth and children; bring new folks too!



February 7 is also the "Souper Bowl Day of Caring" and a table is set up in the foyer for both monetary and food donations to benefit the BOC and our "Backpack for Bixby" program. Lists of needs for both of these missions are on the table. Bins are also at the ends of the table for your convenience in the next two weeks. This is a special offering that helps those folks close by in our community. Please make checks payable to Trinity and mark in the memo line either BOC or Backpacks for Bixby. Thank you for your kind and generous gifts.



Following Youth Sunday Worship service, the kids, youth, and their entire families are invited to our traditional lunch out at Hideaway on S. Memorial. We will be celebrating this most amazing group of young people and share our appreciation for the beautiful gifts they share with their church family!



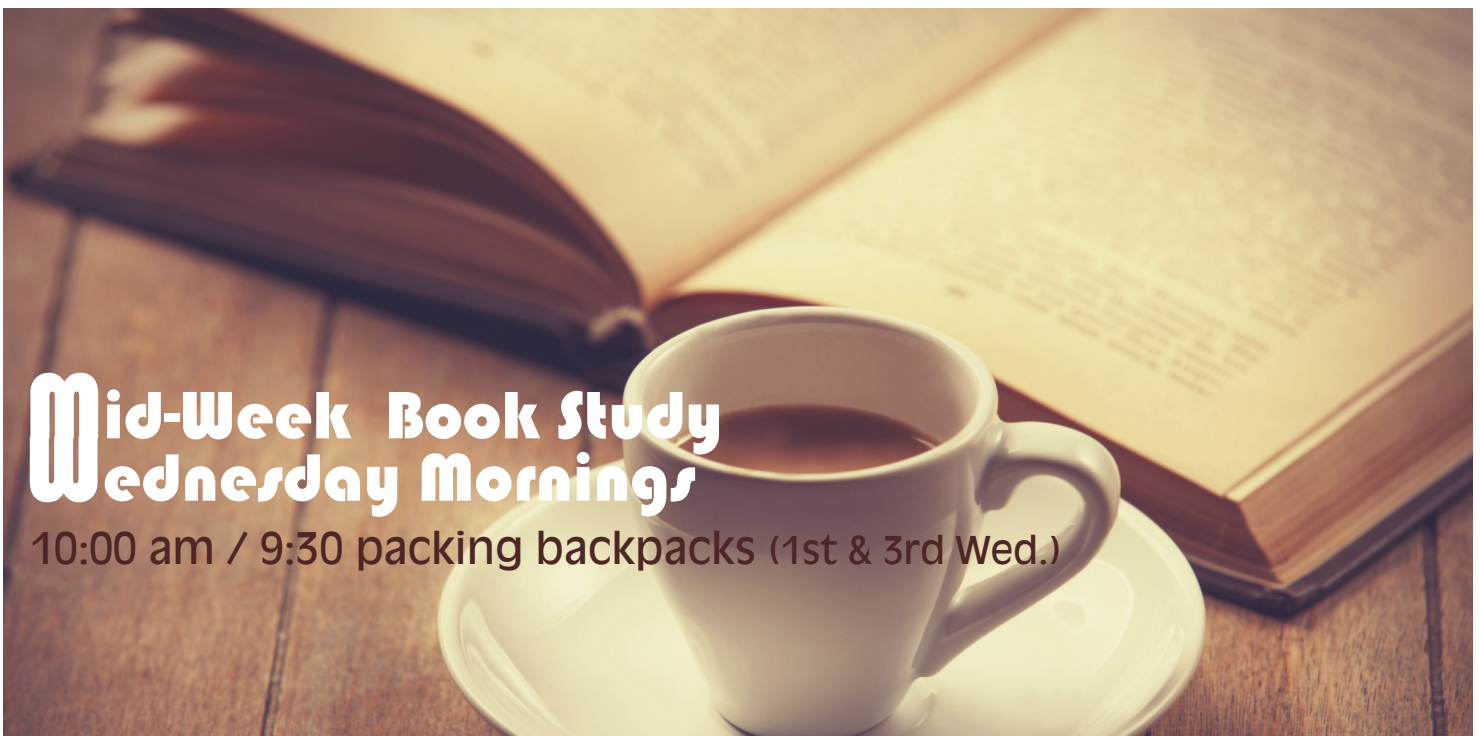
Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, February 28 when kids, youth, and families will either travel out to Andy B's for some enjoyable bowling or go out to the movies (popcorn and all)! We'll keep you posted as the date gets closer. If there's a really great family movie showing, we'll choose that; otherwise we'll get in some fun family bowling! We'll grab some lunch out before the special event too!



**Book Study Group begins a new exciting book  
Wednesday, February 3 at 10:00 a.m.  
We will be discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's book,  
"Learning to Walk in the Dark"  
You can pick up a book in the office.  
If you wish to purchase it, for \$10.00,  
you may pay at one of the classes in February.**

"From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark* provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers. Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us in the dark."

Please join us and come at 9:30, if you are able, and help us pack backpacks in Churchill Hall.



**Mid-Week Book Study  
Wednesday Mornings**

10:00 am / 9:30 packing backpacks (1st & 3rd Wed.)

*Pictures from Our Family Album*





## February Lectionary Readings

### Transfiguration of the Lord - February 7

Exodus 34:29–35  
 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2  
 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

### Ash Wednesday - February 10

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12  
 Psalm 51:1–17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10  
 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

### First Sunday in Lent - February 14

Deuteronomy 26:1–11  
 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16  
 Romans 10:8b–13  
 Luke 4:1–13

### Second Sunday in Lent - February 21

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18  
 Psalm 27  
 Philippians 3:17—4:1  
 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36

### Third Sunday in Lent - February 28

Isaiah 55:1–9  
 Psalm 63:1–8  
 1 Corinthians 10:1–13  
 Luke 13:1–9

## Happy Birthday

Bob Eckert	2/1
Kelsey Johnson	2/2
Dana Clawson	2/7
Emily Hanson	2/9
Lee Spencer	2/13
Bob Van Newkirk	2/15
Jim Mainer	2/18
Jean Righter	2/19
Jill Eckert	2/21
Stephen Swayze	2/22
John Clawson	2/27

## Thank You Note

When Laura VanNewkirk, then chair of Personnel, came to the pulpit at Christmas and presented me a financial gift from the congregation in appreciation for my time and energy here at my beloved Trinity, I was so surprised! Not sure my public reaction matched my heart-felt reaction. Your generosity for the gift to University of Livingstonia is most memorable and most appreciated.

Thank you.

Pastor Judy



# February 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	2	3 Pack backpacks 9:30 am  Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am  NEW BOOK!	4	5	6
7 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> Souper Bowl Day Of Caring Youth Sunday Lunch @Hideaway after worship	8 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	9	10 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am  Team Meetings 6:00 pm  <b>Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Svc.</b>	11	12	13
14 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>  Lunch Bunch	15 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	16 Session 6:30 pm	17 Pack backpacks 9:30 am  Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	18	19	20
21 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	22 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	23	24 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	25	26	27
28 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>  Family Activity TBA	29 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm					

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