

Trinity Tidings

February 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1-2
Finance/Stewardship	2
Building & Grounds	2
Presbyterian Women	2
Christian Education	3-7
Evangelism	7
Fellowship	7
Music Notes	8
Photo Album	9
Lectionary/B'days	10
Calendar	11

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(Photo by José Warletta)

“And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”

-Mark 1:12-13

When you think of the season of Lent, what springs to mind? Fasting, prayer, penance? Monks in scratchy hair shirts, starving themselves, beating their chests, and wailing, “G-d have mercy on me, a sinner!”? Or, perhaps you’re scratching your head, thinking, “Which one is Lent, again?”

Lent is the season of the church year that starts with Ash Wednesday (this year on Valentine’s Day!) and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). Lent lasts for forty days plus Sundays and gives us a time for self-reflection and renewed dedication as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday. When Jesus started his ministry, immediately after he was baptized, he went to the wilderness for forty days and withstood all temptation. Following the example of our Lord and Savior, we dedicate a portion of each year to taking seriously the impact that sin has on our lives. Traditionally, the church has commemorated Lent with a renewed focus on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In our day, though, we mostly hear about people giving things up:

cont'd on p.2

Pastor's Pen cont.

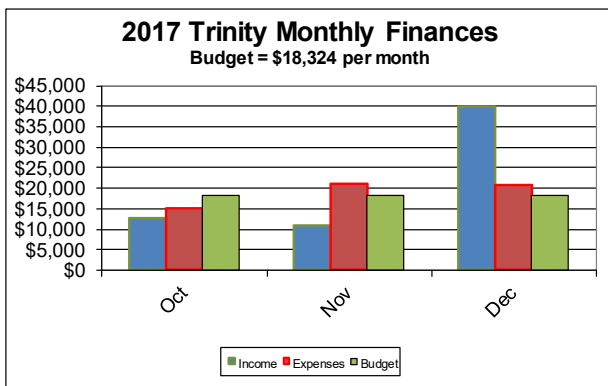
chocolate, alcohol, going out to eat. When I first committed to practicing Lent after college, I decided that meant giving things up. One year, I gave up bad language entirely (no easy feat!). Another year, I stopped watching shows or playing computer games. It was certainly a challenge, but I noticed something else, too. When I cleaned up my language, it was *technically* clean, but it wasn't really kinder. I avoided certain words, but I still said mean, nasty things sometimes. When I gave up television and games, I didn't suddenly become a better person. Instead, I replaced my old toys and distractions with new toys and distractions.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that just giving things up wasn't going to cut it. This wasn't a discipline – it was a refocusing of the same old sinning! I realized that if I was going to grow, I needed to do more than take away – I needed to add things in. The next Lent, I walked into my pastor's office and asked him to give me some theological books to read. I was going to stop watching t.v. AND work to deepen my faith in the time that I freed up. My pastor wasn't sure how serious I was at first, but as soon as he realized I meant it, he was like a kid in a candy store. He pulled so many books off his shelf and gave me so many enthusiastic summaries, I thought I'd never do anything but read for the rest of my life! That Lent changed everything.

Because Lent is not meant to be punishing. It's not about guilt and shame and not being worthy of all of your favorite treats. Lent is a spiritual space that invites you in. Where do you feel the Spirit nudging you? What have you always meant to do in your walk of faith, but never quite found the time for? How can you become more like Christ in your daily life? Here, now, the opportunity of Lent is knocking. Will you accept the challenge?

~Pastor Elana

Finance/Stewardship craig hanson



2017	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 225,594	\$ 218,671	\$ 219,798



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Building & Grounds bob block

Bob Eckert has ordered a heating element for the heater on the west side of the building. To replace the unit is over \$8,000 dollars. To have a contractor replace the heater is over \$3,000 dollars. We purchased the heater for \$1,000 and we will install it ourselves. It should arrive the beginning of Feb.

I want to thank Bob for all his hard work.

Respectfully, Bob Block

**Trinity Presbyterian Women
meet the
2nd Wednesday of each month
at 9:45 am in
the Trinity Café.**

Please join us!

Christian Education sue chancellor

Prayer and Acts of Service

"Prayer and Action...can never be seen as contradictory or mutually exclusive. Prayer without action grows into powerless pietism, and action without prayer degenerates into questionable manipulation. If prayer leads us into a deeper unity with the compassionate Christ, it will always give rise to concrete acts of service. And if concrete acts of service do indeed lead us to a deeper solidarity with the poor, the hungry, the sick, the dying, and the oppressed, they will always give rise to prayer. In prayer we meet Christ, and in him all human suffering. In service we meet people, and in them; the suffering Christ.

Action is a grateful response that flows from our awareness of God's presence in this world."

Henry Nouwen

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

You hear me say "love in action" quite a bit, and Henry Nouwen's words articulate so effectively, some serious thoughts that each of us can ACT upon in our unique individual ways! I know I can't do it, though, without intentionally feeling Christ's presence, and that's something I need to work on every day. One of the many reasons I love Trinity is that I know I'm in community with folks continuously trying to put love in action and prayer in action as well. You really help me along my faith journey and I'm grateful! As we approach Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, may we all be intentionally aware of ways we can meet the suffering Christ. And may we grow in hope, faith, and love, as a truly blessed community of servants.



EVENING LENTEN STUDY - ANIMATE: FAITH

Lent is an opportunity to think about our faith, and try new practices - so why not try both together? In the Evening Lenten study, hosted by Pastor Lucas, we'll watch presentations from pastors and theologians of many backgrounds, discuss important topics of faith, listen to music, and use art journals to engage those topics in many different ways. Please let Pastor Lucas (or the church office) know if you plan to attend, so that a \$5 journal can be ordered for you!

If you want to get an idea of what this series will be like, a video overview is available at bit.ly/trinitylent2018.

THE TOPICS OF THE STUDY ARE:

Feb 15 - God: Faith is a Quest [Brian McLaren]

Feb 22 - Religion: Spirituality is Not Enough [Lillian Daniel]

Mar 1 - Jesus: The Revolution of Love [Mark Scandrette]

Mar 8 - Bible: A Book Like No Other [Lauren Winner]

Mar 15 - Cross: Where God Is [Nadia Bolz-Weber]

Mar 22 - Church: An Imperfect Family [Bruce Reyes-Chow]

SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES

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



Childcare for infants through preschool is always 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 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She's also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month (third Wednesday during February only). Jus let Sue know in advance.

9:15 MORNING OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

And the invigorating adult study continues...Please join Richard if you haven't yet for "Living the Questions 2" in the classroom off Churchill Hall. During the January classes, great questions have been discussed and Richard has also shared background info about Eschatology and Dispensationalism in hopes that the class can gain personal insight and understanding on these subjects before listening to the scholars on the DVD address these points. Copies of Richard's research and most stimulating questions are always available in class for any interested folks. As the conversation on the rapture winds down, other stimulating and thought provoking topics are on the horizon for study and discussion. Please come and join the friendly group whenever you are able.

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS: The confirmands have already had two classes in 2018 and this informative class continues under the wise insightful leadership of Pastors Elana and Lucas. Our confirmands are enjoying studies on a variety of important aspects of their Confirmation journey focusing on the following ideas and questions:

- Feb 4 **Writing a Statement of Faith (Apostles' Creed and Brief Statement as Examples; What is the Book of Confessions; Why do I need my own statement of faith?)**
- Feb 18 **Communion (What's a sacrament? What happens at the table?)**
 A. Visit some other church.
- Mar 4 **No Confirmation Class Confirmands will be practicing for Youth Sunday Service**

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEEN CLASS is available every Sunday and all youth, sixth grade through twelfth grade, are welcome in the upstairs classroom by the sound tech room. Please join our our terrific teen teaching-team for exciting conversation focused on timely discussions from The Thoughtful Christian and Kieth Stulps' "52 Great Bible Studies."

- | | | |
|--------|------------------|---|
| Feb 4 | Royce Chancellor | "Decisions: Tug o War" |
| Feb 11 | Sue Chancellor | "Called to be Peacemakers" |
| Feb 18 | John Clawson | "Self Image: A Higher Standard" |
| Feb 25 | Liz Powell | "How Jesus Handled Gossip" |
| Mar 4 | No Teen Class | Youth will be practicing for Youth Sunday |

MULTI-AGE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Young children through fifth grade are invited to the classroom by Sue's office each week in February for joyful engaging lessons focused on a different bible story or scripture each week. A fun team of teachers take turns presenting a variety of kid-friendly experiences created to emphasize how very much God loves each of us!

Feb 4	Melinda Carver	"Caring Acts"
Feb 11	Katy Orrell	"A Little Quiet Time"
Feb 18	Sue Chancellor	"A Rainbow Promise"
Feb 25	Millie Spencer	"Dare to Follow Jesus"
March 4	Katy Orrell	"Praise God"

MIDWEEK BOOK STUDY folks are enjoying Carol Howard Merritt's timely book, "**Tribal Church-Ministering to the Missing Generation**," led by the teaching team of Pastors Elana, Lucus, Cindy Strasheim, and Sue. New folks can still join us in the Trinity Cafe every Wednesday in February at 11:00 a.m. for enlightening conversation centered on a different chapter each week. Eric Elnes, author of "Asphalt Jesus: Finding a New Christian Faith on the Highways of America," says of the book, "Carol Howard Merritt dismantles the wall of stained glass that often separates mainline churches from people under forty. Combining real-life stories, personal reflections as a thirty something, and current research, Merritt affords congregations a clearer more compassionate view not only of the "missing generation," but of themselves and their ministry."

This month Midweek Book Study will be packing backpacks at 10:30 a.m. in Churchill Hall on February 7 and February 21.

ATTENTION TRINITY FAMILY

SAVE THE SUMMER DATES:

VBS 2018 -July 8 through July 12...for an adventurous thrilling VBS program!!

VBS Worship/Celebration Picnic Sunday: July 15

And Coming Soon on March 4, 2018: Youth Sunday, "Start with an Open Heart."

The Trinity kids and youth have been working diligently this past month, and will continue in February preparing for an energizing uplifting **Youth Sunday**. Please plan on attending with your family and friends, this special inspiring worship service on **March 4**.




"Game Day, the Sequel" was a grand success! Thanks to everyone young, old, and in-between, who came out on Saturday, January 27 for a fantastic afternoon of fun and games! You could feel the delightful energy in Churchill Hall that entire afternoon. Thanks for sharing yourselves, your games, your time, and your scrumptious snacks!





The youth wish to thank all the kind folks who have already donated to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" the last two Sundays in January. Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated and all the food and monetary donations stay right here within the Bixby community helping families in need. This Sunday, February 4, will conclude this year's "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive. So please consider donating if you haven't yet done so! Together our Trinity family is tackling hunger!!

YOUTH/KIDS/FAMILY NEWS


Thanks to all the youth and kids involved in the preparation of this year's Youth Sunday, "Start with an Open Heart." Thanks also to the Chancellors, Wagners, and Clawsons for providing lunch in January. 


Practice/preparation continues this Sunday, February 4, following worship with the Smiths providing a tasty lunch. 

On Sunday, February 11 following worship, the Brights will host a fun Hawaiian lunch before Youth Sunday practice/prep. 

February 18: Get ready to hit the ice on Sunday when we take a break from planning/preparing and enjoy some refreshing outdoor time together at Rose District Ice Rink! All families/youth/volunteers will meet in the narthex following worship and caravan to lunch along the way before we skate. The address is: 418 S Main St, BA, 74012 in the Rose District Pavilion. Price including skate rental is \$12.00. Price for kids under 5 and anyone with their own skates is \$8.00. This is the last day the rink will be open this year and we can all have a blast skating in God's great brisk outdoor winter air! Join us for a most delightful ice skating adventure! 

February 25: Last Sunday afternoon practice for Youth Sunday. The Sanstras will provide a delicious lunch that day. 

March 3: Saturday practice for the Youth Sunday play. Time to be announced later. 

The children involved in the "Call to Worship" will have extra time to paint their heart and practice their part on Friday afternoon, February 9, between 3:15 and 4:30. 

Congregational Care brenda cunningham

'Which way did they go? How many of them were there?

I must find them! I am their leader!' attributed to Alexandre Auguste Ledru-Rollin (ca1849)



With big shoes to fill, I feel that the team will be leading me for quite a while as I learn the ropes of Congregational Care. A big thanks to Margot Ries for all her valiant efforts in Congregational Care, along with double duty in Fellowship the beginning of last year!!

Since we don't have our first team meeting until February 21st, I hope the Team will help me with things that need to be done until then. For the time being, I will be using Margot's 2017 Year End Report as my guideline.

I have heard we have a very young (at heart) team and will be looking for input and help from those folks who have yet to attain the Medicare card in their wallet. Please join us!

~Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

Service of Imposition of Ashes
Ash Wednesday—Feb. 14 6:00 pm

Join us for the beginning of Lent as we remember our mortality and have a service of imposition of ashes.

Childcare will be available.



Evangelism ted adams

February is a transition month for Evangelism. Our wonderful **Ted Adams** will soon take the helm of the Evangelism Team.

One of the greatest virtues of our church folks is how wonderful everyone is to lend a helping hand when needed. I am sure not only the team members of Cindy Strasheim, Otis and Michelle Buttress and Joe Cunningham will be there to help Ted, but the rest of us will more than lend our support too.

If you wish to help with changing the Trinity sign or Greeting, please let Ted or a team member know. Please join us.

Respectfully,
Brenda Cunningham (acting team leader until Ted Adams is official).

Fellowship News dwayne strasheim

This is just a quick reminder to sign up to provide Sunday morning treats in the Trinity Café. As of January 28, we have February 4 and 11 and March 4 covered, but February 18 and 25 are still open, as are all Sundays from March 11 on. Thanks to those who have already provided treats during the new year.

The Fellowship Team will provide the dinner for the Team meetings on February 21 and will host the annual Easter Brunch on April 1.

Music Notes erik collins

On Sunday, February 4, the choir will present Doug Andrew's arrangement of **Sweet Hour of Prayer**, exclusively reprinted for the Trinity Choir! Andrews gives a fresh approach to this time-honored hymn with lush harmonies and jazz incorporations.

*Sweet hour of prayer! That calls us from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief; My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

Richard Smallwood's **Total Praise** is an American classic known throughout the Gospel music community and beyond - a perfect example of the "good news" defined by the use of reflective text, lyrical melody and simple harmonic structure. The choir will present Doreen Rao's arrangement on February 11.

*Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills. Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to you, Amen.*

Jeffery Ames dedicated **In Remembrance** to the memory of Dr. William, Becca, and Anna Potts who died in a tragic accident in 2002. Becca was one of his students at Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Florida. Ames writes, "This text also suits the events that have recently occurred in our world. I believe "In Remembrance" carries a message of healing, peace, and hope applicable to many situations and personal circumstances." The choir will present this on February 18.

*Lux aeterna, luceat eis, domine. (Let perpetual light shin on them, O Lord)
Turn to me and be gracious, for my heart is in distress.
O God, my God why has thou forsaken me?
My tears linger at night, but joy comes in the morning light.
Lux aeterna, luceat eis, domine.
Lord, in your infinite mercy, grant them rest, rest forever more.*

The ancient and well known Irish ballade **Be Thou My Vision** is arranged here by Kinley Lange for choir with a gentle accompaniment for piano and cello. The choir will present in worship on February 25.

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

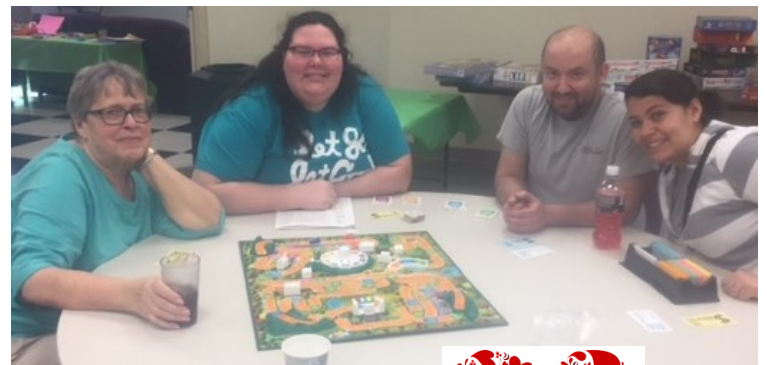
*Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

~Respectfully submitted, Erik Collins

TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



February Lectionary Readings

5th Sunday after Epiphany—Feb. 4

Isa. 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11
1 Cor. 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of the Lord—Feb. 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

1st Sunday in Lent—Feb. 18

Gen. 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday in Lent—Feb. 25

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Rom. 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



February

Bob Eckert	2/1
Kelsey Johnson	2/2
Dana Clawson	2/7
Emily Hanson	2/9
Ian Campbell	2/10
Lee Spencer	2/13
Bob VanNewkirk	2/15
Jim Mainer	2/18
Jean Righter	2/19
Jill Eckert	2/21
Stephen Swayze	2/22
Harriet Burns	2/24
John Clawson	2/27





February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>5th Sun. after Epiphany</i> Confirmation Class -Inst. & Ordination -Souper Bowl of Caring -Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday following worship.	5 10:00 am Yoga Class	6	7 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group 6:30 pm TEAM MTGS.	8	9	10
11 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> Communion Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday following worship.	12 10:00 am Yoga Class	13 Election Day (Schools)	14 Ash Wednesday Svc. 6:00 pm 9:45 am Presbyterian Wm. 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> Confirmation Class Ice Skating Family Activity—Lunch also *No Youth planning mtg today.	19 10:00 am Yoga Class Church Office Closed for President's Day	20	21 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group -Team Mtgs (6p)	22	23	24
25	26 10:00 am Yoga Class	27 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	28 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group			

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