



JANUARY 2016

From the Pastor's Pen

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1
B&G / Finance	2
Evangelism	2
Congregational Care	2
Christian Education	3-5
Photo Album	6-12
Special Dates	10
Calendar	11

When I graduated from college a friend of mind gave me a book entitled *The Family of Man*. The book was a compilation of photos of families living all over the world – families that experienced both joy and despair. Have always revisited that book from time to time because it helps keep me keen to the similarities of our struggles, no matter where one lives in the world. I treasure this gift because it became a life-lesson. Now, fast forwarding to today, there is another young man that knows how to capture the family of man. He is a winner of The Blog of the Year award, well-deserved for his creative approach toward photojournalism. You can look him up on the web under “Humans of New York.”

About four years ago Brandon Stanton lost his job as a bond trader in Chicago and moved to New York City. Typical story: little money but big hopes and dreams! Perhaps it was that balance of despair and hope that caused him to take his photos and then writes up the conversations with the people in the photos. Perhaps inappropriate for me to make a judgement, but through his lens he seems to see a *culture of positivity* in the people through the way they share wisdoms about life. Hope in the goodness of humanity is ever present.

About three years ago Brandon took a photo of an elderly couple in Columbus Square in NYC. His eye was drawn to them because they were walking down the street together sharing her brightly colored umbrella shielding them from the rain. As he approached to take their photo, he overheard the 80-year old woman say to her husband, “Mo, how will I live without you?” Mo chose his words carefully, “Sweetheart, take the love you have for me, and spread it around.”

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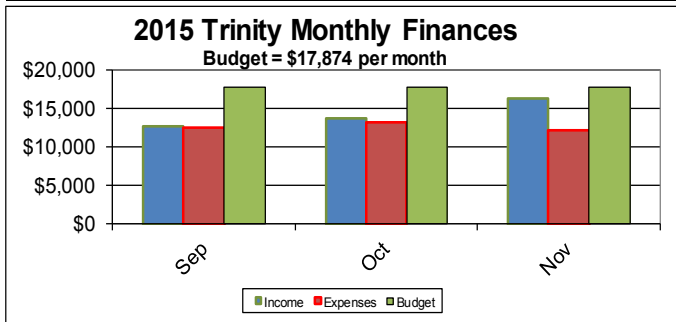
Pastor's Pen cont.

This seems a sufficient way to approach the New Year 2016 by adopting a similar culture of positivity. It certainly is the model Jesus spelled out in Matt. 22:37-40 when he told the Pharisees that the greatest law was to love yourself, and then love others in like manner. The love you have for one another here at Trinity needs to be spread around. That is the very nature of spreading the Good News. Spread it around; there are so many people that need to experience God's amazing love. Why not invite and bring them home to Trinity.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Judy

Finance/Stewardship randy smith

2015	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 169,519	\$ 152,924	\$ 196,613



Evangelism laura van newkirk

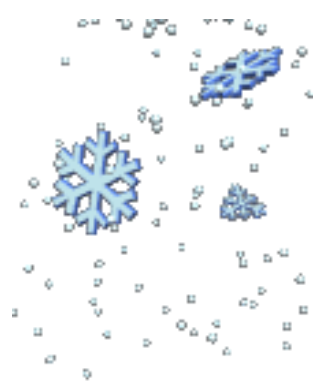
Joe Cunningham, Trinity's volunteer photographer, has been documenting our various events and special worship services in photos. Pictures are now being posted on the website as a part of the monthly newsletter. Please check out our expanded pictorial offering on the website.

In addition to designing our updated website, Erik Collins has been tracking monthly usage statistics. The team will perform ongoing studies to determine trends and to see how we might tweak the site for increased usage.

In preparation for anticipated new members, we have been preparing new pictorial directories, a welcome task!

Lastly, we now have four volunteers for Bixby public school tutoring in reading through the BEST program (Bixby Educational Support Team). If you are interested in helping school children by sitting with them during school hours and listening to them read, please contact Laura Van Newkirk or Brenda Cunningham for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Van Newkirk



Building & Grounds bob eckert

December has been a flurry of activity. Numerous tear down and setups to different areas in the church have been accomplished. Much thanks to all the helpers. The carpet in the sanctuary has been scrubbed. Several areas that have tile on the floor have been stripped and a fresh coat of wax applied. A building use request have been session approved.

Much thanks to all,
The B&G Committee



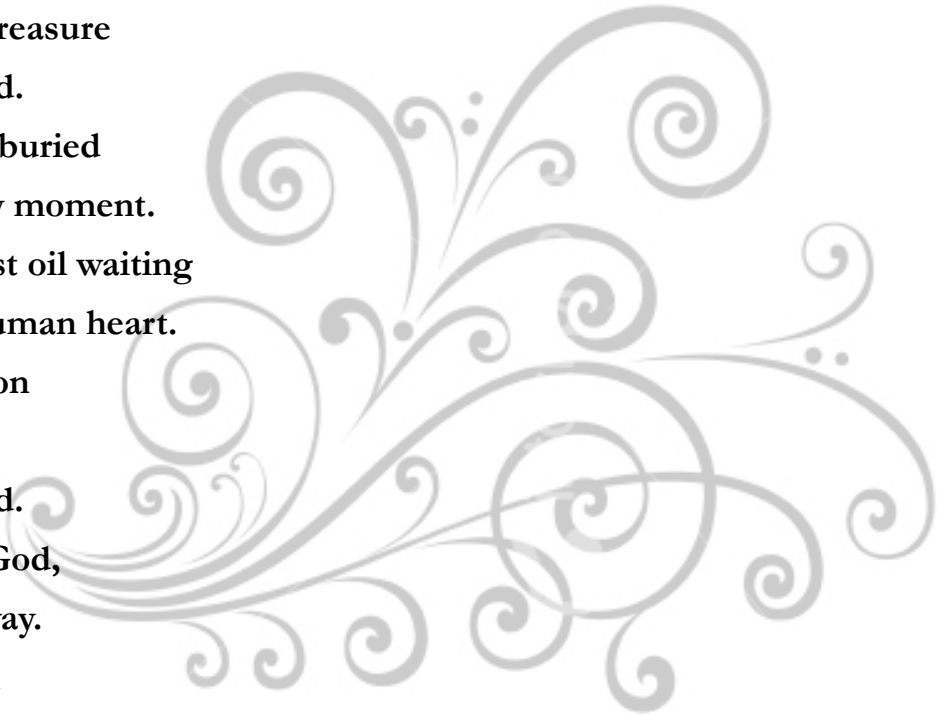
Congregational Care margot ries

We'll have a "Lunch Bunch" get together after worship on Sunday, January 17. Location will be announced.

Christian Education sue chancellor

**Your Presence like Treasure
hidden in a field.
Your Glory like gold buried
on the pathway of every moment.
Your wisdom like the finest oil waiting
to be pressed from the human heart.
from every nation
every people
from every child.
Your Wisdom, O God,
to show us the way.**

John Phillip Newell



What better thoughts for the New Year than seeking God's Wisdom and Presence to guide us along our way in 2016! Come and join our Trinity family in any of the wondrous opportunities that await us this glorious New Year! Be awakened to God's plans and purpose in your life beginning now.

Mark your calendars: Midweek Book Study resumes Wednesday January 6!

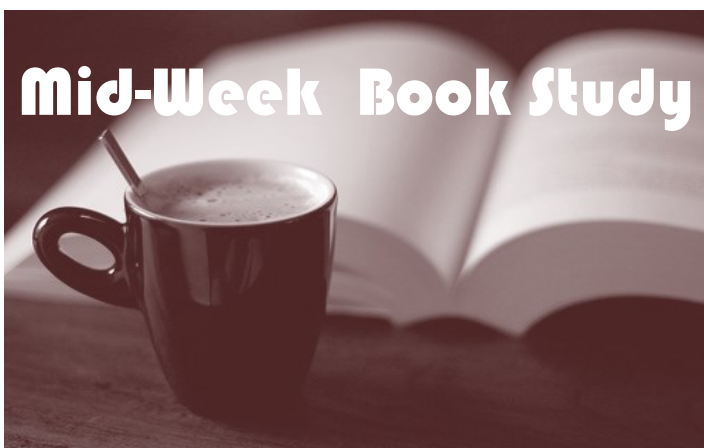
Come at 9:30 and help us kick off the 2016 Backpack Program for our Bixby students in the community. We will begin packing at 9:30 in Churchill Hall.

At 10:00 a.m. we'll move to the café and begin another invigorating discussion on our book, *Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet*.

We'll share our insights on chapter 12, "Can You Feel the New Way of Looking at Things?"

What an excellent time for new folks to come and be a part of our inclusive, friendly group. We'll have copies of the chapter available.

We will finish this book in January and start another spectacular one in February!



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

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.



Attention children, preschool through fourth grade: A lively inspired team of teachers is ready to guide you through enjoyable and meaningful learning experience focused on "Jesus' Gifts for All." Please join us for a potpourri of scripture based experiences in our Children's wing each Sunday from 9:15 until 10:15.

Jan 3:	Valerie Wagner	"Blessings from God"
Jan 10:	Millie Spencer	"Jesus and John the Baptist"
Jan 17:	Katy Reed	"A Wedding Party"
Jan 24:	Sue Chancellor	"Working with Jesus"
Jan 31:	Vicky Adams	"The Hometown Boy"



The Tweens and Youth are upstairs and making their learning space their own! All youth, fifth through high school, please join us in the upstairs wing of Trinity. We are well positioned with space and teachers to expand to two groups whenever the need arises! Meanwhile our teaching team and tweens/teens are happily working together learning more about God's message of grace and intention for each of us. Please come and be a part of this exciting and growing group as we focus on scripture based on "Jesus' Sacred Life!"

Jan 3:	Bob Eckert	"Chosen"
Jan 10:	Sue Chancellor	"Begin with Baptism"
Jan 17:	John Clawson	"A Wedding Miracle"
Jan 23:	Royce Chancellor	"Jesus' Mission"
Jan 31:	Bob Eckert	"Topsy Turvy"

Richard Spencer's Adult Class continues to meet in the classroom off of Churchill Hall. They are in the midst of interesting and stimulating conversation centered on the book of Genesis. Please join in the discussion any time you are available. Each class is its own entity and you will fit right in whenever you can come.

Bill Reynold's Adult Class meets in the church library each week. They are currently discussing CS Lewis' book, "The Four Loves." They too, welcome new participants any time they can be there. Please join this friendly inspiring group and be a part of the insightful conversation.

YOUTH / KID NEWS

With grateful joyful hearts, the Trinity family extends a huge thank you to all those special kids, youth, and adults who were part of the beautiful Christmas pageant, "The Glory of the King." What a spectacular inspiring Worship Service that was! Thanks especially to our gifted director, Lynette Kraft-Lindsey for all her hard work.

Thanks to one and all for their kind service once again, in participating in the "Angel Tree Shopping Spree!" What a wonderful outreach for our families in Bixby!

AHEAD FOR US IN JANUARY 2016:

All children, tweens, teens, and their families are enthusiastically invited to participate in yet another wonderful Trinity tradition, **Youth Sunday Worship Service on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2016!**

The practice fun for this sensational Worship Service begins in the café January 10 following Worship. The Chancellors will provide lunch for our first planning session. Be ready for some fun group-building activities once we've eaten and right before we share some great ideas for a beautiful energetic Youth Sunday! We will be finished by 1:00 p.m. for sure.

Lunch and practices will continue each Sunday in January following Worship. Plan on attending as many practices as you can. John and Sue are so excited with this year's theme and we really need all the kid/youth to join us and bring their amazing talents!

A Souper Bowl Table of Caring will be set up in the foyer in January. The youth will be collecting both food and monetary donations to benefit our families in the Bixby Community. Please consider donating to this most worthwhile cause.

Apricot Jam Bars


from the Kitchen of Sue Chancellor

ingredients

- 1 & 1/2 c butter
- 1 & 1/2 c sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- 3 c flour
- 1 & 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 6-8 oz. each of apricot preserves and blackberry jam
- cinnamon sugar

make it

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream softened butter, sugar, egg yolks, and vanilla together. Fold in flour. Place 2/3 mixture in large pyrex or baking pan (9.5 x 13.5.) Top with apricot preserves on one half and blackberry jam on the other. Crumble remaining butter/sugar/yolk mixture on top and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake about 25 minutes until lightly golden on top.

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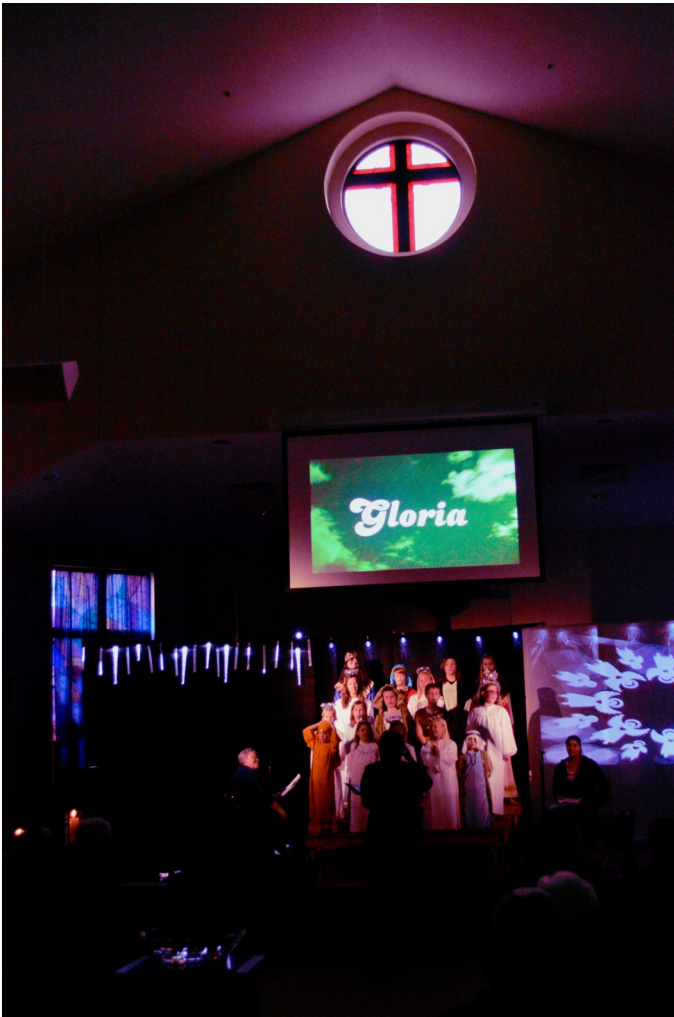


Pictures from Our Family Album





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DEC. 13





CHRISTMAS CANTATA DEC. 13



CHRISTMAS CANTATA RECEPTION



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AT TRINITY - DEC. 20



January Lectionary Readings

Second Sunday after Christmas - January 3, 2016

Jeremiah 31:7–14
 Psalm 147:12–20
 Ephesians 1:3–14
 John 1:(1–9) 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord - January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6
 Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
 Ephesians 3:1–12
 Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord - January 10

Isaiah 43:1–7
 Psalm 29
 Acts 8:14–17
 Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Second Sunday after the Epiphany - January 17

Isaiah 62:1–5
 Psalm 36:5–10
 1 Corinthians 12:1–11
 John 2:1–11

Third Sunday after the Epiphany - January 24

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a
 Luke 4:14–21

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - January 31

Jeremiah 1:4–10
 Psalm 71:1–6
 1 Corinthians 13:1–13
 Luke 4:21–30



Barbara Swayze 1/19
 David Frazier 1/25

Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful finals gift card! It is always a nice surprise to receive something in the mail from all of my loved ones. Can't wait to see you all over the break! Thanks again!

Love, Trevor

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you to each and everyone of you for all the birthday wishes and for coming to the party! Thank you also for your donations to the BOC instead of gifts. I was able to deliver blankets, coat, scarf, gloves, conditioner, shampoo and many other needed items. It was so much fun to give. Thank you for your generosity! Have a wonderful Christmas!

Love, Cathy Hanson





January 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Dec 31 New Year's Eve (office closed)	1 New Year's Day (office closed)	2
3 <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas Day</i>	4 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	5	6 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> Pack backpacks 9:30 am Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	7	8	9
10 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Communion Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday.	11 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	12	13 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am Team Meetings 6:00 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting	14	15	16
17 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Installation of Elders Lunch Bunch Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.	18 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	19 Session 6:30 pm	20 Pack backpacks 9:30 am Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	21	22	23
24 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.	25 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	26	27 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	28	29	30
31 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.						

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