



trinity tidings

JANUARY 2017

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1
Finance/Stewardship	3
Evangelism	6
Mission	6
Congregational Care	6
Christian Education	3-5
Photo Album	7-9
Lectionary/B'days	10
Calendar	11



From the Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year...Some Day

"The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you." –Exodus 12:1-2



New Year's Day isn't something that we question too often. December is the twelfth month and January is the first so *naturally* we celebrate the New Year on January 1, right? The month of January was actually invented by Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome who reigned from 715-673 BC. The previous Roman calendar only had ten months so he added *Ianuarus* and *Februarius* to the end of the calendar.

Though we don't know why, he changed his mind and decided that January would come

first – and so it has been since around 713 BC. When Julius Caesar reformed the calendar by edict in 46 BC, he kept the New Year right where it was. When Pope Gergory XIII reformed the calendar once more in 1582, he reduced the number of leap years, changed the number of days to 365.25, and let January 1st stand to this day.

The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates the circumcision of Jesus on January 1st, but New Year's Day isn't really a religious holiday for the rest of us. Yet, we can see from our verses from Exodus that the Bible does talk about the new year as a day that is instituted by God. From context, you may be able to guess when that day is – the first day of Passover. Passover is the celebration of God's liberating miracles in the Exodus from Egypt. Since the Jewish calendar differs from the Gregorian Calendar that we use, Passover generally falls some time in March or April. But wait, there's more – in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 29, the Bible talks about a Festival of Trumpets, which modern Jews celebrate as the new year (in September or October).

Cont'd. p.2

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Pastor's Pen cont.

Throughout history, the year has been new in many different ways and, certainly, at many different times. In the middle ages, Christians celebrated new year's on – to name a few dates – March 1st, March 25th, Easter Sunday, September 1st, and December 25th. What is important is for us to remember that any of us can begin again. Maybe one of the days already mentioned feels like an anchoring point of your life – maybe there is another day that is special to you. Either way, our resurrection hope is that new life springs from the heart of God. In the book of Revelation, we hear familiar words from Jesus: “See, I am making all things new.” As we journey into 2017, let us keep this comfort, this challenge ever before our eyes. Jesus daily works miracles within us and through us and before our eyes. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear!

~Pastor Elana

This month we are featuring the bio on the joyous addition of Sophia Marie to the Kraft-Lindsey family.

For Unto Us a Child is Born

"She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

The Season of Expectation and Preparation, became a season of making room in our hearts, our home and ultimately the rest of our lives.

Two years ago today, Bryan and I were asked if we had room in our home and hearts for this wee little one.

I had been preparing for our annual children's Christmas musical at a nearby Methodist church. Each year I'd prayerfully look for an infant to fulfill the lead role of the Nativity scene.

This year more preparation was happening then I had realized, the Lord was making room our hearts for much more. One Sunday morning a young mother was pushing a stroller into the foyer of the church. This had caught my eye from a distance. I hurried through all of the of the people, quickly greeting those preparing to enter the sanctuary for worship, I just had to speak to this mother! When I got close to the mom and baby, I introduced myself as the Children's Minister, and with hope and expectation I asked the mother if her baby could participate in our Christmas program. This mother willingly committed to this. She seemed excited for her little one to be able to participate as baby Jesus. My heart was leaping as God had provided, he had answered my prayer.

A couple of weeks had passed, with much program preparation underway. I had been burning the candle at both ends, striving so to have a quality production. I had gone into my room to take a little rest. I began praying out loud. During this prayer, I had a random thought and began thinking about the fact that Bryan and I had been wanting to take in foster children. We had tried on several occasions to take the foster parenting classes, but with Bryan's travel for work schedule, this became about impossible. With a little frustration in my heart I cried out, "Lord if there's a baby who needs our help, we'll take it!" I stopped, and thought to myself, "Where did that come from? A baby? I never thought we'd take in a baby. Babies are for the young!" I later chuckled as I shared with Bryan what I had prayed. His simple response was, "Well, that would be ok with me."

Another week went by and we were in set building mode at the church, when I received a phone call from this young mother (of our baby Jesus) asking us to take her baby into our home. DHS had given her 24 hours to find a placement before they would find a foster home. I told her, "Absolutely!" When I got off the phone with her, I realized that I hadn't asked my husband. I quickly called him and his answer to me was, "Absolutely!" Within a few hours on December 8, 2014 this precious little 2-month old infant moved into our home.

During the last 2 years, we continued on a path of expectation and preparation, just as the birth of Christ was only the beginning of what was to and what is still to come. This journey has contained joy and sadness. The Lord provided needed and unexpected heroes along the way. It has not been easy, yet once again our hearts leap for joy as the Lord answered our many prayers. This child has recently become our very own.

1 Samuel 1:27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

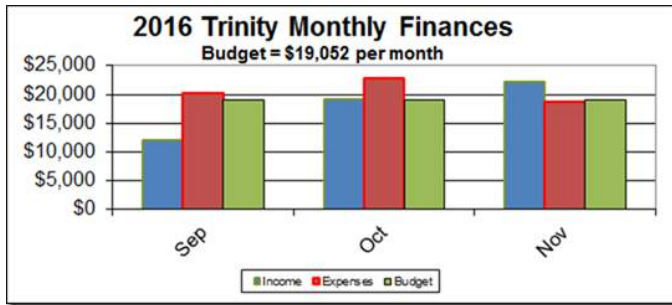
Our journey now continues..... as our journey continues, I challenge you, my friends to consider your journey. What are you reminded of that the Lord has prepared you for and has brought you through? What are your expectations as you consider this Christmas season? The season in which God sent hope for all of the World! Merry Christmas!



Lynette Kraft-Lindsey

Finance/Stewardship randy smith

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 188,304	\$ 181,928	\$ 209,572



Trinity Theatre Groups Resume meeting in February!!!!

The 2 Trinity Theatre groups, **Trinity Players** and **Holy Tigers Troupe**, will resume meeting on **Sun, 2/12/17 at 1:00 pm** and **Mon, 2/13/17 at 6:30 pm**, respectively. We look forward to a great year, and welcome any new members! The more the merrier! Hope to see you there!

Christian Education sue chancellor

The Good News of the gospel is not that Jesus came to show us the way to climb up to God, but that God came down to us, descending into the real stuff of our lives--God with us in Jesus Christ.

God did not come down to earth in Jesus Christ to make life just a little bit better but to save us from existence that is less than life into real life itself.

God came down to live with us so that we could live like him.

God came down to save us from violence by showing us the way of peace.

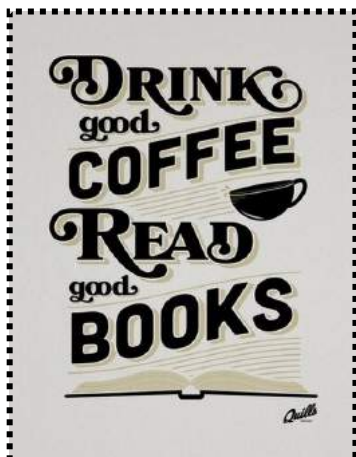
To save us from greed by showing us the way of compassion.

To save us from sorrow by showing us the way of joy.

~James A Harnish

Our new year 2017 is here--let us rejoice that we can joyfully celebrate "God with Us" every day! Let us work together awakened to the extravagant outrageous and radical love of Jesus and ready to go wherever that love leads us in this New Year.

Mark your calendars: Midweek Book Study resumes Wednesday, January 11 at 11:00 am in the Trinity Café!!



Midweek Book Group's first book study of the New Year will be John Philip Newell's great read, "**The Rebirthing of God--Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings.**" It will be led by a team of three who are quite excited about this book: Pastor Lucas, Cindy Strasheim, and Sue Chancellor. Rob Bell says, "Wow...This book will move you...with fresh insight into the rebirth of everything. What a writer, what a book!" And the author himself says, "Dare to imagine a new birth from deep within Christianity, a fresh stirring of the spirit."

Pastor Lucas will lead a discussion on the author and the introduction **Wednesday, January 11 in the cafe at 11:00.** Books can be found in the office and you are welcome to grab one at your convenience and just sign your name. Please don't pay the \$10.00 for the book until class begins on January 11. We look forward to our returning friends as well as those who would like to journey with us together now in 2017 every Wednesday morning!

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

Child Care Attention Parents: Donna Bridenstine is ready for infants through preschool at 9:00 every Sunday. Parents can get their children happily settled in the childcare room before their 9:15 class begins in Churchill Hall. Pre-kindergarteners and Kindergarteners can join the younger ones after their Discovery Class or "Time with Children" through the close of Worship.

Donna and an adult volunteer (whenever needed) consistently provide safe engaging fun experiences for all in their care. Donna is also available at 8:00 a.m. for choir practice; just let Sue know if she is needed during either of those times.



Pre-kindergarteners through fourth graders are welcome each Sunday in the Sunday School classrooms by childcare for a plethora of experiences to ignite all the senses. The next six weeks focus on "Trusting God" and our team of teachers are set and ready to share delightful activities to help everyone understand amazing stories from both the old and new testaments.

Tweens and Teens currently meet upstairs together in the second classroom (closest to the sound tech room) but we are ready any time to separate into two groups. Tweens/teens are encouraged to share their thoughts/questions, as they explore meaningful topics and scripture each Sunday morning. Our teaching team is quite enthusiastic and energized to work with this awesome group of young people.

January 8	Valerie Wagner	"Very Happy"
January 15	Millie Spencer	"Called by God"
January 22	Melinda Carver	"Working Together"
January 30	Katy Reed	"Filled with Joy"
February 5	Practice for Youth/Kids Sunday	
February 12	Vicky Adams	"Say Yes"

January 8	Royce Chancellor	"Meant for Ministry"
January 15	John Clawson	"God is Faithful"
January 22	Bob Eckert	"No Divisions"
January 29	Sue Chancellor	"The BeAttitudes"
February 5	Practice for Youth/Kids Sunday	
February 12	Royce Chancellor	"Choose Life"



Pastor Elana is resuming her stimulating study on C.S. Lewis' book, "The Screwtape Letters" in Churchill Hall. New folks are invited to hop right in and get on board as the group picks up with chapter 8. Books are available but not necessary as a new letter is played each week.

January 11 is also the first **Presbyterian's Women's** meeting of the new year. This is a perfect time for women of all ages to come and be part of such an important, productive, and friendly group, led by Sally Bright. Please join the women in the cafe at 9:45 the second Wednesday of each month whenever you're able!

 The Christian Education Team and our Cool Pastors invite one and all from tiny to tall and in between to join in the excitement as we kick off a Saturday afternoon **"Glorious Game Day" on January 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Churchill Hall.** You're welcome to bring a favorite game and/or snack to share, if you wish, but it's not mandatory :) Just come ready for lots of friendly interaction and entertaining games for everyone--and bring friends and relatives!!

 This year's Christmas Pageant, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me," was absolutely beautiful and inspiring to everyone!! A huge heartfelt thanks to Lynette Kraft-Lindsey and the participants for all of their hard work and dedication to this year's pageant. A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who shared their time and gifts with this endeavor as well! Everyone involved is greatly appreciated for by their Trinity family!

Mark your Calendars: Youth/Kid Sunday will be later this year...**March 5, 2017!!** This is a special service where the children and teens of Trinity lead worship! We are blessed here at Trinity to have such talented young people who are ready to cheerfully share their gifts with us...so please plan on supporting them with your presence on **March 5.**

The **"Souper Bowl of Caring" is Sunday Feb 5, 2017.** The youth and kids will have a table set up in the narthex to collect food items and monetary donations for the BOC and Backpacks for Bixby. Any contributions you can make to help those in need right in our own community, would be greatly appreciated.

 Thanks to Pastor Lucus and all those who participated in the Wednesday evening Advent study based on Walter Brueggemann's study, "Names for the Messiah." It was an insightful and fascinating study. Be looking for more details on a **Lenten Study to be offered at Trinity beginning Thursday March 2,** and led by Pastor Elana on "Different Theologies of the Cross." This too promises to be quite fascinating and interesting for adults of all ages. Engaging Lenten activities for kids and teens will also be offered in the parlor.

 Thanks and thanks again to all the volunteers who helped with Trinity's "Parent's Night Out!" It was well attended and kids and adults both had a blast!

TEEN/KID/FAMILY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 8: Following worship, we'll have our first planning time for Youth/Kid Sunday, March 5th. Youth and kids of all ages are invited. Their families can also join us for lunch in the cafe before we begin the fun adventure of planning an exciting worship service. Those who wish, can also begin helping with the art projects and publicity for this event.

January 22, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26: will also be fun planning, practicing times beginning with lunch once worship is finished. Please plan on attending as many of these fun afternoons as possible! You can leave whenever you need to and the time won't extend past 1:15, unless otherwise noted.

January 28: Don't forget **"Glorious Game Day" on Saturday, Jan. 28** for everyone of every age at 2:00 p.m. in Churchill Hall.

The youth will host the **"Souper Bowl Day of Caring"** by being present at the donations table in the foyer prior and following worship. All food items and monetary donations will go to families in the Bixby area.

Following the collecting time for our "Souper Bowl Day of Caring" at the donations table in the foyer (which will follow worship), kids/teens, adult helpers, and their families will all go out for lunch! Everyone will caravan to Hideaway on S Memorial to celebrate our most wondrous giving and talented young people!!

Mission News john clawson

Angel Tree:

Thank you all for supporting our Angel Tree mission of providing gifts (a want and a need) for each of our 50 Backpacks 4 Bixby children. We received word that the children and parents very much appreciated the help with their Christmas celebrations. You are a blessing to these children!

Backpacks 4 Bixby (BAB):

Our Backpack program finished the year with 50 children receiving food each week from Bixby Central elementary and intermediate schools. We received a request to start supporting 2 children at Bixby's Northeast elementary school in 2017 and of course we said yes! Please continue to donate food and money to our Mission as we support children in need within our own community.

Craig Hanson will be taking over the Mission Ministry team in 2017. I will be part of the Mission team and also continue to support the Christian Education team in 2017.

Thank you all for your generosity and support of Trinity's Mission today and in the future.

Submitted by John Clawson

Congregational Care margot ries

Happy New Year everyone! We'll be having a "Lunch Bunch" get together after worship on Sunday, January 15th, and each third Sunday of the month! Location will be announced, and any suggestions on new or favorite places would be much appreciated! Looking forward to getting back into the swing of Lunch Bunch in this new year!

Respectfully, Margot Ries

Evangelism brenda cunningham

Evangelism is defined as the preaching of [the gospel](#) or the practice of giving information about a particular [doctrine](#) or set of [beliefs](#) to others with the intention of [converting others to the Christian faith](#). This term is not restricted to any particular Christian tradition. For over 200 years, Presbyterians have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into all the world and bearing witness to Christ's saving love to the ends of the earth. Today the Holy Spirit is still on the move, calling us to share in what God is doing in the world. Trinity's Evangelism Team is always looking for those ways to respond to the call. We act as greeters for guests and members alike. Hopefully, we impact the community by providing a window to Trinity and its members through the website, through Facebook, and also through the message on the Trinity sign our front. If you feel the call to greet your fellow friends and members, please join us in our endeavors. We can always use more hands and hugs!

Respectfully, *Brenda Cunningham*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DEC. 11, 2016





TRINITY FAMILY CHRISTMAS ALBUM—2016



January Lectionary Readings

First Sunday after Christmas Day—January 1, 2017

Isaiah 63:7–9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10–18
Matthew 2:13–23

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 8

Isaiah 42:1–9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34–43
Matthew 3:13–17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—January 15

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
1 Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

Third Sunday after the Epiphany—January 22

Isaiah 9:1–4
Psalm 27:1, 4–9
1 Corinthians 1:10–18
Matthew 4:12–23

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—January 29

Micah 6:1–8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18–31
Matthew 5:1–12

Happy Birthday

Rev. Lucas Keppel 1/13
Barbara Swayze 1/19
David Frazier 1/25

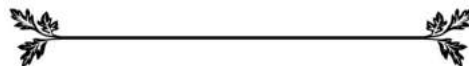


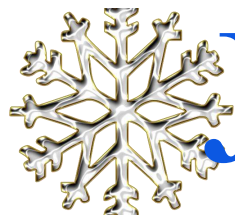
Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Congregation,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas card and gift that you all provided to the Staff of Trinity. We all sincerely appreciate all of you, and enjoy every minute of making Trinity a great place to grow, serve and worship together!

Thanks again, your Trinity Staff





January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Office closed in observation of New Year's Day	3	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	7
8 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Communion Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday.	9 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	10	11 9:45 am Presbyterian Wm. 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm TEAM MTGS.	12	13	17
15 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Installation of Elders Lunch Bunch Location TBA	16 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	17	18 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Banner Making	19	20	21
22 Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.	23 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	24 6:30 pm SESSION	25 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Banner Making	26	27	28 2:30 pm Trinity Game Day
29	30 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	31				



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