

Trinity Tidings

From the Pastor's Pen

MARCH 2016

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After exhausting his inheritance, having had enough of starving and finding no satisfaction in his desperation vocation of feeding pigs, the Prodigal son had his 'aha' moment. "I don't have to continue to live like this. There is a place better for me; No matter what I've done, I'm going to return home." "I'll go, but I'll tell my father 'I'm sorry' by saying, "Dad, I'm not worthy of being called your son." The son picked himself up and headed home. On the way he practiced his speech. But, long before arriving, his father took the pressure off. Because the father knew the intent of his son's heart, he came running toward him. As they met, the jubilant father embraced him saying, "Welcome home, son!"

Lent continues – and we keep making our way through our devotional *Be Holy*. We ponder and pray about our personal journeys and begin, perhaps, to wonder/worry whether we are worthy of being called *your son, your daughter*. No need. A resounding yes! We're on our way to Easter when we celebrate Christ's victory over the human condition. So, it's OK to continue on, just striving to live as the best people we can. We're on our way to celebrate that all people are worthy of the Father's loving embrace.

Therefore, when we feel shaky and vulnerable inside -- not enough talents to share, not enough treasure to share, not enough hours in the day -- we are feeding the errant human condition of unworthiness. But, with Christ, we are worthy. The songwriter penned: *Come, just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!* When we were children we learned the song: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Philip Yancy in his book, *What's so Amazing About Grace* suggests that we turn that phrase inside out and say, instead: *I am the one that Jesus loves*. The Father rushes to embrace me!

Pastor's Pen cont.

And, when you say that, you know beyond a doubt that you are a most worthy child of God. The time to return home is this very minute. Don't question; don't hesitate. Come home each week to God's house, here at Trinity. Come for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (at John Knox, Tulsa) and the Celebration of Easter. Come home; return home. We are standing at the threshold, waiting to embrace you.

Blessings,

Pastor Judy

Evangelism brenda cunningham

Don't forget to check out the Trinity Pictorial Board for new member and updated Pictorial pages. Also, in this Newsletter, is the Biography for our new Members, the Adams Family. For April, we plan to get a bio for Cathie Harper and for May, a bio for Michelle and Otis Buttress. For changes to your Pictorial page, please give updates to Kim Harvey in the office or to one of the Evangelism Team members: Ed or Deanna Jolly, or Laura Van Newkirk, Michelle or Otis Buttress, and Joe or Brenda Cunningham.

We are so fortunate to have Erik Collins not only as our Music Director, but also as Web Master, for the Trinity Website. He came to our February Team meeting and helped us to understand the statistical information that we are receiving from the website. We have heard from visitors and new members how important the website was in helping them to choose Trinity as a place in which they would like to worship. That is Music to our Ears!! Erik is applying for a Google grant for Trinity to help give us greater visibility on the web. Trinity's Facebook page has had wonderful response and we are adding an Instagram account to help reach younger folks too.

Please let us know how you feel about on-line giving, by answering our survey that was included in the February 28th Bulletin. If you did not receive one, contact Kim in the office or me.

Respectfully,

Brenda Cunningham

Congregational Care margot ries

We'll have a "Lunch Bunch" get together after worship on Sunday, March 20. Location will be announced.

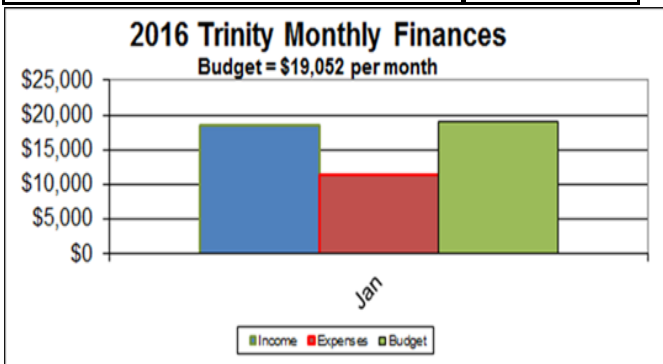
Thank You

A big shout out goes to Bob Eckert, Bob Block and Barry Straabe for their hard work in getting the television monitor mounted in the café! Bob Eckert handled the electric, and Bob Block and Barry helped with the mounting! We certainly appreciate the gifts our church family can share to make our place of worship better and better!

Thanks again, guys!!

Finance/Stewardship randy smith

2016	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 18,425	\$ 11,294	\$ 19,052



Mission News john clawson

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):

The One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering that helps sustain the important PCUSA ministries and missions around the world and in our own community. We will be receiving the OGHS offering on Easter Sunday (March 27).

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed through these programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self Development of People



You can also make a donation on-line at any time throughout the year (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/make-a-gift/OG999999>).

Thank you for your support of this celebration of sharing.

Fellowship News debbie straabe

March 20th, Palm Sunday, we will have our Easter Brunch at 9:15 am. A signup sheet will be available if you would like to prepare a casserole or something for the brunch or bring juice, fruit or breads. Easter Sunday, the children will have their Easter egg hunt and Fellowship will bring the morning Fellowship snacks.

Christian Ed and Fellowship teams are looking at a picnic sometime in April before it gets too hot. Planning around the April rain may be a challenge, but we will have an indoor plan if necessary.

Other than that, the Fellowship team is looking forward to VBS and feeding the children and their families each evening. We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen during VBS too!

Happy Easter,

The Fellowship Team

Worship vicky adams / liz powell

LENT A few copies of *Be Holy, a Lenten Devotional* are left, if you have not taken a copy home yet, please take one and join others from the congregation in this thoughtful Lenten devotional.

PALM SUNDAY Join us for Palm Sunday Service on Sunday, March 20th as we mark the beginning of Holy week with the waving of palms to recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

MAUNDY THURSDAY On Thursday March 24th our Maundy Thursday service will begin at 7:00 pm. This service will include communion and the stripping of the sanctuary. This removal of communion vessels, table cloths, pulpit and lectern hangings, banners, candles and other liturgical objects is done in silence in an unhurried manner, thus dramatizing the desolation, abandonment, and darkness of the passion of the death of our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY Joyfully, Easter arrives on Sunday, March 27th. Our 10:30 service will include communion, wonderful music, and lilies. The sanctuary will be refilled with colorful liturgical items as we celebrate Christ's triumph over death. Once again our hallways will be filled with the Easter greeting and response, "Christ has Risen!" "He is Risen Indeed!".

Christian Education sue chancellor

Jesus said, "Live ecstatically. Move out of that place of death and toward life because I am the God who is living. Wherever I am, there is life, there is change, there is growth, there is increase and blossoming and something new. I am going to make everything new." For us to dare to live a life in which we continue to move out of the static places and take trusting steps in new directions--that is what faith is about. The Greek word for faith means to trust--to trust that the ground before you that you never walked on is safe ground, God's ground, holy ground. Walk and don't be afraid.

Henry J.M. Nouwen "The Only Necessary Thing"

Wow! This really speaks to me; it so connects to the book we're doing in our Mid-week Book Study, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." It is also right in line with the theme, "God's New Thing, See It, Hear It, Live It, of the APCE 2016 Conference (which I attended Jan 26-30). Let's not forget, too, our church Lenten Devotional "Be Holy," that challenges us to be new, set apart with our God. Can't we all thrive in a place where we can take trusting steps in a new direction towards God's holy ground! Come and join us or continue with us in our many opportunities to learn together, serve together, and grow spiritually, together!"



Children's Multi-age and Tween/Youth Sunday School Classes are in full swing. There's a place for kids of all ages. Our dedicated teachers are energized and ready with engaging thought-provoking fun experiences focused on "A Generous and Abundantly Loving Jesus."

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

Richard Spencer's class meets in the classroom off of Churchill Hall and are engrossed in an interesting comprehensive study on the book of Genesis. Each Sunday is a separate discussion over a particular section so anyone can jump right in in on any given Sunday. Please join this great group.

Bill Reynold's class is in the church library discussing a new book by Rodney Newman, "Journey with the Celtic Christians." It's the perfect time to join these fine folks as they explore and journey this fascinating book together.

Attention tweens and youth (Fifth Grade through High School, upstairs in the room next to the Sound-Tech room): 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!

- March 6** Bob Eckert "Amazing Grace"
- March 13** Sue Chancellor "Abundant Love"
- March 20** Palm Sunday Brunch in Churchill Hall "Holy Week Activities for Kids"
- March 27** Royce Chancellor "Easter News" followed by Easter Egg Hunt @10:00 am

Multi-age Teaching Schedule

(Pre-school through Fourth Grade, in Sunday School Wing on First Floor)

- March 6** Sue Chancellor "Thank You God"
- March 13** Katy Reed "Generous Love"
- March 20** Palm Sunday Brunch in Churchill Hall "Holy Week Activities for Kids"
- March 27** Valerie Wagner "Easter Joy" followed by "Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 am"
- April 3** Millie Spencer "Jesus' Peace"
- April 10** Vicky Adams "A Beach Breakfast"

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.

Donna Bridenstine is available on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship to provide nurturing fun and safe care to the youngest of our Trinity family. Infants and toddlers can join her during the Sunday School hour, and the older children through kindergarten can come in after Sunday School or "Time with Children" and stay through Worship.



YOUTH/KID NEWS

A huge heartfelt thanks to Leah Wagner, Seve, Kira, & Sela Smith, Amelia Austin, Zac & Zane Adams, John Clawson, Lynette Kraft-Lindsey, Jonna Adams and Katy Reed for your most inspiring leadership during Worship on February 7, Youth Sunday. Your church family is so grateful to each of you for sharing your beautiful gifts with us on that most glorious day! And let us all remember Christ's loving words to us, "Your faith has saved you. Go in PEACE!"



The tweens and youth will be stuffing eggs with all kinds of "fun" during the last part of their Sunday School classes on March 6 and 13.



We wish all the families traveling during spring break week, safe and happy travels! We look forward to hearing all the fun stories of your travels upon your return.



Everyone is encouraged to participate in our Palm Sunday Brunch on March 20 in Churchill Hall. Special Holy Week activities for children and youth will be set up in the youth lounge; kids of all ages are invited to engage in these experiences between brunch and worship service.



Youth/kids and their families are invited to join the Lunch Bunch following Palm Sunday Worship on March 20 if you are back from your travels. Be looking for more details as the date approaches. It's always fun to dine and visit together as a Trinity Family.



Exciting joyful Sunday School classes are planned for Easter Sunday for all ages at 9:15 on March 27! The tweens and youth classes along with some adult sponsors will be hosting a Celebration Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. beginning on the children's playground. ALL children and their families are invited!



~Mark your calendars for April 2 as a "Big Family Event" is in the works~

This activity promises to be tons of fun!!

The details will be forthcoming!!



MID WEEK BOOK STUDY

It's not too late to dive into the lively insightful conversation in the cafe every Wednesday morning at 10:00 during the entire month of March and on into April. We are sharing our thoughts as we study Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." We will be discussing chapter four on Wednesday, March 2 as well as packing backpacks at 9:30 in Churchill Hall. Now is the time to join this wise fun and friendly group! Just let Sue know and she will order more books.



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

Christian Education and Worship Teams are currently looking for new fun ideas and/or donations for our "Children's Worship Bags." It's so exciting having kids of all ages in Worship, and we want to make sure their Worship experience at Trinity is the best! Contact Sue Chancellor with any questions, ideas, etc.

Plastic Eggs and fun treats (non-edible kind too) are needed for our Trinity Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 27. You can place them in the bin outside the Choir room in the next few weeks. Candies need to be individually wrapped. Thanks for your support!

A THANK YOU FROM SUE ******I am very grateful to my Trinity Church family and EOP Presbytery for their financial support allowing me to go to this year's APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) in Chicago from January 26th through the 31st. I gleaned a wealth of information and ideas from so many amazing church leaders/educators. I have already implemented a few and have many more on the slate. I knew I would learn so much from the speakers and workshops but this conference went beyond my expectations in so many other ways. I experienced beautiful, spiritual Worship services led by Reverend Claudio Carvalhaes, Reverend Otis Moss, and Reverend Lillian Daniels. This conference was truly a joyful, uplifting, and learning experience for me!* *****

Save the Dates: VBS 2016 is coming this summer...July 10-14 with VBS Worship Service on July 17.

Be Ready to Experience God's Amazing Love during a most adventurous engaging week of Fun & Excitement!

Co-Directors: Cathy Hanson and John Clawson

Music Leader: Lynette Kraft-Lindsey

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to be part of this awesome adventure that reaches out into our Bixby/Tulsa community! Please let Sue, John, or Cathy know if you would like to help in any area of your interest! Much more news to follow in the weeks ahead!

Pictures from Our Family Album



A little about the Adams family...

Lee was born & raised in Jackson, Tennessee. After he graduated from high school, he joined the Navy where he served for 8 years before receiving his Honorable Discharge. After returning home from the Navy, he became an Electrician. He is now in Electrical Sales at CED in Tulsa. In his free time, he enjoys watching college football & NASCAR, and hunting with his 2 oldest sons.

Jonna was born and raised in Tulsa. After living in Arkansas, Kansas & Tennessee, she is glad to be back home in Oklahoma. She spends her days being a stay-at-home mom to Zac & Zane, & enjoys going to her Community Bible Study class on Wednesdays. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, shopping for antiques & vintage items, and reading a good book!

The 2 older sons were left behind in Tennessee to finish school, and they miss them dearly... The oldest son's name is Drew & he just turned 22. He is in the Tennessee Army National Guard & attending school to receive an Industrial Maintenance degree. The next son's name is Taylor, and he will be 20 in March. Taylor just finished school to become an Electrician, and is currently working for one of the local school systems.

Next comes Zac. Zac is 5 years old & goes to kindergarten at Bixby Central Elementary School. Zac also enjoys going to Bible Blast on Sunday nights with his cousins. Any other time, you can find Zac playing with Zane & his Power Rangers & Transformers toys.

Last but not least, is Zane. Zane turned 3 in November and loves staying home with his Mommy & going to his little class at Community Bible Study on Wednesdays. Zane loves playing with his big brother, Zac, & with his Paw Patrol & Peppa Pig toys.

The Adams' want to thank everyone for the warm welcome into the Trinity family, and they look forward to meeting & getting to know each of you!

Last Month, we welcomed Asher James Goodale. He was born on February 8, 2016 at 2:21 in the afternoon. His proud parents are April and Nick Goodale; his proud grandparents are Bob and Jill Eckert. Asher weighed in at 8 lbs. 15 oz., and was 21½ inches long.



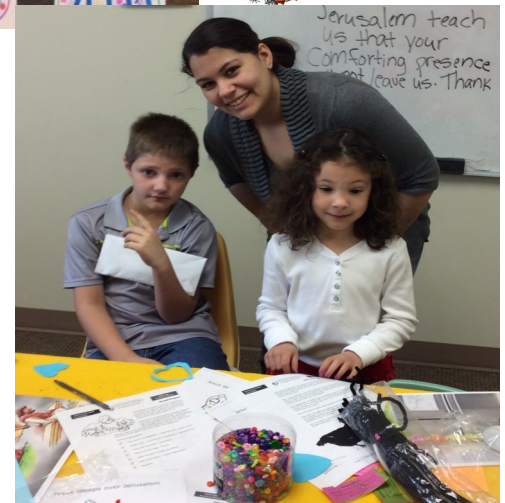
Bill Reynolds and friends packing backpacks!



Lisette ringing the bell!!

More Pictures from Our Family Album

Youth Sunday



March Lectionary Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 6

Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 13

Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

Passion/Palm Sunday—March 20

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms
 Luke 19:28-40
 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Monday of Holy Week—March 21

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 36:5-11
 Hebrews 9:11-15
 John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week—March 22

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 71:1-14
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week—March 23

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 70
 Hebrews 12:1-3
 John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday—March 24

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-71, 31b-35

Happy Birthday

Ted Karner	3/2
Kay McLean	3/4
Debbie Collins	3/11
Erica Stogsdill	3/12
Annastasia Root	3/17
Tomye Mainer	3/20
Rod Abhari	3/30
April Eckert	3/30



March Lectionary Readings, Cont'd.

Good Friday—March 25

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
 John 18:1-19:42

Easter Vigil—March 28

Exodus 14:10-31
 Ezekiel 36:24-28
 Psalms 42 & 43
 Romans 6:3-11
 Luke 24:1-12

Resurrection of the Lord—March 27

Easter Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25
 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
 Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18

March 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	29 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	1 Election Day	2 Pack backpacks 9:30 am Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am "Learning to Walk in the Dark"	3	4	5
6 4th Sunday in Lent	7 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	8	9 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am Team Meetings 6:00 pm dinner 6:30 pm meeting	10	11	12
13 5th Sunday in Lent	14 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	15 Session 6:30 pm	16 Pack backpacks 9:30 am Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	17	18	19
20 6th Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday Easter Brunch 9:15 am Lunch Bunch	21 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	22	23 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am	24 Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00 pm	25	26
27 7th Sunday in Lent Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt	28 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	29	30	31		

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