

Trinity Tidings



From the Pastor's Pen

May 2016

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I said to the almond tree: Speak to me of God;
 And the almond tree blossomed.

Nikos Kazantzakis

As the deadline for this article loomed, I found it difficult to write. My heart, too, has been heavy, for I also lost a friend and colleague. Bill Reynolds was a rare blessing in one's life. I believe that Bill would have been humbled by our sadness, but then would have wished us go forth with the love we felt for him and put it into ministry toward one another and others. With loving heart, the church came together to celebrate Bill's Witness to the Resurrection! The reception was beautiful. Thank you. This writing of Kazantzakis reminds me of Bill's spirit. Most assuredly, God does speak to us; and when we speak of God things, there is fruit. So, we'll put the clouds of gloom aside and go forward feeling the warm sun shining on our ministries.

O Laughter of the Earth,
 Come! Come laugh us out of our rigidity,
 Lighten hearts grown weary with anxiety.
 Send us out to the meadows to play like a child.
 Rise up in our souls with lighthearted joy. O Come!

Joyce Rupp

There is beauty in the unexpected in the season of Spring. Last year, my daughter transplanted a redbud seedling that had sprung up in our flowerbed. It needed to find a proper home – couldn't just pull it and throw it away wastefully! It found a new home in her yard. We severely pruned its lanky overgrowth and it survived its first season with barely a leaf on it. Then, this Spring – nothing. Dormant – or dead – it stood; the center trunk looking like an Ebenezer marker marking what once could be. When the redbuds all over town bloomed, and hers didn't, Elizabeth lamented her whispered prayer, "My redbud tree is dead; it has no blossoms. O, God, I didn't realize how much I had come to love that little tree!" Then the rains came and the sun warmed the earth. And, the redbud bloomed – belatedly – but it lives! The whole family rejoices.

Continued on page 2

Pastor's Pen cont.

Spring events remind us we are on God's time. There is death, and then there is new and renewed life. Church traditions mark this truth. We're going to celebrate all women on Mother's Day. And, graduations give cause to ring bells to celebrate bright futures for Logan Wagner (from Bixby HS) and John Spencer from Covenant Theological Seminary, whom now is seeking his first call in ministry. We celebrate with them!

And the rushing winds of the Holy Spirit blow in at Pentecost, May 15th. We'll celebrate Logan's graduation and the birth of the church with Communion. Our Spring season is full of many blessings unfolding. Yes, Kazanzakis was wise when he stated the promise: *I said to the almond tree: Speak to me of God; and the almond tree blossomed.*



Blessings,
Pastor Judy

Evangelism brenda cunningham

While mourning Bill Reynolds' passing, we know he would want us to carry his torch forward and welcome everyone into the Trinity fold. In that respect, the Evangelism Team continues its work to ensure Trinity and its members are open and inviting to all. We are planning a Greeter get-together May 22nd, right after Worship. Refreshments will be served. If you are currently on the greeter list, please plan to attend. If you would like to become a greeter, please tell Deanna or Ed Jolly, Laura Van Newkirk, or Joe or Brenda Cunningham.

Thank you to a Trinity Family for donating four chairs for our Trinity Café! The chairs have been ordered and will be here in about a month. The new banner is ordered for the Trinity Café area, along with signs for the "Backpacks for Bixby" and "Bixby Outreach Center" baskets in the entryway.

Please see Ron and Melinda Carver's bio in this newsletter. As Bill Reynolds' passing reminds us, some of the new members may not know our stories. So each month, we plan to ask a member to reacquaint us with their bio or if they would rather, write something about Trinity's history.

Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

Building & Grounds bob block

Bob Block will be gone May 1st through Aug. 13th. The remainder of the Building and Grounds Team will be available to address any needs or concerns in Bob's absence.

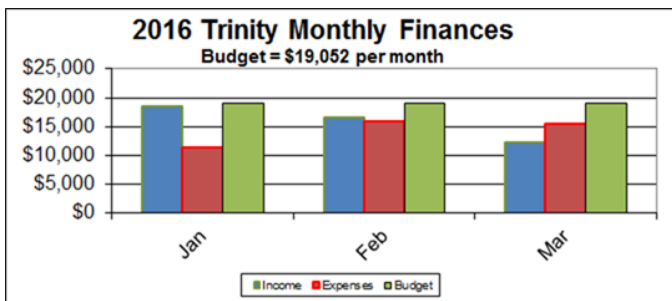
Congregational Care margot ries

Congregation Care will be asking the congregation for the 2016 Scholarship Fund in May. These monies are taken from the "Loose Change" during the month of May. The Scholarship Application is sent to those graduating from High school and planning to attend college, as well as those who are in college now and would like some assistance for the coming year. It will be announced during Sunday Services and hopefully in the bulletin each Sunday.

Also, we will have our Third Sunday Lunch Bunch on May 15th, with the location determined prior to that date. We have continued to call and send cards to those who have been ill or in the hospital. Don't forget to let the church know if you need any assistance or a meal is needed.

Finance/Stewardship randy smith

2016	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 47,095	\$ 42,689	\$ 57,156



Margot Ries

Ron and Melinda Carver



Ron and I are Oklahoma raised, being from Pryor and Tulsa respectively. Ron's family were Southern Baptist and I was raised Lutheran. Our paths crossed as students at Oklahoma State University. We were married in the University Chapel in 1975 after Ron finished his BS in Chemical Engineering and I had my BA in Education. We stayed until he finished his Masters and then joined the oil patch with Cities Service Oil Company. We made work related moves to Texas and it was there our first daughter was born, a Tyler rose we named Carrie.

In 1980, we were moved back to Tulsa where we joined the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church family. Our family grew while members there with two more daughters, Christy and Molly, and then our son, Jeffrey. We devoted our time and energy to St. Andrews and to the service of our faith. We served on Session, as Deacons and I was their Preschool director for 9 years. St Andrews was a second family to our children.

Unfortunately, with the demise of Cities Service we were forced to find other employment. In 1991, Ron took a job in Fayetteville, Arkansas and moved our family to a small town just outside of Fayetteville. We quickly found a Lutheran church we wanted to become part of. I became the Director of their Childcare program and we both served positions in Session and Deacons, also we were actively involved in Youth Group activities.

16 years ago, another job change gave us the opportunity to move back to Tulsa. We were grateful, we were back among our families and immediately started looking for a church home. We had one child in college and three in High School. We were unable to return to St. Andrews and spent two years trying to find a fit for our family. With the demands of new jobs for both of us, new schools and college for our children, we did not find a church home.

Though we haven't had a church membership in the last 16 years, churches have been visited for long periods of time but we never had the feelings of needing to belong to one of them. We chose to visit Trinity, and knew this was the place for us from our first Sunday.

Today we are empty nesters but have the blessing of three of our children in the Tulsa area. Our daughters are married and have given us 3 grandchildren with a new one coming any minute. I have retired from Tulsa Public Schools where I was an elementary librarian for 10 years. Ron is an Environmental Engineer for One Gas. Our time is spent with the grandchildren and family, we also enjoy OSU sports.

Thank you for the warm welcome and the chance to be part of a church family again.

Ron and Melinda Carver



Mission News john clawson

Camp Trinity:

We started Camp Trinity in the summer of 2011 as an outreach for children in our community and in our church. Bixby does not have a summer school lunch program and we did not have a mechanism to continue feeding our Backpacks 4 Bixby kids during the summer. So we started Camp Trinity with the primary goals of feeding children and giving parents a break once a week while maintaining a consistent theme of "Fun 4 Kids".

This year we will continue the tradition of meeting on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, as well as connecting themes from Vacation Bible School and Camp Trinity. Please mark your calendars for the dates noted below and see Liz Powell, Sue Chancellor or John Clawson if you would like to join us for a fun time this summer.



Camp Trinity: Exploring the Deep...

Week 1: Deep in the Summer Sand

Week 2: Deep in the Swirling Sea

Week 3: Deep in the Dazzling Dirt

Week 4: Deep in my Imagination

Tuesday, June 21

Tuesday, June 28

Tuesday, July 19

Tuesday, July 26



Thank you for your support of this program.

Submitted by John Clawson

Christian Education sue chancellor

Prayer of Blessing

May the deep blessings of earth be with us.

May the fathomless soundings of sea surge in our soul.

May the boundless stretches of the universe echo in our depths

to open us to wonder

to strengthen us for love

to humble us with gratitude

that we may find ourselves in one another

that we may lose ourselves in gladness

that we give ourselves to peace.

~John Philip Newell~

May each of us in our Trinity family indeed be filled with wonder, gratitude and gladness as we move forward through May and into the warm summer months ahead. Praise to God for the newness of spring creations and endless possibilities.



Sunday Morning Possibilities

Child Care

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."



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Parents needing childcare during choir practice or team meetings can let Sue or Donna know in advance and Donna will be in the nursery during those times.



Richard Spencer's class meets at 9:15 in the classroom off of Churchill Hall and is currently discussing the book of Exodus. Please consider joining this group in their stimulating Sunday morning conversations. Each week is focused on a particular set of questions from a chapter in Exodus, and so it's quite easy to jump in on any given week and join this welcoming community.

In regard to the recent passing of our beloved friend, servant and teacher, **Bill Reynolds**, his current class has chosen to continue meeting in the library at 9:15 as they complete Rodney Newburg's book, "Journeys with the Celtic Christians." This very hospitable group welcomes any new folks looking for insightful conversation focused on this interesting inspiring book.



Tweens/Youth (The Tween/Youth Class (Fifth Grade and up) meets upstairs in the second classroom with a cool team of teachers from 9:15 to 10:15. All are welcome to jump into fun engaging activities and thought-provoking discussions as we explore our individual faith journey together as a caring community.



May 1	Bob Eckert	"Lydia Welcomes Paul"
May 8	John Clawson	"Convicted"
May 15	Royce Chancellor	"Gathered in Community"
May 22	Bob Eckert	"Letter of Hope"
May 29	Sue Chancellor	"Faith in Action"
June 5	Royce Chancellor	"Deep in My Heart....."

Multi-age Teaching Schedule

Children's Multi-age (pre-school through fourth grade) will continue during May with their "Feasting on the Word" curriculum; the theme this month is "A Trusting Hopeful Community." Children are warmly invited to come to the SS wing by the church library at 9:15 and join the enthusiastic team of teachers in uplifting engaging activities focused on the unending love of Jesus.

May 1	Katy Reed	Good News Travels
May 8	Millie Spencer	Strong Faith (and tribute to our moms)
May 15	Sue Chancellor	Pentecost
May 22	Vicky Adams	God With Us
May 29	Katy Reed	Centurion Trust
June 5	Sue Chancellor	"Deep in my Heart..."



FAMILY/YOUTH NEWS

Happy Mother's Day on May 8 to all our loving gifted Trinity Moms! It's our prayer that May 8 is a beautiful day to celebrate all our moms and that everyone can enjoy time/conversations/precious thoughts with their families!

May 15 is a BIG Day for us all at Trinity! 9:15 Children's and Tween/Youth Sunday School classes will celebrate Pentecost: "The Birthday of the Church" with some very special lively interactive activities! Pentecost Worship will follow at 10:30 with a very spiritual energizing service.

...And it is also Senior Sunday...Our very own Logan Wagner will be honored during the Service and he will share his passion and gift of music during this Worship time. **Fellowship Team will host a reception for Logan and his family following Worship on May 15.** Please plan on coming to visit with Logan and his family. We'll also have plenty of time for fellowship and sharing our summer plans with one another. And CE team will provide some fun engaging activities for our younger folks!

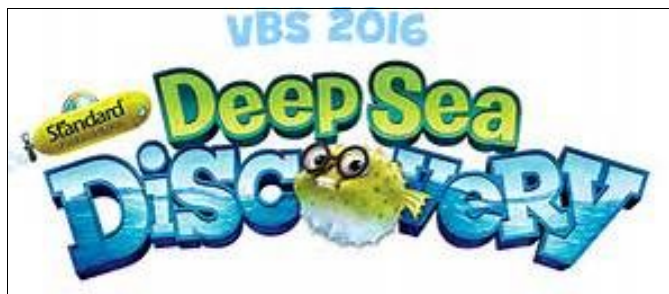
FAMILY FUN— It LOOKS like our Family Zoo outing will be on a Sunday afternoon in June. We'll update you on the exact date soon! It promises to be a fun-filled afternoon at the Tulsa Zoo celebrating and admiring God's wondrous amazing creatures together!

Our Trinity Summer is on the horizon...We'll be doing some "Deep Exploration" all summer long:

Please plan on attending **Summer Sunday School, "Deep in My Heart There is Jesus"** beginning June 4. Kids, tweens, and youth will begin the summer celebration with our first session: "A Deep Peace of Mind and Heart."

Participants and Volunteers are all needed for Camp Trinity, " Exploring the Deep" beginning June 21 with, Deep in the Summer Sand. Fliers will be mailed out and all kids Pre-school through entering fifth grade, can be registered by calling the church office. Our Trinity youth, entering sixth grade and beyond, are invited to volunteer their time and gifts to Camp Trinity this summer. And as always, we welcome all adults to share their gifts in volunteering in any way they feel they can best help.

More Trinity Volunteers from sixth grade up, are also needed for VBS 2016, July 10-14: "Deep Sea Discovery: God is With Me Everywhere." Please contact John Clawson, Cathy Hanson, or Sue Chancellor if you are interested in getting on board with an enthusiastic delightful group of volunteers!



Attention : Mid-Week Book Study

We'll meet this Wednesday, May 4 at 10:00 in the cafe to celebrate our group with a "Sharing Time" as we close for our Spring '16 Book Study. Thank you for your beautiful amazing insights and thoughts as we discussed Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." Please plan on joining us for more invigorating discussion on May 4 as you are invited to share a story, article, prayer, scripture, book excerpt, etc., with our group if you desire. And...remember...we are packing backpacks at 9:30 in Churchill Hall if you are able to join us then.

On May 11, our Book Study group is invited to come and joyfully pack backpacks and share in fellowship at 9:30! There will be no official meeting that morning, but plenty of time for quality conversation and fun!



~Save the Dates~

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

Dive Into... "Deep Sea Discovery: God is With Me Wherever I Go"

Get Ready for a most exciting Sea Adventure where we will explore just how deep
God's love is for each of us!

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!

It's just around the corner so, mark your calendar for May 15...

As we honor our sensational senior, **Logan Wagner**, on Senior Sunday. With the Fellowship team, we'll also have a reception for Logan following Worship. This is also Pentecost Sunday, so be ready for an uplifting energizing morning with all these wonderful events happening!





An Anniversary Celebration for one of our
dearest church couples!

Congratulations, Howard & Evelyn, on 60
years of marriage!

The two of you are truly an inspiration for us
all..



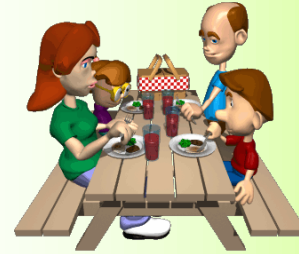
Happy Mother's Day

My mother kept a garden, a garden of the heart. She planted all the good things that gave my life its start. She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream, fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem. And when the winds and rains came she protected me enough, but not too much because she knew I needed to grow strong and tough. Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong. Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long. I am my mother's garden. I am her legacy and I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.



May Doings at Trinity

CHURCH PICNIC FUN AT TRINITY!!



Burgers and Dogs!!!



A Beautiful Day for Church Family Fun and Fellowship.



BAGS

Games and good food!!!



Ladies chit-chat time!



April Lectionary Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 1

Acts 16:9–15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23–29 or John 5:1–9

Ascension of the Lord—May 5

Acts 1:1–11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15–23

Luke 24:44–53

Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 8

Acts 16:16–34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

John 17:20–26

Day of Pentecost—May 15

Acts 2:1–21 or Genesis 11:1–9

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

Romans 8:14–17 or Acts 2:1–21

John 14:8–17 [25–27]

Trinity Sunday—May 22

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1–5

John 16:12–15

Second Sunday after Pentecost—May 29

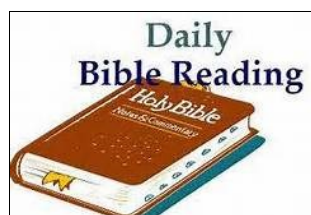
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 4

1 Kings 18:20–21 [22–29] 30–39

Psalm 96 Psalm 96:1–9

Galatians 1:1–12

Luke 7:1–10



Happy Birthday

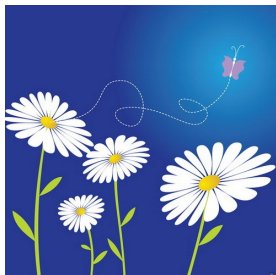
Ben Austin	05/02
Kim Campbell	05/11
Leah Wagner	05/11
Ann Frazier	05/15
Mitchell Sanstra	05/28
Nancy Foland	05/29
Scott Wigton	05/31



Congratulations to
Robert & Dorothy Block on the
celebration of their
50th wedding anniversary!!!

May 9, 2016





May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Mid-Week Book Study 10:00 am (Last official meeting of Spring '16)	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	10	11 Mid-Week Book Study 9:30 am to pack backpacks ONLY Team Mtgs. 6:30 pm (6:00 Dinner)	12	13	14
15 Pentecost Sunday Senior Sunday Reception following worship Lunch Bunch	16 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	17 Session 6:30 pm	18	19	20	21
22 Greeter Get-Together 11:30 am	23 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <u>Memorial Day</u> Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm 	31				

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