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Trinity Presbyterian Church
9303 E. 111th St. S.
Bixby, OK 74008
918-369-3690
trinitychurchbixby.org

SERVING YOU

Rev. Elana Levy, Co-Pastor
(cell) 757-876-7025 (Elana)
trinitypastor@olp.net

Rev. Lucus Keppel, Co-Pastor
(cell) 248-845-8287
trinitypastor@olp.net

Sue Chancellor, Christian Educator
(cell) 918-764-5566
schancellor5@gmail.com

Erik Collins, Director of Music
(cell) 918-809-3418

Donna Bridenstine, Childcare
(cell) 918-982-5868

Kim Harvey, Admin. Assistant
(office) 918-369-3690

From the Pastor's Pen



"I slept, but my heart was awake.
Listen! my beloved is knocking."
-Song of Songs 5:2a

The Song of Songs is a most unique book in our scriptures. On the surface, its poetry follows the dreams and yearnings of a couple in love, but for centuries, theologians have dug deeply into its texts for metaphors and figures of spiritual truth. Some say it is a song of covenant love between God and the children of God. Others say it speaks of Christ as the bridegroom and the Church as the bride. Some suggest that it is a love song praising the mystical union that happens in each of our souls when we join with Christ and become one with him.

As we journey through Eastertide, we join the awe-struck disciples as Christ appears again and again. He is flesh and bone like them, still wounded, sharing meals of grilled fish. Yet, he enters with ease when the doors are locked and he seems to vanish just as soon as he arrives. Who is this Risen Christ?

This is the same Christ who comes to us, beckoning us, drawing us out. St. John Chrysostom was a 4th-5th century Church Father. He was born to Greek parents in Syria and later became Archbishop of Constantinople. Meditating on this passage of Song of Songs, he preached this in a sermon:

"Both when I stayed at home and when I departed, when I walked and rested, and wherever I went, I continuously turned your love over in my mind and dreamt about it. I found pleasure in these dreams not only during the day but also at night. The very statement made by Solomon, 'I sleep but my heart is awake,' was then happening to me.

Cont'd on p.2

Pastor's Pen con't.

The necessity for sleep weighed down my eyelids, but the great power of your love chased away the sleep from the eyes of my soul; and constantly I thought that I was speaking with you in my sleep.

At night, it is natural for the soul to see in her dreams all the things that she thinks about in the day, something that I was then experiencing. Although I did not see you with the eyes of my body, I saw you with the eyes of love. In spite of my physical absence, I was close to you in disposition, and my ears always heard your vivacious voice.”

Chrysostom preaches the love of Christ that is as real as the wound in Christ’s side and that can cross any barrier we put up to keep it out. The dream of our soul is to be in perfect communion with the love of God in Christ and it is in this dream that our heart is truly awake. It is this dream that animates all of our days and whispers to us of the truth of the boundless love and mercy of our Lord and savior. So, let us sleep to false hopes, to naked greed, to the lure of power. Let us delight in the beauty of the night skies, shutting out so many distractions of the day. Let us live our lives as a waking dream of Christ’s kingdom come to earth. Amen.

~Pastor Elana

Fellowship News margot ries

Our Easter Brunch was very successful, thanks to these wonderful team members....Tomye Mainer, Millie Spencer, Deanna and Ed Jolly, and last, but not least Barry Straabe. The congregation who brought the mouth watering goodies deserve a thank you too. It was a great way to start our worship service and the enjoy the fellowship of the Easter season and the end of Holy Week and a beginning of honoring our Lord. We will be involved in the next coming weeks and months with church happenings. Anyone that would like to join us, please let me know.

God Bless everyone, Margot Ries

Congregational Care margot ries

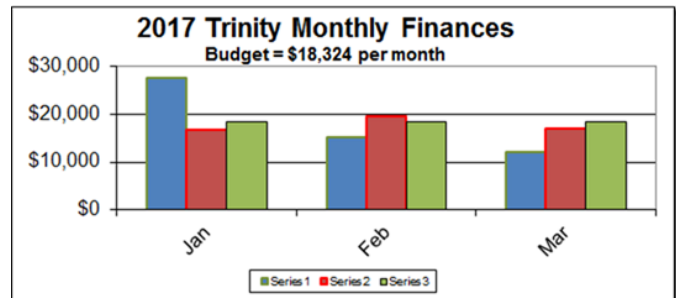
This month we will be having our **LUNCH BUNCH**, once again. It has been awhile, but we look forward to our Lunch with much fellowship....be sure and put this date of **May 21st** on your calendars. Our team members are always welcome to hear from you. If you have a special request for us, please call the office and we will get the message. We will be sending a Starbucks card to each of our five college students this month. Those Students are, **Darby Campbell, Luke Clawson, Trevor Eckert, Kelsey Johnson and Logan Wagner**. Always feel free to drop them a note, which you can give to the office, and we will see that they get the messages.

Blessings to all, Margot Ries

With Evelyn Fenton, Jackie Ballew, Barbara Higgins, Ann Frazier, Jean Righter, Dorothy Block, Bess Guthrie, Cathie Harper and Jackie Braselton

Finance/Stewardship randy smith

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2017 YTD	\$ 55,028	\$ 53,283	\$ 54,972



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

Christian Education sue chancellor

"I am amazed at how God keeps on extending care and kindness to me no matter how I feel or think, no matter what mood I am in, no matter how loving or nasty I am. God keeps offering welcoming love and abiding peace to me. God is quite astounding. This Divine Being is a limitless lover, always filling the small hands of my life with grace and goodness, always enriching my life with all that I need for my spiritual path. In a way, God's love is like having a "bottomless cup." I can drink from the abundance of God and there is still more love to be poured into my heart.

Extravagant God,
generosity beyond comprehension,
bestower of all that I need,
thank you for the immensity of your kindness.
Praise to you for the endless out-pouring of your love.
My being proclaims your being."

~Joyce Rupp

We've moved into May...ready or not...and Joyce Rupp's words resonate deep in my soul giving me both comfort and encouragement right now. Christ has risen indeed and his love is extravagant, generous, and limitless! We can all take joy in this "endless outpouring of love." With our Lord's good grace, we can grow in compassion, wisdom and strength...as we continue along on our own spiritual paths in community with one another.



Coming Soon and back by popular demand:

C.E. Team is hosting a **Parent's Night Out** on May 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Children from infant through fifth grade are all invited. Tweens and teens can come and volunteer their expertise as well. Hot dogs or PB&J with fun sides will be provided at 6:00p.m.

Please call the church office if your child/children can attend or if you'd like to volunteer your help for any part of the evening. You can also call, text, or e-mail Sue to volunteer to help or sign up your child/children. As always, there will be lots of games, art/science activities, along with a choice of stories and even a cartoon or two! Pastor Lucas has some fun cool theatre games he'll be leading for kids of all ages! Parents can know their children are happy and safe while they enjoy a "night out on the town!"

CAMP TRINITY



LET'S GET GOING!!

TUESDAYS

June 27, July 18 & 25, Aug. 1

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Lunch provided

There is no charge for Camp Trinity!

**Call 918-369-3690
for reservations and information.**

SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES BEGINNING AT 9:15 AM

Child Care **Attention Parents:** Donna Bridenstine is available at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She is also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. **Just let Sue know in advance.**

Childcare for infants through preschool is available on 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 (when needed) after their Sunday School class and through Worship.



The Multi-Age Children's Class for preschool through fourth grade meets this month in the classroom next to Sue's office. A volunteer from a wonderful teaching team will lead a variety of child-centered experiences focused on a different bible scripture each week. **Be ready for activities that ignite all the senses and stir up lots of understanding on how very much Jesus loves us!**

May 7:	Sue Chancellor	"The Good Shepherd"
May 14:	Melinda Carver	"The Way, The Truth, and The Light"
May 21:	Millie Spencer	"Creator God"
May 28:	Valerie Wagner	"Praying to God"
June 4:	Katy Orrell	"Happy Birthday Church"
June 11:	Vicky Adams	"On the Road"

The Tween/Teen Class meets in the classroom upstairs or in the Youth Lounge each Sunday at 9:15 and is led by a capable enthusiastic volunteer from the teen teaching team. All tweens/teens are invited to participate in timely discussions and activities focused on a different inspiring challenging scripture each week. Each of our amazing youth is validated and accepted for who he/she is and where he/she is along their own personal faith journey.

May 7:	Bob Eckert	"Shepherd and Host"
May 14:	John Clawson	"Finding Our Way"
May 21:	Sue Chancellor	"Paul's Witness in Athens"
May 28:	Royce Chancellor	"Praying for Others"
June 4:	Bob Eckert	"The Power of Pentecost"
June 11:	John Clawson	"Believe"



On June 18 the classes will combine in the Youth Lounge and we'll kick off the summer theme, **"Living the Joyful Journey with Jesus."** Sue and the teen/tween class will host a "Marvelous Morning Movie" for all our spectacular kids!! Snacks, art, and games included!



The Wednesday Mid-week Book Study folks are immersed in the captivating book, "My Neighbor's Faith," and will continue through May 24. It's not too late to join us this month at 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Cafe, as we take on a new compelling section of the book each week. Our final backpacking day for this spring will be on May 17 at 10:30 in Churchill Hal and our final book discussion until fall. will be on May 24.

Fellowship Lunch continues this month every Wednesday at noon for any and all folks who can come.

TEEN/KID/FAMILY NEWS



A huge thanks to Brenda Cunningham, Jonna Adams, Katy Orwell, and Donna Bridenstine for your wonderful amazing help with the Palm Sunday Prayerground! The children had a blast and their families appreciated all the loving engaging care portrayed throughout the service.

The CE Team is grateful to everyone who volunteered their time with the Easter Egg Hunt and to all who donated candy, eggs, and prizes for the event.



We also thank all the folks/kids who joyfully participated in our "Picnic Party" on Sunday, April 30. Our plans to go to Haikey Creek Park needed to be altered to fit the inclement weather, so we brought the picnic indoors to Churchill Hall. Lots and lots of sunny faces, warm dispositions, and bright flashing energy filled the room as we ate and played together!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

All Sunday School Classes begin at 9:15

~Richard Spencer's intriguing class, focused on the DVD series, "Living the Questions 2.0, continues into the summer in the classroom off Churchill Hall. Please join this insightful discussion whenever you're able. Thought-provoking questions such as: How do you feel about Jack Spong's invitation to "Take God out of the sky and place him as a presence or the very heart of life? Do you know others who still hold on to the ancient, cosmological imagery that presents a 3-tiered universe that compel one to thin of God in the sky?" **All adults are invited to come and be a part of this meaningful conversation.**

~"The Presbyterian Journey" begins Sunday, May 21, in the church library. Join Pastor Lucus for a Summer Sunday School class following the story of the Presbyterian Journey – where we came from, who we are, and where we might be going! The class will combine history, polity, theology, worship and storytelling – and is a great overview for anyone on their own Presbyterian journey, whether you started walking eight weeks or eighty years ago.

We'll begin on May 21 with a look at the Apostles' Creed and the Nicaen Creed, and talk about the difficulties of the doctrine of the Trinity. Then, on May 28, we'll look into the seeds of Reformation, Martin Luther, and the sacraments.

Presbyterian Journey

Part I - "New Rome" to Reformation

May 21 - Jerusalem + Nicaea

May 28 - Wittenberg

June 4 - Geneva

June 11 - Edinburgh

Part II - "New World" Reformation

Part III - Always Being Reformed

Each class is stand-alone, so come as you're able!



SAVE THE DATES

July 9-13 ROME--"Paul and the Underground Church"

5:45-8:15 pm for children ages 3 through entering Fifth Grade
Dinner for the entire family is served at 5:45 pm
(Trinity tweens and teens are welcome to help our adult volunteers)



July 16: VBS Worship Service followed by picnic/games

All kids and volunteers will be in for a most exciting unforgettable journey into first-century Rome. Please call the church office or let anyone in our 2017 VBS Leadership Team know if you'd like to volunteer.

Our leadership team is composed of: John Clawson, Cathy Hanson, Jonna Adams, Stephanie Smith, Joe/ Brenda Cunningham and Sue C.

This year's "VBS program will include being immersed in God's Word through the story of Paul and his work with the church in Rome, fun & games, craft-making, Roman snacks, singing/dancing together and more..." There's room for lots and lots of kids and folks in "Paul's Underground Church!" Please call the church to register your child. (918) 369-3690.

Building & Grounds bob block

During the spring and summer months, if there is a Building and Grounds issue at the church that anyone feels needs attention, please call the church office during office hours (M-Th, 9-12:30 pm) to report said issue. If an issue is noted after regular office hours, please contact Bob Eckert at 918-408-0072. Thank you for your attention to this summertime change!

Much thanks to all,
The Building & Grounds Committee

Presbyterian Women:

May 10 is our next **Presbyterian's Women's** meeting. Presbyterian Women meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, at 9:45 am in the Trinity Café!

This month concludes how various groups and sources see Jesus with “Contemporary Cultural Interpretations.”

Please join us if you are able!

Evangelism brenda cunningham

We just received samples of new literature to review for our “New Member Packet” information. If you would like to view these also, they are in the Evangelism Cabinet in the outer office along with a sign out sheet. During May, we will continue to work on specific pages added to the *Pictorial Directory* so that it will contain not just pictures, but more detailed information about Trinity. If you have suggestions for anything you think we should include, please let one of the team know.

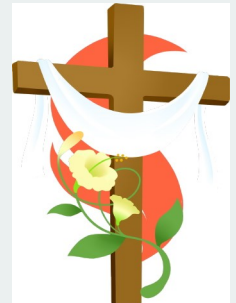
Keep watching the website for changes - a bit here, a bit there to keep it fresh and inviting! We have had those April showers, and are ready for the May flowers!

Respectfully, *Brenda Cunningham*



Fun Times @ Trinity

Easter Sunday
4-16-17



Holy Humor Sunday

4/23/2017



MAY LECTIONARY

Fourth Sunday of Easter—May 7

Acts 2:42–47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25
John 10:1–10

Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 14

Acts 7:55–60
Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
1 Peter 2:2–10
John 14:1–14

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 21

Acts 17:22–31
Psalm 66:8–20
1 Peter 3:13–22
John 14:15–21

Ascension of the Lord—May 25

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 28

Acts 1:6–14
Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35
1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11
John 17:1–11



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Who was BORN in May??

Ben Austin	5/2
Kim Campbell	5/11
Leah Wagner	5/11
Ann Frazier	5/15
Mitchell Sanstra	5/28
Nancy Foland	5/29
Scott Wigton	5/31

Monthly Lectionary Readings



Trinity Theatre Groups

The 2 Trinity Theatre groups, *Trinity Players* and *Holy Tigers Troupe*, will be taking a break from practices for a bit. They've had a busy Spring, and we look forward to what they have in store for us coming up next!



May 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Book Study. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch 1:00 pm Banner Mkg.	4	5	6
7 Communion (Extended)	8 No Yoga 7:00 pm Turning Point	9	10 9:45 am Presby. Women 11:00 am Book Study. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch 1:00 pm Banner Mkg.	11	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY Congregational Meeting	15 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	16	17 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 Bk Study 12:00 Sack Lunch 1:00 Banner Mkg. TEAM MEETINGS	18	19 Parent's Night Out	20
21 Lunch Bunch Following worship	22 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	23 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	24 11:00 am Bk. Sdy. 12:00 Sack Lunch 1:00 pm Banner Mkg.	25	26	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed No Yoga	30	31			

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9303 E. 111th St. S.
Bixby, OK 74008

Phone: 918.369.3690

Fax: 918.369.3890

E-mail: trinity@olp.net
