

Welcome November

Trinity Tidings

November 2017

From the Pastor's Pen

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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
Rev. Lucas Keppel, Co-Pastor
(cell) 757-876-7025 (Elana)
(cell) 248-845-8287 (Lucas)
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



What has been, will be again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.
~ Ecclesiastes 1:9

Five hundred years ago, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted ninety-five statements to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church (Now called All Saints Cathedral). This marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation – the sweeping changes that would lead to three distinct Protestant movements – Lutheran, Reformed, and Anabaptist – and prompt a Counter-Reformation in the Catholic church (which adopted many of the changes that Luther had originally suggested!)

But Luther's reformation wasn't the first – nor the last – change the Church would see. Just a few decades earlier, a Union was proposed – and nearly implemented – between the Roman Catholic church and the Orthodox churches. The Council of Florence, over the course of a decade, had managed to secure support from all the Patriarchs of the churches, and word was spreading that the break between Orthodox and Catholic was nearly at an end.

Cont'd on p.2

From the Pastor's Pen, Cont'd:

Bishops poured into Florence from all around the known world. Imagine the surprise of the council, then, when two new Bishops showed up, from a place that had entered into legend: Ethiopia!

Ethiopia was an early region to convert to Christianity, starting in the 4th century. Two Greek-speaking Christian boys were captured and taken as slaves to the King of Aksum. Since they could read and write in Greek, they were made tutors to the royal family, and secretly taught the royal children about Christ. Both boys were freed on becoming adults, and were ordained – one as a priest in Tyre, and the other as Bishop to Ethiopia. Bishop Frumentius was later called “Revealer of Light” and “Abba Salama – Father of Peace” in Ethiopia for his work in spreading the Gospel, and translating the Bible into Ethiopian, even inventing a new way of writing to do so. Truly, being able to articulate your faith from an early age is important!

Four hundred years later, almost all contact between Ethiopia and Europe was cut off by the Muslim conversion of North Africa. Occasional delegations could make it through – either through luck, or purpose – but mostly, Ethiopia was on its own, remaining the only Christian nation in Africa after the Muslim conversion. Legends began to circulate in Europe around the 12th century about a distant Eastern King who ruled a Christian nation beset by non-Christians on all sides, yet who was able to maintain an exotic and magnificent kingdom by the power of God.

This king was thought to also be a priest, and so his name became known as Presbyter Johannes, “Presbyter” meaning elder or priest. Over time, this was corrupted to Prester John, and the search for his mythical kingdom was a major focus in Medieval Europe. When contact was regained between Europe and Ethiopia, the first delegation from Ethiopia had a man named Johannes as its leader, and the Europeans started to connect the stories with Ethiopia, instead of the Indian subcontinent, which had been searched to no avail. At the Council of Florence, the Ethiopian contingent was surprised that the Europeans insisted on referring to their Emperor as Prester John. Despite their insistence that “Prester John” wasn’t one of the official regal names of Emperor Zara Yaqob, it stuck.

Sadly, the decision of the Council of Florence to unite the Catholic and Orthodox churches did not stick. After the death of an Orthodox patriarch who had signed the document, his replacement repudiated the union – and without full support, it fell through, shattering completely when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire in 1453.

All of this may seem to be just a historical footnote, as forgotten as the legend of Prester John, or the Empire of Ethiopia in the middle ages. Yet, as Ecclesiastes reminds us, there is nothing new under the sun. Perhaps one day, the body of Christ – the Church – will recognize its inherent unity, despite time and distance. In the meanwhile, we will be, as we have been – “the Church Reformed and always being reformed.”

~Pastor Lucus

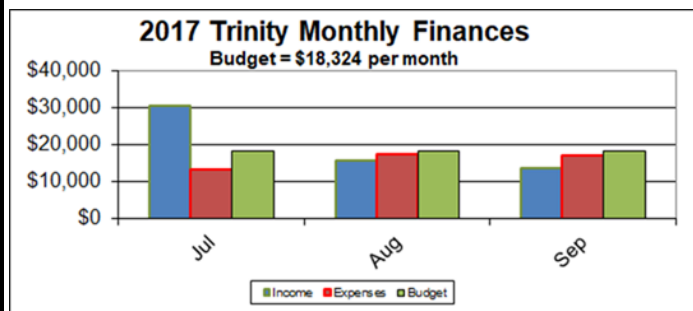


Finance/Stewardship randy smith

“We would like to invite anyone interested in serving on one of our ministry teams to please join us at our monthly team meetings. These are normally held the second Wednesday of each month. Food and fellowship begins at 6:00 pm followed by the meetings at 6:30. The various teams include: Building & Grounds, Stewardship & Finance, Worship, Congregational Care, Evangelism, Mission, Christian Education, and Fellowship.

If you have not already completed and returned your “Time & Talent” form, please return it to the church office as soon as possible (there is a box on the ledge below the office window where the completed forms can be returned). Thank you for your participation and service!”

~ Randy Smith



2017 YTD	Income	Expenses	Budget
	\$166,255	\$155,098	\$164,916

Building & Grounds bob block

The B&G Team is working on getting new prices on insurance policies and getting prices on fixing the stone work that is shifting on the Church out front. These are the parts of the Building and Grounds Team that we don't really think about, but are a necessity. If anyone is interested in joining our Team, please contact Bob Block any Sunday after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Block



Evangelism brenda cunningham

Since this is the time of year we think about being thankful, we are sending out a big **THANK YOU** to all those that gave trick-or-treat candy for our table at the Bixby Fall Festival at Washington Irving Park. This was a great way to meet families and introduce them to Trinity.

We are in the planning stage of our “Invite a Friend to Church” Sunday, with a Theater skit and snacks after Worship. We will get with the Pastors to see when a good date would be for this.

Starting in January, Trinity info will be included in the Bixby Chamber's Newcomers Welcome Package. We believe this is a better use of funds than the postcards we sent out to 50 of 250+ newcomers each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cunningham



Christian Education sue chancellor

"Within the struggle, joy, pain, and delight that attend our life,
there is an invisible circle of grace
that enfolds and encompasses us in every moment.
Blessings help us to perceive this circle of grace,
to find our place of belonging within it,
and to receive the strength the circle holds for us."

Jan Richardson, "Circle of Grace"

As we move forward into the church year toward Advent, what an ideal time to count our blessings, share our blessings, and BE a blessing to one another.

Sunday Morning Possibilities

Please join us when you are able every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. for many learning possibilities:

All infants to Pre-Kindergarten are most welcome to join Donna in the childcare room of the children's Sunday School wing (next to library.) Donna Bridenstine offers a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment with a wide range of age-appropriate activities for our youngest folks. She is available from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship each Sunday and additional child-support is always on hand when needed. Donna is also available for childcare at 8:00 a.m. for parents of young ones who attend choir practice early Sunday morning; just let Donna or Sue know a week in advance if childcare is needed then.

Children's Sunday School for Pre-kindergarten through Fifth Grade

The children's teaching team and all the kids will miss one of our most loving, warm, and caring teachers, Vicky Adams. What an inspiration and dear blessing she was to us all!

We love you Ms. Vicky!

Kids, please join us each Sunday morning at 9:15 before pageant practice in the children's Sunday School wing for fun hands-on experience centered on a different bible story each week. As we continue the theme, "Being Close to God," be ready to engage all your senses as we actively discover wonderful stories and words from the bible.

Nov. 5	Valerie Wagner	"Serving in Word and Deed"
Nov. 12	Millie Spencer	"Get Ready"
Nov. 19	Melinda Carver	"Bold Acts"
Nov. 26	Sue Chancellor	"The Good Shepherd"
Dec. 3	Katy Orrell	"A Loving Greeting"
Dec. 10	Valerie Wagner	"Time to Get Ready"

Youth, Sixth Grade through Twelfth Grade:

All youth are invited any Sunday morning they are able, to participate in lively relevant discussions and engaging fun activities. The teen's teaching team is using Kieth Stulp's Great Bible Stories and Thoughtful Christian curriculum this fall; they are excited to share it with all wonderful Trinity youth and any visitors who are able to join in!

Nov. 5	Sue Chancellor	"Count Your Blessings"
Nov. 12	Royce Chancellor	"Spirituality"
Nov. 19	John Clawson	"Stressors: The Future"
Nov. 26	Liz Powell	"Grace"
Dec. 3	Royce Chancellor	"The Difference I Can Make"
Dec. 10	Sue Chancellor	"A Time for Patience"

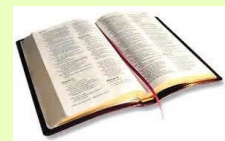
Attention Confirmands: Confirmation class continues this fall; the class will currently meet in the room by the Sound Tech booth through December 10.

Pastors Elana and Lucus and the new confirmands got off to an excellent start in October and the interesting insightful discussions for November and December are:

- Nov. 5 History of reformation, History of Presbyterianism GA, Synods, and Presbyteries; Why do we do things the way we do them?
- Nov. 12 Grace and Gratitude; Baptism (What is Grace?) (How does it change us?)
- Dec. 3 Creation and Stewardship (What is our role in creation?)
- Dec. 10 God's Sovereignty and Providence (What does it mean to say, "God's in Charge"?)

Attention All Adults: The DVD series/discussion, **Living the Questions 2**, led by Richard Spencer continues this November in the classroom off of Churchill Hall. And it's still not too late to try it out and join the friendly, diverse group. Individuals are challenged to reflect on their own struggles and discernment as they continue along their personal faith journeys. "LtQ2 features the insights of over twenty-five theologians at the top of their game, including Nancy Ammerman, John Bell, Marcus Borg, Rita Nakashima Brock, Walter Brueggemann, Diana Butler Bass, Minerva Carcano, Tex Sample, Brian McLaren..." This is an inviting intelligent study, and Churchill classroom is a great place to be on Sunday mornings at 9:15!

Midweek Book Study is enjoying Lillian Daniel's book, "When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Is Not Enough." All adults are welcome any Wednesday morning they can make it to the Trinity cafe at 11:00 a.m. The group begins Part IV of the book, "Wandering" this Wednesday, Nov. 1 as Cathie Harper leads the group in more wise and engaging conversation. The group is also packing backpacks this month on Nov. 1 and Nov. 15 at 10:30 am, so join us if you can!



Kids/Youth/Family News

Pageant rehearsal is off to a beautiful start upstairs in the first room off the stairway! Children and teens of all ages are still able to jump right in and join Lynette Kraft-Lindsey as she leads the jubilant songs for this year's pageant, "The Real Story of Christmas." Our very own Pastor Elana has written an original script and it's a wonderful adventure seeing it all unfold! Practices are every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30. A Saturday dress rehearsal is scheduled for December 16 at 10:00 a.m.; additional rehearsals may be scheduled and all participants will be updated. Please mark your calendars for the Pageant presentation on Sunday December 17 at 10:30 as part of morning worship that day.

What a creative October we shared as we celebrated with "Art from the Heart Day" and "Pumpkin Day!" Both experiences were a blast and thanks to everyone who participated! And thanks to the many folks who volunteered their time, talents and energy!

It's almost here: All third graders and up are enthusiastically invited to join in the healthy invigorating fun...We're having a family bicycle trail ride the afternoon of November 5; it's looking like a bright sunny day for the adventure. We'll meet with our bikes at the Smith's house following worship (you're also welcome to drop them off earlier) and bike from there to downtown Bixby. We'll enjoy a delicious meal at Dos Bandidos and then be ready to hit the trail back to the Smith's home. It promises to be a most marvelous time filled with fellowship, food, exercise and sunshine! Remember your bike helmet and sunscreen.

Mark your Calendars: Sunday November 26th, The Children's Advent Workshop Tradition continues following Worship. Special creations focused on **Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love** will be highlighted. Kids of all ages are most welcome to join the volunteers for this terrific event in the Sunday School wing as we all prepare ourselves for Jesus' birthday!

And...**Coming on December 8:** Our very next **Parents' Night Out** hosted by the CE team and other wonderful volunteers!! Be looking for more details, but parents can plan on bringing their children to the Youth Lounge any time between 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to join a team of adults/teens hosting dinner and fun engaging activities! Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. It's always a most enjoyable adventure for the children, teen helpers & adult volunteers. No cost for the evening.



Fellowship News dwayne strasheim

The Fellowship Team will be busy during the holidays. Sunday afternoon, November 26, after the Hanging of the Greens, we will host a soup-and-sandwich potluck meal. The sign-up sheet will invite participants to share soup, sandwich, or dessert items. Then Sunday, December 17, following worship, we will share with Christian Education in a reception celebrating participants in the annual Christmas Pageant.

Current members of the Fellowship Team are Ann Frazier, Ed and Deanna Jolly, Tomye Mainer, and Millie Spencer. If you have an interest in helping with the above events or becoming a part of any of our other activities throughout the year, we would love to welcome you to our Team. Please convey your interest to Ann, Ed, Deanna, Tomye, Millie, or me. You can reach me at dstrasheim@hastings.edu or 402-469-0941.

Respectfully submitted, Dwayne Strasheim

Congregational Care margot ries

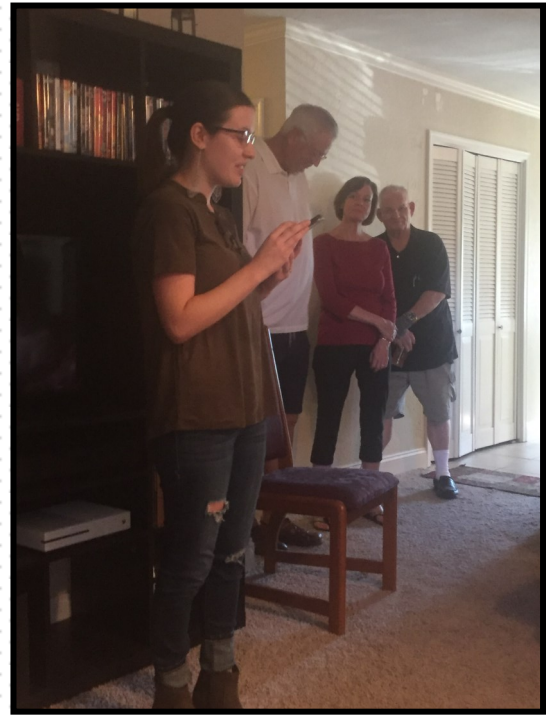
Hello...I am the Team Leader for Trinity's Congregational Care. We are involved with the membership in a various of ways. If those are hospitalized, homebound, need meals, and no longer drive a car, we are ready to assist. We have a monthly LUNCH BUNCH and provide a place to gather for food and fellowship. We also are involved with our college students, providing them a card at Starbucks a couple of times a year.

We would Welcome anyone to join our Mission for the church. We meet only once a month to see where we can be of help. We hope you would join us in this very worthwhile service to our congregation. It is a fun group and we hope to hear from you.

God Bless,
Margot Ries



Trinity Happenings



Our Pastors' House Blessing Party



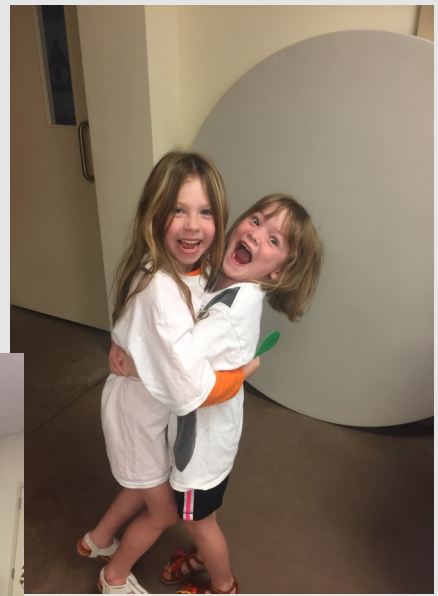
Music Notes erik collins



October Fun at Trinity



Trinity Pumpkin Day 2017



November Lectionary Readings

22nd Sunday after Pentecost—Nov. 5

Joshua 3:7–17

Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37

1 Thessalonians 2:9–13 1

Matthew 23:1–12

23rd Sunday after Pentecost—Nov. 12

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Psalm 78:1–7

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Matthew 25:1–13

24th Sunday after Pentecost—Nov. 19

Judges 4:1–7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

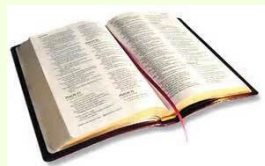
Christ the King Sunday—Nov. 26

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15–23

Matthew 25:31–46



Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were received from Trevor Eckert and Darby Campbell for the Starbucks gift cards that were sent by the Congregational Care Team to all of our college students this fall! Way to go! You can read the cards on the bulletin board in the hall near Churchill Hall.

November Birthdays to celebrate!!

Valerie Wagner	11/06
Ames Righter	11/10
Chris Cowan	11/15
Zane Adams	11/16
Robert Block	11/20
Beth Nelson	11/20
Jonathan Wigton	11/20
Luke Wigton	11/20
Deanna Jolly	11/22
Lisette Wigton	11/24
Ron Carver	11/25



November 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	2	3	4
5 Confirmation Class Family Bike Ride Daylight Savings Time ends—Turn your clocks BACK one hour.	6 10:00 am Yoga Class	7	8 9:45 am—PW 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Team Meetings	9	10	11
12	13 10:00 am Yoga Class	14 6:30 pm Session Meeting	15 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	16	17	18
19 Confirmation Class	20 10:00 am Yoga Class	21	22 No Book Study 1:00 pm Banner Making	23 THANKS- GIVING DAY <i>Church office closed</i>	24 <i>Church office closed</i>	25
26 HANGING OF THE GREENS Potluck Lunch CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP	27 10:00 am Yoga Class	28	29 11:00 am Book Study 12:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	30		



**What are YOU
Thankful For?**



Trinity Presbyterian Church
9303 E. 111th St. S.
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Fax: 918.369.3890

E-mail: trinity@olp.net
