



# Trinity Tidings 2019 November

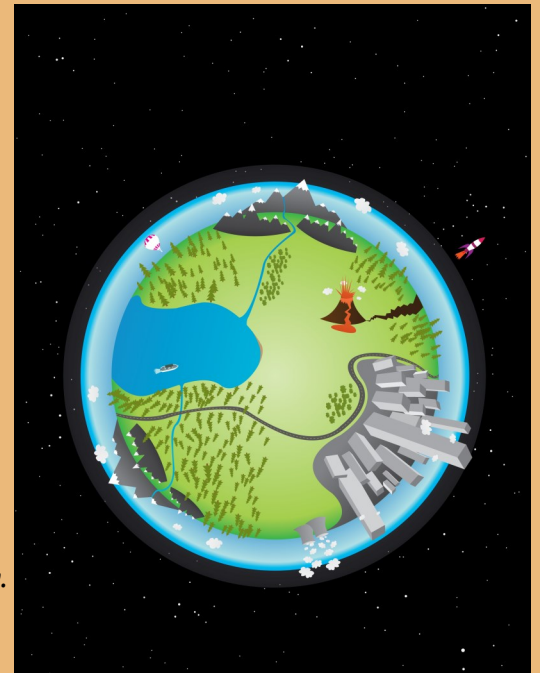
From the Pastor's Pen

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen.....	1-2
Lectionary .....	2
PW & Clerk of Session.....	2
Christian Education.....	3
Youth News.....	4
Evangelism .....	5
Music.....	6
Things to Note.....	7
Stewardship & Finance.....	8
Birthdays/Announcements.....	8
Photo Album .....	9
Calendar .....	10

*Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body.*

~ Colossians 3:12-15



Trinity Presbyterian Church  
9303 E. 111th St. S.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
918-369-3690  
[trinitychurchbixby.org](http://trinitychurchbixby.org)

### SERVING YOU

**Rev. Lucus Keppel, Co-Pastor**  
(cell) 248-845-8287  
[trinitypastor@olp.net](mailto:trinitypastor@olp.net)

**Rev. Elana Levy, Co-Pastor**  
(cell) 757-876-7025  
[trinitypastor@olp.net](mailto:trinitypastor@olp.net)

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

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

**Kim Harvey, Admin. Assistant**  
(office) 918-369-3690  
[trinity@olp.net](mailto:trinity@olp.net)

Jonathan Merritt's *Learning to Speak God from Scratch* offers a lot of insight into the way Spiritual words are used – things like *grace*, *worship*, *brokenness*, and *creed*. As we've been reading it in book study, I've started thinking even more about the way we use language, consciously and unconsciously, in our daily lives. And there's a word that's been buzzing in my head lately – *ecumenism*.

You see, Trinity will be hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service this year – a tradition barely three years old, returning to where it started. And while we throw around the term *ecumenical* quite a bit, usually to mean something like “cooperative activity among various Christian denominations,” its roots are deeper than that. It derives from Koine Greek, the original language of the New Testament, but it wasn't coined for the Bible. Instead, it comes from the Greek phrase, *ha oikoumene Ge* (ἡ οἰκουμένη γῆ), meaning *the inhabited earth*.

So, how did we get from *the inhabited earth* to *cooperation between denominations*? It's thanks to the Ecumenical Councils of the church. You see, once Christianity was legalized by the Roman Empire, the leaders of the church could gather to debate theology and structure. The outcomes of these debates affected all of *the inhabited world* – and provided beautiful statements of faith, like the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed. After the church split into Catholic and Orthodox, these statements of faith were still called “Ecumenical” because they were held

by both denominations, and thus, the inhabited world. When Catholicism split in the Reformation, giving birth to the Lutheran, Reformed, and Anabaptist movements, the term ecumenical started to be used to mean *those things all Christians hold in common* – a shift in meaning which has continued to today.

But there's something special in claiming that *ecumenical* work connects us with all of the inhabited earth, and I think it's important that we reclaim that sense as well. When we work, walk, and worship with folks of other denominations, we are living into our calling as Christians to wear garments fashioned of kindness, compassion, forgiveness, patience, and gentleness, all under a cloak of love. We respond to God's peace with peace of our own, a peace of listening, learning, and linking. And in that peace, we give thanks to God for the ties that bind us to one another, despite and because of our differences.

May you have a truly ecumenical thanksgiving, praising God for all that God has done for all of the inhabited earth. Amen.

~Pastor Lucus

## Monthly Liturgy

### 21st Sunday after Pentecost—November 3

Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
*Psalm 119: 137-144*  
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

### 23rd Sunday after Pentecost—November 17

Isaiah 65:17-25  
*Isaiah 12*  
2 Thess. 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost—November 10

Hag. 1:15b-2:9;  
*Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, or Psalm 98*  
Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

### Christ the King Sunday—November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
*Luke 1:68-79*  
Col. 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

## 2019 Choir Cantata

This year the Choir Cantata will be held on the evening of December 15th. Mark your calendars—more details to come!

The Christmas Pageant, "The Joy of Christmas", will be held during worship on Sunday, December 22nd.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Trinity Café at 9:45 am.

Our study for this year is, "Love Carved In Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments."

Please join us Wednesday, November 13, 9:45 am. Remember your change for the "least coin" offering.

Cindy Strasheim, Moderator

## Christian Education

Melinda Carver

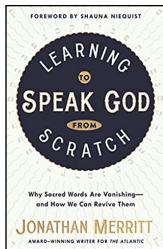
### Multi-grade Sunday School (pre-k through fourth grade)

We have begun practice for our Christmas Pageant! This year, the pageant will be "The Joy of Christmas", and will be performed during worship on Sunday, December 22nd. Practice begins at 9:15 each Sunday morning in the upstairs music room, and continues until 10:00 a.m. when we will begin Sunday School and go to 10:25 a.m. We invite all our children to come and be a part of our Joyful Celebration!

For Sunday School, young children through fourth grade can come to the classroom by the CE office each week this month at 10:00 a.m. as we continue lessons on the 23rd Psalm. A great team of teachers are taking turns presenting a variety of kid-friendly experiences created to emphasize how very much God loves each of us! Hope to see you! This month, our team of teachers is:

November	3rd	Kate Hanson
	10th	Millie Spencer
	17th	Melinda Carver
	24th	Katie Orrell

### Midweek Book Study



The Mid-week book study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Café. Everyone is welcome to join. Our book, "Learning to Speak God From Scratch" by Jonathan Merritt, continues. Please join us! You can also bring a sack lunch with you and stay for continued fellowship in the Trinity Café enjoying your lunch and good conversation! Even if you don't come to book study, you can always plan an afternoon at Trinity enjoying a sack lunch with friends!

## Sunday Morning Opportunities

Childcare for infants through preschool is always available every 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 (whenever needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship or they can join her in the nursery after Time With Children during the service. Please note: Donna can be ready at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She's also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Just let Melinda Carver know.

Schedule for Nursery help,  
if needed.

Nov. 3	Lynn Sanstra
Nov. 10	Melinda Carver
Nov. 17	Millie Spencer
Nov. 24	Katie Orrell

Thank you ladies for your  
time and service!

## Youth News

**WANTED: CHILDREN THAT LOVE TO SING**

Practices are Sunday mornings at 9:15  
upstairs in our program practice room.  
Sunday School following from 10-10:25.

The  
JOY  
of  
Christmas

Youth and Children's Musical  
December 22, 2019  
At Trinity Presbyterian Church

## Evangelism

Dwayne Strasheim

The current project of the Evangelism Team is the revision and updating of the "Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church" brochure. I think I can say that there is consensus among team members that the current brochure has too much print and not enough white space. The team will probably recommend that the "What does 'Presbyterian' mean?", "What do Presbyterians believe?" and "History of Trinity Presbyterian Church" sections be removed from the brochure and produced as separate documents and included prominently on the website. The resulting space in the brochure can be filled with photos that feature the essence of what we all appreciate about being a part of such a welcoming church family. Tentative recommendations about other sections of the brochure will be as follows:

"Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church": Keep as is with only minor revisions.

"Sunday Morning": Keep as is with only minor revisions.

"Children": Keep as is with only minor revisions. Add a photo of Donna.

"Rev. Elana Keppel Levy & Rev. Lucus Levy Keppel": Request input from pastors. Probably update photo.

"Music Director" and "Music Ministry": Request input from Erik and pastors. Update photo.

"Christian Education": Request input from Christian Education Team and pastors.

"Christian Educator": Remove entire section, including the photo of Sue.

"Mission Programs": Request input from Mission Team and pastors.

"Administrative Assistant": Add a photo of Kim and correct her working days and hours.

If you have advice or suggestions for the Evangelism Team, please feel free to contact any of our members: Brenda Cunningham, Cindy Downes, Cindy Strasheim, or me.

Respectfully submitted, ...Dwayne Strasheim



## MUSIC NOTES - NOVEMBER 2019

**At the River** (or "Shall We Gather at the River") was written in 1865 by Robert Lowry, a Baptist pastor, composer, poet, chancellor at the University of Lewisburg, and editor and compiler of Sunday school songs. Copland begins with a simple accompaniment which gains in strength and intensity beginning with the orchestral interlude before the third verse.

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the silver river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

**An American Anthem** has become an annual tradition among the Trinity Choir for the Sunday prior to Veteran's Day to honor all our dedicated men and women who have served our country. It blends both the O Beautiful for Spacious Skies and The National Anthem. The choir will present this on Sunday, November 10th.

**Sing to the Lord of Harvest** is an upbeat setting of the Thanksgiving seasonal favorite by the English composer, Healey Willan.

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices, Your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons, In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest, A joyous song of love.*

*God makes the clouds rain goodness, The deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.  
God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.*

*Bring to this sacred altar, The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him, When at His feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore Him, Who gave His life for all.*

**Let All Things Now Living** is based on the well-known *Ash Grove* tune. This Thanksgiving anthem interprets the preparation of giving thanks to God. The text concludes with the invitation to come together and praise God in song.

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving To God the creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished As forward we travel from light into light.*

*His law he enforces, the stars in their courses And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"*



## THINGS TO NOTE

All Saints Day is November 3. There will be a table of mementos displayed in recognition of loved ones who have passed. If you wish for your loved one's name to be included, please contact the church office or let Pastor Lucas know.

.....

This year, Trinity is responsible for hosting 2 delegates from Malawi! The delegates will be here from Nov. 7-12. You may host for just a couple of days, or for the entire time—whatever works best for you! Meals and some type of entertainment (touring points of interest in Tulsa, etc.) are requested. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Lucas for more details!

.....

There will be a congregational meeting on November 10 immediately following worship. All members, please plan on attending!

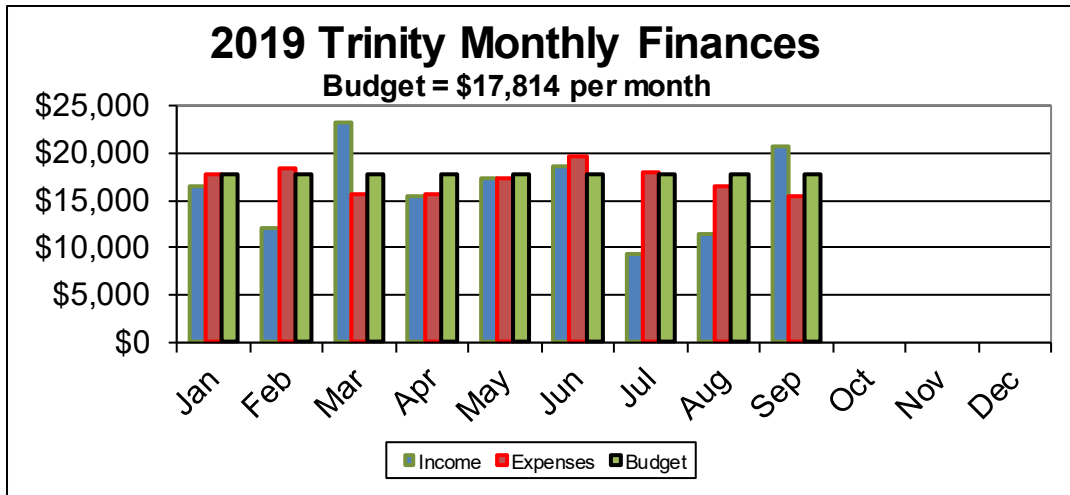
.....

The November meeting of the EOP will be held on Friday, Nov. 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at College Hill Presbyterian Church, 712 S. Columbia Ave., Tulsa. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office for details.

.....

# Stewardship & Finance

Craig Hanson



## 2019 YTD

Income  
\$144,803  
Expenses  
\$154,800  
Budget  
\$160,326



David Sellen	11/3
Valerie Wagner	11/6
Ames Righter	11/10
David Burns	11/13
Zane Adams	11/16
Bob Block	11/20
Beth Nelson	11/20
Jonathan Wigton	11/20
Luke Wigton	11/20
Lizette Wigton	11/24
Ron Carver	11/25

Happiest of birthdays to our  
November birthdays!!

## Volunteers Needed!!

Sound/Video Volunteers needed for Sundays. Will train you, you'll have the best seat in the house, and it won't work without you!

If interested, Contact Craig Hanson,  
[chanson@oneok.com](mailto:chanson@oneok.com); 918-607-4171

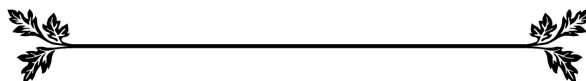




## TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



Just a few of the ladies who show up every Wednesday to pack backpacks for “Backpacks 4 Bixby.” They pack 52 bags of healthy food every week for the children of Bixby.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <b>Communion</b> Team Meetings Following worship <b>All Saints Day</b>	4	5  Election Day	6 10:15 am Pack backpacks  Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	7  Malawi Delegates arrive this evening	8  Malawi Delegates here	9  Malawi Delegates here
10  Congregational meeting Malawi Delegates here	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>  Church Office Closed Malawi Delegates here	12  Malawi delegates leave this morning.	13 Presbyterian Women at 9:45 Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	14	15	16
17 <b>Lunch Bunch</b> Following worship	18	19  <b>SESSION 6:30 pm</b>	20 10:15 am Pack backpacks  Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	21	22  10:00 am EOP Meeting College Hill Presby. Church Tulsa.	23
24  <b>Christ the King Sunday</b>	25	26	27 10:15 am Pack backpacks  Book Study at 11:00am <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service</b>	28  THANKSGIVING DAY <b>Office closed</b>	29  <b>Office closed</b>	30