



From the Pastor's Pen

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*Everything should be done with dignity and in proper order.
~1 Corinthians 14:40 (CEB)*

There's something very special in having a bulletin during a worship service. It's your permanent guide to the impermanence of worship. The physical representation of the ephemeral. Your comfort that not only is there a decent structure to the service, but that that structure is being followed.

And it can be very disconcerting to not have that structure, when you're used to it. I recently was able to attend a worship service, a rarity for a pastor, who is often leading worship! This particular worship service did not have a bulletin to follow, and I felt like a disciple in the stormy sea, wondering just how long the service would last and if I'd ever see the other side. (I may be exaggerating a little bit.) Without the bulletin, I had lost the rhythm of the service. Instead of focusing on worshiping God, I found myself trying to anticipate what was coming next, spinning in my own thoughts. Fortunately, I know that however the service goes, it is the same God – the same Jesus – who calms the waves and reminds us, "Don't be afraid!"

Even so, we Presbyterians like order. After all, the rules-part of our constitution is even named the "Book of Order!" A section of that book, aptly named "Directory for Worship," (W-3.02 – W-3.05) lays out a general outline of what a Presbyterian worship service is supposed to look like. Now, it's not

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a specific service, but a general order of things that Ruling and Teaching elders have voted on and amended over the years, dividing the service into four main segments:

Gathering – Word – Sacraments – Sending

First, we gather together as a local expression of the Body of Christ. In the call to worship, we're reminded that we are here to worship the Triune God – and that reminder leads us to sing praises to God. From there, it is natural to remember that we and the world are not as God intended - and are, in ourselves, unworthy to be in God's presence. Therefore, we confess our sin – and immediately receive an assurance of God's forgiveness. Filled with joy and humility in that forgiveness, we then pass the peace of Christ to one another.

After gathering together, the next part of the worship service is the Word of God proclaimed. By praying for the illumination of the Holy Spirit, singing praises to God, and reading the holy scriptures, we ask God to help us understand the Word revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Then, according to the Directory for Worship, "the sermon will present the gospel with clarity and simplicity, in language that all can understand. The gifts of song, drama, dance, and visual art may be employed in the proclamation of the Word."

In response to the Word proclaimed, we affirm our faith, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism or Communion, as appropriate, offer freely of ourselves in gratitude to God, and pray for God's special attention for the Church and the world. All of these are responses to the Word – and "the proclamation of the Word is incomplete if it fails to evoke the response of the people of God." (W-3.0301) Now, there's a challenge to the church!

Lastly, the congregation is charged with living a Christian life, taking what they have learned and felt in worship into their lives. In acts of commitment, through song and prayer, we go into the world in the love and service of God.

All of that is contained in the pieces of paper called a church bulletin – but it's not something that's immediately known or understood. Be kind to those who are learning about church services – whether they're visitors or young kids – and perhaps you'll be able to show how Jesus is already calming the stormy waters.

-Pastor Lucas

Worship

Debbie Straabe

Finance/Stewardship

Craig Hanson

Happy Fall Ya'll!

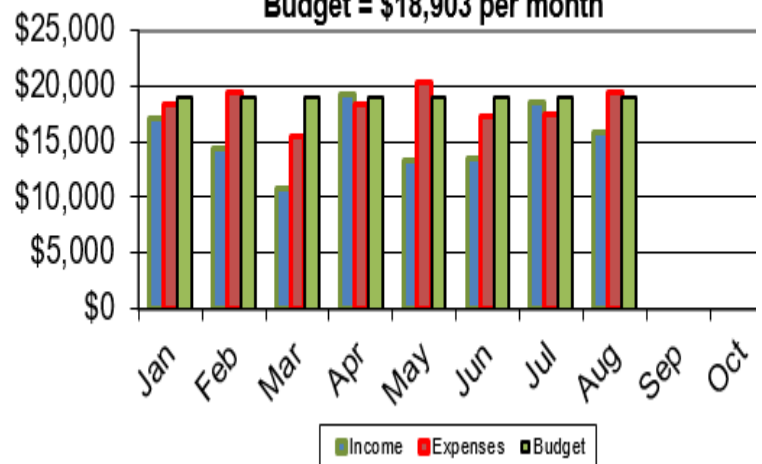
The Worship team has had a busy year, but the members of the team are terrific and we are looking forward to fall and then on to the Advent season. If you are interested in being a part of the worship team, please join us on the next team meeting night. The worship team is responsible to keep the paraments changed correctly, set up for communion, recruit liturgists, acolytes, ushers, and communion servers. We do many other things to serve our Lord and enjoy good fellowship while we are working for Him. It's been a joy chairing the worship team this year!

Blessings,
Debbie



2018 Trinity Monthly Finances

Budget = \$18,903 per month



2018	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 122,514	\$ 146,152	\$ 151,224

Christian Education

Sue Chancellor

Wise Words from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

"The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God's Word but also lends us God's ear...We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them."

"The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and seeing. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."

"We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things."

"God does not love some ideal person but rather human beings just as we are, not some ideal world but rather the real world."

Such timely thoughtful words for us right now, and right where we are! Let's all move forward as a grateful church community awakened and empowered by God's Good Grace. In these changing Autumn months may our hearts change even more by Christ's Amazing Grace. And in these weeks ahead let's also embrace this Bonhoeffer quote "we must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God."



Sunday Morning Opportunities

(Sunday School is 9:15-10:15)

All infants to Pre-Kindergarten are most welcome to join Donna in the childcare room in 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 an additional adult volunteer is always on hand, when needed.

Donna is available for childcare at 8:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings for parents of young ones who attend choir practice early Sunday morning. She can also be available on the second Wednesday of each month for team meetings. Just let Sue or Donna know a week in advance if childcare is needed.



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

We meet in the Sunday School room by Sue's office (additional room next door if needed.) Please join our energetic teaching team this fall for exciting lessons focused on "Embraced by Grace," through a plethora of exciting hands-on experiences centered on different scripture each Sunday.

Oct 7	Melinda Carver	"Affirmed as a Child of God"
Oct 14	Katy Orrell	"Sad Rich Man"
Oct 21	Sue Chancellor	"Serving Others"
Oct 28	Millie Spencer	"Hear Us, Jesus"
Nov 4	Valerie & Sarah	"Forever Friends"



Adult Sunday School Class

The DVD series/discussion, Living the Questions 2, led by Richard Spencer is back in full swing this fall in the classroom off of Churchill Hall. This is a great time to 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, so jump right in whenever you're able on Sunday mornings at 9:15!

The Tween/Youth Class

The youth's (5th-12th grades) terrific teaching team is currently ready with a study focused on Rob Bell's Nooma DVD collection this fall. We'll start out meeting in the youth lounge and then go upstairs to our Sunday School room for insightful conversation and meaningful connections to the important timely topics that Rob Bell discusses.

The following Rob Bell DVD presentations will be shown and discussed on the following dates:

Oct 7	Stephanie Smith	"Name"
Oct 14	Sue Chancellor	"Breathe"
Oct 21	John Clawson	"Kickball"
Oct 28	Pastor Lucus	"Rain"
Nov 4	Royce Chancellor	"Rich"



YOUTH/KIDS/FAMILY NEWS

A Delightfully Adventurous Afternoon is planned for **October 14**: The youth are hosting a bike ride to "The Gathering Place" following worship and invite anyone able to bike a total of 9 miles along the Riverside bike trail to join them at 71st/Riverside with helmets, bikes, and water.

If you'd like to rent a bike, that's a possibility too, and the Smiths can answer questions regarding bike rental.

We'll eat once we get to "The Gathering Place," as there will still be food trucks on the premises that day!! Folks not interested in the bike ride part can still meet us in the food truck area for fun and fellowship at the park.



Kids/Teens of ALL Ages, Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, **October 7** begins our 10:00 a.m.

Practice for this year's pageant to be presented on Sunday, December 23 during worship. Parents of young ones are welcome to join Lynnette Kraft-Lindsey, teens, and kids upstairs in the room next to the stairway from 10:00-10:25 each Sunday this fall beginning Oct 7. This year's pageant promises to be another delightful, energetic celebration of Jesus' birth with upbeat music and an inspiring message. And like years past, there will be some great speaking parts for those interested in sharing their acting skills, too.

On practice mornings, Sunday School will conclude at 10:00 a.m. and the teachers will bring the students to the pageant practice room.

Save the Date: Saturday, **October 20**, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pumpkin Day is back for it's fourth fantastic year!! Bring a pumpkin to paint any way you wish! We've even got a new game or two and some new art activities to add to the all-time popular pumpkin painting! Tweens and teens, we need your skills, leadership, and energy to help us make it the best Pumpkin Day ever! Kids of all ages,, bring yours families, friends, and pumpkin to Churchill Hall and be ready for an afternoon of Pumpkin/Fall Extravaganza!! Tasty snacks will be served, too! And there will be extra pumpkins on hand for any families needing ones to decorate.



Midweek Book Study:

Midweek Book Study is enthusiastically discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's intriguing challenging book "Life Together." His book is available online or you can let Sue or the office know you need one, and join us Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m in the Trinity Cafe any time you can!

Book Review: "In Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of The Cost of Discipleship recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, Life Together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship."

Please join the teaching team of Pastors Lucus & Elana, and Sue in honest thought-provoking conversation! And please mark your calendar to come to Churchill Hall at 10:30 every Wednesday, except the second one, to pack backpacks for our precious Bixby students.

Fellowship News

Dwayne Strasheim



Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Rally Day Brunch on September 9, either by contributing food or by working in the kitchen. Holiday events for the Fellowship Team will include a soup-and-sandwich potluck meal following the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 25, and a Christmas Brunch at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday December 23. Meanwhile, there are still several opportunities for providing Sunday morning treats in the Trinity Café. The sign-up sheet is on the counter between the kitchen and the Café.

Dwayne Strasheim



Many Thanks

Yay! The Trinity teens and their families all made it to the Chancellors on the afternoon of September 2 for a "Thank You for Volunteering" Pool Party. It was a beautiful sunny day to celebrate their wonderful help with VBS and Camp Trinity this summer. We appreciate them committing to serving lots of kids through these two important summer programs.

We appreciate all those folks who joined us on Rally Day 2018: "God's Good Grace for All!" A big thank you goes out to the kind souls who helped with the decorations, set-up-clean-up, and presentation of this joyful celebration. A sincere thanks to all the teachers and nursery helpers on board for this year! We are blessed to have so many volunteers involved in the educating and care of our Trinity family. We are very grateful to each of you for volunteering your time and talents.

Dear TPC Family,

On behalf of our family, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the kindness you showed as we grieved the passing of our beloved Joe. From the beginning of our Trinity welcoming, through surgeries, through sickness, in the hospital, and until the end, Joe felt your love. Thank you for the visits, the cards, the contributions, the beautiful lunch before the service, we were overwhelmed by your support and prayers.

The Pastors, Erik and the choir, and all our friends and family, gave Joe the best send off to heaven that any family could ask for.

Love, Brenda C.

Evangelism

Cindy Strasheim

Join us for the 3rd Annual Washington Irving Festival. The festival is a free event open to the community starting at 12:00 PM. It is a day to enjoy food from Neives' Mexican Grill food truck and dessert from Marble Slab Creamery, inflatables, costume contests, and train rides. As a special treat, young ones will be able to participate in Trunk or Treat. The Evangelism Team will be there handing out candy. So, if possible, we would appreciate a donation of candy for this event.

Events:
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Trunk or Treat
3:00 PM Costume Contest

Washington Irving Memorial Park & Arboretum
13700 South Memorial Drive
Bixby, OK 74008



Respectfully,
The Evangelism Team

Congregational Care

Brenda Cunningham

October CC News

Thank you for your donations to the Scholarship fund. We received \$1125 and were able to divide that money between our 5 worthy college students: Darcy Campbell, Luke Clawson, Kelsey Johnson, Logan Wagner and Alec Wigton.

Please give a big round of applause to these folks that have signed up to help occasionally pick up or drop off one of our Folks that cannot drive themselves to Trinity: Lynn Sanstra, Melanie & Doug Rainwater, Millie Spencer, and Cindy Strasheim. Please contact me or let the office know and if you would like to be added to our list.

Respectfully,
Brenda Cunningham

He Said/She Said

We are looking at starting a couples evening small group.

It will meet about 2 to 4 times a year (NOT a weekly or monthly commitment). Its purpose is twofold:

1. Talk about issues/topics from a male & female perspective
2. Socialize & become better connected as a church

If you are interested, there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or talk to Kim Campbell, Stephanie Smith, or either pastor.

RALLY DAY—GOD'S GOOD GRACE FOR ALL



Personnel

Brenda Cunningham

What is Shepherding?

Well, for Trinity, it means communication. Our current Session Members, plus a few other Elders, will take on new roles (Leader). Each Leader will be assigned a group of people or families (Flock). Communication and information will pass between the Flock and the Leader and vice versa in a form acceptable to each person or family. That maybe through email, phone calls, text, social media, whatever works!

This will allow us to break down the Congregation in smaller groups for better Congregational Care and information flow. More details will be forth coming in the next few weeks. So, we may be starting our own tower of Baa-bell!

Respectively,
Brenda Cunningham



Monthly Liturgy

20th Sunday after Pentecost– October 7th

Job 1:1,2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

21st Sunday after Pentecost—October 14th

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

22nd Sunday after Pentecost—October 21st

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

23rd Sunday after Pentecost—October 28th


Job 42:1-6,10-17
Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52



Jeff Frazier	10/12
Margot Ries	10/12
Trevor Eckert	10/19
Luke Clawson	10/23
Laura Van Newkirk	10/23
Stephanie Smith	10/24



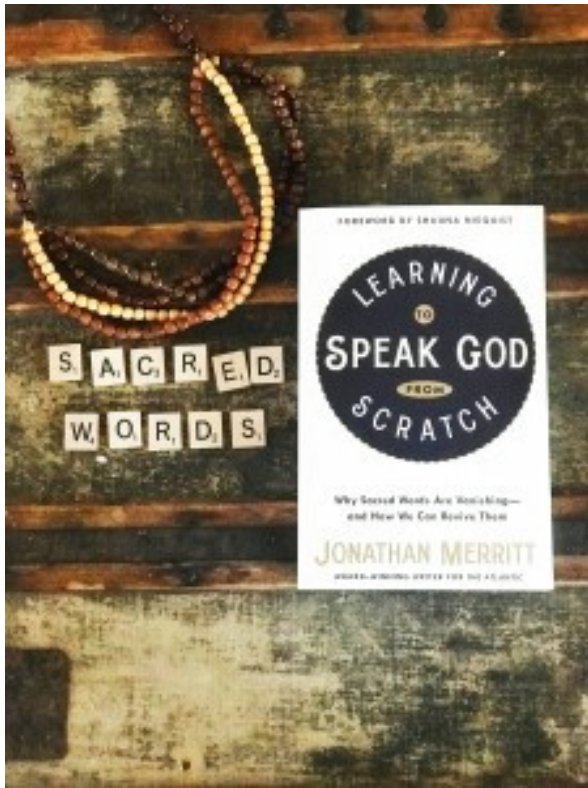
October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Pack Backpacks at 10:30am Book Study at 11:00am	4	5	6
7 Christmas Pageant practice begins	8	9	10 Presbyterian Women @ 9:45 in cafe Book Study at 11:00am Team Meetings	11	12	13 The Washington Irving Fall Festival
14 Family outing to the Gathering Place	15	16 Session Meeting	17 Pack Backpacks at 10:30am Book Study at 11:00am	18	19	20 Pumpkin Day 2:00-4:00
21	22	23	24 Pack Backpacks at 10:30 am Book Study at 11:00am	25 <u>Southminster Series</u> Jonathan Merritt 7:00 PM	26	27
28	29	30	31 Pack Backpacks at 10:30am Book Study at 11:00am			
<div data-bbox="110 1808 440 1967" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>**save the date</u> December 3, 2018 Retirement Celebration for Rev. Dr. Gregory Coulter</p> </div>			<div data-bbox="959 1745 1159 1955" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Join us at 12:30 on Wednesdays for Sack Lunch Fellowship!</p> </div>			

Upcoming Events



SOUTHMINSTER SERIES



Jonathan Merritt
October 25th
7:00 PM
3500 S. Peoria Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74105

November 2-3, 2018 at FPC/Norman, OK

Event begins at 5pm on Friday and concludes at 2:30pm on Saturday



Keynote Speaker: Rev, Larissa Kwong Abazia

We are excited to announce that the Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia will be the keynote speaker for the event. Larissa is a teaching elder and is the Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014-2016). Much of her time as Vice Moderator has had Larissa traveling across the denomination to inspire, teach, preach, and listen to the diversity of stories represented in the pews.

A gathering around common mission of all kinds to share, connect with and learn from one another.

Discover mission that is happening in our congregations and presbyteries; share visions of congregation and presbytery mission; generate excitement for mission and enthusiasm for mission connections; experience the breadth of mission within the synod.

All are welcome!

Registration: \$75 per person
(Includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch)

Deadline for registration is Oct. 10

Reduced hotel rate for event participants (see registration for information).

Synod pays room and board for up to six persons from each Presbytery. Contact your Presbytery for information.

Register **HERE**:

<https://form.jotform.com/synodsun/imagine-registration>

- Focus Groups**
- Moving from "Monastery" to Community Center
- Public Worship
- Ecumenical Partnerships
- Purple People Server: Moving Beyond Divisions and Being Jesus
- Internet Neighborhood
- Disaster Assistance
- Campus/College Town Ministries
- Sending the Church Out
- Ministering to the Homeless in your Neighborhood.