

September

From the Pastor's Pen

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(Photo by Mike Thorn)

“Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.”
~Proverbs 9:9

Rally Day: Whaddya Know?

Early on in our marriage, I was shocked to learn that my dear husband, Lucus, had never heard of Rally Day. Never heard of it?! How preposterous! Surely Rally Day was the first religious activity of the American Settlers, the victorious celebration of the early Protestant Reformers, a gift to the early church directly from Jesus himself to his fumbling followers!

It turns out that this is not the case. Rally Day is certainly widespread, but it is by no means universal (not even in contemporary America, as I learned from Lucus). Usually when I wonder about the origin of things, a quick internet search soon satisfies my curiosity. Yet, Rally Day seems to be something of an outlier. There was a “Rally Day” that celebrated George Washington’s birthday that started at Smith College in 1876 (clearly a different celebration). After that, it seems like Rally Day just kind

Pastor's Pen cont.

of crept up on churches and spread enthusiastically from church to church. In a book entitled How to Conduct a Sunday School, published in 1905, the writer tells us that Rally Day is becoming more popular. After the seasonal shifts and travel that come with a good Summer, churches saw the wisdom in having a kick-off Sunday – a day to rally the troops back into the Sunday School rooms. After all, there's work to be done in the Fall and the Winter and they figured we could all use a day to rally our energy and spirits to serve with gladness.

We will celebrate Rally Day on September 9th – welcoming first graders into worship, presenting 3rd graders with Bibles, celebrating our teachers, and encouraging all of us to step up our Bible study/ Christian Education game. As we feast and fellowship together, we remember that there is no one among us who has total wisdom – no one among us who has nothing to share. We stand in awe that our awesome God put us in community so that we could learn from one another and teach one another, offering love and support so that we can go out into the world and return and go out once more.

Proverbs reminds us to, “give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still.” But this wisdom isn't the kind of detail, fact, trivia knowledge that wins cash prizes on game shows. This wisdom includes skill, shrewdness, prudence, and ethical as well as religious wisdom. To learn wisdom means to know what is right and to do what is right, resisting evil. So, as we explore our year's theme, “God's Good Grace For All,” let us ask ourselves, “whaddya know?” What do we know about grace? What can we learn about it from one another? How does God's grace inspire us to live? And, if you figure out what you know, why not share it with the rest of us?

May God grace each one of us with lightness, enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy as we journey together in Christ. Amen.

-Pastor Elana

Evangelism

Cindy Strasheim

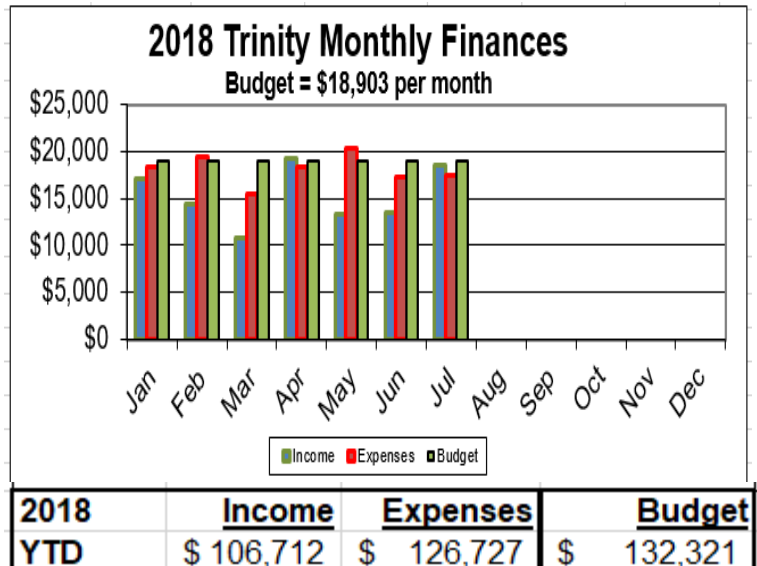
Finance/Stewardship

Craig Hanson



Rally Day is also an opportunity to begin updating the church directory. A table will be available with information sheets to update and Cindy will have the camera set up for new photos. Bring your best smiles on September 9th!

Respectfully,
The Evangelism Team



Christian Education

Sue Chancellor

Grace-full Christians

How does a grace-full Christian look? The Christian life, I believe, does not primarily center on ethics or rules, but rather involves a new way of seeing. I escape the force of spiritual "gravity" when I begin to see myself as a sinner who cannot please God by any method of self-improvement or self-enlargement. Only then can I turn to God for outside help --for grace--and to my amazement I learn that a holy God already loves me despite my defects. I escape the force of gravity again when I recognize my neighbors also as sinners, loved by God. A grace-full Christian is one who looks at the world through "grace-tinted lenses." Gravity tempts us to believe we can make it on our own; grace corrects that error. -Philip Yancy

"And to my amazement I learn that a holy God already loves me despite my defects." I just figured that was well worth repeating; as my dad used to say, "chew on that for a while." I think Philip Yancy's words are wise understanding ones (Proverbs 24:3). As we strive to honestly, lovingly relate to God and to one another, it's important (and helpful :) for us all to try and live our lives through grace-tinted lenses.

Sunday Morning Opportunities

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

Donna Bridenstine is available for infants through preschool from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship. Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (when necessary) following Sunday School, for safe, fun learning experiences and nurturing care.

Donna can be available for childcare on Wednesday, June 13 from 6:30-7:30 during team meetings. Please let Sue know if you need childcare.



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

Lots of fun awaits kids in the shiny sparkly classroom wing this fall! Please plan on jumping in the new school year this September whenever you are able!! We'll have a special "playfully poetic project" on Labor Day Sunday so plan on coming if you're in town. Ms. Katy will kick off the first official fall 2018 class with a cool activity promising to get everyone excited about God's Glorious Grace!

Sept 2	Sue Chancellor	"What is Grace"
Sept 9	Rally Day Brunch Celebration:	"God's Good Grace for All"
Sept 16	Katy Orrell	"Everybody In"
Sept 23	Sue & Sarah Rayment	"Servant Leader"
Sept 30	Valerie Wagner	"In Jesus' Name"
Oct. 7	Melinda Carver	"Who Am I?"



Adult Sunday School Class

For any folks wondering if it's too late to join the stimulating conversation...no indeed...it's not too late to get on board with the adult class guided by our wise, dedicated Richard Spencer, in the classroom off of Churchill Hall. The class has resumed it's lively informative discussion focused on the DVD series, Living the Questions 2. Each class is a single entity focused on thought-provoking interesting questions created to help each participant grow within their own individual faith journey. Please consider joining this friendly, inclusive community any Sunday morning you are able.

The Tween/Youth Class

Our new 2018 tween-teen class starts up this fall, officially beginning on Sunday, September 17! We're excited to add Kira Smith to our class and her mom, Stephanie Smith to our enthusiastic teaching team!! Be ready to discuss and be challenged by some important timely topics designed to help us all grow and thrive as Christians in a tough, but promising world! On September 2, we'll have a special project class as we work on table and wall decorations for our new Rally Day theme, "God's Good Grace for All!"

Sept 2	Sue Chancellor	"What Is Grace"
Sept 9	Rally Day Brunch Celebration:	"God's Good Grace for Everyone"
Sept 15	John Clawson	"Extravagant Love"
Sept 23	Liz Powell	"Rhythm" Rob Bell short DVD presentation
Sept 30	Royce Chancellor	"Forgiveness"
Oct 7	Stephanie Smith	"Identity"

Many thanks to all the teaching volunteers who helped with all our summer Sunday School classes. Liz Powell led an insightful month long course on "Ways to Serve" in June. The pastors taught a wonderful variety of classes this summer including ones that connected to their summer series sermons, "God Works Through..." Millie Spencer, Melinda Carver, Katy Orrell, Valerie Wagner, Royce Chancellor, and John Clawson all shared their wondrous gift of teaching with our kids and teens this summer! All of you are immensely appreciated; thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

giving
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thanks

Midweek Book Study:

Our Fall Book Study Kicks off with two "cool clever conversation classes" centered on our summer read, "Love Does," by Bob Goff; they are at 11:00 a.m. on Sept 5 and Sept 12 in the Trinity Cafe. It's been a refreshing inspiring book for me this summer. I hope those of you who have read it have truly gleaned some inspiration, motivation, and affirmation to move forward in active love. I so appreciate Bob Goff's down to earth wisdom and his gift to spin a story.

Please plan on coming at 10:30 a.m. on Wed Sept 5 to Churchill Hall to help pack backpacks for our Bixby backpack mission beginning its tenth year this 2018-2019 school year. We'll also be packing on Wed. Sept 19 this month too, so please join the fun.

The pastors and Sue will be leading the discussions on both books.

Midweek Book Study will begin its new book discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together" on Sept 19 at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like for the church to order you a book from Amazon, please sign up in the ouster church office beginning Sunday, Sept 1. This is an amazing piece of Christian literature.

"Most books can be skimmed quickly, some deserve careful reading, precious few should be devoured and digested. "Life Together" belongs in the third category."

-Richard Foster

"Seldom has the challenge as well as the joy of living together in Christ been articulated as clearly and convincingly as by Dietrich Bonhoeffer."

-Henri J. M. Nouwen





**It's Almost Here....Rally Day 2018 Brunch and Celebration
at 9:15 in Churchill Hall on September 9th.**

**Please plan on bringing your family and friends to join in the fun and festivities
as we focus on this year's them:**

"God's Good Grace for All"

**Please think about your favorite songs, poems, phrases talking about grace,
diversity and/or inclusion to share on our "Wall of God's Grace" on Rally Day.**

Congregational Care

Brenda Cunningham

Care for the Congregation is a concern for all of us and helping one another is one of our priorities. If you know of someone who is sick or in need of help, please take the time to call the Pastors, anyone on the Congregational Care team, or the church office. You can call, email or text many of us to let us know.

Thank you for your donations to the Scholarship fund. We will have more information on this soon.

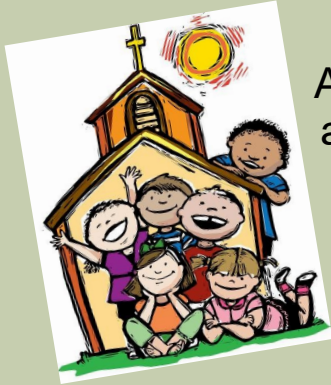
If you could occasionally pick up or drop off one of our Folks that cannot drive themselves to Trinity Services, please contact me or let the office know and we will add you to our list.

Respectfully,
Brenda Cunningham



YOUTH/KIDS/FAMILY NEWS

And, finally...our "Thank you Teens Pool Party" is going to happen on Sunday, September 2nd from 3:00 p.m-5:30 p.m. Families with teens who helped with VBS and/or Camp Trinity can bring a favorite pool-side snack to share, beach towels, sunscreen, and their fun delightful selves. It will be a beautiful, bright and sunny day!!!



And everyone please mark your calendars for Rally Day activities from Sunday morning through the afternoon on September 9th.

The fun begins with family brunch, interactive fun/games, and continues with celebrating all the teachers and volunteers for the 2018-2019 church school year!

Rally Day Worship service begins at 10:30 as the celebration of "God's Good Grace for All" continues with a special anthem from the choir, third grade bible presentation, along with glorious words and songs of praise!!

Then, following worship, all interested families and folks will caravan to "Climb Tulsa" for an adventure-filled afternoon of rock climbing. Choose your level of challenge and be ready for good fun and good exercise! Waivers can be signed online. It's touted as kid friendly and the cost is \$16.00 per person for a day pass.

Plans are in the works for a special youth/family activity on Sunday, Sept 30, following worship. Be looking for farther information in the days to come.

And... our official Trinity Pumpkin Day on Saturday, October 14. We'd love all the teens to help in this very engaging afternoon of fall fun!! Children of all ages are invited to bring a pumpkin and their cute, adorable selves!! Parents are welcome too, as there's plenty of delightful creativity and adventure to go around!



Fellowship News

Dwayne Strasheim



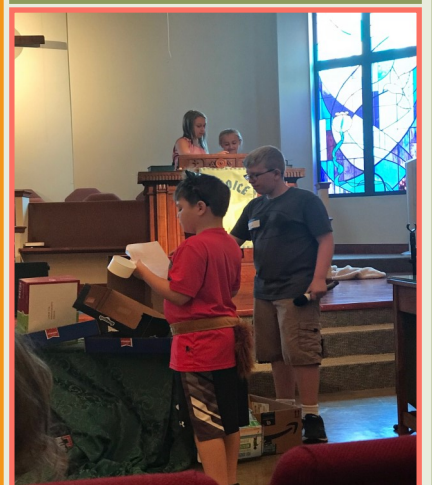
The Fellowship Team recently completed its busiest month of the year, having prepared and served six meals in eight days (July 8-15) for an average of about 65-70 Vacation Bible School participants and family members each day. Members of the Fellowship Team are Ann Frazier, Deanna Jolly, Ed Jolly, Tomye Mainer, Margot Ries, and Millie Spencer. Additional kitchen helpers included Hugh Bright, Sally Bright, Royce Chancellor, Cathy Hanson, Kate Hanson, Barbara Higgins, Chuck Keppel, Annemarie Kessler, Jim Mainer, Lynn Sanstra, Barry Straabe, Debbie Straabe, Cindy Strasheim, Leah Wagner, and Valerie Wagner. Others who contributed significantly to the “fellowship” portion of VBS in a variety of ways included Sue Chancellor, Elana Keppel Levy, Beth Keppel, Lucus Levy Keppel, Bryan Kraft-Lindsey, Lynette Kraft-Lindsey, and Liz Powell.

What an amazing group of folks that is! Fellowship Team members sincerely appreciate the willingness of Trinity members to step up and become involved in the life of the Church. It is easy to foster good fellowship in such a positive environment.

Fellowship’s next event will be the potluck Rally Day Brunch at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, September 9. The sign-up sheet is on the counter between the kitchen and the Trinity Café. Options include breakfast casseroles, breads or pastries, and fruits or juices. And of course we can always use kitchen helpers for preparation and clean-up.

Thank you,
Dwayne Strasheim

TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



Monthly Liturgy

15th Sunday after Pentecost— September 2nd

Song of Sol. 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

16th Sunday after Pentecost—September 9th

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

17th Sunday after Pentecost—September 16th

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-2
Mark 8:27-38

18th Sunday after Pentecost—September 23rd

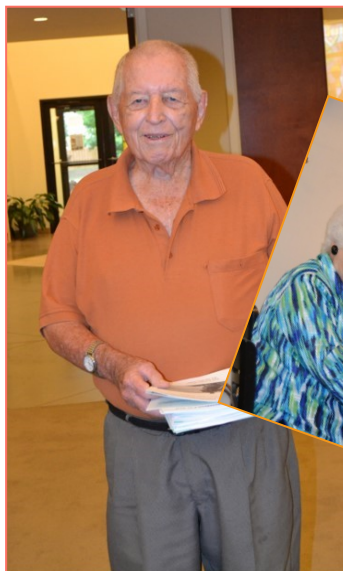
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3
Mark 9:30-37

19th Sunday after Pentecost—September 30th

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



Larry Wagner	9/01
Beth Keppel	9/04
Jackie Braselton	9/08
Jackie Ballew	9/09
Richard Spencer	9/09
Kira Smith	9/12
Larry Boxum	9/18
Bradley Byers	9/24
Evelyn Fenton	9/30



September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Office closed 	4	5 Pack Backpacks at 10:30am Book Study at 11:00am	6 6:30pm - Chime Practice	7	8
9 Brunch and Rock climbing after worship 	10	11	12 Presbyterian Women @ 9:45 in cafe Book Study at 11:00am Team Meeting	13 6:30pm - Chime Practice	14	15
16 Lunch Bunch	17	18 Session	19 Pack Backpacks at 10:30am Book Study at 11:00am	20 6:30pm - Chime Practice	21	22
23 Chime performance during Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Youth/Family Activity						

IMAGINE



Moving Into the Neighborhood

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John 1:14 The Message

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.