

PastScripts

Volume IX, Issue 11/December 2016

Beneath the Spire...

LISTENING TO VOICES NOT LIKE OURS

Back on September 22, in response to the shooting death of Keith Lamott Scott and subsequent protests in Uptown, Grace and I wrote a letter to the congregation that concluded with a promise to find ways our church can partner with others, *“to educate ourselves on issues of racial division and injustice, with the goal of bringing peace and healing to our city and to those grieving over injustice.”*

As I mentioned in my October 30 sermon, it is essential as people of faith that we answer the call to listen to voices not like ours, in fulfillment of Christ’s command to “love one another.” For many of us, this requires some level of intentionality. Most of us live in south Charlotte, work in south Charlotte, send our kids to school in south Charlotte, do our grocery-shopping in south Charlotte, and so on. And south Charlotte, as we know, is overwhelmingly populated with people who look a lot like us.

Which is why I’m pleased to share three ways our congregation is seeking to fulfill the calling to listen to other voices not like ours – some long-time initiatives we’re giving a boost, some relatively new relationships, and a brand-new opportunity as well.

First, thanks to some pioneers in our congregation, our church has a long-standing relationship with Nations Ford Elementary School, an overwhelmingly minority school in a community that reflects the same. Our Mission and Outreach Ministry Team is making a commitment to deepen our partnership in ways that promise to be transformative for both. Be on the lookout for ways you can be part of this.

Second, last January Darryl Gaston, pastor at Smallwood Presbyterian Church in the West End, and I had lunch to talk about our two churches beginning a relationship with each other. Since then, around six members from each church have met four times over dinner and fellowship. Our contingency consists of David Hood, Sarah Henry, Neal Pickett, Sarah Mullis, Grace and myself. We are allowing the Spirit to guide us forward as this relationship grows and blossoms, discerning what next steps might be. Like Nations Ford, stay tuned.

Third, about a dozen Presbyterian pastors from various churches in Uptown and surrounding areas (including Trinity) have been meeting since the protests to discuss concrete steps to bring communities together for healing. One of the things we’ve planned is a number of screenings of a documentary titled, “Colorblind: Rethinking Race,” with small group conversation to follow. Trinity will host one of the screenings on Monday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m., in our Fellowship Hall (more information can be found on the next page). Please consider joining us that evening.

There are two more ways you can respond individually, ways I am doing myself. First, I commend to you some books that I have found helpful:

continued on next page

- *Sorting Out The New South City: Race, Class and Urban Development In Charlotte* by Thomas W. Hanchett. Available on Amazon and the Levine Museum of the New South.
- *Let There Be Light: Exploring How Charlotte's Historic West End Is Shaping a New South* by Ron Stodghill. Kindle edition available on Amazon; hard copy at Johnson C. Smith Bookstore.
- *The Dream Long Deferred: The Landmark Struggle for Desegregation in Charlotte, NC* by Frye Gaillard. Available on Amazon and the Levine Museum of the New South.
- *Waking Up White (And Finding Myself In The Story Of Race)* by Debby Irving. This book has been recommended to all PCUSA church members by our co-moderators Jan Edminston (our 2017 Montreat Church Retreat speaker) and Tawnya Denise Anderson. Available on Amazon.

And second, join me in engaging in weekly “excursions” out of our normal “arena” to parts of town we don’t usually frequent. And when there, shop in grocery stores, grab a cup of coffee and start a conversation in coffee houses, take a walk in neighborhoods and on greenways. These can be both informative and fun!

This is important work we are called to. For if all we do as citizens, as people of faith, is surround ourselves with people who look, think, talk, act and move in the world like us, we can never hope to fully understand or sympathize with the perspectives of “the other.” More to the point, “the other” remains “the other.”

Let us listen and give thanks to God for what we hear!

Your pastor and friend,

Steve



COLORBLIND: RETHINKING RACE

December 5 at 6:30 p.m.

As Charlotte continues to discern the way forward following our city’s recent racial unrest, all members and friends of Trinity are invited to a showing of the film, “Colorblind: Rethinking Race,” at Trinity, on Monday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. This event is sponsored by a consortium of area Presbyterian churches (including Trinity) and will be one of three showings in our area. The Emmy Award winning documentary examines institutional racism in health, wealth, education, and the judicial system. Small group discussions will follow.

Please invite friends, family, neighbors to join in the conversation!
To RSVP click [HERE](#) or visit Trinity’s website at www.trinitypreschurch.org.



Christmas Worship at Trinity



December 18

Lessons and Carols

Worship on this fourth Sunday of Advent will be the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, in which members of the congregation will join the clergy and choir to proclaim the promise of the coming of the Messiah and the stories of the birth of Jesus. Readings from Genesis and the prophets and the gospels of Luke and John will enable us to hear again the good news of Christmas.

December 21

The Longest Night

Trinity will hold "The Longest Night" service at 7:00 p.m. Based on a service of wholeness and healing that Trinity has had before, this service is open to all and is especially concerned with offering healing and comfort to those for whom the Christmas season may be difficult. Please join us and invite those who may appreciate a more meditative service created to offer healing, comfort and prayers during the Christmas season.

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.

Anthem by the Children's Choir

Communion

8:30 p.m.

Musical Prelude

Trinity Choir and Guest Instrumentalists

9:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

Communion

Christmas Day Worship, Communion

11:00 a.m.

On Sundays when communion is served we have the opportunity to bring non-perishable food to share with the needy on the day that we share a meal at the table of our Lord. After worship, the food will be delivered to the food pantry for distribution by Loaves and Fishes.



The meaning of the Advent wreath

The first **Advent wreath** may have originated in Germany or Scandanavia in the 5th or 6th century. The Advent wreath became a formalized practice of the church by Pope Gregory the Great in the 6th century. The circle of candles represents the four weeks we spend in anticipation of Christmas. The circular shape, with no beginning and no end, reminds us of the unending love of God and the unending life we have in Christ. The evergreens signify the new life that we receive from Christ. We say that Jesus is the Light of the World so it is appropriate that a wreath of light helps us to prepare for Christ's coming.

There are different traditions about the Advent wreath **candles**. At Trinity we use four purple candles. Some wreaths have three purple candles and one pink candle. There are even some churches who use four blue candles because they use blue as the color for Advent and not purple. We light one purple candle each Sunday of Advent. The white candle in the middle of the wreath is the Christ candle. We do not light it until Christmas Eve. The Christ candle can remain lit through the twelve days of Christmas. There are many different "names" given to the four Advent candles, but the most common and traditional names are: hope, peace, joy (a pink candle when used) and love. One tradition says that the third candle symbolizes that the Light has overcome darkness, thus sometimes represented by using a pink candle. (John 1) When the first two candles are lit, there are still two unlit (dark) candles. But, on the third Sunday of Advent, when the third candle is lit, there is more light than darkness on the wreath. Light has triumphed over darkness and we are that much closer to receiving the Light (Jesus) at Christmas.

Greenery at the base of the candles in the wreath symbolizes the everlasting life found in Christ. Special meaning, from the life of Christ, has been attributed to seven types of greenery commonly used in Advent wreaths.

Ivy - symbolizes our need to cling to God;

Holly - symbolizes the crown of thorns and the red berries represent the blood of Christ;

Eucalyptus - because it is thought to have medicinal qualities, it symbolizes the healing that comes through Christ;

Laurel - symbolizes bitterness and death;

Rosemary - represents the Magi's gift to the Christ child; and

Cedar, spruce pine, and fir - symbolize the everlasting life provided through Jesus Christ.

PREPARING FOR ADVENT AT TRINITY

Trinity's Flower Committee needs your help in preparing our space for Advent and Christmas. As is our tradition, construction of our beautiful Advent Wreath will be done on Saturday, **November 26** beginning at 9:00 a.m. Additional manpower is needed at 10:00 to hoist the large wreath into its place in our Sanctuary. If you are in town please come help us! Children's hands can more easily reach some of the tight places in the wreath so feel free to bring them along. Feel free to RSVP that you will be there or just come. Questions, contact Carol Sugg (csrsugg@aol.com or call 704.552.2955).

We will need fresh greenery to place in the wreath. There will be a large blue bucket on the back patio that contains water in which to leave your greenery contributions. Please survey your landscape for any of the items listed above and drop those off anytime between Wednesday, November 23 and Friday, November 25. In addition to these, we can use "fillers", such as nandina berries, little gem magnolia leaves, etc.

ADVENT



December 4

Advent Gathering for all ages following worship.
Fellowship and fun while learning together about
Advent. More details to follow.

Trinity's Annual Adult Christmas Social

Saturday, December 10, 2016
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Hosted by Josh Durham and Lynette Neel
3319 Tinkerbell Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210
704.351.8346

We hope to see you at Tinkerbell Lane.
Weather permitting our outdoor patio and fire pit will be open.

RSVP by Sunday, December 4
Click [HERE](#) or call the church office 704.366.3554

Please bring an appetizer or dish to share.
Beverages will be provided.

\$10.00 per person

Children's Christmas Pageant

Please mark your calendars for the *Trinity Children's Christmas Pageant*. This year the pageant will be held on Sunday, **December 11** during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have costume fittings 15 minutes before and after Sunday School on Sunday, **December 4** in Room 116.

There will be a rehearsal before the pageant on Saturday, **December 10** from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Children in 3 year old preschool through grade 5 are invited and encouraged to participate.

Please contact Sherese Smith at sherese@smith-nc.com or 704.609.8898 if you would like for your child to participate and/or if you are willing to help.

Christmas Giving

This Christmas Trinity is partnering again with Alexander Youth Network and Thompson Family Services to bring gifts to children in need during the Christmas season. We invite you to participate by finding the age and information of a child in the Cloister area and providing a gift for that child in need. All gifts are asked to be brought in to Trinity on **December 11** during worship or to the church office before that date. Below is more information about both of these organizations:

Alexander Youth Network - Through their Angel Network we have the opportunity to provide gifts from the wish lists of children receiving quality treatment for serious emotional and behavioral problems. Contact with questions: Nancy Williams at 704.542.6150 or omomx3@gmail.com.

Thompson Family Services provides dormitories and group housing for children that are displaced from home due to abuse and mental problems within their families. Trinity's congregation brings love and joy to these children by donating one gift for each child. Contact with questions: Peggy Harding at 704.846.4170 or rharding1@carolina.rr.com.

GREENING OF TRINITY

I would like to contribute to the "Greening of Trinity" for the Advent and Christmas season.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Please return your written dedication and a suggested contribution of \$25.00 to the church office no later than Tuesday, **December 13**.

Caroling and Advent Party

A TRINITY TRADITION

December 18

4:00 p.m.

Gather together in the Fellowship Hall and then we embark on bringing some Christmas joy to our neighbors.



Following caroling we will have a party featuring the Queen City Brass Band, hot chocolate, food from the Moroccan Cookbook, and fun with our church family.



There will be donation baskets to help cover the cost for this event.



Diaper Drive

We are working with Crisis Assistance Ministry to help bring baby items to children in need in the Charlotte area.

The following items are requested:

Diapers
Baby Wipes
New underwear

Beginning November 28 through December 9.

Donations can be dropped off at the Trinity Presbyterian Weekday School offices.



Please RSVP: 704.366.3556 or spalmer@trinitypreschurch.org

Attending Open House allows prospective families to learn more about the Weekday School, receive 2017-18 registration details and take a guided tour of the school!

Room in the Inn

Dates to Serve:

December 7, 14, 21
January 4, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 22
March 1, 8, 15

To sign up for any of these opportunities use the link: <http://bit.ly/RoomIntheInn1617>

Info for Volunteering: Site Coordinator: Tricia Sistrunk: 704.965.7797 or sistrunkt@icloud.com
Hosting a night of Room in the Inn at Trinity is a valuable and important experience. It takes many hands to put together but each of those who participate experience love and grace in new ways. Please consider volunteering in some of the following ways:

Transportation: Leader: Richard Williams: 704.542.6150 or rdwilliams4@gmail.com
Have a car? Have a license? Help drive our guests to and from uptown and Trinity. Providing transportation brings our guests from the Urban Ministry Center uptown to Trinity (on Wednesday afternoon) and from Trinity to the Transportation Center (on Thursday morning).

Overnight Hosts: Leader: Lynette Neel: 704.554.1575 or neeldurham@mindspring.com
Join with a co-host to spend the night with our guests, beginning with dinner and ending with breakfast the next day. Enjoy a movie, game of cards, or a conversation before bed.

Breakfast: Leader: Nancy Williams: 704.542.6160 or omomx3@gmail.com
Provide breakfast for our guests by either preparing it ahead of time on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Lunches: Leader: Susanne Reid: 704.844.2885 or Susanne.reid@providenceday.org
Work with your family or friends to make bagged lunches for our guests to bring with them on Thursday. Drop the lunches off at church on Wednesday evening.

Laundry Pickup/Drop Off: Leader: Guyla Vardell: 704.364.8449 or gmvnc@bellsouth.net
Pickup the bags of linens from Trinity and drop off at Holiday Drycleaners on Monroe on Thursday after RITI or pick the clean linens up at the cleaners on Tuesday to provide clean linens for our guests and their stay.

Dinner:
Join in fellowship and conversation with RITI guests around the dinner table, help serve and clean up the meal. Sign up on the Trinity website.



Save the Date

The next Trinity Singles Event - Friday - January 27

Hayden McMahon's home for lobster or steak. Details later. Hope to see you there.

2017 Flower Donations

Thank you to all who donated flowers for our Sunday worship services during 2016! The Flower Committee is planning for 2017 and your help is needed again. Floral donations are offered on a first come/first serve basis. If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please complete and submit the form below to Becky Purnell at bpurnell@trinitypreschurch.org in the church office, or to Carol Sugg, Chair of the Flower Committee at csrsugg@aol.com. If you have any questions, please give Carol a call at 704.552.2955.

Thank you in advance for your donation!

Available Dates

Dates marked through are already reserved or denote holidays or other events when flowers are provided by the church.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3
8	12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10
15	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	17
22	26	26	23	28	25	24	27	24	22	26	24
29			30			30			29		31

Church's standing order: \$80 covers the cost and delivery of one arrangement suited to the scale of Trinity's Chancel.

Please make check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church or pay on our website (www.trinitypreschurch.org by clicking the GIVE HERE tab on the home page in the upper left hand corner.)

Information for Sunday bulletin:



Date you would like to donate flowers in 2017 _____.

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and:

_____ in honor of _____

_____ in loving memory of _____

Given by with any extended message _____



What's Happening at Trinity

December 1	Women of the World Bible Study (weekly) Jane Arant Discussion Group (weekly) Bridge (weekly) Weekday School Hello Spanish (weekly) Soccer Shots (weekly)	December 14	Weekday School My Gym Classes Shepherd Center Travel Committee Finance Ministry Team Room in the Inn Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team
December 2	F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus (weekly)	December 15	Prevention Carolinas
December 3	Martial Arts University	December 16	Weekday School Christmas Luncheon
December 4	Children's Christmas Pageant Costume Fitting Advent Gathering for all ages after worship Children's Choir (weekly) Youth Group (weekly)	December 18	Lesson and Carols Sunday Caroling and Advent Party Stated Session
December 5	Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Classes Movie - Colorblind: Rethinking Race	December 19	Weekday School and Philips Academy Winter Break Begins
December 6	F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sew 'N Sews Tuesdays (weekly) Trinity Staff Meeting (weekly) Weekday School Atomz Lab (weekly) Al-Anon (weekly)	December 20	Trinity Book Club
December 7	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly) Wednesday Class (weekly) Weekday School Chapel Room in the Inn Girl Scout Troop #1335 Adult Choir (weekly)	December 21	Room in the Inn Stewardship Ministry Team Girl Scout Troop #1335 American Needlepoint Guild Longest Night Service
December 8	Girl Scout Troop #2415	December 22	Girl Scout Troop #2415
December 9	Weekday School Diaper Drive Deadline	December 24	Christmas Eve Service, Communion Choral Prelude Christmas Eve Service, Communion
December 10	Children's Choir Rehearsal Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Adult Christmas Social	December 25	Christmas Day, Communion Worship Only—No Sunday School
December 11	Children's Christmas Pageant Bible in a Year Alexander Youth Network and Thompson Family Services Gift Donation Deadline	December 28	Embroiderers' Guild
December 12	Men's Breakfast Weekday School Music Classes Weekday School Ministry Team		
December 13	Weekday School Music Classes Weekday School My Gym Classes Philips Academy Holiday Open House Deadline for Greening of Trinity		
			Congregational Sympathy
		Marie Nunnery	October 19
		Mother of Kevin Nunnery	
		Joy Maples Ellis	October 25
		Mother of Lucinda Maples	
		Shirley Ann O'Connor	October 29
		Sister of Peggy Morris	
			Church Triumphant
		Joyce Edwards Kessler	October 30



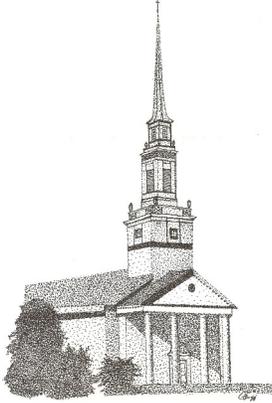
The Communications Ministry Team would like to announce that there will be no *PostScripts* sent out during the months of January and February 2017. Our team is working on updating this communication and it will be "under construction" during these months. Thank You!



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Address Service Requested
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-2742
 Phone: 704.366.3554 Fax: 704.366.9460
www.trinitypreschurch.org
<http://facebook.trinitypreschurch.org>
<http://twitter.trinitypreschurch.org>

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 «Address1»
 «City», «State» «Zip»

Worship at Trinity
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin: Tuesdays at Noon
 Newsletter - *PostScripts*: 1st day of each month
 Wednesday email: Two weeks before the email
 Website events: One month before the event
 Website announcements: One month before the event

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER FOR 2016

<u>CLERK</u>	Lynette Neel
<u>MINISTRY TEAMS</u>	<u>TEAM CHAIRMAN</u>
<i>Equip</i>	
Buildings and Grounds	Tony Arey, Hayden McMahon
Capital Campaign	Walter Reid
Communications	Cookie Parnell
Finance	Donnie Bobbitt
Personnel	Lori O'Keefe
<i>Grow</i>	
Christian Formation	Kim Nims, Tom Collins
Welcoming	David Hood
Worship	Carol Sugg
Youth	Casey Field
<i>Serve</i>	
Congregational Care	Lynda Opdyke and Debbie Fisher
Fellowship	Steve Ball
Mission and Outreach	Warren Henry
Stewardship	Dale Sarjeant
Weekday School	Judith Parker

THE SESSION
 Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Moderator
 Lynette Neel, Clerk
 Donnie Bobbitt, President of the Corporation

<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
Steve Ball	Tony Arey	Casey Field
Marty Brownlow	Donnie Bobbitt	David Hood
Tom Collins	Liz Countess	Sean Kirby
Betty Lynn Lambert	Warren Henry	Kim Nims
Jim Calder	Lori O'Keefe	Dale Sarjeant

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Senior Minister
 The Reverend Grace Lindvall, Associate Minister
 Dr. Chris Gilliam, Director of Music
 Michael Rowland, Organist
 Dr. Reta Phifer, Children's Choir Director
 Becky Purnell, Office Manager
 Cheryl Jernigan, Financial Administrator
 Kevin Nunnery, Facilities Manager
 Stephanie Palmer, Weekday School Director
 Jill Billings, Weekday School Assistant Director
 Mark Grube, Part-time Event Assistant
 Bill Prestwood, Seminary Intern
 Jane Bostian Arant, Minister of Music Emeritus

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.