



PastScripts

Volume IX, Issue 2/March 2016

Beneath the Spire...

ABOVE AND BEYOND

By the time you read this, you'll either notice a few changes around the church or will notice them soon. They are awesome changes – but what's more awesome is how the changes came about.

First, our Sanctuary will soon appear brighter to you. That's because we are replacing every one of the chandelier light bulbs, spot lights, and cove lights. A number of them, as you've probably noticed, have been burned out for a while. So it is good to replace them. It's even better to replace them with energy-efficient LED bulbs that will last longer and use less electricity.

Second, we will soon have a new Fellowship Hall floor. If you've been in there recently you've noticed that many of the tiles were coming unglued. Not only was this unsightly, but unsafe. No more – a new laminate wood floor is being installed that'll look fantastic and be more durable for the heavy use our Fellowship Hall is getting these days.

There will be a middle railing installed for the stairs from the Cloister to the Sanctuary. Over the years we've had some older members encounter difficulty going up and down holding onto just one railing. This middle railing will make it easier for folks to get to worship – something we certainly want to make easy to do!

And last year, we were able to fix the Parlor doors leading out to the courtyard area so they could be used as originally intended, while alleviating leakage problems on rainy days.

All of these are awesome changes, but here's the real awesome part: the church did **not** pay for these repairs out of our operating budget – not a single cent. In each case, someone approached me and offered to pay for it above and beyond their normal giving.

I love this. And not just because someone else paid for it. I love this because someone did two things: first, they noticed something in our church that could be improved upon. Sometimes we get so used to seeing something the way it is that we just forget about it. These folks, though, took notice.

And second, rather than simply ignoring it or complaining about it, they took it upon themselves to talk to me and the Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team and offered to be part of the solution. They made the decision to contribute funds above and beyond what they've already pledged to our operating budget and capital campaign.

The Sanctuary lights, Cloister step railing and Parlor door donors have asked to remain anonymous, and I will honor that. I do want to share that the new Fellowship Hall floor was provided by the Weekday School, who chose

to use a portion of their end-of-year surplus for that purpose. To me, this is an amazing gesture from one of our most treasured partners in ministry. I've expressed to Stephanie Palmer, our Weekday School Director, how tremendously grateful I am for what they've done, and I hope you'll do the same.

While "the church" will always belong to Jesus Christ, this particular church in a sense is yours, the members. Pastors and staff come and go, but you are here for the long haul. You are its leaders. You are the ones who do everything from keeping the lights on to keeping its mission intact.

Which is why one of my joys as pastor is when people like these three donors and the Weekday School take the initiative to come talk with me about some way they'd like to help – a way that serves not just their own needs but the needs and mission of the larger church. This allows for important things to be addressed without taxing our already tight operating budget, as well as giving a church member an opportunity to feel good about making a difference for not just themselves but everyone else.

If you ever want to make a special gift to the church – to fix a facility need, to grow our endowment through legacy giving or something else, come talk to me. We'll sit down with the corresponding staff person or ministry team chair to make sure your generosity aligns with the overall church's vision. And then we'll rejoice in your joy of doing something special for the church you love.

Not everyone can step up like this, I know. Still, we all can join in gratitude and thanks to God for those who can and do. And in everything we do in our faith and in the life of God's church, may we always strive to go "above and beyond!"

Your pastor and friend,

Steve

Session Highlights

Stated Session Meeting on January 16, 2016:

Session approved the transfer of funds in the amount of \$145,892 from accumulated earnings in the Trinity Endowment to the general operating fund as needed in 2016 to provide funding to offset the deficit from calendar year 2015. [Note: this requires approval by Session twice.]

Session approved the Church and Weekday School budgets for 2016. These budgets will be presented for information at a congregation meeting.

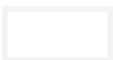
The wedding of Marie Henry and Matthew Glapiak on June 18, 2016 and the wedding of Leah Davis and Danner Benfield on July 16, 2016 were approved.

Girl Scout Sunday 2016

We are inviting all Girl Scouts, past and present, to join us for Girl Scout Sunday on March 6, 2016 during the 11:00 a.m. service. Following worship, everyone is welcome to attend the Youth BBQ and Auction. No reservations are necessary for the lunch though donations are welcome.

We would love to see you on Girl Scout Sunday. And if you know a Girl Scout, please invite her and her family to join us as well.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Lynette Neel at 704.554.1575 or neeldurham@mindspring.com



IMPACT STORY - Goldie Stribling

Congregation members share an “Impact Story” during the worship service at least monthly. Please find below Goldie Stribling’s story shared October 18, 2015.

As I approach ninety, I realize this might be the last time they ask me to do this—whatever “this” is.

When Bruce and I were married in 1951 and moved to Charlotte, we heard about a church meeting at Queens College and decided that would become our new church home. It was really out of our comfort zone—but a brand new, just starting place where we could worship, study, serve and maybe contribute. Finding this new “comfort zone” reminded me of one of my very special days at Billingsville Elementary. A lovely young lady named Armagon Zojaji joined our Kindergarten class from some far away country in the Middle East. I held her in my lap and explained that she might not understand the words we said but she soon would. At lunch that day my boys and girls put their trays away and sat on the low windowsill to wait until we were all finished. The young man who sat right beside our new young friend came over to me, pulled my sleeve and said, “guess what teacher—she laughs in the same language we do.” That helped all of our comfort zones.

After Trinity moved into our new facilities on Providence Road, a large seminary sent visitors looking for a church in which to place one of their student interns. They sent a letter the next week saying they chose Trinity because it seemed to them a church “going into the future with banners unfurled.” He came and we did.

Somewhere along our way, a minister shared his belief that our giving should be directly related to what we had been given or had received in this life. That was a new way of looking at things that seemed to make a lot of sense to us. If we had received, then we freely give.

As years passed, we read many books by Frederick Buechner. His books spoke to us and we invited him to go to Montreat with us. He very graciously told us that he thought he could best serve from his mountaintop in Vermont. We respected that, but having read his unusual novel about a most unusual

preacher, Leo Bebb, and his old friend, Herman Redpath, an old Native American man on his way to the Happy Hunting Ground—definitely out of his comfort zone—my friend Betty McLaney and I retreated to our workshop. Our idea was to make for our Vermont friend a replica of the good luck pouch carried by Redpath to make safe his trip. There had been in the recent Christian Century magazine a small ad announcing the meeting in Bangor, Maine of the Presbyterian Synod the last week in January with Frederick Buechner as the speaker. The perfect place to deliver the pouch to insure the safe travel of Mr. B. So, to duplicate it we located the small box of Sun Maid Raisins, the ten play money dollar bills, the Native American necklace, Betty’s Dad’s jack knife and the bird’s wing that we had reconstructed from the playground at Billingsville. We put the wing in the bag, put the bag in Dr. Patrick’s hands, got him to the plane after church on Sunday and waited. In Bangor, he attended the meeting, saw Mr. B in a room before his talk, tossed the bag into the chair beside him without a word, and the rest is history.

That fall in Montreat when Mr. B told this story, he said he knew that one way or another he would find his way to this group of people who were willing to do such wild and wonderful things.

Being part of Trinity has given me all sorts of glorious challenges, and, therefore, it has been my privilege to give with joy my time, my worldly goods, and my life.

So, watch for a quotation that appears regularly in the Narthex and has for many years. It will say: “My question is this: are there in us, in you and me now, that recklessness of the loving heart, that wild courage, that shuddering faithfulness even unto the end of the world through which new things could come to pass?” – Frederick Buechner

Could it possibly be that some good can come from that infamous comfort zone? Just maybe that’s where we’ll find the flickering light of NEW THINGS.

Financials as of January 31, 2016

	January Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Receipts:	\$ 66,628	\$ 66,628	\$ 72,021
Unrestricted Funds Used:	\$ 270	\$ 270	\$ 4,961
Endowment Funds Used:	\$ 4,765	\$ 4,765	\$ 4,765
Boltz Funds Used:	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 444
Expenses:	<u>\$ 62,241</u>	<u>\$ 62,241</u>	<u>\$ 79,254</u>
Surplus/ Deficit :	\$ 9,422	\$ 9,422	\$ 2,937

Save the Date - Vacation Bible School - June 12 - 15
Exciting details to follow!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CONFERENCE MASSANETTA SPRINGS RESORT

July 7 - 10

Trinity is offering an amazing summer opportunity for middle school students (rising 6th, 7th, 8th as well as graduating 8th graders) by encouraging all eligible to attend the Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Total cost for this 3-day conference is \$300 per youth. Cost includes housing, all meals and transportation from Charlotte. Secure your student's spot by making a deposit of \$100 to the Trinity Financial Office no later than **Thursday, March 31**. The remaining balance of \$200 will be due May 15.

Casey Field is accompanying the group as the Adult Back Home Leader.

Should you want more information please refer to the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center website or contact Casey Field at cfield@gastonday.org.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH CONFERENCE MONTREAT

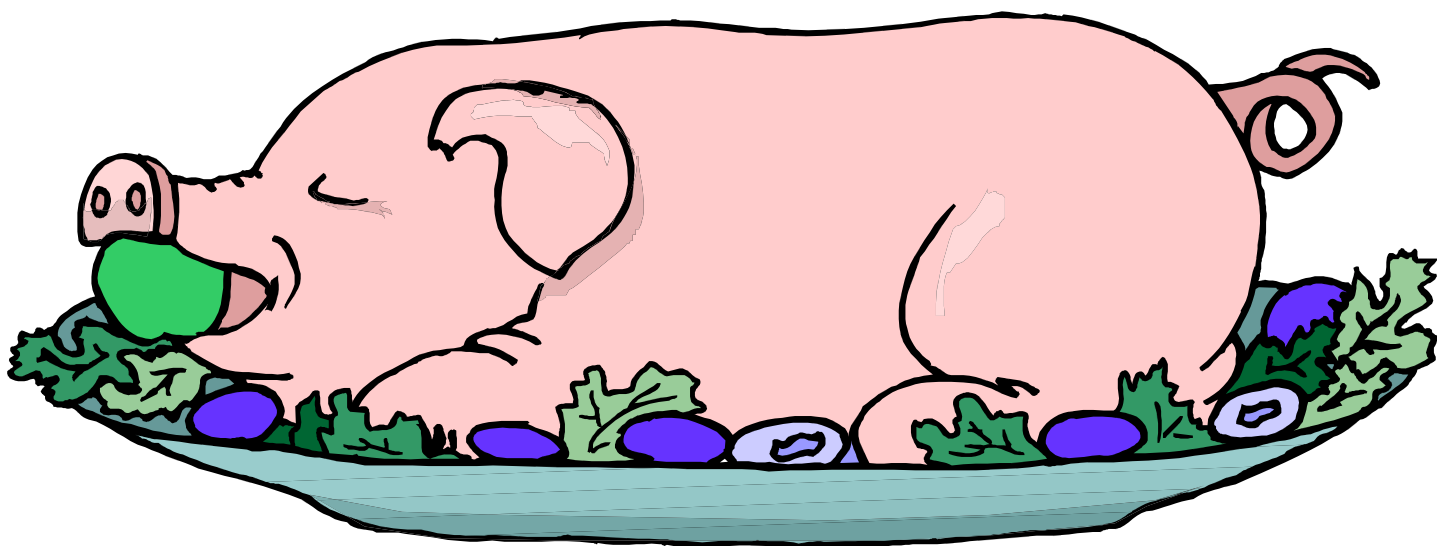
July 24 - 30

Once again this summer, Trinity will send a group of senior high students to the wildly popular Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat. The youth who've been can speak to all the reasons they do NOT want to miss this conference and make a point to carve out the time each summer to be a part of this country-wide gathering where young people actually CAN'T WAIT to get into worship services! The conference cost for each attendee is \$350 for the week which includes transportation to and from Montreat, conference fee, housing and all meals. The conference is for rising 10th graders through graduating seniors.

Grace Lindvall will accompany the group this summer as the Back Home Leader. Deadline for securing a space in the conference is **Thursday, March 31**. Please submit your deposit of \$100 per attendee to the Trinity Financial Office. The remaining balance of \$250 will be due by May 15. Should you want more information please refer to Montreat's website or contact Casey Field at cfield@gastonday.org.

Financial assistance is available for both youth conferences. Please contact Cheryl Jernigan at 704.366.3554 or cjernigan@trinitypreschurch.org should you wish to explore this option.

Youth Silent Auction & BBQ Luncheon



Mark your calendars; it's that time of year again! On **March 6**, after worship, we will enjoy excellent BBQ cooked by Matt Smith and his crew. The luncheon is free, though donations are welcome and appreciated. BBQ by the pound will also be available for purchase. In addition to the lunch, there will be items available for bid. Each of our middle and high school youth will be donating services or hand-crafted, homemade items for bid. There will also be vacation homes and other one-of-a-kind opportunities. All proceeds benefit the 2016 Youth Mission Trip to Wapato, Washington.

If you have an item for donation such as a vacation home, special service (i.e. you will prepare lunch for eight, you will babysit children, etc.), tickets to a sporting event or other new items, please contact Katherine Lambert at 704.517.2199 or katherinellambert@gmail.com.

Be sure to login to Trinity's website in advance of the auction in order to purchase items by credit or debit card. Should you have questions or need assistance with your login, contact Cheryl Jernigan at 704.366.3554.



Easter Egg Hunt ~ March 13 ~ 12:15

Trinity families, and families from the surrounding neighborhood, are invited to bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic lunch to enjoy outside at 12:15. Everyone is welcome!

The Easter Egg Hunt for children, ages toddler through age ten, will follow the picnic. Please bring one dozen filled, plastic eggs per child participating. There will be a drop off box for the eggs near the church fellowship hall as you arrive.



Easter Lilies



The Flower Committee invites you to contribute a lily to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday in memory of or in honor of someone. To do so, please return the form below or one from the pew at church along with a suggested donation of \$25.00 no later than **Tuesday, March 22**.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

Holy Week at Trinity

Palm Sunday

March 20

11:00 a.m.

This beautiful service celebrates Jesus's entry into Jerusalem as the people cry, "Hosannah! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Join Trinity's annual congregational procession from the Narthex to the Sanctuary as we wave palm branches and sing, "Hosannah!" to our Lord.

This year's Maundy Thursday service will embrace the centuries old tradition of the Tenebrae observance. Tenebrae, Latin for "shadows" or "darkness," will remind us of the trials and passion of our suffering Savior as he walks the lonesome valley in obedience to His mission of love and sacrifice on earth. Communion will be served at this reverent and intimate service as the Trinity congregation follows the mandatum or the commandment of our Lord to observe His table together.

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service

March 24

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

March 25

12:00 p.m.

So they took Jesus and crucified him.

John 19:17-18

Remembering the crucifixion of our Lord, Trinity gathers in a service of hymns, readings, scripture and music for meditation.

Join the Trinity choir, brass, organ and congregation as we raise our voices together in celebration of the risen Savior! On this high feast day we also observe communion, reminding us that we nourish our souls on the true living bread!

Easter Sunday

March 27

11:00 a.m.

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn season (RITI) is upon us and Trinity will once again open its doors and welcome 144 guests. The winter months are some of the hardest for Charlotte's homeless population. Through the help of many volunteers, we at Trinity are able to provide our guests three meals (dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch), a hot shower, clean socks, hats, gloves, t-shirts and underwear, fellowship and a warm and safe place to rest for the night.

We have volunteer opportunities in the following areas: **transportation, overnight hosts, breakfast, lunches, and laundry pick up and drop off.** In addition to our usual volunteer opportunities, please contact Tricia Sistrunk if you or your family or group (youth group, girl scouts, choir, bible study...) would like to join us for dinner on RITI Wednesdays. This is a great opportunity to learn more about and help support this important ministry at Trinity.

Our remaining nights to host are: **March 2, 16, and 30.** Please consider your interests and contact one of the team leaders listed below:

Site Coordinator:

Tricia Sistrunk: 704.965.7797 or sistrunkt@icloud.com

Team Leaders:

Richard Williams: 704.542.6150 or rdwilliams4@gmail.com - transportation

Lynette Neel: 704.554.1575 or neeldurham@mindspring.com - overnight hosts

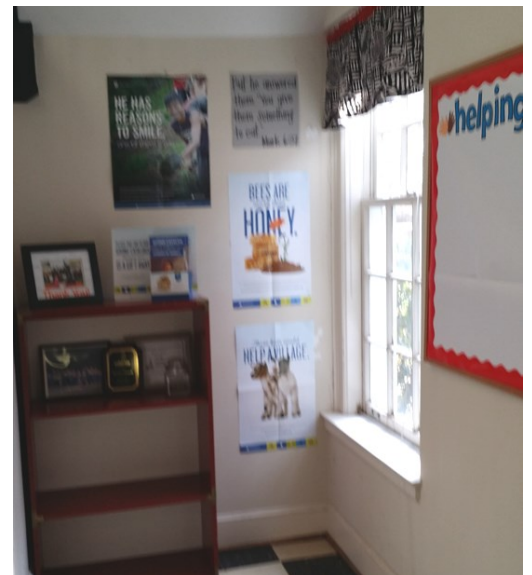
Guyla Vardell: 704.364.8449 or gmvinc@bellsouth.net - laundry

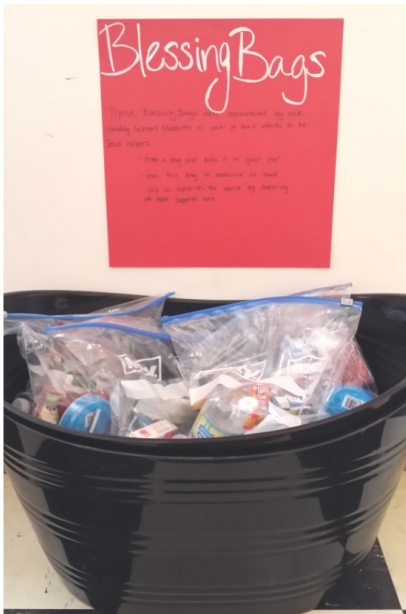
Susanne Reid: 704.844.2885 or susanne.reid@providenceday.org - lunches

Nancy Williams 704.542.6150 or omomx3@gmail.com - breakfasts



Check out the **Mission and Outreach Nook**, located between the Cloister and the Church Office, for updated opportunities to serve.





“Blessing Bags”

On February 7, the K/1 Sunday School Class worked together to be friends of Jesus, doing the work of Jesus here in the world. They assembled “Blessing Bags,” bags that can be given to our friends in need of assistance, those looking for a meal or water, or simply someone to show them kindness. The students assembled additional bags which are available in the Mission and Outreach Nook between the Cloister and the Church Office. I encourage you to grab a bag and keep in your car so they might be given out when you see a friend asking for assistance.

Handing out one of these “Blessing Bags” is an act of kindness for our friends in need; it also may create an opportunity for conversation with your children. Should your children be in the car with you when you see someone in need, I encourage you to hand out the bag or even to let your child be the giver. My hope is that this might spark a conversation about

homelessness or about people in need or about other ways we can be a good friend to Jesus and to our neighbors.

While this conversation is not necessarily easy, here are some things that may be helpful in talking about homelessness:

- Remind your children of the importance of smiling, showing love and kindness to those who may look different or even a little scary.
- Read Matthew 25 together when you go home, “for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”
- If your children are curious to learn more or eager to help, come to a Room in the Inn dinner (Wednesday nights through March, you can sign up on the church website) .
- Help us replenish the bags by dropping off more supplies (beef jerky, bottles of water, snack packs, hand sanitizer, etc.

Let us know how the “Blessing Bags” were used. We hope to continue to make them available for our congregation to give to our friends in need.

Many thanks for all you and your families do.
Reverend Grace Lindvall



In 2015 Friendship Gardens grew to a network of 97 gardens community wide. These 97 gardens contributed a total of 13,081 pounds of fresh produce last year to Friendship Trays (Charlotte's meal delivery service). As one of those affiliated gardens Trinity contributed a total of 519.65 pounds to Friendship Trays! This is an increase over our 2014 contribution of 362 pounds.

Since the average yearly donation per garden is 134.86 pounds, Trinity's produce is a significant portion of that donated to Friendship Trays. This year we hope to top our 2015 contribution and need your help. Planting for the spring garden will be held in late March. Watch the weekly email blasts and bulletin for details.



Growing, Playing and Learning together!



Our "Kids in Motion" Summer Camp will be in session June 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 and 28-30. Please mark your calendar!

Each week will have a theme packed with lots of fun activities for your child during his/her session from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Tuesday - Thursday!

For more information call 704.366.3556 or email spalmer@trinitypreschurch.org or jbillings@trinitypreschurch.org!

We look forward to serving you and your family!

What's Happening at Trinity

March 1	PostScripts Deadline, April Issue Weekday School Summer Camp Registration Begins F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sew 'N Sews Tuesdays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Classes Trinity Staff Meeting (weekly) Weekday School Little Scholars (weekly) Odyssey of the Mind Teen Cotillion (weekly) Cub Scout Committee Meeting Al-Anon (weekly)	March 14	Men's Breakfast Weekday School Book Fair Girl Scout Troop #1335 Mecklenburg Historical Association Weekday School Ministry Team Philips Academy Conferences Weekday School Book Fair Weekday School Parent Support Team Weekday School Roger Day Concert Trinity Book Club
March 2	Weekday School Hello Spanish Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly) Wednesday Class (weekly) Soccer Shots (weekly) Odyssey of the Mind Room in the Inn Welcoming Ministry Team Adult Choir (weekly)	March 15	Weekday School Book Fair Weekday School Hello Spanish Weekday School Staff Meeting Room in the Inn Stewardship Ministry Team Finance Ministry Team American Needlepoint Guild
March 3	Jane Arant Discussion Group (weekly) Bridge (weekly) Odyssey of the Mind Girl Scout Troop #1120 Mission and Outreach Ministry Team	March 16	Colonial Dames Weekday School Book Fair Girl Scout Troop #1120 Weekday School Book Fair Girl Scout Troop #2409
March 4	F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus (weekly) Odyssey of the Mind Girl Scout Troop #2409	March 17	Palm Sunday Baptism of Lane Rhodes Carlisle Stated Session
March 5	Teen Cotillion Dance	March 18	Weekday School My Gym Classes Girl Scout Troop #1335
March 6	Girl Scout Sunday Youth Silent Auction & BBQ Children's Choir (weekly) Youth Group (weekly)	March 20	Easter Lily Deadline Weekday School My Gym Classes Embroiderers' Guild
March 7	Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly) Weekday School Music Classes Girl Scout Troop #1335 Cub Scout Pack 211 (weekly) Carolina Sampler Guild	March 21	Maundy Thursday , Communion Tenebrae Service
March 8	Weekday School Pictures Weekday School Music Classes	March 22	Spring Break Begins for Weekday School and Philips Academy
March 9	Weekday School Pictures	March 23	Good Friday
March 10	Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team Philips Academy Conferences Weekday School Chapel Sojourners Pub Theology	March 24	Girl Scout Troop #2415 Easter Sunday , Communion Personnel Ministry Team
March 11	Girl Scout Troop #2415	March 25	Girl Scout Troop #1335 Room in the Inn
March 13	Daylight Saving Time Begins Bible in a Year Easter Egg Hunt Confirmation Meeting	March 27	
		March 28	
		March 30	
		Church Triumphant	
		Sara Elizabeth Barber McLaney	January 27
		Mother of Ernest T. McLaney and	
		Mary Catherine Snyder	



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www.trinitypreschurch.org

<http://facebook.trinitypreschurch.org>

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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

THE SESSION

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Moderator

Lynette Neel, Clerk

Damon Coley, President of the Corporation

Class of 2016

Steve Ball

Marty Brownlow

Tom Collins

Betty Lynn Lambert

Jim Calder

Class of 2017

Tony Arey

Donnie Bobbitt

Liz Countess

Warren Henry

Lori O'Keefe

Class of 2018

Casey Field

David Hood

Sean Kirby

Kim Nims

Dale Sarjeant

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER FOR 2016

CLERK

Lynette Neel

MINISTRY TEAMS

Equip

Buildings and Grounds

Capital Campaign

Communications

Finance

Personnel

Grow

Christian Formation

Welcoming

Worship

Youth

Serve

Congregational Care

Fellowship

Mission and Outreach

Stewardship

Weekday School

TEAM CHAIRMAN

Tony Arey, Hayden McMahon

Walter Reid

Cookie Parnell

Donnie Bobbitt

Lori O'Keefe

Kim Nims, Tom Collins

David Hood

Carol Sugg

Casey Field

Lynda Opdyke and Debbie Fisher

Steve Ball

Warren Henry

Dale Sarjeant

Judith Parker

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

Bill Jones, Facilities Manager

Stephanie Palmer, Weekday School Director

Jill Billings, Weekday School Assistant Director

Mark Grube, Part-time Event Assistant

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.