



PastScripts

Volume IX, Issue 3/April 2016

Beneath the Spire...

IT HAS THE RING OF TRUTH

Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards, Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalene seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of fear and great joy. Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it—the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs—have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's Messiah sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalene, will never stop searching for it till they find his face.

- Frederick Buechner, Whistling In The Dark

Session Highlights

Stated Session Meeting on February 21, 2016:

Approved motion from the Worship Ministry Team for a fundraising campaign to commence mid-April for the duration of 3-4 weeks for the purpose of replacing our current hymnals (circa 1990) with the newer hymnal adopted by PCUSA published in 2013.

Approved motion to form the Strategic Planning Task Force. This group will consist of Donnie Bobbitt (Finance), Walt Reid (Capital Campaign), Dale Sarjeant (Stewardship), Tony Arey (Buildings & Grounds) and Steve Lindsley and is intended to exist in the current calendar year. This group's purpose is to take a birds-eye view of Trinity, analyzing our challenges and opportunities in the four critical areas represented, and then offer some possible ways forward. This group will not make decisions but will suggest possible action points to the four ministry teams (Finance, Capital Campaign, Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds) and, if needed, the Session.

Approved motion from the Capital Campaign Ministry Team for an incremental \$20,000 for the preparation of architectural, structural, and civil construction documents. Funds will be paid from Capital Campaign.

Approved motion from the Finance Ministry Team for 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 2015. (Note: this is the second of two votes required by the Session.)

Approved motion from the Finance Ministry Team for the Weekday School to spend up to \$14,000 to repair and replace the flooring in the Carson Fellowship Hall. This was previously approved at \$9,000 but final cost estimates have come in requiring the revised approval. The \$14,000 will be funded from the WDS Carry Forward Reserve Fund from 2015.

Approved motion from the Finance Ministry Team to spend \$4,924.16 to create additional space on the Memorial Garden wall for deceased family members' names. The funds for this expenditure will come from the Memorial Fund.

Approved motion from the Finance Ministry Team: A contribution from the estate of Elizabeth Deal in the amount of \$20,000 was received in February. The contribution will be directed to the Trinity Endowment fund since it was made with no restrictions.

Financials as of February 29, 2016

	February Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Receipts:	\$ 50,965	\$ 117,595	\$ 122,542
Unrestricted Funds Used:	\$ 9,141	\$ 9,411	\$ 9,922
Endowment Funds Used:	\$ 4,765	\$ 9,530	\$ 9,530
Boltz Funds Used:	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 888
Expenses:	\$ 86,932	\$ 149,174	\$ 160,291
Surplus/Deficit:	\$ (22,061)	\$ (12,638)	\$ (17,409)

IMPACT STORY - Brent Mullis

Congregation members share an "Impact Story" during the worship service at least monthly. Please find below Brent Mullis' story shared October 18, 2015 at the Annual Trinity Montreat Retreat.

*The more I live, the more I realize that I really have very little control of my own life. I don't mean to imply that things are **out of control**; to the contrary, I mean that things are very much **in control**. Just not mine. And that can be a very comforting realization. As I take a step back and consider all God has done through Trinity for me and for those that I love, it is both comforting and humbling.*

The college years blossomed into a solid decade that I didn't have a consistent church home. I went to church, of course, and always Presbyterian, mind you. But I never really put my weight down into a church. Those years coincided with a general disillusionment on the part of my entire family with our childhood church, as it changed, and we changed, and the generation that bound us to that place was ailing and dying. To be honest, I'm not sure that I didn't get exactly what I needed during those years. A weekly message of inspiration? Sure. A distraction? Possibly. Relief from guilt when I studied through church? Very likely. Reassurance that a church could be family again? Probably. When I returned to Charlotte to finally start a career, going to church was a given. Choosing a church home, however, would take a calling.

You see, at that time a senior minister in Charlotte was talking to one of his seminary classmates in Indianapolis to get the scoop on a young Reverend Mullis who was about ready to be unleashed on the world. And a team of unsuspecting souls on an APNC from Trinity Presbyterian was getting to work to change multiple lives. Soon he was welcomed home to Charlotte. And I received a very personal invitation to visit (in a way that only a brother could invite!). I had been asking God for a good church home for us all. I knew to ask for good education, and good music, and good people. What I didn't know to ask for was a congregation that would treat my brother like gold and welcome me and our entire family like their own. One that would welcome us into its workings, its struggles, its celebrations, and its growth. I didn't know to ask for role models from all generations, yet I got the wisdom of Goldie Stribling and square-dancing lessons from Nancy Dorrier.

Then I met the love of my life. And we needed a church home together. This much I knew to ask of

God; I knew to ask for a place where we both would be comfortable worshiping and learning. A place where we could make friends and be involved and yet find peace and solitude with God. Of course God provided. Trinity welcomed a soul more precious to me than my own and gave her a place to call home. A place to be sustained and nurtured in her own faith walk. To be trusted as an elder and ordained in time for her aging father to see it before his passing. She would meet and join a phenomenal group of ladies known as the PEO, who continue to inspire and teach and let her do the same. I knew to ask God that she would feel welcome in my church and it would become ours. But I had no idea how complete and wonderful it would be. And God worked through Trinity once again.

The families of Trinity will never fully know what leading its youth has meant in my faith walk. The truth is, I'll never know the full extent. At least not while it's happening - and that is quite ironic. It's that control thing again. You see, as advisors we spend hours planning and preparing and waiting for those 'perfectly teachable moments.' And each year Sarah and I sit with our friends Katherine, Laura-Nelle, and Amy on Youth Sunday and we choke back a few tears during the senior homilies when we realize that while we were busy setting up one lesson, another was being learned. And it was so much more profound than anything we could have planned. Praise God. I have laughed with (and yes, at) your youth, been amazed by your youth, cried with your youth, have aggravated and gotten aggravated with your youth, and then hugged your youth, and I have been in conversation with God each time. And I thank you with everything I know. And don't yet know.

We all want to be a part of something meaningful. And we are, in the ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church. I've been amazed by the ways that God has surprised and provided for me, and Sarah, and Baron, and all whose impact statements we've heard and those who will share for years to come. If we were to ever really stop and think about the long-reaching effects of even just one of our actions it would be paralyzing! Instead, we need only trust that God has great plans and that we all have a part that is so much bigger than we can imagine.

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.

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.

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.

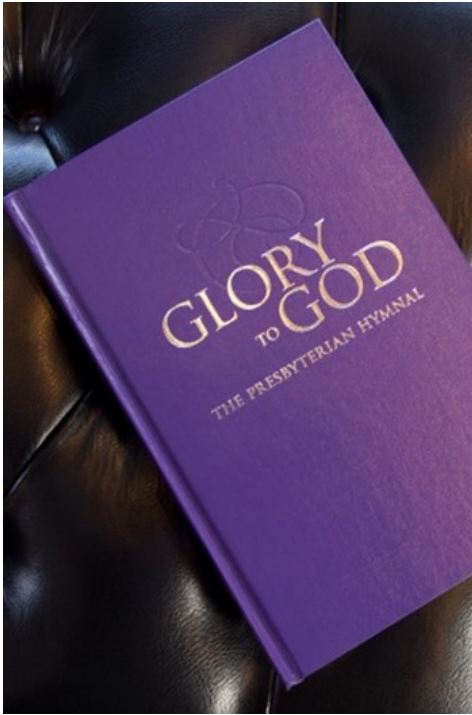
Grace Lindvall will accompany the group this summer as the Back Home Leader. The deadline for securing a space in the conference is **Thursday, March 31**. Please submit your deposit of \$100 per attendee to the Trinity Financial Office. The remaining balance of \$250 will be due by May 15. Should you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



We will be replacing the Fellowship Hall flooring April 13 – April 27.
Thank you for your patience.

Glory to God Hymnal Drive

Make a joyful noise! Join together as we embrace the new *Glory to God* Hymnal from the Presbyterian Church (USA). If you've been to Montreat in the past three years, you have already seen and used this new hymnal. The *Glory to God* Hymnal contains over 65% of the hymns from the 1990 version and includes hymns from the 1950 and 1975 hymnals as well.



For a gift of \$25.00, you can dedicate a new hymnal with an acknowledgement on the inside front cover bookplate. The bookplate is optional should you prefer to make your gift anonymously. It will make a great Mother's Day gift!

Fill a pew for **\$200.00** (8 hymnals)
Fill half a pew for **\$100.00** (4 hymnals)
Individual hymnal - **\$25.00**

Order forms are available below, in the Cloister, the Narthex and the Church Office. Please make checks payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church (and indicate **hymnal** on the memo line) or pay on the website at www.trinitypreschurch.org. The deadline to order is May 8 (just in time for Mother's Day).

Interested in learning more about the new hymnal? Join us after church on April 10 in Room 113 to take a look at the hymnal, ask questions of Steve and Chris, and learn more. We'll see you there!

I wish to donate _____ hymnal(s) given to the glory of God and

in honor of: _____

in memory of: _____

OR

I wish to donate _____ hymnal(s) given to the glory of God

by: _____

Please print and provide the exact spelling of how you wish the name(s) to appear.



Growing, Playing and Learning together!

IT IS NOT TOO LATE

**Registration for the 2016-17 school year is still in progress!
AND
Summer Camp registration for June 7-30 has begun!**

Visit our website at www.trinitypreschurch.org.

Call us at 704.366.3556 and speak with Stephanie Palmer or Jill Billings.

Email us at spalmer@trinitypreschurch.org or jbillings@trinitypreschurch.org.

Schedule a tour for Wednesday or Thursday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

We look forward to serving you and your family!

What's Happening at Trinity

April 1	PostScripts Deadline, May Issue F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus (weekly)	April 14	Weekday School Chapel Sojourners Pub Theology
April 3	Confirmation Meeting Children's Choir (weekly) Youth Group (weekly)	April 15	Girl Scout Troop #2409
April 4	Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Classes Girl Scout Troop #1335 Carolina Sampler Guild	April 17	Stated Session
April 5	F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sew 'N Sews Tuesdays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Classes Trinity Staff Meeting (weekly) Weekday School Little Scholars (weekly) Al-Anon (weekly)	April 18	Weekday School My Gym Classes Girl Scout Troop #1335
April 6	Weekday School Hello Spanish Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly) Wednesday Class (weekly) Soccer Shots (weekly) Welcoming Ministry Team Adult Choir (weekly)	April 19	Weekday School My Gym Classes Trinity Book Club
April 7	Jane Arant Discussion Group (weekly) Bridge (weekly) Girl Scout Troop #1120	April 20	ACS Training Weekday School Hello Spanish Stewardship Ministry Team American Needlepoint Guild
April 8	Girl Scout Troop #2415	April 21	ACS Training Girl Scout Troop # 1120
April 10	Bible in a Year Class	April 22	Faith and Sexuality Workshop Girl Scout Troop #2415
April 11	Men's Breakfast Weekday School Music Classes Girl Scout Troop # 1335 Weekday School Ministry Team	April 23	Faith and Sexuality Workshop Carolina Sampler Guild
April 12	Philips Academy Paving the Way Breakfast Weekday School Music Classes Philanthropic Educational Organization	April 24	Personnel Ministry Team
April 13	Weekday School Staff Meeting Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team Finance Ministry Team	April 25	Girl Scout Troop #1335
		April 27	Weekday School Staff Appreciation Lunch Embroiderers' Guild
		April 28	Worship Ministry Team
		April 29	Girl Scout Troop #2409
		April 30	MI Express
Church Triumphant			
		William M. Archer, Jr. (Bill)	February 27
		Rosemarie Rummel Palmer Wife of John Palmer	March 9
Congregational Sympathy			
		Phillip Arthur Cox Son-in-law of Rosemary Blanchard	January 9



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

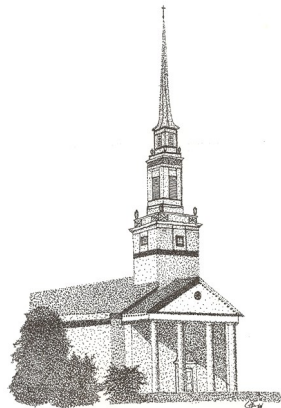
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www.trinitypreschurch.org
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Worship at Trinity

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

Donnie Bobbitt, 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.