

PostScripts

Volume XII, Issue 11/December 2014 - January 2015

Beneath the Spire...

Bringing Our Best To The Lord

The three wise men had traveled long and far after a star; but more importantly after the promise that lay underneath that star. They came to worship that promise; not only with their words and actions, but with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. In our 21st century world, only one of these bears any real meaning. If we open up a nice-looking watch on Christmas morning that's great; but if it's a *gold-plated* watch, *wow!* The other two gifts symbolized the same sort of thing in their time: frankincense was an expensive oil used in special religious rites, and myrrh was tree sap resin fashioned into lavish ointments.

The point being: these gentlemen brought their very best to the Lord that day. They didn't short-change the baby Jesus with a second-tier gift; a token present like the fruit cake the boss plops on your desk every December. Each of these kings gave their own personal best, rather than assuming the others would "come through" with their gift so they wouldn't have to be as extravagant with theirs. They each brought their very best to the Lord.

I'm struck by this image as we enter the Advent season and prepare to celebrate the arrival of God's son in our midst. Truly this is holy time when we, in so many ways, embrace the gift of our savior. Because indeed, Jesus is a gift to each of us. He is a gift of unconditional love, immutable grace, and showing us the way to true kingdom-living.

This is a gift we can and should celebrate – and not just with red and green, Christmas carols, special worship services, and gift-giving on Christmas morning. This celebration should last year-round – namely, striving to do and be the very things we are so grateful to Jesus for.

Nearly a year ago, in my January *PostScripts* letter, I shared in my "Pastor Top Ten" that I believe we in the church are called to respond to God's amazing grace and love through our time, our talent and our treasure. If the Wise Men call us to follow their lead and bring our best to the Lord, what might this look like?

- How do we bring our best to the Lord with our TIME? Are we present in the gathered body of Christ more often than not?
- How do we bring our best to the Lord with our TALENTS? Every one of us has some skill or ability we can put to use to help further the church's purpose and mission. Are we utilizing those to their fullest extent?

continued on next page

- How do we bring our best to the Lord with our TREASURE? Are we being “generous givers” as we support the church’s mission and vision?

We’re not a whole lot different from those Wise Men, if you think about it. We’re all on a journey together, seeking Christ, not quite sure where the journey will take us. But we know this: we know Christ lies at the end of our travels, and we know that we make the journey to Christ together. Let us never cease, as we prepare to make the journey to the manger and beyond, to bring our best to the Lord! Blessings to each of you in this holy season!

Always your pastor and friend,



Session Highlights

Stated Session Meeting on October 26, 2014:

A motion was approved from the Capital Campaign Committee that \$61,070 be allocated for the removal and replacement of the column bases, stripping and painting wooden columns, and painting the steeple by Higher Ground Restoration and including engineering fees and a 10% contingency. The funds will be from funds allocated for Phase One of the Capital Campaign Fund.

The December stated meeting will be rescheduled from December 21 to December 14, 2014.

Steve is meeting with our five elders elect - Tony, Lori, Donnie, Liz and Warren – for what he calls “New Elder Gatherings.”

The Personnel Committee met on the afternoon of October 9, 2014 and conducted annual staff performance reviews for all members of the staff except the Parish Associate and Seminary Intern.

The Christian Education Committee has met with Steve, Wendy Smolen and Tom Massey to make some changes to the confirmation process. It will be more mentor based, with the mentors coming from the College of Elders instead of only active Session members.

Choir Appreciation Sunday will be held on November 9, 2014.

Approximately 1500 pounds of food has been donated to Loaves & Fishes this year, which is 300 pounds ahead of this time last year.

The Weekday School current enrollment is 80% with 114 students out of an available 142 slots.

An Update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The APNC has met weekly for the past two months to formulate a vision of an Associate Pastor's ministry here at Trinity.

We gained the congregation's insight via round table discussions as well as through your responses via handwritten and electronic feedback about Trinity's strengths and needs. First and foremost, we thank you for taking the time to share your opinions and ideas. We are now at work digesting and applying that feedback toward the development of the Associate Pastor Job Description and the Ministry Information Form (MIF). Our goal is to have these ready to present to Session for their approval in December. Please know how much we appreciate your support and prayers as we make our way through these steps of calling an Associate Pastor to the Trinity family.



ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT
COVERED DISH DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014
AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please bring your favorite main dish or casserole and one of the following: vegetable, side dish, salad, bread or dessert.

JOIN OUR TRINITY FAMILY FOR AN ADVENT CELEBRATION WITH DINNER AND A MUSICAL PLAY FEATURING

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR
PRESENTING
"Silent Night: the Birth of a Carol"
DIRECTED BY JANE ARANT AND SUSAN KING

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 14** during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have costume fittings (15 minutes before and after Sunday School) on Sunday, November 30 and Sunday, December 7 in Room 116.

We will also have a rehearsal on Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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



Diaper & Clothing 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

Infant clothing (onesies, booties)

Children's clothing (especially pants/jeans/khakis)

New underwear

Jackets and coats

Blankets/comforters

Toiletries (soap, shampoo, lotion, alcohol-free hand sanitizer)

Beginning November 17 through December 3,

donations can be dropped off

at the Trinity Presbyterian Weekday School office.

*Please join the Weekday School for
Christmas Chapel*

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

12:00 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Sanctuary

Our Weekday School students will participate in a special presentation of collected items to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry. Families are invited to join their children for lunch following the service: Toddlers and Twos in their classrooms and Threes, Fours and TK in the Fellowship Hall.



Trinity's Annual Christmas Social

Friday, December 12, 2014
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jill and Mike Billings
9546 Hunting Court
Matthews, NC 28105
(Coachman Ridge)
If lost, call 704.210.8117

RSVP to Jill Billings by December 7

jopdyke@hotmail.com

If your last name begins with
A – N, please bring Finger Foods
O – Z, please bring a Dessert

* Beverages provided *

“Wear an interesting Christmas Sweater as there may be a prize!”

\$5.00 per person





Christmas Worship at Trinity



December 21
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. The Trinity Choir will sing “O Come, the Nations’ Savior” (Hugo Distler), “To Us a Child Is Born” (Heinrich Schwatz), “Our Lady’s Dream” (Max Reger), “The Lamb” (John Tavener), “Nowell, Sing Nowell” (John Rutter).

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Children’s Service with The Lord’s Supper
Anthem by the Children’s Choir

8:30 p.m. Choral Prelude by Trinity Choir with instrumentalists

The Trinity Choir, joined by instrumentalists, will sing traditional carols and anthems.

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with The Lord’s Supper

The offertory anthem will be “O magnum mysterium” by Tomas Luis da Vittoria.

11:00 a.m. December 28 First Sunday after Christmas Day
Anthem by Family Choir

The annual gathering of those who will form the Trinity Family Choir will sing the anthem for 11:00 a.m. worship. All are invited to join with young and old members of our church family, and to bring members of your extended family and out-of-town visitors. The one-time rehearsal will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room, where coffee and juice will be available. No experience or great musical skill is required – only bring a happy heart and a willing voice. The anthem will be a familiar carol, so participation will be comfortable for everyone. *Please* call the church office, 704.366.3554, no later than December 24 to let Jane Arant know that you plan to attend, so that there will be a copy of the music waiting for you. on Sunday morning!



Holiday Open House

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014
PLEASE DROP IN BETWEEN 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Refreshments Provided

PHILIPS ACADEMY
3115 PROVIDENCE ROAD | CHARLOTTE, NC 28211
704.365.4533
www.philipsacademync.org

Philips Academy is a private, non-profit school for students in middle, high school, and post high school with complex language, learning and/or cognitive disabilities. The school's mission is to provide our students with the academic, occupational, and social skills needed to be self-reliant, confident and contributing members of their communities.

*From all the staff at
Trinity have a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*

Becky Heather

Stephanie Jill Jane

Mark Rhonda DC

Bill Cheryl Kelly

GREENING OF TRINITY

Our fresh Advent wreath, the lovely wreaths on our doors, the beautiful greenery on the pulpit and lectern, the poinsettias, candles and ribbon that prepare our windows and Sanctuary for Christmas Eve are all made possible by your gifts in honor of or in memory of someone at Christmas. Your participation will add to the beauty of Trinity during this season and ensure that this wonderful tradition continues. If you would like to participate in this "GREENING OF TRINITY" by contributing a poinsettia, please provide your information and check to the church office by December 16.

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

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

A Letter From Jane

Dear Friends,

The celebration with you of my thirty years of service to Trinity, years completed on October 5th, was a great privilege. But the mere marking of a number of years does not begin to tell of the depth of enduring friendships formed; of the richness of growth in faith and knowledge from worship and study shared; and of the profound privilege of playing the organ for baptisms, marriages and memorial services for persons I have come to cherish as family. I have said this many times before, but it bears saying again: I cannot adequately express the rewards that have been mine in working in a congregation that has so long upheld and valued fine music, the arts and literature for the ways they can enrich and deepen worship. The many and varied



opportunities to work with so many musicians in worship and in concerts, to create seasonal and other special services, to lead Lenten and other focused studies, and to develop the Liturgical Arts Immersion Program for our children - all these have formed and enriched my own faith in ways I never knew to expect.

After much discussion with my family, a few close friends and colleagues in church music, I have come to the conviction that the time is right (borrowing a phrase our friend, Bill Cockrill used to describe his retiring a year ago) for me to “un-tether” myself from the ongoing obligations of church leadership and to embrace and enjoy the freedom of retirement. I would like to continue with you through the celebrations of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, concluding my work at Trinity at the end of January, 2015.

There are no words extravagant enough to convey the depth of my respect and affection for the people of Trinity. I will always count you among the treasures of my life.

*Yours with love and gratitude,
Jane Arant*

Dear members and friends of Trinity,

Our beloved Minister of Music, Jane Arant, told me that she has been thinking for some time about retirement, and has now decided to retire from Trinity, effective January 31, 2015. In her own words, after thirty glorious years of making beautiful music with us, she's decided it is time to find out what life is like “untethered from the church.”

I've only been here for a year, and I count myself blessed to get to call Jane a colleague in ministry and friend. Many of you have had that privilege for much longer than I; and I know this news will be received with sadness, gratefulness and perhaps a few tears as well. This is what happens when we partner in ministry with people we come to know and love.

As soon as possible, I will convene Eddie Poe, Chair of Personnel, Betty Lynn Lambert, Chair of Worship, and Fran Worthington, Clerk of Session, to work with me in recommending to the Session a plan for an interim person to cover Jane's responsibilities, a committee to plan ways to honor Jane for her service, and a longer term plan for a search committee to recommend our next Director of Music. The Session and I will keep you informed at every step along the way.

For now, grieve with me, then let us rejoice together as we move forward to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, followed by a most worthy celebration of Jane's ministry among us! Blessings to you!

Always your pastor and friend,

Steve

Welcome Stephanie Palmer, Weekday School Director

The Weekday School Director Search Committee is proud to announce that Stephanie Palmer has been named the new director. She will begin work on Monday, December 1.

Stephanie comes to us from Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Weekday School where she has been director for the last eight years. Before that she was the director of the preschool at the YMCA in Boca Raton, Florida. Stephanie is a graduate of the University of Miami.

Stephanie writes the following to introduce herself:

Greetings! My name is Stephanie Palmer, and I am the new Weekday School Director. I am very excited to begin this journey with Trinity in helping to continue to provide a quality learning experience for God's precious ones.

I love working with children and their families and have done so for over 12 years as a preschool director. Before joining the team at Trinity, I was the preschool director at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church (in the University area) for a little over 8 years. Charlotte has been home for my family and me for 8 years. I am originally from beautiful South Florida, where I resided for 20 years.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my best friend and husband, Paul (of 15 years) and my two blessings, Jada, 13 and Aidan, 10. We are a big soccer family - husband coaches, children play and I...cheer. I love decorating, cooking, reading and just hanging out with family and friends.

My relationship with God comes first and has fueled everything I have done in life, including my marriage and my career. God has blessed me with another opportunity to help young ones grow and develop a love for Him and for learning. It is a very important job, but with God's help, the great team of teachers and working as a team (parents included), we will succeed.

I look forward to this path that God has placed me on and pray that I do His will in serving the children, families and staff. Thank you for welcoming me into your church home!

We at Trinity are excited about Stephanie being here and look forward to working with her.

*Judith Parker
Weekday School Director Search Committee Chairman*

Committee Members:
Lisa Bobbitt, Shane Nofziger, Joni Summers, Margaret Rowe



A big thank you goes out to Kelly Coley for serving as the interim director for the Weekday School from June through November. We look forward to wonderful things happening in our school.

What's Happening

- December 1 WDS Wreath Pick-Up (all day)
Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly)
Weekday School Creative Movement
Worship Committee
Shasta Neighborhood Community Watch
Cub Scout Pack 211 (weekly)
- December 2 WDS Wreath Pick-Up (all day)
F3 Nation—Fitness & Leadership (weekly)
Sew 'N Sews Tuesdays (weekly)
Weekday School Creative Movement
Staff Meeting (weekly)
WDS Little Scholars
AI-Anon (weekly)
- December 3 WDS Wreath Pick-Up (all day)
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly)
Wednesday Class (weekly)
Weekday School Chapel
followed by lunch
Deadline for Weekday School
Diaper and Clothing Drive
Room in the Inn
Deadline for
Alexander's Angel Network Gifts
Membership Committee
Adult Choir (weekly)
- December 4 Thursday Class (weekly)
Weekday School Task Force
Bridge (weekly)
Girl Scout Troop #1120
- December 5 F3 Nation—Fitness & Leadership (weekly)
Sons of Timaeus Bible Study (weekly)
Girl Scout Troop #2409 and #2415
- December 6 Trinity Workday
Advent Family Night Set-up
- December 7 Christmas Pageant Costume Fittings
APNC Meeting
Children's Choir (weekly)
Advent Family Night Supper
- December 8 Men's Breakfast
Weekday School Music Classes
Publicity Committee
- December 9 Weekday School Music Classes
Stewardship Committee
- December 10 Weekday School PlaySpanish
Room in the Inn
Christian Education Committee
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Finance Committee
- December 11 Deadline for
Thompson Child & Family Focus Gifts
Mercy School of Nursing
Rehearsal and Graduation
Weekday School Task Force
Girl Scout Troop #1335
- December 12 Trinity Adult Christmas Social**
- December 13 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- December 14 **Children's Christmas Pageant**
Youth Group (weekly)
Stated Session
- December 16 Weekday School My Gym
Philips Academy Holiday Open House
Trinity Book Club
Poinsettia Contribution Deadline
- December 17 Weekday School My Gym
Room in the Inn
American Needlepoint Guild
- December 19 Weekday School Teacher Workday
Weekday School Staff Meeting
Weekday School Staff Christmas Party
- December 20 Girl Scout Troops #2409 & #2415
- December 21 Lessons and Carols**
- December 24 Early Christmas Eve Communion**
Choral Prelude
Christmas Eve Communion
- December 25 Christmas Day**
Church Office Closed
- December 26 Church Office Closed
- December 28 Family Choir**
- December 22-January 4
Weekday School Holiday Break
Philips Academy Holiday Break

at Trinity

January 1	New Year's Day Church Office Closed PostScripts Deadline — February Issue	January 14	Weekday School Parent Support Team Weekday School PlaySpanish Philips Academy Zumba Classes (weekly) Weekday School Staff Meeting Room in the Inn Christian Education Committee Buildings and Grounds Committee Finance Committee
January 2	F3 Nation—Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus Bible Study (weekly) Girl Scout Troop #2409 and #2415	January 15	Weekday School Chapel
January 4	Sunday School Gathering Epiphany of the Lord APNC Meeting (weekly)	January 18	Stated Session
January 5	Weekday School Classes Resume Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Worship Committee Cub Scout Pack 211 (weekly)	January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church and Schools Closed
January 6	F3 Nation—Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sew 'N Sews Tuesdays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Staff Meeting (weekly) South Mecklenburg COM Cluster Teen Cotillion (weekly) Charlotte Latin Alumnae Al-Anon (weekly)	January 20	Trinity Book Club
January 7	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly) Weekday School PlaySpanish Wednesday Class (weekly) Room in the Inn Membership Committee Adult Choir (weekly)	January 21	Weekday School PlaySpanish American Needlepoint Guild
January 8	Thursday Class (weekly) Bridge (weekly) Girl Scout Troop #1335 Girl Scout Troop #1120	January 22	Girl Scout Troop #1335 Girl Scout Troop #1120
January 9	F3 Nation—Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus Bible Study (weekly)	January 27	Weekday School My Gym
January 11	Baptism of the Lord, Communion Youth Group (weekly)	January 28	Weekday School Parent Teacher Conferences - No school for students Room in the Inn Embroiderers' Guild
January 12	Men's Breakfast Weekday School Music Classes	January 29	Weekday School Parent Teacher Conferences - No school for students Philips Academy Parent Meeting
January 13	Weekday School Music Classes		

Congratulations

Bob and Peggy Harding November 6
60th Wedding Anniversary

Church Triumphant

Nan Kirk Palmer October 26

Virginia Mikkelsen MacGuire November 16

Congregational Sympathy

Celeste Ficklen Dulin October 25
Daughter of Bennie Ficklen

Charles Clifton Smith October 29
Grandfather of Matt Smith

IMPACT STORY - Josh Durham

During the worship hour weekly in October congregation members shared an "Impact Story". Please find below Josh Durham's story shared October 5.

My name is Josh Durham. Many of you have heard this story before, but if we're talking about how Trinity has impacted me this is the one I like to tell.

There I was, very much outside my comfort zone and walking into the Youth Center to serve as an overnight host at Room in the Inn. You should know about Room in the Inn, if you don't already. Every winter, on Wednesdays, we open our Fellowship Hall and provide warm meals and shelter for some of our city's less fortunate.

But until this particular afternoon, it was a mission for which I'd been perfectly happy to let others do the work. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of ways to serve at Trinity, and I wasn't comfortable doing this one at all. Let me organize sports teams. Or lead a Sunday School class. Or drop off canned food for Loaves and Fishes.

Overnight hosting just wasn't for me. It was way too close to the action.

And if my wife, Lynette, hadn't somehow come to be in charge of lining up the overnight hosts, it's entirely possible I never would have signed up.

So there I was. And there he was.

The middle-aged man in a suit, the director of the Room in the Inn program, and he'd come to make sure that we had what we needed for the night. He'd loosened his tie, and his hair was a little out of place, but I knew this was from his hard day at work at the non-profit agency.

How nice of him to come, I thought.

And when we went to the Fellowship Hall and he helped us set up the mattresses for our guests, I again thought, how nice of him.

But when I noticed his suitcase, carrying what were surely his most important belongings in the world, I realized that everything I'd thought about him, and about the homeless, was wrong.

His name was Ted. That night we sat in the Fellowship Hall and talked. We just talked. If you have ever heard the TED talks online or on NPR, I guess you could say this was mine.

He took an interest in the book I was reading. We talked about my having recently taking up running.

We talked about what I did for a living, which led to the movie "My Cousin Vinnie." Since he was from up north, he could do the most amazing Joe Pesci impression.

And we talked about his divorce and his struggles with alcohol, which cost him his license, his job, and which sent him to some bad places from which he was trying so very hard to return.

The next morning we parted as friends.

A few months later I saw Ted walking down Sharon View Road. I pulled up beside him, rolled down the window, and, if you know "My Cousin Vinnie" this will make sense, I asked him if he knew where I could get some "magic grits."

I gave him a ride to where he needed to go and during that ride we talked some more. He was still trying. Still fighting.

A few months later I heard from him. He called me. He was in Charleston, working at Joseph A Banks as a salesperson. He said it wasn't much, but it was a start.

Later, a card came. He'd gotten an opportunity with Charleston's Parks and Recreation Department.

Though that's the last I heard from him, I think of him often, and I hope he is well.

Since then I've spent the night in the Fellowship Hall several more times. I've even gotten Steve to do the same. Many of you have heard that one of the guests during his stay found some loose change in the Fellowship Hall. When Steve said she could certainly keep it, she insisted, as a thank you, that he put it in the next Sunday's offering.

I said there are dozens, if not hundreds of ways to serve here at Trinity, but there are thousands of ways that this place can move you. And move you in ways you could never have imagined.

My story is just one example and I thank you for letting me share it with you.

*Beautiful lives are those that bear
For other lives their burden of care;
Beautiful souls are those that show
The Spirit of Christ wherever they go.
—Abbott (Ted included this poem in the card he sent)*

Where There is a Vision, the People Flourish!

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank you for your generosity throughout this year in supporting the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church. It has been an exciting year – filled with transitions and new opportunities – and we are deeply grateful for your confidence and support in what the Lord is doing in us and through us as a church.

In fact, with all that has been happening, it is hard to believe that a little over a year ago our Session and our Interim Pastor asked that we pray for God's guidance as we shaped the future. We were at the threshold of a new chapter in the ministry of this congregation, and our Session recognized that there was much work that needed to be done to restore and update our campus facilities –an integral part of our worship, study, and service. The request was for a sacrificial commitment to a capital campaign effort, a pledge to be paid over 3 years, over and above our annual response campaign pledges. There were concerns about undertaking a capital campaign prior to the calling of a new pastor and about our ability to raise the necessary funds to support the extensive work and projects outlined by the Session.

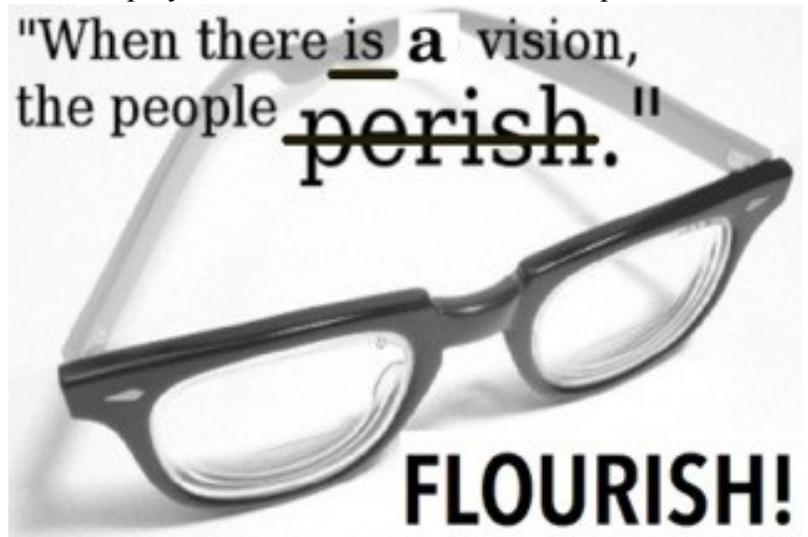
We faithfully considered the request by responding through prayer and devotion. As I looked back through the devotional guide written by Dr. Scott McKenzie today, I was immediately struck by a passage and devotion provided on Day 7 of that journey:

Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever, and ever. Amen.
Ephesians 3:20

McKenzie asks, “How many times do we limit God?” and “How often do we fail to recognize the wonderful power that God gives us through Jesus Christ?” Look again at the words used by Paul, “abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” Often we find ourselves saying “yes, but...” There are always reasons why something can't happen. We're too small; we could never do that. We're too poor, we could never afford that. Yet, during the course of the last year, our congregation has done more than we could have ever imagined. By God's grace, we have given more and done more than we dared to even dream just over a year ago!

And today, there is a VISION, a bold vision that lays out why what we do matters, as well as what we plan to do! And, as we have all heard and read this stewardship season, where there is a vision, the people flourish! As we approach year's end, I invite you to join with me in prayer that the Lord will continue to provide for the needs of our church, that capital campaign and response commitments will continue to be fulfilled, and for the faithful and generous support of Trinity by all who were and are blessed to be a part of this community of faith. During this Advent, Christmas, and New Year, may gifts be made freely with love and gratitude and joy! May we continue to be blessed in our efforts to expand God's Kingdom here on earth!

Warmly in Christ,
Lindsey Field
Stewardship Committee Member



RESPONSE 2015

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*

Isaiah 43:19

To those who have responded, thank you for your pledge to our 2015 Vision! Your Session has created a vision of how we as a congregation can equip, grow and serve in God’s name in the year to come. The pledge total to achieve this vision is \$675,000. In order to do this, we are asking you to prayerfully consider at least a 10-15% increase over your previous giving. Your Session has also developed a four-year goal and plan to balance the budget.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign was launched on October 26 during the worship service and below are the preliminary results received as of Thursday, November 13, 2014.

Lynette Neel and Phil Blount
2015 Response Co-Chairs

Pledge Ranges in 2015 325 Potential Pledge Units

Pledge Range	Number of Pledge Units Received	Percent of Total Pledge Units Received	Amount Received	Percent of Total Amount Received
>15,001	2	0.62%	38,000	6.72%
10,001—15,000	9	2.77%	117,200	20.73%
9,001—10,000	5	1.54%	51,000	9.02%
8,001—9,000	2	0.62%	17,400	3.08%
7,001—8,000	5	1.54%	38,060	6.73%
6,001—7,000	6	1.85%	38,372	6.79%
5,001—6,000	9	2.77%	51,980	9.19%
4,001—5,000	9	2.77%	42,050	7.44%
3,001—4,000	12	3.69%	45,150	7.99%
2,001—3,000	24	7.38%	64,840	11.47%
1,001—2,000	30	9.23%	44,798	7.92%
1—1,000	32	9.85%	16,512	2.92%
Non-pledge units	180	55.38%	0.00	0.00%
Totals	325	100%	565,362	100%

If you have not made your pledge yet, please do so by contacting
Cheryl Jernigan (cjernigan@trinitypreschurch.org) or 704.366.3554 in the church office.

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you,
always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.”*
Corinthians 9:8

Financials as of October 31, 2014

	October Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Receipts:	\$ 50,528	\$ 539,810	\$ 491,000
Unrestricted Funds Used:	\$ 953	\$ 46,975	\$ 82,342
Endowment Funds Used:	\$ 0	\$ 50,257	\$ 41,880
Boltz Funds Used:	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,167
Expenses:	\$ 81,796	\$ 745,477	\$ 766,700
Surplus/Deficit:	\$ (30,315)	\$ (108,435)	\$ (147,311)

Financial Planning Workshop

Improve your financial literacy. Starting in January, 2015 on Tuesday nights for ten weeks you will have the opportunity to learn more about your personal finance and money handling skills. Babysitting will be provided. Look for more details in the coming weeks from the Stewardship Committee.


TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship 11am
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
Phone: 704.366.3554

WELCOME WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE | WORSHIP CELEBRATING OUR FAITH | STUDY GROWING TOGETHER | SERVE THE GREATER MISSION | CONNECT WAYS TO STAY INFORMED | WEEKDAY SCHOOL NURTURING YOUNG MINDS | GIVING OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE


We are a family of faith,
believers in and followers
of Jesus Christ

Check out Trinity's new website at, www.trinitypreschurch.org, it's awesome!

At our new website you can:

- Check weekly announcements
- Listen to and read sermons
- Read the latest church notes/impact stories/**PostScripts** letters
- Log in to your Member account (under the Connect Menu)
- Connect with our Facebook and Twitter presence



Inclement Weather

Sunday services will be held unless a closure notice is published due to inclement weather.

Trinity will publish closings on:

Channel 3—WBTV—wbtv.com

Channel 6—WNBC—wnbc.com

Channel 9—WSOC—wsoc.com

Channel 14—FOX—news14.com

Channel 36—WCNC—wcnc.com/closings



ALL SAINTS' DAY

THE CELEBRATION OF ALL SAINTS' DAY continues a tradition practiced in the church since the 4th century, when special services remembering those who had died in the faith were held in the days or weeks following Easter. By the 8th century, the celebration had been moved to its present date, November 1. The day offers us the opportunity to rejoice for all those, known to us and unknown, who have tried in their own lives to serve God faithfully. It also gives us occasion to be drawn out of preoccupation with ourselves and our own immediate situations as we affirm our places in the ongoing and living community of saints – of the past, the present, and the future – who abide in God's eternal presence.

On November 2, we remembered with love and gratitude these members of our congregation, and other loved ones, who have entered the Church Triumphant since All Saints' Day, 2013.

Church Triumphant November 3, 2013 – November 2, 2014

Harold Allen Kessler (Buddy)
Dorothy Lassiter Waller
LaVerne Frances Walsh Roberts
Reid Haynes Brawley
Ruth Ranson Gault
Hugh Monroe Duncan
Virginia Scott Brown
Bill Aubrey Shirley, Jr.
Dorothy Ann Boiter
Mary Frances Rayfield Boggs
Harold Roger Cole
Vann Allen Brewster
Joyce Harper Whisenant
Nan Kirk Palmer

Relatives and Friends November 3, 2013 – November 2, 2014

Nancy Elizabeth Garfield
William Hampton Choate, Jr.
Mary DeWeerth
Evelyn Bowles
Earl White
Louise Wood Smith
Ellen Lyons Kennedy
Nancy Parker Bradshaw
William M. Wilcox
Catherine Louise Reynolds Ingram
Mary Ellen Atwater
Linda Hamilton
Danny Danko
Libby Jones
Kathy Ray Bramhall
Celeste Ficklen Dulin
Billie Paschal Wingard

*If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8.*



The Flower Committee encourages you to sponsor chancel flowers one Sunday in 2015. This is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone. The cost of sponsoring is \$75. To reserve a date, please contact Joyce Poe at 704.366.1673 or juicepoe@gmail.com or Becky Purnell at 704.366.3554 or bpurnell@trinitypreschurch.org with your date and your memorial information.



Wonder Where They Are Today ???

Have you ever looked around your Sunday School class or the Sanctuary during the 11:00 o'clock service and missed someone? Chances are they are NOT playing hooky! Chances are they are one of the many volunteers who signed up to help with loving and caring for the children of Trinity.

Many thanks and much appreciation to our Autumn Childcare Volunteers:

Louise Sanford and Susanne Sawyer

Kathy Coppedge

Susanne Reid and Caroline

May Johnston and Madeleine

Amy Shook and Debbie Fisher

Kim Nims

Lauren Brandt and Fran Worthington

Betty Anderson

Peggy Gandy and Liz Countess

Peggy Savas

Sandra Nutter and Molly Anderson

Joni Summers

Tom Collins and Skylar

Rosanne Brandt

Sean and Anne Mar Kirby

Laura Gutknecht

Brian and Ali Field

Lynn Davis

Jim and Candy Hambacher

Melanie Hood

John and Marty Brownlow

Barbara Caine

Casey and Lindsey Field

Julie Trimakas

Lorie Lindsley

Jill Billings

Margaret Rowe

Lynda Opdyke

"Everything we do is MISSION"

MISSION - MINDED

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 growing 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 nights to host are:

December 3, 10, and 17

January 7, 14, and 28

February 4, 18, and 25

March 4, 11, and 25

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 gmvnc@bellsouth.net - laundry

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

Nancy Williams 704.542.6150 or omomx3@gmail.com - breakfasts



“Therefore, as God’s
chosen people, holy
and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness
and patience.”

Colossians 3:12

Be on the lookout for our Alternative Gift cards, which can be found along with the RITI display boards in the Cloister. This is a great gift idea during the holidays and your financial support helps purchase the supplies needed to keep the RITI program running at Trinity.



“GIFTS TO THE MANGER”

The **Mission and Outreach Committee** is focusing this Advent season on several organizations and programs that have specific needs during Christmas. The following five opportunities for giving will be familiar since you have been so gracious and generous in previous years. We hope you and your family will share in the joy of bringing **“Gifts to the Manger”**. Please place your new and **unwrapped** gifts in the designated display boxes in the Cloister.



Alexander Youth Network - Each year, Alexander serves over 5,700 children with, or at high risk of, serious emotional and behavioral problems often induced by neglect or abuse. A majority of the “kids of Alexander” come from low-income homes, some are separated from their natural families, and many live in the care of therapeutic foster parents. Alexander’s Angel Network provides Trinity with a way to make these children’s holiday special. **All items should be new, unwrapped and delivered to collection boxes** in the Cloister, with card attached. Deadline for donations is **December 3**.

Needs: Look in the Cloister for a small tree with card ornaments carrying a specific request from a child. General donations are also welcome.



Thompson Child & Family Focus – Wish List – Thompson 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. Please bring your gift to the office by **December 11**. **Please note: do not wrap gift and tape the card to the package.**

Needs: There will be a board in the Cloister with display cards describing specific items/gifts.



Emergency Winter Shelter - provides winter shelter, food, and referrals to various social services in the Charlotte area.

Needs: Men's underwear, socks, warm coats, sweaters, gloves, blankets, pillows, towels, and washcloths.



“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
Colossians 3:12

Room in the Inn – Trinity is one of many churches that provide on-site shelter for the homeless during the winter months. Provisions for food, shelter, simple toiletries and basic clothing such as socks, underwear, hats and gloves are given to approximately 100 men and women (our neighbors) each season.

Needs: Alternative Christmas Gift Cards will be available at the Room in the Inn display in the Cloister. Make a donation in someone’s honor or memory to this important ministry at Trinity and give them a gift they won’t forget!

Christmas Joy Offering – A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, providing congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. Fifty percent (50%) of the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers, their spouses and families. The other 50% supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council.

Needs: Joy Offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks and in the Cloister.

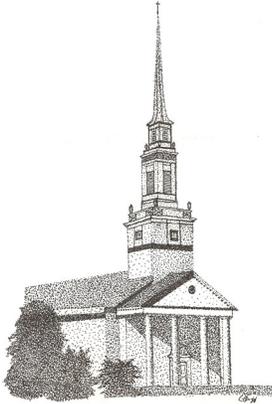
*Thank you in advance
for your generosity and
supporting this Trinity
ministry year after year.*



**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>
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHARLOTTE, NC
PERMIT NO. 885



«Label»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Worship at Trinity

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

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin/Church Notes: Wednesdays at Noon
Newsletter - PostScripts and Website: 1st day of each month

THE SESSION
Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Moderator
Fran Worthington, Clerk
Damon Coley, President of the Corporation

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
Derek Davis	Helen Alford	Steve Ball
Pete Mazeine	Damon Coley	Marty Brownlow
Sarah Mullis	Lynn Davis	Tom Collins
Eddie Poe	Laura Gutknecht	Betty Lynn Lambert
Amy Shook	Candy Hambacher	Claude Sanford
Matt Smith	Bob Lyons	
Nancy Williams	Shane Nofziger	
Fran Worthington	Bruce Voorheis	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER FOR 2014

<u>CLERK</u>	Fran Worthington
<u>COMMITTEES</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</u>
Buildings and Grounds	Claude Sanford
Capital Campaign	Matt Smith
Christian Education	Laura Gutknecht, Candy Hambacher
Congregational Care	Helen Alford
Events	Derek Davis, Damon Coley
Finance	Pete Mazeine
Membership	Marty Brownlow, Amy Shook
Mission and Outreach	Nancy Williams
Personnel	Eddie Poe, Shane Nofziger
Stewardship	Bruce Voorheis
Weekday School	Lynn Davis
Worship	Betty Lynn Lambert
Youth	Sarah Mullis

Office Hours

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

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Senior Minister
The Reverend DC Horne, Minister of Congregational Life
The Reverend Heather Koontz, Parish Associate
Rhonda McClain, Seminary Intern
Jane Bostian Arant, Minister of Music
Becky Purnell, Office Manager
Cheryl Jernigan, Financial Administrator
Bill Jones, Facilities Manager
Kelly Coley, Interim Weekday School Director
Jill Billings, Interim Weekday School Administrative Assistant