



PastScripts

Volume XIII, Issue 2/March 2015

Beneath the Spire...

NEXT Church is Coming!

We have said there were two great joys that we experienced during our work together as your Pastor Nominating Committee. The first was falling in love with Trinity all over again. The committee required that we see Trinity from so many different perspectives, from the new and prospective members to those who have been here from the start, and from the Buildings and Grounds Committee to Worship. Through this, we were able to celebrate all the things we love about Trinity and find so many new things. We will be forever grateful for that opportunity.

The second great joy was seeing and studying so many other churches and how they are facing the challenges of today's society. What moved us most in this regard was NEXT Church, which is a collection of ministers and lay leaders from churches throughout our denomination. One of its founders, Tom Are, Senior Minister of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, describes NEXT this way: ***"NEXT is not about screens or no screens. It's not about a new hymnal or keeping the old hymnal or getting rid of the hymnal all together. It's not a program or a workshop, a kit or a class. NEXT is not an institution, a mission agency or a club. It is much deeper than that. It is a conversation — a conversation of hope and trust that God is at work among us already, and we need to pay attention. It is a conversation about how we are church with one another in new ways in this changing time."*** In other words, NEXT has no agenda other than to draw on the passion and enthusiasm that we all have for our churches, and our love for Jesus Christ, in an effort to answer, "What is next for the church?"

There is no question that today's church is facing challenges. Among them is what to do about the "Nones," the growing number of people who do not identify with any particular religious denomination. It is widely believed that



the Nones see the church as too institutionalized, too polarizing, and not willing to accept people whose doubts place them in that gray area between black and white. The Nones are the subject of Steve's Lenten sermon series. We also discussed the Nones with Cynthia Rigby at Montreat, and many of us freely admitted there that we, too, have doubts and questions. If, then, we are a community that has doubt, and we are welcoming of all God's children, how can we better reach out, and how can we make the church more relevant than it has ever been?

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This is why NEXT Church exists, and passionate ministers and lay people alike from across the country are taking part. In 2013, six hundred people gathered at First Presbyterian downtown for NEXT's National Conference, and six hundred more attended online. Christopher Edmonston, our Gilchrist speaker, is on the NEXT Church Strategy Board, as is Lori Raible from Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian. Our own Steve Lindsley is on the NEXT Church Advisory Board. The efforts are gaining momentum, so much so that Tom Are has said that NEXT is the "most hopeful" thing going on within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

This is why we are so excited that NEXT's Mid-Atlantic Regional Gathering will take place April 24 - 25 right here at Trinity! Diana Butler Bass, a widely acclaimed church historian and speaker (and former syndicated columnist whose columns appeared in seventy newspapers worldwide) will be the keynote speaker. You can find more details about the conference and registration fees in last month's issue of *PostScripts* as well as on Trinity's website, trinitypreschurch.org. You'll also be hearing a lot more about NEXT in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you there, because the conference is sure to have many moving and thought-provoking discussions, and it is sure to inspire everyone who attends. And we hope you will not just attend, but be an active participant. After all, a national conversation is now occurring about what is next for the church, and our own Trinity Presbyterian Church, right here on Providence, is going to be a part of it!

Conference Hosting Committee (and former Pastor Nominating Committee)

Jim Calder, Josh Durham, Laura-Nelle Hurst, Brent Mullis, Jeff O'Keefe, Lynda Opdyke and Patrice Pickett

Session Highlights

Stated Session Meeting on January 17, 2015:

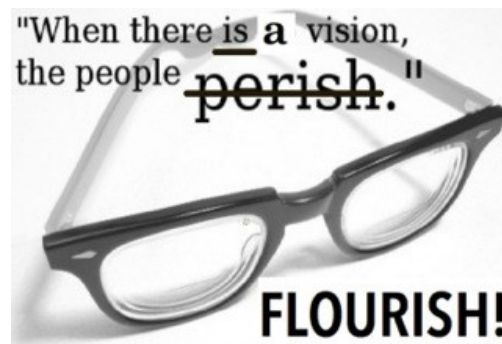
- Fran Worthington as Clerk, Elizabeth Countess as Assistant Clerk and Damon Coley as president of the Corporation were unanimously elected.
- A motion to cover the 2014 year-end deficit of \$6,172.32 by using \$2,685.84 from the Session Discretionary Fund and by using \$3,486.48 from the Memorial Fund for emergency cleaning of the sewer system pipes was approved as submitted by the Finance Ministry Team.
- A motion to approve the 2015 budget as presented by Finance carried. This budget will be shared with the congregation at a Congregational Meeting on February 15, 2015.
- A motion carried from the Welcoming Ministry Team to approve the addition of Grace Hutaff, Clinton Chandler and Chip Carpenter, all by transfer of church letter, into the membership of Trinity Presbyterian Church. They will be introduced to the congregation on February 1, 2015.
- Christian Formation shared that a lunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the Gilchrist Lecture on February 22, 2015 with The Reverend Doctor Christopher Edmonston, Senior Minister at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, as our Gilchrist speaker.
- The Annual Report to the Presbytery prepared by Becky Purnell was reviewed and approved.

Dear Trinity Family,

Where there is a vision, the people flourish!

In our first letter to you back in September 2014, we shared that the hopeful and vibrant Trinity of today exists because of the generations of members who had a vision for this faith community and who supported that vision. Through your financial response, you have continued this tradition and showed your support for our Session's vision. You gave gratefully, generously, joyfully and:

- ◆ increased the total pledge amount to \$596,122, up \$3,122 from 2014,
- ◆ 42% of members/families increased their pledge,
- ◆ the average dollar amount given per member/family increased,
- ◆ and, there were 19 new pledges.



Thank you for getting us closer to making Trinity's vision a reality. We hope that you will continue to reflect deeply on what Trinity has meant to you and that you will pray for all the members of our faith community. We also hope you will be mindful that the opportunity for giving of our time and talents is always there as we continue to grow in God's love and vision for us.

Blessings,
Lynette Neel and Phil Blount
2015 Response Co-Chairs

Financials as of January 31, 2015

	January Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Receipts:	\$ 61,862	\$ 61,862	\$ 72,108
Unrestricted Funds Used:	\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 2,500
Endowment Funds Used:	\$ 4,523	\$ 4,523	\$ 4,523
Boltz Funds Used:	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 411
Expenses:	\$ 71,639	\$ 71,639	\$ 85,768
Surplus/Deficit:	\$ (4,344)	\$ (4,344)	\$ (6,226)

Online Giving

Many of you marked having interest in making electronic payments on your pledge card. This is such a convenient and easy method of contributing. Just go to Trinity's website at www.trinitypreschurch.org. If you have not logged on as a member, you should do so. Just click on CONNECT, the MEMBER LOG IN AREA and at the bottom click, "Need A Login" and follow the instructions. To make payments click on the GIVING tab. You may pay by VISA, Mastercard, Discover, debit card or bank draft and you may set-up recurring contributions. If you need assistance please give Cheryl a call at the church office, 704.366.3554, and she will assist you.

IMPACT STORY - Sarah Henry

Congregation members share an "Impact Story" during the worship service at least monthly. Please find below Sarah Henry's story shared October 19, 2014 at Montreat.

It was not our first trip to Montreat but possibly just the second or third time we had come. From our first retreat, Warren, Marie, Douglas and I were in love with this place and the experiences we had here. On this particular trip, an event was loosely organized by some of the high school students, and they even enlisted the help of our minister at the time. Our son Douglas was probably about seven or eight and was invited to come along on the Snipe Hunt.

He was excited to be going on such an adventure with the big kids out there in the dark! The group went over instructions, assured the safe return of my child, and they left. They really weren't gone all that long, I don't think. That might have been the "year of the bears" and the hunt was called for safety reasons. But later, in the great room down there, Douglas urgently beckoned me to him and confided: "I saw one!"

"A snipe? Really?"

"Yes!"

"What did it look like?"

His eyes widened with sincerity: "Just like they said it would!"

In 1996 we moved to Charlotte from Richmond, Virginia where we had attended a wonderful Presbyterian church. Warren and I understood then that choosing a church in Charlotte was more than just finding a place to hear a sermon a few times a month. A church home would be as important as the neighborhood we lived in and the schools our children attended, probably more. We knew that we weren't raising these kids alone. A place for them to learn about God's grace in a compassionate and caring congregation was important.

We visited many, many Presbyterian churches. Eventually, Warren, Marie and Douglas weren't so

interested in attending yet another church every Sunday. They were tired of always being the outsiders and hearing from me in the car on the way home that the church service they just sat through wasn't "it." When they demanded that I say what I was looking for, I didn't have a very satisfactory answer for them. Suddenly, I had a revolt on my hands.

So, the first time I visited Trinity, I was by myself. And it was a little different: After the service, people in the congregation sought me out and spoke to me; they told me that they were glad I had come. In the next couple of days, I got phone calls from Ed Montague wanting to know how I liked the service and when I was coming back. I had never been called by a member of the congregation who really seemed to care what I thought about his church.

So, I went back with my family. In a couple of weeks, my children were drawn into Sunday School. Then Warren and I with nothing else to do between 9:30 and 10:30 began attending the adult Sunday School class with Dick and Ruth Gault, Mary Louise and Al Stuart, Bill Archer, Betty McLaney, and Frances Moore. These people and lots of others showed us "congregation." They told us their stories and listened when we told them ours. We struggled with the complex and contradictory. We laughed. We were just a handful of strangers around a table in a room sipping coffee from Styrofoam cups trying to understand what Frederick Buechner meant when he wrote, "Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid."

So, after a couple of months, we looked around us and realized that Trinity was our new church home. And it looks just like I thought it would.

Vacation Bible School - June 22-25

Watch for additional updates on a new format and theme.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. every Sunday

Adults meet in the Parlor, Room 113 and Room 116. Middle and High School youth meet in the Youth Center. Children meet in Rooms 105, 212, 213, 214, and 215. Childcare is available from 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Infants and toddlers are in Room 114 of the Education Building, twos and threes in Room 115 of the Fellowship Building and fours and fives in Room 213 of the Fellowship Building. Following Sunday School, the fours and fives go to Room 115 of the Fellowship Building and join the twos and threes for childcare during worship.

Parlor Class – John Parker and George Sawyer are leading the Parlor Class in the book, *Underground Church*, by Robin Meyers. Class will continue through May. Please join us for an in-depth look and discussion of the book. It is recommended to order a copy of the book for participation in the class.

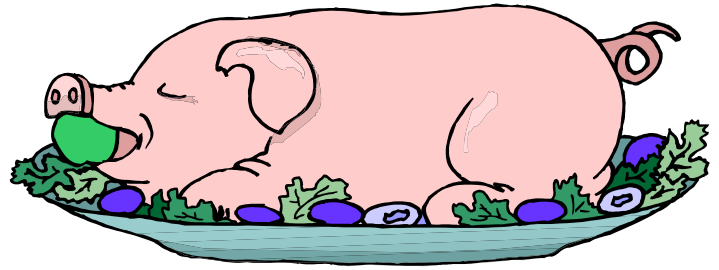
Bible 101 now meets in Room 113 and is led by our seminary intern, Rhonda McClain. This class is for members and visitors interested in improving their Biblical knowledge by participating in a weekly study.

Gathering: On March 1 we will celebrate another church wide gathering in the Fellowship Hall for all ages during the Sunday School hour. We will explore the meaning of Lent and its significance when preparing for Easter. We will look at Lent's purpose for spiritual formation. Following the program, we as a church will have a better understanding of this season of Lent and what we might do to practice a Lenten discipline as a family or as an individual. Come for a light breakfast, announcements, hymn singing, Lenten sharing and craft making.

"Potluck" Class: Beginning March 8 and continuing until Palm Sunday, March 29, the Rev. Carol Hassell will lead this class entitled, *Exploring Different Prayer Paths*. Carol is a minister member of Charlotte Presbytery and serves as the current chaplain at Sharon Towers. Carol has also completed extensive training in spiritual direction and has her own spiritual direction practice and sees clients. This class will meet in Room 116.

April 5 - Easter Sunday: There will be no Sunday School.

Youth Silent Auction & BBQ Luncheon



Mark your calendars; it's that time of year again! On **March 8**, 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 2015 Youth Mission Trip to Los Angeles, California.

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.



Welcome new members from left to right: Clinton Chandler, Grace Hutaff and Chip Carpenter.



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



MISSION - MINDED

Room in the Inn

The following dates remain in 2015 for the Room in the Inn ministry and many volunteers are needed, along with financial support, to carry out this most important ministry of the church.

March 4, 11 and 26

Did you realize that it takes \$3,000 to \$4,000 to run this program each year? Donations to the program in 2014 were \$961.00.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Tricia Sistrunk at 704.965.7797 or sistrunkt@icloud.com. Donations may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church marked clearly in the memo line for Room in the Inn.



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

Carolyn Voorheis, Food Services Coordinator for the church's Mission & Outreach Ministry is proud to report the following donation information for 2014:



Loaves & Fishes: 1,450 pounds.



Friendship Garden: 338 pounds.

Keep those cans and other foods coming and pray for rain and sunshine to help our garden grow!

cvoorheis@yahoo.com

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the **Christmas Joy Offering**, provides 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 and ethnic education through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. In 2014 Trinity collected **\$682.00**.



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to share God's love with people experiencing need. Trinity, along with other Presbyterian churches across the country, participate annually in this offering. In 2014 Trinity collected **\$346.00**.

What's Happening at Trinity

March 1	PostScripts Deadline, April Issue All Sunday School Gathering (Lent) Confirmation Class Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (weekly) Youth Group (weekly)	March 18	Weekday School Parent Support Team Weekday School PlaySpanish Classes Weekday School My Gym Classes Weekday School Staff Meeting Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Cub Scout Committee American Needlepoint Guild
March 2	Sew 'N Sews Mondays (weekly) Weekday School Creative Movement Classes Soccer Shots (weekly) Worship Ministry Team Meeting Cub Scout Pack 211 (weekly)	March 19	Philips Academy Parent Conferences South Mecklenburg Committee on Ministry Girl Scout Troop #1120
March 3	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)	March 20	Girl Scout Troop #2409 and #2415
March 4	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (weekly) Weekday School PlaySpanish Classes Wednesday Class (weekly) Soccer Shots (weekly) Room in the Inn Adult Choir (weekly)	March 22	Personnel Ministry Team
March 5	Thursday Class (weekly) Bridge (weekly) Girl Scout Troop #1120	March 23	Mecklenburg Historical Association
March 6	F3 Nation Fitness & Leadership (weekly) Sons of Timaeus (weekly) Carpet Cleaning (Parlor & Crib Room) Girl Scout Troop #2409 and #2415	March 24	Philips Academy Parent Conferences
March 8	Christian Formation Team Meeting Confirmation Class Youth Silent Auction and BBQ	March 25	Room in the Inn Embroiderers' Guild
March 9	Men's Breakfast Weekday School Music Classes	March 26	Girl Scout Troop #1335
March 10	Weekday School Music Classes Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	March 27	Cub Scout Pack 211
March 11	Room in the Inn Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team Meeting Finance Ministry Team Meeting	March 28	Palm Sunday
March 12	Philips Academy Parent Connect Weekday School Chapel Girl Scout Troop #1335	March 30	Weekday School Creative Movement Classes
March 13	Girl Scout Troop #2415 Symphony Players	March 31	Weekday School Creative Movement Classes
March 15	Stated Session		
March 17	Weekday School My Gym Classes Trinity Book Club		

New Members

Charles Daniel Carpenter (Chip) February 1
 152 A Scott Avenue
 Charlotte, NC 28203
 704.277.7417

Clinton Chandler and Grace Hutaff February 1
 1036 Broadmoor Drive
 Charlotte, NC 28209
 803.517.9316 (Clinton)
 704.533.2558 (Grace)

Church Triumphant

Harold Leonard Cooler January 30
 Husband of Bette Cooler
 Father of Colin Cooler

Congregational Sympathy

Frederick Strickland Hutchins, Jr. February 2
 Father of Rick Hutchins
 Grandfather of Rick and Rob Hutchins



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>

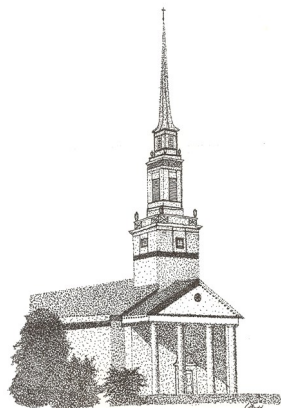
<http://twitter.trinitypreschurch.org>

Non-Profit Organization

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CHARLOTTE, NC

PERMIT NO. 885



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

Class of 2015

Helen Alford
Damon Coley
Lynn Davis
Laura Gutknecht
Candy Hambacher
Bob Lyons
Shane Nofziger
Bruce Voorheis

Class of 2016

Steve Ball
Marty Brownlow
Tom Collins
Betty Lynn Lambert
Claude Sanford

Class of 2017

Tony Arey
Donnie Bobbitt
Liz Countess
Warren Henry
Lori O'Keefe

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER FOR 2015

CLERK

Fran Worthington

MINISTRY TEAMS

TEAM CHAIRMAN

Equip

Buildings and Grounds	Claude Sanford
Capital Campaign	Tony Arey
Communications	Shane Nofziger
Finance	Damon Coley
Personnel	Lori O'Keefe, Donnie Bobbitt

Grow

Christian Formation	Laura Gutknecht, Candy Hambacher, Tom Collins
Welcoming	Marty Brownlow
Worship	Betty Lynn Lambert, Liz Countess, Bob Lyons
Youth	Laura Gutknecht

Serve

Congregational Care	Helen Alford
Fellowship	Steve Ball
Mission and Outreach	Warren Henry
Stewardship	Bruce Voorheis
Weekday School	Lynn Davis

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
Chris Gilliam, Interim Minister of Music
Becky Purnell, Office Manager
Cheryl Jernigan, Financial Administrator
Bill Jones, Facilities Manager
Stephanie Palmer, Weekday School Director
Jill Billings, Interim Weekday School Administrative Assistant

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.