



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Together. Welcoming All.

POSTSCRIPTS

September/October 2020

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

**Church Office is Closed
to Visitors, Please Call:**

M-Th: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - noon

**3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211**

trinitypreschurch.org

Phone: 704-366-3554

info@trinitypreschurch.org

**Called.
Connected.
Committed.**

*Your Stewardship Ministry Team
appreciates your support of our
church. Pledges can be submitted
online, via mail, or in person.*

**Response Sunday
October 25**

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A Conversation with Rebecca Heilman

The congregation would love to welcome Rebecca with hugs and handshakes, but for now, we'll share a pandemic-friendly Q&A.

On Moving to Charlotte:

I enjoyed some vacation with my parents who live in Valdese, NC and with Douglas and his family in Virginia. We spent time fishing, crabbing and relaxing before Douglas returned to rural Gloucester County, VA to teach school. The movers arrived a week late which was inconvenient, but it worked out. I am settling into my new office and my apartment.

Charlotte VS New York:

I miss a good New York bagel. Sadie misses a lot of dogs. As for Charlotte, I am trying out the local cuisine. I order takeout, as I still will not eat inside or outside a restaurant. I like the Asian and fusion food here. The APNC introduced me to the delicious food at YAFO. I try to lessen my carbon footprint (and save money) by not buying meat, but I am not a vegetarian and still enjoy a good medium rare steak on occasion.

On Staying Busy:

I've spent time with Steve, as Head of Staff, to understand the administrative side of Trinity. I am digging into the culture, as deep down all churches have different cultures. I have met virtually with the wonderful staff and will meet with various Ministry Teams to which I am aligned to get a feel for their work. I will meet church members through planned connection activities to understand who you are and your place at Trinity.

Latest & Greatest Reads:

I just finished *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, by Anthony Ray Hinton. I am currently reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*. Phenomenal. I recommend the book *Unorthodox*, by Deborah Feldman, and the series on Netflix. I would love recommendations on a good fiction book. One thing to know about me is I love stories. They are holy because life is holy and I believe sharing our stories is the work of the Holy.

On Growing Trinity Relationships:

I'm settling in! Thank you so much for the gift basket and welcome from the Session and Associate Pastor Support Team. I am humbled and grateful to be here. I can't express how much I appreciate the love and support I feel from Trinity already. I cannot wait to give and show the same love and support to every member of Trinity.



THE SESSION

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Moderator
Nancy Williams, Clerk
Fran Worthington, Asst. Clerk
Phil Blount, Pres. of the Corp.
Cookie Parnell, Treasurer

CLASS OF 2020

Phil Blount Steve Griffie
Sarah Henry Debbie Thompson
Meredith Thompson Jimmy Click

CLASS OF 2021

Eric Banks Jeremy Mobley
Mike Campbell Eric McGovern
Fran Worthington

CLASS OF 2022

Andrea Anderson Betty Anderson
Peter Devlin Patrice Pickett
Mike Wellman

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Equip

Personnel: Phil Blount
Finance: Jeremy Mobley
Buildings & Grounds:
Eric McGovern and Eric Banks
Stewardship: Mike Wellman

Grow

Christian Formation: Patrice Pickett
Youth: Andrea Anderson
Worship: Sarah Henry
Weekday School: Laura Gutknecht

Serve

Mission & Outreach:
Meredith Thompson
Congregational Life:
Betty Anderson and Mike Campbell
Welcoming:
Debbie Thompson and Peter Devlin

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Senior Minister
Rev. Rebecca Heilman, Associate Minister
Rev. Jodi Martin, Christian Formation and Youth Director
Dr. Chris Gilliam, Director of Music
Michael Rowland, Organist
Cheryl Jernigan, Church Administrator
Caroline Dalton, Admin. Coordinator
Sharon Smith, Comm. Coordinator
Rick Neil, Facilities Technician
Jodi Neal, Sunday Assistant
Stephanie Palmer, Weekday School Dir.
Jill Billings, Weekday School Asst. Dir.
Jane B. Arant, Music Minister Emerita

On the Journey



As I write this, I'm sitting in our Sanctuary. It's Wednesday and for the month of August we've opened it up to church members who want to hear Michael practice. The eight of us had to sign up beforehand, space out in the pews and wear masks. But it feels familiar and comforting.

Except - we got here only to discover that the neighborhood around the church is experiencing power outages; some areas working and others not. Our Sanctuary lights are on but - and you knew this was coming, right? - the organ is not. So Michael is having to play piano instead.

But it is lovely - Michael is making our Steinway sing, playing Bach and familiar hymns for these listeners. They came expecting the organ but they're not complaining about the piano. They, like me, are grateful for the sounds of music filling our Sanctuary this morning.

There is perhaps no better way to sum up 2020 than what we're experiencing now - shades of familiarity mixed with adaptations and pivots and "making do." So much is uncertain these days. And yet, much is certain: this community of faith, the God we worship, and the music (organ or piano) that fills our sacred spaces and fills our hearts. Let that tune carry us forward into whatever life brings.

Welcome Back!



A new school year is upon us and the Christian Formation Ministry Team is gearing up for fall.

Children who attend worship on September 13 will receive a Trinity bookmark, a Welcome Back bag containing resources for upcoming online lessons and a few other surprises. Welcome Back bags can be picked up after worship or a CFMT member can drop one off at a child's home.

Based on results of our survey, we decided to delay offering a lesson during outdoor worship until Phase 3. We will provide activity sheets for children attending outdoor worship. Parents are

asked to bring markers or crayons for their children. As the year progresses, we will add activities.

Youth group also begins on September 13. The youth advisors are planning for online meetings and small group in person activities. We hope to offer an in person fall Kick Off picnic or a drive by parade. All activities will follow the current health guidelines. We will also offer an online Zoom time for youth to visit with those who cannot meet in person. We are praying for all our children and youth and hope for the best for each one of them.

"My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation..." The words of this familiar hymn seem more relevant today than they have ever been. Whether it's the cries of injustice echoing across our cities, the visualizations of tyranny seen so frequently in the news and on social media, or the ravages of the Coronavirus, Earth's *lament* we all feel is palpable, visual, audible... personal.

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
There on the willows we hung our harps,
for there our captors requested a song;
our tormentors demanded songs of joy:
"Sing us a song of Zion."
How can we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?
(Ezekiel 1:1-4)*

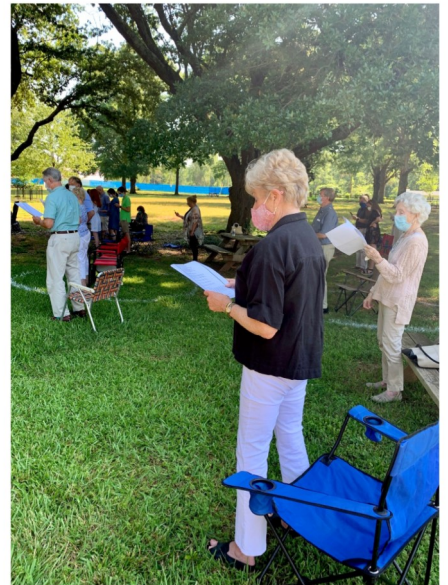
Perhaps now more than ever, we can empathize with the sentiment of God's people when they asked, "How can we sing a song of the Lord in a foreign land?"

We must remember Paul's admonishment to the Ephesians, *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The singing of hymns each week—really singing, participating, not just listening—is an important part of your own personal nourishment during this challenging time. There is a reason Paul and King David urged us to lift our songs to God. Singing puts "the words of our mouths" and the "meditations of our hearts" together in an outward declaration of faith and praise. Sometimes we all need to hear ourselves audibly proclaim what we know to be true—and singing hymns in our worship services *from our hearts* allows us to connect truth with melody. And, as you'll often hear me say, "truth learned in song is remembered long."

The refrain of the aforementioned hymn states: *"...No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"*

Since Christ IS Lord, and because he IS God, everything is in his hand, and under his control. Sing, friends. Make music in your heart. We may be in a "strange land" right now, but we have a Heavenly Father who delights in our songs and in our praise. As we look to God for our strength, he will give our singing flight to nourish our weary souls.



Trinity's Prayer Team Answers a Need

If Trinity's Prayer Team had a motto, it could be: "No one walks alone." This group of seventeen church members spends countless minutes lifting people up in prayer weekly.

Debbie Fisher prays during a morning walk for those on the prayer list. Judith Parker prays their names out loud. Some write notes. Others make phone calls.

"It's an affirmation of all of us being God's hands and feet," said Kathleen Schneider. Betty Anderson hopes the prayers give people strength by pointing them in the direction of God's care. The comfort of knowing, added Susanne Sawyer, "that you're on somebody's mind."

The need is growing. In one recent meeting, prayer team members spent an hour sharing updates. Prayer requests ranged from a church member facing surgery to families affected by cancer and Alzheimer's. Of course, Covid-19 complicates it all.

The Prayer Team is changed by the virus, too. Their small, in-person meetings have morphed into well-attended weekly Zoom calls. They pray for those affected by social distancing and remote learning.

Trinity's 2020 theme, ConnectTPC, focuses on the connection to God, neighbors and church family. The Prayer Team embodies that spirit in how its members care deeply and pray deeply. It's bonded them to each other and those they pray over.

Still Connecting!



First Day!



Our Confirmands



Thank you!

Financials as of July 31

	July Actuals	YTD Actuals	Annual Budget
Receipts:	30,562.97	404,989.84	75,510.00
Boltz Funds Used:	543.83	3,806.81	6,526.00
Endow. Funds Used:	0	98,841.00	98,841.00
Gilchrist Funds Used:	0	0	1,500.00
Sanford Bldg. Maint. Funds Used	240.08	1,680.56	2,881.00
Thomson Funds Used:	0	0	5,000.00
Expenses:	55,147.10	427,051.39	881,648.00
Surplus/Deficit:	(23,800.22)	82,266.82	(41,718.00)

Save the Dates

Sept. 13	Congregational Meeting
Sept. 27	College of Elders, 6 p.m.
Oct. 25	Response Sunday

Our Church Family

Church Triumphant

August 2 Robert Wills Watson

Congregational Sympathy

September 2 Laura Gilliam, mother of Chris Gilliam

Baptism

August 23 Kate Bookhart Trimakas

Birth

July 8 Christopher Neil Perez, grandson of Rick Neil

Session Highlights

May

- No motions.

June

- Motion to approve the APNC's request that the Session call a congregational meeting, July 12, 2020, for the purpose of receiving the report from the APNC and to vote on the candidate was approved.
- Motion to accept Peter Devlin and Mike Campbell as commissioners for the Presbytery meeting Saturday, August 15, 2020, at Harrisburg PC, was seconded and approved.
- Motion to accept letter of transfer from James and Cathy Parrish to Sardis Presbyterian Church was seconded and approved.

July

- Motion to approve the APNC's recommendation to hire Rebecca Heilman as our Associate Pastor per terms of employment was approved.
- A motion to disband the APNC, letting them transition into being Rebecca's support team when she arrives was made, seconded and approved.
- The Weekday School Ministry Team's motion to delay the opening of school until the state and county are in Phase 3 of Governor Cooper's plan was approved.

