



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Together. Welcoming All.

POSTSCRIPTS

November/December 2023

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Watch: [online](#), [YouTube](#) or
[Facebook](#)

**Church Office is Open
to Visitors:**
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
**3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211**

trinitypreschurch.org
Phone: 704-366-3554

Stewardship Corner

The Presbyterian Foundation says that a healthy congregation is one that "understands that all giving, of ourselves as well as our financial resources, is in response to God's goodness and generosity." Thank you to everyone who pledged to support Trinity and its missions in the coming year.

**Scan here to give
or give online on
our website!**



Inside this Issue:

On the Journey	2
Gold Medal for Philip	2
New Trinity Staff	3
New Elders and ONC	3
WDS Fall Festival	3
What's Happening	4
Session Highlights	4

Montreat Retreat 2023



The mountains were calling and our Trinity church family and guests answered the call in beautiful Montreat, NC. It was a special weekend of spiritual renewal, fellowship, and fun. This wonderful tradition has been part of our congregation for over 45 years.

This year, our guest speaker/preacher was the Reverend Lisle Gwynn-Garrity, an ordained Presbyterian minister and pastorist (Pastor+Artist) of Black Mountain. Lisle's theme, "A Place at the Table," explored what hospitality looks like and how we can flex empathy like a muscle. We dove into the story of a woman washing Jesus' feet with oil and tears (Luke 7:36-50). The spiritual gift of compassion and mercy enabled us to feel empathy and compassion for ourselves and others. Lisle integrated hands-on-art elements into the program. How well it fits with Trinity's statement of purpose, "All are Welcome."

In addition to our spiritually uplifting sessions, activities included Friday night Vespers, sing-along, hiking, golf, shopping, visiting with friends, and well-deserved rest. The weather was perfect - sunny, crisp, and colorful. On Saturday night, we had fun square dancing with Beth Gunn as our caller and the Crooked Pine band. The worship service on Sunday morning completed our weekend and time with Lisle.

The Session

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Moderator
Warren Henry, Clerk
Louise Sanford, Asst. Clerk
Peiffer Brandt, Pres. of the Corp.
Cookie Parnell, Treasurer

Class of 2023

Peiffer Brandt Amy Bynum
Bev Bradley Christie Jameson
Caryl Stribling Caroline Banks, youth

Class of 2024

Ned Parnell Louise Sanford
Susanne Sawyer Carol Sugg
Walter Reid

Class of 2025

Jane Blount Mike Campbell
Josh Durham Andria Petry-Siage
Kelly Coley

Sessional Clusters & Ministry Teams

Foundation

Personnel: Peiffer Brandt, Kelly Coley
Finance: Walter Reid
Buildings & Grounds: Carol Sugg

Formation

Christian Formation: Christie Jameson,
Susanne Sawyer
Youth: Ned Parnell
Worship: Caryl Stribling, Mike Campbell
Weekday School: Amy Bynum

Engagement

Mission & Outreach: Bev Bradley,
Jane Blount, Caroline Banks
Congregational Life: Andria Petry-Siage,
Louise Sanford
Stewardship: Josh Durham

Church Staff

Dr. Stephen B. Lindsley, Senior Minister
Rev. Rebecca Heilman-Campbell,
Associate Minister
Rev. Jodi Martin, Christian Formation
and Youth Director
Dr. Justin Smith, Director of Music &
Cultural Events
Dr. John Siler, Organist
Cheryl Jernigan, Church Administrator
Caroline Dalton, Comm. Coordinator
Laurie Saunders, Temp. Admin. Coordinator
Rick Neil, Facilities Technician
Jodi King, Sunday Assistant
Amy Vaughn, WDS Director
Jane B. Arant, Music Minister Emerita

On the Journey



Some of you have asked about my thoughts on the war in Israel and Gaza. Certainly, the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israel back in early October are unjustifiable and should be condemned. But this latest instance of violence in that region reflects complex and complicated dynamics that have festered for decades, even centuries. I fear this current conflict will be with us for a while.

Given that, here's what I can say about where I am at the moment:

- I condemn all forms of antisemitism and islamophobia.
- I lament the radicalization of any religion that wreaks havoc and perverts the true meaning of faith.
- I refute any mindset that embraces violence as the only answer.
- I pray that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it most.
- I support the right of all people - Israelis and Palestinians - to live safe, fulfilling lives.
- I acknowledge that I can always learn more.

I'm contemplating a church-wide initiative in the new year, similar to, "Doing the Work" a few years ago. Please let me know if you'd like to participate and/or if you have suggestions on what we can engage in, read, or watch. Thank you for praying. Thank you for caring. Thank you for leaning into what it means to be a follower of Jesus in a challenged and challenging world.

Steve

Gold Medal for Philip

We were fortunate to have Philip Blount speak at the College of Elders Dinner on September 17. He has been in great demand for speaking throughout North Carolina since his return from the 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany, where he earned a gold medal for his performance in the shot-put. Philip shared his gold medal with the Elders and kindly answered a few questions from the audience. We learned the following details:

- Philip loves history and was interested to learn about the 1936 Berlin Olympic games when Hitler was in power and that Jesse Owens won 4 gold medals.
- He has been training for 15 years.
- Philip was also entered in the 100-meter sprint and the 4X100 team relay.
- Philip says the 4X100 team relay is his favorite because the team must work together to be successful.
- He put an eight pound shot and cleared 23 feet.

He did learn a few German words. "Mutter" and "Vater" and after the competition, "Bier!" To close the evening, Philip shared the Special Olympics Oath and then asked the Elders to repeat after him: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



New Trinity Staff



Dr. John Siler, Organist, and Laurie Saunders, Temporary Administrative Coordinator, joined Trinity's staff in August.

John, a native of Belmont, NC, graduated from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and has a Master of Music Education degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of South Carolina. He has 50 years of experience as an organist and has taught music at the secondary and college levels.



Laurie joined the Trinity staff team as the Temporary Administrative Coordinator. She brings strong skills in office administration, creation of marketing tools, and facilities and event coordination to her role. Laurie is a Virginia Tech graduate with a master's degree from East Tennessee State University.

We are delighted to have both new staff members on board.

New Elders and Officer Nominating Committee Members

In the congregational meeting held on August 27, the following members were elected to serve as elders for a three-year term: Anne McGovern, Kyle Nielsen, Neal Pickett, and Janet Sarjeant; and serving as a Youth Elder for a one-year term, Madeleine Johnston. Also elected to serve for two years on the Officer Nominating Committee were Blair Bruckmann and Gary Sugg, Sr. Please join the ONC in thanking these individuals for agreeing to serve!

Weekday School Fall Festival Fun



Trinity Weekday School hosted its 3rd Annual Fall Fest to welcome the new season. The event was open to the school, church, and surrounding community. The Parent Support Team sponsored two craft tables, pretzel necklaces, and fall wreaths. Trinity Youth Group members staffed the tables, offering instruction and help.

Families had several options for food, beverages, and treats from a handful of vendors- including NujJu Juice, owned by our very own mailman, Eugene Williams. The children were delighted by the balloon twister from the Twisted Turtle of CLT. There were sensory items added to the playgrounds to explore: pumpkins, gourds, sunflowers, and scarecrows. This year, the popular Scholastic Book Fair was set up again in the Narthex of Carson Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all the families who shared their time and talents to make our event successful! But most of all, thank you for coming to our Fall Festival and celebrating the new season with us! If you missed it, mark your calendar for Spring Fling on April 14, 2024.

Save the Dates

December 3	First Sunday in Advent First Sunday Lunch Decorate McCreesh Place
December 10	Second Sunday in Advent Christmas Cantata Children's Christmas Festival— <i>Journey to the Manger</i>
December 17	Third Sunday in Advent Lessons and Carols
December 24	Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.
December 25,26	Church Office Closed
January 1	Church Office Closed
January 7	First Sunday Lunch

Our Church Family

Congregational Sympathy:

Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Christie Jameson on the death of her father, Charles "Charlie" Authur Cobb, Sr., on October 15, 2023.

New Members:

We are excited to welcome Laura and Phillip Harris to the Trinity family.

October 31, 2023

	October Actuals	YTD Actuals	Annual Budget
Receipts:	32,769.59	443,010.62	658,653.31
Unrest. Funds Used:	0.00	5,189.06	38,000.00
Boltz Funds Used:	692.42	6,924.20	8,309.00
Endow. Funds Used:	36,916.50	147,666.00	147,666.00
Gilchrist Funds Used:	0.00	6,625.11	5,000.00
Sanford Bldg. Maint. Funds Used:	329.08	3,290.80	3,949.00
Thomson Funds Used:	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Expenses:	78,685.99	717,412.49	899,762.97
Surplus/Deficit:	(7,978.40)	(104,706.70)	(33,185.66)

Session Highlights

July Session Meeting

- The ONC moved to call a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 27, immediately following worship, regarding the election of new elders and members of the Officer Nominating Committee. The Motion was moved, seconded, and approved.
- The proposed elder slate includes the Class of 2026 elders-elect (3- year term): Anne McGovern, Kyle Nielsen, Neal Pickett, and Janet Sarjeant. For youth elder-elect (1-year term): Madeleine Johnston. For ONC members-elect (2-year term): Blair Bruckmann and Gary Sugg, Sr.
- Brent Mullis conducted AED training for the Session.

August Session Action Items

- A revised lease addendum between Phillips Academy and Trinity will add additional facilities use in the church for Phillips Academy as they grow and financial benefits to Trinity. The motion was seconded and approved.

Called August Congregational Meeting

- The Congregation met on Sunday, August 27, immediately following worship, to act on recommendations from the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) regarding the election of new elders and members of the Officer Nominating Committee (as noted in the July Session meeting highlights). The motion was moved, seconded, and approved.



We had a wonderful retreat in beautiful Montreat, NC.