

January, 2016

Volume 26, Issue 1

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Photos by Kathy Moser

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2015

Luke 2:10



PASTORAL LETTER

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

That is the title of a book by Luke Timothy Johnson that Carroll Keegstra, Harriet Marsh, Bill Voigt and I have been reading recently. It's a major resource for our sermon series built around the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, through the first half of 2016.

There are many reasons why this sermon series might be considered to be a bad idea. All of those reasons (conveniently listed in Luke Timothy Johnson's book) are themselves bad. So, cutting to the chase, we believe this sermon series is a great idea, for reasons that Dr. Johnson explains as follows:

"I think that the Christian creed enunciates a powerful and provocative understanding of the world, one that should scandalize a world that runs on the accepted truths of Modernity. There is something in the creed to offend virtually every contemporary sensibility. At the same time it communicates a compelling vision of the world's destiny and humanity's role that challenges the accustomed idolatries and weary platitudes of current worldly wisdom. Christians who say these words should know what they are doing when they say them. This is the precondition to their celebrating a specifically Christian conception of reality; and the presupposition for their challenging the dominant conceptions of the world where they should be challenged."

Far from being dead and deadening dogma, the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds reflect the Church's highest level of spiritual contemplation and reflection upon the Word of God through the centuries.

Christ commands us to proclaim the gospel. The Creed represents our best effort to do that, to succinctly tell story and to affirm our faith together to the world. This sermon series will offer an opportunity for us all to explore and to express our faith in greater depth, so that we can live our beliefs and proclaim the gospel with greater

energy, intelligence, imagination and love—to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts . . .
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Colossians 3:15 &16*

Blessings, *Jerry*

The following resources are available in the church library:

Dogmatics in Outline by Karl Barth

Credo by Karl Barth

The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters by Luke Timothy Johnson

WORSHIP

JANUARY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan 3 - Jeremiah 31:7-14; *Psalm 147:12-20*;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Jan 10 - Isaiah 43:1-7; *Psalm 29*; Acts 8:14-17;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan 17 - Isaiah 62:1-5; *Psalm 36:5-10*;
I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jan 24 - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; *Psalm 19*;
I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Jan 31 - Jeremiah 1:4-10; *Psalms 71:1-6*;
I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WORD OF LIFE



Word of Life continues to explore *Shalom: A Study of the Biblical Concept of Peace*. *Shalom* shines biblical light on the issues and unsettled mood of our times. Today, more than ever, we cry out for *shalom*.

See what the Bible says. Old Testament scholar Donald E. Gowan unravels the multiple biblical threads of this eternal quest in this masterful exploration of the Hebrew concept "*shalom*" and the Greek "*eirene*". Peacemaking is a central concern of the church and the world today. Join us for a lively discussion about Biblical peace in today's world. We meet in the Lower Level Lounge at 9:00 am.

THE FOUR GREATEST STORIES



"The Four Greatest Stories Ever Told: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John".

We have been learning about Jerusalem and the Biblical lands where Jesus and his disciples traveled. We continue our journey each Sunday. Join Rev. Bill Voigt at 9:00 am in the Upper Room West. A Southwestern breakfast is served.

THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

Theology for Today will meet again in January. We welcome you all! The meeting place is the Lower Level Lounge at 11:45 on Sundays. Amy-Jill Levine's book *Short Stories of Jesus* will continue to be our text, Chapter 5 "The Mustard Seed". Join us - we would love to have you.

POLO

Parents of Little Ones (POLO) meets at 9:00 am on the third Sunday of the month. We meet in the nursery for family breakfast munchies and then head downstairs to the Lounge for our parent study. Parents with young children are welcome to join us! We are engaged in reading about different parenting styles and financial accountability for our young kids in "Free Range Kids" by Lenore Skenazy and "Smart Money, Smart Kids" by Dave Ramsey.



GODLY PLAY CLASS

A Sunday School class, Godly Play for ages 4-8 is held in the Music Room (off the nursery) during the 10:30 worship service. Bible stories, snacks and craft activities will take place.

KREAMER'S CRUSADERS

Kreamer's Crusaders for youth in grades 4-8 meet in the Narthex Sunday mornings at 10:30 and then move to "The Den" (This is the classroom just past the downstairs lounge). Matt Kreamer leads the Crusaders on Biblical adventures in learning. A Biblical foundation is built through discussion with active participation and openness to thoughts and questions. The class follows the text entitled *The Old Testament* by Kara Powell.



ANCHOR TRINITY

Starting January 3! After the 10:30 service sermon is finished, all high school & college aged youth are invited to the first meeting of Trinity Anchor- a youth group where we focus on fellowship and service, as well as asking and answering the tough questions about our faith. Meet downstairs at "The Harbor" (next door to "The Den") every Sunday after the worship service.





Wednesday Nite Alive! - January 2016

Date	5:00 pm Bible Study (Library)	6:00 pm "Getting Quiet With God" (Chapel)	6:30 pm Helping Hands Service Project & Fellowship (Upper Room East) -Munchies provided or BYO dinner food	7:00-8:00 pm Guest Speaker & Discussion Group (Upper Room West)
Jan 6	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Baptism of the Lord	Prepare simple hygiene packs for Refugee Focus Kathy Moser	Refugee Resettlement in Tucson Omer Kreso, Resource Coordinator, Refuge Focus, a division of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Jan 13	Apostles' Creed Series	What is The Gospel?	Simple Encouragement cards for refugees Marge Pellegrino and Kathy Moser	Expressive arts project helping refugee families affected by trauma and torture Marge Pellegrino, Activity Director, Owl and Panther http://www.owlandpanther.org/
Jan 20	Apostles' Creed Series	I Believe	Water bottles and bars for Trinity's Food Bank Kathy Moser	Red Cross Disaster Assistance Cheryl Bender and Pat Eger, Tucson Chapter, American Red Cross
Jan 27	Apostles' Creed Series	In God	Water bottles, bars and Valentine treat for Salvation Army Hospitality House Kathy Moser	Conservation: Thoughts of a Hopi Farmer Michael Kotutwa Johnson, Ph.D. candidate, American Indian Studies, University of Arizona

WEDNESDAYNITEALIVE!

Our speaker for the WNA **January 6th** will be **Omer Kreso**, a Resource Coordinator for Refugee Focus, a part of Lutheran Social Services. He will tell us about refugees resettling in Tucson and answer questions about refugees.

Please join us for a special presentation by Trinity Choir member **Michael Kotutwa Johnson** on Wednesday, **January 27**, from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Upper Room as part of the Wednesday Nite Alive program. Michael is a doctoral candidate in the American Indian Studies program at the University of Arizona and his topic will be **Conservation: Thoughts of a Hopi Farmer**. The Hopi people have lived in the same area of northeastern Arizona since 1100 AD. What can be learned about conservation and sustainability by the Hopi farmer and his time tested dryland farming techniques? Michael will answer that question during his slideshow presentation where various Hopi dryland farming techniques will be viewed.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB



The Trinity Book Club will be reading *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi for January 26th. Books of the Southwest recommended this sci-fi book in the Star on December 13th. In drought

stricken Nevada, AZ and California, jaded anti-heroes and ruthless kingpins wield water as lethal weapons to control life and mete out death in this dystopian thriller. The author will be present at The Festival Of Books in March. We meet in the Library at 7:00 pm. We would love to have you join us in 2016. The lineup for this year's selected readings will be configured soon. If you have a favorite that you would like to recommend, please contact Billie Holbrook at 668-6341 or billie.holbrook@cox.net.

Congregational News



GOODBYE CLASS OF 2015 ELDERS: John Hill, Cindy Toering, Roberta Westergaard and Daniel Seddo (Anne McConnell and Sheila Sievert will serve in Class of 2018 along with Tom Coyle, Elliot Koeppen and Jeanette Ryan.)



DEACONS who are “retiring”: Peggy Andrews, Jan Bond and Charity Everitt (left).

Class of 2018 Deacons will be: Melissa Bird, Pat Hardy, Peter Holbrook, Betty Lou Holland and Allyn Spence

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the Church and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC (USA). This Offering, taken on Christmas Eve, received \$2,007 for 2015.



WINTER 2015 FOUTH AVENUE STREET FAIR:

The Deacons would like to thank the Barlow family for all their hard work at the Deacon’s Hamburger/Hot Dog Booth: Great work in supporting the Deacon ministry!

And thanks also to all who served cups of water to the thirsty fair goers and attended the parking lot.



SESSION NOTES

Session Notes from December 14, 2015

The Deacons and the Elders held their annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting with elders cooking and deacons cleaning up. Anne McConnell opened the meeting with prayer giving thanks for the food and the brothers and sisters of Trinity who work together. Everyone sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." After much feasting and visiting together, the committee chairs of Session reported about the highlights of their activities during 2015. Then the deacons reported about their accomplishments with "taking care of the people in the congregation" getting top billing. In past years everyone agreed that "Deacons Rock!" and this year it seemed that "Elders Rock!" as well because the list of activities, missions, work, repairs, new programs, etc. surprised all. It has been a busy year.

Many thanks were given to retiring elders from the Class of 2015 – John Hill, Daniel Seddo, Cindy Toering and Roberta Westergaard. Heartfelt thanks went to the retiring deacons – Peggy Andrews, Jan Bond and Charity Everitt. Lynn Moser led everyone in singing a bit of "Silent Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

After the dinner and joint meeting, Session retired to the Upper Room West to begin their stated meeting. Session looked forward to its retreat planned for January 22-23, 2016 to learn, pray and prepare for the new year. During that retreat the deacons-elect and elders-elect will be examined in preparation for their ordination/installation on January 24, 2016. The membership rolls were updated and it was noted, with sincere regret, that long-time member Molly McKasson Morgan asked to transfer by letter from Trinity PC to St. Mark's PC. The Rev. Bill Voigt's salary was reviewed in preparation for 2016.

During the Treasurer's Report many prayers were lifted up for Leone Mohney, our church Treasurer. All are anxious for Leone's recovery. Alice Smedley, Assistant Treasurer, filled in. The Stewardship & Finance Committee with Bill Voigt's expert assistance proposed a 2016 budget along with the balance sheet for 2015. Session approved the budget for next year.

Administration & Personnel asked Session to approve the Position Description for Youth Coordinator, Grades 4-8 and the Position Description for Young Adult Coordinator, High School – College. Both were approved. Also, salaries and hours were approved for both Matt and Rona Kreamer who will be filling these two positions. These two classes begin January 1, 2016.

You can look for some exciting news from the Long Range Development Team in coming weeks. If there were extra people in church for the Cantata you can thank the Growth & Outreach Team for timely advertisements. Mission Committee plans informative speakers to support our mission activities. Session will have a called meeting in early January to hear a presentation from the Pastor Nominating Committee. Christian Education has plans for a Lenten study. Property Committee is working hard to prioritize maintenance and repairs to keep a lid on costs. And Worship Committee hopes everyone enjoyed the Christmas Café and the Cantata with expanded orchestra.

Janet D. Hooper
Clerk of Session

Rev. Bill Voigt entertains us at the Annual Staff & Volunteer Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall



Frank Whiting, Alice Smedley and Pat Whiting at the Staff & Volunteer Christmas Party



Mission News



SANDWICH MAKING for the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen will be on the second Sunday, January 10. Please join us after worship to make 600 sandwiches for the homeless.

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY



Thanks to all my volunteers and those who donated food and other items for our pantry this year. You made a difference in the lives of our clients.

Community Ministries Coordinator, Alice Smedley

CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECTS

December was a busy month for Mission projects. The "Christmas Market" raised \$1,800 for these programs and we also collected 10 bags of items. Thank you for your generosity and support of Trinity's Mission programs.

REFUGEE MISSION

Imagine what it is like to be a refugee in a strange land. Language, foods, culture, schools, religion and work are all different. Come to WednesdayNiteAlive! on January 6th to find out what we can do to make resettling easier. Our speaker, Omer Kreso, is a Resource Coordinator for Refugee Focus, a part of Lutheran Social Services. He will tell us about refugees resettling in Tucson and answer questions about refugees.

We have a good start in collecting a complete set of household furnishings for a family of four. Only a few important things remain. When the family comes, we need to help them start life over here. If you have some time and would like to help, see Doug or Betty Lu Holland. Contact them at (520) 579-2895 or hollandaz@yahoo.com).



THE NEXT 4TH ON 4TH FRIDAY community supper will be on Friday, January 29, 2016, 6-7 pm, downstairs

in Trinity Hall. Come and meet new people from the community, and bring a dish to share. We need 10 people to bring a main dish to serve 10, and another 10 to bring a salad or dessert to serve 10. Someone will be in the Narthex with a sign-up sheet Sundays after church. Questions- please call Betty Lu Holland 579-2895

Trinity supported these missions with the Christmas Market this year: **Bethel Prayer Center** in Lome, TOGO, West Africa; our future **refugee family**; the **Pasqua**



Yaqui Head Start program; **HEPAC**, in Nogales, Mexico and learning materials for **Malam-Petel** Cameroon, Africa.



Doug & Betty Lu Holland at the Christmas Market refugee donation tree in Fellowship Hall.



SUNDAYS
Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall
FOR SIPPING & FOR SALE!



Trinity Women



On January 12, Trinity Presbyterian Women will meet for the morning Circle at 10:00 am. Join them for Bible study and conversation in Fellowship Hall. On January 19, the women will gather in the Lower Lounge to work on Ryan's Bears. *Newcomers are always welcome!*

Thank You

(from Arizona Children Association)

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who so lovingly created the Ryan's Bears and knit caps. The children were able to chose their own bear from under the tree. I, and the staff at Arizona's Children Association appreciate the extra love the bears will provide those kids who could use extra love, especially at this time of year.

An update... I put the bears under the tree when I got there and they were all gone by the end of the day. The knit caps were a hit too! It was so wonderful to see kids in their caps walking around and hugging the bears! Blessings, Lori Boston



Ryan's Bears under the Christmas tree at Arizona Children Assoc.

Photo by Lori Boston

Deadline for the February, 2016 *VISION*

Tuesday, January 26

Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or to:

office@trinitytucson.org

Milestones

January Birthdays

2	Dale McCray	23	Hannah Toering
5	Jeanette Ryan	24	Cindy Toering
9	Jeri Ogden	24	David Toering
11	James Hooper	27	Tom Henderson
15	Peggy Chamberlain	30	Bobby Whipple
19	Matt Creamer	31	Shirley Carr
			Ezra Moyer

February Birthdays (1—10)

3	Betty Lu Holland	9	Jackie Winn
8	Emmanuelle Seddo		

January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser



Deaths

Maxine Abraham died on November 30, 2015. No Memorial Service is planned.

Grace Phillips died on December 16, 2015. A Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary on February 6. Time TBA.



With Deepest Sympathy

Memorials

In Memory of Maxine Abraham by Lu Brown Alice Gratias, and Charity Everitt

In Memory of Grace Phillips by Lu Brown, Alice Gratias and Billie Holbrook

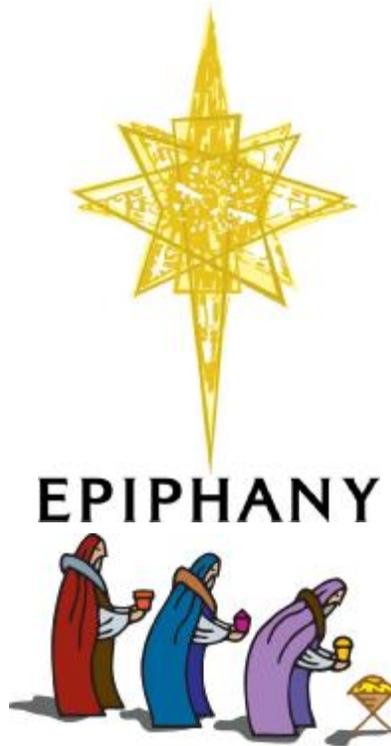
Christmas Eve at Trinity





Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses
office@trinitytucson.org



January 6



Church Leadership
Session Retreat Jan 22 & 23



Wednesday Nite
Alive!

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