

January, 2019

Volume 29, Issue 1

*Inside
this
Issue:*

<i>Highlights</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Letter</i>	2
<i>Christian Ed.</i>	3
<i>Congregational News</i>	4
<i>Mission News</i>	5
<i>Session Notes</i>	6
<i>Milestones</i>	7



Holiday Happenings at Trinity



Holiday Block Party
Cantata Sunday & Christmas Eve Services



Pastoral Letter

Yet, whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ... Philippians 3: 7-8

I imagine that right now many businesses have either started or already completed their post-Christmas inventories, and it will be interesting to see if the results reflect a downward trend in our national economy. Businesses measure success based upon the unbiased calculations of profit and loss, a determination from the past that has immediate effects upon the present and shapes the future for any business.

Imagine what your average American business owner would say to the idea of setting one's goals for loss rather than for gain? The Apostle Paul seems to be saying as much in his letter to the church at Philippi. Paul begins a segment of this letter by adding all of the things that weigh to his advantage in his life, and they are considerable for his time and for his culture: he is a circumcised Jew of the house of Benjamin – a “Hebrew born of Hebrews” – and he is a Pharisee in his knowledge of religious law. Paul is also a citizen of Rome, which grants him remarkable privileges in his world.

After taking a personal inventory of his advantages, he turns all of these gains upside down by writing what we read in Philippians 3: 7-8. To the world, even 2000 years later, this sounds like a ridiculous statement, but Paul is simply stating the natural outcome of his deep faith in Christ. Everything in his life that he has gained, whether by birth, intelligence, or work, is nothing compared to being a disciple of Jesus Christ, which has given to Paul that which no other worldly possession, identity, or title can provide.

What does it mean for us to experience “loss” for the sake of our faith in the Son of God? Does it mean that we lose time? Time is perhaps our most valuable commodity today, in a culture which uses metrics to determine one's value. Is it possible for us to surrender some of our time for the sake of Christ? Worship and mission take time - time that we could be using for our own advantage, yet Paul found that it was much more advanta-

geous to use his time for the sake of others in the name of Christ.

What of our material blessings? Paul experienced the emotional and spiritual profit in the sharing of his material blessings with the people of God. As a tentmaker, Paul also used his talents, for his craft gave him the opportunity to travel to different cities and engage with countless others as he labored. How can we make our labor or our gifts work not only for our benefit, but for the benefit of God's mission for us?

Perhaps the greatest loss that Paul joyfully experienced was the loss of self, which is the essence of humble commitment and service to Christ. How much pride, how much stubbornness, and how much vanity can we surrender to the Lord? According to psychiatry, the number one characteristic for a healthy emotional life is our ability to admit that we are wrong. Statistically, people who can show this ability are much happier and much more at peace with themselves than their peers. The essence of Christianity is the ability to surrender self-satisfaction in exchange for grace; to do so is loss with tremendous gain.

So how will our spiritual inventory look at the end of 2019? A philosopher once wrote: “I expect to pass through this world but once; any good therefore I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” We will not pass through 2019 again, so shall we pass through for our personal gain, or for the gain of the one whom we love and serve? In which is the profit that remains from now until eternity?

May we at Trinity share a wonderful 2019, filled with love, grace, and the abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Mack



Christian Education

YOUTH CLASSES

NURSERY

9:00 to 12:00 pm Children 4 & under
enjoy coloring, singing & playing in the nursery with DeDe.

FELLOWSHIP HALL ACTIVITY TABLE

9:00 am to 10:30 am Children 4 and up can meet Alix for low action activities—puzzles, and coloring, with some low sugar snacks.

10:30 am to 11:30 am Children 4 and up meet their teachers in the Sanctuary and participate in the Worship Service. After the Children's Message they leave for these age appropriate classes.

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS



God's Trailblazers 4 through 7 will meet in Rooms 7 & 8 with Kathy.

All-in-One Bible Fun will take children on an amazing journey as they learn about the fruit of the Spirit as well as four other Christian virtues through Bible stories, Bible verses and fun & enriching games, activities and crafts.

KREAMER'S CRUSADERS

Kreamer's Crusaders 8 through 12 meet in

Room 6 with Matt and will discover the

bible and all its stories using the curriculum "Top 50 Instant Bible Lessons for Elementary" which is packed with object lessons, puzzles, games and crafts.



ANCHOR TRINITY



Anchor Trinity Junior High School through College meet in Room 1 with Rona & will be discussing the theme of social justice and what it really means to be a "Good Samaritan".

ADULT CLASSES

WORD OF LIFE

Word of Life meets each Sunday at 9:00 am in Room 5 (Lower Level Lounge). We are continuing a study "The Wisdom of God: Seeing Jesus in the Psalms and Wisdom Books".

POLO

Parents of Little Ones (POLO) meets at 9:00 am Sunday, January 13. Meet in the nursery for family breakfast munchies and then head downstairs to Room 1 for study & discussion.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE ... HANNUKAH?

Join Rev. Bill Voigt at 9:00 am in Upper Room West, Sunday, January 13, as we enter into ancient Israel during the time of the Greek / Hellenistic occupation. What led up to Hannukah? What does it mean? What are the traditions of this festive holiday?

See you there!

TRINITY BOOK CLUB



Trinity Book Club will meet Monday, January 28 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and discuss the book, *Dopesick- Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Co. that Addicted America* by Beth Macy. Please join us!

Christian Education



BIBLE BRUNCH THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Join us Thursdays at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall as Dr. Mack leads a study on the Book of Revelation. The name of this class is “Bible Brunch”, and it begins with Bible study at 10:00 am, followed by brunch at the church. This is going to be fun, considering the topic of the study – the Book of Revelation. Dr. Mack has been teaching the Book of Revelation for many years. He studied it in seminary and in continuing education classes throughout his pastoral journey. We will look at John’s amazing work verse-by-verse and sometimes word-by-word. This is an extensive study that will go throughout the year, from October through May, and then continuing through the next Christian year. We videotape every class and place it on our website, so that no one misses a class. There are also copies of the slides used in pdf format there. Join Dr. Mack for the study and the brunch or for the study online.

Congregational News

Dear Session,

This letter is to inform you that I will be requesting the Presbytery de Cristo to move my pastoral status to “honorably retired” as of the end of the day, Monday, April 30, 2019. As an “honorably retired” minister, I will have a number of options available to me that I would not have if I simply resigned my called and installed position at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Having said this, let me say that it has been my absolute honor and privilege to have served the people of Trinity Presbyterian church these past twenty-five years, now moving into twenty-six. It has been a pure joy to be part of two generations of people’s lives as a result of having ministered here. The church has been a second family to me with a few bumps along the way, I feel I have been on a honeymoon during this calling.

I think back to the initial interview here at the church. I was the last to be interviewed of the forty-two people who originally applied. I sat in the Sanctuary waiting to be called into the library. My interview wrapped up with a discussion of my pet rabbit who liked to give bunny “kisses”. Along with the fact that I pronounced two committee members names incorrectly, I was actually offered the job by the Reverend Jack Baca.

Thus the Lord saw fit to bless me with more than a job. It has indeed been a calling. A calling that has taken me in so many different directions. A calling which, as we enter a new year, will enable me to put some systems into place that will help Dr. Mack (who will capably lead you into the future) and the church, as you look into the foreseeable future. May God bless you and keep you. And may the Lord, Jesus Christ, always attend you.

Blessings, *Bill Voigt*

Mission News

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Sundays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.**

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm** to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications and other items such as duplicate Arizona ID cards, money on economy bus passes and notarizing documents.

4TH ON 4TH COMMUNITY SUPPER

Our next 4th Friday on 4th Avenue Community Supper is January 25, 2019 so put it on your calendar and plan to join us. Sign up to bring a dish for 10 people on Sundays in the Narthex. We set up and get ready at 5:00 pm, open the doors at 6:00 pm with prepared dishes already on the serving tables, eat until 7:00 pm and clean up after that. Helpers are always welcome - you can sign up on the "helping side" as well as the "food side" of the notebook. Our purpose is to welcome and get to know people from the neighborhood and those without homes. **Come and visit with our guests.**

Thank you to everyone that purchased Jim Click raffle tickets. The proceeds benefit our Food Pantry & Resource Center.

You can bring non-perishable canned goods for Trinity's Food Pantry and put them in the box in Fellowship Hall. The need is always great.

SHELTER ORIENTATION

If you are volunteering there is an orientation on **Sunday, January 6 at 1:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.



Beginning January 7, 2019, Trinity will be opening a shelter for six people at a time or two families. The Session has approved making space for migrants who have entered the United States legally to travel to the homes of their sponsors (often family members). As they are dropped off in Tucson by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the next step in their travels is to rest, refresh, call home (Red Cross phone line to Central American Countries), set up a bus or airline ticket, spend one or two nights and then get a ride to the bus station or airport. In most cases their destination is on the East Coast. This is where a hearing will be held within two weeks of their arrival in the U.S.

Trinity is partnering with Catholic Community Services who will be orienting us on the methods they use for their intake and sheltering. Many volunteers have signed up already. If you miss the orientation, January 6 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, you can sign up with Doug Holland (528-5908) or Billie Holbrook (668-6341). Spanish speakers are certainly welcome. Background checks will be done for certain volunteer assignments. Migrants will not be here more than two nights before moving on. Seven churches in Tucson are providing shelter in this way through Catholic Community Services. Green Valley Samaritans and Tucson Samaritans, the Red Cross, many other non-profits, & students and professors from the University are volunteering. Remember to see the face of Jesus in every stranger. Smiles go a long way, too!

Trinity Milestones

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of Ron Uhle by Pat Whiting
In Memory of Ron Uhle by Imogene Moser
For the Memorial Fund by Allen & Phyllis Coffin
In Memory of Ron Uhle by Rose M. Emery
In Memory of Ron Uhle by Beverly J. Reed
In Memory of Ron Uhle by Allen & Phyllis Coffin
In Memory of Jane Parker, Bob Bechtel, Frank Whiting and Ron Uhle by Robert Letson
In Honor of Matt & Rona Kreamer by Tom & Wade Henderson
In Honor of Ed & Daphne Madson by Tom & Wade Henderson

 Videos of the Cantata “Candles and Carols” & the Christmas Eve services are available to view & share at www.trinitytucson.org. You can find them on the home page and under the WORSHIP menu at the top.

Thank you to everyone who made the Cantata service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Trinity very special.

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 6 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

January 13 Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27 Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January Birthdays

1	Sanani Mukadesa	19	Matt Kreamer
1	Hadija Bamurange	23	Hannah Toering
1	Amos Nsenga	24	David Toering
2	Dale McCray	24	Cindy Toering
2	Dr. Mack Sigmon	27	Janet Munson
5	Jeanette Ryan	27	Tom Henderson
6	Maria Andrade	27	Janet Munson
9	Jeri Ogden	30	Bobby Whipple
11	James Hooper	31	Shirley Carr
15	Peggy Chamberlain	31	Ezra Moyer

February Birthdays (1—10)

3	Betty Lu Holland	8	Emmanuelle Seddo
---	------------------	---	------------------

January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser

Trinity Women



The Horizon's Bible Study on Hebrews will be **January 8, 2019** at **10:00 am** in Fellowship Hall. Join us as Dr. Mack leads the study.

We will begin **Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 9:30 am** in the Lower Lounge making bears for Christmas 2019 to replace the Ryan's Bears that were blessed on Sunday, December 9 & then distributed to Our Family Social Services, Primavera and Arizona Children's Association for their Christmas Giving.



Trinity Presbyterian Church

400 East University Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Phone: (520) 623-2579
Fax: (520) 624-7115
Email: office@trinitytucson.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 609



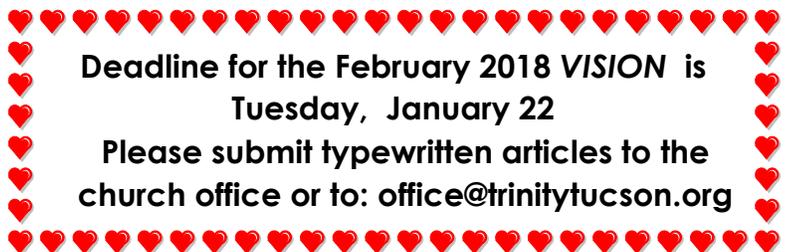
We are "LIVE" streaming the 10:30 am service if you cannot attend. It is on the home page of our website.
Visit our website at www.trinitytucson.org for all the information and events you are looking for.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
400 E. University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85705

520-623-2579
Office 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses
office@trinitytucson.org
volunteers@trinitytucson.org

A decorative border of red hearts surrounds the text. The hearts are arranged in a rectangular frame with a double row of hearts on the top and bottom sides, and a single row on the left and right sides.

**Deadline for the February 2018 VISION is
Tuesday, January 22**
**Please submit typewritten articles to the
church office or to: office@trinitytucson.org**