

February, 2019

Volume 29, Issue 2

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Lent Lent Lent Lent

- ⇒ The observance of Lent begins **March 6** with the Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. preceded by a soup supper at 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Pastor Mack will be preaching a special Lenten series of sermons beginning **Sunday, March 10**, with a time for discussion following each service.
- ⇒ On **Palm Sunday, April 14** we will present a liturgical drama about the Passion of our Lord based on Matthew 26:14-27:66. The cast requires 6+ men, 2-4 women and one child plus crowd and bystanders. There will be no memorization required and we will have limited rehearsals. If you are interested contact Peggy Chamberlain at redhead1402@comcast.net or 520-290-7416.

KATHLEEN BOSTROM AUTHOR EVENT

Kathleen Long Bostrom is a full-time writer and ordained PCUSA minister having served churches for 30 years. Kathy will be at Trinity for our special author event, **Sunday March 3, 2019** (same weekend as the Tucson Festival of Books). She will speak to the **POLO group at 9:00 am**, and will give a **workshop presentation beginning at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

Kathy's books, mostly picture books for young children, have sold over two million copies. Her "Little Blessings" series and "Stories from the Bible" are published in languages around the world. She is past president of the Presbyterian Writers Guild and currently a member of that Guild, as well as of the Author's Guild, PEN, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, San Diego chapter.

She is sought after as a retreat and workshop leader, preacher, and speaker around the country. To our good fortune, Kathy was also a classmate of Mack's at Princeton Seminary. Visit her website, www.kathleenlongbostrom.com for more information.



Pastoral Letter

When we speak about incredibly gifted individuals who have emerged throughout the course of human history, few match the sheer intellectual power and influence of the Apostle Paul. As one theologian said, Paul took the life and words of Christ and created Christianity. Yet Paul was free, like all of us, to use his considerable gifts as he chose to use them. In the early days of his life – at least as far as we know – Saul of Tarsus did not preach, write, organize groups, or lead in any manner. Instead of pursuing the will of Christ, Saul of Tarsus pursued those who believed in Christ. Saul was mean and petty, a self-appointed enforcer of the laws of his Jewish tradition and the abuse of that tradition by the leaders of Israel at that time.

When Stephen, the Gentile deacon of the fledgling Christian church, was stoned to death by an angry mob, Saul held the coats of the stone-throwers. Imagine such a gifted mind, such a gifted leader, reduced to holding the coats of a lynch mob. But this was Saul's life before he met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, looks back on that times and remembers his "life before life:" "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived...all of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses...children of wrath, like everyone else."

All of us are like Saul of Tarsus when we allow our passions to overwhelm our judgment. Our gifts become useless, our potential is stunted, when we suppress the voice of the Holy Spirit and, in its place, trust in our own distorted vision of what really matters in this world. Even the most gifted among us are reduced to pettiness when we let the dark side of humanity take control of our lives.

"For by grace you have been saved in faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the results of works so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." These are Paul's words, words that emerged from the transformation that took place after he encountered Christ and accepted Christ's invitation to belief and ministry. The pettiness of Saul became the genius of Paul, and Paul makes it clear that this was God's doing – not his own.

Every parent knows their child is gifted – the struggle is getting the child to recognize and develop the gift. The Father has placed his gift in the hearts of his children. It is the gift of faith, but this gift demands our constant effort to recognize, develop, and share this gift with the world through our discipleship. The church is the tool that makes this happen. The church of Jesus Christ is not a coven for the saints – it is a proving ground, where we are challenged and given multiple opportunities to use our gifts to change the lives of those around us, and in so doing to change the world. What will we do with the gift God has placed in our hands? Are we living the "life after life?"

Dr. Mack



2nd Sunday Mission Opportunities Make an Impact with Helping Hands Projects!

Join us **February 10 at 11:45 am** in Fellowship Hall to make sandwiches for Casa Maria & help put together packs of Water Bottles and Protein Bars for our Food Pantry.

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 & coloring) & 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" .



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, February 10**. Meet in the nursery for family breakfast munchies and then head downstairs to **Room 1** for study & discussion.

THEOLOGY FOR TODAY meets **February 10 at 9:00 am in Upper Room West** to conclude their study titled "A Nation of Immigrants". This last study will be all about Asylum Seeking. Topics will include its ancient roots in the Bible, how it was used in modern times, the UN declarations and the international norms today. We will see videos of people preparing and going through the difficult process in the US and discuss how to make the process more efficient and humane.



THE GREATEST STORY EVER

TOLD begins on **Sunday, February 17 at 9:00 am in Upper Room West**. Join Rev. Bill Voigt as we journey through the Bible leading up to the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ and the birth of the early Christian Church.



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. 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 3 Jer. 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 10 Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

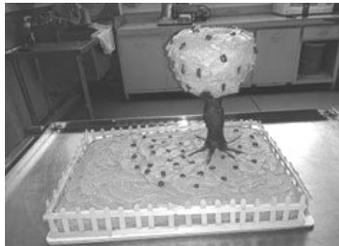
February 17 Jer. 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 24 Gen. 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Special Mission Offering February 10th

Twice each year (February and August) the Mission Committee at Trinity chooses who will benefit from the Special Mission Offering. February 10th the offering will go to Trinity’s Emergency Fund. In the past, this fund has been called the Humanity at Home Fund or the Deacons’ Fund. Our pastors and specific leaders at Trinity are the people who determine when, where and to whom those funds are distributed. Trinity is such a generous, giving congregation. In the past, we have been there for members and friends of the church who needed help in emergency situations.

Thanks so much for this generosity!



Cakes Made With Love!!



I have loved baking cakes since I was old enough to know ‘that oven is hot!’ I had baked many two layer round cakes, but my first wedding cake was in 1984 when my younger sister got married and she needed to keep the costs down. I offered to make the cake, (which was my first wedding cake), and the rest is history.

I must admit, I enjoy making cakes for events at Trinity and I particularly like to create ‘theme cakes’, i.e. Trinity Campus, Caterpillar Cake, Confirmand Cross, Apple Tree Cake, Sewing Machine & Sewing Basket Cakes, Teddy Bear Cake & Snowflake Cake. The Lovejoy Library Open House at Trinity in 2017 featured the caterpillar cake. The children were happy to choose the frosting colors and wanted to ‘do that again sometime’. The Library Open House will hopefully be an annual event. The children already have chosen an Elephant Cake for October 2019.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to help make Open Houses & Receptions at Trinity memorable.

Blessings, DeDe

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. It is located in the basement of our main building and accessed from the parking lot.

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. It is across the hall from the Food pantry.

4TH ON 4TH COMMUNITY SUPPER

Our next 4th Friday on 4th Avenue Community Supper is February 22, 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.

Trinity's Shelter Program

The Shelter Program at Trinity has benefited from a generosity that is beyond expectations. Many of the volunteers have come from our own congregation along with financial support, food, clothing, medical supplies, kitchen equipment, toiletries, travel bags, sheets and towels, and toys. We have seen more than 30 people from Central America. They come tired and hungry and so pleased to be welcomed into a comfortable apartment. Arrangements are made to take them to their destinations throughout the United States. In some instances, the guests use the Red Cross phone to call relatives in Central America to tell them they've arrived safely. More than 35 volunteers have been serving during the 4 shifts, 24/7, for the first three weeks. There are many ways you can participate in this ministry:

- Read the Volunteer Handbook to get an idea of the total picture of the work. (A copy can be obtained by asking Doug Holland or Billie Holbrook. They are also available in the Intake Room on the second floor of the Annex.)
- Cook something and freeze it for our meals. Soups can contain black beans, rice, chicken, vegetables with no spicy additions. The dish should be easy to chew—no large pieces of meat that need to be pulled off the bone. Hearty food (vs. sweets) is best. Talk with Karen Wilkison for more information.
- Donate snack packages of nuts, granola bars, peanut butter and crackers, etc. to be put in the guests travel bags when they are on the bus or in the plane.
- Sign up for four-hour blocks to be in the apartment with the guests. Spanish is helpful but not necessary. As you will see in the handbook, this will entail flexibility. You will be doing many different things: Cooking a simple meal, washing dishes (the guests like to help), washing linens when guests leave, preparing travel bags for them to take with them, communicating with Doug Holland regarding transportation to the bus or airport, playing with the children, answering the apartment phone to connect the guests with their sponsors regarding their tickets for travel, helping other volunteers by communicating what happened while you were there.
- Donate money to help pay for food, travel blankets (to stay warm on their journey), new underwear, children's toys, large items such as a freezer for food, printing, medical supplies, etc.
- Sign up to take people to the bus station (no Spanish needed) or to the airport (which ideally needs to be a Spanish speaker, due to the complexity of the airport and security)

Thank you Trinity, for "Serving God in the Heart of the City"!

Session Notes

We're off and running! Session held one of its shorter meetings to begin this new year. Other than their upcoming Session Retreat to be held on Saturday, February 2nd at the church, three elders are finishing up their term. These three are Tom Coyle, Elliott Koeppen and Anne McConnell. They have worked hard and deserve a rest. Please express your gratitude to them for their dedication and service.

At the Session Retreat, the incoming Classes of Deacons and Elders for 2021 will be examined before their ordination/installation to take place during worship on February 3, 2019. Elder Class of 2021 includes Jim Hooper, Barbara Callaway Pollack, Jeanette Ryan, Chuck Sosna and Will Tilley. Deacon Class of 2021 includes Melissa Bird, Ruth Myers, Koffi Seddo and Cindy Toering. Give thanks for these people who have signed on to be church leaders.

Session approved having Leone Mohny and Alice Smedley to return as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. They also approved that Janet Hooper remain as Clerk of Session.

Deacons reported that they delivered nine poinsettias to members unable to attend church. They plan to have a yearly Welcome Back Winter Visitor reception each January. Christian Education asked that Session approve that the youth planning to go to the summer Triennium may sell tickets to a Jazz Concert planned for February 16, 2019 at St. Andrews PC. Make it a point to look for

one of the six young persons selling these tickets and buy a few. They cost \$10.00.

The Long Range Development Team reported that construction is on schedule and that there are some disgruntled neighbors who don't like the noise or that Time Market employees are parking in front of their homes. Hopefully our prayers for their patience and understanding will ease their frustrations. Construction won't last forever.

Mission Committee updated everyone about the Family Shelter 30 day trial. As of January 15th, fourteen persons were helped. Trinity volunteers, friend volunteers (34 in total) and two U of A interns are working tirelessly. Ask Doug Holland, Betty Lu Holland, Billie Holbrook, Janet Munson or Karen Wilkison how you can help. Issues and recommendations are being studied and worked on.

Stewardship & Finance is trying to balance the budget going forward. Worship Committee is planning worship services and events for Lent and Easter. Look forward to a dramatic reading planned for Palm Sunday.

Dr. Mack and Bill reported their activities and everyone prayed together for the health and welfare of our congregants, our church and our nation and its leaders.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session

Worship

To Clap or Not to Clap

According to the Directory of Worship of the Presbyterian Church, we are encouraged to be genuine with our individual reaction, noting that however the Holy Spirit leads us to express ourselves in worship, it is to God and not to the person or group that is leading worship.

The Worship Committee found the following blog post by Cherie Brooks of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio helpful and hope you will too. Below is a brief portion of that blog post and you may view it in its entirety at www.covenantpcusa.org/blog/2014/09/23/to-clap-or-not-to-clap.

“Some of us truly respond every time to music with thought and prayer, and have no desire to clap, shout amen, or do anything of the sort. It isn't who we are. And that is just fine. But others of us were made to respond with action. We clap, we shout, or murmur “amen,” we sway to the music. Both kinds of people are praising, in their own ways.”

Trinity Milestones

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of Jeanette Wilka by Leone Mohney

In Memory of Maria Andrade's Mom by Leone Mohney

In Memory of Jeanette Wilka by Pat Whiting

In Honor of Janet Munson's birthday by Stephen & Mary Ellen Larose



TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The Trinity Book Club meets in Fellowship Hall **Monday, February 25 at 7:00 pm**. In tribute to



the Festival of Books we will read and discuss "The Last Thing You Surrender" by Leonard Pitts. The book was released on February 4th



Trinity Women



The Horizon's Bible Study on Hebrews meets **Tuesday, February 12 at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall**. Join us as Dr. Mack leads the study.

Ryan's Bears meet **Tuesday, February 19, at 9:30 am in the Lower Lounge** to make bears for Christmas 2019. These bears are made with love then blessed and distributed to Our Family Social Services, Primavera and Arizona Children's Association for their Christmas Giving.



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------|
| 3 | Betty Lu Holland | 19 | Ida Medina |
| 8 | Emmanuelle Seddo | 20 | Kathy Moser |
| 15 | Precious Mukadesa | 28 | Shirley Wilka |
| 16 | Georgia Bach | 29 | Alice Smedley |
| 18 | Bill Goodhue | | |

March Birthdays (1-10)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Harriet Marsh | 4 | Ed Hawley |
| 2 | Truman Spillers | 6 | Jan Menke |
| 3 | Riley De Pizzo | 7 | Holly Clark |

February Anniversaries

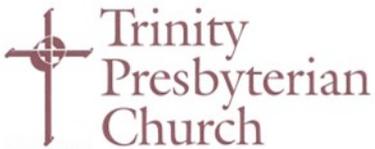
- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Liz & Steve Barlow |
| 12 | Elaine & George Banghart |



Dear Trinity Congregation --

We are overwhelmed with your generosity and compassion in our time of need. How can we thank you for all that you have done for us? Your loving outreach to complete strangers is beyond words and we feel so welcomed in your community. We pray and thank God for bringing all of us together.

God bless you all,
Carol Ogilvie
Garth and Barb Nielsen



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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.

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520-623-2579
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volunteers@trinitytucson.org



**Deadline for the March 2019 VISION is
Tuesday, February 19**
Please submit typewritten articles to the
church office or to: office@trinitytucson.org