

August, 2019

Volume 29, Issue 8

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Vacation Bible School

“Water All Around the World”

Bible stories, music, science,
crafts & snacks



Summer Youth Group

August 7 & 21 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Open to all youth ages 8 and up, Trinity Hall will be buzzing with music, ping pong, billiards and Wii & after an hour of fellowship (and snacks), we will join together in a contemporary worship with Pastor Mack & guest musicians.

Invite your friends for the fun and fellowship!

Pastoral Letter

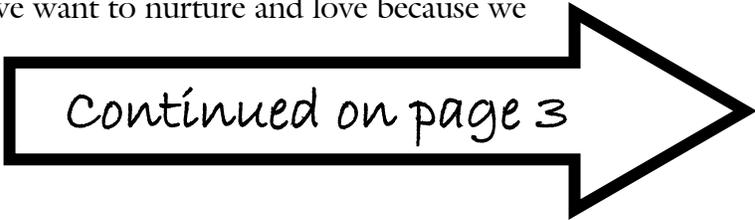
Sometimes I become so frustrated with the situation in our world that I wonder why Christ has yet to return. We witness greedy and corrupt leaders owned by multinational corporations; we witness the tentacles of organized crime as a global network of evil that is flourishing with the digital technology of the 21st century; we see the poor, our children, and the marginalized treated unjustly by the courts, while those with wealth and power seem to possess an eternal “get out of jail free” card; we see the environment groaning under the phenomenon of global warming and the growing spectacle of “climate refugees,” yet political and social resistance to the changes we need to make in order to alleviate the crisis; we find ourselves as a nation emotionally & politically divided to an unprecedented degree, which empowers those who have a darker agenda, including some who wish to foment anarchy or bring about the end of the world. I could go on, but is it really necessary? The fact that we are in a time of shadow and despair is reflected in the rise of drug addiction, violence, and suicide, and the frustration that comes with seeing the growing chasm between the “haves” and the “have nots.”

And so I ask myself, “Why Lord have you yet to return?” and realize that I am one who is suppose to be able to answer that question. I have studied the scriptures for years on the second coming of Christ, and I have been teaching for years - including here at Trinity - my class on the Revelation of John. No matter what any other modes of Christianity may proclaim, apocalyptic writing is neither simple nor easily interpretive. Many have tried to make John’s Revelation and the prophetic sayings of Christ fit into a historic and predictable scheme, but as those voices are sure that the end has arrived, it doesn’t come, and the schemes must be restructured to fit the changing times.

However, I have reached a few conclusions from my work that has changed my understanding of the coming of Christ, and while I am still forming

them, I would like to share a little bit about what I am thinking. I started with Christ’s own words about the end of the world during his ministry – words which he spoke in response to the urgent questions asked of him by his followers. Like today, the end of the world was a “hot topic,” but Jesus did not satisfy his inquisitors. When asked about when the world would end Jesus simply said, “I don’t know. That is up to the Father.” Jesus’ followers certainly expected an answer from Christ after his resurrection – in fact, they expected Christ to end the world and initiate the eternal kingdom and the fulfillment of their apocalyptic expectations – but he did not do this. Instead, just before he left them, Jesus took them to a mountaintop and told them two things. First, Jesus said that all authority and heaven and on earth had by given to him by the Father. This meant that Jesus now had the authority to decide when the new age would begin, and how it would happen. Second, he gave his followers one command – go out and make disciples of all nations. Jesus did not say for how long they were to do this – he offered no apocalyptic scheme. Jesus just said, “I will be with you, to the end of the age.” “The end of the age...” What age? The answer to that question arrived, as promised by Christ, on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended and the age of the Spirit began. So how long will this age be? Christ did not say – he was only concerned with what his followers were to do in this world, not how long they were supposed to do it.

Here is what I think (and I could easily be wrong.) God created the world and the universe, and every bit of life on this planet, and Jesus told us that God so loved the world he sent the Messiah to redeem humanity. We create life as well, or we adopt those we want to nurture and love because we



Continued on page 3

Christian Education

YOUTH CLASSES

NURSERY

9:00 to 12:00 pm Children 4 & under spend time in the Nursery with Dede coloring & playing.

FELLOWSHIP HALL ACTIVITIES

9:00 am to 10:30 am Children 4 and up can meet Alix for low action activities & snacks.

10:30 am to 11:30 am Children 4 and up meet their teachers in the Sanctuary & after the Children's Message they leave for their classes.

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS

God's Trailblazers 4 through 7 meet in Rooms 7 & 8 with Kathy to participate in exciting science fun object lessons that focus on Jesus.

KREAMER'S CRUSADERS

Kreamer's Crusaders 8 through 12 meet in Room 6 with Matt and are having a series about teamwork and helping each other.

ANCHOR TRINITY

Anchor Trinity Junior High School through College meet in Room 1 with Rona to watch & discuss movies during the Summer Movie Series.

ADULT CLASSES

FAITH, BIBLE AND PRACTICES

WITH DR. MACK

9:00 am in the Chapel through September 1

There will be three general topics – Faith, Bible, and Practices, with each topic having 7 lessons. The first topic is Faith. Each Sunday we will view a video highlighting one of the 7 lessons under the topic of Faith – God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church. After the video, Mack will lead a group discussion on each lesson.

POLO

Parents of Little Ones (POLO) meets at 9:00 am Sunday, August 11 in Room 1 for their class.

were created in the image of God.

What would it take for us to be willing to destroy our children or our pets – what would they have to do to deserve our final judgement? The lives we love have a claim on our hearts, and we hold out eternal hope that our children will find a path of goodness in their lives, even when they walk a completely opposite path. It was Jesus alone who taught us to call God “Father,” using the most intimate word of love in his language (“Daddy”). Can we say that God cares any less for those lives than for us? Jesus made it clear that God values every bit of life on this planet and used the example of sparrows to make his point. God gave birth to the universe, our world, and all that is in it, and through Christ, God has chosen the path of redemption over destruction.

I don't think Christ is going to veer from that path – nor do I think that we are to spend our time in anxiety about things like the end of the world. Rather, as followers of Christ in the age of the Spirit, we simply need to do as we are commanded – to make disciples. We are charged to do this collectively through the community of faith and individually through the way we exemplify the love of Christ in our own lives. Perhaps instead of praying for Christ to return, I should be thankful that Christ has returned, leaving us with the gift of the Holy Spirit and the task ahead. As for the end of the world – only Christ knows, and he is not going to tell us, but he is going to help us in the present age to be his disciples. That should be enough.

Dr. Mack

Christian Education This Fall

 **is September 8 when we will introduce the upcoming adult & youth classes in the 10:30 am service.**

BIBLE BRUNCH

with Dr. Mack



Bible Brunch resumes Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 am in

Fellowship Hall. We will continue the study of the Book of Revelation. We are looking at John's amazing work verse-by-verse and sometimes word-by-word. We began this extensive study last year and videotaped the class and placed it on our website, so that you may view those classes to catch up if you did not attend before or if you miss a class in the future.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WORD OF LIFE

Word of Life led by Nancy Hamadou resumes September 8 at 9:00 am in the Lower Level Lounge (Rm 5) with a new study.

POLO

Parents of Little Ones (POLO) meets at 9:00 am on the second Sunday of the month. We meet in the Anchor Room (Room 1) for our parent study.

THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

Theology for Today presented by Doug Holland will meet again in the Fall. Watch for more information.

TRINITY PLUS ONE

Trinity Plus One presented by David Croteau and Garth Nielsen will meet again in the Fall. Watch for more information.

Worship



The handbell choir resumes their rehearsals **Thursday, September 5 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Bell Room** and new ringers always welcome! If you are interested in joining, please speak with Lynn Moser.

The Trinity Choir is always looking for new members (especially tenors & basses). Join us on **Thursday, September 5 at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Exciting pieces along with Advent and Easter cantatas are just some of the ways to make your voices heard each Sunday.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 4 Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
August 11 Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 18 Isa. 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 25 Jer. 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17





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**. The need for all types of food and bottled water is increasing each month.

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 & other items such as ordering replacement ID cards, putting money on existing bus passes and notarizing documents.

4TH ON 4TH COMMUNITY SUPPER

Our next 4th Friday on 4th Avenue Community Supper is **August 23** and the theme is casseroles 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 pm, open the doors at 6:00 with prepared dishes already on the serving tables, eat until 7 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.

Congregational News

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

There is a Special Offering **Sunday, August 25** supporting the mission of our Resource Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we practice *Serving God in the Heart of the City*

The Pentecost Offering received on June 8 was \$1,691.02. Sixty percent (\$1,014.61) was sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to fund the *Educate A Child* national initiative which supports ministries for youth and the Young Adult Volunteer program. The forty percent retained by the congregation plus an additional gift totaled \$706.41 was given to the Borderlands YAV program here in Tucson. Many young people will benefit and through their service, people of all ages will receive care and love.

The Vacation Bible School offering collected by the children, parents and friends was \$126.35. It has been sent to *Living Waters for the World* to help furnish clean, healthy water in places where it does not exist.

Special Offerings are a means of supporting mission beyond regular giving. There are four church-wide offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, the Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness on World Communion Sunday and the Christmas Joy Offering. (See the July/August 2019 issue of *Presbyterians Today* for more information on these offerings). Trinity has two special offerings for mission projects; in February and in August. The Mission Committee selects the recipient. Thank you for your generosity.



TRINITY BOOK CLUB

**Join us August 26
6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

We will read and discuss "The World in a Grain" by Vince Beiser
In coming months we will read & discuss these books:

- September - "The Overstory" by Richard Power
- October - "American Nations" by Colin Woodard
- November - "The Second Mountain" by David Brooks
- December - "Myths America Lives By" by Richard Hughes

Come and add to the discussion

Session Notes

Daniel Rezeko, Site Coordinator for the Trinity Family Shelter from May to August, attended this meeting for a brief time. He talked about a few asylum seekers with special needs & how the Trinity site was perfect to help them out for several days before sending them on to their sponsors. Overnight volunteers are needed, especially during the summer months.

Session members continued their study from the Gilbert R. Rendle book "Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders." In small groups the members talked about riding the roller coaster of emotionality during times of change. The best take away from this evening study was that when people are expressing their feelings, we need to be great listeners.

Here are the highlights of the June meeting:

- Learned from our Treasurer, Leone Mohny, that our year to date shortfall at the end of May stands at the alarming total of \$179,699.39. Several elders expressed concern and plans are underway for a more in depth study about this issue. Meanwhile, Dr. Mack is suggesting we all pray for the Lord to help us with our shortfall.
- Session approved Dr. Harriet Marsh to preach on July 14, 2019 while Dr. Mack moves his daughter Patti to Austin.
- Session approved renewing the contract for our Food Bank distribution site with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.
- Session learned that the Terry J. Dalke Resource Center runs out of budgeted money by the middle of each month. More money needs to be added to the monthly budget and those who work the Resource Center are grateful for donations to keep our Resource Center running.
- Session approved Property Committee's recommendation to sell the two parking lot pay stations that will no longer be needed.
- Session approved Property Committee's recommendation to accept two donated bookcases for the revised office spaces in the church office area. Peter Holbrook, Leone Mohny & Alice Smedley now occupy Bill Voigt's old office space with a little corner left over for the Clerk of Session.

- The Worship Committee has planned worship activities for this coming September until May 31, 2020.
- Long Range Development Team continues to report that the construction is still on schedule. Maybe it's a good thing that Tucson will have a delayed monsoon.
- Session learned that Ann Walker is stepping down as a member of the Counting Team. DeDe Markin, Carolyn Maycher, Janet Jones and Bunny Mallams will continue. Ann was thanked profusely for her contributions.
- Alice Smedley has been invited to make a presentation about our Food Bank at the August Presbytery de Cristo meeting.
- Session prayed for congregants and especially for the youths who attend the Triennium.
- Session does not meet in July.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session

PROPERTY WISH LIST

Trinity Property Committee Needs Your Help!!

Item #1 Outdoor Metal Receptacle-Green 36 gallon Trash Can. Approximate Cost of \$374.95 for item.

Item #2 Plastic Smoker's Receptacle-Beige Approximate cost of \$51.00 for item.

Please make checks in any amount out to Trinity Presbyterian Church with Property Wish List in the memo line.

Thank you, Trinity Property Committee!



Item #1

Item #2



Trinity Milestones

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of Pat Whiting by Ardyce & L. Don Herman
In Honor of Don & Ruth Myer's 65th Wedding Anniversary by Leone Mohney
In Honor of Roger & Marilyn Nichol's 60th Wedding Anniversary by Leone Mohney
In Honor of Katie Dusenberry's 95th Birthday by Leone Mohney
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Linda Lou Sottnek
In Memory of Pat Whiting by John & Marilyn Owens
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Tim Lacy
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Linda Bylina's coworkers at the University of Arizona
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Jean Truitt
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Billie Pettit
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Sally Wagner
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Don & Ruth Myers
In Memory of Bill Dean by Don & Ruth Myers
In Honor of Dede Markin by Lynn & Kathy Moser
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Imogene Moser
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Thomas Senkerik
In Memory of Pat Whiting by Nancy Graham
In Honor of Will Tilley by Janet Munson
In Memory of Arlene Stevenson-Booth by James Stevenson

August Birthdays

1 Chris Svenson	17 A. Bates Butler, III
2 Freja Svenson	19 Tom Roof, Jr.
4 Daniel Seddo	20 Cecilia Kreamer
5 Jo Campbell	24 Bruce Chamberlain
9 Peter Holbrook	24 Randi Windsor
10 Joan Kingan	26 Bev Bechtel
11 George Banghart	26 Mary McMillan - 98
12 Ruth Myers	27 Charles Cook
12 Corbin Lind	27 Betty Jean Hand
14 Travis Spillers	28 Marilyn Nichols
	29 Jane Marie Boyiddle

September Birthdays (1-10)

3 Wayne Steele	6 Janet Goodhue
4 Rona Kreamer	8 Jim Croxen
5 Dave Croteau	8 Bucky Lovejoy, III
5 Barbara Kittle	9 Pat Keegstra
	9 Madeline Lind

August Anniversaries

2 Rick & Ida Wickizer
12 Doug & Betty Lu Holland
20 Geoffrey & Kirsten Barlow

Trinity Women

The Horizon's Bible Study begins **Tuesday, September 10 in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am.** Join us as Dr. Mack leads this study "Love Carved In Stone" by Eugenia Anne Gamble. These books about the Ten Commandments are available, please contact Leone to purchase one.



Ryan's Bears will not meet in August. We will meet on **Tuesday, September 17 at 9:30 am in the Lower Level Lounge.** We need all your nimble fingers and hands to create these wonderful bears that are distributed in December.



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Presbyterian
Church

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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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Deadline for the September 2019 *VISION* is
Tuesday, August 20

Please submit typewritten articles to the
church office or to: office@trinitytucson.org