

February, 2017

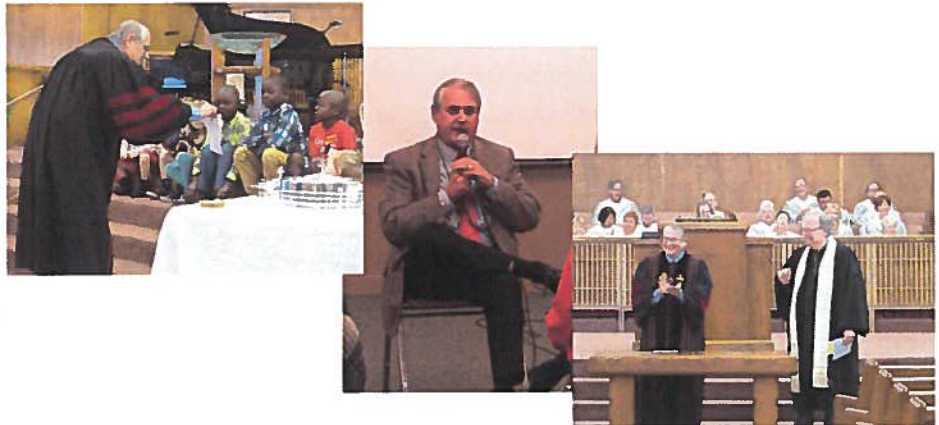
Volume 27, Issue 2

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THE HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM

We say we are Presbyterian, but do we know what that means? Join Dr. Mack on Sunday morning for a multi-week class titled *"The History of Presbyterianism."* Dr. Mack will begin in the Bible and study the meaning of our tradition through the early church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, early-American era, and today. **Class will meet at 9:00 am in Upper Room West beginning Sunday, February 12.**



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The Book of Revelation is a mystery to most Christians - one which many reformed Christians avoid because of its misuse by religious charlatans. However, Revelations has form, meaning, purpose, and a surprisingly upbeat message for our time. I have been teaching this last book in the Bible for many years, using a verse-by-verse method supplemented with a Power Point presentation featuring illustrations and outlines that help us to understand both John's incredible vision, as well as the literary style of apocalyptic works in the Bible.

I will begin this study on Wednesday evening, March 1 at 5:00 pm in Upper Room West (new location for Bible Study). While there will be some occasional discussion, this class is more oriented toward presentation with questions and answer. This is a long-term study, however I will be recording each class for those unable to attend. All you need to bring is your favorite Bible, regardless of translation or version. I hope you will join us for fun and enlightening look at Revelations.

Dr. Mack Sigmon

PASTORAL LETTER

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” Matthew 21: 21-22

I was blessed to have grown up in Charlotte, NC, which was located almost directly between the beaches of South Carolina and the mountains of North Carolina. In our North Carolina churches, there has been a running joke for many years in response to the typical church question, “How is attendance?” The answer: “It’s up and down – up at the mountains and down at the beaches!” Either way you travel from Charlotte - up or down - the traveler eventually meets one of two awesome vistas – the ocean, with its awesome power and seemingly limitless horizon, or the mountains, with their towering strength, painted with the brightest sunlight on the mountaintops and contrasting with the deepest shadows in the valleys.

In the gospels we see Jesus preaching, teaching, and healing in both venues – by the sea of Galilee, or in the mountains of the Judean hill country. So much of Jesus’ teaching reflects the scene of where the teaching takes place, and in the verses above from the gospel of Matthew, Jesus has a mountain in view – probably the temple mount – as He teaches this lesson on faith. Verses 21-22 are two of the most misunderstood and abused passages in all of Christianity, used by unscrupulous preachers and religious charlatans to pile guilt on believers who earnestly seek an answer to prayer. We have seen and heard these false prophets say to their suffering congregations, “You did not have enough faith – that is why your prayers were not answered.” But is that the point of Christ’s lesson?

First, let’s remember that Christ taught us how to pray, and that prayer is very simple: “Our Father, who art in heaven...”. Every aspect of the Lord’s prayer, every petition, can be prayed fervently, with faith, and with a full expectation of an answer: “Thy kingdom come...Thy will be done...forgive us our sins...deliver us from evil...”. Second, and even more importantly, Christ is not telling us that the purpose of prayer is to move mountains in a literal sense. Why would we even

pray for such a thing? There is no reason in heaven or on earth to pray that a mountain jump into the sea. Faith is not a characteristic in which the sole purpose is to demonstrate supernatural power. However, faith is the only characteristic in life that can connect us to the spiritual power and presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus never once made a mountain jump into a sea, but He did still the storm so that His followers would not be afraid; He did love, teach, forgive, and heal those who came to the seashores and the mountains to hear Him. Our faith in Jesus Christ can do the same things in our lives and in the lives of others – it can heal broken hearts, forgive long-held grievances, set aside old wounds and regrets, teach those around us about the love of God, and teach us how to love each other unconditionally. Those are the mountains in our own lives that only Jesus can move. In regard to answering all of our prayers, Jesus never presents prayer as a shopping list of personal desires. Prayer is not meant to give us a check-off list of the things God has given us as opposed to the things God has denied us. Rather, prayer is like holding hands with God – the feeling and the Presence of the Holy Spirit are far more important than the words.

Prayer is not about moving dirt – it is about the love between ourselves and our Creator, Who knows what we need. That love moves our hearts everyday into undiscovered places of hope and comfort, places where we need not fear anything that life throws at us. Prayer is not a demand – it is an act of faith. Christ prays with us and for us to the Father, and the Father, Who loves us, moves the mountains that keep us from seeing Him. Have you let God move the mountains from in front of you so that you can see God’s love? That is the true prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.

Dr. Mack



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WORD OF LIFE

Join us in the Lower Level Lounge (Rm 5) at 9:00 am. We continue our study called *Revelation: Awaiting The Bridegroom* by Susan Porterfield Currie. Come join us for lively discussions. We meet in the Lower Level Lounge at 9:00 am.

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THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

Theology for Today meets in the Lower Level Lounge (Rm 5) at 11:45 on Sundays and is discussing *We are discussing Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love* by William H. Willimon.

MARKING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY

of the Protestant Reformation



The University of Arizona is celebrating 500 years of the Protestant Reformation with lectures and exhibits. For more information visit their website at <http://reformation.arizona.edu/calendar>

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!

GODLY PLAY CLASS



A Sunday School class, Godly Play for ages 4-8 is held during the 10:30 worship service. Children meet their leader at the front of the Sanctuary and participate in the first part of the service. They then go to their classroom for Bible stories, snacks and craft activities.

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" (Lower Level 6). 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.

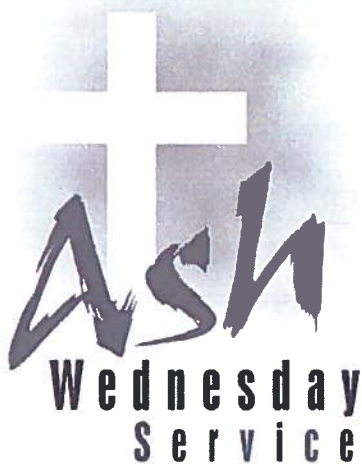
ANCHOR TRINITY



All high school & college aged youth are invited to Anchor Trinity 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" (Lower Level 1) every Sunday at 11:15am.

Wednesday ~~Nite~~ Alive! - February 2017

Date	5:00 pm Bible Study (Library)	6:00 pm Quiet Time with God (Chapel)	6:30 pm Helping Hands Project, Fellowship and Snacks (Upper Room)	7:00-8:00 pm Discussion Topic/Guest Speaker (Upper Room)
Feb 1	Unclean Spirits Luke 4:31-41 <i>Bill Voigt</i>	Demons and Disciples <i>Bill Voigt</i>	Simple Encouragement Cards for Interfaith Community Services <i>Kathy Moser</i>	Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health Issues <i>Veda Kowalksi, Ph.D. Health and Senior Services Director, Interfaith Community Services</i>
Feb 8	Woman at The Well John 4:1-26 <i>Mack Sigmon</i>	Helping Others <i>Mack Sigmon</i>	"Breakfast Bundles" for Sister Jose Women's Center <i>Kathy Moser</i>	Helping Women Out of Homelessness <i>Penny Buckley, Operations Coordinator, Sister Jose Women's Center</i>
Feb 15	Gerasene Demoniac Luke 8:26-39 <i>Mack Sigmon</i>	Judging Others <i>Bill Voigt</i>	Encouragement Cards for Youth on Their Own <i>Kathy Moser</i>	LGBTQ 101/Allyship <i>Courtney Waters, MPH, MS, CHES The ANCHOR Project (Accessible Network for Coordinated Housing, Opportunities, and Resilience) https://anchorprojectarizona.org/</i>
Feb 22	The Chronically Ill Woman Mark 5:25-34 <i>Mack Sigmon</i>	Living On The Boundaries <i>Mack Sigmon</i>	Encouragement Cards for Youth on Their Own <i>Kathy Moser</i>	The Personal Side of Being LGBTQ <i>Guest speakers coordinated by Lori Boston, LPC</i>



The observance of Lent begins on March 1 with an Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The service will include Scripture, song and the imposition of ashes. A soup supper and Helping Hands service project will take place in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The service project will be putting together food packs for Trinity's food bank. Bible study occurs at 5:00. Please join us for all or part of this meaningful evening.



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 a branch of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. This month we need individual servings of food items for our street packs. We are averaging 30 people coming in for these snacks when we are open. Thanks to all of you who have been providing items for our food pantry

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.

THE NEXT 4TH ON 4TH FRIDAY

Community Supper will be on **Friday, February 24 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm**, downstairs in Trinity Hall. Come and meet new people from the community, and bring a dish to share. February's theme is comfort foods such as goulash, meatloaf, mac and cheese, chili and beef stew. Someone will be in the Narthex with a sign-up sheet Sundays after church. Questions- please call Betty Lu Holland 579-2895

SUNDAYS in Fellowship

Hall Just Coffee

FOR SIPPING & FOR SALE!



LOVEJOY LIBRARY NEWS

The Trinity Kids Reading Club began on January 1, 2017. Please get your chart and some stars, and for each book you read, place a star in a square.

For every five (5) books you check out, read and return, you will get to draw a little prize from the Treasure Chest. Many books have been added to the Children's Cart, so you will have lots of books to choose from.

Hey, Dad and Mom, while your children are looking for books at the Children's Cart, you can browse through the many books we have in our beautiful library.

Happy Reading!! DeDe

Congregational News

TRINITY BOOK CLUB



We will meet on **Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall to discuss the books that you have chosen out of the following four: *The Atomic Weight Of Love* by Elizabeth Church, *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, *The Glass Universe* by Dava Sobel or *The Year of Voting Dangerously: The Derangement of American Politics* by Maureen Dowd who will be at the Festival of Books! The book for March 28th is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J D Vance. Come and add to the discussion we are open to requests! Questions please contact Billie Holbrook at 668-6341 or billie.holbrook@cox.net

SESSION NOTES

The Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon expertly moderated his first Stated Session meeting at Trinity and pleased everyone by adjourning the meeting in less than 1 and ½ hours – pretty much a record for this Session! And much appreciated by our busy, hard-working church leaders. Here are the highlights and actions taken during the meeting:

- Calling a meeting for January 21, 2017 during Session Retreat for the purpose of examining the elders and deacons-elect.
- Approving a service of Communion at the Session Retreat.
- Approving February 5, 2017 following worship at 10:30 for the Annual Congregational meeting.
- Electing Janet Hooper as Clerk of Session, Le-one Mohney as Treasurer and Alice Smedley as Assistant Treasurer for the year 2017 and giving Janet and Alice the privilege of the floor.
- Approving Communion services for February 5, 2017 and March 5, 2017.
- Authorized the pastors to baptize Joel Michael Hooper, grandson of Jim and Janet Hooper, on March 26, 2017.
- Approving a special offering during the 25th Anniversary Concert of the Trinity Ringers on May 7, 2017 for the purpose of refurbishing and retuning the Trinity bells – a possible \$4,000 price tag.
- Heard that the Deacon's All Church Picnic is scheduled at Reid Park for October 14, 2017 and that the prayer shawl ministry is loved and appreciated.
- Finding out that Dr. Mack's Installation may happen in May after his wife Amy and daughter Patty join him in Tucson.
- Found out from Property that new flooring is being chosen for Fellowship Hall.
- Stewardship & Finance needs committee members and money counters. Please consider offering your help for this vital committee.
- The new carillon computer and digital carillon player debuted on Christmas Eve and the bells are loud and clear.
- Administration & Personnel agreed that Mack's first Sunday at TPC was extremely well received and the Pastor Nominating Committee has had great feedback.
- Trinity's second Vacation Bible School – in years and years – is scheduled for June 26-30, 2017 and Intergenerational Wednesday nights will replace SummerFest.
- Christian Education is sponsoring a children's reading project. Check it out in Lovejoy Library.
- Growth & Outreach is happy people are using the high tables and chairs in the back of the Sanctuary.
- Long Range Development Team announces the next mayor and city council zoning hearing is scheduled for February 22, 2017.
- Mission Committee is relinquishing financial support for our refugee family, but friendship and encouragement is supported. Trinity received accolades for our good support with the hope that we might sponsor another refugee family in the future.

Elders and pastors prayed for those in need of prayer and succor and for an exciting future that is opening up before us. All praise to God!

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session

TRINITY'S "Going to the Dogs"
Session approved hosting the annual training for Guide Dogs For the Blind.



Trinity Women

Just a reminder that TPW pledges may be given directly to the church by mail or in the offering plate. Please designate TPW or Trinity Women in the memo portion of the check to ensure proper crediting.



Trinity Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, February 14 for the morning Circle at 10:00 am. Join them monthly for Bible study and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

Ryan's Bears will meet February 21 at 9:30 am in the Lower Level Lounge to begin the bears for Christmas 2017! We will be cutting, stuffing and stitching, please join us!

Thank You

Thank you! I was hoping that I might get a prayer shawl while I could still use it. One day while I was at Banner UMC, the Rev. Bill Voigt brought me a beautiful, cuddly, ivory prayer shawl that women who meet at Trinity on Saturday morning had knit! It even had care directions on it. I love my shawl and use it, so thank you very much..

Jane Parker

SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 5- Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; I Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 - Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 - Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 26 - Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:9

Milestones

February Birthdays

3	Betty Lu Holland	20	Kathy Moser
8	Emmanuelle Seddo	24	Caroll Keegstra
14	Laurie Hull	28	Shirley Wilka
18	Bill Goodhue	29	Alice Smedley
19	Ida Medina		

March Birthdays (1—10)

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

February Anniversaries

- 1 Elizabeth and Steve Barlow
- 12 Elaine and George Banghart



Memorials

In memory of Rev. Bill Dean by Bonnie Stull and Thomas Dean

In memory of Fay McCormick by Les & Suzanne Hayt, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Henderson, Bonnie Stull, Leone Mohney, Carol Danisi and Edith Braatz

In memory of Arlene Booth by Alice Gratias, Imogene Moser, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Whiting, Bonnie Stull and Leone Mohney

In memory of the other Saints of Trinity by Bonnie Stull

In Honor of Don Myer's 85th birthday by Leone Mohney

In Honor of Ruth Myers by Jill and John O'Rourke

 **Trinity
Presbyterian
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Trinity HOPE line
Call 623-HOPE (623-4673) to listen
to an inspirational message.

★
★ **Deadline for the March, 2017 *VISION*** ★
★ **Tuesday, February 21** ★
★ **Please submit typewritten articles to** ★
★ **the church office or to:** ★
★ **office@trinitytucson.org** ★
★ ★