

January, 2022

Volume 32, Issue 1

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Wednesday Evening Vespers

Dr. Mack hosts a weekly devotional on Zoom called "Wednesday Evening Vespers" each Wednesday, at 6:30 pm for about 30 minutes. This is a brief time of prayer and sharing when Mack shares scripture, a devotional, prayer concerns, and then participants pray as a group. The invitation is available at <http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>.

Thank you to everyone who planned & participated in the Cantata, Mini Concerts & Christmas Eve Services



This Advent Season was very different from last years and we were grateful to be able to have you with us both in person and online.

Last year's Christmas Eve service was a mix of prerecorded videos of readers & musicians with Dr. Mack providing the only "live" participation that evening . This year we were able to have both the casual and traditional services with several members participating as readers and musicians. The procession at the beginning of the casual service was wonderful as adults stepped in to participate with the children as the shepherds, wise men and holy family.

Video recordings of the Advent Mini Concerts and the Christmas Eve service are available to view anytime at www.trinitytucson.org on the homepage and under the Worship tab on the top menu.

PASTORAL LETTER

Did you ever play “Mother, May I?” when you were a kid? I was asking myself if kids still played that game, then I realized that the only way to answer “yes” would be if “Mother, May I” had been made into a videogame. Do you recall how the game is played? A person is designated as “Mother” (or “Father” or “Captain”) and stands in front of the players at a distance. The players are lined up shoulder to shoulder. The “Mother” calls the child by name and gives them an instruction to move forward in anyway the Mother instructs. The one named must respond “Mother, may I?” and receive a “yes” before they can move. If a player forgets to ask the question or steps out of turn, the player must return to the starting line. Another way to play is for the player to ask the Mother for permission to move, and receive either a “yes” or “no, but you may do this.” Like all children’s games, there are innumerable variations – but the one thing you do not want to happen is to be sent back to the starting line. Once a player reaches the “Mother,” the player wins and becomes the one who calls out the movements.

Perhaps you already have divined what I am getting at. As we enter the new year, it feels like we have been taking steps forward and steps backward regarding the pandemic; and with the Omicron variant of Covid-19, it feels like we are back at the starting line (or even worse, it feels like the starting line has moved further away from where it began.) The children’s game came to mind for me when the Worship Restoration Committee determined that the choir needed to wait until the Omicron variant has peaked before returning to the sanctuary (our wonderful quartet will be leading us in singing through January.) Sharing this with other members, I could hear the disappointment in their voices and their emails.

But looking at the positive, which is always important for disciples of Jesus Christ, I am thankful that we were able to share wonderful Advent and Christmas services, including that amazing cantata.

Just being able to follow our normal celebration of the birth of Christ was a goal for which myself, and many others, had prayed. I am also confident that this variant of Covid will peak (probably this month), and we will begin to obtain that “magic” status known as “herd immunity.” But regardless of what happens next, there is no doubt that progress is being made against the pandemic as new medications for post-Covid testing and treatment become available.

Take a moment to think about where we were this time last year at Trinity. Our worship was online. Vaccines were not available. The staff was struggling to add the technical innovations we needed to make everything work. The streets were still relatively empty, and supplies were critically short (not just inconveniently short.) But things were happening to move us forward – most of them sight unseen.

As Christians we can learn much about how our Lord guides our lives as we consider the difference in one year. God is always moving us forward, toward our wonderful reunion with him in God’s eternal kingdom. God always hears our prayers – not just the things that we want, but the things we need, even when we do not consciously pray for them. God is always working on us and working with us – more so in our worst moments than in our best. That is why the Apostle Paul tells us that any hope we have is in Christ and not in ourselves. In Christ, sometimes what appears to us as steps back are steps forward for the one whom we serve with love and obedience. That is the faith we must embrace, particularly in difficult times.

As we enter 2022, perhaps it is a good time to remember where we were as compared to where we are, and rejoice that God is moving us into the future for the sake of God’s purpose. In this we can be confident, whatever the year may bring.

Dr. Mack

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES

In person classes began Sunday, January 9, 2022 for these classes.
Please join your teacher after the Children's Message in the Sanctuary service
and please contact your teacher if you will continue you class remotely.

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children ages 4-8)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

A Look into God's Amazing Creation

We will continue to use the Discover column for kids exploring nature, science, and God's amazing, good world (thebanner.org) plus additional resources for in-person classes until everyone can safely return. Our theme for January will be "WINTER IN GOD'S WORLD" ("Snow Days", "Winter Waterland", "A Forest in Winter" and "Plants in Winter"). Class meets downstairs in Rooms 7 & 8.

THE CRUSADERS

(children 8 through 12)

Teacher: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

We will begin in-person Sunday School, meeting downstairs in Room 6 following the children's sermon. The class continues to discover the stories of the shepherds and magi from the BIRTH OF JESUS unit. Later in January, we'll begin PEOPLE JESUS MET which introduces us to five people who encountered Jesus - each with a different request, or reason to want to meet Jesus, and each one touched in a unique way.

These lessons will be emailed to families as well.

Jan. 9 Surprise Visitors Luke 2:8-20

Jan. 16 Visitors from the East Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 23 The Short Man Luke 19:1-10

Jan. 30 The Thankful Woman Luke 7:36-48

ANCHOR TRINITY

(Junior High School through College)

Teacher: Rona Kreamer

Anchor Trinity is BACK IN PERSON and we will be continuing our Hearing God series by hanging out in the Harbor Room 1 downstairs and listening to music and finding biblical references in the music~ Bring your open heart and listening ears!

Please make sure you give Rona your updated email addresses- there will be a few weekends where there will not be class so make sure you check your email for updates!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

New ruling elders & deacons for the Class of 2024 will be training and begin service this month. Thank you to the following people for their willingness to serve our church. Deacons are Vade Henderson, Betty Lu Holland, Ruth Myers, Koffi Seddo & Cheyenne Williams. Elders are John Hill, Janet Jones, Barbara C. Pollack & Chuck Sosna.

MAKING SANDWICHES

A small group of volunteers meet regularly to make sandwiches for Casa Maria. If you would like to help contact Dede Markin at 982-3787 or ddmarkin@yahoo.com.
Thanks for your help !

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

OTOJOY Hearing Loop Education Event Sunday, January 9 at 11:45 am

Thanks to a generous donor Trinity is excited to share that we have recently installed a Hearing Loop System in the front half of the sanctuary (and choir loft) to assist those with hearing loss to hear more clearly. A Hearing Loop is an assistive listening system that transmits the sound directly into ones hearing aids or cochlear implants rather than depending on the sound coming from the loudspeakers. In doing so, all ambient and background noise is reduced, providing crystal clear sound directly to user's ears. To receive the Loop signal, manually activate your T-coil, Telecoil or Hearing Loop setting on your hearing aid or cochlear implant. If you don't know if you have a T-coil, or if yours is not properly programmed, consult with your audiologist or hearing aid professional. If you don't wear hearing aids, ask to use a Loop receiver (available in Narthex) to receive the sound.

We had a **special hearing loop education event on Sunday January 9 after worship** which was recorded and is available to view on the home page of our website trinitytucson.org. Judy Katz-Esbit from OTOJOY made a presentation that day and answered the following questions.

- ♦ Why would an Assistive Listening system help improve my hearing?
- ♦ What is a Hearing Loop?
- ♦ What are T-Coils, and do I have them in my hearing aids?
- ♦ How do I connect to the Hearing Loop to improve my hearing?
- ♦ How can I still benefit if I don't have hearing aids or cochlear implants?

WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

Meet Imogene Moser



What did you do for a living?

I worked for 39+ years as an RN (nurse). I started in Tucson at the old Pima County Hospital on South 6th Avenue and then moved with them to Kino Hospital.

Where is your hometown?

Berne, Indiana which is a small town that was founded by Swiss Mennonite immigrants in 1852.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Read, walk, play games for socialization

What is your favorite food?

Apple crumb pie - yum yum

What is your favorite scripture & hymn? 1st Corinthians 13 and many hymns such as "He Keeps Me Singing", "His Eye is on the Sparrow", "Take my Life and Let It Be" and "Have Thine Own Way, Lord".

What does this church mean to you?

As a member since 1962, it is my strong hold for hope, faith and joy.

MISSION NEWS

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Sunday from 12:00 to 2:00 pm** and **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm** in the Education Building Room 14. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.

We are always in need of cases of water and fresh fruits and vegetables.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 to 2:00 pm** in the Education Building Room 13 to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications, vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards, birth certificates for adults and notarizing documents.



Just Coffee For Sale



The Mission Committee **Thanks You** for the great response to the re-introduction of Just Coffee sales in December. The Just Coffee display is near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall with volunteers handling the sales before and after church on Sunday.

You may pay by cash or check. Coffee will be \$10 or \$11 and the

proceeds benefit Café Justo, a Grower owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico, formed to address the poverty & migration from Mexico to the U.S.A.

We will be ordering more coffee in January based on the most popular choices sold in December. More information about the cooperative, the coffee process & the different types of coffee they sell are available at justcoffee.org.



Special Mission Offering Twice a year the Mission Committee has a special offering that reaches out to the community. February's offering will be given to Trinity's Deacon's Emergency Fund. To give your gift please click on the Donate button on Trinity's website and designate your gift for SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING or mail a check to the office. This special offering may be made throughout the month of February.

WORSHIP NEWS

The Worship Restoration Committee met via Zoom January 2 & due to the omicron surge they have recommended that we return to the vocal quartet only to provide Sunday's music. At this time the choir will be on hiatus.

HANDBELL REHEARSAL resumes **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30 pm** in the Bell Room upstairs. Please see Lynn Moser if you are interested in participating.

SESSION NOTES

Last meeting for 2021! Please give a big thank you to Jim Hooper and Jeanette Ryan for their service as they retire from the Session. The Class of 2024 will soon be installed and ready to get to work to help guide us through the next three years. We welcome John Hill, Janet Jones and returning elders Barbara Callaway Pollack and Chuck Sosna to keep our Trinity Session humming along. Our Session usually has fifteen elders to serve, but in the coming year we will be down to twelve serving elders. With regret, Session received the resignation of Leslye Obiora, Elder Class of 2023, as she spends some years in Nigeria to establish a school. Following are the highlights of Session's December meeting:

- Session received a report from the Worship Restoration Group that strongly encourages our congregation to stay masked up while indoors. Once more, the pandemic indicates caution as we move forward to more normal church activities considering the new variant Omicron.
- All agree that the Cantata was awesome. Combining in person participants and those online participants attendance was 187! Remember, too, that the online people might represent more than one person watching.
- Dr. Mack reports that as we focused on the visual aspects of our hybrid worship our existing analog sound system is out of sync with the webcast. Research is ongoing to find out how to correct this problem so those who stream the services will have an even sound experience.
- Our new Deacon and Elder 2024 classes will participate in online training from Presbytery de Cristo or General Assembly. They will be installed and ordained sometime in January along with the classes of 2023. We skipped that proceeding in 2020 because of the pandemic while all of us were streaming worship services.
- Not all committees met in December so they had no new business to report.
- Trinity Presbyterian Women delivered 72 bears to several local agencies for distribution. In January they will start all over again

producing Ryan's Bears to bring joy and comfort in our community. Hope you were able to hold one on their dedication Sunday before they were sent on their mission.

- The biggest job for Session at the end of the year is to approve the budget for the new year as presented by the Stewardship & Finance Committee. That happened. A \$151,384 deficit is anticipated for 2022, but that may be offset by an upcoming sale of some of our property, a third portion of a bequest and the possible development of another income.
- Administration & Personnel recommended a 6% increase in salary for our staff to offset the current 5.9% inflation rate. With the passage of the 2022 budget that was achieved.
- Several times during this meeting Dr. Mack praised our amazing Trinity staff. He iterated that their talents and attention to details have resulted in huge savings for our church. Please give them expressions of gratitude for their fine work.
- Property Committee continues to keep our church campus maintained with lighting, a mini split for the Bell Room, and contracts to keep us safe as well as our outdoor spaces looking spiffy.
- Session members prayed for those in need of special care and comfort and gave thanks for the gift of our church family.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session



TRINITY MILESTONES

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of Dr. Bill H. Brown by Bonnie Stull
In Honor of Don Myers 90th Birthday by Bonnie Stull
In Honor of Dan Hull by Bonnie Stull
In Memory of former members who died in 2021 by Leone Mohney
In Honor of Don Myers by Jill & John O'Rourke
In Honor of Ruth Myers by Jill & John O'Rourke



TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study

continues **Tuesday, February 8 at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall.** Dr. Mack leads the study, "What My Grandmother Taught Me - Learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair. See Leone for a study book. The business meeting is held first.



Ryan's Bears

Ryan's Bears meets **Tuesday, January 18 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.**

Please contact Ruth Myers to either help there in person or at home.

Despite the pandemic bear making continues. We hope to have 50-60 bears made by December for 2022 Christmas gifts at Primavera, Our Family Social Services and the Arizona Children's Assoc. Your donations of fabric, stuffing & buttons are always welcome.

January Birthdays

1 Sanani Mukadesa	23 Hannah Toering
2 Emmanuel Alley	24 David Toering
2 Dale McCray	24 Cindy Toering
2 Dr. Mack Sigmon	26 Kyle Elliott
5 Jeanette Ryan	27 Janet Munson
9 Jeri Ogden	27 Tom Henderson
11 James Hooper	30 Bobby Whipple
15 Peggy Chamberlain	31 Ezra Moyer
19 Matt Kreamer	

February Birthdays (1—10)

3 Betty Lu Holland	8 Emmanuelle Seddo
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January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser



SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 2 Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:1-9, 10-18

January 9 Isaiah 43:1-7 & Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16 Isaiah 62:1-5 & Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 23 Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 & Psalm 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

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



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- ⇒ We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday morning service beginning at 10:20 am. Watch on our website trinitytucson.org/watch-live
- ⇒ Join us in the Sanctuary for In Person Worship at 10:20 am.
- ⇒ Visit our website at www.trinitytucson.org for all the latest information and events you are looking for.

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Office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

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**Deadline for the February 2022 VISION
is Monday, January 24, 2022**

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