

January, 2023

Volume 33, 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, Advent Mini Concerts,
Christmas Eve & Day Services**



This Advent Season we were able to enjoy a new cantata complete with a 23 piece orchestra and three Advent Mini concerts to prepare us for Christmas. Christmas Eve night we had a casual and traditional service with several members participating as readers and musicians. The procession at the beginning of the casual service was wonderful as a small group of youth and adults dressed as the shepherds, wise men and holy family. Christmas Day we continued to celebrate the birth of Jesus with more special music and a message from Dr. Mack. We are grateful that we were able to worship in person along with having the services available online.



Video recordings of the Cantata, Advent Mini Concerts and Christmas Eve services are available to view anytime at www.trinitytucson.org on the homepage.

PASTORAL LETTER



We probably have already made plans for the New Year. Perhaps we have established some travel dates and made a commitment to those dates by reserving or purchasing tickets. Perhaps our plans for the year involve a long-awaited project that we are determined to finally complete. We may choose to get an elective medical procedure that we have been putting off for a long time. A new year is when we think about and make plans, with an expectation that we will be able to fulfill them.

But life doesn't work that way, does it? Of the plans that we make at the beginning of each year, how many do we complete? The issue, of course, is that life is surprising, and every day brings the unexpected. We receive a communication – a family member, a physician, a mechanic – and our plans change. We turn on a switch and nothing happens; we take a wrong step and have a fall; a pet becomes ill; a trauma occurs; we catch a virus – and this is naming just a few of the things that can happen to us over the year.

The problem is that while we desire to live for the future, the present keeps imposing itself upon our lives. In the gospel, the same problem is why so many had a difficult time accepting Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. For years Israel's religion had formulated a set of plans involving the arrival of the one promised by the prophets. Though prophets like Isaiah pointed to a Savior who would come to suffer and sacrifice for the sake of creation, that was not an attractive vision of the future for Israel, who remembered the glory and power of King David.

In remembering the power and glory of the Davidic kingdom, the religious leaders of Israel set the proph-

ets aside and created a Messiah in an image that they desired. After many centuries, the religious leaders were so committed to the future of the Messiah which they had envisioned, that they could not envision any other possibility.

When Jesus of Nazareth emerged from an obscure region of Galilee, it required a daily commitment by those around him to see that he was the Messiah in every way that the prophets had foreseen. Following Jesus daily was not an easy task. Jesus said and did controversial things that ran counter to the religious traditions and practices of the people. We read in John that by the time Jesus neared Jerusalem for his final Passover, only a few of those who regularly followed him remained – a small group which including the original twelve apostles whom he had called. Those who remained stayed because, though they had been steeped in a religious Messianic vision, they could not deny the reality of what they experienced in Christ as they lived with him day-to-day. The climax of their resolve is when Jesus asked a question of the remaining disciples before he made his final journey to the cross – “Do you also wish to leave?” To which Peter poignantly replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Whatever may happen to us in the coming year – however our plans may come to fruition or remain unfulfilled, we have someone to go to everyday. What do the plans for our present lives matter, when God has a plan for our eternal lives? Why would we commit to anything else? The question is still the same for the coming year as it has been in every previous year of our lives – to whom shall we go? There is no love like God's love, and no joy that compares to the daily presence of our Lord in our lives. It is going to be a wonderful year, because we have a wonderful Savior.

Dr. Mack

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 2nd grade)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND OTHER CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

We are having in-person Sunday School downstairs in Room 7 following the children's message. We will continue using a Christian video series called "Douglas Talks, The Fruit of the Spirit for Kids" as well as other resources and activities as we learn about Christian virtues found throughout the Old and New Testaments.

CRUSADERS (3rd - 5th grade) & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (6th grade & older)

Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

Crusaders: 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will use lessons from "Growing In God's Love", and videos from the crew at Konnect HQ as they focus on real-life kid challenges, searching for biblical truth, and modeling spiritual growth. Check out at Konnect HQ - YouTube.

Faith Encounters: Graders 6 and older will explore The New Testament, The Lord's Prayer, and The Apostles' Creed as we journey towards deeper faith development.

Both these groups will be held in Room 1. The children/youth will meet at the back of the sanctuary after the children's message.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

Meet Debbie Hobbs

What did or do you do for a living? I've worked my whole life programming activities with children, first at the YMCA and most recently as a Science teacher. I am now happily retired but I still love to be around kids.

Where is your hometown? I was born and raised in Tucson

What do you like to do with your leisure time? Baking and crafts are my favorites, and of course the pleasure of giving these away.

What is your favorite food? A good pasta and big green salad

What is your favorite hymn or Bible verse? I love all the Christmas carols, played loudly at any time of the year!

What does this church mean to you? An opportunity to serve others and to be challenged by the Word.

What is something that many people would not know about you? I grew up in a small conservative church, often singing gospel songs in a trio with my dad and grandma



MISSION NEWS

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Wednesday 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications, vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards, birth certificates for adults and notarizing documents.

Casa Maria

sandwich making
Every second Sunday
in Fellowship Hall after
the Sanctuary service.

The next one is
February 12, 2023

Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee before and after church each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers. 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 and migration from Mexico to the U.S.A. More information is available at justcoffee.org.



Do you have sweaters or jackets that you no longer need? We are collecting those items to be given to Casa Maria for distribution to their clients. You may bring them to the office Monday - Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm or Sunday morning.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

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 **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona**. 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

CHOIR REHEARSAL is **Thursdays at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Join the Trinity Choir as they participate weekly in the service and prepare for the Easter Cantata.

HANDBELL REHEARSAL is **Thursdays at 5:30 pm** in the Bell Room upstairs. Please see Lynn Moser if you are interested in participating.

SESSION NOTES

Last meeting of 2022! We reluctantly say so long to Ruth Russell and Liz Strong as they become “resting” elders. Both have chaired essential committees – Stewardship & Finance and Administration & Personnel – with expertise and wise counsel. Luckily, they will remain on those committees as members-at-large to continue the good work these committees do for Trinity. In the New Year we will welcome two new members to the Session – Allen Coffin and Tom Roof. Before we Zoom into 2023 here are the highlights of the December meeting:

- Dr. Mack briefed Session members about the state of our church. He emphasized how we have become a hybrid church now welcoming people into our sanctuary but maintaining an online presence. Our technology has improved, but our sound system needs some tweaking. Our property is sold and we will have some adjustments as the Developers begin building. Trinity Hall should be up and running by the end of the first quarter. Adaptation is a key word here and our staff is commended for helping needed changes happen. Session committees all operate well with good leadership. The state of Trinity is good as we institute our future plans.
- The committees are summarizing their 2022 accomplishments for Sheila Croteau to include in the Annual Report to the Congregation. Stay tuned!
- Session approved letting the staff off the three days between Christmas and the New Year and paying the four salaried non-exempt employees for those days.
- The numbers of people served by our Resource Center and Food Bank site remain high even as open hours are curtailed. We appreciate our volunteers.
- Property Committee reports that the air handler for Trinity Hall is on order. The committee is adjusting room rates for outside groups as those groups will need to meet in our Sanctuary building. They are also monitoring our insurance rates as we are no longer responsible for the old education building or the duplex.

- Session provisionally approved the 2023 budget as they were presented with monetary totals for each division on the balance sheet. Line-item amounts will be presented in January for further approval. Most committees planned to keep the same budget they had in 2022.
- Session affirmed the Stewardship & Finance Committee’s decision to open a new account called Short Term Reserve with New Covenant Trust. This account is set up for the purpose of investing the receipts from the sale of the education wing but allowing potential quarterly withdrawals. The committee is grateful to their financial adviser Jim Hitson for his availability and advice.
- Worship Committee and our choir are receiving many positive comments about the wonderful Cantata presentation and the new garland decorating the sanctuary. Please convey your appreciation for the Cantata and Mini-Concerts with beautiful music to Lynn Moser, Bruce Chamberlain and all the others who make these events happen.
- Session members prayed for congregants in need of special care and concern. We are grateful that Gerry Pearson, our bookkeeper, is out of the hospital and doing better. We are grateful she can continue her work at Trinity while a search continues for her replacement as she retires.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session



TRINITY MILESTONES

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of George Greenleaf by Leone Mohney

In Honor of Barb & Garth Nielsen by David & Sheila Croteau

SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 1 Isaiah 63:7-9 & Psalm 148, Heb. 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

January 8 Isaiah 42:1-9 & Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 15 Isaiah 49:1-7 & Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 22 Isaiah 9:1-4 & Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 Micah 6:1-8 & psalm 15; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study Dr. Mack leads the 2022–2023 Presbyterian Women Bible study, “Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight.” The group meets in person in the Library Tuesday, January 10 at 10:00 am and everyone is welcome. Study guides are available from Leone Mohney.

Ryan's Bears meets **Tuesday, January 17 at 9:30 am in the Lower Lounge.** Please contact Ruth Myers to either help there in person or at home. We will begin making bears for 2023 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
2	Barbara Pollack	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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BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY



January Anniversaries

15	Lynn & Kathy Moser
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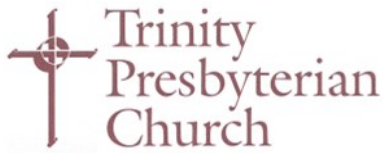
NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

New ruling elders & deacons for the Class of 2025 will be training and begin service this month.

Thank you to the following people for their willingness to serve our church.

Deacons are Emmanuel Alley, Kathy Moser, Jim & Marilyn Slagle and Emalie Wilka.

Elders are Elliott Koeppen, Leone Mohney, Allen Coffin and Tom Roof.



400 East University Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Phone: (520) 623-2579

Fax: (520) 624-7115

Email: office@trinitytucson.org



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

520-623-2579

Office 10:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website

www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses

office@trinitytucson.org

- ⇒ 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.

**Deadline for the February 2023 VISION
is Monday, January 23, 2023**

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