

August, 2023

Volume 33 Issue 8

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August is Mission Sunday month

Trinity is still serving God in the Heart of the City.

The Mission Committee's August Special Offering will benefit Presbyterian mission co-workers who are dedicated & passionate teachers, church planters, doctors, public health specialists, chaplains and human rights advocates. This offering will go to fund Elmarie and Scott Parker's work with Indigenous Christians equipping local churches to do holistic ministry. More on page 4.

Please consider making a donation anytime in August online, in the mail or in person .

GRAND CANYON AND DE CRISTO
PRESENT

BIG EVENT

ERADICATING
SYSTEMIC POVERTY

AUGUST 26, 2023
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
The Holy Way Tucson+
(Zoom Hubs TBA)



Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Bill Brown
Columbia Theological
Seminary



PSALM 32:
THE MOST IMPORTANT PSALM
BIBLICAL CALL TO JUSTICE
(CAN WE TALK?)
THE MANY FACES OF POVERTY
LOCAL POSSIBILITIES

WORSHIP
WORKSHOPS
VIDEOS
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

PASTORAL LETTER

When it comes to answering the question, “What is real?” Artificial Intelligence (AI) is pushing the boundaries of the answers we might expect. As this technology is perfected, it might soon become almost impossible to discern whether our senses are correct, or whether they are perceiving something that we only believe to be real. Currently the Screen Actors Guild and the Writers Guild of America are on strike against the creative industry over this issue. It is hard to argue against their case when we read the way that Hollywood is beginning to use AI. Extras and minor actors that “fill spaces” in a production have discovered that their bodies are being scanned digitally, to be owned by the studios in perpetuity. These players have been asked to sign a contract wherein, for a single payment of \$200.00, the studios will be allowed to use their images forever.

As a society we are just beginning to understand the implications of AI, but when it comes to creating reality, it is a very familiar problem in our culture. Politicians and the media make their living from creating realities by claiming truths that seemingly apply to “everybody.” How many times have we heard these words: “America believes (fill in the blank.)” Sometimes those who make these claims back up their assertions with polls, but most of the time they simply assume that people will believe what they say, whether there is any truth to it or not. Even polls are simply limited samples that are supposed to reflect the truth, but we know how inaccurate they can be.

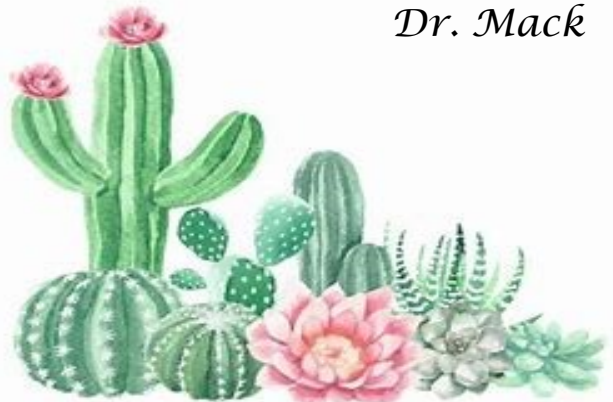
If we think about the vastness of this country, how can any one person, organization, or institution say that they have cornered the truth on anything? Yet, there is a part of our minds that demands answers and conclusions – most of them being the ones we want. This demand for answers and conclusions also applies to Christianity – not just in our culture, but everywhere our faith exists. Jesus faced the same demands when he preached, as the gospels persistently show. Jesus was constantly pressed for answers and conclusions involving issues that were vastly beyond our understanding – “When will the world end?” “Who will be saved?” “Why are you here?” “Show us God.” “Who is the greatest in the

kingdom of heaven?” “What will be the sign when all these things will come to be?” “By what authority do you do these things?”

These questions reflect a reality that the ones asking had in their own minds. They were expecting Jesus to confirm their perceptions of the truth, but Jesus did not do so. Jesus simply pointed to what he was doing and what he was saying and then asked his interrogators a question- “Do you believe?” Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” After they answered the world’s perceptions of their teacher, Jesus asked them a question: “But who do you say that I am?” Though Peter provided an answer, it was an answer in the moment. Peter spent the rest of his life answering that question in his own actions and his own expression of the Holy Spirit. The truth about Christ for the apostles, the disciples, and all the followers of Jesus was, and still is, a reality that emerges out of the moment-to-moment living of our lives.

If we think about the vastness of God, the life of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit, how can anyone make a singular and conclusive claim about them? But we can express a singular faith and a type of love that transcends all other religious or secular claims about God. The reality of Christianity is in the living of it, then leaving the rest up to God. That is a hard thing for us to do, but to encounter God in any other way is artificial. God is not AI – God is OI – Only Intelligence, meaning that the one who created reality can only be understood through the reality that he showed us in Jesus Christ, and the reality in which we encounter him through the Holy Spirit. The remainder is a matter of faith.

Dr. Mack



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 2nd Grade)

Teachers: Kathy Moser

BIBLE CHARACTERS

We will be having in-person Sunday School downstairs in **Room 8** following the children's message. We will celebrate and learn about Bible characters through stories, sticker books, matching games, puzzles, music, and other activities.

THE CRUSADERS (3rd - 5th Grade) **FAITH ENCOUNTERS** (6th Grade & Older)

Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

Crusaders and Faith Encounters classes will be taking a break for the summer. We encourage 3rd grade and older children, and teens to sit with their families during worship. Look for Worship Bags with worship-based activity pages, stickers, crayons, and pencils in the narthex each week. Classes will resume in September.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

It's Time to Celebrate Bruce!

This year marks the **20th year** that Bruce has been creating music and inspiring Trinity! Yes, it's true! You know it's true because you can feel the energy and new life it has given us during this time!



We will celebrate this momentous accomplishment on **Sunday, September 17** in Trinity Hall following worship, with a catered lunch, a gift, and a program that will include the Trinity choir & the Chamberlain family. Bruce will be interviewed & answer entertaining questions. If you have questions you would like him to answer, email Daphne Madson & she will relay them (madsond@aol.com).

Everyone is encouraged to bring cards of gratitude/delight and be present when we take this opportunity to thank Bruce with a big HOORAY! for his long-standing dedication and valuable expertise to Trinity's music program.

If you plan to attend, **RSVP to the Trinity office by September 10**. If you would like to contribute to the celebration and gift, send it to the Trinity office or make it online at trinitytucson.org with the Donate button. Designate it for the Chamberlain Celebration.

MISSION NEWS

Sandwich Making for Casa Maria

Sunday, August 14 in Fellowship Hall after church. Join us in this monthly project.



MORE ABOUT SCOTT & ELMARIE PARKER

In August of 2017, Trinity hosted mission partners Elmarie and Scott Parker. They represent PCUSA in three countries in the Middle East: Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. Elmarie's job is to assist in strengthening relationships among entities of the PC(USA) and those of partner denominations and organizations in those countries. She facilitates learning visits for the PC(USA). She is called a regional liaison. Scott, her husband, is an associate for ecumenical partnerships. He works with the Middle East Council of Churches and centers on the project "Strong Kids, Strong Emotions" a play-based program that seeks to develop emotional and spiritual resiliency in Iraqi and Syrian children who are refugees in the Beirut area. Recent letters from them report hardships in Lebanon like poverty and food insecurity after the explosion of the port in Beirut and the banking crisis. But they also report good news about the hope and strength of the returning Indigenous Christians who worshiped in Mosul (ancient Nineveh) before their church became an ISIS center and was almost totally destroyed. Read their letters online at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/deep-roots-and-new-beginnings/>

SERVING GOD IN THE HEART OF THE CITY... ANOTHER MISSION PROJECT YOU CAN HELP WITH

The Casa Alitas Program serves migrant families who have left their home countries to escape violence and poverty. They provide hospitality and humanitarian aid, medical services, short-term shelter and help to reunite with family members in the U.S.

Churches in Tucson are preparing travel snack bags that contain five packaged snacks given to the migrants who are getting on planes and buses here in Tucson. Volunteers meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church every other Wednesday to pack the brown bags. In the past two months we have packed over 500 bags each time. To help please contact Billie Holbrook or Steve Barlow.

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 & 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 and notarizing documents.

Just Coffee For Sale

The display is near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall. Coffee is sold before and after church Sunday. Coffee will be \$10 or \$11 (cash or check) with the proceeds benefiting Café Justo, a Grower owned Coffee Cooperative in southern Chiapas Mexico. More information about Café Justo is at justcoffee.org.

SESSION NOTES

Session's June stated meeting was bittersweet. All members were sad about the death of our sister in Christ, Leone Mohny, just the day before Session met. Leone has been a true servant saint at Trinity and will be missed by all of us. She was our knowledgeable Treasurer for years and years. During her illness it has taken around four people to fill her shoes to maintain our finances at Trinity in fine form. We are all blessed that Ruth Russell has volunteered to be Trinity's next Treasurer. Session approved her appointment during the June meeting. Please thank Ruth for her servant spirit. Here are the highlights of the June session meeting:

- Session learned from our Presbytery Commissioners that the Big Event is scheduled for August 26, 2023 with the topic "Eradicating Systemic Poverty" and any church member can attend the classes that will be offered. The venue is yet to be determined.
- Administration & Personnel is recommending a new fee schedule for staff members that participate in Memorial services. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Worship Committee.
- Growth & Outreach Team have new welcome packets available in the pews for our Trinity visitors. They are beautiful. The team is also reviewing the membership rolls and the Deaconate will also have a look at the rolls.
- Mission Committee voted to give \$4,000 from the Special Mission Fund to the fire ravaged First Presbyterian Church in Douglas, AZ. They also voted to give \$200 to the Midwest Food Bank to thank them for their generosity to our Food Bank site.
- Property Committee reports that the Trinity Hall air handler install has begun. The broken windows are replaced and the ones in the office space are now tinted. They look wonderful.
- Stewardship & Finance is considering having Maggie Harmon from the Presbyterian Foundation come to speak about a legacy program in Fellowship Hall after worship at a time to be determined.
- Worship Committee voted to pay for a new sound board by using half the expense from the Music Enrichment Fund and the other half from the Memorial Fund. The installation of the new sound board should improve the sound quality for those who are watching the streamed services at home.

- Dr. Mack continued teaching Session members about the updated Book of Order. He talked about the different councils and their duties.
- Peter Holbrook received big shout outs from several Session members for his increasing knowledge about the maintenance requirements of our aging campus. They said he is becoming a walking, talking maintenance engineer. Go, Peter!

Session members prayed for our church, our Session, our staff and our congregants.

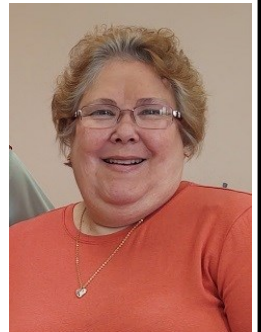
Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session



WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL

PEW

Meet Bonnie Stull



What did you do for a living?

I am a retired teacher. I also worked at U of AZ in an Animal Sciences Lab, & as director of children and youth ministry at churches in Stillwater, OK and Tucson.

Where is your hometown? Tucson

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Reading historical fiction, attending U of AZ athletic events, and spending time with family, friends, and my dogs.

What is your favorite food?

Sonoran-style Mexican food

What is your favorite hymn or Bible verse?

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness; Bible verses: Romans 8:38-39

What does this church mean to you? It's my home and my anchor.

What is something that many people would not know about you?

I was baptized on TV when Trinity's worship services were televised on KOLD TV.

TRINITY MILESTONES

HONORING & MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leone Mohney by Roberta Westergaard
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Al Coffin & Rose Emery
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Carolyn Maycher
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Ida Wickizer
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Melinda Arnold
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Bonnie Stull
In Memory of Bob Letson by Bonnie Stull
In Memory of Bob Letson by Ida Wickizer
In Memory of Ignacio Medina by his loving wife, Ida Medina
In Memory of Ignacio Medina by his daughter & son in law Denise & Rick Tatum
In Memory of Ignacio & Evelyn Medina by Lily Chacon
In Memory of Leone Mohney by Janet Jones
In Honor of Don & Ruth Myers by John & Jill O'Rourke

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

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

TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study will meet **Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 am in the Library.** Dr. Mack leads a new study "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts*" by Olive Mahabir. Study books are available for purchase in the church office for \$10.00.

Ryan's Bears is taking the summer off. We have 58 bears in progress and should be able to make 30 more by the end of November. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday September 19, 9:30 AM** to stuff and cut out more bears. The bears are distributed to Arizona Children's Association, Primavera, Gospel Rescue Mission and Our Family Social Services If you have questions call Ruth Myers 520-326-6888

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Rick & Ida Wickizer
20 Geoffrey & Kirsten Barlow

SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 6 Isaiah 55:1-5 & Psalm 145:8-9,14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21

August 13 1 Kings 19:9-18 & Psalm 85:8-13;
Romans 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

August 20 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 & Psalm 67; Romans
11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 27 Isaiah 51:1-6 & Psalm 138; Romans
12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20