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From the Pastor's Pen



"You have heard it said, *you must love your neighbor* and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you, so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matt 20: 43-45)

Jesus is a master of the unexpected
– both in who he is and what he says

and does. From his birth as a poor builder's son in forgotten Bethlehem, to his childhood in far-off Egypt and Podunk Nazareth, no one would have expected this boy to amount to anything. Yet, after Cousin John baptizes him, and he begins his ministry in earnest, nothing is ever the same – and even his disciples can't figure him out. Time and time again, Jesus teaches unexpected lessons on life, often using the phrase, "You have heard it said... but I say to you..."

It's no wonder that Jesus was seen as threatening to much of the establishment. Here's a guy from nowhere, preaching things that are setting hearts afire with the desire for reform and revolution. When Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final time, the crowds treat him as the long-awaited Messiah, king of Judah and Israel, and they expect him to miraculously punch the teeth of the Roman Empire and reestablish the Kingdom. Even one of his closest followers tries to get him to act in this way – and then feels let down enough to betray Jesus to the various authorities who are seeking him out.

There's a song that is sung at Passover celebrations in the world today, and though it didn't exist in Jesus' day, I'm sure the sentiment was still felt. The song lists out miracle after miracle of the Exodus from Egypt – and the chorus is the single Hebrew word *dayenu*, which means approximately "it would have been enough for us!" When Jesus and the apostles gathered to celebrate Passover, during that last meal that they would share together, I can just imagine them saying, "*dayenu* – it would have been enough for us that you came to teach – but you chose us as your disciples." How little did they expect what would take place over the next few days – and how much more they would have to say *dayenu* about!

Pastor's Pen con't.

After that last Passover together, Judas leads a group of Romans and Jewish leaders to where Jesus is praying in the olive grove. He is tried by various authorities, and convicted of treason by the Roman prefect, Pontius Pilate, at the urging of the high priest and many of the Sanhedrin. Unexpectedly, Jesus does not speak up against his accusers, and takes his place between two brigand rebels on the hill of skulls. Unexpectedly, God-with-us is killed by the hands of humanity.

And, even more unexpectedly, that poor builder's son from Nazareth is raised from the dead.

Yes, Jesus is the master of the unexpected, the one who transforms the ordinary to the extraordinary, who redeems the unredeemable, who saves the lost and forgotten. *Dayenu* – it would have been enough for him to teach and preach, for him to work miracles and cast out demons, for him to be betrayed (and argue his way out), for him to be martyred, for him to have been resurrected – but Jesus unexpectedly is still active with us today.

~Pastor Lucus

In this month's "Trinity Bio" we are featuring Hugh and Sally Bright!



The Brights began attending Trinity the Sunday after their Broken Arrow First Presbyterian Church closed—and they looked no further for a church home. In Broken Arrow's church Hugh served on the property committee. After retirement, Sally taught an adult Sunday school class and the Presbyterian Women's Bible study. She also served as an elder and trustee.

Hugh and Sally are both Oklahomans. He's from Muskogee, and she's from Tulsa. When they were married 43 years ago, Sally had two sons, Mike and Keith Castleberry. The Brights had two more sons, Don and Joe. Now they have 5 grandchildren including Christian and Lily, who enjoy Trinity's programs. Keith's sons have given them 3 great-grandchildren.

When Sally and Hugh moved south of Broken Arrow 42 years ago, Memorial was a 2-lane road with a ditch full of beavers on one side, so they have seen many changes. Now retired, Hugh worked as a registered professional mechanical design engineer after graduating from Oklahoma State University. After Sally graduated from TU, she taught English at Edison High School in Tulsa. When Don and Joe arrived, she stayed home for several years before becoming an assistant professor at Tulsa Community College. There she taught composition and American literature. For 27 years she also wrote a newspaper column, *Our Lively Language*, for the *Tulsa World* and other newspapers. Recently she has taught classes at Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute for OSU.

Hugh enjoys gardening, while Sally—between books and errands—tries to keep up with cooking, preserving, and sharing the vegetables he grows.



2017 Lenten Devotion

Lent is traditionally a season of contemplation and confession, a time to think about God and feel your connection with God and others. In a time when arguments are loud and people have stopped listening to each other, it can be easy to lose the sense of love for one another. Christ calls us to love in community. Truly listening to each other, to views from multiple perspectives, is a discipline of humility and love. To that end, Pastor Elana and Pastor Lucus are preparing a weekly devotion including scripture, prayer, and articles from different perspectives. These devotions will be available physically on Sundays, and also e-mailed to the congregation weekly.

Here are the topics of the devotion:

- ◆ **Distinct or Blended**

Is it acceptable to blend practices from various faiths into Christianity?

- ◆ **Action or Contemplation**

What is more central to Christian practice – prayer or service?

- ◆ **Traditional or Changing**

Change – is it inevitable? What does tradition teach us about ourselves today?

- ◆ **Gender Essentialism or Gender Constructivism**

Do ideas about gender come from God, or are they created by society?

- ◆ **Just War or Pacifism**

Is force ever just? Can peace be achieved without force?

- ◆ **Rapture or What?**

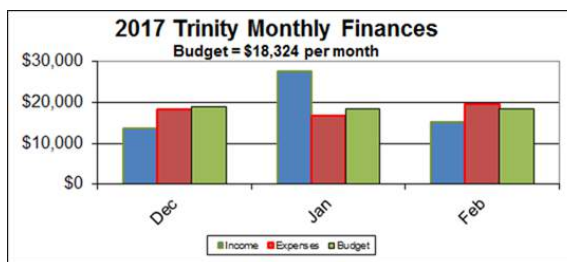
How will things work out in the end?

Finance/ Stewardship randy smith

The following excerpt is from an article I enjoyed reading recently titled “10 Reasons to Escape Excessive Consumerism” written by Joshua Becker:

“More generosity. Rejecting excessive consumerism always frees up energy, time, and finances. Those resources can then be brought back into alignment with our deepest heart values. When we begin rejecting the temptation to spend all of our limited resources on ourselves, our hearts are opened to the joy and fulfillment found in giving our personal resources to others. **Generosity** finds space in our life (and in our checkbooks) to emerge...

Greater realization that this world is not just material. True life is found in the invisible things of life: love, hope, and faith. Again, we all know there are things in this world that are far more important than what we own. But if one were to research our actions, intentions, and receipts, would they reach the same conclusion? Or have we been too busy seeking happiness in all the wrong places?”



2017	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 42,966	\$ 36,229	\$ 36,648

Randy Smith

Stewardship/Finance

Christian Education sue chancellor

"Yes, there is sin in the world. When that sin is inflicted upon others, bringing harm to them, we must, in the words of the Proverbs, "Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." (Proverbs 31:8) We're to be painfully aware of our own sin and regularly invite God to transform us, heal us, and forgive us. We're also to recognize that we may not see clearly how God sees, nor understand fully how God understands. What we can see clearly, and what is unmistakable regarding God's will, is that we LOVE. Let's love one another and strive to lay aside our own sin, while demonstrating humility and grace towards others.

Lord Jesus, How grateful we are that you came not to show judgement to sinners, but to offer forgiveness to us; not to point out all our sins, but to show the way and the truth and the life. How grateful we are that you continue to save us from our sins, that you forgive us and show us mercy, and that you have called us who have received mercy to give mercy. Help us to be the kind of followers who welcome people and love them in your name. Help us to live that life of love not just in church but in our lives every day. In your holy name. Amen" Adam Hamilton

As we continue through the end of the Lenten season, into Holy Week, and then to Glorious Easter Day, may we live the words from above and serve as grateful children of God's eternal mercy. What joy our Trinity family can feel and share as we reach out to others in harmony and energizing love during these busy weeks ahead.

SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES BEGINNING AT 9:15 AM

Child Care Attention Parents: Donna Bridenstine is available at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She is also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Just let Sue know in advance.



Childcare for infants through preschool is available on Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship; Donna Bridenstine offers a nurturing engaging atmosphere for our very youngest. Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer after their Sunday School class and through Worship.

All pre-school children through fourth grade are invited to join friendly enthusiastic kids and teachers in the rooms next to child care.

April 9: Millie Spencer "Heading to Easter"
April 16: Easter Joy Brunch for ALL in Churchill Hall & Easter Egg Hunt following Brunch
April 23: Katy Reed "Peace Be With You"
April 30: Vicky Adams "On the Road"
May 7: Sue Chancellor "The Good Shepherd"

All tweens and teens are welcome upstairs along with our great team of teachers as we discuss timely topics focused on inspiring and challenging lessons from the "Feasting on the Word" curriculum. Each individual is validated and accepted for where they are along their own personal faith journey. Please join us whenever you are able.

April 9: Royce Chancellor "Who Is This?"
April 16: Easter Joy Brunch for ALL in Churchill Hall & Easter Egg Hunt following Brunch
April 23: Sue Chancellor "Believe"
April 30: John Clawson "Walk to Emmaus"
May 7: Bob Eckert "Shepherd and Host"

We're excited to offer a "Prayerground" time in the sanctuary during Morning Worship for all little ones and children through fourth grade this Palm Sunday, April 9. There will be quiet interactive floor activities for our very youngest and meaningful table experiences for older children. Donna will still be available in childcare for any who are more comfortable in that atmosphere. **There will be adults and tweens/teens right at the Prayerground engaged with the younger ones.**



Please join Richard Spencer in the classroom off Churchill Hall every Sunday morning this spring, EXCEPT EASTER MORNING, when we'll share Easter Brunch together in Churchill Hall.

Richard has just begun leading us through most through-provoking and insightful conversations focused on the DVD series "**Living the Questions 2.0.**" Please join us whenever you're able as we lovingly share our thoughts and listen intently to one another about genuine issues and concerns facing Christians today. We've discussed interesting questions such as: "Borg describes the Bible as a lens through which we see God. What implications does this metaphor have for you concerning the Bible's authority." And Richard has us reflecting on questions such as: "What is your response to this statement from Hebrew scholar, Dr. Harrell Beck,..."The Bible is NOT the word of God-but the word of God is in the Bible." NOW is the perfect time for all adults to join in the stimulating meaningful conversations on "**Living the Questions, 2.0!**"

TEEN/KID/FAMILY NEWS

ATTENTION ALL KIDS AND TEENS: Please come to the parlor this Palm Sunday morning at 9:15 AM for our last Lenten gathering as we contemplate our relationship with Jesus together! We'll light a candle for Jesus, focusing our thoughts on Palm Sunday and the Holy Week directly in front of us. After a few minutes of sharing objects and scripture centered on Holy Week, kids and teens will go to their respective classrooms for further discussion and more engaging activities in preparation for Holy Week.

Remember adults, kids and teens, there is **no Sunday School on Easter Day, April 16**, because we'll all be celebrating Christ's Resurrection at our 9:15 AM "Easter Joy Brunch" in Churchill Hall. Beginning with the following Sunday, April 23, all kids will go directly to their classroom at 9:15 AM for lively engaging activities and conversations centering on **"Jesus' All-embracing Grace and Care."**

The Trinity Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner...One of the most delightful events to either participate or happily observe...The Trinity Easter Egg Hunt"...will be on Easter Day, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. following the Easter Joy Brunch in Churchill Hall. We'll meet in the youth lounge at 10:00 before we move out the back door for lots of Easter egg hunting FUN!



Eggs, individually wrapped candy, and small prizes are still needed to prepare for the hunt, so if you can, please drop the items off by Palm Sunday Day. The tweens/teens will be stuffing eggs on Palm Sunday. We appreciate your thoughtful kindness in helping us with this special event!



Save the Big Dates: July 9-13 ROME--"Paul and the Underground Church"
5:45-8:15 pm for children ages 3 through entering Fifth Grade
Dinner for the entire family is served at 5:45 pm
(Trinity tweens and teens are welcome to help our adult volunteers)

July 16: VBS Worship Service followed by picnic/games

All kids and volunteers will in for a most exciting unforgettable journey into first-century Rome.

Please call the church office or let anyone in our 2017 VBS Leadership Team know if you'd like to volunteer.

Our leadership team is composed of: John Clawson, Cathy Hanson, Jonna Adams, Stephanie Smith, Joe/Brenda Cunningham and Sue C.

This year's "VBS program will include being immersed in God's Word through the story of Paul and his work with the church in Rome, fun & games, craft-making, Roman snacks, singing/dancing together and more..." There's room for lots and lots of kids and folks in "Paul's Underground Church!"



Wow! A delightfully fantastic time was had by all who were able to attend Trinity's first excursion to the Oklahoma Aquarium!

What joy to see the children's expressions as they interacted with or gazed upon God's aquatic creatures. Thanks to all the adults and kids who made this one of my favorite trips ever!



It's been a joy leading the Lenten gathering each Sunday morning from 9:15-9:30 in the parlor.

All kids and teens are welcome to join us for this Sunday's last gathering on Palm Sunday.

A special thanks to Leah Wagner who was a huge help in sharing scripture and thoughts during this learning time.



Teens and tweens will be stuffing eggs during part of this week's Sunday School before Worship, and at 12:45 before Theatre Group's 1:00 pm practice. Please join us at either of these times. Also, other teens/adults are welcome to help Leah, Seve, Randy, Royce, and Sue hide the eggs at 8:45 am Easter morning.

The **Easter Joy Brunch** begins at 9:15 in Churchill Hall on **April 16** and will be followed by a 10:00 **Easter Egg Hunt** for infants through elementary school. Older kids/adults can help the younger one hunt for eggs, and there will be plenty of treats for "kids of all ages." Hunters can bring their favorite Easter basket, but there will also be baskets and buckets available!



Mark your Calendars for: **April 30** as we'll all caravan to **Haikey Creek Park** for a fun afternoon of "**Food, Free-Play, and Games,**" in God's beautiful airy outdoors! Families can bring fun picnic items to share and everyone can bring their beautiful energetic lively selves for a joyful afternoon!

****ATTENTION ALL ADULTS****

We'll begin a new **Spring 2017 Midweek Book Study** this **Wednesday, April 5** in the **Trinity Cafe** at **11:00 a.m.** Our new book is "**My Neighbor's Faith, Stories of Interreligious Encounters, Growth, and Transformation.**"

Pastor Elana, Cathie Harper, and Sue Chancellor will be the teaching team for this specific book study. We're excited and ready; Pastor Elana will start us off with a bang as she engages us in interesting conversation centered on Joan Chittister's foreword and also on the book's Introduction. This is a compilation of a diverse array of authors and offers a most enlightening discussion time ever, for everyone who can participate! If you have to miss some Wednesdays, no worries, as each week will be on a different section of the book. All participants will know a week in advance, the three very short stories we'll be discussing together the following week. "**This remarkable collection of more than fifty testimonies reports how we have been learning from our wise and insightful neighbors--and how we ourselves are keeping faith in a religiously diverse world.**" Francis X. Clooney, SJ director, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University.

We look forward to another exciting book study and hope new faces can join us for this lively honest book! We'll be packing backpacks in Churchill Hall this week at 10:30 and would appreciate your presence then if you're able to help us out at that time.

SAVE THE DATES

Camp Trinity 2017

Tuesday, June 27

Tuesday, July 18

Tuesday, July 25

Tuesday, August 1

Times for Camp TBA.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2017

July 9-13: VBS 2017: "Rome--Paul and the Underground Church"

5:45-8:15 pm for children ages 3 through entering 5th Grade

July 16: VBS Worship Service followed by picnic/games

All kids and volunteers will be in for a most exciting unforgettable journey into first-century Rome.

Building & Grounds bob block

Also, mark your calendars now, as the Spring Clean up is scheduled for **April 8th at 8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome. The more the merrier!



Much thanks to all,
The Building & Grounds Committee

Presbyterian Women:

April 12th is our next **Presbyterian's Women's** meeting. Presbyterian Women meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, at 9:45 am in the Trinity Café! This week, Pastor Elana will be leading the group on “Jesus through the lens of the Abrahamic Faiths.” Please join the women whenever you're able!

Evangelism brenda cunningham

Concerning Evangelism, E.M. Bounds once said, “We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new ways to advance the church and secure efficiency for the gospel. What the church needs today is people whom the Holy Spirit can use—people of prayer, people mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through people.”

One of the greatest thing about New Members, is the flood of new ideas they bring to us: from other churches they have attended or other ideas that they have seen or been a part of. We are so grateful for these new ideas for our new endeavors.

During our last team meeting we discovered that some of our “New Member Packet” information had some pretty old literature in it. Not wrong info - just could use some updating. We have asked the EOP to send us some samples of a few pieces that might replace what we currently have. We are adding pages to the *Pictorial Directory* so that it will contain not just pictures, but more detailed information about Trinity. So, in the future, we might call it the *Trinity Directory* instead.

If you have suggestions for anything you think we should include, please let one of the team know.

Respectfully, *Brenda Cunningham*

Fellowship News margot ries

Our team is getting everything ready for the Easter Brunch. If any one would still like to bring a dish, fruit, or breakfast dessert, please sign up at the table in front of the sanctuary. Also, our team members would love to welcome new members. Give the office a call and I'll get back to you.

Many Thanks!

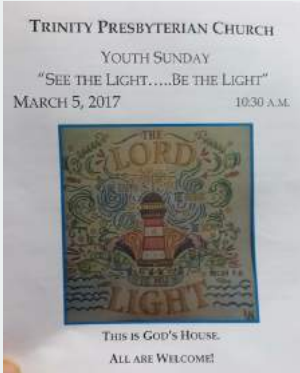
Congregational Care margot ries

That the Lunch Bunch will not be getting together this month due to Easter Sunday. Also, we would love to have some additional team members to join us.

If you are interested in being involved with the church congregation give the office a call...I'll give you a call back to answer any questions.

Respectfully, *Margot Ries*

Fun Times @ Trinity



Youth Sunday—
March 5, 2017





Oklahoma
Aquarium
Trip
March 26,
2017



NextChurch Conference 2017
attended by these 4
wonderful people!



APRIL LECTIONARY

Fifth Sunday in Lent—April 2

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday—April 9

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Good Friday—April 14

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

Resurrection of the Lord—April 16

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Second Sunday of Easter—April 23 *Holy Humor Sunday*

Selections from:

Genesis 2

I Samuel

Jeremiah 42

Luke 9

Third Sunday of Easter—April 30

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



Who was BORN in April??

Bess Guthrie 4/2

Michelle Buttress 4/8

Greg Spencer 4/14

Kaiden Spencer Haughey 4/15

Hannah Cowan 4/18

Sela Smith 4/22

Lois Rude 4/26

Tyler Eckert 4/27

Linda Beuttel 4/29

Alec Wigton 4/30



Trinity Theatre Groups Resume practices!!

The 2 Trinity Theatre groups, **Trinity Players** and **Holy Tigers Troupe**, will now both be meeting on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 pm. We look forward to a great year, and welcome any new members! The more the merrier!

Hope to see you there!



April 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 1:00 Theater Practice	3 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	4	5 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Book Study. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch 1:00 pm Banner Mkg.	6 6:30 pm Lenten Study	7	8 ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY 8:00 a.m.
9 Palm Sunday 1:00 Theater Practice HOLY WEEK	10 10:00 am Yoga Class 6:30 pm Passover Meal 7:00 pm Turning Point	11	12 9:45 am Presby. Wm. 11:00 Bk Study 12:00 Lunch 1:00 Banner Mkg.	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm M. Th. Service	14 Good Friday <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:30 pm Good Fr. Serv.	15
16 Easter Sunday Communion Easter Brunch Easter Egg Hunt No Lunch Bunch	17 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	18	19 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 - Bk. Sdy. 12:00 - Lunch 1:00 -Banner Mkg 6:30 pm TEAM MTGS (dinner @ 6:00)	20	21	22
23 Holy Humor Sunday 1:00 Theater Practice	24 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	25	26	27	28	29
30 Haikey Creek Park Outing		6:30 pm Session Mtg.				

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