



From the Pastor's Pen

February 2017

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"Hey, Dad – why is the sky blue?"
"Well, my son, God set it up this way: white light from the sun travels to Earth, where it hits tiny water droplets suspended in our atmosphere. Those water droplets scatter the light – like a prism, or a rainbow – so that more of the blue light hits our eyes than the red light. At twilight, more of the red light can get through than the blue, which is why sunrise and sunset are more red and yellow than midday."
"Oh. I think it's pretty. God must know a lot about stuff to make that work!"

~Transcript (from memory) of conversations in the car with my dad

Maybe your car trips had a lot of questions growing up – mine certainly did. There's something about travelling together that prompts thought and introspection. And when you're a kid, asking questions is a big part of your job – how else will you find out how the world works? But as we age, asking questions seems to be frowned on in most places. "Why don't you know this already?" we hear from our peers, "You're just trying to be difficult." This isn't a new phenomenon – after all, kids have been asking questions since the very beginning. And questions fill the Bible – questions of humans, God, and of the way the universe works.

Maybe, when Jesus says, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven," (Matt. 18:3) he's reminding us of the importance of asking questions. Not just the simple ones – but the questions that lead to more difficult questions, too.

The prophet Habakkuk (ha-BACK-ik, "the embracer") asks God some pretty difficult questions. "ADONAI, how long will I call for help and you not listen? I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you don't deliver us." (Hab. 1:2) Habakkuk is asking for God to deliver the people from injustice, and God responds directly, and immediately – by sending a conqueror to Judah.

Now, Habakkuk has additional questions – like, "ADONAI, my God, my Holy One, you who are Eternal – surely you do not plan to wipe us out? ... Will you let them get away with this forever? Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests?" (Hab. 1:12a, 17)

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Pastor's Pen cont.

But this time, Habakkuk gets up, and climbs to a high point over the city, waiting for God's response. Waiting is exactly what God wanted him to do! God tells Habakkuk that the wicked "trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by my faithfulness." (Hab. 2:4b) and that "if these things seem slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed." (Hab. 2:3b)

"Wait patiently." This English translation misses an important point – that waiting in Hebrew is an active state, not a passive one. Active patience means to do what you can in an extraordinary way to help God's plan come to be. Take comfort in God's plans, and work to act in love, and in righteousness. Ask questions – for they lead to deeper faith and understanding as we practice active patience together.

~Pastor Lucus

In this month's "Trinity Bio" we are featuring Dwayne and Cindy Strasheim.



Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim have been lifelong educators. Cindy began her career as a high school Home Economics teacher in Missouri and retired in 2014 after 30 years with Cooperative Extension at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dwayne also retired in 2014 after 49 years at Hastings College, a Presbyterian-related liberal arts college in Nebraska, as Professor of English Language and Linguistics, with stints as Registrar for 5 years and Academic Dean for 17 years.

The Strasheims celebrated 25 years of marriage in 2016. They share four daughters and a son, from whom they have seven wonderful grandchildren: Mark, 19; Matthew, 18; Michael, 16; Jake, 15; Taylor, 13; Roriayn (whom many members of Trinity Church have met), 6; and Liv, 5. They knew when they retired, they would spend more time with grandchildren, and when their daughter's job changed, they moved to Oklahoma to provide enhanced care for Roriayn.

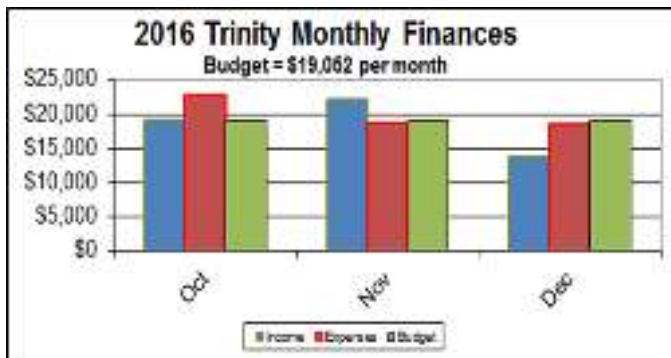
Cindy served as Deacon and Elder and Dwayne as Deacon and Trustee at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings. They came to Trinity to visit after searching for churches on line before they left Hastings because they knew the church would continue to be their foundation in retirement. They chose Trinity because of the pictures on the website showing interactions with children and the community outreach of the Mission Team. Actually, Dwayne was hooked as soon as he read about "coffee and snack time in the Café between Sunday school and worship."

The Strasheims are happy and grateful to have been welcomed so genuinely and so enthusiastically into their new church home.



Finance/Stewardship randy smith

Thanks to your generous giving in 2016, we were able to meet our operating expenses and our expectations for giving to our many mission works. The year end numbers show general fund income exceeded expenses by \$1,680. In 2017, we will be operating from a budget of \$219,882 - which would require almost \$18,000 more in contributions than last year to meet expected expenses. Please keep the many exciting things happening at Trinity in mind as you plan your giving for the new year.



2016	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 201,997	\$ 200,317	\$ 228,620

Randy Smith
Stewardship/Finance

Christian Education sue chancellor

Show to us in everything we touch and in everyone we meet
the continued assurance of Thy presence round us:
lest ever we should think Thee absent.
In all created things Thou art there.
In every friend we have
the sunshine of Thy presence is shown forth.
In every enemy that seems to cross our path,
Thou art there within the cloud
to challenge us to love.
Show to us the glory in the grey.
Awake for us Thy presence in the very storm
till all our joys are seen as Thee
and all our trivial tasks emerge as priestly sacraments
in the universal temple of Thy love. George MacLeod

Hidden in all things, even in the heart of the enemy, is the Sacred Presence challenging us to love.
~J P Newell

As we navigate these weeks of February, let us each intentionally and generously share our gifts with one another together in community. How important it is for all of God's beloved children to remember that our ever present God loves us completely and is always able to guide us through the challenging journey of life.

SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 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 first Wednesday of each month. Just let Sue know in advance.



Childcare is always available for infants through kindergarten every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship. Donna provides a fun, safe, nurturing atmosphere for all the children. A strong caring support staff is in place for the times that more help is needed.

Pre-kindergarteners through fourth graders are invited to the Sunday School wing to join a cool team of teachers who are excited and ready to share the stories of Jesus through a variety of experiences engaging all the senses! The stories and activities will continue to be focused on the words: "Trusting God."

Tweens and Teens come upstairs to the second classroom by the soundtech room, and join a wonderful energetic team of teachers and tweens/youth as they engage in fun learning experiences focused on the message: "Journey with Christ." Be ready to experience God's abundant love and immeasurable wisdom each week in February!

February 5: Melinda Carver "Salt and Light"
 February 12: Vicky Adams "Say Yes"
 February 19: Valerie Wagner "God's Instruction"
 February 26: Katy Reed "Listen"
 March 5: Practice for Youth/Kids Sunday

February 5: Royce Chancellor "Be Salt and Light"
 February 12: John Clawson "Choose Life"
 February 19: Bob Eckert "Be Holy"
 February 26: Sue Chancellor "Glimpsing Glory"
 March 5: Practice for Youth/Kids Sunday



Attention: All adults are invited to join Pastor Elana and her class in Churchill Hall as they wind down their discussion this month on C.S. Lewis' clever thought provoking book "The Screwtape Letters." Each week, the group hears and discusses a new chapter, so whenever new folks arrive, it's easy for them to become a welcome important part of the group.



NOW is also the perfect time to hop right into Trinity's Midweek Book Study every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. until noon in the Trinity cafe. All are welcome to stay for sack lunch fellowship following the book study. Pastor Lucus, Cindy Strasheim, and Sue Chancellor are sharing the leadership each week as a new insightful chapter of John Philip Newell's book, "The Rebirthing of God, Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings," is discussed. Books are still available in the church office for a bargain price of \$10.00. We look forward to stimulating conversations focused on such topics as: "Reconnecting with the Light", "Reconnecting with the Journey", "Reconnecting with Spiritual Practice" and "Reconnecting with Nonviolence." The group is encouraged to bring items for the BOC and Backpacks for Bixby on any Wednesday morning they choose; they also pack backpacks on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in Churchill Hall. Join us whenever you're able.

TEEN/KID/FAMILY NEWS

The official "Souper Bowl of Caring" Day is this Sunday, February 5! Thanks to all who have already given monetary gifts and/or food items to the youth at the table set up in the narthex this past January 29. The youth will again be present at the table this Sunday to accept your kind and generous donations which provide support for our Bixby families. Both BOC and Backpack for Bixby lists are located at the table in the narthex; you are welcome to refer to these for specific items needed for each worthy cause.



Attention all kids and teens: On February 5, 12, 19, and 26, we'll continue practice and planning for our exciting Youth Sunday coming on March 5! Lunch, fun, and fellowship are also provided each Sunday following Worship throughout this month. It's not too late to be an important part of this beautiful energetic service. We'll also be working on some bright creative visual arts for the service too. If you already have your script for the play, please bring it with you each Sunday.



The children participating in the Call to Worship will have a few Friday afternoon practices this month too; the first one will be this Friday, February 3 around 3:00 p.m. or whenever you can make it after school. Please meet Ms. Sue in the Sunday School room by the side door. We'll begin working on some accompanying art work as well.



Important news for all Kids and Teens: following Youth Sunday lunch/practice on February 26, we'll all caravan to Sky Zone on S Memorial for an hour of enthusiastic jumping and play! Be ready for a most fun-filled afternoon!



For the Entire Trinity Family: Everyone is invited to the Friday Night Prayer Service (Shabbat) at Temple Israel, 2004 East 22nd Place, Tulsa 74114 on Friday, February 24; we'll meet in the Temple foyer at 7:20 pm. Following the service, we are invited to stay after for coffee and snacks, and then meet with Rabbi Jim Simon for a Q & A time. This promises to be a great opportunity to learn, worship, and enjoy fellowship with another congregation in the Tulsa community. Please mark your calendars and join our Trinity group on this exciting and informational excursion.



Save the Dates and Mark Your Calendar: Coming Thursday, March 2...Lenten Evening Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Elana will lead a stimulating Lenten Evening Bible Study, "**Exploring Different Theologies of the Cross**," beginning **March 2 at 6:30 p.m.** Adults of all ages are invited to attend as many Thursday evening classes (March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6) as you are able. Kids and teens are invited to join Sue in the parlor for engaging Lenten activities at the same time.

Fellowship News margot ries

Happy February!! I am Margot Ries and am now heading the Fellowship Group. The wonderful people who team with me are, Tomye Mainer, Millie Spencer, Karen Vaughan, Deanna and Ed Jolly.

If you like food and want to be a part of our group, we would love to have you join us. We take care of the kitchen and love to plan for Easter, the VBS and other times for feasting and snacking. If you have any suggestions for us, by all means, just let me know.

We will be hosting the February 8th Mission Meeting Supper. So please join the groups for an evening of good food and wonderful discussion in the separate meeting groups.

I am a foodie myself and have thought about maybe taking a trip to Pawhuska to see the new building that Ree Drummond (on Food Network) refurbish and have lunch in the new eating area. Would you like to join me some Saturday? Let me know!!

See you in Book Study and Church,

Blessings to all,
Margot Ries and the Team

Evangelism brenda cunningham

WOW! It is already February! For 2017, the Evangelism Ministry Team is made up of the following members: **Dwayne and Cindy Strasheim, Laura Van New Kirk, Michelle and Otis Buttress, and Joe and Brenda Cunningham.**

Our projects for this year are:

- Fine tune the Trinity Website.
- Add and update information in our Pictorial Directory for new and current members.
- Strengthen and support our wonderful Greeters.
- Use the Trinity sign as continued community outreach.
- Find additional ways/paths/activities to take the Trinity Light into the Community.
- Add Bios to every newsletter so that our members can get to know each other even better.

Our Webmaster is Erik Collins.

Our Greeters for this year are: Evelyn Fenton, Jackie Bellow, Cathy Harper, Ted and Vickie Adams, Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim, Michelle and Otis Buttress, Joe and Brenda Cunningham.

Our Sign Changers for this year are: Millie Spencer, Barry Straabe, Stephanie & Randy Smith, Brenda Cunningham.

We welcome ideas and suggestions for any or all of the above items.

Respectfully, *Brenda Cunningham*

Presbyterian Women: February 8th 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 is a perfect time for women of all ages to come and be part of such an important, productive, and friendly group, led by Sally Bright.

Please join the women whenever you're able!

A huge thanks goes out to all the kids and folks who were a most wonderful part of our "Glorious Game Day!" What fun coming together in our Trinity church on a cold Saturday afternoon to play a most exciting variety of board games with one another! Thanks for sharing all the tasty snacks too--yum!



TRINITY FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM





Happy Birthday

Bob Eckert	2/1
Dana Clawson	2/7
Emily Hanson	2/9
Ian Campbell	2/10
Lee Spencer	2/13
Robert VanNewkirk	2/15
Jim Mainer	2/18
Jean Righter	2/19
Jill Eckert	2/21
Stephen Swayze	2/22
Harriet Burns	2/24
John Clawson	2/27



Trinity Theatre Groups Resume meeting in February!!!!

The 2 Trinity Theatre groups, **Trinity Players** and **Holy Tigers Troupe**, will resume meeting on **Sun, 2/12/17 at 1:00 pm** and **Mon, 2/13/17 at 6:30 pm**, respectively. We look forward to a great year, and welcome any new members! The more the merrier! Hope to see you there!



Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Family:

“Thank you so much for the Starbucks gift card! Sorry for responding so late. I didn’t get it until I returned back to Stillwater. Anyways, it was great seeing everyone over break.”

Love, Trevor (Eckert)

Valentine's Day Word Search

c	g	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	i	p
j	s	w	e	e	t	h	e	a	r	t
e	f	p	a	c	u	p	i	d	a	e
v	h	o	i	k	a	c	p	s	r	t
a	o	g	u	y	h	e	a	r	t	s
l	o	v	e	r	r	d	e	g	o	f
e	k	r	a	p	t	r	r	o	w	r
n	r	i	r	o	s	e	s	p	x	i
t	o	h	s	d	r	d	e	i	r	e
i	s	u	h	s	p	i	n	n	h	n
n	r	g	a	r	e	l	l	k	t	d
e	o	s	c	h	o	s	r	o	s	h
s	w	e	e	r	t	s	f	r	i	e
v	c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	k

valentine
arrow
cupid
hearts
love

red
fourteenth
hugs
chocolate
pink

roses
friend
flowers
sweetheart
kisses



February 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:30 Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell.	2	3	4
5 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring 11:30 Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.	6 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	7	8 9:45 am Presby. Wm. 11:00 am Book Study. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Banner Mkg. 6:30 pm TEAM MTGS.	9	10	11
12 11:30 am Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday. 1:00 Trinity Players	13 10:00 am Yoga Class 6:30 pm Holy Tigers Grp. 7:00 pm Turning Point	14 Valentine's Day 6:30 pm SESSION (dinner at 6:00)	15 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 Banner Mkg.	16	17	18
19 Lunch Bunch 11:30 am Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday.	20 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	21	22 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Banner Mkg.	23	24 7:20 Temple Israel Visit	25
26 Lunch & practice for Youth Sunday. SKY ZONE TRIP	27 10:00 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Turning Point	28				

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