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From the Pastor's Pen



When was the last time you told a story about your family?

For many folks, it's a regular part of life, especially as so many families are spread so far apart. Sometimes, those stories are short – just a little update on how a loved one is doing off in a far part of the country (or world!). Sometimes, those stories take a little longer to tell – stretching back generations, with a cast of characters that no one outside the family could keep straight if they tried.

And yet, for most of human history, storytelling – especially of the deeds of your ancestors – was the main way that information was passed on. Everything from the way to farm to psalms of praise were taught by story and memorization.

In the early days, that's also how the stories recorded in the Bible were passed on, too. As we start our Summer midweek study of Genesis, it's fascinating to think about how many of these stories were passed from generation to generation. That's why there's lists of "the begats" (Adam begat Cain, Able, and Seth – and Seth begat...) – these were important connections back to the family of the listener. These were family stories, sometimes enhanced in the telling, and

Pastor's Pen cont.

sometimes you get a sense that if this person weren't an ancestor, the story may have been told a little differently, a little... less kindly.

Yet, because the stories were collected and written down at various times, there's a lot that they can tell us. Certain words only appear in the oldest stories – and particularly in songs. That's how we know that the songs of Miriam and Moses in Exodus are probably one of the oldest parts of the Bible. Certain books – like Genesis – appear to have been from two distinct traditions, with a third group coming in and editing them together. Others, like the book of Isaiah, seem to have been written at three distinct times, with later writers trying to sound a little like the first writer.

And that's not even the end of the complexity even in the Old Testament. While Biblical Hebrew is mostly standard, there's quite a few words that only appear once in the Bible – and there aren't a lot of non-Biblical texts to compare the word, so we have to do the best from context. It's like a 4000-year-long game of telephone, with stories being told and retold, texts being written and rewritten, and sometimes in multiple languages. Daniel, for instance, is the only book to be written in both Hebrew and Aramaic, and is likely one of the last books of the Old Testament to have been written down. In fact, the oldest written work we still can read is from only 2000 years ago, part of the Dead Sea Scrolls – and it revealed that the book of Leviticus had not changed in any major way between the first century CE and the 9th century CE.

It's because of people's reverence and desire to understand the Bible that these ancient stories are still understandable today. Translations – in Greek, Aramaic, Coptic, and (later) Latin – provide snapshots of how people understood the text at that time. Using their translations, we can understand the stories a little better – which is really quite helpful for us, removed from the writing of the text in both culture and time.

As we tell our stories of faith and faithfulness, we help connect our experiences with God with the stories of the Bible. Reading these stories of our long-ago family should help us remember that we are all children of God, whose love is worth telling – generation after generation.

~Pastor Lucas

Monthly Liturgy

7th Sunday of Easter—June 2nd

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Day of Pentecost—June 9th

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Trinity Sunday—June 16th

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

2nd Sunday after Pentecost—June 23rd

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a

Psalm 42 and 43

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

3rd Sunday after Pentecost—June 30th

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Christian Education

Melinda Carver

Multi-grade Sunday School (pre-k through fourth grade)

This summer we're inviting young children through fifth grade to the classroom by the CE office each week for engaging lessons focused on a different bible stories from the Old Testament. A great team of teachers are taking turns presenting a variety of kid-friendly experiences created to emphasize how very much God loves each of us! Hope to see you!

June 2nd	God's World Created	Millie Spencer
June 9th	The Garden	Valerie Wagner
June 16th	Father's Day	Melinda Carver
June 23rd	Noah	Katy Orrell
June 30th	VBS Sunday	

The Tween/Youth Class (fifth through twelfth grade)

Teens! We're looking forward to seeing all of you July 7th for Sunday School! We will have an interesting lesson on INSTAFAME taught by Ben Haughey. After church, we can make our own pizzas for lunch and THEN we'll all be there to participate in a Youth Fundraiser. More information to come. Important thing is to be there!

For weeks in June we would appreciate any help from the Youth in our younger children Sunday School room. We need some older friends for our younger friends. Thank you!

Midweek Book Study

Midweek Book Study will begin a new study, *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, by Bill Moyers. This study is a video series. During our study, we will view a portion of the video, followed by a lively discussion. All interested adults are invited to join in the cafe at 11:00 am. Lunch fellowship follows book study for all who can bring a lunch and stay for friendly conversation.

Sunday Morning Opportunities

Childcare for infants through preschool is always available every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship. Donna Bridenstine offers a nurturing engaging atmosphere for our very youngest.

Schedule for Nursery help,
if needed.

June 2nd	Sarah Rayment
June 9th	Millie Spencer
June 16th	Katy Orrell
June 23rd	Melinda Carver

Thank you ladies for your
time and service!

Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (whenever needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship or they can join her in the nursery after Time With Children during the service. Please note: Donna can be ready at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She's also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Just let Melinda Carver know.

Youth News



To learn more about this year's ROAR VBS, visit www.trinitychurchbixby.org/vbs.
Sign up using the online registration form at www.trinitychurchbixby.org/vbs-signup.

For ages 3 to entering 5th grade

VBS Worship Service and Family Picnic: June 30th

We still have places for volunteers if you are interested in helping. It would be greatly appreciated!

Congregational Care

Grant Kessler

The Team has a list of congregational members who are willing to help other members by providing transportation to the worship service. If you are a member in need of assistance, please contact us.

The Congregational Lunch Bunch met following the Sunday Service May 19. The lunch was at the Lazy Fisherman, 16830 South Memorial. It was a large turnout with 16 congregational members attending. The lunch of choice was "The Original" for anyone who might consider a visit to the restaurant.

The most important way that you can help our Team, is by letting us know of any of any of Trinity's congregational members who are sick, who are in the hospital, are having surgery, or have other needs so that we may support and provide assistance to them and their families. We will be glad to send cards, call, visit, provide meals, or other assistance as needed. Please make sure we are aware of our college students that are away from home and need a bit of additional support in the way of cards/letters and occasional gift cards.

Grant Kessler is the Session contact for the Congregational Care Team and can be contacted at g@kessler5.com.



Presbyterian Women Mission Projects

Emergency Infant Services (<https://www.eistulsa.org>)

Non-profit providing help for children 0-5, assisting 18,000 infants and toddlers per year

NEEDS:

Layette-supplies for one bag

- Sleeper and Onesie
(newborn to preemie; 0-3 months)
- Pair of booties
- Fleece blanket
- Receiving blanket
- Baby wash
- Bottle
- Bulb syringe
- Pacifier
- Thermometer
- New reusable shopping bag to hold supplies

Art Kit-supplies for one kit

- Drawing paper
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Coloring and Activity Books
- Glue sticks
- Stickers



Inverness Village

(<https://www.invernessvillage.com/health-services/memory-support>)
Non-profit retirement community with memory support unit

Fidget Mats and Aprons

Fabric placemats; scraps of fabric, cuffs to button and unbutton, ribbon, lace, buttons, knitted flowers or other knitted objects, men's ties, bows, zippers, shoelaces and other tactile odds and ends that can be hand-sewn or glued to a mat/apron.

(These objects will all be sewn to a placemat or an apron for the patient to manipulate.
Think about a "busy book" for adults)



**These items will be collected until July 25th and will be taken to the PW Synod Meeting at First Presbyterian in Tulsa.

Mission

Liz Powell

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS – The last backpacks were delivered this week to 58 children in 3 Bixby Public Schools. Thanks to everyone who donated, shopped, counted, bagged, and delivered the backpacks!

CAMP TRINITY – Is a day camp we have offered for the last 8 summers. This year camps will be held on:

JUNE 11TH

JUNE 18TH

JULY 23RD

JULY 30TH

Camp is from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Camp activities include the following: Music, Art, Science, Gardening, Games, Story Time, Theater, and Lunch. The camp is open to all kids entering Kindergarten – 6th Grade in the fall of 2019. There is no charge to attend the camp. If you have any questions, please see John Clawson or Liz Powell.



Evangelism

Dwayne Strasheim

Your Evangelism Team continues to work on the updating and revision of our Trinity church directory. In fact, we are now producing new pages for members whose contact information and/or pictures have changed. Thanks especially to Brenda for assuming much of the work in this regard. Of course, the loose-leaf format of the directory makes it relatively easy to make changes any time, so if you find errors in your information, please don't hesitate to contact Brenda, Cindy, or me. Cindy is also our photographer, so do get in touch with her if you would like to have a new photo in the directory.

Respectfully submitted, Dwayne Strasheim

Building & Grounds

Nancy Cain

We have a great start in getting things in shape in the buildings at Trinity. There was a major effort by lots of people on the clean-up day and an amazing group of roofers put a new roof on the banner building. And its all due to us, pitching in to keep our beautiful building in shape inside and out.

Jim and Barry, in addition to being involved in the afore mentioned efforts, have a bountiful garden growing. Do you remember when Jim reported that we need to pray for rain??? I brought home some beautiful kale last week. You can just snap it off as close as possible to the ground, take it home and put in water, wash it, sauté it and enjoy.

We have been working with Heffernan insurance brokers in the past year and found them very satisfying. Our year with them is about to be finished and we have filled out their questionnaire for a quote again this year. We will hear soon.

Our Christmas decorations are so nicely stored in the closet area of the banner building, but has anybody looked inside the main room lately? If so, I hope you aren't aghast. There are banners that need to be properly stored, costumes that need to be sorted and hung, and fabrics and sewing machines for some future banners.

Several of you have volunteered to help assess the situation and decide how we can best make these things better cared for. Happily, there's a great air conditioner out there and we can work in comfort. I'm starting a list. Please let me know if you can work on this project on a convenient day in early June.



Katy Orrell	06/02
Maverick Sanstra	06/02
Sally Bright	06/07
Bev McComb	06/08
Jack Sanstra	06/10
Lee Adams	06/14
Amelia Austin	06/18
Ben Haughey	06/21
Otis Buttress	06/24
Craig Hanson	06/27

Notes to Trinity

Receive Calvary greetings from Embombeni Congregation.

Here are some baptism pictures during our Easter service.

-We ordained 5 church elders and 5 deacons.

-We confirmed 8 new communicants and several infant baptisms.

-Two of the baptized adults were females who joined our church.

-87 people surrendered their souls to Christ.

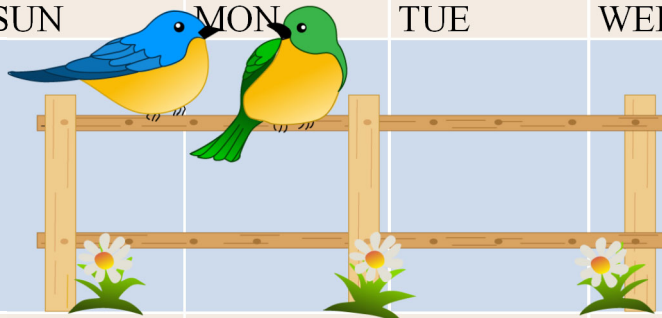
We thank God for that.



TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Book Study at 11:00am	6	7	8
9	10	11 Camp Trinity 10:00-2:00	12 Book Study at 11:00am Team Meetings	13	14	15
16 Father's Day	17	18 Camp Trinity 10:00-2:00 Session Meeting	19 Book Study at 11:00am	20	21	22
23 -----	24 -----Vacation	25 Bible	26 School-----	27 -----	28	29
30 VBS Sunday			Book Study at 11:00am			