



March 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

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We are marching in the light of God...
~South African freedom song, *Siyabamba*

It's the month of March, and, as the old expression has it, it's in like a lion and out like a lamb. All the anxieties and uncertainties we face seem to be twice as tough to bear when the weather is frightful and changing. After all, if you can't decide whether to wear a coat or a t-shirt and shorts, then every other decision looms larger. It can take a lot of faith on some mornings to just get out of bed. To trust in God to be with you, to lead you, to help you find your way.

And some mornings, it feels like God's just not going to show up, like when hearing the news of the assault at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Cont'd on p.2

Pastor's Pen cont.

We want to cry out like the Psalmist, "How long, O God?" and "My God, my God, why have you abandoned us?" Our hearts break, our minds reel, and evil seems to have brought a little more darkness into the world.

Yet, as John reminds us, darkness cannot overcome the light. God's light still shines into the world, guiding, nurturing, loving. Jesus stands with us in the difficult times, holding us even when we cannot feel his arms. "I leave you peace; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

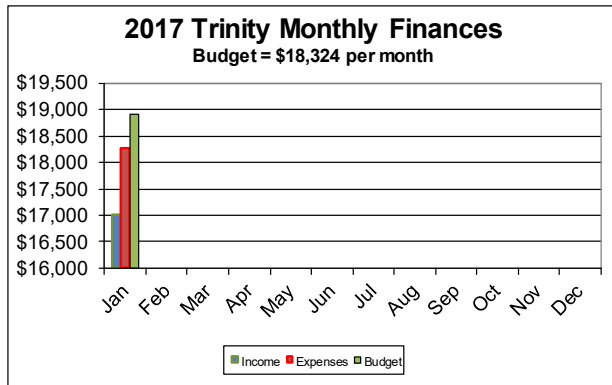
The weight of sin in the world can cloud the world, can weigh oppressively on us, and hide God from our sight – but Christ has overcome sin – has overcome even death itself – and ensures that God's light will reach us, no matter what. As William Barclay puts it, "Here we have the divine paradox – Jesus knew what it was to be a sinner... That is why he can understand our situation so well. That is why we need never fear to go to him when sin cuts us off from God. Because he has gone through it, he can help others who are going through it. There is no depth of human experience which Christ has not plumbed."

So, the light of God is with you, even when you feel most cut off from God. It's this word that needs to spread – to help others find comfort, to find connection, to find community again. Though March may begin like a lion, let's help others find the peace of the Lamb. To re-member Christ's body, bringing together people who would otherwise never meet, otherwise never be in the same room at the same time. Then, we will be able to shout with Paul, "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love which Christ Jesus our Lord shows us. We can't be separated by death or life, by angels or rulers... or by anything else in creation."

Then, we'll March in the light of God.

~Pastor Lucus

Finance/ Stewardship craig hanson



2018	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 17,010	\$ 18,281	\$ 18,903



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

**Trinity Presbyterian Women
meet the
2nd Wednesday of each month
at 9:45 am in
the Trinity Café.**

Please join us!

Building & Grounds bob block

We have a new quote for our insurance for the Church. It is \$2000 dollars less than with our current insurance carrier.

Respectfully, Bob Block

Christian Education sue chancellor

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with **DISCOMFORT...**
At easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless with you **ANGER**
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with **TEARS...**
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
And to turn their pain into **JOY**.

May God bless you with enough **FOOLISHNESS...**
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can **DO** what others claim cannot be done. Amen

From the worship resources for National Observance of Children's Sabbath, produced
by the Children's Defense Fund and provided by the PCUSA

This speaks volumes to me and hopefully to those of you who just read it. Even if you, like me, have read it and shared it before, it's timely, beautiful, and a good prayer to put right into action. Blessings to all as you continue your Lenten journey these next weeks. May you be awakened to the ways Jesus is leading you during this time.

SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL IS 9:15-10:15)

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.

Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (whenever needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship. 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 Sue C. know in advance.



9:15 MORNING OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

Adult Class: All adults are welcome in the classroom off of Churchill Hall every Sunday morning at 9:15 am (unless otherwise noted) for thought provoking enlightening conversation centering on the DVD series, "Living the Questions 2". Richard Spencer prepares stimulating questions and at times, accompanies these with additional worthy and timely articles/ essays/information. Copies of Richard's research and most stimulating questions are always available in class for any interested folks. Please come and join in the friendly honest conversation whenever you are able.

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS:

The confirmands have been hard at work under the inspiring tutelage of Pastors Elana and Lucus. They continue to enjoy their studies on a variety of important aspects of their Confirmation journey. This month, they will focus on the following ideas and questions:

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| March 4 | No Confirmation Class | Confirmands will be practicing for the Youth Sunday Service |
| March 18 | Calling in Community (What is the church? Why is it important to come to church?) | |
| March 25 | Sanctifications and Spiritual Discipline (How do we live as Christians? How much is enough?) | |

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEEN CLASS

A Sunday School teen class is available every Sunday and all youth, sixth grade through twelfth grade, are welcome in the upstairs classroom by the sound tech room. Please join our terrific teen teaching-team for exciting conversation focused on timely discussions from The Thoughtful Christian and Kieth Stulps' "52 Great Bible Studies."

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|----------|------------------|---|
| March 4 | No Teen Class | Teens will be practicing for the Youth Sunday Service |
| March 11 | Sue Chancellor | "Called by God to be Peacemakers" |
| March 18 | Royce Chancellor | "Grace Like Rain" |
| March 25 | John Clawson | " Holy Week: A Week Like No Other" |
| April 1 | | Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt |



MULTI-AGE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Young children through fifth grade are invited to the classroom by Sue's office each week in March for joyful, engaging lessons focused on a different bible story or scripture each Sunday. A fun team of teachers take turns presenting a variety of kid-friendly experiences created to emphasize how very much God loves each of us!

Mar 4	Katy Orrell	"The Ten Commandments"
Mar 11	Melinda Carver	"Good Works"
Mar 18	Sue Chancellor	"Included in the covenant"
Mar 25	Millie Spencer	"A Difficult Week"
April 1	Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt in Churchill Hall	



MID-WEEK BOOK STUDY

Midweek Book Study just has one week to go with Carol Howard Merritt's timely book, "Tribal Church-Ministering to the Missing Generation." On March 14, we'll enjoy a "Sharing Time" where folks can bring a prayer, story, poem, gift, essay, article, scripture, etc. to share with the group. You can also bring a favorite brunch item or snack if you wish. This would be a grand time for new folks to join us in the Trinity Cafe at 11:00 a.m. We can all begin our new book on either the third or fourth week in March. Be looking for details to follow at the next 2 meetings on our next book of choice.

This month Midweek Book Study will be packing backpacks at 10:30 a.m. in Churchill Hall on March 7 and then later on March 21. Come and join us as we prepare 59 backpacks of food items for some of our Bixby kids!



ATTENTION TRINITY FAMILY

SAVE THE SUMMER DATES:

July 8 through July 12...for an adventurous thrilling 2018 VBS!!

VBS Sunday Worship Service and Family Picnic: July 15

Prepare yourselves for the excitement that awaits kids and volunteers this summer.

We'll have a blast as we explore more ways to trust God and deeply feel his presence...

"Splash Canyon: God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride!"

More interesting things coming your way.....

It's just around the corner: March 4, 2018: Youth Sunday, "Start with an Open Heart."

The Trinity kids and youth have been working tirelessly for two months preparing an energizing uplifting Youth Sunday! It's also "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday. Please plan on attending this special inspiring worship service with your family and friends. Come at 9:15 for Sunday School; there's classes for all ages!



The youth wish to thank all the kind folks who so generously donated to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive which concluded on February 4. Your thoughtful gifts are greatly appreciated, and all the food and monetary donations stay right here within the Bixby community helping families in need.



Be watching for the Bunny Bin coming very soon by the choir room...this is where you can drop off plastic eggs and items to stuff them with. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

The youth/volunteers will begin stuffing eggs on March 11, between Sunday School and worship!

YOUTH/KIDS/FAMILY NEWS

A huge heartfelt thanks to all the youth and kids involved in the preparation of this year's Youth Sunday, "Start with an Open Heart." Thanks also go out to the families who provided fun delicious lunch for lots of hungry kids/folks these past two months. We appreciate you and what great opportunities for fun fellowship for our kids/teens!

Attention all participants in Youth Sunday: Practice continues this Saturday, March 3, at 10:00 a.m. and one last time on Sunday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m. Please try to come if possible. The children will practice their "Call to Worship" first on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The young ones don't need to come on Sunday until Sunday School time at 9:15 and we'll first meet in the Sunday School room by Sue's office.

Trinity Theatre Group meets this Sunday March 4 following worship and we'd love to have even more families/teens/adults and come on board as the group takes on another Elana Levy original script for Holy Humor Sunday on April 8!

And Attention Teens and Families: We're off to Andy B's for all kinds of adventurous fun March 25 following worship. Be on the lookout for more news on this exciting excursion! Bring your friends!

And finally, remember we need our wonderful teens to help with the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on April 1. You can help by bringing in donations of plastic eggs or treats to stuff them with. You can also help stuff them on March 11 and March 25. We'll hide them before the brunch on Easter morning, April 1.

Congregational Care brenda cunningham



The Lunch Bunch will be March 18th and we will let you know where we are going very soon. Maybe a late St. Patrick’s Day celebration?

The most important way that you can help our Team, is by letting us know of any of Trinity’s congregational members who are sick, who are in the hospital or 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. And please make sure we are also 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.

~Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

Evangelism ted adams

Cindy Strasheim is now preparing the visitor Welcome Notes for the Evangelism Team. Joe Cunningham will act as Secretary for the team and will help with monthly meeting notes, newsletter contributions, and Trinity Directory additions and changes.

The Greeters list is now on the Bulletin Board by the Kitchen. Greeters have volunteered thru April, but we need some for the rest of the year. Please add your name to the list if you can help.

Respectfully,
The Evangelism Team

Fellowship News dwayne strasheim

This is just another quick reminder to sign up to provide Sunday morning treats in the Trinity Café. As of this writing (February 25), March 11 is still open, and all of the Sundays after April 1 are open as well. April 1, of course, is Easter Sunday, and we’ll be hosting the Easter Brunch that day.

Thank you, Dwayne Strasheim

March Lectionary Readings

3rd Sunday in Lent—Mar. 4

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Cor. 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

4th Sunday in Lent—Mar. 11

Num. 21:4-9;

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Eph. 2:1-10;

John 3:14-21

5th Sunday in Lent—Mar. 18

Jer. 31:31-34;

Psalm 51:1-12

Heb. 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday—Feb. 25

Mark 11:1-11

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

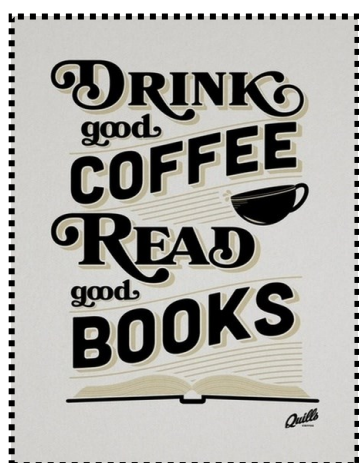
Phil. 2:5-11;

Mark 14:1-15:47



March

Ted Karner	3/2
Reggie Marshall	3/5
Dwayne Strasheim	3/8
Pat Barnard	3/14
Tomye Mainer	3/20
Dorothy Block	3/21
Matthew Sanstra	3/31





MARCH 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 YOUTH SUNDAY + BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY	5	6	7 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	8	9	10
11 <i>Communion</i>	12	13	14 9:45 am Presbyterian Wm. 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group 6:30 pm Team Meetings	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 11:30 am Lunch Bunch (Location TBA)	19	20 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	21 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	29	30 GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closed	31
April 1 Easter Sunday						

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