

Trinity Tidings

2020

October

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From the Pastor's Pen

*"For thus said the Lord God,
the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust
shall be your strength."*

– Isaiah 30:15a



("Happy Sleeping Baby," by ClatieK, 2009)

"Living Beyond Fear"

I think it's a mercy that we don't remember too much of our very young childhoods – when anything that goes remotely wrong could send us into a total, unstoppable meltdown. Of course, this is not a mercy that parents are spared. Indeed, there are countless posts online where parents share their frustrations under the title, "reasons why my kids are crying." Usually they include pictures of despairing children with headings like: "she's not allowed to eat batteries," "the slide was too slow," "I won't let her slap me in the face with my phone," "we are going to play at the park," and "I wouldn't give him a bite of raw chicken while I was making dinner."

When we're upset about something, big or small, sometimes we're just not very good at making peace with it. We want to make it happen, make it work – do something, anything to make it better. As we grow up, we learn to stop throwing tantrums, but that uneasiness when something isn't right just stays with us.

In Isaiah 30, the people of Israel are facing a big problem. The Assyrian empire has been growing and expanding and now Assyria has turned its sights on Israel. In a panic, Israel sends a delegation down to Egypt to make an alliance, to come under the Pharaoh's protection. The problem is

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Pastor's Pen cont.

– they didn't seek God's counsel. They didn't pray about it or listen to the prophets' guidance. Instead of looking to God for protection and salvation first, they went to the strength of another nation, the supposed power of other gods.

Israel felt out of control and so they took control by going down to Egypt (which, in this case, did not work out well for them). With the pandemic, the violence and conflicts, the wildfires and storms, and everything else going on right now, I think a lot of us feel out of control, too. Like Israel, we want a simple, straight forward fix – something that we can see and hear and touch that rushes in right away to save the day. Here, though, we can hear God speaking into our time as well. Very few of us are medical researchers and epidemiologists, legislators and first responders, or others with the technical skills or positions of authority to make a huge dent in the problems we are facing. The little things that we do matter: wearing masks, living in love, helping our neighbor – but they don't give us ultimate control over any of it.

God reminds us that we are not in control, but that does not mean that everything is falling apart. God is still God and while we live in this anguished, in-between time, we need to remember to reach out to God, to trust in God to carry us through. We need to return – to turn away from our panic-based choices and repent of our delusions of control. We can rest because we have faith that God is still working. Our instinct might be to lose it, to worry endlessly, to give up on a brighter tomorrow, yet we look to God for stillness and calm. God is our refuge – our only refuge – and we have time right now to remember that we are in a safe harbor in God's loving hands. Our strength doesn't come from our money or power, our worries or anger, our isolation or apathy. No, our courage and our triumph come to us in that we trust in God.

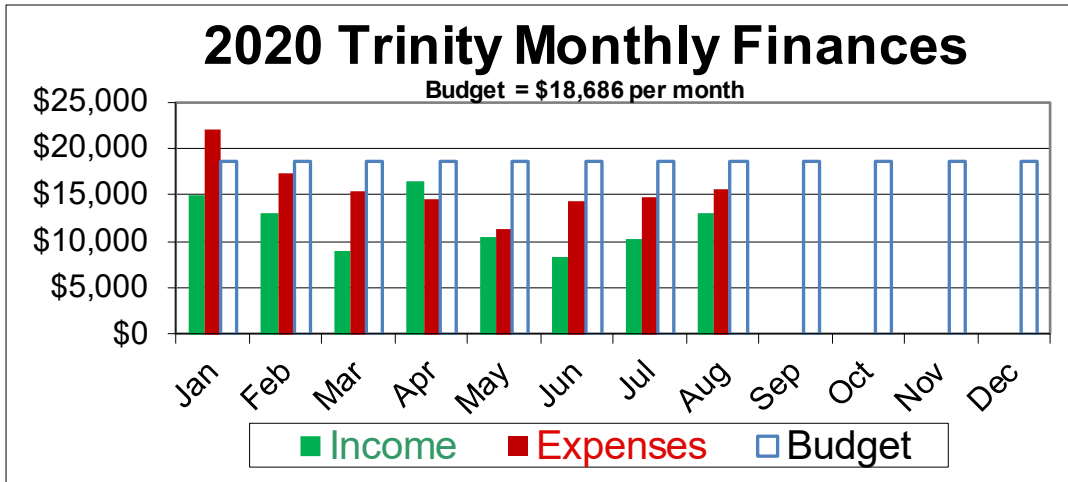
Take a deep breath. Feel all the places where you are holding tension – where you have taken the weight of the world on yourself. Notice every thought that criticizes your own earnest efforts or lashes out at others. See your own impatience and worry and exhale slowly. You will not solve everything today and neither will anyone else. Inhale – exhale. God is still God. God is with you in the stillness – you don't need to be the storm. Let it go. Inhale – exhale. God is still God, Christ is with you, and the Spirit flows through all creation. "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." We are going to be okay. Amen.

~ Pastor Elana



Stewardship & Finance

Grant Kessler



2020 YTD

Income

\$95,914

Expenses

\$125,191

Budget

\$224,226



- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| Joan Jones | 10/6 |
| Jeff Frazier | 10/12 |
| Margot Ries | 10/12 |
| Trevor Eckert | 10/19 |
| Kamden Haughey | 10/19 |
| Luke Clawson | 10/23 |
| Laura VanNewkirk | 10/23 |
| Stephanie Smith | 12/23 |
| John Spencer | 10/28 |



Trinity Garden

Our little community garden is heading into fall!

Thanks to all who continue to care for and nurture this wonderful community garden!

Just So You Know.....

If you are asked for a password for a Zoom meeting, it is 3690.

All zoom activities can be accessed by calling (346) 248-7799, or by clicking the links.

Book study meets at 11:00 a.m. on Wed. We will be choosing a new selection soon!

[Wednesday Book Study](#)

- Zoom ID: 574 918 100

[Sunday School](#) @ 9:15am

- Zoom ID: 949 009 659

[Sunday In-person Worship Service](#)

@ 10:30am—please join us!

- Zoom ID: 461 099 161

Also good to know.....

♦ **Indoor worship continues on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.**, (*contingent on COVID cases continuing to fall or remain flat in Tulsa County*) We'll keep pre-recording the online service for those who don't feel comfortable coming in person.

♦ Our **Recycle Bin** has been moved to the south-east corner of the parking lot, away from the adjacent neighborhood. Please continue to utilize our community recycling bin!

♦ **Ringing Praise Bell Choir** performance dates for fall!:

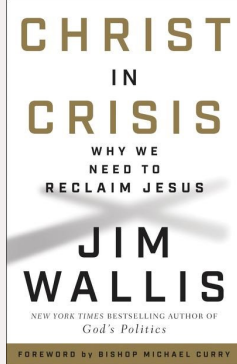
Oct 4, 2020 - Duet - Chuck Keppel & Beth Keppel
Songs of Faith III. JOY by Kevin McChesney

Oct 25, 2020 - Trio -
Nancy Cain, Ben Haughey, Chuck Keppel

Nov 8, 2020 - Ringing Praise Choir
(greatly reduced in size)

Nov 22, 2020 - Trio -
Ben Haughey, Lucus Keppel, Chuck Keppel

Stay tuned for specific performance musical selection announcements ahead of each performance.



[Midweek Book Study](#)

We will finish our book, "Christ in Crisis" by Jim Wallis, and will be looking at selections for our next book! If you have any ideas, please contact Pastor Lucus and let him know!

Mid-week book study meets at 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday morning via Zoom (for now). [Wednesday Book Study](#) - Zoom ID: 574 918 100

Please join us whenever you can! Information on the next selection and ordering information to come!

Banners in the Sanctuary

by Nancy Cain

I have been blessed to notice the banners chosen by our pastors to show up in our on-line worship. They have added an important visual punch to these presentations.

Our Administrative Assistant, Kim Harvey, and I are working on some small informational messages to hang beside each of them. You will have seen that there are six banners. Each one of them represents a purpose of the church and these purposes come from our “Book of Order.”

Until these explanations are ready, I will share these purposes with you:



I

II

III

IV

V

VI

The first banner is “The proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind” On the banner, the book represents the scriptures from which a dove arises. This indicates the source of both the original witness and the present understanding. The same spirit that inspired the original writers enables us to receive the gospel. The cross behind the book and the dove reminds us the heart of the Gospel is Jesus Christ, God with us and for us.

The second banner is “ The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God,” has multi-hued hands representing all of the children of God. The dove’s wings are tipped downward, sheltering the people of God. The triangle of light links the dove to the people.

The third banner is “The maintenance of divine worship.” The chalice, a reminder of the trinity, represents the Lord’s Supper while the three drops of water represent baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The dove reminds us that the same Spirit is present in these sacraments as in the proclamation of the gospel. The sacraments enact the gospel. The raised arms signify our response of praise and thanksgiving ~ our worship of the living God.

The fourth banner is “The preservation of the truth.” This banner represents the light of truth shining in the darkness. The dove reminds us that the truth we proclaim to the world is the gospel of Jesus Christ, God with us and for us. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

continued.....

The fifth banner is “The promotion of social righteousness.” This banner represents Amos 5:24, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.”

The sixth and final banner is “Exhibiting the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.” The dove is in flight over the earth, carrying an olive branch, echoing Genesis 6:11: ‘And lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf,’ so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.” This represents the eighth day of creation, God’s grace coming into the world, the reign of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ. The light rising behind the earth represents the dawning of God’s kingdom.

My thanks to all those who worked on the banners that carry such important messages. Some of us did sewing, some painted on them. Some people helped who don’t sew. All contributed.

Yes, as you have read this item, you have now read an excerpt from our “Book of Order” Not necessarily what we all esteem to do.

~Nancy Cain



A heartfelt “Thank You” from Ann Reed:

“Thank you, Trinity! If you need help or aid, this church (Trinity Pres.) is the one you would want to have supporting you! My deepest thanks to everyone for the cards, calls and prayers.

I especially want to thank the group that, for more than 2 weeks, stayed with me all day and made sure I had a good lunch. These included Melinda Carver, Katie Hanson, Brenda Cunningham, Carol Gott, Debbie Straabe, Lynn Sanstra and Liz Powell. We also had time to renew and make stronger our friendships.

Thanks also to Stephanie Smith for helping me et the call button I should have gotten long before!

I also want to thank my daughter, Katy, for staying with me every night and weekend since I came home.

I am getting better, but please keep the prayers and calls coming. If you want to visit, I’ll still be home!

Thanks to my Trinity Family,
Ann Reed



Monthly Liturgy

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time —Oct. 4

Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;

Psalm 19;

Phil. 3:4b-14;

Matthew 21:33-46.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Oct. 18

Exod. 33:12-23;

Psalm 99;

Thess. 1:1-10;

Matthew 22:15-22.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Oct. 11

Exod. 32:1-14;

Psalm 106;

Phil. 4:1-9;

Matthew 22:1-14.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Oct. 25

Deut. 34:1-12;

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;

1 Thess. 2:1-8;

Matthew 22:34-46.



Trinity Family:

After a continuing decline of new COVID-19 cases in Tulsa County, the Session has voted to allow Phase 3 (in-person worship inside the church)! As such, we continue with in-person worship services on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.!

These services will be modeled on the prayer services we've been holding outdoors - there will be assigned seating from ushers, masks will be required, and there will not be vocal music for the time being. Children and youth are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, and very young children are welcome to play outside on the playground with adult supervision (provided), though there will not be indoor Sunday school at this time.

Online worship will continue as well, for those who are not yet able to return to in-person worship. Virtual Sunday School will continue at 9:15 as it has all Summer long.

Trinity's Session has also put into place contingency plans for future spikes in cases. If the 7-day average of new cases trends upwards, we will move the service outside, following the outside protocol (phase 2.5) until it is safe to move inside again.

Thank you for your encouragement and care during all of this uncertainty.
We are doing everything we can to remain a safe place to worship and serve.



John Clawson

Trinity Young Adult

This month we are featuring Emily Hanson as our former Trinity Youth that is now a young adult. Emily is 29 years old, Craig & Cathy Hanson's oldest daughter and Kate Hanson's big sister.

Education

Emily graduated from Jenks High school in 2009 and she graduated from Hendrix College in 2013 with a degree in Kinesiology (yeah, I had to look that up – it's the study of the mechanics of body movements). Emily received her Masters Degree in Special Education in 2015 from the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Career

Emily works at Booker Arts Magnet Elementary school in Little Rock, Arkansas where she is a Special Education teacher. More specifically she teaches K thru 2nd grade students in a self-contained behavior classroom (she said her Mom & sister would know what that means).

Personal

Emily swam competitively through all of high school and college. She's hung up her swim goggles and now she enjoys spin classes. She lives in Conway, Arkansas where she owns her own home. Emily has two dogs; Molly (the black & white one in the picture) and Sadie. She is also on the Session at 1st Presbyterian Church in Conway and she is about to join their church staff as co-Director of their Youth Program.

Favorite Trinity Youth Memory

Emily's favorite Youth Group memories are from our summer road trips. Over the course of three summers we visited St. Louis, Dallas and Kansas City (the picture with Emily, Beth Nelson, Katy Orrell and Kate Hanson is from our KC trip in 2009). At each city we stayed with family/friends, ate lots of junk food, enjoyed amusement parks and went to a Sunday church service of a different faith group. It really was awesome!



Submitted by
John Clawson

Christian Education

Katie Hanson

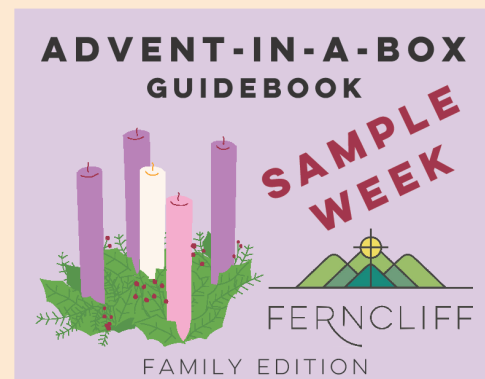
FERNCLIFF ADVENT-IN-A-BOX SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

WEEK	THEME	SCRIPTURE
WEEK 1 NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5	HOPE	ISAIAH 9:2-7
WEEK 2 DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12	FAITH	LUKE 1:26-38 MATTHEW 1:19-24
WEEK 3 DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 20	JOY	LUKE 1:39-45
WEEK 4 DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 24	PEACE	ISAIAH 11:1-10
BONUS CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25TH	LOVE	LUKE 2:1-20

**FIND OUT MORE
AND ORDER ONLINE AT**
FERNCLIFF.ORG/ADVENT-IN-A-BOX



Older Adult Advent in a box
(for singles, older couples, or families with high school aged young adults and above)



Family Advent in a box
(for families with children or youth)

Topic & Bible passages for each week




This Advent season, Trinity is offering the above activity boxes! The Family version asks questions for a family discussion, while the Older Adult box ask deeper reflective questions, while occasionally advising the recipient to reach out to a friend, or other church member to discuss. Activities can be easily replicated for larger families if there is a need.

Trinity will purchase "Advent in a Box" for all members, and friends of Trinity, who sign-up via their session shepherd. Boxes will be purchased October 12th, or shortly after when the invoice is received, at \$56 per box (including shipping). If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the box, you are welcome to do so. You should be receiving a call from your shepherd in the coming weeks!

Please contact Katie Hanson if you have any further questions regarding this Advent program! Or, you can always call the church office at (918) 369-3690!!



OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	5	6	7 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	8	9	10
11 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	12	13	14 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	15	16	17
18 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online Session Mtg.	19	20	21 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	26	27	28 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	29	30	31  <i>Happy Halloween</i>

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