

October

From the Pastor's Pen

Beyond the Gates of Heaven



(A fresco from the Schöenberg Church, "Gate of Heaven," Melchior Steidl, German, c. 1712)

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“After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! ...³ And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder...and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, ... each of them with six wings, full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

‘Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.’

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

¹¹ ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.’”

-Revelation 4:1, 3-6, 8-11

~Cont'd. on p.2

Probably each one of us has wondered at some point what heaven will be like – a city? A garden? A forest? Or perhaps something new. The Bible offers us several stunning visions of the glory of heaven. The author of the book of Revelation, John of Patmos, sees a door open and he can peer into heaven. The words that he writes seem to tumble out of him – a great throne, one sitting there, a rainbow that looks like an emerald. What could this mean? What was he really seeing? John gazed into a mystical, unknowable reality and used all the loveliest and most powerful words he could think of. It was like looking at precious stones – no, like a rainbow; no, like the intensity of thunder and lightning; but, no, with the delicate beauty of crystal.

What do we see? What can we know of heaven? We see God at the center. We see angels and saints in exuberant worship. We see joy and light and peace. Who is God? Almighty, there for us past, present and future. Who is God? Worthy of our glory and honor and praise. Who is God? The one who created everything by will alone.

Sometimes we're over-confident that we know all about heaven and God and what we should be doing. Sometimes we're so overwhelmed that we think, "It won't possibly be me, sinner that I am. I don't feel connected to God and I mess up all the time." The awesome power about this vision that John shares with us, and other visions of heaven, is that they blow our over-confidence and under-confidence out of the water! God, Christ, Spirit dwells in mystery, but reaches out to us all the same. We cannot fully know God, but God knows us perfectly – there is not a bit of you that God doesn't know and love. The brightness of this gem/rainbow/lightning reality is being shown to each one of us. Whatever our confusion or uncertainty, why not let's shake it off and sing along with the happy chorus: "Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty"!

~Pastor Elana

Monthly Liturgy

17th Sunday after Pentecost—October 6

Lam. 1:1-6
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

18th Sunday after Pentecost—October 13

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

19th Sunday after Pentecost—October 20

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

20th Sunday after Pentecost—October 27

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Clerk of Session

Ann Frazier

Following Trinity's hosting of the recent EOP meeting on August 27, we received the following comments from the Presbytery:

"To all of you on behalf of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery we would like to express our thanks for your hosting of the Aug. 27, 2019 Meeting of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. Your hospitality was exceptional, and we have heard nothing but praise for your efforts. The meal, worship and your Bell Choir added greatly to our experience at Trinity. Please let all your members know how appreciative we are of their efforts."

~Rev. Timothy Blodget, General Presbyter, EOP
~Rev. Leigh S. McCaslin, III, Stated Clerk, EOP



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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

This month we will be meeting on October 9th at 9:45 a.m.

Please join us for light refreshments and colorful caring! You might find you want to join your Trinity PW sisters every month.

Christian Education

Melinda Carver

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

As we continue into fall we're inviting young children through fourth grade to the classroom by the CE office each week as we continue lessons focused on the 23rd Psalm. 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!

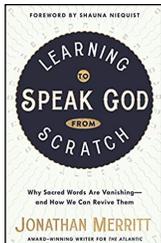
October	6th	Melinda Carver
	13th	Katy Orrell
	20th	Millie Spencer
	27th	Katie Hanson



The Tween/Youth Class (fifth through twelfth grade)

A Sunday School teen/tween class is available October 6th taught by John C. and all youth, sixth grade through twelfth grade, are welcome to the Youth Game Room. Please come join us!

Midweek Book Study



The Mid-week book study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Café. Everyone is welcome to join. Our next book will be "Learning to Speak God From Scratch" by Jonathan Merritt. We will be ordering books, (\$12.00 ea) so if you are interested please let the church office know. If you'd prefer a digital version, please go ahead and get it on your own! October 2nd will be our sharing time, and we hope to start the new book on the 9th. Please join us!

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.

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.

Schedule for Nursery help,
if needed.

Oct. 6	Melinda Carver
Oct. 13	Millie Spencer
Oct. 20	Melinda Carver
Oct. 27	Katie Orrell

Thank you ladies for your
time and service!

Youth News

Hey Everyone! Save the date! October 13th!

Have you been to the Oklahoma Aquarium? If not, we have scheduled a trip to the Aquarium on October 13th. Everyone is invited! If we know by the 6th that 20 people want to go, we can get a group entrance rate of \$14 for each person. If not, it's \$17.95 for adults, \$13.95 for Seniors, children 3-12 pay \$13.95. We can meet at the main entrance at 1:00 and go in as a group and then it's off to see the sharks, big turtles and jellyfish. Hope you can come! Let Melinda Carver know by the 6th so reservations can be made for the group rate BUT you would be welcome if you decided to come after the 6th.

Also, ITS THAT TIME AGAIN! Pumpkin Painting time! **Save the Date: Saturday, October 27, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Pumpkin Day is back for it's fifth fantastic year!! Bring a pumpkin to paint any way you wish! Tweens and teens, we need your skills, leadership, and energy to help us make it the best Pumpkin Day ever! Kids of all ages, bring your families, friends, and pumpkin to Churchill Hall and be ready for an afternoon of Pumpkin/Fall Extravaganza!! Tasty snacks will be served, too! There will be extra pumpkins on hand for any families needing ones to decorate.



Congregational Care

Grant Kessler

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

- 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.
- In September, loose change collected will go toward the Trinity College Scholarship Fund. This loose change will go toward the fund along with any contributions in September or October that are designated for the Scholarship fund by noting on the contribution check or envelope.
- The Congregational Lunch Bunch is considering its next Lunch in October. If you are a member of the congregation or a visitor, please plan on attending. The final date and location will be communicated as the day approaches.

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.

~Respectfully, Grant Kessler

Mission

Liz Powell

Fall is here and the Mission Team is busy!

School is back in session and that means our Backpacks 4 Bixby program is in full swing. B4B serves children in four Bixby schools who have been identified by their school counselors as being nutritionally at risk. These children receive breakfast and lunch at school during the school week, but on the weekend they do not have access to sufficient food. This is where Trinity steps in! We provide bags of food each weekend for these students. In our food bags we give them a couple of sources of protein, some fruit, a hot or cold cereal and a couple of snacks. Trinity has been doing this mission work for 10 years and we have provided over 12,000 weekend meals to children in the Bixby Public Schools.

The involvement by our community of faith spans all areas of our church and include:

- Food Donations
- Grocery Shopping
- Plastic Grocery Bag Donations
- Packing Bags
- Delivering Bags

The B4B program is always looking for food donations and below is a list of some of our more popular items:

- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal
- Granola Bars
- Ravioli
- Fruit Cups
- Tuna
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Cookies



Building & Grounds

Nancy Cain

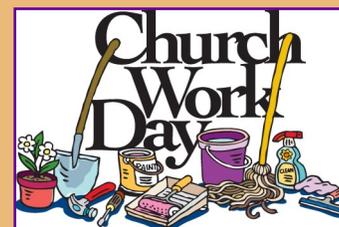
Let's get together **Saturday, October 12** for another clean-up day. We had an incredibly successful Spring workday, as well as a re-roofing project on the banner building. Great progress was made.

Our building gets a lot of use and that's how we like it. Our purpose is well served when the building is busy. We are reaching out to the community, teaching people about Jesus, providing food for food-insecure kids and adults, worshipping God and enjoying each other's company. All that activity can produce some mess.

And then there's the weather and the many bugs that insist on climbing into our light fixtures. Here's some things we hope to accomplish:

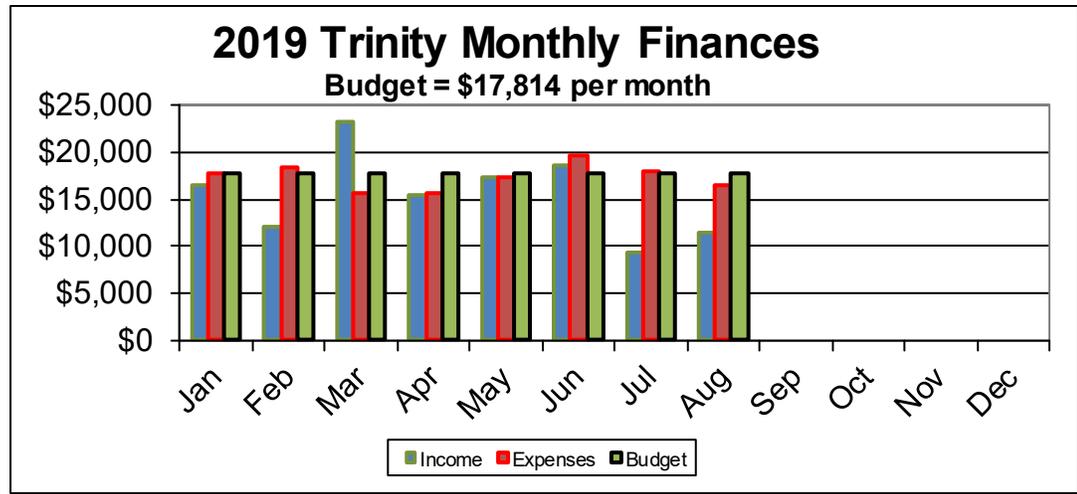
- ◆ Light fixtures cleaned (especially the ones in the café).
- ◆ Tidy the chair backs in the sanctuary i.e. left-over bulletins, or mission information sheets or envelopes.
- ◆ Tidy and clean the kids play room, organize bags for Backpacks 4 Bixby and double those donated but not yet doubled.
- ◆ Clean out the shed on the East side of our back yard. There are many unused long-forgotten supplies in there.
- ◆ Clean and organize the banner room (Big One).
- ◆ Organize the costumes for plays, etc. (also banner room).
- ◆ Check the refrigerators for out-of-date items and give those things a toss.
- ◆ Organize the C.E. closet.

As usual there will be coffee and donuts at 8 am. If you are aware of other jobs please let Nancy Cain, Barry Straabe, or Bob Eckert know.



Stewardship & Finance

Craig Hanson



2019 YTD

Income
\$124,114

Expenses
\$139,260

Budget
\$142,512



- ### October Birthdays
- 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 Van Newkirk 10/23
 - Stephanie Smith 10/24
 - John Spencer 10/28

Volunteers Needed!!

Sound/Video Volunteers needed for Sundays. Will train you, you'll have the best seat in the house, and it won't work without you!

If interested, Contact Craig Hanson, chanson@oneok.com; 918-607-4171

Trinity Garden

There's still time to enjoy the community garden! In the garden now: Still a few purple hull peas, some okra and, you guessed it...turnip greens.

Come out anytime and take what you need!



EVANGELISM

Dwayne Strasheim

The Evangelism Team has begun the task of updating and revising the "Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church" brochure. We hope to have a finished product by the end of the year.

~Respectfully submitted, ...Dwayne Strasheim

TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



**Rally
Day
2019**



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 10:30 pack backpacks Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	3	4	5
6 Communion Team Meetings Following worship	7	8	9 Presbyterian Women at 9:45 Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	10	11	12 Fall Clean Up Day 8:00 am
13 Oklahoma Aquarium Trip 1:00 pm	14 	15 Session Meeting	16 10:30 am Pack backpacks Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	17	18	19
20 Lunch Bunch Following worship	21	22	23 10:30 am Pack backpacks Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	24	25	26 2-4 pm Pumpkin Day 
27 Liturgist Training Following worship	28	29	30 10:30 am Pack backpacks Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	31 		