

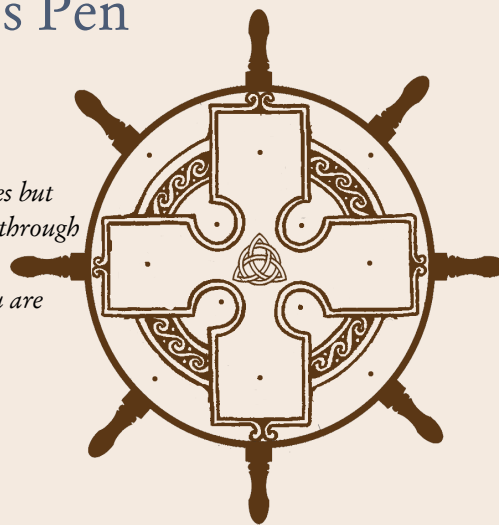
Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	1-2
Lectionary	2
Christian Education	3
Youth News	4
Congregational Care	4
Mission, Building & Grounds	5
Stewardship & Finance.....	6
Birthdays/Announcements.....	6
Evangelism.....	7
Photo Album	7
Calendar	8

From the Pastor's Pen

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.

~ John 17:20-21a



As we kick off the new year with our Rally Day service, I am strongly reminded of the scripture quoted above, that Jesus wanted us all to be one. One in the Spirit – one in the Body of Christ – and one in Love, as God has loved the world.

But like the Trinity, it is not enough to be one – we must be a community in one, also. The divine mystery of three persons sharing one essence (as the early church painstakingly worked out) means that even as one in Spirit, Body, and Love, we also maintain our uniqueness, just as the Father/Son/Spirit maintain their uniqueness. It is confusing – and yet, it ought to be comforting, too.

My great-grandfather, Rev. Charles John Keppel, had an analogy that helps explore this idea. He suggested that we think of a ship's wheel, perhaps similar to the one pictured here. You can see that there are a number of spokes, and if you use a little imagination, you can imagine tiny people on each spoke, living their lives, moving around and up and down. What's neat is that, if they move towards each other, they naturally move towards the center, the source or hub of the spokes. When you move towards others, reaching out with love, you naturally move towards the source of

~Cont'd on p.2

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Pastor's Pen cont.

Love, which is just another way of thinking about God. But the more you distance yourself from God, the more distance exists between the spokes, too – so you are further away from others.

In this way, we see that we are one, in that we are all on the ship's wheel. No matter how it rotates, we are all one in our connections. Yet, we are also all uniquely placed, with our own view and identity that helps to maintain the wheel. After all, if everyone were on just one spoke, there would be no wheel at all – it would be more like a pogo stick than a wheel!

If you look carefully at the image, you'll notice a number of different symbols that represent this tension, this mystery, in different ways. At the center, for instance, is a trinity knot, an ancient symbol that has been used to represent the Trinity. Note that the three "points" are connected in one continuous line, and the circle emphasizes its one-ness. At the same time, the three points are distinct, and it maintains its unique three-ness.

All of this is to say: let us strive to be One, as Jesus calls us – and let us also see the beauty of our uniqueness and experience, as the Trinity shows us. Amen.

~Pastor Lucus

Monthly Liturgy

12th Sunday after Pentecost—September 1st

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

13th Sunday after Pentecost—September 8th

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

14th Sunday after Pentecost—September 15th

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

15th Sunday after Pentecost—September 22nd

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

16th Sunday after Pentecost—September 29th

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; *Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16*; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Trinity PW Members attended our Synod gathering at First Pres on July 25-27. Our church donated 6 large bags of items for repurpose at Inverness Village, new school supplies, and layette items for babies.

Presbyterian Women also attended the Regional Gathering at John Knox on August 17th. Norma Wallace of First Presbyterian Tulsa presented the overview of the 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study, "Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." **The first PW meeting of the year will be Wednesday, September 11, in the Trinity Café at 9:45 am.** Please join us for light refreshments and colorful caring! You might find you want to join your Trinity PW sisters every month.

~Cindy Strasheim, Moderator Pro-Tem

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 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 all!

The Tween/Youth Class (fifth through twelfth grade)

Teens/TWEENS. We're looking forward to seeing all of you **September 8th for Rally Day Sunday**. We will have an interesting Sunday School lesson taught by Ben H. and have some time to discuss Youth activities for the upcoming year. Then, a special time is being set aside during Church service to Bless the Backpacks. Not only blessings and words of encouragement for your school year, but also for the success of Backpacks for Bixby school children and backpacks filled with personal items given to those in need and supporting the outreach program of City of Hope. Please join us this inspirational day!

Midweek Book Study

Midweek Book Study will continue their 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.

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.

Sept. 1	Melinda Carver
Sept. 8	Millie Spencer
Sept. 15	Katie Orrell
Sept. 22	
Sept. 29	

Thank you ladies for your
time and service!

Youth News

Hey Everyone! Save the date! **October 13th!** Lets all meet and see what's new at the **Oklahoma Aquarium**. We can meet as a group there at 1:00 and receive a discount on tickets if we have at least 20 people. At the Aquarium we will find the Extreme Amazon, the Shark Tank, an Ozark stream and its inhabitants and other extreme fish. It would be a thrill for our kids and grandkids and the rest of us as well to see what's new.

RALLY DAY! September 8th! Rally Day this year will be about Blessing of the Backpacks. Our Sunday service will involve Blessings of many Backpacks.

First, We are inviting all students, members and guests to bring their school backpacks for encouragement and a blessing for the upcoming school year.

Second. We will also ask Blessings on our Backpacks for Bixby ministry. Each week our church community delivers to different Bixby schools a "backpack" of food for children in need. These bags of food are then taken home for their weekend meals.

Finally, we're asking members of the congregation to bring a backpack to the service filled with personal items such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes for those less fortunate and living on the streets. These backpacks will be given to the City of Hope ministry, an organization hoping to help people on the streets find new lives in society.

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.

Sally Bright, a well-loved and highly active member of Trinity Presbyterian Church passed away this August. The congregational Care Team would like to thank all of the congregation members, along with the family of Sally Bright, who helped prepare her service and related activities.

The Congregational **Lunch Bunch** is considering its next Lunch **September 22, 2019** at **Senor Tequila, 9999 S. Mingo Rd. near 101st**. 918-872-9191. 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 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

In addition to "Backpacks 4 Bixby", this year, Trinity will also be starting a new mission, in cooperation with City of Hope in Tulsa! Supply packs for those experiencing homelessness. If you want to participate, we will be collecting the following items throughout the month of September for donation in October. Also, here is a reminder of what we collect for our local mission "Backpacks 4 Bixby".

City of Hope Project

Backpacks
Socks (thick or durable ones)
Dry Shampoo
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Deodorant
Wet Wipes
Baby Powder
Feminine Hygiene Items
Water Bottles
Ziplock Bags
Tarp (for rain/ground protection).

Backpacks 4 Bixby

Canned Tuna, canned Chicken
Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks/Fruit Cups
Canned Ravioli/Spaghetti O's
Juice Boxes
Rice Krispy Treats
Mac & Cheese
Applesauce Cups
Packets of Instant Oatmeal/packets of cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Peanut Butter Crackers
Snack Packs/Pudding Cups



Building & Grounds

Nancy Cain

Mark your calendars! Saturday, **October 12, 2019 at 8:30 am** is our Fall Churchwide clean-up day! Bring your gloves, ladders, brooms, clippers, and any other equipment you may think would be helpful in beautifying our beloved Trinity!

Coffee and light snacks for all helpers! The more the merrier!

Saturday, October 12

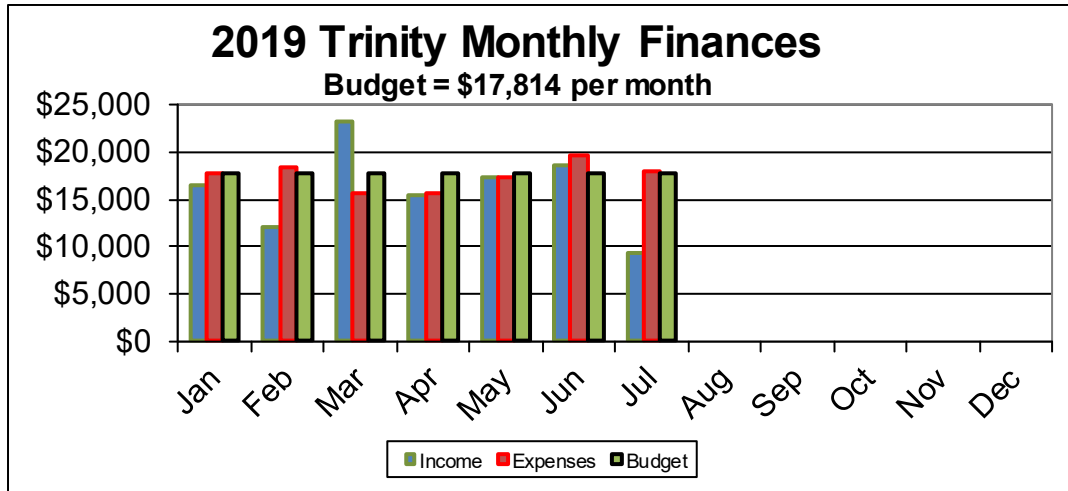
8:30 am

Mark your calendars today!



Stewardship & Finance

Craig Hanson



2019 YTD

Income
\$112,618

Expenses
\$122,775

Budget
\$124,698



- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| Larry Wagner | 09/01 |
| Beth Keppel | 09/04 |
| Jackie Braselton | 09/08 |
| Jackie Ballew | 09/09 |
| Richard Spencer | 09/09 |
| Kira Smith | 09/12 |
| Larry Boxum | 09/18 |
| Brad Byers | 09/24 |
| Evelyn Fenton | 09/30 |

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

Thank you and Welcome!

We would like to sincerely thank Sadie Redburn for her service as our Admin! Best of luck in your new adventure!

We would also like to Re-welcome Kim Harvey to this position. Kim was here before, and she came back..... We thank her for that! Please stop by or give her a call M-Th., 9-12 pm.

Trinity Garden

Thanks to Jim Mainer for his continued care and maintenance of the Trinity Garden

Hope everyone is enjoying it!

-Nancy Cain

EVANGELISM

Dwayne Strasheim

The Evangelism Team has spent much of the summer cleaning up loose ends of the Trinity Directory update. If your contact information is not yet current, please contact one of our Team members: Brenda C., Cindy S., or me.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is one of eleven churches that belong to the Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce. On July 11, I met with Kelly Hathcoat, the Director of Partnership, exploring ways in which Chamber membership can be mutually beneficial to the Chamber and to Trinity. Our Team has authorized the purchase of a color advertisement in the Chamber's New Resident Welcome Letter, which is mailed to all new residents of the Bixby community; and early in 2020, the Team will consider the possibility of purchasing an ad in the 2021 issue of the "Bixby Living Guide" magazine.

Finally, the "Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church" brochure is in urgent need of updating. That will be our next project. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy taking part in, come join us on the Evangelism Team!

~Respectfully submitted, ...Dwayne Strasheim

TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM



September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	 Office closed	3	4 Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	5	6	7
8 Rally Day	9	10	11 Presbyterian Women at 9:45 Book Study at 11:00am Team Meetings	12 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	13	14
15	16	17 Session Meeting	18 Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	19	20	21
22 Lunch Bunch Senor Tequila's Following worship	23	24	25 Book Study at 11:00am 6:30 Ringing Praise Bell Prac.	26	27	28
29	30					