

The Mustard Seed

November 2019

Trinity Presbyterian Church USA



2061 Glens Bay Road, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 843-650-0313 (Office)
P. O. Box 14758, Surfside Beach, SC 29587 843-650-8529 (Fax)
TrinityPresbyChurch.com ChurchOffice@TrinityPresbyChurch.com

The Days are Surely Coming...

October 21, 2019

Yesterday in worship the Hebrew Scripture lesson came from the prophet Jeremiah who boldly proclaimed, “*The days are surely coming...*” Indeed they are. The final days of 2019 are upon us, days when inside the church...the Session will wrangle together a budget for 2020, our newly elected officers will be trained and prepared for ordination and installation, the chancel and bell choirs will prepare an immense amount of music for the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, the mission committee will lead and organize our efforts to care for the least of these among us through the Harvest Sunday collection and our Angel Tree...this is just scratching the surface. Outside the church, our lives get equally as hectic – preparing to travel to be with family or to hospitably host family that comes to visit for the holidays, Christmas shopping, holiday parties, and on and on. *The days are surely coming...*

I am also bracing this year for the exhortations are surely coming...in cards, on Facebook newsfeeds, in devotional booklets...the exhortation to be thankful, to be grateful, perhaps even to be more grateful than I feel. It is true that love is chief verb of the Christian faith and gratitude is the chief virtue of the

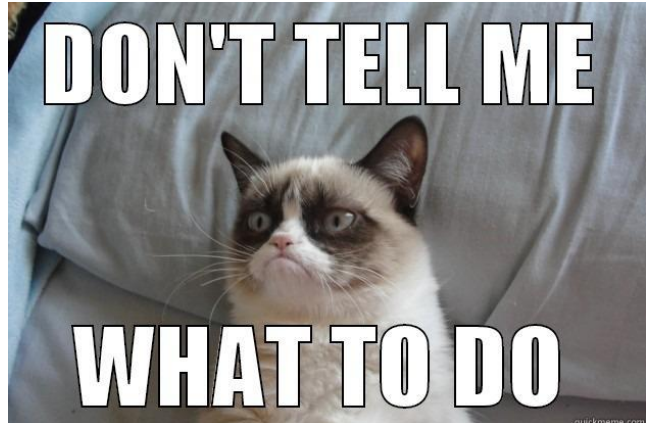
Christian life. So, I’ve begun to wonder why it is that when I hear the exhortation to “count your blessings, name them one by one,” my neck stiffens and something smart alecky seems on the tip of my tongue? Perhaps this is just another sign of my own sinfulness; I am prepared to confess that. But I’ve also begun to think that it’s the being told to be grateful that irks.

MILLEE KAE

When I used to take groups of teenagers away for mission trip and conferences, there were always daily chores that needed to be done – cooking and cleaning responsibilities essential for the healthy communal life. The most intensive day was always the final day, in addition to individual packing there was the packing and loading of group property and the need to clean the lodging top to bottom so they would be in good shape for the next group. My first year in youth ministry, I spent the last morning of a mission trip trying to hand out assignments to whoever looked the least busy at the

moment – one teen boy (who had not learned the art of looking busy) upon receiving his third cleaning assignment of the morning snapped back at me, “Don’t TELL me what to do!” I know how he felt.

Tom Currie, who taught at Union Seminary, recalled encountering a church member and her 4-year-old son in the grocery store. Tom noticed that the boy’s shoes were untied so he stooped down to tie them. “Say thank you,” the mother implored her son; “Tell the man, ‘thank you.’” The little boy wasn’t having any of it and refused even to look up from the ground. The mom kept insisting and finally Tom said something noble about not needing any thanks and got the heck out of there. Tom remarked, “Gratitude had never seemed such a miserable thing.”



Ralph Wood, professor of Theology and Literature at Baylor University, wrote an essay on a theme he discovered in Flannery O’Connor’s short stories. O’Connor is one my favorites, and she often cuts to the quick concerning moral and manners. Wood described the theme as “obedience to the unenforceable.” Friends, there is no great virtue in doing what you are told to do, or else. And indeed, there is not much more virtue in doing what you are nagged to do. “Obedience to the unenforceable” is doing something not out of obligation or fear of the consequences, but freely, offering it as a gift. Such a gift is what created that living space that enables people to live and work together.

There is not much nagging in scripture. Have you ever noticed this? Rather, words like the 10 Commandments are more of an invitation to a life before God in which enforceability (even of the guilty) is not the chief characteristic. Jesus does not nag his disciples, much less those to whom he ministers, though he is certainly not above bidding them “to go and sin no more.” But, in Jesus’ mouth, even those words sounds more like an invitation to freedom than a reminder of guilt.

The gift of Thanksgiving is not its piety or our dutiful observance of the holiday, but the joyful offering of self that in its own very small way echoes God’s lavish and abundant self-giving that has created space for us. God, Karl Barth reminds us, is the One who has time for us. Accordingly, we do not *have* to say, “thank you”; that is not what we are commanded to do. Instead, we *get* to say those words; we *may* say those words.

Friends, what truly occasions gratitude is the grace of the One whose promise is never to be without us, that One who makes time for us. *The days are surely coming...* thanks be to God. Thanksgiving is simply an opportunity for gratitude for the time and space given to us to share in this life and ministry together. That is not a small thing. It is gracious gift.

~~Pastor Tony

Thanksgiving is the annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. In the United States we look back to the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621, but settlers in Jamestown had already been celebrating the harvest and giving thanks since 1610. This practice of a national day of Thanksgiving in the US was sporadic until Abraham Lincoln made it official and permanent during the Civil War.



In 1963 John F. Kennedy said, "Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God."

As we at Trinity take time to give thanks for all our blessings, we ask that you consider demonstrating that thankfulness with your contributions to November's Special Offerings.





Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell is a diverse non-profit ministry across SC, Georgia and Florida. Committed to the most innovative and effective solutions to help children and families in need, Thornwell works with child welfare agencies to prevent child abuse and neglect as it builds up and reunite

families and supports healthy futures for kids. They offer early child development programs, educational support services, and transitional living programs for children.

Thornwell nurtures and educates more than 400 children, many of whom suffer from mild to moderate emotional problems stemming from the death of a loved one, a separation or divorce resulting in a temporary inability to care for a child, a temporary financial or physical inability to care for a child, families who are experiencing types of dependency or abuse, and a parent or guardian's disabling health or advanced age.

Trinity Presbyterian Church has been a strong supporter of South Strand Helping Hand, and once again we will be collecting food donations and money (in the Special Offering envelope) so that our neighbors in need in this area have the food they need to celebrate a bountiful Thanksgiving. Helping Hand will use the money donations to buy turkeys and hams and other items need to supplement the canned foods and other non-perishables you bring on Harvest Sunday.



						
2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regularly Scheduled Weekly Activities						
<u>Sunday</u> Worship 8:00 AM Coffee Time 10:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM		<u>Tuesday</u> Bell Choir 5:30 PM	<u>Wednesday</u> Chancel Choir 6:00 PM	<u>Thursday</u>		AA Meetings are held at various times all week long – refer to listing at church
Monthly Activities						
	Deacon of the Month Donna Cruey 276 202 1071				1 Bible Study 9:30- noon	2
3	4 Deacons 10 AM B & G 2:30 PM	5 Margaret Circle 10 AM Worship and Music 11:30 AM	6 Mission 10 AM	7 Crochet Club 10 AM	8 Bible Study 9:30 to noon	9 Arts and Crafts Festival 9 AM to 5 PM
10 Disciples informational meeting after 10:30 service	11 Admin/HR 10 AM Communication 11:00 AM	12 Finance 9 AM PW Council 10:30AM	13 Christian Ed 10 AM Ruth Circle 1:00 PM	14 Mission Sewing 9:30 AM Generosity 10 AM	15 Trivia Night! 6 PM	16
17 Service of Thanksgiving 4 PM Harvest Sunday	18	19 Fellowship 10 AM	20 Y2K Chapel 4 PM	21 Crochet Club 10 AM	22 Bible Study 9:30 to noon Bingo 10 AM	23
Mobile Meals week for Trinity Presbyterian Church						
24 Arts @ the Church— Serendipity Singers 3 PM	25 Session 6:30 PM	26	27	28 Thanksgiving @ California Dreaming	29	30

Angel Tree will be up today!



Birthdays

Jeff Buddington	11/01
Randy Jennings	11/02
Harriet Bagwell	11/04
Joyce Parker	11/04
Kay Cribbs	11/05
Charles Minners	11/06
Ann Davis	11/07
Ashley Forno	11/07
Kathleen Foley	11/10
Mark Greer	11/10
Sandra Eaton	11/13
Nancy Forno	11/14
Barbara Watson	11/14
JoMary Phillips	11/20
Ed Oskandy	11/23
Joseph Affrunti	11/25
Cotter Smith	11/30



Judy and Ed Oskandy	11/06
Jane and Dave Russell	11/18
Molly and Billy Frazier	11/19
Kathy and Mark Greer	11/23
Judy and Monte Ruch	11/24

God's Creation wall and pocket calendars will be on sale each Sunday beginning November 3rd.

Wall calendars are \$8.00 and pocket calendars are \$5.00. We have 50 wall and 25 pocket calendars available, so make sure to get yours before they sell out!

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR SALE

Bingo
November 22nd
10 AM

Trinity Presbyterian Church Financial Report through September 2019

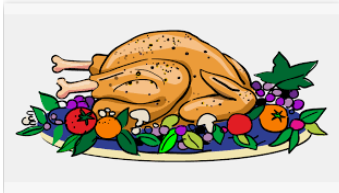
Income	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
CONGR	\$188,804	\$185,358
OTHER	\$53,409	\$50,135
TOTAL INCOME	\$242,213	\$235,493
EXPENSES	\$233,393	\$242,567



Dave and Jane Russell
50061 Calcutta Smith Ferry Rd.
Unit #5
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

Buy a card made by the card crafters and send it to Jane and Dave to let them know they are not forgotten.

Special November Lunch Bunch!



If you are wondering what to do for Thanksgiving Day dinner, the Fellowship committee invites you to join them in this special November Lunch Bunch.

We have reserved spaces for anyone who can join us at California Dreaming, located at 2657 Beaver Run

Blvd, Surfside Beach, on Thursday, Nov. 28 at noon. They will be offering a Thanksgiving turkey and stuffing meal, however you can order anything else if turkey is not your favorite. Shelley Johnson will be your host. Please sign up by Sunday, Nov. 24 so we can confirm how many are attending. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



Trivia Night Friday, Nov. 15 at 6:00 PM

Come one! Come all to another fun fact-filled night of trivia on Friday, Nov. 15.



We will begin at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall with a delicious chili dinner, salad, corn bread, and dessert for \$8.00.

If you have never been to one of these, it is quite a lot of fun. You will be at a table with five or six other people, so you don't have to worry if you don't know the answer. Sometimes, none of us have gotten the correct answer!

Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

The purpose of the Fellowship Committee is to provide events that encourage social interaction for members and their guests. Events are planned to provide opportunities to have fun, food, and interaction with others. The committee often supports other committees within the church with their social endeavors. We are one of the busiest committees in our church, and also one of the happiest, and most fulfilled groups providing our church family with many opportunities to interact. However, we have realized that we need your help in many of these events. The committee is open to all men and women of the church. If you would like to join or attend a meeting, we meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 10 am in the conference room. If you can only spare a few hours here and there, look for opportunities to help us by reading upcoming events in *The Mustard Seed* and looking for sign-up sheets in the narthex. For example: we could use your help in hosting Lunch Bunch, card crafting, cooking for pot lucks, and helping at the Nov. 9th Arts and Crafts Festival.





**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 17 AT 4 PM
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A Service of Thanksgiving will be presented at our church on Sunday, November 17 at 4 PM combining the Word and Music of Celebration Presbyterian and Trinity. This service will include hymns, a combined anthem, and the Word. Rev. Tom Dendy and Rev. Tony Larson will lead the service and the combined choirs under the direction of Sarah Abushakra and Diana Scroggins will lead the music.

This is the first in what we hope will lead to a combined church event among the Presbyterian churches in the Grand Strand area. Other churches, Kingston in Conway and Murrells Inlet, have indicated that they are interested in joining with us in this special service.

**Carolina Forest High School Holiday Spectacular
Christmas Concert—Fellowship Excursion
Saturday, December 14, 2019
3 pm show time
Cost \$10**

The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. Cut off is November 17th (giving us time to get the right number of tickets). Contact Debbie Walker or Diana Scroggins for more information.



From Help for Kids and Backpack Buddies.



You are the kind of
person who really
cares.....

Your kindness, generosity, and
caring will keep children from
being hungry when not in school.
It makes a difference for them
to have enough food to eat.

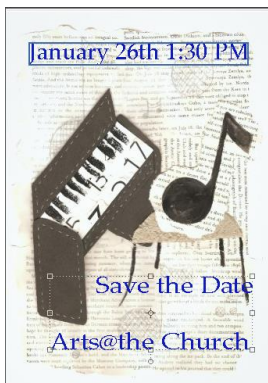
Barb & Volunteers
*Thank you so much for your
extremely generous gift. Your support
will help many of our children
God Bless you Barb*

SERENDIPITY SINGERS ARE COMIN' TO TOWN

(Under the direction of Pam Bosselait)

Christmas on Broadway

Come join the Serendipity Singers as they usher in the Christmas Season with their traditional November concert on **November 24 at 3 PM**. Trinity members Pat Mitchell, Evelyn Brodrick and Lynn Hayn are part of this group. This concert has always been a seasonal favorite for this church and is well attended.



Save the Date for a very special
Arts @ the Church concert on January 26, 2020 at 1:30 PM. (Notice
the unusual time)

A pot luck lunch will be held after the 10:30 service and the concert
will begin afterwards.

This is a concert you do NOT want to miss. Put it on your calendars
now!

It's time to think about Christmas!

Once again we are reserving space on the bulletin board by the office for Christmas cards. Instead of sending multiple cards to fellow church members, consider sharing your card with everyone!

The congregation is sure to enjoy the display!

Thank you!

Cards can go up on or after December 1st—the beginning of Advent.

As we once again enter the Christmas season, our hearts are led to share Christ's love with those less fortunate than ourselves. South Strand Helping Hand offers us a wonderful opportunity to do just that through the giving of gifts to the children in our area who are in need. Both toys and clothing are collected for specific children who have been signed up by their parents for this annual outpouring of generosity by Helping Hand's member churches.



Because of the increased need within the community, Trinity has once again offered to take the names of 50 children which will generate 100 angels to be placed on our Angel Tree. Each child will be represented by two angels on the tree, one for a gift of clothing and the other for a gift of toys. The tree will be set up in the narthex on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent.

Please plan to take one or more angels from the tree and help Trinity do its part to provide some joy to children who might otherwise have to do without at this gift-giving time of the year. Don't forget to leave the angel with your name and phone number in the box on the table and take the angel with the child's information to use as a tag for your gift. An information sheet will be provided next to the tree as a reminder of the process.



All gifts must be wrapped and returned to the church narthex by Sunday, December 15th so that they can be distributed to the recipients in time for a joyous Christmas. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful program and have a blessed holiday season.

Because of the lateness of Thanksgiving, there is a shorter than normal window for gathering the Angel Tree gifts.

Pick up your gift tags on December 1st. Return the gifts by December 15th.

Yard Sale News

Some people are still asking about the final results of our sale. Thanks to the hard work and organization of Karen Watts and of Dennis Watts and all our faithful volunteers, we were able to make **\$16,196.57**. You *all* did a wonderful job pitching in to make 2019's sale an outstanding success.

Although the yard sale is a Presbyterian Women's project, we would be unable to pull it off without the men donating their time and efforts before, during, and after the sale. Thank you, gentlemen.

We will be determining our 2020 budget in the near future. More info will follow.



Quilt Sales for Debt Reduction

Some of us were lucky enough to purchase a DuMont Designed quilt donated to our quilters through Debbie Walker. The ladies were able to donate **\$830** toward Trinity's Debt Reduction by selling these works of art. Way to go, quilters!

Recycling: Thoughts into Action



The PWC has begun researching and planning ways to recycle our trash. The Session, the PW and Y2K are all on board. If you would like to take part in developing this exciting project, please see Susy Howard or Liz Montgomery to let them know.

This is your chance to help set up a meaningful activity for our church and Y2K. God's creatures and the earth are gifts to us. Get involved if you can.

A New Project: A Bereavement Box

When a loved one is lost, those left behind are swamped by grief and by demands on their time. PW wants to relieve one of the least of the demands by making bereavement boxes containing household supplies that are especially needed—Kleenex, containers, paper towels, etc. We will make these boxes available to our deacons and council members to take to homes of church members experiencing a loss.

Jannette Forman is heading this project.



With Warmest Thanks

Thanks to everyone for all their help with the church yard sale. Without you, we never could have achieved another successful sale!

Special recognition to Sandy Eaton for making the banner for the furniture sale; to Cheryl Roach for collecting, tagging and selling all the jewelry; to

Evelyn Brodrick for marking and working the collectibles/boutique area.

And thank you to the markers who worked for nine months to sort, mark, and pack all the "stuff" we received—Penny Beauchesne, Barbara Bonnett, Donna Cruex, Ann Davis, Larry and Debbie Davis, and Carol Jones. I also want to extend an extra thank you to my neighbor, Bill Koch who helped Dennis pick up (and sometimes deliver) all the furniture.

Again, I am truly grateful for everyone's support ...I never would have made it without you!!!

Karen Watts

MOBILE MEALS

Thanks to Marge Hill, Jerry & JoAnn Kuhn, Sharon Rousseau, Allene Roush, Jean Bullen (x2), Sharon Rousseau, Reid McBride and Alice Downey for delivering Mobile Meals in the month of October. If you would like to help deliver meals, please let me know.

The next meal delivery will be the week of November 18-22, 2019.

Jim Montgomery, Coordinator
724-989-5580



Inquiring Minds Want to Know

Did you bring the Almond Pound Cake to the yard sale?

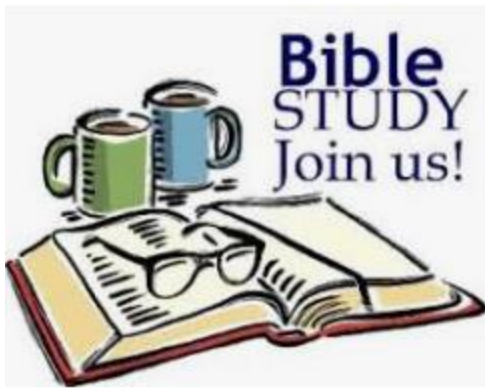
Please let Alice or Ben Hartman know if you are the person who is responsible for this delicious offering.

On October 17th, the deacons hosted the annual 90+ luncheon. We were thrilled to have 9 of our "90 and over" members present for lunch. Thank you deacons for organizing this wonderful event!



And a good time was had by all!





Bible Study continues in November.

Pastor Tony and Kathleen Fair will hold the last three sessions of their joint Bible study on November 1st, 8th and 22nd. The relationship between history and theology will become clearer in these last classes. History of Middle East in Biblical times meets from 9:30 to 10:30. Snacks are provided from 10:30 to 11 and then Pastor Tony will focus on how the Bible and

history are related. You don't have to stay for both sessions, but you are welcome to do so.

The Reviews are IN!

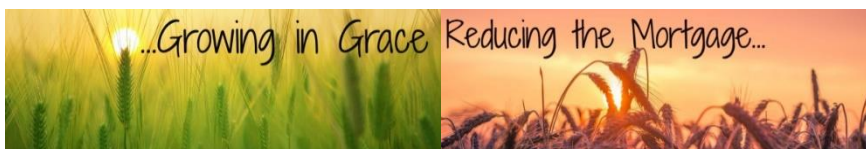
Dinner for Eight groups are off to a successful and delicious start. Thanks to Judy Oskandy and the Fellowship Committee for organizing this fellowship event. Some groups are meeting in homes, other are visiting local restaurants, and some are doing both options.



Food, Glorious Food!

Have you ever noticed how often we at Trinity gather for fellowship over food? Dinner for Eight, the Pasta Supper, the luncheon for those 90 and older, PW's Halloween luncheon, Lunch Bunch, Thanksgiving meal, and a chili dinner for Trivia Night have either taken place in October or will take place in November.

People also enjoy the coffee fellowship on Sunday. Consider signing up for a week to bring food. The options don't need to be fancy—it is not a competition. Just offer some munchies people can eat while chatting with friends after services. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. See Phyllis Wicker if you want more information.



As of October 1, additional payments totaling \$54,565 have been applied to our mortgage principle. Our projected mortgage balance in June 2022 has been reduced to **\$618,328**. Thank you for your generous stewardship! We are currently 36% of the way towards meeting our goal of lowering the mortgage balance to \$500,000.

Stewardship 2020: Be Thou My Vision - Update

As of *The Mustard Seed* deadline (Oct. 20), the Generosity Team has already received 43 estimate of giving cards, roughly 40% of the estimates we receive each year. Thank you for your prompt and enthusiastic response! By the time you receive this, Stewardship Dedication Sunday (Oct. 27) will have passed. If you have not returned your estimate of giving card, there are two important things for you to know:



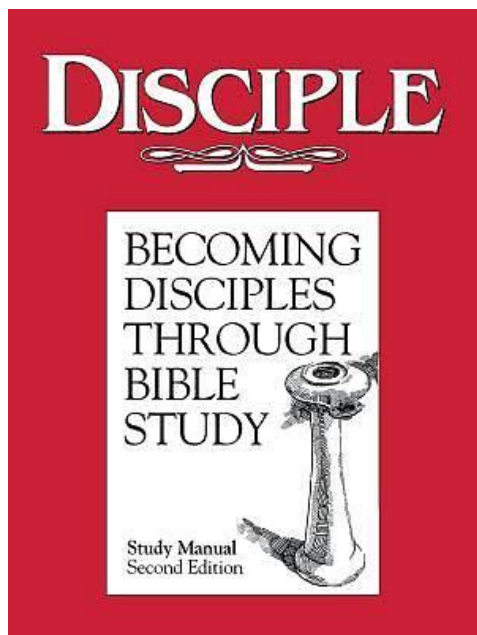
1. The Finance Committee and Session will make decisions about what ministry and mission we can plan to undertake in 2020 based upon actual estimates of giving. The better information you give us, the better we can plan to finance the church's ministry in the coming year.
2. The Finance Committee will begin making budgeting decision at its meeting on November 12, so the last Sunday to return your card for timely consideration by the finance committee is **Sunday, November 10.**

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of the mission and ministry of Trinity.

Bible Study for 2020

Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

On **November 10th, following the 10:30 worship service**, we are holding an information and planning session for the launch of Disciple Bible study. At this meeting we will provide additional information about the study, answer questions, and work to determine the start date for the study and the day and time of meetings. A sign-up sheet for those interested is still in the narthex.



A survey of both Old and New Testament books—34 weeks.

Disciple Bible study is founded on the belief that people are hungry for the word of God, for fellowship in prayer and study, and for a sense of the disciple to which Christ is calling them as committed Christians. Disciple gives Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. Disciple invites persons to bring their experiences and struggles to Scripture, uses biblical language and biblical images, and draws upon the work of scholars to aid understanding of the Bible. It is also dependent upon group discussion of Scripture made possible through a commitment to weekly study and preparation.



Earlier this year the PC(USA) selected our presbytery, New Harmony Presbytery, to be one of a handful of presbyteries to participate in the *Vital Congregations Initiative*. Once our presbytery was selected, all of the congregation were invited to be a part of this initiative, and the Session of Trinity accepted the invitation. Our denominational and presbytery leadership have been clear – this is not a program, there are no guaranteed outcomes. It is an invitation to reflect on our health as a congregation using

the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations. We expect to identify several things we are doing really well, and a few areas of new mission and ministry where we might grow our service to Christ in this community.

The initiative formally kicks-off in January and is designed to be a two-year conversation. You'll be hearing more as our Session begins its work, but at this stage it's time to share with you the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations and tell you what the first steps in the initiative will be.



The 7 Marks of Vital Congregations

1. **Lifelong Discipleship Formation** is about daily life. It's about how we claim and proclaim our identity as followers of Christ. It's about how we practice our faith; how we grow in faith, cherish faith, and share faith in the world. Beyond more words, how do people know we are disciples of Jesus Christ?
2. **Intentional Authentic Evangelism.** Evangelism is simply sharing the Good News. It is authentic and it is intentional, not merely expressions of kindness or good moral ethics. It is through intentional spiritual practices in the faith community that we meld God's story with our story, and we share that story with people in our daily lives.
3. **Outward Incarnational Focus** is about being the gathered community of Christ sent out! We go not because we have a strategy for new membership; we go because we have a Savior who commanded us to be on God's mission. We go because God's saving love in Christ cannot be contained in our buildings when we live with neighbors in need and a hurting world.
4. **Empower Servant Leadership.** All people of God, in the image of Christ, are given fruit of the Spirit and spiritual gifts meant for building up the Church. In this way, we are all called to serve the Lord, to do our part in membership of the Body of Christ. Every part is necessary. Every part is valuable, and every voice is important. Every person should be equipped, nurtured, and supported to use their gifts to glorify God, through servant leadership.



5. **Spirit-Inspired Worship** is a gift of God's wonder! Worship is our lifeline to the Holy God. Our worship should be active participation into the living relationship with the triune God; thus, all should feel welcome and have a place. Worship should challenge, teach, transform, convict, and call us into a deeper relationship with God and one another; not gratify our comforts and entertain our desires.

6. **Caring Relationships** in Christ requires true love; a sacrificial, self-emptying, perfect love. Although we are imperfect, it is about striving to see all people the way Christ sees them; not from judgments or preconceived perceptions. Caring relationships are about vulnerability and trust, about meeting all people of God where they are, and sharing our one Savior, Jesus Christ.
7. **Ecclesial Health** is about how we practice being the church together. It is about whether our mission, vision, and values match up with the ways we live together. With ecclesial health, there is joy and gratitude in coming together; people, not programs or properties are valued. People gather and are sent to be Christ's church in, to, and for the world.

First Steps

We are still learning much of what we as a congregation, led by the Session and Pastor, will do during this initiative, but we do know this much:

- Rev. Judi Settei, Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Beach will be our coach through the initiative. Judy was once a member of Trinity, and this congregation sponsored her as an Inquirer and Candidate on her journey to ordained ministry.
- The initiative includes a 7-part Bible study (one session for each of the 7 marks) and all of our members and friends will be invited to participate in this study in small groups. We anticipate invitations to these studies will begin early in 2020.
- Later in 2020 you will be asked to complete a Survey of Congregational Vitality and participate in an exegesis (exploration, study, and interpretation) of our neighborhood.

Opportunities to Get Involved

If you would be interested in serving as a Bible study leader or in helping to facilitate the Vitality Survey or the Neighborhood Exegesis Project, the Session would deeply appreciate your time and talents. Please speak with Pastor Tony, Marian Shelton, or June Metts.



A plea from your Mustard Seed editor:

If at all possible, send your information to *The Mustard Seed* email address which is mustardseed@trinitypresbychurch.com rather than to my personal email. But my personal email is still better than a text. And you can always put a paper copy in the mailbox in the office. There is at least one upcoming month when someone else will be doing the layout and editing, and if it is in a Mustard Seed mailbox, they can easily find and share your information.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

As the approaching Advent season reminds us to prepare our hearts and lives for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, it also reminds us that we have another opportunity to remember a loved one or honor a special person through the donation of a Christmas Poinsettia that will help beautify the sanctuary of Trinity during the latter part of Advent and the Christmas Eve service. **The cost is \$10 per plant and we need your order by Monday, November 25th.**

Please complete this form and place both it and a check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church (and marked "Poinsettia") and place in the offering plate or return it to the church office. If paying cash, please place the money in an envelope with this form and mark it "Poinsettia."

NAME _____ PHONE _____

_____ IN MEMORY OF _____

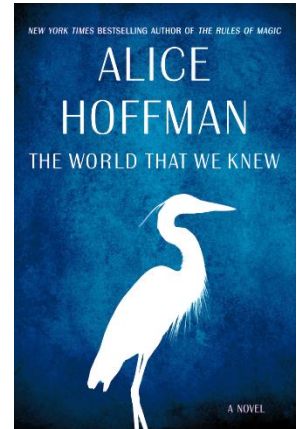
_____ IN HONOR _____

_____ TO THE GLORY OF GOD _____

Trinity Book Club—November/December

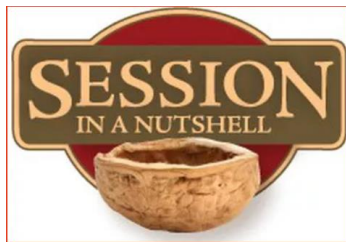
The Trinity Book Club is an invitation to read a book each month that has captured your pastor's attention long enough to finish it. Pastor Tony welcomes those who read the book and loved it (or hated), started the book and didn't quite finish it, or even just put it in their Amazon shopping cart to come enjoy a conversation with him and others from the Trinity about each month's book.

Our final book of 2019 is *The World That We Knew* by bestselling author Alice Hoffman. *The New York Times* review of this novel called it a "hymn to the power of resistance, perseverance, and enduring love in dark times." It is primarily the story of Lea Kohn, a 12-year-old Jewish girl, who manages to flee Berlin on a train bound for France in the spring of 1941. Everyone is desperate. In Berlin, the newspapers print photographs of Jewish businessmen, lawyers, and professors with captions calling them animals. "That was how evil spoke. It made its own corrupt sense; it swore that the good were evil, and that evil had come to save mankind. It brought up ancient fears and scattered them on the street like pearls. To fight what was wicked, magic and faith were needed. This is what one must turn to when there was no other option." The novel is a mix of historical fiction, mixing the brutal realities of Europe in the 1940s with a magical realism.



We will meet to discuss our reaction and responses to the novel on **Thursday, December 5** at 11am. If you have friends that enjoy good books and engaging conversation, please invite them.

All are welcome. Happy Reading!

**Session Digest from September 2019**

- The Congregation Nominating Committee has a complete slate of officers. For deacons, Janet Hoffert, Judi Bitner, and Larry Humason will serve a 3-year term. Evelyn Broderick and Patsy Jennings will serve a 1-year term. For elders, Liz Montgomery, Marian Shelton, Debbie Humason, and Bonnie Griffith will serve a 3-year term. Ray Spitz will serve a 2-year term. For the Endowment Committee, Ray Spitz, Lynnette Thompson, and Mike Shelton will serve a one-year term. A Congregational meeting was called for October 13th after the 10:30 service. The purpose of the meeting was to present the slate of officers for 2022 and other classes, as needed to fill vacancies, to the congregation. The new officers will go through training, be examined by the Session, and then ordained and installed by the congregation.
- Stewardship envelopes and a letter were mailed at the end of September.
- Jerry Kuhn has sent budget information to each committee. The committees will begin preparing their budget for 2020.
- Kay Holmes was moved from the active roll to the roll of the church triumphant.
- The narthex door now has a "panic handle" and will be locked by the Officer of the Day after the start of the 10:30 service.
- The Presbyterian Women's Council feels that we need to do more in the way of recycling glass, plastic, etc. We are already recycling paper and cardboard. It was approved by Session to have the Presbyterian Women start and fund a recycling program at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Plans are for the program to start at the first of the year. Members of the Building & Grounds committee will determine the placement of the tote/totes. Smaller containers will be placed around the church for recycled items.

