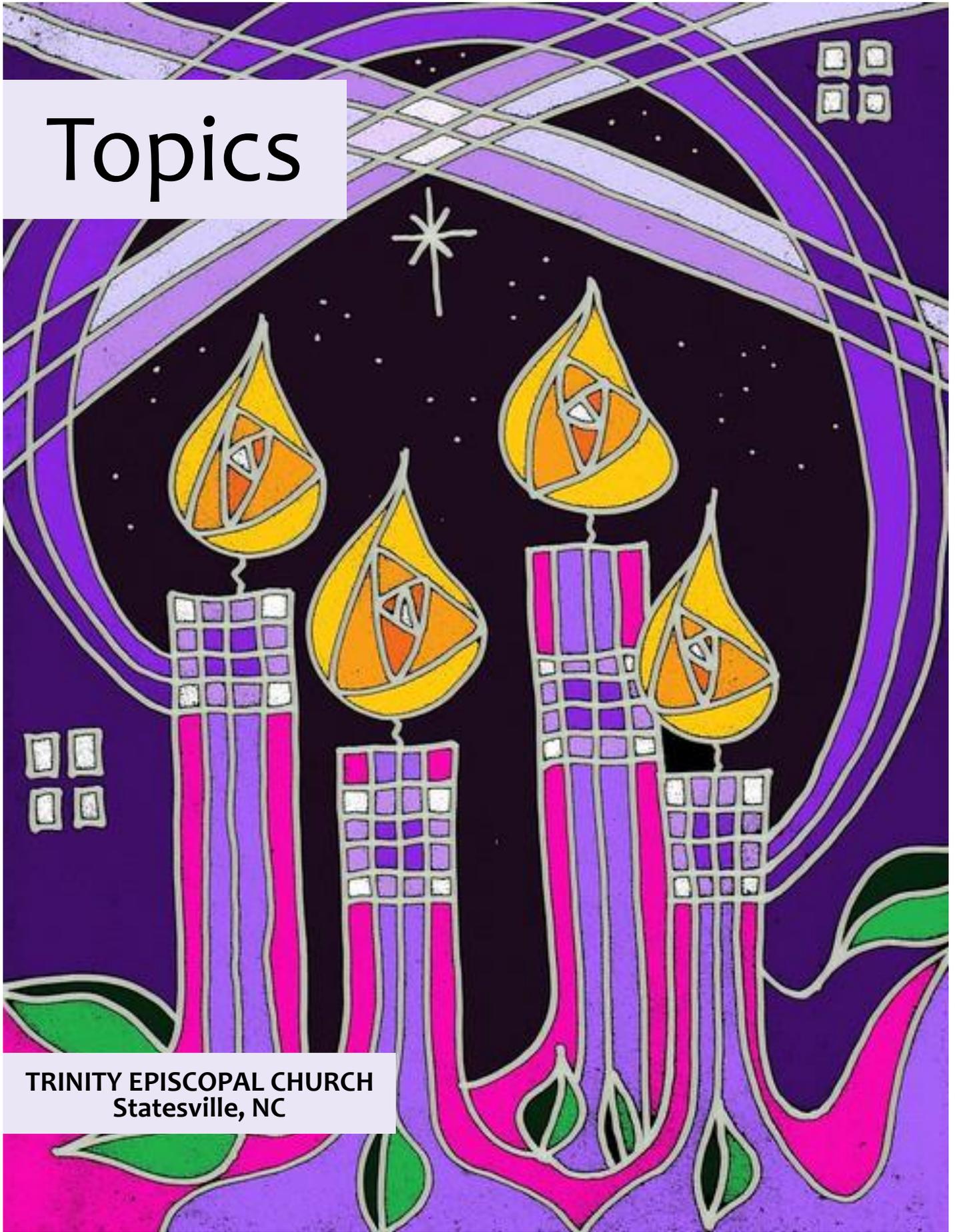


Topics

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Statesville, NC



Trinity Topics

VOLUME 41 | Number 4

Fall 2021

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Submissions

We welcome your submissions, your ideas for articles, your photos, and your comments. Please send email to smanly03@gmail.com with your input.

Sharing our time, talents, and treasure



Dear Friends,

We talk a lot about stewardship in October. It's the time when we conduct our Every Member Canvass and ask for commitments of time, talent, and treasure. I've been particularly blessed by the personal words about giving I've heard from Trinity members this year. Stewardship is "all that we are, all that we have, all the time." That's a year-round message. We just turn up the volume in October.

As we look toward the Thanksgiving holiday, we're also reminded that "all that we are, all that we have, all the time" comes from God. Stewardship is our way of saying "thank you," of saying those wonderful words, "all things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

In the time of Covid, thanksgiving may feel out of place for you. We're nearing two years of loss, loneliness, limitation, and frustration. Grief and anger seem more natural responses than gratitude. But in every circumstance of life, even in a pandemic, we have a choice to remember our gifts, especially the gift of life itself. As John Claypool famously

put it, "life is gift; birth is windfall."

Stewardship brings us back to the truth that the gifts we have been given are important. They are important enough to use wisely and well. We have all seen young children receive gifts they do not quite comprehend. They might handle the gift momentarily, shake it, inspect it, then leave it on the floor in search of something else. Likewise, we do not always understand or accept God's gifts to us. God has given us unbounded, unfathomable love in Christ. How do we accept that? What do we do with it? How do we appropriate it as a way of life?

Simply, we give it away. That's the proper way to play with any of the gifts God gives us. Give them away. Your brains, your courage, your sticktuitiveness, your humor, your joy, your heart for prayer, your trust in God's future – give them away to the world! And the great thing is that when we share God's gifts with others, we don't find our own store depleted, but multiplying. I am in no way preaching a "prosperity gospel," as I see on TV, but proclaiming a truth about God's abundance

and generosity. We come to understand God's gifts more and more as we become vessels through whom those gifts are shared with the world. As Jesus said, "whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

The word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving." Our worship every Sunday is our liturgical way of saying thank you to God. We bring gifts – our very selves – which God takes, blesses, breaks, and gives back to the world. We become

God's bread broken for the world. As we approach Thanksgiving, please remember that it is not just a day, but a way of life. It is the way of stewardship of all that we have been given – our time, our talent, and our treasure.

Peace,
Brad+

Father Brad Mullis is the rector at Trinity Episcopal Church. He can be reached at rector@trinitysvl.org / 704-872-6314.



November 12
Winter Blood Drive

November 21
Trinity Annual Meeting
Vestry Elections
(Think about serving!)

November 21
Can-Do Food Drive ends

November 24
Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

November 28
First Sunday of Advent

November 28
Wreath Making 9:30 a.m.

December 24
Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25
Christmas Day

Getting to Know You

By Jane Getsinger

Jane: During the last few years of our shared COVID experience and challenges, the mission of the church has continued. We have needed and looked for strength and comfort; and we have turned to our church, our faith, and each other. Trinity has continued to beautifully respond to undergirding each person's needs as well as those of our larger community. As we have done that, we have grown both spiritually and in numbers. You may notice some new faces upon your return to corporate worship here at Trinity.

By way of an introduction, we have asked our new folks to share a little about themselves. We thank them for sharing, and we look forward to continuing our worshiping and working together.

Martin O'Connell

My wife and I moved to Statesville three years ago to be closer to Caroline's wonderful mother, Ann Brady. Before this we lived, worked and raised our family in the DC area for 30 years. I am retired from GEICO and am currently supervising the Meals on Wheels center in Troutman, while my wife is a phlebotomist at Iredell Memorial. We have been blessed with three wonderful children: Patrick, who works at Facebook doing "computer stuff" of some sort that I can't even begin to understand; Lauren, who is in Boston working as a Paralegal in immigration law; and John, who lives in Vancouver, WA and works as a helicopter mechanic.

I have a lot of current interests including playing and listening to music, running, brewing, riding motorcycles, and volunteering my time with different organizations. I really believe in giving back time and money, especially to the younger generations. But what gets me up in the morning? On Sunday, of course, it's Father Brad's 8:00 service; but Monday through Saturday, it's the New York Times crossword puzzle! I've been a big fan of crosswords since college, and I really love a good crossword.



Julie Underwood

Our family accepted a Facebook invitation from James Hogan to join Trinity's YouTube livestream service in the Spring of 2021. Our family had never attended an Episcopalian service, so this was a comfortable and welcoming opportunity.

After several months of online and in-person worship, we requested to join the Trinity family. We were all previously members of a local Baptist church.

Jonathan & Julie both work as Registered Nurses, and Keeleigh is an 8th grader in an Iredell-Statesville School.

We have a dog named Cora and a cat named Austin (gray). Our 15-year old cat, Willis, passed in April of this year. We live here in Statesville.

Our family enjoys traveling, so we selected a photo from a cruise a couple of years ago and a "selfie" from last Christmas of the whole family.



Thank you for welcoming us to Trinity Episcopal Church.

Cheryl Hough

My name is Cheryl Hough. I grew up in Martinsville, Virginia. I attended Peace College in Raleigh, then went into the Air Force. I was in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Afterwards I moved to Tampa, Florida, where I graduated from the University of South Florida. I became a writer for NBC, CBS, UPN and ABC.

My husband, son, and I moved to Statesville in 2011. Here I have volunteered in my son's school, and I am also a Tai Chi instructor. I attended my hometown church in Martinsville until COVID stopped travel. I had attended a concert at Trinity before the lockdown and thought it was just a beautiful place to worship. I started watching the online services the first day of Advent in 2020. When in-person worship was allowed, I started coming in person. My initial thoughts were correct: Trinity is a wonderful place to worship.



Joanne Christman

Having moved to Statesville a year ago, I knew I would not have to search for a church. It was a matter of googling "Episcopal churches in Statesville" and voila!, I had my church home. My patience was tested in so many ways during the initial COVID lockdown and the months which followed. It was months before I could enter the doors of my new church home. I look forward to recognizing the folks behind the masks and learning names.

I have two grown sons and three grandchildren. They do not live in the immediate area, but perhaps someday we can coordinate schedules so they can visit. I firmly believe there is something to be grateful for each day that I open my eyes.

(continued on the following page)

Getting to Know You

(continued from the previous page)

Art and Lynne Werner

We moved from CA to NC in 2015 to be near our daughter and two grandchildren who also moved here the same year. We also have a son, daughter in law, and two grandchildren who live in the Thousand Oaks area of Ventura County, CA.

After college, Art spent 5+ years in the Air Force as an Air Traffic Control Officer, with tours at a SAC base and in Taiwan during the Vietnam War. After our marriage in 1968, Art worked at an aerospace company for 17 years and a semiconductor company for 5 years.

Lynne graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in teaching and was recruited for a teaching position at an elementary school in CA. When we lived in Texas, she was certified as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). We have lived in 3 states: California, Hawaii, and Texas.

Jane: Please, reach out and introduce yourselves to these folks. We are blessed to have the tools of virtual worship, but there is no substitute for corporate worship. Scripture reminds us, "Do not neglect in meeting together." Hebrews 10:25. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20.

It is good to be making progress toward getting back together at Trinity, and we all look forward to welcoming more new faces!

If you are new and we missed you for this article, please be assured that we welcome you and look forward to introducing you and getting to know you!

Financial Snapshot

Trinity's finances through October

Operating Fund	2021	2020	2021 Annual
Income-Plate	16,926	25,412	27,000
Income-Pledges	210,779	205,911	232,000
Income-other	436	5,138	1,180
Total Income	228,141	236,460	260,180
Total Expenses	212,238	193,703	261,830
YTD Income minus Expenses	15,903	42,757	(1,650)

An Unexpected Lesson

By Jenneffer Sixkiller

Sometimes, when God wants you to learn a lesson, it feels like an anvil falling from a mountainside cliff. Other times, it comes in a small, almost undetectable way. You really have to pay mindful attention with all senses so you don't miss it.

I had such a moment this fall. My eldest child was the vehicle for this lesson in humility. Jasmir's 10th birthday was approaching, the big double-digits. As a former professional cake decorator, with every child's birthday, I aimed to top what I did last year, as far as birthdays were concerned. Character cakes, low-carb cakes, taller and more beautiful. Always made from scratch.



As I've been deepening my spiritual journey the last few years, the recurring theme of my lessons is getting out of my own way in order to serve others better. This year, I had plans to do these double dutch chocolate cupcakes with a ganache filling, and a hard chocolate shell frosting. But when I was reviewing my plans with Jazzy, about what he wanted for his birthday party a few days prior, he let it slip that he wanted lemon cupcakes. Then, he looked me in the eye, but kind of furtively, and I replied, "ok, cool. not chocolate, but lemon." I was listening. He asked, "are you mad?" [Gulp] Talk about humble pie! That really broke my heart.



It was at that point, I realized those cakes weren't really for the kids, as I thought they were; they were about me. I guess I needed to prove to myself that I was still talented, could still challenge myself, or something similar, ego-related.

I was able to say and mean it, "of course I'm not mad. If you want lemon, we can do that." Boxed cake mix, icing from the can, and we picked out candy melts and a silicone mold together, to make HIS idea of a gaming theme come together.

It may seem silly, but this was a real experience of growth and humility. I am grateful for him, for the opportunity, and for learning. Thanks be to God.

Billie Bourgeois

A Life Well Lived

By Harriette Andrews



Mildred “Billie” Ikard Bourgeois was born on August 7th, 1920. It was the same year that women finally gained the right to vote. Billie was always pleased to have had that happen in her birth year!

Billie grew up in Cyril, Oklahoma, Indian country, where her parents leased land from the Native Americans. She was the oldest child, with 3 younger brothers. This was also Dust Bowl country, which Billie experienced during her adolescence.



Billie was a very active young person, a “tomboy,” who loved riding horses, playing basketball in high school (she was very tall), seeking adventure, and having a good time.

The Second World War began when Billie started college. She left Oklahoma College for Women in her junior year to “do her part in winning the war.” As Brad recalls, she told him “I was just convinced they couldn’t win the war without me. That’s why I signed up.” She went to a radio and electronics school where she learned technical skills that were essential when she joined the Navy. She spent the war years repairing radios in airplanes coming from war zones so that they could return to action. Billie was very proud of being able to serve her country.



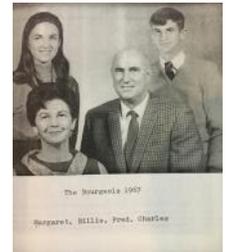
Billie had met Fred Bourgeois while he was in the Navy. After the war was over, they married, and went first to Houston, Texas, then to Nashville, Tennessee, where Billie returned to college to receive a Bachelor’s degree (1953), and then a Master’s Degree in Education. Fred, working for Eastern Airlines, was transferred to Charlotte, NC.



Billie taught for a number of years, always continuing her education in various places: a summer at UCLA, courses at UNC Charlotte, and eventually a doctorate in Education from UNC Greensboro. She continued her teaching career, teaching at all levels, from elementary to college, and was a creative and excellent teacher.

Billie and Fred moved to Lake Norman in the 60’s, where they built the house where they brought up their two chil-

dren, Margaret and Charlie, and where she became expert in water skiing, boating and other water sports. They joined Trinity Episcopal Church in Statesville, where they attended faithfully and participated in outreach programs and other activities. After Fred died, Billie continued to attend service until recently.



After retirement, Billie continued to pursue many skills and interests: quilting, stitching, traveling. She was involved in many community outreach projects: Fifth Street Ministries, building Habitat houses, Trinity’s yard sale, and many others.



Trinity Yard Sale



Antartica!



Voting

She also took part in a project Trinity participated in about 20 years ago, which was accepting and supporting a Bosnian family to live in Statesville. Billie helped them get settled in their apartment and find their way around town; and, most important of all, she visited them every week for several years to help them learn English. She built a strong friendship with the family.

Billie loved traveling; having visited all the states and many countries, some favorites were Israel, Russia, and Antarctica. And she loved politics! Never missed a vote!

Those who have known Billie, either as long-time friends or briefly, were truly blessed by her sharing her life. She always met each person with a smile, and made each one feel important. She was always concerned about others. Her kindness, wisdom, honesty, and humor will always remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

There will never be enough room or time to tell all of Billie’s activities and adventures! We were happy to have had her for so many years, 101 years.

Harriette Andrews

Updates and Happenings

Senior Warden Notes

October is stewardship month for Trinity Episcopal Church. Layton Getsinger and Jim Johnston worked hard to get packets prepared for all members to encourage pledging so a budget can be prepared for 2022. Trinity is in great financial shape because our members did a great job with financial support during the covid crisis. Now we must think of the future! Please do what you can to help with the stabilization and growth of Trinity. A 5-10 percent increase would be helpful, if possible.



We may come out of COVID stronger than before due to several factors. We now have a virtual service each Sunday, which will continue. This attracts non-members each Sunday and has helped us recruit new faces to join Trinity. The Pre-school will grow, which introduces more adults to our church. We have the Organist & Director of Music Ministries and the Parish Administrator positions filled with good people and this contributes to our strength

I have enjoyed my year as Senior Warden, working with Brad, the church team, and the vestry during this most difficult time. I came across my motto in my initial statement: "feeling good by helping others," which we all should live by; and I think Trinity does a pretty job in this regard. Hopefully more outreach will be possible in 2022, such as the oyster roast, where we generate funds to help the less fortunate.

Now myself and 3 other vestry members will be going off terms in 2021. We need to recruit 4 members to replace us by the annual meeting on November 21st. Please give me any names of people who may be interesting in serving

Thanks.

Jim Rhyne, Senior Warden

Preschool Corner

Light Up Statesville Preschool Luminary Fundraiser



Share your light with your neighbors and support Trinity's Preschool by purchasing a luminary kit for this holiday season.

Kits are **\$10 each** (covers 20-30 feet) and include: 10 white bags, 2" votive candles, sand, and instructions

Order forms may be picked up at Trinity Church or downloaded and printed from the church website by clicking [HERE](#).

Forms and payment may be dropped off at the church or mailed to: Trinity Episcopal Preschool, 801 Henkel Road, Statesville, NC 28677

Cash or check accepted (payable to Trinity Episcopal Preschool)

Orders will be accepted until Friday, December 3rd

Light your luminaries on Sunday, December 12th at 5:30 pm and transform our community into a winter wonderland!

Updates and Happenings

Blessing of the Animals

“...and fill our hearts with thankfulness for their being.”

That is part of what we pray when we bless the animals each year on the playground at Trinity. Held on the closest Sunday to the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4), the brief service offers a time to acknowledge the love we and God have for our non-human friends and to give thanks for them and for their place in God’s marvelous creation.



This year around a dozen dogs and their owners were present for the blessing on a lovely Sunday afternoon. Large and small canines received their blessings lovingly, and we all spoke and barked our thanks to God. At the end of the service an offering was taken for the local humane society.



Can-Do Food Drive

Trinity’s Annual Canned Food Drive

Bring non-perishable food items to leave in the Narthex for Iredell Christian Ministries.

Collecting until Sunday, November 21 at noon.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please drop it by the church office at your convenience during the week, mail it to the church, or click [HERE](#) to donate online. (Once on the giving page, scroll down a bit - the link will be below the 2022 pledge information.)

Checks should be made payable to Trinity with "ICM" noted on the memo line.

Thank you!



Building Usage Update

After many months of not being able to have groups meet at Trinity, building usage is beginning to pick up again. It’s a wonderful outreach and stewardship of our facility to let folks from the community meet at our church. One note of interest - after December, the Cub Scouts will no longer be meeting at Trinity. Our Diocese decided not to renew any scout charters until legal matters can be resolved at the national level. Many churches across several denominations have made the same decision. We look forward to the future when we can once again host the scouts.

Updates and Happenings

Youth Choir

Come Join the Youth Choir!

Youth Choir has been singing for a few Sundays this year, and we are hoping to be singing during the Christmas Pageant, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 19, 2021. We will still need to wear masks and keep a healthy distance apart, but we will be worshipping with our singing.



We are hoping to create two youth choirs: one for the younger children, and one for the older children who would enjoy more of a challenge. Also, if there is interest, we are considering a teen choir. Right now, we have been practicing at the end of Sunday School hour downstairs, but we could discuss the possibility of meeting after school some time during the week.

We look forward to hearing your youth sing! Please encourage your children to share their talents with Trinity's congregation.

Julia Bozarth
Director of Music Ministries
juliatrinitymusic@gmail.com



Musicians at Trinity

Calling All Musicians!

Please consider joining one or more of our Music Groups at Trinity!



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is for all singers, ages high school and up, and we lead the music for the 10:30 am service. Currently, we plan to meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. We will wear masks during rehearsals, until advised otherwise.

Handbells

Our Handbell group is made up of ringers who have at least some basic education in reading music, although we can write in the note names and timing for any interested ringers. Currently, we plan to meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM in the multi-purpose room, which is upstairs and across from the sanctuary, and we will be wearing masks until advised otherwise.

We are hoping to add new members, so please come and see what it's all about!

Children's/ Youth Choir

Any younger children (ages up to second grade) who are interested in singing will have short choir rehearsals at the end of the Sunday School hour, and we'll meet in the Sunday School area. Older youth, Third Grade to High School, are invited to sing with the Youth Choir, which will rehearse for no longer than a half hour after the 10:30 am service on Sundays in the sanctuary.

Trinity Band

We are currently seeking band members to join us for a Christmas Eve band at Trinity. Even if you haven't played for a long time, you still can dust off your instrument and come join us! We are planning to play a couple of Christmas carols, which aren't too difficult. Rehearsal times are still in the planning stages.

Please see Martin O'Connell, Fr. Brad, or Julia Bozarth, and let us know if you will be able to be a part of the band.

Thanks!
Julia Bozarth
juliatrinitymusic@gmail.com

Updates and Happenings

Community Garden News

Produce from the Community Garden has been bountiful this fall, with 160 pounds of sweet potatoes going to help folks through Iredell Christian Ministries. Once the potatoes were harvested, they had to cure for 2 weeks before going to ICM. And there's no waste in the garden - the sweet potato vines were collected to feed cows! Collard greens will be next crop from the garden!

Many thanks to Linda Rodeffer for taking over the flower guild garden after Harriette Andrews moved to California. The flower guild provides many of the beautiful arrangements for the altar during church services.

If you are interested in reserving a bed in the community garden for the 2022 growing season, the deadline is March 1st. Please contact Dee Ham (idtham3@gmail.com / 704-873-2362) if you'd like to learn more.



Thomas Hogan before digging



... and after



Bob Foster planting collard greens in the garden



Herdsman David collecting the sweet potato vines



Jim Rhyne & Bob Foster delivering the bounty to ICM

Christian Formation

Christian Formation Meeting In-Person Again

In early October the 9:30 Christian Formation hour returned to meeting in person at Trinity. Children of all ages are currently gathering in the parish hall for a lesson based on the scripture readings for the day. It has been a small group of children so far, and a small group of adults rotating in the leader role each week. As children are able to receive vaccines, we hope that more will be able to return to this time of fellowship and learning. Then too, we hope, to establish more formal teams of leadership and to divide the group by age.

Adults have been gathering in the multi-purpose room off the Hospitality Hall upstairs. This small group is pondering basic elements of the Christian faith using the creeds as an outline. Father Brad is leading this time. Outlines are provided and discussion is encouraged. All are most welcome.

The Wednesday Bible Study continues to meet via zoom through this semester.

Trinity Episcopal Fall Blood Drive

Friday, November 12, 2021
2:00 pm until 6:30 pm

What a great way we can give back!

You can still go out and give blood. Help to avoid potential blood shortages in the future. "Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement."
U.S. Surgeon General



For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call Bill Neely at 704-929-6554.

Milestones

Birthdays

NOVEMBER

- 11/3 Sam McDowell
- 11/4 Susan Cardwell
- 11/4 Christie Dalton
- 11/6 Chuck Lindler
- 11/9 Eva Clendenin
- 11/11 Jerrie Greene
- 11/13 Lorene Ramsey
- 11/16 Mary Serene
- 11/17 Nimocks Haigh
- 11/20 Sonny Rankin
- 11/21 Cathy Marshall
- 11/21 James Serene
- 11/23 Art Werner
- 11/25 Nancy Currier
- 11/26 Abigail Hart
- 11/27 Elizabeth Cardwell
- 11/28 Ali Warren
- 11/29 Bo Gilliam
- 11/29 Aimee Reimann
- 11/30 Kelly Sheeks

DECEMBER

- 12/1 Jonathan York
- 12/3 Kenzie Beard
- 12/3 Leann Dagenhart
- 12/3 Bekah Gottholm
- 12/3 Alex Martin
- 12/4 Eli Smith
- 12/4 Kaye Taliana
- 12/4 Gay Tatman
- 12/4 Jeff Watts
- 12/6 Pierce Deter
- 12/6 Andrew Pendleton
- 12/7 Charleene Wallace
- 12/7 Shaina Wilson
- 12/8 Amy Lawton
- 12/9 Amanda Clendenin
- 12/9 Lori Lawrence
- 12/11 Pat Henley
- 12/11 Allison Hughes
- 12/11 Elizabeth Rankin
- 12/12 Caroline Alexander
- 12/12 Bryant Graves

- 12/14 Quinn Payne
- 12/15 Gray Lackey
- 12/15 Sandra Poole
- 12/17 Rowdy Armistead
- 12/17 Jennifer York
- 12/19 Arna Deter
- 12/19 Scott Rankin
- 12/21 Cindy Booker
- 12/23 Christian York
- 12/26 David Currier
- 12/27 Alice Hunsucker
- 12/29 Bob Johnson
- 12/31 Thomas Hogan

JANUARY

- 1/2 Dolores Price
- 1/3 Sam Holt
- 1/5 Edwin Pressly
- 1/6 Jerry Gehling
- 1/6 Ryder Smith
- 1/8 Angela Miller
- 1/9 Carolyn Pressly
- 1/10 Richard Holshouser
- 1/13 Chris Shoobridge
- 1/15 Mary Dulin
- 1/15 Kerrington Harknett
- 1/15 Joe Peters
- 1/17 Raina Hassler
- 1/20 Honoria Harknett
- 1/21 Carolyn Solberg
- 1/23 Joe Furr
- 1/23 Kay Holshouser
- 1/25 Kelly Hogan
- 1/26 Bill Neely
- 1/27 Elisa Pressly
- 1/29 Denise Fox
- 1/30 Gary Clark
- 1/31 Holly Hassler

FEBRUARY

- 2/1 Leslie Lackey
- 2/2 Ronald Freeman
- 2/2 Jean Tatum
- 2/3 Camden Furr
- 2/3 Dino Quarantiello
- 2/4 Lauren Rutter

- 2/6 Mickie Vacca
- 2/10 Kirk Lawton
- 2/12 Grayson Griggs
- 2/14 Walter Fox
- 2/20 Nancy Warlick
- 2/21 Kathy Floerke
- 2/22 Frances Beeson
- 2/22 Richard Griggs
- 2/22 Ray Lackey
- 2/23 Sally Mullis
- 2/23 Destiny Tsumas
- 2/25 Michele Warren
- 2/26 Ruby Eagle
- 2/26 Will Serene
- 2/27 Jim Lawton
- 2/28 Jim Johnston

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

- 11/11 Buddy and Margaret Johnson
- 11/19 Chris and Maggie Shoobridge
- 11/21 Chuck and Kim Dockery
- 11/29 Will and Susan Fanjoy

DECEMBER

- 12/17 Locke and Joy Allison
- 12/19 Jim and Re Johnston

JANUARY

- 1/1 Bill and Tammy Neely

FEBRUARY

- 2/15 John and Carolyn Solberg
- 2/17 Art and Joanne Schinaman

Please send any obituaries or birth notices to parishadmin@trinitysvl.org for inclusion in Topics. Similarly, if you spot any errors, please send those to the same email address.



P.O. Box 1103 Statesville, NC 28687
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

