
Trinity Avenue

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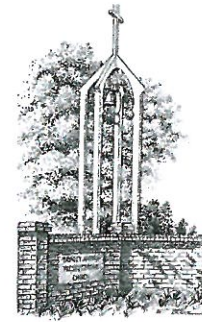
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ON TAP

Trusting God, Living in Christ, Loving All!

Greetings, Friends—

Last month, on a dark and drizzly Monday evening during rush hour, I was making my way to Raleigh for a meeting, traveling on I-40. I had left an hour earlier than usual in hopes of getting ahead of the crowd, but a fender-bender up the road, stalled vehicle on the shoulder and nasty weather all stymied the fruit of my good intentions. I was surrounded by a sea of red tail lights and a lot of drivers who were just as eager to get to their destination as I was, with no real hope of getting there fast. Not that we all didn't try.

Cars zipped in and out of lanes, elbowed their way into gaps between vehicles and accelerated in short, sometimes breathtaking bursts, to keep the onslaught of merging vehicles at bay. I slowly felt my own heart rate rise as my hands tightened their grip on the steering wheel. My father used to always talk to me about defensive driving when I was growing up, but the temptation to stage my own offensive strategies grew each time that I got edged out of line, and watched a lane of traffic that I had formerly occupied suddenly pick up speed, making me feel jealous and shortsighted.

I was going to be leading a devotion at my meeting, if I ever got there, and had brought with me a Tibetan singing bowl. It is a hand-pounded metal bowl that, when struck, issues forth a pure, resonant, *bing!* Getting into the car earlier that evening, I had dropped my materials onto the back seat, but had placed the singing bowl on the floorboard behind the driver's seat, with its cylindrical wooden mallet resting loosely inside.

I had long since forgotten about the singing bowl as I made my way south on the road that, in my exasperation and anxiety, I had decided to rename, the Durham Motor Speedway. But, the first time that a driver jumped into the lane in front of me and I had to hit the breaks, the singing bowl chirped up from the back seat as its mallet jostled inside: *bing!* It startled me at first, but soon became my constant backseat driver. I dipped into another lane to try and get ahead: *bing!* Accelerated to keep up for fear of losing my place: *bing!* Tapped the breaks when cars suddenly stopped: *bing!*

Before long, I couldn't help but laugh out loud at what was happening. At every jerking movement that would otherwise provide me with an occasion for frustration or fear, that little *bing!* sounded and called me back to myself. It made me breathe easier. It gave me perspective on my situation. It prompted me to compassion. It reminded me of God. It helped me hear that still, small voice of the Spirit within, that invited me to use the time that I would have otherwise spent on muttering for prayer. Its chirpy *bing!* issued forth at the very moments when cynicism and competition tried to take hold, and would have undoubtedly multiplied within me if left unchecked.

In the rush to Christmas, characterized by long, impatient lines in stores, edged-out quality time in the drive to year-end, and the tail lights of mounting tasks that never seem to move off your to-do list, the church year of Advent is the *bing!* With its out-of-step overtones of waiting and longing in its hymns, while secular Christmas music streams on: *bing!* With its summons to prayer so that you can remain centered on what matters most: *bing!* With its daily devotions that invite you to fortify yourself with solid food amidst the many saccharine offerings of the season: *bing!* With its call to serve so that you might experience why it is more blessed to give than to receive: *bing!* With its worship that sweeps you up into the reality of something greater than yourself: *bing!*

While you may not have a singing bowl in your car, I hope that you will nonetheless hear its summons in your heart this Advent season. May the Holy Spirit strike a chord in your soul each time you are feeling overcome by all that is on your mind and plate and in our world. May it chime up and resonate within you when you find yourself losing sight of Jesus when all that competes for your attention tries to crowd him out of your view. May the essence of this season of waiting, with its promise of deep joy, sustain you in the hope of the simple truth that we celebrate: "*And the Word became flesh and lived among us...*" *Bing!*

In the Hope of Emmanuel,
Katie

Come Worship With Us!

We are an Earthcare congregation. Please recycle the newsletter when finished with it.

Church Officers

Session: Bob Clarke, Mary Gunderson, Leslie Lobaugh, Barbara VanDewoestine, Peggy Waters, Caroline Armacost, Brent Blaylock, Arland Eyl, Susie Gilbert, Greg Cates, Mary Martin (Clerk), Bill Ross, Catherine Wilson, Steve Yova.

Diaconate: Seth Jernigan, Jenny Peters, Andy Riley, Fletcher Wilson, Howard Wood, Laura Garrett, Jane Harper, Ruth Petrea, Mark Phillips, Bill Wicker, Micheale Collie, Jean Findlay, Ralph Gunderson, Nick Staff, Bert Wolf

Church Staff: Rev. Katie Crowe, Senior Pastor; Rev. Graham McChesney, Parish Associate; Tommy Grimm, Director of Family Ministries; Josh Gritter, Seminary Intern; Harry Jansen, Director of Music Ministries; Tina Petrillo, Business Manager; Lori Hardin, Director of the Weekday School; Lisa Drummond, Hospitality Coordinator; Janet Burney, Office Administrator; John Faulkenbury, Night Security; Martin Davis, Director of Facilities; Renita Harvey and Leah Hargrove, Childcare; Weekday School Teachers: Lisa Drummond, Tami Frenduto, Audrey Gomes, Maren Hardin, Sue Huber, Venetha Machock, Andrea Michos and Ann Pearson

Christmas Fellowship Night—December 6, 2015

Join us at 4:30pm on the front steps of the sanctuary (or in the narthex in case of rain) for a carol sing. We'll have warm beverages and blankets available as we sing the news of our Savior's birth in the streets of Durham. Then we'll gather at 5:15 for dinner and the traditional 12 Days of Christmas sing-along in the fellowship hall. Dinner is provided, but please bring a dessert to share.

Newsletter items should be sent to jburney@trinityave.org. Please submit items for the Feb. Newsletter by Jan. 15th.

Pray for me.

Catherine Wilson

Katie Ross loaned me the book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. *Just Mercy* is an autobiographical account of attorney Bryan Stevenson's work as founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to representing those that have been wrongly accused and convicted of crimes. Stevenson has been named 'America's young Nelson Mandela' by Desmond Tutu; I strongly recommend this book.

When I started reading Katie's copy of the book, I noticed three sheets of paper entitled 'Reunion Freedom Circle Sign In Sheet' tucked in the back cover. Katie read the book while she was interning in DC, and as part of her work, she met with small groups of incarcerated individuals. As Stevenson introduced the cases through the book, my consciousness raised for the names from the sign in sheet...Daniel, Jerry, Benny, Aaron*...

The far right box in the table is entitled *Prayer Requests*. We know of prayer requests in our community, those listed in the bulletin and those invited at the end of meetings. Names are offered for those that are ill, grieving, or in need. Violence in communities near and far is lamented. Praise for an upcoming wedding or new baby is shared. And we bow our heads...

The men that gathered at the Freedom Circle took a different approach, as noted on the sign-in sheet, to solicitation of prayer requests. Daniel* asked for prayers for Daniel. In Jerry's box, he simply wrote his name. Benny and Aaron did the same. Another member asked for prayers for 'my spiritual life.' Another 'that I lose weight'. Yet another for 'everyone here.'

Pray for me. Pray for me. Pray for me. I need prayer.

I wonder why there seemed such a difference between the responses to request for prayer. Is it that the incarcerated cannot hide from the reality of their brokenness and sin because they are now defined by a verdict and a sentence? Are we influenced by a culture where it is hard to speak of our own need and brokenness, unless it is obvious? As the incarcerated gather in the name of freedom, I wonder if they understand that requesting their own need for prayers, their own brokenness, is a step toward freedom.

A poignant moment in *Just Mercy* is when Stevenson is questioning his own investment in his tireless work when he has found out that he is not able to save a man, Jimmy Dill, from being executed. Why keep on in the trenches? Stevenson articulates that he does not do the work because it is required, or necessary, or even that it is important. He says, "I do what I do because I'm broken, too."

Men in the Freedom Circle do not deny their brokenness. There is great risk, I believe, if we do not learn from them. May we at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian join in the prayers of these men, brothers in Christ, and seek release from the captivity of our fears and sin. In acknowledging our brokenness and need, may we pray for one another, and find freedom and rest together.

Come, thou long expected Jesus. Born to set thy people free. From our fears and sins release us. Help us find our rest in thee.

Psalm 119:32. You have set my heart free

*all names have been changed.

CALENDAR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dates	Communion	Counters	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
Dec. 6	9 am: Chris & Cathy Perry 11 am: Arland Eyl, Catherine Wilson, Ruth Petrea, Fletcher Wilson	Susan Ross (lead) Tom Hadzor Fletcher Wilson	Grace & Maggie Garrett Emma & Hannah Wilcox P-I-C: Garrett	<u>December 9am Services:</u> Rick & Suzanne Freeman <u>December 11am Services:</u> TBA
Dec. 13	9am: Chris & Carol Leach	Joe Beavers (lead) Sam Nichols Jim Elkins	<i>No other December Acolytes scheduled in December due to Cantata, Children's pageant & Sunday after Christmas.</i>	
Dec. 20	9am: Suzy Ward & Carol Rose	Chris Leach (lead) Dan Richards Art Ferguson		
Dec. 27	9am: Edith & Marshall Boon	Bert Wolf (lead) Howard Wood Arthur Rogers		
Jan. 3	9am: Chris & Cathy Perry 11:00: Susie Gilbert, Peggy Waters, Nick Staffa, Bert Wolf	J. VanderWeide (lead) G. VanderWeide Michael Garrett		<u>January 9am Ushers & Greeters TBA</u>
Jan. 10	9am: Chris & Carol Leach	Len Stockburger (lead) Bobby Stockburger Phil Hutchings		
Jan. 17	9am: Suzy Ward & Carol Rose	R. Blankenship (lead) Chuck Lloyd Noell Tillett		
Jan. 24	9am: Edith & Marshall Boon	(lead counter TBA) Suzanne Freeman Randy Ray		
Jan. 31	9am: Marie Grauerholz	Bill Waddell Greg Cates Mark Phillips		

Many thanks to the dedicated people who prepared and cleaned up Communion for the 9:00AM Sunday worship services in 2015. These people were Carol & Chris Leach, Carol Rose & Suzy Ward, Edith & Marshall Boon, Cathy & Chris Perry, Marie Grauerholz, and Lloydette Hoof. *Your services are greatly appreciated!*

Many thanks, also to the following people who served our church as ushers and greeters at the 9:00am Sunday worship services in 2015: Deirdre Gordon and Kay Williams, Brent & Debbie Blaylock, Brian & Jenni Murphy, Tom & Nancy Carstens, Joe and Reba Beavers, Mark & Denise Garner, Chris & Carol Leach, Chris & Cathy Perry, Randy & Judi Bishop, Neal & Jule Fann, Clare & Sally Adkin, and Rick & Suzanne Freeman. *Your services are greatly appreciated!*

Sign Up is Open for Photography Appointments for our New Church Directory

Photo times are now available at these dates and times:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 7 2:00—9:00 PM January 28 2:00—9:00 PM	January 8 2:00—8:30 PM January 29 2:00—8:30 PM	January 9 10:00 AM—5:00 PM January 30 10:00 AM—5:00 PM



Members will be photographed and will view and select their photograph(s) in the same appointment setting. Members are Under NO obligation to pay anything or buy anything. Each member-family will receive one directory and an 8 x 10 photo of their choice at no cost.

When you click on the link above you will be asked to create a user name and password. But it is easy! Need help? Representatives from the deacons will be in the narthex with their computers ready to help make your appointment on **Sign Up Help Sundays: December 6, 13, and 20th.**

Sally Adkin (919-286-2055) and Corlis Wood (919-612-8904) will gladly respond to questions.

Christmas at Trinity
Cantata "A Savior is Born"
 By Randol Alan Bass
 Presented by
Trinity Choir & Trinity Chamber Orchestra
 Laurie Siegel, Megan Gray, David Wiehle & Bob Clarke, soloists
 Harry Jansen, Director of Music
 Sunday, December 13th at 11:00am
 ++++++
Festival Service of Lessons & Carols
 Trinity Choir, soloists and strings
 Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2015

Youth and Children's Ministries

Upcoming Youth, Children, and Family Events

- 12/6: All Church Fellowship Dinner**
See below!
- 12/13: Youth Christmas Caroling Adventure**
From 4-6:30pm, we'll load into cars at the church and cruise around town to anoint members' ears with Christmas carols.
- 12/20: Children's Christmas Pageant**
At 11am, children will perform the Christmas story with their characteristic creativity and glee. Come at 10am to the children's wing that morning to prepare.
- 12/24: Children's Christmas Eve Service**
In the chapel at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve, we'll celebrate the Christ's birth with music, storytelling, and glow sticks substituting for Christ's candles. Children of all ages are welcome at this brief, joyous service. Adults can come, too!



Pictures from our annual Youth "Parents Night Out" fundraiser. Top: Evan and Paul play a board game with Wyatt and Stella Jernigan. Bottom: Brett Albright beams over the craft Kaytlyn made with him.



Above: Monroe Wolf plays her violin to lead the Children at Sunday School in music.



Right: Caroline & Amanda Foley and Grace Garrett decorate pumpkins at Faithgirlz.

Christmas Fellowship Night: An Event for All Ages
 Sunday, December 6th

Join us at 4:30pm on the front steps of the sanctuary (or in the narthex in case of rain) for a carol sing. We'll have warm beverages and blankets available as we sing the news of our Savior's birth in the streets of Durham. Then we'll gather at 5:15pm for dinner and the traditional 12 days of Christmas sing-a-long in the fellowship hall. Dinner is provided, but please bring a dessert to share.

Please sign up on the friendship pad or call the church office to RSVP. Thanks!
 (919-682-3865)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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Habitat Home Build in Progress—Habitat for Humanity of Durham has been building affordable homes for 30 years. Habitat homes are affordable because a significant portion of the down payment comes from outside donations and “sweat equity” paid by the owners, the majority of the construction labor is provided by volunteers and the mortgage provided to the home owner is interest free. TAPC is partnering with Triangle Presbyterian and Watts Street Baptist to sponsor and help construct a new home at 107 Roberson Street. Once completed, the home will be owned and occupied by Shawna Burgess, a 33 year old single mother with a 12 year old daughter named Nia. The home is located in east Durham, one block west of the Maureen Joy charter school.

As of November 14th, framing was completed on three walls as seen in the photo above. Having lost time due to recent rains, the completion date will be delayed into early 2016. You may sign up for volunteer construction sessions on Saturday mornings or afternoons until then except for Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. There are also a number of work sessions available on Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are interested in working one or more of these 3-hour sessions, please register with Habitat of Durham at the following website: <https://habitatdurham.volunteerconnect.com/3Churches/full>

You will be asked to establish an account, sign a waiver and fill in some personal information, and then be given a chance to select your choice of upcoming work sessions. If you would prefer not to use the on-line signup mechanism, or have questions, please sign the form available on the ministry table or contact Arland Eyl via phone or text message (919-698-9116) or email (arland.eyl@gmail.com).

TAPC ARCHIVE CORNER

- * Your help is needed in locating Annual Reports prior to 2010.
- * A 1916 Sunday School Class photo with information on the back is on the Ministry Table. We need to know if the Sunday School Class has a connection to either Pearl Mill Chapel or TAPC.
- * Photos from Past years, many of little TAPCers, are now available on a table outside the Library for anyone interested in having them.
- * You can access our posted archives by going directly to our site at <http://divinityarchive.com/handle/11258/13607>
- * Please contact Sally Adkin (sadkin@nc.rr.com) or Ann Kirkland (gramkirk@aol.com) with any information.

Did you know... *On Rally Day Perry Sloan was one of the children promoted from the Primary to the Junior Department. “A new report system has been adopted; whereby each child’s record is kept, a report card is given just as in public school, and at the end this record will be sent to the parents of the child for inspection.” —“Trinity Avenue Visitor” newsletter—December 1927 (Mr. Sloan continues to worship at TAPC each Sunday!).*

Step Up!

Trinity Avenue is happy to welcome a new ministry, Step Up, to the Walltown neighborhood just a few blocks away, and is playing a part in their ministry. Step Up (stepupministry.org) provides intensive job training, life skills and employment networking for those who are unemployed, underemployed, or who have experienced barriers to employment in their lives. In an effort to support the participants in the program, to impact joblessness in our community, and to be a good neighbor, Trinity Avenue will begin hosting their suiting ministry, staged in the ground floor of our facility. Participants in the program will come to the church during the day two days a month to try on and select a donated suit, ensuring they are dressed for success as they interview and begin a job. If you would like to volunteer to provide hospitality, participate in mock interviews, or if you know of a business or are an employer who would like to learn more about creating opportunities to participants in the program,

please contact Jim Petrea at jpetrea@nc.rr.com.



Mark your calendars Sunday January 31st for the church’s 90th Birthday Celebration, Window Dedication, and Annual Meeting

The 11:00AM service of worship will be a celebration of 90 years in our present location. The first service in our building was Sunday, October 6, 1925, and Dr. Frank Hickman, Minister to the Chapel at Duke was the speaker for the occasion. Children marched down the street from the old church building on the south side of Trinity Avenue to the New Trinity Avenue Sanctuary (our church) on the corner of Trinity Avenue and Gregson. Please join us Sunday, January 31st as we celebrate our 90th, re-dedicate our beautiful stained glass windows, and join together as our youth host a 12:00 noon chili birthday luncheon followed by a brief annual meeting.

Announcing the Great TAPC Counting Contest

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Great TAPC counting contest has begun! In conjunction with the 90th Birthday of our building and the refurbishing of our beautiful stained glass windows, we are pleased to announce a

Major contest

How many stained glass windows are there in our 1925 church structure?



Young, old, family groups, individuals may enter by submitting a slip with their count in the box provided in the narthex. Winners with the correct number will be recognized at the 11:00 o’clock service of window dedication January 31st and will be the special designees to blow out the candles on our 90th birthday cake at our 12:00 noon January 31st annual meeting and chili luncheon.

Upcoming in February

Our Presbyterian Women invite you to come learn more about the Prophet Isaiah on Wednesday, February 17th. We will gather in our fellowship hall promptly at 12:00 noon with program beginning at 12:30 and ending at 1:30pm to accommodate our working members. Our own intern, Josh Gritter, will present. Bring a sack lunch and invite a friend.

Primetimers

Ellen and Andy Collins, missionaries to Thailand for the past 20 years, visited Prinetimers on November 19th. We learned that Ellen and Andy met on the mission field and come from a long line of family missionaries. They are back in the US for a year and are visiting supporting churches as their older son, Christopher is getting settled at Guilford College. Andy works at the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) and travels all over Thailand filming CCI dancers as they perform for villagers, spreading the word of Christ throughout a primarily Buddhist country. Interestingly, the schools are primarily Christian with up to 6000 children in each school. We enjoyed getting to know Ellen and Andy and sharing their love of God and the people of Thailand.

