



## **2015 Annual Report Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church**

*Trusting God  
Living in Christ  
Loving All!*

Dear Friends-

There are certain things about the Christian faith that defy the ability of language to sufficiently explain them. The cross is one of those things. Sacraments are another. Still another is the power of the resurrection of Jesus, and the poignancy of Christ's summons to die to ourselves that we might truly live. These things cannot ever be sufficiently explained. They have to be experienced. They are truths that are meant to be lived.

This would summarize the year represented by this annual report at Trinity Avenue. There are things that have taken place that are outlined in these pages (and many that aren't) that defy the ability of language to sufficiently explain them. The truth of their impact on our community was born in the way that they were lived.

How do you describe the turning of a heart toward greater love and openness to those who were once strangers in our city who have since become friends? How does one characterize the expansive properties of worship or small group gatherings, fellowship, prayer groups and dedicated Bible studies in the life of discipleship? Would it be possible to put into words how fundraising events for outreach yielded a return on investment for the kingdom that far outweighed the value of the dollars they raised for mission? Could we possibly summarize the significance of children and youth knowing that they are beloved through their programming, or the power of seeds planted in extending office space to two pastors with a dream of addressing food scarcity in Durham through a new church development called Farm Church, or the impact of songs of praise streaming forth from the steps of our sanctuary and spilling out onto the streets of our city?

2015 saw new babies and new members enter into our midst, and new ministry teams spring forth from inspirations of the heart. It held a bittersweet farewell to beloved Associate Pastor, Elizabeth Michael and intern, Chauncey Handy, and a joyful welcome of our Duke Divinity School intern, Josh Gritter. The year brought with it an escalation of gun violence in our neighborhood that heightened the imperative of a witness for Christ on our corner, and it summoned us to a deeper sensitivity to the kingdom values of vulnerability, humility, brokenness, authenticity and hope.

In all, there are many truths that are shared about Christ's work in and through Trinity Avenue in the pages of this report. But, ultimately, these truths can never sufficiently be explained. They have to be experienced. They are truths about our life together that are meant to be lived. It is like the difference between talking about a buffet full of rich and delicious food, and pulling up a seat at the table to dine. Won't you come and share in the feast?

In Hope,  
Rev. Katie Crowe  
Senior Pastor

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## Staff Reports

### Director of Family Ministries

-Submitted by Tommy Grimm

2015 marked my second year at Trinity Avenue. In my first year, I did my best to keep pace with the church's ministries and programs. At times, I felt like a minnow carefully following the quick movements of the school around him, often a split second behind everyone else. In the meantime, just learning people's names was a challenge enough.

In my second year, I could raise my head above the dust and could cultivate deeper relationships within the congregation. Acquaintances gave birth to trust as our time together increased. Before, when I read the weekly prayer requests or heard news involving members, I was rarely able to associate faces with names. Now, those names are dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Now, when I look across the congregation, I see intimate stories of joy and pain etched in the faces I cherish. Now, I prepare to lead worship and programs for a church composed of individuals I know, respect, and care for, people I have laughed with, cried with, and prayed for.

In addition to taking up greater residence in my heart, the people of Trinity Avenue took on a special significance in my family's life, too. Last year, this church welcomed my wife and I into membership; this church nurtured and sustained us after we became new parents; and this church celebrated our daughter's baptism and rejoiced over the grace that spilled over her. This first year of parenthood has not always left me at my best, yet this community of faith has never been anything but supportive. My family and I have been humbled by your compassion.

Having become more comfortable with the church's children and youth programming, I enjoyed playing a larger role in the church's worship last year. Despite being a relative novice in terms of performing liturgy, I received abundant affirmation and kindness in response, which I took as a testament to the church's generosity and its determination to choose gratitude over criticism. I have learned much about leading worship through the experience you have given me, through personal study from books and area colleagues, and from invaluable coaching from Katie and our former associate, Elizabeth. I still feel at times leading worship like I am at sea, swimming in depths far greater than I can handle, especially when it comes to preaching, but I press on with your encouragement, trying to serve with the faithfulness this congregation deserves.

Finally, I want to highlight how indebted I am to the many partners in ministry I have been blessed with in this church. Our many creative, inspired ministries to children, youth, and adults would collapse if they rested solely on my shoulders, but they thrive because of the gifted and committed members who serve in Sunday School, at youth group, in childcare, and on ministry teams. These leaders took up significant slack for me so that I could spend four weeks on paternity leave, which was a tremendous gift to my family and me. When you are on staff at a church, you do not want to just work for the church. You want to work *with* the church, and I am grateful to work with so many gracious, joyful people.

Chief among these people has been our pastor, Katie. I count it a privilege that nearly every week last year included an occasion in which I witnessed her words from the pulpit manifested in her life. When strangers show up to ask for help with basic needs, she receives them with affection as guests, viewing the interruption as an opportunity to welcome God's presence. She consistently chooses to think the best of others when there is ample reason to do otherwise, and despite the many demands on her time, she is steadfast in prayer, interceding constantly for us all. Katie sets an



undaunted and exuberant tone for the staff, and I am a far better servant and leader to the church because of it.

## **Parish Associate**

-Submitted by Rev. Graham McChesney

This marks my 13<sup>th</sup> year as your Parish Associate, and I continue to be blessed to have this opportunity to serve the Trinity Avenue church family. As Parish Associate, I assist the pastor and other staff in their pastoral ministry including:

- Visiting members in nursing or retirement homes, hospitals, and those we call “shut-ins” or who are not in good health.
- Assisting in memorial services and in follow-up visits with the spouse or family
- Sharing in worship in the 11:00 am service and occasionally in the 9:00 am service, and having annually the privilege of preaching

The Session’s call to this Parish Associate is for a “part-time” position, but all pastoral relationships are really 24/7. The Psalmist says “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

## **Director of Music Ministries**

-Submitted by Harry Jansen

Looking back over the past year in worship & music makes one realize just how many of our active church members are either involved in participation of or as leaders and supporters of worship and music at here at Trinity Avenue. Choirs have sung weekly, instrumentalists have played in services regularly, the Worship Ministry Team has taken its role with joy and enthusiasm, the list goes on.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many members sharing time & talent to enrich our worship life throughout the seasons of the church year. Musically, we have continued to delve into the musical riches of the hymnal 'Glory to God'. It has proven to be an excellent resource for providing us with a broad range of hymnody to sing and make melody to the Lord in worship. I am confident that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

This past year we moved seamlessly through the various parts of the ecumenical & narrative lectionaries, utilizing the weekly lessons to plan and bring to fruition every part of the worship services. Music certainly has gained a 'new dimension in the world of (sacred) sound'!

Probably the most gratifying aspect of my work as Director of Music Ministry has been the refreshing musical challenges and compositional opportunities that our program has brought to the fore this past year. I often (with tongue in cheek!) view my work as an interesting parallel with the 'Kapellmeister' roles of church musicians of old (Bach being among them). Instead of recycling a set amount of sacred music, we have worked to integrate improvisation, creativity and broad musical variety to enrich weekly worship at Trinity Avenue.

We look to continue this into the new year ahead!

Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the glory)!

## Director of Weekday School

Submitted by Lori Hardin, Director

Our staff served 34 young families and their 47 children between the ages of 1 and 5. During the year we shared the fruits of the spirit and introduced children to a compassionate community of friends and teachers in a loving environment away from their home and parents. Once the children feel comfortable and loved, they are ready to learn about so many things in a fun and playful manner: letters, numbers, historical figures, science, and more. We tended a garden with the help of Sarah Tucker, our current Weekday School board chairperson. We appreciated theatrical performances in the narthex and we spent many hours singing with Mrs. Poe, Mr. Hicks, and Ms. Anne. We grew stronger climbing, jumping, and running around our playground. We listened with rapt attention as Corlis Wood shared the good news with us through the stories of “Godly Play.” All in all, the year was full of blessings!



# Teams Elected by the Congregation

## Session

- Submitted by Mary Z. Martin, Clerk

The Session of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, a body of 15 Ruling Elders, is chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. The 2015 theme for guiding the discipleship journey of the congregation, continuing from 2014, was: *being the church in the city*.

To act on that theme, the Session took deeper dives into the 2014 goals that were aligned with each element of our mission, partnering with the TAPC Ministry Teams (MT) through the following actions in the past year:

**Trusting God** – Worked with the Christian Formation MT to expand small group ministries in the church (e.g., Lenten Covenant Groups), and provided guidance to MTs to enhance their experience as small groups (e.g., through use of Word-Share-Prayer).

**Living in Christ** – Ran a monthly MT Night pilot to encourage fellowship over dinner, cross-team communication, and to make it easier for congregation members to participate. Lessons learned from the pilot pointed to challenges with team members' abilities to arrive early enough for the dinner and scheduling conflicts that made it difficult for all teams to meet on the same night; as a result, each MT will continue to meet on the days and times that are most effective for them. In another step to lead TAPC more effectively through the seasons, the Session revised the church governance calendar, with liturgically-based dates, consolidating operations and finance into a single calendar, moving the pledging cycle to the period of discernment in Lent, and running the Session retreat for goal-setting just following officer installation and prior to budgeting and planning.

**Loving All!** – Connected with the immediate community surrounding the church (e.g., hosting events for Reality Ministries) and with the greater community (e.g., Re-Entry Faith Team), inviting neighbors to “come with me” (e.g., Hymn Sing) and serving as a catalyst for turning hearts toward one another on the East and West sides of Gregson Street.

Additionally, the Session undertook a thorough examination of the financial needs of the church, for both operational expenses and capital expenses – to ensure that Trinity Avenue will continue to be equipped to fulfill the mission of Christ's church. As the new year progresses the Session will provide more specifics on financial status, on plans for a capital campaign, and with information about how each member of the TAPC family can support the church's ministries. The hopes and dreams of the Session for 2016 are to *be the church* by nurturing each congregation member on their individual spiritual journeys, to build up the TAPC family of faith as a body, and to further Christ's kingdom locally, nationally, and internationally.

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)*

## ELDERS (CLASS OF 2016/2017/2018)

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Bob Clarke	Caroline Armacost	Greg Cates
Mary Gunderson	Brent Blaylock	Mary Martin (Clerk of Session)
Leslie Lobaugh	Tom Carstens	Bill Ross
Barbara VanDewoestine	Arland Eyl	Catherine Wilson
Peggy Waters	Susie Gilbert	Steve Yova

### Deacons

-Submitted by Fletcher Wilson

*“It is the duty of Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.”* ~

- Presbyterian Book of Order

The work of the Deacons is vital in the church. We are charged with creating a welcoming atmosphere, caring for people in and out of the church and listening so that we may hear lament and need and share in times of joy with those in our midst.

The Deacons meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month less a couple of calendar variations throughout the year. At the monthly meetings we review our work from the previous month and discuss and plan upcoming needs and events. Our work can be divided primarily into three categories: · Hospitality · Fellowship · Congregational Care

Below are some of the ways we have shared, celebrated, loved, listened, learned and cared in 2015: · We began a practice of small group contemplation as part of our meetings with the intentions of building team relationships and training our spirits, with such questions as, “how is your spirit fed” and “talk about a time when you were forgiven”. · We had a meaningful training on making pastoral visits and followed with a “season of care”, focused on actively visiting homebound members. We take communion to homebound members, breaking bread quarterly. This year, we were joined by some of our youth in this service, creating a beautiful connection between some of our oldest and newest church members. We have also begun, with the blessing of the Session, serving communion at our church services. ·

Our “divide and provide” campaign pulled together all the names on the rolls of our church, which we divided and have begun calling to ask about our members, their needs, celebrations, and prayer concerns. We have worked to understand that prayer is active. · We write notes to those who have lost loved ones and those who may need kind words. We further this service by helping coordinate food and receptions after funerals and memorial services (Special thanks to Jane Harper). ·

We coordinate efforts to provide meals for families with newborns and families dealing with traumatic illness (Special thanks to Laura Garrett). · We actively seek out new faces in our church to make all feel welcome, help coordinate the process for new members, and helped with the upcoming Church Directory. · Jenny Peters graciously coordinates the receptions after services which offer opportunity for all to spend time in fellowship, meet new people and welcome all to our church home. Volunteer hosts are always welcome! ·

The Deacons played active roles in social and outreach ministries such as Hymn Sings, Ice Cream Socials, a Durham Bulls baseball game, a croquet tourney, cooking, serving, cleaning and/or participating at Urban Ministries Cookout, Fall Festival and Christmas Fellowship Night.

We Deacons greet. And we are greeters. We take communion. And we take communion to others. We serve dinner. And we serve people. We listen. We pray. We write notes. We play. We host and encourage others to do the same. We believe fellowship is not just a hall in the church. We share. We care. We set up the Chrismon tree and we take it down. We visit. We listen. We gather. We talk. We discern. We learn. And somewhere, in all of this, we hope that we are being the church. Glory to God and many thanks for the work and service of our Deacons below:

Class of 2016

Seth Jernigan  
Andy Riley, Secretary  
Jenny Peters  
Fletcher Wilson, Moderator  
Howard Wood

Class of 2017

Laura Garrett  
Jane Harper  
Ruth Petrea  
Mark Phillips  
Bill Wicker

Class of 2018

Micheale Collie  
Jean Findlay  
Ralph Gunderson  
Nick Staffa  
Bert Wolf

## **Endowment**

-Submitted by Joanne Anderson

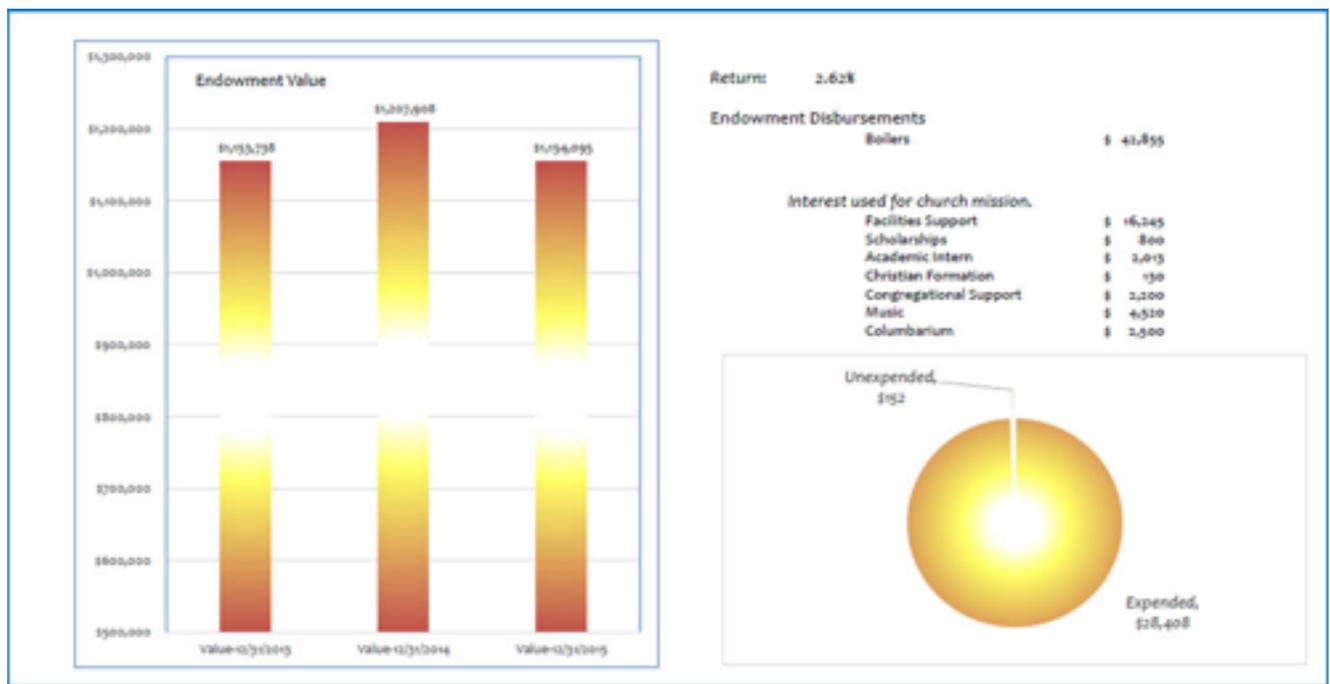
The Endowment of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church has a number of individual funds given to the church for a variety of mission purposes. The missions supported include outreach, music and worship, congregational care, education, columbarium, our weekday school, and maintenance and operation of our facility. The Endowment, valued at \$1.15 million at the close of the year, has continued to increase modestly in value over the years from the addition of funds and from growth of investments.

This team, a body elected by Session and augmented by interested individuals, serves as stewards of this important resource and seeks to expand the Endowment and its use in mission. Over the past year, the team guided the use of the interest earned to several major areas: providing additional funds toward equipment replacement, providing scholarship to support, providing support to congregation in need, and funding the major music programs given annually. Additionally, the team worked to educate the congregation regarding the various funds, encouraging contributions to as well as use of these financial resources.

Considering special circumstances regarding the church budget this past year, the Endowment has loaned \$130K to the church to cover urgent financial costs incurred for security and facility maintenance, bringing the total amount loaned to the church to \$591K. This fixed investment is a solid foundation of our investments, especially in light of the turbulent year for investments.

Each year, the team seeks to apply as much of the interest accumulated that year to programs, consistent with its charter. This past year, the team worked to allocate greater than 98 percent of the interest earned in 2015, leaving only about \$150 in accumulated interest that can still be applied in the coming year.

Throughout this new year, the team will continue the stewardship of the Endowment and provide education to our various ministry teams and other groups of the Endowment and its funds. An area of emphasis will be promoting testamentary gifts. In concert with the Finance team, the Endowment investment portfolio is being structured to provide additional income while maintaining our conservative investment policies to preserve principal.



## Ministry Teams

### Buildings and Grounds

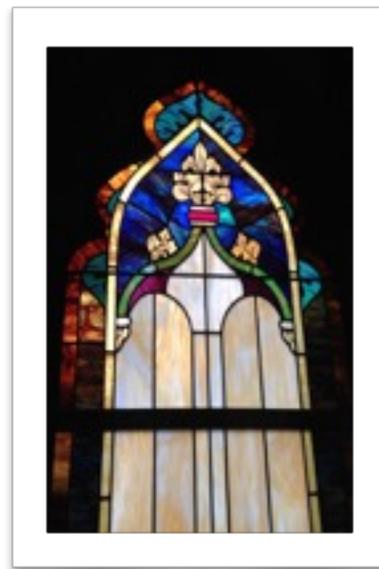
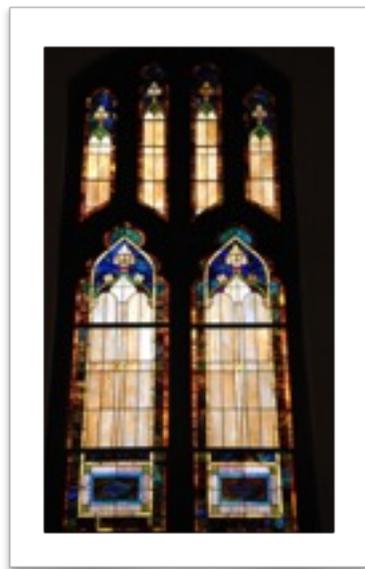
-Submitted by Art Ferguson

The Building and Grounds Team has been busy this year. As always, we are working to use the funds that we have in the most effective way.

Our Wednesday morning work crew has been replacing lights, replacing emergency lights, painting interior walls and trim, repairing plumbing, and making minor repairs where needed.

Our major projects, that we helped with and oversaw and or supervised are 1) replaced sanctuary boiler, 2) replaced the educational boiler, 3) replaced the air handler in the educational building, 4) refurbished the main doors to the sanctuary, and 5) restoring the sanctuary windows.

If you have any projects that you feel need to be addressed, please contact a team member. Team members are: Art Ferguson –Leader, Martin Davis, Jim Petrea, Bill Telford, Greg Cates, Lisa Drummond, John Faulkenbury, Ralph Gunderson, and Burt Wolf.



Restored Windows

## **Children's Ministry Team**

-Submitted by Jenni Albright

We don't have all the answers.

I get the question on the way to preschool from the three-year-old passenger in my mini-van, "But how does God break apart?" I had just explained that loving people is important, but it isn't always easy. We need God's help. "God puts a part of God's own self, called the Holy Spirit, in our hearts to help us love other people." Was that even the right thing to say? Unfortunately, I wasn't given a heads up last night, so I hadn't researched the topic or rehearsed my response.

One January night at bedtime, he ponders, "But how does a baby make stuff?" I realize that he has been putting together a few facts: Jesus is a baby (just celebrated Christmas); Jesus is God; and God created everything. He has been listening. Now, he is wondering, "How does a baby make stuff?" At bath time, as the water fills the tub, he joyfully exclaims "All this water is mine! Thanks be to God!" Really? Like the Word of God for the people of God? I guess he's been listening.

We don't have all the answers, and our answers will never be good enough (especially as our children grow into teens)... but I don't think they have to be. Children ask questions; however, fortunately, they also watch closely. I believe it is true that the genuine love we have for each other bears witness to the reality of our God. Our children watch us as we welcome them to the children's wing of the church week in and week out. They watch us as our eyes sparkle with hope when we share the truth we know – that God has rescued us all by sending Jesus to live and die and then come back to life so that people could know God and be with him forever. They realize that we mean it when we tell them, with a smile, that we are glad to see them. God blesses our feeble efforts to love the children of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian with a kingdom kind of love. The children see a kind of love that they are drawn to. As they grow up and show up week after week, they get to know a God Whom they are drawn to. They grow in their faith through the Holy Spirit's slow-motion miracle in them. Thanks be to God.

The Children's Ministry Team helps to plan and execute children's Sunday School and a few other types of programming (e.g., childcare for babies and toddlers, Faith Girlz, Vacation Church School, Community Bible School, Christmas pageant, Easter Egg Hunt) for the children of TAPC, from newborn babies through fifth-graders.

The current members of the Children's Ministry Team include Dawn Wilcox, Frederique Yova, Corlis Wood, Sarah Musser, Sarah Tucker, Judi Bishop, Kaytlin Drummond, Jenni Albright, and Tommy Grimm.

The Children's Ministry Team needs church members to pray for the faith of our children. We need church members to help us think of and follow through with ways to help our children and their families connect more with each other, with other church members, and with our Triune God. The Children's Ministry Team needs more adults to help lead children's Sunday School and other children's programming. Come hang out!

## **Boy Scouts**

Scout Troop 412 continues to go strong at Trinity Avenue, with boys from across the community coming together to learn about God's creation, grow in life skills, and be in relationship with one another while serving our community. Troop 412 enjoyed its 61st year in 2015, and there is always room for another member as we seek to build a strong future!

## **Christian Formation Ministry Team**

-Submitted by Caroline Armacost

In response to Session's goals regarding the expansion of small group ministry, the Christian Formation Team has focused on two areas: broadening small group implementation and enhancing small group experiences of existing groups through the adoption of spiritual practices. In 2015 we sponsored Lenten Covenant Groups in which 5 groups of 6-8 people met weekly in members' homes during the season of Lent. Members who participated in these Covenant groups reported having meaningful and powerful experiences where they grew in deeper relationship with one other and felt the joy of Christian community. One of these groups continued to meet during the Spring, studying "Celebration of Disciplines." The Lenten groups will reconvene in 2016.

The CFT organized the first Disciple Study class offered in five years at Trinity Avenue in 2015. In October six members embarked on a 34 week journey through the bible, reading scripture daily and meeting weekly to discuss the Word.

We continue to support Adult Sunday School programs and in 2015 gathered teachers together for the first "Sunday School Summit" where teachers were able to share best practices and brainstorm new ideas. We work with staff and adult leaders to offer elective Sunday School classes in the summer months and other times during the year.

Members are: Caroline Armacost, Chuck Campbell, Laura Clarke, Lara Chase, and Tom Robinson serve on the CFT with staff support from Tommy Grimm. All are welcome!

## **Community Ministry Team**

-Submitted by Mary Gunderson

The Community Mission Team strives to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. To do justice, we strive to act on issues of injustice that affect our local community. To love kindness, we seek relationships with our neighbors in Durham and strive to value them with dignity and love. To walk humbly with our God, we are prepared to be humbled and to journey together with hope.

We seek to serve our immediate neighbors in Durham who are currently living in chronic, generational poverty. Our particular focus in the past year has been children living in poverty; thus, we have focused our efforts in assisting the East Durham Children's Initiative (EDCI). The CMT organized "Wonderful Wednesdays" for each week of the summer EDCI lunch program. We provided volunteers every Wednesday. We also made a \$3000 donation to EDCI thanks to the generosity of many TAPC members. We also planned activities for every Wednesday. Activities included reading centers, arts and crafts centers, and board games. Becky Nichols created fabulous craft projects every week which were treasured by mothers and children alike. Randy Ray was our fearless leader for the summer while Judi Bishop (and many members of her family!) always provided a cheerful smile while serving lunch. Many other TAPC members and friends provided hours of volunteer service on "Wonderful Wednesdays," and our entire team is grateful for their gift of time.

Our other major project for 2015 was the Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) Shelter meal cookout. We served a whopping 400+ hamburgers and hotdogs on a hot Thursday evening in August. TAPC members provided a feast of homemade potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, and an array of yummy desserts. Many thanks to our grillers, bakers, cooking crew, and all our wonderful volunteers that night. Heath Tuttle played live jazz guitar for a full 3 hours! Nancy Carstens organized a massive collection of men's clothing for the many men who joined us for dinner. Other

TAPC volunteers provided face-painting for children, sponsored a craft station, and managed a book give-away and school supply station.

The Community Mission Team looks forward to more opportunities to “be the church” in our local community in 2016. Please come join us as we seek out concrete ways to “love our neighbors” in Durham.

Members of the CMT are: Ralph Gunderson, Randy Ray, Jim Petrea, Ruth Petrea, Barbara VanDewoestine, Corlis Wood, Howard Wood, Caroline Armacost, Beth Armacost, Dana Campbell, Susan Ferguson, Becky Nichols, Judi Bishop, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Carstens, Joanne Anderson and Mary Gunderson (chair). New members are always welcome!



**Fun at the Urban Ministries of Durham cookout!**

## **Congregational Care Ministry Team**

-Submitted by Jean Findlay

While the Care Team does not have standing meeting times during the year, members take care of needs as they arise. We are currently serving one member of our congregation, and await new opportunities to care. The Care Team can help in many ways when a member of the church or their family has a long term need for assistance. We just need to hear from you!

## **Finance Ministry Teams**

- Submitted by John Stelling

Not just a single team any longer, this past year saw restructuring of the Finance Team to smaller groups more focused on specific tasks ahead. Three new teams (Treasurer; Capital; Communication) were added to the existing Endowment team; later in the year, a coordinating group came together with representatives of these teams and members from key ministry teams to work together to assess budgets and expenses and to forecast financial needs. The team has undertaken some enhancements to our accounting – clearly separating operating funds from capital expenditures and creating new statements which reflect all of the church’s financial position (something we have never had).

During the year, the team worked with Building and Grounds to solidify funding for some initiatives already underway. Having used accumulated funds in the equipment replacement fund for our two new boilers (\$42k), and needing additional funding to complete the window frame replacements and needed security system upgrades, the team worked to find an acceptable loan arrangement to provide the funding. The \$130k loan was secured at an attractive rate from our own endowment.

The coming year presents a number of challenges for the team as it seeks to support all our ministry teams being the church:

- The church is migrating to a new calendar where our budget year will actually start on August 1, and the pledge commitment drive will happen during Lent. With our budgets from last year ending on December 31, the team will work with all ministry teams to bridge that intervening seven months where we operate without a firm budget. All teams have been charged by Session to operate without deficit this year, so tracking of our finances, communication of our finances with all teams, and forecasting of special needs will be particularly important during this time. Also, the entire budgeting process will be new for all our teams, creating opportunities for all teams to understand clearly our financial constraints as well as our ministry team goals.
- The year will also bring a new capital campaign. Wasn't it just a couple of years ago that we had our last capital campaign? Actually, we started our last such effort more than 17 years ago and the buildings supported by that campaign (the Bennett Building and Chapel/Narthex annex) are now more than ten years old. Our annual operating budget supports regular maintenance of the entire facility, but substantial capital needs like the ones we face in the immediate and near future are greater than what can be supported through annual pledges. In the same way you might have to take out a small loan to put a new roof on your house, or dig into your savings to replace a furnace, we will have to raise funds outside our annual income to meet these needs. It is often said that the most important thing we do is worship, so we have a responsibility to preserve this beautiful place we built or inherited, where we worship, break bread in fellowship with each other, educate ourselves and our children, do mission work, and host community events and activities—and where we hope our children will do the same. You will be hearing more information about additional specific capital needs and the goals and schedule for the campaign.

**Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church  
2015 Year-End Balance Sheet Summary**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking Accounts	\$ 342,087.32
Endowment	\$ 1,154,095.38
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<u>\$ 5,958,050.00</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,454,232.70</b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>	
Routine Operating	\$ 190,714.20
Loans	
Endowment 4%	\$ 465,978.04
Endowment 2.5%	<u>\$ 124,650.00</u>
<b>Total Loans</b>	<u>\$ 590,628.04</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 781,342.24</b>
 <b>Restricted Funds</b>	 <u>\$ 166,410.95</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 614,931.29</b>
<b>Net Equity</b>	<u><b>\$ 6,839,301.41</b></u>
 <b>Total Liabilities, Funds and Equity</b>	 <b>\$ 7,454,232.70</b>

**Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church  
2015 Income Statement**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Pledged Contributions	\$ 676,345.26
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$ 91,821.00
Prior Year Contributions	\$ 6,184.98
Next Year Contributions	\$ 16,440.87
Loose Plate Offerings	\$ 6,500.49
Income: Weekday School	\$ 116,608.00
Youth Discretionary Account	\$ 1,363.58
Income: Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 23,973.86</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,088,748.74</b>
 <b>Expenses</b>	
Worship/Music	\$ 11,909.82
Membership and Community Development	\$ 2,709.38
Outreach	\$ 82,263.00
Christian Ed and WD School	\$ 118,723.99
House and Grounds	\$ 155,894.90
Finance and Admin	\$ 56,836.94
Depreciation Expense	\$ 188,395.30
Leadership Support	<u>\$ 469,475.25</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,108.58</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,640.16</b>

## Generosity Ministry Team

-Submitted by Mary Martin

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NRSV)*

The Generosity Ministry Team (GMT) is committed to encouraging and enabling the congregation of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church (TAPC) to give cheerfully of their time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God. To that end, the GMT goals for 2015 were to:

- Support TAPC's efforts as a "green" congregation, continuing the "opt in" approach for envelopes and encouraging online bank drafts for financial gifts
- Establish a year-round strategy for recognizing generous behavior
- Strengthen a culture of generosity within our congregation

**Support to TAPC's green congregation efforts** resulted in a 40% increase in the number of members giving through online automatic bank drafts, 35 at year end vs. 25 at the start of 2015. The number of boxes with envelopes for making financial contributions remained constant at 24, for those families who preferred to give in that way.

The first step towards a **year-round strategy for recognizing generous behavior** began with hand-written thank you notes. The GMT wrote thank you notes to those in the congregation who made a financial commitment for 2015 and called those who had pledged in the past but who did not pledge for 2015, offering prayers and/or follow up by the pastors for any concerns those members might have had. At year end the team wrote thank you notes to each member of the staff, acknowledging their contribution to the TAPC family of faith and to let them know that they are appreciated.

To **strengthen a culture of generosity** all generations must be engaged, including the youngest children. Lessons and projects about giving have been incorporated into children's Sunday School. Among the actions last year were a book and canned goods drive, weekly moments for generosity at Family Time during the Sunday School hour, plans for members of the congregation to share ways they have been working to spread God's love through opportunities for giving, and generating a reading list to help parents have discussions about generous behavior with their children at home.

A part of generous giving is the sharing of the beautiful TAPC facility. In July, the GMT and Session hosted a generosity forum for the Presbytery of New Hope. Rev. Karl Travis, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth Texas and renowned expert on generosity, spoke about "sharing God's stuff", with a reminder that all of our gifts have come from God. The notes from his presentation will be included in a book he expects to publish within the next year.

For 2016, the GMT's goals are to:

- Recognize generous behavior year round
  - Monthly handwritten notes
  - Highlight generous behavior in multiple media, including Facebook, weekly TAPC emails, monthly TAPC newsletters, Sunday worship bulletins
- Strengthen our culture of generosity
  - Continue children's lessons and projects on generosity
  - Cultivate a mindset of abundance
  - Highlight the impact of generosity – how lives are changed
- Lead a financial commitment drive during Lent to encourage pledging and giving, and to increase automatic bank drafts to sustain giving levels during peak vacation time in the summer months

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church has always been a generous congregation, and the Generosity Ministry Team looks forward to seeing what miracles in the kingdom will come from sharing God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure in the year ahead.

Members: Anna Craig, Ahmad Hariri, Jim Kinney, Sam Nichols, Bert Wolf, Sue Wyker

## **More Than Dinner Fellowship and Service Groups**

Over the course of the year, individuals gathered around food and fellowship to discern a unique sense of calling for service in the season. Some members formed baskets of goodies for the fire and police stations and served dinner at Urban Ministries, while others assisted with the Reality Ministries Valentine's dinner and extended hospitality to a group of students from the University of Georgia as they came to town for an urban plunge experience. These groups emulated our church's desire to be responsive to the Holy Spirit's calling wherever and whenever it leads, serving joyfully in the kingdom in a way that is grounded in relationship with each other while we share God's love.

## **Personnel Ministry Team**

-Submitted by Mike Foley

The 2015 TAPC Personnel Committee was comprised of Jane Robinson, Ashlee Smart, Howard Wood and Mike Foley. The team was committed to supporting the staff through several key focus areas:

- **Continued development through a formal evaluation process** – With Katie's leadership and commitment, the staff has engaged in regular reviews focused on fruitful and productive discussions. One key success was a feedback session led by Tommy and Katie with the childcare workers to discuss areas of improvement for 2015.
- **Staffing** - The budget deficit and departure of Elizabeth created the need to approach staffing differently in 2015. Many proposals have been pursued including, an alternative staffing model and a potential partnership with Campus Ministry. TAPC staff stepped up to the challenges, utilizing the strengths of the congregation and taking on additional roles to make sure the church needs were met. Discussions continue with the Session to determine how to address the staffing needs and we know God will lead TAPC where we need to be in 2016.

As we look forward to 2016, TAPC's Personnel Committee remains committed to serving our many staff needs as change continues. The Personnel Committee is energized to support TAPC Staff to better serve our congregation by honoring our Mission Statement "Trusting God, Living in Christ, Loving All!"

# Outreach Ministry Team

-Submitted by Susan Ross

Trinity Avenue’s Outreach Ministry Team works to serve God, our city and our world by channeling the financial and hands-on gifts of TAPC toward meeting needs beyond the church itself.

This is accomplished in three ways:

1. We coordinate volunteer work such as partnerships with the CROP walk, Habitat for Humanity, Urban Ministries shelter dinners, Trinity Park neighborhood clean up days, Step Up Ministries, and Reality Ministries dinners.
2. We lead the fundraising needed to respond to financial requests made of the church. For several years, we have done this through a series of fun Mission Challenge events: The Miriam Wright Tea, TAPC Golf Tournament, the Croquet Tournament and our Fall Festival. These raised \$13,988 in 2015. This year we added a year-end TAPC Blessings gift card fundraiser for our Elizabeth Andrews Fund, which raised more than \$2000 for the discretionary account our pastors use to help individuals with needs.
3. We direct the grants from Trinity Avenue to our partners in the nonprofit community. This discernment process is an important part of our annual work.

Altogether, close to \$100,000 is shared with our community. Part of this is our support of the Presbytery of New Hope, which totaled \$36,623 this year. We were honored to approve the following grants on your behalf in 2015:

Housing for New Hope	\$16,000
Duke Presbyterian Ministry	\$6,878
Urban Ministries of Durham (food + operating grant)	\$5,400
Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000
NCCU Presbyterian Campus Ministry	\$4,000
TAPC Neighborhood Outreach	\$3,600
YMCA We Build People	\$3,333
DIHN/Genesis Home “Under One Roof” campaign	\$3,000
Tom and Judy Harvey Family (Harvey Mission Fund)	\$2,000
The Collins Family (Harvey Mission Fund)	\$2,000
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (from Christmas Eve plate)	\$2,215
Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham (from Christmas Eve plate)	\$2,215
A Helping Hand	\$1,000
Habitat Repair Fund	\$1,000
LEAP Academy	\$1,000
Senior PharmAssist	\$1,000
Meals on Wheels	\$833
Genesis Home	\$833
East Durham Children’s Initiative	\$750
Durham Crisis Response Center	\$750
Emmanuel Iglesia Church Food Pantry	\$519
Interfaith Food Shuttle/Backpack Buddies	\$500
Reality Ministries	\$500
Step Up Ministries – Durham	\$500
Housing for New Hope Christmas Party	\$250

We also coordinate the special collections we collect as part of the Presbyterian Church:

Church World Service (blankets)	\$1,311
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$865
Mothers/Fathers Day Offering	\$185
Thanksgiving/Barium Springs Offering	\$100
Joy Offering	\$394

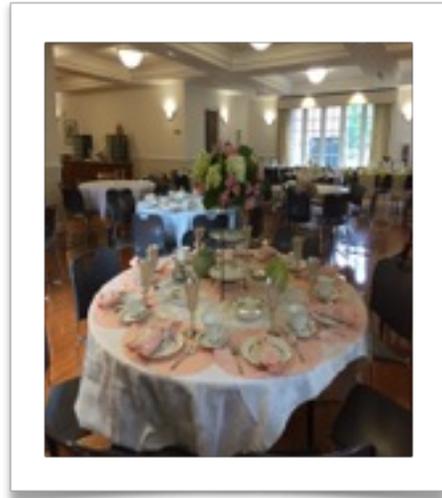
And we know this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many, many examples of additional support by church members for outreach causes all through the year – quiet gifts for all kinds of purposes are made by our church members that never show up on the bottom line. We are grateful to be part of a church that cares this much about our community. Take a look at the Outreach Ministry bulletin board in the Porter Narthex to see what is going on.

Your Outreach Mission Team experienced some personnel changes this year. Susan Ross took over as chair from longtime leader Steve Yova in January 2015, and Andy Riley took over as clerk from longtime leader Len Stockburger in January 2016. Many people both on the team and beyond played huge roles in the outreach ministry this year. We were especially grateful to volunteers Mary Gunderson, Nancy Carstens, Lisa Drummond, Lloydette Hoof, and their table hosts (Tea); Barbara VanDewoestine, Sarah Tucker, Micheale Collie, Laura Clarke, Lauren Cates and a small army (Fall Festival); the Berlin Family (CROP Walk); Arland Eyl and many helpers (Habitat); Joe Beavers (golf tournament); Corlis Wood (special collections); Bert Wolf (croquet party); Lynette Williams (PDA); Mary Gunderson and her chefs (UMD dinners); Randy Ray, Ralph Gunderson, Jim Petrea, Becky Nichols and servers (EDCI summer lunches); and all the others who took on big jobs this year to help the community.

Come join us! We welcome new members at any time, particularly as we gear up for a new year of working to BE THE CHURCH in Durham and beyond. Members are: Becky Bowden, Greg Cates, Lisa Drummond, Arland Eyl, Art Ferguson, Andy Riley, Susan Ross (Chair), Len Stockburger, Kathy Tillet, Barbara VanDewoestine, Lynette Williams, Bert Wolf, Corlis Wood, Judy Wooden, Steve Yova.



**Habitat for Humanity**



**Fellowship Fundraising Tea Party**

## Worship Ministry Team

-Submitted by Bob Clarke

The Worship Ministry Team (WMT) meets on the fourth Monday of each month, and is responsible for overseeing and supporting all aspects of worship at TAPC. Areas of responsibility include: communion materials, lay worship leaders, music in worship, guest preachers, wedding and funeral policies, worship services, acolytes, Sanctuary Guild, audiovisual and ushers. The goal of the WMT is to support the congregation and pastors as we seek to worship God in a joyful, thoughtful and meaningful way.

The responsibilities of the WMT are very broad, and each area tends to be coordinated by a designated member or members of the WMT. Some members attend the meetings regularly; others are serving in their roles while not actively attending the monthly meetings unless called upon specifically to do so.

Among our many activities and accomplishments of the recent year, we are particularly gratified to be moving the mission statement of the Church forward with our Hymn Sings at various times of the year. Simply gathering as a warm and inviting fellowship with enthusiasm and song helps our neighbors and friends close by see our vibrancy and purpose. As we continue to look for ways to communicate to the world around us and the neighbors near us, we will strive to advertise our TAPC community to be an inviting presence for all.

We also are looking for ways to enhance our worship experience within our walls, sharing commonality and uniqueness with our congregation at our two services. We will be exploring ways to make each service more meaningful and intimate, in order to enhance our personal relationships with Christ.

We ask that if any of you reading this would like to JOIN us in shaping and guiding the worship of TAPC, please feel free to contact any of the members listed below, and we would love for you to join us at one of our meetings on the fourth Monday of each month! Please contact Bob or Jenni for more details and information about this great service to our church and congregation. Don't forget to ask about our SNACKS!! Members are: Bob Clarke, Jenni Murphy, Bob Yowell, Brent Blaylock, Bridgett Ray, Carl Badger, Carol Shepard, Jane Harper, Leslie Lobaugh, Lloydette Hoof, Mark Ahrendson, Rob Kinney, Steve Yova, and Staff member Harry Jansen

## Fellowship, Service and Study Groups

### Presbyterian Women

-Submitted by Sally Adkin

Presbyterian Women (PW) meet regularly through four study groups/ circles--two morning circles and two evening circles. Fall 2015, we offered two curricular options: *The Horizons Bible Study: Come to the Waters and Nancy Guthrie: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets*. In addition to our study, each circle maintains contact with our homebound and reaches out as well to the community through targeted support for organizations such as: Backpack Buddies, Housing for New Hope, Urban Ministries, Women's Crisis Center, Homeless Shelter, Durham Rape and Crisis Center, Duke and NCCU student centers, etc. We are pleased to add value and support to the mission of the church and believe there is still a niche for women supporting women. Follow our opportunities as posted in the newsletters and bulletins and come when you can. All are welcome.

2015 Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Women Financial Report		
Available Funds 2015	2014-15 carry over plus regular and special offerings and monies collected for study books	\$5,222.62
Outgo	Study books, PW Mission Pledge, Thank & Birthday Offerings, \$200 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief, \$900 to local Service and mission. \$100 special program.	\$2,987.89
Year-End Balance		\$2,234.73

PW Coordinating Team: Sally Adkin, Lisa Drummond, Susan Ferguson, Marie Grauerholz, Helen Idol, Ann Kirkland, Suzy Ward, Lynette Williams, Carole VanHise

## Primetimers

-Submitted by Ruth Petrea

Primetimers serves people at TAPC who are 55 and older (or who wish they were) and who enjoy fellowship and fun and who love learning about community and God's place in their lives.

Primetimers began the 2015-2016 season by reviewing stories of TAPC's past with Dott Faulkenbury. We have experienced life in our city and world through the eyes of missionaries to Thailand, guides at the Lemur Center and our own eyes by experiencing the photography of Gail Johnson and the art at the NC Art Museum with Ellen Stone. We have experienced great music from Carl Badger, heard stories from author Millie Seiler and learned about ways to care for our health from Jennifer Burch of Compounding Pharmacy of Durham.

## Pass the Peas

-Submitted by Nancy Carstens

REALITY MINISTRIES is a family of faith whose purpose is to serve a community of young and older adults with developmental challenges, helping to provide them with important peer-to-peer socialization while celebrating the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Trinity Avenue participates with Reality Ministries through their once monthly evening program called, PASS THE PEAS. Reality Ministries participants, gather at TAPC for a dinner that is provided by TAPC, they sing songs and have small group fellowship.

This unique group of people, both staff and participants, represent what Christ's teachings tell us everyday, *love thy neighbor*. Amazing blessings appear in this monthly space that shed light on God's love while urging us, His people, to show that love toward others. Lessons are learned in the most unexpected places.

Anyone is welcome to come and help with food service or simply enjoy this special fellowship. It will be a gift you give yourself.

Reality Ministries is funded through private donation, some foundations, local churches and Durham County.



**Full hearts and a full house at the Reality Ministries Valentine's dinner, hosted at Trinity Avenue.**

## Reconciliation and Reentry Faith Team

- Submitted by Jim Petrea

A couple of years back several of us in the congregation went through a series of book readings that introduced us to new ideas and challenges on how better to connect to our community. One of those books was "Living without enemies: Being present in the midst of violence" written by Sam Wells and Marcia Owen. Follow-up led to more discussion with Marcia, who is the Executive Director for the Religious Coalition for a Non-violent Durham and those discussions pulled our hearts towards one of the RCND sub-groups call Reconciliation and re-entry faith teams. The RCND description of these teams is "Reconciliation and Reentry ministry seeks peace by building intentional relationships among people of faith and newly released prisoners that facilitate both collective and individual acts of compassion, reconciliation, and peace."

After training of several TAPC members by Marcia, Drew Doll (R & R coordinator), and Gudrun Palmer (Director, Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center) our first team was formed and welcomed our partner in November. We meet with our partner and new friend at least twice a month to have discussions about what is going on in our lives and how we can continue to grow our personal relationships for the benefit of all of us. The first team is comprised of Tom Robinson, Mary Gunderson, Catherine Wilson, Ruth Petrea and Jim Petrea. Our partner is a wonderful man who has started a new job, strengthened his relationship with his wife and reunited with his family all since we have met him. We all share in those blessings, and hope the bond we have built will provide the foundation to provide strength when times may be tougher to manage.

We are close to having enough people trained and available to go to start a 2<sup>nd</sup> team so if you have interest please contact Jim Petrea at [jpetrea@nc.rr.com](mailto:jpetrea@nc.rr.com) or (919) 418-3013 and experience this ministry and another of God's blessings for yourself.

*As we said at the beginning of this annual report, the fullness of the congregational life and witness at Trinity Avenue can only be glimpsed in these pages. In addition to all that is accounted for here are the many support groups that find a home within our church walls on a weekly basis, dozens of activities hosted in our facility for Duke Campus Ministry, the City of Durham, StepUp job training, Durham Family Theatre, surrounding churches, denominational groups, and various non-profit ministry partners.*

*Church members also find their way to the Walltown neighborhood ministry collaboration, non-profit boards and volunteer activities throughout Durham as an expression of their faith and in response to their sense of calling to 'be the church' in our city.*

*That said, life and ministry within the beloved community that has been created for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of baptismal waters can never be sufficiently be explained. It has to be experienced. May God bless you as you grow in your experience of God's love in the year ahead with your family of faith at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church.*

- Katie

## **Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church Staff**

Janet Burney, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Katie Crowe, Senior Pastor  
Martin Davis, Facilities Manager  
Lisa Drummond, Hospitality Coordinator  
John Faulkenbury, Night Security  
Tommy Grimm, Director of Family Ministries  
Josh Griner, Duke Divinity School Intern  
Lori Hardin, Director of Weekday School  
Harry Jansen, Director of Music Ministries  
Rev. Graham McChesney, Parish Associate  
Tina Petrillo, Business Manager

### **Weekday School Teachers**

Lisa Drummond  
Tam Frenduto  
Audrey Gomes  
Maren Hardin  
Sue Huber  
Don Hicks (Music)  
Vanetha Machok  
Andrea Michos  
Quincie Phillipis, Parent's Morning Out  
Kristin Moore, Parent's Morning Out

### **Childcare Associates**

Leah Hargrove  
Renita Harvey

### **On-Site Ministry Partners**

Rev. Allen Brimer  
Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase  
New Church Development church planters for Farm Church  
[www.farmchurch.org](http://www.farmchurch.org)

**Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
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**(919) 682-3865**

[www.trinityave.org](http://www.trinityave.org)

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