

Trinity Avenue

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Come Worship With Us!

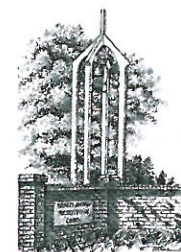
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Session: Bob Clarke, Mary Gunderson, Leslie Lobaugh, Barbara VanDewoestine, Peggy Waters, Caroline Armacost, Brent Blaylock, Arland Eyl, Susie Gilbert, Greg Cates, Mary Martin (Clerk), Bill Ross, Catherine Wilson, Steve Yova, Tom Carstens

Diaconate: Seth Jernigan, Jenny Peters, Andy Riley, Fletcher Wilson (Moderator), 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



ON TAP

Trusting God, Living in Christ, Loving All!

Dear Friends -

The new year in the Crowe household was ushered in not with a bang, but with a hush. What started as a touch of a raspy throat for me on new year's eve turned into a full-blown, raging sore throat by new year's day, and terrible head cold by the end of the week. An informal survey of locals reveals that I was, regrettably, in good company as Durhamites everywhere seemed to be struggling with the same.

Perhaps you are like me in that, when sickness settles in, I am loathe to admit defeat. Once my fever broke and my doctor cleared me of contagion, I was happy to get back to all the work at hand, but my body wasn't ready. Having a 15-month old has conditioned me to a certain degree of 'powering through' the days when nights have held little sleep. But my vocal chords staged a rebellion. Days of coughing, strain and irritation led to inflammation in my throat that caused my voice to plummet into the lower register, then evolve into something that sounded like a bullfrog, and finally squelched any ability to speak altogether. In the end, I was under strict orders to not even attempt a whisper, lest permanent damage be done. I decided to frame the experience theologically to help with my patience, as much as anything. If God was giving me 'the silent treatment,' I might as well listen.

Therefore, at the dawn of this new year, I bring to you...

Lessons From the Silence

Lesson 1: The will is strong.

Very strong. The realization that I was getting sick took half as long as my fighting against the reality of being sick, which made recovery twice as long as it perhaps needed to be. My willfulness first masqueraded itself as strength in the face of momentary affliction, then tried to hide behind illusions of self-sufficiency and minimizing the problem. Finally, it was the admonition of others that things were getting worse, not better, that caused me to realize that the biggest obstacle to my healing wasn't some sort of upper respiratory superbug, it was me. Where in your life might you be standing in the way of your own healing and wholeness?

Lesson 2: Pay attention to who is laughing...and how hard.

Second only to the injury to my vocal chords was the injury to my pride when I noticed the delight of those around me in the face of my silencing. Church members dropped by the office to witness the spectacle of their voiceless preacher. "I just had to see this for myself." My husband lamented—widely, frequently—over having been out of town for a good portion of my days of vocal rest. "I can't believe I missed it!" I couldn't help but observe the good-humored joy of those around me, and wonder if there wasn't a deeper subtext of truth that I needed to hear. Who have you been talking over that is wanting to be heard?

Lesson 3: Notice.

My favorite part of winter is the way that the world falls so silent when it snows. My childhood in Wisconsin was characterized by days of this endless silence. I would bundle up, labor through the snowfall to the edge of my driveway, sink down into the snow and listen. Only when you really listen do you notice that the world is spectacularly alive. The sound of tiny critters burrowing through holes, gnawing at the bark of trees, and pecking for food fills the air that is otherwise, in fair weather, congested with a cacophony of sounds from busy streets, cell phones, speaker systems and chatter. Exterior silence soon gave way to interior stillness. It awakened in me a renewed awareness of the companionship of creation in a way that made me love it more and want to care for it better. When is the last time you were still enough to notice that the world is spectacularly alive?

Lesson 4: Don't speak for the voiceless. Create the conditions for them to be heard.

A wonderful phenomenon happened among those around me. As I could only barely whisper, invariably the people around me would begin to whisper too. Even young Dillon whispered his morning coos and chirps from his high chair when he noticed that I couldn't speak. It was a subconscious accommodation of my need that created space for the other person to hear what I had to say, however I could communicate it. And, what it in turn communicated to me was love. The ability to speak and be heard is a form of power that is not available to everyone in our community. How can we as a church communicate Christ's love by practicing the discipline of deep listening in a way that makes us available to those who we might never hear speak?

Lesson 5: Redefine "recovery."

Since my season of silencing, I have reframed my understanding of 'the silent treatment'. It is no longer the description of my affliction, it is the prescription for what ails me most often—too much busy-ness, too much distraction. Too much forgetting that the Lord is God and I am not. Silence enabled worship to wash over me in new ways, gave me new ears to hear, and not only restrained my ability to speak, but soon took away my need for others to hear whatever it was I felt that I had to say.

Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." This year, may silence preface all of your speech. May your action flow first from stillness. May God grant you the discipline to condition your ears to deep listening. And may the voice of all that is within and around you that has been long silenced be heard.

In Christ, Katie

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

The Paradox of Generosity

You are probably familiar with the verse from Acts 20:35 ' *"In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

And, perhaps you've heard this from Matthew 16:25-26 where Jesus said, *"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"*

The Bible is full of paradoxes such as these. What is a paradox? It is a statement that seems self-contradictory but is true.

In the book, *The Paradox of Generosity*, authors Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson explain how living generously is a paradox. They examine the relationship between well-being (happiness, bodily health, purpose in living, avoidance of depression, and interest in personal growth) and generous behavior (financial giving; volunteering time and talent; relational and neighborly generosity; giving blood, donating organs, estate generosity). They find that, *"Those who give their resources away, receive back in turn. In offering our time, money, and energy in service of others' well-being, we enhance our own well-being as well. In letting go of some of what we own for the good of others, we better secure our own lives, too. This paradox of generosity is a sociological fact, confirmed by evidence drawn from quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews."*

So, by giving we are receiving and by losing we are gaining. How do we do this? We do this by practicing generosity daily through intentional decisions in every aspect of our lives. One way to practice your generosity is by continuing your financial gifts to Trinity Avenue. We ask you to pledge your financial *commitment* to our church once a year, this year during the season of Lent, but we need for you to continue your financial *giving* year round.

We are blessed with wonderful staff and a magnificent facility. It's crucial for us to be good stewards of these assets so that we can "be the church in the city" by opening our doors for worship, fellowship, Christian education, Bible and discipleship studies, the Weekday School, children's and youth programs, and hosting community groups that include Reality Ministries, Durham Regional Theater, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, StepUp Ministry, Durham School of the Arts, the American Red Cross, Walltown Neighborhood Ministry, Grace Support Group, Underearners' Anonymous, Housing for New Hope, Debtors Anonymous—and that we go back out through those doors to serve meals at Urban Ministries, strengthen family connections at the East Durham Children's Initiative, build Habitat Houses, pound the pavement at Crop Walk, and support many, many nonprofits locally and across the world with our treasure, time, and talent.

As we journey through Lent, you'll see information in Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and emails about living generously along with specifics about an operating budget and upcoming capital campaign to meet near term and long term needs. As you think and pray about how you will receive by giving and gain by losing, perhaps you'll ponder the greatest act of generosity of all — God's gift to us of Jesus Christ, for Christ to die so that we might live.

Mary Z. Martin

2 Corinthians 9:7— *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

CALENDAR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dates	Communion	Counters	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
Feb. 7	9 am: Chris & Cathy Perry 11 am: Mary Gunderson, Tom Carstens, Howard Wood, Laura Garrett, Ralph Gunderson, Seth Jernigan, Mark Phillips, and Ruth Petrea.	Bill Ross (lead) Elaine Ross Al Joyner	Luke Musser & Tristan Riley P-I-C: Riley	February 9am Services: Kay Williams & Deirdre Gordon March 9am Services: Cathy & Chris Perry February 11am Services TBA
Feb. 14	9am: Chris & Carol Leach	Richard Arnold (lead) Greg Dale Mark Ahrendsen	Gracie & Maggie Garrett Emma & Hannah Wilcox P-I-C: Wilcox.	
Feb. 21	9am: Suzy Ward & Carol Rose	Bill Telford (lead) Marcie Telford Marie Grauerholz	Wyatt Jernigan Anna Fleming & Justine Yova P-I-C: Jernigan	
Feb. 28	9am: Edith & Marshall Boon	Jeff Hendriks (lead) Andy Riley Jeff Williams	Elly Luker Aidan & Sophie Ganter P-I-C: Luker	

Annual Golf Tournament

Mark your calendar—the annual golf tournament will be held
at Hillandale Golf Course on Saturday, April 30th.

The cost will be \$85.

This includes green fee, cart, range balls and lunch.

\$40.00 of this cost will go toward the mission ministries of the church.

If you have questions, please contact Joe Beavers

at jbeavers@nc.rr.com or 919-471-1940



Habitat Home Nearing Completion

TAPC is partnering with Triangle Presbyterian and Watts Street Baptist to sponsor and help construct a new home at 107 Roberson Street here in Durham. The home is almost complete, and the new owner, Shawna Burgess, a 33 year old single mother with a 12 year old daughter named Nia, is excited about moving in very soon.

We can use lots of hands all day for a final work day on Saturday, February 13 for landscaping. The home is located in east Durham, one block west of the Maureen Joy charter school. You can sign up by following the link below which takes you to a page in Habitat's new volunteer management system. Please note that younger children (13 up) can participate on this last workday.

<http://cerv.is/m?0193rTrio>

The **dedication service** for the new home is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at 3pm. Please plan to join Shawna and her family for this celebration. For more information, contact Arland Eyl via phone or text message (919-698-9116) or email (arland.eyl@gmail.com).

**TAPC WEEKDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT:
TIME TO REGISTER FOR FALL 2016**

The Weekday School is a 1/2 day preschool with classes from one year olds to four year olds. We specialize in creating a warm, loving environment in which your child can blossom academically and socially. We believe that children between the ages of 1 and 4 learn most effectively by playing. Please contact the director, Lori Hardin, for more information (919-530-8163) or lhardin@trinityave.org.

The Circle of Hope packed gift bags for the Durham Crisis Response Center for their December Project. The bags contained handmade wash cloths, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, cosmetics, candy and other items to help cheer and support women suffering from Domestic Violence. The Durham Crisis Response Center works with the community to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, education, support and prevention. Their service includes a 24 hour, confidential crisis line for victims of domestic violence, short term emergency shelter, legal advice, childcare and other community services. Last year alone, 237 women and children found safety at the DCRC and another 3800 learned through their crisis line that they have an ally who can help them end the cycle of violence. Their main goal is to ensure that every victim is a survivor!

As most nonprofit organizations, the DCRC relies on community support. You can make a difference. Durhamcrisisresponse.org.



Primetimers

On December 17, Primetimers welcomed Jennifer Burch, PharmD, CDE, CPP of Central Pharmacy and Central Compounding Center, South. After discussing services that pharmacies should provide, we discussed nutritional supplementation for calcium, vitamin D, sleeping, and colds and flu prevention to name a few. Jennifer presented many helpful details and summarized this info in a thorough handout. Many thanks to Daryn Berlin and Counter Culture Coffee for providing coffee for us and our guests this year and to Lisa Drummond for preparing such wonderful meals!



David Sittser of Reality Ministries visited with Primetimers on January 21st and discussed that in 2007 they launched a vision for people to know that the deepest reality of life is God's love in Jesus Christ. "From its inception, Reality has focused on the overlooked and underserved populations in Durham, beginning with the cognitively impaired." We learned about the true meaning of friendship between so many wonderful people.

There are many ways to become involved with Reality Ministries. One of which, Pass the Peas, happens at our church monthly. Contact Nancy Carstens, TAPC member, for more information.

We will miss being together in February. Stay tuned for more announcements!

Disciple Study Update and Re-Opening for New Testament

The Disciple Study is an intensive Bible study where members agree to read a few chapters of the Bible every night and meet once a week over the course of 34 weeks. The members of this small group are about to wrap up the Old Testament portion of the study on March 3rd.

Daniel Chase, one of the members, gives some insight into his experience in the group:

“As we go through the Old Testament part of the Disciple Study small group, I have been reminded of what the Bible is not. It isn’t a G-rated story of a perfect, or even consistently good, people following an easily understandable God. It is a messy story of a faithful God in love with his people amidst their tragically inconsistent responses. There are more stories than rules, and more poetry than interpretation. Yet there persists a cultural notion that the Bible is a textbook about God, with the idea that once I’ve read it through by myself, I’ll know all I need to know about God and life and then I’m done.

Instead, reading the Bible is messy and difficult enough that we sometimes need to experience it with others, as international experts from the study guides and local church friends give us a deeper perspective than what we could discern by ourselves. Honestly, sometimes I just find the behavior of God’s chosen people in the Old Testament to be outright disheartening and God’s response to be confusing, so I need encouragement to keep going as I watch the grace of God slowly unfold in the story amidst every sin imaginable. And I need the stories of my new friends in the study to help interpret the old stories we read. Everyone in the group has different stories and perspectives, and sharing them is not just enjoyable but essential. I’ve enjoyed reading through a 365 day Bible alone before, but this study has more laughs, tears, and brownies.

The study has encouraged me to look around me today to see how God is working in times that breed cynicism and alienation, times like the stories we are reading. Small groups at their best loosen our cynical blindfolds so that we can glimpse the sometimes hidden story of Israel’s redemption and our own redemption.”

Starting Thursday, March 10 at 7pm, the Disciple Study will re-open to new members. If anyone would like to join us for the 17 weeks of New Testament study, please contact Lara Chase at laraqchasenc@gmail.com.

A P.W. Lunch and Learn About the Prophet Isaiah

Our Presbyterian Women invite you to come learn about the prophet Isaiah on Wednesday, February 17th.

We will gather in our fellowship hall promptly at 12:00 noon with a program beginning at 12:30pm 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.

Vacation Church School, June 13-17:
A Camp for the Entire Church Family

What does the Christian life look like? It looks like sitting in a pew in worship. It looks like serving a meal to those who are in need. It looks like a ministry team meeting spent in prayerful discernment and planning. But, in important ways, it also looks like a summer camp, with over a hundred children, youth, and adults engaged in holy play.

Vacation Church School is a joint effort by five area Presbyterian churches held every year at Camp New Hope in Chapel Hill, twenty minutes away from TAPC. Campers span the ages of four year olds through fifth grade, with middle schoolers and high schoolers serving as counselors and volunteers. Beginning at 8:30am each day, campers and counselors and adult volunteers play field games, create intricate crafts, listen to a Bible Story, learn movements to new songs, and swim or play water games. Each day ends with lunch before pick up at 1pm.

At Vacation Church School, we learn that living into God’s loving embrace is a thrilling adventure. Because Jesus is Lord over everything, we can play ‘capture the flag’ to God’s glory. We can make miniature fountains to reflect God’s craftsmanship. We can swim and leap and laugh to God’s delight. Vacation Church School reminds us that we serve a God so big that his goodness can include a whole week of camp, with mischief and booboos and loads of new friends. Registration forms will be released for children and youth soon. Keep an eye out for them in weekly TAPC emails.

However, if Vacation Church School is to reflect the Kingdom of God, it needs plenty of adult involvement. Children take their cues from the adults around them, so we need older members of the family of faith to be leading the way with glee. Some adults budget in vacation time from work to volunteer at this camp each year. They are thanked for their sacrifice, but they always respond that it’s no sacrifice at all, that there are few other ways they’d prefer to use their time. Nothing makes you feel young like a week at camp with children.

We have adults of all walks of life who help out at Vacation Church School, and we would appreciate your help. You can volunteer for one day, a couple of days, or for the whole week. You can shepherd a group of children, following them from one activity to the next, or you can linger at a station as you welcome each new group. If interested, please email Tommy at tgrimm@trinityave.org for more information. We need your help, and we’re confident there is joy in store for you if you join us.

