
Trinity Avenue

927 W. Trinity Avenue
Durham, NC 27701-1715

Office: 919-682-3865

Fax: 919-682-6021

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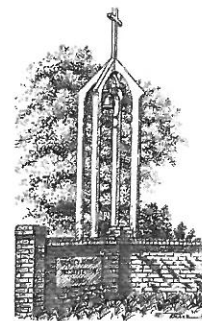
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ON TAP

Come Worship With Us!

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

Join us for an **Ash Wednesday service** at 6:15 in the chapel on Wednesday, February 18th. As we begin the Lenten journey together, we will offer prayers of confession and receive the mark of our mortality as we once again hear Christ's command to repent and believe the gospel.

Presbyterian 101: If you are new to the Presbyterian Church or thinking about joining TAPC (or an established member in need of a little theological "refreshment"), join Victoria Herring for a one-session class on the fundamentals of our faith and church government. You'll be introduced to the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*, the basics of reformed theology, and the governing structure of our denomination (PC-USA). All are welcome! February 1 at 10:00am in the Connect and Deepen Classroom on the upstairs education hallway.

Everything TAPC: The following Sunday, Howard Wood will introduce new and prospective members to the work and worship of the Presbyterian Church as it manifests itself on the corner of Gregson Street and Trinity Avenue. Come learn about our missions, our fellowship events, and opportunities to get involved in being the church in the city. February 8th at 10:00am in the Trinity Classroom on the upstairs education hallway.

Dear Friends,

Benedictine monk John Main once wrote, "A group of Christians who meet together to meditate, to pray, to worship is not just a social gathering. It is a group aware of its power: a power that arises from the transcendent reality of the presence of the Lord Jesus in its midst. The purpose of their meeting is, above all, to attend to the reality of this presence, to deepen their silent receptivity to it, to make it (what it already is) the supreme reality of their lives. So, each member of the group is other-centered, turned away from himself or herself toward the living Lord. A group like this then becomes truly a community on the model of that described at the end of the second chapter of Acts: 'A sense of awe was everywhere...all whose faith had drawn them together held everything in common...with unaffected joy.' A Christian community is aware of its ultimate meaning as being beyond itself. Then the social, cultural, or ceremonial form of the group is not something to be jealously preserved or possessed. It can even be risked."

In the church year, it seems that the Christmas decorations have only just been packed away in their boxes when we are called to christen the season of Lent with a smudge of ash upon the brow on Ash Wednesday—this year, on February 18. In between these times, we are often busy with getting the mechanics of the new year underway at the church. We prepare new budgets, plan new program cycles. Within your own life, I suspect that the mechanics of the new year are similarly getting underway.

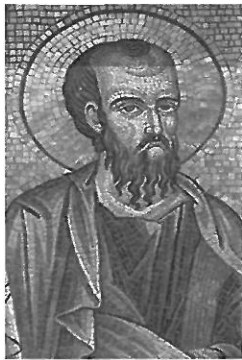
It may seem strange that, so quickly on the heels of celebrating the birth of the infant Christ, we are preparing for his suffering and death as a man. But the turn-around of the church seasons teaches us at once to hold each season loosely, and to live with each of them perennially.

As we ready ourselves to receive the gifts of this Lenten season, perhaps we can receive the words of John Main as a sort of prescription for deepening our experience of Lent, and our relationship with one another and with God through it: Tend to the reality of God's presence in your life. Deepen your silent receptivity to it. Do what it takes for it to become the supreme reality of your life. Be other-centered, turning away from yourself and toward the living Lord.

Perhaps, as we tend to these things together this Lenten season, a new sense of awe might begin to grow and displace the energy that we pour into the mechanics surrounding the new year and so many aspects of our lives. Perhaps we will discover new ways to take risks together rather than slipping into familiar patterns of preserving what we already possess. Perhaps we will find new meaning beyond ourselves, and be all the more prepared at Easter to submerge ourselves in unaffected joy.

On the Journey,
Katie

Newsletter items should be sent to jburney@trinityave.org. Please submit items for the *March/2015* Newsletter by Feb. 15th.



Come learn more about the Apostle Paul on Monday, Feb. 9th In the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon.

Our Presbyterian Women groups have been using the Horizon Bible Study, *Reconciling Paul*. We decided it would be fun and informative to invite all of our Circles, study groups from Covenant Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, and any and all church members to join as we consider:

"Who was Paul?"

Presenters: Tommy Grimm, Director of Family Ministries and Chauncey Handy, Intern and Duke Divinity Class of 2015

Program begins at 12:30 and will end promptly at 1:30 to accommodate our working members. **Bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be provided.** For more information contact: Sally Adkin, 919-286-2055, or sadkin@nc.rr.com

Primetimers December Meeting



TAPC's own King of Coffee, Daryn Berlin, was our guest on December 18th. We learned about the challenges that Daryn's company, Counter Culture, faces when tasked with bringing us the world's finest specialty coffee. Developing fair relationships with growers; overseeing the production and harvesting process to ensure the company purchase of the best beans; and supporting chosen restaurants that serve the coffee are all part of providing the best tasting coffee. For example, rainforests with the perfect balance of sun and shade provide a better coffee growing environment but present challenges when it comes to harvesting. Counter Culture coffee is picked by hand in these rainforests for this reason. Machines that pick beans in rows would provide more cost effectiveness but would lose the human touch guaranteeing perfectly ripe beans that are picked at just the right time.

As part of Daryn's presentation, Primetimers were invited to participate in a Counter Culture cupping in our own Fellowship Hall! Besides being served on Sundays and during Primetimers meetings at TAPC, you can find Counter Culture coffee at Whole Foods and Monuts to name a few. Daryn is also a regular contributor of coffee to our Primetimers guests. We are so pleased to present our guests with his coffee!

Primetimers January Meeting



Gail Johnson's husband, Len was the guest of Primetimers on January 15th. Len proudly showed his wife's photography as Gail was sick the morning of the event. While we missed Gail, Len did an excellent job describing where the photos were taken and details about each one.

The presentation was called, The Story Behind the Photos: Insight, Second Sight. Gail's skill is truly remarkable as she lost her central vision 36 years ago and is contributing so much to this visual art.

Gail likes to study close views and patterns in nature like waterfalls, Christmas tree farms, butterflies and birds. She also captures repetition and patterns in the movement of water in water fountains, for example. Gail's attention to detail contributes to the uniqueness of her art.

Gail sent beautiful photo note cards to each of us. We look forward to inviting Gail next year to teach us some fundamentals of photography.

Please join us on February 19th when we welcome Rabbi David Greyber from Beth El Synagogue in Durham. Rabbi David will talk about Passover.



Youth and Children's Ministries
Spotlight on the Spirit's work

Youth Holiday Gift Project

Before Christmas last year, the youth devoted a weekend to providing gifts for community families. First, the youth held a "parents night out" event on a Saturday night to raise funds, entertaining nineteen children while parents enjoyed a night off. Then on Sunday, the youth used this money to purchase gifts listed on our Angel Tree and returned to the church to wrap them. To give you a sense of the weekend, here's how youth advisor, Micheale Collie, recounted the experience the next day:



I'm so proud of our youth group. This was a wonderful weekend of fellowship, stewardship— both in their time Saturday night and in their attentiveness to our service project tonight — friendship, and fun.

These kids never cease to amaze me; I know, I've said that before. Who would have thought we'd have teenage boys enthusiastically volunteering to wrap clothes for an 8 year old boy? The joy and determination of this group as they worked together to wrap gifts warmed my heart. The Christmas season has begun for me, as the youth shared of themselves so selflessly.

Our youth truly are amazing!



Support our Youth—Provide a Meal!

One simple way you can support our youth ministry is by volunteering to help provide a meal for our youth on a Sunday evening. You can share the responsibility with another person and then join the youth for table fellowship. If interested, please email Tommy at tgrimm@trinityave.org.

Children's Ministry: Kids Club

The spirit of service at work in our youth above can be found among our children as well. On the first Sunday of every month, third through fifth graders gather after church for Kids Club. They eat together, perform a service project, and play a game. This school year, Charlene Foley has organized our Kids Club around Housing for New Hope, connecting some piece of each gathering to the organization and its mission. Last December, Kids Club members decorated our Fellowship Hall in preparation for Housing for New Hope's Christmas party. They put down tablecloths and created lovely table centerpieces, as seen below. Thanks to Charlene Foley for leading this ministry and Corlis Wood for guiding this activity.



Note from the Session

Happy New Year!

As I sat to put this note together, this reflection back was the first thought I had since we don't have a "January" newsletter and the February communication is the first of the new year. While resolutions, in whatever form you may choose, have been made and perhaps reconsidered, I submit it is never too late to consider how you will choose to spend your time and talents for 2015. There are opportunities for you to weigh your active participation in our community of faith here at Trinity Avenue and consider broadening your scope to include something new, such as:

- * Sunday School
- * Homebound visitation
- * Bible Study
- * Circle or other small group(s)
- * Ushering (great way to meet and greet your community of faith!)
- * Assisting with ministry (scripture reading, counting, sanctuary assistance, etc.)
- * Outreach activities
- * Active participation on a Ministry Team

This is certainly not an exhaustive list. I invite you to prayerfully seek to discern whether you could invest in something new or pursue a deeper involvement in a current interest while we are still early in the year.

My second thought is a glance forward. As I write this in mid-January, we are still basking in the glow of the "star" and the lights of Christmas and Epiphany remain visible on some hold-outs' homes when I drive home in the evenings. Alas, God fairly quickly reminds us that this Immanuel whose birth was celebrated by starlight had a much greater purpose for his life "with us", as the ashes of Lent remind us beginning on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the Lenten season is referred to as the season of "bright sadness", because it is a time of contemplation and even mourning culminating in the great joy of Easter. As we approach this Lenten season, I invite you to prepare your hearts for this "bright sadness" and all the opportunities that come with it. — Steve Yova

Sign up now to host weekly fellowship after worship!

The deacons are looking for volunteers to host the weekly fellowship time after the 9:00 and/or 11:00 worship services. You don't have to provide an elaborate spread—just some simple snacks for people to munch on as they mingle. If everyone in the congregation signs up for just one or two time slots, we can fill the whole 2015 calendar! You can sign up on the ministry table in the narthex, by calling Jenny Peters (919-641-3807), or by going to the following SignUp Genius link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0944abac29a20-weekly2>

Andrea Rock will be giving her personal story of going from atheism to Christianity; her story is titled "A Simple Case of Lost and Found." She will speak in the TAPC chapel at 10:00am on Sunday, February 15th. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Andrea is a graduate of Fuller Seminary and is currently under the care of TAPC while looking for her first ordained call to the ministry. Andrea also preached at TAPC on December 28, 2014.

She is a Massachusetts native who fulfilled a lifetime dream of living in southern California. Although she never wanted to leave California, the presence of her grandsons on the east coast brought her back, and she's very happy with her decision.

CALENDAR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

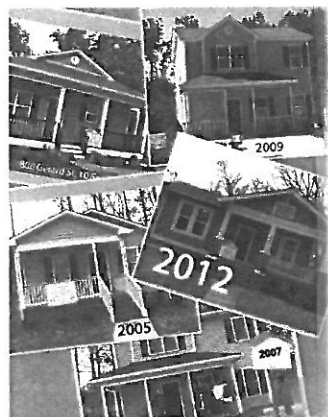
Dates	Communion	Counters	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
Feb. 1	9 am: Christ & Cathy Perry 11am: (In Pews) Leslie Lobaugh (leader) Caroline Armacost Bob Clarke Arland Eyl Mary Gunderson Mary Martin Peggy Waters	Bill Waddell (lead) Greg Cates Mark Phillips	<u>Parent-in-Charge</u> Shattuck <u>Acolytes</u> Emma & Hannah Wilcox. Harper & Marney Shattuck	<u>9am Services:</u> Deirdre Gordon & Kay Williams <u>11am Services:</u> TBA
Feb. 8	9am: Chris & Carol Leach	Bill Ross (lead) Elaine Ross Al Joyner	<u>Parent-in-Charge</u> Riley <u>Acolytes</u> Wyatt Jernigan, Luke Musser, Collin Phillips & Tristan Riley	
Feb. 15	9am: Suzy Ward & Carol Rose	Richard Arnold (lead) Bill Wicker Mark Ahrendsen	<u>Parent-in-Charge</u> Luker <u>Acolytes</u> Gracie & Maggie Garrett, Evan & Elly Luker	
Feb. 22	9am: Marshall & Edith Boon	Bill Telford (lead) Marcie Telford Marie Grauerholz	<u>Parent-in-Charge</u> Euler <u>Acolytes</u> Grant & Vinton Euler, Nick Lockwood & Edward Rogers	

Many thanks to the dedicated people who prepared and cleaned up Communion for the 9:00am Sunday services in 2014. 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!

Thank you to the following people who served our church as ushers and greeters at the 9:00 Sunday worship services in 2014: Deirdre Gordon & Kay Williams, Brent & Debbie Blaylock, Brian & Jenni Murphy, Tom & Nancy Carstens, Joe & Reba Beavers, Mark & Denise Garner, Chris & Carol Leach, Chris & Cathy Perry, Randy & Judi Bishop, Jon & Ryan Sobus, Silas Nuernberger, and Rick & Suzanne Freeman. Your services are greatly appreciated!

TAPC and Habitat for Humanity

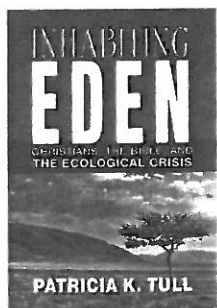
eking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people
ether to build homes, communities and hope." This is the mission of Habitat of
ham, and over the past decade, TAPC has been a faithful partner with Habitat
many other organizations in sponsoring and constructing safe, affordable
es for families in Durham. Many folks from TAPC have volunteered their time
talents to swing hammers, cut lumber, paint, hang and trim doors and windows,
ply lunch, install shrubbery and a host of other tasks needed to construct the
es pictured in the collage shown here. Because of the generosity and past
ng of TAPC members over the past 2 years, we will be in a position at the end
his year to supply half (\$25,000) of the money needed by Habitat for
nsorship of a new home. We are actively seeking a partner to supply the other
f. If you know of an individual or organization who may be willing to partner with us in this effort,
ase contact any TAPC staff member or Outreach Committee member. You may also send a text,
ail or phone call to Arland Eyl (919-698-9116, arland.eyl@gmail.com). It is time to get started again,
dig out that hammer and nail apron! We need your help.



Lenten Earth Care Book Study

u are invited to attend a presentation by Patricia Tull, author of the book, Inhabiting Eden: Christians,
e Bible, and the Ecological Crisis, Sunday evening, February 15, 2015 at 7pm in the TAPC Chapel. Dr. Tull
A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. She works with
diana congregations to conserve energy, writes on Scripture and ecology for lay, clergy, student, and
holarly audiences, teaches, preaches, and lectures, leads pilgrimages across town and around the world,
d serves in editorial capacities for several academic publishers. When asked about how she came to write
e book, she replied—

"When I was first approached about writing a Bible study about ecological issues, I
on discovered that I had been reading, studying, and even teaching the Hebrew
ible for years with blinders on. Our faith ancestors in ancient Judah were keenly
ware of their absolute dependence on, and interdependence with, the other elements
f the natural world. They developed a rich theology of creation, which we now must
eclaim. When we do so, we discover not only harmony with God's creation, but
rgency to do all we can to assure our own survival and that of the world God so
vingly made."



s one of the offerings by the Christian Formation Ministry team, Arland Eyl and Sarah Musser will be
cting as leaders of a Lenten Covenant Group which will focus on the book "Inhabiting Eden" as a study
uide. The group will meet on Sunday evenings at 7pm for 6 sessions, starting on Sunday, February 22,
015, location to be determined. If you are interested in this group, please sign up on the ministry
able in the Carr Narthex.

Congregation-wide Book Reads: Making Friends and Neighbors in Durham

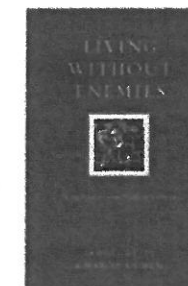
Join Mary Gunderson and Elizabeth Michael for conversations on one or more of these books. You can secure your own copy, or see Elizabeth to buy one through the church.



Strangers at My Door, by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Jonathan and Leah Wilson-Hartgrove moved to Walltown in 2003 to open a hospitality house—a place where they could live into Jesus' command to welcome the stranger. This book is a collection of stories of what happened when they opened the doors of Rutba House to anyone who knocked.

Discussion: Sunday, February 22nd at 10:00am

Living without Enemies: Being Present in the Midst of Violence by Samuel Wells and Marcia Owen. Marcia Owen and Samuel Wells come together to tell the story of a community's journey through four different dimensions of social engagement. After attempts to seek legislative solutions led nowhere, a religious coalition began holding prayer vigils for local victims of gun violence. It was then that Owen discovered the beauty of simply being present. Through her friendships with both victims and offenders, Owen learned that being with was precisely the opposite of violence—it was love. And to truly love others as God loves us meant living without enemies and taking small steps toward reconciliation.



Discussion: Sunday, March 22nd at 10:00am



Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South by Osha Gray Davidson: C. P. Ellis grew up in the poor white section of Durham, North Carolina, and as a young man joined the Ku Klux Klan. Ann Atwater, a single mother from the poor black part of town, quit her job as a household domestic to join the civil rights fight. During the 1960s, as the country struggled with the explosive issue of race, Atwater and Ellis met on opposite sides of the public school integration issue. Their encounters were charged with hatred and suspicion. In an amazing set of transformations, however, each of them came to see how the other had been exploited by the South's rigid power structure, and they forged a friendship that flourished against a backdrop of unrelenting bigotry.

Discussion: Sunday, April 19th at 10:00am