
Trinity Avenue

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Come Worship With Us!

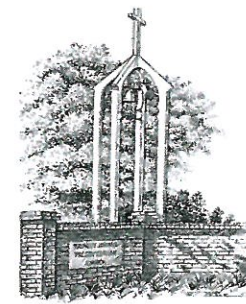
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Church Officers

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

Jesus was a busy guy. He went from meeting, to healing, to teaching, to preaching, to another meeting—and, as the feeding of the five thousand suggests, he still had to provide most of the food for his own events. He must have been so *tired*. And of course, like us, Jesus had some seriously important work to get done. There is always more of the poor to comfort, always more wounds to touch, more divine words to speak. As I've burned the midnight oil far too many times in graduate school, I've often wondered if Jesus ever pulled all-nighters—I hope not, but then again, those disciples did have trouble staying awake that night in the garden...

All kidding aside, amidst all the frenzy that it probably was to be the Son of God (a lot to live up to), Israel's awaited Messiah (no pressure, Jesus), and a crowd favorite, Jesus did something *very odd indeed*. In fact, from the perspective of our success-driven and deadline-laden world this may be the *oddest* thing Jesus ever did: "But Jesus himself often slipped away to solitary places to pray" (Luke 5:16). I imagine one disciple saying, "Hey Peter, where's the boss? There are a lot of hungry and hurting people outside that need to be saved." "Well," answers Peter, "He went off alone—again." Okay Jesus, a coffee break once in a while is understandable, *but slipping away from the job to pray—really?* After all, why would the all-powerful Son of God need a rest? Doesn't being divine come with free power-ups or something?

If Jesus' work-break weren't odd enough, what happens after is truly astounding. Without fail, Jesus' silent retreats are followed by magnificent displays of his power; he heals, exorcizes demons, and walks on water, to name a few. Often when I think of how Jesus is powerful, I just assume he was sort of a super-hero of super-heroes, walking around and zapping demons and waving his magic wand to heal the downtrodden. But what if his power came from elsewhere, what if it came from those silent retreats? What if Jesus' power was *prayer-power*?

Jesus knew that one of the most powerful things God does is to take a break. Indeed, after six days of some quality work God took a whole day off—imagine all of the extra stuff God could have produced on that seventh day! We might also remember that before Jesus even began his ministry he first retreated into the wilderness to pray for 40 days. Likewise, on the night before he was to be killed, Jesus retreated into a quiet place to speak to his father one last time. And lest we forget that in silence there is unquantifiable, amazing, astounding power, we might ponder just how quiet and still Jesus' tomb was the Saturday before God launched him out of it.

Jesus' silent retreats are odd to us because our world moves too fast. There is no time to *simply be*. Most of us are controlled by deadlines, by being within the slide-of-a-finger's reach from human connection. There are clocks everywhere; we wear them on our wrists, we place them on our bed-stands, and we keep them in our pockets. We do so because the world tells us that "time is of the essence!" We do so because productivity and performance have become bound to the value we place on ourselves. *What we do* has become *who we are*. It's surprising how fast 40-hour workweeks become 50-hour workweeks become 60-hour workweeks. I'm not exactly sure what we are chasing as we live within this time-crunched world, but it's probably something like *perfection, success, worth, achievement, reward, and recognition*. But what if we slowed down once in a while? What if we followed Jesus in his quiet protest against being over-worked and burned out? What power could we find in the still and quiet places? I wonder if we would hear in those places God's voice telling us, as God did Jesus, who we *truly, really are*, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED CHILD. WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO OR NOT DO TO MAKE ME LOVE YOU LESS."

It's funny how loud God can be in the silence. Jesus heard that voice loud and clear, and it was by the rhythm of love in that voice that Jesus marched his whole ministry long. Even if as you read this it feels impossible to slip away to the still places, Jesus is still speaking. I wonder if you can hear his voice, as quiet and muffled as it may be, saying to you in this very moment, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and overworked, and suffering from work-a-holicism, and so busy you want to cry, and so anxious you can't sleep, and so depressed you can't smile. Come to me. *And I will give you rest.*"

— Josh Gritter

Newsletter items should be sent to jburney@trinityave.org. Please submit items for the June/July Newsletter by May 15th.

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Happy Spring! The forsythia blossoms look like hundreds of tiny yellow bells, the tulips have bloomed, and the Bradford Pear trees have adorned themselves in their glorious white robes. AH! Praise be to God that He has let us live in this glorious place we call home!

AND...we all know what is next...SUMMER! So, let's think ahead to some summer fun for TAPC.

3rd Annual Marian Wright Tea Party

All are invited to the 3rd annual tea party on **Saturday, June 4 from 10:30—12:00**. This fun event honors the memory of our dear friend, Marian Wright. Please join us for tea, scones, cookies, and games! Tickets are \$25 and will be on sale after both services for every Sunday in May. All proceeds go directly to Urban Ministries of Durham.

We do need helpers the afternoon of June 3 from 2:00—4:00 to help us prepare food for the Tea Party. We also need 8-10 table hostesses to provide table settings. Please email me if you can help with either request.

3rd Summer of EDCI Summer Programming

This will be our 3rd summer to partner with EDCI to serve children and families living in East Durham. TAPC will once again provide a "Wonderful Wednesday" program **every Wednesday from June 22 through August 10**. We will need volunteers to serve lunch, play board games with children, read to pre-k children, and to do art projects with children of all ages. This year's program will have a special emphasis on STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. If you have particular gifts in these areas, then we NEED you! Please email me at mcg27517@earthlink.net or Randy Ray at rray117560@aol.comn to express your interest in helping with the EDCI summer program.

Please save these dates and plan to join in the summer fun at TAPC!

May you each enjoy the blessings of God's creation this summer.

———*Mary Gunderson*

CALENDAR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dates	Communion	Counters	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
May 1	9 am: Chris & Cathy Perry 11 am: Jane Harper (lead), Bill Wicker, Nick Staffa, Bob Clarke	Bill Waddell (lead) Greg Cates Mark Phillips	Grace & Maggie Garrett, Tristan Riley P-I-C: Garrett	<u>May 9am Services:</u> Sally & Clare Adkin <u>May 1am Services</u> TBA
May 8	9am: Chris & Carol Leach	Bill Ross (lead) Elaine Ross Al Joyner	Emma & Hannah Wilcox, Luke Musser P-I-C: Musser	
May 15	9am: Suzy Ward & Carol Rose	Richard Arnold (lead) Mark Ahrendsen	Justine Yova, Vinton, Grant & Lucy Euler P-I-C: Euler	
May 22	9am: Edith & Marshall Boon	Bill Telford (lead) Marcie Telford Marie Grauerholz	Tristan Riley, Wyatt Jernigan, Emma & Hannah Wilcox P-I-C: Jernigan	
May 29	9am: Marie Grauerholz	Jeff Hendriks (lead) Andy Riley Jeff Williams	Anna Fleming & Justine Yova (<i>no lighters</i>) P-I-C: Fleming	



Most of the Church's to which Paul wrote knew him personally. Though his letters at times come across as confusing and abstract, when Paul writes I like to imagine that he pictures faces, remembers the quirks of many personalities, and laughs belly-deep at funny jokes he was told. Although I am far from being the Apostle Paul, I will spend the rest of my days as a pastor or teacher picturing the faces of the beautiful people of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. As Paul would say, "I am writing these things because of the great joy I have experienced because of you." Eight months isn't a long time—babies take longer than that to come into the world. Even so, in these past months God has born in me and in y'all deep friendships of love, care, and acceptance. Just the other day I was telling my lovely wife that TAPC is the first church with which I have used the word *home*—it's funny how quickly a home can be built. What I'd like to offer to you most are words of gratitude, words that are not hard to come by. Thank you to all of you for loving me so well; thank you all for listening to a 27-year old still finding his way around a pulpit; thank you parents for entrusting your bright and shining youth to my care, and thank you youth for showing this adult more about the playfulness of God's Kingdom; and finally, thank you pastors—nay, friends—Katie, Tommy, Harry, and Graham, for making me feel less like an intern and more like a pastor. No one leaves home forever, so I hope and trust that I will see you all again in the future. *Thanks, y'all.—Josh*

Habitat House Dedicated: On Saturday, March 19, 2016, representatives from Habitat of Durham, Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Triangle Presbyterian and Watts Street Baptist gathered to offer thanks, praise and prayer for the completion of the home built for Shawna Burgess and her daughter, Nia.



Thanks be to God for the generous financial gifts from the three congregations that made sponsorship of the home possible, and the time and talents shared by faithful construction volunteers. We hope to be able to sponsor another home in the future. In the meantime, there are always many opportunities to volunteer with Habitat of Durham. Sign up at the website, <http://www.durhamhabitat.org/volunteer>.

“Belonging, Believing, Becoming”

Adult Sunday School Elective

May 22, June 19 and July 17 (3rd Sunday of each month)

Taught by Rev. Matt Floding, Parish Associate

Font, Table and Pulpit. Each of these has a prominent place in our church sanctuary. Each powerfully conveys something significant about Trinity Avenue being a place of belonging, believing and becoming. They teach us about being a disciple of the living Jesus. *Belonging, Believing and Becoming* is an opportunity to build community, reflect on Christian faith, and practice hospitality. In other words, practice being church.

May 22—Get wet and Belong! Everyone wants to belong. Learn more about the significance of the Font, practice theological reflection, consider how its hope-filled message can shape our life together in creating spaces of belonging.

June 19—Get fed and Believe! Everyone believes in something. Practice theological reflection on the Table, where Jesus is both host and food. What other tables have shaped your life? How does this Table where we feast on gospel promise shape our communal life?

July 17— Listen up and Become! Everyone wants to flourish and grow. Who can miss the pulpit at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian? There’s a reason for that. Reflect theologically with the group on its place of prominence—in church, in our lives, for the world.

COME FLY AWAY WITH US TO SUMMER CAMP!



All three, four, and five year olds are invited to the TAPC Weekday School summer camps. Three weeks are available: June 20-24, July 11-15, and August 1-5. The hours are 9am to 12pm Monday through Friday. The cost is \$100.00 per week. Playpals will be offered from 12 to 1pm at an additional charge of 6 dollars daily. Each child should bring a bag lunch with a beverage, a hat, and should have sunscreen applied before arrival. Limited space is available, so register soon by calling the director, Lori Hardin, at 919-530-8163, or email her at lhartin@trinityave.org.

Mystery in the TAPC Archives

A yellowed document (undated) has been found in our archives. It is 9 pages that shares pictures and background on treasured images of Madonnas from around the world. Who put this document together? There are clues in the introduction reprinted below.

This program is an outgrowth of a hobby my mother had that gives her and many other people pleasure. One year she began making a scrapbook with the Madonna Christmas cards she and my father had received. She continues to add to it, not only Christmas cards but postcards from museums around the world as family and friends added to her collection. One rainy afternoon baby sitting our three sons, she showed them her Madonna scrapbook and found that they were fascinated. She made a scrapbook for each of her eleven grandchildren and then for years made them for nursing homes. When I read that Yale Divinity School had made slides of Madonnas, I got them, researched the subject and enjoy sharing them.

Can you help us find the author? Contact Sally Adkin at sadkin@nc.rr.com or Ann Kirkland at gramkirk@aol.com.

The archive committee seeks annual reports 2009 and before. Does anyone know when TAPC first started printing an annual report? Contact Sally Adkin at sadkin@nc.rr.com

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
3rd Annual Tea Party
Given in Memory of
Marian Wright



Saturday, June 4th
10:30a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25

Proceeds to Durham Urban Ministries

Tickets on sale every Sunday in May after both services. See Mary Gunderson, Lloydette Hoof, Nancy Carstens or Susan Ross to buy your ticket.

Confirmation 2016

Confirmands being commissioned in worship.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus offers these sobering words to the crowds following him: "Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Similarly, Jesus urges the crowds to count the cost of discipleship. Jesus discourages would-be followers against taking his way lightly.

For the past three months, five confirmands have listened carefully to Jesus' call to discipleship and have explored the joys and challenges of being a Christian and belonging to the Church. Jack Nuernberger, Caroline Foley, Henry Rogers, Ashlyn Riley, and Allen Stockburger, all 8th—10th graders, studied Scripture, prayed, spoke honestly about doubts and faith, and read through a confirmation catechism. They also worshiped with Christians from other traditions.

By their side were mentors who served as guides and fellow pilgrims in this journey:

Caroline Armacost, Dan Richards, Sarah Tucker, Josh Tucker, and Bert Wolf. Here are some of their reflections about this experience:

When I received a call from Tommy asking if I would be willing and feel led to be Jack's confirmation mentor, I was both honored and scared. Would I be a good mentor? Would I have answers? Would I make Jack's time in confirmation pleasant or unbearable? The last time I had anything to do with confirmation was 20ish years ago when I myself was a confirmand, and it was more unbearable than pleasant for me. Fast forward to April 13, 2016 and I can truthfully share that confirmation this time was both fun and formational, and I feel so blessed to have experienced it with Jack. Jack has shown me that there is always room to grow in my relationship with Christ and those around me, and for that I can't thank him enough and feel blessed beyond words. (Josh Tucker)

Two things stand out to me about confirmation process. One, mentors are ministered to by their confirmands as much as (if not more than!) they minister to them. Two, I was impressed by the responses of my confirmand, Caroline, to the outside worship services. Her first reaction each time was to point out something different but special about the service, not something different and strange. Viewing these services through the eyes of a very mature 13 year old was illuminating and inspirational for me. As I told my fellow Session members, if you are ever asked to serve as a mentor, don't hesitate — do it! (Caroline Armacost)

I have been privileged to study and pray with the confirmands these last weeks as we journeyed together to try to understand what it means to be a Christian. I give thanks for all of the thought they have put into the process of confirmation. (Bert Wolf)

Thank you, confirmands, for challenging us to take Christ's call more seriously and to orient our lives in the mystery of God. We pray you always feel welcome in the Church and emboldened by its mission. —Tommy Grimm



To celebrate our confirmands, youth and families gathered for their Spring Fling Thing cookout at Forest Hills Park.