

FALL 2019

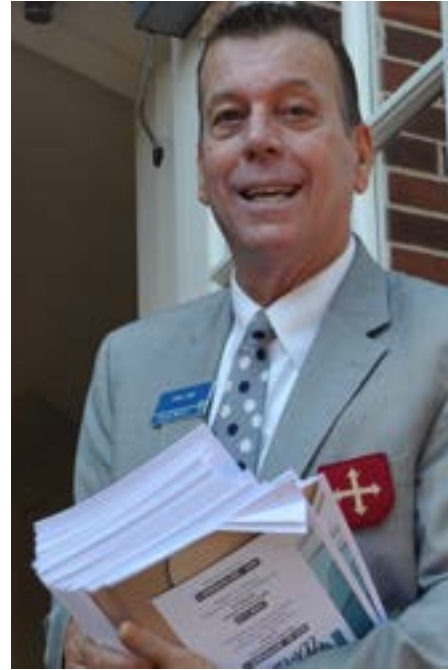
TRINITY  
*Times*

FALL WORSHIP

# remembering CHURCH

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FAITH COMMUNITY







# IT'S FALL AT TRINITY!

Every September marks the start of a busy fall season at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Here is your guide to all that's happening.

## WORSHIP

On September 8, we will return to our program year worship schedule with two worship services on Sunday mornings. The informal service at 9:00 am gathers in the Loft and offers a variety of musical, liturgical and prayer styles and an interactive proclamation of the Word. Our traditional service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary includes classical music led by our Chancel Choir, liturgy and prayers, traditional hymns and a pulpit proclamation of the Word. Acting Senior Pastor Richard Floyd continues the four-week sermon series "Remembering Church" that calls us to consider what it means to be the church.

"Give Generously" is the theme of the 2020 Commitment Campaign, which co-chairs John Shepard and Susan Foxworth Hamilton will kick off during worship on Sunday, November 3. Throughout the campaign, members of the church will offer testimony about the generosity of God in their lives.

## MUSIC + ARTS

The 2019-20 concert season begins on Tuesday, October 23, with a concert by the Paideia High School Choruses. Franz Joseph Haydn: Creation, Part I will be presented by the Chancel Choir's in the Fall Music Festival on Sunday, November 10.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Church school classes for all ages begins Sunday, September 15.

Terence Lester, minister, activist, and author, will be our Trinity Explores guest speaker on Sunday, October 20. Lester is known for nationwide campaigns that bring awareness to issues surrounding homelessness, poverty, and economic inequality.

## SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

Between the 9:00 and 11:00 am worship services on Sunday, September 8, join us in Williams Hall for our Welcome Back Brunch! Greet our pastors, meet friends old and new, and get ready for another season of worship, service, and fellowship at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Our bi-annual food drive for Buckhead Christian Ministry begins October 1. We are aiming for a higher goal this fall.

## AND MUCH MORE!

Check out our Events listing on our website for information about what's coming up in Family Ministries, Young Adults, Congregational Life and other ministries of the church.

And if you prefer to explore offline, come to our Discover Trinity class on Sundays, September 15, 22, and 29 to meet with pastors and senior staff about the ministries and programs of the church, and how you can get involved.





SEPTEMBER 1-29, 2019

# remembering CHURCH

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FAITH COMMUNITY

9:00 AM WORSHIP - THE LOFT  
11:00 AM WORSHIP - SANCTUARY

# SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES

---

by RICHARD FLOYD, Acting Senior Pastor

For the month of September our worship theme will be Remembering Church. There are a few different shades of meaning here.

It's been a long summer, and many of us have been traveling or otherwise occupied, and maybe we've forgotten about church. So we need to remember church—in other words, we need to get re-engaged! Our official fall kick-off is September 8. On that day we return to two worship services: an informal service at 9am in The Loft, and our more traditional service at 11am in the sanctuary. You'll see more information about our fall kick-off in this issue.

The word remember also has an older meaning: to re-member, to put the members (as of a body) back together. With Pam's departure and with the time of transition we are entering, it can be tempting to pull apart. People have different perspectives on what has brought us to where we are, and different visions for where we should go from here. People react differently to change and loss. We will need to practice patience and kindness with each other in the coming days, to make space for our differences, to speak the truth in love to each other, and to do what we can to re-member church, to hold the body together, through this time of change.

We are also remembering church in a third sense. The sermons throughout September will focus on what it means to be the church. Consider it a refresher, a reminder, of

what we're about as people of faith in community. Here's a schedule for the sermons in September.

## **September 1**

Remembering Church: Called to Hospitality  
Tom Farmer

## **September 8**

Remembering Church: Called to Go  
Richard Floyd

## **September 15**

Remembering Church: Called to Find  
Richard Floyd

## **September 22**

Remembering Church: Called to Life Together  
Richard Floyd

## **September 29**

Remembering Church: Called to Tell Our Story  
Betsy Lyles Swetenburg

In such a time as this we need to gather together for worship and work, to listen to one another and care for one another, more than ever. I hope you'll make every effort to remember church this fall.

# WORSHIP EDUCATION

---

by ANDREW ESQUEDA, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

Family Ministries, comprised of Children and Family Ministry and Youth and Family Ministry, is looking forward to this year's outstanding programs and opportunities for engagement in all areas of the church.

While much will remain the same as Trinity searches for an Interim Senior Pastor, one area that will see change is worship education for children. After extensive research and exploring best practices for the faith development of young people over the past year, the Children and Family Ministry Committee has decided to incorporate worship education into the Sunday school curriculum. This move affects the entire congregation as our children Kindergarten and older will now be joining their parents and the entire Trinity family in worship. This not only keeps us current with ministry research and best practices, it also allows worship education to be available to attendees of both the 9:00 am Informal Service and the 11:00 am Traditional Service.

In recent years, on a typical Sunday before the sermon in the 11:00 am worship service our children, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, would leave to go to the chapel to engage in worship education. You may recall the phrase

the congregation said to the children when they left the service, "May God be with you there," and the children's response, "May God be with you here." Although we may miss saying this phrase to our children, we are excited about the new opportunity for both taught and immersive worship education.

We have incredible leadership in our Children's Director, Elizabeth Davis, and she will be present during the 11:00 am service to answer questions about worshipping with children or about what the children will be learning in worship education. I am also available to answer any questions you might have about this or the ministry and direction of Family Ministry. Our new approach to worship education for children offers a great opportunity for intergenerational worship and relationships. Please take advantage of this. When you see a young person of any age in worship, we invite you to introduce yourself and get to know them.

We look forward to having our children be full participants in the rich worship experiences we have at both 9:00 am and 11:00 am. May God be with all of us as we live, worship, and commune this 2019-2020 year!









# LOVE BEYOND WALLS

with TERENCE LESTER

**Sunday, October 20  
7:00 PM, The Loft**

Trinity Explores is pleased to present minister, activist, and author, Terence Lester on Sunday, October 20. Lester is known for nationwide campaigns that bring awareness to issues surrounding homelessness, poverty, and economic inequality. Literally walking in their shoes and alongside them, Lester commits his life to making the stories of those living on the margins visible with the goal of breaking down barriers of false pretenses. He believes in face-to-face engagement, hands-on service and support, and resilient action. With his best friend and wife, Cecilia, Lester began the organization Love Beyond Walls with these values in mind. From its conception in 2004 to its non-profit status in 2013, Love Beyond Walls has mobilized thousands of people in the service of those who are vulnerable and often forgotten. Passionate storyteller and committed activist, Lester makes God's love visible in places where it is required and not simply convenient.

This event is free and open to the public.

# ADULT CHURCHSCHOOL

sundays @ 10:00 am



september-october 2019  
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ATLANTA



## SCHEDULE

**September** 15, 22, 29

Room | The Shaking of the Foundations  
B104-106 | **George Stroup, Bert Broadfoot**

Room | Three Big Bangs  
B110 | **Albert Anderson**

Room | Coffee & Connections  
Williams Hall | **Ellen Carrington, Andrew Esqueda**

Room | God and Money  
B104-106 | **Robert Balentine, Tom Farmer,  
David Carr, Tom Adams**

**October** 13, 20, 27

Room | Democracy on the Brink  
B112 | **Halsey Knapp**


Room | The Shaking of the Foundations  
B104-106 | **George Stroup, Bert Broadfoot**

Room | Three Big Bangs  
B110 | **Albert Anderson**

**\*\*October 6 – Congregational Brunch  
(no church school) 10:00 am, Williams Hall**




### The Shaking of the Foundations: Theological Reflections on the 1960s




The 1960s were one of the most tumultuous and transformative in U.S. history. People were deeply divided over civil rights, the Vietnam War, the threat posed by the Soviet Union, the War on Poverty, and emerging feminism. Many institutions—the government, military, corporations, universities, and churches—were called into question and shaken to their foundations. After 50 years there are still different interpretations of what happened. How should we understand those events from the perspective of Christian faith?

### Three Big Bangs: Faith Meets Science in an Evolutionary Universe




The evolution of the physical universe from its beginning, the evolution of life on earth, and the evolution of the human brain have robust explanatory theories in science. However, three significant mysteries presently remain beyond the reach of science: the origin of the universe, the origin of life, and the origin of human language, art and self-aware consciousness. We will examine what science can and cannot say about these three mysteries, and what implications might be suggested for the spiritual dimension.

### Coffee & Connections: Exploring Themes in the Memoir, "Educated"



Tara Westover's book, *Educated*, has raised a number of important questions about family, religion, science, education, and parenting in American culture. Raised in a survivalist family isolated on a mountain in Idaho, Westover began her formal education at 17. She has since graduated from Cambridge and Harvard and has reflected on her upbringing. We will explore the themes cultivated in this memoir and discuss the application of Westover's queries to our lives.

### God and Money




Money is central to every part of our lives, and yet it's very hard to talk about. This class will be a chance to reflect about "God and Money". Class topics will include financial literacy and our reformed tradition's views on money. The final week will be a panel discussion on thoughts on God and money and how the panelists make decisions about living, budgeting, and giving.

#### CONTINUING IN OCTOBER:

### The Shaking of the Foundations: Theological Reflections on the 1960s

### Three Big Bangs: Faith Meets Science in an Evolutionary Universe

### Democracy on the Brink: Will Your Vote Count?



In this three part series, we will explore recent developments in election law and how voters can protect their constitutionally guaranteed right to cast an accountable vote. The series will include topics such as Georgia's Voters Strike Back: Curling, Fair Fight, and the Struggle to Replace Georgia's Vulnerable Voting System; Voter Suppression: At a Precinct Near You; and Gerrymandering: Where to Draw the Line? The US Supreme Court Opts Out in *Rucho v. Common Cause*.

## CLERGY AFFILIATE

# JACK GRAHAM

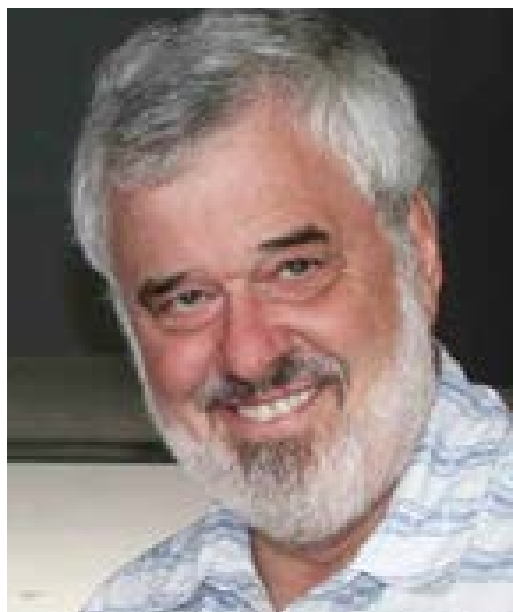
Trinity's "Clergy Affiliate members" are ordained PCUSA ministers who are either retired from ministry or minister in settings outside Trinity but worship and serve alongside us. They are a deep well of wisdom among us. In addition, we have invited those who are willing and able to serve as liturgists at some point in the coming year.

### HOW DID I END UP HERE?

My paternal Grandfather had two doctorates and left the ultra-fundamentalist Covenanter Church (Scottish sect) to become a Presbyterian minister. I never heard it said, but I am sure both sides of his family thought he was a heretic. But he brought the family into mainstream religion. My Father, also a first-born, went to Princeton, became a pastor, taught Greek at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and he brought the family into academic credibility. I also was a first-born in this Presbyterian lineage, and from as early as I remember I felt that the way was laid out for me. Yet I eventually realized that my calling was to bring the family into "soul."

I think it hurt my Father deeply when I turned from the parish ministry to becoming a psychotherapist (psyche = soul). My calling has been to help people realize soul and find their way into their deepest selves.

In the late 1970s at the age of 32, while exploring the emerging field of Futuring (analyzing and modeling about the future) in a project with Stanford Research Institute, it dawned on me that my own LifeWork was "Cultural and Personal/Social Transformation." I have been doing that ever since.



### MY TEACHERS.

In a stroke of divine intervention or accident, for about five years Pittsburgh Theological Seminary had one of the top theological faculties in the world. I studied theology with Dietrich Ritschl (grandson of German theologian Albrecht Ritschl) who was at the forefront of the Theology of Hope, I studied Greek and New Testament with Marcus Barth, son of Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth, I studied church history with formidable historian Ford Battles, liturgics with David Buttrick, son of George Buttrick, archaeology with Paul Lapp, Director of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, and many other prominent teachers. I did two graduate degrees at Pittsburgh simultaneously.

For the most part our real teachers come later in life. I had not expected to make biblical studies my specialty. Working with the original languages, I found Swiss Psychiatrist Carl Jung and James Hillman invaluable in understanding the deeper symbolic and mythic meanings of scripture.

Four other mentors stand out: Cultural historian William Irwin Thompson taught me to think mythically about politics, culture, and globalization; Sufi Sheikh Murat Yagan of Abkhazia and now British Columbia, introduced me to the Perennial Wisdom; and Tom Hickey, Ph.D., has been my spiritual teacher for 25 years, daily teaching me about mysticism and the universal spirituality of every major religion. And infinitely more than a mentor is Meher Baba,



who was Gandhi's teacher, and of whom Mother Teresa said, "He had the mind of Christ."

I have devoted tens of thousands of hours in training in Jungian therapy, Psychomotor therapy, Family Systems Therapy, Career Development, Twelve-Step Recovery, Psychometric Assessment, Human Resource Development, Managing Organizational Change, Process Facilitation, Reiki Healing, Shamanic Healing, Pranic Healing, Palestinian Archaeology and Excavation, Futuring, Cultural History and Change, Psychomythology, and the Perennial Wisdom traditions of all the major world religions.

### WHAT HAVE I DONE WITH MY LIFE?

I usually divide my life into three periods, each punctuated with a break-down with nearly everything "going back to zero."

The first period ended with going to seminary. I came from a loving family, a very religious family that held a literal interpretation of the Bible. In college and seminary I began to feel they had unintentionally misled me, and I experienced a profound loss of faith. I went to seminary to look for my life.

The middle period was the time I established myself career-wise, as a minister in three separate pastorates over thirteen years, the most recent at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Atlanta (with Buddy Ennis and Joanna Adams). I was married to a good woman who completed her Ph.D. and became a professor of English and we had a child. But as I approached midlife, the marriage ended, as did my career identity as a Presbyterian minister. Back to zero.

The third period has been a different kind of ministry, a more intimate ministry of soul-work. In private practice as a licensed psychotherapist by the State of Georgia, I found I did far more theology than I ever did in the church.

It is in this period that I married Helen Hallum, a member of Trinity since about 1952; she happily brought into our marriage six children all nearly the same age, including becoming a guardian to four children whose parents both died. Our seven children now have 15 grandchildren.

For the last 25 years I have been Fellow in the Core Spirituality Institute ([www.corespirituality.com](http://www.corespirituality.com)). Since 2004 I write a daily reflection on the perennial wisdom which is received by about 200 people.

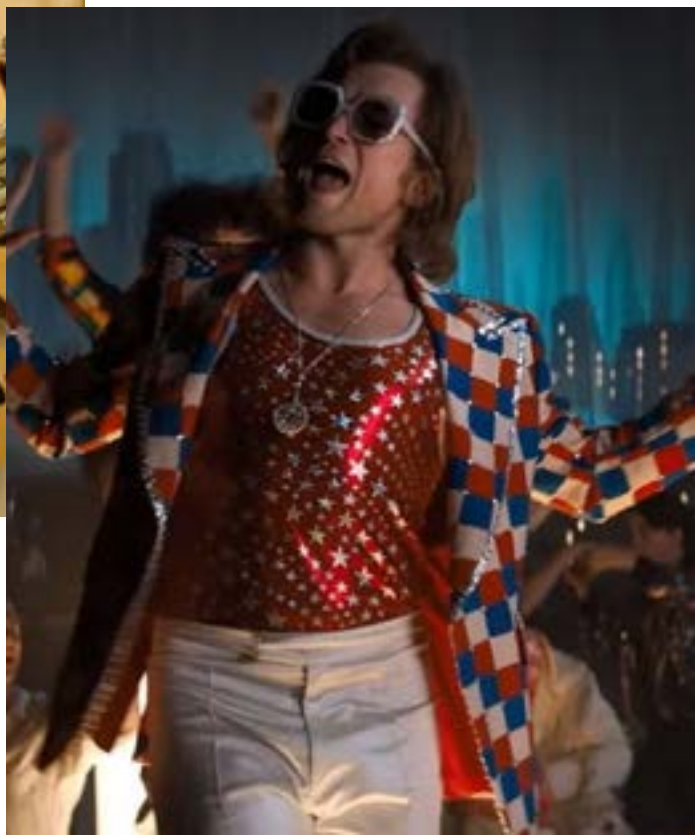
### MY ECCLESIASTICAL AND SPIRITUAL HOME

To the question what brought me to Trinity, I can say the vision of Alison Williams and Bettye Sue Wright brought me to Trinity. My commitment as an ordained minister has always been to develop adult education programs with the standards and quality of graduate school. I have set these courses up wherever I have served. This kind of education is found at Trinity.

### HOPES FOR TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

While we live in a troubled time of dividedness and apparent regression, I think this very moment may be the most pivotal time in all of history. A new world is emerging in our midst. A new paradigm of reality is replacing our scientific materialism and rationalism. We are coming to realize that "life creates the universe, not the other way around." The universe is not simply our home, it is us. It reacts to us and talks to us in macro-conversation every day, and we do the same with it! Ultimately, we are parts of a single entity that transcends space and time.

The Earth Community is facing an unprecedented evolutionary challenge. The ecological, political, and spiritual crisis of late modernity calls for a fundamental reorientation of our civilization, including a transformation of our institutions and of our own consciousness. The same power that makes our hearts beat, also animates the world. I think Trinity has the potential to be a significant voice in awakening the vision and resources in this new world God that is calling us.



MOVIES THAT MOVE SOMETHING WITHIN US

# SONGS OF THE UNIVERSE

by RICHARD HOWERTON

Just as a favorite film can grab me while channel surfing, songs can do likewise. When we moved to Atlanta in 1999, the New Radical's "You Get What You Give" moved me to crank up the volume so that its uplifting chorus of optimism would set my spirits soaring.

*You've got the music in you  
Don't let go  
You've got the music in you  
One dance left  
This world is gonna pull through  
Don't give up  
You've got a reason to live  
Can't forget  
We only get what we give.*

Leaving these four films below, I found myself humming.

"Echoes in the Canyon" is a documentary about the music that emerged out of Laurel Canyon in Los Angeles from 1965-1967 from The Byrds, The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield, Joni Mitchell, The Mamas and the Papas, and then backup musicians like Tom Petty. From this community of expression, art, and mutual sharing came a transformation of poetic lyrics from the folk genre to that of rock. A best kind of competition emerged: one that challenges others to a new level of personal excellence and growth. There was something happening there - "For What It's Worth."

"Rocketman" illuminates the life journey of Elton John (Taron Egerton). One critic nailed his description of it as "as cross between 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'La La Land,'





Left to right: Echoes in the Canyon, Rocketman, Wild Rose, Pavarotti



in that it is both a biopic of a musician and a Hollywood musical. As the music in Elton John and the lyrics in Bernie Taupin begin to rise in the charts, we see the anguished journey of a child of God who is trying to discover who he really is. While battling parental rejections, plunging into the swamp of alcohol and drug addiction, and confronting business betrayals, the number one rock star in the world leaves the stage for the group confessions of AA. Sober now for decades, John turned his fame toward philanthropy aimed at curing AIDS, though it took a long, long time for the Rocketman.

The opening scene of "Wild Rose" shows a thirty-something women (Jessie Buckley) being released from a Glasgow prison. From there we learn of her plan for rehabilitation is to keep doing what she was doing - pursuing country music stardom while depending upon her mother to raise her two kids. It doesn't go well. Her performances showcase her talent as a cover artist, but one of her mentors insists that she must sing her own songs, an idea she dismisses in a classic Hero Journey's Refusal of the Call to Adventure. Her trials continue all the way to the Promised Land - Nashville -

where she sees the light. This film leaves us all singing along to a lyrics written by Jesse Buckley, "I had to leave to realize all I needed was here... Ain't no place like home."

Pavarotti Luciano was the son of a baker, a teacher, the most famous singer in the world for years, and a philanthropist. Told through his family, those who knew him, and his own voice and actions, his "High C's" awe us and his near perpetual smile is contagious. He learn of his love of life, his imperfections, and his egomaniacal tendencies that he channeled into charity concerts that raised hundreds of millions for worthy endeavors. This documentary is a wonderful trip about the music in the man called Pavarotti who put the music in me and in the minds, hearts, and souls the world over.

Our Creator gifted us the music of the universe. We sing. We praise. We live in the music we create and that which is created for us, songs and rhythms we hear as we love our neighbors as ourselves. Remember - "You've got the music in you... Can't forget... We only get what we give."



# SING WITH THE TRINITY CHANCEL CHOIR

Did you sing with your high school or college choir? Have you been sitting in the congregation thinking that “someday” you’d like to sing with a great group again? Well, maybe that day has come! Whether you know it or not, you have probably retained a few good musical skills from your earlier experiences that make you a candidate for our choir. There are many reasons to join the choir: serving God in Sunday worship, giving of your time and talent to the church, meeting new people, making a joyful noise, learning to be a better musician, and getting to work with our own Norman Mackenzie, director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, to name just a few. And remember, you have a reserved seat when the church is full Christmas and Easter!

The audition process is informal, straightforward, and takes only 15 minutes. It consists of vocalization to determine range, sight-reading a hymn, and pitch matching exercises. We are looking for smooth voices with the ability to sing in tune and those who can commit to the choir schedule. You don’t have to be a future Metropolitan Opera star! Some previous choral experience is helpful.

If you would like more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Patti Heinz, Music and Arts Coordinator at 404-495-8447 or [pheinz@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:pheinz@trinityatlanta.org)

# FALL MUSIC EVENTS

## PAIDEIA HIGH SCHOOL CHORUSES

Tuesday, October 23, 2019

7:30 pm | Sanctuary

Trinity will again host the talented and versatile high school choruses from The Paideia School, under the direction of Katie Woolf and our own Scott Morris. The concert will feature a variety of sacred and secular music from different traditions, featuring men's, women's and combined choral ensembles from grades 9 - 12. Admission is free.

## FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 10, 2019

11:00 am | Worship in the Sanctuary

Join us for a dramatic and colorful musical exploration of the opening of the Book of Genesis, courtesy of the masterful pen of one of the leading composers of the Classical era in Western music- Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). This work is full of exquisite tone painting, beautiful soaring melodies and rousing choruses that enhance and illuminate this familiar and timeless Biblical narrative. This work has never been performed at Trinity and promises to be a highlight of our 2019-20 musical season.

## MADRIGAL FEAST

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

6:30 pm Wassail Bowl

7:00 pm Banquet

Join friends and family at this long held Trinity tradition and experience a festive evening in 14th century England. Watch as the Boar's Head is presented, dine on food of the period, and listen to costumed musicians as they lead the traditional celebration. The Trinity Madrigal Singers, accompanied by a recorder ensemble, will perform under the direction of Kate Murray. Reservations may be made by calling the church office: 404.237.6491.

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL SING

Sunday, December 22, 2019

7:00 pm | Williams Hall

Come and enjoy this beloved Trinity tradition of an evening of holiday singing and merriment! Join Norman Mackenzie in his now famous rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" along with other Christmas favorites. Bring a tray of holiday treats to share after the singing.





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# DR. GENE HARLEY

---

by NORMAN MACKENZIE, Director of Music and Fine Arts

After almost 40 years singing with our Chancel Choir week in and week out, Dr. Gene Harley has announced his retirement from the bass section. This kind of enthusiasm, devotion and consistency in support of any volunteer institution is rare indeed, and we are so grateful to Gene for his unparalleled service to our music program. In addition to singing faithfully with the choir, Gene has served our music ministry in many other capacities, as an elder and as my very first Chair of the Worship and Music Ministry upon my arrival at Trinity! Without the steadfast support of folks like Gene and his wife Connie (who also sang in the alto section for many years) and the contribution of their time and talent, the Trinity music program would not be the dynamic force in the life of this faith community that it is today.

As I've often said, our choir is both an artistic and a human family, and we will all miss Gene's weekly presence among us, as well as his passion for worship leadership through sacred song. We are delighted that he and Connie have settled comfortably into their new digs at Presbyterian Village and we hope that they will be able to visit in the congregation from time to time to check up on their former colleagues in music-making!

Please join me in celebrating Gene's many gifts to all of us and his 40 years of incredible service to Trinity Church.



# HAITI MISSION

by CLAIRE BARRY, Board Chair,  
La Gonâve Haiti Partners

There is a famous quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." It is a favorite saying of mine that describes our journey as partners with the people of La Gonâve...a journey where both great and small things have been accomplished together. Thirty years ago, a young Episcopal priest and his family were sent by Eglise Episcopale d'Haiti to serve on La Gonâve. He dreamed of bringing education and healthcare to rural communities across the island. During his ministry at St. Francis Parish, he established churches and schools in 10 locations. He built a clinic and staffed it with Haitian medical personnel. Under the vision and leadership of the next priest, and now of Pere Vil, more programs have started: goat farmer training, microfinance, adult literacy, pre-natal mobile clinics, and now a new middle school. None of these dreams could have been realized without the support and help of partners and donors like you. Together, we have seen both great changes on La Gonâve and small blessings too...a glass of clean water handed to a child, a plateful of rice served a student, the delivery of a healthy baby to a first-time mother. Most importantly, we have forged friendships with the families on La Gonâve and walked with them towards a future built on hope and faith.\*

Trinity's next mission trip to Haiti is October 10-17, 2019 and April 16-23, 2020. To find out more about going on a mission trip to Haiti, contact Julie Hope at [Julie.hope@yahoo.com](mailto:Julie.hope@yahoo.com)



\*reprinted from the La Gonâve Haiti Partners 2018 annual report





# WOMEN'S RETREAT

Trinity Women reception in the home of Richard and Jeannie DuBose.

"It was a superb weekend - many highlights, including of course our time at the wonderful DuBose home. The theme, "The Greatest of These Is Love", was so beautifully-emphasized by keynote speaker Valarie Kaur, the small group leaders, Amy Grant, and through the rich conversations among all of us. It's a joy to connect with the multi-talented women of Trinity! I came home refreshed and buoyed by the spirit I saw and felt." – Eve Eckardt

Save the date for next year! August 14-16, 2020 - Women's Connection Conference in Montreat





## JOIN A WOMEN'S CIRCLE

We hope you had a great summer and are ready to jump back in to the fun fall happenings at Church, one of which is to become part of a Women's monthly Circle group. Circles are a wonderful monthly opportunity for fellowship and Bible study with peers - a chance to deepen relationships as well as meet new people. Meeting days and times are determined by the group. Some circle groups meet in

member's homes, others at Trinity Church. Circles meet either in the morning or at night, September through May. In addition, there are Circle Christmas gatherings and a joint Circle Bible study and/luncheon in January.

If you would like more information about joining a Women's Circle, contact Clare O'Shaughnessey at (404)408-0550.

# ONE MORE “THANK YOU FOR”

---

by PAM DRIESELL

My beloved friends who are Trinity Church, I just had to write one more time to thank you for a wonderful send-off! The beautiful and heartfelt notes and gifts many of you have sent or delivered to me since I announced my resignation have brought me to tears, made me laugh out loud, uplifted and encouraged me, and given me a sense of great hope as we move into separate futures. Thank you! Each one means so very much to me.

While I knew that Jamie Brownlee, Cindy Ferguson, and Mary Kelley Speed were leading a team of people in planning a send-off reception for me following my last worship service on August 4th, I had no idea the extent of generosity and creativity that was going into that event! It took me by total surprise, and filled me with utter delight and profound gratitude. A huge thank you to them and their team for the many amazing gifts of the day...to George Johnson, Trevarius Worthy, Tom Adams for words of inspiration; to Ella Muse for my very own Haiku; to Caroline Brown and Esther Patrick for the Herculean task they undertook assembling a collection of my sermons into a book; to Frank Fuerst for an iris bulb from Flannery O'Conner's garden (which will always remind me of her paraphrase of John 8:32 that I have shared with you every Ash Wednesday for 9 years, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you odd."); to Alex Erwin and the Session for a beautiful framed Session Resolution of gratitude and good wishes; and to all of you for the gifts of

gratitude for Ty, Walker, and Joe; the generous donation in my name to Columbia Theological Seminary; the beautiful one-of-a-kind ONWARD sculpture (an upcycled work of art by Charles Calhoun using an old Trinity sanctuary porch column base!), for the song you commissioned Doc Schneider to write for me and to Doc for coming to perform it live with Norman's accompaniment (you can find it on iTunes or YouTube if you search Onward Pam Driesell song.)

REALLY...I was truly overwhelmed with love and gratitude. I also presented a framed Resolution (attached) to all of you. It is impossible to capture nearly a decade of love, gratitude and hopes in one document, but this must suffice.

To close the reception, the good Dr. Rev. Richard Floyd led a time of prayer, inviting all those in attendance to participate. I was so moved as people called out words of inspiration across Williams Hall and was soaking in every one of those blessings, when I heard a very quiet little voice coming from a little boy sitting cross legged on the floor right behind me.... "Stay with God," he prayed! I heard it as a final charge from YOU the People Who Are Trinity Church. Thank you again for sharing life and ministry with me for 9 years and for a wonderful send-off! May we all "Stay with God" as we journey.....

Onward,  
Pam



A Resolution of The Reverend Pamela Grice Driesell  
presented to

## The People Who Are Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia

given on this Sunday, the 4th day of August, 2019

*Whereas*, in the spring of 2010, I was happily serving a congregation that I had founded when I received an unexpected phone call from a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, AND

*Whereas*, to our mutual surprise, our prayerful conversations revealed to the committee and to me that our theological convictions, values, and hopes for the Church were aligned and that the Spirit might be leading us to work together AND

*Whereas*, the Trinity congregation confirmed our sense of the Spirit's leading, took a chance, and called me to serve as their fourth Senior Pastor in July 2010, AND

*Whereas*, we have grown together in faith and friendship, in ministry and mission, AND

*Whereas*, we have struggled together in crisis and conflict, in grief and heartache, AND

*Whereas*, through it all, I have witnessed how you - **The People Who Are Trinity Church** - Make God's Love Visible in countless ways: by worshipping faithfully and creatively; by loving the questions – the hard questions of life and faith – and learning together; by loving one another and bearing one another's burdens in times of sorrow and loss; by reaching out beyond your walls and collaborating with people of good will to respond to all kinds of suffering and need; by daring to advocate and work for justice and seeking systemic changes that make for a more compassionate, peaceful, joyful world; by equipping associate pastors to serve, or even start, their own congregations; by supporting staff and members who pursue theological education and calls to ministry; by seeking to be wise and faithful stewards of all your resources; by baptizing children and adults and seeking to fulfill your baptismal promises to God's children of all generations and in all seasons of life, AND

*Whereas*, **The People Who Are Trinity Church** have demonstrated an openness to "always being re-formed" according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit; and have expressed an eagerness to enlarge your vision of God, your understanding of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and your ideas about what it means to be the Church in and for the world in this day and time, AND

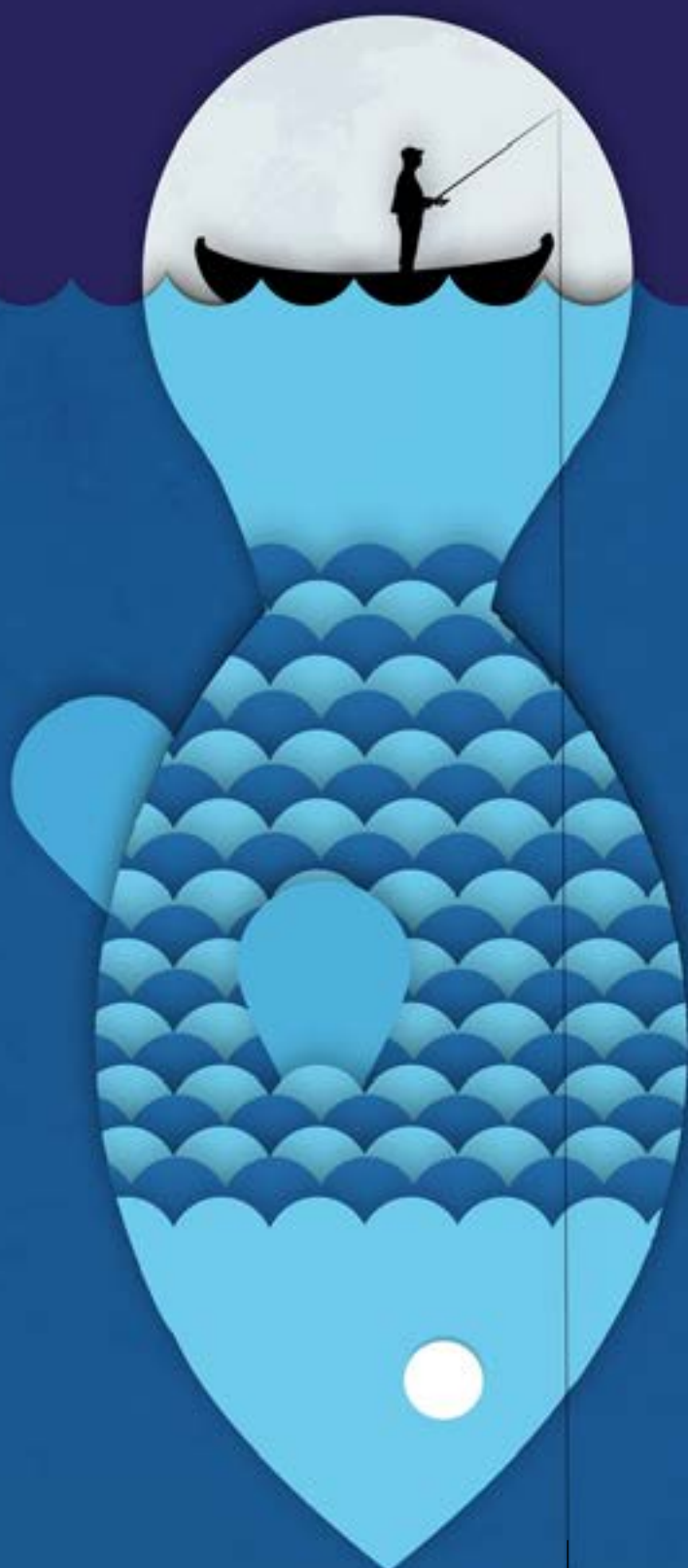
*Whereas*, our lives have been inextricably bound together as we have served God's world side by side and as you have allowed me the sacred honor of baptizing and confirming you, rejoicing with you in times of triumph, crying with you in times of tragedy, praying with you in times of celebration and confusion, navigating differences with you in times of disagreement and discord, officiating your weddings, ordaining you, and commemorating the lives of your loved ones,

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, that I express my profound gratitude for **The People Who Are Trinity Church** and for the privilege and joy of partnering with you in mission, for the immeasurable gifts you have shared with me and for the lessons I have learned from you.

*Be It Further Resolved* that I feel about you the way the apostle Paul felt about the church at Thessalonica, "*I loved you so much I was delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but my very life as well.*" And while my pastoral relationship with you shall be dissolved the 10th day of August 2019, my love for you and prayers for your continued thriving shall endure throughout my life! Onward!

Pam Driesell, Senior Pastor





## WHAT IS YOUR TRINITY STORY?

Did you grow up here? Was your child enrolled in Trinity Preschool so you decided to visit on a Sunday morning? Were you drawn to the amazing music made in this church? Did a friend invite you to a small group or a special event at Trinity?  
How did you get here?  
I want to know your story.

I am excited to get to know this community better and I can't wait to connect you to a meaningful small group, an engaging church school class, a fun congregational event, or a transformative mission opportunity. And, I want you to consider the opportunity to show hospitality to neighbors and friends.

**Sarah Wikle**  
Director of Engagement  
[swikle@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:swikle@trinityatlanta.org)

# Tell Us Your Story

404-495-8428 or [swikle@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:swikle@trinityatlanta.org)