

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[trinityatlanta.org](http://trinityatlanta.org)

SEPTEMBER 2021

# TRINITY TIMES

THERE'S A  
PLACE FOR  
YOU AT  
TRINITY

**WELCOME  
TO TRINITY**



# THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT TRINITY

By Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton  
Interim Senior Pastor

H

ow many years does a Presbyterian hymnal have to be in use before we stop referring to it as the “new hymnal?” *Glory to God* was published in 2013, but I’m still discovering its many “new” hymns that are wonderful gifts to the church. One of those hymns is “For Everyone Born” (#769 next time you want to read its text in full).

It begins: “For everyone born, a place at the table,” with each succeeding verse extending the table God has set: “For woman and man, a place at the table; For young and for old, a place at the table; For just and unjust, a place at the table.” New Zealand hymn-writer Shirley Erena Murray wrote the hymn in 1998, then decided another verse was in order by 2011, adding a sixth verse: “For gay and for straight, a place at the table.” Every stanza ends: “And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice, and joy!”


The hymn, of course, recalls the table of the Lord’s Supper, but the author also has in mind tables of justice, tables of commerce, tables of opportunity, tables of reconciliation—for every table of life is encompassed at the table of bread and cup where God promises to meet us every time.

One of the hardest parts of this long pandemic has been the cessation of our gathering around a common table and meal in the sanctuary, Williams Hall, and elsewhere. In worship meetings, we are still imagining what new practices of Communion we can offer—something between those dreadful “individual communion capsules” (what a theologically displeasing misnomer!) and our Communion practices of yore (many fingertips touching bread and juice!). Whatever the format, what will never change is the spirit of generous welcome, radical hospitality, and expansive inclusion God’s table offers.

After 18 months of social distancing, our theme for this new program year is, “There’s a place for you here!” “For everyone born, a place at the table...” and in a Sunday School room, in the choir loft, handing out bulletins, boxing up food items, donating blood, delivering flowers, calling a visitor, serving on a committee, participating in a small group, etc.

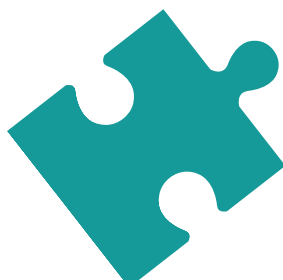
In August, the Session gave unanimous approval to the [Ministry Information Form](#) our Pastor Nominating Committee has written. (That’s the MIF and the PNC for you PCUSA geeks.) This form will help potential candidates get to know





Trinity as a congregation. It opens with these sentences: “Trinity Presbyterian is a church with a rich history of engagement through mission, worship, music, and education. We believe Jesus calls us to be connected to one another, both inside and outside the church... engaging each other across generations. Trinity has great capacity where members are eager to live out their faith together.”

In other words, there’s a place for you here! In fact, our life together is enriched when we all come together to learn, grow, worship, and serve, living out our faith together. So let’s begin this important year for Trinity in the spirit of generous welcome, radical hospitality, and expansive inclusion. That’s the table God set long ago, and it is still expanding beyond our imagining and expectations.







THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU  
**TO BELONG**





This fall we asked members to share their story about how they connect at Trinity. Our hope is that you, too, will find this community a place where you matter and belong. There are several ways to connect with others and grow in faith through Sunday morning services, small groups, mission projects, and more.

1

## LANE RHODEN

*Trinity member since 2004*

I have been a member of Trinity since 2004. My husband Mitch and I both grew up in the Presbyterian Church and we felt at home in Trinity's beautiful sanctuary after visiting lots of churches in Atlanta and Marietta. Something about the people, the place, and the message felt 'right' for us. Since then, our family has grown and so has our engagement with Trinity. At a critical time in our life as young parents, we joined the 'Roots' Sunday school class. Aptly named, it helped us put roots down in the form of great relationships. In that class, concerns and challenges were shared openly... friendships were born.

More recently, I have been involved with the Youth and Families Ministry as a youth leader and chaperone. I have been the chair of the Youth and Family Ministries Committee and I joined the Session this year. Currently, my husband Mitch is enjoying spending time with the 'Holy Smokers' group. You may have enjoyed their delicious BBQ at a drive through event, or Trinity Serves this summer! During the craziness of the past few years, it has been a blessing to spend time with members of Trinity. It is a community

2

## STAN TILLEY

*Trinity member since 2018*

of thoughtful, informed, kind, and inspiring folks. Our preachers discuss faith in a way that isn't marginalizing or inflammatory. I am thankful for that. I am hopeful that, as this 'kid focused' chapter of my life passes, I will find different ways to get involved at Trinity. I already have my eye on a few things! It is true that getting involved makes Trinity feel like home. I encourage you to find your place.

I've been asked how Velma and I came to be members of Trinity. After a series of life events, we decided to move from Cartersville to Atlanta. A friend of ours, a retired Presbyterian minister, suggested that we visit Trinity. So we did. The first Sunday we visited, George Stroup was in the pulpit and, to my listening ears anyway, preached on the morality of the common good. That was enough to get us back for another Sunday, and then another, and then another. And then we joined.

What keeps me here is that and all the rest. The music, obviously. The adult education curriculum. The many opportunities to engage in the life of the church. For me personally, that means joining with other members to work on houses with Habitat for Humanity, to travel on mission trips to Cuba, to serve as a Budget for Life coach with BCM, and as one of the new member committee. Trinity feels like home to us and we plan to be here for a long time.

3

**MIRANDA BORLAND***Confirmed and joined Trinity in 2018*

I have always been incredibly involved in our church congregation. My parents met in the choir, so, as expected, my sister Reagan and I have grown up as a part of every musical group imaginable at our church, from Cherub Choir all the way to Bell Choir during COVID. Other than music, I am very involved in the youth program; I go on every trip that I can and I am a regular at Sunday night youth groups. I am also currently serving as a Youth Elder for my senior year.

My friends often ask how I make the time to be so involved in church. The reason is simple: this is the community in which I feel the most at home. Through our church, I have made some of the best friends with connections that will last a lifetime. These friends are confidants that I know I can go to with any problem. The trust that I share with them is something that can't be replaced or even found anywhere else in my life. In turn, each one of us has the opportunity to lean on one another to grow in our personal faiths. This system of support allows me to see God every day through my amazing friends. It is because of the community I have found here that keeps me coming back every Sunday. I appreciate Trinity and the community here that I have grown to absolutely love.

**THERE'S A PLACE  
FOR YOU HERE  
TO CONNECT  
WITH OTHERS  
AND TO GROW  
IN FAITH.**

For more information,  
visit [trinityatlanta.org/visit](https://trinityatlanta.org/visit) or contact  
Lucy Strong at [lstrong@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:lstrong@trinityatlanta.org)

4

**JEAN LAPITAN***Director of Middle School Ministries*

Two years ago I was searching all over the country for a church to call home when I found Trinity. I loved Trinity's mission statement to "Make God's Love Visible." Through it I knew this community was proactive in being Christ's hands and feet in Atlanta. I was excited to meet and worship with this community and to shape youth programs that would contribute to the mission. Since then I have enjoyed learning about the students, my middle school leaders, and other Trinity members that I meet. Along with the Youth Ministry, I've gotten involved in Faith in Action and Young Adult Events. Discussing and practicing faith with Trinity has been a fulfilling experience.





# CHURCHWIDE FALL KICKOFF

**09.12.2021**

## *Worship*

9 AM INFORMAL WORSHIP  
11 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

## *Church School*

9:45 AM FAMILY MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE  
10 AM ADULT COFFEE HOUR

## *Barbecue Picnic*

**12 PM WELCOME BACK LUNCH**

The Holy Smokers will prepare a delicious barbecue lunch.  
Bring a lawn chair and your bicycle for some outdoor fun.

Pre-purchase lunch at [trinityatlanta.org](https://trinityatlanta.org)





## THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD IN THE TRINITY CHOIR PROGRAM

By Norman Mackenzie  
Director of Music and Fine Arts

**W**hether you are 4 or 40, there's a place for you in the return of Trinity's vibrant Choir Program for 2021-22! Music education, weekly participation in choirs, worship leadership through choral and congregational song, and instrumental offerings have been a dynamic and vital part of Trinity Church's faith life since its founding in 1949. From the beginning, the pastors and Session of Trinity recognized the importance of this essential ministry and placed a high priority on it. Trinity is a congregation that sings and sings vigorously! The arts and music, in particular, enhance, focus, and expand our corporate worship experience in a unique and life-changing way. This has been made even more apparent during the struggles and challenges of

.....

For more information about the choir program or to register visit [trinityatlanta.org/choir](https://trinityatlanta.org/choir) or contact Patti Heinz at [pheinz@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:pheinz@trinityatlanta.org)

.....



---

One of our primary goals is to encourage young singers and lay the groundwork for lifelong participation in music.

—Scott Morris

the past eighteen months, as we sought ways to engage in meaningful sacred musical experiences during a time of social isolation and limited participation.

This article will focus primarily on our educational goals for the children's choirs. We would all agree that seeing and hearing an enthusiastic and well-trained choir of children contributing to the praise of God in worship can be a rich and rewarding enhancement to any service. However, the actual moment of worship leadership is only the exciting conclusion of a well-structured time of fun, fellowship, and education at weekly rehearsals. Perhaps you have wondered what happens at a typical rehearsal for one of these groups. Let's hear from two extraordinary music educators on our staff who have decades of experience teaching and working in church and school situations and share a passion for working with children.

Phyllis Sommer directs our two Cherub Choirs (ages four and five) and our Hosanna Ringers (elementary age). She also teaches in the music program at Trinity School.

"The Cherub Choir program at Trinity Church is a dynamic music education curriculum designed to introduce our youngest choristers to basic musical skills that will culminate in participating in several worship services in the liturgical year. The excellent foundation laid during these early years expands as the children move on through the Primary, Junior, then Youth Choirs, giving each child outstanding vocal and music literacy training."

Mrs. Sommer works to introduce and practice the elements of beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and tempo in a fun, positive way. Through puppets, singing games, and movement activities, the children learn experientially and joyfully.

The philosophy and method used are based on the extensive research of Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodály (1882-1967), who believed that music could engage children spiritually, culturally, and emotionally. By using quality song literature in a play-based lesson, the various elements of music are carefully prepared, then presented to optimize success for the child.

"For this choir, singing in worship is an important goal but not the primary one. Building musical skills and vocal confidence in an age-appropriate way leads to sustained understanding, enjoyment, and a commitment to serving the church."

Scott Morris works with the Primary and Junior Choirs, the Westminster Ringers, and is our Assistant Organist. He also teaches in the choral program at the Paideia School and was on the music staff of the Westminster Schools for many years. He is assisted by our outstanding choir program volunteer and longtime Chancel Choir member, Nelda Greene.

"One of our primary goals is to encourage young singers and lay the groundwork for lifelong participation in music. How do we do this? Movement and singing games are an important part of every children's choir rehearsal. Your child will have fun as they learn a little about music theory and how music works, and they will gain confidence and realize from day one the joy and satisfaction of music-making and worship leadership.

Learning to sing in a healthy way is not the only advantage of attending choir regularly. Numerous studies show your child will benefit in many other

ways. Repetition in rehearsals can be invaluable in learning musical skills that will stay with your child for life. Regular participation in worship, church school, choir practice, bell choir rehearsals, and youth group, giving to the church, and engaging deeply with the faith community will become the norm for your child.

We are training the future musical leaders of the church. So let's do all we can to instill the joy of making music and regular participation in church activities together from an early age, ensuring that our congregation's rich musical tradition will carry on for years to come through our youngest members."

As you can see, the future of our church and its music program is in capable and passionate hands. When I hear these children singing in a weekly rehearsal or a worship setting on Sunday and see the expressions of joy on their faces, I am continually impressed with the true value of what takes place in our choir room every week. Phyllis, Scott, Patti, and I look forward eagerly to including your child in a choir this year! As always, our exact return date and protocols will be determined by the CDC guidelines, the City of Atlanta, and our excellent Trinity Covid Task Force.

**Through participation in our choir programs, children, youth, and adults are encouraged to learn to joyfully sing their faith in a supportive and creative educational environment, and are trained to be leaders in worship.**



## THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE SUNDAY

By Miranda Segrest  
Stephen Ministry Leader

S

September 19 is Congregational Care Sunday. This is a time when we highlight the Congregational Care Ministries of Trinity Presbyterian Church, which help keep our congregation connected in many ways, particularly during the pandemic.

Congregational Care Ministries include:

- **Counseling and Enrichment:** for those seeking outside counseling, the Counseling and Enrichment Committee compiled a list of local mental health professionals, all of whom are currently providing telehealth. This group also coordinated a video series to help individuals and families navigate the unique mental health and wellness challenges presented by the pandemic. Contacts: Janet Reed and Paulette Slawson
- **The Gathering:** a support group for long-term caregivers and those recently widowed. Contact: Patricia Ritsema
- **Stephen Ministry:** trained and supervised laypersons, called Stephen Ministers, provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges. The next training is planned to begin in January 2022. Contacts: Scott Calhoun, Paul Marston, Cindy Stancil, Carlton Segrest, and Miranda Segrest
- **Pastors' Aid:** Pastors' Aid Committee members welcome babies, comfort those who mourn, and reach out to those in need with visits, cards, food, and flowers. Stephen Ministry and Pastors' Aid worked together on a project during Covid, which included home deliveries of cookies, poinsettias, valentine candy, and Easter cards to about 150 individuals, many of whom were living in retirement communities. Contacts: Diana Pedrick and Meredith Daniel
- **Visitation:** Visitation Team members provide a partner for those identified by the pastoral staff

or Pastoral Care Team as being unable to attend church or regular fellowship with our congregation, and they offer Communion as needed. With the beginning of the pandemic, the established Visitation List was expanded to include Trinity members who might be more vulnerable during a prolonged period of isolation. The established lists expanded to include some members in retirement communities, isolated at home, or experiencing health issues. In a collaborative effort, volunteers from Stephen Ministry, Pastors' Aid, and others assisted the Visitation Team. There were 71 people on the list being contacted regularly by 43 visitation partners. In March 2021, lists were reduced to a more manageable 42 names as vaccinations became widely available. Contacts: Lynn Bradley and Nancy Spetnagel

Participating in Congregational Care creates bonds that echo throughout our community in many ways. If you are interested in participating in one of these ministries, please reach out to any of the contacts listed above. They would be happy to provide additional information and answer questions.

For those interested in learning more about training to become a Stephen Minister, we invite you to join us for a Stephen Ministry Information Session following the 11 am service on Congregational Care Sunday (9/19). In that service, we will commission Carlton and Miranda Segrest into their new role as Stephen Leaders as we highlight the Congregational Care Ministries.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

We sat down with our Digital Media Specialist, Kevin Lacson, to get the inside scoop on how he keeps the Trinity community connected.

**K**

**evin, how did you come to be at Trinity, and what is it that you do for the church?**

Well, I was hired at Trinity in the Fall of 2018. I was finishing up my residency as a chaplain at a hospital here in Atlanta, and my co-worker, who is a member at Trinity and was ordained here, passed my name along as a candidate for this part-time Worship Coordinator position. It was perfect because I decided to go back to school... again... and could use the work. Anyhoo, after about a year, I learned a whole lot about Trinity as far as worship, and an opportunity came along in staffing where I could take on some other responsibilities and become full-time. I was actually considering moving back to Virginia, -- 'cause you know, life and all that -- but ultimately chose to

stay and started doing administrative stuff for Adult Ministries along with coordinating worship; like Adult Education and Spiritual Formation. That was from September 2019 right up until the pandemic-times. And nowww, they call me a Digital Media Specialist, which amounts to mostly video stuff.

**We all have our stories about how our lives changed because of the pandemic; how did yours change with regard to Trinity? Tell me about that shift.**

Oh gosh. At this point it feels like ages ago and yesterday at the same time. Like with live-streaming? Well, the week when things were beginning to lock down, the coming Sunday was March 15, 2020. And that Friday, just a couple days before, Esther, Andrew,



our IT guy at the time, Steven, and I were like, “ok let’s figure this out.” And we did. You probably don’t want to hear all the details, but after a whole day of tinkering around we figured it out. We had to sign up for a Vimeo account and purchase one piece of equipment, but other than that we had everything in-house. Super bare-bones. But I guess because I was already familiar with how worship worked and dealt with some of the A/V equipment for Adult Education, the trickiest shift was getting every digital and getting it online.

### **Did you already know how to do videography or streaming?**

Actually, no. Well, before seminary I did wedding photography on the side so I was familiar with cameras and lighting, as long as things didn’t move. And a lot of that translates; they don’t call them moving pictures for nothing. Aside from that I had a lot to learn, and I was lucky to be living with my cousin during the lockdown. He’s an Art Director and he helped me out a ton. He taught me how to use the video editing software, and other tricks of the trade. I actually asked for his help with the drone footage for the Easter service.

For streaming, I just watched a bunch of videos on YouTube, and a good bit of reading. But we had a pretty rocky start to live-streaming. Something seemed to always go wrong. Most of the time it was the Internet Overlords -- I didn’t sacrifice to them properly or whatever -- but if I was the one that goofed I made sure I didn’t do it again. I’m proud to say I haven’t made the same mistake twice yet. But, that was really frustrating. And stressful. Granted at first we were using things that were scavenged from around the church. So for the most part we opted to pre-record the worship services, but I’ve learned a lot and nowadays things have been sailing relatively smoothly.

### **What was it like recording the pastors? Were they easy to work with?**

Haha, it was fun, and yes, easy to work with... for the most part. Kidding. But it was interesting, so like, we wanted to be safe and distant, so when we recorded

at the church, it was only ever me and whoever I needed to record. And I was way up in the balcony and masked. Well before that, things were pretty intense and none of us left our houses so I recorded the pastors over Zoom. But when we began recording, I’d come in during the week and pastor-folk and Norman would be scheduled to record. It was kind of neat. I mean don’t get me wrong it took a lot of work, oh gosh especially all the editing and stuff afterward when I was still learning. But it was neat because I got to hear the sermons and the organ music IN the sanctuary. It wasn’t lost on me that so many people were missing that, so I wanted to do well. Then by the weekend, I was over it because I heard the sermon like five times and all the music at least three times. I cringe at the thought of how many total hours I’ve just stared at the pastors’ faces.

### **How do you think Trinity will grow going forward, and how do you hope it will grow, technologically speaking?**

Oof. Big question. Well, I think and I hope that Trinity will continue moving in a direction that takes into account digital content. Not just video stuff, though surely some of it will be that, but I mean digital presence. Strange of me to say, because I’m more for lived-experiences than I am for screens, but nowadays, it’s just as important to meet people on their devices as it is to meet them in the pews. The internet and all its platforms aren’t just tools to be used for ministry, they’re places to do ministry. Think of all the great sermons and adult education classes we are sharing with a larger audience. That said, I don’t think that being more digitally present means less in-person attendance. I think one thing this pandemic has taught us is that we need to be near to one another in community. Being face-to-face sustains us in a way that screens just can’t, or at least can’t do well. We’re not trading in the sanctuary for a digital one, but expanding the physical space, our whole church, into a digital footprint, so to speak. For some our Welcome Center is the website, and the pulpit a Vimeo page. That’s growth. As long as you don’t think too hard about The Terminator, it is filled with possibility.



Trinity's partner in mission, Agape Youth & Family Center, serves 200 school-age children year round in innovative, in-school and after-school academic support programs.

## THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO SERVE

# AGAPE YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER

By Nell Benn

CEO, Agape Youth & Family Center

# T

The Agape Youth & Family Center had an amazing in-person summer program with 105 students in attendance. The primary focus for the summer was to assist students with the

learning loss they experienced over the last year with the virtual learning platform, due to the pandemic. In addition to focusing on reading and math, Agape students were engaged in arts and crafts activities sponsored by National Charity League Buckhead, soccer and lacrosse camps. Agape students also participated in field trips to the Fernbank Museum, Chastain Horse Park, Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta.

Another huge highlight this summer included an Agape teen girls' trip to Watertown, Maine for a week-long outdoor excursion through Agape's partnership with Julie's Dream. Agape girls participated in kayaking and nature boat tours on Maine's coast, as well as bike rides through Peak's Island. Overcoming fears, embracing change and bonding with friends were common threads woven throughout this life-changing trip. Senior, Gabriela, said it best when summing up her thoughts on the experience, "Never would I have thought I would be able to go to these types of places. The Maine trip was a super fun experience, the views were amazing! Thank you for an amazing summer."

---

Never would I have thought I would be able to go to these types of places. The Maine trip was a super fun experience, the views were amazing! Thank you for an amazing summer.

—Gabriela

Agape's summer concluded with the Great Backpack Giveaway, in which Agape distributed almost 4,000 backpacks with school supplies to prepare students for a successful school year.

Agape is excited to announce its new partnership with Scott Elementary. This fall, Agape will enroll a cohort of 25 students in grades kindergarten – second grade.

Agape's after-school program will resume August 23 with an enrollment of approximately 225 students.

---

If you're interested in becoming a reading buddy, homework buddy or dinner volunteer, please contact Bridget Sivewright at [bsivewright@agapeatlanta.org](mailto:bsivewright@agapeatlanta.org) or 404-367-3947 for more information.





## THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO SERVE

# TRINITY SERVES

Y

ou are invited to join a mission project that helps address authentic need within our community. This fall we are partnering once again with the American Red Cross and Intown Collaborative Ministries.

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

*Sunday, October 3*

*12:30 - 5:30 pm, Play Place near the Welcome Center*

Giving blood is a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Currently, we are experiencing a severe blood shortage in our country. Some of us give blood because we were asked by a friend. Some know that a family member or a friend might need blood some day. Some believe it is the right thing to do. Some do it for the free cookies and juice. Everyone enjoys the great feeling of helping save lives! Make your appointment to donate.



To sign up to give blood or to volunteer at Trinity's blood drive, visit [trinityatlanta.org/blooddrive](https://trinityatlanta.org/blooddrive)

If you have any questions, contact Sarah Wikle at [swikle@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:swikle@trinityatlanta.org)

## Food Drive for Intown Collaborative Ministries

Sunday, September 12 – Sunday, October 3

**T**rinity is stocking the food pantry at Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM). ICM assists anyone experiencing food insecurity. Groceries are distributed to families and individuals twice a week. ICM was a part of Trinity's 2020 Hunger Relief Fund.

See the list below of non-perishable items ICM's food pantry needs. Drop off your items at Trinity on the tables and barrels located throughout the Trinity campus thru Sunday, October 3.

Trinity is only collecting grocery items. If you would like to make a financial donation to ICM, please click the **DONATE** button in the top right corner of ICM's home page.



### SHOPPING LIST

- Packets of Oatmeal
- Packets of Instant Grits
- Apple Sauce
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Tuna Packets
- Cans of Soup
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Shelf Stable Milk (individual serving, 8 oz. carton/boxes)

Learn more about Intown Collaborative Ministries and their work to prevent and reverse homelessness and hunger in Atlanta at [www.intowncm.org](http://www.intowncm.org)





**THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO LEARN**  
**ADULT EDUCATION**

Begins September 19

Classes are offered in a hybrid setting allowing participants to join in person or online on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Thursday evening classes will meet on Zoom.  
Registration is not required for class participation.



Trinity's educational program is designed to provide a context where people of all ages may find a meaningful, challenging, and exciting program of continuing education that prepares us to live as faithful people in God's world. Trinity also seeks to embody a generous, welcoming spirit in each learning space, and hopes that you will come and be a part of these places of growth!

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### The Strange New World of the Bible

| Class   | Leader   | Description   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Sept. 19 - Oct. 24</b><br><i>Sunday mornings</i><br>10 - 10:50 am<br>B104-106<br><br><i>Zoom Meeting ID:</i><br>854 4592 3410<br><i>Passcode:</i> 3003 | <b>Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd,</b><br><i>Senior Associate Pastor</i> | <p>The Bible is a strange book. It's probably the most omnipresent yet unread book in the world. Too often we find it difficult or boring because we ask the wrong things of it. The Bible was never meant to be a good luck charm or an answer book for all of life's questions. Instead, the Bible offers a new way of seeing the world, a pattern through which we may think about, perceive, and live life differently, a pattern that leads to joy and wholeness and peace. In this class we will try to discern that life-giving pattern.</p> <p>There's no book for this class, except for the Bible. Each week participants will be given a series of biblical texts to meditate on. The class will then discuss these texts together in class.</p> <p>           9/19/21 <b>Reading the Bible as an Insider</b><br/>           9/26/21 <b>The Odd Center: God</b><br/>           10/3/21 <b>What's Old is New: Freeing Memories</b><br/>           10/10/21 <b>Turn and Live: The Gift of New Hearts</b><br/>           10/17/21 <b>From Death to Life: Resurrection</b><br/>           10/24/21 <b>Power to Become Children of God: Our Vocation</b> </p> |

### The Music of Our Lives

| Class   | Leader                                   | Description  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Sept. 19 - Oct. 24</b><br><i>Sunday mornings</i><br>10 - 10:50 am<br>Dobbs Chapel<br><br><i>Zoom Meeting ID:</i><br>857 0416 6615<br><i>Passcode:</i> 3003 | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b> | <p>Music...breath of wind, rustle of leaves, rush of river against rock, crack of thunder, tap dance of rain, day song of lark, night song of owl, shriek of hawk, melancholy echo of loon, chorus of crickets and tree frogs...in the beginning, all this and more, the Music of God's Creation, inspiring humans to respond in kind.</p> <p>In this course, "The Music of Our Lives," Norman Mackenzie will get us started illustrating ways composition, form, and arrangement lift a chorus of voices toward unity of effect. In addition, Norman will guide us in the art of listening. Following the conductor's lead, throughout this course and beyond, we'll put our listening skills to practice, experiencing the sound and poetry of spirituals and gospel, voices of concern, soul, R&amp;B, and folk. Interactive response will be an integral part of this class, as we save time and space for sharing the ways music speaks to and for us, stirring our spirit and possibly even transporting us to a new place of being.</p> |

## The Music of Our Lives ...continued

| Class   | Leader   | Description   |
|---|--|---|
| 9/19/21<br><b>In the Beginning: Gospel and Spirituals</b>                       | <b>Norman Mackenzie,</b><br><i>Director of Music &amp; Fine Arts</i> | It's been said that the music of Gospel ministers to the soul of mankind. With origins in the "Call and Response" songs of early American slave origins, evolving into the vibrancy and power of Black Church music, the roots of spiritual music move through us all in a multitude of musical variations.   |
| 9/26/21<br><b>Children of the Church: Evolving Faith, Hope, Love, and Grace</b> | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b>                             | Some of our favorite artists grew up in the church, bringing the cadence, rhythm, and lyrics of "church music" to popular culture, without leaving their gospel roots behind.   |
| 10/3/21<br><b>Voices of Concern: Finger-Pointing</b>                            | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b>                             | What some call "protest music" might more accurately describe a voicing of deep concern, pointing to the source, sounding a call to action from a place of faith, hope, and love. In the music of our lives, what is there to know about ourselves and our world in stories told to the sound of a gently weeping guitar, strident heartbeat of a drum? |
| 10/10/21<br><b>American Soul, Rhythm &amp; Blues: What's goin' on?</b>          | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b>                             | Motown's influence on the American songbook is undeniable. Many artists crossed over to this new music rising from the black experience, from soul and rhythm & blues into a new form and depth of funky, secular testifying.   |
| 10/17/21<br><b>Inspirational Voices: Rise Up</b>                                | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b>                             | Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) is a genre of modern popular music which is lyrically focused on matters concerned with the Christian faith. Country, rock, folk, and hip hop often come under the big tent of CCM for a good listen. In keeping with Scripture, "O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."                   |
| 10/24/21<br><b>Folk for Justice</b>   | <b>Lasley Gober &amp; Bert Broadfoot</b>                             | Underlying every musical genre are roots returning to folk and storytelling. Listen to voices from Appalachia to Ireland, singing of loss, redemption, and justice. In the words of poet James Weldon Johnson, "Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring."   |

## Foundations

| Class   | Leader  | Description   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Sept. 19 - Oct. 24</b><br><i>Sunday mornings</i><br><i>10 - 10:50 am</i><br><i>Williams Hall A</i> | <b>Bonnie Holliday</b><br><b>Tom Owens</b><br><b>Erin Kendall</b> | Join us as we explore stories from the Bible in an interactive, discussion-oriented setting. Not an expert? Not a problem. This class is for individuals hoping to fellowship with other Trinity members while growing their faith by reading the Bible, reflecting on its meaning, asking questions, and applying the teachings of Jesus to their lives. Bring your Bible (and a sense of humor), and let's grow together. |

## Coffee & Connections

| Class  | Leader   |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Sept. 19 - Oct. 24</b><br>Sunday mornings<br>10 - 10:50 am<br>Williams Hall C | <b>Various Speakers</b>  | Connections is a class with topics targeted toward our parents of youth, college, and young adults, but warmly welcomes anyone who would like to attend. Topics range from issues around faith, technology and social media, post-Christian society, family dynamics, marriage, parenting, and faith formation. Each Sunday we begin with a brief time of coffee and fellowship, followed by announcements, and our speaker for the day. We hope you'll join us! |
| <b>Mindset of a Healthy Marriage</b>   | <b>Rev. Katie Sundermeier,</b><br><i>Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center</i> | Reverend Katie Sundermeier will address hot-button issues that all couples face while adjusting to major life transitions, including empty nesting, job loss, extended family crisis, or supporting a struggling or grieving spouse.   |
| <b>The Intergenerational Church</b>  | <b>Rev. Andrew Esqueda</b><br><i>Associate Pastor for Family Ministries</i>                    | Connections will join the three-week congregation-wide series in November led by Andrew who will address the importance of bringing generations together and how.  |
| <b>Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World</b>           | <b>Ellen Carrington</b>  |  |

## All-Congregational Class: A Church for All Ages: How can we bring the generations together?

| Class   | Leader  | Description  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Nov. 7 - 21</b><br>Sunday mornings<br>10 - 10:50 am<br>Williams Hall | <b>Rev. Andrew Esqueda</b><br><i>Associate Pastor for Family Ministries</i> | Come one, come all for this three-week series as Andrew addresses the importance of bringing generations together and how.   |
| 11/7/21<br><b>What is the Intergenerational Church?</b>                 |   | We will look at the history of churches and intergenerational ministry, and what it means to be truly intergenerational.   |
| 11/14/21<br><b>Why the Intergenerational Church?</b>                    |   | We will explore research and personal stories of how intergenerational churches and relationships have transformed the Church and the faith life of young people and adults. |
| 11/21/21<br><b>How to be the Intergenerational Church?</b>              |   | We will look at both the Church-at-large and Trinity, and how the intergenerational church will impact the future of the Church.   |



## THURSDAY EVENINGS

### All We Need Is Love? Reflections on Faith, Hope, and Love

| Class  | Leader                            | Description  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sept. 23 - Oct. 14</b><br><i>Thursday evenings</i><br>7 - 8 pm<br><br>Zoom Meeting ID:<br>865 9612 2975<br>Passcode: 3003 | <b>Rev. Dr.<br/>George Stroup</b> | <p>Paul concludes his famous 13th Chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians with these words: "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." But why these three? Why not justice, holiness, and forgiveness? And what does Paul mean by these three words--faith, hope, and love. Does he understand them the same way we do? Is there a distinctively Christian understanding of these words? The greatest of these, Paul argues, is love, but does he also seem to imply that love cannot be understood apart from faith and hope? How are "these three" related to one another?</p> <p>9/23/21<br/> <b>Christian Virtues and the Nature of Faith</b></p> <p>9/30/21<br/> <b>Hope</b></p> <p>10/7/21<br/> <b>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</b></p> <p>10/14/21<br/> <b>These Three, A Christian Trinity</b></p> |

### Prelude to Krista Tippett Lecture

| Class   | Leader   | Description  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Oct. 21 - Nov. 11</b><br><i>Thursday evenings</i><br>7 - 8 pm<br><br>Zoom Meeting ID:<br>865 3876 2706<br>Passcode: 3003 | <b>Adult Education<br/>Committee<br/>Members</b> | <p>This November, Trinity is pleased to present journalist, author, and entrepreneur, Krista Tippett in the first Rosemary Kittrell Memorial Lecture. In anticipation of her arrival on November 18, Trinity's adult education committee will host a "prelude" that will introduce you to more of Krista Tippett's work.</p> |

For more information, visit  
[trinityatlanta.org/classes](https://trinityatlanta.org/classes)

This fall Adult Education classes will be offered in a hybrid setting allowing participants to join in person or online on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Thursday evening classes will meet on Zoom. Registration is not required for class participation.

# THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO LEARN FOUNDATIONS

By Bonnie Holiday  
Children and Family Ministries Committee Chair

In just a few short weeks, we will embrace Fall and welcome all its familiar traditions: not the least of which is Adult Education at Trinity. One new course offering you'll find on this year's schedule is very aptly titled: Foundations. To determine whether Foundations is a good fit for you, I offer the following scenario (which is not as fictional as I'd like it to be...)

## Picture This:

It's noon on Sunday, and your family is loading into the car after a restful and restorative morning at church. Just as you settle into the driver's seat, your child poses one or more of the following questions:

- A. Hey Mom...how did Elijah's altar catch on fire?
- B. Hey Dad...was Lazarus really dead or just sleeping?
- C. Hey! Why was he called John the Baptist and not John the Presbyterian?

Panic sets in. You can't remember those stories! You can't even remember the lessons you're supposed to derive from those stories! (And if you're honest with yourself: those stories sound downright bizarre without any context.) You respond in one of two ways:

- 1. You quickly make something up.
  - a. Pro: It could be fun.
  - b. Con: Generally frowned upon. (You DO remember something along the lines of "Thou shalt not lie.")
- 2. You admit you don't remember (or perhaps never knew) that particular Bible story.
  - a. Pro: No false witness for you!
  - b. Con: You miss a rare opportunity to meaningfully engage with your child about his/her spiritual development.

If this scenario seems remotely familiar, Foundations is the class for you! Join us as we explore stories from the Bible in an interactive, discussion-oriented setting. Not an expert? Not a problem. This class is for individuals hoping to fellowship with other Trinity members while growing their faith by reading the Bible, reflecting on its meaning, asking questions, and applying the teachings of Jesus to their lives.

Bring your Bible (and a sense of humor), and let's grow together.

---

## FOUNDATIONS

Sundays, beginning September 19  
10:00 am, Williams Hall A





A photograph of three children sitting at a desk in a classroom. A boy in a pink shirt is on the left, looking down at his work. Two girls in blue shirts are on the right, looking towards the camera and smiling. There are water bottles and papers on the desk.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE  
FAMILY MINISTRIES CHURCH SCHOOL

# OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY 9:45AM  
SEPTEMBER 12

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

**F**amilies are invited to gather together in fellowship. There will be time to check out church school classrooms and get reacquainted. Children and youth can linger and play (volunteers will be in the gym for supervision), while parents learn more about Trinity's Adult Education offerings.

Children's Ministry will be using the GROW curriculum. This curriculum will be new to Trinity. One of the exciting pieces of this is that ALL of Family Ministries will be using it together! This does not mean all the content will be the same, but there will be coordinated effort for meaningful overlap in age appropriate ways, especially between our children's classes and parents' Foundations class.

What to know about the curriculum for your children:

- They will learn about the Bible! The Bible stories we know and love, as well as some they may have never heard before.
- We will not use as many worksheets/coloring sheets so as to encourage relationship building as a class along with their personal relationship and faith building with God through interactive activities.
- Classes are taught by our CFM Committee Members, as well as Trinity members and parents.



# CLERK'S CORNER

By Amy Krause  
Clerk of Session

**T**he Session met in person on August 16 after a break in July. Assistant Clerk David Carr supported Reverend Dr. Kim Clayton, who serves as moderator, in conducting the meeting. David was named Assistant Clerk in the spring and began his duties during June. David, a member of the 2023 Class of Elders, is a longtime member of Trinity and has served in many capacities. He and his wife, Jennifer, have one daughter, Palmer.

Several important topics were addressed and are highlighted below.

- A recap of the Town Hall Meetings held by Zoom on July 29 and in-person on August

1 was shared, noting the appreciation of members of the congregation regarding the transparency of the financial information and of the process the Church and Budget Workgroup (CBW) underwent to reduce the operational budget for 2021 and beyond. A huge thank you to all of the CBW members, the Finance, Property, and Personnel committees, and all of the church committees that provided input and responded to the challenge. It is estimated that 100+ members were involved in the process of establishing the reduced budget.

- The COVID Task Force brought recommendations to Session, stating that small steps are needed to keep members and church staff safe. So, while we are not completely back to where we started, the Session understands the disappointment of members and also the need to respond to recommendations of our Task Force, our local health organizations, and the CDC.
- A draft of the Ministry Information Form (MIF), a descriptive passage to be uploaded with the Presbytery for seeking a new senior pastor, was presented by the PNC for Session approval. The Session approved the MIF pending three small changes. Jim Blitch, Chair, and members of the PNC also shared detailed comments about the process used by the committee to develop the thorough description of what Trinity is seeking in a new senior pastor.
- A motion to extend Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton's contract for 12 months was brought forward by the Personnel Committee, discussed in executive session, and approved by Session. The Personnel Committee and Session recognized that while working diligently, the PNC may take the next several months seeking candidates and several more months to discern the best fit for Trinity. Once a candidate is brought to the congregation, there may be several more months for the new senior pastor to transition to Trinity. Should a new senior pastor be obtained before the end of the contract, Rev. Dr. Clayton and the Personnel Committee are comfortable with the clause included in the agreement that states the church may terminate the contract with a 60-day notice, and Rev. Dr. Clayton may terminate with a 30-day notice. This contract is a further extension to the original contract commencing March 2, 2020, and further extended beginning March 2, 2021, and ending September 1, 2021, with no change in responsibilities or compensation.

- A motion brought by the Personnel Committee for an extension to the contract of Contract Call Associate Pastor Reverend Lucy Strong for 12 months beginning September 16, 2021, through September 15, 2022 was also discussed in an executive session and approved by Session. Either party may terminate the contract with a 30-day notice. This contract is a further extension to the original contract commencing September 15, 2020, and ending September 15, 2021. In addition, the agreement includes a small increase in compensation to better align with current duties that now fall under Lucy's purview.
- Treasurer David Beasley echoed a written report submitted by Trustee Margaret Reiser, who graciously led efforts to raise funds to address critical infrastructure needs and deferred maintenance. David shared the good news from Margaret that the goal of the short campaign was exceeded. The Session accepted this as a sign of hope and commitment by the congregation who wish to welcome a new senior pastor without a long list of critical property and technology needs.
- A motion to begin using the funds of the Infrastructure Campaign to address needed security improvements was brought by the Property Committee and approved by Session. As a result, Trinity will enter into a \$13,000 contract with our security consulting company, Invictus Consulting, LLC, to address the security updates envisioned in the Infrastructure Campaign. Invictus will design security solutions to meet the recommendations approved by the Property Committee in January 2019.
- Lastly, Elder Craig Pendergrast, who attended the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting held by Zoom on August 14, reported to Session on two new programs in which the Presbytery is embarking, the Vital Congregations Initiative and the creation of a new committee, Dismantling Racism.

## 2021-22 Session

### Class of 2022

Jim Balloun  
Doug Benn  
Shirley Davis  
Lasley Gober  
Steve Karasick

Amy Krause  
Craig Pendergrast  
Richard Powers  
Sarah Shoup  
Esther Stokes

### Class of 2023

Tom Adams Jr.  
Laura Bynum  
David Carr  
Bess George  
Bill Guerry

Julie Hope  
Mary-Elizabeth Jackson  
Dale Lewis  
Courtney Portik  
Velma Tilley

### Class of 2024

Miranda Borland  
Roxanna Erwin  
Ginny Hobbs  
Bonnie Holliday  
Richard O'Donnell  
Trey Reese

Lane Rhoden  
Allen Spetnagel  
Cindy Stancil  
Cate Thompson  
Adair White  
Neal Williams

For minutes from the Session meetings, visit  
[trinityatlanta.org/session](https://trinityatlanta.org/session)



# FINANCE REPORT

**By David Beasley**

Finance Committee Chair

This update on Trinity's financial status and performance against budget will be the first in what the Finance Committee plans to provide more frequent communications in the future. This initiative is undertaken given the preferences expressed in the 2020 "Holy Cow" comprehensive survey to give the membership a clearer picture of the importance of annual giving to our operations and to assist all those constituencies in the church who are preparing for the call of a new Senior Pastor.

Overall, Trinity continues to perform well against its monthly budget, and the church maintains very solid liquidity on the balance sheet. Through the first seven months of the year ended July 31, Trinity has received \$2,511,733 in Total Income. This figure is primarily made up of \$1,951,899 in Pledged Income and Other Income of \$444,153. Pledged Income receipts are \$171,257 ahead of budget and primarily represent timing differences.

As many of you know, Pledged Income makes up about 95% of the total annual budgeted income for operations. The most significant component of Other Income was the formal forgiveness in May of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$436,025.

With the forgiveness of the PPP Loan, Trinity returns to its favorable status of having no funded debt on the balance sheet.

Thus far, in 2021, the various ministries have maintained a watchful eye on their spending. Total Expenses were \$1,974,019, which leaves a year-to-date surplus of \$101,689 after backing out the one-time PPP Loan forgiveness.

As is true for many of our peer churches, the budget for staffing and personnel comprises approximately

55% of our total annual expenditures. Given the staff realignment and severance expenses associated with the budget "reset" and position eliminations, Personnel Expense will be materially lower beginning in 2022 to align our expenses with recent giving trends in the Congregation. 2021 budgeted Personnel Expense is \$2,169,080 and is projected to be \$1,730,493 in 2022. The Finance Committee sends its kudos to our staff, Session members, and committee members who consistently show great skill in managing their budgets as the year progresses.

Beginning in November of 2020 and concluding in May of 2021, through a number of committees, the church conducted extensive due diligence on our financial position that resulted in approximately \$550,00 in annual expense reductions. These efforts also paved the way for strategic spending on critical infrastructure and initiatives that meet the clear preferences of the Congregation as outlined in the Holy Cow Survey. In addition, on July 29, Trinity conducted a Town Hall Meeting by Zoom, which outlined the work conducted during that period. This [presentation](#) is recorded and can be accessed under the "Events" tab on the home page of the [Trinity website](#).

The current roster of the Finance Committee includes 14 active Trinity Members with a variety of skills and occupations. The committee meets formally 11 times per year, and there is often additional work between the meetings. In addition, each month, the committee places in the Session Packet an excellent summary of the year-to-date financial picture. These summaries can be read by going to the [Session Reports](#) on the website.

Finally, the committee welcomes any feedback from the membership on what topics and issues should be addressed in future communications through the Trinity Times and other venues.

# THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT TRINITY

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

9:00 AM | MAGNOLIA CIRCLE

11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

Registration is not required for in-person worship.  
The 11 am service is live streamed on [Vimeo](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#).

## CHURCH SCHOOL

9:45 AM | CHILDREN | BUILDING D

10:00 AM | YOUTH | BUILDING D

10:00 AM | ADULTS | BUILDING B, WILLIAMS HALL, & ZOOM

Church school classes are offered for all ages.

## FALL KICKOFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

It's time to kick off a new program year!  
Join us Sunday morning for worship and a church school open house followed by a barbecue lunch.  
Visit [trinityatlanta.org](http://trinityatlanta.org) for more information.

