
PATHWAYS

Monthly communications from Trinity Presbyterian

January 2017

Message From Pastor Deb

Dear Trinity family,

Happy New Year! I am writing this letter December 31, the last day of the year, just as the thin winter sunlight begins to fade into dusk. As we greet 2017, it is helpful to reflect upon the year that has past and to look forward to the promise and opportunities that await our congregation. Here are a few highlights from 2016.



Mission Study

During the winter months, you shared your dreams and hopes for Trinity's future through a congregation wide survey and appreciative inquiry interview sessions. Here is what we found. We love the strong sense of intergenerational community at Trinity, where members are known and cared for. We appreciate the excellent music, our involvement in service and missions and our growing youth programs. We value Biblically grounded teaching and preaching. And, we dream of a church where members grow in faith, care in love, serve others and reach out to younger generations.

Strategic Planning

Over the spring and summer, the Session crafted Trinity's mission statement based upon these findings: *Growing in Christ, Sharing God's Love*, and articulated Trinity's vision: *To be a vibrant and nurturing community inviting all generations into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.*

The session then identified three strategic priorities for the next three to five years.

They are:

1. Increase the involvement of younger generations into all aspects of church life. Grow the committed core of our congregation.
2. Increase the focus on spiritual formation and biblical understanding. Provide biblically grounded messages that relate to deepening our relationship with God and living out our faith every day.
3. Increase congregational understanding and commitment to the stewardship of all of life. What does it mean to live a life where our time, talents and treasures belong to God?

Trinity has already made progress on the first priority by making the Director of Children and Youth Ministries position fulltime. A grant is being written to the presbytery to fund a ministry initiative focusing on reaching out to younger generations. We plan to allocate grant funds for an assessment and leadership training as well as upgrading our sanctuary's media capacity and welcome area.

Trinity's second priority, to increase in our focus on spiritual formation and biblical understanding, has also gained traction this fall. Sermons, Sunday adult education and an ongoing Wednesday evening Bible study followed the biblical narrative based upon The Story. Through this we have come to know more about the Bible and hopefully grow in our faith and understanding of God.

Pastor Search

Meanwhile, we elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) in June, who spent the summer writing a Ministry Information Form (MIF) describing our congregation, ministry and the open pastoral position. It was approved in the fall, and the MIF is now online, allowing potential candidates to apply.

In the Family

This year marked the retirements of both Joyce Piper, our longtime pianist and music coordinator, and Dee Lindblom, Trinity's administrator and pastoral associate. We miss them both greatly. We are still looking for a church administrative assistant, but welcomed Jane Wasiluk as our new musician and music coordinator on January 1.

We baptized Samel Friesema and rejoiced with the birth of Josefina Yang (and lots of grandbabies!) We celebrated Virginia Geer's 100th birthday and gathered to say goodbye to beloved members Ann Allen, Dexter Johnson, Delores Espe and Lewis Segó. We honored graduates and elected new elders and deacons. We served the community, gardened, mowed, cleaned and painted. We taught, visited,

brought meals, discussed books, studied scripture, prayed, laughed, sang and cried together... And always, we worshipped together. It has been quite a year.

I have been blessed to be part of a congregation rooted in the grace and love of Jesus Christ, and with you, I am looking forward to this new year at Trinity, trusting in One "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephes. 3:20)

Pastor Deb

God's Story, Our Story ...

This winter we will continue our journey through the story of God, discovering how God's story relates to our faith and lives. We will finish the Old Testament in March.

The Story will continue to be the focus of our sermons and the Wednesday evening Bible study. Updated bookmarks are available in the office and adult education room to help you keep on track. We have extra study guides, so please join us.



Worship Schedule

January 8 - Communion Sunday
"From Shepherd to King" - Deb K preaching
(Read: Chapter 11 in [The Story](#))

January 15 - "The Trials of a King" - Deb K preaching
(Read: Chapter 12)

January 22 - "The King Who Had It All" - Joa S preaching
(Read: Chapter 13)

January 29 - "A Kingdom Torn in Two" - Deb K preaching
(Read: Chapter 14)

February 5 - Communion Sunday
"God's Messengers" - Deb K preaching
(Read: Chapter 15)

Upcoming ...

YE OLDE YANKEE SWAP

Saturday, January 14 at 6 PM
Stephanie Hoekstra's home,
1766 Brighton Trail, Woodbury, 651-578-1877.



If you are looking for the most fun fellowship activity of the year, the Yankee Swap is the one for you! We spend most of the evening laughing until we almost cry. Bring a white elephant gift and something for the potluck dinner to share. Please sign up in the welcome room so we know how many are coming.

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

Feb 5 at 11 AM, following Worship.
Please plan to attend!



Children & Youth

And so we begin a new year . . .

There is something exciting about a new year, and as a CE director, I get two - one at the beginning of the program/school year in September, and one of them in January. (It works for my reality!) As we begin this second half of the program, I want to thank all of the volunteers who make the CE program here at Trinity possible. You plan with me, stay up late with me, and explain to me why some things won't work. You teach un-tested curriculum and (sometimes) elaborate crafts, you deal with unpredictable calendars and plans, take cross-country trips, bake and cook for fundraisers. You are flexible, can see humor in lots of things, support me fiercely, give awesome Christmas gifts, and you make a difference in many lives.

Recently, after the death of Delores Espe, a card was sent to Debi Espe by a woman who had been a student of Delores' in Trinity's Sunday School program years ago. In it, the card writer talked about her memories of Delores as a Sunday School teacher. Delores Espe made a difference in the life of that young woman. Those who teach children leave a lasting impact. I am so grateful for each one of you. You are making a difference.

Joa Sevlie

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY TRINITY

Merry Christmas from the Holms



Sending Christmas blessings from our family to yours this Christmas season. Thank you for your continued love and support for our family. We are especially blessed that Mphatso was granted United States citizenship this week.

As we celebrate our Lord's incarnation in the world we look forward to the New Year.

Merry Christmas,
Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso Holm
Mzuzu, Malawi