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# PATHWAYS

Monthly communications from Trinity Presbyterian

February 2017

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## Message From Pastor Deb

Dear Trinity Family,

Transition and change is unsettling and stressful, have you noticed?

Over the past few weeks we have been waking up to news stories of changes on the national level, leaving many of us anxious about the future. It is a disorienting time in our country, one of polarization and uncertainty. Although the changes are much slower, we at Trinity are also in the midst of transition. We look to future with anticipation and hope, yet the unknowns can cause us to worry.



Change is a constant of our lives. Sometimes we greet change with excitement and anticipation. Other times with fear and tremendous stress. What can we do when the change is unwanted or shakes us to the core? The theologian Richard Niebuhr penned what has become known as the Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." Wise words.

There are some things we can change. We can positively impact the future through courageous words, deeds and prayer. Jesus tells us that as his disciples, we are the light of the world!(Matthew 5:14) As we speak and act in ways that reflect God's heart, we shine hope and truth into a dark world. When we work in accordance with God's will, we help bring the Kingdom of God to earth, as it is in heaven.

But, there are many changes over which we have little or no control. In the midst of change, God promises to walk with us - even through the valley of the shadow of death (Ps. 23). This world will break our hearts. But God is always faithful. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and in Christ we see humble strength, tender compassion, mercy and grace. All in this world may fall away. But God is a rock and refuge, and will never be moved. Psalm 46:1-3 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult."

We do not know what the future holds. But we do know the One who holds the future. Jesus tells us; "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Deb*

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## Worship Schedule

We will continue to journey through the story of God, discovering how God's story relates to our faith and lives. We will finishing the Old Testament in March, after which we will take a break.

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

**February 12**  
"The Good Steward" - Deb K preaching  
*Annual Meeting*

**February 19**  
"The Beginning of the End" - guest preacher, Rev.  
Joanne Amaral  
(Read: Chapter 16)

**February 26**  
"The Kingdom's Fall" - Deb K preaching  
(Read: Chapter 17)

**March 1** - 7 PM  
Ash Wednesday Service



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## Upcoming ...



### **ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE**

Feb 12 at 11 AM, following Worship.  
Please plan to attend!

### **Mardi Gras Potluck - Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6 pm**

Had enough winter? Got cabin fever? Then, we have the cure for what ails you. This year Trinity celebrates Mardi Gras with a Mardi Gras theme potluck on Saturday February 25th at 6 PM. This event is intended for the entire family. Dixieland jazz, beignets, gumbo, who knows what all you might encounter. So mark your calendar, and we'll see y'all there.

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## Welcome Kim Vangsgard

Our new church administrative assistant began working this week. Please stop by the office and

welcome Kim. We are excited she has joined our team.

Kim writes:

"I have always been a part of church life ever since I can remember. I am originally from White Bear Lake. Music, voice and musical instruments has been a large part of my Christian life. From there, I began to take on other roles within the church. I have an Associate's Degree in Office Administration and started working in the corporate world. As time went on, I found the transition to working within the church environment to be my calling. I am at my happiest when working for church staff, congregational members and the community."  
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## Mission Committee News

In February the Mission and Action Committee is highlighting 3 programs that Trinity has been supporting for several years. They are Project Home, The Family Place, and Going Home. Each program plays a vital role in supporting homeless families in the St. Paul area. Project Home is coordinated by Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul (formerly Twin Cities Area Council of Churches) and works with 24 area faith communities to transform their space into overnight shelter for families in need. Volunteers show their hospitality by providing a safe and welcoming environment so that families can spend the evening relaxing, playing, and conversing followed by a good night's rest and breakfast.

The Family Place, located on 10th Street in St. Paul, is a day center for families living without permanent housing. Basic needs are provided during daytime hours including showers, lockers for belongings, laundry facilities and healthy meals. There is access to phones and computers to search for housing and employment opportunities. As much as possible, buses take school age children to the school they were attending when the family became homeless.

Going Home is a recently developed program, designed to address the root causes of homelessness and work to end the cycle of repeated and/or generational homelessness. The 16 week program teaches basic life skills including such things as tenant rights and responsibilities, parenting, chemical and mental health, wellness and healthy eating, motivation, and financial literacy.

Throughout the month of February, you may make a donation to these programs by using the new pew envelopes marked "Mission of the Month". Please name the organization and sign the envelope. In order to create Trinity's 2017 budget based on the pledges received and anticipated giving, the Mission budget is one area that has been considerably reduced. Therefore, if you feel moved to support these important programs assisting homeless families, the Mission & Action committee will greatly appreciate a prayerfully considered contribution.

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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE

In honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, January 2017, the Human Trafficking Taskforce at Trinity invited Pete Orput to speak with us. Pete, who is the Washington County Attorney, gave a presentation on Human Trafficking in Washington County for our Wednesday night adult program on January 4th.

On a very cold, cold night 21 brave Trinity members and 17 other community members came to hear Pete speak about the work being done by his office's Major Crimes Unit to combat trafficking in Washington County. Representatives from area churches including Guardian Angels, Woodbury Peaceful Grove Methodist, King of Kings Lutheran, North Presbyterian, and St. Mary of the Lakes were in attendance.

In the hour-long presentation, Pete discussed how sex trafficking is becoming a problem everywhere, including in Washington County. The presentation focused on the emerging trends of sex trafficking in the Twin Cities, indicators for those who were trafficked, the laws penalizing those responsible for the trafficking and providing services for those trafficked. The presentation also examined recent cases of sex trafficking in Washington County. Many questions from those in attendance were addressed.

Special thanks to Brad Wright and Kirk Breen who provided the audio and visual support for the presentation.



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