

# FAITH IN ACTION

Trinity Presbyterian Church Newsletter



## From the Pastor's Studio

This past Sunday I counted nine people in our new membership class. Upon inquiring about what "Brought them to Trinity" most said it was either our open/affirming posture, or our genuine concern for justice issues in the community. (An honorable mention for the ways our children are "allowed to be children" in the worship space!) It is encouraging that who we are and what we are doing is drawing others to participate in the church's life.

One of the things I try to talk about during the class is what it means to belong to a faith community. Peter Block addresses this in his helpful book, *Community: A Structure of Belonging*. For belonging to be authentic, he says, we must be invested in ourselves and have investment in something deeper than ourselves. In other words, we do not only belong to the church, but the church also belongs to us. *All of us*. This means that when we take our vows to support each other with prayers and actions, it isn't lip service, but we are held accountable by our vows to each other. And when someone offers to be there with us in our time of need, it isn't out of pity, but because we belong to each other. And when we fill out pledge cards or help out in the kitchen after worship, we do so because we belong to each other. Block says that this type of relational investment (what he terms an "association life") is what our work as a community is all about. That is to say, if we focus on relationships the work will take care of itself. Challenge accepted!

**Trinity Presbyterian Church  
is committed to being an  
open and affirming  
intergenerational church  
who, through the gospel of  
Jesus Christ and with the  
Spirit, embodies God's love,  
builds community, and  
works toward justice.**

This has me dreaming about what could be possible for us. So let's imagine:

- If we knew each other's names and not only the names of those who sit around us in our pew areas on Sunday morning. (continued on next page)



## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### This week at Trinity:

- Feb 13: Knitting Fellowship 2:00 p.m.  
Zumba 6:00 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 14: Tai Chi for Wellness 10:00 a.m.
- Feb 17: Sunday School/Coffee Catch-Up 10:15 a.m.  
Worship/Hunger Offering  
New Member Class following Worship  
Personnel & Finance Committee following Worship  
Refreshments and Fellowship following Worship

### Looking Ahead

- Feb 18: Green Team 5:00 p.m.  
Committee Night 5:30 p.m.
- Feb 20 :Zumba 6:00 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 21: Tai Chi for Wellness
- Feb 24: Sunday School/Coffee Catch-Up 10:15 a.m.  
Worship/Children-led & String-led 11:00 a.m.  
Blood Pressure Checks following Worship  
Refreshments and Fellowship following Worship  
Session 7:00 p.m.

### Serving on Sunday

Door Greeter: Tom Hedgecock  
Head Usher: TBD  
Worship Leader: Jeane Wooten  
Acolyte: TBD  
Water Bearer: TBD  
Offering Helper: TBD  
Little Lights Nursery: Preferred ChildCare, Inc.  
Refreshments After Worship: TBD  
Office Volunteer: TBD

## From the Pastor's Studio, cont'd

- If we not only knew each other's names, but knew each other's gifts, passions, and interests so when we needed help we knew who to ask to join us.

- If we not only knew names and passions, but the deep stories of faith that have formed who we are and our lives.

- If the work we did became an opportunity to get to know people rather than simply a job to get done.

- If the 80/20 rule (80% of the work gets done by 20% of the people rule) became extinct at Trinity. (My personal goal!)

- If there were no longer a few people on the committee in charge of a project by themselves, but the work of the committee was to ask who they can delegate tasks to *outside of the committee*, which frees them to organize and dream up kingdom projects rather than getting burned out because they are doing all of the work all by themselves. (How many times has this happened?)

At our last Session meeting, our leaders made a verbal commitment to trying out this model of building community. It is hard work, because it is relational work. But in the end, it is also more rewarding work that feeds the soul rather than depleting it.

So here's my challenge to you: please make an effort to get to know our new members. And then get to know something deeper about someone you've seen a bunch, but haven't gotten beyond platitudes with. If we are going to build a community of energy, excitement and possibility it is going to take intention from all of us. So dear ones, I ask: Challenge accepted?

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### Session Members, Committees, and Groups

Clerk of Session: Carol Kayler	Bodenheimer
Building & Grounds: John Engle	POAM: TBD
Church Life: Mel Gee	Justice Team: David Bathory, Donna
Community & World Service: Carol Kayler, Susan Hudson	Hamilton
Personnel & Finance: Tom Hedgecock	More Light Liason: David Bathory
Personnel Subcommittee: Heather Hosey	Environmental Green Team: Ron
Stewardship: Richard Browne	Richwine
Worship & Spiritual Growth: Cindy	Deacons: Jeff Riddle, Bea Stuber, Sue
	Baker

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# Call to Action

There will be a **New Member Class** held after worship on February 10 & 17. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available upon request. Please let Jon know if you are interested in attending.

**Jon's sermons** can be found on our website:

<http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org/sermons/>

## **TPC's Black Lives Matter Book Discussion Group**

As part of Trinity's Black Lives Matter focus, we will be starting a book discussion group this spring. Our first selection will be *Waking Up White*. Future books will be chosen by participants from the BLM book list in the narthex. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the office and include a suggestion for days and times, beginning after Easter.

## **Support a Healthy Environment for Ashley Elementary Students & Staff**

As followers of Jesus, we are called to care for the health and healing of our neighbors (Luke 9:1-2). One way we do this is by supporting Action4Equity in advocating for a new building for Ashley Elementary, where students and staff have long suffered from health problems due to mold. After months of pressure, WS/FCS is hosting community meetings on design plans for a new Ashley Elementary. Please help represent Trinity and PIRD at one of the meetings: Monday, Feb. 18, 2:30-3:30 PM or Thursday, February 21, 5:30-6:30 PM. Both meetings will be held in the Ashley Academy Media Center (1647 Ashley School Circle). Please wear black in solidarity with Action4Equity. For more information please visit <https://www.action4equityws.org/>

## **Communicating Effectively About Racism**

Do you get tongue-tied when a total stranger makes a disturbing remark in your presence? Are you frustrated with your ability to communicate effectively when racism emerges in conversations with family or co-workers? Bring your own stories to this workshop on non-violent conversation/action with Rev. Willard Bass of the [Institute for Dismantling Racism](#), and Rev. Christy Clore. Thursday, Feb. 21st, 6:30-8:00 PM at SHARE Cooperative, 603 Peters Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem (the SHARE Community Center is around the left side of the shopping complex). To inquire or register, please contact [Sydney Hughes-McGee](#). Suggested donation to IDR of \$25.00.

**The Trans Health and Wellness Conference, *Breaking Bonds, Building Bridges: Creating Trans Health Equity* will be at the Benton Convention Center March 7-9.** It is a collaborative effort between Wake Forest University Bowman Gray Medical School, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, NWAHEC, Bathory International and the transgender/non-binary community to help educate one another in current research, best practice, and Grassroot needs and expertise. For more information about being an exhibitor, or other ways to support this conference, please contact Ellen Kesler of Northwest AHEC at 336-713-7712 or via email at [ekesler@wakehealth.edu](mailto:ekesler@wakehealth.edu)

**Interfaith Winston-Salem** is partnering with the **Carlton Mitchell Lectures** to present *A Wider Welcome*, featuring Dr. Bill Gaventa and Rev. LaTonya McIver Penny. This half-day collaborative event aims to widen and strengthen how faith communities include persons who live with disability, difference, or special needs. This event takes place at Knollwood Baptist Church, Saturday, February 23, from 1-4:30 p.m. For further information contact [Diane Lipsett](#) or [Bill Leonard](#).

**Triad Now** is holding an International Women's Day Luncheon Saturday, March 9 from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. at Parkway UCC, 1465 Irving St. The keynote speaker will be Purity Ruchugo, international philanthropist, educator, and entrepreneur. Get more information [here](#).

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS**

### **CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY**

Food/Gift of the Month for February:  
Instant Potatoes

### **BOLTON FOOD PANTRY**

All-Purpose Cleaner  
Trash Bags (small boxes)

### **MOSES BASKET**

Bottles/Bottle Brushes  
Cotton Balls  
Baby Oil

## From the Bolton Food Pantry

Come visit the Pantry and see how Trinity is helping to make a difference in the lives of students and their families at Bolton Elementary School. The Pantry is open on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, from 1:00 to 6:00.



## Christian Education



**CHANGE IN DATES!**

**Intergenerational Quilt Project**

**After Worship on February 24, March 3, and March 10, in the Fellowship Hall.**

We will NOT be handing out quilt squares this Sunday!

We will provide the squares and for those who wish to decorate one after worship, we will have the materials available to do so. You may take your square home and return it to the church office by March 24. Please let Janet Rolison know if you want to decorate a quilt square so that we can cut enough material to meet our needs.

## TRINITY SUPPORTS

### Support, Advocacy, & Education Groups That Meet at Trinity

- Tolerance AA Groups: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Help and Hope Al-Anon Family Group: Saturdays 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Newcomers Club: 4th Tuesday of Each month, 10:00 a.m.
- WS Transgender Support Groups: Transgender ID-only Group/Friends, Family, & Partners Group meet every other Sunday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Call 908-444-1524 for further information.

### Local Support Groups

- PFLAG: Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets at Highland Presbyterian Church at 2380 Cloverdale Ave, 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Resource Link: [www.pflagws.org](http://www.pflagws.org); Trinity contact: Johnnie Midyette

## Let Us Also Be Mindful

Victims of gun violence and their families, and the dialogue around preventing gun violence

Our immigration situation, and compassion from our leaders

Continued dialogue and action around racism in our city and country

The political discourse in our country

The worldwide refugee crisis

The victims of violence and their families

Caregivers

All of our troops and their families

Children at the Mission of the Good Shepherd in Belize

All those suffering from injustice and oppression throughout the world

## In Gratitude

To Jeff Riddle for providing lunch and cleaning up after worship on Sunday!

For the Bingo and Pot Luck hosted by our Church Life Committee.

For those who signed up to become members of the SHARE Co-op. (If you still need to do so, you can fill out an application and sign up here: [www.share-ws.coop/members-form](http://www.share-ws.coop/members-form))

To Alice and her mother, Donna, who decorated the Fellowship Hall for Bingo and Potluck!

## Extra! Extra!

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on the new and evolving design for the newsletter. I hope the changes made this week will help with legibility. Please continue to provide any feedback to Diana Coe. My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until noon-ish. Feel free to stop by and say hi so I can begin to put faces with names!

The library task force has been sorting through the Trinity library books to remove out-of-date and underused books. If you have donated books and would like them returned to you, please contact Terri Engle or Jeanne Patterson before February 15.

## Links

Calendar on Trinity's website: [www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org)

[Call to Action](#), What's happening at Trinity and in our community. Get involved!

### BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

**Sue Sheets: February 16**

**Paxson Gaska: February 20**

**Norma Hullihan: February 21**





### **Trinity's Regular Office Hours**

Monday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Closed for Admin Duties

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday: Closed

### **Trinity's Staff**

Rev. Jonathan Gaska, Pastor

Cristy Lynn Brown, Music Director

Jonathan Blake Borton, Accompanist

Terri Engle, Director of Christian Education

Sue Baker, Parish Nurse

Kim Young, Office Administrator

Diana Coe, Communications Coordinator

### **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

1416 Bolton Street | Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
336-765-8779 | [www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org)