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Asheville, NC 28806
828-253-5471

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TRINITY TIMES

STAFF

Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton
Pastor (Ext. 104)

Lee Thomas
Director of Music Ministries/
Office Administrator (Ext. 100)
**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW
EXTENSION NUMBER**

Melanie Robertson
Interim Director of Family Ministries
& Missions (Ext. 106)

Nolan Anthony
Organist

Wendy Leach Parker
Nursery/Children's Dept.

Emergency Contact #:
828-490-7419

EMAIL
info@TrinityWAVL.org

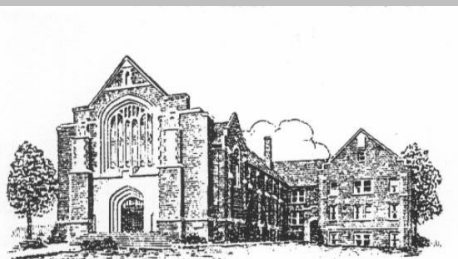
WEBSITE
TrinityWAVL.org

FACEBOOK PAGE
Trinity United Methodist Church of
Asheville

TRINITY UMC
587 Haywood Road
Asheville, NC 28806
828-253-5471

OFFICE HOURS
Mon. 9:15AM - 2PM
Tue. 9:15AM - 2PM
Wed. 9:15AM - 2PM
Thu. 9:15AM - 2PM
Fri. Church Office Closed

To reach the Church office,
please use Extension 100!



DECEMBER 2021

TRINITY TIMES

We exist to share the love of God, now & forever.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES @ TRINITY

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

This is a new tradition! Sat., Nov. 27 ~ 6:30PM we will gather out in the front lawn to witness the "lighting" of our largest evergreen tree. Afterwards we will provide a snack supper. (Our youth families, Grades 5 - 12, will also use this opportunity to meet-up for a time of special fellowship and info updates.)



CAROLING

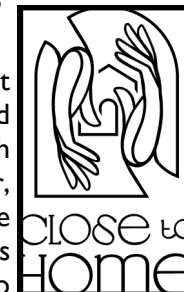
Here we come a caroling! Sun., Dec. 12 ~ 4:30 - 6:30PM Come out to the front lawn close to the "lighted tree" and join in as we carol around the fire, sing wonderful songs of the season and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERIES CLOSE TO HOME

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

Advent begins Sun., Nov. 28, and your Advent kits will be ready for pick-up or delivery on Sun., Nov. 28. Hopefully many of you still have your Advent Candles from last year. Kits will include a "Close to Home" daily devotional, Advent candles if needed, an Advent



Calendar with opportunities to participate in missions, a link to an Advent & Christmas music playlist, and a fun recipe from the staff!

Mark your calendars and invite your friends & neighbors to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Fri., Dec. 24, 5PM. The service will start at 5PM, but there will pre-service special music starting at 4:50PM.

STAN KENTON CHRISTMAS JAZZ

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS
THE
ASHEVILLE JAZZ ORCHESTRA
PERFORMING MUSIC
FROM THE
STAN KENTON ORCHESTRA'S CHRISTMAS ALBUM
FRIDAY, DEC. 17th 7 PM
TRINITY UMC
587 HAYWOOD ROAD
WEST ASHEVILLE
FREE ADMISSION!
DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED TO BENEFIT
THE AJO EDUCATION PROGRAM &
TRINITY UMC'S BLESS THE SCHOOL FUND
OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS & CHILDREN

Trinity will hold the **Asheville Jazz Orchestra's Stan Kenton Christmas Concert** in our sanctuary. **Bring a friend and come and enjoy.** This is a free concert, but a good will offering will be collected to raise

money for Trinity's Bless the School Fund (a fund used to assist students at Hall Fletcher & area schools when a need arises) and for the Asheville Jazz Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to jazz performance and education. **Ushers & Greeters are needed for this concert!** Stage goes up the week of **Dec. 12. Call the church office or speak with Melanie Robertson if you've available to help!**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION

HALL FLETCHER ANGEL TREE

Did you know? Our Bless the Schools fund gave \$750 to Hall Fletcher Elementary earlier this month to help them buy gifts for their under-resourced students and families. Their social worker has said this would be the most beneficial way to help. You are welcome to donate to this fund at any time, and especially if you attend the Stan Kenton Concert on Dec. 17.



BELOVED ANGEL TREE & WINTER GEAR

We are collecting two requested needs for Beloved Asheville: Cold Weather Gear Drive & Toy Drive. **Cold Weather** items are thick ski gloves, sleeping bags, tents & camping gear, blankets, backpacks, hothands, sternos, flashlights, can openers, AA batteries, & tarps. These items may be new or gently used. The **Toy Drive** is requesting "Culturally Celebrative gifts" including: black & brown dolls, black & brown action figures, books with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) characters & cultural themes, STEM toys (science, technology, engineering & math), toys that helps kids move, games, art supplies, toys for older children, razor scooters/skateboards, sports equipment, musical instruments, photography equipment, gift cards. Please bring any toys **UNWRAPPED** to church by **Sun. Dec. 12.**

POINSETTIAS & UMMEN FUEL FUND

Along with the our traditional Christmas and Advent decorations, we are placing **48 Poinsettias** in the sanctuary this season. We are asking for a donation of \$15 for each plant. \$9 of that amount will go to support the United Methodist Men's Fuel Fund (since they didn't get to have their annual Warm Morning Breakfast) and the other \$6 will cover the cost of the plant. You can place a poinsettia or more in honor or memory of a loved one. By Dec. 12, we need to know the name(s) of those being thought of and if it is in memory or honor. Please put "Poinsettia" on the check or offering envelope.



ABCCM CHIRSTMAS SHOP

The ABCCM Christmas Shop needing volunteers. This is where families will be able to come pick up gifts for their children. The Christmas Shop is at 153 Smokey Park Highway, in the Ingles shopping plaza. 4-6 people are needed each shift at the store: 10AM-1PM; 1-4PM; 4-6PM M-F as well as 10AM - 12:30PM or 12:30-3PM on Sat. It will be open Nov. 29 - Dec. 24. For more info and to sign up, visit ABCCM.org or call 828-259-5337, or email Shirley Rogers, Christmas Angel Coordinator at christmasangel@abccm.org.



WORSHIP



"CLOSE TO HOME"

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God's promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression.

After receiving the angel's news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth's home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

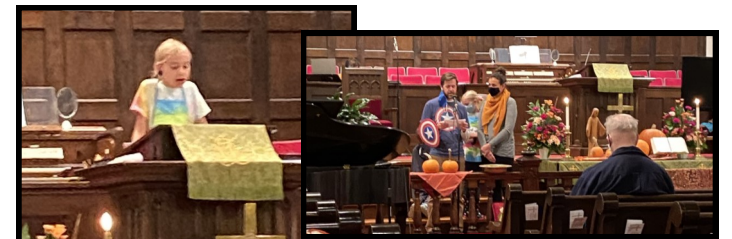
Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home— wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

PICTORIAL LOOK AT TRINITY HARVEST FESTIVAL 2021 TRUNK & TREAT



OCT. 31 CHILDREN'S SABBATH SERVICE



MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION SERVICE





STEWARDSHIP OF PEOPLE

- Memorial Garden Dedication is set for Nov. 7 with a reception following, led by Kay Cooke.
- Music updates - handbell choir is resuming in November to prepare for Advent/ Christmas.
- Stan Kenton Holiday Concert - Dec. 17, 7PM.
- Missional Engagements - lots of opportunities will be shared.
- Covid Updates: The Bishop and Cabinet continue to recommend we all wear masks until a more stable time to accomplish this momentous tasks.
- SPRC Hiring updates
 - ✦ 3 Interviews conducted; one more being done. Asking all candidates to submit ministry plan and goals by Nov. 5. *** **Update:** SPRC met Nov. 18, narrowed the pool o 3; referenced will be called and decision hopefully made by end of November, early December for a Jan 1 start date.

MEETINGS

- Nov 12-13 - Retreat Strategic Planning at Pisgah View Ranch with Cindy Fiala.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Tues, Dec. 14, 6PM.** All are welcome! If you have an item for consideration on the agenda, please send it to Nancy Walton **one week prior to meetings.**

A PART OF TRINITY'S HISTORY

In last month's issue, there was an error with one of the statements in the article about the quilt.

"As some of you know, in the cleaning of the church, a quilt coverlet was found that was made in 1929 by the women's circles of Balm Grove Methodist Episcopal Church (now Trinity United Methodist Church). It contains over 250 names of members embroidered on the coverlet. The quilts was made based on a pattern known as the World War I quilt. These quilts were made to raise money to help returning veterans. A person paid to have his or her name on the quilt. The women of the church used this idea and other ways to raise money to save the church. Just after the church was built, **the debt was around \$150,000 (not \$15,000).** The great Depression of 1929 threatened to cause sale of the church. Somehow the people managed to raise the money to keep the church by also selling bricks and homemade chicken pies."

PRAYER LIST

Praise for the changing season; natural disasters; for the unemployed; the "others" in our community; for our city & county leaders; our state and national leaders, our church leaders, and all in positions of public trust; for our next Director of Family Ministry.

For the families of those who have died: O. E. Starnes, Jr. 10/25/21 (Hal Starnes's brother); Katy Lou Bridges 11/02/21 (Sharon Green's mother); James Henderson Sparger, Sr. 11/02/2021.

For those in our congregation in need of God's healing: Taylor Biggers (now at Walter Reed Hospital); Dan Clodfelter; Oris Crout; Jimmy & Barbara Davis; Mildred Hooker & Tony Hooker; Jennie Lynn Krichbaum; Paul Mann; Betty & Bob Mull; Tom & Mary Ann Patelidas; Larry Scholtz; Barbara Smith.

For family members & friends of our congregation: Lisa Boone (John & Janice Nelson's daughter); Dennis Carpenter (Cathie G. Carpenter's husband), Debra Cascio (Cheryl Samoville's niece); Rose Caudle (Sheila Drake's mother; Ashley Drake's grandmother); James Connor (Doris Cooper's son); Judy Cox; Jane Ann Dempsey's father; Katherine & Opie Frazier (Tom Patelidas' sister & brother-in-law); Paul Nelson (Barbara Goist's father); Awana Johnson (friends of Patelidas); Lisa Patelidas Ledbetter; Tiffany Leger (Maxine Schrader's step great niece); Daryl Lyda & Cheryl Lyda Swiger (Betty Mull's children); Deb McCarson (Anne Cogburn's friend); Kay Prazak (Cheryl Samoville's family); Allison Schmidt (Bujdosos' daughter); Bobby & Sue Walton (Ellen Mitchell brother/sister-in-law); those struggling with mental illness & faith; unspoken joys & concerns.

Please send your joys, requests & updates to the Church Office, tumcnc@yahoo.com or call 828-253-5471, Ext. 100.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

On Sun., Nov. 7, the dedication for the Memorial Garden took place at the end of worship. The name plate plaque has arrived and should be installed soon. Once it is in place, we can begin the process of using the Memorial Garden urn. The church office has a form available to order the name plate for the loved one. The fee of \$150 has been guaranteed through now and June 2022. Please contact the church office for more information and to obtain the form.

(**Pictured: Marc Archambault & Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton.**)



Advent 1 - Nov 28
Luke 21:25-36
"Homesick (Hope)"



Advent 2 - Dec. 5
Luke 1:57-80
"Laying the Foundation (Peace)"

Advent 3 - Dec. 12
Luke 3:1-18;
Zephaniah 3:14-20
"A Home for All (Joy)"



Advent 4 - Dec. 19
Luke 1:39-55
"Seeking Sanctuary (Love)"

Christmas Eve - Fri., Dec. 24 - 5PM (4:50PM Prelude)
Luke 2:1-20



"Invited Home" Sun., Dec 26
Carol sing & pop-up Christmas Pageant! Come prepared to take on a part in the Christmas pageant as a shepherd, wise man/ woman, or the Holy Family! This will be a low-key Sunday of celebration and fellowship of the season!

Jan. 2 - Sunday of the Epiphany
Matthew 2:1-12
"Home by Another Way"



Jan. 9 - Baptism of the Lord
Remember your Baptism!

CELEBRATIONS

THANKSGIVINGS

- Steve & Anne May Cogburn - for hosting the Strategic Planning Retreat and coach Cindy Fiala, Nov. 12-14.
- Laszlo Bujdoso - for trimming hedges and cleaning the Memorial Garden post Pumpkin Patch & moving internet cables in our main office.
- Laszlo Bujdoso, Cathi Durham, Melanie Meador, Mike Pruett, Melanie Robertson, Maxine Schrader, & Lee Thomas for attending the Strategic Planning Retreat!
- Mark Locklear - for installing new motion sensor lights around the Church and Education Buildings
- Glenn Parham for blowing all the leaves off the front sidewalk to be mulched!
- Kay Cooke for hosting the Memorial Garden reception and providing supper for the SPRC team.
- Paul Sprouse - for power washing the Memorial Garden

area and installing new lights in the Sanctuary

- Mildred Dixon - for serving faithfully as Financial Secretary for the past few years!
- Sarah Leggat - for taking on the role of Financial Secretary for the next year!
- Anna Broome - for helping to coordinate our Children's Sabbath Worship service
- Trinity Strings, Eric & Patricia Sands for sharing their gifts of music for the All Saints Service, Nov. 7.

To Trinity UMC – Thank you so much for helping stock our pantry this week. Our staff were happy to receive toilet paper, paper towels, storage bags, and tin foil. Our clients were excited about the abundance of ramen noodles – their favorite comfort food. We truly appreciate your support and partnership.

Debbie Alford,
Trinity Place Program Manager

We welcome Elliston "Ellis" Edward Pieper, born early in the morning on June 21 to Eric and Ellen Soderberg Piper!



James H. "Jim" Sparger, Sr.
(7 Sep 1921 – 2 Nov 2021)



James "Jim" Sparger, 100, passed away on Tuesday, November 2nd. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Amanda Bell Sparger.

Jim was both a World War II and Korean War veteran. After the Korean War, Jim returned to his native Greensboro and was employed by Home Federal Savings and Loan, where he rose in the firm to become Senior Vice President. In 1977, Jim moved to Durham where he was President of First Federal Savings and Loan. Retiring in 1989, in 1994 he and Amanda moved to Candler to live close to family.

He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Lake Junaluska Golf Course, and a life member of Elks and the Assoc. of the U.S. Navy.

Jim is survived by his son Jay Sparger (Susan) of Leicester and daughter Meg Hoffman (Ed) of Atlanta, as well as three grandchildren: Sam Sparger of Charlotte, Will Sparger of Leicester, and Amanda Sparger of Auckland, NZ.

At Jim's request, services are to be private with the immediate family. He will be interred at the NC Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain alongside his wife Amanda.

CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed on **Mon., Dec. 27** through **Fri., Dec. 31** (New Year's Day) Please be sure to get all end of year contributions to the church by **Sun., Dec, 26** or postmarked and dated before Dec. 31.

YEAR END GIFTS ACCEPTED!!

Those looking to maximize giving and minimize tax liability would be wise to consider a gift from their stock portfolio or IRA!

NEW SOFTWARE UPDATE

We are transitioning our church management software to a product called **Realm** (cloud based software) which will allow staff to connect with congregants through their devices so we can communicate, share ministry information and volunteer opportunities (PLUS it will save the church financial resources). So over the next week or so (if you have an email), you will be receiving a Realm invite so you can log in with devices and see volunteer opportunities and schedules, view your giving, and more. We are still learning how the system works and we appreciate your patience as we learn its implementation. Let us know what questions you may have! Anyone who was giving via VANCO (online giving portal) should not see a change in the service. However, VANCO always had a processing fee that the church had to consume when anyone gave through it. With Realm, the giver will be given an option to offset the gift (if they so choose) so the church gets the entire contribution.



must be coaxed with tears
to bear a new harvest;
we cannot return to death
in search of life.

Here in the thin place
between past and future,
ask us only to go forward with you,
O Mother:
to seek honey in the wilderness,
to startle upon love that is new,
to pull fresh milk from every day,
to be strangers upheld
by mercy and mystery
and never again
prisoners of rationed charity.

And if we ask you, O Mother,
to let us go back,
tell us then the story
of how far we have come
and how much we might yet
come to know.
Tell us the story of the deep breath
that awaits us with every dawn,
and of the promise that tomorrow
will not find us alone.
Then wait with us for the new.

Based on Ruth 1:1-18

Devotional & Reflective Sharing based on a prayer, "The Eve before the New" by the Rev. Rachel Hackenberg. We shared responses to the prayer prompt, "...tell us then the story of how far we have come and how much we might yet come to know," as well as "Wait with us for the new." We considered *What are we asking God to wait with us on...what are we awaiting as a church leadership team? As church members/ a church family? As community members?*

- Heard from Emily Ball, Asheville City coordinator for Homeless Services about the possibilities of TUMC being a Code Purple site. Staffing would be provided by ABCCM, WNC Rescue Mission, with assistance from the Avl Cit Police. TUMC would need to secure and lock off access to top floors, with only access given to the Fellowship Hall and bathrooms. After discussion of areas needing our attention to be able to secure and pending approval from the Fire Marshall, TLC voted to approve hosting Code Purple Shelter. *** **UPDATE:** *City of Avl has cooperated with ABCCM to utilize the former Steadfast House as Code Purple shelter. They will keep us in the loop for future use, and this will give us time to make some needed changes to secure the bottom floor access.*
- Received Finance Reports and last month's minutes

and approved by consent. *** **UPDATE:** *Copies of the latest Finance reports are available on the main floor hall table.*

**STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES**

- PPP Loan paperwork is in process of submission for its forgiveness.
- Account reconciliation recommendations from Mildred Dixon's work to reduce the number of bank accounts. Currently 9 checking/ savings accounts (not including the Foundation accounts.)
☐ TLC voted to **KEEP**:
 ✦ BBT Checking 3345 - Operating
 ✦ BBT MMKT Acct 7345 - Savings (which will hold a few thousand dollars for Missional cash on hand projects, while keeping the majority of missional resources)
 ✦ BBT MMKT Acct 3426 - Parsonage
 ✦ All other funds were either transferred to the Foundation, rolled over into the Savings or Operating/ Checking account as reimbursement from past expenses that were allocated from temporary restricted or dedicated accounts but had never reimbursed the operating from those restricted funds.
☐ Voted to keep 1387 Memorial Garden fund until all billing is finished.
- Cleaning Project **UPDATE:** In August, the TLC voted to use funds from the Savings Account to fund project.
 ✦ \$2170 collected from 2nd Mile Giving which was deposited into the Operating Account to pay for the services.
 ✦ We paid Jess Reed/ Green Mountain Space \$3K (down payment) and bal. of \$938.56 = \$3,938.56
 ✦ Moving Crew pd. \$1,195
 ✦ Total Project = \$5,133.56
 ✦ Total to reimburse ourselves after subtracting 2nd Mile Giving (\$2170) = \$2963.56
 ✦ Transferred \$2963.56 from Savings Acct as approved by TLC in August to Checking to reimburse ourselves for the Cleaning Project.
- Current Foundation Balances: (each of these funds will eventually have both an investment

(more fluid cash) and endowed accounts.

- ✦ Mission: **\$65,119.59**
- ✦ Music: **\$43,253.28**
- ✦ Building: **\$114,135.50**
- ☐ Voted to allow Cathi to create a fourth fund at the foundation (General Fund)
- Endowment Committee: In addition to the membership by role, the Committee shall consist of:
 1. The Pastor
 2. The Chairperson of Finance
 3. Treasurer
 4. Representative from the Board of Trustees
 5. One to five persons nominated from Lay members and elected by the Charge Conference who shall serve in rotating classes of membership.☐ The TLC welcomes the election of the following at-large members: **Keith Clark, Paul Mann, and Maxine Schrader.** We are grateful for their service! This means there are 7 members of the Endowment Committee.

**STEWARDSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- Preventative Maintenance done; boilers running
- HVAC System replacement - Educ. Bldg; 4 rooms needing new system - gathering quotes and determining payment plans
- On-going playground & shelter clean up - confirm with Avl Peak Academy.
- Fire Escape doors for Blue Ridge District Office Quote ~ \$4200 (District is paying \$2100 of this bill). *** **UPDATE:** *Project completed on Nov 19!*
- Memorial Garden had damaged done and mailbox from Education Building was stolen, sometime between Sunday, Oct. 31 and Monday morning, Nov. 1. Police reports filed. Stone mason is working to fix the damage. *** **UPDATE:** *Stone Mason, Marc Archambault is working on a more permanent fix. Temporary work will be in place for Dedication on Nov. 7.*

TRINITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**TRINITY UMC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
2 Nov 2021 Agenda and Meeting Record**

PRESENT: Emily Ball, Avl City; Mike Pruett, Mark Locklear, Cathi Durham, Lazlo Bujdoso, Laurie Bujdoso, Maxine Schrader, Kay Cooke, Lee Thomas, Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton

**The Eve before the New
by the Rev. Rachel Hackenberg**

Do not ask us to turn back, O Mother,
or to return to what has been;
although there is beauty in the past,
we cannot remain there
nor do we wish to relive
the milestones of pain and grief that
brought us from the past to this day.

Do not ask us to go back, O Mother,
where the only hope to be found
is in the dirt of fallow fields
where discarded seeds