



# TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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## More than crayons and cookies

Doug had been away from church for many years when one Sunday he wandered into a

former congregation I served. He was looking to reconnect with a congregation and, though he was raised Catholic, he was drawn to our Presbyterian congregation by an early childhood memory.

In his neighborhood growing up, a small Presbyterian church was nearby that offered Sunday School. Before mass, or when his parents weren't attending, he hopped on over to the class for children. He said, "You know what I remember most is the crayons and cookies." The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Recently our Christian Growth Committee was meeting to talk about plans for the fall. Our education as Christians is a lifelong calling, and the committee is looking to provide. First, Sunday School Bible study will continue to be offered. Second, a comprehensive

12-week introduction to the Old Testament will be offered at a couple of times outside of Sunday morning. Third, the committee discussed the best ways to facilitate small group topical studies in the fall. The conversation went every which way as we sought God's help in fulfilling our mission to "be and make disciples of Jesus Christ."

It wasn't just the crayons and cookies that got my friend Doug back to church as an adult. It was the Spirit of God working in and through a loving and welcoming church. I see that same Spirit at Tryon Presbyterian, and that Spirit is calling us to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2).

If you don't know where to begin in the Bible, if you're a seasoned Christian struggling with a new issue, if you're looking for spiritual fellowship, then be on the lookout for opportunities this August.

Grace and Peace,

Allan



Children in cottage care help with chores.



Nearly 90 percent of residential youth complete high school.

## Mission spotlight: Black Mountain Home for Children

Wow! Where do I begin to describe this amazing, Christ-centered home where children are lovingly cared for and nurtured? We were blessed to learn about the many programs they have in place at Black Mountain Home (BMH) recently at the TPW Spring Luncheon. Kristen Terlitsky, from the BMH community relations office, was our speaker.

A little history: In January 1904, Rev. Robert P. Smith opened the doors on a four-room cabin as an orphanage in Haywood County. Since then, “BMH has grown to be a true continuum of care when children need out-of-home placement. They can meet those needs through all the stages and phases of their growing-up years. From infants born prematurely or with addictions to young adults working toward an educational or career goal, the ministry provides a safe, supportive home for youth of all ages and stages.” The complete history is fascinating to read at [blackmountainhome.org](http://blackmountainhome.org).

Current programs include:

**Family foster care in the local community.** “These children enter foster care through no fault of their own.” Foster families provide the physical and emotional support to nurture them when they need it most. “The age of children placed in the foster homes can range from newborns to teenagers, with the majority being age 6 and younger. One-third are medically fragile infants, born prematurely, with addictions and other challenges.” Licensed as a foster care placement agency in 2009, BMH continues to provide safe, loving homes for these vulnerable children.

**Cottage care on campuses in Black Mountain and Pisgah Forest.** The residential care program can provide care for up to 33 children from kindergarten through seniors in high school. They live in one of four cottages on the beautiful 90-acre, Black Mountain campus. The cottages are staffed with married house parents, and the children attend public school, have chores, attend church and even take “home family” vacations. The goal is to provide the children with the most normal lives possible. There is also a satellite facility, Whitewater Cove, in Pisgah Forest. This property includes a home that can meet the needs of up to six children. In addition, Bear Lodge provides bunk space for youth on retreats as well as office space for staff.

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**Transitional living.** The Transitional Living Program focuses on youth 14 and older. It teaches skills such as budgeting, cooking and nutrition, household management, vocational skills, decision-making and personal care.

**Independent living for older youth.** “In 2008, BMH began offering youth who have earned a high school diploma or GED the option of remaining in care while furthering their education or working toward a career goal. Since that time, 89 percent of the teens in care have earned a high school diploma.” The village provides housing for up to 32 young adults and three staff members. They can continue their education beyond the normal age-out of 18. BMH not only houses and encourages them but has begun offering an apprenticeship program that initially will include four training tracks: culinary arts, outdoor leadership/recreation, hospitality/housekeeping and maintenance/automotive.



The Black Mountain campus covers 90 beautiful acres.

This is just a summary of how over the last 118 years God has used the dedication and vision of Christians to support these special children in Western North Carolina. In 2021, BMH took care of more than 90 children and young adults. Our church has been engaged with BMH since about 2000. We are privileged to support this worthwhile ministry for children. Thank you for your love and support!

*By Mission Committee Chair Rita Nichols*

## TPC women hear about God's work in Black Mountain

God blessed the Tryon Presbyterian women to finally have an indoor spring luncheon on May 18 in our fellowship hall. There were 30 in attendance, and we were excited to see each other and share our time together.

The highlight of the luncheon was the privilege of hearing all the exciting things that are going on at Black Mountain Home for Children and Youth. Kristen Terlitsky, Community Relations, presented an overview in slides of all this wonderful place has accomplished since it began in 1904. The home first served children up to elementary school age but now ministers to and continues to serve them as they get older.

In other systems, children would age out at 18. They would be left on their own with no one to turn to. BMCH serves young people from infancy to 26 years of age. Its programs provide education and skills training in a warm, loving and safe environment as the children plan for their adult future. Please look up [blackmountainhome.org](http://blackmountainhome.org) to see all the great work being done for God and children in Western North Carolina.

*By Rita Nichols*

# Squeeze the day at Harmon Field this summer!

Do you have a folding chair and a smile? If so, you are eminently qualified to serve at the Tryon Presbyterian Church Lemonade Stand. Thanks to the heavy lifting by Brian Bancroft, all you must do is show up at the Harmon Field playground on your appointed day and time. Your assignment? Serve lemonade and cookies to the families, children and individuals who are playing at the park, cycling by, or walking their dog. (We'll have dog treats available, too.)

This is a project of the Membership and Fellowship committees and part of our Harmon Field Outreach. Allan refers to the Lemonade Stand as a "ministry of presence." It is a simple way to introduce our church to the broader community. There will be attractive bookmarks at the stand which provide information about our church. And don't worry, Brian will have a tent in place so you can sit in the shade.

The scheduled dates for serving lemonade, all Saturdays, are June 25, July 16, July 30, August 13 and August 27. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex soon. We will be there from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Susan Speight, 828-894-6511 or [scspeight@windstream.net](mailto:scspeight@windstream.net).

*By Susan Speight*



Members of Tryon Presbyterian Church serve lemonade and cookies at Harmon Field in this 2021 photo.

**Save the date: TPC Centennial Celebration, October 23, 2022**



## Meet the Session: Cherie Brooks

Cherie and her husband, Phil, moved to Mill Spring in 2004 from Columbia, S.C. They have been members of TPC for two-and-a-half years. Cherie was installed as a Session member this year.

Cherie has two sons and two daughters, plus one precious granddaughter. She held leadership roles in her previous churches as well as being a Stephen minister. She has worked as a mentor in public schools, both here and in Columbia, and served as a volunteer at Thermal Belt Outreach for nine years. Cherie is an avid reader and enjoys walking.

Cherie chairs the Christian Growth Committee, which is responsible for Christian/spiritual growth programs for our children, youth and adults, coordination of the nursery, and the church library.

Cherie writes that TPC should continue to be involved in both local and world missions and nurture its members by meeting their spiritual needs and enabling them to grow in their faith.



Cherie with granddaughter Sofia



Jane with grandchildren Bo and Cooper

## Meet the Session: Jane Grinde

Jane and her late husband, Erick, moved to Tryon Estates from a retirement community in South Carolina in 2014. Jane joined TPC in 2019 and was ordained as an elder in January 2021.

Jane has been blessed with two children and two grandchildren. However, a little-known fact is that she attended the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival in Bethel, N.Y.!

In addition to her church activities, Jane enjoys walking, dancing and Qigong, a traditional Chinese form of exercise and meditation. She is also a volunteer with Thermal Belt Outreach.

Under Jane's leadership, the Worship and Music Committee works closely with Allan, Lesley, Charles and Congregational Care to provide meaningful worship services each Sunday and additional seasonal services such as Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve.

Jane's committee has several subcommittees: Liturgists, Chancel Guild, Congregational Representative, Choir Representative, Communion, Communion Servers, Flowers and Sanctuary.

Jane writes that her vision for TPC is to be a vibrant and active presence in the community with a congregation comprised of people of all ages, races, income levels and sexual orientation. It should be a friendly, welcoming church, focused outward not inward.

*By the Membership Committee*

## Reflections at age 90 review a life of service

Les Stobbe's daily prayer and devotions began in early childhood – in German! That's just one of the interesting personal notes Les shares in "Reflections at Age 90," a chapter in his 2021 book, "God Moments in My Publishing Life: The Making of a Writer and Publisher."

TPC members know Les as a tall, soft-spoken man with a friendly smile who serves as our clerk of Session. Some are aware, as Jerry Jenkins points out in the foreword to "God Moments," that Les is a "giant in Christian writing, editing and publishing." But very few may have heard that Les first envisioned his eventual career while lying flat on his back during a four-month hospitalization from a mountain-climbing accident. Noticing a magazine advertisement, he sent for a \$15 correspondence course for "The Beginning Christian Writer."

Les was born on a farm in British Columbia during the Depression. The family spoke German at home, with Les and his younger siblings learning English at school. His childhood chores included helping with laundry, feeding and milking cows, clearing land, planting and hoeing cornfields, tending raspberries and strawberries, collecting and putting up hay, and much more.

He experienced a particular hardship: "After scarlet fever at age five, my eyes had crossed and for seven years I was odd-man-out in all sports and social activities," Les reveals. Because of this, he became "a voracious reader of books, both Christian and secular." He also notes his early life as a "book worm" helped him "hide from vocal and physical abuse in school."

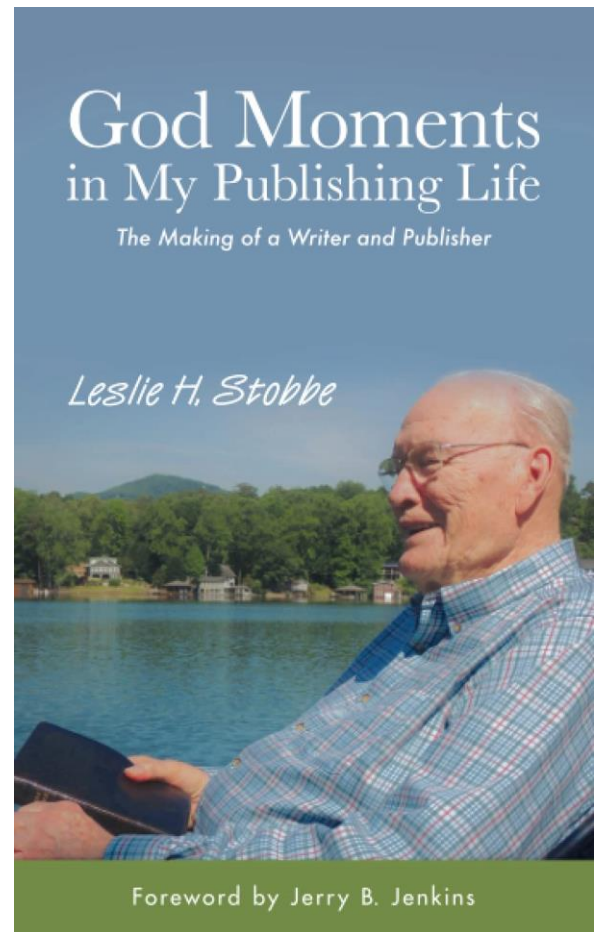
But Les found acceptance at South Abbotsford Mennonite Brethren Church, where his "life preparation" continued. From children's activities, he grew to be the Sunday school teacher's assistant by age 16 and a youth leader at 18.

"God had a plan for my life," Les writes. "It surpassed anything anyone in my acquaintance circle could have imagined as they bullied me and made fun of my crossed eyes."

Les' path led to the University of British Columbia, where his studies and expanded reading deepened his faith. But he was still searching for a vocation that would serve God. Along the way, he provided first-aid to miners at a silver, lead and zinc mine and reported weather and drew land maps at a forestry office.

While enrolled later at Mennonite Brethren Bible College, having completed his writing correspondence course, Les covered speakers and wrote articles summarizing their messages. The college president noticed and made him the "PR person."

"Incredibly, I still had no inkling of God's future for me until one spring day I was selling college yearbooks when I landed at a German language weekly publisher's house. In a true 'God moment' I was invited onto his (See **REFLECTIONS** on Page 7)



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porch. He shocked me by saying he was planning to invest in an English equivalent of his German Mennonite weekly. He asked if I would be willing to be the founding editor. Three months later we released the first edition." Les was 25 and discovering his life's work.

At that time, Les also gained his life partner. He had heard a young student at the college, Rita Langemann, "sing beautifully at a denominational conference." Although he had graduated, he would drop by campus to watch volleyball games and attend Sunday evening socials "and saw Rita in action." He soon introduced himself, and they were married in September 1956. It was a match made in heaven. "Over 65 years ago I knew God not only had a plan for my life, but also for my musically gifted wife," Les writes.

That plan eventually brought Les and Rita to Tryon, where Les celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday June 7. He is still an active writer and editor for a Christian publishing house. "God Moments" is both a testimony and thanks for a long and fulfilling life and career of serving God.

*By Doug Clark*

## If life is a roller coaster, buckle in with faith

Summer is almost here and with it comes rides in the amusement parks. Personally, I am a merry-go-round person. A steady circular motion with a ride of about 18 inches up and down is fine by me.

I have a daughter who loves the roller coaster. When her son Braeden was 9, she told him that if he went with her on a certain coaster in Florida she would give him \$20. That mother/son bonding cost her a \$20 bill but got her a new riding buddy.

In the old days, all you had to do was strap yourself into the seat. With the newer rides, they have a heavy bar that automatically clamps you in so that you cannot get out if you want to. With all the corkscrew twists and upside-down loops, it is probably a good idea.

When Bill died, my life changed to what I came to see as a roller coaster ride. Gradually it has changed to a ride on country roads with an occasional hairpin turn and unannounced speed bumps.

I find that I have a safety belt, too. Normally, life just calls for a seat belt of Grace that is available to all God's children. In times like these, when the ride is particularly rough and less predictable, there is a need for greater security.

It is not a bar that automatically moves across my life. It is a belt that I take hold of, daily, and buckle up. In this case, it is a belt of faith, and I buckle it on with prayer.

My reward is much more than a \$20 bill that is spent and gone. It is a closer walk with God. It is a dearer relationship with my Heavenly Father, and that is an everlasting reward.

*By Betsy Zeek*





# When Betty Brewer led the TPC youth behind bars

The notation in our Session minutes was brief: The Tryon Presbyterian Church youth planned to present “Godspell” on April 12, 1976. Wow! Very ambitious, I thought. But I had no idea how ambitious – or daring.

“Godspell,” a musical composed by Stephen Schwartz, was a sensation from its off-Broadway opening in 1971. It features songs that climbed the pop charts, and it was made into a motion picture.

I knew that only Betty Brewer could have directed the TPC youth in a presentation of “Godspell” back in 1976. Although she was taking a break from her decades-long role as choir director and organist, she was the volunteer youth leader then. I called her to ask how it went.

“Great,” she said. At least 30 kids participated, most of them members of the church but some who weren’t. Several were active in Tryon Little Theatre. Betty was working as a guidance counselor at Polk Central High School then and knew many talented young people.

“A lot of them who knew what was going on at our church came with their families,” she said. “It was a real mission program there (at the high school). We had some excellent singers, kids who really enjoyed doing what they were doing.”

The show went so well that Betty took it on the road – to a South Carolina state prison in Columbia!

“We had a very active youth group,” she said. “This is what we did – it sounded interesting to them. We had plenty of parents to come with us.”

Betty professes to have forgotten who came up with the idea for a prison performance. “It might have been me, or it might have been someone else,” she said. Nevertheless, it was inspired – and certainly was in line with the Gospel message. So, it was just a matter of making it happen.

Betty called someone in the Spartanburg County sheriff’s office to present the idea of taking her group to a prison, and soon she got a call back from the South Carolina department of correction. The arrangements were made. The kids could perform in the prison chapel before an audience of inmates chosen for their good behavior. At least their *recent* good behavior. It was a full house – “as many as they could get into the chapel because there were no empty seats,” Betty said.

She remembers the sound of doors locking behind the TPC visitors as they entered the facility and made their way to the chapel. But the kids didn’t seem to be nervous. They performed really well and afterward lined the walls around the chapel singing hymns for an encore, Betty said. The audience joined in.

Over the years, the TPC youth group sang at other churches under Betty’s direction, but the prison performance in 1976 was unique. It was a meaningful and memorable experience.

“I haven’t forgotten it, and I’m sure the kids haven’t either,” Betty said.

By Doug Clark







Presbyterian Mission photo shows Young Adult Volunteers.

## Pentecost offering supports programs for children, youth and young adults

Our annual Pentecost offering June 5 presented an opportunity to support ministries for children, youth and young adults.

Forty percent of the Pentecost offering stays in our congregation to strengthen local ministries serving children, youth and young adults. Twenty-five percent supports ministries with youth, particularly the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Sadly, this year's event has been canceled because of continuing Covid risks. Ten percent of the offering is devoted to at-risk children, improving education and providing safe havens.

The final 25 percent helps Young Adult Volunteers, a faith-based but ecumenical Presbyterian Mission program that places people ages 19-30 for a year of service at sites across the United States and overseas. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Alongside this work, volunteers explore the meaning of their Christian faith and accountability to their neighbors with peers and mentors. Participants are provided a regular stipend and housing and program-related transportation costs. They can also receive student-loan assistance.

Please prayerfully consider making an offering to these important ministries. Donations are still being accepted.

*By the Mission Committee*

## The mystery persists

Last month, we reported a mystery: Why did our Session withdraw participation in a program with other Tryon churches to host soldiers from Camp Croft near Spartanburg during World War II? It had something to do with events one Sunday evening at the Episcopal Parish Hall.

Ed Harrelson asked his friend Ron Crawley, who was one of the authors of "When the Soldiers Came to Town: Spartanburg's Camp Wadsworth (1917-19) & Camp Croft (1941-45)." The book was published in 2004 by the Spartanburg County Historical Association.

Ron couldn't solve our mystery, but he added this:

"Hmm, perhaps the soldiers were bad boys? In my conversations, soldiers expressed their appreciation for towns that were far enough away that they were not overrun by fellow soldiers. I have heard of Crofters visiting Asheville, Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Forest City and Tryon among others. I also interviewed one black soldier who appreciated Tryon because it seemed more friendly to the 'colored troops' than Spartanburg was perceived to be."

That's good to hear about Tryon, but our mystery remains.

*By Doug Clark*

## Celebrate July 4 with a cookout at our church

Here's an easy date to remember: The Fourth of July.

Pete Bellamy and Tryon Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Committee are making plans to host an Independence Day celebration at church. Details will follow, but count on a cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and other traditional side items, a bonfire and singalong. Wear your red, white and blue and come to give thanks for our freedoms.

Let's not forget that we owe our liberty and national independence, as Congress declared on July 4, 1776, to "a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

*By the Fellowship  
Committee*



Pastor Allan visits with Camilla Dick in her home at Tryon Estates.

## Midweek Moments feature centennial interviews

Did you see the latest centennial interview? Pastor Allan visited Camilla Dick in her home at Tryon Estates. Their recorded conversation is available on Vimeo and other media platforms as a Midweek Moment.

The interview is part of a series that began with Betty Brewer and continued with Art and Caroline Brown.

Betty's interview took place inside our original sanctuary on Freedom Hill. Allan visited the Browns at their home outside Columbus.

"The purpose is to collect stories of how various members came to Tryon and also what drew them to the church," Allan explains. "I try to get into the ways in which they feel the church is living into our calling at this time and also the personal ways they've felt the goodness of God here."

The interviews also help us all get to know each other better. Don't worry if you missed any. They can still be viewed online.

So, who will be next? Allan may be thinking of you!

*By Doug Clark*

## Contribute to the Tryon Trumpet

We want you to be part of the Tryon Trumpet. Which means you are welcome to suggest articles or submit your own. That can include news about church activities or your mission, ministry or witness work in the community. We'd love for you to share your own testimony or faith journey. Let's inspire and encourage each other in our daily walk with Christ!

Just get in touch with editor Doug Clark at [dougclark55@gmail.com](mailto:dougclark55@gmail.com).