



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Celtic Praise enhances our summer worship

Thank you, Celtic Praise, for contributing your talents to our worship experience this summer.

Celtic Praise is a musical group from within TPC. Its members are John Hendrix, Josh Carruth, Mike Carruth and Lesley Bush. They were joined by vocalist Deanna Bancroft for the June 26 service.

The group, whose first summer Sunday was June 12, is especially helpful in leading the congregation in songs from the Summer Hymnal Supplement, such as "His Mercy Is More" and "Ancient Words."

The musicians also accompany soloists, including Steve Hardin on July 3. Steve is activities director at Tryon Estates.

Photo: Celtic Praise members, clockwise from front left, are John Hendrix, Mike Carruth, Lesley Bush and Josh Carruth.



Church library offers readers much to enjoy

The instant I entered the library at Tryon Presbyterian Church, a thick volume at eye level on the shelf to my left jumped out. It was “The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill, Defender of the Realm” by William Manchester and Paul Reid.

This is not an ordinary church library, I thought.

Reid, a journalist and Polk County resident, completed Manchester’s masterful Churchill trilogy after the original author’s death in 2004. It was a daunting task that took Reid many years of working through Manchester’s notes and continuing the narrative through the years of World War II and beyond, but the finished product was a literary triumph.

Library collections don’t just happen. This book must have been selected for its local connection.

Our remarkable library is tended lovingly and expertly by a pair of retired educators, Sally Hursey and Carolyn Thompson. In fact, Sally was a school librarian and media specialist. Carolyn was a reading teacher for part of her career. The two at one time worked together at Chapman High School in Inman.

The library was established in 1966 by “Mrs. A.D. Fitch, with help from Mrs. George Vosburgh,” according to Session minutes. It probably has never looked better or featured a more extensive and varied collection.

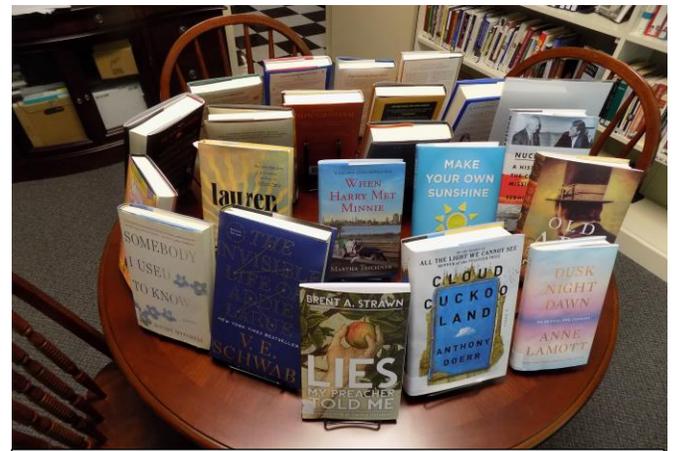
Sally assumed responsibility for the library about a decade ago, with Carolyn pitching in four or five years back. Not long after that, the two moved the library into its current space at the end of the hallway from the narthex. It had been stuffed into a much smaller and windowless room. Now, library users can look out at the children’s playground and enjoy morning sunlight in an easy chair.

Sally catalogues the collection and keeps track of circulation, while Carolyn looks out for books to add. She does that by tracking acquisitions by the Lanier and Landrum libraries as well as First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, she said. They have enough funds to add 30 to 40 books each year and accept donations – good

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Carolyn Thompson and Sally Hursey manage the church library.



New books occupy the library’s center table.

(From CHURCH LIBRARY on Page 2)

quality, please.

The library offers books for every age – some for small children, and large print for those of us who need them. It includes popular and Christian fiction, by authors from John Grisham to Jan Karon. Much of the nonfiction works are inspirational – “His Faith is Marching On,” Jon Meachum’s tribute to John Lewis; “Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery” by Eric Metaxas; “Francis of Assisi: A New Biography” by Augustine Thompson; and many more.



The shelves carry many books about our faith.

And titles by Billy Graham, Max Lucado, C.S. Lewis, N.T. Wright, Beth Moore and other Christian writers abound, along with Bible translations and commentaries.

The library is so attractive and soothing that people sometimes sit before worship or linger to browse and read. “I love it when people come in and say, ‘This is so nice,’” Sally says.

It is, thanks to Sally and Carolyn, and all those who have maintained the library throughout most of our church’s history.

So, take a look and see what catches your eye. *By Doug Clark*

Mission Committee wants to help add color to next school year at Sunny View Elementary

The Mission Committee has adopted Sunny View Elementary School in Polk County as its Centennial Project. The school receives most of its school supplies from Thermal Belt Outreach. For the last two years, the school did not receive *any* type of crayons. So, the committee would like to send boxes of Crayola crayons (24 in a pack) to Sunny View.

There are about 120 students at this school. Kindergarten to second-grade students use crayons, and grades 3-5 use colored pencils (12 in a pack). In the narthex on the round table, you will see a pink basket. Please donate a box of crayons or colored pencils and the committee will deliver them at the end of the month to this school for the 2022-2023 school year. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, time and generosity.

By The Mission Committee



Church continues a busy summer at Harmon Field

Friday Night Hoopz brings out TPC volunteers

It was a hot night June 24, but that didn't stop 24 teenage boys from battling it out on the basketball court at Harmon Field. Some of the boys had been at basketball camp all day and *still* came to play more ball!

Friday Night Hoopz is one activity organized by Gather Community, a Polk County nonprofit founded by Steve Martinez. Its purpose is to provide enrichment activities for underserved youth in our community. However, all young people who want to participate in positive, faith-based activities are welcome.



Hoopz is a hit with players and their parents.

The TPC Mission Committee has signed on to sponsor Friday Night Hoopz. Members are providing water, lemonade, homemade cookies and other healthy snacks.

Amy, mother of an enthusiastic player named "KK," was quick to express her appreciation for Hoopz. "My son has attended every Hoopz event, both this year and last year. We drive down from Asheville. As a single mom, I appreciate this wholesome, caring environment."

Homeschoolers are particularly supportive of Hoopz since sports activities are not readily available for their children. Despite the heat, a homeschooler mom was pushing her baby in a stroller around Harmon Field and chasing three other little ones as her son played basketball. She, too, expressed her gratitude to Gather Community and to Tryon Presbyterian for its sponsorship. She also wants to get her church involved.

Our lemonade stand serves refreshment and hospitality to everyone

One the best things about the lemonade stand is meeting new people. Some from here, some from far away. On June 25, we met a couple from Alabama who was attending a family reunion at the Cabin at Harmon Field. Others wandered over from the horse show. One lady drove up, got out of her car, grabbed a cold glass of lemonade and insisted that we take a \$10 donation. Numerous four-legged friends enjoyed our doggie treats, and we met some precious children playing on the playground.

Everyone appreciated our hospitality. One "guest" commented, "I just love it when churches come out into the community."



A cold cup of lemonade is appreciated on summer days.

If you would like to serve lemonade and cookies one Saturday morning this summer, please contact Susan Speight, scspeight@windstream.net; 828-894-6511.

By Susan Speight

Meet the Session: Charlie Fisher

Charlie and his wife, Lynette, moved to Hendersonville in 2010 by way of Kennesaw, Ga., preceded by Kansas City, Mo., Dallas, Tex., and Greenville, S.C. Whew! Now they reside in a beautiful home in Saluda. They joined TPC in 2020, just before Covid hit, but that didn't stop Charlie from getting involved.

Charlie's career was in the coatings industry – “protecting the physical assets of manufacturing facilities.” Pipelines, machinery and other surfaces must be coated to guard against corrosion, and Charlie worked with engineers to do that in the most effective ways.

When asked what he liked to do in his spare time these days, Charlie's first answer was, “Whatever Lynette tells me to do,” followed by working in their yard and going to shows and events in his 1965 classic car. Charlie and Lynette have sung with the

Hendersonville Choral and performed with the Brevard Philharmonic and at the Christmas candlelight tours at Biltmore House. Most notably, he sang the National Anthem at several Asheville Tourist home games.

Charlie was elected to the Session in 2021 and accepted the job of church treasurer. In that capacity, he manages all church funds in accordance with the church by-laws. He also prepares income and expense statements each month, arranges for the annual audit and financial review, and oversees insurance coverage for the church. Charlie serves on the Strategic Planning Team and looks forward to establishing a vision and focus for the church in the years to come.



Charlie Fisher and Beau.

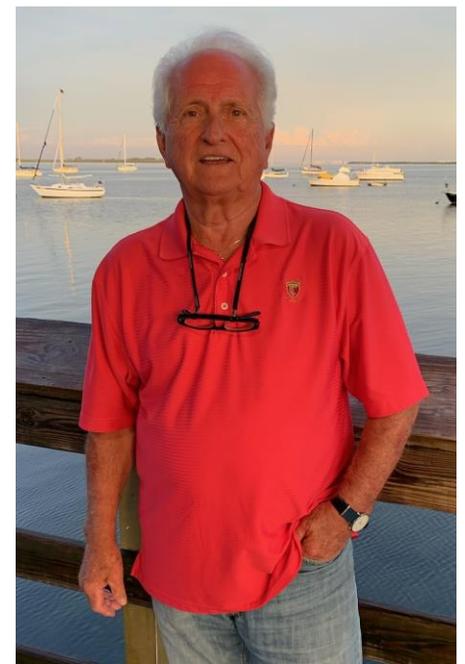
Meet the Session: Donnie Carruth

Donnie Carruth grew up in Landrum and graduated from Landrum High School. He lived in Taylors, S.C., before moving to Tryon six years ago. Donnie was a Baptist, but his lovely wife, Mary, encouraged him to attend Tryon Presbyterian with her and he soon joined. Mary was a lovely woman inside and out. She passed away in 2020.

Donnie has been blessed with two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He attended both Spartanburg and Greenville Tech as well as Limestone College. Before retirement, Donnie worked in the textiles and fiber manufacturing businesses.

Donnie has many hobbies including golf, reading, bridge, the arts and travel. Rumor has it that he is a great dancer. One little known fact is that he played golf in Hawaii with rock and roll singer Buddy Holly. Wonder if he met “Peggy Sue”?

Donnie was ordained to the Session in 2020 and chairs the Property Committee, a big job that covers everything connected to the building and grounds of TPC.



Donnie Carruth enjoys travel.

By the Membership Committee

TPC history: A hasty decision and a happy correction

Everyone, and every organization, makes mistakes. When a church errs, it should correct itself in a Christian manner.

That was the case in 1982, when the long-time pastor of Tryon Presbyterian Church, John D. Smith, announced his retirement. The Session quickly moved to hire an interim – Dr. Claude Broach, a local retired *Baptist* minister. Session minutes note that Presbytery officials approved of this somewhat unusual decision.

Someone must have objected, however, because the Session called a special meeting just a few days later. Vice Moderator Dr. Curt Schneider stated that the Session had taken “hasty action” in procuring Dr. Broach. “It was suggested that not enough consideration had been given to obtaining the services of a Presbyterian interim minister,” the minutes record. “That Dr. John Gardner, a retired Presbyterian minister, and one who knows our people and has filled our pulpit on numerous occasions, was available.”

In other words, a mistake was made. The Session voted unanimously to rescind its decision to hire Dr. Broach.

But that wasn’t the end of the matter. The Session had already extended an offer to Broach, including appropriate compensation and an outline of his expected duties. It wouldn’t be right to pull that away. The church would be breaking its word.

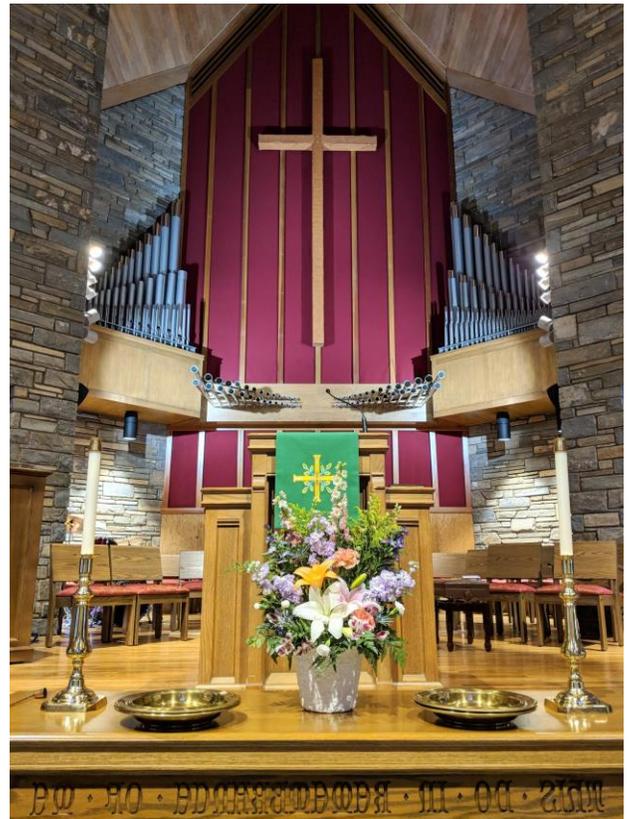
Furthermore, as will be detailed in a future Tryon Trumpet article, forming a relationship with Claude Broach would be quite an accomplishment for our church. Broach had forged a remarkable career in ministry in Charlotte before retiring to Tryon with his wife.

So, the Session tasked Vice Moderator Schneider and its clerk, J. William Medford, to meet with both Gardner and Broach “to work out any solution to this matter agreeable to both, with Gardner being elected interim pastor and with Gardner and Broach arriving at a schedule as to their holding services,” according to the minutes. “The committee was further authorized to work out some satisfactory remuneration for their services and generous payments of \$100 or more for each sermon preached.”

And that’s what happened. From July 1982, when Smith retired after 11 years in the TPC pulpit, until the Rev. James McPherson arrived in April 1983, Gardner and Broach divided ministerial duties.

Gardner was officially named the interim pastor. He kept office hours and did most of the visitation. Gardner and Broach each preached two Sundays per month. Guest preachers were called for fifth Sundays. If any harm was done to Presbyterian ears by regular doses of Baptist preaching, Session minutes did not record it.

By Doug Clark



TPC invites local veterans to breakfast July 30

Michael Meissner wanted to find another way for local veterans to connect and share their experiences. He thought inviting them to a breakfast at church would be a good start.

He presented the idea to Allan, who was encouraging. It went to the Mission Committee, which embraced the idea.

“We decided to give it a try,” said De Anne Zaeske, a committee member who volunteered to organize the breakfast. The initial serving will be Saturday, July 30, at 8 a.m. “The goal is to make it a monthly event,” she added.

Michael joined the Air Force straight from high school. After four years of active duty, he went to college and earned a commission in the Army. More active duty and then continuing service in the Army Reserves followed. Over the course of more than 20 years, he’s been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and many other countries. A captain in the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, he has a deployment to Africa coming up.

He’s a member of the local American Legion chapter and knows that Polk County has a large share of veterans. He’s observed that those who are most active in veterans’ organizations tend to be older, and “there are probably a lot of younger veterans who are looking for ways to connect.”

The problem is finding the time. Younger vets may be like him. He works full time, and he and Brittany have three small children at home. So, a Saturday morning breakfast might best fit the schedule of busy younger veterans.



Michael occasionally jumps out of aircraft.

Still, veterans of all ages are invited. De Anne knows many veterans at Tryon Estates, where she and her husband, Alan, live. She’s working on securing a bus to transport them to our church on July 30. Some of those veterans are members of our church.

Michael and Brittany joined TPC last year. As one of our few young families, they’ve added a lot of vitality and helped initiate family-friendly events such as Trunk-or-Treat and the Easter egg hunt-and-more.

“Definitely one of the positives for us is the willingness of the church to listen and try these ideas and support them,” Michael said. It’s made them feel at home at TPC, he added.

He also feels the church is the perfect place to host regular breakfasts for veterans.

“If you look at the mission of the church and individuals within the church to help others and spread the word of God, it fits,” he said. “I look at it as mission and outreach and helping others. If other things trickle out of that, great.”

By Doug Clark



'I Am Somebody' campers and staff dazzle in T-shirts purchased by TPC.

Every youngster is somebody to TPC

Brittney Staley founded the "I Am Somebody" camp in 2017 when she saw a need to empower and build up young people in our area. The camp helps kids 8 to 16 improve their self-image by learning how to deal with bullying, depression and sometimes even suicidal thoughts.

Under Brittney's leadership, the camp has grown. This year's session was held June 13-17 at the Polk County sheriff's complex. In addition to five meals, snacks and drinks during the week, campers were given sponsored notebooks, pens and pencils. They completed workshops and attended lectures in a classroom setting. They also participated in outdoor activities designed to strengthen their self-esteem.

Leaders use plenty of encouragement to help inspire and lift up the youngsters. TPC's Mission Committee did its part by purchasing the bright T-shirts that will aid the campers in remembering their positive experiences. Support from more community organizations is welcomed as we all want every child to know that he or she is somebody.

By Stephanie Greene

Thermal Belt Outreach asks for school supplies

Thermal Belt Outreach is asking for school supplies to provide students the tools for academic success. TPC's Mission Committee supports this effort and wants you to have the opportunity to purchase supplies or make a monetary donation. You can drop them off or mail to 134 White Drive in Columbus. Thank you for caring for our students. They are our future.

By the Mission Committee

The Tryon Trumpet wants your help for the next edition

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 own mission, ministry or witness work in the community. We'd love for you to share your 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.

Future stories include:

Who was Baptist minister Claude Broach, who preached many times in our church in 1982 and 1983?

What did Sen. Sam Ervin say in his remarks to our church on our 50th anniversary in 1972?

Don't miss an issue!

Save the date:

Our Centennial Celebration is October 23, 2022!

Please help educate children at our sister church in Guatemala

Tryon Presbyterian Church, with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has partnered with sister church El Mesias in Flores Costa Cuca, Guatemala, for more than 20 years, primarily by raising money for scholarships.

We are blessed in the United States that our children and grandchildren receive free public education through high school. That is not the case in Guatemala. Although the government pays for teachers and school building, it doesn't cover the expenses for registration, school supplies, uniforms or transportation.

The people of Guatemala are hardworking but find it difficult if not impossible to earn a wage that will feed, clothe and shelter their families, let alone pay school costs.

Most children must leave school after only three years for lack of funds. Fewer than one-third complete sixth grade, and just one in 10 finishes high school. This lack of education perpetuates the level of poverty prevalent in the country.

What can you do? We ask that you prayerfully consider making a \$125 donation per child to help give them the opportunity to continue in school.

Our church's goal is to raise money to support 40 children again this year. The donations may be made through the church office noting Guatemala Scholarships on your check.

Thank you for your consideration of this very worthy ministry! May God bless you.

By Rita Nichols, Mission Chair



Children in the El Mesias preschool are eager to learn.



El Mesias primary school students study in clean and safe spaces.