



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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Getting to know you

Recently I attended a regional meeting of the Presbyterians in Western North Carolina. We call it a

meeting of the Presbytery, go figure. Anyway, I sat down in the cavernous auditorium and was overwhelmed by all the new faces, as I am a newcomer still. We as Presbyterian churches are called to be one church together, but I didn't know any of these people.

In these spring days, and our post-Easter Sundays, I feel hope in the atmosphere. Worship, fellowship, service and educational opportunities are awakening again. We have changed a lot as a congregation in the last couple of years, and we are yearning to know who we are and to know what's next. Some of us are new to the church. Some of us are ready to engage in church life. Some of us are still practicing caution. Wherever we are, this new online newsletter is vital to our ministry together.

A few years ago, this church underwent a mission study. It highlighted the need for us to communicate better and also the desire among the church members to get to know each other. In this issue we find our church engaged in mission and education, we meet some of our spiritual leaders, and we look to the future. I am so grateful to our editor and publisher Doug Clark, to our Membership Committee, which saw a need and opportunity and addressed it with the Session's help, and to all who contributed news and information.

We are called to get to know one another because we know God. God calls us to love and care for one another, to love and care for the work of the church, and to love and care for the world. I know you will find joy and thanksgiving in reading this first installment of our latest version of The Trumpet.

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Allan

TPC Mission Committee answers Jesus' call to 'feed my lambs'



The Tryon Presbyterian Church Mission Committee recently donated \$500 to Thermal Belt Outreach's Feed A Kid Program. From left: Georgia Ballard of Outreach, MaryAnne Sloan and Lynn Coombs of TPC, Vennie Abrams of Outreach and Stephanie Greene of TPC.

Jesus asked Peter an important question: "Do you love me?" Peter's affirmation drew this instruction: "Feed my lambs." Many lambs in Polk County are often hungry, which is why the Mission Committee of Tryon Presbyterian Church supports the Feed a Kid Program at Thermal Belt Outreach. Church members recently presented a check for \$500 to Outreach staff.

"Volunteers fill food bags on a weekly basis, which are distributed to local schools that have identified a nutritionally at-risk child," Outreach says. "The bags are placed in the child's locker during class hours in order to help protect the child's identity."

Outreach also operates a Summer Feed a Kid Program. Children who qualify receive free or reduced-price meals at school, but this doesn't help on weekends or during school breaks. Without assistance, the lambs might go hungry and experience related problems.

"As difficult as it may be to hear, hundreds of children in Polk County are not receiving enough food at home to grow and maintain a healthy body and mind," Outreach says. "These children may experience chronic sickness and have behavioral problems (irritable, withdrawn, anxious, etc.). They may appear extremely thin, have puffy or swollen skin and have short attention span or inability to concentrate."

Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" TPC's Mission Committee knows how to answer. **Submitted by the Mission Committee.**

Bible study series examines appearances of the risen Christ

The dramatic and joyful events of Easter Sunday began at a tomb in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago but continue here today. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and “gave many convincing proofs that he was alive,” Acts 1:3 reports. It adds that he appeared to his followers “over a period of 40 days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”



At the Sea of Galilee: a scene from the Gospel of John 21.

In a series of Bible studies, we examine the resurrection appearances of Jesus to discover what his followers experienced – the excitement, the joy, the hopes, but also the doubts and fears. How did Jesus address those feelings and, more importantly, what did Jesus ask of his followers? But, because Jesus is – not was – the risen Christ, we must consider where, when and how he walks with us today.

The remainder of our Easter to Pentecost series is:

May 15: Putting doubts to rest

John 20:19-29. Jesus appears to the Eleven minus Thomas, then to the Eleven including Thomas. How does Jesus break through our locked doors of fear? How does Jesus address our doubts? What does it mean to see and feel his wounds? What does it mean to *not* see and yet believe?

May 22: Do you love me?

John 21:1-24. Jesus appears to Peter and other disciples as they're fishing. How can we encounter Jesus in the course of everyday activities? How can he make a difference to us at those times? What is significant about Jesus' question to Peter, which he repeats three times? How does Jesus ask us to demonstrate our love for him?

May 29: The ultimate assignment

Matthew 28:16-20. The Eleven find Jesus on a mountain in Galilee. The Scripture says some still doubt. Why does the Gospel writer admit these doubts? What little task does Jesus give the disciples? Who else is he speaking to? How are we doing in fulfilling the Great Commission? How does Jesus help us?

June 5: Don't just stand here gawking

Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11. Jesus ascends into heaven after appearing to many for 40 days. What convincing proofs do we have of Jesus' resurrection? What questions do we still have? What do we know, and what can we not know? When do we have to be told not to stand here staring at the sky? What power do we have as Christians? How should we use that power?

June 12: Like a violent wind

Acts 2:1-21. The Holy Spirit fills the disciples. What impact does it have, then and later? Does the word of God speak to everyone in his or her own tongue? How does the passage from Joel apply, or not apply, according to our understanding? How can the church sustain the excitement generated by this Pentecost experience?

We meet following Sunday worship in the Education Building.

Submitted by the Christian Growth Committee.

Mission work tips off in our neighborhood

When Friday Night Hoopz tipped off at Harmon Field last month, Tryon Presbyterian Church was right there. Hoopz is a program launched by the Gather Community, a new, faith-based organization in Polk County whose goal is to “help young people achieve a life of wholeness through sports, work and education.” Our Mission Committee is a Hoopz sponsor. As we seek opportunities for ministry, the first place to look is in our own

neighborhood. In this case, it lies just across the street, at Harmon Field. For three years, our Session has talked about building a presence there. We took our first steps toward that goal last summer with the lemonade stand. Hoopz is the next step – or jump.

The Mission Committee, led by Rita Nichols, has agreed to sponsor Hoopz along with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Unity in the Community. Sponsorship includes a financial commitment as well as providing water, lemonade, cookies and snacks at each event. Members of the Fellowship and Membership committees are also involved.



Hoopz tipped off with great success. Dozens of youngsters turned out, and they appreciated the water and snacks – and loved the lemonade! As play continues on Friday nights, members of our church look forward to getting to know the kids and their families. More volunteers are welcome. Please contact Rita at crnichols@windstream.net. This is mission work right across the street. Lemonade at Harmon Field begins in June. **Submitted by the Membership Committee.**

Meet the Session: Denny Hill



Denny Hill and his wife, Betty, left the snowy winter weather of Rochester, N.Y., and headed south to the Tryon area in 2005. Together, they have two children and five grandchildren and are currently building a new house in the Red Fox community.

Denny is an avid golfer and enjoys gardening, reading and music. As Betty is an equestrian, Denny describes himself as a “capable barn assistant.” Denny received a BS from the State University of New York and furthered his education in executive development at the Johnson School of Business at Cornell. He served as a weatherman in the Air Force. Denny joined our church in 2006 and was ordained as an elder in 2020. He serves as the chair of the Administration Committee, which is responsible for the financial business of the church, property maintenance and personnel reviews.

As we begin our next 100 years, Denny’s vision for our congregation is that “we continue to welcome all people who are looking to love and serve God; to work together in harmony; to grow spiritually and to support our church and community.” **Submitted by the Membership Committee.**



Meet the Session: Ed Harrelson

Ed Harrelson and his wife, Petra, have lived in the Green Creek area since 2001. They have two sons, Alex and Eric. Both are now in college, but the TPC congregation had the pleasure of watching these fine young men grow up in our church.

Ed hails from Garner, N.C., near Raleigh. At first, he studied Forestry at N.C. State, but as a junior he transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill. After completing a BA in history, Ed went on to earn his law degree at the UNC School of Law. His practice is in Hendersonville and specializes in property transactions and estate planning. (However, he still loves trees and can remember the common and Latin names of several tree species in the Eastern U.S.)

“Living history” is Ed’s main hobby. Many weekends, he dresses up as an 18th century dragoon and portrays a Continental horse soldier in the Revolutionary War. He also becomes an infantry soldier of the 30th Division in World War II events.

Ed chairs the Development Committee. This committee is tasked with stewardship and the annual assessment of the pastor’s performance, with the committee’s main focus being strategic planning and vision for the church. All serving elders are on the committee. In thinking about the next 100 years, Ed notes that with the speed of change in our world, anticipating the future is futile. However, “There will always be those who are poor, lonely, oppressed or displaced. We will continue to feel joy and sadness, blessings and loss. It is my hope that the members of TPC will remain a witness in our community and in the world of God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ. May we be steadfast in our faith, but may we also be flexible so that our actions are current and relevant as the world changes.” **Submitted by the Membership Committee.**

Stephen ministry at TPC focuses on friendship

The Stephen Ministry at Tryon Presbyterian Church focuses on friendship.

A guiding principle is: “No one should be lonely. Friendships make a difference.”

Stephen ministers are trained lay people from the congregation who offer counseling and support to fellow church members. Confidentiality is strictly maintained.

While Stephen ministers can help church members who have experienced loss or some other crisis, the need can be simple friendship. Everyone needs someone to listen and share the ordinary experiences of life. In a congregation that includes many people who are widowed, that’s important. So, caring and listening friendships are an essential part of TPC’s Stephen Ministry.

To learn more or to participate, contact Gail Muir (828-859-2857, 828-817-1313, gaildmuir@yahoo.com) or Charles Drawdy (828-894-3893, 828-817-1687, cfdrawdy2@windstream.net).

Easter event delights children and attracts families



Martha Miller shares the story of the angel that rolled the stone from Jesus' tomb during our Easter event April 16.

Our church delighted 29 children and their families with an Easter egg hunt and more on April 16. Parents and grandparents – many of whom had not visited TPC before – said they were pleased their children could enjoy the “safe, Christian-centered activities.”

Martha Miller shared the Easter story of the angel rolling away the stone from Jesus' tomb. Then the kids searched for 400 plastic eggs hidden by James Purtill and Riley Ballentine. The children traded their eggs for crafts, prizes, face-paintings, balloons and more.

The Membership Committee, led by Susan Speight, sponsored the Easter event. Committee and Special Events Team members and other helpers were Brian and Deanna Bancroft, Cherie Brooks, Mike Carruth, Doug and Margaret Clark, Jeanie Daniel, Joyce Lamb, Brittany Meissner, Ben and Martha Miller, Mary Jo Morgan, Rita Nichols, Catherine Lynch and Charlie Speight. Charlie's daughter, Stacey, painted artful designs on *every* happy, little face. Carl Woody, the balloon man, made incredible balloon “sculptures” to amaze everyone. Stephanie Greene baked her special lemon cupcakes for our guests.

Like last fall's Trunk or Treat, the Easter event helped introduce our church and congregation to families from the community. One mother commented that she had met us at our Harmon Field lemonade stand last summer and came with her child because of that. Another sent a note that said, in part: “Thank you over and over again for the most delightful Easter celebration! Thank you and please share our thanks to all involved – you are all so special.”

As we move into our next 100 years, the Membership Committee looks forward to more events that will enlarge our presence in the community and share our love of Jesus and our neighbors. Lemonade at Harmon Field begins in June. **Submitted by the Membership Committee. (See Page 12 for more photos.)**



TPC centennial gifts are creative and generous

The first tree to sprout leaves at Tryon Presbyterian Church this year was colored green with pledges of Centennial gifts. It's going to bear fruit all during our 100th year – and longer.

The gifts, which are anonymous, show an array of creativity and generosity. They include:

- Monthly donations to the Blessing Box in the church parking lot.
- Ten acts of kindness each month.
- One hundred scoops of mulch at TPC.
- Reaching out to 10 people each month through cards and calls.
- Random acts of kindness.
- Reading 10 extra scripture passages each month.
- “One hundred affirmations for those around me.”
- Ten extra minutes of prayer each month.
- Volunteering 10 hours a month.
- “Respect to all people.”
- Donating \$10 per month to Foothills Humane Society and Blue Ridge Humane Society.



One church member who bakes cupcakes decided to share them with local police and firefighters, people at The Meeting Place and veterans' organizations. When she does, she explains that the gift is part of Tryon Presbyterian's Centennial observance. “I wanted to show appreciation for people who are helping the community,” she said. The response of one police officer is typical of what she's heard: “No one brings us anything like this!” A loving church does!

Another church member is spending \$100 to provide treats for teachers at Sunny View Elementary School. The goodies include coffee, teas, fruit and cookies for the teachers' lounge.

“They're thrilled to have it,” she said, noting that she also lets the teachers know about the connection to Tryon Presbyterian.

It's not too late to start making Centennial gifts – just add your leaf to the tree.

Nor do the gifts have to stop at the end of the year. After all, Tryon Presbyterian is just beginning our next 100 years of discipleship.

Save the date for our Centennial Celebration: October 23, 2022!



Welcome to Alyssa Walker, who will work with Loretta Mills in our nursery/preschool. Alyssa comes to us with years of experience and will guide the preschool children in their introduction to stories of the Bible and other activities.

Submitted by the Christian Growth Committee.



Pete Bellamy welcomes you to the TPC men's breakfast.

Breakfast and Bible feed TPC men's group each month

Bible and Breakfast make a nourishing combination for Tryon Presbyterian Church men who gather the first Thursday morning of every month. Come hungry for both.

The group's leader, Pete Bellamy, says:

"The men's fellowship group meets the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 in the fellowship hall for breakfast, fellowship and Bible study. Our breakfast cooking teams do a fantastic job. Pastor Allan brings challenging and thoughtful devotions.

"In this day and age, we need an extra portion of spiritual food to stay focused on our calling, which is 'to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God and their neighbor.' Our goal is to become more active in the life of the church, sharing our God-given gifts with each other and strengthening our walk with Jesus."

The group recognizes that not all men can attend on Thursdays, so the June meeting will shift to

Saturday, June 4, at 10 a.m. Instead of breakfast, it will be brunch. "This will be a good introduction to our Bible and Breakfast gatherings," Pete said. "All men are invited. See you there!" No one will leave hungry.

Submitted by Pete Bellamy.

Les Stobbe's study guide will become a book

Les Stobbe has received a book contract for his study guide, "God Moments that Transform." The study's content is based on the six lessons Les presented to a class at Tryon Presbyterian last November. Bible characters' experiences, illustrated with experiences from his book, "God Moments in My Publishing Life," provide examples of how God is at work transforming people.

Les, who serves as clerk of our Session, is now working on study guides revealing insights into the writing styles and approaches of the four Gospel writers. His first study guide will be on "Luke: The Reporter."

Do you have news for the Tryon Trumpet? Send it to Doug Clark at dougclark55@gmail.com.



Session action leaves a World War II history mystery

Sometimes, discovering a little history leaves us wanting to learn more. It might even create a mystery.

My small task of writing the decade-by-decade history notes for the church bulletin has allowed me to begin some stories but not finish them. Here's one example:

In 1940 and 1941, anticipating possible participation in World War II, the U.S. Army began drafting men into service and preparing training facilities. One of those was Camp Croft just outside Spartanburg. It opened in 1941 and operated as an Infantry Replacement Training Center through the end of the war. The site is now a state park.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, communities across the country looked for ways to aid the war effort. In January 1942, Tryon churches launched an effort to bring several dozen Camp Croft trainees to our town one Sunday each month. The men would be hosted for Sunday dinner in various homes, participate in afternoon activities and then gather at the Episcopal Parish House for supper, recreation and further entertainment before returning by bus to the camp. Residents were also encouraged to write to individual soldiers.

The person who headed this project was our own minister, Rev. D.M. McGeachy. I was pleased to see the Presbyterians had taken a leading role in this project.

All seemed to go smoothly. The Tryon Daily Bulletin reported on the visits each month, with glowing accounts of the men swimming in Lake Lanier, playing ball at Harmon Field or just sightseeing.

Then, something happened. Browsing through our Session minutes, I came across this brief notation for the Nov. 1, 1942, meeting: The Session voted, "in the light thrown on the matter of soldier entertainment in the Episcopal Parish House once each month, to discontinue our connection with that work as a church."

Yikes! What was this "light thrown on the matter"? The minutes give no hint. Was it something too terrible to record in an official church record? Or was there a scandal that was so well known at the time that spelling it out was unnecessary?

Yet, whatever had happened did not end the soldiers' monthly visits to Tryon. Nor did it stop Rev. McGeachy's participation. The next Tryon Daily Bulletin report appeared on Nov. 9, 1942, with another account of a good-time-had-by-all: "About 40 Camp Croft soldiers were entertained Sunday through the church committee. Reservations were made through Mrs. F.P. Bacon for the men who were entertained in the various homes for Sunday dinner. The afternoon was spent in playing golf, hiking in the mountains and visiting points of interest. In the late afternoon they gathered at the Parish House for a get-together, games and songs. Rev. D. M. McGeachy, chairman, made a talk of welcome and Rev. B.G. Henry gave the prayer. Supper was served ... by the ladies committee."

So, there is the puzzle. What prompted our Session to "discontinue our connection with that work as a church" while our minister and the community's church committee did continue their work? I hope the answer hasn't been lost in the passage of 80 years. Perhaps you, or someone you know, can solve this history mystery and let us know.

Doug Clark

Bill Sullivan finds easy ways to serve others

When Bill and Patra Sullivan joined Tryon Presbyterian Church after moving from Blythewood, S.C., a couple of years ago, “We looked for opportunities to do something the church supports and would be needed in the community,” Bill said. “Thermal Belt Outreach is one that jumped out.”

Not only for the work it does addressing basic needs and helping people build life skills. For Bill, it jumped out for the big personality of Vennie Abrams, the pantry coordinator. “She’s larger than life, mission-oriented and inspirational to be around,” Bill said.



Vennie Abrams and Bill Sullivan at the Outreach pantry.

Bill and Patra had done some grocery pick-ups for Vennie. Then, last winter, she asked Bill to round up some friends and pick up a load of firewood. Bill’s dilemma: He was still new to the area and didn’t have a lot of friends. So, he put out a call for help through the TPC men’s group email list. Several volunteered to help.

The job was easy. The wood was already cut and split. The only thing needed was loading, moving, unloading and stacking in a shed at the TBO facility in Columbus. But for people who depend on firewood for heating their homes, the work was significant.

It was for Bill, too. “It was an informal way to get to know people, what they’re about and what the church is about,” he said.

He’s organized other easy tasks like that, such as delivering nearly 2,000 pounds of donated food from Polk Central Elementary School to Vennie’s pantry. The jobs don’t take much time or skill, but they help an organization that’s effectively and efficiently serving Polk County.

“They can’t fix everything at Thermal Belt, but they’re doing some good work,” Bill has observed. Some problems need professional attention, while others just require willing hands and hearts.

“Sometimes we get paralyzed by the size of the need – homelessness, hunger, drug addiction, education,” Bill said. “But if there’s a need to build a storage shed, yeah, I can do that. Lots of little things like that are important.”

Anyone who would like to be on Bill’s call list should contact him at 803-960-0299 or billsullivan2011@gmail.com.

Women share fellowship and inspiration

God blessed the Tryon Presbyterian women to finally have our biennial retreat at Green River Plantation Gatehouse. Due to Covid, we had to cancel our overnight retreat at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock. But God knew we needed to come together and hear our wonderful speaker, Rev. Julie Schaaf from Nazareth Presbyterian Church in Moore, S.C.

Thirty-two women attended, and all enjoyed the inspirational words from Julie along with fellowship with each other. Amanda Cantrell and her staff at Green River outdid themselves with coffee and pastries in the morning. For lunch, they provided a delicious buffet along with dessert.

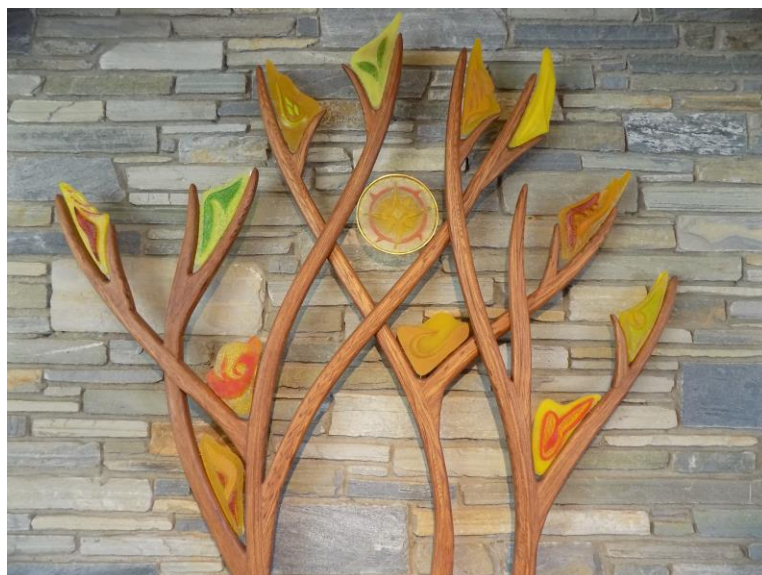
We shared love, laughter, Christ's love for us and, most importantly, we left with a renewed spirit and joy in our hearts as sisters in Christ! **Submitted by Rita Nichols.**

Strategic plans are coming into focus

Your Strategic Planning Team has been working diligently with Elemental Churches (of Cincinnati, Ohio) to identify short-term goals for the church. The process has included brainstorming about programs, missions and populations the church should focus on to fulfill its mission "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and their neighbor."

The team, which consists of Molly Dunn, Charlie Fisher, Cherie Brooks, Deanna Bancroft, Art Brown, MaryAnn Sloan, Stephanie Greene, Denny Hill, Edward Harrelson, Lesley Bush, Mike Carruth and Allan Purtill, has spent several Sunday afternoons and at least one Saturday looking at the church's strengths and weaknesses in the areas of integrity, passion, servanthood and imagination. We have received feedback from Elemental Churches incorporating self-evaluations, pastor evaluations, community trends and our own church's systems. A multi-hour Saturday session in April helped us narrow down the study.

We expect to present our findings to Session for it to consider this spring. All of this fits nicely with the Centennial Celebration focus for 2022. **Submitted by the Development Committee.**



Easter egg hunt, and more, brings fun for kids and families

