

Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church ♦ Santa Cruz



The Pastor's Pen

Hello Folks,

Fall has arrived! As an east-coaster, the season of fall brings memories of the leaves turning vibrant reds and yellows and oranges, the weather getting colder, and the crisp air of change. This fall brings change as well. Schools are starting back up. For many teachers and students, this is the first time they will be in a classroom since March of 2020. Yet we find ourselves in yet another surge of Covid, and it now feels as though spikes in Covid cases are the new normal.

As this fall unfolds, and we attempt to both be together again and keep Covid cases at bay, I find myself turning more and more to prayer. Praying to God is one of the oldest and most universal things one can do. People have been praying for thousands and thousands of years. As humanity has gone through countless tragedies, countless blessings, encountered both good times and bad, they have brought it all to God in prayer.

When we pray, we pray not only to calm our individual fears and anxieties, not only to strengthen our relationship with God, but we also continue a story of hope through time. Time and time again people have prayed - and time and time God has heard our prayers.

So this fall, as the change unfolds and fear or anxieties may overwhelm, I encourage you to pray. But instead of praying your own prayer - perhaps pray a prayer that has already been written, already prayed over and over again, throughout time and time again. This way we know that this too will pass, and God will hear our prayers - time and time again.

Here is a favorite prayer of mine, written by Julian of Norwich (c. 1342 - 1416)

In you, Father Almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and Savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for in love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Katheryn

Report of Session Meeting of August 17, 2021

Elders Present: Ellen Bauerle, George Bunch, Chuck Cobery, Ed Sams, Richard Robinson, Charlie May, Clerk of Session, and Katheryn McGinnis, Moderator.

Excused: Debbie Bates, Emily Duffus

A quorum being present the Moderator opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with prayer.

Time of Reflection: Rev. Katheryn McGinnis led Session in a discussion of John 6: 51-58, “Interpreting the Eucharist.”

Clerk’s Report: Communion was administered on August 1, 2021 with 47 participants. Session approved the July 13, 2021 minutes. M/S/P

Session voted to elect Chuck Cobery and Ellen Bauerle as Trinity’s delegates to Presbytery for the next twelve months. Katheryn also represents Trinity at Presbytery. M/S/P

Pastor’s Report: Katheryn reviewed the events of the past week while the church deals with the Covid pandemic. Due to possible infections within the church community, worship services were moved to Zoom this past Sunday in an effort to be prudently cautious. For the same reason the memorial ash spreading ceremony for Jean and David Baker’s granddaughter Melissa Macy was postponed until September 11th. Fortunately the test results of potential infected persons came up negative over the weekend.

Rev. Katheryn shared with Session her vacation plans for the upcoming months which include the Sundays of September 26th and October 3rd, with tentative study leave in October.

Personnel: Charlie May provided information regarding pastor vacation and study leave “roll-over” time. The pastor is permitted to roll over any unused vacation time from one year to the next. If the amount of time built up over several years becomes significant, the church and pastor may agree upon payment in lieu of vacation. The same method of managing study leave is in place, with a cap of 3 years accumulated study leave. Session and the church encourage Katheryn to take her vacation and study leave time each year as feasible, as the intent of both is to rest and recharge and share learnings with the congregation. At the same time we want to be as flexible as possible to allow Katheryn to determine a vacation and study schedule that works best for her needs.

Administration: New window latches have been installed in the Sanctuary. Chuck Cobery continues with security monitoring with help from Evan Bondonno.

Mission: Santa Cruz al Salvador continues planning for their next trip in January, subject to the pandemic alleviating. Chuck Cobery gave an update on Delmi, the young El Salvadoran girl whom he and Trinity have been supporting these past years.

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Outreach: George Bunch reported the committee has had two meetings since our last Session meeting. The committee is planning a Friday afternoon social gathering at the local brewpub, Greater Purpose Brewing Company, on the afternoon of August 27th. The committee is continuing plans for the annual retreat to be held at Mission Springs on October 22-24, subject to circumstances related to the pandemic. A reminder was provided for people to get Trinity visitor information to Elizabeth Bunch so she can send welcoming cards in the mail.

Worship and Christian Education: Ellen Bauerle reported the committee continues working on the worship services during the pandemic, whether in person or by Zoom. All three Bible studies continue, two on Sunday mornings and one on Thursday afternoons. A forum is being planned for the fall related to health care in America.

Reopening: Although the worship service this past Sunday was held on Zoom due to concern of possible infection within the congregation, the current plan is to resume in person worship services this Sunday, August 22nd with all attendees including the choir wearing masks. Session agreed that for now, all persons using the church's facilities should be wearing masks while indoors. Additionally, all committees should not be holding their meetings in person but by Zoom conferencing.

Old Business: Session was provided an update by Katheryn about current Urban Works efforts. Reverend Ryan Althaus continues leading sailing trips in the Monterey Bay on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and he encourages all interested Trinity congregants to participate. Urban Works is planning a worship service geared toward the special needs community, which will be tentatively held on September 19th on the Fellowship Hall lawn, and have stations for games and crafts tied to the day's worship theme. Session approved this worship event and expressed hope for large Trinity participation **M/S/P**. The creative workshops facilitated by Theresa Nelson continue to be held every other Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. The crafts being made will be sold at a Christmas craft fair. Theresa also provides an art workshop for everyone interested, including special needs individuals, online every Sunday afternoon. Charlie provided information on the upgrades Theresa has been making to the cottage.

We have identified an expert sound system consultant willing to review and make recommendations to improve our current sanctuary sound system. Katheryn plans to meet with this person in the near future.

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New Business: The Association of Faith Communities’ Safe Spaces Program manager has indicated Evan Bondonno’s contract to park on Trinity’s parking lot will end in October. Evan has become an important contributor to Trinity’s work and has been engaging in our worship, and other activities. Session voted to allow Evan to continue parking on our parking lot after the contract with Safe Spaces terminates. **M/S/P**

Chuck Cobery is working to update the photos displayed on the video screen in the Narthex. He is requesting that anyone with church related photos send them his direction to be included.

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at approximately 7:10 p.m. with prayer.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2021

PEACE
at all times in all ways.
— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

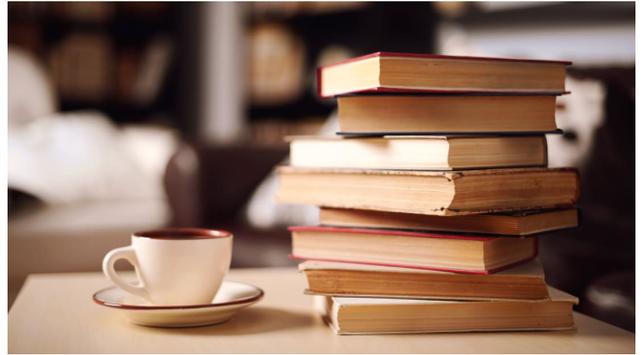
Peace and Global Witness: The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

Your gift will join with others as the Church works for peace including an end to gender-based violence and discrimination.

We will collect our offering on October 3, 2021 during worship service. You are welcome to mail in a check or donate online on our website.

The Librarian's Corner

We are currently enjoying rotating art displays on our library walls. Last month Glenn Joy exhibited some of his wonderful prints. This month we are experiencing an “El Salvador” Retrospective by Chuck Cobery. It is full of wonderful photos featuring the faces and places that have been visited by our Santa Cruz al Salvador Group. After seeing these inspiring photos you will want to learn more, here is how:



1. There is an El Salvador bulletin board which gives information about our prayer children in El Salvador on the large bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
2. You can click on <https://www.santacruzalsalvador.org> while in the library. (We have guest wi fi available.)
3. You can check out our new arrival book in the library titled “What you have heard is true: A Memoir of Witness and Resistance”, by Georgetown professor and American poet Carolyn Forche. Her honors include the Distinguished Poetic Achievement Award and Windham-Campbell Prize. In this intriguing book she chronicles time she spent in El Salvador. A season of her life which is the mainspring of her poetic inspiration.
4. The *best* way to learn about our connection to El Salvador is to speak to those inspiring and poetic souls in our own congregation who have been there, you can get a list of these folks from George Bunch.
5. It is possible that when you know more, you will want to go more. Details on future trips will be forthcoming. Check the bulletin board and the Newsletter.

Warmly, Larry the Librarian

Library hours; Thursdays 10-Noon, during coffee hour and by appointment.

September Birthdays

8 Dave Macway
19 Patti Maraldo
27 Bob Scott

September Anniversaries

3 Richard & Roberta Zakarian
12 Ed & Sally Sams



Walking Tour of Live Oak

Saturday, September 4

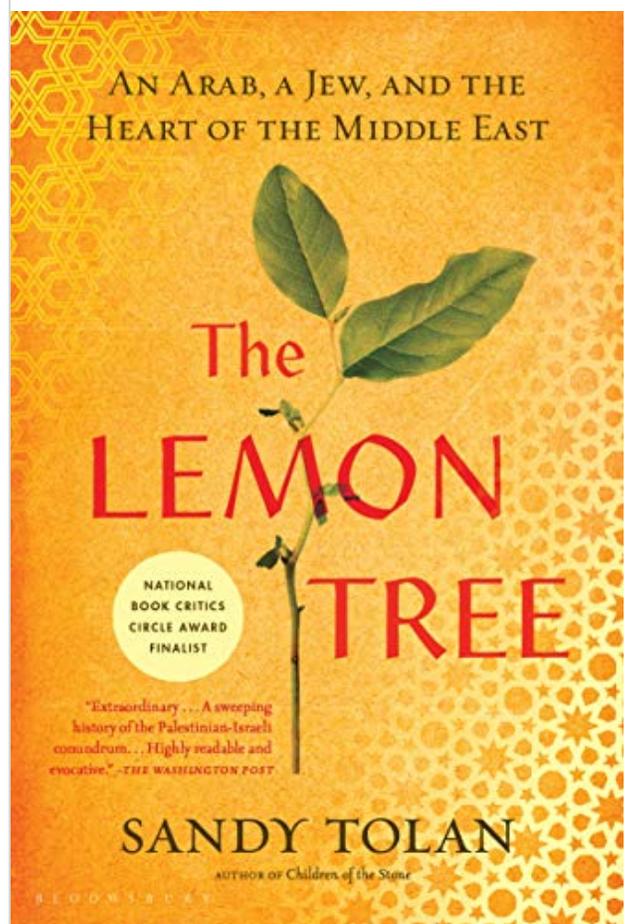
Jeff Lawton will lead a Live Oak Walking Tour of the Del Mar and Corcoran Lagoon Historic neighborhood established in 1891 by a Catholic Ladies Aid Society land grant. We will meet at the Starbucks on the corner of East Cliff Drive and 17th Avenue to begin the walk at 10 AM. Those who would like to gather for breakfast or coffee may meet in Starbucks at 9:30 AM. Parking is best in the shopping center across East Cliff as Starbucks is for customers only. The walk is about one mile through the neighborhood. For questions email George Bunch at geobunch@gmail.com or Jeff Lawton jeffandpatti@jeffandpatti.net.



Trinity Church Hike

Saturday, September 18

Pogonip Lime Kilns and a Fairyland of Rock Cairns. There are options of 1-3 miles of hiking; a shorter hike with only mild elevation gain and longer hikes with more climbing. We will leave from the Trinity parking lot at 8:30AM. Email George geobunch@gmail.com to express what level of hike you would like so we can split into groups if needed.



Book Club

Book Club took a COVID break in August, but we will be back in September meeting at Joanne Clever's home unless otherwise notified. So our books for September will be "The Lemon Tree" by Sandy Tolán and October "Deja Dead" by Kathy Reichs. For November we will do "You Made Me Love You: Selected Stories 1981/2018" by John Edgar Wideman... Fifty-seven stories in 460 pages. We will pick and choose as we sometimes do. Join us if you can! New folks are always welcome!!

Non Prophet Corner

Rev. Darrell W. Yeane

“Religion in the Post-Modern World”

The NOONERS class is now studying and discussing a book by Dr. David Griffin entitled “Religion and the Modern World”. Dr. Griffin describes the “Modern World View” within which we all “live and have our being” as the current dominant scientific view of everything, understood as nothing more than matter or objects in motion that have evolved over millions of years to finally (?) arrive as us human beings. So in this modern view, everything that is now or ever has existed, including religion & God, can be studied & known empirically, that is, by scientific observation.

Dr Griffin, a Christian “Process” theologian, points out how religions world-wide, including Christianity, have been discarded in the scientific universities as not worth the time, money or energy to include in the academic curriculum. UCSC abolished its Religious Studies Department thirty years ago.

Christians and other religious people feel increasingly ignored and left out of this modern scientific world-view’s dismissal of what may be not only real but precious to us. But it is true that the pre-scientific ages of religious influence on human culture has shrunk religious participation precipitously in our modern scientific culture. Unfortunately, this prescientific religious belief is often maintained largely by very strident “rightwing” evangelical nationalists.

Dr. Griffin urges Christians and other thinking religious people to move beyond this old medieval-orthodox faith and also the current “modern scientific” worldview to a “Post Modern World View” that includes empirical science but also includes an “animism” or life force in which “God,” and therefore “Religion,” plays an important but limited part.

The old “orthodox” traditional conception of an Omnipotent (all powerful) Omniscient (all knowing) God which intervenes at will in human affairs for good or ill to achieve His ends, is simply no longer tenable. Such a pre-scientific view of a Divine Being living somewhere (in heaven) who may or may not respond to our prayers and entreaties has been reasonably rejected by the Modern Scientific World View.

So, Griffin proposes a “Post Modern” World View that includes a GOD which is real but has self-limiting power in the world. God is Love, but Love is also God, which is never intrusive but always appealing and luring us to respond in loving, forgiving and caring ways in all we are and do.

In this “Post-Modern World View”, God is part of the emerging process in which we, by living faithful, loving lives, may play a vital part.



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Presbyterian-Church/135556766517>

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. FSR	3	4
5	6 <i>Glenn's Book Club</i> 	7	8	9 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. FSR	10	11 <i>Sweet Pea</i> 9:00 a.m, Y & FS
12	13	14 <i>Admin 4:30 p.m.</i> <i>Session 5:30 p.m.</i>	15	16 <i>Outreach</i> 10:00 a.m. FSR <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. FSR	17	18 <i>Church Hike</i> 8:30am
19 <i>Deacons YR</i>	20 <i>Book Club</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Joanne's Home</i>	21 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>	22	23 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. FSR	24	25 <i>Sweet Pea</i> 9:00 a.m, Y & FS
26	27	28	29	30 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. FSR		



Memories of El Salvador



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If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email or give us a call. Thank you!

All Church Retreat at Mission Springs Conference Grounds

We are still hoping to have our Trinity Fall Retreat at Mission Springs on October 22-24th. Updated confirmation and details of cost and schedule will be in our announcements when available. Come enjoy all or any part of a wonderful weekend together to reconnect with all our church friends we have missed seeing these past 15 months. The retreat starts with Friday supper and finishes with Sunday morning worship and an early lunch. We will check out by noon. We will have overnight and daytime attendance costs and the schedule soon. To alert Mission Springs with estimated attendance please sign up for overnight or daytime only portions of the retreat via email to geobunch@gmail.com.

