

Trinity Today



Henry and Kennedy Lipscomb welcome baby brother Watson on March 17.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

By Pastor Jeff Price

We are blessed at Trinity to have a beautiful building surrounded by the glory of God's creation. We have a sanctuary that is both classic and fresh. The soaring height of the ceiling reminds us of our smallness in God's presence. The clear windows draw us out to connect us to our mission beyond the walls. The baptismal font, with the carved mahogany depicting bulrushes, ties us to God's active presence in history and in our lives. Of course, the predominant element in the sanctuary is a magnificent Celtic cross.

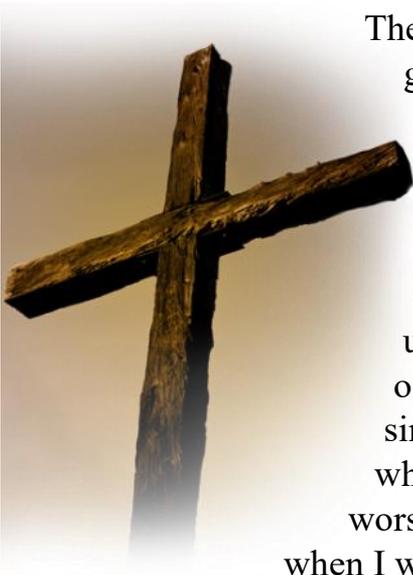
A cross in the sanctuary seems obvious, and yet increasingly, it is becoming absent. Many modern sanctuaries have no cross. And they are often no longer even sanctuaries, but "worship centers" or even just "the auditorium." Whatever the room is called, I want to see a cross when I worship.

It is no accident that many worshipping communities are choosing to leave them out. A cross might seem depressing to a visitor. A cross doesn't seem very upbeat. They fear that a cross is too stark, too confrontational, too challenging. The unchurched visitor might be made uncomfortable by the cross. In response to these fears, I say, "Good." The cross is stark and is confrontational and is challenging. The cross should make us all uncomfortable. We make a mistake when we

portray Christianity as always happy, always nice. Of course, we do welcome people where they are, just as they are. But we never leave them there. The cross changes them. How do we know? Because it changed us.

After all, we cannot truly encounter a cross without acknowledging our sinfulness. A sinfulness that created the necessity for the cross. We must admit that we are the reason for Christ's suffering, for Christ's humiliation. We must claim our guilt in missing the mark in our relationship with God and with one another. I know, that doesn't sound like good news. Doesn't God love us?

Theologian H. Richard Niebuhr accuses the modern church of offering a theology where "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." When we leave out the cross, we cheapen grace. We offer theological pablum that doesn't nourish, or ultimately, satisfy.



The good news of the Gospel, the good news of the cross is not that God loves us for who we are. It is rather that God loves us despite who we are. God loves us when we don't deserve it. How much does God love us? Enough to give us the cross. The outrageous love of God is this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. That's why I want to see a cross when I worship. That's why I *must* see a cross when I worship.

River City Men's Chorus

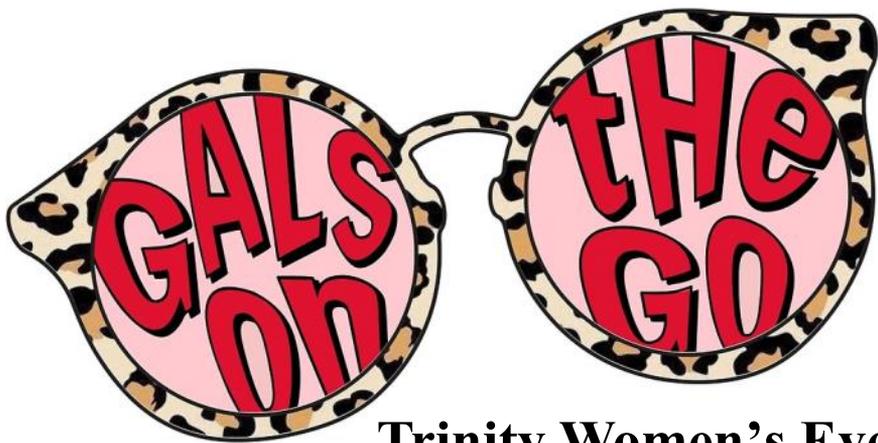
April Performances of

Imagine: Justice–Freedom–Peace

Free performances held at Second Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 7 at 3:00pm; Monday, April 8 at 7:00pm; and Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm.



“Imagine all the people living life in peace...” Words written by John Lennon; words that resonate today just as profoundly as they did nearly 50 years ago. On so many fronts, we seek justice, fight for freedoms and long for peace. The songs chosen for this concert focus on those aims and ideals. You will hear such moving tributes in Mark Hayes’ thrilling suite based on Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. The chorus will perform a setting of “Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor,” the last stanza of Emma Lazarus’ sonnet “The New Colossus” which are lines of welcome inscribed on a bronze plaque in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. You will hear the emotionally stirring “Glory” that was performed by John Legend and Common for the 2014 film *Selma*. This is only a taste of what’s in store as we bring you the stories and music of those who struggle with injustice and work towards peaceful resolutions. “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us, and the world will be as one.” All performances are free and open to the public, but seating is limited, so arrive early.



Trinity Women's Events in April and May

Women of Trinity, our next field trip has been set for 11:15am on Wednesday, April 10! We all have spring fever and have opted for lunch at The Cupcake Factory (18104 Kanis Road in Little Rock) where we can enjoy either plate lunches or sandwiches. Afterward we'll head on to River Valley Horticultural Products (21701 Lawson Road in Little Rock) for a golf cart riding tour! River Valley Horticultural Products is a huge property showcasing trees, shrubs, water features, and a big selection of roses. Please let us know if you would like to join us for all or part of this outing by calling or texting Nancy Howell (501-519-3281) or Susie Haynes (501-351-6284).

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 is a special day for the Women @ The Table study group! We will be finishing our study of *The Five Forgotten Books of the Bible*, and author Bobby Williamson will be our question-and-answer speaker from 10:00-11:00am in Room 2. He'll then join us for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall beginning around 11:15. You are welcome to attend both events even if you haven't been part of the W@TT study group. Call or text Nancy Howell (501-519-3281) or Susie Haynes (501-351-6284) to let us know if you'll be there.

Helping Children Worship

By Julie Price, Director of Christian Education

In the Presbyterian church, we believe that all ages are welcome in worship. The first lesson we can teach our children about church is that they belong. We hope that all children can

have some experience in worship. Still, as I talked about in last month's article, we realize how distracting and



difficult it can be for a parent trying to worship when their baby cries or when an older child is up and down the aisle during the service.

To help with these challenges, we provide a nursery for children in 1st grade and younger if parents choose to use it. For older children who spend more time or even the whole service in worship, we provide children's clipboards with materials that are tied to the service. We suggest that

parents or grandparents encourage their child to use the blank paper to draw pictures of what they see and hear during the service and to write down questions they may have. This can create a wonderful opportunity for discussion at a later time.

In the last couple of weeks, you may have noticed a little bookshelf under the fire extinguisher in the Narthex. It contains children's books about Bible stories, seasons of the church year (Lent, Advent), and other stories with appropriate themes. The bottom shelf has books for preschoolers and beginning readers and the top shelf contains books for more advanced elementary readers. On the floor underneath the bookshelf are the children's clipboards. A child can pick out a book when they get their clipboard and return them both at the end of the service. Our hope is that this will be another helpful aid for the children in worship.



Senior Recognition Sunday

Sunday, April 28

Mattie Hatcher will be graduating from Pulaski Academy this spring. While attending Pulaski Academy, Mattie was leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club, leader of Student Venture (a student-led Christian ministry for 5th-12th graders), and a member of the Culinary Club. Mattie participated in many sports at Pulaski Academy, including varsity soccer and basketball where she was captain of both teams. She also won the 2018 Youth Olympic Games Equestrian Gold Medal.

Mattie was the recipient of many awards in high school including honor roll, president's list, trigonometry award, and art award. She's a member of many exclusive organizations including the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Honor Council. Mattie plans to explore many fields of study in college, including communications and business, and looks forward to minoring in Spanish as she wishes to become fluent in the language. In any event, she is sure to continue her equestrian practice as she plans to compete in it after college.

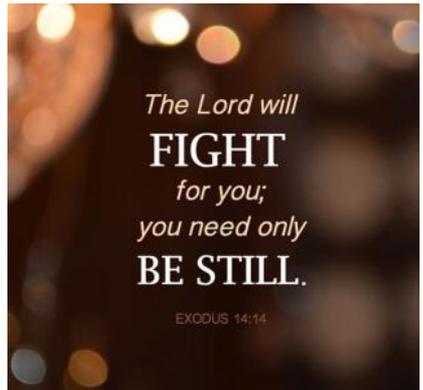


Rachael Bowen will be graduating from Lisa Academy this spring. While attending Lisa Academy, Rachael Bowen participated in many events and sports including her favorite, volleyball, of which she played junior varsity for a total of three years. Her love of sports did not stop at playing them: Rachael also stepped in to manage the boys' soccer team for all four years of high school and even won "Most Valuable Player" her senior year. Rachael loves to sing and participated in the yearly

talent show. Her love of math and science led her to participate in the yearly STEM fairs that Lisa Academy held at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. Rachael's consistently high grades led to her membership in the National Honor Society. She will be graduating with honors and plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas where she will study Exercise Science. Rachael wants to use this degree to help injured athletes recover and would love to own and run her own clinic one day.

Youth Lock-In: *Escape Through Faith*

The Youth Group will be having a church lock-in Saturday, April 27 starting at 7:30pm. It will be a night of surprises, games, and growth through learning about what it takes to escape our world through faith. Each Sunday we have been asking hard questions on faith and these lessons will all culminate in one night at Trinity!



We will be spending this night looking into ourselves to see where our faith has led us and why. Each of us is on our own journey. Each of us must find our own way. But we are not alone in this—we have each other and the stories in the Bible to guide us. If you or someone you know would like to join us, RSVP to Youth Director

Jared Brown at 870-299-0989 or jaredotisbrown@gmail.com as space is very limited!



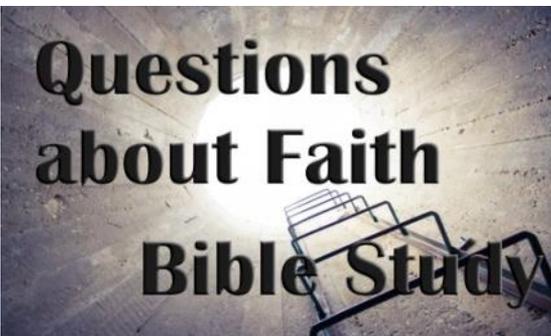
Trinity Youth Group

The Trinity Youth Program is dedicated to growing young hearts in a relationship with Christ and each other. Every week we meet on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:30 for a time of fellowship and fun while we learn about God's love through group activities and adventures. Our Youth Ministry partners with parents and



the community to plan everything from exciting trips and themed lock-ins to supporting outreach projects like Stewpot and sending care packages to our Trinity kids who are far from home at college. Everything we do with the Trinity Youth is to show that God's love is not bound by human conditions and faults but is free to everyone that will take it. We seek to mirror that love in each other, our community, and the world at large.

Sunday School Classes: Spring 2019



The 6-12 grade Sunday School class, also known as "Donuts with Jesus," will be continuing their study on faith questions in the Bible. This study will conclude with the youth lock-in, *Escape Through Faith*, on April 27.

Each session encourages our youth group to look to Scripture, as well as our faith tradition, in relevant ways to discern the best way to approach the answers to our faith questions. Each session encourages young people to look to Scripture, as well as our faith tradition, in relevant and responsive ways.

Youth Group Events Spring 2019

April 7: A Reflection on Lent

Whether you know what Lent is or not, this night is for you! We will discover what all of us need (and don't need) through our own Lenten journey. We will take a moment with our Lenten calendars to see how we observe Lent and how other denominations observe Lent differently or not at all.



April 14: Palm Sunday

The last week of the life of Jesus is often called "Holy Week" and it starts with Palm Sunday. This Sunday we will explore what it means to express humility as a Christian and look into how Christ expressed that humility.



April 21: Easter Sunday— Empty is a Good Thing

This youth group will be a celebration of Easter but also a remembrance of what was lost to give us eternal life. Most of the time empty is a bad thing; empty cups of coffee or empty wallets make us especially sad. When we look at Easter in the proper light, and we understand what really happened and what was going on, and why we celebrate Easter ... empty is a good thing!



Senior High Youthquake 2019



Youth from all over Arkansas Presbytery met for a weekend of worship, fun, and fellowship at Ferncliff Camp.



Friday night kicked off the weekend's events with games, icebreakers, and the band from the University of Arkansas-Monticello that played all our favorite songs plus a couple of new ones that we had to learn! We capped off the night listening to our keynote

speaker and meeting for the first time in our new small groups where we broke down the message and talked about what it meant to each of us in our Christian journey.

Saturday brought more fun as we set off on the greatest wild goose chase that ever was! The Presbytery split into teams led by different youth leaders whose job it was to capture photos of specific and sometimes random items strewn all around the Ferncliff campus.





I was on the team called “Anna Picked This Team Name.” Obviously there was a bit of miscommunication on what the actual team name was, but everyone knew Anna had picked it at least! By the end of the day we had found 52 of the 60 scavenger hunt items, and we won by a hair with a picture of a turtle that, appropriately, Anna snagged by getting on a kayak and paddling across the pond!

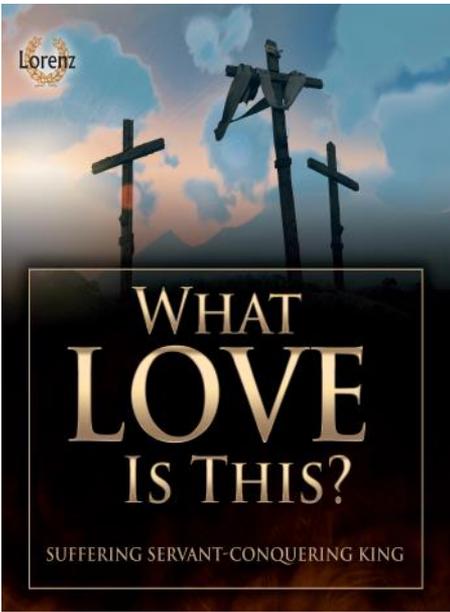
After a hard day of fun the group settled back in for another keynote message, more music, dancing, and enough s’mores to last a lifetime. The late night made the dawn worship service hard to wake up for, but communion with our new friends was worth it. After breakfast and more music, we finally said our goodbyes and posed for one last picture together—no longer a collection of youth groups, but a new single group of Presbyterian Christians.



Trinity's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14

On Palm Sunday, April 14, the children and guests of Trinity are invited to take part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt here on the grounds of the church, weather permitting. We invite all children 5th grade and younger to gather under the breezeway with their Easter baskets at 10:00am. There they will receive instructions and then be sent off to hunt down all the colorful, surprise-filled eggs. Take this great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors with children to join you for the hunt followed by worship at 10:30.





What Love Is This?
A Palm Sunday Musical
April 14 ☩ 10:30 a.m.

Presented by
David Glaze and the
Trinity Sanctuary Choir,
featuring Soloists,
Guest Instrumentalists, and
Rev. Jeff Price as Narrator

It is not too early to begin making plans for yourselves, as well as inviting your guests, to attend a special presentation by our Trinity Sanctuary Choir and guest instrumentalists on Sunday, April 14, during our regular worship time at 10:30.

About this work: God's endless love for the world is vividly expressed in the Passion Story as Jesus willingly lays down His life so that all might experience eternal life. *What Love Is This?* is a moving musical and worship experience for choir and congregation alike as it moves through the last days of Christ's earthly life from the jubilant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the difficult days of rejection and crucifixion to the triumphant resurrection of Easter Sunday. The fullest spectrum of music is represented in this dramatic work from its very creative composers, Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Brad Nix, Marty Parks, and Larry Shackley.

Our Trinity Choir has worked diligently to prepare this extremely moving worship experience — truly, a meaningful way to begin Holy Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE



The Service of Shadows

The Tenebrae, or Service of Shadows, is an ancient ritual developed by the Church to lead worshipers into a deeper meaning of Holy Week. The lights are progressively dimmed throughout the service. All leave the empty church in darkness to await the light and joyful sound of Easter morning.

Join us in the sanctuary at 6:00pm on April 18 for this meaningful service of worship. Nursery care will be provided.

Good Friday Noon Presentation of Music and Art on April 19

At noon on Good Friday, April 19, David Glaze will present a selection of organ and piano music in the sanctuary which will take us through the last events of Jesus' life, from His



triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the time in the Garden of Gethsemane, to His last supper with His disciples, to His crucifixion. Projected classical art will accompany the musical selections, and a program of references in the pew Bible and hymnal will also be provided.

The noon program is designed to be a time when people can stop in the middle of the day, depart their busy world, and quietly reflect on the Holy Week passion.

Easter

at Trinity

Drop in for Breakfast

On Easter Sunday, April 21, Nancy Rorex and the Fellowship Committee will serve up a delicious Easter breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 and ending at 10:00. Come early or later, but don't miss out! Sunday School classes will not meet.

Celebration of Worship

Our 10:30am worship service will celebrate the joy of the Resurrection. Pastor Jeff Price will preach a sermon entitled "Beyond Bunnies" drawn from Matthew 28:1-10. The beginning of the service will feature the Trinity Sanctuary Choir and brass performing Carter Threlkeld's Easter fanfare, *Resurrection Praise* (with *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*). For the Act of Praise anthem, the choir and

brass will present *The Lord of Life* (with *Crown Him with Many Crowns*) by Lloyd Larson. Traditional Easter hymns will be accompanied by organ and brass.

“Blessing Bags” Will Be Received

Lenten calendars and a collection bag were mailed out to Trinity households in early March as an interactive fundraiser for us to give out of our abundance during the entire season of Lent. This project will help us raise funds to send our youth to camp and mission trips like the Jr. High Jubilee trip to Mo-Ranch this summer. Filled “Blessing Bags” will be received during Easter Sunday worship.





Ferncliff Family Day on April 20

Whether you're a seasoned Ferncliff veteran or a first-time family, all are welcome to join in a day of outdoor fun and fellowship at Ferncliff! Easter Egg hunts will be held at 11:00am and 1:00pm. For a preview of camp cuisine, lunch will be served in the dining hall from 11:30-1:00 with s'mores being served at 2:00pm. Activities offered throughout the day include boating, fishing, archery, camp tours, crafts, hiking, disc golf, games, and an inflatable obstacle course. Ferncliff Family Day is a chance for everyone to experience all of what makes Ferncliff so great! Questions? Call Ferncliff at 501-821-3063 or email programs@ferncliff.org.

Ferncliff Summer Camp Discount

Trinity is offering a 20% discount off one camp session for each child of a Trinity member to Ferncliff Camp this summer. To take advantage of this discount, when you register your child online for their camp session, there will be a place that says "gift or promotional code" on the checkout screen. Enter the code "Trinity 72223" with the space included but no quotation marks. Direct questions to Julie Price or an Education Division member.

