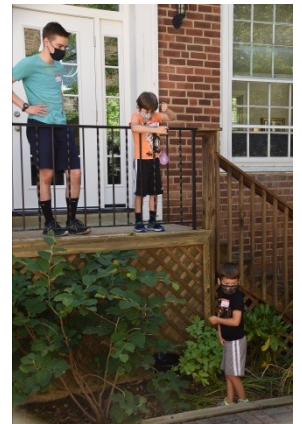




The Messenger

September 2021
Trinity Presbyterian Church



Summertime!

Trinity had a busy summer as we started to emerge from the pandemic restrictions. (From top left by row) Liam at VBS; a VBS class; Adam supervising a fun water balloon science experiment; Oliver leading the assembly at VBS; craft time at VBS; drama time at VBS with the burning bush; the men's fellowship brat fry; Eat Play Love Music gathering had corn hole; a special mini concert after indoor worship with Carol and Ben; the youth mission trip worked long hours; and Judith preaching inside! More photos inside!



The Pastor's Pen



A Resilient Community in Uncertain Times

Did anyone think in March of 2020 when we closed the church doors that we would still be facing so much uncertainty here in September of 2021? Back then we were hoping for a few weeks of disruption and that life would go on as before. Now we are wise enough to say we just don't know what will happen next. We have all learned to be more flexible, more resilient.

How do we keep the church community together and strong in such a time as this? We have done many things over the past 18 months that have kept us together. The mission of the church has continued. We have provided worship on-line, outdoors, and most recently in the sanctuary. We have taken communion together and made each home a sanctuary. Pastoral care visits and phone calls have continued. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have or know of a pastoral care need. We have contributed money, time, and people toward helping our neighbors. We have worked with VOICE and other organizations that are working on issues like housing (including eviction policy during the pandemic), mental health resources, and vaccination. Small groups, study groups, and musical groups have met via zoom or in back yards. We were able to hold VBS for the children of our church. Youth group has met via zoom and in person including a fall one day retreat and took two groups for mission work this summer. We welcomed new confirmands. We have had fellowship events, including outdoor concerts and gatherings in member's homes.

As we move into the fall of 2021, there are unknowns. Will we be able to have the church retreat? We are waiting until mid-late September to decide, after we see what happens with community transmission when school starts. So we will keep you posted. Will we be able to continue worshipping in the building? We are keeping an eye on things, but now that we are filming the service on Sundays, we will likely be able to have at least a limited number of people attend the service in person. What we do know is that we will continue to offer outside worship as long as the weather allows since it is the safest option, especially for those who remain unvaccinated.

We are planning a fun rally day celebration on September 12, and praying the weather cooperates for the outdoor events we have scheduled. We begin with worship at 10:00 a.m. for everyone outside. We will be using the lower parking lot, so ask that you park on the street. Following worship, Soulfire will play a concert in the same location. You are invited to bring lunch or snacks and stay for outdoor fellowship and music.

On October 3, I will be on the front lawn of the church for blessing of the pets from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. This is always a fun event and has the benefit of being an especially safe activity during the pandemic. The protocol is that individuals or families bring their pet(s), tell a little about them, and then a prayer/blessing is offered. As they leave, the next pet is welcomed for the blessing.

We are open to new ideas about how we can meet the needs of the community during the coming months. Do you have a great idea for fellowship or learning? An event you would like to see? Help us think of safe ways to provide the nurture and education our children need from the community of faith. We are all having to be flexible and careful but we also need to be church for and with one another. Let's continue to get through this as a resilient, caring, and vital community of faith.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judith

Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 5

Communion

9 a.m. worship on the green

10:30 a.m. worship in the sanctuary

Pastor Judith preaching

Words Words Words

Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38



Sunday, September 12

Rally day

10 a.m. worship outside

Pastor Judith preaching

Jesus, the Life of the Church

John 15:1-10; Genesis 12: 13



Sunday, September 19

9 a.m. worship on the green

11:15 a.m. worship in the sanctuary

Pastor Judith preaching

Near to the Heart of God

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37



Sunday, September 26

9 a.m. worship on the green

11:15 a.m. worship in the sanctuary

Pastor Judith preaching

The Way of Salt and Fire

James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

Rally Day: September 12th

Our kick off for the fall and welcome back from Summer! Come to worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday September 12th. We will be meeting in the 16th street parking lot (by the playground) to allow for space to spread out, so please plan on parking in the street. Following worship, we will have a concert from Soulfire. You are welcome to pack a picnic and enjoy the concert. We ask that you bring something to sit on and if you wish, your own picnic items. We look forward to seeing you there!



Fall Schedule

The fall schedule begins on September 19th. We will have two worship services with education in between at 10am. Here is what to expect:

Outside at 9am: Everyone will need a mask for singing and we are encouraging physical distancing. Masks are required on Trinity property if you are not vaccinated. Please remember that some people may choose to wear a mask for a variety of reasons. Please bring something to sit on.

Inside at 11:15 am: Everyone will need a mask at all times. We are encouraging physical distancing. This service will be recorded for at home worship.

At home: We are recording the inside worship and hope to have it available each week via the enews on Wednesdays or earlier on the website/ Youtube channel, barring any technical glitches.

Childcare: Will be available at both services for those that sign up their child(ren) by 8pm on Saturday night. Please sign up!

Bulletins: please use your enews bulletin link, the website link, or the church app link for your bulletin. We will offer a few bulletins in large print for worshippers that are unable to access the digital bulletin.

Worship Three Ways

Outside



9a.m.

Inside



10:30 a.m.

Online



anytime

Racial Justice Group/Announcements

Racial Justice Ministry

The Racial Justice Group has been approved by Session to become its own ministry. Currently this active group is housed under Education and Nurture and also Mission and Service Ministry. The Ministry will become official after a vote by the congregation this fall. In the meantime, the group has been busy this summer. If you are interested in joining, they meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm either at Trinity or online. If you are interested, please email Dan Campbell (dancampbell@aol.com) the head of the group, for the meeting information and to get on the listserve. The listserve highlights opportunities for social justice through education from our local Presbytery, virtual events with VOICE on affordable housing, decriminalizing mental illness, rallying at the Mall for voting rights, and more.

Silent Witness four times a year

Come join Falls Church Presbyterian in silent witness on Broad Street in Falls Church quarterly.. Bring a sign, wear a mask and physical distance. Learn more here: <https://fallschurchpresby.org/silentwitness/>
The next date is Saturday, October 9th at noon.

Help Needed:

Want to get involved at Trinity? Help is needed on the ministries, such as Pastoral Care and Worship & Music, in addition to people helping with worship on Sundays. Please email the church office to learn more if you feel called to help (before we call you).

Volunteer needed for once a month S.O.M.E coordination

Trinity supports So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.) with volunteers and food. Since the pandemic, volunteers are not needed in the kitchen right now however we need someone to take over placing the food order from Trinity to S.O.M.E. It is an easy once a month call. If you are interested please contact Lynn Pollock, the MSM co-chair, or Priscilla Hoffman-Stowe.

What is VOICE?



This summer Trinity became a full member of VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) a multiracial, interfaith coalition of almost 50 faith communities and civic organizations in Northern Virginia working together to build power in middle- and low-income communities to make change. Through VOICE, Trinity members are taking action on issues impacting our community, from affordable housing to health care. Please look for events and education opportunities available each week in the enews and online in the announcements.

For an overview of VOICE, you can also watch this video (online link under Members on our website): <https://youtu.be/JS4fXCVosC0>

Church app



As many folks were away this summer, we wanted to make sure you knew about the church app

The app will have the order of worship and lyrics for outside worship. It will also be an easy

place to see announcements, sign up, and give. Lastly, we can send out notifications, such as a change to worship time due to weather. We will not have the prayer concerns on the app as it is publicly available and we want to respect internet privacy.

To get the app:

- Go to your App Store
- Search "Sharefaith App"
- Install
- Type in "Trinity Presbyterian Arlington" for your church.
- Click Default for the Icon

Enjoy.

Let us know what you think!

Communications@trinityarlington.org

Announcements

Virtual Bible Chat starts Sept. 19th

Sundays at 2pm via zoom.

Join Ben for an informal Bible Study from the comfort of your home. Email Ben@trinityarlington.org if you are interested and to get the Zoom link, please email Ben. No commitment, come when you can.

Horizons Book Study

The Horizons study invite other women to join their group this year. They meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7pm at church (masked). The first meeting will be an hour and half and we will discuss options for the year. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Beth B. (epbailey@comcast.net)

Blessing of the Pets: October 3rd

Bring your pet for a blessing by Pastor Judith on the front lawn at Trinity from 2:30-5pm Sunday October 3rd. Be sure to bring a leash or carrier.



You are needed

This is the time to try out new ideas at Trinity! While everything is constantly changing, we are re-thinking events, mission commitments, fellowship, education, worship, and all aspects of church life. If you have ideas, please come to a Ministry meeting. It is so easy now, especially since most of them are done over Zoom once a month (or less). The meetings are announced in the enews and are on the church website main page calendar.

We also need chairs for a few ministries. It may seem odd to become a chair on a ministry you just joined, but bringing a fresh perspective and surrounded by people who have been the chair in the past means you are supported and appreciated.

Right now we have openings for chairs for the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Worship & Music ministry and shortly will need a Facilities chair as well.

Reach out to a Ministry Team today!

Administration: Carolynn K. Offutt (coffutt@o3star.com) (Elder Lisa Driskill)

Education & Nurture: Kemper Gay (kempergay@gmail.com) (Elders Diana Paulraj & Troy Schmidt)

Facilities: Skip Stephens (sstephens@congresslaw.net) (Elders Art Hoffman and Todd S.)

Fellowship: Priscilla Hoffman-Stowe (waplets@gmail.com) (Elders Cindy Bare & Randy Bare)

Finance: Rich Bailey (rcbailey22207@gmail.com) (Elder Nan Morley)

Mission & Service: Tecla Murphy & Lynn Pollock (tecla.murphy@verizon.net; pollock.lynn@gmail.com) (Youth Elder Chloe Desautels)

Outreach: Amy Arnold (amanda.j.arnold@gmail.com) (Elder David Bailor)

Pastoral Care VACANT (Gillian McClelland)

Worship & Music: VACANT (Donna Parry)

Come Make Music!

You are invited to join the choir or handbells this fall.

This fun and talented group for adults (and youth with permission) would love to have you join them. We will be

meeting one Thursday a month via Zoom for social time with both singers and ringers. This is a great chance to get to know the group outside of rehearsals. During rehearsals we will be distanced and masked.

For rehearsals, we will be meeting on Thursdays in the evenings and also after Sunday worship once a month.

Interested? Want more information? Email Carol Feather Martin to get on the list. music@trintyarlington.org



Education

Education and Plans by Ben Stewart



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Plans change and these days we are more aware of that than ever and we've had become a little more flexible.

I had planned that Sunday morning education would pick up again in September like nothing had ever happened but that plan has been put aside and a new plan drawn up.

There will still be Sunday morning education starting on September 19th but it will be outside (weather permitting). There will be classes for Adults, Youth and Children.

I had planned to use the same curriculum for everyone but it is best to wait to use that curriculum for a time when we have a little bit more continuity, I feel that being inside affords us that a little better than having outside education.

So here is today's plan but bear in mind it could change in an instant...



Children

Let me know if your child will attend outside Sunday school by registering them. See the weekly Trinity email for the link or email ben@trinityarlington.org

We will be using a curriculum called Growing in God's Love.

The number and size of the classes will depend on how many children are signed up and how many adult leaders there are.

Join a teaching team by emailing Ben at Ben@trinityarlington.org.

10:10

Youth

The youth will gathering in between the services. To find out more and to sign up make sure you are on the youth mailing list. Contact Stuart. youth@trinityarlington.org



Adult

For fun, we are going to look at the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This class will give you an insight into the structure and beliefs of our denomination and hopefully give you a deeper appreciation of our church and your role in it.

If you have questions or to suggest an education topic to me, please email ben@trinityarlington.org

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2021

After a year with no Sunday school for children, the CE ministry felt it was important to try and have some form of VBS. We knew that it could not look like the previous years. For a start, we couldn't have 100+ children running around the building.

So what could we do?

The decision was made early on to try and have a smaller VBS, it would just be for people who considered Trinity their home. It would mean stripping away a lot of what we take for granted each year and creating something simple and fun.

The truth is, you can plan something to within an edge of perfection but if you don't have people then it is all for naught. People do something magical; they bring life. Our VBS couldn't have happened without the parents, grandparents, and youth being willing to bring it to life.



I've enjoyed the other VBS we've done in the past but I've also found it a little overwhelming. 100+ kids are great energy but I only know a handful of them and I don't see them again until the next year when their parents need a summer camp.

But this year, felt manageable. People weren't stressed. There weren't a million decibels of noise and adults weren't frantically counting to see if they had the right amount of tiny people in their group. There wasn't the logistical nightmare of putting the right number of kids in each class and having all the right paperwork. Rotations were easy to work out because there were only four classes. Everyone got a turn because there was enough time and enough space and enough resources.

But probably the biggest joy for me was being able to see our kids with their Trinity family. Getting to know the adults, getting to know each other, there was no doubt that they would see each other again. And that's how relationships grow, that's how a church grows.

So honestly, I wasn't sad that we couldn't have the 100+ kids. I was overjoyed that we could have a VBS that brought our children together to give them happy memories of their church family, to help them grow those relationships that will keep them at the church and help them want to find a church when they get older.

So thank you to everyone who helped; during the week, behind the scenes, and with your prayers because in spite of all the mess going on in the world, VBS this year was a beautiful, simple, success.



Photo Album



Sundays at Trinity:

We had a backpack blessing in September, guest preachers including seminary student and Trinity member Luke Bultena and Ben Stewart, confirmation on the lawn in June, and a wonderful baptism



Photo Album



Gathering with Trinity:

Between Fellowship events like Eat Play Love Music and the Mission Trip, the Trinity community took advantage of the early summer to gather together. Left clockwise: Singing at Eat Play Love Music; working hands on the mission trip; visiting the dairy that provided food for the youth; posing after a job finished; the youth Mission trip team before they left on the trip.

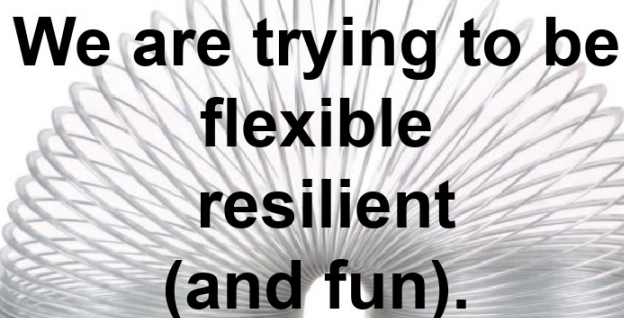


Session Highlights

Session Highlights for August 2021

Following are highlights of the session's regular monthly meeting, held remotely on August 10. For more information, touch base with Pastor Judith, Clerk Jim Dykstra or any session member:

- Rev. Fulp-Eickstaedt said new chairs are still needed for the Pastoral Care and Worship and Music Ministries.
- A focus of the meeting was on Trinity's response to the surge in COVID Delta Variant cases. Rev. Fulp-Eickstaedt asked Session members for questions and concerns for consideration by the Trinity Reopening Team when it meets soon. Discussed was a possible plan for two Sunday morning services, one in the sanctuary and the other on the Trinity front lawn. There was also discussion of how best to handle Christian education classes for adults, youth and children.
- Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt said that in-person session meetings, which were expected to resume effective the September 14 regular session meeting, will be postponed because of the Delta variant. The last in-person Session meeting was on March 10, 2020, with Session meeting virtually via Zoom since then because of the pandemic. Zoom meetings will continue until the situation is clearer.
- Rev. Fulp-Eickstaedt led a discussion of the fall Session retreat, which was to have been held in the Knox Room on the weekend of September 17-18, with meetings on Friday evening and Saturday. The retreat will now be held in the Trinity parking lot on a Saturday, either September 11 or 18.
- The Fellowship Ministry reported successful events were held at the homes of Randy and Cathy Benn and Matt and Michelle Edwards. In addition, a successful Trinity Men's Group annual brat fry event was held at the home of Jim Dykstra.
- The Facilities Management Ministry reported that Ministry Chair Skip Stephens will step down at completion of his two-year term on September 1, 2021. A tree in the parking lot was blown down in a storm and removed; the new narthex roof did not leak during recent severe storms; there was some water accumulation beneath Judith's office; the church's two steeples will be painted; painting in the pre-school area has been completed; and the new audio/visual system is successful and is being used for recording services



**We are trying to be
flexible
resilient
(and fun).**

Thanks for your patience and participation.

Financial and Facilities

Trinity Operating Fund					
Income and Expenses for Current Fiscal Year as of June 30, 2021					
		Actual Results:	Annual FY21		Actual as a %
		July 1- June 30	Budget	Difference	of Budget
Revenue					
	Weekly Offerings	\$ 715,000	\$ 759,700	\$ (44,700)	94%
	Building Use & Other	171,700	83,500	\$ 88,200	206%
	Total Revenue	\$ 886,700	\$ 843,200	\$ 43,500	105%
Expenses					
		860,900	948,500	\$ (87,600)	91%
Net Income/(Loss)					
		\$ 25,800	\$ (105,300)		

Finances Explained

June 30 marked the end of Trinity's current fiscal year. The impacts of Covid-19 were reflected in reduced contributions from our congregation as well as a reduction in our building use income. These reductions were offset by the forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Program loan of approximately \$90,000 as well as reduced expenses for many of our ministries.

We are so grateful for the many people who were able to continue to support Trinity with their financial contributions as well as all of you who supported us with your time, talents and prayers during the pandemic.

Be Like Water, Come to Church Any Way You Can.

On the Facilities front there is good news and bad news.

Good News: We have had a lot of rain this summer. *Bad News:* We have had a lot of rain this summer.

Good News: The Narthex roof no longer leaks when it rains. *Bad News:* The rain water comes in the basement instead.

Good News: Skip Stephens, Facilities chair, has worked closely with Mike Swineford to fix a lot of the facility issues. *Bad News:* Skip's tenure as Facilities chair ends next month.



Good News: The new chair will get to see great improvements of the facilities from the ground up. *Bad News:* We literally mean the ground up, the ground is where the water is coming in.

For more Facilities updates, please see the Session highlights on the previous page. Please consider helping out the Facilities team by being the new chair. Thank you to Mike for all his hard work to keep our facility safe and dry!

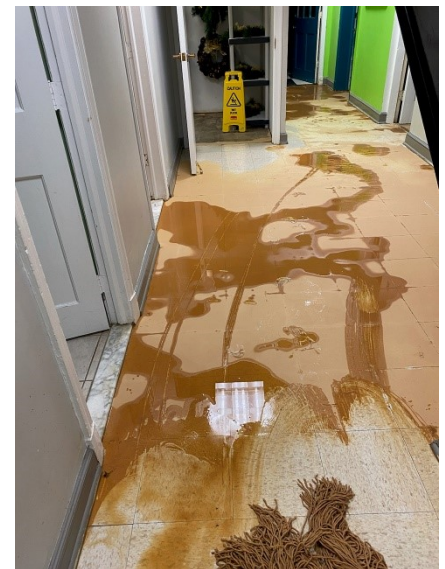


Photo Album VBS

Vacation Bible School:

From dressing up for drama, to arts and crafts, science in the courtyard, recreation fun in parking lot, and of course lots of water balloons, the Trinity kids and volunteers built a week full of memories and community while learning, creating, playing, and acting out Bible stories. Read more about the week on page 7.



Joys and Concerns

At Trinity we have many joys and concerns to lift up in prayer. To respect people's privacy online, we do not publish the prayers here. If you wish to receive the prayer list, please email or call the church office: 703 536 5600 or communications@trinityarlington.org

Youth

Youth Group

Youth Group is a time every Sunday night to hang out, have discussions, play games, and be reminded that there's a community that cares about you. If you're new to Youth Group, or want to be added to the weekly youth E-Newsletter, email Stuart, youth@trinityarlington.org

9/5: Youth Group Begins

7:00-8:30 p.m., outdoors at Trinity. Sign up on the youth E-News.

9/19: 10:10 and Small Groups

10:10 is Trinity's youth Sunday school hour, in between the two worship services at 10:10 a.m. We will meet in the upper parking lot or outdoor chapel this fall.

Small Groups meet on the third Sunday evening each month, in place of Youth Group. They are divided by middle/high school and boys/girls. All four groups will meet outside at the church this fall; middle school groups from 6-7 p.m., and high school groups from 7-8 p.m.

Youth Mission Trip

The youth mission trip was done COVID style, which meant organizing two mission trips with smaller numbers (thankfully before the numbers climbed and after vaccinations were available). Despite this twist, the groups bonded, went out of their comfort zone, relied on the scripture 1 Samuel 12: *"Now therefore take your stand, and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes."* and made a difference in a community and within their youth community. They built a wheelchair ramp, deck and staircase in record time, and also participated in a back to school fair, visited the local dairy where they got the week's food, and more. Be sure to ask a youth or adult team member about the experience. (Editor's note: a big thank you to Stuart who organized his first and second youth mission trip in one summer during a pandemic!)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEPTEMBER 2021						
5 9am Outdoor Worship 10:30 Indoor Worship 7pm Youth Group	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7	8 7:15 am Men's Breakfast on Zoom 7pm Racial Justice Grp	9 10am Companions in Christ 7pm Deborah's Cir- cle	10	11
12 Rally Day 10am Outdoor Worship 7pm Youth Group	13	14 6:45pm Session (Zoom) 7pm Horizons Study	15 7:15 am Men's Breakfast on Zoom 7pm Abigail Circle	16 10am Companions in Christ	17	18
19 9am Outdoor Worship 10am Education 11:15am Indoor Worship 12:30 Handbell Rehearsal 2pm Bible Study (Zoom) Youth Small Groups	20	21 5pm Confirmation	22 7:15 am Men's Breakfast on Zoom 7pm MSM Zoom Mtg	23	24	25
26 9am Outdoor Worship 10am Education 11:15a.m. Indoor Worship 12:30p.m. Choir Rehears- al 2pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Youth Group	27	28	29 7:15 am Men's Breakfast on Zoom	30		

Trinity Presbyterian

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Nene Pisigan, Nursery Coordinator
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Worship Schedule

Currently we are worshipping at home.
www.trinityarlington.org/athome

The Messenger is published quarterly. If you
would prefer to no longer receive *The
Messenger*, please email
communications@trinityarlington.org.



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Rally Day September 12th Worship 10 a.m. Trinity's 16th St Parking Lot



**Followed by a concert in the
parking lot by *Soulfire*.**

**Bring a picnic and stay for
fellowship and music!
Details inside.**