Steeple Talk Trinity Presbyterian Church • Santa Cruz



Spring Buds

A few years ago Dave and I planted two dwarf fruit trees in our back yard - one peach and one nectarine. They grow right outside my home office window. They distract me, in a good way. Last week they distracted me so much I decided I had to share them with you, so I went outside with my camera. They are truly beautiful right now.

It seemed like just a few weeks ago the trees were deep in their winter slumber - all the branches lean, brown and barren. Then the change began. I looked one day and the trees seemed fuller. I had go outside and really look to see it.

Every branch was covered with small swellings. No color yet. They were hardly noticeable at first. Every few days I would go outside and check. But yes, it was really happening! The tree was getting ready ... until one day I saw it. The first pink bursts of color.

Fruit trees don't do this new life of spring thing in a small way. They announce it with a riot of color. In a few days the trees will be covered in pink, a sign to the world that they are ready bear fruit, do what God made them to do!

This month of March we will journey together though Lent and into the Easter season, spending time, figuratively at least, in our barren, lean times of inward preparation. And then, at the end of the month, in joyous, bright celebration of the new life we know through the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

What may be budding in us this season? What 'fruit' is God creating in us to share, just under the surface maybe, needing just a bit more light and warmth to burst forth.

We may not find ourselves covered in pink this Easter season, not quite as flamboyant as those fruit trees, but may this be a time of journey and discovery and life anew in Christ.

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Meetings: Fellowship Meeting, March 2, 6:00 p.m., Wichelmann Residence Session Meeting, March 9, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room Outreach Meeting, April 19, 1:30 p.m., Fireside Room Administration Meeting April 21, 4:30 p.m., Fireside Room Dates to Remember:	

Lenten Dinner and Study March 1, 8, 15 Boutique March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, 9:30 a.m., Youth Room <u>Sweet Pea</u> March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23 9:00 a.m., Youth Room Newsletter Articles Due

April 12

In Faith, Evie

February 2016 Session Meeting

The Session met on February 9, 2016, in the home of Emily Duffus at 5:30 p.m. Moderator, Evie Macway, opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk shared the email she had received from one of our missionaries in the field: Bernie Adeney-Risakotta, who with his wife, Farsijana, is in Indonesia. They expect to be in California part of July and all of August. He asked if Trinity would like them to visit on August 14 or 21. The mission committee will pursue inviting the Adeney-Risakottas to Trinity when the are in the country.

Reporting about Immanuel House in San Jose, Juanita Stock said the house now has seven residents from Afghanistan, including two children. She also pointed out that it was reported at the last Presbytery meeting that Presbytery's membership is down to about 5,800 members since several congregations requesting dismissal have left.

Pastor Evie announced that Jane DeVette will chair the Nominating Committee; Ed Sams, the Stewardship Committee.

Committee Reports included the following:

Administration: The Session approved the use of the Square 1 credit charging system. The committee agreed to purchase an iPad to utilize the system. The committee also reported on Beth Hooley's revision to the Poplar Street plantings. One unexpected expense concerned the Poplar House. The family room flooded when we had so much rain in January. To fix the water pump will cost \$3,000 -\$5,000.

Worship and Christian Education: Kevin Day will preach on March 13. Jerry Van Marter, former Director of Communication for PCUSA, will preach on April 3, and Evie will assist. Vacation Bible Camp is scheduled for July 18 - 22. The theme is "Catch the Wave of the Amazing Love of God." Nicki will provide music.

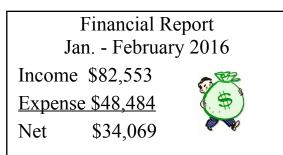
Dates to mark on your calendar:

- Parish Luncheon Sunday, March 20 following worship.
- Easter is on March 27. The Blanchards will again host the Easter Sunrise Service.

After hearing a number of prayer concerns, it was MSP to adjourn the meeting with prayer. Next meeting will be March 9, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Mission Update

Two members of our congregation, Paul Seever and George Bunch, have taken leadership roles in local mission organizations. Paul is now serving as the chairperson of the Faith Community Shelter Board. George serves as president of the Santa Cruz al Salvador Board of Directors. We know both boards are blessed with these capable leaders and we appreciate the ways in which Paul and George strengthen Trinity's connections and opportunities for service in these two mission areas.



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Lenten Study 2016 Continues



Our Lenten Study, Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem: Exploring the Great Themes of Lent, continues for two more weeks during March. The details are below. We hope you can join us for this time of fellowship and study.

We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a simple potluck dinner of soup, salad and bread, followed by the program, and conclude at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Date	Торіс	Leader	Location
March 8	Living Faithfully in a Material World John 12:1-8	Kim Johnston	The home of Jeff and Patti Lawton
March 15	Palm Sunday Power Luke 19:28-40	Charlie May	Hosted by Charlie and Gwen May in the Fireside Room



Things That Make Us Happy...

- To have church member, Amanda Bell preach at Trinity in early February. She inspired and challenged us with her sharing of her faith and life in this way.
- To have the Boy Scouts join us in worship on Valentine's Day. It is always a pleasure to have the troop that meets at Trinity join us for Boy Scout Sunday. As always, they hosted a delicious coffee hour for us as well!
- The generosity of the Trinity family in helping with Fatima's green card - so far \$640 has been gifted.
- To see the beautiful new landscaping in the yard on the Poplar Avenue side of the property. See the photo below! The project is not quite finished but thank you to Beth Hooley for her design and to the many folks who are helping to bring the design to the soil.



Parish Luncheon

The Fellowship Committee will be partnering with the Deacons to provide a taco bar lunch with the new parishes following worship on March 20. Bring your appetite!



March Birthdays

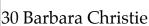
- 5 Audrey Beach 6 Russ Hobbs 7 Louise Pollard, Kent Imai 13 Maggie Barnes 17 Patti Lawton 19 Barbara Morris
- 22 Kate Collins, Sunshine Duffus
- 23 Evie Macway
- 26 Beth Hooley 29 Michael Christie

March Anniversaries

3 Hal & Barbara Morris

April Birthdays

7 Sally Walters 9 Dale Bradshaw 12 Peggy Minier 14 Diana Dean 15 Frank Miller 16 Leon Wong **19 Laura Brothers** 24 Loren Edwards



April Anniversaries

Kent & Marie Imai

If you don't see your special date listed, please call the church office, 831-423-8995 and let us know!



Visit us on Facebook at:

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



Save the Date and Volunteer

T R

On Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, The "Friends of Sabeel North America," a Christian support group for peace and justice in Israel/ Palestine, will hold a two day conference in Santa Cruz at the



Peace United Church of Christ. Please put these dates on your calendar and consider being a volunteer to assist at the conference in one of a variety of ways. Contact Kathleen Eschen-Pipes or Darrell Yeaney if you can help.



Trinity Vacation Bible Camp 2016

Mark your calendars for Trinity Vacation Bible Camp 2016! The dates this year will be July 18-22. Camp is open to all children ages 4 through rising 5th graders. The theme this year is Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love. What could be better for Santa Cruz! Register now online at http://www.trinitypressc.org/day_camp_registration_form Spread the word!

Book Club

At the last meeting of Book Club plans were made for pleasant reading through the spring. Books we'll be reading are listed below, join us anytime! New faces are always welcome.

We have a treat in store for our March 28 meeting. Through the month we will be reading various books written by Edward Abbey and our very own Nancy Abbey will be joining us to talk to us about her brother, Edward Abbey!!! Other future books:

April "Justice For All - Earl Warren and the Nation He Made" by Jim Newton May "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne June "Gutenberg's Apprentice" by Alix Christie





Calling All Graduates

If you or someone in your family is graduating from middle school, high school, or college this spring please contact the church office and let us know. We will list all graduates in an upcoming newsletter and share the good news!

Easter Sunrise Service

We will gather at the home of Harry and Mary Blanchard for an informal communion service in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The service begins at 7:30 a.m. and will be followed by a light brunch. Call the church office or speak with Harry or Mary for directions to their home.



The 210n Prophet Corner Darrell W. Yeaney, Parish Associate "God and Country"

My older brother and I became charter members of "Den 31" when our mother became Den Mother of a group of Cub Scouts meeting in the basement of our house. I was nine years old and worked my way from "Wolf" to "Lion" rank and joined the Boy Scout Troop at the age of 12 to continue my scouting career through to the Eagle rank. But my pride and joy was to earn the "God and Country" award that Scouting gives for active service in the church or other religious group.

I relate this "ancient" personal story as an indication of my early life acceptance of the normative equivalent identity of God and country by most American Christians. Religion and Patriotism tend to be identical for many Church going Americans; that is, until one happens to run into a recognition of value conflict between one's faith and one's patriotism.

Sorting out these value distinctions is an important work of maturing that is sometimes neglected by people who simply incorporate their religion in support of their patriotism. But as St. Paul wrote, "when I was a child, I thought and felt like a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things."

Our Nation's founding Fathers (sic) recognized the error of "deifying " the state and so wrote the clause into the First Amendment to the Constitution which has been interpreted as "creating a wall of separation between church and state.." But it is an institutional "wall" not an ethical one.

It is imperative that Christians and other religious faith groups engage in serious thought and discussion to try to discern what God is saying to us today about our life in the American political and economical world and its often less than Christian values that negatively impact poor people, people of color and yes, people who affirm other religious traditions than ours.

The current political campaigns of both major political parties provide us with a rather exaggerated exposé of these value conflicts. It may be difficult to discern the "sheep" from the "wolves" among those running for political office, but avoiding the effort of Christian ethical discernment may mean we have indiscriminately abandoned our faith allegiance to a narrow political partisan one.

That is why Trinity congregation, the Progressive Christian Forum, the Presbytery of San Jose and the Presbyterian Church (USA) are frequently engaged in discussion, discernment and action regarding many of the political and economic choices facing our nation and world. Loyalty to both God and country demand that we mature from childhood naïveté to adult discernment. Avoidance of conflict is no solution. If we think it is, we have misunderstood the life and teaching of Jesus our Lord.



Announcing the World Mission Matching Campaign for Spring 2016

A group of our committed donors has pledged to match all gifts sent for mission personnel support, up to \$30,000, through March 27, 2016. This means your gift of \$50 today will be matched with another \$50 to provide \$100 for

Presbyterian World Mission. Or perhaps you can give \$500, which will become \$1,000 when matched. We urge you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to **double your gift's impact**. When you give online (<u>https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/E132192</u>), please write "matching gift" in the comments field.

One Great Hour of Sharing

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.



Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression.

Please consider giving to this annual special offering of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. We will receive this offering here at Trinity on Easter Sunday.

Ways to Give, Both Old and New

Each Sunday we see the offering plates filling with cash and checks as the congregation expresses its financial generosity for Trinity.

In an effort to make donations as convenient as possible Trinity has added the ability to accept credit card payments. While the church is charged three percent for the use of this system, we want to make it as easy as possible for our supporters. We hope this will be of use, particularly when it comes to special fundraisers such as One Great Hour of Sharing and the annual Boutique.

These are not the only ways the church receives financial support from its members and guests. Going unseen are the pledge payments we receive by regularly scheduled bank transfers. Also the church accepts the transfer of stocks and IRA distributions. There can be tax advantages to using these latter methods, and one should consult their tax advisor before undertaking this way of giving.

If you want more information about any of these methods of giving please feel free to talk to me.

Bob Scott, Collecting Treasurer



We celebrate with Leon Wong at the birth of his third grandchild. Maris Leon McFarlane Wong was born in Seattle February 3, 2016. Leon has two granddaughters who live here in Santa Cruz.

The Importance of a Common Meal

by Paul Seever

Each Wednesday evening Trinity is host to a group of about twenty women, children and men who gather at our Fellowship Hall at about 5:00 p.m., share a meal together, and spend the night sleeping on mats spread out on the floor. In the morning they stash the mats, share a quick breakfast, restore the room to pristine condition, and go on their way. Several other churches provide similar settings on the other six nights of each week. We call this activity the *Faith Community Shelter*.

When we started this mission almost four years ago we recognized that, while the safety and relative comfort of a place to sleep inside was an important benefit, for the program to work in the long run it would be necessary for the participants to form community. Otherwise there would inevitably be conflict leading to chaos. And so it has turned out. Community has been the healing agent that has allowed many to build their confidence and connections so that they can manage jobs and permanent housing.

We all know that sharing a common meal is a fundamental way in which we humans build community. What would church life be without pot-lucks, coffee hour and the sacrament of Holy Communion? So, from the very beginning, we have provided a meal for the participants each Wednesday evening. Prior to the meal the host for that evening gathers the group in a circle and offers a blessing, sometimes in the form of a silent prayer. Sharing that blessing and the meal that follows has turned out to be a moving and rewarding experience for both the receivers and the hosts.

Most of the time just four of our families have provided the meals and acted as hosts. We divide the month up by weeks: the Mays do the first week of the month, Paul Seever does the second, Ellen Bauerle and Laura Hamby the third, and the Yeaneys the fourth. In addition Juanita Stock, Emily Duffus, and Karen Wichelman provide food for breakfasts.

It has been a labor of love, but it is time that it should be shared more broadly. Many of us would be able to participate by providing a meal, or part of a meal from time to time. Please consider joining in this mission by contacting any of the above mentioned providers. You will find that it can be a truly rewarding experience.

Fourth Tuesday Luncheon

The March 22 Fourth Tuesday Lunch will feature Santa Cruz Shakespeare and Piano and Clarinet Music. Newly relocating to DeLaVeaga Park, Santa Cruz Shakespeare should be an interesting program for our March Fourth Tuesday Lunch. Managing Director Aimee Zygmonski will show plans for their new theater and introduce 2016 season productions. We will again enjoy piano music by Elizabeth and Cathy Parisie and clarinet Joe Parisie. Come enjoy a fine Nancy Cheney meal, Santa Cruz Shakespeare program, and piano and clarinet music.

Committee Structure

Session:

2016 - Frank Miller, Reed Duffus

2017- Jeff Lawton, Bob Scott

2018 - Emily Duffus, Beth Hooley, Ed Sams

Clerk of Session – Juanita Stock

Pastor (Moderator)

Committees of the Session:

Administration:

The Administration Committee oversees the following functions of the church, along with the contact person(s): Buildings -Harry Blanchard and Sally Walters; Session Representative- Frank Miller; Endowment and Insurance – Russ Hobbs; Finances - Chad Bell, John Collins and Bob Scott; Grounds - Charlie May and Beth Hooley, chairperson for 2016 - Emily Duffus. <u>Stewardship</u> is a subcommittee of Administration. The Stewardship committee is made up of representatives from all the other committees. Ed Sams will chair the Stewardship Committee.

Personnel:

This committee works with and supports the paid staff of the church. The committee is made up of at least one deacon, one session member. This committee is normally made up of three members.

Reed Duffus (chairperson), Michael Christie, Kate Miller

Nominating:

This committee is elected by the congregation and is charged with nominating members of the congregation to serve as officers in the church. The officers are elected each year by the congregation to fill the classes for 3 year terms.

2015 nominating committee members: Jane DeVette(chairperson, 2016), Gwen May(2016), Chad Bell(2017), Joanne Clever(2017), Barb Christie (2018), Reed Duffus (2018)

Worship and Christian Education:

This committee is responsible for the Christian education and worship of the church.

Committee Members are:

Ellen Bauerle (chairperson), Michael Christie, Diana Dean, Nicki Kerns, Paul Seever, and Darrell Yeaney.

Mission:

This committee oversees mission funding and explores and promotes opportunities in which Trinity's members can actively engage in mission work.

Committee members are:

Juanita Stock(chairperson), Charlie May, Lee Duffus, George Bunch, Kate Miller, Alex Khoury, Paul Seever.

Outreach:

This committee is responsible for "evangelism" and, in that capacity we provide oversight for the church website and advertising. We also write notes to all visitors and look for opportunities to welcome new people into the life of the church.

Committee members are:

George Bunch (chairperson), Amanda Bell, Jeff Lawton, Elizabeth Bunch and Lee Duffus.

Deacons:

2016 - Carolyn Brothers, Elizabeth Bunch, Gwen May

2017- Dale Bradshaw, Emily Macway, Lenore Spalaris

2018 - Amanda Bell, Nancy Cobery, Pete Halper

Joanne Clever, Recording Secretary Pete Halper, Treasurer

Committee of Deacons:

<u>Fellowship</u>: Plans regular activities including lunches and dinners, hikes or walks, special celebrations that promote the community and fellowship of the congregation. Committee members are: Ann Collins, Mary Ann Hobbs, Karen Wichelmann, Diana Dean, Ann Carle, Lynn Houser, Pete Halper, Janice Peek, Kate Miller, Joanne Clever, Barbara Christie, Sue Yeaney, Betty Gangware (chairperson).

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: Tues Thurs. 10:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.		1 Boutique, 9:30 a.m., YR W.C.E. Meeting, 1:00 p.m., FS Lenten Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room	2 Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m, FH Fellowship Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Karen Wichelmann's home	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Adult Study, 9:00 a.m., Fireside Room Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.	7 Office Closed	8 Lenten Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Lawton Residence	9 Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FS Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m, FH	10	11 Office Closed	12 Sweet Pea, 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m., Youth Room
13 Adult Study, 9 a.m., Fireside Room Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.	14 Office Closed	15 Boutique, 9:30 a.m., YR Lenten Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Rom	16 Neuropathy 1 p.m., FS Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m, FH	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 Adult Study, 9:00 a.m., Fireside Room Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary Palm Sunday, 10:30, Sanctuary Parish Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., FH	21 Office Closed	22 4th Tuesday Luncheon, 12:00 p.m., FH	23 Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m, FH	24 Potluck/Seder Maundy Thursday Service, 5:30 p.m., FH	25 Office Closed	26 Sweet Pea, 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m., Youth Room
27 Easter Sunrise Service, 7:30 a.m., The Blanchard Residence Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Easter Egg Hunt	28 Office Closed Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Joanne Clever's home	29	30	31		Office Hours: Tues Thurs. 10:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: Tues Thurs. 10:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.					1 Office Closed	2
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24 Adult Study, 9:00 a.m., Fireside Room Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.	25 Office Open Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Joanne Clever's home	26 4th Tuesday Luncheon, 12:00 p.m., FH	27 Office Closed Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m, FH	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30

Trinity Presbyterian Church 420 Melrose Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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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!

S	unday Saints		March 6 Communion Servers Dale Bradshaw, Carolyn Brothers, Pete Halper, Kate Miller		
	Greeter	Coffee	Usher	Flowers	
March 6	Barbara Lang & Marta Narus	The Bunch Family	Lenore Spalaris	Kim Johnston	
March 13	Frank & Kate Miller	Jean Bowerman & Janice Peek	Ed Sams	Florence Nuss	
March 20	Nancy Cheney & Pat Parshall	Parish Lunch	David Gomez	Carolyn Brothers	
March 27	Lenore Spalaris	Lenore Spalaris	Bob Scott	Easter Flowers	

April 3 Communion Servers
Dale Bradshaw, Jeff Lawton, Emily Macway,
Gwen May