Parables of Life
The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study here at the church is currently studying the gospel of Mark. A few weeks ago we had a lesson on some of the parables of Jesus as Mark recounts them. It seems that telling parables was a favorite mode of teaching for Jesus. Parables are those stories he told about everyday people, objects and situations that invited his hearers to think about so much more.

For the final activity of the lesson that day the author of the curriculum created the following activity: Prepare a tray of everyday items such as a pencil, a cup, a marker, a rubber band, a piece of fruit, a balloon, a candle, and sticky notes. Invite class members to choose one item and write a brief parable about the kingdom of God. The author suggested that parables may make it easier to talk about faith.

I prepared this tray and brought it to class. Each of us chose an item and took a few moments to write our own parable. They were wonderful. With class members’ permission I have included a few their parables here below. As you read these brief stories from the hearts and minds of our fellow faith journeyers, I invite you to think about what parables you might tell that express the challenges, questions, comfort, and joy of faith for you right now. And, let these parables touch your heart and life where you need them most.  - Evie

The Parable of the Balloon
The deflated balloon, having tried to fill itself--it had tried and tried and tried--finally decided to give up such attempts at self-sufficiency and see what might happen.

The Parable of the Sticky Notes
God gives us a sticky note every day with his words of wisdom. We can choose to read them, or not. We can choose to stick them up where we’ll see them, or not, and we can choose to review them and act on them, or not. (The sticky part is a kiss from God.)

The Parable of the coffee cup
Everything you need to know about the kingdom of God can fit into a cup, a holy chalice. This cup will nurture you. You will drink everlasting, ever replenished water whenever you thirst for God.

The Parable of the candle
Think of a candle stick holding a candle - God is the candlestick, you are the candle. God will hold you as you are lit with his love and begin to glow and radiate God’s love to those around you.
Session Meeting of October 10, 2017

A quorum being present, the Moderator opened the meeting with prayer at 5:30 p.m. For the time of reflection, Pastor Evie shared a Prayer for Las Vegas with each elder reading a portion of it.

Evie reported that last meeting of presbytery was September 23 at First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. At the meeting it was announced that the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, USA, the Reverend J. Herbert Nelson, II will be speaking at the next meeting of presbytery. Evie invited session members to attend to hear Rev. Nelson. She plans to invite the congregation as well. The meeting will be November 18 at Monterey First Presbyterian Church.

The Session then heard the following committee reports:

Administration
- The September Financial Report was received and MSP.
- The willow tree in the back yard of the rental property had a large branch resting on the Fellowship Hall roof which was pruned.
- The installation of the irrigation project for the remainder of the church lawn and landscaping has begun.

Mission Committee
- The church sent a check for $2150 from the mission budget to the PCUSA disaster relief efforts to address needs due to recent hurricanes.

Outreach Committee
- The youth group is starting up again and they’re working on signs that will be displayed in the church yard promoting the group.
- Fourth Tuesday luncheon was very well attended. The next one is October 24 with Hospice presenting.

Worship and Christian Education Committee
- The committee requested an increase in payment for guest preachers. It was moved, seconded and passed to increase the payment from $125 to $200 per Sunday speaking engagement effective immediately.

Nominating Committee
- The committee will be beginning its work to seek nominations for the offices of deacon and elder for the congregation for the next terms.

Stewardship Committee
- With the assistance of the Fellowship Committee, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting the stewardship kick-off luncheon. It will be held October 22 with an Oktoberfest theme.

Personnel Committee
- The committee reported that Maggie will be resigning as Administrative Assistant at the end of November. Alison White has been hired to replace her and will begin training with Maggie on October 31.

Under New Business the desire for an improved sound system in the sanctuary was discussed, including installation of a projector and screen. Chuck Cobery and Bob Scott will pursue this.

The next Session meeting will be November 14, 2017, at 5:30 in the Fireside Room.
Things That Make Us Happy . . .

- To enjoy the annual All Church Retreat weekend at Mission Springs. We are already looking forward to next year!
- To welcome Alison White as our new office administrator.
- We can not say that we are happy that Maggie will no longer be our office administrator but we are happy for her as she will begin the next chapter in her life with Ryan and continue her plans for her wedding in Ohio next September.

Reminder
No 4th Tuesday Lunch during Advent Holiday months of November and December.

Financial Report
January-September 2017

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$251,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$203,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>$47,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cub Scout Pack 618 at Trinity
Cub Scout Pack 618 is up and running again. Kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome. The Pack will meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings are 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. For more information contact Pete Halper.

Visit us on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Presbyterian-Church/135556766517
Those members of Trinity who were able to attend and participate in the Church retreat at Mission Springs a few weekends ago, had the enriching experience of learning new lessons in cultivating soul soil. Under the able and creative leadership of Pastor Evie we explored the what, why, how and where of prayer. Everyone felt free to share their doubts and difficulties as well as their experiences and insights. Both the ancient teachings of Jesus and the Apostle Paul were examined as well as the wisdom of Christian and non-Christian “saints”, poets, mystics and scholars across the ages.

It was a weekend of “Cultivating Soul Soil” which Jesus in his parable of the Sower, (Mark 4:3-9) suggested we all do. The two primary ways of understanding this powerful parable are: 1. To envision Jesus calling his followers to be continually scattering the Gospel seed regardless of the type of “ground” on which it falls; hard, rocky, thorny or “good” soul soil. 2. To understand Jesus as calling us to do all we can to cultivate our own Soul Soil so that the gospel seed is not lost in the distractions of life but produces rich fruit in our own lives and vocation. Both interpretations are valid.

One thing we learned is that cultivating our Soul Soil is not an easy task in our contemporary lives and world. We are surrounded on every side with seductive appeals to give our time, our attention, our money and our destiny to things falsely guaranteed to make us more attractive, healthy, happy and secure. And we are all seduced, from time to time, by these “false gods,” only to discover that our “True Self” is fulfilled only when our soul, which God created and to which the Spirit silently calls second by second, is open to the abundant and eternal life of the living Word within us.

Achieving this open connection requires attentiveness to the Ultimate Reality that holds both life and death in its unconditional love. And that attentive posture requires choice on our part, daily choice, “Cultivating Soul Soil.”

For those interested in working on this cultivation, the Pastor and others will be offering a continuing prayer, contemplation and spiritual nurture group beginning in the new year. Watch for information.
All Church Retreat

The annual Trinity All Church Retreat was once again a special time of learning, growth, fellowship and fun. Below are a few photos of the weekend taken by our own professional photographer, David Gomez. Copies of these photos and more can be found on the church website, http://www.trinitypressc.org/.

All David Gomez images used in Trinity slideshows and in church bulletins are available for viewing and print ordering from David's SmugMug website. For viewing additional images from this event and other Trinity related events and for print ordering details, visit: http://gomezdphto.smugmug.com/Prints/Trinity/n-Kf7Hv
How do you decorate your home for Christmas? What if we were to consider each of the gospels as a home we can visit during the Christmas season? How would they be decorated?

This year during our Advent studies we will consider how each Gospel writer begins the story of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does each writer teach us about the coming of Christ through the way they tell the story?

Each Tuesday, following our time of shared dinner and fellowship, we will ‘visit’ one of the gospel writers’ homes as imagined by architect, Kevin Burns. (Can you guess which of the gospels is illustrated by the graphics on this page?)

We will consider how each of the gospel/homes is ‘decorated for Christmas.’ How does the beginning of the gospel, Mark, differ from how the other gospel writers begin the story of Jesus’ life? What does Luke emphasize that Matthew does not? And how about John?

The dates and times of our studies this year are as follows. Save the dates. More details will follow soon!

Tuesday, November 28, 5:30 p.m. gather, 6:00 p.m. pot luck dinner, 6:45-7:30 program
Tuesday, December 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Prayer for Las Vegas

O Source of All, Protector of Hope,  
Be with the people of Las Vegas, and  
all who suffer from violence and fear.

We pray for those who have died,  
That their souls know peace,  
and are embraced in eternal comfort.

Bring deep consolation to those in grief,  
To the loved ones of those who have died and  
who now live with the wound of emptiness.  
To the survivors whose joy was shattered.  
To our world whose hope is threatened by hate.

Strengthen our resolve to find ways to transform brutality.  
Heal our anger, and division, and despair.  
Challenge us to respect the preciousness of life.  
Guide us in forgiveness; shepherd us towards tenderness.

Bless those who care for the victims of this violence –  
physicians, nurses, all caregivers.  
Strengthen their weary bodies.  
Ease their burdened hearts.  
Renew their trust as they receive our gratitude and thanksgiving.

Restore our hope for the future.  
Repair our communities.  
Revive our sense of safety.  
Deepen our caring and compassion.

For your creation is fashioned for love, and  
Our spirits are designed for kindness.

Trusting your healing and grace, we pray,  
Amen.

Prayer for Las Vegas

Church member Nancy Cobery, shared this prayer during worship the Sunday following the shootings in Las Vegas. She received it as an employee of Dominican Hospital. The Session of our congregation asked that it be included in the Steepletalk. The prayer is a good reminder of the source of our hope and the precious nature of our relationship with God through prayer.

Salvadoran Prayer Child Renewal and Holiday Gift Bags

Now is time for Salvadoran Prayer Child Commitment renewal and to begin preparing a one gallon zip lock bag to send with the January delegation (including Gwen, Jane Ann, George, and Elizabeth). George has the Commitment Cards for each sponsor to fill out and return along with a voluntary donation as desired ($75 - $150). There are new Prayer Children for those who would like to join the program.

Since the delegation will have 120 gift bags to transport, they can take only a one gallon sealed zip lock gift bag for each. Suggested items for the bags include a picture of your family, letter, and greeting card preferably in Spanish (Watsonville stores have many), age appropriate thin books in Spanish, school supplies, stickers, small jewelry, watches, calculator, T-shirts, socks, hair ties, small toys or games (race cars, jacks, pick-up sticks...), cards, flashlight, small or deflated balls, frisbees, chapstick, and cosmetics, but no liquids.

Any of the above or your own creation will be appreciated. Gift bags should be returned to George by December 10. Thank you!
Need for a Christmas Tree
Do you have an artificial Christmas tree the Deacons of the church could borrow for the season this year? The Deacons will once again be sponsoring our participation in the Adopt-A-Family program. This year we would like to place the tags with the gift requests of family members on a tree, like ornaments, that church members could take to participate in the program. The tree should probably be about 5-6 feet tall and we would need it by mid to late November. If you have such a tree we could borrow please contact the church office at trinitysc@sbcglobal.net or 831-423-8995. Thank you!

Thank you
Big thanks to our church office helpers, Jean Bowerman and Janice Peek, for their help the past six years. Jean and Janice have been faithfully coming in every Thursday to clean the pews, change paraments, help prepare the bulletins and newsletters, the list goes on and on. Their stewardship and commitment has been greatly appreciated!

Shadowbrook Benefit Night for Santa Cruz al Salvador
Shadowbrook Restaurant will again donate 30% of your total bill (including drinks and dessert) if you tell your waiter you are dining for Santa Cruz al Salvador on benefit night Tuesday, November 7 from 5-9 p.m.. Gather your family and friends and enjoy early evening twilight fine dining overlooking the Soquel Creek.

Reverend J. Herbert Nelson to speak at upcoming Presbytery Meeting
The Reverend J. Herbert Nelson will be speaking at the meeting of the San Jose Presbytery on November 18. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. Nelson is the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church USA. As Stated Clerk Nelson’s duties include interpreting assembly actions, representing the church on various denominations and ecumenical councils, witnessing on behalf of the church to social justice issues and making statements as directed by the general assembly of the PCUSA. We look forward to the opportunity to have him here in our presbytery. For more information on Rev. Nelson go to http://oga.pcusa.org/section/stated-clerk/stated-clerk/biography/
All are invited. The presbytery meeting will be from 9:00-noon on November 18. We will have more information in the church office closer to the 18th as to the exact time Rev. Nelson will be speaking.
Saying Good-bye to Maggie

Maggie Barnes, our church office administrator, has given notice that she and her fiancé, Ryan, will be leaving the Santa Cruz area soon and so she needs to resign her position at the church. Maggie has served in our church office for three and a half years and has been an excellent worker and a special member of our Trinity family.

Maggie’s last day in the office will be Thursday, November 30. On Sunday, November 12 following worship we will have a special coffee hour to say thank you to Maggie for her service among us.

The Personnel Committee and the Session have hired a new office administrator, Alison White, who will begin work on October 31 and work along side Maggie for the month of November. See Alison’s introduction below.

Plan to attend the coffee hour on November 12 and, if you have a chance, stop by the office sometime in November and give Maggie a hug. We will miss her a lot!

Meet Alison White

Alison was born at Georgetown University Hospital and grew up in the Washington, D.C., suburb community of Greenbelt, Maryland.

Her family of five were members of the United Church of Christ, where her father, an engineer turned politician, was a deacon, and her mother, an operatic singer, was a member of the choir.

Alison obtained her B.A. in Behavioral and Social Sciences from the University of Maryland before moving with her daughter to California to pursue a career in real estate. While managing several real estate offices, she pursued and received her MBA from Santa Clara University.

After her lengthy career in real estate, where she managed offices, property projects, and rental properties, she decided it was time to work less and spend more time having fun with her fiancé, while planning their wedding this coming January.

Some of those fun activities include salsa dancing, tall ship sailing, sport ATV riding on sand dunes, and spending more time with her two granddaughters.

She is thrilled and thankful to have been given the opportunity to work for Trinity Presbyterian Church!
Memorial Garden
Several years ago Trinity Church established and dedicated a Memorial Garden which members may use to deposit the cremated ashes of loved ones and record the information in a permanent Memorial Book which is kept in the narthex of the Church sanctuary. Members desiring to use the Memorial Garden need to fill out a simple request form obtained in the church office that is submitted to the Session for approval. The pastor or the Pastoral Associates are happy to meet with family members to plan a simple commemoration service when the ashes are scattered in the Memorial Garden.

Book Club
Book Club will be reading “Glory Over Everything” by Kathleen Grissom for the month of November. She has written another book that comes before this one which could be read as well. It is “The Kitchen House.” As always, the meeting will be on the 4th Monday evening, November 27th, at Joanne Clever’s home at 7:00 p.m.

Groups Using Trinity Facilities

**Sunday**
- A.A. 8-9 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Monday**
- A.A. 8-9 p.m., Youth Room
- Sanctuary Meeting (Every third Monday) 5:30-7:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- Cub Scouts (Every second/fourth Monday) 7-8 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday**
- UFO Fellowship (Every first and third Tuesday) 9:00 a.m., noon, Youth Room
- OA 1-2 p.m., Youth Room
- W.I.N. (Every third Tuesday) 4-6 p.m., Fireside Room
- A.A. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday**
- OA 10:30-11:30 a.m., Youth Room
- Progressive Christian Forum (Every first Wednesday) 12-2:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- Neuropathy (Every other third Wednesday) 1 p.m., Fireside Room

**Thursday**
- A.A. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Ombudsmen (Every fourth Wednesday) 10-12, Fireside Room
- Faith Community Shelter 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Friday**
- A.A. 7:30-9 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Alanon 7:45-9:15 p.m., Youth Room
- Alano 7:45-9:15 p.m., Youth Room

**Saturday**
- Alanon 8-9 a.m., Library
- Sweet Pea (Every second and fourth Saturday) 9:00 a.m., Youth Room
- WomenCare’s Qigong (Every first and third Saturday) 2-3 p.m., Fireside Room

**Korean Presbyterian Church**
- Friday 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Saturday 7-8 a.m., Sanctuary
- Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- 3-6 p.m., Fellowship Hall
# November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressive Christian Forum, 12 p.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Work Day 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m., FH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>UFO 9:00 a.m., Youth Room</td>
<td>Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m., FH</td>
<td>Administration Meeting, 4:00 p.m., FS</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Sweet Pea, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Youth Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study, 1:00 p.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>SC al Salvador benefit dinner, Shadowbook Restaurant 5-9p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Outreach Meeting, 11:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td>Ombudsman 10-12, FS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Private Event FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study, 1:00 p.m., FS</td>
<td>Neuropathy, 12:30-2:00, FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>PEO 11:30-3:00 p.m., FS</td>
<td>Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FS</td>
<td>Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m., FH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges Due</td>
<td>Thank you Coffee Hour for Maggie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>UFO 9:00 a.m., Youth Room</td>
<td>Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m., FH</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Sweet Pea, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Youth Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td>Newsletter Articles Due</td>
<td>Bible Study, 1:00 p.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacons’ Meeting, 11:30 a.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir Practice, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>W.C. E. Meeting, 11:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td>Faith Community Shelter, 5:30 p.m., FH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., FS</td>
<td>Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Joanne Clever’s home</td>
<td>Mission Meeting 2:30 p.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advent Study 5:30 p.m., FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Hours Tues. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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!

Sunday Saints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Beth Hooley</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Patti Lawton</td>
<td>Jane deVette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Jeff Lawton</td>
<td>The Bell Family</td>
<td>Deacons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Marta Narus</td>
<td>The Hooleys</td>
<td>Costas &amp; Lenore Spalaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Nan Swanson Preaching</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 5 Communion Servers
Carolyn Brothers, George Bunch, Charlie May, Marta Narus

December 3 Communion Servers
Carolyn Brothers, Nancy Cobery, Emily Duffus, Gwen May