



Dear Trinity Members & Friends,

For many people across the fabric of America, February is the month when love between a man and a woman is celebrated, if not honored, more than any other time during the calendar year. Although the expression of love between a man and a woman takes many forms throughout our society, perhaps there is no better illustration than that of a young couple joining

together in the covenant of Christian marriage. This manifestation of human love seeking the ultimate blessing of God's love was brought home to me about six months ago when I had the privilege of marrying a delightful couple from this area who wanted to be married under the auspices of a minister serving in our denominational tradition.

Oh, what a special day it turned out to be . . .

The father of the bride informed me how walking his daughter down the aisle triggered so many memories for him.

He told me just before the wedding that as he glanced at his daughter preparing to proceed with him to the altar, all tall and beautiful and grown, he saw her at birth – so tiny and fragile that he hardly dared to hold her in his arms for fear of breaking something. And there she was as a little girl, walking stiffly across the front lawn for the first time to climb aboard a big yellow school bus. He could see by her gait that she was scared to death, yet determined to take this next step into the world of growing up.

He went on to say that he could see her in her 8-year-old baseball uniform – the only kid on her team who could catch a fly ball. And how the coach concluded every pre-game warm-up by hitting high flies to his daughter to demonstrate to the others how it is supposed to be done. And she caught them all . . . well, almost all. He relived the one fly ball she misjudged. He heard again the awful *thump* of the ball hitting his daughter squarely in the nose. There was the gushing blood, the swollen face, and the rush to the hospital in Wilkes-Barre. He also remembered how he admired his little 8-year-old for both her courage and loyalty, deciding to leave her in the ER with her mother and return to the field to cheer on her teammates. His daughter continued over the years to blossom into a terrific baseball player, diving to catch line drives and hitting home runs even as the dads of her male teammates decided on members of the all-star team. She, according to her dad, was the best player out there but was never even considered. After all, she was a girl . . .

GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian
Church

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February 2023

Recalling yet again, he reflected upon the fact that his daughter was so pretty and had a sparkling personality! And how she went through boyfriends almost weekly – so quickly, in fact, that after a while, he and his wife didn't even bother to learn their names anymore. They just called them all *Bud* and left it at that. Now, as he and his wife look upon her husband to be, standing nervously at the head of the aisle awaiting the arrival of his bride, they both could think back on all the trial versions of a mate their daughter had gone through before finding this man who is so obviously that right one. They could recall that whenever they liked one of her boyfriends, how she would get rid of him and take up with someone they simply could not stand – someone seemingly destined to become a serial killer, or worse. They had a sense of relief today that their daughter's idea of a partner and their idea of a partner for her had finally coincided!

As this father and daughter approached the altar, they later told me that they could hardly believe the journey from baptism to marriage had been such a brief moment in time. Life passes so quickly they said! The images in their minds came in rapid succession – like a fast slideshow on an iPhone. Each one brought back not only a memory, but even the sounds, smells and feelings of the moments both parents shared with their little girl. There was joy, and sorrow – laughter, and tears – hope and fear – a whole symphony of emotion that began to build into a mighty crescendo as this father and daughter arrived at the altar and Reverend Thompson began the service of marriage. The words of the service are the same words I have spoken probably 500 times over the forty-seven years of my ordained ministry, but one line still jumps out at me.

Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

This beautiful bride's father is hearing them for the first time . . .

Her mother and I do.

There is a lightning bolt of emotion that struck between father and daughter as they kissed one another, and dad subsequently placed his daughter's hand into her soon-to-be husband's. Then I concluded with the service of marriage. And looking at the bride's mother and father, I see tears streaming down their faces. Both parents had been experiencing such profound memories.

At the same time, Karin's and my eyes met. There was something sacred in that moment.

We all realized more deeply than ever that God had made two beautiful children who were now coming together to be husband and wife.

And there is no greater gift . . . *and the greatest of these is love.* (I Corinthians 13:13)

Celebrating love with all of you in the season of love,

Murray



Women of Trinity – our monthly luncheon meeting schedule for 2023 will begin in March. Please watch the March newsletter and Sunday bulletins for a place, date and time. There will be a sign-up poster in the hallway. All women of Trinity are invited to join us for fun and fellowship.

Stewardship – the committee wishes to thank everyone who so generously submitted their pledges for 2023. Thus far the congregation has pledged \$79,000. Our goal is \$90,000. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, please consider doing so as soon as possible. On the first of February, the Stewardship Committee will send a second letter to those who have not already pledged. Together we can successfully meet our commitment to our community to go forth and serve.

Endowment Fund – the committee will be meeting in February or March to review the performance of the investments that fund the money available for distribution. We will determine where the needs of the church are and how we can help to meet those needs. We would like to encourage donations to the Endowment Fund to remember a loved one or when writing your own estate plans.

Howorth Trust Fund – the committee met on Sunday, January 22 to begin making plans for the disbursement of the earned interest from 2022. During the month of February, applications for funding will be distributed to several committees in the church and several charitable organizations in our community. The deadline for submission of those applications for consideration is March 31.



Chili Contest- Start tweaking that chili recipe to make it into a winner in our 11th annual Chili Contest! The tasting and voting will follow worship on February 12th. Awards will be given for the Meatiest, Beaniest and Spiciest chili and for the Best chili of them all.

Please sign-up on the poster in the hall and indicate if you are bringing an entrée or dessert (your chili counts as your entrée). There's always plenty of non-chili entrees to choose from, too. Please indicate if you are entering the chili contest.

Mission-Outreach Committee will be meeting on Mon., Feb. 13th, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the church.

I am happy to say that the meals we packed for Rise Against Hunger back in November have now been shipped to Haiti. I received an email earlier today. Please pass this along as I cannot message Everyone and I do not have everyone's telephone numbers who volunteered that day. Thank you so much!



Trinity's next Confirmation Class will be on Sunday, February 5th & 19th, 2023 starting at 9:00AM, just prior to our regular Sunday morning worship service. Additional classes in March will be held on the 5th & 19th.

Easter Food Donations – Starting Sunday February 12th the Deacons will begin collecting food to be donated to the Food Bank for Easter. Please put your donations of non-perishable food items in the blue container under the table in the hall, to the left of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for helping the Deacons provide food for Easter to those less fortunate than we are.



Men's Club

On Saturday February 11th @ 8:30 a.m. Lum's Fernbrook there will be a meeting. All men are invited and encouraged to attend.

Flower Chart There is a flower chart sign-up sheet in hallway for anyone wishing to honor a loved one. The cost is \$50 per week so please plan accordingly.



March 5, 2023	Fleschut Family
March 12, 2023	
March 19, 2023	
March 26, 2023	



February Birthdays

02/08	Kathy Stevens
02/11	Arthur Peoples
02/17	Clarence Givens
02/25	Al Brown
02/25	Carl Sgarlat, Sr.
02/27	Doug Stevens

March Birthdays

03/03	Emma Sgarlat
03/04	Stephanie Baines
03/05	Jane Miller
03/05	Grayson McKinley
03/05	Shirley Wolfkeil
03/06	Brandon Fleschut
03/14	Mary Morrison
03/15	Sandy Peoples
03/16	Leona Walter
03/17	Steven Newell
03/23	Dylan Pilger
03/24	Emily Jenkins
03/27	Elizabeth Stevens-Staab
03/30	Ken Jones



February Anniversary

02/28	Phil & Leona Walter
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March Anniversaries

03/28	Mike & Karen Perzia
03/29	Doug & Kathy Stevens



Meals on Wheels~ If you would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on any open dates, please call Meryl Davis @ (570) 310-1556.

February 9, 2023	Wayne & Marianne Williams
February 23, 2023	Open

LITURGISTS - The Session wishes to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve as Liturgists.

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, please check the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway and select a date. Rev. Dr. Murray is available to talk to anyone who has never been a liturgist but wants to give it a try.

February 5, 2023	Josh Coy
February 12, 2023	Karin Thompson
February 19, 2023	Sherri Newell
February 26, 2023	

Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, will send you your material prior to the date you are scheduled to be the Liturgist.

Thank you,

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

2023 Per Capita - The Per Capita for 2023 has been set at \$42.00 per person. The total is divided among the Presbytery - \$29.75, the Synod of the Trinity - \$2.40, and the General Assembly - \$9.85. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



Subscribe to our Email list for updates - Be sure to be in the know about all that is happening at Trinity Presbyterian Church by joining our email list. Use the QR code next to this announcement to join (take a photo of it with a smartphone and the webpage will open) or go to <http://www.dallastpc.org/join-our-email-list>.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Building Use Calendar - The Session is requesting everyone who wishes to use the facilities at Trinity to schedule their events with Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant. By phone: 570-675-3131

Or by email: trinitypress@frontiernet.net. This will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to use the building for approved activities, and we won't have double bookings. Thank you for your support. Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



Announcements need to be either emailed to trinitypress@frontiernet.net by **Tuesday morning at 10 am** or written on one of the forms found on the bulletin board and deposited in the office. **Newsletter articles** need to be submitted to the church office by **February 23th**. They need to be emailed to trinitypress@frontiernet.net along with any images.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of Trinity:

Al Brown

Tom Pickett

Shirley Wolfkeil

Rich Burkhardt

Jim Snyder

Mary Chappell

Phil & Leona Walter

Friends of Trinity:

Richard & Linda Armbrust

Craig Berlew- Medical/blood pressure issues

John Butler – Cousin of Nancy Thomas – Back operation

Ellie Caruthers – Friend of Ken Jones

Katie DiSimone – Glioblastoma

Kaytlin Dixon – Karin & Murray's great-niece in bad accident

Sandy Goodwin – Dr. Curt Goodwin's sister

Rita Groboski

Carol Gumienny- Stroke- eyes & balance- Nancy Thomas's sister

Michael Gusher Jr

Barbara Jones – Betty Handley's sister

Del Jones- Betty Handley's son

Jeri Kane – Karin Thompson's sister

Marge Kishbal

Gladys Masoner- Michele Steele mother

Bill Morrison – poor health – Neil's brother

Peter Stevens – Doug Stevens's brother – serious health problems

Amy Wert – paralyzed from accident – daughter of Janie Millers co-worker

Richard Williams – Nancy Williams's son & Karen Perzia's brother

Nick Yatsko – Rev. Murray and Karin's son in law – massive heart attack

Nick James Yatsko – Rev. Murray & Karin's grandson

Bonnie Zim – Fall- Allyson Lord's sister

Richard Zim – Allyson Lord's brother-in-law

*If any names need to be added or can be removed, please let Nicole know. Thank you.

Session Highlights

Session members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to Session

**Kristina Coy
Sharon Davis
Sherri Newell
Karen Perzia
Wayne Williams**

**Meryl Davis
Ken Jones
Sandy Peoples
Barbara Rinker**

The regular meeting of the Session was held on January 27, 2023, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson, Moderator welcomed Kristina Coy and Sandy Peoples as the newly elected Elders. He also thanked Wayne Williams for accepting a second term as an Elder Class of 2025.
2. The following officers were contacted and agreed to serve in their respective positions with the approval of the Session.

• Pastor	Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson
• Administrative Assistant	Nicole Fleschut
• Clerk of Session/Clerk to Session	Arthur J. Peoples
• President of the Corporation	Sherri Newell
• Secretary of the Corporation	Arthur J. Peoples
• Treasurer, Trinity Presbyterian Church	Karen Perzia
• Assistant Treasurer. Trinity Presbyterian Church	Nancy Thomas
• Treasurer, Trinity Learning Center	Karen Perzia
• Assistant Treasurer, Trinity Learning Center	Nancy Thomas
• Executive Director, Trinity Learning Center	Sherri Newell
• School Superintendent	Lisa DeGraba
• Editor – Newsletter	Nicole Fleschut
• Publicity	Sandy Peoples
• Property Committee	Wayne Williams
• Endowment	Sandy Peoples
• Finance & Personnel Committee	Karen Perzia
• Membership Committee	Kristina Coy
• Fun & Fellowship Sub-Committee	Kathy Stevens
• Mission/Outreach Committee	Barbara Rinker
• Nominating Committee	Sherri Newell & Kristina Coy
• Memorial Wall Committee	Wayne Williams
• Howorth Trust	Sandy Peoples
• Worship & Sunday School	Sharon Davis
• Stewardship Committee	Sandy Peoples & Ken Jones
• Visitation Team	Meryl Davis & Ken Jones
• Presbyterian Commissioner	All Elders

3. The Session members are concerned about the increase in the heating bills for Trinity. As a result, the Session has approved a Special Offering for Heating. An article will appear in the February newsletter explaining the Session's action and how, if you are so moved, you can participate.

4. The Building and Grounds Committee is examining the parking lot to determine if additional repairs are necessary and if they are covered under the existing contract.
5. The Session is pleased with the success of the Trinity Learning Center under the direction of Lisa DeGraba. The student population has increased to 54.
6. The Session approved the Trinity Learning Center rent for 2023 at \$2,000.00.
7. Mr. Wayne Yost is the present part-time Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. The new office address is: P.O. Box 12734, Philadelphia, PA 19134. Ph: 610-391-9020.
- Hannah Johnson is the new Office Administrator for the Presbytery.
8. A joint meeting of the Board of Deacons and the Elders is scheduled for 2/19/2023.
9. The Session approved the installation of Debbie Cooper as a Deacon by Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson Ton February 5, 2023.
10. The Session approved the vacation of Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson for September 15 - 26, 2023
11. The Session approved the Chili Cook off for February 12, 2023.
12. The Session approved the reception for March 12, 2023 after church.
13. The Session approved the appointments of Linda Burkhardt and Nancy Thomas to positions on the Frank Linden Howorth and Margaret John Howorth.
14. The Session approved the appointment of C. Don Kocher to a second term on the Endowment Committee.
15. On January 13, 2023, the Session approved the 2023 budget in the amount of \$153,760.
16. The Session approved holding future Session meeting bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The time of the meetings is 6:30 PM.

Session Meetings

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| • February 19, 2023 | Joint Board of Deacons and Session |
| • April 18, 2023 | Tuesday |
| • June 20, 2023 | Tuesday |
| • August 21, 2023 | Tuesday |
| • October 17, 2023 | Tuesday |
| • December 19, 2023 | Tuesday |

17. On January 29, 2023, the Annual Congregation and Corporation meeting was held following the morning worship service. The following members of the congregation were elected to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee: Michele Rittenhouse, Cindy Williams, Marianne Williams and Nancy Thomas. In addition to the four members elected by the congregation, Kristina Coy and Sherri Newell will represent the Session and Beth Davis will represent the Board of Deacons.

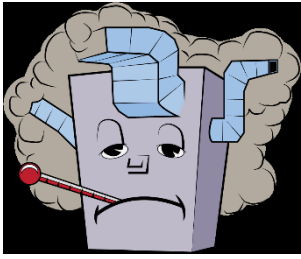
18. On January 29, 2023, the congregation elected Beth Davis, Sherri Newell and Cindy Williams to serve on the 2023 Audit Team.

19. The 2022 Audit team comprised of Debbie Cooper, Allyson Lord and Karen Sassaman reviewed the records of Trinity Presbyterian Church and all organization and found the records to be in good condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Peoples

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the Session



Trinity Presbyterian Church

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HEATING

Dear Members and Friends,

At the annual meeting on January 29, 2023, Karen Perzia, Treasurer, provided an overview of the 2023 budget. As you are aware, we have been confronted with increases in our family expenses. This is also true of the church. During 2022 our heating and electric bills increased by \$6,000.00. This would indicate that our 2023 utility budget projection would cost \$18,000.00. Heating and electricity is the church's largest single operating expense.

Our Property Committee and heating contactor (Newco) inspected all of the heating and air conditioning equipment and ensure us that they are operating at peak efficiency. The next area to examine is usage. One question frequently asked, do we allow the heat to run when the building is empty? We were advised that we should maintain a level heating setting. We shouldn't lower the heat after school too much. It would be more costly to bring the heat back up to standard recommended levels than to maintain a steady level all night. We do lower the heat in the sanctuary after the service on Sunday and turn it up the following Saturday night.

The Session has considered a number of solutions. The first one is a "Special Offering for Heating." This offering is truly a special offering that will be dedicated to the heat and electric bills. The congregation will be kept apprised of the results of this Special Offering.

Please consider giving as generously as you can. For your convenience, we will place special envelopes on the table outside the entrance to the sanctuary. If you place a check in the offering plate, please write in the memo section "Heating Fund." You may also mail your check to the church office.

Thank you for considering this request. We all want to be warm and comfortable when we attend worship services and events at our church. Your "Special Offering" will be greatly appreciated.

For the Session of Trinity,

Arthur J. Peoples

Arthur Peoples, Clerk