

Dear Member & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,



A couple of weeks ago, I was shuffling toward our home kitchen early in the morning with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and my high-tech cell phone in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time . . . I turned the digital volume up on my cell phone while sipping on my morning cup of Folgers in order to listen to a morning talk show sponsored by PBS Radio in Philadelphia. I heard an older sounding man with a golden voice. You know the kind . . . like he should be in the broadcasting business himself. He was talking about a “thousand marbles” to someone named Tom. “Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you are busy with your job. I’m sure they pay you well, but it’s a shame you have to stay away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe that a young fellow should have to work 60 or 70 hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter’s dance recital.”

He continued, “Let me tell you something, Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities,” and that’s when he began to explain his theory of a ‘thousand marbles.’

“You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about 75 years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about 75 years. So, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays the average person has in their lifetime. Now stick with me Tom, I’m getting to the important part.

“It took me until I was 55 years old to think about all this in any detail,” he went on, “and by that time I had lived through over 2800 Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be 75, I had about a thousand of them

GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian
Church
P. O. Box 239
105 Irem Road
Dallas, Pennsylvania
18612
570-675-3131
Rev. Dr. Murray
Thompson

Fax: 570-675-0691

E-mail:

trinitypress@frontiernet.net

Website: www.dallastpc.org

www.facebook.com/dallastpc

Trinity Learning Center
570-675-0689

Lisa DeGraba, Director

Website: www.dallastlc.com



January 2024

left to enjoy. So, I went to the local toy store and bought every single marble they had. Laughably, I wound up having to visit three different toy stores in order to round up a thousand marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in my workshop next to my outdated RCA transistor radio. Every Saturday since then, I've taken one marble out and thrown it away. I've found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on earth run out to help you get your priorities straight. Now, let me tell you one last thing before I sign off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast here in Philadelphia today. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday, then I've been blessed with a little extra time to be with my loved ones. It was nice to talk with you, Tom. I hope you get to spend more time with your loved ones. Have a good morning!"

The man on my cell phone telling the story went on to say, "You could have heard a pin drop when he finished. Even the show's PBS moderator didn't have anything to say for a few moments. I guess he gave all of us listening to the broadcast a lot to think about. I had planned to do some work that morning, then go to the gym, the storyteller continued. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife with a kiss."

"Honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile.

"Oh nothing special," he said. "It's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

* * * * *

My dear Trinity friends in Christ Jesus, as you and I begin our journey In this New Year of our Lord 2024 A.D., I pray that all of us will take more time to make each and every moment truly count for something. If you haven't done what you know God would have you do for yourself and your family, now is the time to do it! Thankful for the **75** years God has granted me to be on this earth, you can rest assured that I'm counting my marbles!

May 2024 be filled with precious family moments that bring you and yours memories of love and friendship for many years to come.

Peace & Grace,
Pastor Murray

Women of Trinity



Thank you to Allyson Lord for hosting our December gathering at her beautifully decorated home, and for providing us with a delicious meal and a wonderful place to spend the afternoon to celebrate the Christmas season and to enjoy each other's company.

During 2023, Betsy Fairchild, our greeting card ministry chair, sent out more than 75 cards for various occasions to members and friends of Trinity.

We decided to make a holiday donation of \$100 for Meals on Wheels.

The women hosted the Second Sunday reception on December 10th – “Come Home for Christmas.” Thank you to the women who provided the refreshments which were enjoyed by all.

We continue to maintain a prayer list of several members and friends of our church. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them, our country and our world as we pray for world peace.

Due to the usually cold weather in January and February, our next scheduled meeting will be in March 2024. Date and location to be determined.

Annual giving statements will be sent out by the end of January, 2024.

We thank the women who attend our monthly meetings to share our faith together and to plan how we can assist in various capacities in our church. Please review our activities in the 2023 annual report. Remember, all women of Trinity are members of the Women of Trinity group. If you haven't come to a meeting yet, we encourage you and welcome you to do so.

A helpful tax tip - edited for 2024

Did you know that if you are 70.5 or older, you may be eligible to use your IRA to make a tax free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) gift to the church? You may be able to satisfy some of your 2024 required minimum distribution (RMD) and reduce your overall taxable income if you have the holder of your IRA send your donation directly to the church. It must not pass through your hands. The check should be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church. Your gift will benefit the church and the reduced tax will benefit you. It a win win!

Be sure to ask the holder of your IRA, your accountant, your financial advisor or your tax preparer about this tax code opportunity for older Americans, and when during the year would be the most beneficial for you to do so.

From the 2024 Stewardship Committee

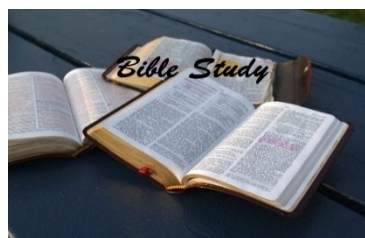
The members of the Stewardship Committee would like to say "thank you" for your generous support of the campaign this year. We are close to ensuring that our doors will be open for us to welcome others, and to give all of us a place to worship and a place to serve. We are almost at our goal of \$95,000, and we would be happy to receive those final pledge cards to bring the campaign to a successful close.

When we asked you to prayerfully consider your response to the stewardship campaign this year, so many of you took that request to heart to prove that "we can do this - if we all pull together!"

Our best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and happy new year. Thank you for all you do for our beloved Trinity church, and may God continue to bless us all.

*Sandy Peoples, Stewardship Committee Chairperson, and committee members:
Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson, Art Peoples, C. Don Kocher and Alice Kocher.*

The mission/outreach committee recently learned the Samaritans Purse Christmas boxes that were packed were shipped to Botswana. Thank you to all who contributed to putting smiles on those children's faces.



On January 21 following worship Rev. Murray will have bible study on the Book of Revelation. Please sign-up in the sheet in the hallway if you wish to attend.

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



January 11, 2024	Open
January 25, 2024	Open

January

1/04	Eleanor Yurko
1/10	Marianne Williams
1/11	Thomas Pickett
1/13	Linda Burkhardt
1/13	Michele Steele
1/15	Philip Walter
1/18	Kimberly Coslett
1/23	Karen Perzia
1/23	Abbie Coy
1/31	Henry Yurko



February

02/01	Joshua Coy
02/08	Kathy Stevens
02/11	Arthur Peoples
02/17	Clarence Givens
02/25	Sarah Slody
02/25	Carl Sgarlat, Sr.
02/27	Doug Stevens



February

02/28 Phil & Leona Walter

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.

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.

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

If anyone would like to do the Children's Moment to please let Pastor Murray or the Officer Administrator know of your interest. Thank you.

Offering envelopes for 2024 are here and available for pickup either after church or during office hours. If you need other arrangements, please call the church office 570-675-3131.

2024 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 to the Session

**NOTICE OF UPCOMING AUDITS, REPORTS
AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Audit Committee has requested that the affected organizations provide their financial books and records to them by January 14, 2024. The books and records should be given to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, who will ensure that the records are properly secured and delivered to the Audit Team. The records will be reviewed and returned on January 21, 2024.

The affected organizations are:

1. Trinity Presbyterian Church
2. Trinity Learning Center
3. Board of Deacons
4. Endowment Fund
5. Women of Trinity
6. Trinity Men's Club
7. The Memorial Wall and Garden Committee

On January 14, 2024 the Annual Reports are due from all committee and organization chairs of Trinity. The reports should be sent by e-mail to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant. **Please submit your reports in Arial font, print size 12.**

On January 21, 2024, the Annual Congregational Reports for 2023 will be distributed after the morning worship service.

On January 28, 2024, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following the morning worship service.

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the Session

Some Things To Do In The New Year

**Mend a quarrel. Dismiss a suspicion.
Share some treasure. Give a soft answer.
Keep a promise. Find the time.
Forego a grudge. Forgive a slight.
Be kind to yourself. Listen.**

**Session
Report**

Session members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the 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 December 19, 2023, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson served as Moderator. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. Guest – Karin Thompson addressed the Session regarding the future of Trinity. The Session thanked Karin for her input.
2. The Session minutes, dated October 24, 2023, Special Session Minutes dated December 10, 2023 were received and approved.
3. The Treasurer’s reports for Trinity Presbyterian Church (October & November) and the reports for the Trinity Learning Center (October & November) were received and approved.
4. Wayne Williams, Building and Grounds Committee, reported that a hot water heater was purchased and installed by Newell Plumbing and Heating (NEWCO). In addition, needed repairs to equipment utilized by the Cleaning Crew.
5. Karen Perzia, Treasurer and Chair, Finance and Personnel Committee, submitted the following items to the Session for approval.
 - a. The 2024 Budget for Trinity Presbyterian Church, in the amount of \$155,870, was approved. The total proposed income is \$144,400 with an expected total expenditure of \$155,870, reflecting an over budget of \$11,470.
 - b. The Trinity Learning Center rent for the 2024 School Year is set at \$24,000. This is a continuation of the reduction of \$12,000.00 per year. The reduction must be approved by the Session each year.
 - c. The 2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson was submitted and approved by the Session.

Cash Salary	\$33,120
Medical Expense	7,200
Professional Expenses (Books, etc.)	500
Auto/Travel Expenses	<u>2,000</u>
Total Pastor Terms of Call	<u>\$42,820</u>

Note:

The Pastor receives six weeks of paid vacation time, which includes six Sundays, to be used as vacation or study leave.

The following are the approved salaries for the staff.

Musical Director	\$ 14,400
Administrative Assistant	\$ 20,700
Social Security	\$ 2,800
Total for Staff	<u>\$ 37,900</u>

Total for all Personnel \$ 80,720

d. At the request, by a number of the members of the Congregation, the Session has approved the continuation of the Special Heating Fund for 2024. Designated envelopes will be made available for donations and located on the table in the hallway.

e. The Session approved Christmas bonuses for all of the staff members.

6. THE FRANK LINDEN HOWORTH AND MARGARET JONES HOWORTH MEMORIAL TRUST made two changes to the Trustees during 2023. In 2023 Lewis Baines and Susan Stanitas submitted their resignations as Trustees. Sandy Peoples and Allyson Lord were selected to replace them. Trustees are lifetime appointments.

With the appointment of the two new trustees, the Howorth Board will now be comprised of the following members: (The members of the Board are appointed for a five-year term by the Session.)

a. John Fleschut	President
b. Nancy Thomas	Secretary Treasurer
c. Linda Burkhardt	Board Member
d. Kevin Yurko	Board Member
e. Alice Kocher	Board Member appointed December 2023.

The Howorth Fund made the following donations to Trinity during 2023.

f. Deacons Fund for Food gift cards	\$1,800.00
g. Music Program	\$2,000.00
h. Parking Lot repairs	\$1,600.00
i. Rise Against Hunger	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Total	<u>\$7,960.00</u>

7. Mission Outreach Committee submitted the following information to the Session.

a. RISE AGAINST HUNGER was held on November 18, 2023. The committee invited students from Dallas High School, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Misericordia University, Moosic Church and Dallas Rotary.

b. SAMARITAN'S PURSE: Operation Christmas Child – 42 Boxes were packed, blessed during a worship service by the Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson, and delivered.

c. HAWAIIAN COLLECTION: Still ongoing; collected \$643.00.

8. The election of a new Elder and Deacons will occur during the Annual Congregation and Corporate meeting scheduled for January 28, 2024.
9. The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that, to date, our pledges for 2024 have reached \$89,938.00. Our goal is \$95,000. Thank you to all who have supported Trinity. REMEMBER if you have not sent in your pledge card for 2024, there is still time to express your support.
10. The Worship & Sunday School Committee has reported that the manger will be renovated for next year to be more proportional and more manageable to handle.
11. Rev. Murray Thompson attended the Presbytery meeting and submitted the following report to the Session that the Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries continue their study of a merger between the two Presbyteries. Rev. Thompson reported that the Lackawanna Presbytery has 3,823 members, forty churches and total assets of \$1.9 million plus the value of Camp Lackawanna. The Lehigh Presbytery has 3,899 members, twenty-eight churches and total assets of 1.5 million. The Session and the congregation will be kept abreast of all the coming changes.
12. Endowment Committee: Elder Sandy Peoples, Chair
 - a. Elder Sandy Peoples reported on the Endowment Committee:
 - b. The Markets continue to improve and the capital gains are increasing.
 - c. The committee covered the cost of the Stewardship luncheon.
 - d. The committee transferred \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund.
 - e. A new sign was purchased for the Trinity Learning Center from the Barbara Roger's Memorial Fund.
13. The Helping Hands Committee reported a very successful Soup Sale earning \$1150. A very big thank you to everyone who worked on the project and to those who supported Trinity by purchasing soup.
14. Women of Trinity: Elder Sandy Peoples, Moderator reported that the Women of Trinity donated \$850.00 from their Bakeless Bake Sale to the General Operating Fund of Trinity and \$200.00 to the Trinity Heating Fund.
15. On January 21, 2024, the Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson will begin a bible study of the Book of Revelations. The program will be held immediately following the morning worship service.
16. Calendar of Events

a. January 14, 2024	Financial Reports due to the Audit Committee
b. January 14, 2024	Annual Committee Reports due to Nicole Fleschut
c. January 21, 2024	Bible Study - Book of Revelations (After Sunday Worship)
d. January 28, 2024	Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation
e. January 28, 2024	Election of an Elder and Deacons
f. January 2024	Elder of the Month - Sandy Peoples
g. February 2024	Elder of the Month - Barbara Rinker
h. February 11, 2024	Ordination of Elders and Deacons
i. February 20, 2024	Session Meeting
j. February 20, 2024	Devotions – Sandy Peoples

- k. March 2024 Elder of the Month - Sharon Davis
- l. April 2024 Elder of the Month - Sharon Davis
- 17. Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk of Session

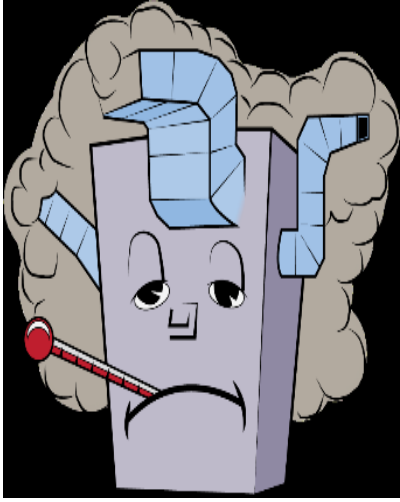
PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of Trinity:

Rich Burkhardt	Mary & Walter Chappell	Betsy Fairchild
Bette Handley	Neil & Mary Morrison	Maria Pavlick
Tom Pickett	Jim Snyder	Kathy & Doug Stevens
Nancy Thomas	Nancy Williams	Phil & Leona Walter
Shirley Wolfkeil		

Friends of Trinity:

David Brobst – stroke- Friend of Alice & Don Kocher
 Neil & Jennie Carlson - Friends of the Thompson’s
 Rev. Roger Griffith - Second Presbyterian Church
 Carol Gumienny- Stroke- eyes & balance- Nancy Thomas’s sister
 Sara Heil – Marianne Williams sister
 Wren Hopper – Murray & Karin’s 8-month-old great-great niece. She is blind and has many other serious health problems.
 Fred Hunt
 Barbara Jones – Betty Handley’s sister
 Delbert Jones – Betty Handley’s son
 Jeri Kane – Karin Thompson’s sister
 Marlene Kubosky – Health issues – Friend of Ken Jones
 Lillian McManus
 Sean McHale – Friend of Wayne & Marianne – serious illness
 Bill Morrison – poor health – Neil’s brother
 Fred and Fran Moody
 Sandi Morris
 Claudette Partington - medical issues – Friend of Allyson Lord
 Ron Pavlick
 Ann Roberts – Friend of Ken Jones
 Bob and Barb Thomas
 Gary Vincelli – Friend of Wayne Williams
 Amy Wert – paralyzed from accident – daughter of Janie Millers co-worker



At your request, we have brought back the Special Heating Fund Offering for 2024. Donation envelopes will be placed on the table in the hallway. Everyone is invited to participate.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:11-13**