



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Christmas Pageant promises glad tidings of great joy

TPC will present glad tidings of great joy in a spirited Christmas Pageant during worship on Sunday, December 11.

“We are blessed to have all the children who are attending participating in the pageant,” said director Deanna Bancroft. “We will have many shepherds and angels!”

Alan Zaeske and Deanna will narrate the action, which will feature the stable built for last year’s pageant by Skip Taylor and Brian Bancroft.

“I wrote a traditional script telling the story of the birth of Jesus, and we will be supported by the choir with carols and other anthems,” Deanna said.

The pageant promises to be a highlight of our Christmas observances, with the newborn Jesus and “many shepherds and angels” guaranteeing glad tidings of great joy for all.



The Christmas Pageant 2021. This year’s will feature more children.

Sign up for Christmas party and dinner

Deck the halls: The annual Christmas party and dinner, presented by our Fellowship Committee, is set for Wednesday, December 14. "Begin your celebration in the narthex with appetizers around 5:30 followed by dinner and entertainment in the Fellowship Hall starting around 6:15 or so," Fellowship chairman Pete Bellamy says.

The menu includes appetizers, roast prime rib, baked potato, candied brussels sprouts, sautéed asparagus and much more. The Session says you're welcome to bring your own beverages. The Christmas party will provide an opportunity to participate in a secret gift exchange, and we'll have a singalong with Makena James at the piano. Alan Zaeske will serve as MC. The cost is \$25 per person. Please sign up in the narthex by December 9.

This comes on the heels of the committee's fabulous Thanksgiving dinner November 19. (Photos by Stephanie Greene.) So, come with good cheer, good voice and a healthy appetite.

The Fellowship Committee



Above: The Thanksgiving centerpiece; above right: Les and Rita Stobbe, Carol Turner and Deanna Bancroft enjoy food and fellowship; right: chefs Brian Bancroft and Pete Bellamy show off the meal.



Organist, pianist Makena James presents concert

New interim organist Makena James is quickly introducing herself to our congregation. In addition to playing for Sunday morning worship services, she will present a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Saturday, December 10. She also will accompany Christmas carol singing on piano for our Christmas party and dinner on Wednesday evening, December 14.

Makena, a native of Asheville, holds a bachelor's degree in organ performance from Houghton College, where she was the first undergraduate to be featured in the annual homecoming concert in 2020. She continues her organ studies with Dr. Brennan Szafron, organist at Holy Cross Church in Tryon and adjunct organ instructor at Converse College.

Makena has held positions at Fairfield



Makena James

Mountains Chapel in Lake

Lure and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edneyville. She is in demand as a recitalist and has performed throughout the East Coast. She maintains a [YouTube channel](#), where she performs musical arrangements for piano, organ and handbells. Makena won first prize in the American Guild of Organists Buffalo Chapter Organ Competition in 2021 and was a finalist in the Northeast Regional Chapter Competition in the same year. She is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society.

Aside from playing organ and piano, Makena enjoys composing, studying music history and literature, reading, writing, skiing and studying cybersecurity.

For her concert December 10, Makena will be joined by soprano Jenny Suchan. The program will feature Christmas favorites such as "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo," "Gesù Bambino" and "Masters in This Hall."

Welcome, Makena!



Makena will perform Christmas favorites on December 10.

TPC offers full Christmas schedule

Christmas concert featuring Makena James, Saturday, December 10, at 4 p.m.

Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 11, at 10 a.m.

Christmas party and dinner, Wednesday, December 14, appetizers at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas caroling, Sunday, December 18, at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve communion service, Saturday, December 24, at 7 p.m.

Christmas worship service, Sunday, December 25, at 10 a.m.

Centennial gift to Outreach totals \$12,840

A special feature of TPC's centennial celebration was making a significant gift to the community. Thanks to the congregation, that was accomplished.

Thermal Belt Outreach was chosen to receive the centennial gift, and on November 9 Gloria Underwood, chair of our Centennial Commission, presented TPC's check for \$12,840.08 to Outreach at its office in Columbus. Margot Carter, Outreach executive director, accepted our centennial celebration gift with great appreciation and thanks to the TPC congregation for its generosity and for selecting Outreach for such a meaningful donation.

The congregation initially donated \$8,365. That exceeded the goal of raising \$8,000, which is approximately the cost of one foundation for a home being built in Hope Village on the Outreach campus. In addition, funds donated earlier in the year to support the centennial event exceeded event costs by \$4,475.08. These funds were added to the centennial gift, bringing the total to \$12,840.08. Technically, the gift was made with no strings attached, meaning Outreach can use the funds in whatever way the organization thinks best. It addresses acute needs in many ways, such as providing food and assistance with rent and mortgage, utilities, medical and dental costs.

Many, many thanks to all who made this gift possible.

The Centennial Commission



Gloria Underwood, right, presents TPC check to Margot Carter.

Christian Growth Committee aims to develop small groups

Are you part of a small group? Your group might focus on books, or take hikes in the mountains, or share recipes. Whatever the activity, small groups offer the chance to forge strong friendships and mutually supportive, long-term relationships.

Small groups work well within a church congregation, too. Some already exist among our membership, and the Christian Growth Committee wants to help form more. We hope that, through small groups, we'll find more ways to build personal faith and fellowship.

Former Pastor Dave Hosick led an initial session in November for committee members and church officers on the topic of small groups. He shared encouraging examples. He will conduct a second seminar at 4 p.m. Tuesday, December 13, in the Fellowship Hall.

Our plan is to identify potential small group leaders and determine what they'd like their groups to do. Bible study will certainly be a popular subject. But there can be as many topics as there are members of our church – or more.



Former TPC pastor Dave Hosick



The small group training session broke into small groups.

likely to find a group where you belong.

In the meantime, if you feel called to lead a small group, or you have ideas for what small groups should do, please contact our chairman, Cherie Brooks, at cheriebrooks@windstream.net. You don't have to make a commitment except to give it a try.

The Christian Growth Committee

Small groups can be dynamic, changing leaders, members and subject matter over time. A group may exist for a few weeks, or it can endure for years. New people can join, while others might go in a different direction.

If this idea is successful, our congregation will get to know one another in new ways and become better servants and disciples.

We're setting a date of Sunday, January 22, 2023, to begin our small group initiative in the Fellowship Hall. Let's all gather, meet the group leaders and find out what opportunities await. You're

More children mean more fun, more need to plan

If you've been to a worship service lately, you've noticed an amazing phenomenon.

No, "noticed" is too mild a word. It has jumped up and run around right before your eyes.

We have children! Several young families – not just the Meissners – attend church regularly, and they have quite a few wonderful, lively kids.

This has made Allan's Time with Children more delightful than ever and, once the kids leave worship for the remainder of the service, filled our nursery with as many as 10 youngsters ages 1 to 10.

Our adults there – Loretta Mills, Alyssa Walker and Mike

Carruth – are thrilled at all the activity, as is the entire (mostly) older adult congregation. To us, this is like a happy invasion of grandkids.

At the same time, the sudden explosion of youth poses a challenge. We want to nurture the spiritual growth and fellowship opportunities for these children and their families.

The Christian Growth Committee has made it a high priority to meet this challenge. We certainly want to hear from the parents themselves and find out what kind of activities they'd like to see for their kids and their families as a whole. Then we'll all have to figure out how to serve their needs within this faith community.

Whatever happens, volunteers from the congregation will be essential for crafting and carrying out plans. Please let our chairman, Cherie Brooks, know if you're willing to help and share ideas. Her email address is cheriebrooks@windstream.net.

We want to keep this exciting phenomenon growing.

The Christian Growth Committee



Our preschool worker Alyssa Walker gathers some of the children who attend regularly.

Home repair ministry can use more hands

Two members of the Tryon Presbyterian Church work team recently completed another home improvement project in conjunction with Thermal Belt Outreach.

Brian Bancroft and Skip Taylor replaced a damaged back door for a local Tryon resident and also added a deadbolt and new doorknob for the home's front door. Outreach provided the funding for materials and church members provided the labor.

Several other projects are either under way or planned for the near future, and the team is looking for more volunteers of all skill levels. Anyone interested should contact Skip (828-200-9259 or stmas4280@gmail.com), Rev. Allan Purtill or the church office.



Mary LittleJohn of Tryon at her new back door, which Brian Bancroft and the TPC work team replaced for her.

Despite changes, God comes and stays with us

Change: daily, seasonal, cultural. I won't even try to cite an example. How do we live day to day in the midst of so much uncertainty? I'll let you find that in your own life.

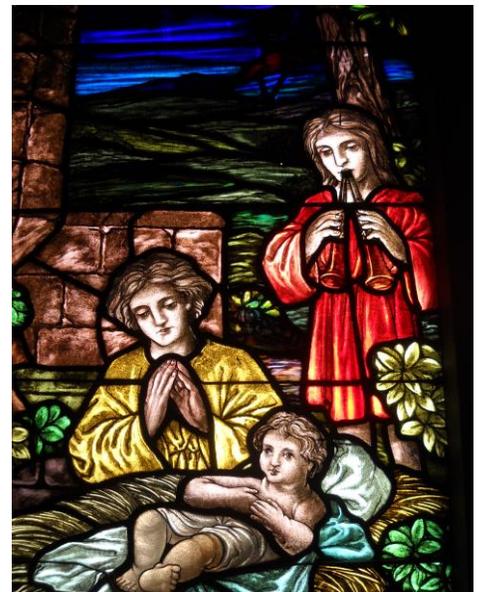
Dr. Dent Davis' sermon at the centennial service was "From Time to Time." He read Matthew 1 with the names of the descendants of Abraham until Jesus came.

People come and go in our lives and in our church family, but as Isaiah wrote in chapter 7, verse 14, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel."

Jesus came and lived and died, but then He arose. Time to Time. Now we have come into the season of Advent when we look forward to celebrating the coming of Emmanuel.

God with us, and He stays!

Betsy Zeek



Stained-glass window, First Presbyterian Church, High Point, N.C.

New member spotlight: Martin and Janet Gilchrist

Martin and Janet Gilchrist have been visiting our area for a decade. In 2012, they bought property in “the middle of nowhere” in Saluda and built a cabin there in 2018. They moved from Orangeburg, S.C., to the cabin in June.

They have one son and four precious grandchildren.

Martin and Janet are both Clemson grads and strong supporters of the Tigers. Martin worked in housing for both Clemson and the University of South Carolina and later in sales and financial planning. Janet was employed as a teacher, guidance counselor, curriculum specialist and assistant principal. (This means that she can do *anything!*)

Janet enjoys gardening, and Martin spends his spare time involved with building projects and hiking. Together they love to travel, explore our community and spend time with the grands.

They look forward to being involved in the ministry and outreach of TPC. In fact, Janet is already preparing meals for the Congregational Care Committee and serves on the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee

Breakfasts for area veterans will continue in 2023



Our breakfasts for veterans will continue in 2023, with four on the calendar. They will be January 14, April 15, July 15 and October 14. All local veterans are invited.

Two breakfasts were held in 2022, with Covid concerns cancelling a third. They show our appreciation for the men and women who served our country in uniform and provide additional opportunities for them to get together for conversations and fellowship.

All the breakfasts will be on Saturday mornings at 8, allowing time for a relaxed meal. Church volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up. And, of course, we hope church members who have served in the military will participate.

De Anne Zaeske



Martin and Janet joined TPC in November.

‘He has roused himself from his holy dwelling’

Mark’s Gospel doesn’t give us a Christmas story, but its Advent message is powerful. When my Sunday school class at another church began a study of Mark a few years ago, I wanted to introduce it with a passage from the Old Testament. I think I found the perfect scripture in Zechariah 2:10-13.

“Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. “Many



Mural in the Church of the Shepherds Field, Bethlehem.

nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

Zechariah’s amazing prophecy – too often overlooked – conveys excitement like a thunderbolt from heaven. It anticipates a messiah who is God and distinct from God: “I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. “I will live among you and you will know that the

Lord Almighty has sent me to you.” Then Zechariah reveals an earth-shaking image: “Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

This fits Mark to a tee because Mark is a rousing Gospel. Mark doesn’t have time for a Christmas story. He immediately introduces John the Baptist, who is arousing people on the Jordan. Then comes Jesus, within a few short verses.

“The time has come,” Jesus says in Mark 1:15. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Some scholars say Mark was writing in the present imperative, meaning that Jesus’ words can be translated as, “Repent and keep repenting. Believe and keep believing.”

Jesus in Mark’s Gospel is all about present imperatives. “Come, follow me,” Jesus commands. Don’t hesitate. Don’t stop to figure it out. Just believe and repent, every hour of every day. Because “the time has come. The kingdom of God is near.”

As in face-to-face near! You-are-looking-right-at-it near! Standing-in-front-of-you near!

God “has roused himself from his holy dwelling.” He is here!

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. But Zechariah and Mark warn that the time of anticipation is already over. The Lord has come! Shout and be glad! Repent and believe!

Doug Clark, Trumpet editor

Planning team studies best use of church resources

In November, I shared with you the core values identified by the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) as essential to Tryon Presbyterian Church's identity. These were Grace, Worship, Diversity, Community and Stewardship. Keeping these in mind, the SPT was tasked with identifying populations where we felt the church should best spend its resources of time and treasure.

To be clear, we as Christians are called to be welcoming to all who wish to worship with us, who seek a closer relationship with God and with a Christian community. I believe we are a welcoming church, but this is an area where we each need to remain vigilant. We should practice hospitality to all who visit with us.



From a painting by Chuck Mattern, 80Six Gallery in Tryon.

Every church has limited resources.

There are limits to the advertising budget, limits to volunteer hours, limits to the church's facilities. These are not meant to sound negative, rather, it is a recognition of real-world conditions. So, if we have limits on our resources, where should we best apply what we have to create the greatest opportunity for impact? We considered our existing congregation, remembering this was during and after the various strains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have a number of artists, singers and musicians, and we have a vibrant music ministry. We think we can attract other artistic people who would enjoy our church's offerings. Tryon is a community interested in the arts, and we feel artistic people would find their talents appreciated by our congregation.

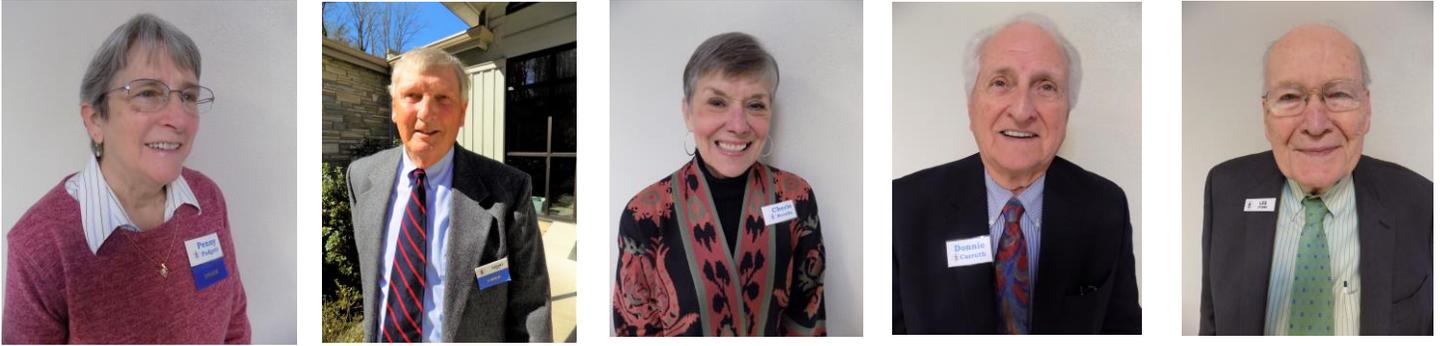
Most people in our congregation were not born in Polk County; many were not born in the Carolinas. We believe we are well positioned to welcome new residents coming to Polk County (or to the Landrum area). New residents do not have a local church home. Some may be unchurched but see a vibrant church as a way to make new friends and get involved in the community.

Our church has a history of attracting retirees who move to the Foothills. We want to continue that tradition. We also want to attract a younger generation. The SPT initially thought it was probably more realistic to seek middle-aged working families, perhaps with teenaged children. As the Yiddish saying goes, "Man Plans, God Laughs." We have all been pleased to see more families attending our church with very young children. What a blessing! The Session is working to ensure we provide programs and facilities to accommodate these families and create a welcoming Christian home for them to raise their children.

Next month, I will share with you "Where" the Strategic Planning Team thinks we should focus our efforts of ministry. In the meantime, let us all focus on hospitality to our visitors and new members. Let us seek to build wholesome relationships with one another.

Edward Harrelson, Church Development chairman

Can you identify these church members?



Of course you can! It's easy when they're wearing their nametags!

Here are the six top reasons to wear your nametag:

- ✓ Wearing a nametag makes for a friendlier church.
- ✓ You will be more approachable if you wear a nametag.
- ✓ Even if you forget a name, you can *still* read it!
- ✓ A nametag makes it easier to introduce yourself.
- ✓ Everybody likes to hear their name!
- ✓ Don't make us nag. Wear your tag.

Don't have one?

Are you a frequent visitor who would like to wear a nametag? Did you have one but misplaced it? No problem. Just call Kim in the church office, 828-859-6683. She'll get one for you, and soon everyone will know your name.

The Membership Committee

Become a Trumpet contributor in 2023

As we head toward another new year, please resolve to make the Tryon Trumpet a better church newsletter. Share your faith journey, mission or ministry experience, devotional, meditation or ideas for new programs and ways to serve one another within our church family or community. Pass on suggestions for articles about upcoming events or activities.

The Trumpet is meant to bring us closer together as a congregation. The more we know about one another's daily walk as disciples of Jesus, the more faithful we can be.

Contact editor Doug Clark at dougclark55@gmail.com.