

December 2017



Dear Friends,

I would be the first to admit that I am not particularly good at waiting. I am usually not prepared well to wait. Diane, on the other hand, is a champ when it comes to waiting. You will notice that she almost always carries a bag along with her. In that bag are the things that she can do if she is called upon to wait. It might contain a book to read or a list to prepare or a note to write or a file to organize. Usually I find myself waiting empty handed. I suppose there is a part of me that simply refuses to acknowledge that I will have to wait on something. I count that, at least in part, to the predominate message of our culture that we shouldn't have to wait on anything. In our society things are set up for speed. We get our food "fast." We get our oil changed in a "jiffy." We even get a "fast pass" when we go on vacation to avoid waiting in line. I've noticed in the waiting room of my doctor's office, a place where we usually expect to wait, that there is a sign that encourages me to make it known if I have been waiting over 15 minutes.

In the midst of our hurried lives, I'm coming to appreciate the "gift" of waiting. Recently I was supposed to meet someone and got to the meeting place a few minutes early. It was a beautiful day and I sat for a few minutes with the sun shining down and a gentle breeze blowing and simply received the gift of waiting. I've also come to realize that I am never actually empty handed if I find myself having to wait. Waiting provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with God through prayer.

I've also noticed that there are some things that are simply worth waiting for. As we usually do, Diane and I planted a small garden this summer. We watched and waited for our tomato plants to bloom and then we watched as the green tomatoes got larger and eventually turned pink and then red. It was a long process. There was nothing we could do to speed things up. We just had to wait, but I can truly say the taste of those homegrown tomatoes was worth every minute of the wait. For Thanksgiving we went to our son's house. We were the first to arrive and then had to wait for our other children and grandchildren to get there. It was worth the wait.

Advent is a season of waiting. It gives us the opportunity to slow down and ponder the gift of salvation that came into the world through the birth of Jesus. You cannot hurry it along. You have to simply take it a week at a time, a day at a time, a moment at a time. Wanting Christmas to get here more quickly does not make it arrive any faster. I've come to believe there is a measure of grace in the waiting.

Waiting our way through Advent can actually provide us with opportunities to see things that we would not otherwise see as we race through our days. Waiting provides the platform through which God can teach us patience. Waiting can create an appreciation for that which is yet to come. Waiting can slow us down so we can appreciate that which God may bring our way as we wait.

Welcome to the season of waiting called Advent. Take advantage of what such waiting has to offer and let yourself appreciate each day and the blessings of each day as they come your way.

Waiting with you as we serve the One who came and who is coming,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray".

Diane and I would love to have you and your family (children are especially welcomed) come to join us for our annual Open House for the TPC family on December 10th. Feel free to drop by anytime between 1:30 and 4:00 PM. We hope you'll come and share a time of fellowship as you enjoy some cookies, candy and other goodies (there are non-sweet and gluten free items) Diane has prepared for you.

*Ray and Diane*

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## JOIN AN ADULT EDUCATION CLASS!

On Sundays at 10:00 AM there are a variety of classes open to anyone who is interested.

### **Bible Class: Free to Run the Race**

*Facilitators: Richard Rosenberger, Location: Room 100*

This class will be based on the book by the same name by Gary Ventimiglia, “a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a psychoanalyst in private practice in Van Nuys, California. The class will explore what it means to shed those things from our past that weigh us down and keep us from “running the race marked for us.”

### **HomeBuilders Class: Gracious Debates: Bridging our Political and Social Divides**

*Facilitators: Harry Albert, Garry Crites, Sherene Min, Location: Fellowship Hall A*

In this world of divisive politics, we as Christians are called to rise above the rancorous discussions that occur in all facets of society and debate the hot topics of the day in a way consistent with Biblical principles. Using the early church in Acts as a model of unity in the body in the face of disagreement, we will learn how to debate like Christians by discussing hard questions of our day. The focus of this study is not to determine the “right” answers on these issues but rather to be a witness to the larger culture that is paralyzed by partisanship and discord, maintaining unity in the face of faithful disagreement. This class begins October 22.

### **Fellowship: Understanding & Applying the Bible**

*Facilitator: Jeannie Phelps, Location: Fellowship Hall B*

We grow in relationship with God as we see him in a variety of situations. This study will help us to learn how to get the most out of reading and studying the Bible with the goal of getting to know God better.

*The Fellowship Class is a group that values conversation and offers hospitality as they gather to study God’s word. All studies are centered around group discussion of biblical topics.*

### **Bible Study: The Book of Luke**

**Wednesday Nights at 6:00PM**

**(except Ministry Team Night)**

Remarkable for its rich detail, precise language, and meticulous research, the Gospel of Luke contains insights into the life and ministry of Jesus that only a master historian could have uncovered. Dive into this book and feel the amazement of the people in Luke’s gospel as they encountered firsthand the Messiah of Israel.

## An Early Birthday Gift for Jesus Backpacks of Food!



This year the Children's team is sponsoring a food collection for 50 families from our partner school at Fayetteville Street Elementary for the Christmas holidays. You may remember that we helped families who don't have enough food to feed their kids during the spring break in 2017 as part of our Lenten season service emphasis. This year the principal has requested help with food for Christmas. Collection bins will be available from November 1<sup>st</sup> (Ministry team night) through Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Wednesday and Sunday Clubs kids will inventory and bag up the food for the 50 families, but they need all of us TPC'ers to help by donating food items. If you purchase the food items from Kroger or Walmart you can get the entire list for less than \$40. We are also happy to receive any single items, multiples of a specific item or any number of food items that you would like to contribute from the following list ONLY.

**Food items for each family (50 families):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 pound bag white rice                                       | 1 pound bag dried pinto or black beans                      |
| 1 pound spaghetti noodles                                    | 1 box Chicken Helper  |
| 1-16 oz can spaghetti sauce (no glass jars please)           | 1 shaker Parmesan cheese                                    |
| 2-12.5 ounce cans white meat chicken                         | 3 cans vegetables (corn, green beans, mixed veggies)        |
| 3 cans Campbell's tomato or chicken noodle soup              | 2 cans canned pasta (spaghetti, ravioli)                    |
| 1 box instant oatmeal or grits                               | 1 box granola/cereal bars                                   |
| 1 pack applesauce or fruit cups                              | 1 plastic container peanut butter                           |
| 1 plastic container jelly                                    | 1 can Campbell's cream of mushroom or cream of chicken soup |
| 2 cans canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, mixed fruit) |   |

### TPC's Dinner Theatre Sunday, December 3

Join us and celebrate our Youth and Children's programs through our Advent dinner and musical. Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our annual Kids Clubs play and Varsity (Senior High) chili dinner fundraiser. This year our Kids clubs will present the musical message: **Camel Lot**. The setting is humorous, but the message is biblical and will leave you with songs of Christmas ringing in your heart. Dinner will be served at 5 in the FLC and overflow rooms, and the musical will begin at 6 pm. Please sign up on our website or one of our signup bulletin boards, but join us whether you sign up or not! Email Nancy at [nancyholton@trianglepc.org](mailto:nancyholton@trianglepc.org) to reserve your family's spot. Reserve childcare for kids 4 years and younger with an RSVP to Nancy.

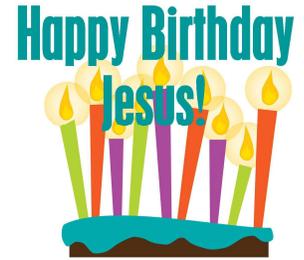


### TPC Construction Zone for Families Saturday, January 27 from 2:00-4:30PM

We are God's masterpiece, uniquely designed and gifted to create and build. The Children's Ministry is offering a Family Festival, Saturday, January 27 from 2 – 4:30 pm. Families are invited to join us in the "Construction Zone" where we will explore the many ways we are God's Design. We will create artful masterpieces, play games, build new creations, and much more fun. Garry Crites, is back by popular demand, to lead a thoughtful devotional. To sign up for an afternoon of building smiles and family memories, visit the Sign-Up page on our website. The event will be \$20 a family. For more information, please contact Mironda Divers at [mirondadawn@yahoo.com](mailto:mirondadawn@yahoo.com).

## Children's Sunday Clubs Birthday Parties for Jesus

If you are interested in providing cupcakes, cookies or juice for one of our Sunday School classes on December 10, please contact Nancy in the church office or email her at [nancyholton@trianglepc.org](mailto:nancyholton@trianglepc.org). We are also looking for folks who might be willing to prepare a gluten free snack for those children who are not able to eat wheat products. As part of their celebration the older classes will help sort and bag the food collection items for the Backpack Buddies program.



## Advent Wreath Devotion Booklets for Families!



Pick up a family devotional booklet containing a brief devotion and stickers for each day of Advent. These booklets will be available in the Welcome Center beginning November 19. We ask that you make a \$1 donation toward the cost of these materials.

## Christmas Eve Services Childcare Information

Childcare for children who are 7 years old or younger will be offered at the 4:00PM service (no childcare for 8:00PM service).

1. Please RSVP to Nancy at [nancyholton@trianglepc.org](mailto:nancyholton@trianglepc.org) if you plan to bring a child or children to one of our children's care groups for the 4 pm service.
2. Let Nancy know if you are willing to help with the child care during the 4:00PM service. You could still participate in our candle lighting at the 8:00PM service! Your time with the children is a wonderful love gift to families with young children! If you enjoy crafts with 4-7 year olds OR would rather help with babies, please let Nancy know your preference!



Many thanks to Betsy and Andy Batton for making our Children's wing bulletin board up to date and informative. Note that we ARE still celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Triangle Presbyterian Church. Thanks to a creative couple who love to share their gifts!

## Children's Ministry Dates

### To Reserve in 2018

- ◆ Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) begins a 13 week session, Thursday, January 11, 6:00-8:00pm
- ◆ Saturday, January 27, 2:00-4:30pm, Construction Zone Festival for Families
- ◆ Wednesday Clubs Spring session begins February 7, 4:30-7:30pm
- ◆ Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event (formerly STOP Hunger Now) Saturday, February 17
- ◆ Resurrection Stations and Durham CROP Walk, Sunday, March 25
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 1 with 6:45am Sunrise Service and breakfast
- ◆ Wednesday Clubs play and Middle School Youth spaghetti dinner fundraiser, Sunday, April 29
- ◆ Vacation Bible School 2018, Monday, June 25 – Wednesday, June 27, 6:00-8:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE!**



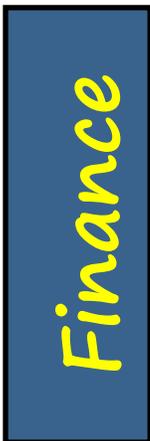
## A new session of Divorce Care and Divorce Care For Kids Thursday, January 11

Divorce Care for adults is a video and discussion based support group for those in our church and/or community who are dealing with divorce, separation and/or blended families and is offered at the same time as a new session of Divorce Care for Kids. Both groups are led by experienced facilitator teams who are members of TPC. Core values are encouragement, confidentiality and listening without judgement. If you would like to register for either or both programs you may contact the church office at [office@trianglepc.org](mailto:office@trianglepc.org). or 919-544-2872, or text Nancy Holton at 919-630-1851.

**WHAT HAPPENS AT DC4K?** Games, crafts, music, snacks, exercises and Bible verses teach children to relax and rest secure in God’s love. Each week a video drama presents stories of children who are experiencing divorce-related challenges and are finding help and encouragement. **For more information about DC4K**, go to [www.dc4k.org](http://www.dc4k.org). You can also find parent resources at [www.dc4k.org/parentzone](http://www.dc4k.org/parentzone)

**WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?** Program activities begin at 6:00PM and conclude at 8:00PM.

**WHY SHOULD A CHILD OR FAMILY PARTICIPATE?** DC4K provides a safe place with activities that help kids recognize and learn to share their feelings, while being affirmed as a child of God. There will be consistent staff including trained teachers as well as other loving volunteers. This is NOT a counseling program. Blaming parents is NOT encouraged and confidentiality is extended to kids unless kids express intent to harm themselves or others. Would you like more information or want to pass along information to folks you know? Contact Nancy Holton at [nancyholton@trianglepc.org](mailto:nancyholton@trianglepc.org).



| <u>October Budget Report</u> |           |               |           |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Pledges                      | Budget    | Contributions | Expenses  | Net Gain/Loss     |
| \$88,651                     | \$97,214  | \$104,990     | \$96,152  | \$8,838           |
| <u>Year to Date</u>          |           |               |           |                   |
| Pledges                      | Budget    | Contributions | Expenses  | Net Gain/Loss     |
| \$882,302                    | \$972,141 | \$863,982     | \$868,293 | <b>(-\$4,311)</b> |

### Year End Contributions

**End of Year Contributions** must be in the church office no later than Noon on Friday, December 29 in order for them to count toward your 2017 giving. If you plan to mail your contribution, please be sure and send it so that it arrives by December 29. If you plan to donate stock, please plan to make the transfer by December 15. The church office will close at noon on December 29.

# Youth Ministry

MLY Major League

Youth

Middle Schoolers hang out every Sunday night from 4:00-5:30PM at TPC. We always have a blast—come join us!

Contact Pastor Jeff for more info on youth activities.  
[jeffspainhour@trianglepc.org](mailto:jeffspainhour@trianglepc.org).

## VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

High Schoolers meet up every Sunday night from 6:30-8:00PM at TPC. We'd love for you to come and join in! If you're looking to learn some more—stop by our high school Bible study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 PM at the church.

The Great Escape 2018 June 10-15  
 Fun in the Sun 2018 July 8-13

### December

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday             | Wednesday                                 | Thursday | Friday   | Saturday                               |
|---|---|---------------------|---|----------|--|--|
|   |   |                     |   |          | 1  | 2                                      |
| 3<br>3-4PM— MLY<br>3-7:30PM Varsity<br>Chili Dinner                   | 4   | 5                   | 6<br>6:30-8PM<br>Varsity Small<br>Group   | 7        | 8  | 9                                      |
| 10<br>1:30-4PM Cobb<br>Open House<br>4-5:30PM MLY<br>6:30-8PM Varsity | 11  | 12                  | 13<br>6:30-8:PM<br>Varsity Small<br>Group | 14       | 15<br>5:45-7:45PM<br>MLY<br>Christmas<br>Party | 16<br>6-8PM Varsity<br>Christmas Party |
| 17  | 18  | 19                  | 20  | 21       | 22   | 23                                     |
| 24  | 25<br> | 26<br>Office Closed | 27  | 28       | 29   | 30                                     |

# Fellowship

## Just Older Youth—Thursday, December 14 at 11:30AM

Come out and have lunch with those of us who are... “Just Older Youth” or who enjoy having lunch with our older members and friends. We normally meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Golden Corral on Hwy 55 at 11:30AM. It’s a wonderful time of great food and fellowship topped off with a short devotion led by one of the Pastors.



## PATHWAYS GROUP: December Events!

‘Pathways: a Christian journey through life.’ Pathways is a place where anyone is welcome. Continue to look for specific information in the newsletter and bulletin.



- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 12/8  | Friday night game night at 7:00PM - watch emails for location       |
| 12/10 | Volleyball at 1:30PM in the FLC                                     |
| 12/18 | Volleyball at 6:30PM in the FLC                                     |
| 12/31 | Sunday Brunch following late service around 11:15 pm - location TBA |

If there are any questions or you would like to be added to the Pathways email, please contact Kelley Crabtree [kelleycrabtree@nc.rr.com](mailto:kelleycrabtree@nc.rr.com) or call the church office at 919-544-2872.

**Reminder:** There is not a ministry team night in December, we will resume January 3rd .

**All I Want for  
Christmas is...  
SCRIPS!**

Only one more gift card order before Christmas! Support TPC youth groups and purchase scrip gift cards for those on your shopping list. Or use gift cards to purchase gifts from popular vendors such as Amazon, Macy's, Target, LL Bean and more! Pick up an order form in the Welcome Center. Next order is due December 3.

**Advent**

**Opportunities of Worship and Fellowship**

**December 3**

Worship at 8:45 & 11:15AM, Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

Sr. High Chili Fundraiser Dinner at 5:00PM (FLC)

Wednesday Clubs for Kids Musical at 6:00PM (FLC)

**December 10**

Worship at 8:45 & 11:15AM, Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

Open House at the Cobbs from 1:30-4:00PM

**December 17**

“Everlasting Light” Christmas Cantata at 8:45 & 11:15AM, Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

**December 24**

Single Worship service at 10:00AM, No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 & 8:00PM

Communion at both services, candle light at 8:00PM service.

(Childcare provided for children 7 and under at the 4:00PM service)

**December 31**

Single Worship service at 10:00AM, No Sunday School

**Outreach**

**December Food Bank—**

**December Baby Formula/Cereal**

Food can be placed in the marked bins in the Welcome Center & Narthex. Monetary donations are collected the 1st Sunday of each month. Food Bank can provide 5 meals with each dollar donated.

**Pop Top Cans & Microwavable Cups Preferred  
No Glass Containers**

# Birthdays

- 1 Penny Bitsas  
Lee Jones  
Aaron Messer  
Rene Riley
- 3 Taylor Thurman
- 5 Susan Ficks  
Janie Ward  
Marie Ward
- 7 Sarah Vance
- 9 Michael Tilley
- 10 Patrick Gibble  
Addison White
- 12 Alex Taylor
- 13 Kim Loyd  
Deb Simmons
- 14 Adalind Schwimer
- 16 Colleen Loree
- 19 Lori Bray  
Ron Kanour  
Barbara Kinnaird
- 21 Susan Richards

- 22 Matthew Gibble  
Gretchen Mauney
- 24 Grant Harvey  
Mark Lee
- 25 Caroline Flinn  
Emily McAndrew  
Robin Winfrey
- 26 Sandy Fuchs  
Robert Mercer
- 27 Carol Dolle  
Claire Harvey  
Alexander Min  
Nicolaus Schultz
- 28 Emma Durham  
Clayton Ellington  
John Leasure  
Laura Owen  
Cora Swinney
- 29 Isabelle Thurman
- 31 Joey Shafer



# Anniversaries

- 12 Pete & Pam Catlin
- 14 Bruce & Ali McAlister
- 15 Ned & Claire  
Michael & Lori Slack
- 20 Kapp & Lynne Ogburn
- 21 Ron & Lelah Kanour
- 24 Doug & Evelyn Steele
- 28 Jim & Lorre Koontz
- 30 Dennis & Cindy Steil
- 31 Scott & Beth Owen

Mary Louise Grant would like to thank everyone for their prayers, meals, cards, and other expressions of love and support for her during her surgery and recovery.

Juli Spring would like to express her appreciation for all the cards, prayers, food, plant & prayer shawl she received when her mom passed away.

Triangle Presbyterian Church, Holidays in United States

Dec 2017 (Eastern Time)

| Sun   | Mon                          | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>8:45am - Worship<br/>10am - Sunday Clubs/Adult<br/>11:15am - Worship<br/>12:45pm - Pathways</p>  |                              | <p>4:30pm - Drama Practice<br/>7pm - Session</p> | <p>4:30pm - Wednesday Clubs<br/>6pm - Bible Study<br/>6:30pm - Varsity Bible<br/>7pm - Choir</p>       | <p>6:30am - Men's Bible Study<br/>6pm - Alpha<br/>6pm - Single &amp; Parenting</p> |   | <p>9:30am - Clubs Rehearsal</p>                            |
| <p><b>Communion</b><br/>8:45am - Worship<br/>10am - Sunday Clubs/Adult<br/>11:15am - Worship<br/>3pm - Varsity Youth<br/>5pm - Clubs Musical</p>                    |                              |  | <p>6pm - Bible Study<br/>6:30pm - Varsity Bible<br/>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>                          | <p>6:30am - Men's Bible Study<br/>6pm - Alpha<br/>6pm - Single &amp; Parenting</p> | <p>7pm - Pathways Game</p>                                | <p>9am - Cantata Rehearsal</p>                             |
| <p>8:45am - Worship<br/>10am - Sunday Clubs/Adult<br/>11:15am - Worship<br/>1:30pm - Cobb Open House<br/>1:30pm - Volleyball<br/>4pm - MLY<br/>6:30pm - Varsity</p> |                              | <p>7pm - Session</p>                             | <p>10am - Women's Bible<br/>6pm - Bible Study<br/>6:30pm - Varsity Bible<br/>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>6:30am - Men's Bible Study<br/>11:30am - JOY Group</p>                          | <p>5:45pm - MLY Christmas<br/>8pm - College Christmas</p> | <p>9am - Cantata Rehearsal<br/>6pm - Varsity Christmas</p> |
| <p><b>Cantata</b><br/><b>Benches for Hunger</b><br/>8:45am - Worship<br/>10am - Sunday Clubs/Adult<br/>11:15am - Worship</p>  | <p>6:30pm - Volleyball</p>   |  | <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>  | <p>6:30pm - Prayer Shawl</p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Christmas Eve</b><br/>10am - Worship<br/>4pm - Service<br/>8pm - Service</p>  | <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>  |  |  |  |   | <p><b>Office Closes at Noon</b></p>                        |
| <p><b>New Year's Eve</b><br/>10am - Worship<br/>11:15am - Pathways</p>  | <p><b>New Year's Day</b></p> |  | <p>6pm - Ministry Team Night<br/>8pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>   |  | <p>7pm - MLY Youth Lock In</p>                            |  |