

Our Mission

Trinity Fellowship Church desires to glorify God by equipping a community of believers to worship God and be witnesses of Him in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.



Our Vision

Trinity Fellowship Church desires to be a Bible-believing, Christ-centered, grace-filled, and gospel-driven community where every member is equipped and encouraged to minister and witness according to their God-given talents.



The Pastor's Column

My Predictions for 2016

Looking back on an old year makes me get a little sentimental. I remember January of 2015 and the hope that I had for the new year. Optimistically looking forward, I had dreams of what the year would look like. Some dreams came to fruition. Others did not. As with all years, 2015 played out according to Proverbs 19:2: "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand." (ESV)

You might think it a little presumptuous, but I am going to make a few predictions regarding 2016. Although predicting the future is dangerous business, I am confident that the following things will happen in 2016: I will make mistakes. I will make people angry. I will hurt people. I will make people cry. I will disappoint you. I will preach a poor sermon. I will make a decision that you disagree with. I will forget something important. I will fail you. I will sin. I will need to repent...a lot.

As I write all of those things out, I am realizing something. Reading all these things that I predict will happen in 2016 might make you think that I am a terrible person. I'm ok with that. The reason that I'm ok with that is simply because it's true. I am a terrible person. At the core of my being, my heart overflows with sinful thoughts and desires. "[My] heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9, ESV). I would be embarrassed to show my face at Trinity if even one person were to truly know the sins of my heart.

Why am I writing this? Why is it important for you to know how terrible your pastor is? It's important because it's the truth. Jesus said "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32, ESV) Admitting our sin is admitting the truth. Admitting the truth sets us free because we don't have to hide. Instead, we can show up and be seen by others as we truly are. We can show up in our relationship with God as we really are. Being seen for who we really are sounds scary doesn't it? Most of us spend much of our lives hiding who we really are because of fear and guilt and shame. But God has the answer to all of our fear and guilt and shame.

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Women in the Church

Ladies' Committee:

Brandi Childress, Jennifer Fox (Chair), Leah Lukas,
Susan Sanford, Beth Ward, Leslie Wheat

“I don’t care what you call me as long as you call me!”

Guest post by Steve Sanford

At this time of the year when we celebrate the incarnation (God become man) it is appropriate to remember that by this act Jesus asserted His Lordship over the entire created order. Mike recently preached a sermon on this very theme. It is a doctrine the Reformers of the 16th century and beyond took very seriously and promoted vigorously. In opposition to a theology that elevated the clergy and the Church and marginalized the rest of society, the Reformers taught that all of life was important to God and to be lived to His glory. Martin Luther, for instance, wrote, “The works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the works of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks, but that all works are measured before God by faith alone.” Abraham Kuyper, a Dutch prime minister at the beginning of the 20th century said, “There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus does not cry out, ‘This is mine! This belongs to me!’”

But we live in a time when people have once again elevated the clergy and the Church and marginalized the rest of society. We make an unbiblical distinction between the sacred and the secular. I often ask Christian laypeople if what they do is as important as what their pastor or a missionary does. Without exception, the banker, lawyer, teacher, clerk, construction worker, stay at home mother, what have you, say no, they don’t think so. But that is so wrong! And it explains in large measure why the people of God are failing to have much of an influence for good in our society. Most Christians just don’t think God cares about what they do in the secular area.

Consider this. We are all “called” to serve God. It is because of the unbiblical distinction we make between the sacred and the secular that we only speak today of the clergy as being “called.” However, in I Corinthians 7:17 it says, “as God has called each, in this manner let him walk.” In other words, everyone is to live as he or she is “called” of God. While we are not all “called” to the same kind of work, we are all “called.” As Christians we should gratefully acknowledge that it is our loving, all-powerful, all-wise, heavenly Father who has “called” us to do the work we do. He is the one who places us in our home, our church, and society exactly where He wants us. It is important to Him that we perform our “calling,” not someone else’s “calling.”

Back in March of 1981 John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan. In the chaotic aftermath that followed, Secretary of State Alexander Haig tried to reassure the American people by claiming that he was in charge. But according to the Constitution, that was not true. The Vice President was in charge. Alexander Haig was only 4th in the line of presidential succession. We can appreciate Alexander Haig’s desire to step in where he thought he was needed, but it wasn’t his place to step in where he was not “called.” In the same way, we need to be careful about desiring to step into work to which we have not been “called.” It’s very easy to become discouraged and discontent with the work to which God has “called” us. Very often our work may seem drudgery and unimportant in the larger scheme of things. But that is not true. Remember that God Himself has called us to it, and he wouldn’t have done that if in His Lordship over all things He didn’t think that it was important to be done. If all the work we as Christians do grows out of faith and love and is done to the glory of God, then we will once again break down the unbiblical distinction between the sacred and the secular and rejoice in the Lordship of God over all of His creation.

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Women in the Church

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I know that for many of you who are “called” as wives and mothers your work is hard and often unappreciated. I can’t imagine what it must be like to work all alone at home with a houseful of kids who are always pushing the limits and then have a husband come home at night who thinks he has had a hard day! But remember that it is your loving, all-powerful, all-wise heavenly Father who has “called” you to this. It is important to Him. Others may not appreciate all you do, but God does. I Corinthians 15:58 says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren (sisters), be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil in the Lord is not in vain.” That is a promise!

Fellowship Focus

Fellowship Committee:

Joy Denley, Melissa Gorter, Leah Lukas,
Ron Plate (Chair), Leslie Wheat, Heath Warbritton

Father/Son Nerf Battle and Bonfire (and Mother/Daughter Valentine Fellowship)

Fathers and sons, join us for a Nerf Battle and Bonfire on Saturday, February 6th beginning at 4:00. Pizza and dessert will be provided. Please bring a drink of your choice. It is recommended that all guns be labeled. “Bullets” will be available at the church. A small number of goggles will also be available. Please contact Leah Lukas if you have any questions.

During the Nerf battle, mothers and daughters are invited to the Lukas’ house for dessert and a small Valentine craft. Please let Leah know if you plan on attending.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events!

- Church Picnic at Burns Park on Sunday, June 12th, at 4:00
- Back-to-School Pool Party in August
- Outdoor Bonfire in October
- Church Christmas Party in December



Fellowship Committee Members Needed!

The Fellowship Committee is looking to add another man to the committee to replace those who have rotated off. If you would like to join the Fellowship Committee, please see Ron Plate.

Birthdays

January 1st

Alia Lance
Jessica VanEnk

January 2nd

Stephanie Gilchrist

January 3rd

Boyd Irby

January 4th

Kathryn Irby

January 5th

Jacee Wheat

January 14th

Laura Greer

January 15th

Steve Irby

January 16th

Jim Gilchrist
Ashley VanGundy

January 19th

Anna Lindberg

January 20th

Kirk Fox

January 22nd

Ken Hawk

January 25th

Dawne Carroll
Aaron Wheat

January 26th

Marsheena Lance

January 28th

Charlotte Hensley

Training Tidbits

Training Committee:

Bill Dempsey (Chair), Jenny Hollingsworth,
Boyd Irby, Heath Warbritton

2016 Sunday School Classes

Sunday School resumes on January 10th with classes available for all ages. We are still in need of part-time and substitute teachers. Please see a member of the committee if you are interested in teaching Sunday School.

- Preschool (Ages 2-3): God's Son, taught by Josh and Brandi Childress
- Kindergarten (Ages 4-5): Jesus Is God's Son, taught by Valerie Plate and Susan Sanford
- Younger Elementary (Ages 6-7): Loving Jesus, taught by John and Tamara Hensley
- Middle Elementary (Ages 8-9): Listening to Jesus, taught by Jim and Janet Gilchrist
- Older Elementary (Ages 10-12): Exodus to Ruth, taught by Bernadette Dempsey and Sharon Plate
- Youth (Ages 13-19): Worshiping God, taught by Heath Warbritton
- Adult 1: OT Study, taught by Steve Sanford
- Adult 2: NT Study, taught by Glenn VanEnk

“The life of holiness is the life of faith in which the believer, with a deepening knowledge of his own sin and helplessness apart from Christ, increasingly casts himself upon the Lord, and seeks the power of the Spirit and the wisdom and comfort of the Bible to battle against the world, the flesh and the devil. It is not a lonely or cheerless struggle, for Christ gives the Spirit to the members of his body to help one another. Even suffering can be borne with joy, for the Christian walks in the steps of Jesus Christ who takes us by the hand. Maturing in holiness means maturing in love, love that knows God's love poured out in our hearts, and answers with love that tastes the goodness of the Lord. Growth in true holiness is always growth together; it takes place through the nurture, the work and worship of the church.”

—Edmund Clowney

The Pastor's Column

(continued from page 1)

I am re-reading Jack Miller's book titled "Repentance: A Daring Call to Surrender." He begins the first chapter this way:

"Most of this study on repentance I wrote at a time when God had made me aware of the greatness of his love in a new way. This new consciousness of his everlasting mercy came as I learned to confess my own sins more forthrightly and to turn from them with a deeper hatred for every evil impulse in my heart. The joy and relief this gave my struggling soul is simply beyond words. At that hour something of the glory of the cross appeared before my eyes with transforming and healing power."

This joy and relief (freedom) that Jack Miller is talking about doesn't come from doing everything perfectly, just as we ought. That is what I often try to do. Instead, this joy and relief comes from forthrightly confessing our sins and having a growing hatred for evil in our hearts. As we grow in our hatred for our sin, the cross of Christ looms larger in our lives.

Jesus took our fear, our guilt, and our shame, and he nailed it to the cross. These things that cause us run and hide in relationships with other and with God have already been dealt with. Jesus has covered them with his blood. He has taken the filthy, shameful rags of our sin that we try to clothe ourselves with, and he has replaced them with his righteous robes.

This year is going to be a year of failure for me. There will be moments of fear, guilt, and shame. But I pray that this is a year where I grow in my willingness to forthrightly confess my sin. I pray this is a year where I will allow more of me to be seen before others and before God. I pray that this is a year where I see more and more, the transforming and healing power of the cross.



Anniversaries

January 3rd

Glenn and Jenny
Hollingsworth

Tom and Karen
Mirabella

Ed and Rae Belle
Sartain

January 19th

Bob and Patsy
Beatty

Financial Report

	September	October	November	YTD
Income	\$12,857	\$10,949	\$15,287	\$145,291
Expenses	\$17,413	\$14,207	\$15,424	\$167,598
TOTAL	-\$4,556	-\$3,258	-\$137	-\$22,307

Average Attendance

November: 105

Greeters and Ushers

January 3rd

Greg Fox
Nathan Fox

January 10th

John Hensley
Gabe Hensley

January 17th

Boyd Irby
Christopher Irby

January 24th

Nick Sartain
Aiden Sartain

January 31st

Glenn VanEnk
Donovan VanEnk

Nursery Volunteers

January 3rd

Joy Denley

January 10th

Brandi Childress

January 17th

Janet Gilchrist

January 24th

Diane Buck

January 31st

Ron Plate

Liturgist

Ron Plate

Student's Spotlight

RYM Summer Conferences

Last year, Trinity Fellowship Church sent its first group ever to an RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) Summer Conference. This year, we have decided to expand to offering two conferences, continuing with our Florida High School conference for grades 9th-12th and adding a Texas Middle School conference for grades 6th-9th.

This year's theme for both conferences is "The Church":

So many questions surround the Church these days. "If I don't have to go to church to be a Christian then why should I go? Isn't church optional? Is it really relevant to my life? Isn't it outdated? Can I trust it? Does it care? Isn't my peer group more important to my life than the church? What is my place in the church? It seems to be geared more for younger children and older adults. Why should I be a part of the Church at all? My life is fine without it."

It is very easy to get down on the church, after all it is the only community you ever join that requires you to vow that you are not very good and need to be rescued!

Every other community you join asks you to present a resume of your own merits and achievements. So, to say the church is unlike any other group in the world is an understatement. If you are struggling with the church, down on the church, or just indifferent about it, then we encourage you to take a fresh look at scripture. The Bible makes outrageous statements about the church. It says that it is the church that brought Jesus out of heaven. It says that Jesus passionately and intimately loves the church like a husband loves his bride. It says that Jesus heroically gave his life to win his bride and make her eternally beautiful. It says that the church is a community where

EVERYONE is needed. Indeed, the Bible goes on to make the most outlandish claim of all—the church is the embodied presence of God in the world! In other words, the community of believers connected to Jesus and to each other demonstrates to us and to the world what God is really like! Come join us at RYM this summer as we together seek to answer questions about the church, explore the wonder of God's love for his church, and find out not only why the church is important to your life, but also why you are important to it."

Once again, we have the opportunity for priority registration this year. Last year, our conference sold out within two days of general registration opening. To assure that we are able to reserve our spots for both conferences, all signups must be made no later than Sunday, January 24th. After confirming your signup, please turn in your deposit of \$100 as soon as possible.

Middle School Texas is scheduled for June 6th-10th. Cost for Middle School is \$345. High School Florida is scheduled for July 11th-16th. Cost for High School is \$385. Scholarships are available—please confirm your scholarship with Heath by Sunday, January 24th.

The Annotated Hymnal

“Behold Our God”

In 2011, Sovereign Grace Music released the album *Risen* just in time for Easter. This continued SGM’s 30-year tradition of producing excellent hymns for use in corporate worship. The penultimate track, “Behold Our God”, is a hymn of adoration for the risen King.

We serve a great God, but sometimes it can be difficult to remember that in the midst of our daily struggles. When dealing with anxiety, guilt, and anger, we take our eyes off of Christ and the great work He accomplished at Calvary. Though our heads may acknowledge the truth of the gospel, our hearts waver, and our faith suffers.

We need to be constantly reminded of the greatness and goodness of God. Primarily, this is the role of the Holy Spirit, who bears witness to our spirits and brings us comfort through the words of Scripture. Thankfully, in His providence, God has given us many passages in the Bible that reveal His glory and power in the midst of our weakness!

In the Old Testament, it was quite common for God to speak through his prophets to those who, like us, tried to accomplish through their own strength what only God can do.

After listening to several counselors whose “wisdom” was less than godly, Job was confronted by God himself, who displayed His credentials before telling Job what to do: “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?... Who determined its measurements—surely you know!” (Job 38:4-5). You can hear the sarcasm as the Creator puts the creature in his place. Some may not like to think of God as sarcastic, but one cannot argue with the results! He certainly got Job’s attention: “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.” (Job 40:4). Once Job quieted himself to listen to God, he was able to reach a point of confession and repentance, and his fortunes were restored (Job 42).

Similar words were used in Isaiah 40 to bring “comfort to my people”. This is the chapter from which many of the lyrics to “Behold Our God” are taken. In verse 12, Isaiah tells the Israelites to behold their God, who has “measured the waters in the hollow of his hand” and has counted the dust of the earth. The nations which afflict Israel are nothing compared to the Lord (40:17).

Who has given counsel to the Lord? No one, says Isaiah (40:13-14)! This passage is very similar to what the oracle Agur, son of Jakeh, writes in Proverbs 30. Here we are also reminded that “every word of God proves true.” Who can question any of his words? Certainly not mortal man!

The hymn’s final stanza points to the ultimate act of God which man needed most but was utterly unable to accomplish himself: the act of redemption by way of the cross. The eternal God humbled himself to the grave, yet rose victorious over death, and is now seated on his throne, from which he will reign forever!

Inevitably, God’s glory will fill the earth, and every knee will bow in reverence of Christ. Yet as heirs of salvation, we have a foretaste of that divine glory, and ought to live in constant reverence of the King who is beyond compare. May God use this hymn to write his word on our hearts to bring us comfort in our distress!

Who has held
the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered
every grain of sand?
Kings and nations
tremble at His voice;
All creation
rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God
seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King
nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!*

Who has given
counsel to the Lord?
Who can question
any of His Words?
Who can teach the
One who knows all things?
Who can fathom
all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt
the nails upon His hands?
Bearing all the
guilt of sinful man?
God eternal
humbled to the grave;
Jesus, Savior
risen now to reign!

Trinity Fellowship Church (PCA)

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Bob Beatty (Emeritus): 501-580-7149

DEACONS

Boyd Irby: 501-920-5615 Nick Sartain: 501-920-0516
Ben Ward: 406-548-7120

MISSIONARIES

Bradford Green RUF at the University of Central Arkansas/Hendrix College; Conway
Del Farris MNA Chaplain Ministries; Little Rock
Fred Klett CHAIM (Reformed Ministry to Jewish People); Philadelphia
Mike Ford RUF at the University of Arkansas; Fayetteville
Mike and Eli Sabin MTW; Guam
Seima and Naoko Aoyagi MTW; Tokyo, Japan
Steve Sanford Evangelical Alliance for Immigration Services; Little Rock
Steve and Kelly Walter Wycliffe Bible Translators/GIAL
Ted Wenger Redeemer Presbyterian Church; Siloam Springs
Tom and Karen Mirabella MTW; Chiba, Japan
Union Rescue Mission Little Rock

**Trinity Fellowship Church is a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)**

Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

www.pcanet.org