

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***“To Know Him Better”**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:15–17 (NIV84)

Who doesn't want to know God better? If I was a citizen of Ephesus reading this letter, I would be so grateful to Paul for praying that I would “know God better.” However, if you were to come up to me on the street and ask, “What can I pray for?”, my first response would not be, “Pray that I would now God better.”

Responding to the question, I would share some physical or emotional struggle that my family is experiencing. “Pray for my daughter because she’s going to need surgery someone in the next couple of years.” Selflessly, I would ask for prayers for my children. “Please pray for my kids as they adjust to a new school.” If you gave me enough time, I may share some more personal requests. “Please pray for our marriage, for decisions regarding the future, for our fears and anxieties.” Eventually, I may you to pray for others. Although I do desire to know him better, I don't believe that would be a primary request of mine.

In a similar way, I desire to know my wife better. I really would. Although we will celebrate our tenth anniversary this year, I still don't know her perfectly. Slothfully, I feel like I know her “well enough.” Raising four young children, managing schedules, and maintaining other relationships makes knowing her better elusive. I know her well enough to have an intimate relationship with her. If we are not diligent, the intimacy we share stagnates. Knowing each other better can take the backseat to knowing each other enough to get by in life.

I haven't taken a poll, but I have a strong sense that this is true with most marriages. Spouses arrive at a point of knowledge of their significant other that is “enough.” The relationship lumbers onward, neither growing nor dying. It simply exists.

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Missionary of the Month

Missions' Committee:

Rick Aich, Suzie Aich, Darrel Crowell (Chair),
Aaron Lindberg, Laura Lindberg, Amber Sartain,
Nick Sartain, Rae Belle Sartain, Aaron Wheat

Seima and Naoko Aoyagi

Mission to the World (MTW) — Tokyo, Japan



Seima Aoyagi was born in Japan and grew up in a typical Buddhist family without any Christian influence. A Christian friend in high school led him to Christ. Naoko grew up with a Christian father who took her to church. Given this rare chance to grow up in church, Naoko came to faith during middle school. With two kids, Seima and Naoko came to Covenant Seminary in St Louis and Seima received his M.Div. in 2008. After being ordained in the PCA in 2009, Seima was called to go back to Japan to be involved in a church plant movement in Tokyo, one of the largest and fastest growing cities in the world with 35 million people, yet with one of the smallest Christian presence of 0.22%. The ministry is a collaborative work of MTW and Redeemer PCA in NY and is an attempt to start a movement that produces churches that are gospel-centered, grace-based, and missional in nature. Seima and Naoko have four children: Senri, Towa, Satoki, and Akari. Last April, Towa fell on his neck and lost mobility of both arms and legs. He is making tremendous improvement but still

has no movement in his right fingers. Towa is finally back home after months in the hospital and Rehab Center! His main rehab is now through his daily activities, but he also continues to go to the Rehab Center for additional therapy.

Seima's responsibilities include Church planting, pastoring, teaching, and mentoring. In January of 2014, Grace Harbor Church started a monthly worship service which became twice a month in May of that year. They had a steady local attendance with about 40 adults and 10 kids, including 10 adults and 5 kids who are non-Christians. On Easter Sunday 2015, they began weekly services and had about 20 adults become members of the church. This past December, they had their first Christmas service. Seima said, "It was my humble joy to see 111 people came to our Christmas service and 23 of them were non-Christians. But what made me so excited was that I was able to baptize two wonderful ladies."

Donna answered the alter call at a gospel music concert 12 years ago. But she was not connected to a church and her faith faded away. After experiencing the great earthquake in 2011, she became afraid how she could protect her kids if there was another earthquake. In searching for peace, she noticed that she should come back to her faith again. Just about the time they started weekly worship service, Donna started to attend Grace Harbor Church, and her faith grew from an inch deep to a mile. Seima says, "It was my joy to go through Bible study and baptism class with her and see her growth. The testimony she gave on that Christmas Sunday encouraged many other non-Christian moms who also are filled with unspoken worry about raising kids.

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Miwa first experienced Christian community when she was studying in the US at a Christian university. She became interested in and even was wanting to become a Christian, but the lightning bolt experience she was looking for never happened to her when she was in States. As she started to attend Grace Harbor Church, she came to understand that how God calls could be different from person to person, and God has been faithfully leading her to the faith even it was gradual process. In her testimony, she was encouraging other non-Christians there to notice a possible slight work of the Holy Spirit calling them to Christian faith.

Seima wants to let you know that because of your support and prayer, these ladies have found a spiritual home. God's kingdom in Japan, even it is slow, is expanding.

Grace Harbor has a vision to open another worship site in the next neighborhood, called Tsukishima (where the Aoyagis live). They had their first Christmas Eve service there in December. Even though it was Thursday night, a normal work day, a lot of Japanese came from the local community. They had lessons and carols with the organ and violin. The place was filled with about 100 people, and many said that the service was touching. To Seima, the highlight was when Towa stood and read scripture with a strong voice even with a weak leg.

Prayer Requests

- For Towa's continuous recovery through daily activity and rehab visit.
- That our family be dependent on the Lord more and more.
- For Grace Harbor Church as we are in the process of reformatting our small groups.
- For new contacts through outreach events that we would keep our friendship and be able to introduce Jesus to them.
- For our new church that we not only grow in number but also in maturity as followers of Christ.
- Pray that we help their growth through community groups and discipleship meetings.
- For me as a pastor that I can lead in a godly manner.
- For more church planting happening in Tokyo, the world largest city—yet with only 0.2% Christians!



**Connect with the
Aoyagis**

aoyagifamily@gmail.com



Birthdays

March 1

Peter Breedlove

March 7

Leighton Mirabella
Matthias Mirabella

March 8

Christopher Irby
Leslie Wheat

March 9

Bernadette Dempsey
AJ VanEnk

March 11

Sarah Sanford

March 15

Lucas Gorter

March 16

Rae Belle Sartain

March 17

Katelynn Wheat

March 25

Jennifer Fox

March 30

Ben Lukas

March 31

Dean Bailey

Anniversaries

March 17

Brian and Dawne
Carroll

March 18

Darrel and Claudia
Croswell

Training Tidbits

Training Committee:

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

Calling All Teachers!

It's not too early to begin praying about teaching Sunday School this fall! We are in need of teachers and alternates for both children and adult classes. If you are interested in teaching this fall, please speak with Bill Dempsey.

Classroom Clarifications

New classroom signs will be posted around the church in the coming weeks. The Training Committee hopes these signs will help clarify any confusion regarding room locations for Sunday School, meetings, and other special events. The office level classrooms will be odd-numbered and the sanctuary level classrooms will be even-numbered. During the Sunday School months, these signs will also list the class name, current topic of study, and teacher(s).



Directory Updates

Keith and Amy Perry have been transferred to Travis Air Force Base in California. Keith will be a Flight Engineer on a K-10 Refueler. They have been in temporary family housing with 2 bedrooms, but will move into a permanent 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on March 3rd. At that point, their address will be:

Keith and Amy Perry
502 Wyoming
Fairfield, CA 94535

They are looking forward to having their home and all their belongings before baby James joins big sister Chloe and big brother Liam around April 22!

The Pastor's Column

(continued from page 1)

Does this sound like your relationship with God? If you were to describe your relationship with God to a fellow Christian, would the most honest description be “It exists.”? Wouldn’t you love to be able to say that you know God and that you are getting to know him better?

How do we really come to know God better? Incredibly, God reveals himself to us, he does this through his Word. In allowing us to know him, he could have simply dropped a book from heaven as some religions believe. Borrowing a modern phrase, he could have just downloaded the information about him into our minds. He chose a different approach. In his generosity and kindness, he didn’t choose to give us mere information regarding himself. He chose to give us his very self in relationship.

My wife and I seek to carve out specific time so we can know each other better (or just to get a much-needed break!). If we did not, our intimacy becomes elusive. We come to know God better through his Word, his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we read the words of Scripture, we know God better because we can see the gospel of Jesus from the Old Testament to the New Testament. When God’s Word is read, when God’s Word is preached, when God’s Word is meditated upon, we may know God better. And this is not merely and intellectual knowledge. It is a relational knowledge. It is personal. It is intimate.

I encourage you to pray pray for each other using the prayer of Paul for the Ephesians. Pray that you would know God better. Pray your spouse and children would know him better. Even pray your enemies would know him better. For when we know him better, we see him as he really is, the “glorious Father.” (Ephesians 1:17)

“God is the highest good of the reasonable creature, and the enjoyment of him is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven fully to enjoy God is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean... Why should we labor for, or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end, and true happiness?”

—Jonathan Edwards

Greeters and Ushers

March 6

Aaron Wheat
Gary Wheat

March 13

Greg Fox
Nathan Fox

March 20

John Hensley
Gabe Hensley

March 27

Boyd Irby
Christopher Irby

Nursery Volunteers

March 6

Joy Denley

March 13

Ashley Hensley
Chloe Hensley

March 20

Janet Gilchrist

March 27

Ron Plate

Liturgist

Darrel Crowell

Financial Report

	January		YTD
Income	\$23,695		\$23,695
Expenses	\$22,976		\$22,976
TOTAL	\$719		\$719

Average Attendance

January: 104

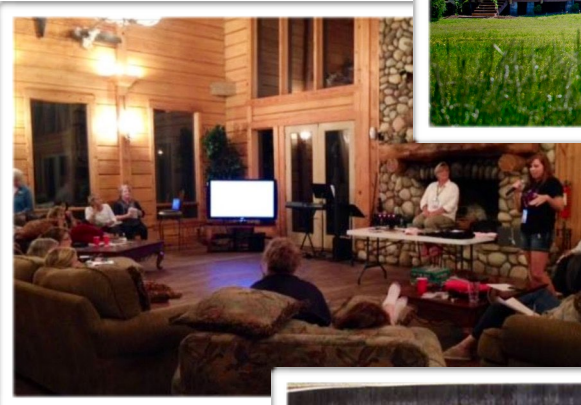
Women in the Church

Ladies' Committee:

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

2016 Trinity Fellowship Church Women's Retreat

The Annual Trinity Fellowship Church Women's Retreat will be April 8th—10th at CrossHeirs Retreat Center near Stuttgart, AR. This year's retreat will be extended to two nights, allowing for more time for fellowship and relaxation! Women are highly encouraged to stay both nights, but Friday night only or Saturday night only are sign up options. This year's retreat speaker is Julia Quillen. Her blog is cultivategrace.org. She will be speaking on the topic of "Discovering Relational Wisdom". Through this seminar, we'll learn key skills for discerning interest and emotions in others and ourselves and using these insights to reduce conflict and build relationships. This seminar was designed by Ken Sande, founder of Relational Wisdom 360 and Peacemaker Ministries. To learn more, visit rw360.org. The cost for both nights is \$100 and \$50 for one night. Please visit the church website to register. The deadline to register is March 30th.



Student's Spotlight

RYM Youth Leader Training and Summer Conferences

We have 10 students signed up to attend RYM Summer Conferences this year! This is double the number we sent last year! At this rate, we will have a group of 320 students attending in 5 years...pretty amazing, right???

In all seriousness, it's exciting to see more of our students getting involved in these conferences. This past January, I was able to attend my second year of RYM Youth Leader Training (YLT) in Nashville. YLT (photos below) offers training in a number of topics, but a majority of the training is devoted to RYM's philosophy of ministry (POM), which helps give youth leaders a grid to think through youth ministry. It's difficult to condense an entire week's worth of content into a single newsletter article, so my hope is to progress through the RYM POM in future newsletters. The RYM POM is beneficial not only to youth leaders, but to teachers and parents of children of any age, as well as adults. My prayer is that in the coming months these articles will help you think through your own philosophy of ministry and how you can better reach people for Christ and equip them to serve.

As for our students, it's not too early to begin praying for them as they prepare for these conferences. I'm excited about this year's theme of "The Church," which will hopefully reinforce some ideas for our study last fall (and probably fill in the many gaps that I left!). My hope is for our students to cultivate a Christ-like love for the church and take ownership of their role in the covenant community.

Our conferences this year are located in Panama City Beach, FL and Hawkins, TX. That's nearly 1,000 miles worth of travel between the two. We have worked to keep the transportation costs to a minimum, but we need your help! To help our students raise funds to cover our travel expenses, we will be serving a *Chipotle*-style build-your-own Tex-Mex fiesta lunch during our monthly Fellowship Meal on Sunday, June 12th. Our goal is to raise \$500, with a suggested donation of \$20 per family. This particular Sunday is also VBS eve, which will give our VBS volunteers a break from cooking a meal for Fellowship Lunch on top of preparing (physically and mentally) for a busy week. Mark your calendars!



Fellowship Focus

Fellowship Committee:

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



Easter Breakfast

Join us Sunday, March 27th at 9:00 am for our annual Easter Breakfast. Ron Plate and Ed Sartain will be serving up a delicious homemade breakfast of biscuits, eggs, gravy, sausage, and much more as we enjoy a time of fellowship before our Easter worship service. Our Easter worship service begins at 10:30.

Church Picnic

Bring your picnic favorites and join us on Sunday, June 12th at Burns Park beginning at 4:00 for our annual Church Picnic! Grills will be available and drinks will be provided by the church. There will also be activities for all ages. Mark your calendars!



Back-to-School Pool Party

Plans are in place for our 2nd annual Back-to-School Pool Party in August at the Dowell Naylor Aquatic Center in Maumelle. More details will be available in the coming months.

Fellowship Lunch Cleanup Rotations

Beginning in March, cleanup responsibilities for our monthly Fellowship Lunch will be assigned to our Missional Community Groups. These cleanup duties will rotate monthly between MCGs. The current schedule is posted in the kitchen.



Fellowship Committee Members Needed!

The Fellowship Committee is looking to add members to the committee to replace those who have rotated off. There is a particular need for men to join the committee. The Fellowship Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:30—9:00 pm. If you would like to join the Fellowship Committee, please see Ron Plate.

Community Calendar

Service to The CALL

The CALL (Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime) is a Christian Support Group for Foster and Adoptive Parents. We would like to help parents in The CALL, as well as other foster and adoptive parents in our church and community. One thing foster and adoptive parents really need is an occasional break! The Missions' Committee would like for Trinity to provide a Parents' Night Out in April just for these foster and adoptive parents. The regularly scheduled church-wide PNO for will still be held on the third Saturday (April 16th).



Our PNO for The CALL will be Saturday, April 2nd from 5:00–8:00 pm. We will have a sign-up sheet to see how much help we will have in order determine how many children we can accommodate. Many of these children need extra love and attention, so we want to have plenty of help. There might even be some children who could use one-on-one attention. In addition to our regular volunteers, we would love for the men of Trinity to be involved. In order to include the most number of children, we would ask that volunteers not bring their children. Perhaps one parent could volunteer while the other stays home with their children, or maybe the MCGs could provide childcare in one home so the other parents in their group could volunteer. We would also love for teens to come help. Look for a sign-up sheet in the foyer; the deadline for volunteer sign-up will be Sunday, March 20th. Call Rae Belle (501-231-2371) for more information.

There is, of course, something for everyone. If childcare is not your thing, we need several people to sign up to bring pizza, fruit, veggies and dip, dessert, and drinks, or even donate money toward the food.

We would like for the volunteers to arrive by 4:40 so we can get settled in and pray before the children arrive. There will be a nursery for the little ones and we will take up to age 10. There will be games set up in one area, crafts in another, and a movie in another. Hopefully the weather will be nice enough to allow us to go out to the playground as well.

Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center

The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Central Arkansas has a new name: Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center! Their address (2003 Fendley Drive in NLR) and phone number (501-753-4038) will remain the same. As of yet, the new sign is not up, stationary has not been changed, and the website is still in the process of being updated.

Support the Union Rescue Mission

Come out to support The Union Rescue Mission of Little Rock as they spread the word across the nation that "LOVE and HOPE is the CURE"! URM includes the Dorcas House for women and the Nehemiah House for men. Their mission is to create an environment where the love and compassion of Jesus Christ can help people overcome and prevent life's adversities. To this end, there will be a concert on Saturday March 19th from 8:00—10:00 pm at the Metroplex Event Center (10800 Colonel Glenn Rd in Little Rock). Join Dee Dee Jones and Guest Recording Artist TWEET as they stand together for this great cause! Tickets are \$25—\$85. Visit urmissionlr.org to register.



Plans to Prosper, Hope to Endure

Another way to support the URM is to visit urmissionlr.org and click on "STORE" at the top of the page. There you will find a variety of shirts and hoodies for both men and women. All proceeds benefit the URM.

The Annotated Hymnal

“Christ Is Risen” by Matt Maher from the album “Alive Again”

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

—1 Corinthians 15:55

“Let no one caught in sin remain inside the lie of inward shame.” Our tendency as broken creatures is to conceal our shame. Light exposes us. After the first sin of Adam and Eve, their reaction was one of shame. They had been exposed, as it were, and being exposed is painful. In our pride, we are often reluctant to admit our faults. This sin of pride allows our inward shame to grow and fester. Sin has a vicious cycle about it. So how are we to respond? Maher addresses this in verse one: we are to “fix our eyes upon the cross.” Scottish pastor Robert Murray McCheyne once wrote, “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.” Verse 1 ends by showing us this Christ in his humiliation, wherein he empties himself of his glory, takes on the form of a servant, and lovingly sacrifices himself for his people (WLC 46).



But the story doesn’t end there! The chorus points us to a reality that we celebrate every Lord’s Day: Christ is risen from the dead! There are many theological and practical implications that can be drawn from this, but I’ll focus on just one for now: Christ’s resurrection assures us of our own resurrection from the dead in the last day (WLC 52). Because Christ has paid our debt, imputed his perfect obedience to us, and is interceding for us even now, we can have the certain hope of resurrection in the last day.

Speaking of Christ’s perfect obedience, verse two reminds us of his submission to his Father’s will. Christ submitted to his Father’s will not only in his death, but also in his life. He subjected himself to the law, and when all was said and done, he had perfectly fulfilled it. I was recently at a meeting where someone asked the question, “Are we saved by works?” Everyone’s initial reaction was to say, “Of course not! We’re saved by grace through faith!” While this is certainly true, we are, in a sense, ultimately saved by works. Notice I didn’t say *our* works. Rather, the completed work of Christ’s perfect obedience is given to us as we receive it by grace through faith. The command of Christ still stands: “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). However, this is something we are unable to do in our own strength. This is where the grace of God comes to us as good news. A popular hymn speaks of how God’s grace “draws [us] near, and all that it asks it provides.” All that God has required of us (i.e. perfect obedience to the law) has been accomplished and offered to us to be received by faith (another demand that is graciously given to us).

Similar to how verse one ends in Christ’s humility, verse two closes with Christ’s exaltation as he reigns in strength as the King of kings. This is the Christ we celebrate every Lord’s Day. This is the message we proclaim every Lord’s Day. This is the message of Easter. Death is swallowed up in victory! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Verse 1

*Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame;
But fix our eyes
Upon the cross
And run to Him
Who showed great love
And bled for us,
Freely You’ve bled for us.*

Chorus

*Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.*

Verse 2

*Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven’s will;
No scheme of hell,
No scoffer’s crown,
No burden great
Can hold You down.
In strength You reign;
Forever let Your church proclaim.*



2016 Trinity Fellowship Church Valentine's Banquet



Photos Courtesy of Leah Lukas



Trinity Fellowship Church (PCA)

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DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND STUDENT MINISTRIES: HEATH WARBRITTON

870-636-0788
 heath@trinityfellowshipca.org

ELDERS

Darrel Croswell: 501-681-4114 Bill Dempsey: 707-338-3489
 Ron Plate: 501-258-0753 Ed Sartain: 501-920-2584
 Bob Beatty (Emeritus): 501-580-7149

DEACONS

Boyd Irby: 501-920-5615 Nick Sartain: 501-920-0516

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
 Michelle Hill CRU/FamilyLife; Little Rock
 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