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Reflective Note

This month's note is a little less reflective and a bit more all over the place, but I hope you'll forgive me. September was a busy month, and I thought I'd offer some snapshots of the past month as we look ahead to October and beyond.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

Worship

10/3 - Blessing of the Animals

10/4 - World Communion Sunday - Come and Commune - Isaiah 55:1-2, 10-13 & Psalm 65

10/11 - Come and Cheer - Philippians 4:1-9 & Psalm 106:1-5

10/18 - Come and Change - Isaiah 43:14-21 & Mark 2:21-22

10/25 - Mark Facknitz Preaching

What's in Session?

The Session met on Sunday, September 13 - a week earlier than our usual meeting to accommodate Shenandoah Valley Pride.

1 - The work of the nominating committee has begun, and the committee is starting to reach out to potential nominees. Anticipating a full slate of candidates, the Session approved a called congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, October 18, for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2029. Mark your calendars!

2 - Donna Barber and Rollin Johnson have been working to revise the Time and Talent forms. We saw a sneak preview, and we're hopeful that this form, along with more structured follow-up, can encourage more participation. Watch for more information later in October.

3 - A few years ago, a mission endowment fund was established, thanks to money available from generous bequests from Bolling Nalle and Vivian Hevener. The first disbursement became available in June. The Session enthusiastically approved allocating \$10,000 from the available funds to support a new volunteer build with Habitat for Humanity. The home will accommodate a single mother and her three children, one of whom uses a wheelchair. Since it will need to be built for wheelchair accessibility, it will be a full build. This differs from most of their new homes, which are modular units. We're grateful to be able to provide the financial support, and we look forward to giving our time and labor once the build is underway.

In Our Prayers



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

~2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV~

We rejoice

- With Terry and Judy LePera, following a good report from Terry's two-year post-cancer checkup at Duke.
- With Tom Wilcox, who is in remission from stage-4 blood cancers. Tom and Diane greatly appreciate the prayers. His doctors have been amazed by his progress.
- With Evan Fields following his
- Kent Leach, John Henderson's friend who is suffering from some neck pain.
- The Kaestle family, following the death of Paul Kaestle, Jessi Brown's grandfather. He was the last of his generation.
- Please keep Adele and Dennis Durost in your prayers as Adele has entered hospice care and as they grieve for their son-in-law.

successful thyroid surgery on September 21st. Evan and Eleanor Held appreciate continued prayers.

- With and in our connection with the Nag family and the ministry of Mercy House.

We pray continually for:

The needs of the congregation:

- Harv and Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, who continue to navigate challenges with Harv's mobility and health. He is currently in the ICU at UVA with trouble breathing.
- Ann Speer, who fell last week and fractured her hip. We pray as she recovers from surgery and her fractures.
- We pray that Eleanor Baker be aware of God's presence while she navigates some physical and emotional challenges.
- Vicky Rinehart who continues to experience challenges to her vision with some improvement.
- With Sherry Satin, who continues to rehab at Sunnyside following her shoulder surgery.
- Elly Swecker as she seeks treatment for health concerns and an ongoing struggle with Pruritus

- Mary, Martha Kleckner and Kathy Gillette's sister, who is experiencing some improvement from back pain and is working with her doctor for a plan forward.
- Yvonne Flory, friend of Donna Barber, as Yvonne continues her recovery and Donna continues to provide support.

Those with continued health concerns and for those who care for them:

Tom Wilcox and Diane; Ben Grimsby; Jean Hogshead; Bill Caperton; Liliany and Marisol; Cathy Sanders (Joe Hinshaw's stepmother); Wilma (Paulo's mother); Sarah West (Deanne's sister), and Alica and Hannah Facknitz (caring for their mother); Patti (Karla Irving's sister-in-law)

For the broader community and the world:

- For all those who participated in PRIDE events and for hearts and minds to be opened and to celebrate God's amazing love for all God's children.
- The people of Nepal who have been affected by the flash flood that swept through towns and villages. We pray for all those who lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods and for the rescuers

nodularis.

Family and friends:

- We pray with Doreen Davis Tadde and her family. Doreen's 3 ½ year old daughter, Ayla, had surgery after breaking her arm late last week. All went well, but it's not easy for a 3 ½ year old to slow down while she heals.
- Gloria Comstock's cousin, Elaine, who was just diagnosed with squamous cell skin cancer. Her biopsy site has become infected. A treatment plan has yet to be determined. We pray for her healing.
- Stephanie Sorge's mom, Susan, appreciates prayers as she has abdominal surgery on Monday, October 5.
- We pray for Meryl Parker, a friend of the Comstocks, who is experiencing more of a decline in health.
- Jim Chattin, Sara Holben's cousin Marian's husband Jim is in the ICU in Rochester, NY after numerous brain bleeds and multiple surgeries. Please pray for good outcomes, the right decisions to be made and the family as they wait for answers.

involvement and for the recovery and emergency responders.

- All those suffering from natural disasters such as the hurricanes, extreme flash flooding earthquakes, and wildfires, and extreme heat across our country and the world.
- All those suffering from manmade disasters such as devastation from endless war, gun violence, loss of health care, human rights violations, inhumane treatment of our immigrant neighbors, and overconsumption of our natural resources.
- Wisdom for our leaders to bring an end to the endless suffering from crises created by nature and especially those created by human selfishness, arrogance, and cruelty.
- Haresh and Hamitha, and the vulnerable children with whom they minister.
- Healing and shalom for all as creation groans!

We give thanks in all circumstances!

Fellowship



October Birthdays

Bill Wilson, 3rd
Bill Reinhold, 5th
Brent Arbogast, 7th
Charlotte Arbogast, 7th
Louisa Painter, 7th
Thomas Barber, 8th
Kim Shank, 12th
David Rainard, 12th

Rick Comstock, 14th
John Parcells, 16th
Mary Lou McMillin, 17th
Oliver Atwood, 23rd
Yogi Gillette, 23rd
Catherine Barber Wells, 30th
Sue Burket, 31st
Malaya Esguerra-Johnson, 31st

October Baptisms

Eleanor Held, 14th
Lea Beka, 27th

Get to know our House Steward:

Ginnie Reinhold (Class 2026)

How long have you been at Trinity?

7 Years

Favorite Bible story?

Jesus and the children - "Let the children come to me"

Path you almost took but didn't?

"Ordinary" American Life

What makes you feel most appreciated?

Being understood

Most meaningful thing...

In the past year?

Congo Mission Network events.

In the last decade?

Moved to Bridgewater + BRC + joined Trinity

In life?

In my older years finally studied psychology + counseling and chaplaincy.
Married Bill, had 2 children, lived, worked 20 years of our lives in
Zaire/Congo + Jamaica

Nurture

Word of the Month: Invisible Disabilities

Invisible or hidden disabilities are those disabilities not immediately apparent but affect how a person functions in daily life. Some common examples of invisible disabilities include chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, sensory impairments, neurological conditions, and chronic pain. People with invisible disabilities often face a variety of challenges. [Read more about it here.](#)

Mission

World Communion Sunday Offering

World Communion Sunday Offering



Sunday, October 4, we will receive the inaugural [World Communion Sunday Offering](#), which will cultivate reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations within the PC(USA.) [You can also give online here.](#)

Valley Interfaith Action

VIA Action – October 29

Valley Interfaith Action (VIA) will host an action meeting for candidates for City Council at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Harrisonburg on Thursday evening, October 29th from 6:00 pm to 7:30. This action will feature asking the candidates for office to agree to support (or not) VIA's four current goals:

1. Financial support for up to 5 city employees to send their children to the Valley Early Education Reimagined (VEER) center at Park View Mennonite Church
2. A transportation demonstration project to extend city bus service to Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital
3. An immigrant recognition action in early February to express publicly the value that immigrants bring to our community
4. A collective bargaining ordinance that would allow bus drivers and other city employees to have the same bargaining rights that the Council has already extended to city Police and Fire Fighters.

VIA leaders will have discussed these issues with all of the candidates for City Council ahead of time and they will be asked to indicate to those gathered there whether they will be willing to support these goals before the Action on October 29th.

We need to have a large participation from members – especially, but not limited to, city residents. Please make plans now to attend this action!

You can register to attend [here](#).

Animal Blessing



Join Trinity, Otterbein United Methodist Church, and Shalom Mennonite Church at LOVEworks Park this Saturday, October 3, at 10 am for the blessing of the animals! Learn more about the animal blessing here:

<https://trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org/care#blessing-of-the-animals>

Centering Space

Centering Space is gearing up for a busy fall! We invite you to join us for a variety of activities and experiences designed to offer contemplation, action, renewal, and expression. All of our activities are free or pay-as-you-can with suggested costs for those who can support our facilitators.

October 3 from 9 am – Noon: Burn Bright...Not Out. This is a Kundalini yoga workshop for when it all feels like too much, designed for ALL bodies. [For more information, click here.](#) [To register, click here.](#)

October 8 – November 5 from: Kundalini Yoga and Meditation Class Series (for ALL bodies). This 5-Week series will be offered on Thursday mornings, October 8 - November 5, from 10 am - noon in the sanctuary. Kundalini yoga uses a blend of breath, movement, sound, meditation, and intentional rest to support and strengthen the body, raise vitality, and cultivate perception and awareness. Suggested cost for the 5-week session is \$50.00 [For more information about the class and to register, click here.](#)

October 10 from 1:00 – 4:00: Opening of the [Im]Migration is Natural! Installation on the front lawn. Visit the grounds to learn more about migration of God's creation over land, water, and air through community-created signs, a StoryWalkR of Gail Gibbons' Migration, and the latest information on human migration in our own community.

Looking towards November (More information to come!)

November 7 from 9:00 – 1:00: Breath! A contemplative creative expression experience led by collage artist Jane Ellen Reid.

November 10 – December 15: Yoga with Robin.

Trunk-or-Treat

Saturday, October 31st, we'll gather at the church at 5 pm, set up vehicles, and enjoy some pizza together to fuel us for the evening. Come ready to dress up your trunk or dress up yourself as we take part in the neighborhood fun. All



are welcome to participate, but this should be especially fun for those who don't tend to get trick-or-treaters at your own home.



The Search Continues

After interviewing a number of candidates, both on zoom and in-person, the Personnel Committee must report we are still looking for the person God is calling to be our next Pastoral Care Associate.

Our ideal candidate will be able to manage the ongoing and acute care and visitation needs for members and friends of all ages and stages of life, working closely with Stephanie and the Pastoral Care team. The position has been part-time (20-25 hours a week), but we are open to negotiating time and benefits to make this a sustainable position for the right candidate. Salary and benefits will be at competitive levels for our presbytery. Ordination in the Presbyterian Church is a plus, but not required.

If you know someone who might be interested and ready to join our ministry team, please pass along this information. A full job description is available upon request from Bobschminkey@gmail.com.



Trinity Presbyterian Church gathers on land that was part of ancestral hunting grounds and travel routes of various groups of indigenous peoples. We acknowledge, with gratitude, these stewards of the land through the ages.

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