



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Rev. Lynnette Sills joins TPC staff

Our Session has hired Rev. Lynnette Sills for a six-month term to work with the Congregational Care Committee to create and implement a Shepherding Program (See article on Page 2). She will begin in mid-May.

Lynnette served as pastor of Tryon United Methodist Church from July 2018 until January 2025. In that role, she worked with the pastors of other local churches, including ours, in holding community services on special occasions. In April 2024, she was the guest speaker at our Presbyterian Women spring retreat, leading a study of Mary Magdalene.

Since Charles Drawdy retired as Parish Associate for Congregational Care more than a year ago, there has been a need for additional ministry in this area. Although the position calls for a commitment of just 10 hours per week, it is meant to strengthen the ministry of congregational care and pastoral care.

Lynnette will work with Pastor Allan Purtill and the Congregational Care Committee to develop a Shepherding Program and assist in visitation. The position is accountable to the pastor. The primary duties and responsibilities are: to develop and implement the Shepherding Program with Congregational Care; assist the pastor in providing care and visitation to church members; serve as worship liturgist at least once a month; be available to preach when the pastor is away; meet and communicate regularly with other staff and leaders in the congregation; and collaborate and work as part of a team with staff and church leaders.

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Rev. Lynnette Sills

(from LYNNETTE on Page 1)

"Lynnette is a great listener," Allan said. "She has a compassionate heart and a record of service to this whole community. I believe our church will be blessed by her experience and her faith."

The salary will be \$1,200 a month with a reimbursable mileage allowance.

Shepherd Program aims to support, nurture TPC members

Bonnie Sakos, who chairs our Congregational Care Committee, offers this about the planned Shepherd Program:



Bonnie Sakos

"The Congregational Care Committee and Pastor Allan have been talking for some time now about how better to offer support and nurturing care to our active TPC members and friends. The decision has been made to design and launch a ministry with the intentional goal of keeping all members and friends connected to and involved in the life of the church.

"A Shepherd Program is the type of program that has been very successful in many small and intermediate-sized churches. We envision immediate benefits where the Shepherds are able to pass on information from their Flocks to the Pastor enabling him to provide for the deeper spiritual needs of each person in the congregation, and also where the Shepherds share information and reminders to their Flocks

about church events. With regular contact, Shepherds will make sure that everyone feels nurtured and connected and supported in any life event that might be troubling them.

"The purpose of this program is to remind people that they are not alone. God calls us to offer support, encouragement and love to others. Our words and gestures can uplift those who are feeling down, anxious or grief, reminding them of God's promises and offering comfort even in difficult times. With this program, we hope to create an atmosphere of hope and love and actively show our members that we are a caring, nurturing church."

Join in praying for others and the world

In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, the Apostle Paul encourages believers to engage in intercessory prayer: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people"

Several months ago, Congregational Care began a prayer group that prays for others: the world, the country, the state, our community, our church and its members ... you! Research shows that these prayers have a positive effect on both the person praying and the recipient of the prayers. The value of our prayer lies in our efforts to bring people together, promote kindness and provide support to others during troubled or ordinary times.

We want to invite you to join us in praying for others. The only special talent needed is the willingness to sign a card, which is sent to the recipients of our prayers that day. No special qualities are needed. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Jones Conference Room for about an hour.

By Janet Gilchrist

Seeing, or not seeing, is believing

Last month we looked at the holiest time of the year for followers of Jesus. In June, I plan to look at Jesus' ascension and Pentecost. As for now, after our Lord's Resurrection, let's consider his appearances. I call it the in-between time, the time when Jesus appeared to so many witnesses.

A year ago, we looked at Jesus when he appeared to the disciples while fishing in Galilee. This month, I want to focus on Paul's comments to the church at Corinth.

The Corinthians had been quarreling with each other. Divisions had developed. Some church members were saying they belonged to Paul, others said they belonged to Apollos, and others said they belonged to Christ. Paul needed to straighten things out with these followers, so he wrote two letters to their church. For our purposes this month, I am interested in the appearances of Jesus Paul shared with the Corinthian church. It is a lengthy list (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

This in-between time can be cherished by all of Jesus' followers, especially today. Remember what Jesus said to Thomas and all the disciples. He appeared to the disciples that first Sunday evening, but Thomas wasn't with them. A week later, however, Thomas was there, but he would not believe they had seen the Lord. Thomas said he would have to put his hand in Jesus' side and touch the nail marks on Jesus' hands to believe. We know the account (John 20:24-29), for Jesus did appear to all of them late that day, and all Thomas could say was, "My Lord and my God." We need to remember Jesus' response: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (Which, I might add, is us, praise God!)

The apostle Paul tried to explain to the Corinthians that their quarreling and divisions were not what Jesus had in mind for his church. Paul then spoke of the appearances of the risen Jesus and listed those he was sure had seen the Lord upon his resurrection.

Paul explained once again "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and he was buried, and raised on the third day in accordance with scriptures. He then appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at one time ... then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as one untimely born, he appeared to me."

Paul was trying to explain to the Corinthians that there could be no Gospel to preach nor could any church be founded had not the first Christian disciples, apostles and followers of Jesus been convinced, beyond any doubt whatsoever! Paul's mention of James, Jesus' brother, was extremely important, as our Lord's family appeared to be the last to believe. They had tried on several occasions to stop him from what he was doing.

Paul ended with his own conversion experience on the road to Damascus.

What is important to us as followers of Jesus today is that his appearances during this in-between time were essential for all of us who came after and receive his blessing. Our belief is not based on sight but on faith – the faith that passes all understanding and holds us fast to the salvation God promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

First quarter finances look strong

Below is a summary of TPC's finances through the end of March 2025. The "Actual" column represents the actual amount in money the church has received (from offerings and other income) and spent (expenses) through the end of March. The "Budget" column represents the prorated amount of our total budget (both income and expenses) that would be accounted for through the end of the March.

Tryon Presbyterian Church			
YTD Financial Operating Summary			
Through March 31, 2025			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 162,075.60	\$ 114,570.00	\$ 47,505.60
Expenses	\$ 99,041.06	\$ 115,130.00	\$ (16,088.94)
Difference	\$ 63,034.54	\$ (560.00)	

When comparing our actual income to the budget, you'll note that we are approximately \$47,500 over our budget projection. Being over budget on income is a good thing! This provides the church with a budgetary cushion to work from throughout the year, especially when giving tends to slow (e.g. summer months). When comparing our actual expenses to the budget, the church is approximately \$16,000 under budget – again a good thing! In total, our actual income has outpaced our actual expenses through the first quarter by approximately \$63,000. We received multiple annual gifts in the month of March that helped provide this cushion for us.

If you have any questions about the finances of the church, please contact me (jonathan.c.mcgrath@gmail.com).

By Jon McGrath, Church Treasurer

TPC's strawberry tradition continues May 14

You have just a few days left to make your reservation for the culinary event of the year at Tryon Presbyterian Church, Ken Shull's World-Famous Barbecue and our annual Strawberry Festival.

The date is Wednesday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. The reservations deadline is noon on May 12. Cost is \$8 per person aged 12 and up, just \$1 for younger kids. Sign up in the Narthex after worship and pay in advance if you like.



Ken's barbecue is the best, and following the meal with strawberry desserts makes it even better. May strawberries have been associated with our church for more than a half-century. We held a Strawberry Festival for many years beginning in the 1970s, selling shortcakes, sandwich plates, lemonade, baked goods and plants as a church fund-raiser. More modest efforts were held in recent years, but the addition of Ken's barbecue last year has made this a don't-miss annual celebration of spring once again.

James Purtill will enroll at Davidson

James Purtill will graduate from Polk County High School in June and attend Davidson College this fall. We sent him some questions about his selection. Here's the Q&A:

You chose between a large state university (UNC-Chapel Hill) and a small private college, both with excellent academics.

What steered your final decision?

What steered my final decision was how personable Davidson's admitted students day was. When I walked in, it was a very personable experience, and I was greeted well. I even got to shake hands and have a conversation with the Dean of Admissions and President of the College. I could not turn down that kind of personal connection.

Of course, your mom is a proud graduate of Davidson. How important to you is that?

Not only is my mom a proud graduate of Davidson, my grandfather was as well. The two of them combined were very influential in sowing the seed of Davidson in my mind. I am proud to join the many members of my family who have attended Davidson College.

How long were you interested in attending Davidson? Did you visit campus often when you lived nearby in Huntersville?



James Purtill on the Davidson College campus.

It was never a clear statement that I was going to choose Davidson until the very end. I always knew I was going to apply, but it wasn't a "Davidson or bust" kind of scenario. My parents did a great job keeping my options open and finding the best place for me.

When we lived in Huntersville, Davidson was a constant presence. We would occasionally take trips to get ice cream or see the campus. It wasn't an every weekend occurrence, but probably every 1-2 months we would visit.

Davidson has Presbyterian roots. How does the college reflect your values?

Davidson does a great job of showing how important having a community is. They preach that everyone who is at Davidson wants to be there and is wanted there. They make it a place for all to come together and build close, long-lasting relationships. Those values are similar to those of a church and could be based on their Presbyterian roots. Overall, they do a great job of making Davidson feel like home.

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What is your planned major, and what career goals do you have?

My planned major is Chemistry while on the Pre-Med track. I have career aspirations of being a Sports-Medicine Physician. I am not sure where I want to work. I have thought about opening my own practice, or possibly even working for a professional sports team.

When do you start?

Move-in Day is August 20.

Congratulations, James!

TPC supports the summer food program



These TPC volunteers assembled food packages in 2024.

The Missions Team has contributed \$1,500 to Thermal Belt Outreach and Polk County Schools to help with the Summer Feeding Program. For the third year, we will be funding the effort and providing volunteer support. We join with four other area churches to fund and work on this program. It is designed to supply food and snacks to families with school-aged children. In some ways, it is intended to help replace the free meals provided to students during the school year. The program lasts eight weeks.

For our part, we need five volunteers to pack food in the morning on Wednesday, June 4. This takes about two hours. Thursday is delivery day. We need seven two-person teams to deliver in the Tryon/Mill Springs area. This also takes about two hours. Most routes have between eight and 10 stops.

It is a truly meaningful experience to share our gifts in these places with these folks. After our first year delivering, MaryAnn Sloan said that she felt everyone at TPC should ride out in the county to see the needs we are addressing.

You will drive through beautiful areas that we are blessed to live among and will stop at houses we typically overlook, some with cars on blocks, broken bikes, basketball goals and trampolines, many with numerous cats and kittens and rough-looking dogs.

This is an important local ministry, meaningful to the recipients as well as to the volunteers. Please contact Bill Sullivan with questions and to volunteer.

By the Missions Team

Non-food items can help struggling families

While food assistance programs like North Carolina's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) help many families put meals on the table, they don't cover everything a household needs. Many essential items — such as paper goods and cleaning supplies — are not eligible for purchase with food stamps. This leaves a critical gap for families trying to maintain clean, healthy homes. These items are always in high demand.

You can help. Throughout the month of June, the Missions Committee is collecting much-needed non-food essentials for the Blessing Box in the Narthex. Items especially needed include:

- Toilet paper and tissues
- Paper towels and napkins
- Dish soap and laundry detergent
- All-purpose cleaners and disinfectants
- Personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant) including feminine products
- Trash bags and storage bags



Our pantry stocks household and personal items that families need.

Every donation makes a difference in the lives of local families. Thank you for helping us support our neighbors in need with dignity and care.

By the Missions Team



Makena James plans doctoral studies at UCLA

Makena James, our interim organist from December 2022 until July 2023, gave her master's recital at Pasadena Presbyterian Church April 29. The program featured a 17th century Italian toccata, a Bach trio sonata, five character dances and more.



Makena James

Makena is completing the Master of Music course in organ studies at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. She plans to continue her studies by pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of California Los Angeles.

The Asheville native, who earned her undergraduate degree at Houghton University in Houghton, New York, in 2022, told us she was accepted into the doctorate program at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., but she "got attached to Southern California."

Makena is also organist and carillonneur at First Congregational Church of Riverside, California. "My duties have and will include playing organ, accompanying the choir, and playing weekly carillon concerts before and after each church service. It's a rich sea of experience for me," she said in a Facebook post.

She continues to maintain a [YouTube channel](#) with all her latest compositions and performances.

Best of luck to this talented, creative Christian musician!

Drew Banzhoff finds Juilliard 'amazing' experience

We also reached out to Drew Banzhoff for an update on his life in New York. Drew was our Director of Music and Organist from July 2023 to July 2024, when he left to begin graduate studies at The Juilliard School. He reports:

"Everything here is going well! Juilliard is amazing. I have frequent encounters and classes with rock star composers and musicians. I have been to New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall performances, have had some of my own pieces performed and recorded at Juilliard, and have performed/conducted several pieces by many of my fellow composers/friends. I sort of have a minor reputation here now as "the conductor of the master's composers," although Juilliard has its own orchestral conducting program, of which I am planning to apply to next year to possibly get a second master's degree in that field. My dream job is to become a conductor of a major orchestra. We shall see – it is quite competitive!"

"I stay busy composing and also have a job as director of music/organist/choir director at a United Methodist Church (Grace UMC Valley Stream) on Long Island, which is going well! I was hired there in December and have already steered them through Christmas 2024 and Easter 2025. The musical productions here have not been as grand as the ones in Tryon (which I dearly miss) due to their smaller size and limited musical

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resources, but this church has talented musical members, and I am glad to be able to lead them! We have about eight people in the choir, but many of them are musicians (several are music teachers in public schools) and help us to raise the musical bar as high as it can go! We also have a handbell choir of about 10.

"I am staying in New York over the summer, still working at the church and possibly planning to curate some new music concerts with my composer friends wherever we can! When I am not in school or working, I visit places around the city (restaurants, museums, parks, etc.), "enjoy" taking the hour-and-a-half subway ride out to Coney Island and walking along the boardwalk, eating a Nathan's hot dog and getting some sun. (It reminds me somewhat of Myrtle Beach). I might make some day trips to some locations outside of the city: possibly areas of New Jersey, and I am planning to ferry out to Rhode Island at some point. I also will be back in North Carolina a couple of times over the summer to see family.

"I think about my Tryon friends often! I know it has been a particularly challenging year in a lot of unique and different ways – Allan keeps me updated!"

Thanks for your update, Drew. Keep doing great things!



Drew at Juilliard with award-winning film composer Alan Silvestri.

Church fills the need for an AP testing location

Our church again will open its doors for the community this month. It will be used by Polk County Schools as the site for administering Advanced Placement exams May 5-15.

AP tests are given online, so excellent internet service is required. James Purtill, a senior at Polk County High School, recently overheard Counselor Billy Transou talking with a colleague about the difficulty of finding a good location. "Our church has fiber optic," James volunteered.

Indeed it does. During the Covid-19 pandemic, TPC received a \$3,000 donation for technology upgrades. The work included connecting to Pangaea, a high-speed Internet provider that allows us to livestream worship services. Brandon Schweitzer, Director of Operations for Polk County Schools, performed a speed check on our internet and found it, well, more than up to speed.

The number of students taking tests will vary. On May 6, both the Fellowship Hall and Choir Room will be used in the morning by a total of 23 students. Some days, only one or two will be here. Testing will start at noon on May 13 and 15. Exams won't displace any church activities. Church members are asked to observe the "Quiet Please" signs when testing is under way. This affords "an opportunity for us to be good stewards of this technology, support our local schools and students, and puts us on the map for some people who may not have known where we are," Pastor Allan Purtill said.

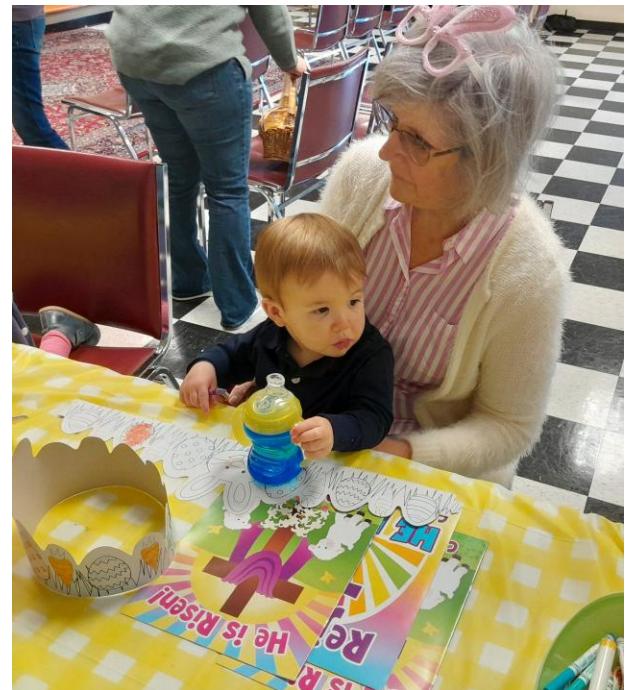
The setting might even inspire an extra prayer or two, which surely won't hurt those students taking the test.

Easter story and fun draw families to TPC



Clockwise from left: Our Easter Egg Hunt and More April 12 began with the Easter story, as illustrated by Amy McGrath. Kim McPherson brought granddaughter Blakely. Kids traded plastic eggs for prizes. Amy tried her hand at face-painting. Ready, set, go for the eggs!





Clockwise from top: There must be more eggs in there! Joyce and David Keenan's granddaughter Lucy volunteered to assist magician Steve Holt. Cindy Allen and grandson Greyson. Rennie Habel led the Membership Committee in organizing the event, assisted by husband Steve.

TPC Library

When American dirt is more precious than you know

“That’s as common as dirt” is a phrase you may have heard all your life. In the American South, we play in it, we test it so we can plant crops and grow flowers in it, we track it into our houses on our shoes or bare feet, we rely on Tide and/or Clorox to get it out of our clothes. It’s right outside our doorsteps. Common.

Does that make the story of Lydia Quixano Perez more or less compelling? “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins presents the journey Lydia and her son Luca must attempt in order to reach *el norte* if they want to survive.

Native of Acapulco, wife, mother, bookstore owner, Lydia befriends Javier, a client who purchases several of her favorite books and, as their friendship develops, engages her in an ongoing literary conversation. Lydia’s husband is a journalist who has recently written a series of revealing articles about the cartels that are beginning to invade Acapulco, introducing danger and violence into their previously safe homeland. Friendship notwithstanding, Javier, who is head of the leading cartel, cannot let that go; his men come calling at the *abuela*’s where the entire family has gathered to celebrate a *quincenera*. Eighteen family members had gathered, 16 are shot. Luca, Lydia’s 8-year-old son, was in the bathroom as the attack began, which is where Lydia finds him and where the two of them successfully hide from the gunmen. Temporarily.

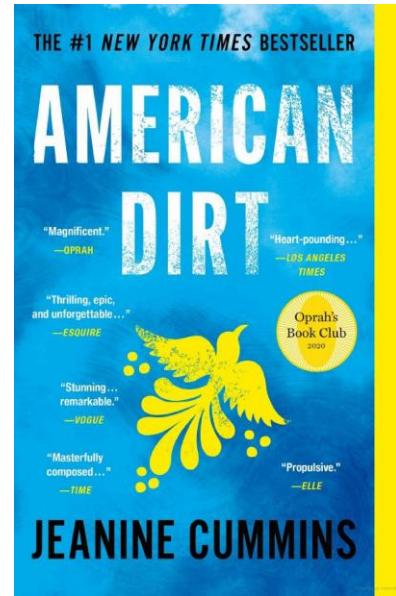
Not only is Acapulco not safe; nowhere in Mexico is safe. The arms of the cartel are long and the corruption of power from cartel money has already started closing doors and building walls. The only safe place for Lydia and Luca is America. If they can get here alive. They must leave immediately for the 2,000-plus-mile trip; no time to plan or pack. Credit cards are traceable; money is easily stolen; cars and phones can be tracked. That leaves wit, sheer determination and the will to survive.

This act of terror happens in the first five pages, so a spoiler alert is hardly necessary. Not for that part. But the trip across Mexico is one challenge after another. The band of travelers is as varied as the individual reasons for running, and the cast changes almost daily. Lydia soon discovers that the value of human life appears to be on a sliding scale.

This novel provides a close look at the reasons for escape, the desperation that impels drastic actions, the sacrifices so many people are willing to make to live. And it certainly underscores what Emma Lazarus saw in the masses of those who are, “tired ... poor ... yearning to breathe free.”

How easy it is for us to take for granted the American dirt right outside our doorsteps. Maybe it’s not so common after all.

The book is not dated, even though it was published in 2019. If you’ve already read it, let me know what you
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think. If not, you might add it to your list. But be prepared to acknowledge how lucky you are to already be living on American soil.

The book can be found in our church library.

Review by Gloria Underwood, PhD

New inspirational books join collection

You will find these new inspirational books on the desk in the TPC library:

- “Have a Little Faith” by Mitch Albom
- “Second Thoughts about the Second Coming” by Robert Cornwall and R.J. Allen
- “Works of Mercy” by Sally Thomas
- “The Cost of Discipleship” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “Strength to Love” by Martin Luther King Jr.
- “Sources of Strength: Meditations on Scripture for a Living Faith” by Jimmy Carter
- “A Rhythm of Prayer” by Sarah Bessy
- “American Grace” by Robert Putnam

By Carolyn Thompson, TPC Librarian



DAI guest will share the story of her gift during visit in June

In August 2023, disability advocate Mike Hudson toured our church campus and offered suggestions for improving accessibility. Much has been done since then, but our Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force knows more is necessary.

So, the DAI Task Force invited Sarah Quinn Montjoy to visit for a fresh look. Sarah, who uses a wheelchair for mobility, will be here at 5:30 p.m. June 17.

Sarah is a trauma therapist who lives in Greenville. She overcame her own traumatic episode, which left her with what she calls “the devastating gift of paralysis. It will grace me with its presence for the rest of my life ...”

Sarah was massively injured in a car crash, which killed her younger brother, when she was 18. She recovered well enough physically to play wheelchair tennis in college and to go on to make the national team in that sport, traveling to competitions all over the world. It was an “amazing experience,” which she would not have had were it not for the accident, she said.

At the same time, she was consumed by guilt over her brother’s death. She had been driving. Remorse led her to addiction to alcohol and pain pills and “all of the classic symptoms of PTSD: anxiety, depression, insomnia, substance abuse, anger, flashbacks, hypervigilance and social isolation.”

With therapy and time, she moved through these burdens and now helps other people who are fighting similar battles. She can even call her circumstances a gift “because I would not go back and change what happened to me.”

When Sarah visits, she will do more than offer advice about accessibility, although her perspective will help our task force as it tries to eliminate more barriers of all kinds. She will talk about how society views people with disabilities and why attitudes must change.

“I want to express that we have all the same needs and desires as everyone else,” she said. She and others with disabilities can still live normal lives.

Everyone is welcome to come, meet Sarah and hear what she can teach us about gifts and grace.

By the DAI Task Force



Sarah Quinn Montjoy

Early deacon, elder led life of service

One of our church's first deacons was also a leader on football fields, battlefields and in the school that still serves Tryon children.

Our original deacons were Hugh White and Fred Swann, but White died shortly after the establishment of the congregation in 1922, Robin Lattimore wrote in his 2022 history of Tryon Presbyterian Church's first 100 years. "Col. W.A. Schilletter, who had recently come to Tryon as superintendent of the local schools, was elected deacon to fill the vacancy."

William Albert Schilletter wasn't actually a colonel yet. He was born on Christmas Day 1893 in Anderson, S.C., the son of a German immigrant who managed the dining hall at Clemson Agricultural College. August Schilletter was so well-liked that a Clemson dining hall is named for him today.

William enrolled at Clemson in 1911 and began playing football. By 1914, he was an all-star tackle and team captain who eventually would be inducted into the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame. After earning a degree in agriculture, he worked for the college until joining the Army in 1917, upon our country's entry into the First World War.

On October 9, 1918, First Lieutenant Schilletter was commanding Company 1, 321st Infantry Regiment, 81st Division in the St. Die sector of France when German forces launched a massive artillery barrage on his position, followed by an infantry assault.

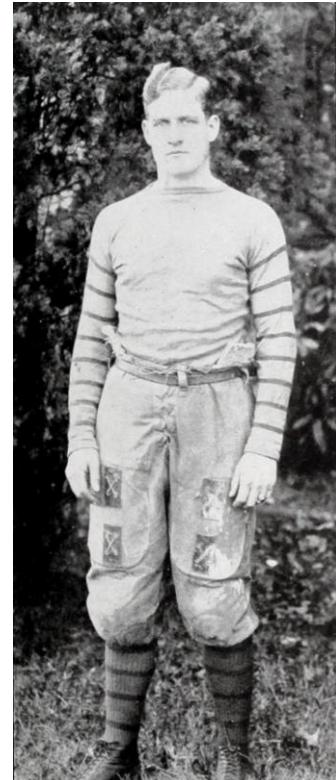
The Americans repulsed the attack, and the division history noted that "Lieutenant Schilletter displayed remarkable coolness and marked ability in commanding the men of his sector of the trench," according to "Tigers in the Trenches: A Study of Clemson in the Great War," a 2015 master's thesis by Clemson graduate student Brock M. Lusk.

The war ended just a month later, and Schilletter returned to civilian life. A few years later, he was in Tryon, married to Ellen Moore Hope and a deacon in the new Presbyterian church. Ellen was a leader, too – the first president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Columbus and Tryon Presbyterian churches. They had two children, Ellen Hope Schilletter, born in 1925, and William A. Schilletter Jr., born in 1934.

Schilletter's service to the church continued for many years. In 1924, he was named to the building committee, leading to construction of the church on Freeman Hill. He was elected to the Session in 1926 and served several terms through 1940, then was a deacon again in 1941 and 1942, according to church records.

Schilletter's initial career goal had been to coach Clemson's football team, but he steered into academics instead. He was principal and a teacher at the brand-new Tryon school, completed in 1923. In 1925, he and two female teachers instructed 61 students in grades 8 through 11. The school, which had a library, offices and 12 classrooms, also enrolled 384 elementary pupils – although far fewer attended regularly, according to a state report written by Farnbach History Services in 2015. The school fielded athletic teams competing in

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Schilletter at Clemson.

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baseball, volleyball, tennis and track – but not football.

In the 1929-30 academic year, Schilletter and 14 teachers counted 92 high school and 381 elementary students.

He was a respected principal, according to memories recorded in a book published by the Polk County Historical Association. He took children hiking and camping “but also cracked the whip when necessary,” according to Mollie B. Millikin. His disciplinary measures helped maintain the school grounds, Fred Swann recalled. “Billy Brewer, along with some others, were regularly seen after school pushing wheelbarrows and shoveling ditches.”

The late Garland Goodwin, in his “Remember When” column for the Tryon Daily Bulletin, recalled that Schilletter was principal of the Tryon school “before being recalled to serve again in the U.S. Army in WWII.”

Schilletter was a lieutenant colonel commanding the reception center at Camp Oglethorpe in Georgia in June 1943 when he appeared in a Fox Movietone newsreel with World War I hero Alvin C. York, whose 19-year-old son was reporting for duty. After the war, Schilletter served as deputy chief, then acting chief, of the Public Information Division for EUCOM, or European Command.

Schilletter remained in the Army until 1954. He and Ellen then settled in Goldsboro, N.C., where their daughter Hope and her husband, fellow Tryon native Jake Derby, were living. William Sr. died in Goldsboro in 1974, and Ellen died in 1991. Their son William Jr., who also pursued a military career, achieving the rank of colonel in the Air Force, died in 2008.

Hope lived until the age of 98. Her 2023 obituary stated that she and Jake “had a wonderful childhood in the small mountain town of Tryon,” and that her parents “instilled in Hope the values of service, hospitality, kindness, and faith.

“Hope was a cradle Presbyterian and a faithful member of (Goldsboro) First Presbyterian. She was well-known for her caring notes, visits, and prayers for her church family. She inspired others with her energy, compassion, and generosity. FPC recognized Hope’s service with the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership, the New Hope Presbytery Outstanding Older Adult Award, and the distinction of Elder Emeritus.”

Hope died a century after her father began service as a deacon in our church. She and Jake had three children, eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Her descendants inherit a legacy to service to others.

By Doug Clark

If you know more about the Schilletter family or have an idea for another story about TPC history, please let me know.



Clemson dining hall named for August Schilletter.

Presbytery news

PWNC receives Asheville's House of Mercy

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina met at Montreat April 29. While it approved revisions to the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy and voted in favor of four amendments to the Book of Order, it also reported that:

"The biggest and happiest news from the meeting came with the introduction of our latest New Worshiping Community, House of Mercy in Asheville.



Rev. Chad Smith

"The organizing pastor of this community, the Rev. Chad Smith, was received into the Presbytery as a temporary member. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church of America and moved to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to start House of Mercy in 2020. He felt that now was the time to 'come home' to the PC(USA) as it more closely aligns with the mission of House of Mercy.

[Here's a powerful video](#) about House of Mercy, which describes itself as "not a building or a place but a people – and you belong."



Commissioners at the April 29 Presbytery meeting.

Plans for next visit to Guatemala advance

Plans for PWNC's next delegation visit to Guatemala are taking shape. A proposed itinerary and additional information is [here](#). Please keep in mind the schedule may need to shift as things in Guatemala change based on weather, road conditions, national current events and local factors.

The goals of the trip are to:

Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in Guatemala and bring us closer to each other;

Learn their stories and share ours;

Celebrate our shared bonds in Christ;

Provide opportunity for the Guatemalans and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;

Demonstrate the strength of our ongoing partnerships with churches and presbyteries in Guatemala and foster communication and relationships between partner congregations.

The cost will be \$1,500 and includes airfare, lodging/travel/meals in Guatemala, and interpreter fees.

In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Top: Pastor Allan Purtill joined other ministers in leading the community Easter sunrise service at the Tryon Fine Arts Center amphitheater. **Left and above:** The Palm Sunday brunch filled our fellowship hall.



Clockwise from top: Is that a kid up in one of our magnolia trees? Celebrating Palm Sunday. Thermal Belt Outreach recently honored volunteers, including in this photo, TPC members MaryAnn Sloan and Lynn Coombs. Presbyterians Skip Taylor, Art Brown, Dave Hosick and Ken Shull were among Tryon Rotary Club members who gave books to students at Tryon Elementary School.





Clockwise from top left: Presbyterian Women held their spring luncheon May 3. Co-team members are Brittany Meissner, Sandy Sibley, Jacque Headden, Terri Hendrix, Lee Lindsay, Deanne Zaeske, Joanie Hosick and Janet Gilchrist. Brittany introduced the speaker, Cathy Rogerson of the Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital. Stephanie Greene made cupcakes!

Tryon Trumpet

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