

TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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Help to sharpen TPC's vision For the future



Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you ... plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

In response to our growing ministry and needed facility upgrades, the Session formed an Exploratory Committee, which has met faithfully at least once a month since November 2025. Committee members include Ken Shull, Skip Taylor, Cheryl and Ed Spencer, Bobby Silvers, Mark Hereward, Allan Purtill and Janet Gilchrist. This team is deeply reflective, intentional and conscientious with a focus of seeking God's will in relation to the dreams, the heartbeat and the

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practical ministry needs of TPC.

Our job is to listen, to gather the best possible wisdom, and to bring information to the Session so that it can make good decisions based on the team's work.

After receiving input from approximately 59 members of our congregation, brainstorming and hearing their hearts, our collected data revealed two distinct themes focusing on the church's mission: "To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God and their neighbor."

- **Space**: Needed areas for studies and meetings, modern fellowship areas, adequate storage and full accessibility for everyone in our church family.
- **Service to the Community**: A passionate desire for our building to extend far beyond Sunday morning — offering a place of refuge in times of disaster, welcoming meeting spaces for local groups, and a place for member gatherings.

Once the committee realized this reality, the Session authorized the development of a plan and the engagement of a reputable firm to guide our Session in the decision-making process.



Jerry Henry

Over the next month, Jerry Henry, a managing partner with Alexander Haas Inc., will meet with a small group of members and friends of Tryon Presbyterian. His goal is to gather information and give the Session recommendations on making Our Vision for Our Future a reality.

This is the moment where our shared faith meets our practice. We humbly request ***your prayers*** and ***your willingness to engage*** with Jerry as he studies our readiness. While he begins with a small group, every member will have an opportunity to respond, and our committee will keep you posted on his progress and further information.



Jesus seeks truthful marriages

As we journey through the Sermon on the Mount, I fear this month we will go where angels fear to tread. Since I am no angel, I might have a word or two to say about these words from Jesus. Although I have never given a sermon on this topic, a devotional is a bit easier to conquer, I hope. I have put two sections together, concerning (1) adultery and (2) divorce (Matthew 5:27-32). In both, Jesus is referring back to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:14, 17).

It appears to me that Jesus goes in through the back door in speaking about marriage. He appears to begin before marriage even is contemplated. Jesus starts by saying He requires discipline. Jesus uses hyperbole to get His point across.

Our Sovereign demands the virtue of purity. The purpose of discipline is to have abundant life. In other words, it is for our own good. His prohibitions are always intended for our enrichment. Our promised joy is not only meant for us in an earthly home but for joy in our heavenly home.

I always was astonished when I counseled couples who were seeking to marry and I asked why had they chosen each other for their life's mate. The answer most often given was he or she makes me laugh. After speaking with them for a while, it seemed to me they didn't really know each other very well. More discerning questions needed to be asked.

To be up front, Jesus thinks mostly about the women of His time. Remember, women weren't allowed to do much of anything. It was a man's world. At this point, He is really speaking to the rabbis. There were two schools of thought: the stricter school of Shammai, which insisted that divorce was permissible only on grounds of adultery; and the school of Hillel, which allowed divorce for any trivial reason. Women had no say!

Jesus goes beyond these schools of thought to defend women. His concern here is Christian marriage, that no back door be left open. He wanted His followers to be married for life.

Marriage is to be a sacramental act showing the love between God and humankind. One scholar suggested training youth about Christian marriage so as to prevent divorce and encourage a creative life. Biologically, marriage is for the ongoing of the race and more deeply for the sake of the family.

In these two sections of Jesus' sermon, He bravely seeks to protect women from the religious culture of His day. He wants His followers to create loving marriages, providing their families with sound, stable homes.

My humble opinion is that we as followers need to keep truth in all our dealings with each other and always remember what Jesus said to Pilate: "The truth will set you free." There must be truth within marriages!

This month, as Christian families celebrate Thanksgiving, let each of us give our thankfulness to God Almighty for Jesus Christ, our only way to God the Father and truth!

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

God loves slightly late cheerful givers, too

As you have heard or seen, the theme for stewardship this year is God Loves a Cheerful Giver, taken from 2 Corinthians 9:7.



A cheerful giver is not someone who gives out of duty, or expecting a reward from God. We give cheerfully when we give out of love for God, out of joy in seeing what God is doing through the ministries of this church.

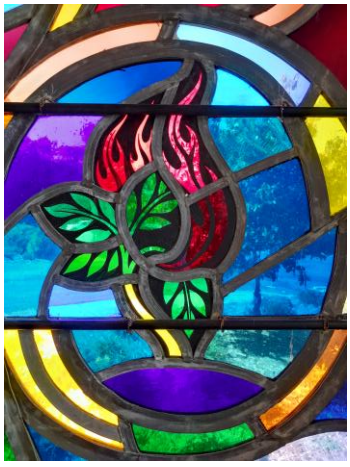
Over the last few Sundays, we have let you know how your tithes and offerings are used and what ministries are achieving. We hope that you take delight in what God is doing with the seed money we put in and give joyfully.

Our Session has started looking at the budget for next year, which will of course have to be increased to cover inflation, but which we would love to increase to have broader reach in our missions and outreach work, worship and music, our children's ministry, and to have prudent savings for our infrastructure.

So please think, pray and discuss what would be a joyful pledge of support for 2027. When you have a conclusion, please fill out a pledge form and send it back to the church office. Pledges are still welcome even though we are past the deadline!

A pledge is your giving estimate for 2027. It can be changed any time through the church office. You may also email your pledge to our Church Administrator, Kim McPherson, at tpreschurch@gmail.com. Thank you!

By Mark Hereward, Stewardship Chair



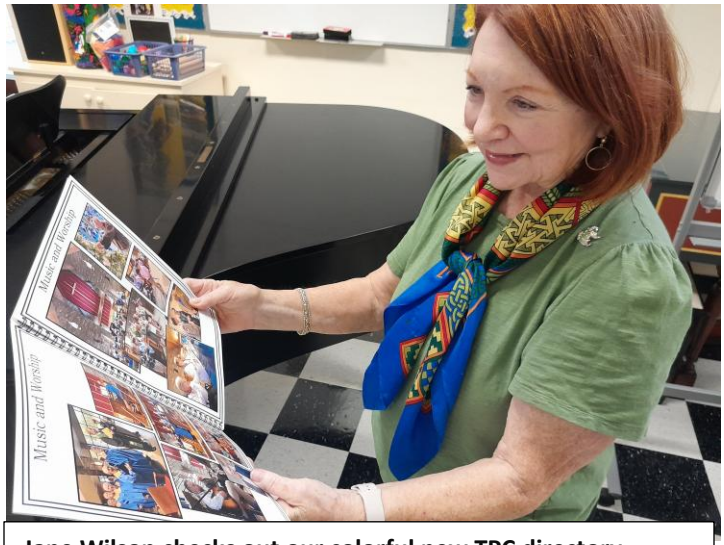
The new directory looks … like us

Our new church directory has arrived, and it looks … a lot like us!

We'll quote our pastor about that. From Rev. Dr. Allan Purtill's message on the first page:

"People touring the sanctuary often remark, 'What a beautiful church.' I've learned to reply, 'Yes, and so is the building.'

"As you look through these pages may you see the blessings of Christ in each face and your own. Take some time to pray for one another by name. By doing so we'll learn the names and greet each other more knowingly with the peace of Christ."



Jane Wilson checks out our colorful new TPC directory.

In this handsome and handy publication, you will see photos of our church staff, a history of Tryon Presbyterian, photo pages featuring Congregational Care, Fellowship, Music and Worship, Missions and images of other scenes and activities. The main attraction presents portraits of our church family members. That's followed by the roster, complete with addresses (residential and email) and phone numbers to help us stay in touch.

Finally, there's something we have not had before: a page of "instructions for your mobile directory." All the content is also available on a PDF file.

The Fellowship Committee will distribute hard copies of the directory to individuals and families who chose to be included in it. If you did not, however, you can purchase copies for $10 each. That's a deal! Please see Rennie Habel or Janet Gilchrist.

Thanksgiving arrives early with our Fellowship dinner

Don't miss one of the most popular Fellowship meals of the year. The Early Thanksgiving dinner will be served Thursday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m. The committees are planning a traditional meal, including turkey and all the trimmings. The cost is $10 per person, with children 12 and under eating free.

It is essential that reservations and payments are made in advance. So, please join us for a BIG family Thanksgiving gathering. Contact Jacque Headden at Jacque.headden@gmail.com or sign up in the Narthex.



New Member Sunday is coming up

God continues to bless the ministry of Tryon Presbyterian Church, and we are delighted to welcome new members into our growing church family!

Sunday, November 15, has been designated as New Member Sunday, a special day of celebration and commitment. If you have been prayerfully considering church membership and feel God leading you to take the next step in your faith journey, this is the perfect opportunity to become part of this vibrant, caring and Christ-centered congregation.

Membership at Tryon Presbyterian Church is more than adding your name to a roll. It is joining a community of believers who worship together, serve together, grow together and support one another through every season of life.

The Reception of New Members will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We would be honored to welcome you into the fellowship of our church family.

For more information or to discuss membership, please contact Dr. Purtill or Susan Speight, Head Greeter**.**



The Fellowship Committee and Pastor Allan Purtill hosted a brunch Nov. 1 for frequent visitors who are not yet members.

What else is happening soon?

TPC Young Explorers

Fourth- and fifth-graders are invited to meet with Pastor Mike Carruth after Time with Young Disciples Sunday, November 15. You will explore what it means to be God's people in fun ways. Bring your curiosity, questions and imagination!

Hanging of the Greens

Come to help decorate our church for Christmas at 10 a.m. Monday, November 23, then stay for lunch.

Advent Intergenerational Faith Walks

Everyone is invited to meet after worship each Sunday during Advent to learn together about the words we focus on during that season of preparation and anticipation: Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

Each walk will be in the Sanctuary and will last about 20 minutes. The first Sunday is November 29, then December 6, 13 and 20.

Christmas Party

For children, youth and families. Sunday, December 13, 2 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a fun afternoon of making Christmas presents, creating fun decorations, enjoying some holiday snacks, Reindeer Games and a reading of the story of the birth of Jesus. Please let Pastor Lynnette know you will attend. Text 828-712-7119 or email at Lrj.sills52@gmail.com.

Christmas Pageant

Our annual reenactment of the nativity story, with participants of all ages and perhaps more than one species, will take place during Sunday worship on December 20. Look for more information about how you and your children can take part.



Amy McGrath leads Time With Young Disciples recently.

Missions looks at Guatemala options

Missions Committee Chair Stephanie Greene and members Mark and Chianghua Hereward recently attended the Presbytery's Guatemala Gathering at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville and wanted to share what they learned. As the committee weighs renewing mission connections in Guatemala and continuing support for the Microloan Program, it believes it's important for all of us to understand the work being done, the challenges facing communities in the Central American country and the opportunities we may have to become involved.



Chianghua and Mark Hereward, Stephanie Greene at Gathering.

The Presbytery works in two areas of Guatemala: Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez. This is where the churches are concentrated and the different programs take place. The programs are: Education, Health, Microloans, Men in the Mirror and Church to Church.

Niki Garrou heads the Education Committee, which helps through scholarships, creating mini-libraries and theological seminary sponsorships.

Guatemala ranks among the bottom the four countries for education in the Americas. Only half of children finish fifth grade and just 30 percent complete middle school. For high school graduation, the number slips to 17 percent. Four percent of young adults attend a technical school and 5 percent earn a bachelor's degree.

Education is provided tuition-free by the government by law, but there are still prohibitive costs, such as school uniforms, backpacks, paper, pens, lab fees and transportation costs.

Libraries are being built as part of the Building Hope Scholarship Fund. A library can cost $1,200. Any church can sponsor a library and does not need a sister church to participate in this program.

Doug Michael oversees the Health Committee.

The Guatemala constitution says everyone is entitled to universal health care, but there is just one doctor for every 30,000 people in areas where the Presbytery operates. These areas also have the highest malnutrition level in Central America.

Because there are no laws protecting water quality, 90 percent of surface water (which is what people drink in rural areas) is contaminated.

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The health program helps to combat some of these issues by providing vitamins for more than 600 children. The health program also supplies healthy snacks and fuel-efficient stoves for families.

Kevin Frederick oversees the Men in the Mirror program, which helps to fight against domestic violence and aims to build stronger family relationships. They are working on curriculums for Youth in the Mirror and Couples in The Mirror.

Susan Maveety oversees the Microloan Task Force. We all know that this program helps women entrepreneurs, but it does so much more. It also helps with emotional and physical health for women. As we have learned, supporting women can strengthen a community.

Other programs have been started, such as Daily Change, in which we can save our coins and send them to the Presbytery each month to go toward the health program.

One of the takeaways from this gathering is that mission work is about building relationships, listening to the needs of others, learning about their culture, praying with and for them, and developing partnerships that are meaningful and sustainable. That is why the church-to-church relationship is so important as an underpinning to these projects. While it is great to sponsor projects outside of a church-to-church relationship, having a particular congregation, with which we could develop a close relationship of prayer, communication and love, creates a much deeper context of mutual respect and mutual support for various projects.

As we continue exploring the possibility of establishing a sister church relationship in Guatemala, this information is especially important because it gives us a broader understanding of the needs within these communities and helps us consider how we might contribute in ways that are meaningful, respectful and lasting.



The committee looks forward to sharing more information as it continues learning and exploring opportunities.

Here's a video from a Presbytery trip to Guatemala earlier this year.

Susan Maveety heads the Guatemala Microloan Project for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Our Presbyterian Women have supported this program for many years.

Fish Fry nets $2,027 for scholarships



The October Tryon Presbyterian Scholarship Fundraiser Fish Fry was a tremendous success, thanks to the generosity, dedication and community spirit of everyone who helped make the event possible.

Although rain poured throughout the entire day due to the hurricane, our community did not let the weather dampen its enthusiasm or commitment to supporting our students.

We prepared more than 80 meals, and remarkably, all but seven people came out to pick up their orders despite the challenging weather conditions!

Thanks to the generosity of a very special couple who graciously covered all the expenses associated with the fundraiser, we were able to raise an incredible $2,027! This means that every dollar raised will go directly toward helping support educational opportunities for our young people.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the wonderful ladies of our church's Women's Circles, who generously supplied an assortment of delicious homemade desserts. Their contributions added a special touch to the event and helped make the fundraiser even more successful.

This event was truly a team effort. From our generous donors and dessert contributors, to everyone who cooked, prepared meals, organized orders, volunteered time and supported us by purchasing a meal, we are deeply grateful.

The rain may have fallen all day, but it certainly did not wash away the generosity and spirit of our church family and community!

Thank you for believing in our young people and investing in their future. Your support makes a difference, and the Tryon Presbyterian Scholarship Fund Committee is grateful for each and every one of you.

Tryon Trumpet

The Tryon Trumpet is a digital publication of Tryon Presbyterian Church and its Fellowship Committee, chaired by Janet Gilchrist. The editor is Doug Clark. We welcome articles, photos and suggestions. Our email address is Tryontrumpet@outlook.com. Thanks for help with this edition goes to Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Stephanie Greene, Mark Hereward, Lynnette Sills, Sandy Sibley, Allan Purtill, Kim McPherson, Wes Elam, Rick Leissner and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

More than a ‘gentleman farmer’

Bobby Silvers says he’s “living the life of a gentleman farmer,” which may remind him of his youth in rural western Virginia. But the Life Story he told over lunch at Calvert’s in Columbus October 21 included experiences in farther fields.

Bobby retired from a career in medicine in 2018 and joined wife Penny Padgett on 26 acres of her family’s land in Polk County, where they tend eight goats and two donkeys. That may be a little easier than helping on a dairy farm during his youth near Christiansburg, Virginia. He soon became more interested in taking care of people, which began with duties as an athletic trainer in high school. As a day student at nearby Virginia Tech, he joined the local rescue squad and earned certification as an emergency medical technician, then cardiac technician, which meant he could “defibrillate people.” After working in the emergency room at the local hospital, he enrolled in nursing school.



Bobby Silvers retired from a medical career.

Penny, meanwhile, arrived at Virginia Tech to pursue a doctorate in microbiology. The two happened to meet and, a couple of years later, married.

Bobby also began to seek more advanced credentials. He entered a nursing residency program at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond to become an emergency nurse practitioner. He then developed an interest in anesthesiology, taking more graduate studies to achieve the title of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Later, as Penny accepted college teaching positions, Bobby found his services in demand at hospitals or with medical practices. They were in Pennsylvania when their daughters were born in 1983 and 1986. Later, when Penny’s focus shifted to research, they moved to Chapel Hill. There, while holding administrative positions, Bobby heard another calling. He began to participate in medical mission trips, “something I had long wanted to do,” he said.

The first was to Colombia. Then a plastic surgeon at the university hospital asked him to join him on missions to the West Bank in Palestine, where the team helped children with cleft lips and palates as well as burn victims. Bobby provided the anesthesia during surgeries. He went on 10 or 11 of these trips over the years and found the experience “fantastically rewarding.” He also gained “a deeper understanding of some of the problems in the West Bank and Middle East.”

A few years ago, Penny decided to do something completely different: buy a bookstore. Bobby joked that she thought they had too much money and wanted to lose some of it. At any rate, Penny owned The Book Shelf in Tryon for several years, which led to their retirement in Polk County and membership at Tryon Presbyterian Church, which is definitely a happy ending.

The next Life Story will be in January. Look for details.

October Excursion plans shifted a bit

"We make our own plans, but the Lord decides where we will go," according to Proverbs 16:9 in the Contemporary English Version.



So, our TPC Excursion October 9 did not take us to Black Mountain or the chapel at Montreat College with its Ben Long fresco, "The Return of the Prodigal."

Mike Carruth's van experienced a reduction in power climbing toward Saluda on I-26, so the group followed the Spirit to closer attractions. Those were the Sky Top Orchard near Flat Rock and Jump Off Rock in Laurel Park.

Of course, with Mike at the wheel, there's always a "scenic route" to take along a narrow, unpaved road. This one hugged the shoreline of Lake Summit.



Most of the children in Henderson County and their parents seemed to be overrunning Sky Top Orchard on an apparent holiday from school. Fortunately, there were plenty of apples and doughnuts for all. Jump Off Rock was more peaceful and, at an elevation of 3,000 feet, affords views of distant mountain ranges to the north, west and south.

By the time we had enjoyed lunch in Hendersonville and started back to church, the van was operating at full speed. We assumed God wants us to visit Black Mountain another day, and we were thankful for the experience God gave us instead. And for Mike, who brought us home on paved roads the whole way.

So, big thanks to Mike for driving and to Janet Gilchrist and Cindy Caldwell for leading the group. (See the next page to find out what's planned for the next Excursion.)

By Doug Clark



Top: The group at Jump Off Rock, from left: Rennie Habel, Janet Gilchrist, Gretchen Morris, Mike Carruth, Cindy Caldwell, Margaret Clark, Cindy Allen and Joanie Hosick.

Above: Doughnuts at Sky Top Orchard!

Right: Doug Clark and Gretchen Morris.

Next TPC Excursion pursues holiday magic

"Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me; I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

If that familiar childhood rhyme brings back sweet memories, then get ready for a delightful holiday adventure with the Tryon Presbyterian Excursion Group!



Photo by Omni Grove Park Inn

On Wednesday, December 2, we're off to Asheville for a visit to the beautiful Grove Park Inn, home of the spectacular 2026 National Gingerbread House Competition. Prepare to be amazed by the creativity, imagination and incredible craftsmanship on display as we explore these edible works of art. From charming gingerbread cottages to elaborate, one-of-a-kind creations, there's something magical about seeing these holiday masterpieces up close!

This is our biggest trip of the year, and we have room for just 21 happy travelers, so don't wait too long to reserve your seat!

Our day will also include a delicious, Dutch-treat lunch at 12 Bones Smokehouse South, the beloved Asheville barbecue restaurant made famous by former President Barack Obama. Good food, great fellowship and a little holiday magic — what could be better?

So, gather your church friends, bring your holiday spirit, and hop aboard the bus for a memorable day of laughter, friendship and gingerbread wonder!

The details:

- **When:** Meet at church at 9 a.m. Wednesday, December 2.
- **Where:** The Grove Park Inn, Asheville.
- **Lunch:** Dutch treat at 12 Bones Smokehouse South.
- **Cost:** $25 per person.
- **Limited space:** 21 participants.
- **Ready to join the fun?** Contact Cindy Caldwell at cindycaldwell921@gmail.com or sign up in the Narthex.

Come along and make some sweet memories with your Tryon Presbyterian friends. After all, you're never too old for a little gingerbread magic!

By Janet Gilchrist

A bonny day at TPC

The Kirkin' O' the Tartan service October 25 was lovely, moving and great fun!

Bagpiper Kevin Sprouls led the procession, followed by Carl Bender with the Bible and the banner carriers.

Thanks to Skip Taylor (reviewing final details with Rev. Allan Purtill as Amy McGrath watches) for his leadership of this excellent event.













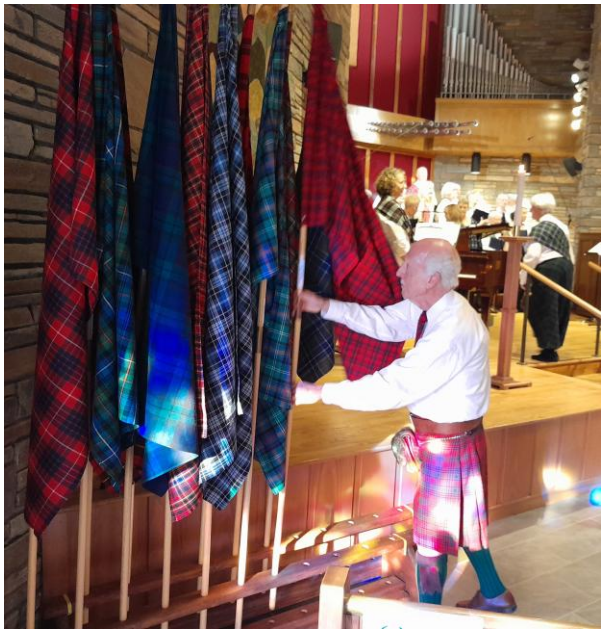






Banner carriers included members of our church as well as people from the community, all celebrating Scottish heritage and traditions.









At the conclusion of the service, participants led the congregation outside, where they presented a colorful array. Left, Rev. Purtill sports the clerical tartan. Below, Jesse and Jon McGrath represented their family well.







Did we hear the drone of the pipes echo off the hills as the sun sank in the western sky? Earlier, Skip Taylor found a quiet moment, perhaps to give thanks at seeing his plans come to fruition. Later, and back inside, other musicians entertained during a reception.







Presbytery news

Presbytery meets in Gastonia, with 116 attending

On a beautiful, crisp, clear, fall morning, we rejoiced in the day God made for us, as we gathered at iconic First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia on October 27 for a positive and content-packed meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Moderator Wanda Neely convened us with a Prayer of Invocation and host church Senior Pastor Dan Commerford offered a welcome.

Wanda recognized four first-time Elders in attendance and 24 visitors, for a total of 116 official attendees. Stated Clerk Ann Philbrick certified a quorum and secured approval of the Consent Agenda.



The Presbytery worship service at FPC Gastonia.

General Presbyter Byron Wade reported on his travels and activities, noting things are moving ahead in many great ways. He invited Jim Miller to report on Cross Mission Ministries (youth trips and services) and advised that 27 are going on the next Guatemala mission trip!

We were blessed with a beautiful, joyful worship service, full of God's peace and love. Commerford gave a tremendous sermon, assisted by Jill Kimbirl and Mary Taneti, and all enhanced by Helen Dix on organ and beautiful singing. We could sense God's pleasure at being glorified.

Ken Murchison gave his final Coordinating Ministry report, gratefully recalling some highlights of his three years of service, noting the importance of giving to PWNC. Ken also praised "Building Hope." Carol Brown and three fellow ministers advocated for and requested approval of a Disability Concern Policy for the Presbytery. They gave impassioned examples and reasons this policy needed to be approved, as well as offering church visits, presentations and other resources. It was approved unanimously.

Commission on Ministry Chair Keith Grogg noted the installation of Jim Ewing, ordination and installation of Sarah Dianne Jones and installation of Jess Rigel. He introduced new members Paul Sink (called to Marshall Presbyterian Church) and Joe Welker (called to First Presbyterian Church of Sylva). Keith then presented Don Humphrey for commissioning to Brittain Presbyterian Church. He was examined and responded passionately and was approved unanimously.

Disaster Recovery Coordinator Anne Waple reported on activities, giving some heartfelt witness and stories, as we begin Year 3 of Helene recovery. She said for us all to stress "better together." So much has been accomplished.

Beautiful, heartfelt Prayers of Intercession were offered by Risa Brandon. Wanda offered a short, meaningful Benediction, Prayer and Adjournment.

By Rick Leissner

In and around Tryon Presbyterian





Above: Our church framed in fall color.

Right: Sandy and Hank Sibley recently attended a service at Sea Island Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, S.C., where Drew Banzhoff is the new Minister of Music.

Below: Our congregation enjoys lunch October 18.











Top: Our Fellowship Hall was ready for Election Day. More than 400 of our neighbors voted in our church November 3.

Above: Jamie Graber and Rev. Lynnette Sills organized a Halloween party October 29.

Top left and left: We lit candles in memory of those who have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year on All Saints Day, November 1.