



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Jane Wilson fills interim music post

Many TPC members already know Jane Wilson, who joined our church with her retired Presbyterian minister Victor when they moved to Tryon Estates several years ago. Jane also filled in as organist and choir director May 18.

Beginning June 22, she will serve as interim organist and choir director while our search committee continues its work. We will be in good hands. Jane is not only an accomplished musician and leader, she is a joyful Christian whose enthusiasm is contagious.

Victor died in January, but Jane is ready to resume her music ministry. She says:



Jane Wilson says it fills her with joy to take the interim post.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the amazing staff team at Tryon Presbyterian Church! It feels like *coming home* to what I've done most of my life as an organist/choir director, and I can hardly wait to get started.

"Everyone has been so welcoming: Allan, the Personnel Committee, staff, choir members and members of the congregation. What a dynamic and gifted church body this is!

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(from JANE on Page 1)

"A few (among many!) of my priorities will be to be a witness for Christ in all I do; to be a creative, dedicated member of the staff team; and to collaborate and create a vibrant music program to enhance and inspire worship.

"Over the years in ministry with my Presbyterian pastor husband, I've had the unique opportunity to experience a variety of worship services in large and small churches. I have also been part of the Montreat summer worship services and music conferences for years. These experiences have shaped my understanding of worship and what music can do to bless, inspire and enhance the mission of the church.

"I can hardly wait to work with the dedicated choir and staff *officially* in mid-June! To God be the glory!"

Like Drew Banzhoff (but a few years earlier), Jane studied at the UNC School of the Arts. She holds a B.A. in organ performance from Converse College. She earned a K-12 music education certification at East Carolina University and has taught in public and private schools as well as at Rosemont College in Pennsylvania. She has served in music leadership positions for Presbyterian and Methodist churches and accumulated many honors and awards over the years. She is already getting positive reviews from choir members.

Jane has two daughters, Carolyn Baughman and Katherine Mason, and six grandchildren. Thank you, Jane, for helping us during this time of transition for our music program.

Lynnette Sills begins her ministry at TPC

Rev. Lynnette Sills has very visibly begun her six-month term as parish associate. She has served twice as a worship liturgist, including for the June 1 communion service. She will preach her first sermon from our pulpit in July. And she is meeting with the Congregational Care Committee to help develop a Shepherding Program.



Rev. Lynnette Sills with Gail Muir and Bonnie Sakos.

As Congregational Care Chair Bonnie Sakos explained in last month's Trumpet, this program entrusts Shepherds with care for Flocks, or church members, to keep in regular contact, making sure all feel nurtured, connected and supported, passing information to the pastor when deeper spiritual needs are evident.

"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," Bonnie said.

Lynnette, who was pastor of Tryon United Methodist Church from July 2019 to January 2025, is experienced with Shepherding

Programs and will be instrumental in launching this program here.

We're glad you're with us, Lynnette!

The Holy Spirit empowers our faith

As I stated last month, those of us who believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior do so with prayer to the Almighty and have accepted by faith and allowed Jesus into our lives.

The resurrection and the appearances of Jesus, along with our personal acceptance of Him, certainly assures us of our faith. The experiences Jesus had with His disciples and a host of followers historically give us further and deeper understanding of just exactly who Jesus really is to the world.



As I have studied and pondered this month on our Lord's ascension and Pentecost, I see how it was God's plan for the Christian faith to succeed. Jesus took the disciples to the Mount of Olives, told them to remain in Jerusalem until "the Holy Spirit comes on you," and added, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

What happened next is very important. As they watched, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. If you will recall, whenever God appeared to Moses or to anyone in the Old Testament, or even in the New Testament during the Transfiguration of Jesus, God always appeared in a cloud. According to Acts 1:10-11, "Two men in white robes stood by them and said, 'Why do you stand looking up toward Heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go to Heaven.' "

Remember how the risen Jesus was able to appear and disappear through locked doors, how he was able to eat, and how they were able to touch Him? I for one can't see why God couldn't lift Jesus to return to Himself.

The disciples returned to the upper room where all the followers, including Jesus' mother and brothers and some women, were gathered. They replaced Judas with Mathias, who had been close to them and to Jesus, and now they were to wait upon the Holy Spirit. Being someone who doesn't wait well, I can appreciate the wonder and anxiety of having to wait! We all are encouraged to "wait upon the Lord" at some time in our lives. Finally on the day of Pentecost, as they were still all together, a rush of a violent wind came where they were sitting.

Tongues of fire rested on each one of them, at which point each person felt the Holy Spirit fill them as they had never experienced prior to this moment. Whatever happened to them, they were now unusually fearless, even though what they might say in public might cause their death. Plus, with so many people in Jerusalem for Pentecost from all over the known world, the crowd heard them speaking in various languages and understood them. How else were these first Christians going to go through what Jesus went through in order to spread this Good News? How else were they going to hold fast to what they had heard and seen?

What the followers of Jesus received at Pentecost was spiritually uplifting and enabled mighty acts. Our question should be whether we allow the Holy Spirit to work such mighty acts in our lives and in the life of our church? No one could be thrown to lions and hold fast to this faith without receiving the Holy Spirit!

By Rev. Mary A. Potter



One busy day will do it for our VBS

One day will do it for our Vacation Bible School on Monday, June 23.

One busy day, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will allow “time for energizers, stories, music, crafts, outdoor games, free play, snack and lunch,” according to Amy McGrath, our Director of Children’s Ministry.

The theme for the day will be “God is good ... all the time.” Activities will spring from Genesis 1:31, “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

We invite children preschool age through fifth grade, whether they are members of our church, grandchildren or neighbors from the Tryon-area community. Registration is open until June 15. The link to register is [here](#). There is no charge.

We also welcome adult volunteers for set-up following worship on June 22, during VBS on June 23 and on June 24 for cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Amy at childrensministry.tpc@gmail.com.

Other summer activities are planned for families. They are:

Swimming and fishing at Twin Lakes near Saluda from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10.

Family Fun Day at Camp Skyuka near Columbus, noon until 2 p.m. Saturday, August 9.

And a Forest City Owls baseball game and a campfire/smores/singalong, both dates to be determined.

God is good ... all the time!

Cook Team feeds us with enthusiasm



From left: Janet Gilchrist, Jon Austin, Ken Shull, Brian and Deanna Bancroft, Pete Bellamy. Not pictured: Bobby Silvers and Phil Brooks.

Here's a fact you can sink your teeth into: Our Cook Team is the best!

Janet Gilchrist leads the Fellowship Committee. Its Cook Team includes Ken Shull, Brian and Deanna Bancroft, Jon Austin, Bobby Silvers, Pete Bellamy and Phil Brooks (the dedicated dishwasher).

They are hard-working and generous with their time. Last year, they served more than 700 meals to church members and friends. They're ahead of that pace this year, with more than six months to go and about 350 meals already served.

They are creative, whether they are offering attractive dishes and eye-catching table decorations or employing

impeccably dressed and well-mannered high school students as wait staff for a Christmas dinner.

But what stands out is the delicious food itself. These folks can cook! And they seem to derive as much joy from cooking and serving it as the rest of us take from consuming it.

How do they do it? Janet says: "The Cook Team is a group of low-maintenance, no-drama 'preppers' in a league of their own. Planning and serving high-quality food and serving in concert with Fellowship Committee members, they welcome TPC members and their guests with enthusiasm."

They do! So, what can we look forward to for the rest of the year?

"At our last meeting we discussed an August summer supper meal, a September 11 cookout honoring Polk County first responders, an October Sunday lunch, a holiday dinner near Thanksgiving, and a new approach for our Christmas party," Janet reveals. "Watch for all the details and make plans now to attend."

Thanks, Janet, Fellowship Committee and Cook Team! I think you can count on the congregation to do our part.

By Doug Clark



Bobby Silvers and Ken Shull.

Missions Committee requests donations of non-food items

Throughout June, the Missions Committee is collecting much-needed non-food essentials for the Blessing Box. These include tissues, toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, dish soap, laundry detergent, personal hygiene products, trash and storage bags. Please leave donations in the narthex.

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



TPC members, left, packed food parcels at Thermal Belt Outreach June 4 for about 50 families including 174 children. Our church, through the Missions Committee, also donated \$1,500 to support the summer food program, which is run in coordination with several local churches. TPC teams delivered the food to families throughout Polk County June 5.

Pictured, left to right, are Chianghua and Mark Hereward, Patra and Bill Sullivan, Doug Clark, Gretchen Morris and Carl Bender. Not pictured is Allan Purtill.

New members and visitors invited to meet and greet

The Membership Committee and Pastor Allan Purtill invite all frequent visitors and new members to a Summer Meet and Greet in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 22, at 4 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about our church's life and history. Refreshments will be served in the narthex afterward.

To help us plan, please RSVP to Rennie Habel at efhabel@yahoo.com. We look forward to welcoming you!

Wes Elam expands horizons with his new business

Our Wesley Elam is a very busy young man.

Wes serves as our part-time Director of Digital Ministry, but he works full-time providing video services for the Biltmore Estate through event planning and production firm [Encore Global](#). In addition, he has recently formed a new company of his own called EPAV Solutions. That stands for Elam Production Audio Visual.

“EPAV is your personal solution to anything Audio/Visual,” its [website](#) says. “From weddings, corporate events, live productions and commercial video shoots – we provide professional sound, visuals, hospitality and expert technical support tailored to your needs.”



Wes Elam in the control room at Tryon Presbyterian Church.

Wes is proud to report that one EPAV client is the [Tryon International Film Festival](#), which runs from October 9-12 this year.

“I will be providing editing and A/V services for the three-day event,” Wes says. “This entails editing the short film together into blocks, ensuring screens/projectors/audio systems work properly, audio for Q/A, and maintaining a seamless (cinematic) experience for festivalgoers. This year will be the best one yet!”

Wes explains that he founded EPAV “out of a passion for storytelling and technical excellence in live production. What began as a freelance journey (Elam Productions in 2023) has grown into a full-service AV company designed to support everything from weddings to corporate events.”

He has big aspirations for it: “Long-term, I see EPAV becoming a strong leader in premium audio/visual services. We’re expanding into service packages for industries like weddings, business conferences, creative shoots and nonprofit events. I want EPAV to be known not just for technical quality, but for making events feel easy, streamlined and professional.”

At the same time, he is not reducing his commitment to our church. On the contrary. While he began as a staff member in October 2022 while still attending Isothermal Community College, he has become a member. We are happy to have this talented young man leading our digital ministry and as part of our congregation.

By Doug Clark

TPC's first women deacons were elected in 1967

The 1960s brought changes to Presbyterian churches, including the reunification of the northern and southern denominations that had split during the Civil War. This had a significant effect on the role of women in our own church, at least formally.

Tryon Presbyterian elected and ordained our first women officers, as deacons, in December 1967. They were Ethel Weaver and Margaret Rawlins. Session minutes record the event but not that it marked any kind of milestone.

"It wasn't strange to have women in leadership," long-time church member Betty Brewer remembers. "Every time you turned around, there was a woman. They were part of the life of the church."



Betty and her late husband Byron had moved to Tryon from Cleveland, Ohio, where women in the northern denomination had been serving as elders and deacons for years.

Margaret Rawlins is seated, second from left, in this 1972 photo of teachers.

"I didn't need convincing" that it was a good idea, Betty says.

Ethel Weaver and Margaret Rawlins were already leaders. Weaver was president of the Women of the Church and Rawlins chaired Circle 2 at the time of their election as deacons. During her term, Weaver was appointed to assist the pastor, Rev. Roy Taylor, gather information about new and perspective members, according to Session minutes. Rawlins was instrumental in efforts to sell the church manse when it was decided to build a new home for ministers. She was also elected to the pulpit committee after Taylor's resignation in 1970, leading to a call to Rev. John Douglas Smith in early 1971. She served as church historian later in the 1970s.

"I knew Margaret Rawlins quite well," Betty Brewer says. "She was involved all over the church and a stalwart in the city. She was a very, very good person."

Rawlins, whose husband Hubert died in 1968, taught for 18 years at Tryon High School and was active in the Polk County Council on Aging. She was inducted into the Second Wind Hall of Fame, for contributions made to her community in retirement. She passed away in 1988 at the age of 78 and is buried in Polk Memorial Gardens. She was survived by three daughters.

Ethel Weaver was a "very busy, lovely woman, willing to get behind anything in the church," Betty recalls. But more information about her seems to be difficult to come by. Her husband was R.R. Weaver, but this writer was unable to learn whether they remained in Tryon for the rest of their lives. I could not find an obituary.

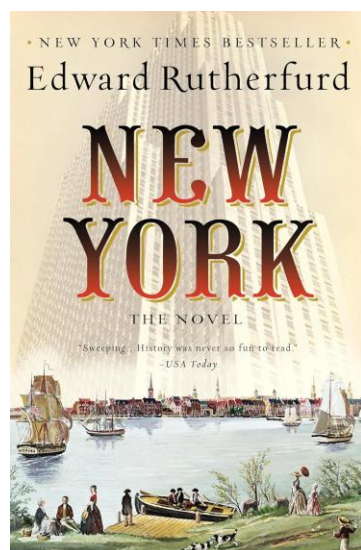
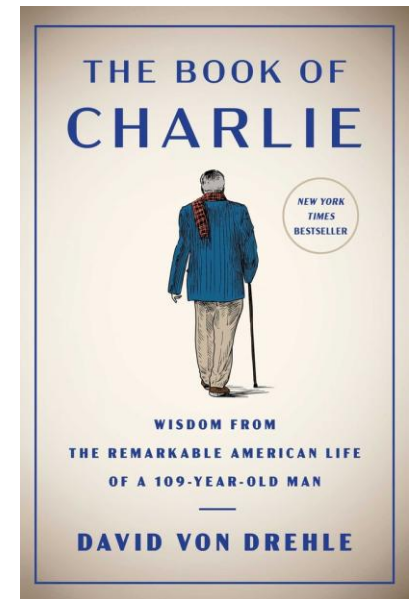
Of course, women in our denomination have long been fully accepted into all leadership and ministry roles. It's hard to imagine how the church thrived without women serving as elders and deacons. But those women who were among the first to hold those positions should be remembered and honored for their important work as disciples of Jesus Christ.

By Doug Clark

TPC Library

Charlie's experiences trace a century of history

"The Book of Charlie" by David Von Drehle is an interesting little book about a most unusual fellow. Charlie was 102 years old when the author moved into his neighborhood. The book recounts stories of Charlie's many years and life's adventures. Reading about Charlie's early history in Kansas City, we view the growth of the Midwest, the Great Depression, world wars, the baby boom, development of medications and medical innovations. Charlie's life included the dawn of airplanes all the way to NASA's space voyages. Throughout his recollections is a strong sense of self and a spirit of determination. Charlie refused to dwell on shortcomings or disappointments. However, his personal life was marked by sadness and even failures.



This is a good read for his optimism as well as for the review of history. It also shows that troubles and problems are parts of even exciting and well-lived lives.

Your church library also has "New York" by Edward Rutherfurd. This is a long but very well-written history of the New York area. Rutherfurd follows several fictional families beginning in the 1600s. The first families include Native Americans and a Dutch fur trader. We experience history as it unfolds around these families. We see the growth around New York, and we are reminded of the struggles of our ancestors in the early days of the country. We see the subsequent generations of these fictional families in the years, even centuries, as New York grows into the financial capital of the world. This is one of the most interesting books I have read in the last year.

Reviewed by Bill Sullivan

'James' gives new life to Mark Twain character

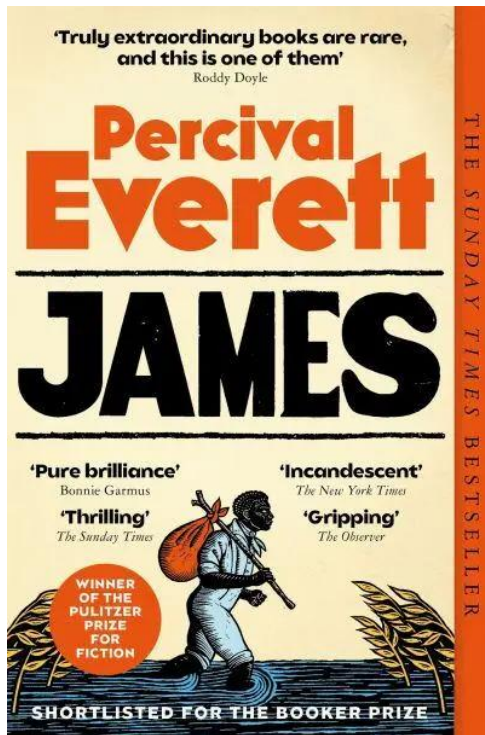
Most of us were probably assigned "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain somewhere along our educational journey. Published in 1884, just after the failed attempt called Reconstruction, the narrative relates the harrowing escapades of Huck, a white kid, and Jim, an enslaved man, interspersed with periods of reflective calm as they float down the Mississippi River. If you were a sensitive reader, you may have been offended by the tricks, many rather mean-spirited, that Huck played on Jim, even as Jim became protector, friend and eventually father figure.

In his recently awarded Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "James," Percival Everett revisits the story of Huck and

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Jim, relating their adventures from Jim's point of view. Part of the appeal of this book for me is the intelligence of James – Jim – as he seems to shape-shift between the educated family man and the traditional enslaved character who knows he must change his language in order to please the white man, as he admits in his first ponderings on page one, "It always pays to give white folks what they want ..."



Everett's retelling includes the same stories of Jim finding Pap dead in a floating house on the river, of the narrow escape from their interim with the duke and the dauphin, of Huck's efforts at disguise. It also includes James' own struggles when he and Huck become separated by the various twists of fate during their journey.

This novel fits neatly into the growing genre of fiction in which the tale of "The Other" becomes the focus. This may be from a character in a work of fiction, a Bible story, a fairy tale or a classical myth, to name a few. Readers are offered the backstory of these characters. In some narratives they become alive for the first time; in some they transform from evil to become sympathetic and perhaps even beloved. In the case of James, this thoughtful, considerate, educated man becomes much more than Jim, the runaway slave.

It's a thought-provoking novel, one that breathes new life into an American classic. I encourage you to read it, especially if you ever wondered what happened to Jim after Huck decides to "light out for the territory" to avoid getting civilized. Perhaps it will prompt you to remember a character about whom you've had some idle curiosity and to see where your imagination will lead you as you explore that character's life more fully.

Reviewed by Gloria Underwood, PhD

The Tryon Trumpet

The Trumpet is a digital publication of Tryon Presbyterian Church and its Membership Committee, chaired by Rennie Habel. The editor is Doug Clark dougclark55@gmail.com. Your contributions are welcome! Send photos (including graduation photos of children and grandchildren), news, devotionals or suggestions to the editor.

Thanks for help with this edition go to Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Amy McGrath, Caroline Brown, Susan Speight, Gloria Underwood, Bill Sullivan, Allan Purtill, Jenny Purtill, Wes Elam, Sarah Quinn Montjoy, Kim McPherson, Alyssa Davidson, Tryon Elementary School, Tryon Little Theatre, Marshall Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

DAI event set for June 17

Sarah Quinn Montjoy, a trauma therapist from Greenville who uses a wheelchair for mobility, will visit our church at 5:30 p.m. June 17. She was invited by our Disability Accessibility Inclusion Task Force.

We told Sarah's story in the May Trumpet, but church members are welcome to hear it directly from her. At 18 years old, she was involved in a horrific car crash that killed her younger brother and left her physically and emotionally shattered. For years, she was burdened by the devastating effects of the accident, but now she helps others overcome their own traumatic experiences.



Sarah Quinn Montjoy

When she's here, Sarah also will observe some of the accessibility improvements our church has made in the past two years and perhaps recommend additional changes. She also hopes to suggest ways all of us can adopt more inclusive practices and attitudes.

Let's welcome this remarkable woman when she arrives.

Presbytery news

Disaster Recovery Team produces online newsletter



Marshall Presbyterian Church in the days following Hurricane Helene.

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina Disaster Recovery Team offers a new monthly online newsletter to communicate directly with donors, stakeholders and everyone who wants to keep up with or participate in the work of rebuilding. To subscribe, go to the website [here](#), scroll down and sign up. You can also find videos like [this one](#) that tells the story of Green Mountain Presbyterian Church in Yancey County.

General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Byron Wade recently recorded a webinar with Rev. Marta Pumroy, Border Ministry Coordinator for [Tres Rios Border Foundation](#). The foundation is affiliated with [Tres Rios Presbytery](#) in Texas. Its mission "is to inspire, equip, and connect PC(USA) congregations on the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond." The webinar can be viewed [here](#).



Rev. Dr. Byron Wade

Rev. Dr. Wade will preach at Columbus Presbyterian Church June 22.

In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Michael Murphy, left, and Maeve Murphy, right, are college graduates! Michael earned a degree in Marketing with a minor in Management from the Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business at Clemson University. Maeve now holds a degree in Risk Management and Insurance from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. They are the children of Kimberly Brown Murphy and grandchildren of Art and Caroline Brown.



Below right: Susan Speight attended the graduation of her granddaughter, Hannah Frances Beckham, from Airport High School in Columbia, S.C.



Left: James Purtill graduated from Polk County High School.





Top left: Jon McGrath and Mike Carruth add their musical talents to worship. Top right: Jesse McGrath competes in field day games at Tryon Elementary School. Above left: Viola Meissner (front row in blue jacket) will appear in "Disney's Frozen Jr." for Tryon Little Theatre July 12-20. Above right: Art Brown greets Rev. Lynnette Sills following worship June 1.