

TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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Sabbatical starts with celebration



The Handbell Choir contributed special music June 28.

Pastor Allan Purtil preached about the Sabbath June 28, but everyone was thinking about sabbatical. Maybe especially Allan.

“Yeah, I’m a little bit anxious,” he admitted from the pulpit. Not for the congregation or the church, “but about stepping into the unknown on a Monday morning.”

He quickly added, “But I have a feeling I’ll figure it out.”

So will we. We have a sabbatical committee. We have a Session. We have a church staff. And we have Rev. Dave Hosick, who will fill the pulpit and carry out other leadership duties.

The final worship service before Allan’s three-month break from active ministry was a celebration, with lovely music by the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Pam McNeil, Mike Carruth, oboist Daniel Ellis and Jane Wilson. Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, led a sabbatical commissioning. A reception followed.

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During the service, the congregation confirmed Allan’s call “to enter into this period of sabbatical leave” and to “support, encourage and pray for him in his time away.” The congregation further promised to “support and pray for Dr. David Hosick, the church staff and Session as they lead the congregation.”

In his sermon, Allan talked about some plans, which include hiking, camping, attending an art camp to study drawing, time at a lake and a farm and a trip to Hawaii, where he and Jenny have always wanted to visit. And praying and writing.

In the Scripture he read, Mark 2:23-28, Jesus upends the Pharisees’ view that Sabbath imposes restrictions on God’s people.

“The Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath,” Jesus said.

That’s also a reason for sabbatical.

“Hopefully, I’ll be doing less doing and more being,” Allan said.

But twice he mentioned that his first Sunday back will be October 4, Worldwide Communion Sunday. That will be another celebration.

Allan also left this [video message](#).



Clockwise from top right: General Presbyter Byron Wade led a commissioning for Allan’s sabbatical. Woody Headden imparted some advice, perhaps? Sandy Sibley has a laugh at Allan’s expense? Susan Woodcock and Rodger Walker wish Allan well.

Jesus calls us the ‘salt of the earth’

Since I was writing about the Beatitudes, I couldn't help but continue with the Sermon on the Mount.

We don't spend very much time looking at what Jesus said in this sermon, but I think it is important to know what our Lord expects from His followers. Yet it is strange for me to write a devotional about being “the salt of the earth,” for I am not nor have I ever been a lover of salt! In fact, I am humbled to admit that I hardly ever cook with salt. I even buy Lite Salt for cooking. When a recipe calls for real salt, I usually sprinkle a very little salt in it, not the exact amount. This is my confession before I expound on salt.

From my reading, salt was valued during Jesus' time on earth. It would have been indispensable for the preservation of food. A bag of salt was precious to everyone. Jesus said to His followers, “You are the salt of the earth.”

Jesus implied that, as salt gives zest to food, His followers are to add joy to the common day, because the Christian is to bring an atmosphere of trust, calm and worship. Salt is a preservative, and food spoils without it. At least it did then.

Jesus was also thinking of how society can easily become corrupt. Greed, lust and indifference lead to decay, but a pinch of salt preserves. I was interested when one writer noted that “there is no hermit strategy; the disciples are to stay in the world if they are to redeem the world. There is no call to a sensational witness; salt is inconspicuous, ordinary and mixed with common things.” Our task is to witness day by day for Jesus. The Christian either redeems the world, or the world robs us of our Christianity.

Jesus requires His followers to be salt in this world, which clearly means we cannot fit in and be just like unbelievers. They are searching for truth, so our actions must bring answers to their lives. They seek love and compassion as well as forgiveness. When we witness for our Lord to seekers, our task is to provide them with acceptance and true love from the Giver of Life and show them the Savior for whom they have been searching.

Jesus also told His followers that they might lose the gift and grace He had given to them, so they would need to pray and discipline themselves. “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another” (Mark 9:50).

By Rev. Mary A. Potter



TPC begins summer food deliveries

TPC volunteers completed the first of three summer food program deliveries June 25.

A team packed 51 grocery bags at Thermal Belt Outreach June 24, and drivers carried them to 43 Polk County families with a total of 115 children the next day. The bags included fresh fruit, personal items and gift bags assembled by children attending our Vacation Bible School June 22.



Stephanie Greene coordinated the work.

But we aren't done. Because fewer local churches are participating in the program this year, TPC will repeat the process July 8 and 9 and August 5 and 6. Our church has increased its financial support for the program, too.

Our packers June 24 were: Linda Clement, Gloria Underwood, Patra Sullivan, Lynnette Sills, Charlotte Grabman, August Buckmaster, Amy Correll of Congregational United Church of Christ, Doug Clark and

Stephanie. Our delivery teams June 25 were Gail Muir and Lynn Sessoms, Nancy and Ted Hiley, Gloria Underwood and Pat Lane, Ken Shull and Allan Purtill and Patra and Bill Sullivan.

Please contact Stephanie (mezesaro@aol.com) if you'd like to volunteer for any of the upcoming shifts.

It's no secret that food costs are rising as are prices for many other necessities. So, it's more important than ever to help our neighbors make ends meet. Thanks to everyone who gave time and resources with love and joy.



Delivery teams are loaded and ready to roll. Top: Nancy and Ted Hiley. Above left: Gail Muir and Lynn Sessoms. Above: Pat Lane and Gloria Underwood. Right: Patra and Bill Sullivan.



The children painted this Fruits of the Spirit banner that now hangs in our sanctuary.

Children make an impact at VBS

Maci set the tone for Vacation Bible School the moment she arrived at our church with her younger brother, Wesley.

She found an ant in the Narthex, carefully picked it up and gently set it down in a safe place outside.

The theme for the one-day VBS June 22 was Compassion, along with other Fruits of the Spirit including Love, Joy, Kindness, Patience, Peace, Faithfulness and Self-Control.

All activities reinforced those qualities, from the songs led by Jane Wilson to the stories selected by Lynnette Sills to the Power Point by Amy McGrath explaining why all God's creatures have an important place in the world – even snakes, flies and skunks! Amy will tackle mosquitos and ticks next year.

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Only seven children attended as some in our church family were unable to come, but the seven made an impact. They painted a banner proclaiming the harvest of spiritual bounty, and translated that to service, assembling 120 gift bags that were added to food boxes going to Polk County families through the summer meals program.

The children showed they value the life of even an ant and love their neighbors throughout our community. No wonder Jesus urged his followers to “become as little children.”

Thanks to our staff and volunteers for making Vacation Bible School so meaningful for all participants, children and adults.



Clockwise from top left: Allan Purtil gets a drawing lesson at VBS. Jamie Graber leads a scavenger hunt with Catherine Lynch and Rennie Habel. Lynette Fisher shares some blackberries. Lynette Sills, Jamie and Gabby Savaia start the day with yoga stretches.





Clockwise from top left: It's cool to be kind. Gabby keeps the table on task. Amy McGrath, Jenny Purtil, Catherine and Lynnette make sure the paint goes where it's supposed to. Amy teaches a lesson on God's creation. Jenny's story has everyone's attention, even Allan's.

Church accessibility takes a big step

Get ready for some exciting new changes to the chancel area in our sanctuary, says Bobby Silvers, chair of the Property Committee. “Thanks to the hard work of the Disability Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force and Property Committee, we are ready to proceed with the installation of a stair lift to enable wheelchair and walker access to the chancel,” Bobby said. “The lift has been ordered, and planned installation will take place in September or October, depending on shipping.”

Joanne Alderman, who uses a wheelchair, is one church member who looks forward to the improved accessibility. She once served as a lay reader. “I used to do it all the time,” she said. “There’s no way I can get up there now.” She’s also part of the handbell choir, but couldn’t do that from the chancel now, either.

Joanne has seen [the video](#) showing how the stair lift (actually called FlexStep) works. “It looks fantastic,” she said.

The product is a set of stairs that can slowly collapse flat on the floor, becoming a secure platform that can lift to chancel level. Safety features make sure that a wheelchair can fit securely.

The \$33,000 price of the product by manufacturer Liftup “is the most competitive of all the companies we looked at,” Bobby said. “Financing will come from the Builders Fund, but if you would like to make a special donation, it would be welcome.

“This project has been in the planning stages for several years, and we are pleased to see it reach this point,” he added.

So is Susan Woodcock, who led the DAI Task Force created after the completion of the chancel renovation project more than three years ago. That work was important, but it failed to address the accessibility problem.

Now, “I’m just blown away,” Susan said. “I can’t believe we’ve come this far.” She noted that the technology behind the lift has advanced in the last few years, too.

The Property Committee now shifts its focus, Bobby said.

“We are pleased that Chuck Britton Construction will handle the preparation work, and that installation of the lift itself will be done by the company,” he said. “Chuck will also handle an additional project that involves making the exposed return air vents in the sanctuary flush with the floor to avoid the possibility of tripping.

“Please be patient with us when the work commences,” Bobby added. “The Property Committee will of course provide updates as the installation date draws nearer.”



The FlexStep converts from stairs to a lift.

Mission workers were excellent guests

The mission team from North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response had a productive week in Polk County June 14-20. It helped that they were able to bed down and share meals in our church.



“I can't tell you how many times our visitors told me how well they were treated at TPC,” Bill Sullivan wrote in an email. “They used the word ‘spoiled’ over and over.”

Bill, along with Stephanie Greene and Amy McGrath, headed up hospitality efforts that week. Others pitched in with desserts and helpful items. It made a difference.

“This group usually pays to stay close to their work sites,” Bill explained. “Because they stayed at church this week, they spent that money on materials for their projects. They also left us with a very generous donation. I think this is a great step for our church in reaching out to our neighbors.”

“What an outstanding week!” Rev. Lynnette Sills added. “Thanks so much to this team and the church

for welcoming and caring for these good folks. It was a joy to meet and get to know them. Their care for folks in our community was lovely to witness.”

The Lutherans, most of them from the Carolinas, worked on projects identified by the Polk County Long Term Recovery Group. We still have neighbors with acute needs stemming from Hurricane Helene in 2024.



“A note about the welcome bags we left for them,” Bill said to TPC volunteers. “They took what they could use and then shared the remaining items with the folks they were serving this week, which was exactly right!”

Indeed it was. Our guests, ranging in age from teens to seniors, were hard workers and caring people. And after they picked up



and left, we could hardly tell they'd been here.

Clockwise from top left: One of the Polk County work sites. Dinner time. Even our library served as sleeping quarters.

Gold, silver and bronze

Jason Morrow wins three swimming medals at Games

Our Jason Morrow captured three medals, including one gold, at the Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota June 22-26.

Jason, a long-time swimmer, competed in three preliminary events and three finals during the games. His biggest day was June 23, when he finished third for a bronze medal in the 200-yard freestyle and won his gold medal in the 50-yard breaststroke. Jason, competing for South Carolina because he trains in Spartanburg, added a silver medal as part of the 4x25-yard freestyle relay on June 26.

His official results are [here](#).

Swimming events were held at the Freeman Aquatic Center on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota.

Jason has competed all the way to the Special Olympics in Beijing, China, in 2007. Now 38, he doesn't appear to be slowing down.



Come to Field Day and a picnic July 26!

Mark your calendar for the TPC Field Day and picnic, Sunday, July 26.

We'll have games and races for all ages from 4:30 to 6, then a picnic dinner with ice cream and music from 6 to 7:30. Sounds like lots of summer fun!

Sunny View Elementary asks for classroom supplies

Sunny View Elementary, our partner school, has a new principal, Ronette C. Dill. This year, the school is asking for our help with these classroom items:



Kleenex tissues, Clorox wipes, Expo dry markers and Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart and gallon size).

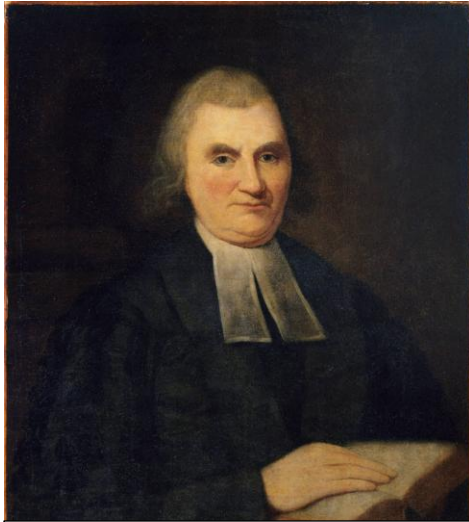
Teachers start on August 3 and students on August 10, so we do not have much time. Please help us donate to Sunny View's classrooms. They appreciate our prayers and our support.

Items can be placed in the Narthex.

In 1776, it was the ‘Presbyterian Rebellion’

Back in 1776, American Presbyterians were some of the most ardent advocates for independence from Britain.

Twelve of 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterians, including the only clergyman, John Witherspoon, according to the [Presbyterian Historical Society](#). “George Duffield of Philadelphia’s Third Presbyterian Church (today’s Old Pine Church, next door to the Presbyterian Historical Society) served as chaplain to the Continental Congress, and patriot pastors supported the war effort from their pulpits in every state. Everyday Presbyterians felt the war’s impact in their communities and houses of worship. British troops occupied Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and Savannah. From New England to the Carolinas, Presbyterian churches were seized to quarter troops or damaged by forces loyal to the Crown who saw the revolution as primarily a ‘Presbyterian Rebellion.’”



Rev. John Witherspoon

Witherspoon was a Church of Scotland minister when he accepted an invitation in 1768 to become president of the Presbyterian College of New Jersey – now Princeton University.

“Witherspoon had arrived in America in the midst of growing tensions between Britain and the colonies,” according to the [National Constitution Center](#). “As a Presbyterian minister, he was especially disturbed by the Crown’s efforts to appoint an American Anglican bishop. His concern about this and other efforts of the Crown and Parliament to interfere in colonial affairs could be seen in his 1776 sermon, ‘The Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men.’ When he was elected to serve in the Second Continental Congress he was already convinced that independence was the proper course of action.

“You are all my witnesses, that this is the first time of my introducing any political subject into the pulpit,” Witherspoon said [in that sermon](#). “At this season, however, it is not only lawful but necessary, and I willingly embrace the opportunity of declaring my opinion without any hesitation, that the cause in which America is now in arms, is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human nature.”

Witherspoon continued to serve in the Second Continental Congress for years, and in 1787 he participated in the New Jersey convention that ratified the Constitution of the United States.

In North Carolina, Presbyterian clergyman, physician and educator David Caldwell also was a strong proponent of independence. Throughout the war, he preached the Patriot cause so strongly from the pulpits of the Alamance and Buffalo Presbyterian Churches in Guilford County that when British forces arrived in the area before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in March 1781, he was forced into hiding to elude capture. He emerged following the battle to help tend to the wounded soldiers.

One of the most famous Presbyterians in North Carolina had the misfortune of taking the wrong side in two rebellions. As a young woman living on the Isle of Skye off the Scottish coast, Flora MacDonald helped Charles

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Edward Stuart flee to France in 1746. “Bonnie Prince Charlie” was the grandson of King James II of England, who had been deposed by William of Orange in 1688. Stuart raised an army in 1745 and attempted to seize the crown but met defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Flora was arrested and briefly imprisoned for her role in Stuart’s escape. After her release, she married Allan MacDonald, who swore an oath of loyalty to the British crown in exchange for a royal commission. The MacDonald family emigrated to North Carolina in 1774. With another rebellion brewing, Royal Governor Josiah Martin called for Scottish Highland volunteers to join the Loyalist cause. Bound by his oath, Allan MacDonald commanded a force of Highlanders against a Patriot militia at the Battle of Moore’s Creek in 1775 and was badly defeated and captured.

The MacDonalds were finally reunited in New York in 1778, then retreated further to Nova Scotia, Canada. Flora returned home to Scotland the next year and died on her native Isle of Skye in 1790 where she is still honored as a heroine of a romantic but tragic era in Scotland’s history.

In North Carolina, her name was given in 1915 to Southern Presbyterian College and Conservatory of Music. In 1952, [Flora MacDonald College](#) was merged with other Presbyterian schools, becoming St. Andrew’s College, later university. It closed in 2025.



Left, a portrait of Flora MacDonald. Right, Flora and Allan MacDonald on their way to Barbecue Presbyterian Church, founded by Scots Highlanders in 1757 near Sanford, North Carolina. It is still an active congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Presbytery news

Neighborhood Presbytery meetings set for July 25

Our summer Presbytery meeting will be four separate gatherings all on the same day: Saturday, July 25. One meeting for each of four geographic regions in Western North Carolina.

Tryon is part of the Western neighborhood, and our Presbytery meeting will happen at Mills River Presbyterian Church, 10 Presbyterian Church Road, Mills River, NC 28759. It is a [40-minute drive](#) from our church.

Registration will be onsite beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting scheduled to start at 9. Coffee and snacks will be available as you arrive. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$12 per person. There will be worship, a little bit of Presbytery business, and then time for sharing.

The planning team asks everyone who comes, whether a commissioner or a visitor, to bring a story about their church: Tell us something good about your congregation. Can we do that, TPC?

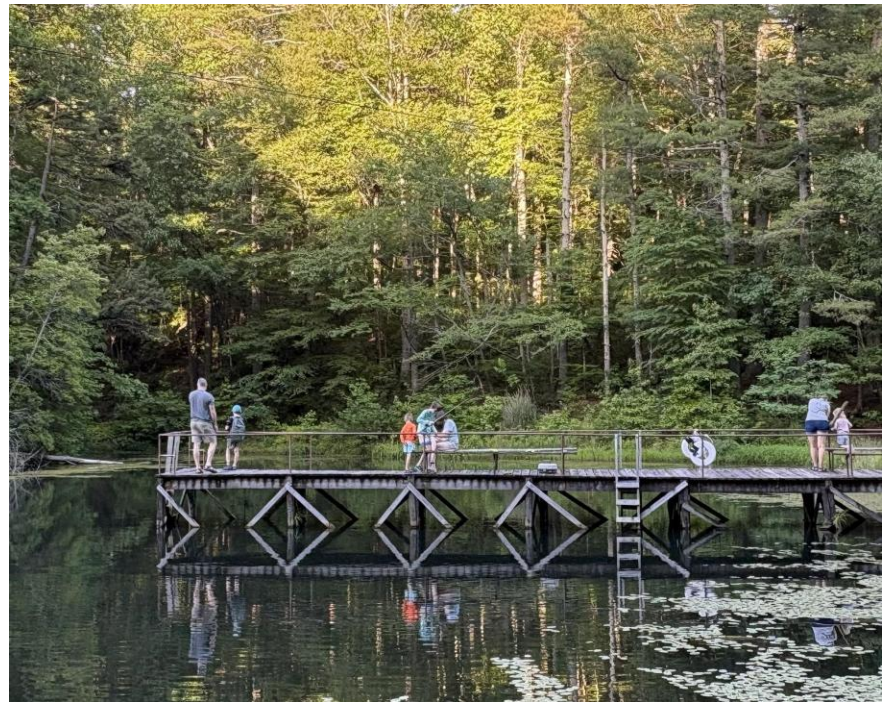


Millis River Presbyterian Church.

A youth delegation from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina traveled to Guatemala last month to meet mission partners and observe the work of churches there.



In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Clockwise from top left: Allan Purtill caught this image of a visitor in his yard. Last month's outing to Twin Lakes offered many activities. A Red Bud given in memory of Judy Warden by her brother, David Helmstetter, has been planted in front of the church. Kelly Russell's daughter and grandchildren enjoyed a visit to Camp Skyuka recently. Seen with them are Ann Mullins, Susan Speight and Chianghua Hereward.



Presbyterian Women served “Tea Steeped With Hope” June 7 to benefit Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry, Steps to HOPE, Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and Families, Sunny View Elementary School and the Guatemala Women’s Microloan Program. More photos on the next page.





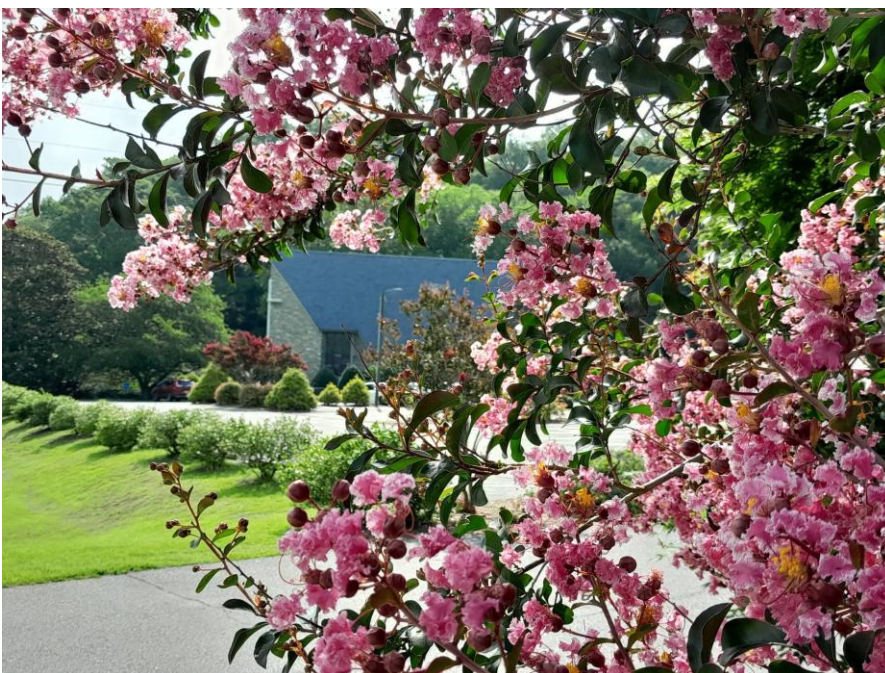
The former Saluda Presbyterian Church sanctuary now belongs to Historic Saluda. Last month, it returned one of the pews originally given to the church by TPC, as well as a communion service set. The pew will find a place on the deck of our manse. Bobby Silvers and Allan Purtill retrieved the items (above and right).



Top: Jamie Gaber and Charlotte Grabman ask you to post your answer on the bulletin board they decorated in the hallway. **Above:** Our tomatoes sometimes need a little help. **Left:** The members of our adult choirs, including Gail Muir and Ken Shull, met for dinner at Bowen's Landing June 17.



A luncheon June 24 given by our Fellowship Committee honored older members of our congregation. Among those who attended were, above, Larry Poe and Donald Hawthorne and, right, Ben and Peggy Woodward. Below, our church framed in pink.



Tryon Trumpet

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