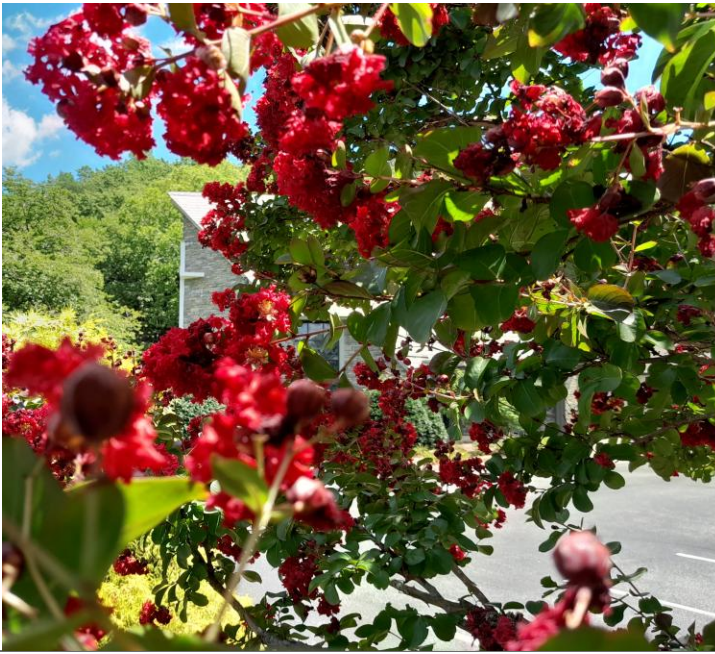




TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

430 Harmon Field Road

Tryon, NC 28782

828-859-6683

tpreschurch@gmail.com

www.tryonpresbyterian.org

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Summer food effort needs final push

As the new school year nears, our summer food program work is nearly done. Our church has one more packing day Wednesday, August 5, and one more delivery day, August 6. Drivers are still needed for delivery.

We have covered June 24-25 and July 8-9, each time packing and delivering more than 50 grocery bags covering a week's worth of food needs for more than 40 families with a total of 115 children. Bags included fresh fruit and vegetables as well as canned food, rice, beans, pasta and other goods. More than two dozen church members have helped, not counting financial contributions.



The July 8 assembly crew, from left: Stephanie Greene, Penny Padgett, Lynette Fisher, Lynnette Sills, Jason Morrow and Michael Meissner.

As costs for food, fuel, clothing, utilities and other necessities continue to rise, many of our Polk County neighbors are struggling to make ends meet. We must do what we can to help. Stephanie Greene has coordinated this effort. If you can drive August 6, at 9 or 9:30 a.m., please call her at 646-612-0878. Thank you.

'You are the light of the world'

Along with being salt in this world, we also are to be light. Actually, Jesus is the light of the world, and through Him we are to give His light in the midst of the darkness that appears to dominate this earth. While wickedness abounds, it is up to Jesus' followers to spread His light. That is no small task in a world that worships Satan and satanic ways, oblivious to honesty, truth, love, compassion ... and the list goes on and on until we find the light.

God had been obscured. When Jesus was on earth, "pagan cults and religionists had turned a noble faith into mere form," according to Bible scholars. If no true light shone, the world would perish in darkness. God could not allow this sin to continue; there had to be light. Jesus' disciples were given the task of revealing the true nature of humanity.

Here is the question we need to ask: Is humanity by nature worthy or unworthy? On any given day, who among us feels light or bright? Humanity can make darkness and try to live in it, but it will beat you down because darkness is not in our true nature! We truly are spiritual beings; we each have a soul and the ability to communicate with God Almighty through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.



Jesse McGrath carries the Light of Christ into the world.

Our eyes and souls are both made for light. However, there is a cleft in the rock. We can make a choice like the prodigal son, who left and wanted nothing to do with his family or even his Heavenly Father. Or we can choose to be like the older son who stayed home, yet held jealousy and anger toward his brother. One son went to find his loving Father. Both had a cleft, a division until the prodigal "came to himself, and went to his Father." Of course, we are not sure what the older son did. Repentance has to be a part of our lives or this cleft will consume us and, in many lives, ravage us.

The disciples' task was to shed the light of hope for everyone's tomorrows. Each Sunday, we bring the Christ candlelight into worship, for we know He is with us as we worship together. By each of us being the light of the world through Jesus Christ our Savior, He meant for His followers to be that light on the hill of the city so bright it is impossible to miss. Whatever we do will be loving, kind, compassionate, noble and thoughtful so everyone will know our good works and give glory to God Almighty.

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

Watch for big new things coming

Plans are in the works for Christian education and faith formation activities coming soon.

One big new thing will be a confirmation class for our young people who want to prepare for joining our church as adult members. It will start in October, continue for several weeks, and be led by Pastor Allan Purtill, who will be freshly returned from his sabbatical. Other church leaders will be involved, too.

Confirmation isn't required for joining the Presbyterian Church. Confirmed or not, baptized Christians can join by affirmation of faith. But we think all participants in our new confirmation program will be enriched in their faith by the experience. They will learn more about our denomination and our church, and about how together we seek to live out the aspirations of our church mission.

Christian education and faith formation are essential for everyone who aspires to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. No one is too young or old, and we want to offer many opportunities for growth. That can happen in circles, small groups, Bible-study classes, children's activities, dinners and fellowship events and retreats. As a congregation, we enjoy getting outside for field day, picnics, hikes in the mountains, swimming or fishing. We have a world of possibilities.

You can watch for details, but you don't have to wait. Share your ideas with Rev. Lynnette Sills or Michael Meissner, who leads our Christian Growth Committee. Attend meetings to discuss plans for children's activities. Volunteer to help with it all.

As members of a church family, we should all learn and grow together. A fresh start is coming soon.



A scene from our one-day Vacation Bible School in June. Traditional formulas for Christian education don't always work anymore, so we want to find new means to carry out faith formation and discipleship.

The Trumpet has a new email address: tryontrumpet@outlook.com



Some of the Camp Skyuka fun at last year's back to school bash. Don't miss this year's on Saturday, August 8.

Make a splash at back to school bash

Bring your swimsuit, lawn chairs and sunscreen for the Back to School Bash at Camp Skyuka Saturday, August 8, from 1 to 4. All families are invited.

Charlie and Susan Speight are the hosts at their cabin on White Oak Mountain. Take Skyuka Mountain Road up, up and up some more until you reach the little lake on the right. Turn right at the mailboxes onto Eagle Feather. Take the next left onto Moccasin Lane. Their place is No. 31.

Snacks and drinks will be provided. You bring the fun!

But Saturday won't be the end of church preparation for the new school year. Children should bring their backpacks to our Sunday worship service, August 9, for a Blessing of the Backpacks. Don't miss this meaningful celebration of new learning opportunities.

We'll pray for our teachers, too!

Field day fun

Our first field day Sunday afternoon, July 26, saw heated competition in a variety of events devised by Lynnette Sills. Children and adults tested themselves and each other. And every one of them was awarded a gold medal for outstanding athletic achievements. Then they enjoyed a picnic supper and music in air-conditioned comfort. Thanks, Lynnette and volunteers!









Send your summer snaps



Summer is ending soon, but we know you've captured some great moments in photographs. Share with your church family! (These are your editor's grandkids – Isabel saddled up for a trail ride at the Tryon International Equestrian Center and Lucas cruising around his pool.) Please send your favorites to tryontrumpet@outlook.com.



Sunny View Elementary receives donated supplies

Carolyn Thompson of our Missions Committee delivered supplies we donated to our partner school, Sunny View Elementary, July 29.

"Sunny View is most appreciative of all our donations of supplies for their classrooms, and they are grateful to be partners with Tryon Presbyterian Church," Carolyn said. "Thank you for your generous contributions. This is so helpful for the teachers and the students."

Sunny Views's new principal, Ronette C. Dill, said the school needed Kleenex tissues, Clorox wipes, Expo dry markers and Ziplock bags. Members of our church made sure Carolyn had plenty to deliver. Thanks, Carolyn, for leading this effort.



Pictured are just some of the supplies our congregation donated to our partner school, Sunny View Elementary. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Life is a precious gift from God

"The length of our days is 70 years – or 80, if we have the strength."

The Psalmist didn't have the advantage of today's emergency medicine or cardiology. But miracles aren't made only of modern science.

I am nearly 71, and I might have seen my last birthday if not for the intervention of a 911 dispatcher, first responders, doctors and nurses at Spartanburg Medical Center and



My (much) younger sister, Pam, came from Michigan to visit me.

my wife! Margaret called for help when she found me unresponsive at home around noon on July 5, and she followed CPR instructions given by telephone until help arrived. I was whisked by helicopter to the hospital in Spartanburg. I don't remember any of that. I don't even remember being told I'd had a heart attack.

I'm doing very well now after the placement of two stents in my heart and a few weeks recuperation. I'm eating differently, taking some new meds and exercising. I feel strong enough to last another 10 years – God willing. I know I'm not promised tomorrow.

I'm very lucky, blessed, whatever term you want to use. People have been very generous. Many say God spared me for a purpose. I hope God has a purpose for me. I want to serve God, my church and my community. I want to be around for my family and friends. Margaret has held my heart for 50 years, and now I feel she must have held it in her arms and kept it safe in those critical moments.

My gratitude to God is unlimited, but I don't pretend to know His intent. My sister came to see me from Michigan after I was released from the hospital, and she was very emotional when she hugged me at the airport. Her eyes were filled with tears. "I didn't want to lose you like Bob," she said.

A heart attack killed her husband nearly seven years ago. He was just 61. No one was there to save him. Why did God take him but not me? He was just as deserving of more time in this life as I am. As much as we pretend, we can't answer those questions.

Life is a precious gift. I thank God for it every day, and I'll try to live it as He would want.

By Doug Clark

The Trumpet has a new email address: tryontrumpet@outlook.com

Presbytery news

Malawi Mission Network will gather at Montreat

The Malawi Mission Network's annual gathering is scheduled for August 18-21 at the Montreat Conference Center.

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in the mission work being accomplished by our own Presbytery and others to attend the meetings for a day or for the entire event.

Among the guests will be three General Secretaries representing the 3.5 million Presbyterians in Malawi.

Find out more by downloading the [registration form here](#).

First Waynesville offers Earth Care program

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesville, will present speaker Mallory McDuff as part of its Earth Care Storytelling Series at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 13.

Dr. McDuff is professor of Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa.

"I'm a writer, a teacher, a mother and a person of faith," she says. She has authored four books that focus on "the intersection of spirituality and the climate crisis." The fourth book is "Love Your Mother: Climate Stories of Life, Death and Earth."

The program is free, but tickets are required. Scan the QR code on the poster for more information. The church is at 305 N. Main Street in downtown Waynesville.



Mallory McDuff

Earth Care Storytelling Series
1st Presbyterian Church, Waynesville
August 13 @ 5:30*

 **Love Your Mother:**
Climate Stories of Life, Death, and Earth

Mallory McDuff, Ph.D., Storyteller
 Author & Environmental Educator
 Warren Wilson College

Refreshments & Book Signing Afterward
Program begins promptly at 5:30
Doors open at 5:00 p.m. w/ live music

Event is free, but tickets are required.
 Scan QR Code to learn more about the
 program, Dr. McDuff, and how to get tickets for
 this inspiring evening.

*Made Possible by a grant
 from Presbytery of WNC



In and around Tryon Presbyterian

Clockwise from right: Michael Meissner (wearing red and white) outran younger athletes in the 100-yard dash at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 11. He also finished second in the 220 and 440 and third in the long jump.

Alex Harrelson sang "Deep River" during worship August 2, then greeted Fran Creasy after the service. Alex, the son of Ed and Petra Harrelson, is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Utah.

Let's see those bears get into our garbage now!



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. Submissions are welcome at tryontrumpet@outlook.com. Thanks for help with this edition go to Rev. Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Rev. Lynnette Sills, Wes Elam, Brittany Meissner, Stephanie Greene, Carolyn Thompson, Kim McPherson and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

