



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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TPC hosts presbytery PW gathering

Want to see a lot of people who really work hard to build God's Kingdom? Come to the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women from across the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. It will happen at our church, Saturday, September 26.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. with a brief service that will include a spotlight on the history of Tryon Presbyterian Church as well as details about a local recipient of the day's offering, according to Brittany Meissner, the chair of TPC's PW Coordinating Team. Then attendees will break into groups for sessions on these topics:

"What is a Presbytery?" Led by Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter of PWNC.

"What's In a Name? Changes to the PW Microloan Project." Led by the Microloan Task Force.

"Introduction to 'United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other.'" Horizons Bible Study led by Tina Joyner.

"The Woman Who Was Bent Over: Accessibility and Inclusion." Led by Marylyn Huff.

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(From PW GATHERING on Page 1)

Lunch will be at 12:30 and will cost \$15.

"We are looking forward to welcoming women from around WNC and showcasing the wonderful church and church family we have here at TPC," Brittany said. "I love the idea of collaboration between churches, and we'll see this in action that day as the women of First Presbyterian Church of Forest City will be supporting us as co-hosts. Some of the session topics are also particularly appropriate as TPC has recently addressed some of these issues as a congregation and through the TPC PW Co-Team."

Brittany reminded our congregation of the Presbyterian Women Purpose:

"Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:
To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
To support the mission of the church worldwide,
To work for justice and peace,
To build an inclusive, caring community of women
That strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
And witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom."

"Community is what happens when meaningful relationships are built around a common purpose," Brittany added. "This is reflected in the Presbyterian Women Purpose statement and what the TPC PW Co-Team hopes to embody through hosting the 2026 Fall Gathering."

Please contact Brittany with any questions. [Register by following this link](#). Registration is \$15 and may be paid at the event.

The Microloan Project representatives will let you know that their next trip to Guatemala is planned for February 17-24, 2027. Consider going! The visit offers "an opportunity to meet the remarkable women whose determination, hard work and faith are transforming their families and communities through the Microloan Project. You'll hear their stories, learn about their challenges and see the businesses that they have been able to start or expand, that provide income and hope for their families. Trip delegates consistently describe meeting the microloan participants and witnessing their creativity, determination, resilience and gratitude as inspiring."



Our Presbytery's Guatemala Microloan Project builds relationships between women of faith in two countries and contributes to independence, self-worth and healthy families. Learn more at the PW gathering at our church September 26.

Jesus came to fulfill the law

Before reading this devotional, I encourage you to read Matthew 5:17-20 and also Matthew 24:29-35.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew has Jesus speaking about the Law and the Prophets. Some Bible scholars find the meaning in the whole life and teaching of Jesus. The beginning is important: "Think not (or 'do not think') I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish but to fulfill." We need to remember His own faith came from the Old Testament. He would never disown it; He was and is our Redeemer! He came to the world, to all of humanity, as Friend and Savior.

Jesus knew that any law is God's gift to us, the Almighty writing these laws on our hearts. The laws being transformed as new wine from old wineskins. Not one law will be changed or altered until "all is accomplished." Now reading these four words, "until all is accomplished," I was reminded of Matthew telling us what the Coming of the Son of Man will look like. It seems to me that whatever needs to be accomplished, Jesus found it crucial that we stay faithful to all the laws, which He is about to put forth in His sermon. Thus the warning not to change one stroke of the letter as well as being ever so careful not to deliberately lead someone astray from His laws and commandments, for the results of our doing such a thing will not be comfortable.

What Jesus says next takes us to the heart of the matter, and Jesus once again does more than make a suggestion. I mean, we Americans have been so used to being free and doing whatever we think is acceptable that we don't like being told what to do. But we are to read these laws and teach them to others so they understand exactly what the meaning is in each of His commandments. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus elaborates in full what righteousness is needed from His followers.

Speaking about His return, recorded in Matthew chapter 24, Jesus tells us what to expect in the end times. Then He describes the Coming of the Son of Man, who happens to be Jesus. Jesus says, "For truly I tell you" (in other words, here is the bottom line, the truth of the matter is) "until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished." All that Jesus is about to say in the Sermon on the Mount needs to be taught, and none of it is to be changed. As Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Righteousness is what our Lord wants for all of us. He desires that no one go astray. All who call Him Lord and Master are wanted in the Kingdom of Heaven. That is our choice and freedom. It is up to each one of us to decide where we want to be. This is what needs to be accomplished.

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

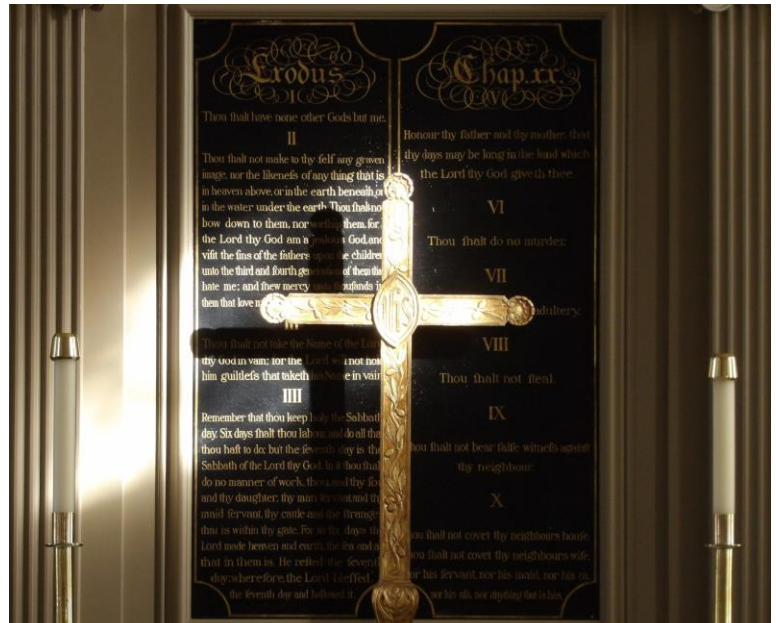


Photo taken at Bruton Parish Church, Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

Summer meals program served love

This summer, something truly special happened in Polk County. The Summer Feed a Kid program brought churches, volunteers, businesses and generous community members together with one simple goal: to make sure children and families had food on the table during the summer months.



Over the course of 10 weeks, with the week of July 4 off, the program served 44 families and 115 children. Area churches came together to make it possible: Our church as well as the Congregational Church UCC and Holy Cross Episcopal Church packed and delivered, and the Church of the Transfiguration delivered for the Saluda route every week.

Each week, 52 bags were packed with meal kits for families. The church responsible for packing that week also added fresh fruits and vegetables to the bags, making sure families received not only pantry staples but fresh and nutritious foods as well.

Tryon Presbyterian is especially grateful for the partnership of IGA and Mr. Teaster, who supplied all the fresh produce for the weeks we packed. We provided a list of items desired, and Angel and Tim made sure we had enough to fill every bag. Thanks to that partnership, there was always plenty of food to go around.

But Summer Feed a Kid was about more than food; it was about kindness, encouragement and letting families know that their community cares about them.

During the very first week, Lynnette Sills and the children participating in our Vacation Bible School packed individual goody bags that included pencils, stickers and other fun things just for kids. It was a small surprise that brought extra joy to the children receiving their food bags.

The work didn't stop when the bags were packed. Tryon Presbyterian provided 22 packers and 26 drivers, and those drivers traveled throughout Polk County and into parts of Rutherford County to make sure the food reached the families who needed it.

And then there were the moments that reminded everyone why this program mattered. As the drivers arrived at homes, the

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Stephanie Greene, top photo at left, coordinated TPC's role in the program. Food packers ranged in age from Martin and Janet Gilchrist's grandsons to, well, no one who was all that old.

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families often came to the door to express their gratitude. More than once, a driver would leave a home hearing the simple but heartfelt words, “God bless you!” Those words meant so much to the volunteers who gave their time week after week.

The feedback we received was 100 percent positive. The appreciation expressed was overwhelming and showed just how meaningful this ministry has been.

Summer Feed a Kid is a beautiful example of what can happen when churches and community partners work together. Different congregations, volunteers, businesses and donors each brought something important to the table — and together, they made sure 115 children and their families knew they were not forgotten.

What began as a program to provide food became something much bigger: a ministry of love, generosity, teamwork and community.

To every packer, driver, church, donor, business, volunteer and person who helped make Summer Feed a Kid possible — thank you. You didn’t just fill bags with food. You filled them with hope, kindness and the reminder that our community cares.

By Stephanie Greene



Drivers, including Mark and Chianghua Hereward (above) and Lynette Fisher (left), added fresh produce to the food bags.

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

What does church mean for us?

Our Christian Growth Committee, chaired by Michael Meissner, and Rev. Lynnette Sills recently sent the following letter to our church family's parents of children. The message, and invitation, are for all of us.

One of the exciting things that is happening in our church right now is an increase in the number of children and families who have become part of the life of our church. We know that in a world where we have many choices as to where we spend our time and with whom, it is a joy to see that Tryon Presbyterian Church is a place you are choosing to be. We also know that it's fair to ask questions like:

- Why spend time at church?
- What difference does church make for my family?
- Is church relevant?
- How is the Bible relevant in the 21st century?

And here's another important question: Why does it matter if our family attends Tryon Presbyterian Church?

Making space and time for us to learn and grow with a family of faith that meets us where we are and walks forward with us is one of the keys to helping us navigate this journey of life. And with these questions in mind, we've been working on some new ways to engage these questions and plan what we do.

Join us on Sunday, September 13, for our Fall Kick-off. Breakfast will be served beginning at 9:15 a.m. with our program beginning at 9:30. Childcare will be offered for younger children (preschool through third grade). Older children and youth are invited to remain with their parents for the program. Learn more about plans for faith formation for all age groups beginning in September and October. (Hint: See page 7.)

Also, beginning Sunday, September 20, a new ministry for youth sixth grade and up will begin. Parents and youth are invited for supper and time to discuss and plan ways for this age group to learn and enjoy time together. Join us at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an important beginning for discussions and planning that will include information about Confirmation (with Pastor Allan taking the lead when he returns from sabbatical). If childcare is needed for that evening, please let Lynnette know and we'll arrange that.

We look forward to what's ahead in this new season and working together to practice living out our mission statement as a family of faith: To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God and their neighbor.

Tryon Trumpet

The Trumpet is a digital publication of Tryon Presbyterian Church and its Fellowship Committee, chaired by Janet Gilchrist. The editor is Doug Clark (tryontrumpet@outlook.com). We welcome articles, photographs, stories and suggestions.

Thanks for help with this edition go to Brittany Meissner, MaryAnn Sloan, Rev. Mary Potter, Stephanie Greene, Rev. Lynnette Sills, Michael Meissner, Charlotte Grabman, Jonathan McGrath, Brad and Terri Hendrix, Steve and Rennie Habel, Charlie Fisher, Skip Taylor, Wes Elam, Kim McPherson, the Guatemala Microloan Project and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

Walking in faith

A series of Sunday morning Faith Walks starts Sept. 20

Here in Tryon, and at TPC, we like to get outside when the weather is good. So, let's start a few Sunday mornings with Faith Walks at Harmon Field.

From September 20 through October 11, we'll meet in the Narthex at 9:15 wearing comfortable shoes and appropriate seasonal clothing. Each Sunday, we will take a short walk at Harmon Field and explore a Bible story as we walk. Using our senses and enjoying what the season has to offer, we'll consider what God teaches and reveals to us.



We often describe faith journeys as walks. Walking can be a spiritual exercise. The slow pace helps us to notice what we might otherwise pass by too quickly to see. We may observe clues God leaves for us in His creation – the land, sky, water and all that inhabit them. What will the changing seasons tell us about changes in our own lives? How will we discern God's call to us to care for His gifts? How will we perceive God's faithfulness as we build our own faith? What can we who are older learn from the youngsters among us and the joy they experience by just being out in nature?

Jesus and His followers walked a lot! For Jesus, journeys from town to town or from Galilee to Jerusalem offered time to teach. He often drew parables from the countryside. What are the stories from the road that mean the most to us?

Jesus also encountered people who couldn't walk. How did he respond to them? Perhaps we have our own mobility challenges or other difficulties. Maybe we can recall being very young when we couldn't walk, or times when accidents or surgeries hampered our abilities for a time. Who helped us? How do we honor Jesus' example to help others?

Sometimes a walk is just an opportunity to stretch one's legs. We can make it a time to exercise our faith. Please join us! If you have questions, please ask Rev. Lynnette Sills.

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

Fellowship events planned

Our Fellowship Committee has lined up outstanding fall events, starting with a Summer Supper on Thursday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Yes, September 17 is still technically summer. But school! Football! Election season! Labor Day is in the rearview mirror by then!

Whatever you call the season, the meal will feature a menu of delicious salads and a fabulous dessert. Sounds like a perfect summer meal! There will be chicken nuggets for the kids. Please sign up, in the Narthex or by emailing Jacque Headden at Jacque.headden@gmail.com, and pay \$10 in advance for everyone 12 and up. Kids younger than 12 eat free. There will be no takeouts as the supper is meant to build TPC family relationships.

Next? Life Story returns on September 23 at Calvert's in Columbus. Pay for your own lunch. The program starts at noon, with Mary Sasser sharing her Life Story. Attendance is limited to 25, so please sign up soon. Rev. Lynnette Sills will tell her Life Story in October.

TPC Excursions are back on the road this fall. Yes, fall. The destination on October 9 will be Black Mountain. On the schedule will be a stop at the Montreat College chapel for a look at Ben Long's fresco depicting the return of the Prodigal Son. The group will leave our church at 9 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person, and you pay for your own lunch.

The next TPC Excursion after that will be in early December, when we'll visit the Grove Park Inn in Asheville for a viewing of the famous collection of gingerbread houses. Watch for more details, but the cost for that will be \$20 plus lunch at the inn.



The next TPC Excursion will take participants to the chapel at Montreat College to see the Ben Long fresco depicting the return of the Prodigal Son. Sign up soon! (Blue Ridge Heritage Trail photo.)

Summer splash



Thanks to Charlie and Susan Speight for again hosting the back-to-school splash party at Camp Skyuka on White Oak Mountain August 9. Everyone had a great time, including (pictured) Benny and August Buckmaster and Viola and Davis Meissner. Benny and August even ventured a little farther up the mountain to enjoy the view at Sunset Rock.

Postcards from summer

Brad and Terri Hendrix traveled Down Under for summer (or winter?) adventures: Literally under at Australia's Great Barrier Reef, right, and in the interior at Ayers Rock, below.

For postcards from other TPC folks, see the next two pages.





Steve and Rennie Habel toured southern Africa, visiting Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe (top), and the Cape of Good Hope (above) and Table Mountain near Cape Town, South Africa (above left). MaryAnn Sloan and Skip Taylor enjoyed visiting with MaryAnn's niece Caroline.

MaryAnn and Skip also celebrated a cousin's birthday with MaryAnn's brother and sister-in-law (right). Charlie Fisher spent about 10 days fishing and sightseeing in Alaska. The fishing was productive: He landed a halibut near Homer (below right) and a sockeye salmon in the Anvik River in remote western Alaska (below left).



Church finances show faithful giving

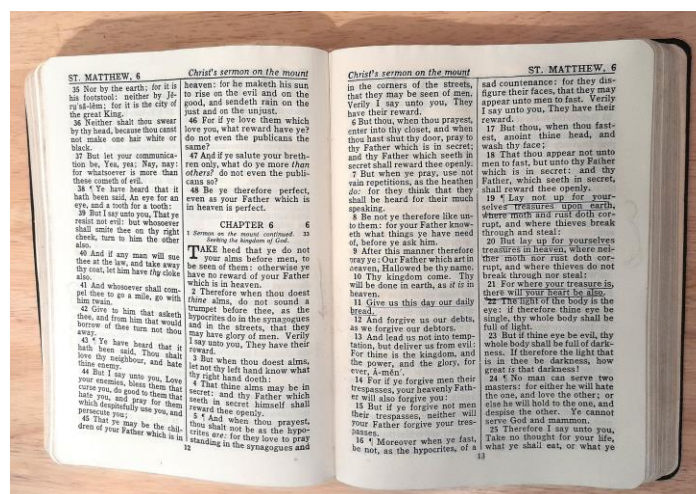
Below is a summary of TPC's finances through the end of July. The "Actual" column represents the actual amount in money the church has received (from offerings and other income) and spent (expenses) through the end of July. The "Budget" column represents the prorated amount of our total budget (both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

Tryon Presbyterian Church YTD Financial Operating Summary Through July 31, 2026				
	Actual	Budget	Difference	
Income	\$ 295,229.81	\$ 290,024.00	\$	5,205.81
Expenses	\$ 279,148.92	\$ 295,964.00	\$	(16,815.08)
Difference	\$ 16,080.89	\$ (5,940.00)		

Through the first seven months of 2026, TPC's income remains slightly (1.8 percent) above our budget projections. In other words, through the generous gifts of our members, guests and others, we have received slightly more than we budgeted, year-to-date (YTD). While our actual income is above our YTD budgeted income, actual income is below (on a percentage basis) where we stood at this same time last year.

Our expenses are approximately \$16,000 (5.8 percent) below our budget, meaning we have not spent as much money as we expected to through this point in the year. Much of this is due to budgeted Missions Committee giving that has not yet occurred.

If you have any questions about the finances of the church, please contact our Treasurer, Jon McGrath (jonathan.c.mcgrath@gmail.com), or our Finance Chair, Ken Shull (kshull51@gmail.com).



Presbytery news

PWNC member ministers in Scotland

Rev. Craig Sumey is a member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, but his validated ministry is in Scotland. Craig is part of the management team for Launch, a program sponsored by the Scottish Network of Churches that is training a new generation of leaders needed to plant and revitalize churches in Scotland, the United Kingdom and throughout Europe.

Craig and his wife, Lynn, who oversees the program's spiritual formation components, arrived in Scotland June 26 and are renting a home in South Queensferry near Edinburgh. They recently sent a report to our presbytery. [You can read it here.](#)



Craig and Lynn Sumey

"Launch is making preparations to welcome our next group, who will start their 10-month leadership journey with a four-day retreat at the Cairngorms Christian Center in Kincaig September 24-27," they say. "Please pray for these new leaders as they get ready for a season of growth, and for our team as we finalize our preparation for a program that will help them reach their potential and make a difference in communities across the region."

Craig has pastored Presbyterian churches in Florida, Kansas and Nebraska. We'll look forward to further reports from Scotland.

New Hope Presbyterian helps give school a good start

Schools across our Presbytery started the 2026-2027 year in August. That includes in Gaston County, where New Hope Presbyterian Church repeated a tradition. Members handed out doughnuts and coffee as parents and their kids made their way to New Hope Elementary, just around the corner from the church. (Maybe the coffee was only for the parents.)

It sounds like a great ministry – showing love for school families and helping them get off to a good start.

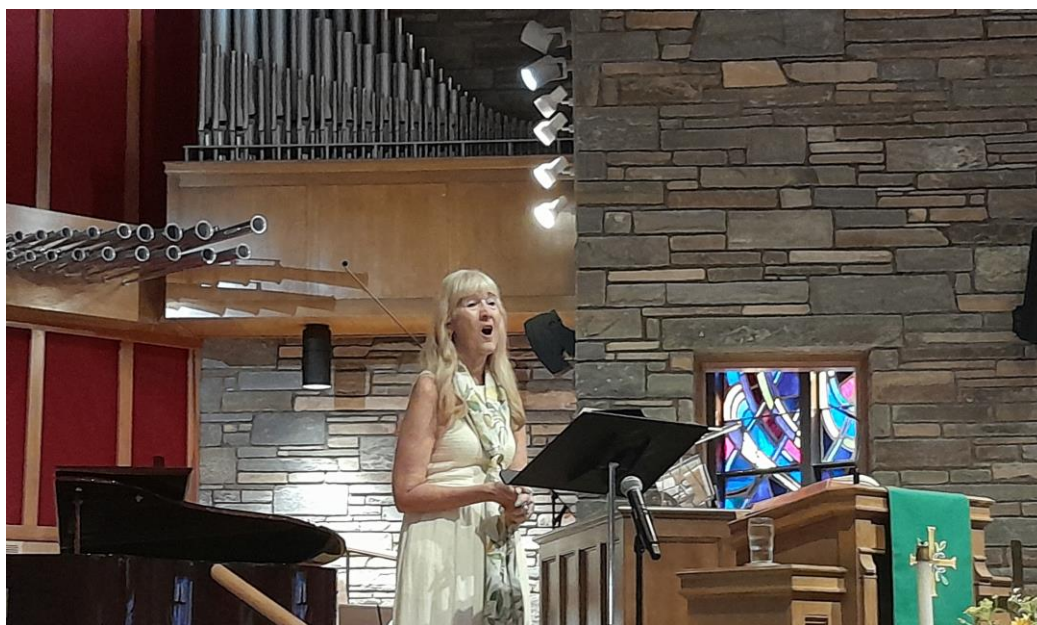


In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Jason Morrow, left, and two other athletes were honored recently by the Spartanburg County Board of Commissioners for outstanding achievements at the Special Olympics in Minneapolis this summer. Jason, who trains at the Spartanburg YMCA and competes for South Carolina, won gold, silver and bronze medals in swimming events.

Right: Michael Baughman and Jonathan McGrath provided special music August 16. Below: Gayle Casterline sang the Anthem and Offertory August 16.





Clockwise from left: Our church in late summer. Patra Sullivan has the attention of Stephanie Greene and Bill Sullivan. The “front yard” of our church extends to Harmon Field. Drew Banzhoff is the new Minister of Music at Sea Island Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, S.C. Drew was our Director of Music and organist from 2023 to 2024 before leaving for graduate studies at The Juilliard School in New York. Congratulations, Drew!

