



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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Allan is back, Page 4

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Tartans will grace our kirk Oct. 25

The brightly colored tartans of Scottish clans and the sway of the kilt will enliven the sanctuary of Tryon Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 25, as the church holds its first Kirking of the Tartans.

Local bagpiper Kevin Sprouls will lead the procession of banner carriers up the aisle at the start of the 5 p.m. worship service, which is open to anyone. The piper also will play before and after the service in front of the church narthex. Rev. Dr. Allan Purtill will deliver the sermon.

Anyone of Scottish descent is

(See TARTANS on Page 2)



The bonnie planning group, from left: Andrew Foster, Gloria Underwood, Mark McCall, Bill McCall, Jane McGoogan Wilson, Skip Taylor and Richard McKee.

(From TARTANS on Page 1)

invited to carry a banner in the procession (either their own, or one supplied by the church). However, those who wish to carry a banner are asked to wear at least some item of tartan or Highland dress, such as a scarf or a tie. Full Scottish dress is encouraged but not required.



Mark and Bill display the McCall banner.

Those who wish to carry a banner in the special worship service should contact Skip Taylor at 828-200-9259 or Bill McCall at 828-859-5590, or go to www.tryonpresbyterian.org/events for more information.

As far as established scholars can tell, the Kirking of the Tartans is a purely American tradition that began in 1941 at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. It was inaugurated by the great Presbyterian minister and later chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Dr. Peter Marshall. However, it has become popular throughout the United States and even the world over the years.

The purpose of the event is to honor the heritage of Scottish Americans in general and more specifically the role that the Presbyterian faith has played on both sides of the Atlantic.



Thank you, Dave!

Rev. Dave Hosick shares a laugh with Bobby Silvers at the end of worship Sunday, September 27. Dave completed his fill-in pastorate during Rev. Allan Purtil's sabbatical and returned his church keys to Bobby, who chairs our Property Committee. The congregation applauded Dave for a job well done. Allan led worship October 4.

Jesus seeks reconciliation for us all

Before we begin to look at this month's section on the Sermon on the Mount, I want to remind all of us that if we think Jesus was ever politically correct when He spoke about anything, think again! He also wasn't used to American sensibilities of being free to say what we want whether it is true or just our opinions. I remind all of us so you will know I am trying to dive deep into the meaning of all Jesus said in His sermon; don't think I am preaching my own opinions. I am merely trying to glean what He wants His followers to exhibit. I recommend before reading any of my devotionals that you read each month's scripture. For this month, Matthew 5:21-26, Exodus 20:13 and James 3:1-18.

In the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament, this part of the Sermon on the Mount is titled "Concerning Anger." Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those in ancient times, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that, if you are angry with your brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'you fool,' you will be liable to hell of fire."

I don't know about you, but Jesus sounds pretty serious to me. According to scholars, this passage supersedes the Mosaic Law. This part of His sermon is concerned with murder, strife and contempt. Under His law, an angry temper is similarly judged. Contempt that exclaims words like "stupid" or "scoundrel" is worthy of penalty by the court. I also would hasten to say "moron" would also fall under this penalty.

How often do we hear these words and much more in the media and general population? To call someone a fool is especially forbidden and liable to the fire of hell.

What Jesus requires is to seek out the offended and repent to him or her and express how sorry we are and hope the person will forgive us. What is important is for both parties to absolutely and sincerely repent and be reconciled. Killing is not done by knives or guns alone, but by contemptuous sneers and casual indifference.

Christ is concerned with our motives and thoughts. One scholar noted that Christ could not have spoken if contempt had not cut Him to the quick. Our Lord seems to have pity on every "stupid" person and deep pity for every "scoundrel." His pity on them is not merely knowledge of their secret motives, but on the deeper fact that, however vicious our actions, Jesus can realistically confront the demonic in our human nature and still accept us as children of God. This then brings us to the fact that every person is given life by God and all therefore are made brothers and sisters by God the Father.

So, quarreling is wrong simply because it is alien to God's nature. Jesus wants us reconciled to the person with whom we might have had any disagreement. When we repent, we "lay a gift on the altar," acknowledging in truth before God our inner-most motives. Here we speak finally of the ethic in the sermon. Our innermost thoughts must be laid on the altar.

We who are not safe from murder, anger, contempt and indifference fall on our knees and cry, "My Lord and My God!" In other words, before God, says Jesus, repent in truth and be reconciled.

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

Allan returns (we knew he would)

Pastor Allan Purtille admitted he felt a little restless during the early days of his sabbatical, which began at the end of June. But that changed. By the middle of September, he said, his sister-in-law observed: "It looks like you finally figured out sabbatical."



Rev. Dr. Allan Purtille leads a study at the men's breakfast Oct. 1.

Scripture about Sabbath bookended Allan's time away. He preached about it before he left; he used it as the basis for a brief study he led for the Men's Bible and Breakfast Thursday, October 1. Specifically, Mark 2:23-28.

"Sabbath means cease, desist, stop. Just stop," he said. Sabbath is a gift of grace.

He expressed gratitude to the congregation for the gift of three months away for rest and renewal.

"Thanks for your support of Dave and the staff,"

he added. Rev. Dave Hosick stepped in to lead the staff and preach most Sundays, with Rev. Lynnette Sills also taking a turn or two at the pulpit.

Allan also drew inspiration from Psalm 46, which includes the directive to "be still and know that I am God."

"I definitely got there," he told the men Thursday, noting an exercise at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown where he focused on corn.

"I know I became still drawing corn. It helped," he said.

Despite the moments of stillness, Allan did get around over the three months. He shared photos Thursday showing some of his travels, by himself or with Jenny:

With extended family at Lake Lanier in Georgia. In south Georgia, where he and Jenny lived years ago. Hanging out with seminary friends in Charleston, S.C. Returning to his undergraduate alma mater, Hampton-Sydney College in Virginia. Visiting his sisters in Virginia. Camping with James in the Virginia mountains where they experienced close bear encounters. Learning the lay of the land on Jenny's family farm in Tennessee.

And, with Jenny, getting away from it all in Hawaii where, dramatically, Hurricane Lowell caused widespread damage and upset their plans. But they escaped safely and still enjoyed most of the time they had there.

Allan couldn't quite wait until October 1 to return to work. A busy church season is beginning, and we all have work to do. But we're also called to be still and listen occasionally. Allan has more to teach about that.



Steve Habel and Allan Purtille

PW gathering was a great success

Presbyterian Women from across Western North Carolina spent a joyful and productive half-day at our church Saturday, September 26.



Brittany Meissner and Corise Gambrell

The Fall Gathering of the presbytery's Presbyterian Women saw activity throughout our facilities: In the sanctuary, narthex, fellowship hall, Jones Conference Room, Sunday School room, choir room and nursery. Our Presbyterian Women, assisted by women from Forest City Presbyterian Church, hosted the event.

Pam McNeil and Barbara Tilley provided gathering music; Brittany Meissner, our PW moderator, helped welcome visitors; and Rev. Lynnette Sills presented a brief history of Tryon Presbyterian Church, which focused more on mission than on dates.

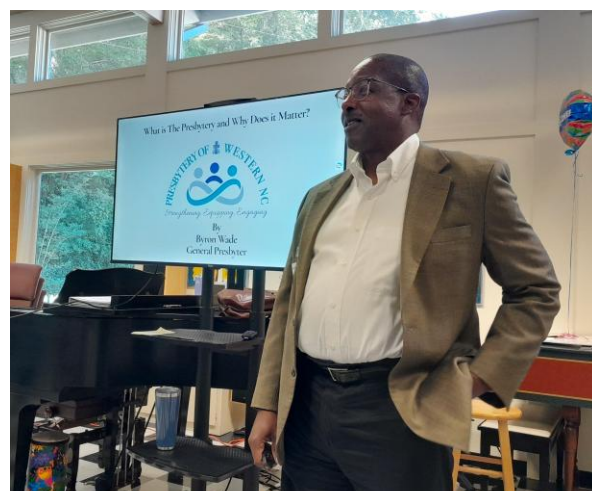
Four workshop sessions followed, with each woman having time to attend two. They could choose among:

"What is a Presbytery?" led by Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, our General Presbyter;

"What's in a Name? News From Guatemala," led by the Microloan Task Force;

"The Woman Who Was Bent Over: Welcoming All," led by Marylyn Huff;

"United Through Christ: Bound to Each Other, an Introduction to the 2026-27 Bible Study," led by Corise Gambrell.



General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Byron Wade

The event closed with

lunch, having given participants a chance to make and renew friendships, strengthen their faith and encourage one another in mission.

Our Presbyterian Women represented our church well. They had behind-the-scenes help from several of our men in moving furniture and doing other chores, all contributing to a successful event.

(More photos on Page 6)



Registration for the Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering



Above: Marylyn Huff leads a discussion about accessibility and inclusion based on the account in Luke 13:10-13 of Jesus healing a woman who was crippled and “could not straighten up at all.”

Right: Information was displayed and presented about the Guatemala Microloan Project.

Below: Mary Taneti, Director of Faith Formation at FPC Gastonia, led a strong PW delegation from her church.



Taiwan Bible College sends us a gift

Tryon Presbyterian Church has been blessed over the years by a long-standing relationship with Taiwan Bible College – a relationship built on faith, friendship, generosity and a shared commitment to spreading God's Word.

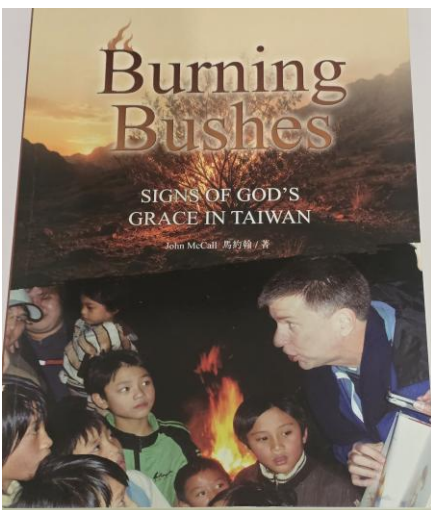
As a reminder of that special relationship, our church received a beautiful painting from Taiwan Bible College as a gift of appreciation for a donation made by Tryon Presbyterian Church. The painting, by Pinad Veneng, a pastor from an indigenous tribe, is much more than a beautiful piece of artwork. It represents the friendship and connection that have grown between our church and the Bible College over the years.



Mark and Chianghua Hereward maintain strong connections in Taiwan.

We are grateful for the opportunity to display this painting in our church and look forward to finding a special place where it can be hung and enjoyed by our congregation. Each time we see it, we hope it will remind us of the people of Taiwan Bible College, the work they are doing, and the bonds of Christian fellowship that connect us across thousands of miles.

The painting was just one of several thoughtful gifts given to Tryon Presbyterian Church by Taiwan Bible College. Another, a copy of his book, "Burning Bushes," was given by former missionary John McCall. John returned to Black Mountain last year after long service in Taiwan. The book reflects his experiences, faith and missionary journey, and the gift expresses his appreciation for TPC's support of his work. Each gift has carried with it a message of appreciation and friendship, making these items especially meaningful.



We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mark and Chianghua Hereward for bringing the painting safely back to Tryon Presbyterian Church. Their willingness to transport this special gift home for us helped make it possible for our congregation to enjoy and treasure it for years to come.

We are thankful not only for the painting itself, but for what it represents: a relationship built through years of faith, generosity, prayer and friendship. May this beautiful gift serve as a lasting reminder that the family of God reaches far beyond our own community and even across oceans.

By Stephanie Greene, Missions Chair

New friends bring showers of grace

Janet, Ya Whay, Ralph, Vavawni. These are the names of four of the folks I had the privilege to meet who traveled from Taiwan to North Carolina to spend a few days in the Blue Ridge Mountains sharing stories, sharing ministry experiences, sharing food and fellowship with PC(USA) pastors.

During the summer, Mark and Chianghua Hereward asked if I might spend a couple of days with this group that has been faithfully brought together for several years by Rev. John McCall. John partnered with Tryon Presbyterian, and this congregation has supported his ministry and work in Taiwan until his recent retirement.



Lynnette Sills and Janet Su

I confess, I didn't quite know all the reasons for going or why it mattered for me to be there. Remember, my background is Baptist and Methodist, so I'm working with a learning curve with the Presbyterians. All I knew was that Mark and Chianghua asked me to go on behalf of Tryon Presbyterian Church. And it was at Montreat. And those reasons were enough for me.

So, I went, not knowing what I would be doing or who would be there or what I should or shouldn't do. Ministers are used to these kinds of scenarios. We often walk into unfamiliar spaces with strangers and try to figure out what we do or say next. We go. God walks with us, and eventually we figure out the reasons why.

The "why" for me was the joy of meeting these extraordinary people who would likely never describe themselves with that word. They are servants who have followed their call to serve God wherever they might be led. When they answered that call, I doubt they had any idea that one day they might be led to a small retreat center in the mountains of Western North Carolina, meeting new friends from America who also had no idea that one day our paths would cross.

I was reminded in the conversations we had and the stories we shared that, while everyone in that room was challenged in many ways to do the work of serving God and neighbor in a 21st century world, we all were committed to finding common ground and sharing the love of Jesus Christ in the ways we were gifted to do that. We were all reminded that serving God isn't easy, and we weren't promised "easy." What we did have as a group was a renewed understanding that we were, indeed, called. And even though we live about 8,000 miles apart, we are very much connected in the ways that truly matter.

Here are some takeaways from our conversation:

(See GRACE on Page 9)

(From GRACE on Page 8)

- Vitality comes from God. Ask how God can guide our church to be more vital. Cooperate with the Spirit.
- Focus on our faith and what God can do with us as a part of God's church.
- Pray about that.
- Enjoy time together and laugh with God. Trust what you learn from the laughter and the time together. While you're laughing, dance, eat and find joy. God's presence helps us know and feel the joy and humor around us.
- Oh! And this: God delights in YOU!

When I arrived at the gathering, I got a name tag with my name in my language and my name written in Chinese characters. Janet, my prayer partner, shared with me that the characters mean "showering grace." Now, the way I remember the explanation of the definition of "showering" was to think of the kind of rain you experience in a rain forest. It's constant and multilayered and an integral part of the ecosystem. I'm 100 percent certain my parents had no knowledge of this definition when they named me. In fact, I have no idea why they chose the name "Lynnette." But I'll take "showering grace" any day. And I know what that kind of grace feels like because I felt it among those new friends during those two days at Montreat.

TPC Friends:

May God shower you with grace. May the love of Jesus Christ surround you. And may the presence of the Holy Spirit guide you today and in the days to come.

I wish you peace.

By Rev. Lynnette Sills



Please consider an enduring gift

Planned Giving: A Legacy of Faith and Generosity

When we hear the words *giving* or *stewardship*, we often think about our annual pledge to the church. Planned giving is something different. It is an opportunity to think beyond this year's budget and consider how our generosity can support the ministry and mission of Tryon Presbyterian Church for years – and even generations – to come.



What Is Planned Giving?

Planned giving consists of intentional, often long-term charitable gifts that are arranged in advance. These gifts are frequently connected to a person's or couple's estate or financial planning and are designed to support the church's ministry, mission and future stability.

Planned giving is **not** the pledge we make during our annual stewardship campaign. Annual pledges help provide the income needed to meet the church's operating budget each year.

Planned giving is also **not a capital campaign**. Capital campaigns are organized efforts to raise funds above and beyond regular giving for specific needs such as building projects, land acquisition or debt reduction. TPC is not currently conducting a capital campaign.

Instead, planned giving allows us to consider how we might leave a lasting legacy of faith and generosity.

Planned Giving and Our Presbyterian Faith

Planned giving is deeply connected to the Presbyterian understanding of stewardship. We believe that our time, talents and financial resources are gifts entrusted to us by God. Faithful stewardship means prayerfully considering how we use those gifts throughout our lives – and how they might continue to serve God's purposes after we are gone.

A planned gift can be an expression of gratitude to God, a way to sustain the church's mission beyond our lifetime, and an opportunity to align our estate plans with our Christian values.

What Can a Planned Gift Look Like?

There are many ways to make a planned gift. Some common examples include:

- **Bequests** – naming TPC in your will or living trust.
- **Beneficiary designations** – naming the church as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy or investment account.

(See **ENDURING GIFT** on Page 11)

(From ENDURING GIFT on Page 10)

- **Endowment gifts** – contributing to a fund where the principal is preserved and earnings help support ministry.
- **Charitable trusts or annuities** – arrangements that may provide income to the donor during their lifetime while benefiting the church in the future.
- **Gifts of assets** – including securities, real estate or other non-cash property.

If you are considering giving an unusual or non-cash asset, please contact the church's Planned Giving Committee before making a commitment so that we can determine whether the church is able to appropriately receive and manage the gift.

Why Does Planned Giving Matter?

Planned giving can help TPC build financial resilience for future generations. It can provide resources for ministries that require long-term, stable support and reduce our reliance solely on year-to-year fluctuations in annual giving.

Perhaps most importantly, planned giving invites us to think about **legacy and discipleship in a holistic way**. It asks us to prayerfully consider not only what we give today, but also how the blessings God has entrusted to us might continue to make a difference tomorrow.

Your planned giving decisions should always take into account your own financial needs, your family and loved ones, and the other charitable organizations and ministries that are important to you. We encourage you to make these decisions prayerfully and to seek advice from your attorney, financial planner, tax adviser or trust officer.

**We Are Here to Help**

The Planned Giving Committee is available to answer questions, provide information and help you explore the possibilities. The committee includes Terri Hendrix, Catherine Lynch, Jane Grinde, MaryAnn Sloan, Charlie Fisher and Rev. Allan Purtill.

Informational pamphlets about planned giving are available in the church sanctuary.

A planned gift is more than a financial decision. It can be a reflection of gratitude, faith and hope –a way of saying, *“I want the ministry of Tryon Presbyterian Church to continue blessing others long after I am gone.”*

What legacy of faith and generosity might you leave?

By the Planned Giving Committee

What's coming up at TPC?

TPC Excursion

The van is full for the day trip to Black Mountain Friday, October 9. Look for a report in the November Trumpet, as well as information about the next excursion.

Fish fry fundraiser

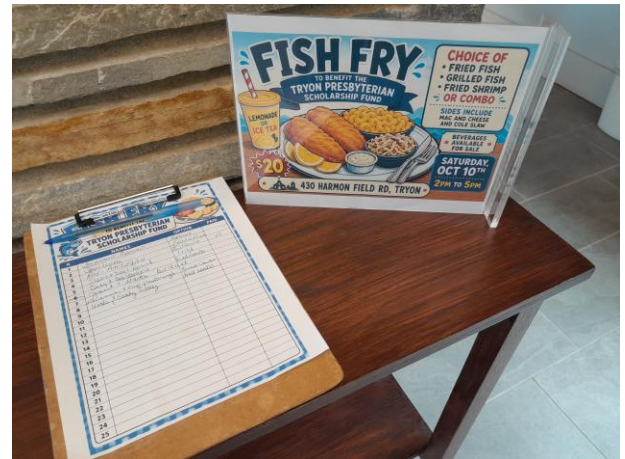
Support TPC's scholarship program and enjoy a delicious meal of fried fish or shrimp or grilled fish Saturday, October 10, from 2-5 p.m. Contact Stephanie Greene to order.

Sunday lunch

The annual pot luck luncheon will follow worship on Sunday, October 18. The Fellowship Committee will provide fried and baked chicken. You bring dessert if your last name begins with the letters A-F; a vegetable if you're G-Q; and salad if you're R-Z.

Youth ministry

Allan is back! Look for information about youth gatherings and confirmation classes for sixth-graders and up.



Mary Sasser

Young Explorers

Youngsters in fourth and fifth grade are invited to meet with Pastor Mike Carruth after Time With Young Disciples Sunday, October 18. You will explore what it means to be God's people in fun ways. Bring your curiosity, questions and imagination!

Life Story

Mary Sasser shared her Life Story over lunch at Calvert's in Columbus September 23. The next Life Story lunch will be October 21 featuring Bobby Silvers. Make a reservation with Janet Gilchrist.

Stewardship

There are two pledge cards: One for financial giving, the other for time. Please pick them up in the narthex and return them by October 31.

Election day

Voting day is Tuesday, November 3, and our church once again will serve as the polling place for Tryon Township. Workers will set up in the fellowship hall November 2, and voting will run from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Other activities at church that day will be limited. If you come to church, please leave plenty of parking space for voters!

Presbytery news

Guatemala Gathering set for Hendersonville

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina will hold its 2026 Guatemala Gathering a short drive from Tryon on Saturday, October 24. The site is Trinity Presbyterian Church, 900 Blythe St. in Hendersonville.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants can choose from among four workshops:

What is a partnership, and where do I fit?

From partner church to partnership.

Deep dive on partnership programs in Guatemala.

Bringing Guatemala home.

For more information, contact Sarah Robinson Bryan, PWNC's Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, at pwncguatemala@gmail.com or 803-528-6747.



Many ways to Partner

Guatemala Gathering 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
10AM - 2PM

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN
HENDERSONVILLE, NC

900 Blythe St, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Come, find your place in the Guatemala Partnership

Select from the following workshops:

What is the Partnership & Where Do I Fit?

From Partner Church to Partnership

Deep Dive on Partnership Programs in Guatemala

Bringing Guatemala Home

Join Us

For more information contact:
Sarah Robinson Bryan
PWNC Guatemala Partnership Coordinator
pwncguatemala@gmail.com 803-528-6747



Marshall PC worships in restored sanctuary

After two long years, the folks at Marshall Presbyterian Church gathered in their restored sanctuary September 27 on the second anniversary of Hurricane Helene's devastation of the town and the church along with it.

"It is an incredible thing when the wider community comes together to lift each other up and celebrate milestones, even while grief lingers heavy like the morning



fog," Marshall's new pastor, the Rev. Paul Sink, wrote on Facebook. "Pages were turned and new chapters are already opening up for MPC and the community we serve!"

In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Above left: Allan Purtil catches up with Charlotte Grabman and her sons, August and Benny.

Above: Jane Wilson will return to work October 6.

Left: Jim Southerin greets Allan following worship October 4.

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. Please send suggestions, articles, photos or other items to tryontrumpet@outlook.com. Thanks for help with this edition go to Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Lynnette Sills, Stephanie Greene, Skip Taylor, Terri Hendrix, Gayle Casterline, Wes Elam, Kim McPherson and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.



Above: Elaine Grella played in worship September 13. She is Fran Creasy's daughter.

Right: Gayle Casterline recently enjoyed an Alaska adventure, including a cruise from Vancouver to Whittier.

Below: Stephanie Greene took a family trip to Okinawa, Japan.

