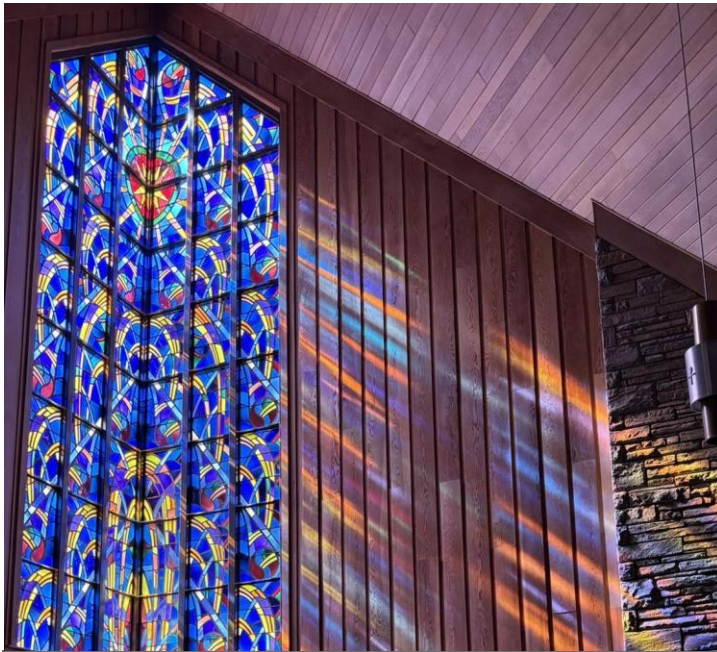




TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Jane is official, Page 4

Tea photos, Pages 7-8

Healing after Helene, Page 12

Join our 'Treasure Hunt for Grace'



Let's fill Terri's treasure chest with pledges.

The past year hasn't always offered smooth sailing, as our community and region have been rocked by a hurricane, wildfires, power outages and snow. But God has kept our church doors open and given us new opportunities for service, mission and ministry.

In the midst of turmoil, we have been graced with riches. And that inspires our "Treasure Hunt for Grace" stewardship campaign, which runs from October 12 to November 9. Terri Hendrix is leading the initiative, which will encourage us to focus on our blessings and to respond with generosity and love. The pirate treasure theme will ensure yo-ho-ho fun along the way.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" – II Corinthians 9:7-8.

Each week, we will be asked to complete activities to earn a sticker on our treasure map – so be sure to bring it to church each Sunday! After four weeks of searching, we'll all share what we've discovered together as we prepare "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and their neighbor."

The goal isn't only to form a faithful church budget for 2026, but to build a stronger, healthier church family where we not only meet each others' needs but expand our care for neighbors near and far. As Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).



We wonder who has the most fun at children's choir practices on Tuesday afternoons. Probably everyone.

We are looking forward to Sunday, November 9, when our new children's choir will sing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Thank you, Jane Wilson!



'Blessed are the poor in spirit'

When I think about writing the devotional each month, I take my Bible and begin to leaf through it to see what might be important to each of you. One day my eyes fell on the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), and I began to read the Beatitudes. It occurred to me that we have not spent any time dealing with these treasures.

Some scholars say there are seven beatitudes, others say eight, but Matthew says 10. These scholars suggest Matthew's intention is the New Decalogue (Ten Commandments). Whatever the number, these jewels are of significant importance to us.

They are revolutionary teachings, far from being passive or mild. They are the opposite of the world's standards. For example, the opposite of "poor in spirit" is proud in spirit.

They are not principles, but they present light and love against the darkness of our world. Some translations of our Bible use the word "happy" instead of "blessed," and many scholars feel the better word "blessed" evokes a God-inspired doctrine, as "happy" can be confused with mere hedonism, which we humans grasp easily.

The first beatitude that Matthew states is "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." In Jesus' time, there were peasants in Galilee whom the Pharisees in Judea despised and called "folk of the soil!" Jesus pronounced blessing on the lowly unspoiled.

Remember when Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, do not stop them for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"? If you notice in scripture, Jesus spoke blessings on the lowly, the unspoiled folk whose prayers were more humble than, shall we say, the elite. Today we hear about the "third world," countries that are so poor they are hungry for food and other things we think are needed.



Guatemalan participants in our Presbytery's microloan program.

If you have ever traveled to Guatemala, for just an example, you would see what I am referring to. People in our own church have traveled there on mission trips and seen the poverty. However, they also have been moved by the deep faith in Jesus these folks have and how strong the Holy Spirit is felt by all.

When we begin to think we are so important, or feel entitled, it would behoove us to think about the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. I also think it interesting that Jesus begins with the poor in spirit! Perhaps we need to take note!

By Rev. Mary A. Potter

Jane's ministry witnesses for Christ

Allan Purtill titled his sermon September 21, "Can I get a witness?" Jane Wilson offers the answer.

Jane was commissioned during the service as our Director of Music and organist. She stood out as a candidate, Allan said, not just for her music, experience, joy, love and energy. The first sentence of her cover letter accompanying her application said she wanted to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

Jane, personally and through her music ministry, does witness for Christ.

Allan noted that, since long-time Music Director and organist Lesley Bush answered a call to Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church, closer to his home, in fall 2022, "We've had a lot of different faces here, and God has provided for us."

They included talented young musicians Makena James and Drew Banzhoff, who left in turn to pursue graduate degrees at the University of Southern California and The Juilliard School, respectively. Richard Kennedy filled in as choir leader. In the summer of 2024, Scott Foppiano looked like a long-term hire but, tragically, died last December.

In the months following, Deb Bridges and Erica Pauly alternated as substitute organists. Meanwhile, Jane was concluding her "ministry of caring" for her husband, retired Presbyterian minister Victor. "We were here in January when we celebrated the resurrection of life for him," Allan said.

As the congregation was grieving for Scott, Jane was going through her own grief journey, Allan said. Then, around Easter, she offered to help with our music needs for a short time. Soon she was officially named the interim – but only until the end of the year. Then she felt the call, or heard the question: Can I get a witness? She answered.

The congregation enthusiastically affirmed Jane's commission.



Top: The congregation officially welcomed Jane Wilson to her music ministry with a reception following her commissioning. Right: All her grandchildren attended the service and reception.

Don't miss our Trunk or Treat fun October 26

Jeff and Sherry Carter are all in for Trunk or Treat. Not only do they offer a trunk full of treats for the kids, they come every year dressed in smart, original costumes.

"Sherry and I joined in the fun of Trunk or Treat for several reasons," Jeff explains. "When it began about four years ago, we were beginning to have some children in our congregation. We live out from town and rarely have any trick-or-treaters, so this allowed us to share in the fun of seeing the kids dressed up for Halloween and to interact with them.



Sherry and Jeff Carter are Trunk or Treat royalty.

"Susan Speight was organizing Trunk or Treat and encouraged us personally to join in. We kept coming back because it was fun. The children have a blast, and that is so wonderful to see. We think anyone who can participate in the event would have a wonderful time."

We will have our chance Sunday, October 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Families from the entire community are invited to come, and the event has been very popular. It draws new families to our church as well as our own young families with children.

The goal is to offer a safe and fun family friendly Halloween experience for our church

children and our neighbors. The key to success is having plenty of trunks – preferably trunks decorated in Halloween themes.

New features this year will include cornhole boards and sidewalk chalk. A welcome table will be set up with baked goods, apple slices and cider.

Treats should be kid-friendly and individually wrapped.

Trunk or Treat will take place on the left (or east) side of the church, with parking for visitors and volunteers on the right (or west) side. Trunks should be in place by 3:30 p.m. If it rains, everything will be set up in the fellowship hall.

Please sign up in the narthex or by email to rennieh319@gmail.com to donate baked goods or if you're bringing a trunk. Jeff and Sherry will be happy to share the fun.



Penny Padgett serves through public health

Penny Padgett remembers missing two weeks of first grade because of measles. She doesn't want that to happen to children today.

Unfortunately, our country this year has seen its worst measles outbreak in three decades, and Penny believes "it's going to get worse. It's going to get critical." (Since Penny told us this, several cases have been reported in Spartanburg County.)

As a member of Polk County's Board of Health and Human Services, she hopes to help prevent outbreaks here.



Dr. Penny Padgett sits on the Board of Health and Human Services.

That largely depends on the local agency's staff. To that end, she is serving on a search committee for a new director following Josh Kennedy's departure for the Gateway Wellness Foundation, where he is its new president.

"We've had a very good health director," Penny says. "He was excellent."

One of Kennedy's notable achievements was quickly organizing the first round of Covid vaccinations in February 2021, which were administered on a highly efficient drive-through operation at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.

Since then, the country has seen rising vaccine skepticism largely due to misinformation.

People see conflicting news, including statements from Washington, D.C., that vaccines aren't needed or are even harmful. Penny says it's important to counter mistrust and suspicion with accurate information at the local level.

Here in Polk County, which doesn't have many traditional news sources, the health director must be able to develop reliable channels of communication. One way has been to work with Polk County Schools to convey information to parents, Penny says. Former Superintendent Aaron Greene served on the health board, and Penny hopes his successor will, too. Obviously, protecting children from communicable diseases is the top priority.

Measles had virtually disappeared from the population years ago because of high vaccination rates, but viruses rarely really vanish. They can continue to exist in animals or nature, Penny notes. People can be exposed, and if too many people are unprotected, viruses can again pass rapidly.

Penny holds a doctorate in microbiology, worked as an epidemiologist for the N.C. Division of Public Health and has long had a professional interest in how diseases spread from objects and animals to humans. She has training in environmental health and safety and immunology. Now she's using her expertise to serve our community in a volunteer capacity. It seems like a very good way to live out our church's mission of loving our neighbors by working to keep them healthy.

High Tea

at **TPC**

Our Presbyterian Women transformed the fellowship hall into a tea room Sunday afternoon, October 5. The well-attended event raised funds for Thermal Belt Outreach, Steps to HOPE, Black Mountain Home for Children and Families, Sunny View Elementary School and the Guatemala Women's Microloan Program. Here are a few photos.





Welcome, new members

Roger Paul

You've seen Roger Paul at Sunday services for months. He's a tall, friendly man who enjoys chatting in the narthex after worship.

He also officially joined our church September 28.

Here's what he says about himself:

"I retired three years ago from dentistry after 42 years of private practice. For the last 23 years of my practice, my wife Kimmie was my chairside assistant. I have three daughters, Monica, Lauren and Corinne, and they are an accountant, a nurse practitioner and an event planner for St. Jude. I also have four grandchildren.

"My father passed in March 2024 at the age of 98. One of his final wishes was that I find a church that I like and that I attend regularly as he did all of his life. My wife and I have lived in Columbus since November 2024. After attending a few churches in the area, I found Tryon Presbyterian Church and from the start it just felt like home. I joined on September 28, and I am very happy.

"We are having a house built in the Lake Adger community and expect to move in by March."



Roger Paul

Margaret Burke

After her husband, Fred, died in May 2024, Margaret Burke "knew that I needed community." And, she realized, "I wanted community with people of faith."



Margaret Burke

It was Annie Fitz who invited her to visit our faith community.

"I walked in that church, and I was awestruck," Margaret said. "This was home."

Margaret, a Registered Nurse for 42 years, was living in Richmond, Virginia, when she visited Asheville in 2008. She loved it and decided to move there. She met Fred, they married and moved to a 65-acre property outside Columbus in 2012. Although she had a "long spiritual biography," she didn't have a denominational connection. That has changed here. After visiting for many months, she joined our church September 28.

Margaret participated in the Grief Share program organized by Kim Boswood, and she attends the Glory Girls circle's study of "Why We Need Girlfriends" by Frankie Sherman. But, she's "still working through getting my life reorganized" following Fred's death, so she wants to take other church activities somewhat slowly. She has no doubt, however, that she belongs here.

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place," she said.

Margaret has two sons and two young grandsons – and a new church family.

Welcome, Roger and Margaret!

The next Sunday luncheon is coming up

Mark Sunday, October 19, on your calendar and join your church family for our popular Sunday lunch. We will gather in the fellowship hall following the service for a covered dish luncheon.

The Fellowship Team will provide fried and baked chicken, green beans and macaroni. You will bring the remaining dishes according to your last name. A-H: Salad. I-Q: Dessert. R-Z: Vegetable.

See a member of the Fellowship Team to sign up in the narthex following the service.

Also, please come to breakfast this Sunday, October 12, at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. The gathering will also feature a short lesson for all ages.



The Tryon Trumpet

The Trumpet is a publication of Tryon Presbyterian Church and its Membership Committee, chaired by Rennie Habel. Editor is Doug Clark (dougclark55@gmail.com). Thanks for help with this edition goes to Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Carolyn Baughman, Terri Hendrix, Jeff Carter, Wes Elam, Kim Boswood, Lynette and Charlie Fisher, Amy McGrath, Allan Purtill, Kim McPherson, Marcia Mount Shoop, the Polk County Long Term Recovery Group and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

TPC history

Frank MacGregor is remembered for generosity

A bust of Frank S. MacGregor overlooks the Jones Conference Room from atop a tall bookcase. The lofty perch represents his importance to the life of our church.

MacGregor was born August 2, 1885, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1907, worked as a mining engineer and then joined the DuPont company, where he eventually became general manager of its Electro-Chemicals Department.

MacGregor had one sibling, his sister Ruth, but she died of influenza in 1918 aboard a ship that was taking her to work with the Red Cross in France during the First World War.

Frank MacGregor married Elizabeth Marshall on his 63rd birthday in Wilmington, Delaware. A native of Waterloo, N.Y., she had been Ruth MacGregor's roommate at Mount Holyoke College, according to her grandson, Lawrence Serven.

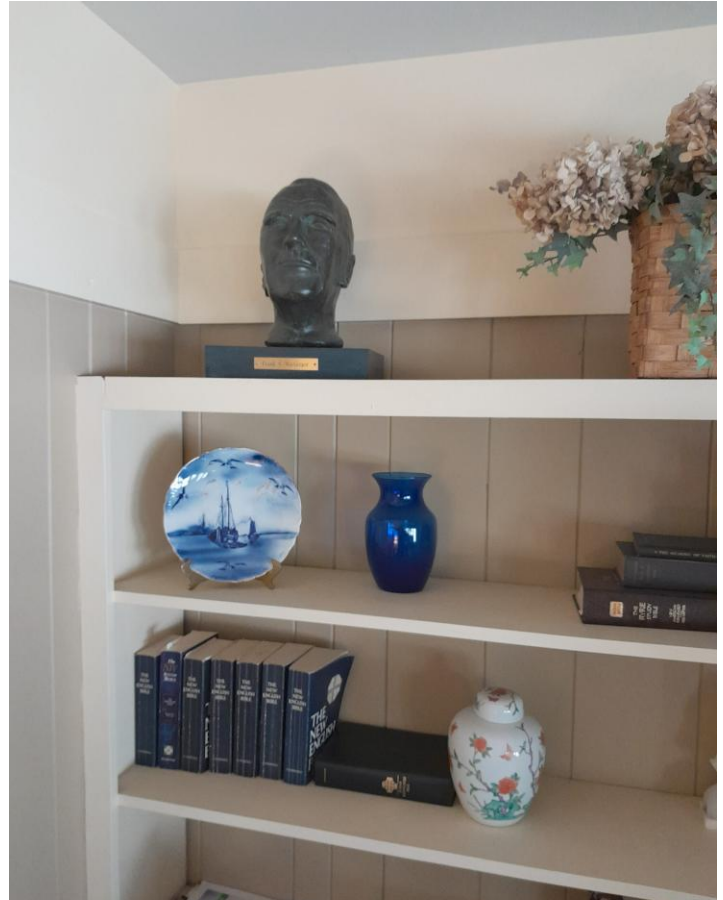
The MacGregors maintained a residence in Delaware, but in the 1950s purchased a second home in Tryon, where they lived for several months each year.

In 1956, Frank MacGregor learned that our church planned to build a new facility on Harmon Field Road, moving from Freeman Hill Road. Although not yet a member of our congregation, he offered to pay for construction of the sanctuary if it could be dedicated to the memory of his sister. The offer was gratefully accepted. The sanctuary was completed in 1958 at a cost of \$84,000.

Frank MacGregor also donated funds to Mount Holyoke for construction of a dormitory in his sister's memory. He also paid for a high-rise residence hall at MIT that still bears his name.

The MacGregors made one more large gift to our church after officially joining the congregation in 1970. They donated \$9,400 for an electronic Allen organ that served from 1972 until it was replaced by our current Moller organ in 1982.

Frank MacGregor died on the last day of 1976 at 91 years of age. Elizabeth was 90 when she died December 18, 1978. Their generosity will long be remembered here.



Frank MacGregor's bust sits on a bookcase in the Jones room.

A year later, we are healing after Helene

Our community came together for a Healing After Helene service at Harmon Field September 27, one year after the devastating storm struck. Organized by the Polk County Long Term Recovery Group, the service was led by local clergy, including Allan Purtill.

While lives were lost and homes, roads and other infrastructure were

destroyed here, other areas of Western North Carolina were affected even more severely. Here's a perspective written by Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop, pastor and head of staff at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville. We have edited it for length, but you can read it in its entirety [here](#).



Rev. Meghan Young and the Healing After Helene service at Harmon Field.

"It's been a year since Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina. Different metrics are used after a natural disaster to measure its impact: the number of lives lost (248 recorded), the number of homes destroyed or damaged (some estimates as high as 200,000), the dollar amount of economic losses (estimates exceed \$54 billion), and how much it will cost to rebuild (some estimates exceed \$200 billion). Helene's numbers are staggering, and they tell only a fraction of the story of how life changed that day in September 2024.

"One of the most devastating impacts to our region was the mortal blow to our county's infrastructure. The City of Asheville was without clean running water for 53 days after the storm destroyed our water filtration system. Hotels and restaurants were brought to a standstill. Hospitals, schools, nursing homes, factories, small businesses and homes of all shapes and sizes could not flush toilets, wash dishes and clothes or sanitize equipment normally.

"Like many other churches, the church that I pastor sprang into action right after the storm hit. We opened our doors and figured things out together. At the six-month mark after Hurricane Helene, we had done more than \$5.5 million in rent support for storm survivors. We had done over \$500,000 in utility bill support, and we have no way to count all the free supplies we handed out. A year later, we, alongside some of our community partners, are still doing rent support, providing free supplies and assisting those facing utility bill shut offs. Many of our service economy workers are not back to full-time hours. Some of them worked for businesses that no longer exist. Some of them work for businesses that are not sure they are going to make it.

"More than 60 percent of our donations were from private donors all over the world. The rest of the funds came from grants disbursed by local philanthropic organizations, as well as from the City of Asheville and Buncombe County. In April, the North Carolina Eviction Watchdog released data about how eviction rates were impacted by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. Normally there is a spike in evictions after a natural disaster, but these numbers showed that eviction rates were lower than they were before the storm."

Presbytery news

Imagining the future of our denomination



Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Are we on the cliff of a disaster or on our marks at a track starting line? Where will doors to our future lead us?

The Rev. David Bonnema, senior pastor at [Unity Presbyterian Church](#) in Denver, N.C., spent a year interviewing presbytery leaders from across the PC(USA) as part of his doctoral program. Now he is prepared to share his findings with pastors and ruling elders in our presbytery on November 6.

“Igniting the Imagination of Our Presbytery” is planned for a two-hour session at Unity Presbyterian. The training is co-sponsored by the Commissioned Pastor and Church Vitality teams of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Participants can attend in person or online.

In his interviews, David found that a recurring theme emerged of leaders feeling resigned to the slow decline of our denomination. This presentation will explore reasons for the struggle and what might be

done to turn things around.

The session runs from 10 a.m. to noon. A lunch option will be available for those attending in person. To register, please email david@unitypres.org and let him know if you will attend in person or via zoom. There is no fee to attend either way, and there's no deadline set for registration.

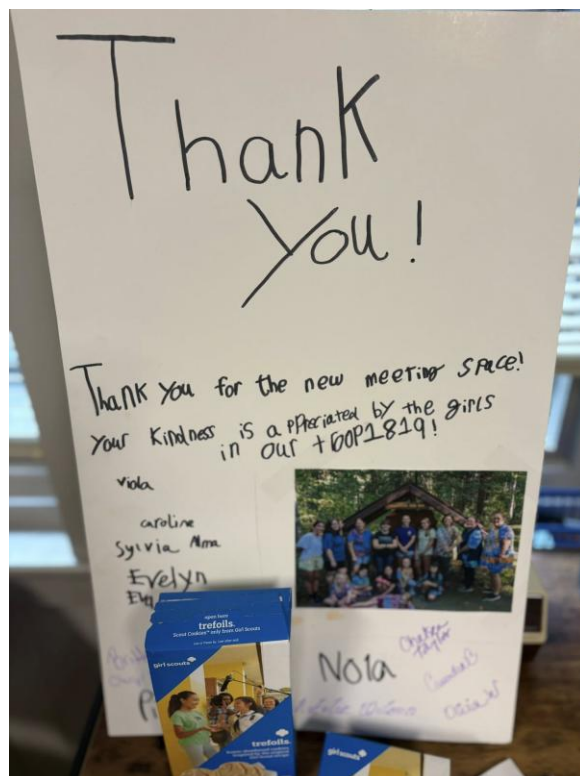


In and around Tryon Presbyterian



Above: Worship hour light bathes our sanctuary in rich colors. Right: Choir members Petra Harrelson, Mark Hereward, Richard Kennedy and MaryAnn Sloan recess following worship.





Top: Amy McGrath leads Time With Young Disciples.
 Above: Kristy Morrow, Susan Woodcock and Terri Hendrix enjoy fellowship time following worship.
 Right: Girl Scout Troop 1819 expresses thanks for meeting space in our church building.



Only one of these photos is real: On a recent trip to the Northeast, Lynette and Charlie Fisher ascended Mount Washington in New Hampshire, or they plunged over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Which was it?



Kim Boswood shared photos from a cooking class featuring sweet potatoes at the N.C. Cooperative Extension facility in Columbus recently. MaryAnn Sloan and Joanie Hosick (above) also participated. Sweet potato chili was a favorite.

