

Text from TEX, Christmas, 2020

Christmas Eve

We will have our Christmas Eve service virtually this Thursday at 6:00 PM. Please join us online at Trinitykc.org. Robert Rowlett will be at the organ, of course, and Rebecca, Maddie, and Sarah Stevens will be leading the singing and offering two trios. During the singing of "Silent Night" at the end of the service, we will have a PowerPoint featuring the stainless glass windows of the Trinity Church. Please join us.

Christmas Story Telling Session

This Wednesday, December 23, at 6 PM we will have our final session of Christian Story Telling. It has been a really good time. If you will send me your email address (texsample34@gmail.com), I will send you an invitation to join the group on Zoom. In the session each person has the opportunity to tell a favorite Christmas story. The stories have been quite diverse: humorous, touching, revealing, and sometimes striking. It has been a good way to get to know each other better and to bond the group together. You are most welcome to attend online.

Sunday, December 27

Three Wise Guys

On Sunday, January 3, the music for our worship service will be led by John Blegen and an ensemble of musicians. John has suggested the theme of "Three Wise Guys" and the service will, of course, pick up on the theme of the three Magi, who come from the East to honor the Christ child with special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Please join us for a wonderful musical celebration and this continuation of the twelve days of Christmas. The sermon for that Sunday will address the coming of these three Magi and the significance of their presence in the biblical story of Jesus's birth.

The Stewardship Campaign

We now have a final count on the amount of our pledges for the coming financial year of 2021. We had an increase of about \$7000 in the pledges for the coming year for a total of \$97,000, a very good achievement. I have reported to you before that a good many churches today raise about half of their budget through pledges with the other half coming through plate offerings by those who do not formally make a financial commitment. With a projected budget of around \$190,000, we have raised a little more than 50% of our budget through pledges. I am pleased.

I am also glad to report that we will close out 2020 in reasonably good financial condition. Given the Coronavirus pandemic, the people of Trinity Church have been very responsive to the church's Financial needs, and we will finish the year in good shape. Let me say, too, that we have been helped substantially this year by gifts from people outside our membership, a total amount in the neighborhood of about \$13,000. These funds have enabled us to make budget, and we are very grateful to these friends of Trinity Church.

The Capital Campaign

You will remember that during our Capital Campaign we raised over \$52,000 for repair of our roof, the tuck pointing of the building, and repairs to the bell tower. While that money is carefully invested in our endowed funds, we have had difficulty finding the right firms to do the work for us. We spent some 10 months with one firm exploring repair of our roof with the aid of our building insurance. That finally did not work out. We have also had conversations with other contractors about the roof and the other repairs. So far, we have not been successful in getting a contract for these jobs. But we continue to work on them, so stay tuned.

People

Dick Nelson reports that he will be moving to Kingswood retirement center soon. As reported previously, he has had quite a bout vertigo, but that condition has improved with physical therapy over recent weeks.

Kathleen Danforth will be undergoing further tests. She has an enlarged heart and is seeking a full diagnosis and appropriate treatment for this condition.

Tex Sample, Ph.D.

Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church

Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers Professor Emeritus of Church and Society
Saint Paul School of Theology