

TRINITY SUMMER

Tidings Special Edition

Have You Heard the News?!

*Meet our New
Associate Pastor,
Sarah Jane Craven !!*



Sara shares her journey... I grew up in a PCUSA church in Metairie, Louisiana. From an early age it was modeled to me what it meant to fully engage in the church by my mother. Following her example, I took my role in the church seriously. I volunteered on several committees, taught Sunday School, and even became the first youth elder while I was in high school.

Originally I went to Texas A&M University for a degree in Marine Biology/Biomedical Science. I remained active in my faith mainly through the Christian organization on campus. During my sophomore year as I found myself taking more leadership within the group, I began to feel that God was maybe calling me to something different than what I originally planned and after a time of discernment accepted that I was called into full time ministry. I then changed my degree and graduated with my BA in Anthropology in 2007.

Before attending seminary, I decided to participate in the Young Adult Volunteer program and served for a year in the inner city of Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was a hugely transformative year that only reaffirmed my desire to enter the ministry.

I came back and headed straight into seminary at Union Presbyterian Seminary where I earned a dual degree in Divinity and Christian Education. While attending Union, I continued to look for ways to gain more experience and not just engage my seminary community but the larger community of Richmond. I moved into the inner city where I volunteered with a neighborhood non-profit that worked with at risk kids. I helped lead a middle school bible study, a community group, and tutored once a week. I also took on leadership at the seminary by serving as the vice-moderator and then moderator of the student council and in my last year serving on the Board of Trustees.

I have continued to have a passion for engaging the culture in which I live in and trying to make sure that the church remains relevant to the community.

My first call came from First Presbyterian Church in Joplin, Missouri. I served as the Associate Pastor of Family and Community Ministries. I have enjoyed my two years in Joplin and have learned a great deal about life in the Mid-West.

I've also been an active member of our Presbytery by serving on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and serving as the moderator this past year. I've participated on one Administrative Committee to close a small church and the General Council. I've participated in the Synod's New Pastors support group along with the national Company of New Pastors.

Much of my outside energy and continuing education so far has been on the global church. I served on the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's Israel/Palestine delegation in 2014 and visited the church in India this year as an alum with Union Presbyterian Seminary.

I've maintained a balance in my life by regularly going to the gym, joining a Young Professionals Network, participating in an outside women's bible study, and engaging in the local community.

I am greatly looking forward to beginning the next chapter of my journey with Trinity Church on August 23rd!

The Sanctuary 50th Anniversary in Review

*Our Beautiful Sanctuary was
Rededicated after 50 years on
Sunday, May 31st.*



Reverend Faulkner planned a beautiful worship service that was attended by almost 400 Trinity members. He delivered an honest and inspiring sermon that gave us all renewed hope for the future of our denomination. Lisa Marcelli, Director of Music, planned a wonderful morning of music

with an expanded Celebration Choir, bells and orchestra. Former pastors Jim O'Dell, Roger Uittenbogaard and Graeme Veitch attended. A bagpiper welcomed everyone as they arrived for the worship service and then piped us out of the sanctuary when the service was over and into Fellowship Hall for a delicious luncheon reception. Videos about the renovation were playing in Fellowship Hall. Our members enjoyed reminiscing with our former pastors and a great time was had by all! It was a wonderful culmination of the 1,825 hour renovation project that was completed last summer. Those of us who worked so hard on the project did it for the glory of God and the love of this community. It was a true example of stewardship in action and we pray that, sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit, our warm, wonderful and welcoming community will be a beacon of hope, love and service for another 50 years!



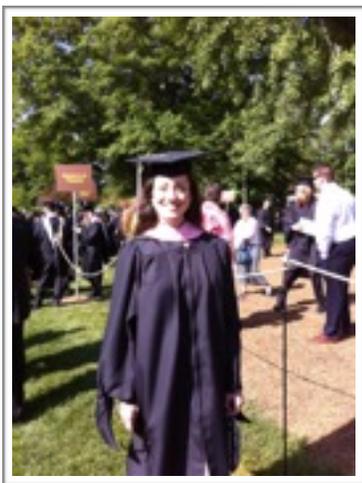
A Big Congratulations to the Graduates!!

Hilary Norton

Hilary Norton, daughter of George and Ellen Norton, has graduated from Camden County College with a degree in Computer Graphics. This fall she will enter the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

During her internship at Camden County College, she was fortunate to have worked for Ms. Campbell, owner of an upscale women's shoe company and author, where Hilary prepared numerous graphics and designed the cover of the book, "The Day I Divorced The Old Me", which was copyrighted. Ms. Campbell's kind acknowledgement stated "You are an incredible artist and a true joy to work with. Remember to stay focused on your dreams and keep pressing the mark. The world can expect great things from you."

Hilary looks forward to entering the University of the Arts where she will continue her major in Computer Graphics.



Lisa Miller

Lisa graduated from Rowan University in May with her Masters in Music. Lisa is the Orchestra Director for high school and middle school in the Pennsville School District.



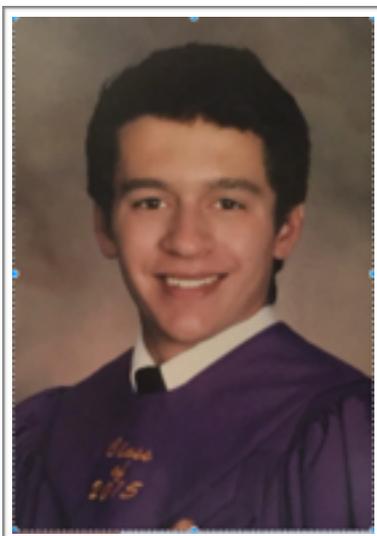
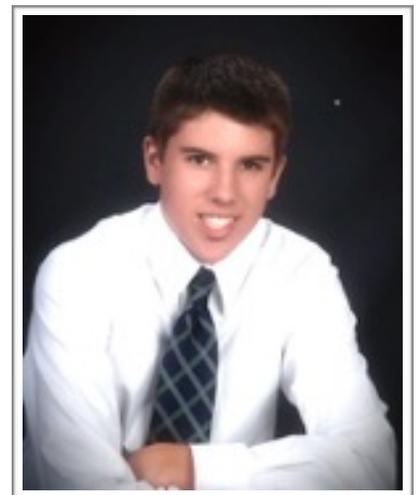


Elizabeth Tilsner

Elizabeth Tilsner is a graduate of Cherry Hill High School East. She has danced for 16 years with Bowman School of Dance and played the flute in Marching Band. Elizabeth has also been a member of Sr. High Fellowship for the last four years and is looking forward to her 4th mission trip to West Virginia. She will be attending York College of Pennsylvania and plans to major in Recreation Therapy.

Conor Baechler

Congratulations to Connor on graduating magna cum laude from Shawnee High School. Connor played first doubles on Shawnee's tennis team which won the SJ Group IV championship all four years. This season, he and his partner were named Olympic Conference Tennis Players of the Year, and made it to the quarter finals of the State doubles tournament. Connor will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall, and plans to study Actuarial Math and Finance. And every sporting event. Go Blue!



Anthony Digneo

Anthony is graduating from Cherry Hill High School West with academic honors. He played baseball and sang in the chorus for all four years. He will be attending York College of PA in the Fall, majoring in Sport Management. He has received the York College Heritage Grant and the Sons of Italy Ragone Family Scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year.

Session Update

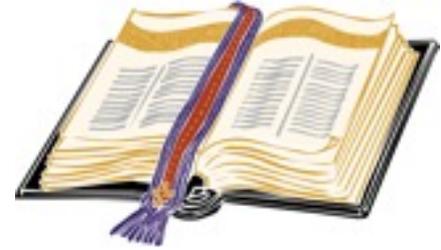
At its special meetings April 26, and April 29, and stated meeting on May 4, 2015, the Session:

- Approved the April 20, 2015, membership count of 810.
- Voted 9 members of the commissioning class into membership.
- Continued discernment discussions about marriage equality.
- Noted increases in worship services at regular services and on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.
- Expressed gratitude to Princeton Seminary student and intern Ben Shaw as he ends his time with us.
- Noted with regret Bill Condon's resignation from Session, for a new job and move to Florida.
- Approved the Mission and Outreach Committee's request that we donate twenty-five per cent of CROP walk proceeds to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry (Cherry Hill Food and Outreach Council)
- Received an update about the May 31 worship service and rededication of the sanctuary.
- Scheduled Session meetings for June 1, July 13, and September 14.
- Learned about the Finance and Stewardship Committee's introduction of EasyTithe for electronic giving
- Heard the report of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee noting that they had selected an associate pastor, and that the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry would interview the candidate on May 5.
- Expressed thanks to the APNC for all their hard and faithful work.
- Reviewed the results of the Personnel Committee questionnaire evaluating Rev. Faulkner's job performance.
- Rescinded its March vote to move summer worship to Fellowship Hall due to sound system and other issues.
- Prayed for members and friends.

-Margery Sly, Clerk of Session

Session Discernment Process

In October 2014, Trinity's Session entered into a discernment process around the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s decisions about marriage equality. At its retreat that month, the Session heard from the Revs. Keith Reed and Jonathan Hoeldtke, presenting Biblical teachings and alternate points of view about marriage equality. The Session continued its discussions at the February 2015 officer retreat and discussed it again at its May meeting. In the fall, the Session will invite the congregation into the conversation, as it continues to discern how God is leading us to act in this particular moment in history.



In the Old Testament, there were elders who governed the people, and the New Testament church identified people with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Today each congregation elects elders to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.

Theologian Henri Nouwen wrote that "Reaching a decision can be straightforward: we consider our goals and options; maybe we list the pros and cons of each possible choice; and then we choose the action that meets our goal most effectively. Discernment, on the other hand, is about listening and responding to that place within us where our deepest desires align with God's desires...".

How do we arrive at consensus through discernment? It involves:

- Being willing to speak what we think we might be hearing from God
- Listening carefully to others
- Paraphrasing or summarizing what we think we hear others saying
- Making sure quiet people have the opportunity to speak, and
- Pausing from time to time to pray or reflect.

In March 2015, the eighty-sixth presbytery cast an affirmative vote to amend the PC(USA) Constitution, resulting in a majority among the 171 presbyteries approving the change. It was originally presented by the 221st PC(USA) General Assembly (2014), and required a majority of presbyteries to ratify the provision for it to become part of the church's Constitution.

The new language reads:

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the wellbeing of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

PC(USA) ministers can perform same-sex marriages in states where such marriages are legal. By a vote of 371-238, the 221st General Assembly (2014) approved an authoritative interpretation permitting ministers and sessions in these states to use their own discernment in conducting same-sex marriages, effective June 2014.

The General Assembly also included in those changes clear language that no teaching elder or session can be forced to conduct a same-sex marriage ceremony if they do not believe it is appropriate. As of early March, forty-two presbyteries had voted against the amendment, demonstrating ongoing disagreement within the church.

The change to the wording on marriage will take effect June 21, 2015, one year after the adjournment of last summer's assembly.

Following the way of discernment means becoming increasingly able to notice where God is at work in the world and in one's own life--and becoming increasingly generous with one's own life in response. Nouwen emphasizes listening to the Word of God--in our hearts, in the Bible, and in the community of faith, as a way to discern God's plan.

Are you interested in membership at Trinity?

Join us at the next Member Information Session on Sunday, July 19, at 11:15 am in the office conference room (located in the administrative wing). The Rev. Greg Faulkner will talk about what it means to be a Presbyterian and answer any questions you might have; other Trinity members will also be on hand to discuss the many opportunities that Trinity offers for fellowship and service. Lunch will be served, so it's important that we know who will be attending. Also, babysitting will be available upon request. If you're interested in attending the July session, please email Susan Bastnagel at sbastnagel@gmail.com, or call her at (609) 230-3556. We hope to see you there!



