

# The Bridge

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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Elizabeth Meador

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*"Diverse in Backgrounds, United in Faith"*

Friends,

The written word has always influenced me - personally, professionally, and certainly spiritually - and one writer who has been meaningful to me over the last few years is Ann Weems. She is a Presbyterian Elder, lecturer, and poet who has published several volumes of poetry, many of them weaving together themes from Scripture and the Church year. As we begin our journey of ministry together, I'd like to share with you the following poem from her most recent book, *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*:

## "Eyes Still Filled"

On Tennessee summer evenings  
we would lie on our backs,  
the stars hanging in our eyes,  
and we would wonder...  
wonder what was going on up there  
among the stars...  
If we stared long enough,  
the stars would lift us to them,  
and we would float,  
face to face with the stars

in the entranceway of the home of God.  
When our mothers called us to come in  
because of the late hour,  
the spell was broken,  
and we would fall back to earth,  
where our backs itched from the grass  
and our thirst was powerful,  
but our eyes...  
our eyes were still filled  
with the glory of God.

I am fond of this poem for many reasons -I, too, have memories of watching the stars as a child in Mississippi and Tennessee, I love the description of children's spirituality, and I appreciate her emphasis on seeing God in everyday sights in the everyday act of being outside and playing.

It comes to my mind now because in just a few short weeks, in the everyday work of this church, you as a congregation have filled my eyes with the glory of God. In your hospitality to me, in your care for each other, in your faithful attention to the running of our ministry together, my eyes and heart have been filled with God's glory. My cup overflows.

My prayer as we continue together is that we would find more ways to fill each other with God's glory - that we would always be full of wonder, that we would uplift each other, and thirst for more opportunities to see God. May it be so for you and for me.

Peace of Christ,  
Elizabeth

**WE GRIEVE WITH THOSE  
WHO GRIEVE . . .**

Trinity sends its sympathy to Steve & Sally Burns, Billie Cross, & Angela Drew following the death of their uncle and brother, John Taylor.

Trinity sends its sympathy to the family of George Barth, a long time member of Trinity. His memorial service was held at Trinity on January 11.

**THANK YOU . . .**

Thank you for the money cards, gifts, and other expressions of love you have so generously given to us. It has been an awesome journey to travel with you the past 2 ½ years. You and Elizabeth will be in our prayers as you continue the journey.

Ron & Sandy

Thank you, Trinity, for remembering us with your generous gifts at Christmas time.

Barbara & Keith

Trinity Friends,  
I wish to express my thanks for the wonderful Christmas gift I received.  
A special thanks to my Trinity family for all the years of care and friendship.

Diana Miller

To Our Church Family,  
Thank you so much for all the cards and calls we received following the death of our brother Johnny.

Billie Cross & Angela Drew

I would like to send a big Thank You from the bottom of my heart to all the Trinity members for the prayers, cards and support you have given me during the past several weeks following the assault and robbery I suffered while delivering pizza on December 15. Ron Galvin was awesome as well. I still have some

pain from a broken clavicle, but I am finally able to return to work.

May God bless you all,  
Laurie Rasmussen

From the Sew & So's . . .

The sewing group needs used bed sheets to use as filling for their quilts. If you have extra to donate, they would be so grateful.

From the Women's Morning Circle . . .

Thank you for collecting the Best Choice Bar Codes. We have collected 634 for 2014.

**2014 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT**

Trinity will again be paying our assigned per capita assessment in 2014 by asking members of the congregation to donate their own \$32.95 per active member. This will help to ease our budget.

*Effective January 2014, the Bridge will be distributed electronically to all who have provided their email addresses.*

*Effective January 2014, articles for the Bridge are due to the secretary no later than the 25th of the month. Items submitted later than the 25th will go in the next month.*

**T.I.G.E.R.'s NEWS**

Mark your calendar with the following events:

Feb. 2:	6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s
Feb. 9:	6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s
Feb. 16:	6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s
Feb. 23:	6:15 p.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s

T.I.G.E.R.'s questions call  
Becky Layman at 830-4066.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb.	1	Cathy Ruppert	23	Bob Cooper
	3	Julie Atkins	24	Frances Buck
	7	Don Combs	25	Donna Coffel
	14	Steven Shineman	26	Crystal Brock

### WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for these:

- Feb 2:** Jan Privett  
Laurie Rasmussen  
Dorothy Reynolds
- Feb 9:** Ann Rich  
Howard & Joyce Rich  
Patrick Rich
- Feb. 16:** Mike & Evelyn Richards  
Steve, Jennie, Jordan, & Kellan Richards  
Alan, Clayton & Caleb Riddle
- Feb. 23** Jean Riddle  
Jason, Jennifer, & Kyndal Robinson  
Todd & Cheryl Rose

*Join the Trinity family to celebrate Stacia and welcome Baby Martin!*

*The Women of the Church will sponsor a Baby Shower on Sunday, February 9 in Founders' Hall immediately after worship.*

*We will begin with a light lunch as we shower Stacia and Baby with love.*

*Stacia is registered at Babys-R-Us.*

*For more information see Bev Thieme or Mari Shineman.*

Welcome to a new year in Christian Education. We have a wonderful committee working to further the education of our congregation. This year's committee includes Lucy Berry, moderator, Stacia Martin and Evelyn Richards as session members, Troy Berry, Kerry Ellis, and Susan Matthews from the congregation. Please keep this committee in your prayers as we go through the coming year of activities.

Sunday School classes have will have some new faces teaching for 2014. Diana Miller will have the nursery up to Kindergarten. Kerry Ellis will teach the children ages 1st grade and up in the Wee Kirk room. Evelyn Richards will teach the adults for the month of February in the Conference room. During worship Diana Miller will have the nursery and Kerry Ellis will continue with Wee Kirk following the Time with Young Disciples.

*You are Invited  
to the  
Service of Ordination and Installation  
for  
Elizabeth Meador  
Sunday, February 23, 2014  
3:00 PM  
at  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Followed by a Reception in Founders Hall*

From Carolyn Nickens . . .

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? This week, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a -milking were the eight beatitudes.
- The nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

## **PER CAPITA SUNDAY February 9, 2014**

What is per capita and what is it used for? Every year, Heartland Presbytery assesses an amount payable per each active member of the church to help pay for operating expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and, General Assembly. It's like a Membership Fee. Trinity pays based on the total number of active members. Not those who attend every week, but, those who are listed in the phone book with an asterisk. The 2014 assigned per capita assessment is \$32.95 per active member. This is not taken from your Pledge. It is in addition to your Pledge.

This year we are designating a specific Sunday to help members remember to pay their per capita. Members are asked to contribute their \$32.95 on February 9, 2014. This will help ease our budget.

## **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple yet significant act of caring for others. Please bring cans of soup that Sunday or drop \$1.00 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 2.

***On the first Day of the Week  
"The people came together..."***

*Worship Services:*

Jan. 5 .....	No Service
Jan. 12 .....	72
Jan. 19 .....	74
Jan. 26 .....	78

*"and the people gave . . . "*

Jan. 5 .....	No Service
Jan. 12 .....	\$10,907.75
Jan. 19 .....	2,087.95
Jan. 26 .....	<u>796.00</u>
Total .....	\$13,791.70

Budget information: (as of January, 2014) .....	
Weekly Bgt. Requirement .....	\$ 2,823.96
Jan. Average Weekly Giving .....	\$3,447.92

*A heartfelt thank you to those who have so lovingly and generously contributed to Trinity's memorial funds:*

- Mrs. Beverly Campbell*
- Louise Gallegos*
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hick*



*the friendly little church on the hill*

[www.maxwellheightschurch.com](http://www.maxwellheightschurch.com)

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
1400 Sheley Road  
Independence, MO 64502

Dear Session, Pastor, and Other Constituents of Trinity,

Thank you for your generous donation of 100 blue, 1990 Presbyterian hymnals to enhance the worship life of Maxwell Heights Presbyterian Church.

The hymnals we have been using were published in 1952, and were purchased because someone absolutely had to have hymnals with a particular song in them—and no one even remembers what that song was anymore. Over the years, as our congregation has evolved theologically and in other ways, the hymnals in our pews haven't kept up with the changes. But we are looking forward to discovering what these new-to-us songbooks have to offer, and how they can enhance and deepen our growth as a church.

Thank you again for your donation, and thank you, in particular, for taking care to send the best ones. These hymnals are beautiful, and I can't wait to see them in our pews!

Grace and Peace,

Steven Andrews  
Pastor