



the Vision

February, 2015

Volume 25, Issue 2

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Memories, Hopes and Conversations

Your Opportunity to Help Shape the Future of Trinity Church!
***Sunday, February 15, 10:30 till 12:30, including worship
 Fellowship at 10:00 – Lunch a 12:30***

Throughout the Bible, God's people were often urged to remember and to retell stories of God's amazing love and provision, and each of us has a unique and important story to tell...a story that affirms that the power of God has been at work in our congregation, nurturing Trinity to develop specific strengths. Based on these strengths we prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do in the future, and we look forward with confident hope and enthusiasm!

February 15 is almost here! It is the Sunday when we will come together for an event called "Memories, Hopes and Conversations" which is a time of sharing, discerning and envisioning. The thoughts and ideas that come out of this event will form Trinity's Mission Study which, in turn, will be used in the search for our new Senior Pastor. We will be using a proven approach known as Appreciative Inquiry which gives everyone an opportunity to share their positive memories and voice their creative hopes in an atmosphere of gratefulness to God and thankfulness for each other. Your Session has had a taste of the Appreciative Inquiry process and found that it created a sense of energy, shared vision and hopefulness for the future.

On Feb. 15, the morning schedule will center around the Memories, Hopes and Conversations event, and everything, including worship, will take place downstairs. Worship will take place in Trinity Hall, and some of the conversation groups will meet in other rooms downstairs to help make hearing each other easier.

In this pivotal time in the life of this part of God's Church called Trinity, your participation in this event is among the most important things that you can do for this congregation in this decade! The Session's goal is to have 100% participation of members, and anyone who is interested in the life of this congregation is encouraged to participate. Plans are being made to help those with transportation and childcare needs. Please join us on February 15 and come be a part of helping to shape the future of Trinity Church!

PASTORAL LETTER

An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 2 Timothy 2:5-6

Fight the good fight . . . 1 Timothy 6:12

The Call

God calls.



God calls all things into being out of nothing. God calls us from death to life. In Christ, God calls us and equips us for ministry. Everything about our lives—including the difficulties and sorrows—is the venue for Christ to reveal himself through the fulfillment of his Call in us. And God equips us for the Call.

God has not given us a Spirit of fear, but of love and power and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

If God calls you to a ministry when you are in a wheel chair, then God is going to call you to a ministry that can only be done by you in your wheel chair. If you are a mother with little ones running around the house, then the ministry that you are called to involves those little ones—they are an integral part. All those things that occupy you are the context God has given you for ministry in Christ.

Whatever God calls our church to do, it is ministry that only we can do together now. Our history is part of that preparation and call. It is crucial that we discern together what God is calling us to do together. That is why we are together. God is in it—beginning to end.

God gives us opportunities, not excuses. The circumstances that we see as reasons for not answering the Call, are in fact reasons to accept the opportunity they present. The Spirit is at work and God is sovereign in every circumstance. The Call of God is always present, and is always pointing forward. God is always building the family of God, always building us up into the image of Christ, always building the Kingdom.

Sometimes the time is wrong to answer a specific call, but time to pray and prepare. Sometimes a call takes time to take form, to grow, to come to fruition. The short term calling that is immediately before us is part of a larger picture. It all is fitting together. Thankfully and wonderfully, it is God's plan, not ours. It is a great tragedy when people get only what they want in life, fulfill only their plans and purposes! It is a great joy and true fulfillment when our lives are voyages of discovery, in which we find God's purpose as we go along. Yes, it is important to plan, and also to place ourselves and our plans, as clay, in the Potter's hands.

Have you prayed for God's will in your life? Are you listening? If we are going to answer the call of God, we first have to hear it? So, if someone were to ask, "What is God calling you to do?" or say "Tell me about your sense of Call," how would you respond? To not hear, and to not answer the Call of God, is to waste our lives. Nothing could be more sad—or boring!

This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting—God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 The Message

Lord, speak! Your servant is listening!

Blessings, *Jerry*



WORSHIP

FEBRUARY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Feb 1 - Deuteronomy 18:15-20; *Psalm 111*;
I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Feb 8 - Isaiah 40:21-31; *Psalm 147:1-11, 20*;
I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Feb 15 - II Kings 2:1-12 *Psalm 50:1-6* ;
II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Feb 22 - Genesis 9:8-17; *Psalm 25:1-10*;
I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WORD OF LIFE

Our Bible Study class study is "**That You May Believe: The Gospel of John**". It's by Carol J. Miller. John's Gospel offers insights into the nature of Jesus and the meaning of faith. Come share your faith and explore the contrasts that John puts before us. We meet in the Upper Room East at 9:00.

THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

We meet in the Lower Level Lounge after worship on Sunday mornings. We will be using a DVD entitled *Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy* for the first 5 weeks this year. Join us! All are welcome.

"...ON THIS ROCK"

Join Rev. Bill Voigt in the Upper Room W at **9:00 am beginning Feb 1** for a new series on **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE VATICAN**. Past, present and future come alive through DVD's, discussion and lecture. Explore the faith, mystery, scandals, and secrets of this 2000 year old church. **A South-west breakfast will be served!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ENGAGE

FEBRUARY 22 - A 4 WEEK SERIES

Sundays at 11:45 in the Upper Room East

As faithful members of the church, are you ever asked what you believe – and maybe why? Does this make you uncomfortable? Or do you have a response with which you're not entirely satisfied? Could you benefit from the discussion of how you might more effectively articulate the faith you profess? The Presbyterian Church (PC/USA) has developed a resource called "ENGAGE" that promises to address these issues. Please contact Cindy Toering (Growth and Outreach committee) or Harriet Marsh if you are interested in attending.

POLO

Parents of Little Ones is now at 9:00 am. on the third Sunday of the month (before worship instead of after). Parents with young children are welcome to join us!



GODLY PLAY

Godly Play is a worship-based learning program for children that invites exploration of core Biblical stories in an atmosphere of reverence, wonder and prayer.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

Kreamer's Crusaders

January-May 2015

Calling all youth in grades 4th-8th. we have a new Sunday School class called "Kreamer's Crusaders". This will cover a variety of Bible stories in an open discussion format. We will meet in the Sanctuary for the service and leave before the sermon to go downstairs to the lounge for our class. The class will end around 11:30am.



Wednesday Nite
Alive!

WednesdayNiteAlive!
February 4 at 6:30 p.m.
"Samaritans and Jews"
with John Isner, Trinity

choir member, who writes the following introduction to his topic:

In the summer of 2014 my wife and I traveled to Israel and Palestine. One of the most interesting places we visited was the village of Kiryat Luza on Mt Gerazim in the occupied West Bank, just outside of Nablus. It is here that many of the world's 750 remaining Samaritans live. The Samaritans regard Mt Gerazim (rather than Jerusalem's Mount Zion) as the location that Yahweh chose for his temple. I'll show some photos from our trip and I'll talk about the similarities and differences between contemporary Judaism and Samaritanism.

Christians know about the Samaritans from the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and the parable of the good Samaritan. We know that relations between Jews and Samaritans in the first century CE were not good! But why did these two groups hate each other? And was it always so? Who exactly were the Samaritans, and where did they come from?

The book of Second Kings gives the traditional answer. It says that when the Assyrians conquered the northern Kingdom of Israel they deported its inhabitants and replaced them with people brought in from other lands. It is from Kings that we get the tradition of the "Lost Ten Tribes" as well as the notion that the residents of Samaria were foreigners, providing a sim-

ple explanation for Judean-Samaritan animosity. But recent scholarship suggests an altogether different story. While some of the evidence for an alternative history comes from archaeology and some from extra-biblical texts, the most important clues come from the pages of the Bible itself! We'll examine passages in Kings, Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah which suggest that Judeans and Samaritans remained politically and religiously "joined at the hip" long after the Assyrian conquest. The breach in relations and the rise of Samaritanism as a distinct religion would have been relatively recent events at the time of Jesus.

Benefits of Singing



- Singing reduces stress, which can aid in healing and can improve the immune response. It relieves stress in a number of ways—it releases the hormone oxytocin. Oxytocin manages anxiety and stress and enhances feelings of trust and bonding.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12814197>

- Singing releases endorphins, which give that rush, or singer's high, and are associated with pleasure, and are also known to alleviate pain.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23089077>

- One study looked at pain threshold and singing, and singing triggered endorphin release, "in contexts where merely listening to music and low energy musical activities do not ... We conclude that it is the active performance of music that generates the endorphin high, not the music itself ..."



Wednesday Nite Alive! - February 2015

Date	5:00pm Bible Study {Library}	6:00pm Meditation Service {Chapel}	6:30pm Discussion Group {Upper Room-West}	6:30pm Helping Hands (serving) {Upper Room-East}
Feb 4	Mark 1:29-39 <i>Jerry Foust</i>	Epiphany	Samaritans and Jews <i>John Isner, Trinity choir member</i>	Preparing Valentine cards for children at Diamond Children's Center <i>Kathy Moser</i>
Feb 11	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration	A slideshow of India: following the steps of his great grandfather, a Presbyterian Missionary <i>Marshall Giesy, co-owner of Fiesta Tours International</i>	Sandwich-making for Casa Maria Soup Kitchen <i>Kathy Moser</i>
Feb 18	Mark 9:2-9	6:00-7:00 pm Sacrificial Soup Supper and Service Project: Food Packs for Trinity's Food Bank (Fellowship Hall)	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)	
Feb 25	Mark 8:31-38	Transfiguration	LENTEN Series The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth <i>Jerry Foust, Interim Pastor</i>	Preparing simple hygiene packs for Casa Paloma Women's Shelter <i>Kathy Moser</i>



Lent begins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

In preparation for Easter feel free to pick up 'The Parables of Lent', daily devotionals that will be in the Narthex starting on Ash Wednesday. And if you'd like to go paperless, there are online sites to inspire you: Hear the Word (a daily podcast of the scripture reading from the lectionary), These Days (daily devotionals that are the same as the paper booklet available in the Narthex) or try <https://maxlucado.com/category/read/daily>.

Remember when you were a kid and promised to 'give up' something for Lent? I suppose that was a form of self-control (one of the Fruits of the Spirit). This year's Wednesday night Lenten series will center around Richard Foster's book, *The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. February 25th will begin the series focusing on styles of discipline featured in Foster's book. Speakers will talk about inward, outward and corporate oriented styles of discipline. Inward styles are like meditation, prayer, and fasting. Outward styles are simplicity and submission. Corporate paths of discipline are worship and service.

Each of the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, we will have a speaker who will address one of the paths to spiritual growth featured in Foster's book. The last Wednesday of Lent, April 1st, will be movie night.

So, take time to treasure this Lenten season with guidance, devotion and spiritual growth.

Congregational News

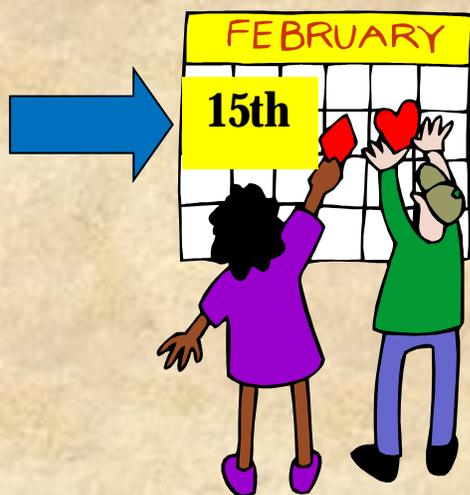
February 15

10:30—12:30

Your Memories: Precious Building Blocks for the Future of Trinity

On Sunday, February 15, we will gather to converse with each other, retelling our memories of personal experiences and congregational history. On this foundation, we will build our hopes for the future of Trinity. Each and every one of us has unique stories to tell, and each story will be a building block for our future.

Please call the church office NOW to RSVP for this important event!



TOURS OF TRINITY



THE GROWTH & OUT-REACH TEAM will be offering "Tours of Trinity" lead by our very own Rev. Bill Voigt on Feb 1st and Feb 22nd. They will begin after worship at 11:45 am. Meet in the Narthex and come explore our facility and learn some of the history of Trinity.



Photos from the Elders/Deacons Retreat in January at the Redemptorist Renewal Center

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 24th, to talk about *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* by Mark Adams. Adams recreates Hiram Bingham III's discovery of the ancient citadel, Machu Picchu, in the Andes of Peru, describing his struggles with rudimentary survival tools and his experiences at the sides of local guides. (Mark Adams will be at the Festival of Books at the University of Arizona).

Heads up on the March 24th book: Jared Diamond's *The World Until Yesterday*. Diamond gives us a glimpse of what we can learn from primitive societies.

Congregational News

HEARING ASSISTANCE IN THE TRINITY SANCTUARY

Trinity has two types of hearing assistance devices available in the sanctuary. Infrared headphones are available to pick up in the narthex. They have the best sound quality, but they only cover the main floor of the sanctuary. We also broadcast the service in the sanctuary on FM radio – bring your own favorite radio and earphones and tune to 107.9 FM. The FM signal covers all parts of the sanctuary including choir, balcony and narthex. The FM signal will also work



downstairs in Trinity Hall during worship for the Memories event on February 15. Contact John Hill (jhill@as.arizona.edu) if you have questions. The Q&A below provides some more information about why hearing assistance devices like this work better than your hearing aid alone.

Questions and answers about assistive listening devices from <http://arnet.pair.com/hearing/qa.htm>:

- Q. My hearing aid helps me understand people who are talking close to me. Why doesn't it help more with speech recognition in an auditorium? Or, I can hear the person speaking in an auditorium, but cannot understand what they say. Why?
- A. Because there are echoes and noises in an auditorium. A person with normal hearing can mentally zoom in on the speaker and filter out echoes and noises – even though the listener is not aware of all the auditory processing and filtering that their brain is doing.
- Q. Why does an assistive listening device help comprehension more than a hearing aid by itself?
- A. Because you are hearing the desired sound directly from a microphone in front of the person who is speaking. There is no distracting noise or echo.
- Q. My hearing aid restores my hearing to almost normal, so shouldn't I be able to understand normally?
- A. Many hearing aid users struggle to understand what is said in an auditorium. A slight reduction in hearing can have a large effect on the ability of your brain to filter out extraneous sounds which in turn reduces your ability to understand speech. This inability to understand speech in a noisy or echo prone environment might also be partly due to reduced brain function resulting from stroke, a head injury, dementia, or other causes.
- Q. Why can't I understand the words when people are singing?
- A. Many hearing impaired people have trouble separating voices and instruments.
- Q. Why not just place some extra speakers in front of those having trouble hearing?
- A. It sounds like a good idea, but it does not work -- it only makes the echoes worse. Sound travels relatively slowly. Hearing sound from widely separated sources is much worse than hearing sound from a single source. In order for the sound from these extra speakers to drown out the delayed sound from the main PA system, they would have to be quite loud. Then people farther away would still hear sound from these speakers as an echo. Echo and reverberation are major factors in preventing people from understanding speech. It is already bad enough that sound from the monitor speakers bounces off the walls and ceilings to create more echo.

SESSION NOTES

Session Notes for January 2015

The second weekend of January found Session members and those elected for the future retreating at the Redemptorist Renewal Center, Picture Rocks. Everyone enjoyed the magnificent views, the pictographs, the labyrinth, the food, the conversation and, oh yeah!, the study led by Jerry Foust based on the book by Kennon L. Callahan called *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church (Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God)*. On Saturday the Deacons-elect joined us and continuing elders examined Elders-elect and Deacons-elect and found them all faithful and ready to serve. There were a few unable to attend, but nearly everyone was ordained and or installed on Sunday, January 25, 2015 and the others will follow at a later date.

Session's stated meeting was exciting. Elders-elect attended and were full of questions and vitality. Holly Clark was examined for Deacon and Session decided she is a faithful, loving servant of God. Matt Kreamer opened the meeting with an awesome meditation. Do you believe it? Trinity Session members were quiet, still and prayerful for a full five minutes. All were listening for God's guidance. Each elder answered a question sheet based on 1 Corinthians 12 about discernment and decision making in the Body of Christ. Again, serious stuff! The elders spent some moments studying how to contribute, share, listen and support each other to include the pastors of Trinity.

Down to housekeeping business. Session approved committee assignments for elders. Notice that some are doing double duty:

- * Administration & Personnel – Roberta Westergaard and Ann Walker
- * Christian Education – Billie Holbrook and Matt Kreamer
- * Growth & Outreach – Cindy Toering and Daniel Seddo
- * Long Range Development Team – Bucky Lovejoy and Matt Kreamer
- * Mission – Sheila Sievert and Doug Holland
- * Property – Carolyn Maycher and John Hill
- * Stewardship & Finance – Ann Walker and Leone Mohney

- * Worship – Lynn Moser, Janet Jones, Bobby Whipple and Anne McConnell
- * Congregational Nominating Committee – John Hill and Bobby Whipple
- * Presbytery Commissioners – Harriet Marsh, Leone Mohney and alternates John Hill and Carroll Keegstra
- * Other church officers that were elected are Janet Hooper as Clerk, Leone Mohney as Treasurer and Alice Smedley as Assistant Treasurer.

Each committee gave their reports with much important business accomplished. Notable of committee activity is that Session approved the position description for a Nursery Assistant to help Dede Markin on Sunday mornings and other times. It was reported that on Sunday, January 18, 2015 there were eight, count 'em 8, small children in the nursery!

New front doors are on the way! Developers are cultivating interest in our property! Mission trips are planned. Cantatas are being rehearsed! U of A contacts are being made! Thanks for stewardship is ongoing! Watch for Lenten activity! And more!

Prayers were given for all in need of pastoral care and with much concern, love and faith in God's healing power.

Janet D. Hooper, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERY MEETING AT TRINITY

Trinity hosted the joint meeting of Presbytery de Cristo and the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon on January 23 and 24. The meeting was well attended by people from around Arizona. Presbyteries are the governing councils over churches. We have cities, counties, states and federal governments. Presbyterians also have a chain of command. Presbyterian Church (USA) is made up of individual churches, presbyteries, synods and finally, the General Assembly. If you want more detail talk to one of our pastors. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a great success. We received many compliments.



Mission News



SANDWICH MAKING for the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen will be on the second Sunday, February 8. Please join us after worship to make 600 sandwiches for the homeless.

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to all volunteers and those who donated food and other items for our pantry so far this year. You made a difference in the lives of our clients. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact the office at 623-2579 and let us know when you would be available to work.



Trinity's Food Bank

JIHAD IN PARIS

The horrific jihadist attacks in Paris have the world reeling. As Paris dominated the headlines, the Nigerian jihadist group Boko Haram massacred over 2,000 innocent people in Northeast Nigeria. In Iraq and Syria, the shockingly brutal jihadist group known as Daesh or Islamic State continues to wreak havoc. Just a few short weeks ago the world faced the horror of over 140 precious and innocent schoolchildren murdered by the Taliban in Pakistan. We keep all of the innocent victims in our prayers, and it is difficult to imagine the pain and grief these terrible attacks have caused their families and friends. Taken in their totality, Islamic jihadist movements represent the greatest threat to world peace and to civilization of our time. How can they be stopped, and what can people of faith do?

The campaign against jihadism is ideological as well as military. The ideology of jihad must be discredited, delegitimized, shunned and rejected. In every Muslim country facing the threat of jihadist groups there are people of good will who oppose them. In some cases they have had sufficient freedom and democratic institutions to effect positive change. The people of Tunisia recently elected a new President committed to eradicating jihadist threats and

ideology, and much of the Arab world applauded. The people of Egypt, a country perhaps best described as “partially free” in terms of basic rights, freedoms and democratic institutions, overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood and is engaged in a military campaign against jihadist groups in the Sinai. In Gaza, however, Hamas rules with an iron hand and there is no framework for even the possibility of positive change. The people of Gaza have no rights, no voice, and no freedom.

Christians can and must build partnerships with the many in the Muslim world who share our values. We can advocate for basic human rights including freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and support the development of democratic institutions. These principles are not “silver bullets” and offer no guarantee of immediate success, as evidenced by the setbacks of the “Arab Spring”. Without them, however, we can expect failure. The jihadists are destined for the junk heap of human history with no role in the civilized world but we must act to assure that destiny. Let us not despair, and seek God’s guidance in answering this challenge.

Presbyterians for Middle East Peace
Visit our website at www.pfmeop.org

The Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship (MEPF) is a ministry of Presbyterian Church (USA) through Presbytery de Cristo located here in Tucson. Syrian born Georges Bitar was pastor in the Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon, and was called to be the pastor of this new ministry in Tucson. He arrived in 2008 with his wife Mary Haddad and their children, Albert and Elaine. Area Presbyterian congregations have been committed to welcoming them, praying for them, and assisting them. We are inviting other Tucson churches to learn more about the fellowship at a fundraising benefit, 6:00 p.m. Saturday January 31, 2015 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Contact Elizabeth Houle (deneliz64@gmail.com) for more information.

Trinity Women



The January Gathering featured Bonnie Thompson reporting on the Global Exchange trip to the Caribbean.

Wanted!! Knitters/Crocheters

We have been given a large gift of yarn to be used for charity. We need those of you who knit or crochet to make up this yarn into hats, scarves, mittens, or sweaters for kids that are served by Primavera, Our Family Services, Arizona Children's Assn or foster children. You can use any patterns you have or patterns are available. If you can help please contact Ruth Myers 326-6888. Thank you!



Greetings to you!

My name is Deb Seng and I serve as Our Family Services' Senior Companion Program Manager. We are so grateful for teddy bears you've provided in the past for kiddos in our programs!

We are recruiting seniors age 55+ to provide friendship to homebound elders and people with disabilities. We are even able to provide a tax-free stipend and transportation assistance to those who are income-eligible. We would certainly like to make this meaningful, and much-needed, opportunity available to the people in your church.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings, Deb

Deb Seng, MA

Senior Companion Program
Our Family Services

Phone: (520) 323-1708 x 240



SPRING CRAFTS AND CREATIONS

SPECTACULAR!!!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

11:45 AM

TRINITY HALL

Do you enjoy working on crafts or viewing what others have made? Do you like to



bake delicious dessert creations or just eat them? If so, please bring your finished or in-



progress craft project(s) and/or your dessert creations to Trinity

Hall on Sunday, February 22 and display your craft and/or dessert creations for all to see and enjoy.



A light lunch will be served. This is an all-church event for men, women and children.



We hope to see you there!



Trinity Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

A Note from Trinity Presbyterian Women
Please help out our treasurer! When you give a check to TPW, please make it out to Trinity Presbyterian Women or note on the "memo" line TPW. It helps greatly if it is a separate check from your offering or Trinity Pledge check. Thank you for your help.



Rev. Jerry Foust and Bruce Chamberlain, choir director playing tug-o-war with the children in worship on January 18. What fun!

Photos by Kathy Moser

SUNDAYS
Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall
ENJOY!!
A CUP!



Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses
office@trinitytucson.org

Deadline for the March, 2015 *VISION*
Thursday, February 19
 Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or to:
office@trinitytucson.org

Memories, Hopes and Conversations
RSVP now for February 15



Trinity Tours!



Ash Wednesday
February 18



Lent begins