



## Words from Our Pastor | We no Longer Need to Wait



Rev. Brent Barclay | Pastor

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**REMEMBER!** You can see this publication online at [www.trinitypres.org](http://www.trinitypres.org) and click on “Ministries” in the top bar and go to the last item on the list, “Newsletter.”

**Press deadline  
December 22, 2024**

### Greetings Everyone!

It is the Advent season, the season leading up to Christmas Eve. In a way, the whole world gets into the season of preparing for Christmas. It seems all of December is full of Christmas activities: pageants, parties, shopping, wrapping, decorating, and many other errands and celebrations leading up to Christmas Eve. Our calendars fill with extracurricular activities, and our to-do lists expand to exhausting lengths.

This whirlwind of activity can overwhelm us, a breakneck sprint to December 24th. When we get to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, it can seem more like a chance to

exhale and slump onto our couches and rest more than anything else.

Yet, at the same time, we enjoy all of this. Christmastime is often one of the most joyous times of the year. We look forward to all the festivities and errands, enjoying the whirlwind. It’s



because we know what the Advent season is about: the expectation of the greatest gift we could ever receive, the gift of Jesus.

Waiting, after all, is hard. Recall Christmastime in your youth. You could barely wait for Christmas to arrive. Maybe it was getting presents, eating

holiday food, going to church with your family, or doing other things. Waiting for Christmas was hard! No wonder we extend the festivities to the entire month!

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## Words from Pastor | We No Longer Need to Wait

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Yet that is what the people of Israel were doing when Jesus was born. They were waiting. The prophets spoke about a Messiah who would save them from all the pain and suffering they endured as the people of God. Our calendars count down to Christmas Day, but Israel had no idea when this day would come.

While we sprint through Advent, running as fast as we can through the season to get to the end, the people of Israel were on edge. "How much longer?" and "When will this wait end?" would be the questions on their minds. For them, the birth of Jesus was a relief, and the waiting was over. Jesus was among them.

For many people on this planet, Christmastime is the sprint through the errands and events leading up to Christmas Day. Yet, like Israel, they are waiting for something to happen. They are waiting for rescue from the pain and suffering in their lives. People are



desperate for answers, yearning for help that cannot come from anywhere they have searched. They get to Christmas Day, exhausted from all the pageantry but still waiting for their Savior to come.

During this Christmas season, how can we help those still waiting for a savior, letting them know they don't have to keep waiting?

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13-14*

Invite someone you know this Christmas to no longer be thirsty and to keep sprinting through

life, exhausted. Let them know what they are searching for is here, lying in a manger, ready to be their shepherd, their God, and their Savior.

Blessings,

Pastor Brent

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## Congregational Meeting | Sunday, December 15th after Service

**On Sunday, December 15th, after the main service, we will hold a congregational meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. We will vote on nominated elders and deacons. Call the church office if you have any questions.**

## Youth Group | An Update



### Hello Trinity Church Family,

The youth group has been steady at about 10 students. We are full of new sixth and seventh grade students. We have been learning about being content, celebrating our faith in a productive way, and creating a fun community with games.

**Joe Burke**

*Youth Director*

*joe@trinitypres.org*

## Missions Update | Russ Douglass & Mary Hopkins

Trinity Church supports several missionaries. We will focus on Russ Douglass and Mary Hopkins this month.

Russ Douglass serves in northeast San Diego County with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA provides numerous activities and events revolving around sports for middle and high school students. Russ and his team organized 40 continuing Huddles (Bible studies) and started five new ones throughout North County this fall. This year, new leaders stretched their wings, learning to be comfortable in front of their peers.

Beginning in 2021, FCA ran FCA Sports Leagues in Valley Center, partnering with Valley Center Community Church. The participants learn various sports, how to play effectively, and share the Gospel, giving the students a firm biblical foundation for faith in Jesus.

Mary Hopkins works with Wycliffe. She sent out a fall newsletter. I have pulled a few of the highlights for this article. She shared a couple of exciting items about the translation work Wycliffe is doing.

- As of July 2024, Wycliffe translators begin a new Bible translation project every 15 hours on average. In 2019, the average was a new project every 120 hours, a significant increase in projects started.
- As of September 1, 2024, only 985 languages need Bible translation for the first time. In

addition, we have fallen below 1,000 languages left for the first time ever!

Many of these languages without any Bible are sign languages. Deaf people use many of these sign languages in countries hostile to the gospel. With the development of a program called Chameleon, Wycliffe no longer needs an identifiable person to do the signing, keeping human signers safe.

Another technological development that helps in the translation of languages is artificial intelligence (AI). This technology helps to translate the Old Testament into a language that already has the New Testament. The AI technology translates a rough draft of an Old Testament book using the existing New Testament translation. The translator can then revise and edit the rough draft where necessary. This method saves time translating the Old Testament.

On a personal note, Mary woke up one morning in early November to a flooded house. A connector pipe behind the refrigerator had popped off, releasing water at high pressure. Thankfully, everything got cleaned up and fixed in a timely manner! Mary praises God that she did not need to move out, but what a mess!

**Rebecca Piffard**

*Communications Director*

*rpiffard@trinitypres.org*



# Trinity Christian School | Biscuit and Other News

## A Warm Welcome to Biscuit, Our New Therapy Dog

**W**e are thrilled to introduce Biscuit, the newest member of our school family! Biscuit, a friendly and delightful 5-month-old Golden Retriever, will be a comforting presence for our students and staff. One of our Trinity Christian School (TCS) graduates, Dustin, owner of “Night and Day Dog Training,” is training Biscuit to get ready to pass the “Good Canine Citizen” test to be a certified therapy dog.

Whether providing emotional support during tough days or simply offering joy around campus, Biscuit is here to help foster a positive and nurturing environment for everyone. Be sure to say hello

when you see her around. She is always ready for a cuddle or a quick belly rub! We are so excited to see the positive impact Biscuit will have on our school community.

## Fall Festival Fun

As is our yearly tradition, we partnered with Trinity Church for the annual Fall Festival on November 2nd. It was a fun, family-friendly event. A big thank you to the following who did a splendid job reaching out to the TCS families: Sharlene Park created a beautiful booth that allowed children to pot plants, and Bobette Barfod provided a cookie decorating station inside Williams Hall. Pastor Brent and Joe Burke hosted a fun flyer game where children were gifted a flyer with information about The Living

Below: Biscuit - our new therapy dog



Fall Festival



Room Service, and all who had a welcoming heart and friendly smile. You are appreciated! Many TCS families were thankful for the delicious hamburger soup and sandwiches served in Williams Hall. Also, the incredible variety of baked goods, homemade jams, and crafts were a hit. It was a day filled with lasting memories, all for the glory of the Lord!

### Middle School Chapel: “Character Matters”

Each month, one of our teachers is responsible for their class to present chapel. During October, our middle school students presented an inspiring and educational chapel titled “Character Matters.” At the presentation, students shared important lessons about living with integrity, kindness, and responsibility. Our younger students learned important lessons through the fun and entertaining songs and skits based on well-known fairy tales. Godly character development based on scripture is a top priority, and our middle school students shared their faith and taught the whole school how to live in ways that honor the Lord.

### Looking Ahead

As always, we are grateful for the continued support of Trinity Church. You are all invited to the Christmas programs presented by our students during December. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

- December 6th at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Concert for the Presbyterian Womens Association of San Diego (Sanctuary);
- December 12th at 6:30 p.m. • Kindergarten-Third grade Christmas Concert (Sanctuary);
- December 13th at 6:30 p.m. • Preschool Christmas Program (Williams Hall);
- December 17th at 6:30 p.m. • Fourth-eighth grade Christmas Concert (Sanctuary).

**Jimmie Drummond**  
*Principal*

*principal@trinity-cs.org*  
*619-462-6440*

### Middle School Chapel



## Clippers



Ahoy mates!

Clippers wishes to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make the Fall Festival successful.

We thank Deb and Dave Torres, in particular, for their long hours making the delicious soup,

sandwiches, and cinnamon rolls, which were such a hit! Many members showed up to work and enjoy crafts, food, and fellowship.

Trinity Christian School teachers and students took advantage of the beautiful weather on Saturday to enjoy food and numerous activities.

We raised more than \$3,000, with all proceeds supporting missions. Further contributions are always welcome!

Yer trusty first mate,  
Melanie Plett



*Merry  
Christmas*  
and a  
*Happy  
New Year*



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## Office Hours for December | It's the Holidays!

The church office will have short hours on December 24th, Christmas Eve:

- 9:00 a.m. to noon.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day the church office will be closed.



*Save  
the Date*

**Christmas Eve Service**

Tuesday, December 24th  
5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



3902 Kenwood Dr.  
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