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**REMEMBER!** You can see this publication in color. Just go to the Trinity Church website, click on "Ministries" in the navigation bar and go to the last item on the list, "Newsletter."

**Next Press Deadline**  
October 27, 2019

### Words from Our Pastor

**W**hen circumstances changed and I realized I would be continuing to serve at Trinity Church a bit longer than anticipated, my wife, Elizabeth, and I decided it was time to ask for our own box of offering envelopes. We had already used up most of the generic pink envelopes in the first pew rack so it was clear we needed a less temporary way to give our weekly offering. Rebecca Casey kindly fixed us up with our personal box of offering envelopes and I noticed the envelope number 13 assigned to us. I joked with Rebecca that I did not like having such an unlucky number for my offering, but it's better than 666 right?



**Jim Rauch**  
*Interim Pastor*

But as I got to thinking more about it – I feel very lucky that I get to give to the work of God's kingdom through his church. A better word than "lucky" is the word "blessed" because I have been blessed by gifts others have given over the years. I have been blessed by people who taught me the goodness of God and the goodness of living generously. I have been blessed with more than enough of everything I need for spiritual and physical health. I am richly blessed and I am glad I get to give a portion back to God.

I recently read an interesting analysis of generosity in America – *Who Really Cares?* by Arthur C. Brooks. This is not a new book, but it is still relevant to our current national condition. As an economist/theologian, I am always interested in the relationship between beliefs and economics. I have had some hunches about what makes people generous and this book confirmed some of my hunches. It also offered some surprises. The book is filled with lots of economic data and statistics – so be warned – I'm not recommending the book if you're not interested in facts and figures. Brooks is a public policy professor at Syracuse University, not exactly a hotbed of religious fervor or conservative values, so I was surprised at the conclusions he arrived at after conducting his research.

Brooks argues that there are three cultural values that best predict charitable giving: religious participation, political views, and family structure.

I had always suspected that Christianity helped make people more generous since we stress love, generosity, and sacrificial giving for the sake of God and other people. It turns out that church attendance in America is one of the strongest predictors of generosity. Ninety-one percent of people who identify themselves as religious are likely to give to charity, as opposed to 66 percent of people who do not. Those who attend church or another religious body are much more likely to give to all forms of charity than those with no religious

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## Words from Our Pastor

*Continued from page 1*

commitment/affiliation. They also give a much higher percentage of their income than the non-religious. The religious give away four times the amount of money than the secular do. It turns out that when we teach people to give to God, we are instilling in them a spirit of generosity that carries over to other forms of giving. Those who attend religious services not only give to their religious group, but they also give more to strangers, more to family members in need, more to educational institutions and more to the United Way. They also give more blood.

Some people assume that rich people are more likely to be generous than poor people, but it turns out that this is not true. Those in lower-income categories tend to give higher percentages of their income to charity than those in higher-income categories. This is partly because the poor are more likely to be religious than the rich. However, the poor who are not working tend to not be very generous when compared with the working poor. In families with incomes at or below the poverty level, working poor families give more than three times as much as families on welfare. They also are twice as likely to give and volunteer.

Finally, people who couple and raise children are more likely to give philanthropically than those who do not. The more children there are in a family, the more likely that a family will donate to charity.

Another interesting predictor of generosity is a person's political views. Those who strongly agree with the statement that "the government should redistribute income to remedy income inequality" are much less likely to give to any form of charity than those who disagree with this statement. Those who think the government should do more to redistribute income are less likely to give to charitable causes. Those who believe the government has less of a role to play in income redistribution tend to give more. One of Brooks' more surprising findings was that political conservatives give more despite having incomes that are on average six percent lower than liberals. Thus the accusation that conservatives are stingy while liberals

are big-hearted is simply not true. Brooks confesses in the introduction to his book that he started his research as a political liberal but his research has prompted him to question his earlier assumptions about how best to help make a better society. "There's something incredibly satisfying, inherently, about voluntary giving," says Brooks. "And nobody has ever reported any brain science suggesting that you get an endorphin rush when you pay your tax bill."

In summary, the research shows that giving is dictated by "strong families, church attendance, earned income (as opposed to state-subsidized income), and the belief that individuals, not government, offer the best solution to social ills – all of these factors determine how likely one is to give." Though these findings are very well documented, the results seem to be invisible to the larger culture which seems opposed to church, opposed to big families, and in favor of income redistribution – not realizing that this mindset undermines the development of a generous population. In my opinion, generosity is one of the great treasures of this nation, yet it is a treasure that may be lost as we drift away from God, church, hard work, and family life.



Though my focus as a pastor is often on caring for the people inside a congregation, I found myself encouraged by this book since it helps me to see that what we do as an intrinsic part of our ministry. Helping people grow in the grace of giving has a ripple effect into the rest of our community and our larger society. I have seen the way the members of Trinity Church give, serve, and volunteer in so many different ways to help make San Diego County a better place. I've also seen the way you care for members of the church and your extended families in times of need. The Good News of Jesus Christ saves souls but it also blesses those outside the community of faith in all kinds of ways. I am so glad we get to be part of being salt and light in our world as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim Rauch

## Kids' Kingdom Begins Again!



**F**all is here and the new school year is off to a great start!

It is such a blessing to be surrounded with the joy and laughter of the all kids on campus. Let's remember to keep the students and staff in your prayers.

Kids' Kingdom will begin again on October 2nd. We are looking forward to a great session with *Big Wave Discovery: Biblical Answers to Kids' Big Questions about God*. I am asking for your continued prayers that the Lord bless our Children's Ministry with an abundance of eager children and the volunteers to staff it! Please contact me if you feel led by the Lord to volunteer once a month (or more!)

for any of our children's programs. Thank you all for the outpouring of love, encouragement, and prayers as I work to grow the Children's Ministry here at Trinity Church.

If anyone is interested in leading Trunk or Treat, please let me know. I will be more than happy to assist and guide you in any way but at this time it's not a function that I can shoulder alone. It has been a successful event in the past and it's a great source of outreach into the local community. Please prayerfully consider keeping this fun family experience going and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Krista Young**

*Children's Ministries Director*

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## Youth Ministries

## Back to School!

**T**he youth group is excited to be back in school! We are meeting every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. We play fun games and have meaningful conversations about Jesus. This is a great time for students to relax and hang out. Stay tuned for an upcoming Middle School Fun Night next month in October. Please keep encouraging family and

friends to come to Trinity Church's Youth Group. Thank you for all your prayers and may each student grow in their walk with Christ this year.

For more information about youth group, please see our Instagram @trinitypressdyouth

**Joe Burke**

*Youth Ministries Director*

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## Our School is in Full Swing!

Our three major *Back to School* events were well attended and appreciated. We were thankful that Pastor Jim was able to speak at the Thursday night mandatory parent meeting. Sharing from his heart, he was well received by the parents. The family picnic was fun and included more than 300 people. The new *Family Dessert Night* was a blessing as we welcomed 50 new students from 32 new families. God has blessed the school with 205 students this year. Our Watch D.O.G.S. (Dad's of Great Students) enjoyed a Pizza Night where they signed up to help around campus and keep a watchful eye on the school. Our student council has been elected and is already leading our morning pledges to the Christian flag, the American flag, the Bible, and our closing prayer. They are excited to make plans for the remainder of the year ahead.

It has not felt like fall, but the calendar says it is indeed fall! School days

have become part of the students routine which includes some of the special classes being offered to our middle school students as electives. They include art, Spanish, cooking, forensics, and TriniTV class (reporting the school news online).

All of our classes, kindergarten through eighth grade, also enjoy the following "specials" every week as part of their school day, physical education, library, Spanish (K-5th), and Latin (6th-8th), music and technology. STEAM (science, technology, art, and math) lessons are integrated throughout the year with special instructors. After-school clubs for this trimester include Chess, Drama, Guitar, LEGOs, Cooking, Spanish, Art, and Cheer.

This month, we will host some special events. Looking forward to a fun evening of play, our mother/son event, Laser Tag at the Boardwalk will occur on October 4th. The seventh and eighth graders will head for camp

on Catalina Island from October 7th - 9th. Our annual International Day will be held on October 23rd. This event is highly instructive and includes art, food, dress, culture, and traveling from "country" to "country," getting passports stamped. Parent/teacher conferences will be held the week of October 21st.

And of course, we will be getting prepared for the Fall Festival on November 2nd.

Our theme this year is GRACE and our scripture is Ephesians 2:8:

*"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

**Sharon Axe**  
Principal

**Jimmie Drummond**  
Principal



**Far left: Three hundred people attended the Back to School Picnic. Middle: Jim Zaleski installs the 2019-2020 Student Council officers. Right: Our new Safety Patrol helps with morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up**



## Lifewater Update

In August 2018, Trinity Church donated \$24,000 to Lifewater to build wells for two villages in Uganda – Kasambya Mbili and Kasambya Moja. Each village consists of 40 families; approximately 240 people. These projects are on track!

As of May 2, 2019, BOTH villages have been “CERTIFIED ODF.” This means that when each household builds and uses their own functioning restroom, a community earns an “Open Defecation Free” (ODF) certification. Each country has their own processes and celebration for ODF villages. This certification is a big hurdle to have overcome. The process of getting

to ODF is the most difficult one for the whole project to accomplish for various reasons, but gets the village on track for greatly improved health for everyone.

The next step is for both villages to create their own Water Committee. Once this has been confirmed, the villages are ready to begin the construction process.

For more information and to sign up to get updates for both villages, visit the following on the Lifewater website:  
[lifewater.org/project/kasambya-moja/](http://lifewater.org/project/kasambya-moja/)  
 AND  
[lifewater.org/project/kasambya-mbili/](http://lifewater.org/project/kasambya-mbili/)

**Rebecca DeBrau**

*Director of Discipleship,  
Communications & Missions*

*rdebreau@trinitypres.org*

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## Photos Needed!

Please send photos you have taken of church events to [historian@trinitypres.org](mailto:historian@trinitypres.org)

One of the responsibilities of the Board of Deacons is to serve as church historian. The current historian, Jackie Van Dyne, is interested in taking a different approach from the standard paper scrapbook. Instead, she is hoping to create a resource that could be viewed and edited online.

The goal would be to create collections of photographs, with captions, related to various church events which will be compiled and organized in an online system and then printed or viewed online by members. The process would be as follows:

- **Our church family is encouraged to take photos** of church events.
- **Email those photos** along with descriptions or captions, including names of participants, to [historian@trinitypres.org](mailto:historian@trinitypres.org)
- The historian receives the photos and organizes them using Shutterfly with a password-protected account.
- The password and access code are shared with the congregation so they can view the collections created by historian.
- Collections of photos with captions and descriptions are **printed once a year in booklet form as permanent record for the church.**

**Please email the historian at [historian@trinitypres.org](mailto:historian@trinitypres.org) if you are interested in viewing the online photo event.**

## CLIPPERS

**Saturday, October 19th**

Please join us on October 19th for our monthly program. We will be showing **a movie adapted from one of the many books written by Bob Wade**, a founding member of our church. We will have popcorn and soda to enhance our theater experience.

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.** Please contact Debbie Torres at 619-916-7803 for further information.

## Presbyterian Women

**Below is the October schedule for Presbyterian Women.**

**Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.**

<b>October 1</b>	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting – Ward Center
<b>October 8</b>	<b>The Gathering – Williams Hall</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study -lead by Linda Hensley
	11:00 a.m.	Program- <b>TBD</b>
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch – Prep by Evening Circle
<b>October 15</b>	9:30 a.m.	Crafts – Ward Center
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Circle – Debbie Torres' home
<b>October 22</b>	9:30 a.m.	Morning Circle – Ward Center
<b>October 29</b>	9:30 a.m.	Crafts – Ward Center

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.*  
Psalm 127:1

**Y**our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is continuing to work diligently in the search for the next pastor of Trinity Church. We are currently reviewing applications that have been received from pastors interested in the position at Trinity Church. We will be listening to sermons and inviting the top applicants to participate in online *Skype* interviews. Prayer is the most important part of the process. There is a prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with a dedicated time to pray weekly for the PNC. You may join this group at any time as you are available. We invite and encourage you to pray for the PNC specifically for the following needs:

**1. Wisdom** – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”* James 1:5

**2. Guidance** – *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**3. Unity** – *“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”* 1 Peter 3:8

**4. Strength and Protection** – *“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”* II Thessalonians 3:3

**5. Perseverance** – *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Galatians 6:9

In His Service,

Your Trinity Church Pastor Nominating Committee  
Bob Klein (chair)  
Bobette Barfod, Don Axe, Jimmie Drummond, Linda Hensley, and Tom McMurry

## Partnership of Faithfulness and Generosity

*"Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."*

### Voices on Stewardship

**T**hank you for being part of the family of faith here at Trinity Church. We value each and every one of you, and what you bring to our church.

It's almost time for our annual stewardship and financial planning. Soon we will be asking God what He expects of us as stewards and trusting in Him to provide for Trinity Church in the coming year. We will continue to ask Him for the resources to accomplish all the goals He sets before us. Please join me in praying for our Session and Finance committee as we discuss financial changes for 2020.

What will your partnership of faithfulness and generosity look like in the coming year? Prayerfully consider supporting the financial longevity of Trinity Church, our ministries, and programs.

**Rebecca Casey**

*Financial Administrator*

[rebecca@trinitypres.org](mailto:rebecca@trinitypres.org)

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	August 2019 Final	September 2019 (As of 9/17/19)	Year to Date 2019 (As of 9/17/19)
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$282,452.67
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	\$ 24,644.44	\$ 24,843.90	\$ 257,321.96
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	– \$ 6,739.19	– \$ 6,539.73	– \$ 25,130.71
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	\$ 25,189.12	\$ 20,978.58	\$ 286,388.95
<b>INCOME – EXPENSE</b>	– \$ 544.68	\$ 3,865.32	– \$ 29,066.99

## Trinity Staff

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### Krista Young

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# Coming in October & November!

## **Kids' Kingdom • October 2, 2019**

Wednesdays • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. • Williams Hall

## **Choir has started back up again! Come and join us!**

Thursdays • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

## **Building Community • Bible Study & Potluck**

Wednesdays • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. • Williams Hall

## **Fall Festival • Saturday, November 2, 2019**

Come for tasty treats, beautiful gifts, and seasonal items.

**Watch for tickets to go on sale for the  
Opportunity Drawing for the Quilt pictured at right!**



3902 Kenwood Dr.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977

