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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
January 26, 2019

Words from Our Pastor

Most of us have grown up with the historical understanding of time being either "B.C." or "A.D." When I was in college and seminary, the academy sought to teach us a more sensitive or politically correct approach to time notation in the study of history. We were instructed to write time notation as either "C.E." meaning "Common Era," or "B.C.E." meaning "Before the Common Era." This was a way of removing the uncomfortable idea that human history should be numbered according to the birth of Jesus. It helped scholars in religious studies and particularly Old Testament studies to interact more amicably with Jewish scholars who were studying together with Christian scholars in understanding the Old Testament (by the way, the Old Testament was not to be called the "Old Testament" – instead it was to be called "the Hebrew Bible" or "the Hebrew Scriptures.")



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

When I wrote papers at UCSD or Princeton, I used the new vocabulary in order to submit to the direction given by my professors (I wanted to get A's instead of D's). But since graduation, I have shifted back to more 'insensitive' or 'less politically correct' time notation of B.C. and A.D. I think it is important to be culturally and religiously sensitive when working with people of other faiths in academic and historic pursuits. However, when I am preaching and teaching in a church setting, the traditional vocabulary becomes a part of our faith stance. When we number time according to the birth of Jesus Christ, we are saying something important about what we believe.

In the historic writings of the human race, events were usually described according to the length of the reign of the particular king who ruled the region. This is why Isaiah writes in Isaiah 6 "*In the year that King Uzziah died*" since this was a way of telling people when a particular event took place. There was no universally understood calendar of years until quite late in recorded human history. With the rise of Christianity in western civilization, all of time began to be recorded with the birth of Jesus being the reference point. The understanding was that Jesus was the new "king" of all nations and that all time should be numbered according to his "reign" which was inaugurated the day he was born.

We are stepping forward into A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of Our Lord) 2020. As followers of Jesus, we believe that all history and all time finds its true place in reference to this historic event. The birth of Jesus changed everything about world history. Before he was born, all of time was "B.C. – Before Christ." After he was born, all of time became "A.D. – Anno Domini – The Year of Our Lord."

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Words from Our Pastor

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As we enter into a new year, let us embrace the fact that all of time has now been set in reference to the coming of the One who changed the whole shape and scope of human history. Entering a new year can feel like a brand new day is opening up to us with brand new possibilities. Yet, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that even a new year is technically “A.D.” – Anno Domini – it is another year that belongs to our Lord – it is given to us by the Lord and it finds its meaning and fulfillment in reference to his lordship over all the earth.

I encourage you to live into this new year, A.D. 2020, in the knowledge that all time belongs to the Lord Jesus, and he invites us to live each day of this new year in the courage and confidence that he goes before

us, and walks with us, whatever may come our way in this new Year of Our Lord.

Annual Congregation Meeting, January 26th

This is the main ‘business meeting’ of Trinity Church which is held annually. It gives the congregation the opportunity to hear about the larger things impacting the church. Part of the business of the meeting is to receive the budget plan for the year and to vote on new officers (elders and deacons) for the congregation. This meeting is required by the Presbyterian Church Book of Order and the Standing Rules of Trinity Church. We encourage everyone to attend, however, only members of the congregation can cast votes at the meeting.

Upcoming Preaching Plan

The first half of January will be based on the liturgical calendar events of Epiphany (Jesus’ manifestation to the Gentile world and his rejection by Herod), and the Baptism of the Lord. After that we will jump into the gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount. This summary of some key components of the teaching ministry of Jesus is a powerful guide for us in shaping our lives as followers of Jesus.

Pastor Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

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Humility – Essential to Our Life

Happy 2020 to you all! This new year started out in an avalanche of learning the importance of humility in God’s eyes. Without going into the details, I found myself learning even more deeply the vital place humility plays in the life of a Christian.

My Bible reading for the new year began with 1 Samuel 25. This chapter tells the story of Abigail and her husband, Nabal. Verse three in the New American Standard Bible version says “... *And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in his dealings.*”

Despite David’s good treatment of Nabal’s shepherds and shearers, Nabal treated him and his men with

disdain and dishonor. Because of this David planned to kill Nabal and all the males in his family.

Abigail heard of her husband’s treachery and hurried to intercept the 400-man army coming to kill her husband. She brought gifts and food, bowed before David, and asked him to restrain his hand. David acknowledged her discernment and intelligence and granted her request to spare her husband and his family.

As I read this story, I saw how Abigail used her intelligence to bring peace to her household. At the same time, she showed incredible humility in her actions toward David.

At the end of the story, the Lord “*struck Nabal and he died.*” When

David heard of his death, he blessed the Lord for sending Abigail and sent her a proposal of marriage. Her response showed great humility as well. “*Then Abigail arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, ‘Behold your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord’s servants.’*” 1 Samuel 25:41.

This chapter began my new year and immediately I was challenged to respond as Abigail did – calling on God to give me a deep humility only he can provide.

Rebecca DeBreau
Director of Communications

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Happy New Year

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, new every morning; great is your faithfulness, oh Lord, Great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

The Lord has indeed been faithful to Trinity Christian School (TCS) for 50 years. We are thankful for all that he has provided. January 6th marks the beginning of in-house registration for the 2020-21 school year! Open registration starts February 3rd for those who are not currently enrolled. We are looking forward to what the Lord will do with his school here on the hill during the coming year. Trinity Church members are afforded a 20 percent discount for family members and can apply during closed registration in January until classes are filled.

This is an accreditation year and our visiting team will be here at the end of March. We are accredited with both WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). They will be here over a three-day period. They will spend time looking into all aspects of the school from the facility, to curriculum,

to finances, to staff and more to make sure that we are who we say we are and are doing what we say we are doing. Please keep us in prayer as we have been working on the required formatted self-study for the last year and a half. This is an ongoing process to be prepared for visits every six years with a midterm one day visit at three years.

We are looking forward to hosting a 50 Year Anniversary Celebration to be held on May 17th at 2:00 p.m. in Williams Hall. Please mark your calendar to come and join in the fun. A huge heartfelt "thank you" goes out to Trinity Church for sponsoring this backyard mission.

Our TCS Serve-a-thon will be run a bit differently this year because of all the activities mentioned above. This is our annual fundraiser that helps to supplement our mission. The students go out by classes into the community to serve in the name of Jesus. It involves such adventures as going to

Feeding America, visiting rest homes, cleaning up and weed pulling around Trinity Church, making and taking food to our homebound elderly, doing yard work for elderly, beach clean up, and several other service opportunities. This year we will have students going out throughout the school year rather than focused on a one-day outing which we called the *Serve-a-thon*. Students have always done service outings, but the one-day event has been a great way for the entire school to jump in and get especially excited to work together and see what God can do through them in just one day. We have a donation button on our website and are inviting people to prayerfully consider donating to the mission of TCS. The community benefits from the service and the students learn how to serve and work together to make a difference. The money that is given to sponsor them helps to sustain our special programs which include such things as Spanish, Music, Physical Education, STEAM

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Creating catapults with Mr. Burke as part of the STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, art, and math) program.

With a Humble and Grateful Heart

Dear Trinity Family,

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I write this last press article to you. I am stepping down as director of youth ministries. During the last 9 months, I have come to know and love each and every child, teenager, and parent at the church. The wonderful people of the Trinity community have been a blessing to Emily and I.

We are thankful to have had the honor and privilege to serve the church. We have cherished the youth camps, Sunday services, and relationships with each child. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers and to maintain relationships as an academic teacher at Trinity. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Joe Burke
Youth Ministries Director

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CLIPPERS

**Saturday,
January 18th
Veronika
Heart Child**

Our guest speaker is Veronika from England, known as the "Heart Child", who now resides in El Cajon. Veronika knew by the age of 10 that she was living a life to serve God and will share with us many experiences doing ministry work. Veronika is the Founder and President of "Heartchild International," a non-profit organization established in 1986 as a center for empowerment of women of all races, creeds, and religions. She received a ministerial degree in 1989 and a degree in Theology from the San Diego Bible College in 2016.

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please contact Pat Palmore at 619-444-6736 for further information.

Happy New Year

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(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), and Middle School mentoring and electives. We also tithe to Christian organizations such as the Tecate Mission School, Rancho Sordo Mudo, the Klingforth family, or the Trimble family. The Klingforths and Trimbles are families from the school

who are serving on the mission field in Africa and the Middle East.

Again, "Happy New Year." God bless you one and all!

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal

Presbyterian Women

Below is the January schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

January 7	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting – Ward Center
January 14	The Gathering – Williams Hall	
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study -lead by Linda Hensley
	11:00 a.m.	Honest Elections More Important Than Ever
		Ruth Weiss, EIP
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch – Prep by Evening Circle
January 21	9:30 a.m.	Crafts • Ward Center
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Circle • Contact Barbara Wells or Debbie Torres for location
January 28	9:30 a.m.	Morning Circle • Ward Center
NO Quilting/Sewing this month!		

Happy January!
Trinity Church Family

When we projected the budget for 2019 we expected to have a \$50,000.00 shortfall. Even though that has proven to be true, our God is a gracious God, and he provided for our needs at Trinity Church last year. As we closed 2019, all of our financial obligations were met, and all of our missionaries were paid.

Year-end statements went out last week for your 2019 giving. If you have any questions, please let me know.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to express our appreciation for your generous and faithful support in 2019. May God give us hearts of joy to watch him at work through Trinity Church in 2020!

Rebecca Casey
Financial Administrator
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	November 2019 Final	December 2019 (As of 12/20/19)	Year to Date 2019 (As of 12/20/19)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$376,603.56
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 31,557.05	\$ 22,581.54	\$ 351,331.86
DIFFERENCE	\$ 173.42	– \$ 8,802.09	– \$ 25,271.70
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 38,298.69	\$ 30,765.78	\$398,009.83
INCOME – EXPENSE	– \$ 6,741.64	–\$ 8,184.24	– \$ 46,677.97

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