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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**  
November 24, 2019

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## Words from Our Pastor

### *How long do you plan to live?*

**T**his is an interesting question. The Bible offers us the simple prayer: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). I thought about this simple prayer recently as I listened to a recording of Ray Kurzweil, noted 'futurist' and high-ranking Google executive, speaking at a national conference on the future. Kurzweil is committed to overcoming the limits of the human body – and the limits of mortality. Here's how his quest is described in the online Life Extension Magazine:



**Jim Rauch**  
Interim Pastor

*Kurzweil fights a war against a protein-based machine—the human body—whose basic design is about to become obsolete. He figures he needs only to hold off disease and aging long enough, maybe 20 more years, to reap the rewards of a revolution in health technology that will rely on advanced gene therapy and robots the size of blood cells to grant life everlasting... The trick, Kurzweil says, is to live long enough for scientists to unlock the biological riddle of aging. To do that, he advises people to use every weapon at their disposal to defy aging.*

*In order to achieve his goal, Kurzweil takes over 250 dietary supplements a day and engages in an intravenous life-extending infusion every week. His goal is to achieve a body-less existence where he is able to be translated into a digital code to live in virtual reality indefinitely. He envisions a life that is not only everlasting, but a life that expands into billions of virtual realities inhabited by millions of other digitally encoded beings.*

As I see it, Kurzweil's quest is the quest that man has been on since our original rebellion against God countless centuries ago. It is not so much the desire to live forever as it is the fear of losing control of the sovereign self that animates this rebellion. Kurzweil's desire appears to be a desire to determine his own destiny

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## Words from Our Pastor

*Continued from page 1*

apart from any limits of embodied existence – and apart from any submission to God as the Author and Sustainer of Life.

When we use the word “Stewardship” in church, we are not just asking people to give money. We are talking about living life in submission to God – using time, talent, and treasure in a way that honors the God who has entrusted the gift of life to each one of us. The quest that Ray Kurzweil and others are on to ‘escape’ from embodied existence may be tempting – but ultimately it is a sign of our rebellion against the God who created us. Stewardship sees human life not as a possession that belongs to ME but as a GIFT on LOAN from God. The follower of Jesus does not trust in a future of being ‘uploaded’ into a digitized virtual reality – even if it becomes possible one day (though I don’t think it is.). Instead, the follower of Jesus trusts in the God who created us and who calls us to live our lives in humble submission to his will and to his word revealed in Scripture. If we humans are going to live forever, it will only be through the resurrection power of the risen Lord Jesus – and through putting our lives into his capable hands.



I do not know how long I will live in this body on this earth. But I do know that whether my time is short or long – I am called to submit myself to God as a steward of his gift of life – rather than attempting to find a way to live forever in a ‘virtual reality’ of my own design. I hope and pray that your participation in the life of Trinity Presbyterian Church is always equipping you to submit yourself to God and to find hope and life and peace in union with your Creator.

### **Commitment Sunday**

We are praying that everyone will turn in their pledge cards on Pledge Commitment Sunday, November 10th. Our ministries are made possible by your faithful and sacrificial giving. Making this commitment is important in one’s spiritual life as it creates a sense of discipline in the area of giving. It is also important for the leaders of Trinity Church as we make plans for the future of our programs and staffing. The Thanksgiving season prompts us to express our gratitude to God through our gifts and offerings.

### **Advent Begins December 1st**

Each year our advent candles are lit by different families and individuals from our church. If you or your family would like to lead our congregation in the lighting of the Advent candles, please call or email the church office and let us know. You can also contact our Worship Elder, Don Axe.

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jim Rauch

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**MAY YOU**  
*Have a Blessed & Wonderful*  
**THANKSGIVING!**

## We are Growing!

**T**he youth group was excited to celebrate school coming back with Middle School Fun Night. The event was a great opportunity for the students to hang out, play fun games, and worship God. The student council chaplain led the devotional and it was a great time for the youth to bond. It was encouraging to see so many youth spend their Friday night hanging out with each other.

Although it wasn't associated with the youth group, the Trinity Christian School (TCS) middle school students

took a trip to Catalina. They learned about the history of the island, marine biology, and heard some great devotionals about God. For one of the mornings, we had a sunrise devotional up on the mountain.

The youth group attendance has increased as we have had new families come to TCS. So keep encouraging family and friends to come. We meet every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. We play fun games and have meaningful conversations about Jesus. 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 @trinitypressyouth or contact me at [joe@trinitypres.org](mailto:joe@trinitypres.org)

**Joe Burke**  
Youth Ministries Director

[joe@trinitypres.org](mailto:joe@trinitypres.org)  
562-972-9715



Upper right: Hike to the cross at Catalina. Remaining photos: Youth group on Wednesday nights.



## “Falling” into the Christmas Season

October was a very busy month ending with our International Day which brightened up the campus with 600 feet of small flags from around the world. Our School Spirit week was the last week of October. (Monday: Comfy Cozy, Tuesday: Career/Decade Day, Wacky Wednesday, Thursday: Movie/Book Character Day, Friday: Hawaiian Day).

At our October 18th chapel, we heard from a young woman who shared her story of being a recipient of an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox as a child. Our November 1st chapel sets Trinity Christian School (TCS) Operation Christmas Child project into motion. Feel free to join us in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to hear more about this year's project for both the church and school.

The Fall Festival is always a fun event. This year it will be held on November 2nd between 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. for the outside activities. Be sure to

invite family and friends to join in this special indoor and outdoor event!

Preschool will host parent/teacher conferences the week of November 4th. There will be no school on Monday, November 11th, in honor of Veteran's Day.

The principals will be sharing at the Presbyterian Women's meeting on Tuesday, November 12th in Williams Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m. It has been fifty years since the school was established! Please come and plan to stay for lunch. Please let Muriel Johnson know if you will be joining us for lunch.

This month's Disaster Preparedness practice will be a lockdown exercise on November 14th at 10:30 a.m. for kindergarten through eighth grade and November 12th for preschool.

The school will be closed the week of the November 25th. Monday and Tuesday are accreditation work days.

Thursday and Friday are in celebration of Thanksgiving Day.

Please mark your calendars to attend San Diego Presbytery's Women's annual Christmas Program and lunch, hosted by our own Presbyterian Women. This year it will be held on Friday, December the 6th. TCS, preschool through eighth grade, will perform a medley of songs. This is another opportunity to invite friends and family to join in the festive season celebrating Jesus' birth.

**Sharon Axe**  
*Principal*

**Jimmie Drummond**  
*Principal*



**Photos from the Fall Festival on November 2, 2019.**

## This is Discipleship. This is Missions.

**Y**es, the Press is late. I ended up on a jury for a criminal case that lasted six days. As well as trying to be a good juror, I got really sick the second day of the trial. I made it through, but the Press took the brunt of my time out of the office.

I will not be called again for another three years. I am so grateful for that. I so easily put myself in the shoes of the people with whom I am confronted. This trait makes for a terrible juror. It took enormous emotional effort to keep to the instructions from the judge. After the first day of deliberations, I felt our system of justice would fail. In the end, the jury worked hard together to come up with a verdict that carried out the law without bias.

This experience caught me up in a incredible view of God's justice, mercy, and grace. Words failed me as I saw with clarity how unworthy I am to come to the throne of God. I did not need a written set of laws to tell me how I cannot meet his standards. I felt blinded by a sense of his holiness.

Almost immediately, I saw something else entirely. Jesus, God as a man, paying for my life, my unholiness, with his own life. How can this be? He loved me before I was lovable, before I was a little bit holy. He paid for all the stupid things I did and would do. He sacrificed his life for my complete inability to follow even the simplest of instructions. We are all in this boat. This is love unfathomable, grace unending, and mercy undeniable.

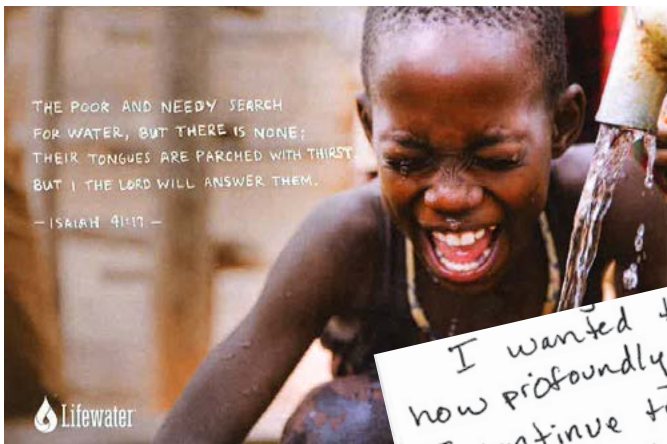
So what does this have to do with discipleship and missions? Everything. As we grow in our understanding - mentally and emotionally - of the depth of the love God has for us, we can better encourage others in their walk with God. This is discipleship. We can more fully see the love God has for all people groups. This is missions.

That we would grow in understanding of the amazing love of God, that we could love each other and the world as he does – this is my prayer.

**Rebecca DeBreau**

*Director of Discipleship,  
Communications & Missions*

*rdebreau@trinitypres.org  
619-465-3011 x107*



A note from Sean Martin  
from Lifewater.

I wanted to send a quick note to say how profoundly grateful I am for your church. I continue to be touched beyond words by the love and care you have shown the people of Kasambya Mbili and Kasambya Moja. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in these remote Ugandan villages. You are making a lasting difference!

Grace & Peace,  
Sean Martin

P.S. I am keeping your church in my prayers as you look for your next pastor. Trusting His timing!

## CLIPPERS

**Saturday, November 16th**

**Retired Sheriff**

**Glen Revell**

Our speaker will be retired Sheriff Glen Revell, who will enlighten us on scams directed at seniors as well as active shooter procedures. We will also have a freewill offering for a needy church family and an "Angel Tree" presentation.

**Please mark your calendar!**

Our Christmas party will be December 7<sup>th</sup>, not the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please contact Norma Mondeck at 619-466-2367 or Nona Eichelberger at 619-660-0188 for further information.

## Presbyterian Women

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

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

<b>November 5</b>	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting – Ward Center
<b>November 12</b>	<b>The Gathering – Williams Hall</b>	
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study -lead by Linda Hensley
	11:00 a.m.	Program-
		<b>Trinity Christian School</b>
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch – Prep by Morning Circle
<b>November 19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Morning Circle –
		Pat Palmore's home
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Circle –
		Debbie Torres' home

*Thank you to all of you who helped make the Fall Festival a wonderful event!*

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>December 1st</b>
<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>December 8th</b>
<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>December 15th</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>December 22n</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Tuesday December 24th</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Wednesday December 25th</b>
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Tuesday December 31st</b>
<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Wednesday January 1st</b>



**Come and join us for our  
Christmas program on  
Sunday, December 15th  
at 9:30 a.m.**



## Partnership of Faithfulness and Generosity

*"We are surrounded by God's benefits, The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude."* **John Calvin**

**G**od has given Trinity Church many things to be thankful for this year. When we gather together this November, let us raise our voices in gratitude that He has given us what we need. Coming into this season of Thanksgiving, we take stock of the wonderful ways God has shown up to bless our property and congregation.

You will notice that our actual income for 2019 is not meeting our projected income, but God is good and we have been able to cover our debts and our mission donations. If you are behind in your giving, please take this opportunity to catch up before the end of the year.

Our Stewardship and Pledge season for 2020 has started. We ask that you return your pledge card no matter what your decision or ability.

### Pledge Envelopes

Please contact me in the church office if you do not have pledge envelopes and you want them for 2020, we have weekly or monthly envelopes available. If you want to OPT OUT of pledge envelopes for 2020, please let me know. Thank you.

**Rebecca Casey**

*Financial Administrator*

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

619-465-3011 x108

	September 2019 Final	October 2019 (As of 10/25/19)	Year to Date 2019 (As of 10/25/19)
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 313,836.30
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	\$ 34,637.95	\$ 19,434.00	\$286,550.01
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	\$ 3,254.32	<b>– \$ 11,949.63</b>	<b>– \$ 27,286.29</b>
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	\$ 32,732.55	\$ 27,881.05	\$326,023.97
<b>INCOME – EXPENSE</b>	\$ 1,905.40	<b>–\$ 8,447.05</b>	<b>– \$ 39,473.96</b>

## Trinity Staff

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### Joe Burke

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### Paul "PJ" Watkins

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Management Specialist*  
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### Shirley Woodson

*Organist*  
[shirleywoodson@me.com](mailto:shirleywoodson@me.com)

### Krista Young

*Children's Ministry Director*  
[krista@trinitypres.org](mailto:krista@trinitypres.org)

**Coming in November!**



The boxes will be available to be picked up at the front of the church outside after service on November 10th and November 17th. Thank you to all who are willing to pack one or more boxes again this year.

**Boxes are due by Thursday, November 21st at 2:00 p.m. to the church office!**

## Thanksgiving Dinner at Trinity Church



Debbie Torres and Barbara Hughes stepped in to co-host Thanksgiving Dinner here at Trinity Church!

**If you are interested, watch for the sign-up sheet that will be coming up shortly.**

**Thursday, November 28th  
1:00 p.m. in Williams Hall**

Thank you, Debbie and Barbara!

3902 Kenwood Dr.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977

