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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.”

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Next Press Deadline
March 22, 2020

Words from Our Pastor

“If you are able-bodied, remember that it is a temporary condition.” -- Kevin Kling

I heard this quote recently from a disabled storyteller and social commentator who was being interviewed about his life. He was born with a birth condition that left his left arm shriveled and then a motorcycle accident paralyzed his right arm.

The quote really made me think. It is so easy for us to take our health, independence, and autonomy for granted. We often live under the illusion that we will always have the power to “carry our own load” – but this is just not factually true for us human beings. If we are able-bodied, it is only temporary. The latest reports I’ve heard are that 70 percent of us will be mentally incapacitated before we die. That is a LOT of us.

It is probably the case that I am especially interested in this quote because of my relationship with my granddaughter Nora who needs constant support and care to live her life. From what we can tell, her entire life will be lived needing support from others – and yet she radiates a lovely peace and graciousness toward everyone in her circle of influence. There is something very beautiful about taking care of our fellow human beings – though we would usually prefer to be the strong and able-bodied helper, we may spend quite a bit of time as the person who needs the help.

So the truth is that we start life needing the care of others and most of us end life needing the care of others. We may think this is a bad thing, but I’m not so sure this is the case. When we learn to lean on others and allow them to help us, it is an act of humility that is often a good antidote to our human tendency toward arrogance – our tendency to avoid grace.

Of course if you ARE able-bodied it is good to carry your own load and help to carry the loads of others who need help. But when we are helping others and refusing to acknowledge our own need for grace, it can often create a wall in our lives that makes us ill-equipped for the day when we will need to rely on others for help. The quote from the disabled storyteller was helpful to me – a call to always keep in mind that my able-bodied stage is only a temporary condition. By God’s grace, I will hopefully be prepared for the day when I am no longer able-bodied – and by God’s grace, I hope that I can graciously receive the help from others who lovingly offer it.



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

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And Nothing is Very Strong

Everyday I receive a devotional taken from the letters and writings of C. S. Lewis. Most days, I am challenged and encouraged. One of these selections challenged me greatly – more about this later.

Most of you know that my life has changed to one involving more ministry. Challenges mark this new road. Some of them have been merely a series of frustrating potholes and road bumps. Others have been mountains, one of which I am climbing now. Our enemy does not like when we begin actively loving and serving in the name of Jesus in a new way. This lesson faces me almost daily.

Back to C. S. Lewis – One day this week, the devotion came from “The Screwtape Letters,” one of the most unique books ever written for Christians. C. S. Lewis takes the point of view of an experienced demon.

This demon, named Screwtape, writes letters of advice to a younger demon on how to keep Christians from growing in and serving God. Here is an excerpt:

“The Christians describe the Enemy [GOD] as one ‘without whom Nothing is strong’. And Nothing is very strong: strong enough to steal away a man’s best years not in sweet sins but in a dreary flickering of the mind over it knows not what and knows not why ...

You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. **But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy [God].** It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no

better than cards if cards can do the trick. **Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one**—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

How this hit me! Sometimes ministry seems so hard that all I want to do is sit and do things that are meaningless. This is not something that is a fleeting thought. Doing “nothing” is not all bad, but when it becomes your primary goal and desire, it threatens your relationship with God and the calling he has on your life.

I want to walk with God always, remembering that small things that seem not to matter can lead me on a path I will soon find leads me away from God.

Rebecca DeBreau
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Words from Our Pastor

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This is how it was at the beginning of my life and it is how it will be at the end of my life.

In the interview with Kevin Kling, he said that children and elderly people often have ‘one foot in the other world’ – that is, children have just come from their Creator and the elderly are preparing to return to their Creator. In between, these stages we often forget our dependence on others.

Paul the Apostle has an interesting quote that helps me put these pieces together. He writes in 2 Corinthians 12:10, *“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Let me repeat that key line: *“When I am weak, then I am strong.”* This is the paradox of life – the paradox of

grace. When I lean on God, I find my deepest, truest source of strength. The world may celebrate and glorify the strong, the beautiful, the self-sufficient, the self-made-man – But in God’s kingdom things look different. May we all live in with the wisdom of this simple line: If we are able-bodied, it is only a temporary condition.

Accreditation Team Comes this Month

This is the month we have been working towards for the last two years. Our ACSI/WASC accreditation team will arrive on Sunday, March 29th, and will leave on Wednesday, April 1st. The 95-page Self-Study was sent to the accreditation team six weeks before their visit so they can spend more time watching and talking with the stakeholders while on campus. Teachers, administrators, school board members, and parents all worked together on different committees to complete the Self-Study. We welcome your prayers during this time and will keep you informed of the outcome of this process.

Speech Meet

The students from grades one through six participate in an annual Speech Meet. This year we will be presenting speeches to the school and judges on March 5th and the winners will present at the Women's Association meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend!

Grandparents Chapel

Grandparents Chapel will be held on Friday, March 27th in Williams Hall at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

50th Year Celebration

Our focus will be turning toward the 50th year celebration on May 17th. In the past, we have hosted a Serve-a-thon to raise funds to subsidize the school. We will still have classes participating in serving in the community as usual, but this year

we are asking people to prayerfully consider contributing to the school directly in honor of the 50th year. It can be done online on our website, www.trinity-cs.org, by clicking on the donation button. Contributions may also be made by check or cash in the office or by mail. These gifts may be received anytime including the 50th celebration. Details for this event will be forthcoming as plans proceed for the "50 Years, 50 More, 50 K" theme.

Serv-a-thon

The students often serve in various ways throughout the year. Traditionally the formal Serve-a-thon has been held on one day when all the classes go out with that focus in mind. This year they will go out into the community on different days.

- **Preschool:** reaching out to Rady's Children's Hospital
- **Kindergarten:** making Blessing Bags for the homeless
- **First:** writing letters to members of the military

- **Second:** cleaning up the beach
- **Third:** visiting Country Manor rest home
- **Fourth:** helping at Feeding America
- **Fifth:** planting trees at Flinn Springs County Park
- **Sixth:** working at Mrs. Durbin's house
- **Seventh:** working at Mrs. Durbin's house
- **Eighth:** planting trees at Flinn Springs County Park

We appreciate your prayers and participation in the efforts towards celebrating 50 years of ministry ... looking forward to 50 more years ... and meeting our goal of \$50,000 to help facilitate Trinity Christian School's mission long-term.

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal



Upper left: Fifth grade's "Living Museum" presentation.

Upper right: Preschool celebrates "100 Days of School."



Bottom: ACSI Science Fair winners. They will move on to the ACSI Regional Science Fair at Azusa Pacific University.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!



2020 Women's Retreat

Sisters

& Their Gifts



Speaker: Ann Thomas

MAY 1, 2, AND 3, 2020

PINE VALLEY BIBLE CONFERENCE CENTER



Join your sisters in Christ for a weekend of Bible Study, Worship, Prayer, Healing, Arts and Crafts, Hikes, Great Food and FUN!

Early Registration: \$140

(by April 12)

General Registration: \$150

Saturday Only: \$50

(transportation included)

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

TEACHERS' DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!

(and you can have your own room together • See Bobette Barfod)

For more information, contact Sue Walters, Deb Torres, or Bobette Barfod

CLIPPERS

Saturday, March 14

Margie Murnan

Specialist and the owner of Lessons in Motion

She has also been an advisory council member and volunteer for WheelchairDancers.org

Margie will be showing us how to free our neck and shoulders, how to get back pain relief, and methods for walking and balance.

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, Debbie Torres at 619 916-7803, or Norma Mondeck at 619 466-2367, for further information.

Presbyterian Women

Below is the March schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

March 3	Voting Day! NO Board Meeting
March 10	The Gathering – Williams Hall 9:30 a.m. Bible Study - lead by Linda Hensley 11:00 a.m. TCS Speech Meet Winners 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Prep by Morning Circle
March 17	9:30 a.m. Crafts • Ward Center 6:30 p.m. Evening Circle • Mt. Miguel Village
March 24	9:30 a.m. Morning Circle • Ward Center
March 28	9:30 a.m. PW Sewing/Quilting • Ward Center

PLAN AHEAD -WOMEN'S RETREAT

May 1st, 2nd, 3rd at Pine Valley Bible Camp

Cost - \$140.00

\$20.00 holds your reservation

Scholarships available

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

Greetings Trinity Church Family-

Thank you for being part of our congregation. God is good all the time. As February ends, all of our financial obligations have been met including our missionary donations.

If you have any questions about receiving tithe envelopes, or online giving, please feel free to contact me in the finance office.

Rebecca Casey
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	January 2020 Final	February 2020 (As of 02/20/2020)	Year to Date (As of 02/20/2020)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 29,874.64	\$ 29,874.64	\$ 59,749.36
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 27,233.36	\$ <u>19,629.38</u>	\$ 46,862.74
DIFFERENCE	-\$ 2,641.28	-\$ 10,245.34	-\$ 2,695.39
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 37,130.38	\$ 17,806.57	\$ 54,936.95
INCOME – EXPENSE	-\$ 9,897.02	-\$ 1,822.81	-\$ 8,074.21

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