

CONTENTS

Children's Ministry *page 3*

Youth Group *page 3*

Trinity Christian School
page 4

Discipleship/Missions
page 5

Clippers *page 6*

Presbyterian Women
page 6

Financial Report
page 7

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
May 26, 2019

Words from Our Pastor

This is my first article for Trinity Press. Though I will only be with this church family for a little while, I am looking forward to getting better acquainted with you. My wife Elizabeth and I are very thankful for the warm welcome from the congregation. We feel blessed to be serving here even if it is only a temporary assignment from the Lord. I am thankful to Pastor Jim Wilson for his outstanding work as your Interim Pastor for the last two years – and we pray for both Jim and Connie Wilson as they enter into this new season in their lives. We also hope we will see them frequently in worship. I am also thankful for your capable and hard-working church staff – they have done a great job in helping me to get oriented to the people and programs of the church.



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

Temporary relationships are strange things. I am more of a 'put-your-roots-down-deep' kind of person. The idea of having only a temporary relationship with a congregation is an odd idea to me. However, I realize that in God's Kingdom work – we are permanently joined together in the extended family known as the Body of Christ. So even though we will be ministering together for only five or six months, we are nevertheless joined together in God's "forever family." I know that I will be blessed by walking with Trinity Church through this important season in your life. I also hope that you will be blessed by my "temporary assignment" from Jesus to serve his people as a pastor and teacher.

This article of Trinity Press contains a short biography about me, and I hope you will take the time to read it. In addition to those facts about my life and history, I also want to fill you in on a few other things that will help you get to know me a little better. In recent years my life has been shaped by several practical realities that I never expected.

First, my granddaughter Nora's diagnosis of Aicardi Syndrome has had a huge impact on our family. Nora was four months old when diagnosed and last month she celebrated her fifth birthday so we have been living with this for a while. Nora is an amazing gift from God to us, however, caring for her and helping her live and thrive takes a lot of work. She receives her food through a G-tube directly into her stomach. She has intractable epilepsy and frequent seizures that are partly (though never fully) controlled by powerful medicines. She is non-verbal but quite expressive in her own way. She does not yet walk. She is frequently hospitalized with respiratory distress. There are only about 2,500 girls (no boys) in the USA with this diagnosis, so it is a small family. Our daughter

Continued on page 2

Jesse, Nora's mom, writes a blog about being a parent of a medically fragile girl that speaks to thousands of people about God's grace in the midst of the struggles. If you would like to learn more, please view her blog at shelivedhappilyeverafter.com or Google [noraeverafter](http://noraeverafter.com) and her articles will be prominent.

Second, my mother's death from complications due to Parkinson's occurred in 2017. My mom lived with Parkinson's for over 20 years and was a model to me of perseverance in the midst of hardship. She was on hospice care for the last four years of her life. Yes, you read that correctly, four years of her life. She died in the home I grew up in on the Palos Verdes Peninsula near Los Angeles. While my mom was on hospice care, my father-in-law was on hospice as well while he struggled with cancer. He died in 2015. My father is still living but also struggles with Parkinson's Disease. Those of you who have cared for loved ones with serious health challenges know how difficult caregiving can be. I confess that I am blessed with a very large family so the load is much lighter for me than for many people. My parent's and in-laws have also been helped by professional caregivers who have been a huge blessing to us. Yet walking through these experiences has given me much greater concern for people with serious health conditions and the people who care for them. It gives us a chance to serve the Lord with our caregiving skills, but it can also be just plain hard to get

through the day for countless people in these tough situations.

Third, I never expected to conclude my ministry at my former church in Escondido so soon. Yet God gave me very clear direction and called me to trust Him and let go of that position. It's the first time in my life I quit one job without having another job lined up. It has been a time of loss for Elizabeth and me as we have let go of so many important relationships in our former church family. When I was working at Westminster Presbyterian in Escondido, I slowly got the feeling that no one else could do the job – that I was the only person who could pastor that church. I finally realized this was a subtle form of idolatry – and of not trusting God to provide for His church. My former church is on a time line that is similar to that of Trinity Church. As you are waiting to meet your new pastor, I am also waiting to discover who God will bring to pastor my former congregation. It's an exciting time and also a time for us to pray, pray, pray – and trust, trust, trust in the Lord.

These are a few things that have shaped my life in recent years. I look forward to having a small part in God's work of shaping Trinity Church to be the church God has called it to be. I will be intentional about praying for this church and I appreciate your prayers for me as we journey in this season of seeing God at work equipping his saints to be a blessing to one another and to the community.

In Christ, Pastor Jim Rauch

MAY PREACHING

In the month of May, we will be learning about the prayer book of God's people – the Psalms.

John Calvin, the theological father of the Presbyterian Church, wrote these words about the Psalms: "I have been accustomed to call this book, I think not inappropriately, *The Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul*." He explains the reason for this insightful title:

"... there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn ... all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated."

When Calvin calls the Psalms *An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul* – it is a signal to us that the Psalms will not only help us get to know God – they help us to get to know ourselves. You will read in it all the most beautiful expressions of praise and thanksgiving – and all the most bitter words of despair. And if you read about someone in so much pain that you can't relate to it yourself, chances are someone else you know is in that kind of hardship. The Psalms invite us into a deeper and more authentic life of communication with our Creator God. I encourage you during our study of the Psalms to try reading one Psalm a day and see what things jump out at you as you read them and pray them.

Vacation Bible School is Approaching

As April came to a close and the hill became alive with the sights and sounds of spring, we celebrated Easter Sunday by talking about Jesus's ultimate sacrifice and His amazing return to life! We followed up with our annual Easter egg hunt, which was attended by about a dozen kids! Thank you to all who donated candy to help make this event a success.

Looking forward, I'd like to remind everyone that VBS is approaching faster than we realize. We'll be using the Shipwrecked curriculum from Group Publishing this year. Last year we were able to touch the lives of nearly 100 kids and I'd love for this year to be just as huge but I cannot do it without your help. Please make note on your calendar the week of July 22nd – July 26th, and prayerfully

consider volunteering your time. There are many ways to be involved and we can work together to best use your special gifts!

Krista Young
Children's Ministries Director

krista@trinitypres.org
619-465-3011 x104



Youth Ministries

Trinity Church Youth Group Goals

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter! I am looking forward to the remainder of the school year, and I wanted to send an update regarding the youth at Trinity Church. The youth group has been on spring break for the past two weeks. Before that, we watched the movie "Soul Surfer" and discussed the faith and determination of Bethany Hamilton.

Currently, we are looking to do some outreach for the church. If there are any specific needs that the youth can support, please feel free to contact

me! I am open to suggestions and appreciate any input you may have regarding outreach opportunities. In addition, we are hoping to encourage church members through hospital visits and birthday/anniversary cards. If there are any members, in specific, who you think would benefit from such encouragement, please forward their contact information to myself.

Lastly, I am looking for church members who are interested in speaking at youth group and sharing their testimony. It would be beneficial

for the students to hear stories from your childhood and experiences in faith. In doing so, it is my goal to bridge the gap between the youth and the members of the congregation. Finally, keep encouraging friends and family to come to Wednesday youth group and Sunday service. It has been a privilege thus far to serve Jesus through this church.

Joe Burke
Youth Ministries Director

joe@trinitypres.org
619-465-3011 x111

Spring has Sprung! Jesus has Risen! He has Risen Indeed

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of May! It is filled with many special events as we near the end of the school year.

The San Diego Fair will be visiting our campus for a special presentation on Wednesday, May 1st. They come prepared to present an "on campus educational program for ages K-4th." It has most often been held on the grass area by the big cross and rocks. It is always a surprise as to what they bring to share with us.

Our seventh and eighth graders will be traveling to Washington, D.C. during the week of May 5th. The students have earned money to offset the cost of the trip and are looking forward to it wholeheartedly. The educational packets are assembled and ready to go!

The winners from our Speech Meet will be presenting at Women

Association on May 14th in Williams Hall. You are welcome to attend this annual event.

You are invited to come to Trinity Christian School's annual OPEN HOUSE at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14th. This is an informal evening event that allows families, friends, and church members to wander around campus from classroom to classroom, playground to playground, the computer lab and library.

Mother's Day Chapel is scheduled for Friday, May 17th in Williams Hall. This is a special time for moms and their kids, and is a great memory maker.

Schoolwide DIBELS testing will happen during the week of May 20th. This is an assessment that takes place three times a year to track each student's progress.

There is no school on Monday, May 27th in recognition of Memorial Day.

On the evening of the 30th, our Eighth Grade Blessing Dinner will be held in Williams Hall. This is a tradition that has taken place over the years and has proven to be such a touching time for parents and students to bless one another face to face in a very personal way.

Friday, May 31st, has been set aside for a school-wide Cultural Festival. Each class will prepare to host a country in their room. Students will travel in multi-aged groups from country to country with passports in hand. There will be all kinds of foods to try, a variety of activities to experience and points of interest to learn about. We hope this will be a tradition that will continue from year to year.

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal



Far upper left: **Fourth grade field trip**
Far bottom left: **Grandparents' Chapel**
Upper right: **Sixth grade camp**
Bottom right: **Pre-School color day**
Above: **Grandparents' Chapel**

Living in Awe of You, My God

My Easter was filled with instances where I stood in awe of God, learning something that changed my perspective in some beautiful way.

When I am not working at Trinity Church, you can often find me somewhere in El Cajon, working with Yusuf (he has visited Trinity Church a few times). He is writing a study guide that bridges the Qur'an with the Old and New Testaments - an incredible experience looking at the depth and wonder of the Bible.

During Easter Week, we were working on the subject of purification. The Qur'an has strict laws regarding purification, similar to what the Old Testament prescribes.

I was reading Numbers 19. Verses 10-17 describe the purification requirements after touching a dead person. It is extremely strict - you are unclean for seven days - *everything* you touch becomes unclean. You *must* partake in special washings on the third and seventh day or you have to start over. You are not allowed into

any part of the temple area or enter any synagogue.

I was suddenly struck by something I had never noticed before after more than 55 years of celebrating Easter.

In every Gospel account, a leader of the Sanhedrin and secret follower of Jesus, who had not consented to crucify Jesus, named Joseph of Arimathea, is mentioned. Having received permission from Pilate, Joseph *defiled himself* by taking down the dead body of Jesus from the cross and burying him in his own tomb.

He probably did not take down Jesus' body by himself, but we can be sure he was there, guaranteeing that he would be considered unclean according to the law of Moses.

The next day was one of the highest holy days for Jews, the Passover Sabbath. Joseph would be unable to participate in the temple festivities because he was unclean. All of the Sanhedrin would know quickly that one of their members was not where he should be. Word would spread

quickly about what had happened to Jesus' body and who was responsible.

What an incredible way to come out as a follower of Jesus as Messiah! This man, terrified of his fellow members of the Sanhedrin, had sacrificed his station at the temple to make sure his Messiah's dead body was as properly cared for as possible.

He did this after all hope was gone. His Messiah was dead, and yet he stood with Jesus in the face of his fellow members of the Sanhedrin.

I am in awe of Joseph's faith. Even with the death of Jesus, he stood counted as one of the few that did not succumb to fear as the apostles had done.

May I have the kind of faith that, even in the face of such a hopeless situation as the death of Jesus was for Joseph, I would stand with my Savior.

Rebecca DeBrau

*Director of Discipleship,
Communications, and Missions*

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

Mother's Day is
May 12th!

CLIPPERS

“His Voice”

Saturday, May 11th

Please join us on May 11th for our monthly program, which is “His Voice”, a 25-person Christian choir from Riverside County. They have been singing and worshipping together for over a decade. Their singing and harmonizing of old and new hymns is glorious; it is always a blessing to hear them. CDs of their music will also be available for sale.=

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 916-7803 for further information.

Exotic Plant Society meets May 16th in Williams Hall

Presbyterian Women

Below is the May schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| May 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Board Meeting • Ward Center |
| May 14 | | The Gathering • Williams Hall |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Bible Study led by Linda Hensley
Williams Hall |
| | 11:00 a.m. | TCS Speech Meet Winners |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch by Morning Circle |
| May 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Crafts • Ward Center |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Evening Circle - Debbie Torres' home |
| May 28 | 9:30 a.m. | Morning Circle • Ward Center |
- RUMMAGE SALE on JUNE 22nd!**

TRINITY CHURCH & BRIDGE BUILDERS NETWORK INVITE YOU TO



Learn and grow with others during this unique two-week immersion into local Muslim communities and culture, with training and outreach opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

June 3 – 15, 2019

First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon • Bailey Hall
500 FARRAGUT CIRCLE • EL CAJON, CA 92020

You will learn to:

- Be a cultural learner.
- Interact with Muslim refugees and new immigrants.
- Experience the food, language, activities, and other cultural norms of Muslim refugee and immigrant groups.
- Understand Islam: its impact on Muslim culture and community, and Muslims' perceptions of Christianity.
- Discover needs in these communities and develop long term strategies to serve them.
- Effectively express the love of Jesus and communicate the Gospel.

A “STAY-CATION” WITH A PURPOSE

"Tithing is not giving; it is bringing." Author Unknown

Blessings, Trinity Church Family!

I hope you have had a chance to review your 1st Quarter giving statement, they were mailed last week. If you did not receive your statement, or have questions, please contact me in the church office.

By the end of March, our expenses exceeded our income but God is good. This year is proving to be a

measure of trust and faith that the Lord will indeed provide. We will continue to keep a watchful eye on our finances, and seek God's wisdom for our spending. "Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God, and trust in me." John 14:1

Thank you for keeping current with your giving, and for being faithful

partners for God's church here at Trinity, and around the world.

Rebecca Casey
Financial Administrator
rebecca@trinitypres.org
619-465-3011 x108

	March 2019 Final	April 2019 (As of 4/22/19)	Year to Date 2019 (As of 4/22/19)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$125,534.52
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 30,401.25	\$ 25,977.89	\$ 113,195.79
DIFFERENCE	– \$ \$982.38	– \$ 5,405.74	– \$ 12,338.73
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 37,522.57	\$ 18,021.37	\$123,686.34
INCOME – EXPENSE	– \$ \$7,121.32	\$ 7,956.52	– \$ 10,490.55

Trinity Staff

Jim Rauch • Interim Pastor | jim@trinitypres.org

Don Axe
Facilities Maintenance
don@trinitypres.org

Victoria Browne
Hand Bell Director
xlittledrummergirlx@gmail.com

Rebecca Casey
Financial Administrator
rebecca@trinitypres.org

Bill Coe
Director of Music/Worship Leader
billcoe1@cox.net

Rebecca DeBreau
Director of Discipleship,
Communications and Missions
rdebreau@trinitypres.org

Patty Mason
Secretary/Receptionist
patty@trinitypres.org

Joe Burke
Youth Ministries Director
joe@trinitypres.org

Paul "PJ" Watkins
Social Media Marketing and
Management Specialist
pjwatkins@trinitypres.org

Shirley Woodson
Organist

Krista Young
Children's Ministry Director
krista@trinitypres.org

Beginning May 1st • Wednesday Night Gathering

CHRISTIAN

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

Facilitated by Interim Pastor Jim Rauch

This video-based bible study will examine the characteristics Jesus used to define those who follow him and the implications they have for believers today.

In “Christian: It’s Not What You Think,” you’ll learn:

- What one word should be descriptive of every Christian
- How Jesus’ followers should treat those who are outside the faith
- Why people love Jesus but can’t stand his followers

What does it mean to be Christian? Curiously, the term is never used in Scripture. Instead, Christian was a label used by outsiders to define Jesus’ followers. Jesus referenced “disciple” as the key word he used to describe his supporters along with the fact that they would be known for their love – a novel concept for their time – and ours today.

Through eight engaging and enlightening sessions, we will unpack these qualities Jesus prescribes for his followers that made them unique. What if believers today embodied these traits? Would the non-believing world put aside its definition of ‘Christian’ and instead know us by our love?

We will have our usual potluck starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by our study at 6:30 p.m.

3902 Kenwood Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91977

