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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**  
December 22, 2019

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## Words from Our Pastor

**A**s we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, I am always impressed once again with the fact that God entered into this messed-up world in order to bring lost human beings back into harmony with himself. In a sense, God entered into our "mess" in order to lead us out into his light and his love.

As I have sought to put God's grace into practice in my own life, a book that I found helpful is called *Messy Grace (How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction)* by Caleb Kaltenbach. The author does a good job of telling his story of becoming a Christian, facing rejection from his parents, but finding a way to combine grace and truth in his ministry and family relationships. The longer we live the more we tend to understand the idea that life is messy, relationships are messy, and our own lives are messy – but God is always at work bringing peace, grace, and wisdom to our lives as we grow in following Jesus. Here is one of many helpful passages in the book:

*If we are going to be honest, Christians do not have the best track record in loving people... Part of the problem is that we get trapped in the wrong thinking. We think that we are not supposed to love people who live in a way that is contrary to what God says. Atheists, abortion doctors, legalists, alcoholics, convicts, hypocrites, the sexually immoral, gossipers, and anyone who seems to be on the opposite end of any kind of spectrum from us – these are people we are fearful to get involved with because it seems messy.*

*It's a good thing Jesus didn't decide that we were too messy to get involved with! The apostle Paul said, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners... Not when we had it all together. Not when we started attending church. Not when we started*

*Continued on page 2*



**Jim Rauch**  
Interim Pastor

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## Words from Our Pastor

Continued from page 1

*acting the way Christians act. Not when we started believing. Paul said that while we were still sinners, God extended an offer of relationship toward us. We need to express that same kind of love – a love that doesn't wait for people to be perfect or get everything in order before beginning a friendship with us. It's imperative that we have grace for people while they are still thinking, speaking, and acting in ways we might not agree with.*

As we journey toward Bethlehem and the celebration of Christmas, we do well to note that the incarnation (God becoming flesh) was a pivotal moment in human history where God enters *into* the messy world and begins a quiet revolution of love. As God has come into our mess – to offer

us cleansing grace – so too we are called to enter into the messy lives of others to offer them love, truth, and grace.

I hope and pray that Trinity Church will not allow the polarizing forces of our culture wars to infect our calling to tell the One Great Story of Jesus through our words and our deeds. I hope and pray that we can be a model of Christ's love as we live and speak with both grace and truth.

This Christmas season as we sing “he rules the world with truth and grace,” let us be part of his army, his kingdom, not afraid of stepping into the lives of others and offering our hands and hearts in acts of sacrificial love in a messy world that God loves more than we can imagine.

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jim Rauch

## Youth Ministries

## Merry Christmas

**T**he youth group has been having fun through games, fellowship, and meaningful conversations about Jesus. We meet every Wednesday from 3 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them

to come! Thank you for your constant support and prayer.

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

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# Merry Christmas!

This is such a wonderful time of the year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and remember God's goodness and grace that was poured out on our behalf. We pray that this will indeed be a most blessed time of the year for one and all.

Trinity Church and Trinity Christian School (TCS) were able to collect 212 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year! The boxes were prayed over at chapel and carried out the back door by the middle school students to load up into the cars that delivered them to the San Diego area collection center. From there, they will travel to Los Angeles and then to destinations around the world in the name of Jesus. Thank you for your prayers and participation.

Please mark your calendars to attend Trinity Presbyterian Women's hosting of the annual San Diego Presbytery Women's Christmas Program and lunch. This year it will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, December 6th at 10:30 a.m. TCS preschool through

eighth grade will perform a medley of songs. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family to join in a festive celebration of Jesus' birth. There will be a Presbyterian Women's meeting beforehand and their lunch will follow.

In addition to this morning performance, there will be four different evening performances in Williams Hall at 6:30 p.m.:

- Kindergarten-2nd grade present their program, "A Star is Born," on Tuesday, December 10th.
- Preschool gives their program, "Jesus, the Light of the World" on Friday, December 13th (as well as the morning of the 13th at the school's weekly chapel at 11:15 a.m.)
- 3rd-5th grades perform "Not a Creature was Stirring" on Tuesday, December 17th.
- 6th-8th grades present "Mr. Wiggins Sisters' Toy Shoppe" on Thursday, December 19th.

School will be closed for Christmas break from December 23rd until January 6th. January 6th also marks the beginning of inhouse registration for the 2020-2021 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 receive a 20 percent discount for family members and can apply during closed registration in January.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."*

John 3:16-17

**Sharon Axe**  
Principal

**Jimmie Drummond**  
Principal



**Far left: Students pray over shoe boxes sent out for Operation Christmas Child.**

**Right and below: Students saying a prayer before enjoying Thanksgiving meals.**

## In Awe of God's Good Gifts

This will be my last article as the Director of Discipleship, Communications, and Missions for Trinity Church. The discipleship and missions responsibilities will be fully transferred to their respective elders – Kirk Drummond, Discipleship, and Nancy Wells, Missions.

I will continue fulfilling my normal communications duties. In addition to these responsibilities, the Personnel team is looking at ways I can support the administrative staff. What that will look like is still being discussed. These changes are all part of an effort to become more efficient with our resources. One very positive change for me personally is the opportunity to write for the Trinity Press with a broader brush, bringing more varied topics to encourage and inform.

I have been honored to serve Trinity Church in both discipleship and missions during the past four years. This is my passion – to see the world come to Jesus and to grow others in their relationship to God.

As I am writing, Thanksgiving is over, I am alone on the hill, and the sun has made a momentary appearance in an otherwise rainy day. I find myself in awe of God's goodness to us. He gives us so much more than just the bare necessities. He provides friends that give encouragement and support. We get to participate in kingdom-building for our Lord. He gives us many opportunities to learn and grow in him and with him.

As we go into the Christmas season, I encourage you to look at what gifts

God has given you – meaningful relationships, God-moments where he used you to give love to another, and times of growing with him. Continue in the faith with the knowledge that God gives us what we need to live each day for him. He never promised an easy life. He did promise that he would be with us and give us the strength and courage for each day.

May you be blessed with an even deeper understanding of the beauty of the Christmas story and with an awe of what God will do in you and with you in the new year.

**Rebecca DeBreau**  
*Director of Discipleship,  
Communications & Missions*

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

### CLIPPERS

#### Saturday, December 7th Christmas Party

Please join us on December 7<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas program. This will be a fun-filled afternoon, with Christmas songs, wrapped gift exchange (homemade or \$5 purchase), Secret Pal ornament, and much more.

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. Please note the date change from our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. 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 December schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

- December 3** 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting – Ward Center
- December 6** **The Gathering – Sanctuary and Williams Hall**  
*We are hosting the annual Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Christmas Program*  
9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast • Williams Hall  
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting • Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. **Musical Christmas Program by Trinity Christian School**  
12:00 p.m. Lunch (\$9:00) • Williams Hall  
Final Fall Festival Sale
- December 16** 5:00 p.m. Joint Meeting - Precepts & Evening Circle Mt. Miguel • Building 100 - Ham provided  
Call Bobette with questions: 310-365-0715
- December 17** 9:30 a.m. Morning Circle • Vee Smith's house



*The earth is the Lord's  
and all that is in it, the world,  
and those who live in it. ~ Psalm 24:1*

**Financial Report**

**G**od gives us what we need at Trinity Church, week by week, and month by month. He asks us to trust and rely on him for everything that is important to the vitality of this church. We are anxiously waiting to see his hand at work in every big and small corner of our hill. We trust him to deliver the right pastor in his time, we trust him to give us what we need to run the ministry here, “the earth is the Lord’s,” and, thankfully, Trinity Church is too. Thank you to everyone who took the time to return your pledge card for

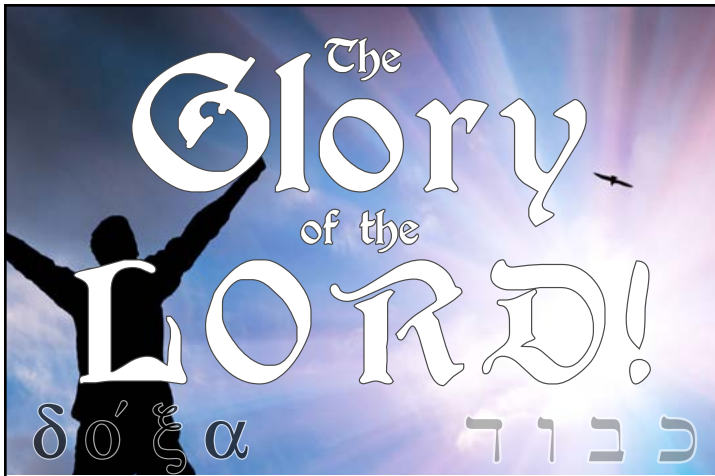
2020. Every reply is valuable to us. If you did not receive a stewardship letter from Pastor Rauch and you would like to receive one, please contact us in the church office. Financial stewardship is a leap of faith. We hold fast and continue following God even when we aren’t sure where he may lead us. Please join your Trinity Church family as we pledge to financially support our ministries, programs, and obligations in 2020. Soon, I will be sending out a statement of your giving for 2019. Please take the time to review your

statement. Contact me as soon as possible if there are any changes or corrections. The offering envelopes for 2020 will be ready to pick up in mid-December. Look for them in the back of the sanctuary. Finally, if you find you are behind in your giving for 2019, I would like to encourage you to catch up before December 31st. Have a wonderful December.

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

	<b>October 2019 Final</b>	<b>November 2019</b> (As of 11/26/19)	<b>Year to Date 2019</b> (As of 11/26/19)
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 345,219.93
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	\$ 30,077.26	\$ 30,798.14	\$ 327,982.41
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>– \$ 1,306.37</b>	<b>– \$ 585.49</b>	<b>– \$ 17,237.52</b>
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	\$ 30,802.44	\$ 38,699.62	\$ 367,644.48
<b>INCOME – EXPENSE</b>	<b>– \$ 725.18</b>	<b>– \$ 7,901.48</b>	<b>– \$ 39,662.07</b>

May you have a blessed  
**CHRISTMAS**  
& wonderful **NEW YEAR!**



## Christmas Worship at Trinity

Sunday Morning Service 9:30 a.m. December 15 *featuring* Heather Riggs *plus* the Von Wallace Family Ringers

The Trinity Choir & Orchestra



**TRINITY CHURCH**  
3902 Kenwood Drive  
Spring Valley  
[www.trinitypres.org](http://www.trinitypres.org)

**FREE Admission!**



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 24th  
7:00 p.m.**

3902 Kenwood Dr.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977

