



Words from Our Pastor | Preparing for Christmas



Rev. Brent Barclay | Pastor

Hello Everyone!

We have reached the season of Advent in our church calendar.

Advent is the season of “expectation” when we await the arrival of baby Jesus. I have been through this “expectation” season a few times now, awaiting the arrival of my three lovely girls!

With the season of expectation comes a lot! We needed to set up their rooms and cribs, confirming we had everything needed to welcome each baby girl home. We had many doctor appointments to make sure mommy and baby were doing well through the pregnancy process.

There was lots of excitement, exhaustion, errands, and chores to finish. Preparing for a baby is a lot of work.

When we think of Advent, we think of our excitement for what comes - the arrival

of baby Jesus! Jesus Christ will become the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Lord Everlasting! We think of Advent only as a time to get excited about what comes.

Yet, as with the actual expectation of a baby, there is a lot of preparation in that time. As we celebrate Christmas, decorations do not hang themselves, and presents do not just appear under the

Christmas tree. In fact, there are a lot of chores and errands we need to do to celebrate Christmas.

Have you considered the thought that the Advent season is also a season for us to spiritually “prepare” for the arrival of a baby? We know Jesus

is coming, yet have we made room for him? Do we make time to spend with this Christ Child we so eagerly await? Do we give baby Jesus the attention he deserves?

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REMEMBER! You can see this publication online at www.trinitypres.org and click on “Ministries” in the top bar and go to the last item on the list, “Newsletter.”

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Do we give the proper honor and praise that Jesus deserves? Or is Christmas about the time spent decorating trees, going to Christmas events, shopping for presents, and watching Christmas movies on TV? We get excited about Jesus coming, but too often, we do not prepare for his arrival.

As you make your to-do lists and fill your calendars, consider making time to prepare the room for the arrival of baby Jesus. Consider where you give your time and treasure and wonder if you spend enough time with this baby Jesus you are so excited to meet. Consider where your heart is and if you need to allow Jesus to come in and mend it or soften it.



Maybe you need the Price of Peace to calm your anger or negativity. Perhaps you need the Almighty God to lead you through the darkness in which you find yourself. Possibly, you need Emmanuel to actually be Lord in your heart and give up some of that control on which you desperately are trying to hang.

It is Advent, the season of expectation. As you eagerly await the arrival of Jesus, take time today to make room for him. Consider it an errand on your list to prepare your heart for Jesus to be Lord and Savior in your life.

Pastor Brent

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Youth Group | Quirky & Intriguing Bible Stories

The Trinity Church Youth Group continues to see a significant number of students attend each Wednesday and Sunday. This past month, on Wednesdays, we explored the quirky or intriguing stories from the Bible, including Ezekiel's vision and Balaam's donkey. The students were very engaged and had not heard these stories before. We spent Sundays exploring how the Old Testament displayed God's justice and its connection to Jesus' justification and our sanctification. Regarding sanctification, we talked about in which fruits of the spirit we could improve and which ones we were strong.

As we look towards Christmas, we will start a new series on Advent. The youth also enjoyed playing fun games such as pickle, football, and handball. Contact me if you know someone looking for a youth group or would like to get involved as a volunteer. Our goals for the youth group are to promote Christian fellowship, search reverently for God's truth, and deepen the spiritual lives of the youth. Please be praying for continued spiritual growth for this group of marvelous students.

Joe Burke

Youth Director

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Children's Ministry | We are Loved and God Makes Us Strong

Why does Jesus love little children? The little ones responded, "Because he made us!" This response is why Jesus said his kingdom belongs to those who have faith like a child and come before him with their whole hearts.

What a privilege it has been to study Jesus every Sunday with the children of our church! They learned about Jesus' power when he walked on water, and healed a paralyzed man. We also learned about how Jesus was a perfect teacher and his parable of the sower - how God's Word grows in our hearts.

Following this introduction to Jesus' power, we now focus on how God makes us strong with our daily armor.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:10-11

The shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit are how we ward off all the lies Satan tries to throw at us. Each child made a shield of faith for our faith game. We threw wadded-up pieces of paper at their shield that were lies such as "Does God truly love you?" "Yes, Jesus loves me!"

May these truths continue growing deep roots in their hearts as we enter the Christmas season and learn about the greatest gift of J-e-s-u-s - the reason for the season.

Lydia Barclay

Interim Children's Ministry Director



Trinity Christian School | From Fall Festival to Thanksgiving

Fall Festival

The Trinity Christian School (TCS) quad transformed into a lively carnival, where laughter and excitement filled the air as families indulged in various games and crafts. Colorful booths lined the grounds, offering classic carnival games like third-grade ring toss, kindergarten duck pond fishing, and first-grade bean bag toss. Teachers and parents worked tirelessly to make this a special event for everyone. Among the festive chaos, a peculiar but entertaining feature caught everyone's attention - Mr. McHugh's jail. Giggles echoed as classmates playfully locked each other up, making it a hilarious spectacle for onlookers. The Fall Festival truly prompted plenty of family fun, creating lasting memories against the vibrant backdrop of carnival games, creative crafts, and the jovial antics of the festival's very own jail.

Fifth Grade Maritime Museum

Excitement buzzed as eager fifth graders embarked on an adventure to the Maritime Museum, a treasure trove of nautical history. The centerpiece of their expedition

was the iconic Star of India! The children were in awe as they approached the vessel. Its aged wooden decks and towering masts created a tangible link to the old seafaring tales. The journey offered a hands-on exploration of the ship's nooks and crannies. From the creaking sounds of the worn planks beneath their feet to the distinctive scent of sea air lingering in the museum, the experience was immersive. The fifth graders left the Maritime Museum with newfound knowledge about maritime history and a sense of wonder and appreciation for the era epitomized by the Star of India.

Veterans Day

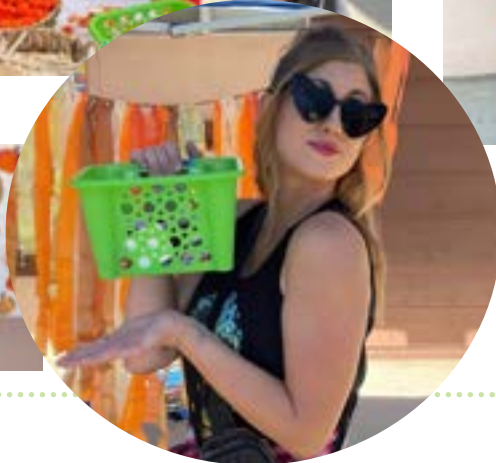
At TCS, gratitude and patriotism filled the classrooms as students celebrated Veterans Day with heartfelt gestures. Armed with pens and paper, students began a mission to express their gratitude to service members. In their classrooms, the air buzzed with creativity as they crafted handwritten letters filled with appreciation and admiration for the brave men and women who served their country selflessly. In addition, the school transformed into a sea of



Fall Festival



Veterans Day



red, white, and blue as students and staff wore patriotic colors, creating a vibrant display of unity and respect. Classes echoed with conversations about honoring those who have defended freedom. TCS's celebration of Veterans Day helped foster a sense of civic duty and instilled a deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.

Kindergarten Chapel

Amid the clamor of Thanksgiving week, it has been a TCS tradition for kindergarteners to lead chapel. Dressed in historical attire, the young students cheerfully sang songs directing the pilgrims' time on the sea and the Native American knack for hunting and gathering. Focusing on God's love and the importance of sharing, they came together in the end in worship. It was a beautiful picture reminding us of the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

Book Character Day

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Well, not really. It was Book Character Day. The school was merry as students of all ages shared their favorite story characters. From butterflies to Umpa Lumpas, everyone dressed up, offering a fun alternative to the regular school schedule.

Thanksgiving

The feasting began! The smell of turkey cold cuts and canned cranberry sauce hung over the school as classes came together to feast for Thanksgiving. Costco pumpkin pies and aerosol whipped cream lined the classroom countertops, awaiting the moment to be "gobbled" up. A couple of classes decided to change the menu and offered doughnuts and crispy bacon, a meal quite worthy of thanks! Altogether, students brought mouthwatering food to share and savor!

Jimmie Drummond
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Left and below: Kindergarten Chapel



Book Character Day

Clippers



Ahoy Mates,

The good clipper ship
docked November 18th at
Williams hall for a pot luck
and good fellowship. Dick
Adams gave the devotion.
The Jesus Revolution

movie was shown and enjoyed by all. Our
December meeting will be on the third
Saturday of the month and we will celebrate
our Christmas party. Y'all come and bring a
guest.

Yer trusty signalman,
Jack, the ancient mariner

Presbyterian Women

First, I want to thank everyone who helped
make the Fall Festival a success. We raised
\$4,524.00 for our missionaries.

Our next event is on December 1st when
we host the Presbyterian Women of the
Presbytery. Following some refreshments in
the morning, we will go to the Sanctuary for
our annual meeting and a musical program
presented by the students of Trinity
Christian School. Following, we will serve

them lunch. Any Trinity Church ladies who
would like to help host are encouraged to
join us at Williams Hall at 9:00 a.m.

There will be no Gathering in December.

I wish to send holiday blessings to our
whole Trinity Church family.

Ardis Rowland
Secretary

TRINITY CHURCH INVITES YOU TO JOIN US



**Bring your own blanket,
towel, or folding chair
and dress warmly!**

**Come and encourage
local artists!**

We want to give space for local
Christian artists to share their
talent in a safe and supportive
space whether it is music, spoken
word, painting, or drawing.

Financial Update | How Are We Doing?

“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 5:20 NIV

December is here, Trinity Church Family-

He is a good and faithful God. His love is a gift that endures and is the foundation of Trinity Church. As we close 2023, we will meet all our financial obligations and pay all our missionaries.

Your year-to-date giving preview statements will go out the first week of December. Please review your giving for 2023. If you have any questions, please let me know. If you find you are behind in your giving, please take the time to catch up before Tuesday, December 26th, so it can be recorded on your 2023 giving statement.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to express our appreciation for your generous and faithful support over the past year. May God’s love uplift you and your family as you worship him now and in the coming year.

Rebecca Casey

Financial Administrator

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	October 2023 Final	Actual + Reserve
PROJECTED & PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 27,154.36	
ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED	\$ 39,173.52	
PROJECTED MINUS ACTUAL INCOME RCVD DIFFERENCE	\$ 12,019.16	
CURRENT EXPENSE ACTUAL	\$ 73,625.82	
ADD RESERVES FROM DEDICATED	\$ 63,368.07	\$102,541.59
TOTAL ACTUAL INCOME – ACTUAL EXPENSE:	\$ 28,915.77	

	November 2023 (as of 11/21/2023)	Year-to-Date (as of 11/21/2023)	Actual + Reserve Year-to-Date
PROJECTED & PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 27,154.36	\$ 295,097.92	
ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED	\$ 19,696.52	\$ 302,217.39	
PROJECTED MINUS ACTUAL INCOME RCVD DIFFERENCE	– \$ 7,457.84	\$ 7,119.47	
CURRENT EXPENSE ACTUAL	\$ 78,804.77	\$ 524,785.70	
ADD RESERVES FROM DEDICATED	\$ 32,738.87	\$ 96,106.94	\$398,324.33
TOTAL ACTUAL INCOME – ACTUAL EXPENSE:	– \$ 26,369.38	– \$ 126,461.37	

Join us for Christmas!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Service
@ 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

A Night of Music and Readings Reflecting on the Birth of Jesus

@ 5:30 p.m.



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