



Words from Our Pastor | Preparing for God's Gift



Rev. Brent Barclay | Pastor

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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."

Press deadline
February 18, 2024

1 John 4:9-10 • *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

February 14th is a date we all know by heart – Valentine's Day. We all have memories of sending Valentine cards to classmates in school, receiving little candy hearts and chocolates from sweethearts, and flowers from loved ones. It is a day where red, pink, and white are



everywhere as we celebrate love in all its forms and fashions.

This year, February 14th is also another day of celebration. It is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

In the traditional church calendar, Ash Wednesday marks approximately 40 days before Easter, often symbolizing the 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness. The idea is that we, as believers, prepare our hearts to receive the gift of salvation because of the cross and the empty grave. How can we receive the gift of forgiveness of sins if we do not recognize that we even sin and thus need forgiveness?

So, Lent is a season of preparation. We prepare our hearts for receiving the gift of salvation by recognizing our sin, the suffering coming out of that sin, and the need to reconcile it.

We then come to Easter and celebrate that Jesus paid the price for the sins we acknowledge and confess!

John himself said that God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins as an act of love. It is one thing for God to see a problem and send Jesus to fix it. It is another thing for God to send Jesus to

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impress us all with how mighty both of them are, making it more of an act of their egos than our needs.

But none of those arguments are the reason. God sent Jesus to sacrifice himself for our sins because he loves us! This gift is more significant than any Valentine card or box of sweets one could ever give or receive. No human act of love could come close to the act of love God performed in sending Jesus to be our teacher, healer, leader, guide, friend, and Savior.

So, on February 14th, as we send Valentine greetings and cards to one another, prepare your hearts to receive



the greatest gift of love you could ever receive. As you do loving things for another, spend time with those you love, and say those magic words to a special person, realize the unlimited depth and width of God's love for you.

You receive a Valentine as a sign of someone's love for you. It is proof of their love. God's gift is so big that we spend 40 days preparing our hearts to receive this truth: the cross and the empty grave are God's proof of love for you.

Pastor Brent Barclay

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Annual Congregational Meeting IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It's that important time of year! We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 18th, right after the worship service. All members and regular attenders are encouraged to attend. However, only members can vote.

WE HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO CONDUCT.

- Accept the 2024 budget as approved by Session,
- Review and vote on Pastor Brent's compensation package as presented by Session, and
- Approve the revised bylaws for Trinity Church.

IMPORTANT: New this Year

We will send out the Annual Report and revised bylaws electronically. If you wish to have a hard copy, you will need to call the church office and request one. Please only one hard copy per family.

We hope to see you there!



Trinity Christian School | Spirit Week Rocked!

Winter Break

A return to “normal” school days has begun. With the excitement of the holiday season over, we now focus our attention on the “meat and potatoes” of the school year. Our students enthusiastically look forward to book reports and presentations, letting their creativity shine.

MLK Day

With hearts filled with gratitude, we celebrated the life and service of Martin Luther King, Jr. We adorned classrooms with art and poems from preschool to eighth grade. Our dedicated educators used this moment to inspire young

minds, fostering a deep appreciation for diversity and the importance of standing up against injustice. As we look to the future, may we remember that to be unified is not to be uniform and that true unity only comes through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dress up Days

At Trinity Christian School (TCS), we believe in infusing joy and creativity into our school spirit, and what better way to do so than through dress-up days? This year, Dress Up Days brought a new wave of excitement as our students participated in themed attire. Comfy Day kicked off the week. We invited everyone to wear their

MLK Day



Dress Up Days



coziest and most comfortable outfits, setting a relaxed and positive tone. Next, Hero Day followed suit, and our school transformed into a parade of capes and costumes. Some even celebrated the everyday heroes in our lives. Wacky Wednesday injected a dose of whimsy with mismatched clothes and wild accessories, showcasing the personalities that make our school community unique. Next, Sports Day brought out the team spirit with jerseys and caps. Finally, Color Day wrapped up the week in a burst of hues, with each grade representing a different color, creating a kaleidoscope of diversity. These dress-up days at TCS bring laughter and creativity, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie, making every day a celebration of our vibrant school culture.

Fifth Grade Chapel

Our fifth-grade students had been planning and preparing for weeks to share at Chapel. They performed a play in which they acted out modern-day versions of Jesus' parables. Singing and dancing in honor and praise to our Lord and Savior is a testament to how he changes hearts and lives. The Spirit moved that day, and we were all blessed by this chapel experience.

Jimmie Drummond
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Dress Up Days



Fifth Grade Chapel



Clippers



Ahoy Mates,

The Clipper Ship HMS Trinity plans a docking on February 17, 2024. 'Naleonu' oliakeakua (the Voices that Bring the Good News of God) Hula Ministry is waiting to share a potluck, fellowship and beautiful music with the mates and landlubbers.

December's Fleet landing brought joy in music and story at the annual Christmas gift exchange and Secret Pal reveal.

Ya know: 'Clippers' is for all men and women at Trinity Church. We'd love to welcome you aboard.

Skipper Sue

Youth Group | Pray for Us!

The Trinity Youth Group explored the book of Proverbs to find wisdom while starting the new year. We played a proverbs matching game and watched two YouTube videos to guide our discussions and Bible studies. In the first YouTube video, we watched a popular "Johnny Yes Papa" video and talked about obeying our parents. In the second YouTube video, we watched a student cheat on a college test and the ramifications of his actions once he got into his job. We analyzed the video and discussed integrity and the consequences of poor choices. The students have also

enjoyed new games in the quad, including over-the-line, survival board games, and basketball games.

Our attendance has steadily grown to more than 18 students. Please continue to pray that the students enjoy community, keep growing in the knowledge of the Bible, and apply these studies to their daily lives.

Joe Burke

Youth Director

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Financial Update | How Are We Doing?

Praise God for his provision — “It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:7

Dear Trinity Church Family

We mailed the 2023 year-end giving statements during the first week of January. If you did not get yours, please email me or call the church office. We handed out the tithe envelopes for 2024, but we have some weekly and monthly tithe envelope books available. If you want tithe envelopes for yourself or your family for 2024, please email and let me know.

Thank you for your prayers as we work on the budget for 2024. Your faithfulness goes a long way, helping

us fund our missions and ministries. In 2024, pledged giving was increased by 19 percent! Praise God! We always trust that God will supply our needs. He is a benevolent God.

As January closes, we met all of our financial obligations. May God continue to bless the work of this church.

Rebecca Casey

Financial Administrator

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	December 2023 Final	Actual + Reserve	Year End Final	Actual + Reserve
PROJECTED & PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 27,154.36		\$322,252.28	
ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED	\$ 26,177.05		\$ 337,186.69	
PROJECTED MINUS ACTUAL INCOME = RCVD DIFFERENCE	- \$ 977.31		\$ 14,934.41	
CURRENT EXPENSE ACTUAL	\$ 58,077.01		\$ 600,375.85	
ADD RESERVES FROM DEDICATED	\$ 30,398.56	\$ 56,575.61	\$ 126,505.50	\$463,692.19
TOTAL ACTUAL INCOME - ACTUAL EXPENSE:	- \$ 1,501.40		- \$ 136,683.66	

	January 2024 (as of 1/18/2024)
PROJECTED & PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 32,811.77
ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED	\$ 10,892.19
PROJECTED MINUS ACTUAL INCOME = RCVD DIFFERENCE	- \$ 21,919.58
CURRENT EXPENSE ACTUAL	\$ 28,885.92
ADD RESERVES FROM DEDICATED	\$ 0.00
TOTAL ACTUAL INCOME - ACTUAL EXPENSE:	- \$ 17,993.73