



# A Place to Belong

July/August 2020

## Words from Our Pastor



**Jim Rauch**  
*Interim Pastor*

Dear Trinity Church Family,

I have been very disturbed by the events of this past month as I suspect most of you have been.

Just when we were hoping the COVID-19 quarantine was ending and we could start to resume some kind of normalcy again, we witnessed the brutal killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. A firestorm of protesting, rioting, and looting spread across the nation. The events in our cities appeared to be organized, or perhaps infiltrated, by people who cared less about effecting positive change than they did about sowing chaos in our communities. In the quiet town of La Mesa, two banks were set on fire and destroyed. I have heard that some of you were directly impacted by this senseless act of vandalism.

I wish I had a response which could turn things around in this country, but we continue to be in a season of great unrest. Like you, I don't know how things will be resolved. Different people and groups are proposing different ideas and agendas. Some are calling for police reform, and others are calling for the elimination of the police.

All of the pastors I am in touch with are talking about how churches can respond. The Presbytery of San Diego hosted a gathering for pastors to pray for our nation. Pastor Miles McPherson called San Diego to join in prayer on Saturday, June 20th. To me, most people wish we could do more to move our country toward harmony, prosperity, justice, and peace for all races and nations. Some people believe God is calling them to protest. Others believe God is calling them to prayer. Some people are doing both. And some people are doing neither.

When I first felt God calling me to the ministry, I was a student at the University of California San Diego studying Economics. In one class, I had to read a book about the race riots in Detroit, Michigan. The accounts of violence broke my heart. I found myself quietly weeping in the basement of the library on one memorable evening. The next morning, I rode my bicycle along Torrey Pines down to the edge of the ocean. I stood praying in that beautiful place and felt God's call to use my life in a way that would bring unity between people and

*Continued on page 2*

## CONTENTS

- Trinity Christian School** *page 3*
- Presbyterian Women** *page 3*
- Clippers** *page 3*
- Communications** *page 4*
- 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**  
**August 24, 2020**



The Trinity Press is a publication of Trinity Presbyterian Church located in Spring Valley, California.

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## Words from Our Pastor

Continued from page 1

between God and humankind. It was an important time in the discernment of my call to be a pastor.

At that time, I really wanted to do big things to change the world. I wanted to end poverty and war. I wanted to end racism. I wanted to end child abuse and divorce. I wanted to end suffering wherever it was happening. I wanted to change the world in the way that I felt Jesus Christ had changed me. I firmly believed that if people came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they would leave behind hatred, bigotry, greed, cruelty, and selfishness. They would devote themselves to loving and serving others rather than exploiting or abusing them. I was very idealistic about the transforming power of the gospel. I believed that God would move in mighty ways to renew people's hearts and minds if we could simply help them hear the gospel, receive Jesus Christ, and follow him with their lives.

I still believe all of this is true. I believe that Jesus Christ changes lives and transforms hearts. I've also come to see the darkness in the world. These are "the cosmic powers over this present darkness" that the Apostle Paul mentions in his writings (Ephesians 6:12). These forces of darkness are powerful and destructive for the whole human community. I also learned that even when people trust in Jesus Christ, they don't automatically get cured from all sin. We all still struggle and need God's grace every day.

Now, I am less inclined to look for God working in BIG movements and BIG organizations. Jesus talked about his kingdom as a mustard seed. It

is tiny, but it grows. I have become more attentive to the small ways God works, in simple deeds of kindness, love, mercy, and grace he does through people of all skin colors in all communities all over this world. I like this quote from Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do *great things*. But we can do *small things* with *great love*."



**Some of the pastors led by Martin Niemoeller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer approved the Barman Declaration in 1934.**

In 1934, a few hundred German pastors wrote and signed the Barman Declaration in response to Adolph Hitler and the "German Christian" movement that took over churches. This movement's academically elite followers believed that God was bringing a whole new revelation through the plight of the oppressed German people to usher in a new kingdom based upon German nationalism. The Barman Declaration declared that "Jesus Christ as he is attested to us and Holy Scripture is the One Word of God whom we must hear and obey."

Later, the Presbyterian Church included this document in the Book of Confessions so the church will always be careful of joining too closely with any political movement. We have seen through history that when churches get into bed with political systems, these systems tend to eclipse the

purity of the gospel. God can work through political movements, but the Barman Declaration brings a word of caution to churches who want to give their blessing to political ideologies which may, or may not, reflect the kingdom of Jesus Christ as he is revealed in scripture.

Of course, there are people like William Wilberforce who served in the British Parliament during the late 1700's. He spent his lifetime using the political system in England to end the British slave trade. I admire and appreciate all that he achieved and the way that he accomplished it. However, those opportunities for BIG change are few. People with Wilberforce's amazing ability are uncommon. Most of us just have two hands to help, two ears to hear, two eyes to see, and one heart to love and reach out to others with the simple love of Jesus Christ as he guides and directs each of us.

As a Presbyterian minister, I don't know that I did very many great things. I hope I did some small things with great love and faith. I trust that Jesus who tends the garden, which is his kingdom, has grown those little mustard seeds into blessings that multiplied as his gospel and his love spread out to others. I have seen a lot of the same kind of love, kindness, and gospel-centered living in the people of Trinity Church. I know that this ministry continues to bless many people that you may not even know about. Unfortunately, we have not eliminated poverty, oppression, racism, greed, or violence, but I trust we have been faithful to the calling that God has given to each of us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## School Year 2019-2020 Comes to an End

It is odd to find ourselves in the summer months thinking back over the past year, realizing that things will probably not look like they did for the spring trimester nor will they look like they did last fall.

The news changes daily with regard to COVID-19 recommendations. September is still two months away so we are praying for the healing and protection of those who have been ill, for those families that have lost loved ones, and for those who are at risk for this virus. We do hope Trinity Christian School can open with some semblance of normalcy this fall and the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Eighth grade graduation went well. Each student was able to share a

quick memory. Katy Scott, the school president, presented a wonderful graduation speech. Kya Taylor sang a lovely solo. The Blessing Prayer and devotion was shared by Dr. and Mrs. Dresselhaus, the parents of Emma Dresselhaus, one of our graduates. Ian, also a graduating eighth grader, put together a video of the students through the years.

Leigh Taylor joined the TCS online educational program by reading stories that can be seen and heard on his Facebook page. He also joined the TCS Chapel worship team on Friday mornings on YouTube.

During July, we will finish up this past school year's business and order next year's curriculum and supplies. In addition, we are giving tours for

new students, hiring new staff and making sure our budget is in place. We continue to be so grateful for your support and prayers over the past fifty years. The Lord is faithful and has brought us safe thus far. God bless you all and keep you safe as we journey through the months ahead. Below is the this past year's school-wide scripture verse.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

*Ephesians 2:8*

**Sharon Axe**  
Principal

**Jimmie Drummond**  
Principal

## Clippers

Ahoy mates!

In these uncertain times one thing is certain. Every thing is uncertain. We will not have our July 4th picnic this year, as far as I can tell. Our auction this year to raise money for the missionaries that we support will be a "phantom auction." Determine what you would have spent in the auction, contribute the money by check to Trinity Church and designate on the lower left corner of your check "Clippers." An alternative is the donation link on our website. In the miscellaneous category, designate "Clippers." This has been a bleak season for our missionaries so we really need to come through for them.

So take it to the Lord and determine what you can do. We will be dark July and August as usual, but we plan to have a Clippers board meeting on September 1st at 1:00 p.m. and our regular pot luck and program the third Saturday of September. Dr. Nate Landis, President and founder of Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC), a coalition of churches that support student leaders at over 100 middle and high schools in San Diego County, will present our program. A letter will be mailed to all members with more details. It will be grand to sail into port, drop anchor, and come ashore again.

Signalman Jack, the ancient mariner

## Presbyterian Women

As usual PW is dark for July and August. Hopefully, we will resume regular meetings in September. IF the church opens sometime during the summer, we will have some craft meetings on Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sue Walters is leaving town as usual for the summer but is preparing things for us to do for the Fall Festival.

In the meantime, keep working on those projects at home.

Oh yes, and keep saving those very special items for the 2021 Rummage Sale.

God Bless, keep safe, and stay well.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who turned in a survey regarding their thoughts on the reopening of Trinity Church.

Thank you to Elizabeth Rauch who tabulated all the information into easy-to-read pie charts for Session.

**Please contact Pastor Jim by phone or email if you are willing to work on one of the three reopening teams!**

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## The Fall Festival is Coming

### November 7th is our planned Fall Festival.

Now is also a great time to bake and freeze goods, as well as continue our crafting, knitting, cross-stitching, and sewing skills to create items for this wonderful annual event that provides funds to help support our missionaries.

To the left is the Opportunity Quilt created by Peggy Watkins. Please contact Sue Walters to purchase tickets.

*“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.” Psalm 34:18 (NLT)*

Greetings Trinity Family-

**W**e praise God that at the end of June, he is meeting all of our missions and ministry needs and has allowed us to take care of some much needed projects around the property.

We were blessed in the month of May to receive funds from the federal government to keep our staff working during the COVID-19 shut down.

In addition, we applied for, and received, a \$4,000 COVID-19 grant from the *Synod of Southern California and Hawaii* to help with our utility costs. Both gifts are very helpful to keep our staff working and to meet our ongoing financial obligations.

We know that everyone’s finances are uncertain right now, and we are grateful you keep sending in your tithes and gifts when you can. We are glad many members are taking

advantage of our online and mobile giving options. If you want to give online, you can use the link on our website ([www.trinitypres.org](http://www.trinitypres.org)), or email me for more information.

It will be wonderful to be back together in the coming months. God bless you and keep you until that day comes.

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	<b>May Final</b>	<b>June</b> (As of 06/23/2020)	<b>Year to Date</b> (As of 05/18/2020)
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	\$ 29,874.64	\$29,874.64	\$179,248.24
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	\$55,568.95	\$ 17,690.56	\$ 186,831.52
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	\$25,694.23	<b>– \$ 12,184.16</b>	\$ 7,583.28
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	\$ 37,666.49	\$ 22,931.53	\$ 165,713.54
<b>INCOME – EXPENSE</b>	\$ 17,902.46	<b>–\$ 5,240.97</b>	\$ 21,117.98

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*Happy Independence Day!*

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