



October 2021

Words from Our Pastor | Lessons Learned



Rev. Brent Barclay | Pastor

Hello Everyone!

I recently listened to a podcast from *Christianity Today* called “The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill.” Mars Hill was a church started in the late 1990s in Seattle by Mark Driscoll. By the late 2000s, the church had over 10,000 worshipers attending five different services in 15 locations around the Pacific Northwest.

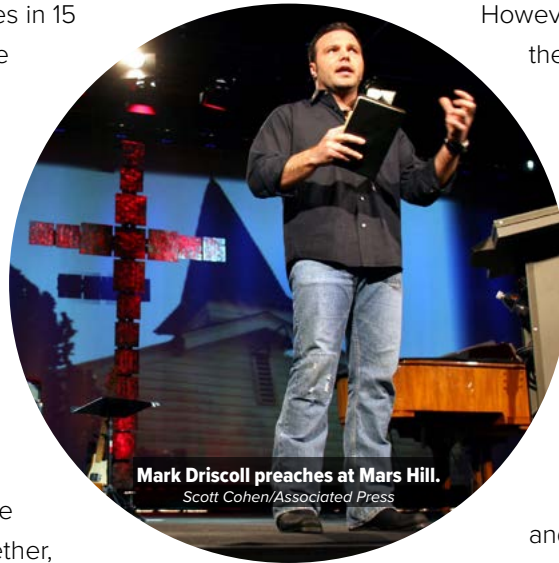
And by 2014, it was all gone. Mars Hill ceased to exist. Mark Driscoll resigned in disgrace, and the church broke off into separate churches, or in some cases closed altogether, within months of his resignation. The podcast tells how the church leadership set up a church culture and system destined to fail and fall, and indeed it did.

What lessons can Christians and churches take from this story? I think there are a

few things we can remind ourselves about the church. First, we need to create a church culture that exemplifies the Gospel, promoting grace, forgiveness, and mercy. Mars Hill strongly convicted its members and challenged them to repent.

However, it never allowed them to feel that God loved them, that forgiveness is free, a gift. As a result, while some responded to the call to repent, most felt outcast and sent to the sidelines. Whenever a church sidelines members and leaves them there to rot, you have an unhealthy church culture.

Another lesson is that the church is a body, not one person. As its leader, Mark Driscoll shouldered Mars Hill, and it lived and died by him. When things were going well, nobody asked questions. That is also



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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 - October 24

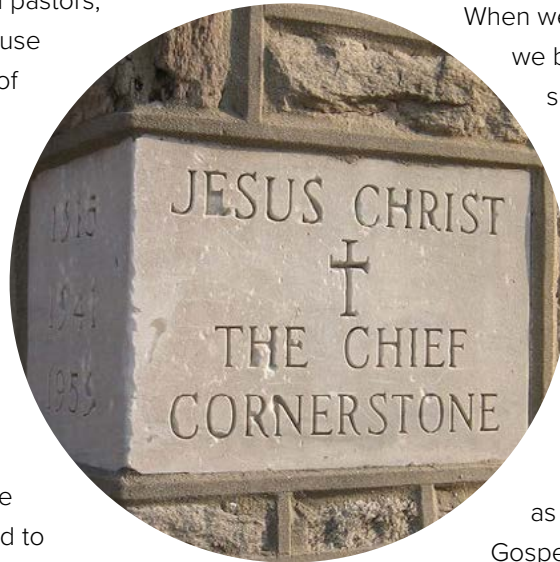
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why it fell so quickly. When its leader fell, no one could step in and fill the void. As our church went through a few years of transitional and interim pastors, I think our church persevered because Trinity Church as a body took care of each other, had strong voices to help guide the church, and prayed together as a church. I thank God that Trinity Church is a body of believers, not a pastor telling everyone what to do.

One last thing that I am not saying happened to Mars Hill but would happen to any church that did this: a church that does not have Jesus as the cornerstone is doomed to fall. Ephesians 2:19-21 says, *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief*



cornerstone. In him, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.”

When we neglect Jesus as our foundation, we begin to think that it is us, our successes, achievements, visions, and dreams that get the work done. We begin to believe our hype that we are great and worthy of our praise! When a church body neglects God, it is doomed to fail.

This story is a good reminder that success is not numbers or influence. A church that puts Jesus as the head, preaches and lives out the Gospel, and acts as a body, will be blessed by God and produce fruit as it carries out the church’s mission.

Blessings,
Pastor Brent Barclay

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Missions Update

Mary Hopkins is currently in Spring Valley, staying in her mother Alice's apartment at Mount Miguel while Alice is recovering in skilled nursing from a fall. Right now, things are uncertain whether Alice will ever be able to return to her apartment or need to be in assisted living. This from Mary: "As to my job, I told you I had resigned from my job as Literacy Coordinator. I have since been reassigned to be a Literacy Consultant, working from Arizona mostly via the internet. I am applying for a short leave to focus on my mother's care and needs. At some point, I will need to return to Mexico for a week or two to finish cleaning out my apartment there. Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support. God continues in control, and I am being blessed in many ways."

From the Klingforths: "Travis and I (Lydia) have spent the summer seeking to Learn, Explore and Discern (we call it L.E.D.) about ministry in the U.S. especially working in low-income and immigrant contexts. Mostly, our family has traveled. We attended training conferences and had fruitful face-to-face meetings. We learned so much."

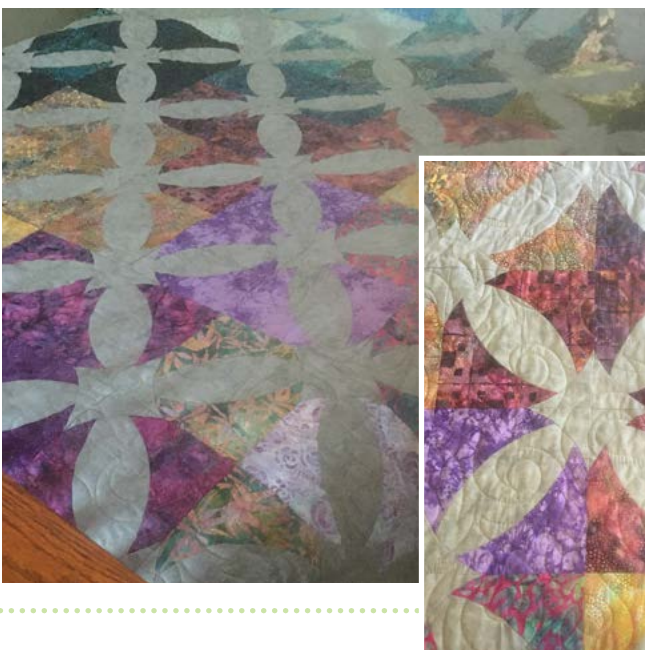
From Steve Robinson's newsletter: "Here in Nampa, I continue to thoroughly love my work as a

maintenance instructor. I have recently evaluated and trained several maintenance specialists. They will all be moving to various assignments in different countries. These are exciting times, friends, and we are glad to be a part of MAF's [Mission Aviation Fellowship] ministry. And remember, these are your stories too. On the home front, Debbie and I are well and are the proud grandparents of little Piper Jayne. As far as support goes, MAF has asked each staff family to raise \$9,000/monthly, and our current support average is \$6,700/month. Please pray with us as we seek additional monthly support. Thanks for being a part of our lives and ministry, friends. We couldn't do it without you."

Russ Douglass is busy with huddles in schools. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is sponsoring a Golf Marathon. Participants will get sponsors then will earn one dollar for every ball they sink.

Please remember to encourage, support and pray for our other missionaries, **Betty Barnett** with YWAM and **the Moyers** with World Team.

Ardis Rowland
Missions Elder



The Opportunity Quilt is Here!

It's that time of year again. Trinity Church is selling opportunity tickets for one dollar each toward our annual Fall Festival quilt. Help support our missionaries. Thank you, Carrie Ann Wilson, for doing the long arming yet again. She's the best. Get your tickets now. The drawing is the first Saturday in November. You can purchase tickets Sunday mornings in the narthex, at the Fall festival, or contact Sue Walters.

Trinity Christian School | We're Back!



Can you believe we are already a couple of weeks into the new school year! September 8th was our first day! We are already seeing the growth of our students and families and look forward to many smiling faces shining back

throughout the day! Continued prayers are appreciated as we navigate this new season.

The Theme for the 2021/2022 School Year

Our theme for the 21/22 school year is "Unity." We know that in our current day, there is a lot of division, especially among Christians. We know that we serve a God that

wants us unified in thought and word. The theme verse for the year is 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV) *"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."* This verse encompasses our desire to join together, lifting each other up, and so honor the Lord.

Also, our staff is blessed to join together studying the book, *The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere. This book focuses on not finding offense in others but on how staying connected to God helps you identify traps set by Satan and stay away from their destructive power.

Your continued prayers are appreciated as we strive to honor God by encouraging others and putting ourselves last.



Above: Jack Bauer, Steve and Gretchen Balmer's grandson.



Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Back to School Picnic

Due to covid restrictions, we opted for a modified Back-to-School Picnic for the start of school. It was so great to see all the families on campus! Parents effectively dropped off school supplies, and Costco hot dogs were a crowd favorite. Thank you to all who helped serve and make this night special.

What is Scrip?

Scrip is an ongoing gift card fundraising opportunity. You can buy gift cards for your favorite stores from the school office or online. You will not pay more for the gift card, BUT the store you purchase it from will donate a portion of the sale to our school! No extra money is spent. No extra time is wasted. It's a great way to support Trinity Christian School. For more information, please call the school office

at 619-462-6440. Our office administrator Rhonda Rudolf will be happy to help you.

Our Classes

We have had an amazing year so far. We are blessed to have wonderful new families that make our school even better. God has an intricate way of orchestrating the people that join our school. We love seeing the new faces and seasoned students mesh together. The teachers have so complimented their classes and are excited to see what this year will bring.

Jimmie Drummond
Principal

Jamie Warren
Associate Principal

principal@trinity-cs.org
619-462-6440



Above and right: Pledges from the first day of school.



The artwork above is from second-grade taught by Mrs. Gonzales.



Clippers



Ahoy Mates,

The mighty clipper ship HMS Trinity will dock October 16th at Williams Hall. We will disembark at 12:45 p.m. for a hearty

potluck lunch. Guests are welcome.

Our speaker will be Marlan Enns. Marlan spent his life telling people in Mexico and Central America about Jesus. Both he and I have the same rich heritage from the ministry of Menno Simons leading the Anabaptists in Friesland in the sixteenth century. In the late eighteenth century, Catherine the Great allowed them to live in the south of Russia. They lived there until a large group immigrated to the U.S., settling in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The dust bowl drove many to Reedley, California. That is where Marlan was born. The Plett family was buried there. I am looking forward to his presentation,

We had a small group at our auction, but a generous sum was raised for our missionaries. Contributions can still be mailed to Sue Walters, 5051 Tiera Baja Way, San Diego 92115. Make your checks payable to "Clippers" or you can contribute online designating Clippers missionary fund.

Pray for our congregation. There are so many of God's children suffering.

Yer trusty signalman,
Jack, the ancient mariner

Presbyterian Women

We are well on our way into Fall. Here are the upcoming events.

- **October 12th** is the next Gathering of all Trinity Church women and friends. The program will be presented by the New Day Women's Center. We will have a luncheon prepared by the Evening Circle.
- **October 19th** is the last craft day before our Fall Festival.
- **Saturday, October 23rd** is the "PW on the Hill," one-day women's retreat in Williams Hall. Gail Bones is our speaker. There will be a continental breakfast and pile-ups for lunch. Scholarships are available, and we will provide childcare. The cost is \$25 for the retreat, and sign-ups can be made at church on Sunday or call Ardis Rowland at 619-813-5810.
- **November 6th and 7th** is Fall Festival. Please bring craft items to Williams Hall on November 4th or 5th. We have a beautiful quilt again this year. Tickets are one dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. Baked goods can be delivered on November 5th or early on the 6th. We are also taking sign ups for helpers. This is always a favorite time to gather for fellowship. See you at the FESTIVAL!

Ardis Rowland
Secretary

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY

We are studying **Galatians** this year, beginning Monday, October 4th. We meet each Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Ward Center. The class and book are free.

Questions? Call Bobette Barfod at 310-365-0715 or Linda Hensley at 619-884-1374.

Financial Update | How Are We Doing?

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

Greetings, Trinity Family!

Thank you for being part of the family of faith here at Trinity Church. We value every one of you and what you bring to our church. Through God's grace and your faithfulness, we have been able to meet all of our financial obligations this month.

It's almost time for our annual stewardship and financial planning. Soon we will be asking God what he expects of us as stewards and trusting in Him to provide for Trinity Church in the coming year. We will continue to ask Him for the resources to accomplish all the goals he sets before



us. Please join us in praying for our Session and Finance Committee as we discuss financial changes for 2022.

What will your partnership of faithfulness and generosity look like in the coming year? Prayerfully consider supporting the financial longevity of Trinity Church, our ministries, and our programs.

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

	August Final	September (As of 9/21/2021)	Year-to-Date (As of 9/21/2021)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 30,493.47	\$ 30,493.47	\$ 274,441.15
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 49,265.56	\$ 22,698.77	\$ 326,748.76
DIFFERENCE	\$ 18,772.09	– \$ 7,794.70	\$ 52,307.61
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 38,512.30	\$ 18,249.28	\$ 275,168.29
INCOME – EXPENSE	\$ 10,753.26	\$ 4,449.49	\$ 51,580.47



Coffee & Donuts are Back

Deacons will have coffee and donuts again outside before and after church.

TRINITY CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT

WOMEN: SPIRITUAL WARRIORS & FAITHFUL WORSHIPERS

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Trinity Church | Williams Hall

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Continental Breakfast and lunch included
- Scholarships available
- Childcare provided



"But I will sing of your strength; in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble." Psalm 59:16-17

Our Speaker
Dr. Gail Bones

Sign up on Sundays before and after the worship service, or call Bobette Barfod.

\$25

3902 Kenwood Dr.
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