



# A Place to Belong

November 2020

**We Have Unanimously Voted in Brent Barclay as our New Pastor!**  
What's next? Check out the last page of this newsletter!

## Words from Our Pastor



**Jim Rauch**  
*Interim Pastor*

**November for Trinity Church is a time of transition and a time of thanksgiving.**

### TRANSITIONS ...

**T**he Bible verse that comes to mind for me this month as your interim pastor is John 3:30, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

These words are spoken of Jesus by John the Baptizer. John recognized that his job was to prepare the people for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Of course I am not John the Baptizer, and your next pastor is not Jesus. But the thing I like about

this Bible verse is that it points out the temporary nature of much of the work involved in serving Jesus. John’s task was to point NOT to himself, but to the One who was to come – Jesus. He knew that the time would come when he would need to get out of the way and step down from his particular calling. John also says something interesting right before this particular verse. He says “This joy of mine is now complete.” John was able to rejoice even as his particular task was coming to a close because he knew that the same God who had called him to his job of proclamation would be at work in the life and ministry of the One who was coming next.

Elizabeth and I have been richly blessed in this unexpectedly long season of interim ministry at Trinity Church. It has been a joy to get to know you and walk with you through the ups and downs of calling a new pastor and dealing with a pandemic. I am also very happy that as I step down from this position, I can do so with great joy that God has called a wonderful brother in Christ to be your next pastor. Though I thought I would be handing off this position to a stranger in the summer of 2019, I am handing off this position to a familiar friend in the final month of 2020 instead. I am so glad that God is calling Brent, Lydia, and their dear children to become part of the Trinity Church family. I have known Brent and Lydia for many years now and they are well-suited for this particular ministry.

*Continued on page 2*

## CONTENTS

Communications *page 3*

Trinity Christian School *page 4*

Presbyterian Women *page 6*

Clippers *page 6*

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**  
November 22, 2020



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

## Words from Our Pastor

Continued from page 1

There is a sense in which every pastor, and every servant of the Lord, needs to say to himself or herself: "He must increase and I must decrease" because we are ALL called to lift up and exalt the one Lord Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Church. My job is not to point people toward Brent, but to point people to Jesus. And Brent knows that his job is the same – so that he will point not to himself, but to his beloved Lord Jesus Christ. This task is essential for each of us – to point away from ourselves and toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

### THANKSGIVING ...

It is interesting to me that about the same time Trinity Church will be electing a new pastor, our nation will be conducting a presidential election. This has been the most contentious election in my lifetime and many people feel anxiety about what will happen to our nation in November. In last month's Press article, I spoke about the election and if you did not read that article, please do so. As I spoke with a friend in our neighborhood yesterday about the election, she expressed a very

high level of fear and anxiety about our political situation. I don't want to minimize her concerns, but I do want to say that for me a key discipline that helps to dispel anxiety is God's invitation to be THANKFUL.

The annual celebration of Thanksgiving in our nation is a wonderful reminder to all of us of the importance of being thankful to God for all the blessings he has made available to us. One of my favorite passages of scripture is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" This short passage contains so much wisdom – so much sound psychology – so much truth about what makes for a good and godly life.

Rejoice. Pray. Give thanks. These are key components of good mental health and these actions help all of us to honor the Lord Jesus. One of the worst things we can do in representing the Christian faith to others is to be grumpy, ungrateful, or

fearful. This is why rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks are so important for us. As we deal with the ongoing stresses and strains of the Covid 19 pandemic, these invitations become even more important for us.

The great Thanksgiving hymn begins "*Come, ye thankful people, come...*" I love this because it invites the church to be a thankful people – that is, a people who are full of thanks. Are you full of thanks? Or is heartfelt gratitude unfamiliar territory for you? Simply being thankful is one of the best things you can do for your self and one of the best things you can do to glorify the Lord. To be thankful "in all circumstances" means being thankful no matter what happens – and no matter who is sitting in the Oval Office. It's hard to do, but it's not impossible with God's help.

So in this month of transition and thanksgiving, let us remember who is really on the throne. Let us be a thankful people who look to Him and point to Him through all of the seasons of our lives.

In Jesus and for his glory,

Jim Rauch  
Interim Pastor



## Shoeboxes are Due!

On November 16th we will have a drive-through from 9:30-10:30 a.m., for the purpose of turning in the boxes we have been filling. If you don't have a box, you can still go online to [samaritanpurse.org/occ](https://samaritanpurse.org/occ) to learn how to build a box online.

# Our First In-Person Service Since Covid Began

**O**n October 18th, we had our first in-person service since early March 2020. It was a joyous occasion for many.

ways of doing things went out the window. New protocols and standards have become the new normal.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers that worked to make everything go smoothly. We had a few little technical glitches, but we are living in a totally new world. Doing church has changed drastically and many of our standard

**Rebecca DeBrau**  
*Communications Director*  
[rdebreau@trinitypres.org](mailto:rdebreau@trinitypres.org)  
619-465-3011 x107



**Left Above:** Carolyn Baker is our new traffic cop! She makes sure we all park in every other parking spot.

**Above:** Gary Redmond writes out a prayer request after Jimmie Drummond took his temperature and Linda Hensley checked him off the reservation list.



**Above:** The sanctuary is beginning to fill up with worshipers. We had nearly 50 people attend this first service.

**Above:** Terry and Margy Becker greet worshipers at the door and seat them. John Barry works the cameras so the Zoom participants can see what is happening. The beautiful collection box John Hughes created stands in front.

## So Thankful to the Lord!

**W**e've had very warm weather to start the school year and are looking forward to having a cooling trend in November. Almost every class is full with some classes having a waiting list while others have a seat or two available. As our fifty-first year begins, we can see clearly how God has been so very faithful to Trinity Christian School (TCS) even during these unprecedented times. While the COVID-19 has required many new protocols and adjustments still the heart of the school beats on.

From October 26th through 29th, we hosted Parent Teacher Conferences using Zoom for

kindergarten through eighth grade. Preschool parent-teacher zoom conferences will occur in November. We will not be able to host the Fall Festival outdoor events this year due to the pandemic. Veteran's Day will be observed on November 11th so TCS will be closed. Thanksgiving will be observed the week of November 23rd through the 26th. Traditionally the first two days are staff development days and Thursday and Friday are to acknowledge God's grace, faithfulness, goodness, and provision for us as individuals and as a nation.

We are abundantly thankful for Trinity Church and its faithfulness to support TCS through the facility use, heartfelt

prayers, and spiritual oversight. We are thankful for the families that the Lord leads here. We are thankful for parents who have entrusted their students to Trinity Christian School thus investing in God's kingdom by educating their children through a biblical perspective. We are thankful for the wonderful staff that is committed to the Lord and to their students even during these challenging times.

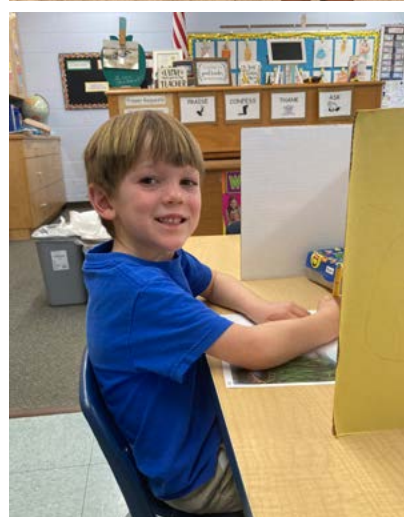
**Sharon Axe**  
*Principal*

**Jimmie Drummond**  
*Principal*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:6-7

# Having School During Covid



The students, staff, and volunteers at Trinity Christian School continue to learn to adapt to a new way of doing school. The joy of the Lord is still here!



## Clippers

Ahoy Mates,

The clipper ship HMS Trinity is still adrift. The sea is calm, no hint of a breeze – water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink. We shouldn't have shot that albatross! We are beginning to wonder if we will ever make port again.

There is a church family in dire straits and Christ would have us rally to their aid. If you would like to bless this family, you can contribute online by selecting the "Clippers" option and designate your contribution "freewill donation." You can also make your donation directly to the church indicating the same designation.

We are still short of what we have given the missionaries in the past so please consider a contribution to bless them. The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Pray for an end to these restrictions so that our lives will return to normal once again.

Yer trusty signalman,  
Jack, the ancient mariner

## Presbyterian Women

We have not yet been given the go-ahead to have a Gathering in November.

As there will be no Fall Festival this year, in order to fulfill our commitment to our missionaries, it has been suggested that we figure what we might have spent at the festival and send a check in that amount to Pat Palmore. Write "missionaries" on the memo line.

Also, jams and jellies will be available within the next two weeks for gifts or personal use for \$4.00 each. To purchase, please call Ardis Rowland at 619-913-5810.

These proceeds will also go for missionary support.

Please continue to reach out to those you have not seen or heard from in a while.

Blessings to all. Be safe and stay well!

Ardis Rowland  
PW Secretary

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

rightnow MEDIA

THE BOOK OF  
**EPHESIANS**

J. D. GREAR



We meet on Zoom together at 6:15 p.m. (we suggest eating your dinner beforehand!) We are looking at a series of videos by J.D. Grear on the book of Ephesians. Pastoral Intern Brent Barclay leading our discussion alongside the video.

**To let us know you would like to attend and to receive the Zoom link, send an email to Brent at [brent@trinitypres.org](mailto:brent@trinitypres.org).**



# Financial Report

God has given Trinity Church many unique and unexpected blessings to be thankful for this year. When we gather in person or on Zoom this November, let us lift our prayers in gratitude that He has given us what we need for our property and congregation.

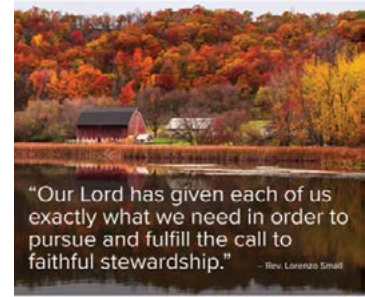
God has been good during this time of uncertainty, and you have been faithful. Our debts and missions are paid to date, and the shutdown has helped us by lowering our projected expenses in several areas.

If you find you are behind in your giving, please take this opportunity to catch up before the end of the year.

You should have received your annual stewardship letter and pledge card for 2021. Please be in prayer about how you plan to support Trinity Church in the coming year. We ask that you return your pledge card no matter what your decision or ability.

### Pledge Envelopes

Please email me if you do not have pledge envelopes and you want them for 2021, we have weekly or monthly envelopes available. Also, If you want to OPT OUT of pledge envelopes for 2021 please let me know. Thank you.



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

	<b>September Final</b>	<b>October</b> (As of 10/23/2020)	<b>Year to Date</b> (As of 10/23/2020)
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	\$ 29,874.72	\$ 29,874.72	\$ 298,747.12
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	\$ 34,050.24	\$ 45,247.95	\$ 337,914.08
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	\$ 4,175.52	\$ 15,373.23	\$ 39,166.96
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	\$ 46,251.07	\$ 20,379.05	\$ 291,255.13
<b>INCOME – EXPENSE</b>	<b>– \$ 12,200.83</b>	\$ 24,868.90	\$ 46,658.95

## Trinity Staff

**Jim Rauch • Interim Pastor** | pastorjim@trinitypres.org

**Brent Barclay**  
*Pastoral Intern*  
 brent@trinitypres.org

**Bill Coe**  
*Director of Music and Worship*  
 billcoe1@cox.net

**Patty Mason**  
*Office Administrator*  
 patty@trinitypres.org

**Rebecca Casey**  
*Financial Administrator*  
 rebecca@trinitypres.org

**Rebecca DeBreau**  
*Communications Director*  
 rdebreau@trinitypres.org

**Shirley Woodson**  
*Organist*  
 shirleywoodson@me.com



# We Have Unanimously Voted in Brent Barclay as our New Pastor!

## What's Next?

The San Diego Presbytery will meet and vote on him at their next Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, November 17th in the afternoon. It will be held online and a link to the meeting will be available to everyone at Trinity Church. If Brent is approved by the Presbytery, an ordination and installation service will be planned as soon as is possible (December 6th is the tentative date).

3902 Kenwood Dr.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977

