

November 2012

Trinity Press



New Pastor

We are thankful that Sunday
October 14 God and Trinity

Called

Rev. Eric Keller

As our new pastor!



Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am Family-Friendly
Contemporary

11:00 am Spanish Language

11:00 am Blended/Traditional

Child care at all Worship Services

Nursery (0—2.5) — Room 11

Preschool (2.5 to K) — Room 10

Sunday School Classes

Grades K-5 — Rooms 4, 6

Eric and Jen will join Trinity January 1, 2013

Praise God!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At the regular meeting of Session on October 16, 2012, the following reports were heard and actions taken:

Heard a report that the Nominating Committee will begin meeting soon to seek new elder and deacon candidates.

Heard a report that a candidate for the position of Childcare Coordinator has been interviewed and references checked. Once she has passed the background screening she will be offered the position with a start date of Nov. 1st.

Heard a report that the Worship Team recommends only 2 Christmas Eve services – 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM. The children will be included in the 7:00 PM service.

Heard a report that the raffle ticket sales went well with a net of \$1300.00. We will receive an accounting from the Foundation as to the amount we will receive to be put towards the Pastor's Purse.

- Approved the proceeds from the sale of coffee and tea during the Christmas season to be placed in the Pastor's Purse. Any amount not needed will be moved to the General Fund.
- Approved postponing any infant baptisms until after the 1st of the year when Rev. Eric Keller will be here.

Cora Hocker, Clerk of Session

From the Pastor

A Super Special Sunday!

For some people it's the Super Bowl; for me it was Sunday, October 14, 2012. There was great expectation regarding the new pastoral candidate. What will the new pastoral candidate be like? How will he or she preach? How will the church feel about this new person?

In this case, reality exceeded my fondest expectations. The 10:00 am service was packed. There was a buzz, an energy, which built as the service started and continued, through the benediction and beyond.

I felt the blessing of the Holy Spirit as our Worship Team brought us into God's presence. Then the candidate, Rev. Eric Keller, gave the Kids' Message. He had their full attention and they loved it!

We heard Pastor Eric preach, and we were not disappointed. His sermon, *Move That Stone!*, was based on John's narration of Jesus' raising of Lazarus. This word called us to look at ourselves, and Trinity, to see what strips of cloth were still covering our eyes. Like Lazarus, we have received new life in Christ, but there are still things preventing us from seeing the glory of God and God's vision for our life and our church. This word was challenging and hopeful, but worthy of us remembering as we move forward towards the vision God has for us and our future.

After the challenge and blessing, Pastor Eric and his family exited the sanctuary and we held our congregational meeting. Linda Brooks provided a detailed chronology of the Pastor Nominating Committee's search process. Questions were answered, and the vote was taken. It was unanimous! We voted with one voice to call Rev. Eric Keller as the new pastor of Trinity. Hallelujah!

Gary Younglove brought Pastor Eric and his wife, Jen, back to the sanctuary. The congregation greeted them with resounding applause. After the final prayer there was one more surprise. As we filed out and greeted Pastor Eric and Jen, each one of us gave him a Twix, his favorite candy. This was an expression of Trinity's sweet, loving heart!

Next we enjoyed a delicious spaghetti lunch, prepared by Robb Perrine and his hospitality team. We had a delicious meal and wonderful time of fellowship. We also reconnected with family members we had not seen in a while. Some of us remained, spending additional time with Pastor Eric and Jen, as they helped us pack food for our Out of the Box Ministry. This was a heartfelt demonstration of their love and commitment to our church!

Pastor Tina Continued

I thank God for the amazing job done by our Pastor Nominating Committee; Linda Brooks (Chair), Wave Armijo, Jesse Schlunegger, Errol Summy, Pat Terry and Jill Thom. They had more than 30 meetings within ten months and spent hours reading resumes, conducting interviews, and observed the final two candidates preach at a "neutral" pulpit. They also spent many hours in prayer, praying their choice would be the correct choice for Trinity. Thank you Pastor Nominating Committee!

We are all excited about January 1, 2013, the date Pastor Eric will begin his ministry as our new pastor.

Please pray their house in Illinois sells soon, and that God is with them as they transition and move to be with us in West Sacramento.

Praise God. ***¡Gloria a Dios!***

Pastora Tina Torres

Associate Pastor for Latino Outreach



Out of the Box

September was a busy month for Out of the Box! A new school year means that we have the privilege in this life to deliver bags of groceries to families with school-age children. This is cause enough for celebration, but this story gets a little weird. We contacted Riverbank Elementary School to re-establish our grocery distribution there. Riverbank is a larger school than Bryte, so we asked Principal Mike Woodcock if he could use a few extra bags, (we had previously delivered 60 per month). His answer?

“Our families could definitely use your support. It is amazing what you do for this community. Riverbank now has close to 800 students. Over 90% of them qualify for free lunch. We would be grateful for any support you can give.”

This is what is known as a “reality check”. Out of the Box creates 200 bags per month total! This 720 number for just one school is preposterous, outrageous, impossible, and unrealistic...a non-starter. And we would be perfectly within our rights to politely let the school know that this is impossible for us to fulfill. Or, we can try, with no real hope of success. Do you want to know what happened when we chose the latter?

I received a phone call from Don Bosley, Pastor of Lighthouse Covenant Church and a longtime friend of Trinity. Don is/was seeking creative ways for churches to make a positive impact in our community. We told him about Riverbank, and just like that, Lighthouse was in! They will make bags, bring them to church on the 2nd Sunday, and then bring them over to Trinity for delivery. As a guideline, we sent a sample list of “what goes in a bag”. One of these fliers landed in the hands of Curves of West Sacramento, and they joined in. A few days later, the Grocery Outlet of West Sacramento called; could we use all 80 bags of groceries their customers had provided? And just like that, our 60 bags grew to 180 bags – just for the school, because we agreed to try. We did not have to break our backs, canvas neighborhoods, wash cars, or worst of all, form a committee. We had to try, and we had to ask, after that the Holy Spirit kicked in and turned our pantry into a cornucopia.

We need your help this month:

If you would like to try “each person bring a bag” at your favorite organization, let me know. If you have another church in mind, let me know. Feeding people is easier than you think and more rewarding than you can guess. Together we’re feeding West Sacramento one family at a time!

Kevin Hansen

ESQUINA LATINA – LATINO CORNER



November starts and ends with Latin American traditions! On Friday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 pm, we'll hold an outreach activity for the Latino community. We'll celebrate *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead) – *in Spanish* – with a traditional Mexican-style altar, crafts, *pan de muertos* (special bread for that day), and talk about the triumph of life over death in our Christian tradition.

Then on Sunday evening, Dec. 2, as part of Trinity's annual Advent Festival, we will present a mini-*posada*. The *posada* is an enactment of Mary and Joseph looking for lodging (*posada*) in Bethlehem. They knock at the doors of several homes, are told there is no room, and finally reach a door which opens and happily welcomes them in. And this scene unfolds to the tune of beautiful traditional *Posada* songs. We hope you can join us for this exciting event!

We also look forward to enjoying all the other wonderful Trinity Christmas activities - together, as one church – with the richness of at least two cultures and two languages.

El mes de noviembre comienza y termina con las tradiciones de América Latina. El viernes, 2 de noviembre, a las 6:30 de la tarde, celebraremos el Día de Muertos - ¡EN ESPAÑOL! Presentaremos un altar tradicional, tipo mexicano - con velas, flores de zempasuchil y calaveras de azúcar. Haremos una manualidad, compartiremos un pan de muertos, y hablaremos del triunfo de la vida sobre la muerte en nuestra tradición cristiana.

*Y... el domingo, 2 de diciembre, por la noche, como parte del Festival anual de Trinity de Adviento, presentaremos una mini-*posada*, cantada en español. Esta representa los momentos en que María y José buscan *posada* al llegar a Belén. Tocan la puerta de varias casas, les dicen que no hay *posada*, y por fin llegan a una puerta que se les abre y la gente adentro los recibe con gozo. ¡Esperamos que nos puedan acompañar en este evento que nos ayuda a recordar las tradiciones de nuestro país!*

También esperamos con gusto participar en las demás actividades navideñas de Trinity – juntos, como una sola iglesia – con la belleza de cuando menos dos culturas y dos idiomas.

In the love of Christ - en el amor de Cristo, Pastora Tina 916-995-5105

Deacons celebrated our first ever “Calling All Deacons” event

On Saturday, October 6, 2012, a group of past and present deacons gathered in the lovely backyard of Terri Young for an afternoon of sharing and reminiscing. While sipping lemongrass tea and cucumber water, we learned that Clara Evans, Carl Metcalf, and Barbara Leach are our three longest-serving deacons. Clara shared some of her memories from her first term as a deacon, working with Pastor Boyd Stockdale. Trinity’s records show that we have had approximately 140 deacons over the years. We read the names of all 81 deacons who are still living, many of whom have moved on to other places. Then we each shared one of our most meaningful experiences we have had as deacons. The afternoon culminated with coffee and a delicious cake. We hope to do this again, perhaps every two or three years. Special thanks to Kathy Trott, Pastora Tina, Karen and Ed Metcalf, Cora Hocker, and Carol Onalfo for their help in making this a special day.



Deacons Corner Continued

DEACON RECYCLING CONTINUES!

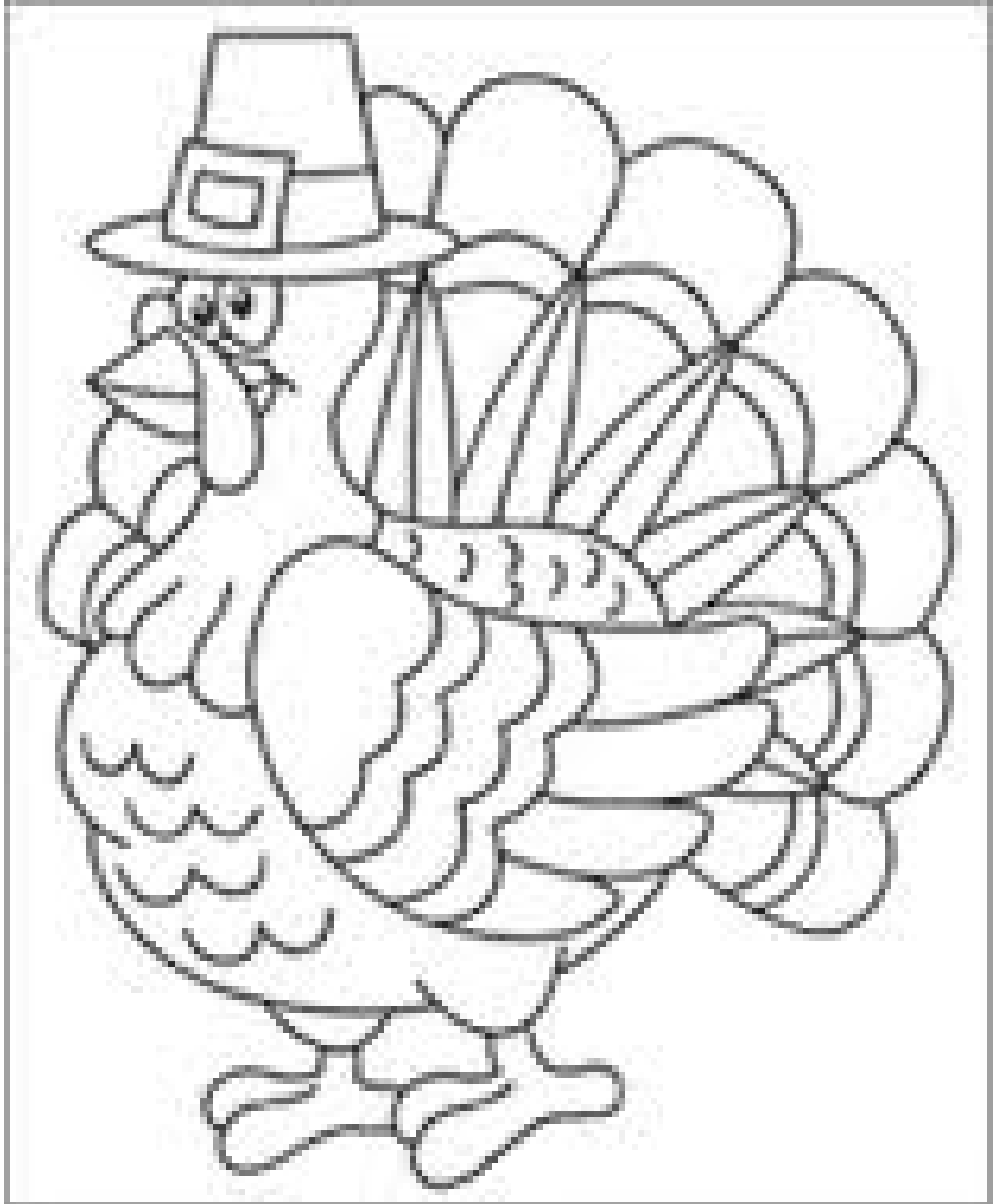
Please use the rectangle recycling can (it has a green lid with two holes in the top) for all your aluminum cans and glass or plastic bottles. This can is just outside the kitchen, next to the pass-through window.

The large plastic trash cans have been moved to our (metal) storage shed. If you are collecting at home (and we hope you are!), please track down a deacon when you bring in your recycling so it can be placed in the shed until Nora can take it to be redeemed.

Many thanks for your cooperation! We appreciate your support!

Trinity's Deacons





Grace Night at Trinity

You are invited to join us for Grace Night at Trinity (formerly known as FIRE). We meet twice a month on Wednesday, and each month has a specific theme. We meet in the Café at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, and our program begins at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting of the month features a guest speaker who shares valuable information with us. The second meeting of the month is a service project related to the information we heard previously.

Our November theme is Being Thankful, and Debra Johnston will share a message with us on November 14th. Our service project will be preparing goody bags for the homeless and will be completed November 28th.

Our December themes are Christmas and Promoting Reading. We will meet only once in December, on the 12th. At this meeting we will share a meal, fellowship, sing Christmas Carols and complete our service project.

We will recess till January 2013 when we will begin a biblical study of Ephesians.

Please join us or be in prayer for us!

Hope to see you at Grace Night!

Elder Jane Gentry



Money Matters: Budget Update

Two months ago I wrote a Newsletter article about our fiscal-year budget. We are three months into that new budget cycle. Since the budget was established we now know Eric Keller will be our new head pastor beginning January 1st. Eric's arrival will have a significant impact on our budget. Following are highlights of three months of actual income and expenses compared to our budget:

- **Income Less Than Projected:** Income is down almost \$1,400 a month from our projections. We are very optimistic Pastor Eric will have a positive influence on reversing that trend.
- **Session Reorganization:** Every line item in the budget is now clearly tied to the Session member responsible for it.
- **New Head Pastor:** Pastor Eric's compensation package is a little over \$7,000 a month. It includes his salary, housing allowance, deferred compensation, SECA (Self-Employment Compensation Act), HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement), medical coverage, pension, travel/professional expense, and continuing education. We budgeted \$5,000 per month because we didn't know when our new Pastor would begin his ministry. Right now we are saving about \$3,800 a month on pastor compensation. Starting January 1st we will be paying \$2,000 more a month than we had budgeted.
- **Associate Pastor of Latino Ministries:** Pastora Tina came to Trinity in part due to a five-year grant from the Presbytery. The Presbytery pays for the majority of Pastora Tina's compensation, with Trinity paying the balance. Trinity's share has increased by \$500 per year the past three years. Our obligation for 2013 increases to \$2,000 per month. The grant ends at the end of 2013. We plan to work with the Presbytery next year to develop a financial solution that works for Tina, Trinity and the Presbytery.
- **Latino Ministries Expense:** Expenses related to our Latino ministries are not currently paid out of our budget, but rather out of a special fund. Next year we will augment the budget to include a line item for Latino ministries expense.
- **Reserve:** Despite falling short of our income projections, we have increased our reserves by \$4,400 per month, primarily by not having a full-time pastor. All that changes on January 1st. Instead of generating a monthly surplus we will be looking at a \$4,000-a-month deficit unless our revenue increases. We can get by for a few months by drawing on our reserves, but this would not be sustainable for the long run.

This is a very exciting time at Trinity. We face many challenges, but we also have many new opportunities. We look forward to all the wondrous things God will bring us next year! Following is a two-page budget summary for the past three months.

Elder Gary Younglove

2012-2013 TPC Year to Date Budget Report

Description	7/1/2012 to 9/30/2012		
	Actual	Budget	Difference

INCOME

Letters of Intent, Regular Contributions	68,058	83,376		(4,342)
Other Income	2,810	2,825		185
Church Plate	765	975		(190)
Hispanic Ministry	202	225		(23)
Interest Income	123	225		(102)
Miscellaneous Income	1,700	600		1,100
Per Capita	0	600		(600)
TOTAL INCOME	61,843	66,000		(4,157)

EXPENSES

Worship	3,350	1,050		(2,300)
Equipment and Repair		210		210
Guest Preacher	2,200	600		(1,600)
Hired Musicians	1,100	45		(1,055)
Licenses & Subscriptions		90		90
Miscellaneous	60	0		(60)
Supplies, Tapes		105		105
Mission	12,464	14,175		1,711
Assoc. Pastor of Latino Ministries	4,600	5,250		750
Local Mission	400	1,600		1,100
Off Campus Food for Kids	30	150		111
Overseas Mission	2,000	1,275		(725)
Presbyterian Mission	5,525	6,000		475
Outreach	436	555		119
Advertising		30		30
Kids Day		195		195
Lawn Concerts	300	150		(150)
Miscellaneous	136	30		(106)
Trunk or Treat		120		120
Website		30		30
Children & Youth Ministries	2,127	1,974		(153)
Child Care	1,468	1,500		12
Children Curriculum	338	225		(111)
Gifts - Bibles & Baptisms		12		12
Gifts - Graduation	160	30		(121)
Gifts - Teacher Recognition	37	12		(25)
Off-site Bible Study	165	0		(165)
Vacation Bible School		188		188
Connect & Equip	0	750		750

Description	7/1/2012 to 9/30/2012		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Church Life	964	1,575	611
Hospitality	706	900	196
Kitchen Supplies	258	675	417
Care Ministries	0	0	0
Monetary Resources	1,889	1,605	(284)
Bank Fees & Charges	619	450	(69)
Per Capita	1,370	1,125	(245)
Stewardship		30	30
Personnel	11,178	28,245	17,067
Background Screening		30	30
Pastor's Total Compensation	1,456	15,000	13,644
Payroll-Childcare Coordinator		750	750
Payroll-Choir/Music Director	3,129	3,750	621
Payroll-Office Manager	6,097	6,570	773
Payroll-Youth Leader	495	1,000	1,305
Personnel		45	45
Office Administration	7,446	8,016	570
Advertising	60	75	26
Computer Expense	1,116	1,125	7
Copier-Lease	2,146	2,100	(46)
Copier-Usage		300	300
Insurance	2,691	2,175	(416)
Leadership Training		30	30
Office & Church Expense	679	1,275	396
Postage	663	450	(213)
Property Tax		366	366
Staff Development Training		120	120
Building & Grounds	8,723	6,795	(1,928)
Auto Expense (Church Van)	1,170	300	(870)
Buildings & Ground	1,316	900	(416)
Gas & Electric	1,674	1,000	(74)
Janitorial Service & Supplies	1,644	1,675	31
Lawn Care	660	600	(260)
Telephone	634	570	(64)
Water, Sewer, Refuse	1,032	760	(282)
TOTAL EXPENSES	48,577	64,740	16,163
Reserve	13,266	1,260	12,006
TOTAL OVERALL	0	0	0

November Birthdays



Anna Gil	1	Mariesha Moreau	14
Scott Hudgins	1	Sam Phipps	14
Jeanine Snyder	1	Nicole Drew	15
Guy Stewart	1	Andrea Drew	15
Don Brooks	2	Shyann Hamel	15
Katie Magana	2	Jenny Johansson	15
Benjamin Disney	4	Sophia Dell	17
Brianna Garrett	4	Casey Hamby	17
Alex Reynen	4	Luke Smith	18
Kayan Burgess	5	Jack Hansen	20
Bob Coogan	5	Peyton Sabin	20
Joey Kelley	5	Dale Davis	22
Derek Barrett	6	Pat Terry	22
Yunen Jimenez	6	Justin Hamel	23
Benjamin Rodriguez	8	Freddy Grexton	25
Gayle Andrade	11	Eileen King	26
Tammy Backus	11	Shawnecee Morgan	26
Breawna Heffner	12	Vi Taylor	26
Rory Phillips	12	Danielle Graves	27
Joe Walker	12	LuAnn Watkins	28
Vanita Vrilakas	13	Paul Dungan	29
Fiona Haney	14	Michele Hart	30
Annalise Miesen	14	Skyler Ramirez	30



Fall
2012



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Church Staff

Rev. Tina Torres, Pastor of Latino Ministries

Jane Gentry , Office Admin
Karen Metcalf & Carol Onalfo
Office Volunteers

Trinity Press Co-Editors
Kathy Trott , Debbie Johnston &
Jane Gentry

And Many , Many Volunteers

Trinity's Vision Statement

Trinity Church is a Spirit-filled, loving, and life-transforming community of believers, who experience Jesus Christ and grow in faith together, challenging each other to serve with compassion and creativity. In response to God's grace, we bring the hope of life in Jesus Christ to the community and the world, inviting them to join us on this journey of discipleship.

