

Rector's Report 2020

As I am reflecting on this past year, I am in the middle of an anniversary.

No, not a marriage anniversary.

The anniversary of when a few of us traveled to the Holy Land.

It was such a beautiful way to start off 2020.

Soon after our return, business as usual became quite unusual.

- We were not able to meet
- We taped sermons (audio only)
- We recorded sermons (video and audio)
- We streamed services
- We meet in person with restrictions
- We were restricted from meeting again
- We had to record our Christmas Eve service

As we look back on the year, it is clear that we gave up a lot.

But in the midst of this, I find that this time of “trial” has benefitted us and made us more intentional.

- As a group, the Building and Grounds Team was able to successfully complete an office remodel, not only providing a much needed update, better lighting and workspaces that are more productive, but we also created a space that is more secure and safe for the volunteers dealing with the finances. Much thanks to the team: Elizabeth Kalstein, Ellen Gammelgard, Todd Hoida, John Griffin, Ken Tadman, Rob Stepp, Stuart Lauters, Terry Gallagher, Larry Hoy and others who volunteered.
- Our organ was in need of repairs to the tune of nearly \$5000. A generous benefactor donated the amount out of a love for the instrument and the joy it brings to our community.

- It has been a goal since the beginning of my tenure here to have services online for those that cannot make it to in-person services. The restrictions caused by COVID motivated us to get it up and running. Although we could benefit from some better equipment to streamline the process and improve the quality, we have a service that can be watched in homes or on phones. Many thanks to Matt Reynolds, Summer Green, Trish Shurtz and Barry Shurtz.
- We now have a new website that looks fabulous and provides many tools to guide and direct us in our ministry here. On the website we can now: make donations, access sermon archives, After Thoughts archives, ministry information, get email contacts, fill out our pledge cards and sign up for events. Many thanks to Trish and Barry Shurtz.
- While the thought of having to record a Christmas Eve Service was not something I was looking forward to, the finished project was the best possible substitute short of meeting in person. I was moved by the virtual choirs and other music, the lectors offering readings of Scripture and a liturgy to help us settle into the season. Many thanks to all who participated and, especially, Matt Reynolds for putting it all together for us.

So, for a year that has had so much change, God has been faithful to us here at Holy Trinity. May He continue to bless us and may we continue to be a blessing to our community.

brad+

Senior Warden's Report 2020

My final year on the Vestry was truly remarkable. Despite the challenges, every member rolled with the changes and remained fully committed to working together. Here are some of the highlights.

- We met *in person* only 4 times (2 of which were graciously hosted by Rob & Terry) and had to skip our entire October meeting due to a power outage.
- We set goals at our Vestry retreat which included:
 - Continued work on ADA access & fellowship space
 - Completion of new website (blessed be the Shurtz's!)
 - Training for LEV, LEM, Acolytes & Greeters
 - Implementation of "Invite, Welcome, Connect"

We also discussed possible Vestry "field trips" to visit other parishes. Ha.

- We instituted Community Care Calls to church members in hopes that everyone would remain connected to the parish.
- We implemented "communion at home", in which many families participated.
- We planned for and saw the completion of the downstairs remodel project.

We had a virtual Diocesan Convention, which accomplished the bare minimum of business and was quite unremarkable. Hoping for 'business as usual' at Convention 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie Garcia

Junior Warden's Report 2020

Dearest Holy Trinity Members,

In my role as Jr. Warden, I am blessed to be at church frequently and to receive a renewed spirit with each visit. Each Trinity visit provides me Christian knowledge and perspective, understanding and wisdom, and helps me define my most important personal directives. As Jr. Warden, I am blessed to serve the church, as I repent for my selfish heart, and for "...things I have left undone." I am blessed to be alone in meditation with the Holy Spirit and contemplative silence; to see fellow members, to share, to listen, to empathize and console, to laugh. I am blessed to be a beneficiary of our members' talents, serving hearts, peace, acceptance and love. I am certain many members have similar cycles at Church, whether their day is one of receiving guidance, support, or peace, or offering their loving hearts to another, or serving the Church in some way.

As Jr. Warden this past year, I was especially blessed to see so many members, as Fr. DeGeorgis would frequently say, "Doing God's work." All my Jr. Warden work in 2020 has been helping others who were leading so many significant projects. Much gratitude goes to Brad, our Grounds Committee, and so many others who gave days, weeks, and hours. We have had so many individuals who show their love for Trinity, I will surely miss acknowledging some efforts and names.

Thank you Elizabeth Kalstein for your leadership and hard work with Ellen Gammelgard on the Office Remodel interior design, flooring, window coverings, planning, budget, contractor contacts, walkthroughs, bids, purchasing. Thank you for your deconstruction labor and painting with the assistance of the dear Kalstein children.

I have great appreciation for the detailed planning of the (potential future) Multipurpose building. Thank you Larry Hoy for your leadership, with Rob Stepp, Elizabeth K., Ellen G., Stuart Lauters. and the rest of the grounds committee: John Griffin, Kenny Tadman, and Terry Gallagher. Many design iterations were conceptualized and drafted with countless building considerations including codes, ADA, architectural/historical fit, and of course costs.

Thank you to this same team for their work conceptualizing and designing the proposed Ramp Access project. This will include deconstruction of a church wall, patio, fence, stained glass removal and preservation, reviewing options across function, design, and phased development, and evaluation of several contractor bids.

Brad thank you for your patience and leadership across all these efforts, and for your many days of moving, hauling, deconstruction and reconstruction, with much assistance from Barry Shurtz in painting, cleaning and constructing, and Kenny for the lighting.

Thank you Lee and Stewart for the 'High Garden,' and for the office project trash hauling.

Thank you Summer Green with Ellen and many others for their purging and organizing the Library.

Thank you Karen H., Debbie U., and Brenda J. for nurturing the beautiful garden.

Bless the soul of Gordon Mulay for the gift of his Maple tree.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
Thank you for your fellowship.

With Love and Blessings,
Todd Hoida

Treasurer's Report 2020

It has been my pleasure to serve as your treasurer for the past two years.

Despite the challenges of 2020, Holy Trinity ends the year in an enviable financial position with income exceeding expenses for the first time in a few years. The parishioners of this parish have been extremely supportive in time, talent, and treasure; and despite a major capital program in remodeling downstairs, total income surpassed expenses by approximately 5%. The newly offered online giving option of tithe.ly alone was the source of over \$26,000 in giving.

I wish to again express my thanks to Tom Ewart and Bob Larimer who both assist greatly with the church's financial operation. Due to COVID forcing a workaround on banking deposits, Tom did double duty most of this year. That said, the work of Lynn Rosenau, Pam Griffin, Marggy Clingan, Terry Weed, Glennis Dole, and Jean Hoy remain appreciated volunteers who are indispensable.

After two years of treasurer's duties, I tendered my resignation effective December 31st. I wish you all, and the parish, all the best for the future of Christ's work.

Lee Adams

Youth Group Report 2020

From January until COVID hit the youth group met on Sunday mornings @10:30 for games and a Bible Study. We had an event every month, usually lunch together after church, or a games/movie night. Once we could no longer meet in person I tried several different strategies to connect and pour into the spiritual lives of our youth. I sent out weekly video devotionals, I sent out online bible studies through the Bible app, and I connected with them over text message weekly. I found the most success with just making weekly contact with the students and focused my attention on that method. Once restrictions lessened we started meeting once a month for lunch after church, but once our county went to purple we stopped meeting and I again focused my energy on connecting with the youth weekly. We are still in a season of connecting weekly over text and phone calls, but we look forward to meeting in person again.

The youth and young adults from Trinity I reach out to weekly include Jamie Thomas-Rose, Abby Garcia, Sara Stotnicki, Emily Garcia, Grace Wathen, Mei An Duros and Tynan Duros. Emily has been faithfully serving as a helper in youth group for the last few years and brings amazing energy to everything we do.

An exciting story from the year involves Sara Stotnicki who admittedly got busy in high school and put her faith on the back burner, but on a last minute invite she decided to go with Campus Life to Royal Gorge - a week long backpack trip. To make a long story short, God recaptured her heart, she rededicated her life to Jesus and is now serving on Campus Life staff as well as helping me with youth group. God is good!

We also had 2 students graduate from high school this year and one earn their AA. Sara Stotnicki was a 2020 grad and Abby Garcia, who would be a senior this year, graduated early. Grace Wathen also graduated from Sierra with her AA and is heading to Sonoma State this month.

It has been a challenging year, but God is good and as we reflect there is so much to be thankful for!

- Ben

Sunday School Report 2020

2020 Started out great, with 5 to 8 children attending regularly, and we were blessed to have enough teachers to allow us to group into 2 classes most Sundays, and receiving regular supportive guidance from Carol Fegté, a retired Waldorf teacher.

As the average age of the children participating in our Sunday School increases, we were finding that having snack time at the start of class is not as imperative and having more in-depth work for the older children required additional work time. We'd begun an adjustment to the class schedule which involved moving snack time to the end of class, so the children could have more time to work on their projects. This was working well with only a few incidents of children asking for food prior to snack time, which is still accommodated, although in an informal manner. Our social gathering & eating time is now mainly at the end of class instead of at the beginning.

We were very sad to have to stop meeting in March & look forward to the time when the children can all be together for Sunday School again.

Friends of HTC created and donated a beautiful new, custom-made Level II work project used for teaching the older children all about the books of the Bible. It is currently in the Atrium waiting for the children to return.

During this down-time we have also been expanding our treasury of familiar songs and hymns, creating flip-charts with lyrics to help the reading children sing along. We currently do not have a music person to help teach music to the children as we did for a while in 2019. We do our best, however that is one area we could still use some help with, when we are able to meet for Sunday School again.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to love and serve God and our Parish at Holy Trinity, and I pray that we will all be together again, safe & healthy, very soon.

Gratefully,
Paula DeGiorgis

Chorus Report 2020

This past year has been challenging for the Trinity Choir.

The first several months of the past year, we were able to simply proceed with business as usual, but then in March everything changed.

Initially, the COVID shutdown simply stopped all our activities. Then, at Easter we began including a limited number of singers leading hymns and singing an anthem or two for the weekly broadcast of our Sunday services. However, even that went out after several months, and we switched to providing as much instrumental music to the services as possible, thanks to the Reynolds family, Anne Callaway, Blue and (very occasionally) myself. Finally, during Advent, the choir was able to produce a number of Virtual Choir videos, culminating with a Virtual Choir version of Lessons and Carols. We were even able to share our choir pieces with Matt Warren and the congregation in Quincy.

All of our activities have depended on the unstinting generosity and expertise provided by Matt & Summer Reynolds as our video/tech experts, and huge thanks and appreciation go to their faithful service.

Throughout this strange and challenging year, but especially during the process of producing our Christmas Eve program, the importance of making music together as a part of our Christian practices was never more clear to me. The responses we received from the congregation and our musicians were so generous and encouraging. Going forward, we will be continuing to produce more virtual choir anthems and hymns as well as incorporating the offerings of our instrumental musicians.

“Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord....” Eph. 5:19

-Stan

Organist's Report

This has been a very difficult year, as everyone knows. In playing for churches for the past 51 years, I have never experienced this level of frustration and sadness...especially when we were told that we couldn't sing in church.

However, I am so grateful for Father Brad who has led and navigated us through the past 10 months. I am also grateful that I have been able to play the organ for my church during this time. I sincerely hope that my playing has helped create a worshipful feeling for our wonderful congregation.

I pray, as we all do, that God will protect us and bring us back together in His perfect timing. Amen.

Tina Spriggs, Organist

Weddings – 2020

It was surprising to have any weddings at Trinity this year, but one October ceremony successfully eked its way in. It was short, small, and sweet with a lovely couple and just a few family members and friends. An unusual year for weddings, to say the least.

Kristie Garcia
Trinity Wedding
Coordinator