

SEPTEMBER
2026

TRINITY TALK

TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

A MESSAGE
FROM
FR. STEVE



Faithful Curiosity

There's a particular kind of openness that marks the Christian life—not the restless questioning that demands certainty before it will move, nor the passive acceptance that asks nothing of God. It's something gentler and more alive: faithful curiosity. The willingness to wonder with God rather than at God.

This is what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote, "Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face." We're invited into an ongoing discovery, not a finished certainty. Faith isn't about having all the answers locked away. It's about remaining open to what God continues to reveal.

Thomas, the disciple we've misnamed "doubting," embodied this beautifully. He didn't reject the resurrection; he asked to understand it. "Let me see," he said. And Christ met him there—not with rebuke, but with invitation. Touch me. Know me. Faithful curiosity isn't the enemy of faith; it's faith asking to go deeper. Jesus didn't say, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing." He said it to Thomas after Thomas had touched the wounds and cried out, "My Lord and my God!" The curiosity came first. The deepened faith followed.

This matters profoundly in how we read Scripture. A parishioner once told me she'd read the same psalm for fifty years, and one day, a single phrase stopped her cold. She'd never noticed it before. She sat with it, turned it over, let it reshape her understanding. That's faithful curiosity—the assumption that the Spirit still speaks, that God still has something to teach us even in familiar ground. The psalmist knew this rhythm: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." The prayer isn't for new words, but for new sight.

Faithful curiosity shows up in how we listen to one another in our parishes and communities. When someone speaks their struggle, faithful curiosity doesn't rush to fix or explain. It asks gently: What does that feel like? What are you discovering?

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It assumes the other person's experience matters, that God might be at work in their confusion or grief in ways we haven't yet understood. This is what Jesus modeled when the Samaritan woman came to the well. He didn't lecture her about her five husbands. He asked her a question, and in that question, He invited her to know herself—and Him—more truly.

And it transforms how we approach the hard questions—suffering, injustice, doubt itself. Rather than treating these as threats to faith, faithful curiosity treats them as invitations to know God more truly. The book of Job is Scripture's greatest monument to this. Job doesn't pretend his questions don't matter. He carries them into prayer, into community, into the raw, honest work of wrestling with God. And in that wrestling, he discovers something deeper than answers: he discovers God Himself.

This is the cross we carry in our age: the willingness to remain open, to keep asking, to trust that God is large enough for our wondering. Not to abandon truth, but to pursue it faithfully, knowing that I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, a spirit that makes us more alive, not less, as we grow in understanding.

That's how we become, slowly and faithfully, more fully ourselves in Christ.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve

Fr. Steve Swartzell

FINANCIAL CHECK-IN IN JULY 2026

We had 395 visitors.

We averaged 99 a week.

Our expenses were \$34,418.25

Our income was \$31,077.80.

Our plate donations were \$264.

Our pledge donations were \$29,995.09

Please continue your support during the Summer, Fall, and Winter.



THANK YOU

We collected 20~ backpacks and countless bags of school supplies for WSWA! Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

The backpacks and supplies were delivered during the last week of August, and because of your donations, we were able to provide school supplies for students in every grade level, something that is difficult for them to do.

Although the Blessing of the Backpacks has already taken place, there's still time to donate. We will continue accepting backpacks and school supplies through Homecoming, so if you'd still like to contribute, we'd love to receive your donations.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity and for helping students start the school year with the supplies they need!



HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13TH

9am service (only one service)

We welcome past and present
Trinity members to worship
together!

Join us for the cook off after the
service along with a ministry
fair!



HOMECOMING SALSA &

CHILI COOK OFF

SEPTEMBER 13TH

We will only have one service this day.
we will begin the tasting once the 9am
service ends.



Please sign up in the back of the
church if you would like to participate
in each of the cook offs!

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

More than one acknowledgement may be
given on a Sunday. You may offer
flowers as often as you wish. Each
Sunday's Altar flowers cost \$160. Any
amount towards the expense is very
much appreciated! Please make the
donation by whichever means you
choose, just make sure you indicate that
it is for the Altar Flowers.





**Outreach
Fall Fundraiser
Saturday
September 19
5:30 pm**

**Don your favorite team jersey and
join us for a great evening!**

**Happy Hour with games, silent auction
opportunities and a wine pull.**

Dinner

Entertainment by singer, Paul Wayne!

...Yes, this is his second Trinity gig.

**Take a look at his website for more info:
paulwaynemusicandcomedy.com**

Live Auction

Interested in a Kauai timeshare?

Progressive Dinner for 8?

Trinity's Reserved Parking Spot?

**Tickets are on sale following
each service - \$25**

**Questions? Contact Event Chair, Donna Watson
714.745.1015 - dwatson@designer-mouse.com**

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is a wonderful way to make a larger, lasting contribution to Trinity. To learn about planned giving, and how to get started, please contact the Vestry Liaison for Planned Giving. Contact Rich Heim, 714-313-9252 or rich4usc@gmail.com



SAS ENCORE

Brain Health: How to get it and how to keep it!

Thursday, September 24th

Doors open at 11:00am

Lunch will be provided for \$10

The sign up sheet will be posted in the back of the church.



OUTREACH DINE OUT

Stay tuned to see where we will be having a dine out this month!



SUNDAY SUPPER

Sunday Supper is Coming!

Trinity will be hosting Sunday Supper on September 13. Sign up sheets are posted at the back of the church just waiting for your commitment! 😊

If you have any questions, please contact co-managers

Donna Watson (714.745.1015 - dwatson@designer-mouse.com)

or

Elizabeth Blush
(714.363.1452 - buzzyblush@gmail.com).

Sunday Supper



Communities Coming Together



MESSY CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 12

Messy Church is a casual service where all are invited to participate and enjoy the music and the great food.

We gather at 5:30pm for appetizers and drinks. The service begins at 6pm.



Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided after the service, grilled up by the Brotherhood of the BBQ.

Please bring a side dish, dessert, or appetizer to share, as well as something to add to the drink table.

Invite your friends and family!

Faith Community Nurse News: The Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis continues to devastate communities across the United States, driven by widespread misuse of prescription painkillers, heroin, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Overdose deaths have surged, making opioids the leading cause of accidental death in many regions.

Narcan (naloxone) has become a critical tool in combating this epidemic. It rapidly reverses opioid overdoses by blocking opioid receptors in the brain, restoring normal breathing within minutes. Widely available as a nasal spray, Narcan can be administered by first responders, caregivers, or bystanders, making it a frontline defense in saving lives. Public health initiatives increasingly focus on distributing Narcan, expanding harm reduction programs, and connecting survivors treatment and recovery resources.

Because Narcan is readily available to the public, your Faith Community Nurses have a two dose supply in the FCN file cabinet in the “mail room,” also known as Rev Annie’s office. All our FCN supplies are kept in these file cabinets with labels for all the drawers. Please familiarize yourself where everything is located.

If you would like a personal tour of the cabinets’ contents or how to effectively use Narcan please see Ann Walker.

BOOK CLUB

Book club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the library at 9:30am.

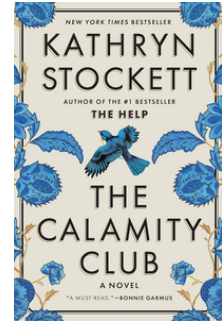
No book club in September or December.

October 10th book:

Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett

Set in 1933 Oxford, Mississippi,
during the Great Depression,

The book follows three resilient women—Meg, an 11-year-old orphan; Birdie, an outspoken young woman seeking help from her socialite sister; and Charlie, a desperate mother with secrets—who unite to defy strict societal constraints and take control of their lives.

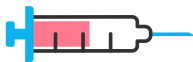
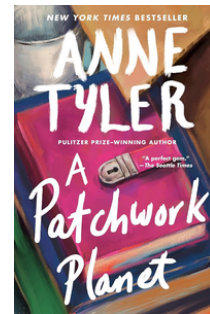


November 14th book:

Patchwork Planet by

Ann Tyler

This book follows Barnaby Gaitlin,
the black sheep of a wealthy Baltimore family. After a rebellious youth of breaking into homes just to look at people's lives, he works a humble job helping elderly clients. He seeks redemption, self-acceptance, and peace with his estranged family and daughter.



SAVE THE DATE



Flu season is almost upon us, and it will soon be time to receive your flu vaccination. Please join your Trinity Faith Community Nurses on Sunday, October 11, 2026 from 9:00am – 12:00n noon to receive your FREE flu vaccination.

Through the generosity of the Hoag Faith Community Nurse Program we are able to hold this very important clinic for our parishioners, family members, and friends.

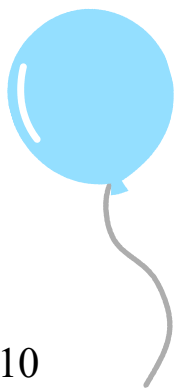
We will once again have the high dose vaccine for those sixty-five and older! Quantities are limited so vaccinations will be given to adults and children age 9 and older on a first come basis while supplies last.

If you have any questions please contact

Ann Walker at 714-496-0571.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lia Bilodeau—September 1
Seema Atalla - September 2
Jonnae Ostrom - September 7
Irma Jaime—September 9
Jenny Paskin—September 9
Mike Donaldson—September 10
Lisa Simpson—September 10
Amy Beck - September 13
Selena Beck - September 13
Nicholas Donaldson—September 14
Elizabeth Knarr—September 15
Linda Camp—September 17
John Jewett—September 18
Becky Powers—September 18
Victoria Ikwuka—September 20
Jody Maxwell—September 21
Hal Westfall—September 22
Susie White—September 22
Brian Messenger—September 23
Bruce White—September 25
Karoline Johns—September 26
Kathy Elwood—September 27
Joyce Wills—September 27
Linda Swartz—September 29



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Andrew & Jenny Paskin—Sept. 12
David & Lauralee Barrow—Sept. 16



FORMAL INVITATION TO JOIN OUTREACH COMMISSION

The Outreach Commission extends a warm invitation to all women and men of Trinity Episcopal Church of Orange. Grounded in our faith and inspired by the example of Jesus, the Outreach Commission strives to reflect the heart and mission of our church by serving those in need within our local community. We plan and participate in fundraising activities that demonstrate our caring for the world beyond.

We invite you to put your faith into action through compassion, service, and connection by joining the Outreach Commission.

Be a part of a ministry that reflects Christ's love beyond our church walls. We meet on the first Monday of every month in the Parish Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For any questions, please contact our Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Blush at 714-319-1452 or Faith Goldman at 714-235-6244.

Thank you, and we look forward to welcoming you!



MESSY CHURCH



MEET AND GREET WITH THE NEW BISHOP



CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00am Holy Eucharist- Rite I 10:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	31	1 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 5:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm Shirts & Skirts - Advanced Class	3 10:00am Eucharist Healing Service 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Women's AA Meeting	4 9:00am Property Commission 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	5 8:30am Debtors Anonymous
6 7:00am Altar Guild Team 1 8:00am Holy Eucharist- Rite I 10:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	7 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Outreach Meeting 7:00pm Railroad Society	8 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 5:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 6:30pm Rally Meeting 7:00pm Shirts & Skirts - Advanced Class	10 10:00am Eucharist Healing Service 6:30pm Orange Historical Society 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Women's AA Meeting	11 9:00am Property Commission 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00pm OC Recorder Society	12 8:30am Debtors Anonymous 9:30am Book Study 5:30pm Messy Church
13 HOMECOMING 9am Service Chili/Salsa Cook-Off 11am 7:00am Altar Guild Team 2 4:00pm Sunday Supper	14 6:30pm Book Group	15 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	16 5:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 6:00pm <u>AI-anon</u> Information Service Board 7:00pm Shirts & Skirts - Advanced Class	17 10:00am Eucharist Healing Service 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Women's AA Meeting	18 9:00am Property Commission 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	19 Outreach Fall Fundraiser 5:30pm 8:30am Debtors Anonymous
20 7:00am Altar Guild Team 3 8:00am Holy Eucharist- Rite I 10:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	21	22 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 5:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm Shirts & Skirts - Advanced Class	24 10:00am Eucharist Healing Service 11:30am SAS Encore 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Women's AA Meeting	25 9:00am Property Commission 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	26 8:30am Debtors Anonymous
27 7:00am Altar Guild Team 4 8:00am Holy Eucharist- Rite I 10:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	28	29 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 5:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm Shirts & Skirts - Advanced Class	1 10:00am Eucharist Healing Service 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Women's AA Meeting	2 9:00am Property Commission 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	3 8:30am Debtors Anonymous

September 7th: Office Closed
 September 12th: Book Club
 September 12th: Messy Church
 September 13th: Homecoming Sunday and Cook-Off
 September 13th: Sunday Supper
 September 19th: Outreach Fall Fundraiser

Every Thursday:
 Eucharist Healing Service at 10am
Every Friday: Bible Study at 10am
Every Friday: Property Team at 9am

