

# Annual Report 2024

January 26, 2025



Trinity Presbyterian Church  
420 Melrose Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
<https://www.trinitypressc.org/>

## **Call to the Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of Trinity Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 Immediately following the 10:30 AM worship. A slate of nominated officers will be presented, the 2025 budget will be received, and the terms of call for the pastor will be voted on.

Please read the annual report booklet before this meeting, as we will have a time to give thanks for our past year and answer questions. Copies of the annual report will be available on Sunday, January 19 It will be emailed as well, and will be mailed to those who do not receive emails. Please plan to attend this joyful meeting.

– Ellen Baurle, Clerk of Session

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

**Annual Report of the Congregation**  
**January 26, 2025**  
**Agenda**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Call to Order and Opening Prayer  | Diane Ford,<br>Moderator             |
| Verification of quorum, Reading the Call to the Annual Meeting. Review and approve meeting minutes from January 28, 2024 and August 25, 2024  | Ellen Bauerle,<br>Clerk of Session   |
| Nominating Committee Report putting forth candidates for two Elders and ___ Deacons for the class of 2027.  | Nominating Committee,<br>Ed Sams     |
| Are there nominations from the floor? (Nominees shall have already agreed to serve if nominated.)<br>Motion to close Nominations<br>Voting to Receive the Slate of Officers<br>Announcement of Ordination/Installation Date | Diane Ford,<br>Moderator             |
| Nominating Committee Report, continues:<br>Naming the members of the 2025 Nominating Committee and thanking the members of the 2024 committee for their service.  | Ed Sams,<br>Nominating Committee     |
| Celebrating and Responding to Questions about the contents of the Annual Report.  | Various,<br>Moderator and Officers   |
| Meeting of the Corporation<br>Budget presentation and question and answer time; then, the pastor is invited to leave the room and the approved Terms of Call are presented with a question and answer time.                 | Chad Bell,<br>President of the board |
| Adjourn with prayer   | Diane Ford,<br>Moderator             |

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him,  
and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."*

*Psalms 28:7*

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*The approved 2025 Budget will be added to this report upon completion.*



# **Minutes of 2024 Congregational Meetings**

## **Annual Congregational Meeting- January 28, 2024**

### **MINUTES**

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held January 28, 2024, at 11:30 in the Sanctuary. Reverend Larry Vilardo was the moderator. The meeting was called to order and opened in prayer. Ellen Bauerle, Clerk of Session, declared a quorum. The congregation voted to approve the agenda and accept the minutes of our last congregational meeting. MSP. The purpose of the meeting was to elect two Elders, three Deacons, and a Nominating Committee for the Class of 2026, and to present the budget for 2024.

Ed Sams, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report. George Bunch and Ed Sams were presented as Ruling Elders for the Class of 2026. There being no further nominations from the floor, it was MSP to elect these two. Pete Halper, Kim Johnston, and Nancy Cobery were nominated for Deacons for the Class of 2026. There being no further nominations from the floor, it was MSP to elect these three as Deacons for the term.

The Session report for the Nominating Committee, Class of 2026, was presented. The names of Patty Lawton and Ed Sams were put before the congregation. There being no nominations from the floor, the congregation MSP to elect Patty and Ed to fill the Class of 2026 Nominating Committee positions.

The budget was presented by Chad Bell, who answered questions from the congregation.

There being no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. MSP.

Larry closed the meeting with prayer at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Bauerle, Clerk of Session

## **Congregational Meeting of August 25, 2024**

### **MINUTES**

The congregation met after worship on August 25, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Larry Vilardo acted as Moderator. He called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. Ellen Bauerle, Clerk of Session, declared a quorum. The purpose of the meeting was to take a congregational vote to call the Reverend Diane Ford as Trinity's permanent pastor.

A motion was made, and a paper ballot was taken. The vote was unanimous, and Diane was enthusiastically welcomed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer at 12:35.

Ellen Bauerle  
Clerk of Session

# Pastor's Annual Report

**Look What God Does!** In the following pages, you will see the many ways Trinity listens for and follows the Spirit's call. The good news is that, whether or not we are listening or following, we are branches of the Divine Vine. Once we truly understand this, we will discover that God is vigilantly with us, "able to do exceedingly more than we ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

When I arrived in late August, I felt led to preach on that very theme. The year ended with a book study and sermon series that asked the profound question: *"If you weren't afraid, what would you do—who would you be?"* These are foundational aspects of our faith, and I am blessed to explore them with you as your new pastor.

This past year at Trinity has been full of meaningful worship, study, fellowship, and service to the surrounding community and beyond. During the first eight months of the year, you were blessed to have Larry Vilardo leading worship, moderating session, providing pastoral care, and being "Larry the Librarian." Meanwhile, your Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) prayed, discerned, and worked diligently with the support of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM). On the other side of the country, I too was praying, discerning, and working. And look at what God does! I truly look forward to serving and growing with you as we step into the years ahead together.

There have been many blessings in our congregation this year, including the celebration of new grandchildren, health breakthroughs, and other joys. Trinity's ministries and financial support have had a meaningful impact on our neighbors. But there have also been losses. Long-time members Charlie and Gwen May have moved out of state. Harry and Mary Blanchard, Milly Fitzgerald, MaryAnn Hobbs, and Sue Yeane have passed away, along with other friends and family members of our congregation. We give thanks for these sacred relationships, remembering that we are not built to grieve alone.

One of the highlights of these past four months as your pastor has been visiting with individuals, couples, and families of Trinity. I am honored to hear your stories — your hopes, fears, hobbies, passions, and dreams for Trinity's future. A special focus on our homebound members has included offering communion and regular visits with me and our deacons. I am also engaging with community leaders and nonprofit organizations, and I now serve on the board of Urban Works.

## Other Highlights

- **Fall Retreat:** What wonderful leadership you have in Ellen and Laura! I simply ran with what they had already prepared. Their theme focused on the interconnectedness of the various "circles" in our lives and how these connections can interact. This retreat laid important groundwork for being "church" in the 21st century.
- **Housing Ordinance at City Council:** What a moment! I was fortunate to witness the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) and Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) present the urgent need for an ordinance to protect residents from unsustainable rent increases — and to see the council vote to pass it!
- **Advent and Christmas at Trinity:** It was a joy to attend dinners, have deep conversations with you, sing with the choir on Cantata Sunday, and experience the beauty of Christmas Eve together.
- **Installation:** This day was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on God's call to all people and to celebrate the new bond between us as congregation and pastor.

In closing, Trinity is blessed to have Cailan Darling as Office and Facility Manager, Hortencia Martinez as Custodian, and Nicki Kerns as Music Director. I know many of you already recognize this, but a healthy staff that communicates well is a priceless asset. Here is to a year of faithfulness to Christ and one another in 2025!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Diane

## **Committees of Session**

### **Administrative Committee Report, 2024**

The Administrative Committee members and their areas of responsibility are:

**Chad Bell** – Finance and Co-Receiving Treasurer  
**Nancy Cobery** – Kitchen Manager  
**Emily Duffus** – Chair and Expense Treasurer  
**Russ Hobbs** – Insurance  
**Bob Scott** – Finance and Co-Receiving Treasurer  
**Mayre Vincent** – Groundskeeper and Maintenance, Secretary  
**Tim Vincent** – Groundskeeper and Maintenance, Go-To Man  
**Diane Ford** – Ex Officio

The Administration Committee oversees the Buildings, Grounds, Finances, and Insurance. Admin meets on the first Tuesday of the month, as needed, and communicates via email between meetings.

**Nancy Cobery** has monitored both kitchens to ensure that the refrigerators are not accumulating excess leftovers or moldy juices, ensured the dishwasher is in working order, and brings security system updates from Chuck Cobery.

**Russ Hobbs** continues to keep the committee informed about insurance concerns and updates.

**Mayre and Tim Vincent**, along with **Charlie May**, maintain the grounds by keeping them weed-free and adding plantings to enhance the property along Melrose Avenue. Green Touch Landscape has been hired to provide full landscaping maintenance. They have already trimmed the Poplar Avenue side of the property, making the sign more visible, and cleaned the berm area by the parking lot. Green Touch will provide regular monthly maintenance.

The exterior of the sanctuary building was painted, and the narthex ceiling was repaired and painted. The gutters were cleaned, though some of the downspouts need irrigation, which is scheduled to be addressed in 2025.

**Bob Scott, Chad Bell, and Emily Duffus** oversee the finances. The 2025 budget was developed with input from:

**Cailan Darling** – Office/Facilities Manager  
**Ellen Bauerle** – Worship and Christian Education  
**Charlie May** – Mission Committee Chair  
**George Bunch** – Outreach

The 2025 budget will go to Session for final approval at their January meeting.

In the manse (Diane Ford's home), several rooms had new flooring installed, and the interior was repainted.

This year, a glass-paneled door was purchased for the pastor's office, along with a new desk and chair. The main office received new curtains, a new desk setup, and a chair. Mayre and Tim Vincent were instrumental in locating the desks for each office, setting the door in place, and painting it. Kudos to Team Vincent!

North Glass provided guidance on supporting the upper stained-glass windows and opening the lower stained-glass window. They were compensated for their initial work. The committee has now hired Mark Tomlin of Tomlin Construction to complete the project on all five stained-glass windows.

Submitted by Emily Duffus, chair

## **Committees of Session**

### **Mission Committee Report, 2024**

Chair; George Bunch

Members: Chuck Cobery, Lee Duffus, Charlie May, and Juanita Stock.

The purpose of the Mission Committee is to explore new opportunities for the committee and manage Trinity's current mission efforts on a local, national, and international level.

The following organizations received either financial or other support from Trinity in 2024:

Association of Faith Communities

Boy Scouts of America Troop #618

CASA

Caring 4 Kids

Friends Outside

Habitat for Humanity

Housing Matters

Immanuel House (Synod of the Pacific)

Rebele Family Shelter

Santa Cruz Pride Parade

Santa Cruz al Salvador

Shower the People

Somos Watsonville

Sweet Pea Project

Urban Works Ministry

Wings

Welcoming Network

For many years, Trinity has supported all four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which are Peace and Global Witness, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Christmas Joy. Our church has traditionally been very generous in its giving to these offerings, and in 2024 the congregation provided \$1,690.00 for Peace and Global Witness, \$4,882.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing, \$1,100.00 for Pentecost, and \$3,719.00 for Christmas Joy.

In November 2024, Chuck Cobery, Gwen May, and Chad Bell, representing Trinity Presbyterian, accompanied the Santa Cruz al Salvador delegation on its 30<sup>th</sup> annual mission trip to El Salvador. This organization has worked to support clean water, composting latrine construction, and primary, secondary school and college scholarship award programs in underserved rural El Salvador communities.

Submitted by Chuck Cobery

## Committees of Session

### Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Chair; George Bunch

Committee Members: Elizabeth Bunch, Lee Duffus, Kim Lawton, Jeff Lawton, Lorraine Vilardo, and Larry Vilardo.

The committee's goals and tasks are to promote Trinity as a welcoming and nourishing church that provides activities for members and guests. Through the **trinitypressc.org** website, newsletter, bulletin, and pictures, we strive to keep members and guests informed. Notes of welcome are sent to visitors, and if participants are interested, they receive a name tag, are assigned to a Deacon's parish, and added to the church email list.

Trinity's ongoing projects include the Third Thursday 4 PM Happy Hour each month, currently held at Gilman Brewing Company at Branciforte and Soquel, occasional church hikes or history walks, support and participation in Urban Works activities, and Trinity Library displays with public hours on Thursday mornings and Sunday after church. Together with the Worship and Christian Education Committee, we again helped plan and organize an annual retreat and a Service Worship Sunday, which included participation from several neighbors for local projects and a free taco lunch.

Currently, the committee is exploring ways to enhance the publicity of Trinity activities, including possibly appointing a Publicity Coordinator or "Communications Director." We encourage everyone to invite their friends and neighbors to all our services and activities.

Outreach Committee Chair, George Bunch



Christmas Cantata Choir Practice

## **Committees of Session**

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Committee Members: Debbie Bates, Personnel Elder

The Personnel Committee is responsible for overseeing the personnel needs of the church. The committee also meets regularly with the pastor to support and report to the session regarding any personnel issues.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is gifted with a church staff that provides spiritual leadership, organization, inspiring music, and a healthy, clean environment for our church family and community groups. All of our staff create a collaborative, supportive work environment. In 2024, our staff continued their stellar efforts. We welcomed new staff members: Pastor Diane Ford and Cailan Darling, Office Manager.

#### **Pastor Diane Ford**

Pastor Diane was called as Pastor for Trinity in August of 2024. In the short time with us, she has led with the consistent message of God being with us, Jesus as both fully human and divine. She lives out that love in her intentional connection with each of us in the congregation. We are blessed to have a leader who joins us in our focus on how we share what we know of God's love and transformative power with our neighbors and the world.

#### **Nicki Kerns – Music Director**

Nicki continues to inspire deep worship through her musical leadership. Our choir brings joy to all who hear it. The inclusion of the Christmas Cantata and instrumental accompaniment has enriched our souls. She continues to be a valued member of our church family.

#### **Cailan Darling – Office and Facility Manager**

Cailan joined us in January of 2024. She very quickly had to learn the administration of the church office, including scheduling/managing facility use, maintaining the website, preparing documents for worship, and sooo much more. She has worked with the Finance Committee in updating and streamlining the finance protocols and she is viewed as a great asset by all committees and all who work with her, especially our Pastor. She is a valued part of our staff and Trinity outreach to all who come into the office.

#### **Hortencia Martinez – Custodian**

Hortencia has worked hard to ensure that we come into a clean and well-maintained church, where all feel safe and cared for. She remains dedicated and dependable in her job, an inspiration of a solid work ethic.

Submitted in His name,

Debbie Bates, Personnel Elder

## Committees of Session

### Worship and Christian Education Report

Committee Members: Michael Christie, Diana Dean, Diane Ford, Nicki Kerns, Marta Narus, and Kathy Willott, and Ellen Baurerle, Chair

The mission of the Worship and Christian Education Committee is to plan the worship experiences of our church and oversee the educational opportunities for the children, youth, and adults of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz, California.

2024 began with transitional pastor Larry Vilardo continuing his service while the Pastor Nominating Committee worked to find a full-time pastor. On September 1, we welcomed Reverend Diane Ford as our permanent pastor. One of our first events together with Diane was our All-Church Retreat at Camp Redwood Glen in Scotts Valley. *Circles of Faith* was our theme, observing the various circles of our lives, both separate and overlapping. It was an inspirational time of fellowship and worship for approximately thirty Trinity members. Several people took advantage of an additional night, arriving Friday night for dinner and fun. A drumming circle led by Jim Greiner was a highlight of the weekend. Special thanks to George Bunch for all the organization behind the scenes.

Looking back to the beginning of 2024, the season of Lent began early, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 14. We had a small worship service in the sanctuary, ending with the imposition of ashes. We invited our parking lot shower friends to join us.

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday, where the children distributed palm branches, and we all welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem, waving our branches. Maundy Thursday worship opened with a Gospel hymn sung by the Presbyterians. Communion was served, and the sanctuary was stripped in a very meaningful service. The celebration of the risen Lord on Easter Sunday was highlighted with a beautiful Easter Cantata offered by the choir and completed with a two hundred hidden egg hunt.

A special Pentecost reading of Acts 2:1-4, the story of the Holy Spirit, in twelve different languages was put together by Marta Narus. We wore red and orange and decorated the sanctuary with flame-colored balloons in celebration of the birthday of the church.

We have two very faithful children in Sunday School. They enjoy hearing Bible stories, spending time together, and being part of the church family.

Adult Education has remained an important part of the life of Trinity throughout the year. We have a weekly Sunday morning lectionary study group discussing the scripture used in worship. Another group meets Monday evenings to discuss the lectionary scripture. A group called the Nooners meets Sundays at noon for book discussions on various subjects. A book study group meets once a month. During Lent and Advent, we had potluck dinners and soup suppers followed by rich discussions. These dinners are well attended, hosted, and led by various Trinity members. It is a wonderful time for fellowship and growth.

A faithful team has continued to stream and record our morning worship, making it available to those at home and the wider community. A big thanks to those committed to this job.

Each of these activities took special planning and preparation. We thank all of you who helped to make our worship meaningful, our educational opportunities enlightening, and our times together so joyful!

Submitted with joyful anticipation in 2025,  
Ellen Bauerle



# Committee of the Congregation

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominees for new elders, deacons, and committee members:

### Class of 2028

- **Elders:** Chad Bell (Class of 2024, now serving his second term), Chuck Cobery (replacing Charlie May), and Mayre Vincent (replacing Kathy Willott)
- **Deacons:** Barbara Christie (replacing Karen Wichlemann), Marta Narus (replacing Gwen May), and Lorraine Vilardo (Class of 2024, serving a second term, health permitting)
- **Nominating Committee Members:** Barbara Christie and Lee Duffus (Class of 2024, serving a second term)

My thanks to the committee members: Elizabeth Bunch, Barbara Christie, Joanne Clever, Lee Duffus, and Reverend Diane Ford.

Nominating Committee Chair,  
Ed Sams



Trinity Annual Retreat At Redwood Glen Camp & Conference Center

## Board of Deacons

Members: Elizabeth Bunch, Jolynn Carrington-Khoury, Nancy Cobery, Pete Halper, Kim Johnston, Gwen May, Vickie Rutan, Lorraine Vilardo, Karen Wichelmann

It is the duty of deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.

The nine deacons continued to care for members in their parishes through phone calls, cards, emails, and home visits. Additionally, the Deacons help with Sunday Saint signups. Gathering volunteers for coffee, flowers, and greeters. Pete Halper continues to serve as our head usher.

Deacon meetings were held monthly in person, excluding the summer months.

**February:** On the first Sunday, we all celebrated Florence Nuss' 100 birthday with cake and song. Additionally, the Deacons sponsored an all-church vegetarian potluck in honor of Evie & Dave Macway. Many of the Macway family came to participate in the potluck.

**March:** the Deacons organized an Easter Egg hunt after church with prizes. Downtown Dollars which were also purchased and distributed to the Faith Community group.

**April:** all parish members were invited to a luncheon with hot dogs and hamburgers grilled by Pete Halper and Jeff Lawton. Everyone had a great time.

**May:** In conjunction with the Blanchard caregivers, we celebrated Harry and Mary Blanchard's birthdays. Flowers were handed out on Mother's Day, and graduation cards and checks were sent to children and grandchildren graduating from 8th grade, high school, or college.

**June:** Karen Wichelmann organized a candy bar to be given to every father for Father's Day, with a special message "wrapper" from Trinity Church.

**September:** we hosted Harry Blanchard's celebration of life.

**October:** a farewell potluck was held for Gwen and Charlie May, with a large turnout and delicious food. Farewell gifts of a photograph and Sweet Pea quilt were given to them. We are sad to see them go.

**November:** Care packages with snacks and baked goods were sent to college students (children and grandchildren), who were delighted with the goodies. The deacons also hosted Mary Ann Hobbs' celebration of life.

**December:** Amaryllis bulbs were delivered to homebound members. The deacons coordinated Love Gifts for the staff and supplemented funds to enhance the gifts.

Vickie Rutan, Moderator

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:4-5

## Small Groups and Ministries

### Book Club Report

The Book Club has met regularly for several decades! This past year, we met on the third Monday of each month at 10 o'clock in the morning in Trinity's Fireside Room. Our reading covers many different genres, not just faith-based books. We take turns suggesting books to read, and usually, the person who suggests the book leads the conversation about it at the next meeting. The variety is exceptional because the books are suggested by people with diverse interests. If you choose to join us, you will undoubtedly end up reading books you never would have chosen on your own — which is one of the great things about Trinity's Book Club!

#### Books Read by Month:

"A Soldier of the Great War" by Mark Helprin (March 2024)

"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by Jame McBride (April 2024)

"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by Jame McBride (May 2024)

"A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole (June 2024)

"Mother-Daughter Murder Night" by Nina Simon (July 2024)

"Mother-Daughter Murder Night" by Nina Simon (August 2024)

"The Secret Chord" by Geraldine Brooks (September 2024)

"Santa Cruz Ghost Stories" edited by Nancy Lynn Jarvis (October 2024)

"Snow in August" by Pete Hamill (November 2024)

No book for December 2024

Submitted by,  
Cailan Darling, Emily Duffus, and Joanne Clever



Rev. Diane and Joseph, a PCUSA Missionary from El Salvador

## Small Groups and Ministries

### Library Report

Dear Beloved Members of Trinity and Library Patrons,

The library has had a very successful year, maintaining consistent hours, continuing to refine and develop the website, <https://www.trinitylibrary.org/>, curating our small but mighty book collection, and continuing our traditional art and book displays. This year we added two new displays drawn from our archives: some wonderful feminist social justice art posters and three displays utilizing hundreds of photos from the library archives.

Every Thursday, the library continues to host the incredibly literary Library League.

All success is a community effort, so I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the people who make the function of the library possible:

I am grateful for our pastors. I started my tenure as Librarian when Pastor Kathryn was here, and Pastor Diane has continued to support the library. I am also grateful for the sage advice I have received from Lenora Spalaris, who preceded me as Librarian. I still often find her notes and index cards indicating her commitment and attention to detail.

George Bunch chairs the Outreach Committee, which is the direct supervisor of the library. The Worship and Christian Education Committee, headed by Kathy Willott, provides funding for book acquisitions.

Cailan Darling ensures that my weekly library notes are included in the all-church email. Jeff Lawton opens the library when I am unavailable. Tim Vincent has installed display shelves and crafted designer bookshelves. Every Thursday, the Library League, consisting of Tim and Mayre Vincent, Ed Sams, Glenn Joy, Ron Weaver, Marta Narus, Diana Dean, and Charlie May, meets for French press coffee and to discuss the challenges of life in this era.

On a serious note, there are special challenges for libraries and librarians in this dangerous era in which we live. Book-banning activity increased by over 90 percent in 2023. More information is available at <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/book-ban-data>.

More disturbing, librarians can now face imprisonment for displaying or distributing banned books. For more information, visit:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/05/18/school-librarians-jailed-banned-books/>

To support your local library is to stand against the deadly desire of many to return us to the dark ages. I want to thank everyone at Trinity for bringing light to the world.

Warmly,

Larry the Librarian

## Small Groups and Ministries

### Music Ministry Report

Our choir, though now down to roughly nine people, continued to enhance our services with beautiful music every Sunday, except for the eight or so weeks they took off for the summer. Seating arrangements were changed to better accommodate vocal balance, and that has been working well. We are blessed with Emily Duffus serving as our librarian, Elizabeth Bunch as my substitute whenever I need to take a Sunday off, and Richard Robinson as our resident saxophonist/clarinetist.

The databases I started to catalog the entire choral and keyboard libraries are progressing slowly but surely and have proven invaluable for my music planning. Since the choir is nearly always composed of sopranos and altos now, I've been selecting music geared for either SSA or SAB. Arrangements in our library for those voicings aren't plentiful (yet), so I've been purchasing music to help bridge that gap.

For Easter and the Christmas cantata, we brought in several guest singers and a brass ensemble. For Easter, we performed a "CliffsNotes"-style version of *The Messiah*, and for the Christmas cantata, we presented a repeat performance of Mark Hayes' *What Sweeter Music*. The cantata even featured Mabel and Quinn in a very sweet duet. Both works were very well received by the congregation, though the brass ensemble did not play as well as expected. Those players will not be returning.

The Mason & Hamlin grand piano in the sanctuary now has a quilted piano cover and a spider dolly. The cover protects it from scratches and adds insulation to preserve its tuning during the vast temperature changes in the sanctuary while the heater is off. Ideally, the sanctuary should be kept at roughly 64 degrees to preserve the instruments' tuning, though I understand this may not always be possible given PG&E rates. The church is now available as a concert venue, and the piano dolly will make it easy to move the piano as needed for performances.

The brass plaque acknowledging the piano's donor has finally been installed on the side of the instrument

The organ has three sets of flute stops: 8', 4', and 2'. None of the 8' stops are working, so I need to find an organ technician/repair person to address the issue. After an extensive online search, I discovered the only dealer with any knowledge of Allen organs is in Carmichael; I have contacted them to see if they can help. There is only one organ repair person in Santa Cruz, but he specializes in pipe organs. I have emailed him to determine if he can assist us or refer us to someone. If no repair person is available, we'll face some hard decisions—or hope for DIY repair videos on YouTube.

In August, Rev. Diane Ford took over as pastor, and to my great surprise and delight, I learned that she is an excellent soprano and pianist. She sang in our Christmas cantata, was instrumental (pun intended) in planning the music for her installation, and I'm excited to collaborate on more music with her.

Goals for 2025:

- Recruit more singers for the choir.
- Repair the organ.
- Finish the choral library database (the keyboard library is done).

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicki Kerns

## **Small Groups and Ministries**

### **Sweet Pea Project Report**

The Sweet Pea Project was founded 28 years ago by Jeanne Baker. It was named after her late granddaughter, Melissa, whom she affectionately called "Sweet Pea." In the early years, the group made cloth/tactile books for children with disabilities. After that need was met, and with so much fabric accumulated, the group's focus shifted to making quilts for children, which were donated to various shelters.

In recent years, the group has been donating lap and bed quilts to people living in senior facilities. These quilts are distributed through the I-You Venture, an organization under Family Services founded by the late Sue Yeane of our congregation.

There is a Sweet Pea store/room off the Fellowship Hall full of donated fabric, which we use to make the quilts. We display our creations in both the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary—talent abounds! We average about six regular attendees, with others joining as their time allows.

We are grateful for the talents of Jolynn Hoyt, who uses her long-arm machine to quilt together the top, batting, and backing for each quilt. Her creative, handmade designs on the quilts are worth noting. We are also grateful for the quilting talent of group member Sandy Larsen, who sews an abundance of quilts and assembles the three-layer "quilt sandwich" on her home embroidery machine.

Sweet Pea meets two or three times a month on Saturdays in the Youth Room. The Saturdays vary each month depending on the availability of the room and other activities on the church calendar. Email reminders are sent out a day or two prior to each meeting.

Donations of quilting fabric (100% cotton) are welcome. For more information, please contact Emily Duffus at [emilyduffus@gmail.com](mailto:emilyduffus@gmail.com).

#### **Sweet Pea Quilts Donated in 2024:**

I-You Venture: 88

Gwen and Charlie May: 1

Habitat for Humanity: 1

All Stars Quilting Group (quilts for children): 4

**Total: 94**

Submitted by Emily Duffus



# Membership Statistical Report

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

## Membership

Active Members as of January 1, 2024                      **70**

## Gains

*By Affirmation of Faith:* Bob Farmer                      **1**

*Infant Baptisms*    **0**

Total Gains    **0**

## Losses for 2023

Deceased:      Harry Blanchard  
                          Mary Blanchard  
                          Millie Fitzgerld  
                          MaryAnn Hobbs  
                          Sue Yeane    **5**

Removed    **0**

Total Losses    **5**

*Active Members as of December 31, 2024*                      **66**



Trinity Members Gathering at SOMOS in Watsonville



## **Membership**

### List of Active Members 2025

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Gangware, Betty        | 01/25/1970 |
| 2. Clever, Joanne         | 12/13/1978 |
| 3. Bauerle, Ellen         | 12/08/1984 |
| 4. Spalaris, Lenore       | 06/14/1988 |
| 5. Christie, Barbara      | 12/03/1989 |
| 6. Christie, Michael      | 12/03/1989 |
| 7. Imai, Kent             | 07/14/1991 |
| 8. Imai, Marie            | 07/14/1991 |
| 9. Wichelmann, Karen      | 09/30/1991 |
| 10. Duffus, Lee           | 10/25/1992 |
| 11. Duffus, Emily         | 10/25/1992 |
| 12. Scott, Bob            | 09/12/1993 |
| 13. May, Charles          | 05/19/1996 |
| 14. May, Gwen             | 05/19/1996 |
| 15. Eschen-Pipes, Jame C. | 03/20/1997 |
| 16. Edwards, Gary         | 10/21/1997 |
| 17. Edwards, Jennifer     | 10/21/1997 |
| 18. Brothers, Carolyn     | 10/19/1998 |
| 19. Brothers, Clifford    | 10/19/1998 |
| 20. Seever, Paul          | 12/28/2003 |
| 21. Robinson, Richard     | 04/09/2006 |
| 22. Stock, Juanita        | 10/29/2006 |
| 23. Gilliland, Mary       | 04/20/2008 |
| 24. Hobbs, Russ           | 04/20/2008 |
| 25. Bunch, Elizabeth      | 04/20/2008 |
| 26. Bunch, George         | 04/20/2008 |
| 27. Halper, Pete          | 04/20/2008 |
| 28. Christie, Veronica    | 05/31/2009 |
| 29. Macway, Emily         | 05/31/2009 |
| 30. Macway, Katherine     | 05/31/2009 |
| 31. May, Jesse            | 04/04/2010 |
| 32. Duffus, Reed          | 04/04/2010 |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 33. Duffus, Sunshine           | 04/04/2010 |
| 34. Macway, David              | 04/04/2010 |
| 35. Zaid, Nadia                | 07/08/2012 |
| 36. Bell, Amanda               | 12/09/2012 |
| 37. Bell, Chad                 | 12/09/2012 |
| 38. Lawton, Jeff               | 12/29/2013 |
| 39. Lawton, Patti              | 12/29/2013 |
| 40. Carle, Ann                 | 03/16/2014 |
| 41. Cobery, Chuck              | 11/16/2014 |
| 42. Cobery, Nancy              | 11/16/2014 |
| 43. Johnston, Kim              | 11/16/2014 |
| 44. Sams, Ed                   | 11/16/2014 |
| 45. Willott, Kathy             | 11/16/2014 |
| 46. Bates, Debbie              | 12/13/2015 |
| 47. Lang, Barbara              | 11/15/2015 |
| 48. Narus, Marta               | 12/13/2015 |
| 49. Nuss, Florence             | 12/13/2015 |
| 50. Wong, Leon                 | 12/13/2015 |
| 51. Joy, Glenn                 | 12/11/2016 |
| 52. Caldwell (Dashell), Alicia | 12/11/2016 |
| 53. Rutan, Vickie              | 06/11/2017 |
| 54. Lauer, Esther              | 11/25/2017 |
| 55. Vilardo, Lorraine          | 03/14/2018 |
| 56. Halper, Kate               | 11/03/2019 |
| 57. Halper, Jeff               | 11/03/2019 |
| 58. Carrington, Jolynn         | 07/14/2020 |
| 59. Atwood, Jim                | 08/11/2020 |
| 60. Watkins, Cindy             | 12/08/2020 |
| 61. Watkins, Dan               | 12/08/2020 |
| 62. Vincent, Mayre             | 05/21/2023 |
| 63. Vincent, Tim               | 05/21/2023 |
| 64. Weaver, Linda              | 10/29/2023 |
| 65. Weaver, Ron                | 10/29/2023 |
| 66. Farmer, Bob                | 03/03/2024 |

# Financial Reports

## Deacons Financial Report 2024

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on 1/01/2024          | \$894.18  |
| Contributions to Deacons Fund | \$4475.00 |

### **Disbursements:**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Coffee hour supplies                           | \$410.26  |
| Flowers  | \$174.91  |
| Parish Luncheon                                | \$164.24  |
| Downtown Dollars (AFC Faith Community Shelter) | \$750.00  |
| Graduation gifts                               | \$475.00  |
| College gift packs                             | \$535.91  |
| Postage stamps                                 | \$42.40   |
| Miscellaneous                                  | \$116.06  |
| Staff Love gifts                               | \$2000.00 |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Total disbursements | \$4668.78 |
|---------------------|-----------|

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Balance on 12/31/2024</b> | <b>\$700.40</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|

Submitted by Pete Halper, Treasurer



New Drainage and Retaining Wall for the Poplar Cottage.

## **Financial Reports**

### **2024 Financial Status Report of Endowments and Special Funds**

Treasurer: Bob Scott

The church maintains the following financial accounts for its routine operations:

1. A checking account at Santa Cruz County Bank for the purpose of daily operations including payroll and regular operating and mission expenses.
2. A brokerage account with Charles Schwab: for the purpose of accepting donations in the form of stock and for maintaining the cash reserve. The church's policy is to convert stock gifts into cash when they are received. During the year certificates of deposit (CD's) were purchased. The CD's are fully insured bearing approximately 5% interest with various values coming due every 4 to 8 weeks.
3. An account at Comerica Bank formerly used for memorial gifts is now inactive and due to be closed and transferred to the reserve funds.

Santa Cruz County Bank Checking Account balance as of 12/31/2024: \$64,221.40

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Charles Schwab Account: Balance 12/31/2023: | \$223,391.30        |
| CD's  | \$178,062.00        |
| Cash in account                             | \$52,612.54         |
| Balance as of 12/31/2024                    | <u>\$230,679.30</u> |

Memorial Fund .....Comerica Bank Account Balance on hand 12/31/2024: \$7,153.48

The church has two endowment funds:

New Covenant Fund:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Approximate balance as of 12/31/2024      | <u>\$27,949.48</u> |
| Investment income received as of 1/1/2025 | \$2,713.56         |

Presbyterian Foundation:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Approximate balance as of 12/31/2024      | <u>\$52,500*</u> |
| Investment income received as of 1/1/2025 | \$1,980          |

\* Year end balance report not yet received as of this preparation.

**Financial Reports: 2025 Budget**  
***The approved 2025 Budget will be added to this report upon completion.***

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve." Peter 5:2-3