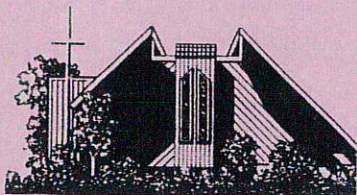


1960



1976

**Trinity
United
Methodist
Church**



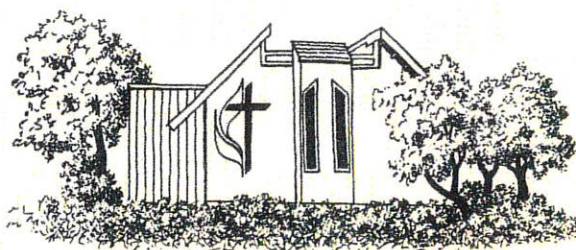
1996



Celebrating 50 Years of vital ministry in the community! 1958 - 2008



***A Brief History in
Words and Pictures***



2008

***Los Osos Valley Road at Pine
Los Osos, California***

***Trinity's Pastors
1958 - 2008***

1958 - 1959 Rev. W. J. Oglesby

1959 - 1960 Rev. Benjamin Torres

1960 - 1961 Rev. Rex Britt

1961 - 1968 Rev. Mack W. Mitchell

1968 - 1969 Rev. Richard Calkins

1969 - 1971 Rev. John Tincher

1971 - 1972 Rev. Pierce Johnson

1972 - 1980 Rev. David Richardson

1980 - 1981 Rev. Carl Johnson

1981 - 1985 Rev. Lyman Ellis

1985 - 1993 Rev. Edwin Womack

1993 - 2000 Rev. Mike Eggleston

2000 - Present Rev. Mark Richardson

Trinity's Ministers of Visitation

1978 - 1984 Rev. Russell Hetsler

1990 - 1992 Rev. Norris Barnes

1995 - 2000 Rev. Harold Frey

Trinity United Methodist Church Los Osos, California

A Brief History (or Chronology of Highlights)

Compiled by Ray Bracken, member since 1964

In the Beginning...

1957 First organizational meeting with retired Methodist minister **Rev. W. F. Oglesby** on December 8th, with 15 members present. Charter members recall him walking from Morro Bay and knocking on doors to make a survey of Methodists in Los Osos. Rev. Oglesby was 88 years old!

1958 Chartered in April. There were 48 charter members.

1959 **Rev. Benjamin Torres** appointed as pastor. Worship services were held in the Baywood Park Women's Club Community Building.

1960 **Rev. Rex Britt** appointed as pastor. On June 24th a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the sanctuary/social hall building. Rev. Oglesby was among those participating. Trinity's first choir sang. (Since its founding, Trinity had been on pastoral circuit with Estero Bay Methodist in Morro Bay.)

The new facility was consecrated on December 4, 1960, and according to a local newspaper, there were 300 in attendance; standing room only in the small A-frame sanctuary! Total cost of the building project: \$43,000.

The Christmas before departing Trinity to become the first full-time pastor of Estero Bay Methodist, the congregation presented Rev. Britt with a beach buggy, something for which he had long wished. It was made from a 1923 Buick.

1961 **Rev. Mack W. Mitchell** appointed as Trinity's first full-time pastor. Membership was approximately 60. By December membership reached 98, ushering in a period of rapid growth.

Mack Mitchell's reputation as an outstanding speaker, (as well as preacher), grew and he was in demand by churches and organizations around the county. He often gave "dialogue sermons," inviting members to respond to the sermon topic.

Groundbreaking for the new parsonage on church property was held in mid-October. The contractor was member Vern Dillon. It was designed by the building committee: Mr. & Mrs. Jean Tanner, Mr. Art Dye, and Rev. & Mrs. Mack Mitchell.

1962 The parsonage was consecrated in February, and Trinity's first Vacation Bible School was held that year. Christmas Around the World dinner was held as a part of Advent, beginning a long tradition. The Children's Sermon was established as a regular part of the worship service.

The church budget was \$10,306. Pledges received: \$9,298.

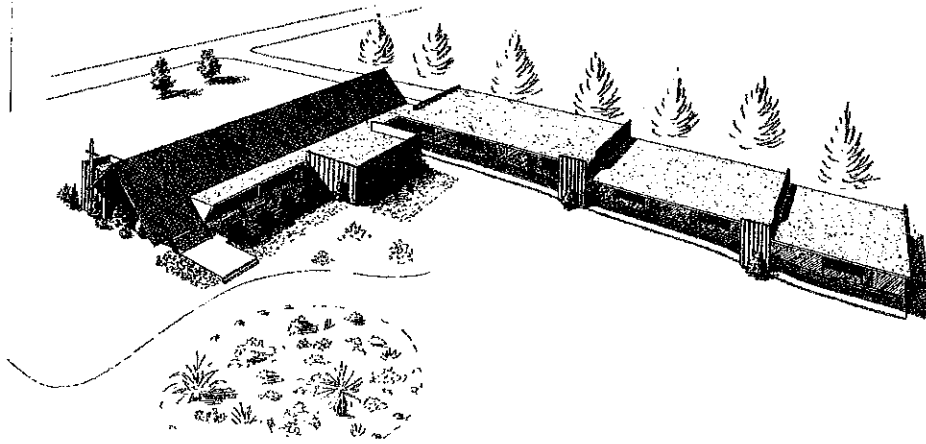
1963 Financial difficulties. With a budget of \$15,240., and pledges received of only \$8,131., the 140-member congregation resorted to its first adopt-a-bill campaign, in addition to traditional fund-raising efforts.

Trinity reaches out to the community and strives to become a center of worship, culture and entertainment. The first Lenten Festival of Art, Scripture Study, and Worship was held. It became a tradition for seven years. Events included musical groups, drama, sacred dance, panel discussions, secular films with discussion, and county-wide invitational art shows.

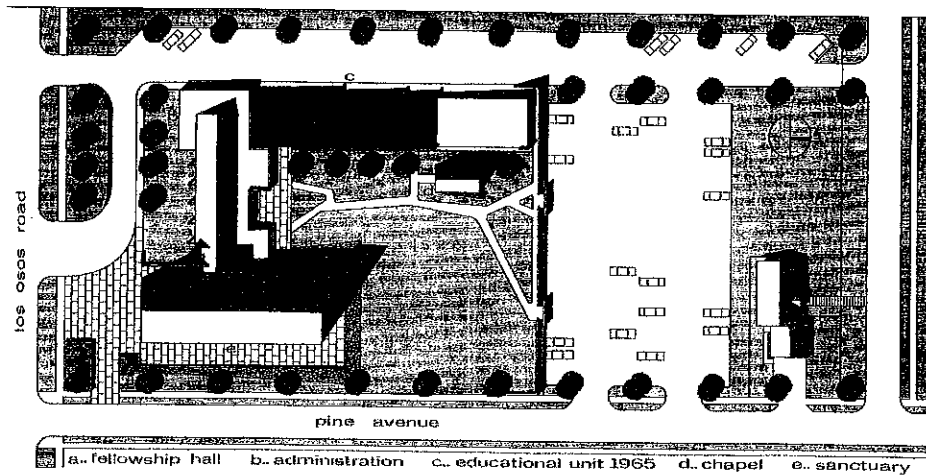
1964 Trinity's first major stewardship campaign using letters, brochure and every-member canvass resulted in \$10,300 in pledges toward a budget of \$16,800. Membership was 152.



The early 1960's.



Sketch for education wing, 1965, and original Master Plan. The Proposed new sanctuary at the E. end of the A-frame was later dropped. (The plan was to convert the A-frame into a fellowship hall after the new sanctuary was built.)



1965 With a membership of 175, Trinity was in dire need of classrooms! Architect Jim Kennedy, a member of the congregation and teacher at Cal Poly, designed the education wing. Again the contractor was Vernon Dillon, chairman of the Official Board, (as it was called then). The groundbreaking ceremony took place in June, and the building was consecrated on December 5. Total cost came to the substantial sum of \$23,000!

1966 A well-publicized "Country Fair" was held in the fall that attracted families from throughout the area. The chairs and benches were removed from the sanctuary and concession booths were built along the walls. A "Country Store," "Country Kitchen," bakery and other concessions were located in classrooms. On the grounds, a plant nursery was set up, and pony rides were offered in the parking lot. It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and a good fund raiser. The "Fair" was well attended by the community.

The budget was \$19,902. Pledges received: \$14,000. The Village Children's Center was established with an endowment by Dr. Margery Cutsforth, its first director.

1968 The science symposium in the Sixth Annual Lenten Festival is especially noteworthy. "The Implications of Organ Transplantation" was the focus. (A relatively new science then). The participants were: Dr. Eugene Dong, Jr., Professor of Surgery at Stanford University. He was in charge of the heart transplantation program. Dr. Ronald L. Ritschard, Professor of Biology at Cal Poly, discussed the effect of organ transplantation on the human system. Anglican Bishop C. Edward Crowther considered the ethical and religious implications, and Dr. Murray Korngold, a prominent Southern California Clinical Psychologist completed the panel.

The Fourth Annual Invitational Art Show presented the works of sixty painters, photographers, sculptors and ceramists. The sanctuary was converted into an art gallery decorated by many beautiful plants, including lovely orchids provided by members

Betty and Norris Powell.

Barbara Hoff, professional musician, was hired as organist and choir director in place of Marjorie Mitchell when she and her husband Rev. Mack Mitchell moved out of the community.

Rev. Richard Calkins appointed as pastor. Trinity was again placed on pastoral circuit with Estero Bay Methodist in Morro Bay. It proved to be a difficult assignment for Pastor Calkins to follow the very popular and dynamic Mack Mitchell, as well as ministering to both churches. The budget was \$15,500. Pledges totaled \$8,240., and membership was down to 96.

1969 **Rev. John Tincher** appointed as pastor. (His wife Cora, now deceased, was former pastor Ed Womack's sister). Trinity is no longer on circuit. Los Osos begins to grow at an increased rate and the young pastor and his wife attract more young families moving into the community.

Rev. Tincher's two-year ministry brought innovative worship experiences, including "worship-in-the round," folk music and love feasts. The Lenten Festival became the "Spring Festival of the Arts," and it continued to grow and gain community support.

A social group was formed called "Going Concerns." Events for the year were planned at an annual meeting (party), and included beach picnics, barbecues at different homes, and camp outs at El Capitan State Park near Gaviota.

Planning retreats were held at Methodist Camp Arroyo Grande to establish congregational goals and set priorities.

1970 The budget was \$24,000. Pledges totaled \$19,000., and membership had reached 130.

1971 **Rev. Pierce Johnson** appointed as pastor after serving at Claremont UMC for thirteen years. It turned out to be a one-year "transitional" appointment. Rev. Johnson brought his own printing press which was used to print the Trinity View, and

own printing press which was used to print the *Trinity View*, and the orders of worship. He also had an arc-lamp movie projector which was used for regular "mini film festivals" of foreign and art films, which were usually followed by lively discussions.

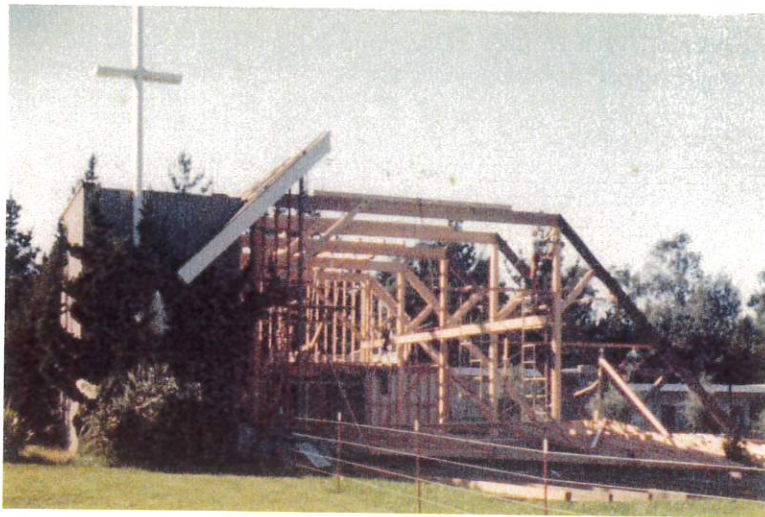
1972 **Rev. Dr. David Richardson** appointed as pastor, the beginning of a very successful eight-year ministry. Dave was very active in the community, serving first as secretary-treasurer and then as president of the People's Self-Help Housing Corporation, a nonprofit corporation that helps low-income families build homes throughout the county. He taught part-time in family development at Cal Poly, and part-time at Cuesta College in Philosophy and World Religions.

Kitty Shaffer, long-time church member and active senior citizen, helped found People Helping People (PHP), an organization that provides services for senior citizens. Trinity jointly sponsored PHP with the county Economic Opportunity Commission. Hot lunches were served daily in the Opal Room. Kitty also worked very hard to get bus service for seniors in the community, frequently lobbying the county board of supervisors, resulting in the Dial-a-Ride service. And Kitty was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the South Bay Community Center.

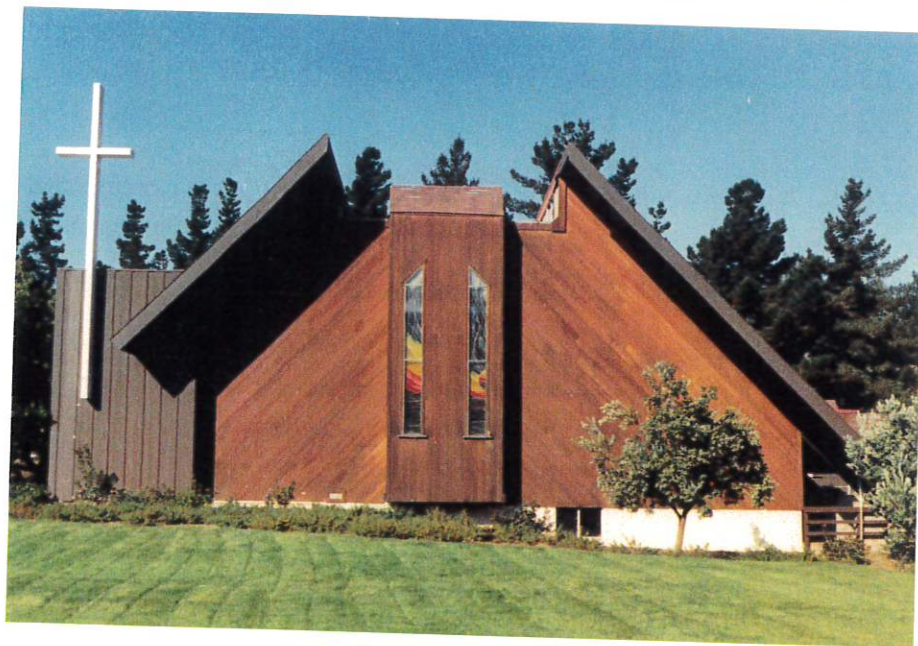
1974 A chicken barbecue was held in May. It was the first of what was to become the biggest annual fund-raising event in the history of Trinity. It was a labor-intensive all-day effort that involved a great many members of the congregation, and it was always very well patronized by the community. It was held every May for thirteen years.

The first group of Trinity Quilters was formed by Opal Pyle and Betty Tognetti. Many heirloom quilts were finished by the group.

1975 Trinity sponsored the resettlement of a Vietnamese family. The Pham family arrived in August: father, mother and three children, ages 16, 11, and 6. As a sponsor, the church agreed to provide shelter, food, clothing and pocket money until



Expanding the church building in 1976, doubling its size.



Ten years later.

they became self-sufficient members of the community. A large committee was formed to help them resettle. It assisted them in finding jobs, enrolling children in school, taking them to the doctor, dentist, eye doctor, teaching them how to open a bank account, and how to obtain their driver's license. Marie Murphy and Mary Boardman spent many hours helping the adults with their English.

1976 Los Osos was growing rapidly and so was Trinity. Even after changing to two services, the small A-frame sanctuary could no longer accommodate the growing congregation. In September the sanctuary expansion project began. The south side remained in place, the north side was dismantled and reassembled in its present position, with the flat roof section filling the gap. The project was completed in December and doubled the size of the sanctuary. The new stained glass windows were installed just in time for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. (Nobody minded the still-bare concrete floor; we were in our big "new" sanctuary!) The window was designed by Lee Genthner. It represents the church and the world through imagery of wind, fire, light and a "Dove of Peace."

1977 The sanctuary was dedicated on Sunday, January 16, with Dr. Elias Galvan, our district superintendent, preaching.

1978 A new Allen digital computer organ was purchased for approximately \$15,000. Membership was at 264, with an average worship service attendance of 195.

Rev. Russell Hetsler was hired as associate pastor. He served as minister of visitation for nine years. He was a much-loved and caring friend to a great many of us.

New robes were purchased for our chancel choir of 25 members.

1979 Trinity sponsored two more Vietnamese refugee families. In April the Vuong family arrived: Tai and his wife Oahn,

his brother Buu, and friend Hai. In October the Phams arrived (cousins of the first family we sponsored in 1975): Van, Tho, Tuong, Cuong and Tuan.

1980 **Rev. Carl Johnson** appointed as pastor. Again, this was a one-year "transitional" appointment following an eight-year ministry of a very popular and effective pastor.

1981 **Rev. Lyman Ellis** appointed as pastor. Lyman was the first pastor to use a computer at Trinity, and he soon convinced us of its value in increased productivity. The Administrative Board authorized the purchase of a computer, printer and copier. Soon to follow was a multiline phone system. With his recording equipment Lyman taped every worship service and musical event at Trinity.

Trinity agreed to meet its \$14,620 share of the Pacific Homes Settlement Fund which totaled \$21 million. The Finance Committee turned the fund drive for our share of the settlement into an opportunity to raise money for Trinity as well. A successful chicken barbecue raised \$1600, and the choir raised \$150 at a benefit concert. This, added to the amount raised by the drive, enabled us to exceed our obligation.

1984 A Long-Range Planning Committee was formed to analyze Trinity's needs, help the congregation establish priorities, and recommend the kind of facilities that will best meet those needs.

The Trinity Heirloom Quilters, chaired by long-time member Marie Shutz, was organized in September. The group finished beautiful quilts for 23 years earning over \$15,000 from sales.

1985 **Rev. Ed Womack** appointed as pastor. Ed brought many years of experience as a teacher, preacher and administrator to Trinity. He had developed an extensive acolyte training and youth confirmation program before coming to Trinity that received widespread recognition. Many of Trinity's youths were beneficiaries of Ed's confirmation classes during the eight years he served



The "Tuesday Crew" in 2000: Jim Crask, George Self, Joe Asire, and Don MacLaine.



Trinity men serving their church and the community.



Barbecue crews on the new patio.

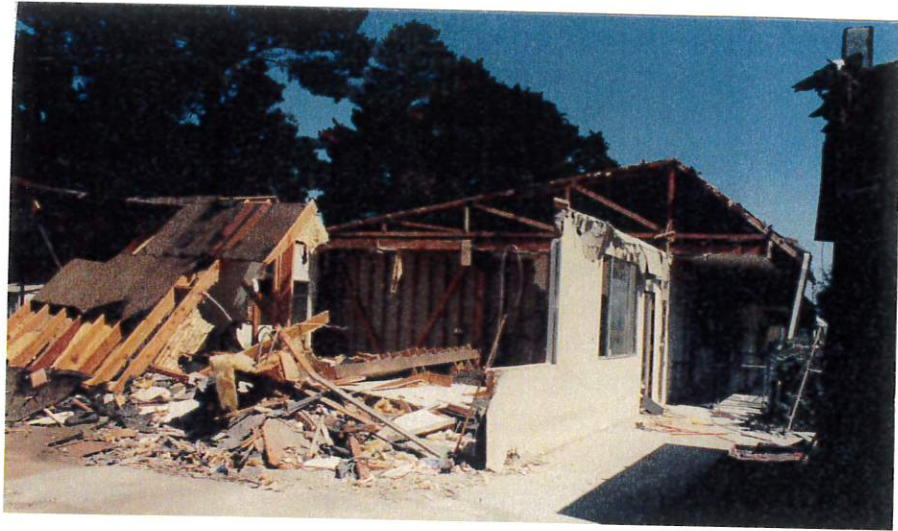
before he and his wife Jean retired to their new home in Arizona. (Their daughter Janet Neilson served as Village Children's Center Director for thirteen years).

The "Tuesday Crew" was formed by Dan Keulen and Dale Redding for the purpose of performing repairs, maintenance, and general upkeep of the buildings and grounds. As more men joined the Crew, it soon became a regular institution of Trinity. Meeting every Tuesday morning, the Crew has provided a most valuable service to the church, saving it many thousands of dollars over the years. It continues to serve to this day.

1986 A Building Committee was formed to implement the building program recommended by the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Trinity began serving meals once a month to the homeless in San Luis Obispo at the Peoples' Kitchen, a service shared by many churches and organizations in the county. Marcia Munson, a charter member of Trinity, along with Evelyn Kane, have served as our coordinators from the beginning and continue to do so at this writing. Many of our members regularly prepare pans of food to be transported to San Luis Obispo. To date, People's Kitchen serves an average of 95 meals daily.

1989 Mike Rosen was hired as Christian Education Coordinator to keep the Sunday School staffed with volunteer teachers and well equipped with supplies and curriculum materials. He planned and coordinated the annual Vacation Bible School, and a Sunday morning worship service for Sunday School children. He also provided continuing educational opportunities for adults by inviting speakers for an evening of lecture and discussion on a wide range of topics. One of the most popular activities Mike planned and coordinated was the Kids Club which provided a variety of educational field trips and fun activities.





1992 First phase of the remodeling project was the seismic retrofitting of the sanctuary, and removal of the balcony, as mandated by the Fire Marshall.

1993 **Rev. Mike Eggleston** appointed as pastor. The long process of completing plans and obtaining permits from the county continued.

1995 Construction began on the building project with the addition of a classroom to the education wing. Upon completion of the classroom, demolition of the old office, lounge, pastor's study, kitchen and rest rooms was followed by construction of the new facilities. Added was a new entry, narthex, office, pastor's study, kitchen, rest rooms, a large fellowship hall and three classrooms on the second floor.

1996 The project was completed and the facilities were consecrated in January.

1998 Trinity had always hoped to be able to purchase the 1.4 acre parcel on the west side of the church property to meet future needs, so when it came on the market this year the Board of Trustees, with the approval of the congregation, made the purchase. It was for sale many years ago but the church was not in a financial position to purchase it. A service of dedication was held on the site led by Pastor Mike Eggleston.

2000 **Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson** appointed as pastor after serving for five years as a campus minister at the University of Hawaii, and five years as pastor of Holtville United Methodist Church in the Imperial Valley. Mark also served as an Associate Pastor in San Diego for four years, and as an Associate Pastor in Aurora, Illinois for six years. He is a graduate of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Claremont School of Theology.

One of the first difficult challenges facing the new pastor was the cell phone antenna proposal by AT&T; it would replace the exterior cross with a new larger cross that would house the antenna. The church would receive a monthly rental fee. AT&T assured the Trustees and the Council there was no scientific evidence of a

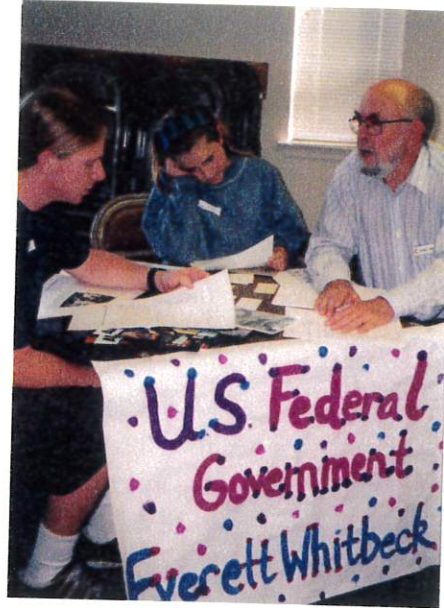
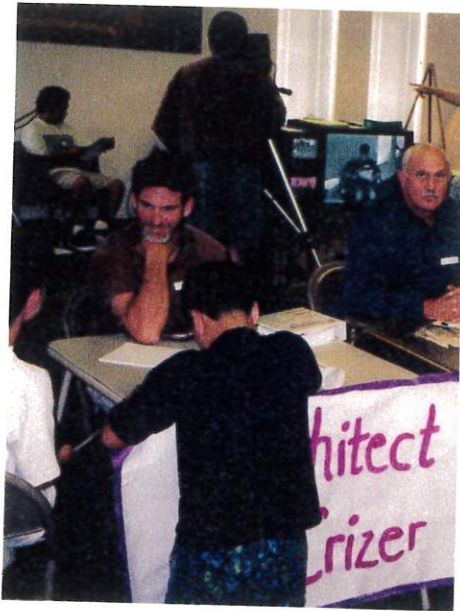
health risk. After the Council voted to approve, the Board of Trustees signed the contract. However, many parents and teachers of the Village Children's Center were very upset over the approval because of concern that the children would be near the antenna while they were in the play yard. Parents said they would withdraw their children if the approval was not rescinded. After a long and sometimes heated congregational meeting where both sides were heard, the Congregation reversed its decision and terminated the contract. Many members disagreed with the decision and stopped attending and some withdrew their financial support.

For several years Trinity had to cope with budget deficits and unexpected expenses. By borrowing from its maintenance trust fund, carefully trimming the budget, holding successful stewardship campaigns and receiving several substantial gifts, this generous and committed congregation began overcoming its financial problems. The average annual giving per household continued to rise each year, membership is growing and worship service attendance is up. It is evident the congregation is continuing to grow spiritually and has become a loving, caring community committed to its Mission Statement: to nurture one another and our neighbor in the love of God, serve our community, encourage persons to become Christian Disciples and good stewards of God's Creation.

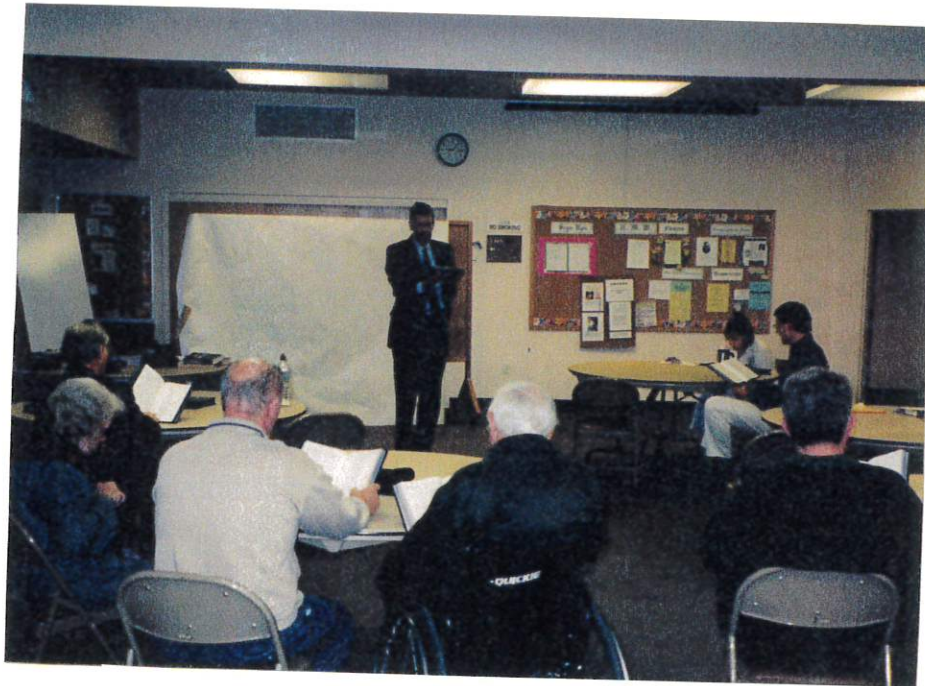
2004 The first of three women's retreats was held in Santa Barbara and became a well-attended annual event. The last two were held at San Juan Bautista. Fifty five attended the last one.

2006 Taryn Green was hired as Junior High youth director. Youth ministry has always been a priority at Trinity. Before hiring directors, volunteers were relied upon to provide the leadership and resources needed to keep a youth program going. Member Jonas Richardson, brother of the Rev. Dr. Dave Richardson, provided such leadership for many years. He organized a variety of activities such as hikes, field trips, pizza and ice cream parties and trips to the movies. Pam Carol was one of the





Two of the many stations at the Career Fair.



The Rev. Rich Garner, District Superintendent, giving a presentation on Methodist history and policy in 2003.

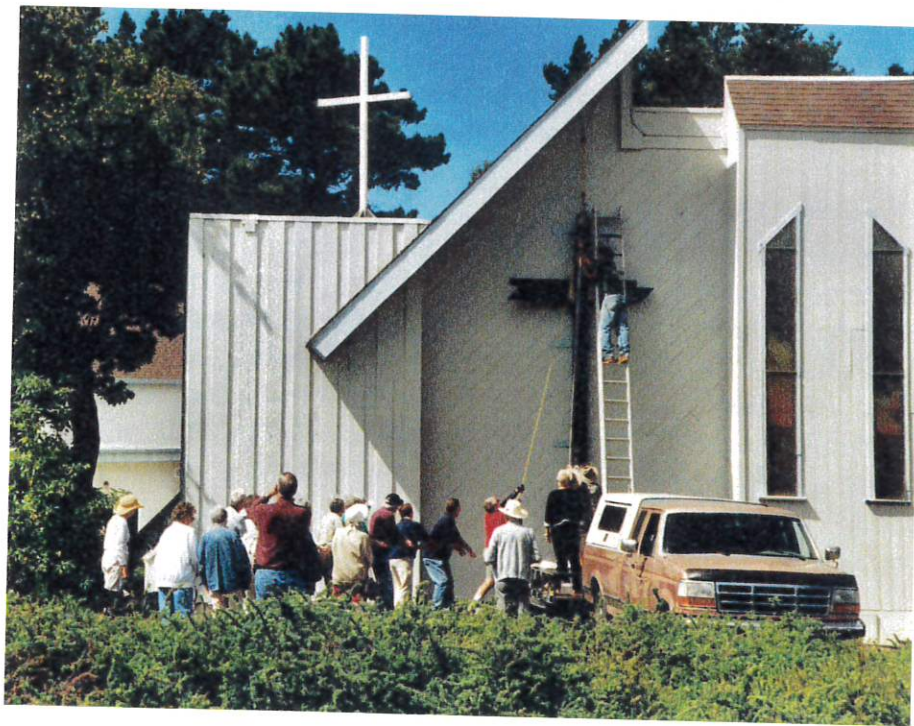
first hired directors, followed by Sandy Green who served from 1995 to 2005 as Senior Hi director. Ryan Valliere and John Fergus each served for a year as Senior Hi directors. Eric and Jennifer Jarvis were our Junior Hi directors from 2001 to 2007.

Trinity organized the first CROP Walk to raise money to fight hunger locally and globally. Pastor Mark Richardson challenged the congregation and the community to get involved. In spite of rain, nearly 130 walkers from many congregations in the county quickly exceeded the goal of \$10,000. The final total eventually grew to \$17,687. The second CROP Walk was held the following year on a beautiful sunny day and its goal of \$20,000 was also exceeded, and the third CROP Walk, held in May of 2008, exceeded its goal of \$25,000 as well!

2007 The Central Coast Clergy for Justice was formed with Pastor Mark as one of the founding directors. Many faiths and denominations are represented. Subsequently, the laity from these congregations formed the Central Coast Interfaith Voices for Justice. Meetings are held in the Congregation Beth David's new synagog on Los Osos Valley Road. It has been certified as a "green building," and it's considered the "greenest" building in the county to date. In 2008 the two groups were combined into the Central Coast Clergy and Laity for Justice.

A new steel cross was installed on the east end of the church to replace the tall white cross that blew down in a storm. The red flame symbol, also made of steel, has been crafted and will be installed adjacent to the cross to complete the Methodist logo.

2008 Hilary Saner from Estero United Methodist Church in Morro Bay was hired as Christian Education Coordinator to replace Mike Rosen who resigned in 2007. She is a dynamic and very talented addition to our staff. She filled the pulpit during most of the Sundays Pastor Mark was on his three-month renewal leave with very creative and unique sermons. She is preparing for the ministry and this was good experience.



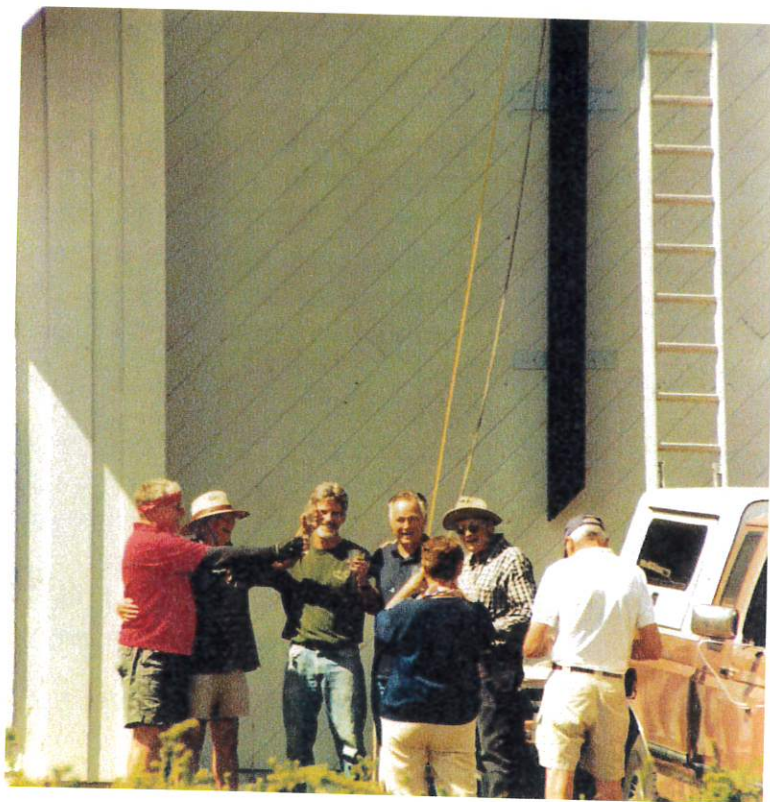
Robin Jordan was hired as our latest Senior High youth director.

On Sunday, May 18th, our Peace Pole was installed on the lawn just north of the entrance. The dedication ceremony was presided over by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. It is part of an international project with the theme "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Our pole has the theme in eight languages. A brass plaque on the pole honors the late Al Topp for his generous contribution toward the project.

Kathleen Cosgrove retired as Church and Village Children's Center secretary after eleven years of outstanding service. A party was held in her honor in the Fellowship Hall where she received many gifts from a grateful congregation. Former staff secretaries were Jean Uhey and Carla Sosa.

After interviewing many applicants, Pam Nelson was hired as Trinity's and the VCC's new secretary. Before moving to Los Osos Pam served as secretary to the principal of Garden Grove High School in Orange County. Previously she and her late husband Scott were members of the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. Pam said her children were baptized by the Rev. Don Shelby who served as pastor for more than twenty years. (Don and his wife Jean attend Trinity now).

Long-time Director of Music, Organist & Choir Director, Barbara Hoff, was honored for serving Trinity for forty years. Following a luncheon in her honor, many people shared their stories about Barbara, including her brother the Rev. James Stewart, retired Methodist pastor and former district superintendent who drove down from Berkeley. Gary Lamprecht, Director of the Vocal Arts Ensemble, and Professor Craig Russell of the Cal Poly music department (and Trinity member) shared delightful stories from working with Barbara for many years.



Music at Trinity
by Barbara Hoff, Director of Music

Early in the life of Trinity, Betty Powell and several others formed our first choir. In the beginning, all the singers were women, but they were eventually joined by a few talented teens and courageous men. The appointment of Mack Mitchell as our minister brought Marjorie Mitchell to Los Osos, and our music program bloomed. Her leadership attracted singers, soloists, and instrumentalists to Trinity. The choir area of the chancel was crowded, with a full soprano, alto, tenor and bass choir. We acquired a Lowrey organ, and Mildred Pitt donated a Maas-Rowe carillon, which chimed through the community at pre-set times (and which had to be reset after every power failure).

Lowell and I moved to Los Osos at the end of 1966, and I became a choir member, occasionally substituting for Marjorie. When the Mitchells moved, in June of 1968, I agreed to be the interim organist/choir director, (a position which was finally made permanent in 2008)!

Ten years later, when new, digital computer organs had become mainstream and our old organ became very expensive to repair, we purchased the Allen organ we currently use. In the same year, Trinity received a generous bequest from Kay Kameron. Augmented by memorial gifts from other individuals, her bequest provided the means to buy our much-used and much-appreciated seven-foot Baldwin grand piano.

The combination of excellent acoustics, a concert-quality piano, and a good-sized room makes Trinity a prime location for performing groups. Over the past thirty years, we have hosted the Mozart Festival, San Luis Obispo Symphony, Chamber Orchestra, and Youth Symphony, as well as the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra and many visiting choirs and other musical organizations.

Thanks to a memorial gift from the Reverend Norris Barnes, Trinity acquired a set of beautiful Schulmerich Handbells. Norris' daughter, Maureen Upton, agreed to be our first bell choir director. One of her recruits was Everett Whitbeck, who was bitten by the handbell bug and, luckily for us, agreed to be our director after Maureen stepped down. In addition to directing bells, Everett tuned and maintained all of Trinity's pianos, free of charge, for many years.

In the course of Trinity's fifty-year history, many talented musicians have shared their gifts with us. For at least two decades, we had a thriving children's choir, led in turn by directors Ruth Martin, Jean Long, and Kim Rosen. We have, at various times, had a youth choir, youth orchestra, and barbershop quartet, as the need and talent presented itself. The Eggleston family helped us produce two children's musicals, the Crizers and others started our bi-annual children's Christmas pageant, and today our Sunday School program is helping to keep our children singing.

In keeping with current trends in church music, we formed our Praise Band several years ago. Started by Kim Rosen, Marian and Vaughn Kaser, Maureen Upton, Cynthia McCabe, and some of Trinity's youth, the Praise Band has gained new members and adds a new and exciting dimension to our worship. The band is currently led by Marian Kaser, who also, when asked, generously shares her considerable musical gifts with our children and our choirs.

Music is part of church life at serious times, such as weddings, memorial services, and weekly worship. But we also come together sometimes purely for musical fun. Marjorie Mitchell's choir started the tradition with shows called "The Choir Disrobes." We continued for the next dozen years with annual choir shows (photos and tapes exist), and later with occasional April Fool's concerts, Crazy Song Festivals, and talent shows.

Whether worshipping or playing, we do "make a joyful noise." Our pastors have been, without exception, very supportive of our

music program. Several of them were/are choir members, and all of them have given our musicians lots of help and encouragement.

We are grateful for the blessings of the past, and look forward to the music of the seasons and years to come.



Trinity's Chancel Choir, 2004.

Fifty Years of United Methodist Women

By Alta Hall, President

The history of the present unit of United Methodist Women (UMW) begins with its "foremother," the Baywood Park Methodist Church's Women's Society for Christian Service (WSCS). It became UMW in 1972, three years after the Methodist merged with the United Brethren Church. Beginning as early as 1959, there was a WSCS at the Baywood Park Methodist Church as indicated by the publicity for an upcoming church-wide bazaar: Church Bazaar Planned at Baywood Park... "Twelve booths will be gaily decorated in front of the building ... Contests, games, and gift items will be sold by members of the Methodist Men, WSCS and Methodist Youth Fellowship."

The credit for its early formation could no doubt be traced to the Estero Bay Methodist Church's WSCS and its organizational knowledge. However, the concept of women organized for service and mission had fertile ground at the Baywood Park church and in the next few years, the WSCS's activities included numerous fundraisers --- bazaars, rummage sales, lunches, dinners, penny bags, and so on. Although support of missions was and is the primary function of WSCS/UMW, in the early years, much of their fund raising efforts went to help the new church. For example, March, 1962 publicity announced that the proceeds from an upcoming bake sale were "to be used for painting and landscaping." In the same article, "Mrs. Jene Munson (our own Marcia) reported on the vent needed in the kitchen and requested more time." Even more indicative of the focus for WSCS in those days was a report in June, 1965: "Mrs. Ranton (the president) said WSCS raised \$1344.36 through rummage sales, musicals, bazaar and bake sales. From this income, members donated \$995 to the church, \$113 for missionary work, and \$55 to equip the church's kitchen."

This tradition of raising funds to help with church projects has continued throughout WSCW/UMW's history at Trinity. When the church was remodeled in 1995, UMW provided the funds for the kitchen appliances --- the stove, refrigerator, a freezer, and the

dish sterilizer. Also, the wallpaper in the women's and men's rest-rooms was bought and hung by UMW. More recently, UMW bought the current freezer and paid for its installation. These are just a few of UMW's contributions to the church.

UMW has also financially supported the youth at Trinity, contributing each year to their programs in addition to providing funds to send youth to special events. The first college scholarships from Trinity were funded and distributed by UMW. The awarding of scholarships later became part of the church's ministries but UMW continues to contribute to the fund. Until they retired recently, Trinity's Heritage Quilters were major contributors to the scholarship program, donating half their proceeds to the fund.

Although supporting the local church has traditionally been a part of UMW's history, mission is its primary function. UMW is a missionary society and its purpose is to learn about and support missions around the world, nationally, and locally. The Purpose of the United Methodist Women states: "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Becoming a community and developing "a creative supportive fellowship" has been achieved through monthly meetings and working together on various projects. Women working on crafts for the bazaars, rummage and bake sales, and meals became close friends. For many years, "Friendship Circle" and the present "Women of the Bible Circle" have provided more fellowship opportunities along with the book clubs that have functioned under the UMW umbrella. Bible studies have been an integral part of "knowing God" and God's will. In fact, one UMW study group, with leadership provided by Alice Whitbeck, met for about 20 years.

"Expanding concepts of mission" in those early days was reflected in the topics of some of their meetings. In October, 1965, a student from Ewha College, a Methodist sponsored college in South Korea, spoke. In September, 1966, WSCS ladies sent clothing they had sewn for the Navajo children to Tuba City, Arizona. In January, 1967, a Peace Corps volunteer addressed WSCS. In March, 1967, WSCS heard Dennis Brutus, a former political prisoner from South Africa. These sorts of topics continued through the years along with programs from local ministries such as the Women's Shelter, Hospice, People Helping People, and the Homeless Shelter.

Trinity's UMW has reached beyond its walls by being active with Church Women United, a Christian ecumenical organization, hosting the organization many times over the years and participating in some of its projects, such as the Layette Project that continues to this day. The unit has also attended and hosted Santa Barbara District events in addition to attending the Schools of Missions.

As with most long-time organizations, UMW nationally has experienced declining numbers of members. Older women are not able to participate as much as in the past and younger women are spread thin with work, family, home obligations and other interests. United Methodist Women continues at Trinity because of the dedication of a handful of women who understand its purpose and the concept of mission. When asked the question, "How do you describe Trinity's United Methodist Women," one woman replied, "An independent batch of hardworking women who love the church and are willing to serve." That fairly well says it all.

Note: Church scrapbooks dating from 1958 to 1968 provided the information about UMW's early history.



United Methodist Women's outstanding Christmas Bazaar team: Sandy Green, Alta Hall, Pat Winstanley, Marcia Munson, Carol Shupp, Dorothy Gray, Thelma Randolph.





St. Patrick's Day, 2005



Collectibles, 1998



Christmas, 1998

*Our mission as Trinity United Methodist Church is to
nurture one another and our neighbor in the love of God,
Serve our community, and encourage persons to become
Christian disciples and good stewards of God's creation.*



Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

***Trinity United Methodist Church
490 Los Osos Valley Road
Los Osos, California 93402
Phone 805-528-1649***