Trinity Episcopal Church’s Holy Vision:

In glorifying God, we the members of Trinity Church, will foster a unified parish, demonstrate our spirituality with an open heart, and reflect in our actions the good news of the Holy Spirit to all members of our

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Stay tuned and see what 2019 has in store.
Our Mission
To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by:
Inviting all to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
Fostering the presence of the Holy Spirit for the equipping of saints to do the work of ministry.
Witnessing to the power of God to heal, transform, and make all things new.
Supporting those who by word and example make Christ’s redemptive work known.

On Sunday December 2nd at the 10:30 Service we Celebrated Acolyte Sunday. This year we had 3 Acolyte promotions. Those three were Crystal Brown, and Logan Jameson-Hatch and Maggie Truelove; the later two were unable to be there on Sunday. We also installed two new acolytes; Sonya Altnau and Michael DeSa. While we were missing many of our acolytes, it was still a joyful event to see the young men and women who give their time and talents to serve our Lord on Sundays recommit to this ministry. It was also a joy to celebrate them.
Dear Beloved in Christ:

A Blessed and joyous New Year to each of you and grace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have had a joyous Christmas season and it has been a great celebration of the Incarnation. God has ways of making all things new again. It is through the Incarnation that God provides a new way for us to enter into communion with Him. While Christmas is the celebration of Jesus coming into the world to redeem us, it is not a singular event. Our Lord enters into the hearts of men and women everyday to make them new again and bring new life. This is not merely a seasonal celebration it is one of the things we celebrate each time we worship together.

This will be the last column I write to you as your rector. As I step away from the pulpit, I do not step away from my commitment to pray for Trinity. I have a sense of melancholy as I depart. We have shared so much laughter and so many tears together over the years. I have been blest to have each of you in my life and doubly blest to have had the opportunity to minister to you. I do not know if my presence with you has made a difference in your journey of faith, but your presence on my faith journey has truly had a huge impact.

I have spent some time reflecting on the blessing of having Baptized many of our children and the privilege of presenting so many for Confirmation. I have been blest to perform the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for many couples. I have also been blest to witness the homecoming of many of our parishioners who are now with our blessed Lord and Savior. The greatest blessing has been to minister alongside so many saints of God, to share in the love of Christ.

Trinity will now step into a new phase of its walk with our Lord. He has flung the door open for you to walk through. You will have time to pray and meditate on who God is calling to minister with you in the coming years. God has that priest standing by, our parish has but to listen to the still small voice of God whisper to your heart, “This is my servant, call him.” I pray each of you listens well.

Over the next several months you have some exciting work before you. You will develop a parish profile that tells the story of who the people of Trinity are and who they see God calling them to be. This profile is very important. The parish profile will primarily do two things: it will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the parish. It will also identify the gifts the parish is seeking to have in its new rector. Do not take this work lightly. The effort and prayer your put into it will be of great benefit in identifying the priest you are to call. Throughout this process pray! I will be in prayer for you.

During this transition you will have Fr. Andrew guiding the parish spiritually. He is a fine priest and we are blest to have him with us. His role will be as locum tenens. This is a Latin phrase that means a person who stands in temporarily for another member of the clergy. He will lead the pastoral and spiritual affairs of the parish. Your vestry led by your senior warden will continue to manage the temporal affairs of the parish and develop the search for the new rector.

Megan and I will be absent for a season. We will miss worshiping and being present with you. Know that you will be in our prayers daily. We love the people of Trinity and the memories we have of our ministry here will be forever cherished. God’s blessing be upon you.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. John
**Our Vision:**

Our vision for Trinity Episcopal Church includes:

- Growing a dynamic youth program.
- Reaching out to our community outside the walls with the love of Christ.
- Increasing spiritual and congregational growth for our parish.

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**DOK Installation**

On Sunday December 9th at the 10:30 AM service three new members of the Hannah Chapter of the Daughters of the King were installed. Joined by some of the current members of the Daughters of the King these women made their vows to follow the rule of life laid out for all Daughters of the King. The three new members are Selma Steidley, Casie Ellison, and Kay Ivy.

The Daughters of the King were blessed to have led these three beautiful Christian ladies in the DOK Inquirers Class this fall. They completed the study and desire to become Daughters. Thanks be to God for Casie Ellison, Kay Ivy, and Selma Stiedley.

New Junior Daughters of the King will be installed in the spring. If you would like to know more about the Daughters of the King, please call or text Sherry Henderson, 903 263 8877.

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**Women of Trinity**

When the joy and celebrations of the blessed Christmas season are filed under precious memories, it’s time to look ahead. But when you look at that new calendar, Women of Trinity, please remember to circle the 3rd Wednesday of each month, January through May 2019. That’s the day when you have the opportunity to gather with other women of Trinity at 11am in All Saint’s Hall. You will enjoy an interesting & inspirational program, keep up with what’s happening and get involved. Also enjoy the camaraderie of Trinity women of all ages and interests and the enjoy a delicious lunch. Like going to lunch with some of your new/best friends. Join us on January 16 and start th New Year off with Fr. Andrew as our speaker. I can’t think of a better way to begin 2019, can you? See you then!

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**Youth News**

Hello Trinity Members! In years past the Youth have participated in Operation Christmas Child every November and it has always been a special blessing for us to know that we are helping in spreading the Good News of our Christ to children all over the world. In an effort to be more efficient, this year we will be asking for a special item each month for donation as opposed to asking all at once. This month we are asking for all of your extra shoe boxes. With Christmas behind us and boxes everywhere, we will be happy to take them off your hands! You are welcome to drop them off upstairs in the lounge area or near the youth door. Thank you for all you do in participating in our projects!
Birthdays

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<td>3</td>
<td>Barbara Cobb</td>
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<td>Yuri Altnau</td>
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<td>Walton Truelove</td>
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<td>Ann Brannon</td>
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<td>Bill Abraham</td>
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<td>Jim Johnson</td>
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<td>Mamie Lyons</td>
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<td>Larry D'Asto</td>
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<td>Nancy Haynes</td>
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<td>Jean Taylor</td>
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<td>David Jones</td>
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<td>Michael DeSa</td>
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<td>Alice Furrh</td>
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<td>Adrian Martinez</td>
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<td>Michelle Cutrer</td>
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<td>James Haich</td>
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<td>Jeanette Shelton</td>
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<td>Douglas Tuttle</td>
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<td>Rebecca Bockmon</td>
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<td>Tracy Prater</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Cassy Rhoades</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Jordan Weeks</td>
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<td>Brett Weeks</td>
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<td>Janet Gullette</td>
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<td>Chris Cope</td>
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<td>Dennis Rhoades</td>
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Anniversaries

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<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Kenneth Haynes</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Larry D'Asto</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Cameron McElroy, III</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Rusty Asaff</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bill Pool</td>
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Church Financials and Attendance for October 2018

- **Budget Income for 2018**: $498,837
- **Budget Expenses for 2018**: $557,879
- **Budget Difference for 2018**: ($59,042)
- **Income Received to Date**: $408,626
- **Expenses to Date**: $443,791
- **Income for the month**: $33,707
- **Expenses for the month**: $35,153
- **Difference for the month**: ($1,446)
- **Difference to Date**: ($35,165)

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<td>Average Sunday Attendance to date</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>166</td>
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<td>Average Sunday Attendance for October</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>185</td>
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<td>Sunday Attendance to date</td>
<td>7247</td>
<td>7135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance all other Services</td>
<td>7996</td>
<td>6151</td>
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Vestry Retreat

Vestry members, please mark your calendars for January 19th, 2019. Beginning at 9 AM we will begin our vestry retreat in the Guild Room at the church. We will conclude the retreat by 3 PM, then transition to our monthly vestry meeting. Please make plans to be present for the retreat as we vision the upcoming year, as well as the transition for our parish.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

There will be no Brotherhood of St. Andrew meetings in January.
Trinity Episcopal School Year Review:

2018 was a fun filled year for our school. There were many wonderful performances, programs, and fund raising opportunities that occurred. The kids raised money by raffling off tickets for a dune-buggy. There was a performance for Grandparents day, a play put on by Troupe, and a performance honoring the veterans on Veterans day. The kids also participated in sports like Volleyball, and fall relays. The kids will begin playing Basketball at the beginning of this year as well. We also graduated 4 awesome kids, and handed out many awards to others. The kids also participated in outreach efforts. They gave many shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, as well as donated an abundance canned goods for the food pantry. The year ended with a Christmas program put on by all grades Pre-K through 8th. It was a perfect ending to a busy and fun-filled year.
Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. As I look back over this past year, I am overcome with joy. This has been a blessed year for not only my family, but the church. First of all, I feel blessed that you all have allowed me to stay here with you after my curacy ended allowing me to serve as your Associate Priest. It has been a year of growing for me, and I appreciate you all for walking with me as I learn to be a better priest. That is only a small part of the bigger walk we have been making as a parish. We as a parish have done much this year. We had three wonderful concerts, one in the spring with the music from Russia, as well as another spring Organ recital, and another in the fall with the string quartet. We saw the youth hard at work raising money for mission trips through various fundraisers, including a pig roast. We recognized the need to think safety as a church, and put together a team of people who could offer care and support in a time of crisis. A hospitality team was put together to host different events, including taking on coordination of coffee and cookie hour. The same hospitality team put together a wonderful parish meeting lunch, and the Parish Christmas Party. We fed almost around 1100 meals at Thanksgiving plus 100 students at Wiley. God has been at work in the life of Trinity.

He began that work by giving us a new Holy Vision which we voted on in our 2017 parish meeting. The vestry spent a year discerning what that vision would look like, and the Holy Spirit gave us three Holy Vision Statements which was presented to the church. The vision that was voted on will see us into the future. As we know we are entering a new season as a parish. This is a season of transition and for many transitions are a time of fear. However, I think God’s timing has been shown at the perfect time. God gave us a vision that will help us navigate this transition, and help raise up a new leader for the parish. Our vision states that we will foster a unified parish. This is key, as we face transition going through it as one is how we get through it. As one unified parish we will call the right person that God is raising up for this place. The right person who will join us in the work already accomplished, and lead us through new works that are yet to be. God gave us this Holy Vision at the right time, so that we might be able to approach the upcoming search process with a new outlook. An outlook on where we want this parish to go.

God is not done with Trinity Episcopal Church. He has been at work in the life of this parish since the founding in 1851. He will continue to be at work in our life and the lives of our children, grand-children, and beyond. God has a wonderful future in store for Trinity, and I look forward to seeing that unfold. My brothers, and sisters, I look forward to walking with you in this New Year. I look forward to doing new things, and lifting up new leaders. This church has a very bright future. It has been a beacon of the light of Christ’s Gospel in this community since its founding, and it will continue to be that in the future. It is my prayer that this transition will be a smooth, unified one, led by God through the leadership of this church.

Blessings,
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XXVI. Of the Unworthiness of the Ministers, which hinders not the effect of the Sacraments.
Although in the visible church the evil be ever mingled with the good, and sometime the evil have chief authority in the Ministration of the Word and Sacraments, yet forasmuch as they do not the same in their own name, but in Christ’s, and do minister by his commission and authority, we may use their ministry, both in hearing the Word of God, and in receiving the Sacraments. Neither is the effect of Christ’s ordinance taken away by their wickedness, nor the grace of God’s gifts diminished from such as by faith, and rightly, do receive the Sacraments ministered unto them; which be effectual, because of Christ’s institution and promise, although they be ministered by evil men.

Nevertheless, it appertaineth to the discipline of the Church, that inquiry be made of evil Ministers, and that they be accused by those that have knowledge of their offences; and finally, being found guilty, by just judgement be deposed.

There is much evil in this world. Satan finds a way to distance us from God. He uses sin to do that. We all are plagued by sin, no matter who we are. We cannot avoid it. A part of our humanity is the reality of sin, which is why we need Christ. Nobody is immune to sin, not even ordained ministers. Priests, deacons, and bishops are first and foremost human, and with that they do sin. They are not perfect, even as they act as Christ. We see this in recent events with church leaders around this country and the world. With the sex abuse cases involving Roman Catholic Priests, a bishop who was drinking and driving, and addiction we can clearly see that ordained ministers fall into sin.

There is a lot going on in the Twenty-Sixth article. It covers how the Sacraments are distributed, how the Word of God is delivered, and how the priest is able to give both the Sacraments and Word. It also reminds us that even though priests are risen up and by Christ’s authority are able to give the Sacraments that they also can succumb to evil and sin. This article lays out what happens if a priest does fall into sin, and what happens to those sacraments that the priests or even bishops distributed. In the end the sacraments are never tarnished by the actions of the priest who distributed them. The priest does not have the power to destroy them. In this review of the Twenty-Sixth article I will lay out the reassurances of the Twenty-Sixth article, showing that while it does deal with the reality of sin, it also is an article which should comfort us. In showing that the sacraments administered by a sinful priest are not rendered ineffectual.

Our church, and especially our diocese does a great job of raising up priests. There are many steps to go through in the process of discerning a call to the Sacred Order of Priests. They do this to make sure two things. One that the person is fit for the church, in that the person will not do harm to the church. Second, they want to make sure the church is a fit for the person, and that ordained ministry will not harm that person. It is important to make sure that a person is truly being called by God, as well as the person is a right fit. However, despite all the best efforts to discern a right calling, ones humanity can still take over. This is true with priests. A person who the church set aside, who the church affirmed a calling by God, who has been called by God can fall into sin. This can happen and has happened after a minister has already administered Sacraments, such as Eucharist, Baptism, Matrimony, and others. When this happens there can be a concern of the validity of the sacrament. For instance, with the priest sexual abuse cases there are concerns if the sacrament of matrimony is still valid if a priest who marries a couple is defrocked due to the sexual abuses. This is where Article Twenty-Six comes in.

The article begins by pointing out that while there is good in the visible church, there is also evil mingled with it. First of all, let’s examine what the “visible church” is. According to Brian Schwertley’s Article entitled “The Visible Vs. The Invisible Church” the Westminster Standards succinctly states,
“the visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel, consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary salvation.” So we see that we are all the visible church, those of us who profess the faith are the representatives of Christ to the world. As we know evil certainly can seep into humanity, and the visible church consist of humans. The article points out that while evil can get into humanity, it is not by the humanity of the priests that the sacraments are administered. Rather, they are administered by Christ, and under his authority. The article is pointing out that the sacraments were given under the authority of Christ by the priest. In turn the sacraments are Christ’s to give.

Because the sacraments are given under the authority of Christ, and they are His to give, we see that the effect of the sacraments will not be taken away, nor will the inward and visible grace of the sacraments be taken away, by the wickedness of the administrator. As I said, the sacraments are Christ’s. The Eucharist is His body and blood. They were consecrated by the Holy Spirit, not the priest. The Holy Spirit equips in baptism, and makes one a member of the body, not the priest. God blesses the marriage of a couple, not the priest. The priest says the words, but it is God’s action which gives us the grace in the Sacraments. As long as one receives the sacraments worthily, nothing will diminish them, nor take away the grace given. Even if a priest is living in sin, and has not been defrocked or removed from ministry, the sacraments are still sacraments. They are still outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace. What’s more is, man is consumed by sin, even priests. They may not be sins worthy of removal from ministry, but there are sins that ministers deal with. It is comforting to know that even with the sins of humanity, the sacraments are not effected. They cannot be tarnished by sin.

However, the reality of sin is real in the church. The church must have a way to deal with priests who do truly evil acts, such as the sexual abuse cases. The article finishes up stating what happens if a priest has been acting evil. It states that if a priest is accused of a evil deed that those would be investigated, and if found guilty the priest would be deposed or removed from ministry. Here in our diocese we have a process by which a priest is investigated. Depending on the severity of the offense a priest could be put on a warning, made to do some personal work by the bishop, or be deposed. However, as the article states, the sacraments the priest administered are still completely valid.

As we see this article is an article that should be comforting. Though it deals with the reality of sin, and sin in the ministers of the church, it still is comforting. It is comforting that though evil can make it’s way into the visible church, it has no power over the sacraments; as those are Christ’s not man’s. The sacraments are still outward and visible signs, and they still give grace to those who take them.
MARSHALL PRAYER FORCE BANQUET

Saturday, January 26, 2018
6:00 PM at the Marshall Civic Center
Join us as we honor our First Responders and the Prayer Warriors who support them.
Contact Fr. John for tickets
Tickets are $25.00
Trinity will be Hosting a Bridges Out of Poverty Training

This opportunity will be sponsored by Episcopal Health Foundation. It helps us understand the realities of poverty in our community and gives us ways of addressing those issues.

The training will be at All Saints Hall on February 9th. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please make plans to join us.

Stay tuned for more details!
**Parish Staff**
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
  Rector

Fr. Andrew Ellison
  Curate

Rae Dickson
  Youth Director

Magdalena Altnau
  Children’s Christian Formation Director

Angela Bray
  Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
  Music Director and Organist

Melissa Hammers
  Choir Director

Stacey Shaw
  Parish Administrator

Suzie Ward
  Administrative Assistant

Melvin Williams
  Sexton

**Vestry**
Tony Pierce
  Senior Warden

  Junior Warden

Leana Westergaard
  Clerk of the Vestry

  Treasurer

Carol Meyer
  Kathleen Abraham

  Jackie Weeks

  Chris Altnau

  Steve Lewis

  Margot Lingold

  Don Bramlett

  Sam Clark

  Blair Hammers

  Roy McCarroll

**Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday**
Holy Communion - 8:00 AM
Parish Breakfast - 9:00 AM
Christian Formation for all ages - 9:30 AM
Holy Communion - 10:30 AM
After 10:30 Service
Coffee & Cookies In All Saints Hall

**Wednesday**
Holy Communion - 10:00 AM
Choir Practice 5:00 PM
Dinner - 5:15 PM
Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

**Thursday**
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

**Trinity Episcopal Church**
106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670

903-938-4246
http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org