



THE TRIPOD

Trinity Episcopal Church & School

Church - <http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

School - <http://www.trinitymarshall.org>

Volume 20 Issue 1

January 2020

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 church and community.

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2019 IN REVIEW

What a year 2019 was for Trinity Episcopal Church! We began the year saying goodbye to Fr. John and Megan. We were able to celebrate their ministries, as well as send them off to enjoy retirement. We then began a journey throughout the year, we have discerned together examining what our future should look like, all the while continue to worship, and participate in ministry. We had two concerts this year. In the Spring we welcomed ChoRuss, the vocal group from Russia. Their performance was beautiful, and funny. In the fall we welcomed the Shreveport Festival String Quartet, who played classical pieces along with some contemporary pieces. It was also an entertaining show, as usual.

This year we also decided to really invest in our youth group, when the vestry decided to make our youth director, Rae Dickson full time. This has allowed her to spend more time focusing on the youth group, planning activities, being in the community. We have begun to see some results. The youth group is growing quickly, including on Sunday mornings. In fact during the year we baptized 3 youth members, and confirmed 6 others. The Spirit is moving in our youth group.

The vestry has been extremely busy this year. After Fr. John's retirement they got right to work laying the groundwork for our transition. They began by working with Holy Cow to come up with a Parish Inventory survey. From the answers to this survey they were able to ascertain a direction this church would like to go. We got to get a good picture on who we are, and where we want to go. The answers also laid the groundwork for the parish profile, which members of the vestry has put together. They also chose members to serve on the search committee for the church. We have a solid search committee who will faithfully interview potential candidates, and then discern who should be recommended to the vestry to elect as the next rector. They will begin this work early in 2020.

Just because we are in a transition does not mean the normal activities stop. We still celebrated, and enjoyed various parish activities. The Children's choir continued to perform for the church, including a performance the Sunday before Memorial Day, as well as a performance during the Early Christmas Eve service. We also did our normal activities; like the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Holy Week services, Fall and Spring concerts, Service of Lessons and Carols, Memorial Day service, and many more.

Last but certainly not least, we once again put on the Thanksgiving outreach ministry. With the help of many members of the community, we fed a little over 1000 meals to those who needed a Thanksgiving meal. Many people came out to help us, and we are truly thankful.

This year has been both a difficult year in saying goodbye to our long time rector, as well as moving through transition; but it has also been a blessed year. We have seen the Spirit moving in this place, and I am certain the Spirit will move us in 2020. I look forward to the next chapter of our church's history that will unfold in 2020.

*Turn to page 2 for Pictures.

Pictures from 2019



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.



A Word With Fr. Andrew

Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. A new year is upon us. Well, actually a new decade is upon us. One popular practice among many is New Years resolutions. People across the country renew gym memberships, prepare diets, practice giving, pick up practices, or really anything that can help make life changes. For some, at least for me, the New Years resolution does not make it past January. No matter how much I convince myself that the gym membership will be used throughout the year, inevitably I have a membership to a gym that I visit maybe a few times the rest of the year. Although, I really feel like this is the year that I hit the gym hard.



New Years resolutions are really good, despite my failures at them. It causes us to look at how we are living, and what we need to change to live better. Many people have changed their lives for the better by picking up New Years resolution. Many have dropped bad habits and/or picked up good habits through making a New Years resolution. It takes perseverance, it takes dedication, it takes tenacity, to make a resolution stick. New Years resolutions can be individual, but they can also be a corporate thing. That is done in unison with others. The church is one place that can take on resolutions. That could look at ways in which we can change some practices.

Our parish named that we recognize the need to change to attract new people. However, we also named that we are hesitant to change. This hesitation might be because we don't know what that change looks like, or what is on the other side. It might also be because we are afraid that we will fail. Others think that when talking change we mean the way we worship or our theology or identity. Change is scary, it is true that we do not know what is on the other side. However, that should not stop us. That should not hold us back. Failure might happen, and failure is not a bad thing. It is a learning opportunity. When we fail, which we may since we are human, it shows we are trying. It also shows us what not to do, or what to do better. Finally, we can change while leaving our identity, both our worship and theology identities intact.

One way I would say we can change is how we engage in the community surrounding us. Being missional is one way we can engage our community, thinking missional is one way we can change and we would not need to change our worship style or who we are. Rather it is a way we can live out the great commission. Jesus sent his disciples out into the world. He did not tell them to wait in their churches for people to come. I think this is what we are called to do, to go into our community that we live. To go where the people are, giving them what they are seeking and needing, and bringing the Gospel with us. This is how relationships happen, relationships between us and the community, as well as relationships with God.

This new year, let us change our mindsets and begin to look at how we can effect the community around us. Let us look at how we can feed God's people outside of these walls; feed them physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Who knows, this may bring people into our doors who otherwise would never have joined us, or it may not. But what it will do is build relationships, and lead people to God. Building up the numbers in God's kingdom is much more important anyway.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew +



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.

Acolyte Sunday

On Sunday, December 8th at the 10:30 am service, we celebrated Acolyte Sunday. What a fun day it was. All of our acolytes vested, and processed in the service. We also installed three new acolyte apprentices. Those three were Landon Ellison, Kensley Ellison, and Griffin Jones. We also promoted one acolyte, Ashton Beavers. Finally, we promoted 3 senior acolytes; Cate Truelove, Sarah Rectenwald, and Troy Simmons. We truly appreciate the work and ministry of our acolytes. These young people offer much to our worship, and are a blessing to the church. Please do thank the acolytes for their service.



WOMEN OF TRINITY

The Guild Room in All Saint's Hall was filled with excited anticipation as Women of Trinity and guests greeted the November meeting's guest speaker Glenn Barnhart, Memorial City Hall Performance Center Director. Mr. Barnhart introduced the women to the long-awaited venue from the somewhat rocky and challenging beginning to the wonderful performances and well-planned new life for this grand old building. He shared insight into the possibilities and expectations awaiting our community as we utilize this "new" and appealing attraction for our citizens and visitors to East Texas. The Performance Center continues its mission as a memorial Museum to Harrison County Veterans, with 2,900 square feet of military history on exhibit. The members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Jeanette Shelton and Mieke Hathaway. Members were reminded to bring toys for The Empty Stocking Fund. As always there will not be a WOT meeting in December, but the January 22, 2020 program will be presented by Rae Dickson, Trinity's amazing Youth Director, so mark your calendars to start the New Year out right! May God fill your life with blessings as we celebrate the birth of His Child and may your New Year be filled with Hope for America and the World.

Birthdays

4 Yuri Altnau	19 Alice Furrh
5 Walton Truelove	24 Jeanette Shelton
7 Ann Brannon	25 Douglas Tuttle
8 Bill Abraham	25 Rebecca Bockmon
9 Jack Rectenwald	27 Cassy Rhoades
10 Jim Johnson	27 Jordan Weeks
15 Mamie Lyons	28 Brett Weeks
16 Larry D'Asto	28 David Spellings
16 Nancy Haynes	29 Janet Gulette
18 David Jones	30 Chris Cope
18 Michael DeSa	31 Dennis Rhoades



Anniversaries

5	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Haynes
16	Mr. & Mrs. Larry D'Asto
18	Mr. & Mrs. Cameron McElroy, III
23	Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Asaff
25	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pool

Lessons & Carols / Parish Christmas Party

Thank you to all who came to our Service of Lessons and Carols, as well as our parish Christmas party. The Lessons and Carols was such a beautiful service, and did a good job for putting us in the mood for the Christmas season. The parish Christmas party was also a good time. There was plenty of good food and delicious desserts. We even enjoyed a fun activity of trying to guess 24 Christmas songs by a single picture. It was much more challenging that many thought it would be.

We pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas season, and a blessed 2020.

Trinity Episcopal School Happenings!

This final month of the year was a busy month for Trinity Episcopal School. First off the children put on their Christmas program. The children performed on the beautiful campus of ETBU at the Baker Auditorium. They sang some well known, and some not so well known Christmas songs, and each one was amazing. They did such a great job. The Jr. High, as well as the 1st graders took field trips to TC Lindsey General Store in Jonesville. The kids had so much fun exploring the store, and finding goodies to buy. The Junior High went on a scavenger hunt around the store, and worked on a craft. The first graders decorated cookies. Speaking of field trips, on Wednesday, December 18th, the entire school went to the movies to see Frozen 2. This was a special screening for the school, where they got the theater to themselves. The kids continued their practice of giving, as they brought gifts for the Empty Stocking Fund. Our church has a long history with Empty Stocking Fund, and it is nice to see our school continue to support that.

The school board also kicked off their annual fund drive. This drive helps raise money for our school, and it's operational expenses. The annual fund goes until March. I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider donating to this fund. Any amount you can donate helps. In February we will be providing more information about this fund to the church, as well as we hear from members of the board. If



A Message from our Senior Warden



Our Core Values:

Commitment
to Jesus Christ

Authority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-
ship

Greetings to All!

During Advent, as the candles are lit, we welcome the preparing of our hearts for the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that this upcoming new year is full of Love, Joy, and Faith for you and your families. As I write this article, I reflect back over the past two years as your Senior Warden and I am truly Blessed to have served you and your Trinity Vestry. I give my gratitude and blessings to the current and outgoing Vestry members for their steadfast dedicated service.

Over the past year, in particular, we wished Fr. John and Megan well with retirement, have been Blessed with Fr. Andrew serving as Locum Tenens, we hired a full time Youth Director, Rae Dickson for whom has done a wonderful job with the spiritual development of our youth, said goodbye to friends and loved ones and prepared ourselves for the upcoming calling of a new rector with the selection of our set search committee. Throughout all, God has Guided Us, Comforted Us and Loved Us.

As your new Senior Warden Don Bramlett transitions to his new role, let us be reminded of those that have come before us and laid the groundwork for Trinity Marshall, for which began in 1851. Let us be reminded of the sweat, tears and the talents and treasures that were given and expressed that built the foundation that we stand upon today.

I humbly thank each of you for your encouragement, your support and your continued prayers while I served each of you and Trinity. I leave you with this final message:

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10

*Thank
you*

Youth Crazy Sweater Party



The Youth had a great Advent season this December. On Wednesdays in EYC, we studied the symbols of Christmas and the Christian meaning behind them. With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season the true meaning can be overlooked. Our early church fathers and fellow believers have given us a rich tradition that we still carry through to this day – we need only to know their meaning to pass it on to the next generation. Every candy cane is a story of the gospel

to be shared and every Christmas tree with it's lights and ornaments point to the Father who has given His Son for all mankind. What a blessing it is to live into history!

We finished off the season with a Crazy Christmas Sweater Party. From lama's to Santa's and light up sweaters, we had it all! Our winner was Yuri who sported his Christmas spirit wearing a dapper gorilla sweater and Santa hat. We played insane games such as candy cane hockey, orna-



ment relay, snowball pong and participated

in a little Christmas trivia to test their memory. They were able to get me back by wrapping up their youth minister with paper, ribbon and bows then watching me jump rope!

The evening ended with Lessons and Carols then Christmas dinner with the church. Our youth table enjoyed guessing the Christmas Song

game and I can't be quite sure, but I do believe that we may

have "bragging rights"! If there is any doubt, I refer you to Anika Kerr.... and good luck!



DOK Happenings

December was an exciting month for the Hannah Chapter of the Daughters of the King. We began the month by installing new members of the DOK, and the Jr DOK. On Sunday, December 1st we installed Mary Wasike to the Daughters of the King. We also Installed Kensley Ellison to the Jr. Daughters of the King. Breanna Roberts was unable to be present at the service, but she also has joined the Jr. Daughters of the King. After the service, the Daughters hosted a luncheon for the newest members and their families.

On Thursday, December 5th the Daughters had their Christmas party at the home of Sherry Henderson. There they had a gift exchange, and enjoyed a meal together.

The Daughters of the King is a wonderful ministry, and a needed ministry. They are called to a life of





Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

Coming up

On February 25th

Mark your calendars!



Reminder

No Services or Activities

January 1, 2020



*Behold, I come
among you as one
who serves.*

Luke 22:27

Parish Staff

Fr. Andrew Ellison
Locum Tenens

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

Vestry

Don Bramlett
Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer

Margot Lingold

Chris Altnau

Steve Lewis

Sam Clark

Blair Hammers

Roy McCarroll

Kathleen Abraham

Gary Hathaway

Edwina Thomas

Juli Jameson

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 - 5:30 PM

Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday

Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM



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