



# THE • TRIPOD

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • MARSHALL, TEXAS  
TRINITYEPISCOPALMARSHALL.ORG

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2023

## *Confirmation Sunday with Bishop Fisher*

**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.

The weather outside on Sunday, January 29, 2023 might have been dreary, but inside at Trinity it was a bright and joyful day as Bishop Fisher confirmed Sonya Altnau, Jonathan, Carey, Rome & Van Bowman, Michael DeSa, and Eli Hammers. We rejoice with each of the Confirmands as they continue their life in Christ and His church.



### CONTENTS

- 2-3 Rector's Reflections
- 4 39 Articles
- 5 Annual Parish Meeting
- 6 Pressing In: Lent
- 7 In February
- 8 Join Us In Praying
- 9 Ministry Roster
- 10 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 11 Feast Days



# RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

## OUR CORE VALUES:

Commitment to  
Jesus Christ

Authority of  
Scripture

Evangelism  
Relational

Ministry

Worship

Servant  
Ministry

Sacrificial  
Giving

Biblical  
Leadership

Dear Trinity,

It is a blessed thing to die in the Lord. Truly. As strange as it may seem when someone passes away, Christians believe that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). As good as life may be, the Lord is far better. As many of you are aware, we laid my grandfather Ron Bartlett to rest in Covington, GA this past Saturday. I wish that you all could have met him; he was a special man. I thought that I would share with you the eulogy I gave, not only because it has been on my mind, but because we as a church family have also experienced the double loss of Virginia Nader and Stacey's husband, Wes Grigsby. The hope of Heaven is the perennial need of Christian pilgrims, and I pray that this reminder blesses you.

*"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth.'" "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Rev. 14:13)*

Ron Bartlett was a man of many labors. I knew him as a man who very rarely sat down, and when he did it was usually to accomplish some sort of task! His workbench and tools were all heavily worn, with sawdust and the whir of the band saw ever present in the background of his shop in the mountains. I can remember watching him with a child's wide eyes when he would zip some piece of plywood along the circular blade of the table saw, with great precision barely missing his fingers.

We were always hearing from others about the things that he did for the widows up on Soapstone mountain. Installing refrigerators, changing light bulbs, putting in a skylight at the Armstrong's place. He built things with his hands. All of our houses have the enduring objects from his working hands. And his hands showed it. They were gnarled and thick from labor; the left hand having the scar from grasping a sapling while sliding down the mountain.

He labored in love for his family. He loved Grandma- never took the wedding ring from his finger even at the last. He loved his daughters and the families they created. He and grandma made a space for our growing families to create many memories on Memorial Days, and Independence Days, and Christmases. He labored for the kingdom of Christ. Grandpa was the kind of man who had no patience for idle speculation, for hemming and hawing, but knew what Christ desired of him- live in faith, to make disciples, feed the hungry, look after the widow, and walk humbly with his God.



# RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS CONT.

But those days of labor are done. He needs faith no longer, faith is the assurance of things not seen, and Grandpa can see him now. He rests from his labors and those deeds follow him into eternity.

I for one, am one of his deeds, humanly speaking. Grandpa took me on two of his 50 mission trips to various parts of the world. And he worked me to death! He put me mixing cement with a shovel in the Noonday Mexico heat. And when we were done at the end of the day, he made me go to the VBS that I did not want to go to. But he knew I needed to see these things. He knew I needed to see people who lived in corrugated tin shacks with no running water, worshipping Jesus with a desire and fervency that I could not understand. For in material terms, Christ had given them nothing. Christ had given them Himself, which was more valuable than any possession. But myself, who had been given many material blessings, had a heart cold toward God. This is what God used to break me open and give me life.

Grandpa could not have known that this would be the thing that God used to bring me to himself- but he knew the power of being a faithful laborer in God's field, and how it pays dividends far beyond what we can measure. He was a faithful servant, and through him our Lord has made many disciples. I am one of those deeds that will quite literally follow him into eternity. And I know that I am not the only one.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.  
He is blessed because he has died in the Lord.  
We are blessed because he has died in the Lord.

This is the final thing. Because Grandpa knew that all of these deeds, all of these labors, as wonderful as they are, that the deeds that followed him would not and could not ever recommend him to the Father. Grandpa knew the heart of the gospel, that the many good works he did could never justify him before God on Judgment Day- but rather that God had made him right first through faith in the blood of Christ. That God loved him so much that He sent his son to die for him and to save him from death and Hell. And because Ron Bartlett is in Christ through faith, the deeds that follow him become a sweet smelling aroma, a sacrifice of praise, and an eternal offering to the King of Kings.

This is why he can rest from his labors. This is why he is blessed... because he has died in the Lord. And this is why, though we weep for our loss, we rejoice with him-for he is with his savior.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord- even so, saith the spirit, for they rest from their labors. Thank you."

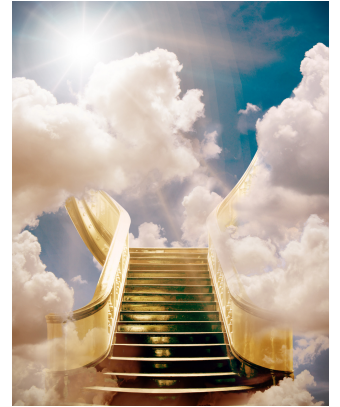


# 39 ARTICLES: COMMENTARY & REFLECTIONS

## *Article XIII. Of Works before Justification.*

*WORKS done before the grace of Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are not pleasant to God, forasmuch as they spring not of faith in Jesus Christ, neither do they make men meet to receive grace, or (as the School authors say) deserve grace of congruity: yea, rather for that they are not done as God hath willed and commanded them to be done, we doubt not but they have the nature of sin.*

Continuing on from the general discussion of the value of good works, the Articles address the question of works done before justification. Much of what is said here builds upon Articles IX- XII. The framers of the Articles knew the doctrine of Justification by Faith Alone needed protection from being compromised or trampled upon in any way. Thus having laid the basic premise in Article XI, they continue by setting up barriers to potential objections: “Why can’t good works be a part of being made right with God?” (Article XII); “Can’t my good works beforehand prepare me in any way?” (Article 13); “How about after justification? Can my extra good works take me higher up the ladder?” (Article XV). In short, there is no good work of ours that will commend us to God in any way; only Christ’s works can do that. Being found in Christ is the only way to truly have peace with God.



The underlying question of the present Article seems to be, “Can anyone do good works before the grace of Christ, in order that God may reward that person with the grace of Christ?” Medieval Scholastic theology distinguished between two different types of merit: Congruous and Condign. Condign merit (“Full merit”) was merit gained for the actual value of the thing done. Congruous merit (“Half merit”) did not have value on its own, but only because God saw that the person was doing the best that they could do. Thus a person was able, by good works done beforehand, to merit their first infusion of God’s grace. Though technically by “God’s grace,” the working of God to save was dependent upon people doing good works to merit His favor.



Article XIII addresses just this type of distinction and shows it to be deeply inadequate. The Article states that works done before the grace of Christ do not make people ready to receive grace (Congruous merit), nor are they meritorious on their own (Condign merit). Why? Because without faith no works are meritorious in God’s sight. Let me give an example from daily life: Situation 1- A husband brings home his wife’s favorite flowers in a bouquet. She is thrilled and asks him, “Why did you get me these?” He answers (quite appropriately), “Just because I love you.” The wife loves them, takes them inside to a prize vase. Situation 2- A husband brings home his wife’s favorite flowers in a bouquet. She is thrilled and asks him, “Why did you get me these?” He answers, “Listen, the guys are going on a fishing trip and I really want to go with them. Can you stay here all weekend with the kids?” She throws the flowers on the ground and locks the door behind her.

What is the difference between these two situations? The people are the same, the gift is the same. The difference is the reason why the gift is given. Romans 14:23 states, “For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.” This is not to suggest that only believers can do good to other people in the world. It is to say that in the sight of God only what is done from faith can have lasting value. Faith is the precondition for good works and God’s grace is the precondition for faith.



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## 2023 VESTRY

David Thomas  
*Senior Warden*

Julie Trexler  
*Secretary*

Katie DeSa

Brad Graff

Austin Oden

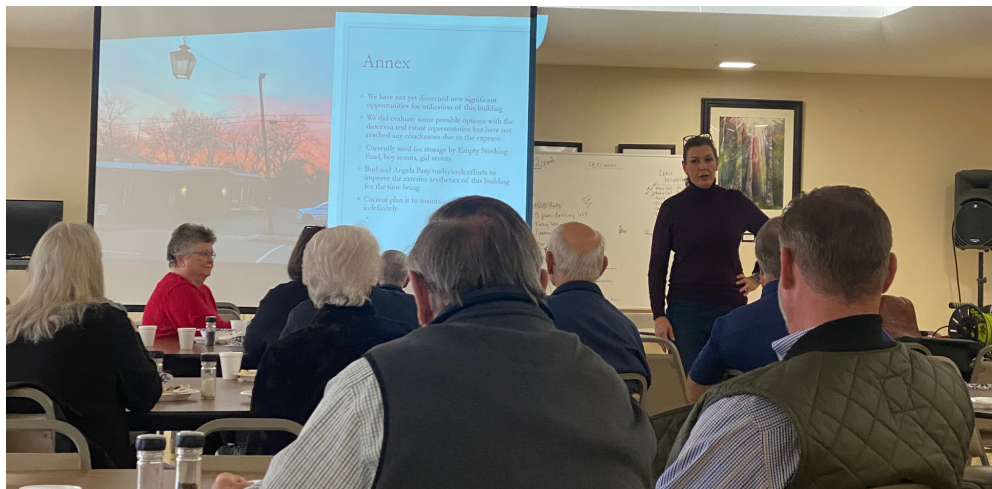
Tony Pierce

Joel Truelove

Teresea Whaley

*Parish Treasurer*

Ken Kerr



On Sunday, January 22, 2023 we held our Annual Parish Meeting. Laura Rectenwald ended her term as Senior Warden of the Vestry by leading us through a look back at 2022 and the many improvements, updates, activities and ministries that we saw over the last year.

We also voted for our newest Vestry members. Welcome to the Vestry, Brad Graff, Austin Oden, and David Thomas. David will be serving as our Senior Warden and Julie Trexler has stepped into the position of Secretary of the Vestry.

We are so grateful for the faithful service of Laura Rectenwald (Sr. Warden), Bud Bray (Jr. Warden), and Edwina Thomas who completed their terms.





PRESSING IN: LENT

# PRESSING IN:

ANSWERING YOUR BURNING  
QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD, CHURCH,  
AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT  
STARTING: MARCH 1, 2023

SOUP & SALAD DINNER 5:30-6:15 PM

RECTOR'S FORUM 6:15-7:30 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 6:15-7:30 PM

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We will gather this Lenten season on Wednesdays, beginning March 1, 2023, for Rev. Sean's Rector's Forum Series entitled:

### Pressing In:

*Answering Your Burning Questions about God, Church, and the Christian Life.*

Rev. Sean is asking that you submit *your* burning questions as we press in and tackle the issues, big and small, that affect our lives and our theology as Christians. In a time when it is so easy to disconnect and draw back from the challenges facing the church and our Christian walk, let's press in and examine how the Bible answers these issues and how we can apply them to our daily lives.

During Lent our Wednesday dinners will be soup & salad. Our Children's Program will also resume for this season as well as the nursery.



### 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.



# IN FEBRUARY

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Hannah Chapter



## Galentine's Fellowship Luncheon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

12:00PM BEAR CREEK SMOKEHOUSE

ALL LADIES OF TRINITY ARE INVITED  
TO JOIN US FOR A TIME OF  
FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP!

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## WOMEN OF TRINITY

### January Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

11:00 AM-1:00PM

ALL SAINTS HALL

Guest Speaker:

REV. SEAN DUNCAN



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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM

| TICKETS |

\$ 7.00/EACH

OR

4 FOR \$25.00

AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT  
BOY SCOUTS TROOP 550

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## ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

12:00PM

6:00PM



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Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11

# JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR

## **OUR CLERGY:**

Bishops Andy, Jeff, Hector, Kai, and our Rector Rev. Sean Duncan

## **OUR STAFF:**

Jim Johnson - Organist; Melissa Hammers - Choir Director; Stacey Shaw - Parish Administrator; Danielle Bray - Nursery Director; Magdalena Altnau - Children's Minister & Communications Director; Christiaan Goldberg - Martha Kitchen's Assistant Director

## **OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Our President, Joe; our Governor, Greg; our County Judge, Chad; our Mayor, Amy

## **OUR SERVICEMEN & WOMEN:**

Zachary Vernon Walker, Jason Woodley, Michael Walsh, Lisa Spermhake, Christopher Love, Audrey Dobbs, Aubrey Toussaint, Kenny Welch, Ryan Allgood, Wil Moseley, Chase Tondee, Cole Cathey, Andy Albright

## **OUR PARISHIONERS:**

Kay Kemp, Yank Terrell, Wanda Fugler, Dick Toussaint, Sandy Toussaint, David Cope, Terry Weeks, Michael Cason

## **IN THE COMMUNITY:**

Rhonda Way, Tommy Hicks, Maria Mangieri, Brad Thomas, Vanessa White, Cathy Lazansky Horeu, Phil Thomas, Scott Gorges, Peyton Reeves, Gloria Portman,

## **HOMEBOUND:**

Bill & Carolyn Sullivan - Home, Mary Jane McElroy - Marshall Manor, Jo Ann Cason - Home, Peggy Tracy - Home, Patty Whaley - Home, Mary Lou Barkett - Home, Ron Denney, Sr. - Home

## **SISTER PARISH:**

Oyani Church - Kenya

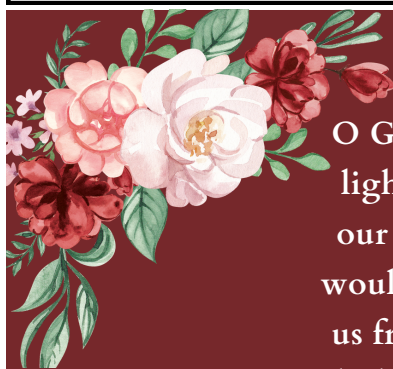




# MINISTRY ROSTER

	Sunday, February 5	Sunday, February 12	Sunday, February 19	ASH WEDNESDY February 22	Sunday, February 26
8am Lectors	David Thomas	Ken Kerr	Ann Brannon	12:00pm Ann Brannon	David Thomas
8am Ushers	Ken Haynes	Mac Abney	Ken Haynes	N/A	Mac Abney
10:30am Lectors	Sally Graff Brad Graff	David Jones Lyn Carmony	Brad Graff Sally Graff	6:00 pm Ken Kerr Scott Rectenwald	Jessica Lang Roy McCarroll
10:30am Ushers	Gary Hathaway Meiko Hathaway	Tony Pierce Henry Henderson	Joel Truelove Brad Graff	6:00 pm Ushers: Brad Graff/Henry Henderson	Robbey Simmons Gary Hathaway
Acolyte	Yuri Altnau	Aiden Kerr	Anika Kerr	Yuri Altnau	Yuri Altnau
Verger	Mark Trexler	Mark Trexler	Mark Trexler	Mark Trexler	Clarence Brown
Camera	Tony Pierce	Austin Oden	Tony Pierce	Austin Oden	Tony Pierce
Altar Flowers	Bray	Trexler	Flowers Needed	N/A	Lent
Coffee/Cookie Hour	Bonnie Strauss	Host Needed	Host Needed	N/A	Host Needed
Breakfast	Bray	No Breakfast	No Breakfast	N/A	No Breakfast
Altar Guild	Monday, February 6	Monday, February 13	Monday, February 20		Monday, February 27
Polish Day <i>February 20</i>	<i>Team 4</i> Sue Boyd, C. Abney, G. Knutson, N. Haynes, L. Rectenwald	<i>Team 2</i> Angela Bray, K. Abraham, K. DeSa, S. Heim, B. Strauss	<i>Team 3</i> Susan Bogue, C. Martin, J. Trexler, T. Whaley, J. Weeks, G. Weinberg		<i>Team 4</i> Sue Boyd, C. Abney, G. Knutson, N. Haynes, L. Rectenwald

*Ushers* : Remember to count attendance, record it on card & hand it to the Verger during the Peace.



O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Guidance | Book of Common Prayer*



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## February Birthdays

3 Terry Weeks	13 Barbara Truelove
4 Joe Weinberg	13 Jim Kutner
4 Henry Henderson	14 Lauren Hicks
5 Richard Anderson	16 Mac Abney
7 Pat Furrh	18 Kathryn Brannon
9 Wanda Fugler	22 Jonathan Bray
9 Pauline Manly	22 Roy McCarroll
12 Frannie Littlejohn	28 Mary Jane McElroy
13 David Cope	



Watch over thine children,  
O Lord, as their days increase;  
bless and guide them wherever  
they may be. Strengthen them  
when they stand; comfort them  
when discouraged or sorrowful;  
raise them up if they fall; and  
in their hearts may thy peace  
which passeth understanding  
abide all the days of their life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



## Happy Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Whaley, Jr.  
{ February 7 }

Mr. & Mrs. David Spellings  
{ February 14 }

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Staggers, Jr.  
{ February 18 }





# FEBRUARY FEAST DAYS

## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD | FEBRUARY 2



Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## ASH WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



## ST. MATTHIAS [THE APOSTLE] | FEBRUARY 24



Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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

Luke 22:27

## PARISH STAFF

**The Rev. Sean D. Duncan**  
*Rector*

**Magdalena Altnau**  
*Children's Christian  
Formation Director/Minister  
& Communications Director*

**Danielle Bray**  
*Nursery Director*

**Jim Johnson**  
*Music Director  
and Organist*

**Melissa Hammers**  
*Choir Director*

**Stacey Shaw**  
*Parish Administrator*

**Christiaan Goldberg**  
*Martha's Kitchen - Asst. Director*

## VESTRY

**David Thomas**  
*Senior Warden*

**Julie Trexler**  
*Secretary*

**Katie DeSa**

**Brad Graff**

**Austin Oden**

**Tony Pierce**

**Joel Truelove**

**Teresea Whaley**

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*Parish Treasurer*

**Ken Kerr**

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday Morning

Holy Communion Rite I - 8 :00 am

Nursery - 9:15-11:45 am

Children's Sunday School - 9:30 - 10:15 am

Youth Christian Formation 9:30 - 10:15 am

Adult Christian Formation 9:30 - 10:15 am

Holy Communion Rite II - 10:30 am

In Person & Facebook Live

### Wednesday Evening

Choir - 5:00 - 6:00 pm

### Thursday Evening

Martha's Kitchen

5:30 - 6:30 pm

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm



## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Marshall, Texas, 75670

903.938.4246

[trinityepiscopalmarshall.org](http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org)