



The.TRIPOD

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • MARSHALL, TX
<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

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August 2015

**Trinity Episcopal
Church:**

**Witnessing to
the Power of
God to
Transform**

**Proclaiming God's
Love and Joy for
over 163 years in
Marshall, Texas**

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The Supreme Court, General Convention and the Faith

The month of June was a dramatic month for our culture and for the Episcopal Church. The United States Supreme Court in OBERGEFELL ET AL. v. HODGES, DIRECTOR, OHIO ruled that same sex couples cannot be denied the right to marry. With that court decision the court concluded by its action that it has the power to define marriage. In the course of the opinion Justice Kennedy wrote, "No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family," Kennedy wrote. "In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than they once were." Justice Kennedy's comment admits that the union of marriage is something greater in the sphere of human relationships that transcends the nature of relationships in general. Theologically he is correct. However, the courts at whatever level, do not have the authority to make theological statements.

The course that the Supreme Court has set us upon is the proverbial slippery slope. How next might they rule on the subject of marriage? Can any sort of relationship be deemed marriage if a court so rules? These are questions that everyone should be pondering, not just Christians.

A few days after the Supreme Court Ruling the General Convention of the Episcopal Church voted to permit same sex marriages and began action to revise the canons of the church as well as to develop trial liturgies to bring this about. Two of our bishops, The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, and The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher voted "no" on the matter. Our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, voted to abstain. He knew that the abstention would count as a "no" vote. His reasoning behind his abstention was that he chose not to intentionally anger those on either side of the issue here in the Diocese.

There are several theological points I would like to make. First, neither the courts or a general convention of a denomination has the authority to redefine what Scripture, Church tradition, and Church doctrine has already defined. It is presumptuous for either the courts or the General Convention to presume to speak for the entity of Christendom, Judaism, Islam, or for another faith. As Christians the sacrament of marriage is set forth in Scripture as the union of a man and a woman. Such a position is consistent throughout Scripture beginning in Genesis and carrying through all the way to Revelation with the union of Christ and his bride, the Church. Secondly, the doctrine of the Faith has always been that marriage is a Sacrament of the Church ordained by God. The courts cannot speak to the validity nor the administration of any Sacrament of the Church. Nor can General Convention of one denomination redefine the Sacraments. Particular to the Episcopal Church, Article XX of the Articles of Religion teaches us that the council of the church cannot teach something that is contrary to God's Word written.

While the Supreme Court and the General Convention may have chosen to redefine the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, I, along with a number of other bishops and priests, will not accept their position and will continue to preach, teach, and administer the Sacrament as it has been passed down through the centuries.

Several years ago I presented to the vestry and they adopted a resolution that this parish would hold to the traditional teaching of the Christian faith on the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and that the clergy serving at Trinity must be faithful in traditional marriage or, if single, be celibate. Bishop Doyle accepted this

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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.

Cont. from pg. 1

resolution and related back to us that he would honor and respect Trinity's position and would not force any change of that position upon the parish. After the action of General Convention he assured the clergy of the Diocese that they could maintain the position their parish had taken on the issue of same sex marriage.

There is a difference between same sex union and marriage. Same sex union is a civil union that allows two individuals to enjoy the same legal rights given to married couples. In all honesty civil unions can apply to both same sex couples and any man and woman who choose not to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The state does have the right to declare what sort of contracts individuals enter into and the Church does not have the right to dictate to the state what contracts are legal. The Church may make a moral and ethical case for such contracts as it can make moral or ethical statements on any matter with which a society strives to find a just position. Marriage, on the other hand, as I stated previously, is a Sacrament of the Church. Long before governments were issuing licenses the Church was blessing marriages to recognize the unique union between a man and woman.

Since the court ruling and the action of the general convention, a number of bishops of our church have made statements to their diocese on the matter. Bishops who have made statements or issued instructions that hold to the traditional teaching of the Church have received, shall we say, some very unchristian responses to their words. Yet, they stand fast.

I ask each member of our parish for their faithful support in the months and years to come. There will likely be pressure put upon each of us from various quarters for keeping the faith once delivered on not just the issue of Sacramental marriage, but in the years to come I see efforts to change other teachings of Scripture and the Church. Being faithful is never an easy thing to do, but it is what we are called to do as servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I ask for your prayers as we, as a parish, continue to proclaim the whole nature of the Kingdom of God to which all are invited to partake.

The Changing Field And The Fertile Ground

Have you noticed the changes in our community? Both our faith community and our cultural community are changing. Perhaps not, but the face of our community is changing. When I came to Marshall I was told that the population had remained the same for 30 years. As I researched the population of Harrison County and Marshall I found that was very true for the most part. What has changed is the faces that go with fairly consistent number.

Forty years ago it was not all that unusual for someone who grew up in Marshall to leave Marshall to go to college and then return to Marshall to live and raise a family. In the 1990s that trend changed dramatically. The children that have gone off to college in that time frame graduated and tended to relocate in major metropolitan areas of the state. This is also the generation that has largely abandoned the Church. Many of them consider themselves Christian, but they do not affiliate with any one denomination or actively participate in the ministries of a specific church. It is in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and the like that has been chosen by our children to be the place they would work, live, and raise their families. Marshall has become the place they come home to for the holidays to visit, but not to live. There are many reasons for that, I suppose the primary reason is the lack of vibrant economic growth and opportunity. Their siblings in the generation that has come of age in the new millennia are making the same choices that their older brothers and sisters are making. The chances that this trend can be reversed in the immediate future are rather slim.

This does not bode well for the future of churches in towns like Marshall. Small town parishes can



The Fertile
Ground Project

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Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has ended. Much of what took place was the same “old thing”. However, the election of a new Presiding Bishop offers the Church a new way of thinking. Our new Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry calls himself an evangelical. As I reflect on what General Convention did during its meeting and the words preached by Bp. Curry I am drawn to St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, specifically, Romans 11:17 which says, “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.”

If you walk into almost any church today, there is no guarantee what you will hear spoken from the pulpit. Over the last several decades there have been a variety of “gospels” espoused. You might stumble upon liberation theology, or feminist theology, or revisionist theology, or the latest and process theology, the list can go on and on. There are still churches where one can go and still hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but I fear they are becoming fewer and fewer. So how is one to hear the gospel preached?

If we depend solely on the church alone we may be deceiving ourselves. It is often up to individual Christians to preach the gospel to those about them. This is not done so much with word, though words are important, it is done with action. It is done by our lives reflecting the love of Christ to everyone about us. Love is not acceptance of sin; it is the agape love of the other, a love that seeks what is in accordance with God’s will for all people, not what is desired by individuals. It is a love that declares each of us must love sacrificially, to give up ourselves for Christ that his life may be lived through us.

We often speak our agendas rather than Christ’s we have an idea of what is right, just or proper (we can hang any name on it). The point being it is what we perceive to be the “right” way, not necessarily what Jesus has said is the way, the truth, and the life. Let’s take any of the sins articulate in Scripture which abound in our culture. There is the old bromide, “Love the Sinner, hate the sin” can anyone doubt that all Christians are called to love? I think not. Now comes the hard part, how do we love those living separated from God? Do we love them by saying and condoning behavior that is called sin in the Bible? Or, do we invite them into a relationship with Christ and let the Holy Spirit begin a good work. If , as Christians, we condone sinful behavior intentionally or unintentionally, we are really working hard to do exegesis with the agility of a world-class gymnast this is truly difficult to bear out in Scripture.

The doctrine of original sin states that sin is a state a person is stained with at birth. The current culture often states that people shouldn’t change if that was the way they were born, or if it makes them happy. If we accept that logic why would we seek to mend a child that is born with a congenital heart defect? We will strive to repair physical ailments, why would we not seek to have a person healed of spiritual ailments as well? The repair of a person’s physical ailments takes outside intervention, medicine, doctors and nurses. The spiritual healing also takes an outside source, the Holy Spirit.

We first realize that we can’t change on our own. We are helpless when it comes to changing ourselves in regards to the state we are born into. It is only Jesus who can change us. Will we stumble back into sin and find ourselves engulfed, if I look back over my life as an example, I would say yes. But, that is not to say Christ is not working in us. There is no way Christ can work in us unless someone proclaims the good news to the captives and, be assured beloved, we are all captive to sin and death unless we are in Christ Jesus. The battle we fight with our sinful nature is not once for all, the flesh will continually rise up and interfere with our spiritual relationship with our risen Lord, but we do not have to succumb to it. We have the choice to repent and accept Christ’s forgiveness and in the process we are changed, as Paul says from one degree of glory to another. Again, I ask, how is this to happen, if there is no one to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Here then is the good news that leads to faith; Jesus loves you, gave himself up for you that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

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.



We will resume our meeting beginning **August 10th at 5:30 PM** in All Saints' Hall for food, fellowship and prayer.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for August is as follows:

Bible Study at Jucy's on Wednesdays: August 5th & 19th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, August 22nd at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral

All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

Men of the parish who are interested in becoming a member of the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew contact Adam Lundgren.

STEWARSHIP NOTE FROM THE VESTRY PERSON

Our family loves Trinity and its ministries. We offer as much as we can, not only because of the biblical directive to do it, but because of the way our contributions are multiplied by Trinity members' and staff's prayers, time, and talents. For example, Trinity members anchor the effort for Martha's Kitchen by opening our church doors, and other churches in our community team with us to provide food and spiritual nourishment to those that attend.

A lot of organizations use "matching funds" to incentivize giving. The blessings that result from supporting Trinity, both tangible and intangible, are much bigger than the financial seeds, but can't be illustrated on a financial statement. It is important and rewarding to come to church each week and plug in to a ministry where you can see first hand the dividends that result from investments of time, talent and prayers.

As we near the start of the new school year and prepare for the upcoming Parish Meeting in October we will have thoughts on Stewardship from our vestry published in the Tripod and in the Weekly e-mails. We ask each of you to begin praying concerning your own stewardship and the church.

YOUTH SWIM PARTY

It was a great time on Shadowood Lake at the Youth / Family Swim Party last month. It was hot, the water was relaxing, and the hotdogs were plentiful. A spirited volleyball game was played with perhaps not the best score keeping, but a lot of fun.



Birthdays

2	Tom Whaley, Jr.	14	Charlie Rhoades
3	Dawn White Hammers	15	Isabel Lewis
3	Lillie Parr	16	Charles Porter
4	Gail Runyan	18	Vicki Cason
4	Christopher Altnau	19	Tommie Snyder
4	Tara Craver	20	Ashton Beavers
5	David Collins	24	Allen Staggers, Jr.
5	Dorcus Collins	25	Douglas Heard
6	Ashley Chevaillier	25	Margaret Lee
6	Drake Lee	26	Douglas Jager
8	Jeffrey Littlejohn	28	Judy Denney
9	Tracy Chevaillier	28	Sonya Altnau
9	Lynellen Carmony	29	Johnny Barkett
10	Steve Minchew	31	Rusty Asaff
13	Lake Brannon		
13	Penny Van Dyne		
13	Gabriel DeSa		

Anniversaries

2	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lewis
3	Mr & Mrs Henry Henderson
6	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Rectenwald
9	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Tanner
18	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Toussaint
20	Mr. Matthew Hatch & Juli Jameson
20	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Van Dyne
21	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Waskom
25	Mr. & Mrs. Doug Heard
27	Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Barkett

Church Financials and Attendance

for June 2015

Budget Income for 2015	\$ 449,952
Budget Expenses for 2015	\$ 436,876
Budget Difference for 2015	\$ 13,076
Income Received to Date	\$ 216,023
Expenses to Date	\$ 211,815
Income for the month	\$ 28,955
Expenses for the month	\$ 32,064
Difference for the month	(\$ 3,109)
Difference to Date.....	\$ 4,209
2014	Present
Average Sunday	163
Attendance to date	164
Average Sunday	
Attendance for June	141
	124
Sunday Attendance to date	4210
Attendance all other Services	5929
	4481

Altar Flower Donors Needed

We have several dates from now until the end of the year Please check the altar flower schedule in the narthex or on ALL SAINTS' HALL bulletin board to sign up

Flower cost is \$76

WE CAN LET PEOPLE KNOW WE'RE PRAYING FOR THEM

A parishioner has suggested a great ministry for the parish. A ministry in which each of us can be a vital part. Each week we pray for so many in our community, those who are serving in the Armed Forces, those in our parish that are ill and are home bound, and those in our community who are ill. It is wonderful that we are praying for them. How much more wonderful if we let them know we are praying for them.

Beginning this month we will have list in the chapel of those in need of prayer, for any reason. We will also have "Get Well" cards and "Thinking of You" cards that anyone can pick up and write a brief note in to let them know that they are in our prayers. You can then drop the card and envelope off at the office and we will mail it off to the individual. If the individual is a parishioner we will have the address so you would just have to write their name on the envelope and we'll do the rest.

If you would like to add a member of our community to the prayer list who isn't a member of Trinity, please provide us the address and we will make sure that each card gets to them.

It is one thing to know that we are praying for someone; it is a wonderful gift of God's grace to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Vestry Nominations

Our parish Meeting and Elections are coming up in October. It is time to begin considering nominations for the Vestry and Diocesan Council Meeting. We will be electing four individuals for vestry and four individuals as delegates to Council. The requirements for each are the same. To stand for Vestry or Council Delegate an individual must be a Confirmed Communicant in good standing enrolled at Trinity.

The duties of the vestry are to take care of the temporal affairs of the parish throughout the year. The temporal affairs have to do with caring for the physical campus and building and managing the financial affairs of the parish as well as actively supporting the ministry and outreach of Trinity. The term for a vestry person is three years.

The parish Council delegates attend Annual Council which will be February 5th and 6th, 2016 in the Woodlands.

If you would like to run for Vestry or would like to nominate an individual for vestry please contact our Senior Warden, Laura Rectenwald. If you would like to serve at Council or nominate an individual for Council contact Fr. John.

WOMEN OF TRINITY

Okay, it's still stifling hot outside, but one of these evenings, we'll feel an ever so slight cool breeze and we'll know that Fall is on its way. Oh, Women of Trinity, you probably haven't even given a thought to your September calendar, but I'm asking you right now to check to make sure that you have a big check mark on Wednesday, September 16, 'cause that will be the date of the first meeting for "Women of Trinity" for the 2015-2016 year. You probably haven't even given a thought to it, but THE Committee has!! We have plans...and we hope to have some outstanding programs ready, programs of thought-provoking substance, programs that will entertain, amuse, educate and stimulate you. Sounds good, doesn't it? We also want you to think about any "epiphany" moments that you might have experienced over the Summer, people you've met or experiences you've had that would provide this group of amazing women with something to remember. If you're so inspired, just call Flo Lewis, Alice Camp, Sandy Toussaint or Stacy in the Church office and we'll check it out. It's good to have input! Let me remind you that Women of Trinity is just that...ALL women of Trinity, regardless of age, qualifications, etc., are welcome to attend the meetings. As always, the meetings take place in all Saints Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m., following the 10 a.m. church service (do yourself a favor and attend the service and be twice blessed). We follow the meeting with a (usually) delicious, camaraderie-filled lunch where we have lots of laughs and fun and fellowship (Leave the stress behind). You are cordially, nay urged to become a part of this amazing group! See you in September!!

**Our Core Values:**Commitment
to Jesus ChristAuthority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leadership

Parish Retreat**Schedule:****Friday, Aug 14th**

6:00 PM

to

8:00 PM

Saturday, Aug

15th

9:00 AM

to

3:00 PM

Child Care will be provided on both days.**Lunch on Saturday will be provided**

(cont from pg 2)

be vibrant congregations, but they will need to look at their surrounding community with fresh eyes, and listen with fresh ears.

The chart to the right reflects the current racial demographics for Marshall. The Hispanic percentage of our city is approximately 17%. The actual percentage is accepted as being higher due to the reality that many in the Hispanic community do not appear on the Census Report due to questionable legal status. The Anglo population is slightly over 40% of the population. The African American is close to 42% with "other" making up slightly over 1%.

The percentage of the population that is "churched" breaks down as follows: Evangelical Protestant - 43%, African American Protestant approximately 5%, Mainline Protestant 5.3%, Roman Catholic 5%, and no religious affiliation 40%. The remaining percentage is affiliated with "other".

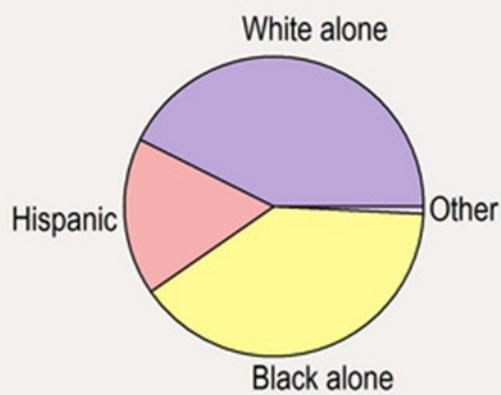
The 40% with no religious affiliation and those affiliated with "other" are the individuals we seek to bring to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Those individuals are overwhelmingly from racial groups other than Anglo and from a different cultural context. How we reach out to them has to be real and it has to be with an open heart to receive them as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we are to do both those things there are some things we need to be aware of about ourselves and about those we are trying to reach. It may sound trite to say that we need to be culturally sensitive; but there is a degree of truth in that. Different races, different cultures and even different socio-economic backgrounds perceive things differently.

I believe that we are a welcoming parish for the most part. However, as with any relatively homogenous group of people there is not always an awareness of how we are perceived by others. This tends to be a blind spot across all societies. It is important that we strive to heal our blind spots and to help heal the blind spot in others as well.

On August 14th through 15th we will engage the concept of reaching across boundaries to those who do not yet know the saving grace of Jesus Christ by holding a parish retreat called the Fertile Ground Project. The focus of this retreat will be on how we, as a parish, grow to a more inclusive and prosperous faith community. During the retreat we will:

- Explore self-awareness and a deep understanding of our own cultural values, strengths and weakness.
- Explore our differences as opportunities, rather than obstacles.
- Renew our commitment to listening to different understandings of issues while still being able to make faithful decisions.
- Engage in active theological reflection on diversity issues as they relate to our self, others, and our community.
- Learn appropriate skills, models and theories that will increase the inclusiveness of various situations.
- Learn new ways to guide and support our community to move toward change faithfully in response to our changing environment.

It is my prayer that you will each choose to join us for this retreat led by Ms. Denise Trevino, Canon for Intercultural Development for the Diocese of Texas. I promise you this will be a time of renewal and promise for the future of our parish.

Races in Marshall, TX

city-data.com



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

Luke 22:27

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr.
John M. Himes, OSF
Rector

Rae Minchew
Jamie Craver
Youth Directors

Magdalena Altnau
*Children's Christian
Formation*

Angela Bray
Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
Choir Master and Organist

Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator

Suzie Ward
Administrative Assistant

Melvin Williams
Sexton

Vestry

Laura Rectenwald
Senior Warden

Henry Henderson
Junior Warden

Cathy Cope
Clerk of the Vestry

Ken Kerr
Treasurer

Doug Jager

Joel Truelove

Cindy Cain

Randy Reeves

Clarence Brown

Cathy Cope

Jim Kutner

Bonnie Strauss

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

Dinner in All Saint's Hall - 5:30 PM

Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday

Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM



Trinity Episcopal Church

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