Welcome Our Newest Members!

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Suffragan Bishop for the Diocese of Texas, and his wife Susan visited Trinity on Sunday, October 30th for his annual visitation. During his visit Bishop Fisher celebrated, preached, and Confirmed thirteen individuals, Received three into the Church and Reaffirmed the Covenant with two others.

Following the service there was a Reception for the Confirmands and those being received in All Saints Hall hosted by our Daughters of the King. It was a wonderful celebration for everyone.

Prior to his departure, Bishop Fischer met with the Vestry of Trinity. He expressed his appreciation for the good work that is taking place in the parish and commended Trinity for its growth over the last two years. He commented that between 2015 and 2016 Trinity has Confirmed and Received forty-two new people into the Church.

Make a point of getting to know and welcoming our newest members.
**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.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**4th Sunday of Advent**
- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 5:30 PM Service of Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th**
- 5:30 PM Family Christmas Mass
- 10:30 PM Choral Concert
- 11:00 PM Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th**
- 8:00 AM Christmas Day Mass
- 10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass

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**Welcoming the Newly Baptized!**

November was quite a month at Trinity. We welcomed three new members with their Baptism into Christ’s one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. As we came to the close of the season of Pentecost we filled each of the last three Sundays with Baptisms. On November 6th we baptized Alena Ellison, daughter of Fr. Andrew and Cassie Ellison, on November 13th we baptized Matthew Cutrer, son of Cody and Michelle Cutrer, and on November 20th we baptized Robert DeSa, son of Michael and Katie DeSa. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

This is the first time we have had three baptisms in one month. It is an exciting time for the parish as we bring the children to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Rector’s Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

I pray that you are not caught up in the Christmas rush. I do pray that you are becoming caught up in the Christmas Spirit.

I was reading the results of a poll several months ago. On of the findings of the poll was that fewer and fewer people, believed in heaven and hell. Also fewer people believed in God. Of those that did believe in God, most would be described as deists rather than Christian. In the first chapter of St. Matthew’s Gospel we have the report of an angel appearing to St. Joseph to assure him and to tell him to go forward with their marriage. The angel tells St. Joseph that the child she bears will save “his people from their sins.” What do we do with this if the majority of people generally believe they are without sin?

The state of our world in terms of belief in God and his response and direction over his creation is really not a great deal different than the response of the Children of Israel over the hundreds of years after they came out of Egypt. They didn’t really believe all God told them either. The result of which was exile, war, famine, and exile again. In Scripture it is clear that their difficult times are punishment for their apostasy. We look at natural and manmade events today and we do not assign them to the category of God’s wrath, or God’s judgment. How can we, when we don’t want to admit there is a God, much less a God who has an opinion about things. Or there are those who proclaim, “Their God wouldn’t do such a thing.” How arrogant! “Their god” as if God of Creation is some sort of domesticated cat or something.

The very arrogance of the human race in terms of its beliefs alone reflect the degree to which we have continue to fallen since the fall. Where Adam and Eve sought the knowledge to become god’s themselves, we have assumed that we are gods in our own right – how else can we take or assign credit or blame for various events. If there is nothing else to show us the depth and nature of our sin, this is it. The utter denial of God as the great “I am”. This denial leads to all other sin for it has put man at the center. This is the sin for which we are in dire need of salvation – this is the sin that will utterly destroy us individually and collectively. In the great scheme of things a person may wonder, or not even care whether they believe in God or not, or whether they have come to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior – but God cares – He care so much that he sent his son to show us the nature of his caring.

In Christ we have the very image of God’s love and mercy for all. Jesus is the one who saves and no other. A person may not choose to believe that and in so doing forfeit their salvation – it is their choice. But one cannot come to that salvation and not be changed. One cannot come to Jesus and declare I accept your saving grace, but not your call on my life. Friends it a “package deal” if we claim Jesus as the “one who will save.” Then we must also claim the cross that he has for each of us to carry. Jesus has saved us from sin and death through the cross – but we have the responsibility and the choice to whether we accept it or whether, like the children of Israel we will only permit God to be a nominal God rather than the one who will save.

We celebrate the Incarnation with joy and thanksgiving, as we should. But in our celebration lets us remember where Christ’s birth was to lead—it was to lead him to the cross to save us from our sins.

A Blessed Christmas to one and all!

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.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

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

Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays December 14th at 11:30 (Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, December 17th 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 Fr. John Himes.

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew is continuing to collect cold weather clothing to give to our neighbors who come to Martha’s Kitchen each Thursday. As we move into November the temperatures begin to drop and many of those we feed at Martha’s Kitchen have little more than the clothes on their back. We are accepting coats, jackets, sweaters and gloves. We need both adult and children’s cold weather garments.

As we go through our closets getting ready for fall, please consider what you might donate to help another person get through the coming winter.

RIGHT TO LIFE DINNER

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church is hosting a Right to Life Dinner on Monday, December 12th at 6:00 PM in the St. Joseph Parish Hall. This dinner is open to the entire community. Free of charge. St. Joseph’s asked that everyone bring a covered dish that goes well with Brisket.

If you would like to attend please call Ms. Pamela Payne at 903-935-54-83, or 903-472-2277.

Right to Life of East Texas will be presenting a check to Living Alternatives of Marshall to support their ongoing ministry of providing counseling and outreach for their new crisis pregnancy center.

Staff & Volunteer Christmas Luncheon

The Annual Christmas Luncheon for the staff of Trinity and volunteers will be on Thursday, December 15th at Café’ Italia’. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM. Please call the office at 903-938-4246 if you can attend.
Birthdays

1 Dawn Briggle 19 Mimi Gray
2 Ronnie Hammers 21 Tony Pierce
8 Jennifer Truelove 21 Alaina Jones
8 Starr Minatrea 23 Patty Jager
11 Pete Whaley 23 Leslie Rhoades
13 Bill Lewis 27 Betty Hightower
16 Gloria Portman 28 Kay Kemp
17 Griffin Jones 29 Natasha Brown Martinez

Anniversaries

4 Mr. & Mrs. Joel Truelove
5 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cobb
10 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jones
19 Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Runyan
19 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Godinich
29 Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeSa
29 Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Taylor
31 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Whaley

Church Financials and Attendance for October 2016

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Average Sunday Attendance for October:

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Sunday Attendance to date:

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Attendance all other Services:

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A Great Lesson on Stress

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'... She fooled them all.... "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. To 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... Pick them up tomorrow."
ACOLYTES PROVIDE MINISTRY FOR YOUTH AT TRINITY

On November 27th we celebrated Acolyte Sunday. Blake Ellison was installed as a new member of the Acolytes. Chase Tondee received the gold cross of a Senior Acolyte and the following individuals received the silver cross of junior acolytes: Greg Gani, Sarah Rectenwald, and Cate Truelove.

Our Acolytes truly make our worship a special occasion for all who attend Trinity. We give thanks to God for their ministry to our entire community. When you see one of our acolytes please let them know how much you appreciate their ministry.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 7143

For several years the “old” scout hut has sat empty and slowly slipped into a state of disrepair. While it was deteriorating something wonderful was happening across the street at Trinity. Our Girl Scout Troop 7143 was growing and growing quickly it was fast running out of space. The solution the “old” scout hut was going to become the “new” scout hut for Girl Scout Troop 7143. For that to become a reality there was going to have to be some repairs.

The need for doing some fixing up has not deterred the girls of the troop. In November they hosted two events to raise money for the renovation. They held a rummage sale on November 12th and a Spaghetti Dinner on November 18th. These two events raised the funds needed to do the repairs of the New Girl Scout Hut. Well Done!
Hello Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We are in the midst of one of my favorite seasons of the church year...Advent. I have always loved advent, ever since I was a child. I loved the waiting and the anticipation for Christmas. I loved the advent calendars, the advent wreath, and the other countdowns we would do. As a kid I saw advent as a countdown to Christmas. A way I could countdown until I get to open all the present under the tree. As I grew older my ideas of Advent changed, yet my love for it did not cease. I love Advent because it is a time to prepare ourselves for the mystery of the Incarnation. A time where we try and sit in the stillness of the waiting, and prepare myself for Christ’s return. However, we all know that sitting in advent and enjoying it for what it is meant to be is difficult in today’s culture.

It seems that Christmas is beginning earlier and earlier every year. As soon as the Halloween costumes are off, the Christmas commercials begin. With that the mad dash to prepare for Christmas seems to begin. We frantically try to shop for the items on lists, begin planning for food, making plans for traveling or people coming to our houses, etc. With that once we are actually in Advent perhaps a bit of stress has taken over. With that the spirit of Advent could be more difficult to be found. After all we are too busy. Items at work have to be finished, presents need to be wrapped, goodies need to be prepared, the list seems to go on and on. In that I would like to focus on what we are preparing for, the incarnation.

We are preparing for God’s greatest gift to us, the gift of his son, the gift of his incarnation. God so loved the world that he sent his son so that all who believe would have eternal life. We are about to celebrate Christ coming to the world to take on human flesh. In this event Christ became fully divine and fully human. When I feel the stress of life taking my focus away from the spirit of advent, I look towards the incarnation. I look and see how I can let the incarnation affect my life. I look at ways I can be fully present for the spirit of Advent preparing myself for the incarnation, and fully involved in the everyday life of preparing for Christmas. I urge us all to stop for a bit each day, and just focus on Advent. Let us pray to God to prepare our hearts for the incarnation of his son. It can just be a minute out of each day. We can do this and see what God does during this advent season. Regardless of if we are stressed out or not, let’s just focus on the coming of Christ. That way in the busyness this wonderful season of Advent is not lost on us. Let us be fully present in the spirit of Advent, and fully involved of our everyday lives. That way when Christmas is here we can be spiritually fulfilled, instead of Spiritually drained.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
Understanding the Thirty-nine Article of Religion

“I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

The First of the Articles addresses the unity of the Trinity. It is important for us, as Christian's to understand the unity of God in three persons. But it is never an easy process to reach that understanding. St. Augustine in referring to the Trinity once said, “If you can understand it, it’s not God.” I believe he said this tongue in cheek, but it does have a certain ring of truth to it. God is one and at the same time He has three discreet aspects of His being. We can never completely come to a full knowledge of God. However, through Scripture and revelation God has made himself known to His people. When we worship we profess our faith in the Triune God through reciting either the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed. The study of the Trinity is often referred to as Systematic Theology. Systematic Theology first approaches the topic in explaining the three distinct nature’s of the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It then begins to address the nature of sin, redemption and the atoning work of Christ. The focus of this piece is to simply and I pray succinctly provide each of us with a greater understanding of the Trinity.

God the Father is the first person of the Trinity. Yet He is also one with the Trinity. The Christian faith confesses that God is one nature, substance and essence. A sense our profession of mirrors the ancient Jewish Shema, “Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is on Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul and all your strength.”(Deut 6:4-5). We do specifically recite this statement of faith. However, we articulate it our Baptism, our Confirmation and in our Blessings when we say, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Note in that that we baptize, confirm and bless in the “NAME of” not in the “names of”. The entire history of salvation reflects the way the one true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to humanity and reconciles himself with those who turn away from sin.

By referring to God as “Father” the language of faith reflects two primary things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; and that He is at the same time goodness and loving care for all His children. The language of faith thus draws on human experience via the love and we experience from our parents, the creative nature of our being to begin to grasp the paternal nature of God. Jesus Himself reveals that God is Father in an unheard of sense: He is Father not only through the act of creation, He is also Father in relation to His Son. Christ says, “No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”(Mt 11:27). Thus the Incarnation of God’s Son reveals God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that in the Father and with the Father, the Son is one and the same God.

We now come to the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. The passing on of the Christian faith consists primarily in the proclamation of Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in Him. When a person seeks to join the Church they go through a process called catechism. Catechize is to reveal in the person of Christ the whole of God’s eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. In Jesus Christ God recapitulates all of His history of salvation on behalf of humanity.

Perhaps you have asked yourself at one time or another, if humanity had not fallen into sin would there have been a need for God to send His Son into the world? Although it has not been clearly revealed through Scripture or Divine Revelation there are several reasons for believing that God’s purpose of becoming human was prior to and independent of the Fall. The Incarnation is the greatest blessing our humanity has received. Human nature was taken into the closest communion with God. It may be a bit challenging to believe that this honor depended upon sin, so that if there had not been sin, it would not have occurred. It is difficult for humanity to accept that we are better off as sinners, than we should have been had humanity not fallen. If we were to assume that the Son would have come as a human being had there been no Fall, what then is the purpose of the Incarnation? It is that the whole creation may be united to the Creator God (we must remember that Scripture tells that all creation groans) and choosing human nature for this end, since humanity is the representative of creation as one who is both spiritual and material taking on the form of humanity God reveals His union with all that He created.

However, since humanity has fallen and is in dire need of the Incarnation fulfills the need for God’s redemptive work to be made manifest in the gift of His Son. Through the stain of original sin and humanities individual sins we are in need of a Redeemer. In The Epistle to the Romans St. Paul reminds us, “God put forward as an expiation by His
blood,” what St. Paul indicates that in Christ’s humanity “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” In the Acts of the Apostles we read, “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” So if only in Christ are we reconciled to God what makes Christ the worthy sacrifice? Jesus Christ is unique in that he was fully God and fully man. He wasn’t simply a good man who got everything right. Nor was he a divine spirit appearing to be human. His entire nature was united in both His divinity and His humanity. There wasn’t a time when He was not God, not was there a time when He wasn’t human. His divinity made Him sinless, holy and just. His humanity enabled Him to choose to live rightly under the authority of God the Father. Through the story of the Incarnation we see God choosing to take on human flesh through the “yes” of the Virgin Mary. We see in Scripture the human nature of Christ is gets hungry, He gets angry, He weeps, He experiences temptation. He feels the heart aches and the joys that all humanity experiences. Also in Scripture we see Jesus revealed as the Son of God. At His baptism and at the Transfiguration we hear the voice of the Father declaring that He is the “Beloved Son”. Also throughout the New Testament Jesus refers to Himself as “the Son” and as God as “the Father” and “my Father” It is clear that Jesus was quite aware of his divine sonship and unity with the Father and aware of the work that was before Him. He tells Philip, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” Such a declaration reflects the union of substance and being with God the Father.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Throughout the Old and New Testament there are references to the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the pouring out of the Spirit is usually given to a person for a specific purpose to accomplish the will of God. In the New Testament we see the Holy Spirit poured out upon the whole Church at Pentecost. This reflects the reality of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives it does not, however, reflect the unity of the Holy Spirit with God the Father and God the Son. That linkage is evident in the Gospel of St. John. In which our Lord Jesus Christ Tells us that He will pray to the Father to, “give you another counselor to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth.”(Jn 14:15-17) In the same chapter of St. John’s Gospel Jesus tells the disciples, “But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name he will teach you all things.”(Jn 14:26) In this last passage we see the foreshadowing of the words of the Nicene Creed concerning the Holy Spirit; that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Creed goes one to say, “with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.”

In First Corinthians 2:11 we read, “No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” God’s Spirit reveals God, makes known to us Christ, His word, for the Spirit does not speak for Himself. The Church has taught for thousands of years that the One whom the Father has sent into our heart, the Spirit of the Son, is truly God. Consubstantial with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is inseparable from them in both the inner life of the Trinity and in His gift of love to the world. We must always remember that when the Father sends the Word, he also sends His Breath. In this joint mission the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. It is Christ who is seen, He is the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Holy Spirit who reveals Him.

In the Gospel of St. Luke, the angel Gabriel tells the Blessed Virgin Mary that “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” (Lk 1:35) St. Ambrose wrote of this passage in relation to the divinity and oneness of the Holy Spirit with the Trinity the following, “We cannot doubt the Spirit to be Creator, whom we admit to be the author of the Lord’s Incarnation.”

A helpful way of looking at the Trinity is to see that three models of God are used to understand the full depth of the Christian experience and understanding of God is to be grasp. The first model is the transcendent God who lies beyond the world as its creator. The second is the human face of God that is revealed to humanity in His Son Jesus Christ. The third is the Holy Spirit that reflects the immanent God who is present and active in our lives and the world around us.

Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 18th at 5:30 PM

PARISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 6:30 PM
The Order of the Daughters of the King

Junior Daughters of the King

Installation Service for the Daughters of the King

Sunday, December 4th
At 10:30 AM Mass
Reception to follow in All Saints Hall.
Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector
Fr. Andrew Ellison
Curate
Rae Minchew
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
Ken Kerr
Senior Warden
Joel Truelove
Junior Warden
Cathy Cope
Clerk of the Vestry
Julie Trexler
Treasurer
Doug Jager
Cindy Cain
Leana Westergaard
Clarence Brown
Jim Kutner
Bonnie Strauss
Micheal DeSa
Cassie Rhoades

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
Choir practice 5:00 PM
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

Behold, I come among you as one who serves.
Luke 22:27

Trinity Episcopal Church
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http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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