



The Tripod

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

Volume 16 Issue 2

February 2016

Meeting the Primates of the Anglican Communion

Trinity Episcopal Church:

Witnessing to the Power of God to Transform

Proclaiming God's Love and Joy for over 160 years in Marshall, Texas



On January 14, 2016 the Primates of the Anglican Communion, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, agreed how they would walk together in the grace and love of Christ. This agreement acknowledges the significant distance that remains but confirms their unanimous commitment to

walk together.

This agreement demonstrates the commitment of all the Primates to continue the life of the Communion with neither victor nor vanquished. *The full text is as follows:*

1. We gathered as Anglican Primates to pray and consider how we may preserve our unity in Christ given the ongoing deep differences that exist among us concerning our understanding of marriage.
2. Recent developments in The Episcopal Church with respect to a change in their Canon on marriage represent a fundamental departure from the faith and teaching held by the majority of our Provinces on the doctrine of marriage. Possible developments in other Provinces could further exacerbate this situation.
3. All of us acknowledge that these developments have caused further deep pain throughout our Communion.
4. The traditional doctrine of the church in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds marriage as between a man and a woman in faithful, lifelong union. The majority of those gathered reaffirm this teaching.
5. In keeping with the consistent position of previous Primates' meetings such unilateral actions on a matter of doctrine without Catholic unity is considered by many of us as a departure from the mutual accountability and interdependence implied through being in relationship with each other in the Anglican Communion.
6. Such actions further impair our communion and create a deeper mistrust between us. This results in significant distance between us and places huge strains on the functioning of the Instruments of Communion and the ways in which we express our historic and ongoing relationships.
7. It is our unanimous desire to walk together. However given the seriousness of these matters we formally acknowledge this distance by requiring that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and inter faith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity.
8. We have asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint a Task Group to maintain conversation among ourselves with the intention of restoration of relationship, the rebuilding of mutual trust, healing the legacy of hurt, recognizing the extent of our commonality and exploring our deep differences, ensuring they are held between us in the love and grace of Christ.

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LENT



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.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is observed by Episcopalians, Catholics, Lutherans and the Orthodox Churches.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and those who have been excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening. Recently, movements have developed that involve pastors distributing ashes to passersby in public places. This isn't considered taboo, but we should know this practice is distinctly humanist. In that there is not teaching on what the meaning of the ashes are, nor the human response to the call to fast and repent. Episcopalians should still receive ashes within the context of Mass. In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.



Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

We live in a world that has little use of truth, in fact, we as Christians often look at the Church and wonder if she has a handle on this thing called truth. Often it is leaders of the church who are the first to quote Pilate when the issue involving truth is raised. They will ponder intently and ask, "What is truth?" It is then that the secular mind set takes over and the leaders will begin to construct what they perceive as a truth. They will declare emphatically that there is not an ultimate truth that we need be concerned with; and in doing that they are denying God the Father, who created us, God the Son who redeems us and God the Holy Spirit who sustains us.

Paul instructed Timothy to "guard the truth that has been entrusted", to him. Truth is not a verb, it is a noun, it is a specific thing. As Christians what sense does it make to enter a debate over truth? Our statement of truth could appropriately be the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed followed by a "thank you very much have a blest day." To do otherwise is to enter the playing field of the secular humanist and submit to their premise of having to prove truth. The truth of Jesus Christ is not something a Christian must prove – it is something a Christian believes. Not because it is logical, but because God through the Holy Spirit has opened one's heart to see the truth.

Well, if God has to open the heart, then what is the use of discussing Jesus with someone, you might ask. We are called to be seed planters, and people who waters the field and harvesters when needed. We state Christ's love and sacrifice and let the Holy Spirit begin the work in the other person's heart. But for the Holy Spirit to work, the word spoken must be the Word of God in all its fullness from – "Repent the kingdom of God is at hand", to "by this all men will know you are my disciples if you love one another as I have loved you." A person cannot preach the gospel at one end of the spectrum or the other but the full truth of the gospel which means each Christian who opens his mouth stands convicted before the world of sin, for we do not live a holy and righteous life – we attempt to do so – only through the grace of Christ. But, being human we all too often fail. That does not negate the truth of God's word – rather it points to its absolute truth; we are fallen and beyond all help in ourselves and it is only through Jesus Christ that we do not stand before God corrected, but forgiven. There is a huge difference between the two.

Let us guard the truth once delivered by being faithful to all that Christ calls us to. The first of which is to lay down our lives before him in all our sinfulness and brokenness and beg his forgiveness and mercy. He who is faithful and true has forgiven us through the cross and has shown his mercy through the resurrection and through the breaking of our own hearts that he might begin the healing of our hearts to look more like his. This can become our Lenten offering to the Lord, the surrender of our own perceived sovereignty over our own life for the reality of His real sovereignty over all life.



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.

MEN OF TRINITY

Will meet on Monday February 8th at 5:30 PM in All Saints Hall for fellowship and prayer.

All men of the parish invited! Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for January is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy's on Wednesdays February 10th and 24th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, February 20th 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.

A THANK YOU NOTE

Just up the street from Trinity is an organization called East Texas Open Door. This is a shelter for young girls who have been placed under the temporary care of the state. They often have little they can call their own and often come from environments where they have been subject to neglect and abuse. They tend to be invisible to most people. We are blest to have women in our parish who have reached out to these young girls and provided the light of Christ to them. These ladies over the years have provided everything from necessities, to the brushes, soap, under clothes to school supplies, to items that enables some of them to go to summer camp. Just before Christmas our ladies reached out once more with prayer shawls for the girls. I would like to share with the parish a Thank you note we recently received.

December 19, 2015

Dear Margot and Knitting Ladies:

The ETOD (East Texas Open Door) girls were overwhelmed with joy as they wrapped the beautiful prayer shawls around their precious shoulders. Margot's presentation was so touching and warmed all of our hearts.

These beautiful shawls and the story behind each of them will provide these needy, neglected young girls with security and love in a tangible way.

Your kindness and generosity will always be remembered. Thank you for praying for these girls, we are so grateful to you.

Love,

Janet and the Mandate Ministry Team.

WELL DONE!

Trinity end the 2015 fiscal year with over a \$30,000 surplus. This was possible by the generosity of each of you who have been faithful supporters of Trinity through your tithes and donations. We have also been good stewards of your gifts. Part of the surplus was the result of not having some staff positions filled for part of the year. However, it could not have happened with out your commitment to our parish.

The vestry will continue to be faithful stewards of the gifts given to the church. The surplus funds will not be surplus for long, at the January Vestry Meeting the vestry voted to designate \$20,000 of the funds to be directed towards the hiring of a family minister and \$10,000 to be directed to the hiring of a choir director.

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Terry Weeks | 14 Katelynn Howard |
| 4 Joe Weinberg | 15 Peyton Brocato |
| 4 Henry Henderson | 16 Mac Abney |
| 5 Richard Anderson | 17 Megan Himes |
| 7 Pat Furrh | 17 Harriet Smith |
| 9 Wanda Fugler | 18 Kathryn Brannon |
| 9 Pauline Manly | 18 Justin Briggie |
| 10 Remley White | 22 Jonathan Bray |
| 11 Adam Shaw | 22 Roy McCarroll |
| 12 Frannie Littlejohn | 23 Marcus Briggie |
| 13 David Cope | 25 Claire Abney |
| 13 Barbara Truelove | 25 Alice Camp |
| 13 Jim Kutner | 27 Samantha Minchew |
| 14 Galen Eads | 28 Mary Jane McElroy |
| 14 Lauren Hicks | |

Anniversaries

- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Whaley, Jr.
- 8 Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Portman
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. David Spellings
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Allen Staggers, Jr.
- 19 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Beavers
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Porter
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Manly

Daddy/Daughter Dinner



Date: Friday, February 12
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Cost: \$10 per family
Attire: Western or Sunday Best
Where: Trinity Episcopal Church
All Saint's Hall

Given by Junior Daughters of the King
Questions: Text-903-930-7913 or
Email-carolhicks5@gmail.com

Church Financials and Attendance for December 2015

Budget Income for 2015	\$ 449,952	
Budget Expenses for 2015	\$ 436,876	
Budget Difference for 2015	\$ 13,076	
Income Received to Date	\$ 450,884	
Expenses to Date	\$ 417,352	
Income for the month	\$ 45,594	
Expenses for the month	\$ 29,000	
Difference for the month	\$ 16,858	
Difference to Date.....	\$ 33,532	
	2014	Present
Average Sunday Attendance to date	165	159
Average Sunday Attendance for December	174	168
Sunday Attendance to date	8374	8267
Attendance all other Services	10562	9269

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
 BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM
 IN ALL SAINTS' HALL.
 THE VESTRY WILL BE YOUR
 COOKS
 TICKETS ARE \$7.00 WITH
 PROCEEDS GOING TO
 SUPPORT BOY SCOUT
 TROOP 550
 IT'LL BE GREDAT, IT'LL BE
 FUN COME JOIN US!**



DOK SPRING ASSEMBLY

Bishop Jeff Fisher will lead the first service of the Daughters of the King Spring Assembly on Friday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. Our entire church is invited to attend. You will have the opportunity to worship with over 200 Daughters of the King members from Province VII and participate in a moving worship service.

If you would be interested in attending the entire conference, please contact Sherry Henderson (903 263 8877) or the church office for a registration form.

In addition, please lift the DOK up in prayer as we prepare for this event. Our mission is to create a place where the Holy Spirit will work in the lives of all who attend and that the attendees will leave with the knowledge that Trinity Episcopal Church is filled with the love of God.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

What's the old saying? Out with the old, in with the new? At Trinity we certainly ushered in the new year with several activities and events from August to December. We took field trips ranging from visits to the Heritage Festival to the Starr Home to the T.C. Lindsay Store to the Jubilee Zoo.

The preschool has had numerous "discovery days" which will continue throughout the school year. We sang and danced at the Veterans Day Program, the PreK Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas program and we look forward to more to come at next month's Grandparents Day program and the Spring Show.

Our Trinity families have shown how giving back is important too. We've collected canned goods for Mission Marshall, collected funds for one of our students who lost his home in a fire, over 170 Christmas Shoeboxes were collected for Samaritan's Purse and we had over 200 gifts donated for the Empty Stocking Fund.

The Lady Knights Volleyball team dominated their competition again this year. The third through sixth grades represented the school well at the Fall Relays and basketball season has just begun.

The fifth and sixth grades worked all semester for their World Bazaar presentations. The Troupe presented The Doctor Felicia Show. We have enjoyed the Book Fair, Red Ribbon Week, the Marshall Christmas parade, Pop's Night Out, Minion Mania and many more events.

We look forward to what the new year has in store for us at Trinity!

WOMEN OF TRINITY

The programs for the year 2015-2016 have been amazing for the Women of Trinity meetings, so it appears that we are on a roll. The meeting in January was so well-attended...what a great way to kick off 2016! Dr. Warren Johnson from ETBU, once again, held everyone's attention with his unique ability to bring biblical history alive. What a talent! On February 17, WOT will be treated with another very talented speaker...our own Edwina Thomas will take us along on some of her mission experiences, figuratively speaking, as she relates her ventures into the mission field. I'm sure that each of us have considered how we could serve our Lord in a more personal, active and exciting way...how amazing it would be to be in Edwina's shoes as she pursues the path that God has laid out for her. Come join your fellow Women of Trinity on Wednesday, February 17th at 11 a.m. in All Saints Hall, following the 10 a.m. Wednesday morning service. Enjoy the meeting, camaraderie, lunch and more camaraderie. All Women of Trinity and their guests are invited and urged to attend the meetings ...the door is open, c'mon in!!

Continued from page 1**Our Core Values:**Commitment
to Jesus ChristAuthority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-
ship

The action taken is not a braking of the communion. It is however an offer by the Primates of the Anglican Communion for the Episcopal Church to spent time in reflection for its action at the 2015 General Convention. The request not to be a part of the ecumenical discussions with the wider Church and to remove its self from all boards and committees associated with the Pri- mates has not been received well by much of the Episcopal Church. Those of the Episcopal Church who support the redefinition of marriage have not received this action with the spirit in which it was given. In the Episcopal News Service our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry is quoted as saying, "Our commitment to be an inclusive church is not based on a social theory or capitulation to the ways of the culture, but on our belief that the outstretched arms of Jesus on the cross are a sign of the very love of God reaching out to us all," He further said, "While I understand that many disagree with us, our decision regarding marriage is based on the belief that the words of the Apostle Paul to the Galatians are true for the church today: All who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, for all are one in Christ," Jim Naughton, former canon for the Archdio- cese of Washington, likewise refused denominational repentance and asserted that homosexu- ality doesn't violate the Law of God. "We can accept these actions with grace and humility, but the Episcopal Church is not going back," he told the Religion News Service. "We can't repent what is not sin." While these sound bites sound good, that lack any sense of the harm the American Church has done to the fabric of the Anglican Communion.

"We can't repent what is not a sin." When we quote Scripture care must be taken to not sim- ply quote the words, but the intent. That was the purpose behind the Sermon on the Mount. If encouraging another to sin and say that doing so is not sin is a misrepresentation of Scripture. In his epistles St. Paul speaks about taking action that leads others to sin is not showing the love of Christ. One other point, individuals do not get to decide what is sin or not sin; that is the for the church catholic through Scripture to discern is called to do. We as a province of the An- glican Communion do not get to make that decision for the entire church or for ourselves.

Our Anglican brothers and sisters are asking us to consider theologically and morally the impact our church has taken by redefining marriage. Our actions has caused a great deal of pain, both physical and spiritual throughout the world. Are we not willing to perhaps rethink what we have done? Are we not willing to step back and listen to 83 million other voices of our Angli- can Communion? The Primates are asking us to listen to their voices rather than to act out of our position of power and perceived superiority.

The action to reflect for a period of three years is an act of charity and love by our brothers and sisters around the world. What those criticizing this Communiqué do not understand is, we are now in a process of reconciliation between the Primates and this is the consequences that the Primates have agreed is the way forward. The Episcopal Church is instructed not to do any- thing with any legal force, because grace doesn't operate like that. The Church is asked to do accept these acts of grace. These requested actions are the one thing that will stop the Com- munion falling apart and they are requested in a spirit of love.

It is up to the Episcopal Church as to whether we stay together as one body. The Episcopal Church can recognize in the spirit of love and grace that the Communiqué was written in that they have indeed broken the shared vision of Jesus' ministry that we all have together, that re- quires reflection and potentially repentance and that the consequences in the Communiqué de- liver us the path to such reflection, repentance, and reconciliation. Or, The Episcopal Church can operate out of a place of defiance, demand it's legal rights and simply answer love and grace with obstinacy. However, one thing is clear today; for a liberal church that keeps on re- peating the mantra "Grace, not Law", there is an incredible ability to revert to law the moment that grace isn't working out for them.

We are each called to be in prayer for the collective leadership of the Episcopal Church that they, themselves will be in prayer concerning the way forward. For if we break from the larger Church, we can no longer call ourselves either catholic or episcopal.



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

Luke 22:27

Parish Staff

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

Rae Minchew
Youth Director

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

Ken Kerr
Senior Warden

Joel Truelove
Junior Warden

Cathy Cope
Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer

Doug Jager

Cindy Cain

Leana Westergaard

Clarence Brown

Jim Kutner

Bonnie Strauss

Julie Trexler

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

Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM



Trinity Episcopal Church

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<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

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