The 1970 census numbered the population of the United States at 203,392,031. At that time many Americans were marching in the streets to protest a war that had resulted in the deaths of 58,315 American service members, in terms of percentages those deaths equate to .0003% of the overall population. The Vietnam War lasted 12 years. The loss of those men and women as well as the overall total of deaths from the war raise alarm in our nation and people demanded the slaughter must come to an end. It did end, for the most part, for the United States in 1973.

Something else happened in 1973 that has resulted in the deaths of 22% of the population of our nation based on the 2010 census. Since 1973 70,000,000 Americans have died of this one cause. There is no civil uproar about ending the slaughter, there are no monuments to those who have died. The people of this holocaust are faceless and nameless. What is the event that has resulted in such a horrific number of death? It was the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade. A ruling that legalized abortion in the United States.

During the first twenty-three years of legalization the number of abortions increased every year until 1996. Since 1996 the number has been decreasing every year. Certainly one of the reasons for the decrease is the action and prayers of the pro-life movement. Over the years legislatures have passed laws restricting abortions under certain circumstances. The battles fought in the courts have sometimes over turned and sometimes upheld the laws. The biggest change that has taken place is in the hearts of people. This is the key to changing our nations position on abortion.

From the very start of the pro-life movement two actions have been taking place simultaneously. There has been political action, which tends to get the greatest amount of press, usually negative press. The second it counseling and teaching on what abortion is, what takes place during the procedure and on the sanctity of life. The second approach is what is having the greatest impact on changing the hearts of people, especially, Gen X, Gen Y, and millennials. These are the generations who have lost the 70,000,000 souls. As one millennial once commented to me, “I'm really glad my birth wasn’t an inconvenience to my parents, otherwise I probably wouldn’t be here.” I followed on with this question, “Did you ever consider abortion?” Her response was, “Only for a split second, but I didn’t want my son to a mistake, I wanted him to know love.”

When a generation grows up in the shadow of death their perspective of life can be impacted on how disposable we have made human life. We can strive to pass laws, but the key to change in in the horrific damage done by abortion is relational. The Body of Christ must continue to reach out to those who are afraid of having a child because they are too young, or because they are alone, or what ever reason they think is a valid reason for an abortion and walk with them through the time that feels so frightening to them. The vast majority of abortion vulnerable women choose life when they feel they have a support system to see them through the pregnancy.

The sanctity of life is one of the most basic tenets of the Christian faith. Our Lord came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. His concern for the least of God’s children must be in the hearts of his disciples. The unborn will continue to be at the greatest risk until all Christians make life a priority as a gift given by God.
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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Trinity Began its celebration of Christmas with two wonderful events. The first was the Service of Lessons and Carols and it was followed by the Happy Birthday Jesus party.

The choir led us through Scriptural readings and hymns depicting the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This annual celebration was attended by not only Trinity parishioners, but from folks from Kilgore, Jefferson and Longview. It seems the word is spreading and our choir is getting to be rather well known.

Following the service everyone gathered in All Saints Hall for the Happy Birthday Jesus party which included children and youth performances and dinner. Our elementary age children provided a hymn and our youth and children put on a brief skit depicting the events of Christmas night. The skit was written by one of our youth Samantha Paige.

Food and fellowship made it a wonderful beginning to the week leading up to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who brought a dessert or side to share and thanks to Bud and Angela Bray for some really great BBQ.
Rector’s Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

A blessed and joyous New Year to each of you. May our Lord bless you throughout the coming year.

The New Year brings hope and promise. If last year was a not so good year, we can pause and leave it behind and take the lessons learned forward into the new year. If the previous year was a good year for us, we can rejoice and give thanks to God.

This new year gives everyone a fresh start. Let’s be sure we build it upon a firm foundation. In the Book of Revelation, as the book closes we read the words in the side column, now let’s take them to heart. Our Lord does make all things new again. Each of us has an option of what we will do with a new beginning. We can squander it by doing the same things we have done in the past and end up with the same results, or we can grasp the freshness of a new beginning and seek to follow God to where He wants to lead us.

Starting new isn’t always easy. One of the lessons I learned last year after my shoulder surgery was how difficult it can be to start over. After the surgery the constant pain was gone. That was a huge relief. The drawback was I had no range of motion. I couldn’t lift my arm. Even shaking hands was something painful. I had to learn to put the arm back to work. Now I could have done the same things I was doing prior to the surgery, which was to keep it as still as possible so it wouldn’t hurt. Or I could load up one pain pills to make the movement bearable. Neither one of those things would have given me full use of the arm back. A new course of action was called for.

That new course of action was physical therapy. It called for me to do something I hadn’t done before and to do them on a regular basis. At first it was small things that were incredibly difficult and didn’t feel good. However, over time, range of motion and the ability to do things I hadn’t been able to do for sometime began to return. It was a slow and not exactly a joyful recovery. Now nine months later I have almost complete range of motion, and no pain.

Beginning anew calls for a new course of action. When God grants us new beginnings we must take care not to squander the blessing He has given us. It may often call for us to begin to do things differently than we have in the past. It may call for us to stretch ourselves in ways we may have not imagined. It is difficult; however, the results can be amazing.

The things new that God offers us are real, they are tangible, they are physical and spiritual. One hard truth is that the physical changes will not take hold unless we first take hold of “spiritual therapy”. As physical therapy can restore an injured body, so to spiritual therapy can restore not only a spiritual body, but the physical as well. But we have to make a conscience effort to do the spiritual work required to make us whole. God will nourish and sustain us through the hard work. True we will be uncomfortable at times and break a sweat. The end result is well worth the effort. We do not go through the spiritual or physical work alone. Christ is right there with us, He is our personal trainer and our spiritual therapist. As with a physical therapist, the patient must follow the directions and do what is required to recover fully, so too with Christ as our spiritual therapist we must also do the work to recover both spiritually and physically.

He makes all things new, including His people. I pray that one of the New Year’s resolutions each of us make for the coming year is to be active participants in “spiritual therapy”.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. John

And he who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. Revelation 21:5-6
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.

WOMEN OF TRINITY
Wow! So many decisions to make...how are we going to use these brand new 365 days that God has offered us? God willing, we shall try to make WISE decisions no matter how many of those days we'll be spending on this earth. Something to think about. Attention, Ladies!! Women of Trinity will resume our regular "third Wednesday of the month @ 11am" schedule in January of 2017 and I know that you'll want to be there. On Wednesday, January 18, 2017, Dr. Warren Johnson, ETBU professor of Biblical History, will be the featured speaker. Dr. Johnson has been a favorite guest speaker for a number of years and continues to bring Biblical History alive for all of us. In November, we had decided that, instead of having hostesses bring the entire lunch, they would bring dessert and provide drinks and that members would bring sandwiches for themselves and their guests. The jury is still out on that plan, so stay tuned! Please circle Wednesday, January 18, on that brand new calendar of yours so that you won't miss this very special meeting of Women of Trinity. Don't forget your sandwiches! If you have not been invited to join WOT, please know that women of Trinity, of all ages and interests are urged to attend and participate.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW
The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for June is as follows:
- Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays January 11th and January 25th 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 will continuing to collect cold weather clothing to give to our neighbors who come to Martha’s Kitchen each Thursday. We are accepting coats, jackets, sweaters and gloves. We need both adult and children’s

DOLLAR-A-WEEK FUND
In 2006 Trinity started the Dollar-a-Week Fund to cover long term major maintenance needs for the parish.

As a reminder, the concept behind this plan is for each member to add just one dollar a week to their pledge or donation that will be set aside in a restricted fund for major maintenance of our facilities. This fund is maintained solely for the sole purpose of making major repairs. This past year the fund has provided for the repair of the drainage under Fry Hall. In the past it has covered roof repairs, and air conditioning repairs. This fund has done a great job in helping us to avoid being hit by short falls in the budget due to major maintenance expenses.

We have a wonderful facility. We do recognize that at we will need to have these funds on hand in the future to cover unexpected events. If we are diligent in growing the Maintenance Fund we can be assured that when that day comes for needed repairs the expense will not be a major drag on the operations and ministry of the parish. Our other facilities are not so new and they do require continued maintenance. The dollar-a-week supports this ongoing major maintenance for these facilities as well. Please consider your continued support of this effort of the parish.
Birthdays

3  Barbara Cobb  18  David Jones
4  Yuri Altnau   18  Michael DeSa
5  Walton Truelove
7  Ann Brannon   19  Alice Furrh
8  Bill Abraham  20  Adrian Martinez
9  Jack Rectenwald
10  Jim Johnson  20  Michelle Cutrer
15  Mamie Lyons  24  Jeanette Shelton
16  Cody Baldwin
16  Nancy Haynes
16  Larry D'Asto
16  Molly Hammond
17  Jean Taylor  25  Rebecca Bockmon

Church Financials and Attendance for November 2016

Budget Income for 2016 .................. $483,196
Budget Expenses for 2016 .............. $525,701
Budget Difference for 2016 .......... ($42,505)
Income Received to Date ............ $415,225
Expenses to Date ....................... $437,792
Income for the month ................. $47,502
Expenses for the month .............. $40,160
Difference for the month ............. $ 7,342
Difference to Date .................... ($22,567)

Average Sunday

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Average Sunday Attendance to date

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Sunday Attendance to date

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Attendance all other Services

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Anniversaries

1  Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin
3  Mr. & Mrs. Justin Briggle
5  Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Haynes
16  Mr. & Mrs. Larry D'Asto
18  Mr. & Mrs. Cameron McElroy, III
23  Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Asaff
25  Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pool
BIBLE JOURNALING CLASS

Who: All Ladies 15-99
What: Bible Journaling
When: Season of Lent
Where: Fry Hall Education Building 2nd floor
Why: To discover the Bible in a new, creative way, because Adult Coloring and Journaling are all the rage and to unleash a new found love of the Bible

Hosted by: Jodi Beavers and Angela Bray

PS: You do not have to be an artist to enjoy this class. You will be taught a variety of ways to journal creatively in your Bible that does not require drawing skills.
Instead of giving up something this Lenten Season, try adding something. You’ll be glad you did.
All supplies will be provided except for your Bible. You can use the Bible you have, purchase a special journaling Bible or use a journaling notebook.
Please let the church know if you will be attending, so that we know how to prepare.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 7143

It has been a winter wonderland for the girls of Trinity Girl Scout Troop 7143! We have been helping in the community, making presents for family, attending events with our brothers in scouting, preparing for cookie season and having lots of fun.

In this season of giving and service we have been active on several fronts. We donated over $500 in goods to Hope’s Closet and helped decorate Santa’s Workshop. We have a canned food drive that will be part of our annual Christmas party and we will be caroling at Marshall Manor. While our primary goal is to be of service to our community, it is a secondary goal to show the girls all the different ways we can serve and the multitude of ways that they can improve their communities and their world.

We have a lot of fun too! We recently attended a Mudbugs game with the scouts of Pack 550. We would like to thank Ken Kerr for all his efforts in arranging such a fun family activity! We also had an ice skating party, enjoying all the fun activities that downtown Marshall has to offer at this festive time of the year.

Looking forward, we have a busy, busy year ahead of us. Cookie season starts of January 13th. Make room in your cookie jars for a parade of Samoas, Thin Mints and our newest cookie the S’More!

February 25th is our Father-Daughter Dance. This is not just a Girl Scout event. We would like to invite members of Trinity as well as Pack 550 and JDOK to attend. Tickets are $20 per couple and can be purchased from Juli Jameson at (903) 926-2517.

Moms, sisters and nanas have their turn as we celebrate a Mother-Daughter Tea Party on March 11th. Tickets are $10 per person, and include an assortment of tea sandwiches and tiny desserts. There will be a speaker to be announced later.
Also, as with the Father-Daughter Dance, we would like to invite Trinity, Pack 550 and the JDOK.

The members of Troup 7143 would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a joyous, healthy and prosperous new year!!
Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Well 2016 is over, as hard as that is to believe. It seems like we were just saying goodbye to 2015. One great thing about New Year’s is it causes us to examine our lives and see ways we can make changes. Many seek to make New Year’s resolutions, to reflect these changes they wish to make. Now if you are anything like me, these resolutions probably did not always keep. I cannot tell you how many times I have made a resolution where I will not drink soft drinks (I write that with a Dr. Pepper next to me). We make these resolutions because we want to live a new way, perhaps a better way. Sometimes they do not stick, but sometimes they do. Sometimes the new life we lead is one that is so great we keep it going.

In this season of resolutions, this season of living new better lives I am reminded of our own theology around baptism. In November our church rejoiced as we celebrated 3 baptisms. This month we celebrated another baptism. God willing, our celebration won’t stop here. We hopefully will see more baptisms. Baptism is our entry point into the church, into the household of God. However, one great thing happens through the waters of baptism. We go in one person, and come out another. We come out a new person in Jesus Christ. In a sense our old selves die, we are buried in the waters of baptism. When we come out of the waters we are resurrected a new life. In St. Paul’s letter to the Roman’s Paul wrote “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” Here we see that theology of baptism. In our Baptismal liturgy we hear this theology as well. In the Thanksgiving over the Water the following words are contained in the prayer, “we thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.”

So what does it mean to be born a new life? It simply means we are now a full member of the body of Christ. We are called to be ministers to the church, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the world, and to love Christ. So this new year, remember your baptism. Remember that through that baptism you are a member of this body. Remember that you are a vital member of this body. In 2017 let’s live out our baptismal covenants, let’s spread Christ to the world. Let’s be Christ’s body, as our baptism reminds us we are.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
II. Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man. The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God, and very Man; who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” This verse is from the prologue of John’s Gospel. This prologue perfectly summarizes who Jesus Christ is. It also goes well with the second article of the Articles of Religion. The second article is titled “Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man.” That article describes the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; which goes perfectly with the season we just finished in our church year, Christmas.

The second article fits deep theological understandings about the natures of Christ all in one paragraph. This is the one of the great things about the Articles of Religion, the fact that a short paragraph gives us better understandings of the tenants of our faith. In this article I will explore the second article, breaking down the paragraph. Through this we can get a better understanding of the natures of Christ, and what the second Article is saying.

The Article begins by stating that the Son is the word of the Father. It states the theological understanding that the Son and the Father are of one substance. Yet, the word took on Man’s nature in the womb of the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary. The article then elaborated on this. It stated that the Godhead and the Manhood, the divine and human, were joined together in one person, i.e. Jesus Christ. These substances were never to be divided and that one Christ who was very God and very Man.

What we are seeing here is the article beginning by laying out that doctrine of Hypostatic Union. To understand what the article is saying we need to understand more about this doctrine. Hypostatic Union describes the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Specifically it describes the two natures of Christ. This doctrine states that one person in Jesus Christ has two natures, those of fully human and fully divine. Meaning that Jesus Christ being the Son of the Father was fully God, In addition to that when he took on flesh he was truly human, with a human soul. The term Hypostatic Union is from the Greek word Hypostasis meaning “substantive reality”, or more literally a substantive basis or foundation for something. This doctrine was adopted at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. It was developed as a way to show that Jesus Christ was truly God and truly man. The adoption of this doctrine came about as many church heresies were beginning to be pushed regarding the nature of Christ. These heresies attempted to deny the two natures of Christ. For example, one such heresy was known as Apollinarianism. Apollinarianism stated that in the Incarnation the Son of God assumed a human nature but not a human soul. Instead it argued that his divine nature took the place of the human soul. The problem with this idea is that he would not have been fully human, which is the orthodox view. The council that adopted
There is biblical basis for the doctrine of Hypostatic Union. In the passage that opened this article from St. John’s Gospel we see the idea of the word of God taking on human form. Jesus was God’s word, and always with the Father. There was never a time when the Father and the Son were not together. In the same prologue St. John wrote that the “Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” This is the Incarnation. The Word took on flesh thus taking on all of humanity. We also see the natures of Christ in St. Luke’s Gospel. In Luke 2:52 it states that “Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” Here we see both natures of Christ dwelling in the one person of Christ. So why then did God send His Word to take on human flesh?

The rest of the article answers that question, but I want to put forward the following from the Letter to the Hebrews; “For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.” The Incarnation of the Son gave us a means for a newer relationship with God through Christ. The rest of the second article tells the story of what Christ’s Incarnation meant for us. He was crucified, died and was buried. These events happened so that we could be reconciled to the Father. The article continues that Christ was a sacrifice not only for the original guilt, but for actual sins of all people.

In this part of the article we are shown that Christ’s taking on flesh was a way for us to be reconciled with God. It was a new way that God could have a very real relationship with humanity, in a human way. In her book Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity Kathleen Tanner writes “In Jesus God takes a perfect form; here humanity has become God’s own.” This is God taking on a human form and making it His. Just as St. Thomas Aquinas said, “It was fitting that God should become incarnate.” This gives humanity a chance to share in God’s gifts, the gift of reconciliation through His Son. That is why God’s word took on flesh, and that is why He suffered a humiliating death, so that he can experience humanity to its fullest; thus giving us a very real tangible relationship with him.

As we can see this article covers the Incarnation of our Lord. It shows how Christ had two natures, man and divine. It also shows how through Christ and his experiences in flesh a new relationship between God and man was formed. That through Christ we are reconciled to the Father.
2016 In Review
Just a short sample of all that the wonder people of Trinity did last year is reflected in these photos. Thanks for making 2016 a wonderful year for our parish.

Now on to 2017!
Behold, I come among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:27