



# The Tripod

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

Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2016

## Trinity Episcopal Church:

*Witnessing to  
the Power of  
God to  
Transform*

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

## Advent and Christmas at Trinity



Trinity's Acolytes

December is a series of celebrations. We began the month with the First Sunday of Advent by installing and promoting our Acolytes.

Our new acolytes are Aidan and Anika Kerr, Sagan Jameson Hatch, and Greg Gani. Acolytes that were promoted were, Ty Craver, Troy Simmons, Jackson Howard, and Carson Henderson.

The Second Sunday of Advent was dedicated to the Daughters of the King. The Hannah Chapter of the DOK installed the new members of the Order as well as

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installed the newest members to the Junior Daughter of the King Chapter. The Daughters host a reception following the Service of Installation to welcome the new sisters in Christ.

The members of the Hannah Chapter are; Cathy Cope, Jenny Kerr, Meiko Hathaway, Jeanette Shelton, and Jane Thompson.

The new members of the Junior Daughters are; Braison Fyffe, Kaylee Longacre, Aliya Key, Lilian Weeks, Amelia Daughtry, Anatole Hurta, Kadence Hurta, and Kaycee.

Advent wrapped up with a Service of Lessons and Carols and a Happy Birthday Jesus Party for the parish.



The Hannah Chapter's of the Junior Daughters of the King with its new Jr. Daughters



Happy Birthday Jesus Party

## Epiphany



### 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.

Epiphany is observed on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

While some Greek Orthodox Churches still observe the Epiphany celebration as the Nativity of Jesus, the majority of the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Anglican Churches focus on the visit of the Magi and Jesus' baptism. The significance behind the visit of the Magi is the revelation of Christ as "Lord and King." The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to publicly recognize the divinity of Jesus, by way of their offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River revealed his divinity as the Son of God. John the Baptist, according to Matthew 3:16-17, testifies of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove, and a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Several Russian, Coptic, and Greek Churches also focus on the Cana wedding miracle as part of the Epiphany celebration observance.

For the Church, the Epiphany represents a responsibility to reveal Jesus as the Divine Son and Savior sent by God the Father to atone for the sins of mankind. It is a time of healing and fellowship, where the Church comes together in the covenant of brotherhood to love one another as Christ commanded.

The Church observes a variety of Epiphany rituals and traditions. In places throughout Europe and Latin America, Christians commemorate Three Kings' Day by offering prayers, burning herbs that have been dried and blessed, sprinkling entryways with holy water, and inscribing the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) on structures in order to receive a blessing.

Many Churches observe an Epiphany celebration that extends to Ash Wednesday, with the last Sunday of the season honored as Transfiguration Sunday. The tradition of Twelfth Night, which marks the end of the Christmas Season, occurs the night before Epiphany. On this night, Kings' Cakes are baked in preparation for the coming winter season.

A number of Christian traditions mark Epiphany by taking down Christmas trees and burning them in bonfires. The related tradition of children "raiding" the tree of candy canes and other sweets before it leaves the home is popular throughout Europe and the United States. A favored custom in Central Europe involves "star singers". Children dress as the three kings and go caroling from door to door carrying a large star. In reward, they receive money or sweets, which often go to church charities and relief organizations.

For many Christians, the definition of Epiphany is a reminder of God the Father's unlimited love and mercy, which He has extended to all of mankind through the revelation of His Son, and of the hope of salvation that is now manifest for all who come to him in faith.

Courtesy of [Sharefaith](http://www.sharefaith.com/) <http://www.sharefaith.com/>

## Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. A Blessed and Happy New Year to all!

How are you coming on your New Year's resolutions? What do they include? I'm sure each of us has some personal goals in there, perhaps to exercise more, eat less. Maybe you have some family resolutions as well, spend more quality time together, actually take that trip you've always talked about. What about business or professional resolutions? We often make resolution involving personal, family and business or professional aspects of our life. But what about our spiritual life? Have you made any resolutions concerning that aspect of your life?

I would encourage each of us to do just that—make resolutions concerning our spiritual life. Well, what might they be? I would like to offer up three suggestions.

1. Make a resolution to read through the Bible during the year. It may sound challenging, but the only challenge is making your way through Leviticus and Numbers, other than that it is quite doable. In All Saints' Hall we have a read through the Bible daily plan. It breaks up the readings between Old Testament Historical Books, Old Testament Wisdom and Prophets and the New Testament. Each day you would read one chapter from each of those and by the end of the year you have read through the entire Bible. The Old Testament reading general follow a historical time line, so while you are reading from the Historical Section, you are also reading from the corresponding time frame from Wisdom and Prophets section. You will be surprised to find how enjoyable this is as well as building you faith at the same time.

2. Make a resolution to pray daily. Dedicate an amount of time daily to pray for yourself, for your loved one's and friends, for our parish and for our community. Include a time in your prayer to listen to God as well. Perhaps you might think I'm not really sure how to go about praying? Praying is a dialogue between you and God. Have a conversation with Him. You can begin as simply as saying, "Here I am Lord. I would like to talk about .... With you." Then speak your heart. If that seems to simple, you can turn to the Book of Common Prayer. It has a section of prayers that cover the spectrum of our individual and corporate life together. Prayer is at the center of our relationship with God. If we don't have a prayer life, we don't have a relationship with the one who loves us and gave himself for us. It is as simple as that—prayer matters.

3. Make a resolution to be faithful in worship. How often should a person worship? If your asking that question your asking the wrong question? The real question is, "Is God worthy of my faithful worship?" well, is He? God gives us each the gift of life, he numbers each of our days (they may not be as many as we think). We are called individually and communally to worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth. This doesn't mean you don't take vacations it means that when you are away from home you find a church to worship in on the Lord's Day. It means that each of us must be as committed to worshiping the Lord as we seem to be to all the other events that take place on a Sunday morning. Your child's soccer or baseball game is important to them, isn't their going in relationship to God as important? Isn't your presence before God as important? We offer four worship services a week, Wednesday at 10:00 AM, and 6:15 PM, and Sunday's at 8:00 AM and 10:30 PM. I would certainly be open to adding another service to ensure there is ample opportunity to worship. For a Christian to forego worship because of another activity is to neglect our faith. It is choosing to be of the world and not merely in the world.

I can promise you if you make these three resolutions for the coming year your life and your faith will be changed. You will experience a joy and peace that you have never experienced even in the midst of whatever crisis may arise in the coming year. Our Lord is faithful he will not leave us nor abandon us. We should strive to be as faith to Him as He is to us.



*“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

BCP, Pg. 236

*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 January 11th 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

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**BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**

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

Bible Study at Jucy's on Wednesdays January 13th and 27th at 11:30  
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, January 16th 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. We will be conducting a training class during in near future.

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**WOMEN OF TRINITY**

Christmas holds such a special place in our lives, both spiritual and secular, but as Women of Trinity, the celebration of the birth of our Lord should be uppermost in our hearts and minds. While we observe the celebration of Christmas, it's such excellent opportunity to do God's work here on earth by being an example of His love and caring for our fellow men and women. Let's begin the New Year by getting your calendar out and marking the third Wednesday of each month with a big WOT to denote the meetings that take place on that day. We're so excited to announce that we're starting the year out with a guest speaker who is back by popular demand...Dr. Warren Johnson, Professor of Bible History at East Texas Baptist University. If you haven't heard his talks, you won't want to miss this meeting on January 20, 2016, and if you have heard him speak before, I know you'll be there. Same place: All Saints Hall; same time: 11 a.m....on January 20th. Be sure to plan on joining us for lunch. It's always delicious and the fellowship is really great! Happy New Year from His house to yours!

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**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Daughters of the King from the Houston area to the Piney Woods will meet at our church on the weekend of February 26th for their Spring Assembly. The Diocese of Texas Daughters, 200 plus, will learn new ways to more deeply take up their crosses to follow Jesus in areas of service, prayer and evangelism.

During the months of January and February our Hannah Chapter of the DOK will be preparing for this event. Mark your calendars! Pray for us as we prepare to serve the Diocese of Texas Daughters of the King February 26-27.

## Birthdays

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Bud Spellings   | 16 Larry D'Asto    |
| 3 Doyle Curry     | 16 Molly Hammond   |
| 3 Barbara Cobb    | 17 Jean Taylor     |
| 4 Yuri Altnau     | 18 David Jones     |
| 5 Walton Truelove | 18 Michael DeSa    |
| 7 Ann Brannon     | 19 Alice Furrh     |
| 8 Bill Abraham    | 20 Adrian Martinez |
| 8 David Cason     | 20 Michelle Cutrer |
| 9 Sandra White    | 23 Angela Williams |
| 9 Jack Rectenwald | 25 Rebecca Bockmon |
| 9 Ella Neal       | 27 Cassy Rhoades   |
| 10 Jim Johnson    | 28 David Spellings |
| 15 Mamie Lyons    | 28 Brett Weeks     |
| 16 Cody Baldwin   | 29 Janet Gulette   |
| 16 Nancy Haynes   | 30 Chris Cope      |
|                   | 31 Dennis Rhoades  |



## Anniversaries

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin
- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Erik Howard
- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Justin Briggie
- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Adam Lundgren
- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Haynes
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Larry D'Asto
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Cameron McElroy, III
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Astaff
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pool



### Church Financials and Attendance for November 2015

Budget Income for 2015 .....	\$ 449,952	
Budget Expenses for 2015 .....	\$ 436,876	
Budget Difference for 2015 .....	\$ 13,076	
Income Received to Date .....	\$ 405,289	
Expenses to Date .....	\$ 388,352	
Income for the month .....	\$ 41,894	
Expenses for the month .....	\$ 39,201	
Difference for the month .....	\$ 2,693	
Difference to Date.....	\$ 16,937	
	2014	Present
Average Sunday Attendance to date	161	158
Average Sunday Attendance for November	155	136
Sunday Attendance to date	7584	7508
Attendance all other Services	9554	8340

### 7-Up Biscuits

**Cook time:** 15 Min **Prep time:** 5 Min

**Ingredients:**

- 4 c bisquick
- 1 c sour cream
- 1 c 7-up
- 1/2 c butter, melted

**Directions**

1. Mix bisquick, sour cream and 7 up. Dough will be very soft - don't worry :) Knead and fold dough until coated with your baking mix. Pat dough out (about 1/2 to 1 inch thick) on floured surface and cut biscuits using a round biscuit / cookie cutter. Melt butter in bottom of cookie sheet pan or 9x13 casserole dish. Place biscuits on top of melted butter and bake for 12-15 minutes or until brown at 425 degrees

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



The Youth spent the Advent season filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, learning the meaning behind our Christmas traditions, and ending the season with a Christmas party.

With very generous donations from the church members the youth were able to fill 30 shoe boxes. We spent the evening separating items for different age groups and genders. We had snacks and fellowshiped with one another and watched a video on how the boxes are transported and looked into the lives of some of the children that have been blessed by Samaritan's

Purse. It was a great opportunity to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves and to be thankful to God for all of His provisions.

We watched a DVD, *Saving Christmas*, during Wednesday youth. I would recommend this movie to anyone who is interested in how our Christmas traditions relate to Christ. If you're ever discouraged with the "pomp" of Christmas this movie will help bring those traditions back to where they should be with Christ in the center.

Our ice skating Christmas party took a turn when the rain didn't let up. We adjusted our planning a little and ended up having a great time! We watch the movie, *Elf* and ate unhealthy food and drank too many cokes. The White Elephant gift exchange was eventful with swapping and trading in the end. Samantha and Auby Minchew took the Crazy Sweater Award dressed as Santa and an elf. And everyone went home with a stocking full of goodies and affirmations from other youth members. We ended our party with laughter, hugs and smiles. So, rain or no rain, it was a GREAT evening!

The Youth will have some new and fun things going on after the New Year. If you want to stay on top of things make sure you visit the Youth Facebook page for all that is going to be going on in 2016.

Our Youth Minister, Rae Minchew will also take over the role of Bible and Religion teacher at Trinity Episcopal School starting with the new semester beginning in January.





### Our Core Values:

Commitment  
to Jesus Christ

Authority of  
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-  
ship

## Roe V. Wade Turns 42

This January marks 42 years since the Supreme Court of the United States, in a five four ruling legalized abortion in the United States. Since that time, of all unintended pregnancies, 4 in 10 are aborted. There are approximately 1.21 million abortions in America each year totaling approximately 50,820,000 since the Roe vs. Wade ruling.

In the history of genocide in the 20th century the low end estimate total of those killed since the beginning of what has been termed the first genocide of the 20th Century, the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and through 1999 totaled, 17,435,000. It is hard to wrap one's mind around numbers when they get that large. Sources have credited Joseph Stalin with saying, "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic; of course many of recall Mark Twains famous quote, "There are lies, damned lies and statistics." Statistics do not mean much it is hard to see the individuality of each of those fifty plus million deaths of a children as an individual life filled with hope and promise.

However, over the last decade there has been a shifting of the sand on the issue of abortion. The majority of the baby boom generation continue to support the unfettered access to abortion. The Gen X, Gen Y and the millennial generations are increasingly opposed to it. This might seem as if it is causing for rejoicing, but before we get too excited we have to go a bit further. While the younger generation has an increasing awareness of the sanctity of life for the unborn, they do not hold that same respect for the rights of the aged. There is a new mantra among many of those generations; the right to die. Isn't it odd that those who are older, and beyond the child bearing and child rearing years are more supportive of abortion and those who are younger are increasingly becoming more supportive of euthanasia. This really shouldn't be all that surprising for each group is looking to its own self interest and both have the same view of life in general.

That view of life is one that holds that life belongs solely to a person, or at times, to the state. Over the last 60 years we have become an increasingly utilitarian society and make decisions based on the supposed value of something, or even some one. Life is not based on value or convenience or any other human value. Life is a gift from the creator, and the life of each person is given that they might be stewards of that life. That in and through their life they will learn the wonders, majesty and love of God. Then that they might share that wonder with those around them and those that come after them. Life cannot be viewed as a person's possession, each of us has a moral responsibility to honor life. With the gift of our own life we have certain moral principles that come with it. The first and foremost is the responsibility to respect it and cherish it.

We have witnessed cultures and societies in the past that have had little respect for the right to life. We live in a time in which we see a culture rising that has no respect for the sanctity of life. A culture that slaughters the innocent a culture that seeks to destroy all those who do not believe as they believe.

If we proclaim to be disciples of Christ it is incumbent upon us, as Christians, to honor and hold dear the gifts that God has given us, for as long as he has given it to us, life is one of those gifts, and the greatest of those gifts from inception to natural death. The faithful have a moral responsibility to protect life, especially the life of the innocent and those who are suffering, physically, emotionally, or spiritually.



*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

Randy Reeves

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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Marshall, Texas, 75670

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<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

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