Scouts Out!

In the Army there is an order that is given to explore unknown territory before a unit moves into it, the radio call goes out, “Scouts Out” and the Scout unit element pushes ahead into unknown territory to discover what is there.

The Scouts of Trinity Are out at Summer Camp exploring new worlds of possibilities. Both the Scouts of Troop 550 and the Webelos of Pack 550 went out in June to test their outdoor skills and learn new skills while at summer camp.

Above: Scouts of Troop 550 ready to depart.

Right: Webelos of Pack 550 beginning their summer camp.

Below: Scouts of 550 having a rough time in the chow hall.

Our Scout Troop enjoyed the week they spent at Trevor Rees-Jones Scout Camp in Athens, Texas and our Webelos got their first introduction to own our local Scout Camp, Camp Pirtle near Carthage, Texas.

During the summer camp the Scouts of Troop 550 earned over 30 merit badges and two scouts qualified to advance in rank.
Saturday, June 25th was a beautiful Day at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston. It was also a big day for the nine ordindands who were ordained; eight to the Transitional Deaconate and one to the Vocational Deaconate by The Bishop of Texas, The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle. Among those being ordained was The Rev. Dr. Justin Briggle, a parishioner of Trinity, Marshall.

Justin began this journey a little over five years ago when he first met with Fr. John about discerning a call to ordained ministry. The journey was not an easy one. For a period of about 14 months Justin met regularly with F. John and the parish Discernment Committee. After he was recommended to the vestry the vestry commended him the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. After several interviews with members of the Commission and ultimately the entire Committee, he was recommended to the Bishop to become a postulant. Next came the visits to various seminaries and finally Bishop Doyle designated him a postulant for Holy Orders and sent him to the School of Theology at the University of the South, better known as “Sewanee”.

Throughout the three years of seminary, Justin continued to his contact with the Bishop and with Fr. John through his regular Ember Day Letters. After passing his Canonical Exams in January of this Year the Commission on Ministry recommended him for ordination to the deaconate. On May 6th all these years of work came to a culmination with Justin’s graduation from the School of Theology of the University of the South with a Master of Divinity degree. On Saturday, June 25th Justin began his new ministry as he was ordained. Fr. John, and Megan Himes, and Mr. Frank Strauss and Mrs. Bonnie Strauss were the presenters on behalf of Trinity at his ordination. The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle was the Celebrant of the Mass and the Rt. Rev. Sean W Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania was the preacher.
Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

This past month I have been reading the Book of Ecclesiasticus, not to be confused with the Book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiasticus is a book in the Apocrypha which is not part of the Canon of Scripture but useful for preaching and teaching. It is also known as the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach. As I was reading I came across the following, “Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given.” (Sirach 15:17) it is a paraphrase of the choice set before Israel as a Nation when they had crossed over the Jordan into the Promised Land. Here, however, it is directed not toward the nation, but toward each individual. This pretty much puts the monkey, so to speak, squarely on each of us. But, it is important that we remember one key thing; God always, always reaches out for His people. We can not blame God for our choices, or someone else’s choices. We have been given free will and are responsible for our own actions.

Many of us live in a myopic world. We only see that which we choose to see and then only colored with our own viewpoint. I often hear phrases like, “my God would never do....” Or, “A loving God could never....” The danger is that with each of these types of sayings we are saying what sounds fair, as far as human understanding is concerned and what we would do if we were God, which we are not. Unfortunately, our understanding of God could honestly be put in a thimble. As for what we would do if we were God; I won’t even dignify that with a response, other than how can the created judge the creator?

At birth we are at a crossroads, we can walk down the path called life, or the one called death. Life leads to eternal life, and death, well, to eternal separation from the one who gives us life. Throughout our lives, we come to cross roads and can choose. When we reach the end of our lives and find that the roads we have all chosen have led to death how can we fault God? We made the decisions. One might respond, “I didn’t know?” What may be the more accurate response is, “I didn’t want to find out.”

We create our own fantasies. We want to believe such and such because we find comfort in it. Well, we can find comfort in the wrong things. Those things can lead to death. We do not have to like that statement for it to be true, but we do have to live with it. A friend of mine once said, “Well, that’s okay for you, but I choose not to believe that.” What he failed to understand was, that in his choice, he did more than choose to disregard the witness I was giving him, in short, he was not; not believing me, he was not believing the word of God.

One problem many people have is their interpretation of Scripture. They will use one passage over the other. Our twist the meaning of a passage to prove their point. Scripture must be taken as a whole and in context. God does judge, and God does forgive. In judgment His judgement is totally just, He doesn’t do a thing to us that we haven’t earned. In forgiveness, He forgives totally, and remembers not one sin. Not because we are such charming people, but because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He paid our debt for us. However, Jesus himself called us to repentance. In short we must repent of our sins, for God to forgive them and put them away. To assume that God has to let us in the door because; a) Jesus did it for us, or b) we such nice people is to be on a slope that leads to the fires of hell with absolutely no one to blame but yourself.

The church in this age does its people a disfavor, and will stand in judgment of its failure to inform people of the consequences of their choices. The Church of the present day does not like to mention hell, or judgment, in fear that some will be driven off. That’s true, some will be driven off, but more importantly, some will be saved. Some will repent and turn to Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When a Church teaches and preaches only the love of Christ, only half the story is being told. We as Christians have the responsibility to tell the entire story. We will suffer for doing that, but no more than our blessed Lord suffered for us.

Pax et Bonum.
Fr. John
**Our Vision:**
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.

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**BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**
The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for June is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays July 13th and 27th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)
Saturday, July 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.

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**HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME**
We will be having our Annual Parish Meeting and Election in October.
It is time to ask yourself a question. Am I being called to serve our parish as a vestry member or delegate to Diocesan Council? This does call for each of us to be in prayer. Our Lord is reaching out to anoint those called to these two servant ministries. You just might be the person He is calling. The requirements to serve on the vestry or as delegate to council are to be a confirmed communicate in good standing. Those serving on the vestry will be required to be certified in Safe Guarding God’s People. If you believe that this is a ministry you are interested in please contact our Senior Warden, Ken Kerr.

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**Confirmation & Reception Class Scheduled**
The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher will visit Trinity on Sunday, October 16th for his Annual Visitation and to Confirm and Receive new members into the Church.

Fr John will lead Confirmation and Reception Classes beginning on Sunday, August 14th at 5:00 PM in Fry Hall in classroom 201 on the second floor. This is an eight week class and will finish up on Sunday October 2nd. The class will not meet on Labor Day Weekend.

This class is open to individuals and families who are new to the parish and would like to join. Individuals who are members, but would like to take a “refresher class” are also welcome to attend.

If you are interested in taking the class please register with the office by calling 903-938-4246 or by emailing Fr. John at fr_john_himes@hotmail.com. There is not cost for the class. However, we do need to have people register no later than August 1st so we can order the training material.

Parents who are interested in having their children take the class should also register for the class. The only requirement for the class is that the individuals be Baptized.
Birthdays

1 Cheryl Staggers
1 Hugh Taylor
5 Reggie Hasty
5 Sarah Rectenwald
6 Katie Godinich DeSa
7 Doug Lewis
7 Michael Jones
8 Della Nader
10 Lucy Parr
10 Cody Godinich
11 Courtney Tolar
12 Wil Moseley
13 Stephen Littlejohn
15 Aydrenne Martinez
16 Walter Fugler
16 Sandy Toussaint
17 Vince Godinich
20 Theresa Harper
21 Michael Cason
25 Sherry Henderson
26 Dorothy Whaley
26 Lillian Weeks
27 Albert McPhail
27 Glenda Lane
27 Rae Minchew
28 Lal Terrell
29 Gloria Snyder

Church Financials and Attendance for April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Income for 2016</td>
<td>$483,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses for 2016</td>
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<td>Budget Difference for 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Received to Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses to Date</td>
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<tr>
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Average Sunday Attendance

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
<td>185</td>
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Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Anniversary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mr &amp; Mrs. Christopher Altnau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Brett Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jerry Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Don Bramlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dick Boyd</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bill Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ronnie Hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aydrenne Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Walter Fugler</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sandy Toussaint</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Vince Godinich</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Theresa Harper</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Michael Cason</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sherry Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Dorothy Whaley</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lillian Weeks</td>
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<td>Albert McPhail</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Glenda Lane</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Rae Minchew</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lal Terrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Gloria Snyder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome

OUR NEW CURATE AND HIS FAMILY

The Rev. Andrew Ellison will join our staff on July 1st. We will have a reception welcoming Andrew, Casie, and their children after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, July 3rd. Please attend and welcome them to Trinity.

Summer Wednesday Night Dinner Vacation

During the summer our Wednesday Night Dinner cooking team will be on vacation. We will resume our Wednesday Night Family Dinners the first Wednesday after Labor Day.

Our other regular Wednesday Night schedule continues with Worship at 6:15 PM. At the same time we will have our children & youth programs.

We will also schedule some activities for our youth. Youth activities will be announced in the weekly e-mail and on the Youth Facebook Page.
Girl Scouts is always an adventure and it seems to always be doubly true with Trinity’s home troop 7143. This month has seen us pass some important milestones as a troop and has found our girls busy in the community. Not to mention the flocks of flamingos we have flying all over town.

Four of our outstanding young women have advanced to Junior rank. Miss Kylee Rojas, Miss Vanessa Maravilla, Miss Aliza Wymann, and Miss Saphira Vaughn attained their rank in a candlelight bridging ceremony held at Marshall City Park. The ceremony not only welcomed them to their new rank but also expanded Trinity’s troop to include girls from kindergarten thru fifth grade. This is giant step forward for them and for us as a troop.

The whole troop has been busy all over town. We assisted in the re-landscaping of Marshall Public Library, providing general labor and the replanting of all the large pots on both the north and south sides of the library. Our green thumbs got a further work out as we planted a new garden in the downtown community garden based upon our square-foot gardening plan. Our hope is to harvest herbs for crafts and vegetables for a family meal prepared by the scouts for the parents. Additional vegetables harvested from our garden will be donated to Martha’s Kitchen and the East Texas Food Bank.

June and July are both busy camp months and our girls are busy all over but special mention goes to Miss Anika Kerr. She is attending a week-long girl scout camp that she earned for selling over 1200 boxes of cookies. We are very proud of all her hard work, enthusiasm, extraordinary work ethic and for ability to set a goal and achieve it.

Speaking of camp, you might have seen flocks of flamingos around town. Our girls are shooing flocks from yard to yard as a fundraiser for our Flamingo Road Trip in August. Flamingos can be ordered for $10 by contacting Juli Jameson (head Flamingo Wrangler) at (903) 926-2517. With these funds, the girls will go fish angling, take a wetlands hike, visit a fish hatchery, tour the US Treasury money printing facility in Ft. Worth, go to the Cowgirl Museum, the aquarium, the planetarium and learn to blow glass.

If you are interested in information about Trinity’s Girl Scout Troop, wish to volunteer to teach a skill, offer to lead a tour of your business or wish to get your daughter or granddaughter involved please contact Juli Jameson at (903)926-2517. Thank you and happy scouting!
June 12th of this year was a tragic day. Forty-nine individuals were mercilessly cut down and another fifty three wounded by a man claiming his actions were in solidarity with the Muslim extremist group ISIS. In the days following their have been hews and cries by much of the political establishment for this or that to be done. In the midst of tragedy why do we think that there is a political solution to what is at its heart a spiritual problem.

Over the last several decades American Christianity has spent a great deal of time and effort exorcising the concept of sin and evil from our lexicon. Our culture has negative thoughts about such things as personal sin or the reality of the evil one in the midst of our daily lives. We desire a perpetual “safe place” where we can live out our fantasies. Here is the harsh reality; there is sin in our world and there are those who are intentionally sinful. There is evil in our world and there are those who seek to do evil. As much as we may wish our political leaders could legislate sin and evil away they cannot. So are we then in a hopeless situation? Yes, if we are dependent upon the political class to redeem the brokenness of humanity. If on the other hand we understand that our only real hope is in God we also understand that we are in a safe place.

Those who would use religion or God to advocate the killing of God’s children represent what is most evil in our world today. As Christians we are in an abiding relationship with God. A God of love, mercy, and grace. To use fear and murder in His name is the height of hypocrisy. There is a need for Christians everywhere to actively engage their communities with the reality of God, a God who loves humanity so much that He willingly gave His Son that we might know the depth of His love and redemptive power. Each of us has an obligation to be living examples of the love of Christ. If we fail in making his love known we are failing to be part of the solution to such horrendous acts.

Over the last several weeks there have been pundits who have blamed guns for the problem, or prejudice against various groups, or even blamed a political parties. The ultimate cause though is to be found in the heart of the man who committed this atrocity. There have been calls for new laws to remove, silence what some perceive as the cause of such terrible acts. We can pass laws, we can even forbid some to speak; however, I can assure you that such actions alone will not solve the problem of mass murders, they may ultimately lower the body count, but they will not eliminate the acts. The only avenue to eliminate such acts is a transformation of the human heart, not only in individuals who perpetrate such acts, but in the heart of every man and women.

After an ever increasing drum beat of such tragedies people tend to become numb to them. The horror slow fades and, as long as an individuals isn’t personally impacted by such events we avert our eyes to them. We cannot allow this to happen. We must be engaged. But this engagement must not be a knee jerk reaction. It must be solidly based upon our faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. Our actions must be a reflection of that faith as we live our lives sharing that faith with others. Christ died for all—even those who reject him.

If we are to confront and death the evil in this world it must be as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The evil one cannot defeat the love of Christ. The evil perpetrated in Orlando can only be confronted with Christ’s mercy, grace, and love. Anything else is to allow Satan the victory.
Parish Staff

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

The Rev. Deacon
Andrew Ellison
Curate

Rae Minchew
Youth Director

Magdalen Altnau
Children’s Christian
Formation

Angela Bray
Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
Music Director
and Organist

Melissa Hammers
Choir Director

Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator

Suzie Ward
Administrative Assistant

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
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church
106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670
903-938-4246
http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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