



The Tripod

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

Volume 16 Issue 3

March 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

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Prepping for Lent

Trinity had a wonderful Shrove Tuesday and first Sunday of Lent. The vestry cooked, the Boy Scouts and our Youth helped and everyone had a great pancake supper. Jodi Beavers worked with the children making Alleluia Banners to "bury" on the first Sunday of Lent. These pictures tell the story far better than words.



Thanks to everyone who made for a great beginning to the Lenten Season. May our Lord bless and keep you!

WHY DO WE NEED A FAMILY MINISTER?



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.

Figuratively, look to your left and your right; which friends are standing there? Chances are these people are those you're able to relate to through work or life experience; through faith or family; through values and character. Now look again; how many of them are within 10 years of your age? Chances are the majority fall within this +/- 10 year age bracket and that is one of the reasons the Vestry is looking for a Family Minister for Trinity.

Now my friends prepare yourself; this might sting a little but I do have a point in the end. When Jenny & I joined the church, we significantly lowered the average age of Parishioners on Sunday; Fr John is a great priest and orator, but (by his own admission) is well north of the half-century mark. Trinity is aging, and in order to grow and remain a leader in the community for bringing people to Christ, we need someone who can relate to the generations north and south ten years of 40. Here is where the Family Minister becomes a vital role in the future of our Parish.

Our family minister will conduct Eucharist for the Pre-K and main campus of Trinity School, right in the heart of the generations we are hoping to influence. Our family minister will work daily with our children and youth ministry leaders, at the epicenter of our Parish. Our Family Minister will be an additional presence in the community, helping us have another voice in the crowd. These are but a few of the roles our Family Minister will have at Trinity.

Now, look over our shoulder at the corner of Burleson & Rusk, at an old and empty First Presbyterian Church. Now let's look forward and imagine who we want to see walking toward us, to partner with us for the future of Trinity. Join your Vestry in prayerful hope in finding a good Family Minister for our Parish.

Ken Kerr
Senior Warden



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for March is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy's on Wednesdays March 9th and 23rd at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, March 19th 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.

YOUTH

Join us as we take a look at people/events in Scripture that help us understand God's faithfulness to his people in the past and recognize his faithfulness to us today. We will be meeting every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Youth Room.

Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

We are fast approaching the middle of the Lenten Season. It is usually the point a person starts to feel the weight or burden of the Lenten discipline that he or she took on for Lent. Rather like a New Years resolution at the time it sounded it good, but now, after a couple of weeks we are starting to “feel” it in one way or another. That, my friends, can be a good thing.

Jesus has told us that we shall know the truth and by knowing the truth we shall be free. Jesus is in a sense, articulating to a greater degree, what God spoke to Moses about freeing people of their burdens in the Book of Exodus. Jesus also freed people of their burdens the greatest of which is being freed from sin and death. While we accept that great liberation all too often we do not wish to accept the liberation of the rest of our lives. We seem to always seek to hold something back.

God took the people of Israel as his chosen people, not because they deserved it in anyway, but because it was his desire to do so. God sent his Son to redeem us of our sins, because it was his desire to do so. God freed the children of Israel of the burden of slavery because it was upholding his covenant with Abraham. Christ takes on our burdens because he is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Just as the Israelites had to willingly give up the burden of slavery to give up being oppressed so too all people must learn, must practice giving up their burdens to Christ.

A burden is associated with something that binds us. Certainly things that are unpleasant in life can be seen as a burden. But consider those things that we consider a pleasure can also be a burden – if one lets the pleasure become the focal point of their life. One need not be addicted to a pleasure to fall into this category one needs only to have it hold an inordinate place in one's life.

Through Christ Jesus God will take us as his adopted sons and daughters. He will free us of all our burdens, not merely the ones we do not enjoy, but all of them. He will fulfill the promise found in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ in an individual if we are willing to lay our burdens at his feet. If we will take all that we have, all that we are and bring it to the foot of the cross we will indeed be free. He will bring us into the land of the heavenly kingdom. Jesus told us that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand – we can begin to live in that land when the burdens we carry are Christ's burdens, when his yoke is our yoke. We cannot lay our burdens down and experience the freedom we are called to as God's people unless we are willing to be obedient to God's call.

Lent doesn't last forever. Keep to the discipline you have freely taken on, for it is the one you chose because the Holy Spirit called for you to choose it. Let our Lord Christ share the load of keeping the discipline you have chosen. In doing so we come to see our own limitations and the grace of God made manifest in Christ.



Exodus 6:7-9

“I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who as freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.” Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery.

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.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Delegates at the 167th Council of the Diocese of Texas heard Bishop Andy Doyle's strident call for unity and a focus on mission, passed of \$10M budget, adopted a much needed reordering of Canons, approved voting rights for youth delegates, honored Treasurer Bob Biehl and welcomed a new diocesan transition minister, the Rev. Francene Young.

Two new worshiping communities, Church of the Cross, Austin and St. Isadore, Spring, were officially recognized and electronic voting made a debut. Canon 43, also known as the "moral canon," was deleted from the canons, left out of an omnibus measure that packaged several proposals into a single document considered in one vote.

Bishop Doyle's address quoted liturgist Dom Gregory Dix, referenced "The Dude" and the Blues Brothers. "We have reached a particular moment as a diocese," the bishop told more than 650 clergy and elected delegates. "Having chosen to set aside our differences, our faithful undertaking of God's mission here is flourishing," he said.

Canon Kai Ryan announced the appointment of the Rev. Francene Young, rector of St. Luke the Evangelist, as the new transition minister. Young "joins the staff already deeply familiar with our Diocese," Ryan said. "Her years of concentration on talent acquisition and diversity and inclusion programs will strengthen our efforts to develop the most diverse, passionate and effective clergy cohort of any Diocese in the Episcopal Church."

Young was vice president in human resources for a Royal Dutch Shell before she was ordained. She grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended the Baptist Church until she was introduced to the Episcopal Church, which she joined at 17. When she was a junior in college, she led a parish on Cleveland's near west side during their transition between rectors. She has held many lay leadership positions and is a member of the diocesan Commission on Ministry, the Commission on Black Ministry and president of the Board of Trustees for Westover School, an all-girls private school in Middlebury, Connecticut. She holds a masters in public health from the University of Pittsburgh and an undergraduate in social services from Cleveland State University.

A majority of clergy and delegates approved an omnibus measure that represents a massive reordering of the church's laws proposed by the Diocese's Executive Board. The reorganization adopts the style of The Episcopal Church Constitution and Canon, brought together related canons, combined others and removed Canon 43 on Moral Discipline (499 in favor/144 opposed).

Before the vote, the Rev. Russell Levenson, rector of St. Martin's, Houston, read a letter of dissent signed by 19 clergymen. The letter affirmed their support of Bishop Doyle and "the necessity to work shoulder to shoulder with our fellow presbyters ... toward the ... the mission and ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." While agreeing with the need for a comprehensive revision of the Diocesan Canons, they dissented from any change in the status of Canon 43, believing that deletion of it constituted abandonment of the "biblical teaching on marriage." (**Statement and signatories are on page 6**)

"We are deeply disheartened that the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Texas have chosen to extend the sacramental rite of marriage to same-gender couples; however, when we disagree with the Church's actions, we will do so openly and transparently," Levenson read. The letter also expressed gratitude for the provision for bishops and priests to "exercise their conscience regarding the sacraments of marriage without fear of discipline or penalty" as well as the affirmation of the same from Bishop Doyle (Resolution A054, 78th General Convention).

Bishop Doyle thanked Levenson and the other authors for "such a thoughtful and prayer-soaked statement," for their support, their commitment to the diocese and the mission of Christ. He said he believed the canon limits the powers of congregations to choose their own rector and it seeks to limit the bishop's power, which constituted a "very dangerous precedent for every congregation and all future bishops."

Referring to his white paper on [Unity in Mission](#), the Bishop reiterated his support of fidelity in marriage, saying that the unity the Diocese of Texas has exhibited throughout 19+ years of debating sexuality issues has served as a beacon for the rest of the Church for how to remain united and focused on mission despite "great and serious difficulty." He said further that "this Diocese will be a place where each congregation and individual, lay or clergy, will be free to act in accordance with their Gospel-shaped conscience. Russ simply could not have said it better: 'Jesus' embrace includes all of us,' even when we differ on this topic." The vote [Read the Bishop's full remarks here](#).

The debut of electronic voting made electing new representatives to the Executive Board, Standing Committee and others very easy. Unique credentials allowed all clergy and delegates to use their own or borrowed mobile devices to vote. The new process eliminated previous years' bad ballots, which regularly ran about 5 percent. Even those unfamiliar with mobile devices were able to vote quickly, in some cases with the help of fellow delegates and numerous IT assistants.

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Matthew Hatch | 16 Glenda Knutson |
| 2 Angela Bray | 17 Paul Palmer |
| 3 Teresea Whaley | 19 Joel Truelove |
| 4 Gary Hathaway | 21 Oliver Briggie |
| 4 Jim Weaver | 24 Sutton Minatrea |
| 5 Susan Pool | 24 Claudia Abney |
| 6 Clarence Brown | 25 Jill Parr Brewer |
| 6 Kristy Duncan | 26 Cate Truelove |
| 7 Kennedy Minatrea | 27 Clarissa Martin |
| 8 Leanna Westergaard | 28 Marjorie Bray |
| 9 James Craver | 28 Chase Tondee |
| 10 Candie Craver | 30 Juli Jameson |
| 12 Lowell Runyan | 31 Sara Cope |
| 12 Keaton Howard | 31 Richard Toussaint |
| 15 Phalby Porter | |

Church Financials and Attendance for January 2016

Budget Income for 2016	\$ 483,196	
Budget Expenses for 2016	\$ 525,701	
Budget Difference for 2016	(\$ 42,505)	
Income Received to Date	\$ 37,765	
Expenses to Date	\$ 42,351	
Income for the month	\$ 37,765	
Expenses for the month	\$ 42,351	
Difference for the month	(\$ 4,351)	
Difference to Date.....	(\$ 4,351)	
	2015	Present
Average Sunday	219	141
Attendance to date		
Average Sunday		
Attendance for January	219	141
Sunday Attendance to date	799	700
Attendance all other Services	700	880

Anniversaries

- 8 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Brown
- 12 Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Taylor
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hathaway
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Furrh
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Abraham
- 28 Mr. & Mrs. John Bogue, Sr.
- 30 Mr. & Mrs. Bud Denney, Jr.

BBQ Coming Up!

Its here again! Trinity's BBQ Cook-off. This year it will be held on **April 23**. So start to figure out what you will be cooking! Categories last year were Best brisket, ribs & cobbler. More on this event will be coming up later.

Just mark your calendars and start to plan your BBQ!

Communion Partners Statement Diocese of Texas Annual Council

As clergy serving the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, we support the leadership of our Bishop, The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, and we take seriously the necessity to work shoulder to shoulder with our fellow presbyters and all Episcopalians in our Diocese toward the cause of serving the mission and ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While we do understand and affirm the need for a comprehensive revision of our Diocesan Canons, we must dissent from any change that excludes or deletes Canon 43, also known as the "Moral Canon."

In a time of changing views on traditional marriage and sexual mores, we feel removing Canon 43 will send the message to those we are called to serve, that our Diocese is abandoning in part, or in full, the Biblical teaching on marriage; as traditionally understood by Christians, and as summed up in the words of the Book of Common Prayer:

"The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored by all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord" (BCP, p. 423)

The nature, purpose, and meaning of marriage are linked to the relationship of man and woman. The promises and vows of marriage presuppose husband and wife as the partners who are made one flesh in marriage. This understanding is a reasonable one, as well as in accord with Holy Scripture and Christian Tradition in their teaching about marriage.

When we were ordained as clergy in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, we vowed to "be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them" (BCP, p. 526). We renew that promise; and in light of the actions of the 78th General Convention sanctioning same-gender marriage, the 167th Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Texas which includes a proposal to remove Canon 43, and of our own deep pastoral and theological convictions, we pledge ourselves to:

- "Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). The bonds created in baptism are indissoluble, and we share one bread and one cup in the Eucharist. We are committed to the Church's unity, even in the midst of painful disagreement.
- "Speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). We are deeply disheartened that the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Texas have chosen to extend the sacramental rite of marriage to same-gender couples; however, when we disagree with the Church's actions, we will do so openly and transparently and – with the Spirit's help – charitably. We are grateful that Resolution A054 of the 78th General Convention which includes provision for bishops and priests to exercise their conscience regarding the sacraments of marriage without fear of discipline or penalty. We are grateful for the pastoral oversight of our Bishop who has affirmed the same. In this season in which the tensions over these difficult matters may grow within our Communion, we pray for the grace to be clear about our convictions and to love brothers and sisters with whom we disagree.
- "Welcome one another . . . just as Christ has welcomed [us]" (Rom. 15:7). Our commitment to the Church includes a commitment to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. We will continue to walk with them, pray with and for them, and seek ways to engage in pastoral conversation. We rejoice that Jesus' embrace includes all of us.

We are mindful that the decisions of the 78th General Convention, or the actions of this Council, do not take place in isolation. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion. We remain committed to that Communion and to the historic See of Canterbury, and we will continue to honor the parameters and principles of Lambeth 1.10 and those outlined the Windsor Report and affirmed by the Instruments of Communion.

Submitted by:

- The Rev. Howard Castleberry, Christ Church, Nacogdoches
- The Rev. Stuart Bates, St. Frances, Houston
- The Rev. Bob Wismer, St. Frances, Houston
- The Rev. David Luckenbach, Christ Church, Tyler
- The Rev. Clay Lein, St. John the Divine, Houston
- The Rev. Doug Richnow, St. John the Divine, Houston
- The Rev. Darrel Proffitt, Holy Apostles, Katy
- The Rev. John Himes, Trinity, Marshall
- The Rev. Russell Levenson, St. Martin's, Houston
- The Rev. Robert Wareing, St. Martin's
- The Rev. Nick Dyke, St. Martin's

FAMILY MINSITER UPDATE



Our Core Values:

Commitment
to Jesus Christ

Authority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-
ship



Are we still looking for a Family Minister?

Yes we are. Our need for a family minister to attract and keep young families is absolutely critical for the long term health of the Church. Last year I spent time working with the vestry on preparing the parish to receive a family minister to ensure we are bring the person God is calling to our parish

into a parish that is willing and eager to engage with him in family ministry. We are now ready to actively engage the process once more. The vestry still has ongoing work that it is doing in this regard, but the foundation has ben laid. A job description has been approved and the gifts we are looking for in a family minister have been identified.

In February I met with the Canon to the Ordinary concerning the placement of a family minister at Trinity. Our financial date has been submitted to the Diocese to ensure the viability to support a priest in that position. The Diocese has placed us on the interview list to see if newly ordained deacons/priests will be a good fit for us. In March I will interview two candidates selected by the Diocese, based on our parish profile and the job description for the position, to serve as a curate here at Trinity. I asked that each of us be in prayer for our search and selection process. If the interviews go well and an individual is selected and is agreeable to serving at Trinity, the bishop will assign him to our parish. The effective start date will on or about July 1st of this year. One blessing about having a curate assigned by the diocese is that we will be eligible to receive a grant to cover half of their compensation package, approximately \$32,500 per year. We, the parish, would provide the other half.

What if the two individuals the diocese give us aren't a good fit? There is always that possibility. If the selection of curates is not a good fit. Then the diocese will give us several names for possible associate priests to serve as our family minister. If we go this direction we will not receive a grant from the diocese. However, we now have funds available through the designated accounts to cover several years of the cost for the individual's housing allowance and retirement so the impact on the operations budget will not be as great. The vestry based this years budget on this being the most feasible budget approach.

The criteria used in the selection process regardless of whether we get a curate or an associate priest will be the same. Both will be based on the job description that has been previously approved by the vestry and that individuals gifts for ministry. Ultimately the final selection of who will serve as our family minister will be based upon an individual who is qualified, the rector, and the bishop of the Diocese.



*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

Melissa Hammers
Choir Director

Jim Johnson
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

106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670

903-938-4246

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