Great Accomplishments Do Not Come Easy

It really isn’t a new lesson or great insight to learn that great accomplishments do not come easy. That lesson was learned by ten of the Scouts from our Boy Scout Troop 550. In August they departed Trinity for the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Led by their Scout Master, Mike Brannon and assisted by Joey Hudson and Rex Brown these young men hiked 111 miles through the New Mexico terrain.

One of the parents wrote on a Facebook post, “Jeremy Cox, had an experience of a lifetime. Although I missed him while he was gone for 2 weeks, it did my heart good to know he had a awesome time. Randy Cox, and I are so grateful to Michael Brannon, Rex Brown, & Joey Hudson. (Troop 550 ) without you these young men could not have had this journey.” These Scouts truly had an experience they will remember for a lifetime. They came away with a new sense of what they were capable of doing and of the value of planning and team work.

This was the second Philmont trek for Troop 550. Mike Brannon had led this effort previously for members of the Troop. On his Facebook page Mike said the Troop is planning ahead, he wrote, “We will be entering the lottery for a 2018 trek. I will be guiding those that want to go through the process. Any boy currently in the 6th grade will be eligible, but must commit to the two year process. Parents and Scouts, this is a great time to be thinking ahead.

Right: Scouts preparing their maps for the start of the journey.
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.

Girl Scout Troop 7143

Oh how a garden grows! And the girl scouts are growing!! Being summer, we are meeting for events -not traditional weekly meetings and you would think that would mean they are doing less, but that couldn’t be further from the truth.

We have continued work on the community garden and its growing bigger everyday. We hope for a good harvest which will be donated to Martha’s Kitchen and the East Texas Food Bank. To prepare them for the duties of harvesting, we picked boxes of figs and brought them over to the church. If you didn’t get any, no worries we will be harvesting again soon.

It’s been a very hot summer but it has been a cool time to be a scout. Trinity’s own Cub Scout 550 invited the Girl Scouts to their Summer Swim Party and we reciprocated by inviting them to our Splash and Slide Party. All the kids had a fabulous time. Connie and I have plans to continue this collaboration with a few more “Family of Scouting” events in the fall.

The final preparations are underway for the Flamingo Road Trip and we are all excited about our big adventure. Next month we will regale you with our fish catching – money printing – bronco riding – star gazing – glass blowing adventures.

If you have a girl that you think would enjoy our scouting program, please contact Juli Jameson at (903)926-2517 or via email at julijameson@gmail.com. Our program has recently expanded and is now available for girls from kindergarten thru fifth grade. Regular meetings begin again on August 30th.

As always, the leaders and girls of Trinity Troop 7143 would like to thank Trinity for their continued support and prayers. God Bless!!

Stewardship Time Approaches:
There Are Several Ways to Support Trinity

As we approach our stewardship drive it is a time we can think of new ways to support our parish. Normally during the stewardship drive we speak of giving of our time, talent and resources. Often we think that the only ways to do that is through the pledges we offer or volunteering to support the variety of ministries we have with our time and our talents. Those three areas are the primary means of support, but there are a few others I would like to bring to your attention some are common, others not so common.

A few years ago we instituted the Easy Tithe Program. To utilize it you simply go to the parish website and click on the “Give” button and you are taken to a site to make a donation. You can use this sight to give to a specific ministry, or to pay for altar flowers. It is very versatile and easy to use.

There are other ways you can give as well. Increasingly more and more Americans are doing online shopping. Amazon.com is one of the primary sites for this convenient way to shop. Amazon-Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to select a charity to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. All you need to do is select “Trinity Episcopal Church, Marshall, TX and you are done. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon will result in a donation.
Rector’s Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

When life is going along fine we rarely think of God on a day-by-day, moment by moment basis. That was certainly the case for King Manas’seh. But, when we are in crisis, a serious crisis, we immediately cry out to God. Our lament cannot be answered fast enough. In our distress we want God to answer our prayers immediately. That, too was the case with Manas’seh. We will try to bargain with Him. We’ll promise to do anything to “fix” the situation.

This is just the sort of situation Manas’seh was in when he cried out to the Lord. In his distress Manas’seh began to appease the Lord, after he had ignored him and had lived a life in apostasy. He had even offered his own son as a sacrifice to Canaanite gods. He had also led his entire country to rebel against God. Now God brought the Army of Assyria against him and they captured him. In his distress Manas’seh humbled himself before God after he had turned his back on Him. He prayed to Him after he had lived as if the only god that mattered was the god of self. In short, Manasseh confessed his sins, amended his life, and received absolution.

The sad thing about this whole affair was that the situation need not never have gotten to a point where he and the nation were in such distress. Manas’seh had made the choices in his life and the life of his country that led to his own downfall. It was in the bit of loss that in utter and complete devastation that he turned to God.

In the course of my ministry I wish I could say I have never encountered such a situation such as is described in 2 Chronicles 33. But, sadly I have on several occasions. There are times in a person’s life where that person must be humbled before God before he or she realize that God desires to be in a complete relationship with a person. God does not want to be an acquaintance, he desires and intimate relationship.

God seeks to have us in a deep and personal relationship with Him at all times. He is not a “jack-in-the-box” god who only pops up when needed. He is God of all things, sovereign in all things and ruler of all things. If we live our lives as if he is a god who is not there, we should not be surprised when we come to a point in our life where we need the presence of God and we feel as if he is not there. Why should he be? A person chooses to have nothing to do with God – then the expect God to show up when they need Him?

God has given us free will and He respects our use of it. If we turn from God then God permits us to do so. Yet, our Lord is not a distant God, when we seek Him out, even in our distress he is there even though we have spent a lifetime running from him. When we humble ourselves before His throne, He picks us up and holds us as a child, when we pray to Him as beloved sons and daughters He hears our prayers.

Do not wait until your distress leads you to the Lord. Let us open our hearts to Him now and be filled with the joy of his mercy and grace.

Pax et Bonum.
Fr. John
Wednesday Night Dinner and Church Program

With the start of school we are getting back to our regular Wednesday night schedule beginning Wednesday September 7th. Everyone is invited to join us for a family style dinner at 5:30 PM in All Saints Hall. At 6:15 PM we will have a worship service and there will be an ongoing children’s program and youth program. Our Youth will be meeting earlier starting at 3:15 PM. This is a wonderful time to give thanks to God in the middle of the week to spiritually refresh us and help us to focus on being His light in the midst of the world around us.

Covering Marshall With Prayer

Jeremiah reminds us in Jeremiah 29:7 that we are to “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” We seek our Lord’s blessing through prayer for our community. We have so much to be thankful for and at the same time we desperately need our Lord to pour out His blessing upon our community as a whole. Offering up our prayers by walking through our community and specifically praying for our civic institutions, our businesses, and our communal life is coming before God’s Throne of Grace and seeking his blessings.

Our 3rd Annual Community Prayer Walk will be on Sunday, September 18th at 5:00 PM. We will begin in the church with opening prayers and then process through downtown offering our prayers. This is a great time for family and friends to lift our entire community up in prayer. Please plan to join us.
Birthdays

2 Bill Jones, Sr. 15 Cade Runyan
2 Jackie Weeks 18 Joann Cason
4 Jerry Brannon 19 Bill Sullivan
4 Ronald "Bud" Denny, Jr. 20 Ashton Beavers
5 Kathleen Abraham 22 Norma King
5 Sue Boyd 25 Bud Bray
6 Kathleen Mcgee 26 Anne Godinich
7 Brandon Beavers 27 Jack Powell Taylor
9 Michael Brannon 28 Sagan Jameson-Hatch
11 Mary Spellings 29 Crystal Brown
12 Auby Minchew 29 Michael DeSa
14 Larry "Yank" Terrell 30 Jack DeSa
14 Madeline Runyan 30 Joyce Hammers

Church Financials and Attendance for July 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Income for 2016</td>
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WOMEN OF TRINITY

There is something about Fall that reminds us of how comfortable it is to get back into the routines of life after the crazy schedules of Summer and vacations. One thing you can count on in September is the fun of renewing the schedule of the third Wednesday of the month Women of Trinity meetings...and do we have an interesting schedule of programs lined up for the 2016-2017 year! You won't want to miss one of them. Some are back by popular demand like the High School Madrigal Singers and, of course our favorite Old Testament Professor Dr. Warren Johnson from ETBU. What a treat our first program will be...repeat guest, our very own Lois Rayner Maberry will tell us about her new life as an ordained "permanent" deacon...wow, some people never cease to amaze one! Please put a big red circle around the date, September 21, at 11 a.m. following the Eucharist service. Our new President, Julie Trexler, will preside and we'll have plenty of time for chatting and catching up during the lunch following the program. If you are new to Trinity, Women of Trinity is open to all women of Trinity Episcopal Church, of all ages, shapes and sizes and we would love to have you join us...no dues and free lunch. If you haven't been called, please call the Church office and we'll get back to you...or just surprise us!

Outreach Help

By now, you've most likely heard all the hype about the "Fall Festival" scheduled for September 11, but, as they say on TV, "but wait, there's more!!" Your Outreach Committee has come up with another great reason for you to be involved. As you probably already know, the responsibility of that particular committee is to allocate the monies approved by the Vestry, to distribute among local charities vetted to meet the necessary criteria. The committee has watched the Twelve Way Foundation as it has grown to meet the needs of this community, constantly seeking new ways in which it can serve those in need of recovery through faith and learning. Since the residents prepare the meals, they are always in need of basic pantry items...flour, sugar, peanut butter, pasta, mixes, mayo, etc., so let's help them out in the simplest of ways. Go to your pantry or cupboard and pick out some items (maybe you have duplicates of some of your favorite things) and bring them with you to the Fall Festival to share with the residents of Twelve Way Foundation. Have the kids each pick out their own food item...show them, by example, the joy that can come from sharing our bounty!
In the Book of Micah the profit writes, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” (Mic 3:10, ESV) This passage is often used during the stewardship season. Is this a Christian perspective of stewardship?

To answer that question we must first examine concepts of ownership and blessings. God blesses us daily, he blesses the faithful Christian, and he blesses people at large. Now a person may not recognize God’s blessing because they simply do not look for them. Each day is a blessing. If you think that is not the case just try getting to Tuesday without going through Monday. Each day contains a blessing, we may have to look for it, but it is there if we open our hearts. Is that blessing contingent upon what a person gives? Of course not, it is a gift from God on the deserving and undeserving alike. Scripture tells us the rain come to the righteous and to the unrighteous. God pours them out. Our pledge or tithe is a response to God’s blessing upon us. It is not buying a blessing for blessing cannot be purchased.

Our giving to God is to reflect our appreciation of the blessing he has first given us. Now the Christian understanding is that all belongs to the Lord we are merely stewards of what he has given us. We can be good stewards or poor stewards, we can be cheerful givers or, not so cheerful givers. I would ask that each of us count our blessing and respond accordingly, and cheerfully.

What does your pledge and my pledge accomplish? Plainly stated it serves God and His Church. We are all aware that operating a parish in our world takes the currency of the world. But donating to keep the lights on isn’t the mainstay of what Trinity does. We strive to be faithful to God as he calls us to reach beyond our walls and call others to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. It has been my goal that, as a parish, Trinity uses at least 10% of its income to missional activities. Thus far we have made a great deal of progress. But just what are the missional activities that we do as a parish? I would like to highlight just a few.

We feed the hungry. We do that perhaps better than any other church in our community. Our Martha’s Kitchen is well known. Several churches and organizations help make this ministry possible. However, on the whole we handle the ongoing expense of feeding anywhere between 80 and 160 people every Thursday throughout the year. We also have out Thanksgiving Outreach feeding 1200 people, on average every year with a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Again, this is a community wide effort, but again, we handle the major expense of making this a traditional Thanksgiving meal a reality for so many people. We also support the local food pantries we do it through our 1st Sunday donations, but we have also supported them with other financial and material assistance.

We educate the children. Each year we assist Trinity Episcopal School with a $6000 grant to help them continue in their mission of providing a Christian Education. We also provide them with free space in our Trinity Pre-K building and cover the maintenance for that building.

We provide a safe place for children and youth. Perhaps you don’t realize how many children and youth our ministries touch. We have a vibrant youth program who study, play, and do mission work. This past summer they traveled to St. Louis to help repair housing for the elderly. They gather weekly for study and prayer. The lives of these young men and women are transformed by their experiences in our youth program. We have a large chapter of Junior Daughters of the King. This ministry to young girls provides an environment to for young girls to mature into Godly women. We also support two Boy Scout Programs, Troop 550 and Pack 550. The Boy Scouts have been instilling Christian values in young men for over 100 years. Both our Troop and our Pack are teaming with young men and boys seeking to grow in the knowledge and love of God. There is our Girl Scout Troop 7143 that offers young girls another avenue to grow and to learn. All of these youth activities are filled with children and youth from our parish and also children and youth from our larger community. This is missional work at its best-going beyond the walls and touching the lives of others with the love of Christ.

Our Outreach Committee also goes beyond Trinity’s walls to proclaim the good news of Christ. There efforts support such key local ecumenical ministries such as the Empty Stocking Fund, Bridge of Compassion, 12 Way Program, Form Bondage to Freedom, Living Alternatives to name just a few.

This list in now reflects the total ministries of Trinity is simply a quick look at what we do. At present our total percentage of our budget that goes towards missional ministry is 6.8%. We are headed in the right direction towards having 10% of our budget go towards missional ministry. We can reach that 10% only with your commitment. When you receive your Pledge please pray about the blessing you have received and how you can use your blessing to bless others.
As many of you know my wife and I just had a baby girl in August. You may also know that she was a bit late arriving, a week past her due date to be exact. The week between her due date and the birth of Alena was filled with waiting. I was waiting on a phone call saying that we needed to go to the hospital, we were waiting to see if the contractions would do anything. Through that waiting I was focused on the baby getting there, instead of appreciating the now.

After reflecting on this, I am reminded of the ascension. In that event Jesus tells his disciples to go back to the city and wait. The disciples were to wait for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them. Jesus did not tell them to go do anything at that moment, just simply wait. Instead of freaking out about what the future will look like, instead of worrying about having to wait for who knows how long, instead of focusing on what will happen when the Spirit descended upon them, they focused on the present. The disciples worshipped Christ and returned to Jerusalem with joy.

I think we too can sometimes get bogged down with what the future holds. When we are facing transitions in life, the waiting is hard. However, when we focus on the future, we miss what is happening now. Instead of focusing on the future the disciples worshiped God, and devoted themselves to prayer. When we are forced to wait, let’s take that time to appreciate what is happening. Let’s give thanks to God for allowing us a change. Or pray to God to give us the strength to go through the change. Because our future will happen, but the present will go by.

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**TES Back To School**

Trinity Episcopal School is back in Session and all the parents said, “AMEN!” but so did the children. Trinity opened its doors for its 61st year on Wednesday, August 17th.

This years enrollment is currently 195 boys and girls in grades Pre-K through 8th grade. Things got of the ground well and the school is settling into its routine of educating the next generation physically, spiritually, and intellectually. Please pray for our students, faculty, and staff.

**Right:** Fr. John greets Pre-K student coming out of Pre-K chapel at the 1st chapel service of the year.
YOUTH SCHEDULE

Every Wednesday
After School Hangout & Homework 3:15 - 5:00 PM in the Youth Room
Lesson 5:00 - 5:30 PM in the Youth Room
Dinner 5:30 - 6:15 PM in All Saints’ Hall
Worship 6:15 PM in the Church

Monthly Activities:
- September: Karaoke
- October: All Saint’s Eve Party
- November: Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- December: Ice Skating and Christmas Party
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
First Communion Classes
Wednesdays | 6:15 PM
September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2016
Children Ages 5+ | Children’s Classroom | 1st Floor Fry Hall

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 903.938.4246

First Communion Service
SUNDAY | 10:30 AM
OCTOBER 23, 2016
Trinity Fall Festival
Ya’ll Come!

Sunday, September 11, 2016
Lunch and Fall Festival Events
11:30 in All Saint’s Hall

Parish will provide the meat dish. Parishioners are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.
Daughters of the King

Inquirer’s Class

It isn’t too late! It isn’t too late to join the Daughters of the King

We have inquirers classes beginning on Sunday, September 11th from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor of Fry Hall.

We meet during the months of September and October.

Contact Sherry Henderson 903-263-8877 for more information
Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector
The Rev. Deacon Andrew Ellison
Curate
Rae Minchew
Youth Director
Magdalena 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
Melvin Williams
Sexton

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

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

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

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