Trinity Episcopal Church’s Holy Vision:

In glorifying God, we the members of Trinity Church, will foster a unified parish, demonstrate our spirituality with an open heart, and reflect in our actions the good news of the Holy Spirit to all members of our church and community.

Trinity Youth: Going into the World

Every youth group has things that they like to do. This youth group enjoys Christian concerts. We have been incredibly fortunate to see several contemporary artists this past year. When I look back on the past few months, I am amazed at how “lucky” we’ve been to meet and speak with the bands and how they have influenced our youth. On one such occasion, our youth were moved to adopt a child from Africa. We were able to meet with and take a photo with the lead singer of the band Building 429. The youth have been faithful in donating to your sponsored child from Swaziland whose name is Mthobisi, who we call “Toby”. This is a commitment that they have been faithful to.

Just recently we were at a concert featuring Plumb and We Are Messengers. The lead singer from Messengers pointed to one of our male youths and told him directly, “little man, Satan is out there and you need to stand strong against him.” I will never forget the look on “little man’s” face when he looked back and shook his head and said, “Yes, sir!” This same man stopped his performance and again spoke directly to three of our young ladies telling them that they are daughters of the One True God and never let a boy take the place of that.

I don’t know if I can relate to you the impact of this personal attention from these artist, that they hear every day on the radio, speaking the Word of God into their lives. I think it changes them. As the years go by, styles and music changes. I have found it is best to meet the youth where they are and work with them in their culture. The Christian music industry has been faithful in working with this generation of youth. I believe they are passionate about reaching out to a culture of youth that deal with suicide, sex, drugs, and violence. We are now dealing with a generation where nothing is hidden and those who want to reach them must be bold and forward and unafraid to speak boldly of today’s issues in contrast to the ever loving, forgiving and redemptive love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our last music endeavor included such a group of talented individuals who are aware of issues facing youth today. Winter Jam has performed for almost 20 years and have brought in popular Christian artist from every genre ranging from heavy metal to rap to gospel. They do not have a cover charge and ask only for a donation. They never turn anyone away, if you don’t have the money, they don’t care, they just want you there. All youth ministers were invited back stage where we were able to hear the “mission statement” of the organization. They truly believe (as do I) that we have a generation that can change the world and lead them to Christ.

I have a confession. I don’t really know what I’m doing. I’m just going with the flow, the flow of the youth, the flow of God’s movement. Next year it will probably look very different. Most of you could probably identify me as a “free spirit”, this is true, but my goal is to have God’s spirit, and then to pass that spirit on to the next generation. You are a special church family. You have been supportive, encouraging, generous and a delight to work with. And just so you know, I make every effort to let the youth know that this program exists, this fun exists, this mission trip exists…. because of you! Thanks. Rae

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On Saturday March 24th members of our parish gathered to train on using an AED or an Automated External Defibrillator, that was graciously donated to our parish. This training gave members knowledge in using these devices in an event that they would be needed, potentially saving a life.

Our own Theresa Whaley led the training. We gathered together to watch a simple video on YouTube which showed exactly how to use an AED. Let me tell you, it was not rocket science. It is such a simple machine to operate, and you do not need to be a Dr., nurse, or an engineer to work it. Theresa showed the participants how to operate it in real time. We got to take an AED out, and touch it and place the pads on a paper person. The best part about our AED is that the device walks the operator through using it. It even goes so far as to tell the operator if a shock is necessary or not. Having these AEDs, and having people capable to operate them could potentially save a life. We are blessed to have Theresa and Jackie Weeks who are giving their expertise in the effort to raise up potential life savers. If you are interested in learning more about how to use an AED in an emergency, contact the church office. We can get you the information you will need.

OUTREACH

Your Trinity Outreach Committee works “undercover” a lot, so you don’t always hear about their activities, but they’re out there! Please remember that on the fourth Sunday of each month, the special offering in the plate that you’ll pass on your way to partake of the Eucharist is dedicated to the work of the Outreach Committee. This community has so many needs that we could be assisting with, but the budget can’t always be stretched to handle special requests and urgent needs. One of the projects the committee has taken on recently is the “Rainbow Room.” When children are placed in temporary homes or foster homes, they desperately need necessities such as backpacks, hygiene items, underwear, combs, shampoo, clothing, things everyone needs everyday. You’ll soon be seeing a donation box at Trinity designated for these needs, so keep your eyes open for the box, but in the meanwhile start saving or gathering items of need for those young children and teens whose lives are in turmoil.

GIRL SCOUTS RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 14th - 8 am - 2 pm

Trinity Annex Parking Lot

Food & Bounce House. Donations please contact

Juli Jameson for pickup at 903-926-2517.
Dear Beloved in Christ:

Alleluia Christ is risen! Grace to you and peace from God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter has arrived and we rejoice in the risen Christ. The Easter season is a time that the faithful can rejoice in the new life we have in Jesus.

Have you ever noticed that when we are in a good mood, when we are rejoicing in things, we often get lost in the moment and frequently do not pay attention to the dangers that may surround us. Even in this season of Resurrection, of new life in Christ, the faithful Christian must be aware of the dangers we face in this world. Jesus was always aware of the dangers we face.

In Mark 13:5 Jesus says, “Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray.” I find it interesting that in this season and the days leading up to it I can always come across programs with titles like “The Real Jesus”, “The Lost Years of Jesus”. There are people who say that Christianity is simply an emotional response, a “warm and fuzzy” if you will. It is weak people who need some sort of myth to cling to. Programs like the two I mentioned subtly seek to make that point. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Faith in Christ as Lord and Savior calls for us to use our intellect as well, it calls for us to be discerning. This is exactly what Jesus was stating when He warns His followers to “beware”.

Christians are aware of the many ways in which the world can lead a person astray, there are so many temptations and we are so weak, we often succumb to them. Yet, this is not what Jesus is referring to, rather He seeks His disciples to be aware of those who teach and preach a false Gospel. We are to be aware of those within the Church that teaches something other than the truth. It is very easy to fall pray to a false teacher. The individual may be charismatic, have a title of reverend, or priest, or pastor, may be well educated with degrees from fine institutions, more to the point the person may preach what many want to hear, they may preach that which a person thinks validates them. Here in lies the danger, we fail to be discerning because we make an assumption that since the person is a member of the faith, they speak the truth. Not so, beware.

In other places Jesus speaks of discerning the truth, it is a personal responsibility to be in relationship with God the Father that person is open to His truth, the only truth. This calls for each of us to be knowledgeable in Scripture, to be on our knees in prayer and to question that which we hear, to take it to God and seek His guidance. This is often difficult when the words we hear sound comforting to us, when we hear words that go over our heads and strike our enemies. There are numerous historical examples of the suffering this has caused; is anti-Semitism of God or man, is racism of God or man, was the anti-Catholic teaching of a number of protestant churches of God or man? The reverse is true as well, were the anti-protestant teaching of the Church of Rome of God or man. If we honestly look at Jesus’ teaching in Scripture, we have to conclude those false teaching were of man. They grew out of man’s own pettiness, his own pride. Jesus would hardly condone the slaughter of millions of people in His name.

Our minds must be knowledgeable of God through Scripture, all of Scripture, not merely bits and pieces and we must be in prayer to God to stay on the path of His revealed truth through Jesus Christ. This is not an easy task. It calls for each person who professes to be Christian to be in daily relationship with God. To be open to the power of the Holy Spirit within, and not give in to the evil spirit that may be teaching them. Satan comes as an angel of light; one must always keep that in the fore front of their mind. It is only in Christ and through Christ that we can rebuke Satan, by faith, and expose him to the light, for he can not stand in the light of the Gospel, he will flee.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. John

Rector’s Reflection
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.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for April 11th and 25th (Bible Study begins at 12:00)
Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

Second Sunday Supper

Sunday, April 14th
Jim & Dawn Kutners
600 Shadowood Dr.
903-923-0817
4:30 - ?

Potluck dinner - Please bring a dish
Carpool from the church 4pm will be available

WOMEN OF TRINITY

You could have heard a pin drop in the Guild Room in Trinity's All Saints Hall on Wednesday, March 21! Women of Trinity were treated to a very special presentation, a book revue by Gayle Weinberg. It was not just any book revue but the very timely "The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke. Gayle held her audience in the palm of her hand as she encapsulated this powerful story, relating the life of the "Other Wise Man" and you sure didn't have to ask "and what should this story mean to me?" A clue...it's not just another Christmas story. Wish you had been there. Thanks, Gayle! Following the meeting, we all enjoyed a delicious St. Patrick's celebratory luncheon, courtesy of Carol Meyer and her trusty leprechaun, Cindy. Members have decided to hold their May gathering on Wednesday, May 16, at Enoch's Stomp Winery, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for the details. On April 18, WOT will be treated to a program presented by our Youth Director, Rae Dickson. She is one very busy and dedicated gal and she values each of the young people of Trinity, her charges, knowing the impact that a faith-oriented environment can have on their young lives and their futures. Each of us, as members of Trinity Church, have a responsibility to support the efforts and activities of this dynamic young leader of our youth, so make a special effort to attend the April 18th meeting of Women of Trinity and learn how we can help. Remember, Women of Trinity do not meet during the summer months, so plan to join us in April and May. Remember, third Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in All Saints Hall!
**Birthdays**

1. Bill Kemp
20. Trey Hammond
3. Blake Ellison
23. Cameron McElroy
4. Edgar Simmons
24. Kirkley Lewis
4. Zane Jackson
26. Andrew Cason
5. Kurt Truelove
27. Chris Hammond
6. Jerry Smith
28. Merwin Camp
7. Kim Runyan
28. Wes White
7. Blair Hammers
30. Steve Lewis
8. Linda Lasseter
30. Aiden Kerr
12. Flo Lewis
15. Maggie Littlejohn
16. Diane Lewis
17. Olivia Parr
18. Cindy Cain
18. Cody Moseley

**Church Financials and Attendance for February 2018**

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<td>Budget Expenses for 2018</td>
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**Average Sunday Attendance**

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<td>2017</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td></td>
<td>164</td>
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**Sunday Attendance**

<table>
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<th>Present</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>1382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1314</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Anniversaries**

6. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Sullivan
7. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Rhoades
24. Mr. & Mrs. Mac Abney

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**Recipe**

**Reese’s Peanut Butter Cookie Dough Cheese Ball**

**Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups Mini Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, chopped
- 1/2 cup Reese’s Pieces

1. In a large bowl, beat the brown sugar and butter together until combined. Then add in the cream cheese and peanut butter and beat until combined. The beat in the powdered sugar and vanilla until combined.
2. Stir in the chopped peanut butter cups.
3. Place the mixture on a large piece of plastic wrap. Bring up all the corners of the plastic wrap and wrap into a ball. Freeze the ball for about 1 1/2 hours or until it is firm enough to keep its shape.
4. Place the Reese's Pieces on a flat plate and roll the unwrapped cheese ball in the Reese's Pieces. Make sure to press the Reese's Pieces into the cheese ball until it is fully covered.
5. Place the ball on a serving dish, cover with plastic wrap and freeze the cheese ball for another 2 hours or overnight. If frozen overnight, thaw for 20-30 minutes before serving. Serve with Vanilla Wafers, pretzels, graham crackers, fruit, or other cookies.
Well, cookie season has come to a close (although we still do have a few boxes of troop cookies left if you need to top up or wish to make a donation to the food pantry) and the numbers are impressive. But even more impressive than the numbers are the girls themselves. They consistently exhibited strength of character, discipline, good humor, dedication and an amazing work ethic. It was a tough season, marked by a strong flu season, harsh winter temperatures, snow closures and rain that seemed like it would never end and these intrepid girls just kept forging forward.

Our troop is part of a larger service unit that encompasses all the Girl Scouts in Harrison, Marion, Rusk and Panola counties. There were 32,624 boxes sold in our unit – hey that’s a ton! But here is the real story. Our troop sold 11,943 of those boxes – a whopping 37% of all the cookies sold in our area.

Three of the girls in the troop are members of the congregation, Sagan, Anika and Kensley. All three were super sellers, a designation reserved for those who sell in excess of 1,200 boxes. Girls in this category enjoy a host of benefits, including camp, trips, camping equipment and the opportunity to participate in special events. Our girls sold a total of 6,241 boxes – 19% of all the boxes sold in our area! That’s right, almost one out of every five boxes sold in the area leads back to our three amazing, intrepid, bright and hard-working Trinity Scouts! Congratulations Sagan, Anika and Kensley – you do us all proud!
“Jesus said to him, ‘tend my sheep’” John 21:16.

Hello friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. It is spring! I love this time of year, the flowers are growing, the earth is beginning to green up again, and there is new life. I am reminded how perfect it is that we celebrate The Resurrection of our Lord in spring, when we see life beginning again. However, for some there is not much celebration. For some this new life is scary and very much unknown.

A while back Fr. John and I were approached by a representative of the Child Protective Services. She explained to us that the agency is hoping to get churches involved in outreach efforts for the children in care. This was an exciting opportunity. An opportunity for us to get out in the world, and once more do what our Lord commands us; to care for his sheep. We were given a list of ways churches can get involved. One opportunity particularly jumped out at us, the Rainbow Room. We took this to the outreach committee, and they jumped on board.

The Rainbow Room is a room which collects needed items for children who have been removed from their homes. Most of these children leave with no more than the clothes on their backs. They are placed either in foster care homes, or even made to stay a night or two in the CPS office. This room is a place where CPS workers or foster families can go and get items such as; clothes, toiletries, diapers, wipes, books, colors, and even toys. These children can receive items that they need, as well as items that helps them feel comfortable and like a kid.

The outreach committee decided this is where we can help a child. You may have noticed a box in the Narthex of the church marked Rainbow Room. This box was decorated by our youth group, and I must say looks great. We are asking for your help. You can bring items to be donated to the Rainbow Room to church and place them in the box. From there we will deliver them to the Rainbow Room. Each week we will send the items they are looking for in the weekly news email.

Please consider helping out with this cause. We have a very real opportunity, as I said to tend Jesus’ sheep. We have an opportunity to help add a bit of positivity in a very difficult situation for a child. Please help us stock the Rainbow Room with items that can put a little normalcy in a young ones life. Please help us in living out the Gospel.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XVII. Of Predestination and Election: Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour. Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God, be called according to God’s purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God’s mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity.

As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ as because it doth fervently kindle their love towards God: So, for curious and carnal persons, lacking the Spirit of Christ, to have continually before their eyes the sentence of God’s Predestination, is a most dangerous downfall, whereby the Devil doth thrust them either into desperation, or into wretchlessness of most unclean living, no less perilous than desperation.

Furthermore, we must receive God’s promises in such wise, as they be generally set forth to us in Holy Scripture: and, in our doings, that Will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared unto us in the Word of God.

This Article always generates a great many questions. When I teach Confirmation classes I receive more questions concerning this Article than any other statement of faith or of doctrine. How are we to properly understand the theological concepts of predestination and election? The best way is to turn to Scripture and the Early Church Fathers.

First and foremost we must keep in mind that Scripture and humanities experience both bear witness that all things work together for the good of those who love God. We may suffer setbacks and difficulties in life but God turns them into light affliction (2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 12:9-10). God has foreknowledge of all things. Predestination must not be understood as overpowering humanity’s free will, for humanity’s free will is a gift from God. Nor does the term apply to individuals. This term, which can also be translated “preordained”, means that God has had a specific calling for His people from the beginning of the world. St. John of Damascus stated, “God does not will evil to be done, nor does He force virtue.” Based on His foreknowledge, God assures, or predestines that those who will choose to love Him will be conformed to the image of His Son, that is they will glorified.

In Romans 8:28-30 we read, “We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.” Here, St. Paul unfolds the mystery of predestination. The early church fathers were convinced that predestination did not remove human free will. God’s call to salvation was understood to be universal; it was for all people. The fact that not all people respond to that call is entirely each individual’s fault and the result of a deliberate choice on their part. God does not create a person for damnation, nor does he prevent a person from choosing damnation.

How are we to understand predestination in this sense? I understand this to mean that someone who is justified is justified because they were called, and that a person is called because he or she has been predestined because he or she was foreknown. Those who think that God’s knowledge is limited to knowing what will happen in the future are wrong, for there can be no divine knowledge without God’s foreknowledge. Humanity is bound by time. God is not, he knows the beginning and the end of all things. As humans we think of time as linear. It runs in a straight line. God is before time and after time, He has no boundaries. Thus, while God calls all, He is well aware that there are those who will
reject the call. St. John Chrysostom reminds us that God justified a person by the regeneration of Baptism and glorified them by their adoption as sons and daughters. The Sacrament of Baptism is a Sacrament a person must choose to partake of. All are called but each person must choose to answer the call. There must be a “Yes” to God’s invitation.

The Jewish people are God’s Chosen People. This is clearly set forth in the Old Testament. If they were chosen, then why did God, at times permit them to suffer? There were times when God’s chosen turned away from Him. At the same time there was always a faithful remnant that clung to God. Did God know that there would those who would rebel against him and those who would remain faithful? Of course, but each person made a conscience choice to rebel or be faithful. God did not un-choose the Jewish people when they turned from Him, he continued to choose those who were faithful. But, He knew rebellion would take place. He knows today that there are those who will turn from Him and he knows that there are those who will turn to Him, yet each person retains their free will to make that choice. God has predestinated us “to be conform to the image of his Son”, but no person can be conformed to the image of Christ against his or her own will.

It is said that we are “elected according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ”. (1 Peter 1:2) In the Gospel of St. Mark Jesus says “And then He will send His Angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.” St. Augustine rightly points out that God elected believers in order that they might believe, not because they already believe. Thus the election takes place when we open our hearts to faith. Sin alone, deliberately chosen, persevered in and unrepented off, shuts a person out from heaven. No person need sin unless that person chooses to sin. God causes no one to sin. People sin because we frustrate God’s grace and thus receive his grace in vain. The very fact that the grace of God is offered to all proves that God does not will that anyone should either sin or be lost.

God does not elect all people to the same positon in the kingdom. He gives to some ten talents, to others five, to other two; but he gives each person one talent, and to everyone grace to correspond to their vocation. If God bestows His grace in a way which seems to us unequal, yet to no one does he give less grace than is necessary for salvation. The eternal outcome of each soul will depend upon the use each person make of the grace they have been given. Everyone is called to and capable of salvation, but God alone knows who will chose the salvation that is offered at such a high price to God.

**Two Trees of Predestination**

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**Fruit**

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**Calvinism and All Others**

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**Bible**

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<td>Leadership</td>
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<td>One Mediator</td>
<td>Ambassadorship</td>
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<td>Outcome Elected</td>
<td>Israel Elected</td>
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JOIN US FOR A MUSICAL EVENING AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WITH
GUEST SINGERS CHO RUSS. FOUNDED IN 2012 BY MIROSLAV ALEKSEEV AND
DMITRY PETROV.

DMITRY PETROV (2 TENOR) – CONDUCTOR, ANDREY PUGACHEV (BASS),
SOFIA CHESNOKOVA (SOPRANO), OLEG KOROLEV – TENOR.

CHO RUSS SING SPIRITUAL MUSIC OF POPULAR COMPOSERS FROM THE 19TH,
20TH CENTURY WHICH ACCOMPANIES WORSHIP IN THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH. DMITRY BORTNIANSKY, SERGEI RACHMANINOV, PETER
TCHAIKOVSKY, PAVEL CHESNOKOV.

THIS MUSIC IS PERFORMED A CAPPELLA, AS IN THE TRADITIONS OF
ORTHODOX MUSIC.

THE ARTISTS HAVE SUNG WITH A VARIETY NUMBER OF VOCAL ENSEMBLES,
TOURED EXTENSIVELY IN RUSSIA AND IN GERMANY, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND,
GREAT BRITAIN, USA.

THE REPERTOIRE OF CHO RUSS IS SPIRITUAL A-CAPPELLA MUSIC, WHICH IS
SUNG AT CHURCH SERVICES IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH AS WELL AS
RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS. OUR PURPOSE IS, THROUGH MUSIC, TO TELL THE
STORIES OF RUSSIA AND ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE.
Trinity Episcopal Church

2nd Annual

Young Family Camp Out

Shady Lake * Arkansas

April 27-29, 2018

RSVP to Fr. Andrew Ellison

Join us for fun and fellowship around the campfire and beyond!
Hike, explore, relax and connect.

Sunday Morning Eucharist at the Creek!

No Gear? No Problem! Let Us Help!

Contact Church Office or Fr. Andrew for more information
Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector
Fr. Andrew Ellison
Curate
Rae Dickson
Youth Director
Magdalena Altnau
Children’s Christian Forma
tion Director
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
Tony Pierce
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Micheal DeSa
Angela Bray
Clerk of the Vestry
Julie Trexler
Treasurer
Leana Westergaard
Carol Meyer
Kathleen Abraham
Jackie Weeks
Chris Altnau
Steve Lewis
Margot Lingold
Robert Perkins

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
Choir Practice 5:00 PM
Dinner in All Saint’s Hall - 5:30 PM
Contemporary Worship - 6:30 PM

Thursday
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

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