Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector
Scott Rutherford
Youth Minister
Caroline Bump
Children's Christian Formation
Angela Bray
Nursery Director
Jim Johnson
Chair Master and Organist
Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator
Suzy Ward
Administrative Assistant
Melvin Williams
Sexton
Reggie Hasty
Treasurer

Vestry
Tony Pierce
Senior Warden
Bud Bray
Junior Warden
Laura Rectenwald
Clerk of the Vestry
Matt Hatch
Henry Henderson
Erik Howard
Eric Neal
Mary Price
Lowell Runyan
Ann Brannon
Paul Palmer
David Thomas

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
Youth Program - 5:30 PM
Dinner in All Saint's Hall - 5:30 PM
Children's Ministry - 5:30 PM
Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday
Meals on Wheels - 10:45 AM
Choir Rehearsal - 5:15 PM
Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM

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

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

Trinity Episcopal Church:
Witnessing to the Power of God to Transform
Proclaiming God’s Love and Joy for over 162 years in Marshall, Texas

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The number above reflects the number of meals we prepared during this year’s Thanksgiving Outreach. What it really reflects is the number of lives we were able to touch with the love of Christ.

This year’s Outreach was the largest to date. Our ability to feed so many people is the direct result of the generosity of our parishioners as well as people and businesses throughout the Marshall Community.

Caring for one another is fundamental to our faith as Christians. We are blest to have so many in our community answering Christ’s call to serve the least of his children.

Eric and Karen Neal were the chairs this year for the Outreach and made sure we stayed on track by lining up community support.

Gary Beavers once again served as our onsite “foreman” making sure we were literally wired up correctly and that everything ran smoothly.

Once again thanks to all for your help.

Above: People from a variety of churches helped on the serving line.
Left: Our youth were a great help bagging meals to go.
**Focus on Parish Ministry**

**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.

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**Choir**

It would be hard to imagine a world without music. Music touches the human soul in so many ways. We hear the notes and the rhythm often we can physically feel music in its varied forms it reaches inside of us and can take hold of our emotions and our thoughts and sway us to roaring joy or the quiet of melancholy.

Music in the Church can have the same effects on us. There is the old saying, “He that sings, prays twice.” When you consider the wonderful hymns in our hymnal you would have to agree. The songs in the hymnal are a modern day Psalter. We sing to offer praise and glory to God. When we gather as a community to worship we are blest to have an outstanding choir to lead us in our praise to God. Their participation in the worship helps to set the spiritual tone of the service.

Our choir not only leads us on Sunday morning in singing praise, they also do a number of services throughout the year to offer praise and worship to God. At Christmas time the Choir does a Service of Lessons and Carols prior to Christmas day. On Christmas Eve they do a choral concert of Christmas Hymns. During Holy Week they do the Service a Tenebra, a heart rending service telling the story of the passion of Christ. Several times a year the choir also does an Evensong Service. This service is Evening Prayer set to music and can truly move the soul.

The choir is always looking for new members who enjoy praising God with music. A person need not be a soloist, one only need to desire to lift their voice and praise God in song.

The gift of music is one reflection of God’s love for us. For one to provide such melodious sounds is a gift of hearing the heavenly courts sing praise to our Lord and our God.

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**Youth: Gift Wrapping, Elijah, and Immanuel**

Trinity Youth will be headed out on another mission trip this summer and once again share God’s love and work on behalf of God’s kingdom. In order to raise money for our summer mission trip in 2014, we will be wrapping Christmas gifts. Please bring your gifts and support us this summer!

We have arrived at the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” During Advent, our liturgy prepares us to welcome Christ into our lives through proclamation of his coming. This December is particularly special for Jessica and me because we await the coming of our own. We are going to call him “Elijah.” This Hebrew name means, “My God is the LORD.” It’s a wonderful time for waiting on a child because our Scripture readings are about the coming of God’s Son. The readings communicate patient endurance while waiting on the coming of the promised one. Sometimes I fear the passages are a little too familiar to us and we never stop to consider what they actually teach us and how they call us to follow Jesus of Nazareth. For example, Matthew 1:23 is well known and always read during this time of year. In Joseph’s dream, the angel of the Lord says, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name ‘Immanuel,’ which means ‘God with us’” (Matt. 1:23). The significant thing about this passage is that it is a quote of Isaiah 7:14. The angel quoted Isaiah 7:14 to Joseph because it was a prophecy being fulfilled through Jesus, the child in Mary’s womb (Matt. 1:22). Have you ever read Isaiah 7 in context and observed why the LORD says it? Its meaning has an impact on how we understand Matthew 1:23 and its purpose in Joseph’s dream. While Isaiah was a prophet in Israel, the King of Syria and the King of the Northern Kingdom (“Israel”) came up against Jerusalem and all of Judah to wage war. Isaiah gave the King of Judah in Jerusalem, King Ahaz, the prophecy from the LORD, and through the prophecy, God offered Ahaz an opportunity to put faith in Him by giving Ahaz a sign. The sign would be proof of the LORD’s deliverance for them from impending doom. But Ahaz decided to not believe. Although his response to Isaiah sounds pious, we know from Scripture Ahaz was wicked. So through Isaiah, God promises a sign of his deliverance from the invading armies despite Ahaz’s unfaithfulness. The Hebrew word הָעָלָה (translated “virgin” in many English Bibles) used in this passage has stirred up a lot of confusion. Some have claimed this is a proof of Mary’s virginity, because the Old Testament prophesied it. However, a proper study of the word shows that an הָעָלָה is simply a young woman ripe for marriage. The belief that Mary was a virgin is not dependant on Isaiah 7:14 but on the fact that the New Testament plainly states Mary was a virgin and was conceived by the Holy Spirit. This isn’t really the emphasis of the passage. So what is the emphasis? It is the fact that the birth of the child, “Immanuel,” is visible proof that God is about to save Israel from death. In this particular historical event in Israel, the invasion by the Northern Kingdom and Syria failed. God delivered Judah. We are never told who the young woman ripe for marriage is. But there is no doubt that whoever the woman and her child was, this was fulfilled. But this prophecy has two fulfillments. The first in the time it was used for Isaiah’s day, and the second in the ultimate fulfillment of Jesus Christ. The fulfillment in Isaiah’s day was the pattern, or “type,” for the ultimate fulfillment of God’s salvation of his people through Jesus. It’s in the simple fact that Jesus’ presence is a sign of God’s presence among his people, and that God is about to save and deliver his people. Jesus’ birth not only symbolizes God’s presence but also is the very presence. This teaches us a lot about Old Testament prophecy. It shows us God did things in Old Testament history that he would bring about ultimate fulfillment later on in the person of Jesus Christ. The presence of God dwells with us through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our seal and promise of eternal salvation and deliverance. This Christmas, let us remember that Jesus’ birth is the sign which proves to us that God is going to deliver us from sin and death. God gives everyone the same opportunity he gave Ahaz: to put faith in the LORD and believe the sign of “Immanuel.”

God’s peace,
Scott
Looking Back at 2013

These pictures only tell a fraction of the story of how our parish and parishioners have touched the lives of people within our community and beyond. From ministering within our walls to one another and ministering outside our walls to God’s children we strive to be the light of Christ wherever we go.

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

I was reading the results of a Barna Research Poll a few months ago. One of the findings of the survey was that fewer and fewer people, believed in heaven and hell. Also of note was, fewer people believed in God. Of those that did believe in God, most would be described as deists rather than Christian. That is the acknowledge a deity out there somewhere but not a God who is personal or relational. In Matthew 1:21 we read, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” The passage tells us that Mary gives birth to a son who will save “his people from their sins.” What do we do with this if the majority of people generally believe they are without sin?

The state of our world in terms of belief in God and his response and direction over his creation is really not a great deal different than the response of the Children of Israel over the hundreds of years after they came out of Egypt. They didn’t really believe all God told them either. The result of which was exile, war, famine, and exile again. In Scripture it is clear that their difficult times are punishment for their apostasy. We look at natural and manmade events today and we do not assign them to the category of God’s wrath, or God’s judgment. How can we, when we don’t want to admit there is a God, much less a God who has an opinion about things. Or there are those who proclaim, “Their God wouldn’t do such a thing.” How arrogant! “Their god” as if God of Creation is some sort of domesticated cat or something.

The very arrogance of the human race in terms of its beliefs alone reflect the degree to which we have continued to fall since the Fall. Where Adam and Eve sought the knowledge to become god’s themselves, we have assumed that we are gods in our own right – how else can we take or assign credit or blame for various events. If there is nothing else to show us the depth and nature of our sin, this is it. The utter denial of God as the great “I am”. This denial leads to all other sins for it has put man at the center. This is the sin for which we are in dire need of salvation – this is the sin that will utterly destroy us individually and collectively. In the great scheme of things a person may wonder, or not even care whether they believe in God or not, or whether they have come to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior – but God cares – He care so much that he sent his son to show us the nature of his caring.

In Christ we have the very image of God’s love and mercy for all. Jesus is the one who saves and no other. A person may not choose to believe that and in so doing forfeit their salvation – it is their choice. But one cannot come to that salvation and not be changed. One cannot come to Jesus and declare I accept your saving grace, but not your call on my life. Friends its a “package deal” if we claim Jesus as the “one who will save.” Then we must also claim the cross that he has for each of us to carry. Jesus has saved us from sin and death through the cross – but we have the responsibility and the choice to whether we accept it or whether, like the Children of Israel we will only permit God to be a nominal God rather than the one who will save.

Think of Mary for a moment. Do you think that she would have said yes to God if he wasn’t personal and relational? Here “yes” was based on her faith that God was merciful and loving and that this gift of a Son who would save his people was that faith in God’s mercy and love made incarnate. It is my prayer that as we live through Advent and experience again the joy of Christmas we recognize the utter completeness of not some distant deity but a God who constantly reaches out to us through His Son to bring us to Himself.

Pas et Bonum,
Fr. John
Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and I know that we all have counted our many blessings. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has received special blessings from those who have our prayer shawls. The letters and notes from these recipients tear at our hearts and at the same time lift our spirits. If we can pass on the love of our Lord then our mission is complete.

Christmas is just around the corner and this is a season of giving and celebrating God's ultimate gift—the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Our members are involved in a special ministry at this time. Beverly Smith has discovered and visited the Truman Smith Children's home. This is a home for physically and mentally impaired children. The home is near Gladewater and they minister to 85 children. It is our mission to supply small shawls and quilted blankets to these children. Each gift will be enclosed in a Christmas bag with the name of each child attached. Jean Jackson has knitted 40 small shawls and Beverly has made the quilted blankets. The rest of us have continued knitting the regular shawls in order to keep up our inventory. We are very excited about this mission and are trying to follow the words of Jesus found in Matthew 25:31, "As you did it for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me.'

Our ministry receives no money from the church budget. All of our supplies are paid by donations from members of the church, from the recipients of the shawls and from our personal funds. Each regular shawl takes 21/2 skeins of yarn. Yarn now costs between 4 and 5 dollars. We would be grateful for any amount you could donate. Stacey will be glad to accept your donation or any member will be glad to take it to the office.

We wish you all God's blessings for the Christmas Season.

Mary Jane McElroy

Christmas Schedule

The following is the schedule for Christmas events at Trinity

**Sunday, December 22nd**
- 5:30 PM  Service of Lessons and Carols
- 6:30 PM  Children & Youth Christmas Pageant followed by Trinity Christmas Party

**Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve**
- 5:30 PM  Christmas Eve Family Service
- 10:30 PM  Choral Concert
- 11:00 PM  Midnight Mass

**Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day**
- 10:00 AM  Christmas Day Service

Birthdays

1. Dawn Briggle 17. Tony Bridge
2. Ronnie Hammers 19. Mimi Gray
3. Ty Staggers 21. Tony Pierce
5. Michael Runyan 22. Cooper Neal
6. Regina Patel 23. Patty Jager
8. Jennifer Truelove 27. Betty Hightower
8. Starr Minatrea 28. Brant Cain
11. Dallan Shaw 29. Blair Abney

Anniversaries

4. Mr. & Mrs. Joel Truelove
5. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cobb
6. Mr. & Mrs. Blair Abney
7. Dr. & Mrs. Lake Littlejohn
18. Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jeffries
19. Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Runyan
19. Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Godinich
23. Mr. & Mrs. Wes White
27. Mr. & Mrs. Bud Spellings
29. Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeSa
29. Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Taylor

Church Financials and Attendance for October 2013

- Budget Income for 2013: $443,572
- Budget Expenses for 2013: $521,160
- Budget Difference for 2013: ($77,588)
- Income Received to Date: $372,564
- Income for the month: $408,829
- Income for the month: $42,118
- Expenses for the month: $40,881
- Difference for the month: ($1,237)
- Difference to Date: ($37,265)
- Average Sunday Attendance to date: 170
- Average Sunday Attendance for October: 198
- Total Sunday Attendance to date: 7288
- Total Attendance all other Services: 8964

Chicken Salad

Recipe for Women of Trinity

Here is the requested recipe for the chicken salad that was served at the most recent WOT meeting. Thanks to Sandy Toussaint and the recipe’s creator, Freida Cambell.

- 2 cans (10-12oz) white chicken breast meat
- 2 ribs celery
- 5 oz pkg Craisins
- 1/2 c. mayo
- 4 oz. Brianna's Poppy Seed dressing
- Chopped walnuts, optional
- 1 chopped apple (Gala or Honey-crisp)

Mix together and enjoy!