2017 Thanksgiving Outreach

The 25th Annual Thanksgiving Outreach was a great success. At the end of the day we had prepared and distributed 1,023 meals to the Marshall area.

The chair for the Outreach this year was Lowell Runyan, he was also the chief turkey carver. The director of our Thanksgiving Operation was Gary Beavers. These two parishioners are the “go to” experts on making a huge operation seem simple, but it is far from that. Lowell started putting this year’s Outreach in place back in September when he began coordinating with area churches and businesses for support. Gary’s work is really the focus of Thanksgiving week, when he begins preparing the parish hall to carry out this mammoth task.

On Thanksgiving morning the first of approximately 200 volunteers showed up and began cutting and packing desserts. By 9:00 am the operation was in full swing, the volunteers from throughout our community began “The Walk”, the lining up to fill 1,023 plates of a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we had volunteers from as far away as Illinois and even two young ladies from China.

Each of you by your gifts of donations and time made for another wonderful Thanksgiving Outreach. Thank you, and may our Lord Bless you.
I am sure we were all shocked when we heard the news about the horrendous attack on the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Our first reaction would be, “How can such a thing happen?” Our second reaction might have been, “Can it happen here?” The answer to the first question is that evil surrounds us. That is written as a panacea, it is written as a fact. The second answer would be, such a terrible act can happen anywhere, any time.

This may then bring another question to mind, “Is there anything we can do as a congregation to mitigate the chances of it happening here, can we make our parish a safe place. The answer to that is, “Yes we can.” On November 21st The Marshall Police Department held training for pastors and congregations member at The Marshall Visual Arts Center on preparing churches for Critical Events and how to respond. The training covered prevention, response, and critical care. The class was given by Lt. Len Ames, the Marshall Police Department Training Coordinator.

Trinity will be putting in place over the next several weeks changes on how we operate during regular work weeks and during worship services. Our staff will be receiving training on prevention and response. We will also put together a team from the congregation to help implement these safety precautions. They will involve every aspect of operations on the campus. Fr. John welcomes input from members of the congregation.

One of the first thing you may notice is that the doors to Fry and Selcer Hall that face Houston Street will be locked at all times. They will be used only as emergency exits. To enter Fry and Selcer Hall we ask that parishioners use the door that enters from the causeway from the parish hall. This will help maintain positive control of who enters the building. We will also be putting locks on the classroom doors. The youth room and the nursery already have locks and can be secured.

In the near future we will be holding classes for our ushers, nursery personnel, and Trinity response team, and the congregation to bring everyone up to date on what we are doing to insure everyone’s safety. If you would like to become involved with our response team please contact the parish office at 903-938-4246 or at trinitychurchmarshall@gmail.com

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 the community.

Scripture: 1Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
Dear Beloved in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. As we approach Thanksgiving it is my prayer for each of us that this year we spend time counting each of the blessings God has poured out upon us. If we are to count our blessing we need to be first aware of the reality that we can only be aware of them if you know where we stand in our personal relationship with God.

In the Book of Genesis God asks Adam a very simple question, “Where are you?” This isn’t simply a question for Adam. It is a question for each of us. He asks us, “Where are you when your neighbor needs the love of Christ in their life?” “Where are you in relationship with your spouse?” “Where are you when Christ calls to pick up your cross and follow?” “Where are you when Christ asks you to make sacrifices?”

This is a question God asks each of us each day when we climb out of bed in the morning and when we climb back into it at night. It can be a difficult question to answer. If we spend too much of our time rushing about trying to get a head in world; we rarely seem to have time to ask our selves that question.

It is important for us to know where we are in life and especially in our relationship with God. It is a pretty safe bet we could answer to both parts of the question with, “We are not where we would like to be”. I can assure you, we are not where we want to be in life, because we are not where we need to be in regards to our relationship with God and with others. We think that we need to get our life straight first, and then worry about God. We have it backwards. We need to get where we need to be with God before our life will ever be anywhere close to where we would want it to be.

Think about this for a moment. God knew exactly where Adam was —Adam was outside God’s will. God also knows where each of us are as well. He wanted Adam to be aware of that fact. Not to punish Adam but so Adam would know that the key to life is an intimate relationship with God. God was asking Adam to ask himself that question —Adam never did. God asks us to ask ourselves the question as well. Do we ignore it like Adam, or do we seek to answer the question for our own welfare. God knows where your heart is every moment of every day. He wants us to be aware of how we wander from Him, He wants us to be aware that we all to often seek to hide from him, especially at those times when we need to be the closest to Him.

God punishes, but is not about punishment. God is about mercy and grace and love. We cannot know that unless we are aware of how much in need of His mercy and grace we are and how much He loves all of His creation. When we come to Him with open and contrite hearts his mercy sustains and renews us. When we come to him broken and weeping His grace fills us. When we seek Him we experience, in every aspect of our lives, His never-ending love. For any of this to occur we must know where we are in relationship to him. Is our life based on our agenda or is our life a life of a bond servant to Christ Jesus?

“Where are you?”

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. John
**God’s Holy Vision for Trinity:**

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 the community.

*Scripture: 1Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:*

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**BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for June is as follows:

- **Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays, December 13th at 11:30**
  (Bible Study begins at 12:00)
- **Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral**

All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

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**Second Sunday Singles Supper**

*Sunday, Dec. 10*

4:30 - ?

*Home of Carol Meyer*

411 Dawn St., Longview 75604

*Ya’ll Come*

*Bring A Friend!*

903-759-0473 Home  701-261-4018 Cell

Carol will cook a ham and have tea and coffee

*Bring your favorite dish to pass and holiday beverage of your choice*

*If you would like to carpool from Trinity Church call: Margot Lingold 903-938-1388 or 903-926-0991*

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**TRINITY SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND FOSTER CHILDREN**

As you know, Trinity has been given the opportunity to support struggling families trying to stay together, as well as help foster families. This is a great opportunity for our church to reach to members of our community, to show them Christ’s love, as well as attempt to keep them together.

Last month I wrote about the Hospital Ministry, this month I will talk about personal grooming. An highlight of most teenagers High School experience is the prom. Many young women and even young men put effort into looking their best for this night. Girls go and get their hair done, and make up. Boys find the best tuxedos they can find. However, this is quite an expense for the students or their families. Prom is one thing, but kids do need haircuts. They need them often, and this is also quite an expensive endeavor. In the end every kid deserves to look their best. CPS has a resource that helps kids and their families providing much needed haircuts, and there are very real ways we can get involved. Congregations can look for stylists willing to work with the kids, hold a cut-a-thon raising money for prom or other special events to help the kids look great, or even co-sponsor PROM prep night with a local stylist to do hair and give tips on etiquette. This is a real way we can have a meaningful impact on the kids, and their families. I invite you all to look into this, and other ways we can get involved in the supporting these families. If you would like more information on the personal grooming or other ways to get involved you can contact Fr. Joh, Fr. Andrew.
Birthdays

1 Dawn Briggle  21 Tony Pierce
2 Ronnie Hammers  21 Alaina Jones
8 Jennifer Truelove  23 Patty Jager
8 Starr Minatrea  23 Leslie Rhoades
13 Bill Lewis  27 Betty Hightower
16 Lyn Johnson  28 Kay Kemp
16 Gloria Portman  29 Natasha Brown Martinez
17 Griffin Jones  29 Blair Abney
19 Mimi Gray  31 Logan Jameson-Hatch

Church Financials and Attendance for October 2017

- Budget Income for 2017 ...................... $508,664
- Budget Expenses for 2017 .................. $546,091
- Budget Difference for 2017 ............... ($ 37,427)
- Income Received to Date .................... $368,306
- Expenses to Date .............................. ($387,205)
- Income for the month ........................ $  36,120
- Expenses for the month ...................... $  37,051
- Difference for the month .................... $     (931)
- Difference to Date ............................. ($ 18,899)

Comparison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Sunday Attendance to date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Anniversaries

4  Mr. & Mrs. Joel Truelove
5  Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cobb
10  Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jones
19  Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Runyan
19  Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Godinich
29  Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeSa
29  Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Taylor
31  Mr. & Mrs. Paul Whaley

Carmel Apple Dump Cake

- 2 cans of apple pie filling
- 1 box of yellow cake mix
- 2 sticks of butter 1 cup, melted
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce like put on ice cream
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon optional
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans optional
- Whipped cream for garnish optional

- In a greased 9x13 dish, mix apple pie filling and caramel sauce.
- You may add in the 1/2 tsp cinnamon if desired.
- Spread evenly in pan.
- Pour dry cake mix directly on top of the pie filling and spread evenly.
- Top with melted butter and pecans (optional)
- Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until top is golden brown and apple filling is bubbly around the edges.
- Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.
YOUTh NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of Trinity members, the youth were able to pack 20 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes contained soccer balls, school supplies, hygiene items and toys that will be distributed to children all over the world. Amazingly, some of these children are receiving a gift for the first time in their life. Even the smallest item, such as a bar of soap, can mean so much to children in need. Because Operation Christmas Child has been sending boxes since 1993, we are hearing from adults who received boxes as children and the impact that it made on their lives. Just a simple gift has changed the hearts of many who are now in ministry due to the amazement in which someone cared enough to send a gift. Each box carries the message of the love of Christ that cannot be measured.

This is one of my favorite ministries because even countries who do not allow Christian missionaries to come do allow these boxes to be delivered, and with each box comes the opportunity for them to learn about the love of Jesus. Collection week is the third week in November every year and sometimes Operation Christmas Child sneaks up on us because it is before Thanksgiving. Due to this, I will be keeping a drop off box in the youth room all year for you to make your donations! You may also leave them in the church office and I will collect from there. This allows you to take advantage of clearance items that you may come across during the year. If you are interested in knowing more about this amazing ministry, please contact me or go to [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) and thank you again for all of your support!

TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Trinity Episcopal School will celebrate the joy of Christmas with its Annual Christmas Pageant to be held at the Ornelas Chapel at East Texas Baptist University on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30 PM. Our children give us a wonderful gift of preparing our hearts for the Christmas Season with this pageant. Begin warming up for Christmas by attending this time of wonder and music. The Trinity Senior Choir will also perform at Trinity Church on December 3rd at the 10:30 Service, just to give everyone a taste of the treat they are in for.
Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We are in the midst of one of my favorite seasons of the church year... Advent. I have always loved advent, ever since I was a child. I loved the waiting and the anticipation for Christmas. I loved the advent calendars, the advent wreath, and the other countdowns we would do. As a kid I saw advent as a countdown to Christmas. A way I could countdown until I get to open all the present under the tree. As I grew older my ideas of Advent changed, yet my love for it did not cease. I love Advent because it is a time to prepare ourselves for the mystery of the Incarnation, as well as a time to prepare ourselves for Christ’s return to judge the world. We heard this judgement in the Gospel reading during the last Sunday before Advent. A time where we try and sit in the stillness of the waiting, and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return. However, we all know that sitting in advent and enjoying it for what it is meant to be is difficult in today’s culture.

In our very busy culture forcing ourselves to sit in still quiet while we prepare for the Incarnation is difficult. Especially during this time where we are busy preparing ourselves for the Christmas season. Doing last minute shopping, preparing the house for visitors, cooking, decorating, and the list goes on. However, it is because of this busyness that sitting in the still quiet and listening for God is the most important. Trying to find times to connect with God in this season of preparation is important.

Other ways we can prepare for God is finding God in the world; serving God in the world. What better way to prepare ourselves for the incarnation then serving God in the least of his children. On Thanksgiving I witnessed this happen. Many of you came to the church Wednesday and prepared cranberry sauce. On Thursday morning many came and prepared dessert, and even more made it a little later to serve and fill boxes of food and then deliver them. Delivered them to the hungry, the strangers, our neighbors, the peacemakers; those who Jesus called blessed. This was you as a church serving Christ in His people. Perhaps one way we can connect with God this Advent is to continue in that service. Then we can live out the season of Advent. Enjoy the decorations, enjoy the food, and enjoy the music and movies. On top of all that enjoy getting closer to God, enjoy finding the still quiet to escape the crazy busyness of the season, enjoy preparing for the Incarnation of Christ, and his return.

Blessings,
Fr. Andrew
XIII. Of Works before Justification.

Works done before the grace of Christ, and the Inspiration of his Spirit, are not pleasant to God, forasmuch as they spring not of faith in Jesus Christ; neither do they make men meet to receive grace, or (as the School-authors say) deserve grace of congruity: yea rather, for that they are not done as God hath willed and commanded them to be done, we doubt not but they have the nature of sin.

Can an atheist do good works? The answer to that is of course. However, the next question is the key; “Can an atheist be justified by those works?” The answer to that is “No”. First, since an atheist doesn’t believe in God what are his or her good works based upon? Second, who would gain credit for those good works? The answer to the first question would be that the good works would be based upon how the atheist felt at the moment. The answer to the second is that the credit for the works would be to the individual.

Article “Of Works before Justification” comes out of the Epistle of St. James. James 1:22-25 states, “22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.” Also in James 2:14-19, “14 What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. 18 But some one will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.” In understanding this Article of Religion an individual must have the right understanding of the passages from St. James Epistle. It is true that a person is not saved by works, but by faith.

Much of reformed Protestantism puts far more weight on “right belief” than on “right practice”. The theological terminology would be Orthodoxy verse Orthopraxis. Orthodoxy means right belief; orthopraxis means right practice. The right understanding is that Orthodoxy includes and is reflected in Orthopraxis. A person must not only believe the right things, such as Jesus is Lord, but the individual must also practice the commandments that Christ gave to his disciples. On the other side of the religious coin, the Roman Church has often put more weight doing the right practices even though a person’s life may be a horrible example of Christian living. There was the practice in the middle ages where princes would have priests performing Masses in their chapel everyday to atone for the sins of the shameful life the prince was living. We would hardly find that acceptable today. As Christians we believe that our public and private life must conform to the life Christ calls his faithful people to live our.

The ideal example of the truth of this Article is Jesus Christ himself. Jesus said that he only does what he sees the Father doing. Ergo, his works were a reflection of God the Father and they were done to bring glory to God the Father. If a person examines Scripture they will note that every time the people tried to glorify Christ for what he did, whether it was feeding the five thousand, raising the dead or healing the infirm, he withdraws and doesn’t allow the people to raise him up. Christ, by his actions, was pointing to the fact that his work was in fact God’s work, and glory should be directed towards God and not man.
The same holds true for the Christian today. When we help another, be it clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, visiting the widows and orphans, or those in prison; those good works should point to the love of God for the least of His children. We are led to carry out those acts of mercy not by our own inclination but by the power of the Holy Spirit moving our hearts for love of the other, because of Christ's love for us.

The Church has always maintained with unflinching emphasis that character, rooted and ground in Christ, and continually replenished with grace through the Holy Spirit can and must rise superior to all the limitations imposed upon it from without and from within. In essence the Christian has surrendered entirely to Christ and is guided wholly and completely by the Holy Spirit. Ergo all acts of mercy, be they corporal or spiritual stem from the Holy Spirit and not from the human heart alone. Certainly the person chooses to act in accordance with the call of the Holy Spirit, however, the act doesn't spring from the Human heart alone.

Some Christians think that they can live like those who are not Christian and count on God's grace for their salvation. Needless to say this is wrong in so many ways. The New Testament makes it clear that our salvation is dependent upon our faith lived out daily. Faith in Christ is not a passive faith; rather it is active and vibrant. It calls us, commands us, to live lives that reflect the love of God to all. This requires that we act on the faith we profess in service to God and to others. To simply believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for our sins isn't going to redeem us. This act of atonement calls for a response from each person who professes such faith that response is action based upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Article closes with stating that good works done outside of one's justification may be sin. Thomas Cranmer (the author of the Thirty-Nine Articles) doesn't directly state such acts are sin. He doesn't presume to know the human heart. He does say that such acts do not point towards the love of God and if that is indeed the case then such acts are sinful for God isn't glorified in them. No person can presume to know the heart of another so how can a person know whether such acts are sinful or not? Think of the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee stood before God and proclaimed what a great guy he was keeping the letter of the law. The Publican, on the other hand wouldn't even lift his eyes to heaven and meekly begged, “Have mercy on me a sinner”. Jesus tells us the Publican went home justified. We might consider how a person displays their good works, do they simply do them and go on with their life as if such is part of their daily routine. Or, do they broadcast them to the world?

How do each of us do the good works that Christ asks us to do?

Sources:
Advent and Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, December 5th
Trinity Episcopal School
6:30 PM Christmas Pageant at ETBU

Sunday, December 17th
5:00 PM Service of Lessons and carols

Sunday, December 24th
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Mass
10:30 PM Choral Concert
11:00 PM Midnight Christmas Mass
Children’s Choir
Children K-5th Grade

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Psalm 95:1
Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector

Fr. Andrew Ellison
Curate

Rae Dickson
Youth Director

Magdalena Altnau
Children’s Christian Formation 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
Ken Kerr
Senior Warden

Joel Truelove
Junior Warden

Angela Bray
Clerk of the Vestry

Julie Trexler
Treasurer

Doug Jager

Cindy Cain

Leana Westergaard

Tony Pierce

Carol Meyer

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
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
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903-938-4246
http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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