Bishop Fisher’s Visit

Congratulations to our newest members. The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Suffragan Bishop of Texas, annual visitation took place on Sunday, January 11th. During his time with us he celebrated Mass and Confirmed ten new members of the Church. Those joining the Church are Elisha Baldwin, James and Candie Craver, their children James and Tara, Michele Cutrer, Greg Gani Jr., Gavin McAdam, Natasha Martinez, and Wesley Simmons.

Following the Service Bishop Fisher met with the new Vestry to offer us guidance for the coming year and to answer questions concerning events in the Diocese and National Church. Bishop Fisher reiterated the focus of Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle that we are focused on Mission in Unity with the entire Church and will stay the course of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and trusting the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to continue to bless the parishes of the Diocese and to grow the Diocese as a beacon of light in God’s Kingdom.
**Lenten Worship Schedule**

10:00 AM Wednesday, February 18  
Service of Imposition of Ashes

6:15 PM Wednesday, February 18  
Service of Imposition of Ashes

5:00 PM Each Sunday during Lent  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church

5:00 PM Each Wednesday during Lent  
Lent Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the Chapel of the Holy Family

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**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**

I think our vestry are pretty good cooks! Come and see for yourself.

Trinity will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, February 17th beginning at 5:30 PM in All Saints Hall.**

The tickets on sale now and will be available through our Boy Scout Troop, Troop 550, and at the parish office. They will also be available at the door. Tickets will be $7.00 with the proceeds going to Troop 550. Mark your calendars and come and join us. Take out plates will also be available.
Rector’s Meanderings

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

Seasons and days have meaning in our faith. Some of the meaning comes from Scripture, some, from Church tradition. There are times when we have to examine these in light of what God would have us do in certain circumstances rather than just say, “This is the way we have always done it.” In a sense such a response lends itself to complacency and doing something is then a sort of works righteousness. In Joshua 8:15, Joshua writes, “On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except on that day they circled the city seven times.”

The Sabbath, Joshua defeated the city of Jericho on that day. Interesting to think what might have happened if it had been taking place in the first century. Joshua would not have been allowed to attack the city on the Sabbath. The Pharisee would have told him that he had to wait until the Sabbath was over, regardless what the angel of the Lord said. I wonder if Joshua would have won the battle if he had tried to win the city in another manner other than the way God said? I rather doubt it.

In many churches today we have those who would have told Joshua that he would have to wait. We have those who insist on a legalism of “doing what we have always done” rather than a faith of grace which is based on believing. In truth we all perhaps tend to be a bit legalistic. It is important for us to know that we cling to that so that we might lift ourselves above others. If you notice we tend to be the most legalistic about those things that we are very good at keeping. After all we have no problem doing such and such, so neither should you, “Have a nice day, sinner.” The trap that we set to make others follow our set of rules becomes a trap that catches us instead. For the trap springs on us a religion that is of works and thus of Satan rather than a faith that is of God. Dependent on the saving works done by Christ alone, not by ourselves.

Don’t you think that Joshua knew the rule of the Sabbath? But, he also knew that God had given him instructions for a battle that would glorify God, not Joshua, not the people of Israel. Recall what Rahab said to the spies; she stated that the knowledge of the God of Israel put fear into their hearts. It was God who put the fear, not the Israelites. In a sense we need to remember it is God that builds our faith, not ourselves. If God call us to do something that others might perceive as “not being the way we have always done it”, ask why we have always done it, and ask for Scriptural guidance, in the same sense insure your calling is in accordance with the Word of God as well. For Satan uses Scripture also to lead God’s children astray.

The faithful must not let the Pharisee of our day and age stop us from being true to all that God calls us to be about. For those who preach and teach a legalism of doing, pray – pray that they might experience God’s grace.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. John
Women of Trinity

O.K., should we wish you a Happy Valentine's Day or a faithful, soul-searching Lent? Both I guess!

Women of Trinity will be meeting on February 18, which just happens to be Ash Wednesday, so you gals can come to the 10 a.m. Eucharist and just stay for the Women of Trinity's meeting, a win-win!! The January meeting was so interesting as we were treated to a presentation about Martha’s Kitchen thanks to Bonnie Strauss. You really don't want to miss these meetings because great effort goes into obtaining worthwhile programs, while also affording an opportunity to visit with some fascinating women of all ages and experiences.

The February meeting will feature our own Edwina Thomas and she will share her experiences from her recent trip to Kenya, Africa, with "Sharing of Ministries Abroad." Edwina is a former director of the organization.

If you're not on our calling list and would like to be notified of the meetings, please call Flo Lewis at 903/938-0444 or Sandy Toussaint at 903/938-3372 or call Stacey or Suzie at the Church office. It would be great to have you with us...we laugh a lot and pray a lot! Come join us! And join us for lunch after the meeting.

Men of Trinity

The Men of Trinity will meet on Monday, February 9 at 5:30 PM in All Saints’ Hall

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Will meet at lunchtime (12 noon) for a bible study at Jucy’s on February 11 and 25.
Regular meeting is February 21 @ 10am - Golden Corral

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Chris Verhalen
February 28
2:00 pm
All Saint’s Hall

Acolyte Party

This party is for the dedication & service our acolytes give to this ministry! It will be at the Silverleaf Resort indoor Water Park outside of Tyler. All acolytes are invited on Saturday, February 21, 2015, . We will depart from the church @ 9:30 am. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before departure. Bring swim suits, towels, and dry clothes to come home in.
## Birthdays

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<td>3</td>
<td>Terry Weeks</td>
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<td>Katelynn Howard</td>
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<td>Justin Briggle</td>
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<td>Roy McCarroll</td>
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<td>Claire Abney</td>
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<td>Alice Camp</td>
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<td>Samantha Minchew</td>
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<td>Mary Jane McElroy</td>
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## Anniversaries

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<td>7</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Tom Whaley, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Cecil Portman</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David Spellings</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Allen Staggers, Jr.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gary Beavers</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Porter</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Manly</td>
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## Church Financials and Attendance for December 2014

- Budget Income for 2014: $482,774
- Budget Expenses for 2014: $484,855
- Budget Difference for 2014: ($2,083)
- Income Received to Date: $474,723
- Expenses to Date: $454,650
- Income for the month: $44,701
- Expenses for the month: $35,344
- Difference for the month: $9,356
- Difference to Date: $20,072

Average Sunday Attendance to date:

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<td>2014</td>
<td>165</td>
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Sunday Attendance to date: 8,374

Attendance all other Services: 10,525

## Apple Dumplings

2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent rolls
1 cup butter
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 12 oz Mountain Dew

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. Pinch to seal and place in the baking dish.

Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour Mountain Dew over the dumplings.

Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.
Daughters of the King & JrDOK

Continuing our very special & successful annual tradition, the JrDOK will host a Daddy-Daughter-Special Friend dinner for all JrDOK girls.

February 13
7:00pm
All Saints’ Hall (Trinity Parish Hall)

JrDOK can bring their dad, grandpa, or special friend to a wonderful meal to share a special time with him and their friends. This year’s dinner will an Italian catered meal at the Church in All Saints’ Hall.

Be sure to let Mrs. Jennifer know ASAP if your JrDOK plans to attend with her “date.”

DOK Spring Assembly in Tyler

The Diocesan Spring Assembly for the Daughters of the King will take place in Tyler on February 20 and 21 at Christ Episcopal Church. All DOK are invited to attend this special event. Also, Trinity Marshall will be hosting the Diocesan Spring Assembly in February 2016 so this is a great opportunity for us to learn everything we can to make our time in February 2016 a great experience for all of the Diocese of Texas DOK chapters. Special speaker for the 2015 Assembly in Tyler is Bouquet Boulter, who also spoke to our chapter during a recent Day of Reflection.
Why Lent?

In the ancient Church the season of Lent was a time of preparation for those who would be Baptized or Confirmed on Easter. The preparation focused on fasting and prayer. The catechumens were to be singular focused on our Lord and seek continual spiritual communion with Him.

Over the centuries the Lenten practices have changed. It is now viewed as a season for all Christians to pray and meditate on their relationship with Christ in preparation for the coming of Easter. Christians today still fast and pray as a Lenten discipline. Some Christians seek to take on a special spiritual discipline for the season of Lent. Whether a person is giving something up or taking something on; the focus of our lives during this season is to be on Christ’s sacrifice for us.

Focusing on Christ is a great way to live each day. If we only seek the forty days of Lent to live like this we are missing the message of Christ. The spiritual discipline a person takes on during Lent should be a discipline that centers the life on our Lord and Savior not just for Lent, but carries over to our daily lives after Lent. If a person takes on the spiritual discipline of reading a devotion every day during Lent that is wonderful. But, what impact on their faith and their life would there be if they decided to carry that practice into their daily life? It would begin to transform them as they spent that time seeking God everyday rather than just for a season. Or, what if someone decided to simply read the General Confession in the Book of Common Prayer everyday during Lent to help them see how the life they live separates or brings them closer to God. Wouldn’t that be a wonderful thing to meditate on each day rather than just for a single season. What if a person gave up some aspect of technology, say Twitter or Facebook for Lent and in place of it dedicated the saved time to prayer or even practicing the ancient art of face to face communication.

There are many thing a person can give up or take on for Lent. The key, for us spiritually, is what we do with what we take on or give up. How does it grow our spiritual union with the Lord? If it has no impact on our union with God; why is a person doing it? Let me offer an example. Several years ago a person gave up Starbucks for Lent. For them that was a major sacrifice in and of itself. But what they did with what they saved by not purchasing their daily latte from Starbucks was to give the weekly savings to a ministry of the church. They felt a bit of the physical cost of following Christ and folks in need benefited from their sacrifice. After Lent the individual went back to their Starbucks routine but, with a change of habit. After seeing the blessings their gift to the ministry they had chosen had been, they continued to give to that ministry and also began to volunteer to help that ministry. What began as a spiritual discipline became a way of living out their faith.

When all is said and done the purpose of Lent is to allow each Christian the opportunity to find new ways of living out their faith. A spiritual discipline that is taken on during Lent can become a way of everyday life. Christ invites us to be transformed daily.
Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector

Caroline Donica
Children’s Christian Formation

Angela Bray
Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
Choir Master and Organist

Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator

Suzie Ward
Administrative Assistant

Melvin Williams
Sexton

Reggie Hasty
Treasurer

Vestry

Laura Rectenwald
Senior Warden

Henry Henderson
Junior Warden

Cathy Cope
Clerk of the Vestry

Ken Kerr
Treasurer

Doug Jager

Joel Truelove

Cindy Cain

Erik Howard

Paul Palmer

Randy Reeves

Clarence Brown

Cathy Cope

Jim Kutner

Bonnie Strauss

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
Choir Rehearsal - 5:15 PM
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

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

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