Trinity Episcopal Church:
Witnessing to the Power of God to Transform
Proclaiming God’s Love and Joy for over 166 years in

Inside this issue:

Look What We Did Last Year

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Stay Tuned for 2018!
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.

Church Safety

Trinity will hold a Crisis Response Information Meeting on Saturday, January 13th beginning at 9:00 AM in All Saints’ Hall. Those individuals interested in serving on the Trinity Crisis Response Team are invited to this information meeting. All parishioners interested in following the development of this ministry are also invited to attend. Child Care will be provided.

We will briefly discuss threats and security precautions that we will be putting in place for our parish. These include security for the Church, Fry and Selcer Hall, Trinity Annex and the parish office. Some of the precautions you have already noticed. For example The Houston Street Doors for Fry and Selcer Hall are for emergency exit only. The doors are to remain locked at all times. All entrance into Fry and Selcer Hall will be through the breezeway from All Saints Hall. It is requested that all classroom doors be closed when a classroom is in use.

We request that all those with experience in physical security and First Aid attend the meeting for the Crisis Response Team. As previously mentioned this meeting is also for all parishioners who are concerned about safety in our parish and would like to learn more.

Two of our parishioners, Jackie Weeks and Teresa Whaley have volunteered to work with those interested in being part of our First Aid Response. Both Jackie and Teresa are Registered Nurses with a great deal of experience in triage and emergency First Aid. Also, Mike DeSa will be helping to formulate and integrate both sides of the Crisis Response Team.

Over the next several weeks we will have our children and the congregation practice drills in the event of any emergency so everyone becomes familiar with what to do in various situations in which individual response is called for.

At the January 13th meeting training dates will be announced for those interested in being part of the First Aid Response and for those interested in providing physical security.

We ask that you call the parish office at 903-938-4246 if you plan to attend so we can insure that we have enough training material available.

WOMEN OF TRINITY

Happy New Year! Our next meeting is January 15 @ 11am. Michele Spencer from the pregnancy resource center will be our speaker. Lunch will be provided.
Dear Beloved in Christ:

Happy New Year! May our Lord bless you and keep you throughout this New Year and may His grace be that which sustains and strengthens you.

On January 6th we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany; the revelation of Christ to the gentiles. This is a wonderful season where we are reminded that God sent his son not only to save the Jesus people but to save all of us. This wasn’t the first revelation of God to those outside the line of Abraham. In Genesis 14:18 we read, “And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High.” Melchizedek wasn’t part of Abrahams line. Yet, he knew God. So what roll does this gentile play in God’s revelation and inclusion of all humanity?

There is a sense of mystery that surrounds King Melchizedek. Just who is he – what sort of priest was he? Was his “Most High God” the God we worship? There are no definitive answers for what we know of his. All that we can learn is found in the pages of Scripture. There are, however, an assumption we can make based on Abraham’s response to him. That the God he knew was the God of Abraham.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that King Melchizedek is a foreshadowing of Christ as the great high pries that intercedes for us before the Throne of Grace. But as priest and king, he is also a foreshadowing of David’s role as leader of Israel for David assumes both kingly and priestly functions at times. Neither of these references really tells us anything concrete about Melchizedek, they tell us about roles he filled not about the him as a person.

Where we see something of the person is in his actions. He brought out bread and wine. In the next verse he blesses Abraham and God. In bringing out the bread and wine, we 21st century Christians can also see in that context worship; for we associate the elements with the Eucharist. It is in the context of the Eucharist that the reception of Christ as being the great high priest comes to forefront. In coming with bread and wine we clearly see the image of Christ. As King Melchizedek brings them out to Abraham we see the “Great High Priest” bringing them out to a “lesser” person, the priest is humbling himself to provide that which sustains life. Christ brings out to us from the incarnation and his revelation to all that which sustains life. He who is God humbled himself to become man that he might come out to man offering his body and blood as the means of restoring our relationship with God.

We may not have a clear picture of the person of Melchizedek. But we can see what God shows us through the encounter Abraham has with him. We see how God comes to us where we are. We also see how we are to respond to God – as Abraham did.

As we move through this season of Epiphany ponder how Christ has been revealed to you in your own life. Who played a part in that revelation? Could you play a part in the revelation of Christ to another who has yet come to know his mercy, grace and love?

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. John
BROTHELHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for June is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays, January 10th and 24th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)
Saturday, January 20 16th at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

OUTREACH

Life can look pretty bleak sometimes...imagine being homeless, jobless, looking for solace and comfort in alcohol or drugs and feeling lost. Fortunately, in Harrison County, there is an answer for men who find themselves in this seemingly hopeless situation and through Trinity's Outreach Committee, you are helping them find assistance. Twelve Way Foundation is a faith-based residential recovery support service for men seeking continued help with their addiction to alcohol and drugs. Their mission since 2004 has been to provide a safe, sober environment for men who have a sincere desire to change their lives through a relationship with Christ. From the very onset of this program, members of Trinity Episcopal Church have served on the Board of Directors and according to Byron Butts, the very dedicated Executive Director of Twelve Way Foundation, this group of supporters are actively devoted to their Mission. Currently, there are fourteen men in residence, participating in the program. With the support of donors, they are provided with Bibles and recovery program literature, transportation to and from work, meals, lodging, drug tests and the personal needs necessary to re-establish their lives.

They receive the help they need to develop and incorporate the life skills, habits and thought patterns required to stay clean and sober. With God's help and determination, they can, once again, regain the trust of their families and more importantly, regain trust in themselves. Your help is needed, not just through the Outreach Committee, but in a more involved way, with your personal donation of time or money....right now, they have immediate needs, such as a door that need replacing (snakes find it conveniently accessible)...maybe you can help! Don't forget that on the fourth Sunday of each month the Alms basin that you pass on your path to the Eucharist is dedicated to providing additional funding for this very important mission of Outreach to our community...you can help!
Birthdays

3 Barbara Cobb 19 Alice Furrh
4 Yuri Altnau 20 Adrian Martinez
5 Walton Truelove 20 Michelle Cutrer
7 Ann Brannon 21 James Haich
8 Bill Abraham 24 Jeanette Shelton
9 Jack Rectenwald 25 Douglas Tuttle
10 Jim Johnson 25 Rebecca Bockmon
15 Mamie Lyons 25 Tracy Prater
16 Cody Baldwin 27 Cassy Rhoades
16 Larry D’Asto 27 Jordan Weeks
16 Molly Hammond 28 Brett Weeks
16 Nancy Haynes 28 David Spellings
17 Jean Taylor 29 Janet Gullette
18 David Jones 30 Chris Cope
18 Michael DeSa 31 Dennis Rhoades

Church Financials and Attendance for November 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Income for 2017</td>
<td>$508,664</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses for 2017</td>
<td>$546,091</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Difference for 2017</td>
<td>($ 37,427)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Received to Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses to Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income for the month</td>
<td>$ 36,120</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Difference for the month</td>
<td>($     931)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference to Date</td>
<td>($ 18,899)</td>
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<td>Average Sunday</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance to date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Sunday</td>
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<td>Attendance for November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Attendance to date</td>
<td>8455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance all other Services</td>
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<td></td>
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Anniversaries

3 Mr. & Mrs. Justin Briggle
5 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Haynes
16 Mr. & Mrs. Larry D’Asto
18 Mr. & Mrs. Cameron McElroy, III
23 Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Asaff
25 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pool

YOUTH NEWS!

Rahab’s Retreat
With the generosity of the Daughter’s of the King the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Trinity youth were able to assist in buying gifts and delivering them to children whose mothers have been victims of human trafficking. The Prayer Shawl Ministry gave to each of the women and the volunteers that work there. Rahab’s Retreat is located in Kilgore and is a faith-based program that offers recovery programs as well as transitional care to empower women to be free from their issues and teach them to become productive citizens and serve their community.

Gifts were bought for 23 children who supplied us with a Christmas wish list. Some of the items listed were practical items such as pen and paper, Chapstick and hand sanitizer, shoes and pajamas. We felt as if we were getting to know these children as we bought these gifts. We unloaded the gifts in a back room away from the eyes of the little ones so that they may be surprised on Christmas morning! The youth were blessed and I know the children of Rahab’s Retreat will be blessed. I give my humble thanks to the Daughter’s of the King and Prayer Shawl Ministry that made this Christmas special for so many!

Jesus Burger
The Shade Tree Fellowship, dubbed “Jesus Burger” is located on Hwy 80 in the parking lot of the Old Elks Lodge. It serves as a community of hope, bringing the love of Christ to those in need. Buses from surrounding shelters bring in over 200 of the forgotten and marginalized in Longview. Hot meals, clothing, bibles, worship and the life changing word of God are just a few of the ways that communities are honored through this amazing ministry. The Youth will be handing out candy canes and attached to each sweet treat is the story of the candy cane and the message of the perfect sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Please pray for our youth as they minister to those in which God puts in our path. My hope is that we be a blessing to those in need and a light of hope that directs attention to our Christ.
The Annual Marshall Prayer Force Celebration Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The location for this year's banquet is the Civic Center.

The Marshall Prayer Force Annual Banquet is an annual event that honors Harrison County and Marshall's First Responders. Throughout the year members of the Prayer Force pray daily for our First Responders. Trinity is honored to be just one of the local churches that supports the ministry of the Prayer Force. The banquet is open to all members of the Prayer Force and the public.

Tickets for the Banquet are $25.00 and are available at Trinity Episcopal Church, the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, KMHT Radio, and from Marshall Prayer Force board members. Marshall Prayer Force board members at Trinity are Fr. John, C.B. Brown and Bonnie Strauss. If you would like to reserve a ticket please call the parish office at 903-938-4246.

The speaker this year will be Tony Perkins, the President of the Family Research Council. As President, Tony has greatly strengthened the organization’s influence at the United States Capitol and across the country. The Family Research Council has reached across the nation and built a network of pastors and churches, encouraging them to impact the culture by thinking national and acting locally.

Tony is an ordained minister who is active in Christian ministries serving as an elder in his home church and frequently filling pulpits across the country. He is a board member of Caring to Love Ministries, one of Louisiana’s largest pregnancy resource centers. Additionally, he serves as president of the Council for National Policy.

Tony is the host of the nationally syndicated radio show, Washington Watch Weekly with Tony Perkins. He frequently appears as a guest on national news programs and talk shows. He has been a guest speaker for respected organizations across the country as well. He is the author of No Fear: Real Stories of a Courageous new Generation Standing for Truth.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a former police officer, Tony brings a unique perspective to the public policy process. In addition to domestic law enforcement, he oversaw the training of hundreds of international police officers as the general manager for a Washington, D.C.-based firm contracted by the U.S. Department of State to provide the training and services in anti-terrorism.
Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Here we are, yet again, in another new year. How does this keep happening? If it was even possible, this past year seemed to go by even faster than the previous. Time has this way of going by quicker than perhaps we like. It seems time is quickly ticking along, and we are along for the ride.

This is one of my favorite things about St. Mark’s Gospel. St. Mark takes us on the fast track to Jerusalem with Christ. The Gospel begins with Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, and does not slow down. This year we are entering year B of our lectionary. Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark was compiled to be told in story form, in one sitting. That is one of the problems with our lectionary. It is put together to fit the Gospel in the season of the year. So what we get are the Gospels broken up, jumping around in the narrative. With the Gospel of Mark we miss much when we read it this way. We miss the characters of the Gospel, we miss the underlying narrator’s views, and most of all we miss the flow of the Gospel. Again, the Gospel was written to be read from the start to the finish. The Gospel is a journey, a journey beginning in Galilee that takes us to Jerusalem. Yet the beautiful thing about that Gospel is that it ends where it begins, going back to Galilee. The Gospel moves, and when we read it in its entirety we move along with it. We truly see the plots unfolding, the characters growing, and the anticipation of getting to Jerusalem building.

On New Year’s many make resolutions. I urge you to try to make a resolution to read the Gospel of Mark in its entirety. When you read it in its entirety you can see the flow un-interrupted. Then you will be able to hear the Gospel as it was intended to be heard, the way the original listeners heard it from St. Mark. This Lent I will be leading our young families in an exploration of Mark’s Gospel. In that series we will read it in its entirety, and explore the journey the Gospel takes us on. So I too will be reading the Gospel in its entirety.

This year, don’t just hear the Gospel on Sunday; truly hear it as a story. Let it captivate you; let it take you along for the journey. In the Gospel of Mark we are being taken on the fast train to Jerusalem; and what a ride it is.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XIV. Voluntary Works besides, over and above, God’s Commandments, which they call Works of Supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety: for by them men do declare, that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake, than of bounden duty is required: whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that are commanded to you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

I am willing to bet that most of us have bank accounts, or a form of a savings account. One strategy for paying off debt and living a sound financial life is having an emergency fund. A fund that if something were to happen one could dip into and still be able to eat and pay bills. This fund is there in the event we do not have enough. We leave the money in an account so it can build up. We build it up, that way if we are a bit short for something we have that money to fall back on.

While this is a sound financial practice, does it correlate to other matters? How about our salvation? This was similar to a doctrine in the Roman Catholic Church, which also was an issue with the early reformers, including Martin Luther. Article Fourteen of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion addresses the doctrine of works of Supererogation. The Fourteenth Article makes it clear that works of Supererogation is not done for our own benefits, but only for God’s glory, thus denying the doctrine of Supererogation as laid forth by the Roman Catholic Church. In this article I will first discuss what works of Supererogation is. I will look at the Roman Catholic doctrine of Supererogation. I will also explore issues the reformers had with the doctrine. I will then look at the Anglican approach to Supererogation as laid out in the Fourteenth Article. This exploration will show how we Anglicans view the doctrine of Supererogation.

Before exploring the issues the reformers had with Supererogation, we must first look at what that doctrine actually is. The doctrine of Supererogation goes hand in hand with indulgences. In that they are ways we as people can be granted salvation by our actions. In the past few months the articles we have looked at dealt with the fact that it is only through faith in Christ that we are justified. We saw that it is not our works that grant us salvation. Supererogation is another theology that is covered by works righteousness. Works of Supererogation is the idea that we are required to do certain things by God. Any works that are done beyond what God requires falls under Supererogation. We all have requirements by God to do good, and anything that is done beyond what is required begins to store up. The belief is that the Saints including the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary have all done more than was required of them. Those works are stored up and form a treasure with God. This treasure is also called the treasury of merit. Anytime someone goes above and beyond what is necessary for salvation, those works go into this treasury. The church can then take those merits, and give it to repentant sinners. The belief is that this is where the indulgences came from. If a repentant sinner turned to the church seeking forgiveness the church could give the sinner some of the merits stored up, usually at a price. This then gave the forgiveness they needed. Supererogation comes from the Latin word which means “paying out more than due.”

If we look back on the works righteousness doctrine, and the issues many had with that doctrine we can see that at play here. The basis of this doctrine is that good works grants salvation. After all, it is the works done beyond what is required for salvation that is stored up. This is a problem for the reformers, as they saw there were no works at all required for salvation. Only faith in Christ grants one salvation. That being, a person cannot receive salvation on their own. It is only through Christ. However, that is not the main problem the reformers saw with this doctrine. It was the using of those works and giving them out, or selling them, which became a problem. Indulgences began entering the church in the eleventh or twelfth centuries. They were first granted to individuals, especially to those returning from the Crusades. In the crusades, many people would have faced death without a priest to give them pardon of their sins. Indulgences were a way for these men to receive the salvation they needed. It was viewed that
their works of liberating the Holy City of Jerusalem for the Christians was good enough to receive salvation. They were also granted to those visiting the Holy places in Rome, usually with a cost involved. However, it was when Pope Leo X began using those moneys received from indulgences to build St. Peter’s Basilica that we began to see problems with selling indulgences from the Treasures of Merit. This action was the catalyst that sent the reformation into motion.

Martin Luther objected to the sale of indulgences, which led to his quest of reforming the church. In Thesis forty-two of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther wrote “Christians are to be taught that the Pope does not intend that the buying of indulgences should in any way be compared with the works of mercy.” Ulrich Zwingli also wrote in his Seventy-Seven Articles, that good works are only done for Christ, so doing anything above and beyond for our own benefit is not enough for Salvation. Notice, that we are not saying works are bad, just that they do not grant salvation alone. When works are done for Christ, they are indeed good.

Looking at Article fourteen in the Thirty-Nine Articles, we will see the opposition to Works of Supererogation. The article begins by stating that voluntary works, above what is required by God’s commandments cannot be taught. It can’t be taught because anything done beyond what is required is not done for God, but rather for the person. Further, if anything is done beyond what God commanded, it will not grant salvation. It does not gain salvation because, again, it was done for one’s own sake. This sounds like it goes against what we all have been taught, to give 110%. However, it is important to note that this article is not saying doing more than what is commanded is bad. Rather it is warning against man’s desire to take advantage of the works, to gain salvation. The articles dealing with works does not specify that works are bad, quite the contrary. Rather, the articles lay out that doing works does not gain salvation. This article is stating that doing above and beyond what is required will not grant salvation. It is insinuating that we cannot benefit from a treasure of merit to fall back on, or that we cannot buy our way into heaven. This article, along with the other articles before it, states that it is only Christ who can give salvation.

As we see, doing good works is not a bad thing. Doing good works above and beyond what God requires is not a bad thing. If we are doing that work for God, it is great. However, this is not enough to grant us salvation. We must also have faith in Christ; we must have faith that Christ alone can grant us salvation. That is a comforting thought. It is comforting to know that our salvation is in Christ’s hands, instead of other people’s hands.


*Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation, Mark Noll*

*Background to Against the Sale of Indulgences by Martin Luther.* http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his101/web/37luther.htm
Trinity Crisis Response Information Meeting
Saturday, January 13, 2018
From 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
All Parishioners are Invited
Child Care Provided
SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER!

Trinity Episcopal Church is
hosting its Annual
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. All
proceeds go to support Troop
550. Ask our Scouts for tickets.
Adults $7.00 or 4 for $25.00
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
Tony Pierce
  Senior Warden
  Junior Warden
Angela Bray
  Clerk of the Vestry
Julie Trexler
  Treasurer
Leana Westergaard
  Carol Meyer
  Micheal DeSa
  Cassie Rhoades
  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
Dinner in All Saint’s Hall - 5:30 PM
Healing Mass - 6:30 PM

Thursday
Choir Practice 5:00 PM
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

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

Trinity Episcopal Church
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http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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