FIRST FREEDOM

In our Bill of Rights The first right that in enumerated states the following, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” I am sure each of us treasures that right. But are we in danger of losing it?

Last month a tragedy occurred when a lone shooter targeted a group of congressmen practicing for a baseball game. Since then a hue and cry has gone up about various ways to address such a horrific event. There have been comments about insuring that each congressman and congresswomen has a security detail. Some have called for our representatives be allowed to carry guns. Still others have blamed the heated political rhetoric for the event. So who is right? All? None?

We are guaranteed Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, and the Freedom to petition the Government. With each freedom a person enjoys comes responsibility. Without responsibility in the use of such freedoms the only result is civil friction and chaos. The first responsibility in exercising our rights is civility. This is based upon the Christian principle of loving one’s neighbor. Both the right and the left sides of our political debate seem to have forgotten about the concept of civility. Name calling, threats of violence, have become increasingly common in the past several years. When such a state permeates the political debate can anyone really be shocked when it results in violence?

So who is culpable for the direction that our civil discourse has taken? Is it the politicians, the press? Friends I am afraid it is each of us who is silent. It is each of us regardless of which side of a debate we are one who silently cheers when “our” side degrades the other side. Civil discourse will return when “We the People” refuse to accept it as part of the political or societal debate. What do most politicians value more than anything—power. What does the press value—eyes on their product. The politicians derive power from the governed, you and me. The press derives power by circulation or ratings, again that’s you and me.

After the opening words of “We the People” our Constitution goes on to say, “in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility; can such a state be established without civility in debate? It can if people demand it.
Continued from page 1

As Christians we have a moral and ethical responsibility to be voices in the public square. That is part of proclaiming the Gospel. We must recognize and live knowing the Christ’s atoning work on the cross was for ALL people; those we agree with and those we do not, for those we like and for those we don’t, for those who are like us and for those who are not. We must not even appear to be supportive of rhetoric that degrades another person or group of people in our own discourse. This is not to imply that we cease to proclaim what we believe, it does mean that when we speak we speak with the understanding that those we address are also beloved children of God. Perhaps if we who profess Christ as Lord spoke and acted in this manner we could become instruments of change in our society.

I began by saying that our freedoms come with responsibility. Now let me clarify that by saying for us who seek to be disciples of our Lord those freedoms come with Christian responsibility. In the Book of Proverbs Chapter 15:1-4 we read, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge, but the months of fools pour out folly. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.” (RSV) A harsh word is literally “a word of pain,” that is, a word that is hurtful. Words wisely chosen promote peace rather than anger, they instruct by example, and they encourage rather than discourage.

If we live fully into our discipleship then the freedoms we enjoy will be the freedoms enjoyed by our children today and in the future. If not, well, I fear we will continue to descend into the depths of chaos, hate, and violence. Let us be clear that as Christians we will cease to tolerate the promotion of demagoguery and violence in our political debate and in our media.

Vestry Works on Holy Vision Moving Forward

Since our parish meeting in May to develop the Holy Vision God has for us our vestry has been focusing on what those in attendance came up with. The vestry has been broken down into 3 groups of four. At the May vestry meeting each group was given a set of responses from participants and asked to combine them into a coherent state of God’s Holy Vision for Trinity.

At the July vestry meeting each group will present the work they have done and the entire vestry will then begin the work of combining the final statements for each group. That work is to be completed no later than the September Vestry Meeting. The Holy Visioning Statements the vestry develops will then be published in the October Tripod to allow the parish to review and comment on them prior to the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for July.

Please feel free to ask any vestry member about the progress and the process going forward.
Rector’s Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the month in which we celebrate the birth of our nation. A nation founded on the idea that rather than being subjects of a king, people are free to govern themselves.

In the book of the prophet Haggai we read his admonishment to the people when they had wandered away from their covenant relationship with God. Haggai wrote, “Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much and you harvest little.”

These words struck me as I consider the present state of our nation. Indeed over the last several generations, the nation has indeed sown much, and has little to show for it. The coffers are basically empty, but the population has grown. What has brought this about? Why do we so comfortable with it?

Our nation has increasing shift from a nation blest by God to a nation that seeks short term pleasures verses long term stability. It has become an nation that no longer adheres to the notion of “one nation under God” to a nation divided by party. We are now a nation that is rich in things, but poor in spirit. We are a nation of going along to get along. A nation that has adopted the secular societies standards of justice and morality. What hope can such a nation body offer? What freedom can it proclaim?

If the nation simply reflects the culture of the rest of the world, it ceases living into and proclaiming the blessing that the Lord has poured out upon us and becomes just another nation among many. We may be a nation the talks about liberty, freedom, justice and mercy, as a nation we may offer a degree of earthly comfort, but many nations can do that. And therein is the problem. If we’re just another nation a person might as well affiliate with any nation or ideology.

One the other hand, if the word of the Lord is true, if in fact, Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. Then it is commitment to Him above all else that matters. The nation shifts from being like all other nations, which has ‘stuff’, to a nation committed to serving the ultimate will of God; not tied to the ways of the world, not seeking to be like other nations. When Israel desired a king they sought to be like the nations around them. God spoke to Samuel and told him to tell the people the price of such a choice. But, the people didn’t care the desires for the things of this world was far greater to them than their covenant with God.

That is the problem the prophet Haggai is addressing. The people of Israel had become self-serving. They permitted the continued desolation of the Temple of the Lord. While they build their house ever increasing the comfort of them, they allowed the Temple to lay in ruins. That is a symbol of the failure of the people to live in relationship with God. Perhaps we need to consider our state in light of the people of Haggai’s day. Our nation is rapidly falling into moral ruins, the material goods are there, the wonderful building are there, the rich history is available but, as a people, we have focused on the man made things rather than the God made things.

Do we really think God was all that concerned about having a physical structure to dwell in, or was he more concerned about having a spiritual structure within the peoples heart in which to dwell? The building of the Temple was not so much a physical feat as a spiritual one. It awakened people to their need for God. That dear friends, is the same need we the people have today, both within and without the walls of the church.

We will tolerate this condition as long as we are comfortable. If we feel safe in our physical dwelling we have no need for being in the place where God dwells. If we feel safe spiritually, that is, having a sense of our own salvation and our own welfare then there is little we will do. If on the other hand, we have a hunger for God to be a vibrant center in our lives we will be willing to leave the comfort of our homes and build a house for God. Not a house of stone, but a house in the hearts of those who do not know Him as the one who heals the sick, gives sight to the blind and preaches the Good News to the poor.

A pray that this Independence Day we all reflect upon the morality and faith that gave our founding Fathers a dream in which we would become one nation under God.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. John
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 June is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy’s on
Wednesdays, July 12th and 26th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)
Saturday, July 22nd at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

RAINBOW ROOM OUTREACH
As you may have noticed in last month’s Tripod, 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.

One great way we can support this outreach effort is by giving to the Rainbow Room. We are asked to donate new clothing and other needed items to the rainbow room. That is not all we can do though, we can also volunteer in finding donations, sorting donations, or donating space to a rainbow room. These rooms give families the opportunity to receive items that they need, but may not be able to afford. It also gives the children an opportunity to live as normal of a life as possible.

They accept clothes, infant care items such as diapers, school supplies, children’s items such as books, household goods like cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. This is an easy way to support a community member. When out shopping for our own paper towels, we can also purchase an extra package for the rainbow room. When we are shopping for we can buy an extra pair of jeans and a shirt for the rainbow room. We can purchase diapers or books for children. It is a small investment that goes a long way in someone’s life. Plus it gives us a real way to be Christ’s hands in Harrison County.

Trinity Supporting Families and Foster Children
Last moth I wrote about the CarePortal to support foster families and children. This month I would like to tell you about the Adopt-A-Caseworker program. I’m not sure we fully understand the hard dedicated work our Child Protective Services case workers do. The job that they do is often emotionally and spiritually draining. We shouldn’t be surprised at that for the spend far too much time dealing in tragic and conflicted situations we can only imagine.

But there is something we can do to ease the emotional and spiritual demands of the vital job that they perform for us. We can adopt a case worker. Okay, what does that look like. Churches can adopt a Child Protective Services case worker to provide moral support and help with the purchase of items that a case workers clients may need.

When we adopt a case worker we covenant for with that individual that we will pray daily for them and for those whom they serve. We also covenant with them to be, as best we can, a resource that they can turn to when a need is outside the scope of the state’s responsibilities.

Would you like to be involved in this prayer ministry? Contact Fr. John at Fr.John.Himes@gmail.com
Birthdays

1 Cheryl Staggers  
16 Walter Fugler
1 Hugh Taylor  
16 Sandy Toussaint
5 Reggie Hasty  
17 Vince Godinich
5 Sarah Rectenwald  
20 Theresa Harper
6 Katie Godinich DeSa  
21 Michael Cason
7 Doug Lewis  
25 Sherry Henderson
7 Michael Jones  
26 Dorothy Whaley
10 Lucy Parr  
26 Lillian Weeks
10 Cody Godinich  
27 Albert McPhail
11 Courtney Tolar  
27 Glenda Lane
12 Wil Moseley  
27 Rae Minchew
13 Stephen Littlejohn  
28 Lal Terrell
15 Aydenne Martinez  
28 Jennifer Abney
29 Gloria Snyder

Church Financials and Attendance for May 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Difference to Date</td>
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</table>

Average Sunday

Attendance to date

176 Present

13 MORE things the Holy Spirit Does

1. He frees us (Romans 8:2)
2. He renews us (Titus 3:5)
3. He produces fruit in us (Galatians 5:22-23)
4. He gives gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)
5. He leads us (Romans 8:14)
6. He convicts (John 16:8)
7. He sanctifies us (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
8. He empowers us (Acts 1:8)
9. He unites us (Ephesians 4:3-4)
10. He seals us (Ephesians 1:3)
11. He gives us access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18)
12. He enables us to wait (Galatians 5:5)
13. He casts out demons (Matthew 12:28)
OUTREACH

The Bridge of Compassion may not be "all things to all people" but they sure give it their best shot. The "Bridge" is one of the charitable organizations that receives assistance from the Outreach ministry of Trinity Church and what you'll find upon entering the "Bridge" is a warm welcome and soon-to-be friends in Greg Taylor, the Administrator and our own Cheryl Denney, facility manager.

The Bridge of Compassion" was located in the old Heard Furniture building on Grand Avenue and North Washington, but their new location is in on the east side of Highway 59 North across from Walmart and a little north. They're settled in their new "digs" and you'll find a well-organized "re-sale" facility, "but wait, there's more."...yes, you'll find a great assortment of neatly organized clothes and lots of interesting housewares and appliances, even a large assortment of clean, bundled materials for quilting, glassware, even a standing boudoir mirror. They are prepared to meet many needs in our community...those who have suffered the loss of their home due to fire or flood will find the "Bridge" ready to assist with clothes, linens and furniture and on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, you'll find them distributing a Senior food box to 100-115 families.

They can do these things with the help of organizations like Trinity Church and donations and assistance from individual donors. If you've decide to change your décor, to downsize your living arrangement or just simplify your life, please consider supporting the "Bridge of Compassion" with everything from canned goods and non-perishable foods to dining room sets and blenders and don't forget to offer some of your time as a

WOMEN OF TRINITY

Although Women of Trinity may not be meeting during the hot Summer months, it's not like there is no Women of Trinity activity. Guess that's why we have officers, right? And it might be a good idea, with recent emphasis on loving your neighbor, to check on some of the other members of the church, especially if they've been dealing with problems of one kind or another.

Sadly, we will be missing one of the members of WOT when we meet again in the Fall...Norma King was such a faithful member of WOT and, of course, loved this church. Norma, know that you will be missed. We'll see the rest of you in September!

JULY YOUTH SCHEDULE

On Second Saturday, July 8, Trinity Youth will be downtown giving out water bottles again and taking donations for their mission trip to Louisiana on July 16.

Also, the youth going on the mission trip will be blessed before they leave on Sunday, July 16 at breakfast. Please come to breakfast to give your blessings and see them off for their mission trip.
Hello friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Recently I was doing a bible study for Acts 16. This chapter’s focus is on the travels of St. Paul. However, there is a secondary point in this chapter. The secondary point is his encounters on those travels, the encounters that led to conversions. The chapter opens with a conversion. Timothy joins the group, and begins following Paul after his circumcision. Their intention was to go to Asia, but the Spirit forbade them, rather the Spirit sent them to Macedonia. It was there where they stayed for a few days. While in Macedonia they were outside praying, and were approached by a woman named Lydia. She was a follower of God, but her heart was opened to Jesus as she spoke to Paul and his companions. Her immediate reaction was to bring her household to the faith, and that is what happened, her whole household was baptized. I am struck by this, during this time it was usually the man of the house who led the family to be baptized. However, here we have Lydia leading the household. Following this event Paul met a slave girl, who was possessed by a demon. Her owners used her fortune telling abilities to make money. Annoyed by the girl following them around shouting at him, Paul ordered the demon to come out; thus releasing her from her fortune telling abilities, and taking away income for her owner. This led to Paul and Silas being arrested. While they were in jail an earthquake occurred shaking their chains loose and opening the cell door. However, instead of leaving Paul stayed. This led to the grateful guard coming to Christ and being baptized.

Something about these events strikes me. It strikes me as it seems it was all part of a plan. They were sent to Macedonia for a purpose, to meet Lydia. They were sent to the little girl for a purpose, to expel her demons. This led to their imprisonment which led to the conversion of the guard. Throughout all of this, I notice the apostle’s awareness of who God put them in front of. They spoke and prayed with Lydia, instead of asking to be left alone. They intervened with the girl instead of ignoring her. They stayed in the jail when they could have left, thus allowing them to witness to the guard. They were aware of who God was putting them in contact with.

God uses us too. We have the opportunity to be an instrument in bringing others to Christ. God places people in our paths that need to be there. We just need to be aware of those. We need to be aware of the people who are looking for Christ, who are looking for peace, and be the person who shows this to them. God places these people in front of us, let us be aware of them. And let’s use these opportunities to show Christ to those who need Him. We have an opportunity to be like the apostles, and be a witness to Christ’s love to the world.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

VIII. Of the Creeds. The Nicene Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and believed: for they may be proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture. (The original Article given Royal assent in 1571 and reaffirmed in 1662, was entitled "Of the Three Creeds; and began as follows, "The Three Creeds, Nicene Creed, Athanasius's Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed ...")

What do we Episcopalians believe? What is our theology, or should I say what is our theology based on? Many different denominations have a historical document that is the basis of their faith, ours are the creeds. But what are the creeds? Where do they come from? Why do we say them so regularly. In the eighth article of religion it states that the “Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and believed: for they may be proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture.” In this article I will explain what a creed is, where each of the creeds comes from, what the differences between the creeds are, and traditions around them. This will give us a better understanding to not only our faith, but our traditions as Anglicans and Creedal Christians.

Really all forms of Christianity are Creedal, in that they have a document which states their theology. Not all Christian denominations say the creeds however. But what is a creed? What is the purpose? Basically “Creeds are an attempt to give articulate, intelligible expression to Christian faith…” They are responses to early Christian attempts to try and explain God, particularly the Trinity. Many of these attempts led to heresy. However, it was not heresy that created our earliest creed. Rather it was an attempt by the early church founders to profess the faith.

The Apostles Creed is the older of the creeds we use. Tradition has it that the Apostles Creed was written by the Apostles themselves. According to tradition the Apostles wrote this creed 10 days after the ascension under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Modern scholarship now says the creed is not quite that old. However, it is an ancient document. In fact articles in the creed are found in “theological Formulas that were current around 100 AD.” Current thinking is that the Apostles Creed is certainly an Apostolic writing, written shortly after the Apostles were beginning their ministries. The Apostles Creed is an authentic expression of Christian Faith, focusing on the three persons of the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. According to the Episcopal Church’s website, the Apostles Creed is known as the Baptismal creed. It is known by this because the earliest candidates for Baptism, who were known as Catechumens, were required to recite the creed before their baptisms. This is why we say this creed in baptism ceremonies today. Our own baptismal covenant is based off the Apostles Creed. I will talk more about the use of the Apostles Creed later in this article.

As the years moved on, and more people were coming to the faith, the Roman Empire began allowing Christianity to be practiced across the region. It was Constantine who began to move the Empire towards Christianity. It was also him that called for the early Church Councils. As more and more people were coming to the faith, more and more questions began to be asked. With this more expressions of theology were given. People attempted to explain our theology, especially the doctrine of the Trinity, in ways that were either on the verge of heresy or full heresy. With this there was some strife in the Christian circles of the Empire. To bring the groups together, and to get a central view of the doctrines, Emperor Constantine called the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325 AD. The purpose of this council was mainly to address Arianism. The view that the Son and the Spirit are merely Creations of the Father, thus not co-equal to Him. The Council’s goal was to explain the nature of God in a way that not only counters this view, but lays a basis for Christianity in the centuries to come.

The Nicene Creed was developed out of this meeting of the bishops at the Council of Nicaea. Accord-
ing to *Creeds of the Churches* “The Nicene Creed insisted that God has fully come into human history in Jesus Christ. It sought to make this clear through certain phrases.” Phrases such as “True God from true God,”; “Begotten, not made.”; as well as “Of one substance with the Father.” These phrases specifically show that Jesus Christ is of one Substance with the Father, that He is co-equal. Further, the Spirit is shown as co-equal, with the phrase “with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.” This creed was specifically aiming at Arianism, and taking away the basis of that belief. It is stating the full divinity of both Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The Nicene Creed is primarily used at the Eucharist. It began to be used after the Gospel in Antioch during the fifth century. This practice is still in use today. In the 1928 Book of Common Prayer this is where the creed is said, between the Gospel and the Sermon. In the 1979 Prayer Book it comes after the Sermon. This is set apart from the Apostles Creed in that the Apostles Creed is only said during Baptisms, and the Daily Office.

Now that I talked about what a creed is, where our Creeds came from, and the differences between them, I will look at some traditions around the creeds. Primarily looking at some of the things we do during the Nicene Creed. You may notice on Sunday mornings the church does some actions during the creed. These are done for a purpose. The first of which is where we face. When we say the creed the altar party faces the Altar. We do this because the Altar is facing East, when we say the Creed we face East. Another action is the simple bow of the head at the name of Jesus. We do this out of a sign of respect. Another action that you may notice is the solemn bow, bowing from the waist, during the words concerning the Incarnation. We do this in reverence of Jesus coming down from heaven and becoming man. It is a reverence to Jesus taking on flesh and blood. In some places the bow is extended until the rising from the grave, however most customs sees the bow end at the words “for our sake he was crucified...”. Finally it is customary to make the sign of the cross at the conclusion of the Nicene Creed.

So we see that creeds are expressions of our Faith. In our tradition we use two creeds, the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed. We say the Nicene Creed during the Eucharist, and the Apostles Creed is our baptismal creed said at baptisms and in the Daily Office. More importantly we see that the Creeds have a long history, and are more important than we may have realized. The creeds helped bring people to Christ, and helped keep the church together. They are not just something we say because it is in the prayer book. It is the basis of our faith, and we are joining centuries of Christians in our saying of them. This is why our creeds are a central part of our tradition.
PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH ON MISSION

Our Youth will be on their Mission Trip the week of July 16th through July 22nd
Pray that they may bless those they serve as they have been blest.
Happy Independence Day!
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
Dinner in All Saint’s Hall - 5:30 PM
Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday
Choir practice 5:00 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

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