Lent is a time of prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial. It is a season of preparation; preparing our hearts and souls for the anguish of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. It is not a time of sadness. It is a season of reflection.

We are now in the midst of the Lenten Season. How have you chosen to prepare your heart and soul to be in union with our Lord and Savior? As the opening paragraph indicates we are to prepare ourselves by engaging in four spiritual practices; Prayer, Penitence, Almsgiving, and Self Denial. Let's take a brief look at each one of them.

First, Prayer, this is something a Christian should be doing daily, not just during Lent. It is a time to lift our hearts to God the Father. We are to give him thanks for our blessing and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. We are to remind ourselves that while God invites our petitions in prayer, prayer should cause us to spend as much time listening for the still small voice of God. All too often we come before God with our petitions without giving a thought to the words of admonishment and guidance He has for us. Without prayer the soul loses its hold upon God and God soon fades away from the vision of those who pray. Without prayer there is no grounding for any other spiritual practice. The foundation for living and growing in faith is prayer. During Lent everything we do should be thus grounded in the communion with God the Father.

Penitence is what we normally think Lent is all about. We know we are sinners and must repent of our sins that we might be justified before God. Every Christian must hold fast to the faith that we are saved through Christ alone and not through any work or repentance we might do. A person might then ask, if this is the case then why the focus on penitence? Penitence is our heartfelt sorrow for the sins we have committed that led to Christ bearing those sins upon the cross for our redemption. It is His suffering, his bearing our sins that we grieve for His suffering. There are a number of spiritual disciplines we may exercise during Lent to help us to share in the sufferings of Christ. These disciplines in no way measure up to Christ’s suffering but they do allow a faithful person to focus on the reality of the repentance they feel and seek to share in the grace given us through Jesus’ atoning sacrifice. The first step in penitence is to make a good confession – regularly. Once again this should be something the faithful do on a regular basis. However, very few partake of the Sacrament. During Lent we have a

Continued on page 6
Church Safety

The parish held its first Trauma Response training on Saturday February 24th. Asst Chieff Joey Hudson of the Marshall Fire Department was on hand to train 30 plus individuals on how to treat wounds and triage individuals who are suffering from trauma wounds. All Trinity staff were trained on these first aid procedures as well as a number of parish volunteers. We are constantly seeking volunteers to receive this training. If you are interested contact the parish office at 903-938-4246.

In addition to the training the parish has also acquired an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, certified first responder, and basic life support (BLS) level cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes. We will be having training in the use of the AED and CPR in the near future that will be open to all parishioners.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Women to Women retreat
Saturday, March 10, 2018
9:30am - 4:00pm
Chapel at Hynson Springs
8902 FM 449
Marshall, TX

Please tell us if you are coming….want to have plenty of food!
A love offering will be collected

Facebook:  Sisters of the Promise
Email:  sistersofthepromise@gmail.com

Presented by: Sisters of the Promise Ministry

Rev. Debbie Daigle, Margot Lingold, Amanda Palmer & Tammy Pruitt
Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

Here in the middle of Lent I would like each of us to consider a question; How is Lent working in you? During Lent I usually read the book of Job. It is a study in how one man dealt with horrific tragedy in his life. Lent is a time for spiritual discipline. Why is spiritual discipline important in our lives? I believe it is because it is spiritual discipline that carries a person through the difficult times of life and helps them to truly cherish the important thing in life. The Book of Job tells the story of a man who struggled in living a life of faith and spiritual discipline in the first chapter of Job Satan says to God, “Does Job fear God for nothing?” (Job 1:9, RSV)

I often have to ask myself, “Am I a fair weather Christian?” It’s easy to be faithful when God has put a hedge around me. Make no mistake I have absolutely no desire to be tested as Job was. Yet, I often have to ask myself would I be like Job in 1:20 and fall on the ground in worship, or would I be like the Job Satan describes in verse eleven, a man who would surely curse God.

The Lord has richly blessed me, I have health, a wonderful wife, fine home, and enough income for us to live on. I am well set so it would seem. Yet, if all that was stripped from me would I be able to praise God, or would I in hurt cry out, “Why Lord?” In a sense I already know the answer; I would ask why. A number of years ago when Megan was quite ill I asked why. I know the answer now, but I didn’t then, so I asked. During the illness no answer was forth coming. Afterwards I realized that as a result of the illness I had learned to let God have more control, total sovereignty, over my life. I had learned to be patient and wait. I had truly learned to appreciate this wonderful women I love as not only my wife, but as my best friend, companion, and sister in Christ. God had blessed me through the illness of my wife. I had been unable to see it during the pain of watching her suffer, but then I had not looked for it either, I had simply asked over and over, “Why?” I had not searched or listened for an answer, I was too busy hurting to listen to God.

The lesson I learned from this is much like the title of a book I read one, When Bad Things Happen to Good People, by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner. God doesn't prevent bad things from happening to people just because they are Christian. In fact you can almost bet that if you are a Christian, Satan will attack you. God didn’t prevent Satan from attacking Job, nor after it was all over, did God given Job a reason for the attack. God might let us know why we suffer such and such, by the lessons we learn from the experience, but He might not. Who are we, the created, to ask the Creator for a reason? In my comfort it is easy to say that. But, could I say that if I was a Christian in a North Korean Labor Camp, or a Sudanese being tortured or sold into slavery? I would like to think I would rejoice in my Lord and my Savior Jesus Christ under any and all circumstances, but in all honesty, I truly don’t know. Each trial is a new experience to walk through by faith and I have to ask myself, “Do I have the faith of Job?”

Perhaps Satan could address that statement to God concerning me; “Does John fear God for nothing?” It takes on a totally different meaning when one sees their own name in that question. What I can always recall when I see that question is the passage in Scripture that our Lord tells us that He will take our yoke and we are to take His. I recall the passage where He tells us that we will never be given more than we can bear through Christ our Lord. That is comfort indeed, for I desire to lean only on His strength, to depend only on His wisdom, and to trust only in His love and grace. That is a spiritual discipline well worth acquiring.

Pax et Bonum.
Fr. John
**BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for March is as follows:
- Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays, March 14th and 28th at 11:30 (Bible Study begins at 12:00)
- Saturday, March 24th at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
  All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

**Second Sunday Supper**

**Sunday, March 11th**

4:30 - ?

Potluck dinner

Roy McCarroll's house
9669 FM 134 & Walker Rd.
Roy 903-926-5746
Everyone welcome

For directions see insert

**WOMEN OF TRINITY**

Why does time fly by so fast these days? Because February is such a short month (I think it has something to do with Sadie Hawkins Day dances...oops, gave my age away, but if you know what I'm talking about, you won't ever want to miss a Women of Trinity meeting 'cause you're our kind of gal.) But, I digress...it's an amazing time of the year in our church calendar, a time of soul-searching and strengthening our relationship with our Lord. Women of Trinity strives to bring interesting and thought-provoking programs to the monthly meetings as well as nurturing the camaraderie of attendees. Father Andrews was the speaker for the February meeting and he has a wonderful way of weaving his amazing sense of humor into a strong message to feed our souls. Hope you didn't miss that meeting, but if you did, you really need to circle the date of the next meeting right now, Wednesday, March 21...our own Gayle Weinberg is providing a book revue and if you've never had the chance to experience a "Gayle Weinberg" book revue, you're missing out! Plan to come and bring a guest, if you like. All women of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend Women of Trinity meetings. They take place on the third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m., after the 10 a.m. Eucharistic service, in the Guild Room of All Saints Hall. Programs are followed by lunch provided by members, with lots of fun and fellowship. Bring your suggestions for our annual May destination meeting. See you on March 21!
Birthdays

1. Matthew Hatch
2. Angela Bray
3. Teresea Whaley
4. Gary Hathaway
5. Susan Pool
6. Noah Martinez
7. Clarence Brown
8. Kristy Duncan
9. Kenneth Minatrea
10. Leanna Westergaard
11. James Craver
12. Candie Craver
13. Lowell Runyan
14. Phalby Porter
15. Hannah Slayer
16. Glenda Knutson
17. Paul Palmer
18. Louis Slayer
19. Jim Shelton
20. Christian Welch
21. James Welch
22. Oliver Briggle
23. Claudia Abney
24. Sutton Minatrea
25. Cate Truelove
26. Clarissa Martin
27. Marjorie Bray
28. Chase Tondee
29. Dianne Perkins
30. Juli Jameson
31. Landon Ellison
32. Sara Cope
33. Richard Toussaint

Church Financials and Attendance for January 2018

- Budget Income for 2018: $498,837
- Budget Expenses for 2018: $557,879
- Budget Difference for 2018: ($59,042)
- Income Received to Date: $58,138
- Expenses to Date: $47,302
- Income for the month: $58,138
- Expenses for the month: $47,302
- Difference for the month: $10,836
- Difference to Date: $10,836

2017  Present
Average Sunday: 150  160
Attendance to date:

Average Sunday: 150  160
Attendance for January:
Sunday Attendance to date: 751  799
Attendance all other Services: 789  653

Recipe

Fluffy Two Step Cheesecake

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust

In a large bowl beat together the cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Gently fold in the whipped topping. Spoon into the prepared crust. Refrigerate 3 hours, or until set.

You can spoon any flavor pie filling over top of cheesecake if desired

Anniversaries

8. Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Brown
12. Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Taylor
13. Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hathaway
16. Mr. & Mrs. Pat Furrh
25. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Abraham
28. Mr. & Mrs. John Bogue, Sr.
30. Mr. & Mrs. Bud Denney, Jr.
time in which we are invited to take part in this Sacrament as part of a Lenten discipline, and hopefully the Lenten practice becomes a keystone of a person’s spiritual life. It has been said that the Sacrament of Penance would not be needed if every Christian kept faithfully the Baptismal Covenant.

The reality is that we do not keep this Covenant and thus are in regular need of Confession. A second discipline a person may choose to take on as a Lenten discipline is to regularly pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. In this prayer one prays not merely for the repentance for their sins, but for the sins of the whole world. It is in regular Confession and through prayers such as the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which may be done individually or corporately, that a person lives into a penitential life.

We might not think of Almsgiving as a traditional Lenten Discipline. But, I would ask us to reconsider. The Christian faith calls the faithful to always care for those who are suffering and in need. Christ himself is the model for this discipline. Throughout the Gospels we see Him reaching out to those who are suffering and in need. Certainly Lent is a season that should help us see the needs of others in all there forms, physical, spiritual, and emotional. During Lent we focus on the suffering of Christ for our sins. This focus should help us to see those around us who are suffering and lead us to give of ourselves to help relieve their suffering. This is based upon the words of King David, “All thing come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” If we practice self-denial during Lent, which we should, it would be proper to take the cost of that which we denied ourselves and give it to help others. For example, if a person fasts for a day he or she could take the cost of food for that one day and give it to a local food bank. Thus our denial benefits us spiritual and helps another physically.

The last discipline I would like to address is Self-Denial. Fasting is abstinence from food or drink, in a secondary sense it can include all forms of self-denial. In this day and age with so many forms of media and secular events taking over our time and our lives, a person might choose to withdraw from taking part in some or all forms of media entertainment and secular things as a means of focusing their attention entirely upon God. The object of self-denial is to order one’s life in the right order, or priorities, first God, then others, and finally self. Keeping God in the forefront of our lives helps us seek His will rather than our own desires. For far too long we have lived in a cultural that tells us that the important thing in life is ourselves, this is a lie of the first magnitude promoted by the father of lies. For a man or woman to truly know the joy of life his or her focus must be on the giver of life.

As we practice any form Lenten Discipline we may find it difficult at first, for we are changing the focus of our life. However, after a time we will discover that these disciplines make our life fuller and richer because we are growing in our relationship with God. A person comes to recognize that God is indeed the provider of all things in heaven and on earth and that His love for us is made manifest to a greater extent in our life when we place Him first in our life.

Seek to live Lent in a state of joyful anticipation as a time of prayer, penitence, and almsgiving.
Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Last year the young families went on a camping trip. A group of us went to Shady Lakes Arkansas for the weekend. We ate together; fellowshipped together, sat around fires, and came to know more about each other. The best part about his experience, in this Priest’s opinion, was the final day together where our picnic table was transformed into an altar. We gathered around this makeshift altar, with the sound of the creek flowing behind us, worshiping God and receiving the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. This to me was a perfect way to end our weekend together. Although going to the lake and watching the children and youth swim before heading home came in a close second.

You see, we did not leave the church that weekend. We took it with us. We were the church out in the forest of Arkansas, and I think having Eucharist out in God’s creation was a great reminder that the church is where we are. I am willing to say, I don’t think any of us left that Sunday afternoon feeling like we did not have church. The church is more than just our buildings; the church is where we are. The church is where we go. In our liturgy we attest to this, that we must take Christ’s message to the world, in the dismissal.

The church is us, the body of Christ. We are the church, our community is the church. Now I wish to share some of the ways our young family ministry is truly turning into a community. First of all, Trinity began a quarterly parent’s night out. So far with each of these, the parents got together and ate dinner together. We once again have taken our little church community into the world to break bread together, and to grow in Christ together. At the beginning of the school year, we took our little church community to the swimming pool at the Country Club. There we once again broke bread together, in the form of pizza, and enjoyed fellowship as we ended the summer. At the end of the School year, there will be a young family game night, where once again we can come together for fun and fellowship. Finally from April 27th-28th we will travel up to Shady Lakes Arkansas once again for the Second Annual Young Family Campout. There we will bring church to the forest and break bread together. This little group has turned into a true community. It is because Trinity Episcopal Church has nourished them, and cared for them, and lifted them up. I for one am excited about this community, and am excited to see what God has in store for us this year.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XVI. Of Sin after Baptism: Not every deadly sin willingly committed after Baptism is sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after Baptism. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and by the grace of God we may arise again, and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned, which say, they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

Did you know that in the Episcopal Church we have private confession? Did you know it is as important in our faith tradition as it is in the Roman Catholic Church? We recite a confession every Sunday, all together. This is the general confession and absolution that makes us ready to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. However, some may need a little more, some may need a private personal confession where they can name the sins, and personally be assured of absolution along with some penance. In the Episcopal Church one is not required to seek out the Sacrament of Confession in order to receive the Eucharist, however many feel that it is necessary for them to seek it out. There is a saying in our church regarding the Sacrament of Confession, and it goes “all may, none must, some should.”

The question is why do we have a sacrament of confession? Why do baptized members of Christ’s body need to receive absolution? Didn’t his dying on the cross, and our baptisms make us clean? Well, yes and no. Yes he did conquer sin on the cross, and yes by our baptisms we are brought into one with Christ. However, we still fall into sin after our baptisms. Sin still has control over our lives, even after we are made a part of Christ’s body. We are a fallen people, and sin and lust still are a mighty temptation. This is why we seek out this sacrament, this is why we confess our sins corporately during the Mass. To remind us that even though we sin, God still forgives us, if we turn to Him.

The sixteenth Article in the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion speaks on this topic. That article deals with sin after baptism. It is a reminder that we fall into sin even after baptism. It reminds us that even after baptism sin goes against the Holy Spirit. It also reassures us that after we received the Holy Spirit in baptism the gift of repentance will not be denied. After we have received the grace of God we may depart from that grace given, but if we seek out God and amend our lives, we can rise again. This article sounds like we have no hope, but it is an article that is full of Hope. Hope in God’s grace and forgiveness, despite our sins.

In this commentary of the Sixteenth Article I will look at our understanding of sin after baptism. We will also explore the Sacrament of Confession, or the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent. Furthermore, we will look at how that differs from the General Confession of sins that we say before the Eucharist. We will see how our theology of Sin and Reconciliation is shaped around this Article.

First off, we will look at the Sixteenth Article and explore what it is saying. The first sentence points out that we will in fact sin after baptism. Notice the article does not leave room for the probability of sin. The article says, “not every sin committed after Baptism is sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable.” This sentence is showing that sin does happen after baptism. Let us look for a moment at our baptismal covenant. One of the questions we are asked is “Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?” Again, just like the Sixteenth Article, this question leaves no room for the possibility of sin. Rather it states that we will fall into sin. We understand as humans we are fallen, and sin is a reality. We cannot avoid it.

Both our Baptismal Covenant and the Sixteenth Article points out the reality of sin after baptism, luckily God does not hold that against us, if we turn to him. The second sentence of the Sixteenth Article leaves open the hope of repentance for all who turn to God. The second sentence points out that those who fall into sin shall not be denied repentance. When we turn to the Lord in confession, when we confess our sins and do penance, we will not be denied absolution. Let us back up for a moment to the beginning of the Article. It states that “not every deadly sin willingly committed after baptism is a sin against the Holy Ghost.” This sentence leaves open the possibility of some sins are unpardonable. Those would be sins against God, mortal sins, where we do not turn to God. St. Thomas Aquinas gave three ways these sins against God occur, “1. That an insult directed against any of the Three Divine Persons may be considered a sin against the Holy Spirit; and/or 2. That persisting in mortal sin till death, with final impenitence, as
Augustine proposed, frustrates the work of the Holy Spirit, to whom is appropriated the remission of sins; and/or 3. That sins against the quality of the Third Divine Person, being charity and goodness, are conducted in malice, in that they resist the inspirations of the Holy Spirit to turn away from or be delivered from evil.”

He was stating that blaspheming God, and not turning toward him after sin is unpardonable.

The final two sentences of the Sixteenth Article address how we receive the grace of God. In our baptisms God’s grace has been given to us, and we enter into union with Christ in his death and resurrection, we are also granted forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit. The article states that after we receive all this through the Holy Spirit, we may depart from that grace. It is by God’s grace that we may rise up again, that our departures from this grace are forgiven. The final sentence says that we are not condemned and when we truly repent, we cannot be denied forgiveness.

As we see this article points out the reality of Sin in our lives, and the need to turn to God for forgiveness of our sins. This is where we get the sacrament of confession, or as our Prayer Book calls it “The Reconciliation of a Penitent.” This Rite is not necessarily the same as the public confession we say each time we are at worship. For one thing the rite of reconciliation or confession is a private matter; one between the confessor and their priest. The Prayer Book states according to the rite that “The Reconciliation of a Penitent is available for all who desire it. It is not restricted to times of sickness. Confessions may be heard anytime and anywhere.” It shows that this sacrament is available to all who desire it, and it does not have to be on a deathbed. Some need to hear that they are forgiven, some need to name their sins and see that God has forgiven them for the named sins. Leonel Mitchell wrote in his book Pastoral and Occasional Liturgies that “in reconciliation the baptismal experience of death to sin and resurrection to newness of life is renewed.” In private confession we can experience this baptismal reality in a very real way, when we are pardoned for our sins, and once again share in new life with Christ. Any and all private confessions are held in strict confidence. The prayer book states that they are not normally a matter of discussion.

As we see in private confession, we are brought back into union with the church in a very personal way. After all, sin affects the whole body. Mitchell states that “Reconciliation is an act of Christ in his body the church. The priest hears the confession not only as a minister of Christ, who forgives sin, but also as a representative of the church, the community involved in and injured by the sins of its members.” This is why private confession is important to some, they want to name those sins that affect the body, and want to see that they are forgiven. Your priests here at Trinity can and do hear private confessions, just reach out to one of them and set up a time if you would like to take part in this sacrament.

As we see sin does happen, it is a part of our human nature. As the Sixteenth Article, and our baptismal covenant shows, when we sin we must go to God and confess and seek absolution from him. God does not hold sin over our heads, as long as we turn to him.
Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 PM Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Monday
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Tuesday
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Wednesday
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1928 BCP
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:30 PM Healing Mass Rite II

Maundy Thursday
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II and Foot Washing

Good Friday
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:00 PM Service of Tenebrae

Easter Sunday
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
MARCH 11, 2018
10:30 AM

TRINITY WILL CELEBRATE GIRLS SCOUT SUNDAY
TRINITY TROOP 7143
HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO OUR PARISH AND TO OUR LARGER COMMUNITY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
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
Micheal DeSa
Angela Bray
Clerk of the Vestry
Julie Trexler
Treasurer
Leana Westergaard
Carol Meyer
Kathleen Abraham
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
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
106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670
903-938-4246
http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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