



The Tripod

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • MARSHALL, TX
<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

Volume 14 Issue 11

November 2014

Trinity Episcopal Church:

Witnessing to the Power of God to Transform

Proclaiming God's Love and Joy for over 163 years in Marshall, Texas

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Thanksgiving Outreach



Each year the community of Marshall comes together to feed those in need a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Last year the Thanksgiving Outreach hosted by Trinity provided 1100 meals to members of our community. This year we are preparing to provide an equal number of meals.

While Trinity Hosts the event a number of churches and businesses in Marshall

help to make this ministry a reality. We could not do it without the involvement of all the churches, businesses, and volunteers that assist us. We praise God for the willingness of so many people to come together and serve Christ through serving others.

This year Lowell Runyan has chaired the effort to bring everything together and make it happen. Gary Beavers is our director on the ground on Thanksgiving Day to ensure that everything comes off without a hitch. Sadly, this is Gary's last year of directing the Thanksgiving effort. He has been involved in the Thanksgiving Outreach Ministry for over twenty years. Trinity gives thanks for his ministry to so many people and his patience with working with all the volunteers.

Sign up sheets for volunteers are posted on the bulleting board in All Saints' Hall. Please prayerfully consider joining us for an hour or so on Thanksgiving Day to help give others an opportunity to be as thankful for the day as we are. We are also inviting folks to become a "turkey". You become a turkey by donating the price of a turkey to Trinity. The donation is used to buy complete turkey breast which are provided by Bodacious BBQ at a discounted rate. We have found that these breast provide more meat than a regular turkey and allows us to provide as many meals as we do.

I pray that each of you a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving as you gather with friends and family to celebrate this holiday. Take a moment in the next few weeks to count your blessing and give that's to God for His love and grace poured out upon us.



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.

Shreveport Festival String Quartet



The gift of music touches the heart in so many ways. On October 18th the hearts of many were touched by the performance of the Shreveport Festival String Quartet led by Leonard Kacenjjar.

The Quartet performed pieces by Franz Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms and an original composition by Kermit Poling entitled Visions of the Blessed Virgin. This was the first public performance of the Poling composition and we were blest by having it included in the program.

The Concert series was provided to the entire Marshall Community through a grant for evangelism via our Junior Daughters of the King Chapter. Several Junior Daughters helped with welcoming people as they arrived and preparing the Wine and Cheese Reception that followed the concert.

Why First Communion?

First Communion is a tradition within the Church of preparing a child between the ages of four and six to participate in the Holy Eucharist. The class teaches the meaning of the Holy Eucharist and Christ's presence in the sacrament.

We will celebrate First Communion for a number of our children on Sunday, November 16th at the 10:30 Service.

Breakfast Hosts Needed

As most of you are aware we have a full breakfast almost every Sunday. It is a great time to visit with friends & family before heading to Sunday school. The cost for breakfast is only \$2 that's the best deal anywhere.

Currently we have six families & our Scout group that are serving, it would be great to get at least two more families, but many would be welcome. If we can get more people involved we would only need to serve between 5 or 6 times in a year.

As of today our families prepare for around 50-60 people, most have the same menu when they cook and the best thing it's really pretty easy.

If you are interested in this ministry you can contact the office or Gary Beavers. The sooner the better as I need to begin getting the schedule for 2015 in the works soon.

Thanks,

Gary

Rector's Meanderings

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

This past week one of our students at school asked me a question about a Bible passage. It was **Philippians 3:20** which says *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to like his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject all things to himself."* The student wanted to know what made a person a citizen.

When I was in the service I was frequently stationed overseas. Regardless of what my assignment was that resulted in my being overseas the briefing I received upon arrival in each country was basically the same. I was reminded that we are guests in the country, that I was an unofficial ambassador of the United States, that all that I said and did would reflect favorably or unfavorably on my country. This little talk was given to all service people and government personnel overseas. It was our government's desire to avoid what has been termed the "Ugly American".

As Christians we are in the same boat here in this world. We are in a place in which we are not citizens but merely sojourners. Our home is in heaven. We are here for a short time. We are here with a purpose; to announce the coming of a King, for Christ is returning and we will be transformed. Now, we each have a choice; we can be an ambassador for Jesus Christ, or we can be an "Ugly Christian". You might be familiar with the type, a sort, of prideful "I'm saved and your not, oh well" sort of Christian. A Christian whose faith is only known on a Sunday morning as they head to church, and their light is then hidden for the rest of the week. Or a Christian who claims to be a follower of Christ, yet their actions proclaim their submission to cultural values, rather than the tenets of faith. Or perhaps the truly nominal Christian who is never part of the body of Christ, never shares in fellowship yet claims a relationship with god based on a sort of personal revelation.

Our citizenship in heaven holds certain responsibilities as well as showers us with certain graces. We are to reflect Christ in a world that not only doesn't seem to know him, but has no desire to know him. We are to be a living alternative to the cultural norms around us; a culture that minimizes the sacredness of every life by referring to the slaughter of innocence as the exercise of choice, a culture that refers to hedonism as simply another lifestyle choice. A culture that speaks of inclusivity then exercises the exclusivity of those of whom the elites do not approve.

It isn't easy being a Christian, if you find that it is, you might want to spend some time in quiet reflection upon the depth of your faith, and just what it really means in your life. Our faith can require us to make hard choices. We are called to reject, father, mother, brother and sister, to put no one or no thing ahead of our commitment and relationship with Jesus Christ. Odd thing, though, when we do not allow anything to come between ourselves and Christ, the relationship with our father, mother, brother and sister are made richer, made fuller. It is one of the little graces we are blest with in this life.

Christ transforms us in this life and the next, We live in love in this life knowing Christ's gift to us, knowing the depth of his sacrifice for each and everyone of us – even though those who have rejected him - have benefited by his sacrifice. For the world is better off for having his presence in it, even for a brief moment of history. Christians will indeed have the same glorified body as Christ. He has gone to prepared place for us, if it were not so, he would not have told us. We look through human eyes and can't begin to comprehend the glory that awaits his ambassadors when they return home. But like all ambassadors we will be asked to give a report on our assignment. Pity the person who has nothing to report.



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.

Women of Trinity

This is not a loaded question...do you ever wonder "where on earth do they come up with these hymns and anthems" for our church services? Sure you do. But, believe it or not, there are reasons for the musical selections that are chosen. If this sounds like a rather dull topic for a program for the Women of Trinity, please don't tell Father John or Music Director Jim Johnson, because they get excited about the Legacy of the amazing history of Church Music that we celebrate here at Trinity Episcopal Church. On Wednesday, November 19, Women of Trinity will meet at the usual time...11 a.m., following the 10 a.m. service...only we'll meet in the Church, so that we have access to the wonderful Whaley organ. Jim Johnson, with assistant Sandy Toussaint, will try to answer that question for you and maybe even give you new insight into the musical side of our beloved liturgy...wish we could have our dedicated choir to help us illustrate and interpret, but you'll have to wait 'til Sundays for that. Also, on November 19, Women of Trinity are asked to bring toys and gifts for the Empty Stocking Fund, as we traditionally do...do not wrap the items, though. It's not just a fun thing to do, but such a worthwhile cause, so closely tied to Trinity Church...thank you, Lea McGee for the hard work you put into this project!! Between the beautiful music and the toys, we should lead you right into the Christmas spirit. Please join Women of Trinity on Wednesday, November 19, at 11 a.m. and the join us for lunch following the program.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Lunchtime Bible Study at Jucy's: November 12 and November 26 (12:00-1:00).
Monthly meeting is November 15 @ 10am in Fry Hall.

Men of Trinity

Next meeting: November 10 @ 5:30pm for dinner and fellowship. All men are invited!

Acolyte Sunday

Acolyte Sunday will be on November 30 at the 10:30 am service. All acolytes are asked to wear vestments & process for this service.

New acolytes will be installed and high school acolytes will be promoted!

Following the service a group picture of all acolytes & Fr. John will be taken.

Birthdays

3	Susan Bogue	16	Nora Brown
3	Carrie Weeks	17	Kirk Furrh
6	Mike Martin	18	Magda Altnau
6	Sarah Slayter	20	Spencer White
6	Sharon Lundgren	20	Linea Weaver
10	Sarah Hasty	20	Troy Simmons
11	Leena Patel	21	Jennifer Howard
12	Erik Howard	22	Gary Jackson
12	Greg Gani	22	Laura Rectenwald
12	Greg Gani	29	Jack Gray
15	Patty Whaley	30	Evey Heard

Anniversaries

9	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Brannon
9	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gray
15	Mr. & Mrs. David Cason
17	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Runyan
18	Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Truelove
24	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Minatrea
28	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Whaley

Church Financials and Attendance for September 2014

Budget Income for 2014	\$ 482,773						
Budget Expenses for 2014	\$ 484,854						
Budget Difference for 2014	(\$ 2,082)						
Income Received to Date	\$ 307,344						
Expenses to Date	\$ 317,656						
Income for the month	\$ 38,814						
Expenses for the month	\$ 37,033						
Difference for the month	\$ 1,781						
Difference to Date.....	(\$ 10,312)						
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Previous Month</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average Sunday</td> <td style="text-align: center;">160</td> <td style="text-align: center;">163</td> </tr> </table>		Previous Month	Present	Average Sunday	160	163
	Previous Month	Present					
Average Sunday	160	163					
Attendance to date							
Average Sunday	188						
Attendance for September							
Sunday Attendance to date	6205						
Attendance all other Services	7727						

Taco Soup

- 1 lb ground meat
- Can rotel
- Can pinto beans
- Can ranch style beans
- Can corn
- Can tomato sauce
- 1 pkg taco seasoning

- Brown meat & drain.
- Combine meat & all other ingredients in pot & bring to a boil & simmer 20 min.
- Serve with tortilla chips & cheese.



Daughters of the King

The Junior and Senior DOK at Trinity are conducting a joint service/ outreach project during November. We are collecting travel-size toiletry items for donation to a Women's Outreach mission. The junior and senior DOK will meet together on Sunday, November 16 to create special gift packages so that the toiletry gifts look beautiful! We are currently accepting donations of any and all travel-size toiletry items: soaps, lotions, shampoos, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

He Answered My Prayers

The Daughters of the King are embarking on a journey to be equipped to tell our stories about Jesus. Evangelism and storytelling help Christians convey truths that help others to know Jesus and to live for Him. So...here goes one of my stories about Jesus.

Driving along on the winding road between Harleton and New Diana shortly after I moved from Arkansas to Marshall, I prayed earnestly to the Lord about my financial circumstances. Those were the times of eighteen percent mortgages on homes and I had one in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Also, I was paying rent in Marshall that was higher than my house note in Pine Bluff. We had moved to Marshall with the promise that our company would pay our house note until it sold. We had just been told that they changed their minds. To say concern for the future weighed heavy was an understatement. I was six months away from receiving my Arkansas Teacher Retirement reimbursement and had just begun working a substitute teaching position which would soon end. Even if I had a job for the next year teaching, September was a long time away.

I talked out loud to the Lord that morning with words like *I've always paid my bills, we don't even have the money to move back, please help me, there are no answers*. Just as I rounded the next curve in the road, I looked to my left and standing in a field was the most beautiful buck, regal and proud. Catching my breath, I slowed and knew I had witnessed something spectacular and meaningful. My troubles tumbled back and I felt at peace as I readied myself to face the day.

The winding road at the end of that day was not as restful and prayerful a time for me. Tired and thinking about what to cook that night took precedence as I picked up the mail and headed into the house. Shuffling through the mail, I saw an unfamiliar envelope addressed to me from the Teacher Retirement Board. Tearing it open, I found a check for seven thousand dollars, my investment in the Arkansas Teacher Fund. There is no way I could have received it so early after leaving Arkansas. That money paid house payments for six months and we never went hungry. I paid my bills.

I still think about that day over thirty years ago and see the mercy and grace of Jesus standing in that field, answering my prayer in a miraculous way that had no other explanation. When I doubt, when I flounder, I remember how much God loves me and cares for me. God loves and cares for you too.

What Difference Does a Tithe Make



Our Core Values:

Commitment to Jesus Christ

Authority of Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leadership

We come to the close of our Stewardship effort on November 9th. During Stewardship time many folks ask what they should give to the Church, or if they should give anything at all. There are some folks that have given the same amount fro the last 25 years. How much has the cost of living gone up in the last 25 years? What do you expect the Church to do with the time talent and treasure that you give each year? I want to try and address some of that for you.

Here is what the ministries your tithe supports.: Children, Youth Ministries within the parish, \$2,500. Outreach Ministries helping those in need in the local community, \$20,250, Support of ministries with in the Diocese of Texas and beyond through our Diocesan Assessment, \$39,291. Feeding the hungry, \$10,000. this is out of a total budget of \$484,854. Our parish tithe, if you will, to help serve the people of God is 15% of our budget. I wish it could be more.

So what about the rest of the money in the budget, Where does it go? It funds the operations and maintenance of the parish; it pays salaries, fixes air conditioners, water pipes, organ pipes, down spouts. It does the things that keeps things running from day to day.

The last several years the vestry has done a very good job of watching costs and being good stewards of the funds entrusted to them. The parish staff has done a good job cutting cost where we could. Yet there are real costs to being in the world, even if we are not of the world. This is where each of us come in.

A tithe is something Scripture calls us to. In the Old Testament it is 10%. There are some parishioners who tithe 10%. There are some who work toward that goal starting and perhaps 2 or 3% and each year working up to achieve the 10% level. Your rector tithes at least 10% each year and he has challenged the vestry to commit to having 100% of the vestry to pledge.

The national average on giving to churches by their members is 2.3%. That is the lowest since before the Depression of the 1930's. the average here at Trinity over the last 10 years has been a bit better, 2.6%. But what if it was 10%. What if every family pledged and committed to growing into tithing. What would we be doing? Well, we would be Walking the Way. We would be participating in growing the Kingdom of God not just in our corner of the world, but literally around the world as we serve as a small part of the Anglican Communion.

All forms of our outreach have touched literally thousands of lives, both here in Marshall and in distant lands. The gifts of time talent and resources that each of you have offered has fed the hungry, brought new families into relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has helped to heal broken lives. Perhaps the impact isn't immediately visible to all, but these gifts have made a difference. It is my prayer that Trinity continues to make that sort of difference, it is my prayer that we can continue to reach out and help to transform lives for the love of Christ. Whether we can or not depends upon each of us making a prayerful commitment to financially support the work and ministry of the Church.

One of the first lives to be transformed by the gift of the tithe is our own. You see, when we strive to be faithful to what our Lord asks of us our lives begin to be transformed by the Lord's presence in our life. When a people humbles themselves before the Lord he honors that. As followers of Christ we seek to serve him in serving others. I pray that this year you and your family will pray over what our Lord is asking you to do to support the ministry of the parish and strive to Walk the Way.

Pledge Card Ingathering

If you have not turned it in already bring your pledge card to church on Nov. 9



*Behold, I come
among you as one
who serves.*

Luke 22:27

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

Lowell Runyan
Senior Warden

Junior Warden
Henry Henderson

Laura Rectenwald
Clerk of the Vestry

Bud Bray

Erik Howard

Terry Weeks

Paul Palmer

Randy Reeves

Clarence Brown

Cathy Cope

Matt Hatch

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

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