



The TRIPOD

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

Trinity Episcopal Church:

Witnessing to the Power of God to Transform

Proclaiming God's Love and Joy for over 162 years in Marshall, Texas

Volume 13 Issue 11

November 2013

Thanksgiving Outreach!



On the November 1st broadcast of The Talk of East Texas on KMHT radio Fr. John and Karen Neal were interviewed about our annual Thanksgiving Outreach. Karen and Eric Neal are chairs again this year. The interview was to let our community know that we are planning on a great Thanksgiving for the less fortunate in our community.

We are planning in preparing just over 1000 meals this year and we need some volunteers.

The ladies of Trinity form the Cranberry Brigade and prepare the Cranberries to send out a few days prior to Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving day we need folks to help cut and pack deserts starting around 8:30 AM, then folks to help pack meals starting about 9:30 AM. We also need drivers who can deliver the meals.

None of this happens without a great deal of help. A number of churches in the Marshall Community help with the side dishes of dressing, gravy and sweet potatoes. We at Trinity provide the turkey and the peas. We are asking people to donate the price of a turkey rather than purchase one this year. We are grateful to Bodacious Bar-BQ is providing the turkey at cost. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity there is a sign up sheet in All Saints Hall or you can call Stacey or Suzie at the parish office.

By the way, after we serve others, we sit down and have a great Thanksgiving meal ourselves. At least Chris Cope thought so last year.

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ACOLYTE SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 1st at the 10:30 Service we will honor and commission our Acolytes.

We have set this Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, aside to honor the ministry of our children and youth who have taken on this ministry of service to our Lord and to the Church.

Acolytes that have been serving will be promoted and our new Acolytes will be commissioned. Join us for this great celebration of ministry and support our children and youth.



Acolyte Sunday 2012.

Focus on
Parish
Ministry



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.

Vergers

The ministry of vergers goes back to the earliest days of the Church in England. During the Middle Ages churches were the focal point of village and city activities. The town market was normally located on the square that was in front of many churches. The doors of the church were never locked and there were several services throughout the day with people coming and going. Often times even livestock would wonder into the church just to check things out.

With several services taking place and the occasional livestock there was a need to order processions to



Trinity Vergers: left to right: C.B. Brown, Justin Briggie, now attending seminary, Frank Strauss, Walter Fugler and verger in training Chris Altnau.

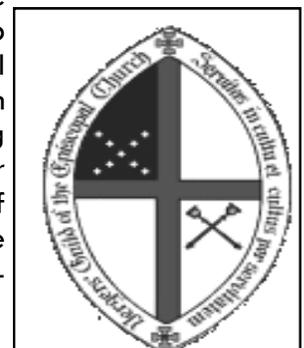


Above: Walter Fugler serving Bishop Doyle during the consecration of Fry and Selcer

get the altar party, choir, readers and the like into the church. The verger, who often served also as the sexton would lead the procession and clear the way through the people and live stock to allow the procession to reach the altar. The verge, the staff the verger carries was originally used to prod reluctant live stock and was also found useful in waking folks up who had fallen asleep.

Today vergers are not necessarily sextons, nor do they lead to move people or live stock out of the way. In fact most of the vergers work takes place behind the scene. They help

insure that everything is properly set for the service that all those who are involved in the procession are present and in the proper place. They assist during the service by escorting and directing people to the proper place at the proper time. In short, they make life much easier for the celebrant of the service by focusing on the logistical tasks that need to be done in good order so that the celebrant can focus on leading the worship.



Right: The Seal of the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church

Rector's Meanderings

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

One of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving. I think this is true for most Americans. We are a blest people. There is much to be thankful for and having a day which focuses on giving thanks to our Lord who has poured out His blessing upon us is an opportunity for each of us to consider just how fortunate we are. I would like to take a moment to express what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.

I am thankful for my wife Megan. She has and does love me unconditionally. She is my best friend with whom I can share anything at anytime knowing that her counsel will be wise and her understanding tender. She has endured hardship for our sake and always had a smile in tough times.

I am thankful for our children and grandchildren. I have been blest to see them grow straight and strong. The challenges of raising children are always there and I am grateful that in spite of my mistakes as a parent they have thrived.

I am thankful for the people who have touched my life and mentored me and through it all have imparted their wisdom and given their love and compassion all the while helping me to grow each day.

I am thankful for all those I have been fortunate enough to minister to over the years. I have seen grace made manifest in their lives. I have witnessed the power of God to comfort and transform lives in the midst of joy and crisis.

I am thankful for each member of this parish. I have been blest to be a part of your lives in sharing in Baptism, Confirmations, Weddings and even Funerals. In each of these sacramental portions of your lives you have graciously permitted me to be present with you. It is my prayer that I have been at least a portion of the blessings that each of you are to me.

Ultimately I am thankful to God for all that he has poured out upon me. I am thankful for His forgiveness in the person of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks that he has walked with me throughout my life even though there were times I wanted to walk alone. He would not abandon me and guided me back to the place He knew I needed to be. I am thankful that he has shown me forgiveness when I didn't deserve it. I am thankful that He has His grace to become a guiding principle of my life. I am thankful that he called me, an unworthy servant to be an instrument of His grace, and His patience with me for all the times that I have failed Him. More than anything I am thankful for His unconditional love. A love that breaks the bands of time and reaches beyond anything I can understand or even convey. It is a love that has transformed my life and my outlook on life to one that led me from selfish desire to one of recognizing that I am here in this world at this time not to be served but to be blest for the opportunity to serve others.

I have so much to be thankful for this year that these words are a poor expression of that thanksgiving. It is my prayer that each of you have much to be thankful for as well and that you can share that thanksgiving with others, with family, friends, and our Lord. We cannot thank God too much or praise Him too often. He is a gracious God who never forgets His children.

Pax et Bonum.
Fr. John



**GIVE
THANKS
TO THE
LORD
ALWAYS,
AGAIN I
SAY GIVE
THANKS!**



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.

Update on the Briggles

I can't believe that almost three months have passed since we last saw y'all and Texas soil. Time is flying in Sewanee. We made the move safely here and were greeted by some twenty seminarians and family members in front of our new home. They made quick work of unloading the truck and even had dinner in the oven! We were able to get everything unboxed, put away, and pictures hung on the wall before school started. Thank you all for your many prayers surrounding our transition.

Now for a quick update on our family. Justin loves his classes and is staying quite busy with all of his reading and assignments. He is currently taking Old Testament I, New Testament I, Church History, and, his favorite, Christian Spirituality in which he has written two essays (on Baptism and the Church Calendar). He is also enjoying the time he gets to spend attending and serving at The Chapel of the Apostles and All Saints' Chapel. He is working hard at balancing family time with the demands placed on him at seminary.

I am really enjoying working on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Parents Morning Out which is located in the School of Theology building. I am also looking forward to starting a couple of book studies with other spouses soon.

Marcus loves Pre-k at Sewanee Elementary School. He is starting to recognize words and is showing a lot of interest in reading! He is also playing soccer and seems to be enjoying it.

Oliver really likes being a part of Parents Morning Out and is making new friends. He loves to go to the park, right by our house, and swing.

Every Thursday night we attend Community Eucharist which is held in the Chapel of the Apostles which is next to the School of Theology. It is a great time to worship with other seminarians and their families, eat dinner together, and the children have a class afterwards. Marcus will be serving as Crucifer at this week's service!

Justin and I recently enjoyed a visit from Bishop Suffragan Dena Harrison and her husband Larry. We had a wonderful dinner and it was great to learn more about the Diocese of Texas. Justin learned that he is to look for a large parish for his future field education experience (beginning in his second year).

We should be closing on our house in Marshall this week. Thanks be to God!

We ask for your continued prayers during this time and thank you for all of your support in this wonderful journey!

Justin, Dawn, Marcus, and Oliver



Birthdays

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

Church Financials and Attendance for September 2013

Budget Income for 2013	\$ 443,572
Budget Expenses for 2013	\$ 521,160
Budget Difference for 2013	(\$ 77,588)
Income Received to Date	\$ 329,447
Expenses to Date	(\$ 367,919)
Income for the month	\$ 36,097
Expenses for the month	\$ 33,268
Difference for the month	(\$ 2,830)
Difference to Date.....	(\$ 38,472)

Average Sunday Attendance to date	170
Average Sunday Attendance for September	164
Total Sunday Attendance to date	6636
Total Attendance all other Services	7895

A Vestry Person's Perspective on Stewardship

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
19 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Rutherford
24 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Minatrea
27 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Whaley
28 Mr. & Mrs. Roy McCarroll

One of my favorite bible stories is that of Jonah. Jonah knows what he is called to do, but instead he tries to hide from God aboard a ship. Of course, this does not work. God eventually convinces Jonah to meet his obligations by literally rocking the boat. In lieu of drowning, God provided Jonah with some quality time to think over his options, and ultimately Jonah accepted (like he had any choice!).

Right now the skies are pretty dark. Our budget exceeds our revenue, and we are in critical need of all available time, talent, and resources. God has a job for each one of us that will calm the seas. If you are able to support or lead a ministry of the church please pray and contact Father John so he can help you get involved. No contribution is too small. What do you enjoy? What gifts has God given you? In what additional ways could you use these gifts for God?

As I write, I am thinking of you, my church family members and the special things I have seen you do for God: praying, cooking, preaching, singing, writing, hosting, knitting, ironing, meeting, hugging, shopping, smiling, repairing, creating, including, planning, listening, caring, teaching, remembering, building. Thank you so much for all you have done and will continue to do.

We welcome articles for the Tripod if you or a ministry you are a part of would like to submit and article please have it to the parish office by the 15th of the month.

Just in Time for Christmas - Christmas Nativities!

A Junior DOK Service Project

You may have seen the beautiful nativity displays in the Parish Hall. These were created by the Junior DOK and many helpful volunteers as a service project. The Juniors have given these handcrafted displays to the church. The church is selling them in order to raise money for the many outreach ministries which we support in the parish. Please consider purchasing a nativity set for your home and one to give a friend. Suggested donation of \$35 for each set.



painting



Special thanks to Mike Jeffries who cut and prepared every one of the wood blocks and then brought tools to help in finishing.

Many great parent volunteers helped finish out a day of painting.



Our Core Values:

Commitment
to Jesus Christ

Authority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leadership

Youth Report

October Campout & November 6 Meeting

On October 12, we held our second annual Sukkot. We camped out at the beautiful Camp Fern (We are so thankful Mrs. Margaret allowed us to use the facilities!). It was a bit rainy but we survived. The weather wasn't perfect but we had fun nevertheless. Our youth played games, and many of them were games that intentionally facilitated teamwork and learning. We had some great food and lodging, thanks to the Boy Scouts under the leadership of Mike Brannon. On the spiritual side of things, I taught three lessons. The lessons were about the fact that we belong to God through our faith in Christ Jesus and that we also belong to each other, as we all are part of God's family. We are all "one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). And this unity is "a good and pleasant thing" (Psalm 133:1). And because we belong to each other, we must be faithful to each other, especially by not skipping out on church meetings, because we are responsible for building up each other (Hebrews 10:24-25). It was a great campout this year. Thank you for your prayers.

Also, every first Wednesday of the month, our Youth Coordination Committee will meet immediately following EYC (about 7:10 PM). Although we have a "committee," this meeting is for everyone involved in Trinity youth. Parents and students can attend and participate. If you are a parent, I strongly encourage you to make this meeting something you try to attend each month. The purpose of these meetings is to plan and coordinate youth events and activities.

God's peace,

Scott





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

Luke 22:27

Parish Staff

Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector

Scott Rutherford
Youth Minister

Caroline Bump
*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

Tony Pierce
Senior Warden

Bud Bray
Junior Warden

Laura Rectenwald
Clerk of the Vestry

Matt Hatch

Henry Henderson

Erik Howard

Eric Neal

Mary Price

Lowell Runyan

Ann Brannon

Paul Palmer

David Thomas

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

Youth Program - 5:30 PM

Dinner in All Saint's Hall - 5:30 PM

Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday

Meals on Wheels - 10:45 AM

Choir Rehearsal - 5:15 PM

Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM



Trinity Episcopal Church

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