



THE TRIPOD

Trinity Episcopal Church & School

<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

<http://www.trinitymarshall.org>

Volume 17 Issue 11

November 2017

Trinity Episcopal Church:

*Witnessing to
the Power of
God to
Transform*

*Proclaiming God's
Love and Joy for
over 166 years in*

Inside this issue:

First Communion	1
Parish Meeting, Children's ministry up- date	2
Rector's Reflection	3
Outreach Report Second Sunday Singles Supporting Families and Children	4
Birthdays/ Anniversaries	5
Fall Concert	6
Curate Column	7
Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion—Article 12	8
Coming Events	10

First Communion at Trinity!



On Sunday October 8th Trinity Episcopal Church celebrated four wonderful children's first communion. These children spent a few weeks learning and exploring the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in preparation for receiving Christ's body and blood present in the bread and wine. Before the 1979 prayer book's revision communion was only given to those who have

been confirmed. One of the changes in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer was that the Holy Eucharist was available to all baptized, meaning no longer would one have to be confirmed to receive Communion. However, according to Article 28 of the 39 articles one must rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the sacrament. Because of this, many families wish for their children to be taught about the sacrament before they receive.

This year Bridget Miller, Jack DeSa, Kirkley Lewis, and Kensley Ellison received their first communion together with their family, friends, and the congregation gathered. They also received a rosary to begin this new chapter of their Christian journeys.

Please join with us in congratulating these four children and their families as they embark on this new phase of their Christian lives where they will begin to receive the sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ truly present in the bread and wine.





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.

2017 Parish Meeting

Over the past year your vestry has been working hard on the process of discerning God's Holy Vision for Trinity Episcopal Church. We began this process at our vestry retreat in February, and it culminated in the vestry submitting choices for God's Holy Vision. Out of their work three Holy Visions were submitted to the parish at its annual meeting. The parish then voted on the new Holy Vision for Trinity. That Holy Vision the parish will move forward with is **"In glorifying God, we the members of Trinity Church, will foster a unified parish, demonstrate our spirituality with an open heart, and reflect in our actions the good news of the Holy Spirit to all members of our church and the community."** The parish also voted for the new vestry members who will serve the parish, as well as the new diocesan delegates who will serve us at council. The newest vestry members beginning next year are Chris Altnau, Margot Lingold, Steve Lewis, and Robert Perkins. The newest delegates are Rae Dickson, Carol Meyer, Tony Pierce, and Julie Trexler. Thank you to all who will serve the church, and thank you to our outgoing vestry members and delegates who have served. Finally, the vestry also submitted the parish's 2018 budget. The vestry voted to keep Fr. Andrew, and added that to the budget. Thank you to all who came out to participate in the 2017 Parish Meeting. This is an exciting time for our parish, as we begin to grasp and live out God's Holy Vision for us.

Children's Ministry Needs Assistance!

We have wonderful news! Our Children's Ministry is growing! My Sunday school classroom is bursting with bright young children who are eager to learn more about God and about the wonderful traditions of our church! These are the very things that we have prayed for over the last number of years and in my time as Children's Ministry Director over the last two years I have been so blessed to see my classroom continue to fill up. In fact, we are bursting at the seams and it is time to expand.

And we could use your help! We are looking for teachers and classroom assistants to come help with this wonderful and vibrant ministry within our parish! Our classes are set to split to better accommodate our age ranges. As you may know I currently teach all children K-5th grade. We will be helping to divide those age groups to better be able to meet the needs of each group of children. The first Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018, will be our official transition date and I will be working on training and preparing all teachers and volunteers and our classrooms between now and then.

If you feel that God is calling you to this ministry, please reach out to me by either phone 512-673-7906 or by email at magdalena.altнау@gmail.com. Children's Formation is a wonderful ministry and watching our parish's children grow in their walk with Christ is a immense blessing, I promise!

Warmly and FHS

Magdalena Altnau

**Our Children's Ministry
IS BLASTING OFF!
AND WE NEED
YOU!**

**TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS
NEEDED!**

**AS OUR PROGRAM IS GROWING AND
EXPANDING!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF HOW YOU CAN
BECOME A PART OF THIS VIBRANT AND GROWING
MINISTRY WITHIN OUR PARISH,
CONTACT **MAGDALENA ALTNAU** AT 512.673.7906 OR
AT MAGDALENA.ALTNAU@GMAIL.COM

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH | MARSHALL, TEXAS

Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

The passage from Sirach in the side bar pretty much describes the way I felt upon learning of the mass shooting in Las Vegas on October 1st. Each of us has the choice of life or death. We can choose life or death in the context of our own lives. That is, we can choose eternal life with Christ by faith or we can choose eternal death by turning from Christ. But our choice can also impact life or death for another.

The shooter in Las Vegas chose death and his choice impacted the lives of those whom he murdered. His alienation for God resulted in his evil attack on others. I am sure that in the list of those murdered and those wounded you will find those who are Christian, Jews, atheists, agnostics and perhaps just about anything else. So where was God in the midst of all this?

We cannot blame God for our choices, or someone else's choices. We have been given free will and each person is responsible for their own actions. Many of us choose to live in a myopic world. We only see that which we choose to see and then only colored with our own viewpoint. I often hear phrases like, "my God would never do...." Or, "A loving God could never...." The danger is that with

each of these sayings we are saying what sounds fair, as far as human understanding is concerned and what we would do if we were God, which we are not. Unfortunately, our understanding of God could honestly be put in a thimble. As for what we would do if we were God; I won't even dignify that with a response, other than how can the created judge the creator?

At birth and throughout life we encounter crossroads, we can walk down the path called life, or the one called death. Life leads to eternal life, and death, well, to eternal separation from the one who gives us life. Throughout our lives, we come to crossroads and are free to choose. When we reach the end of our lives and find that the roads we have all chosen have led to death how can we fault God? We made the decisions. An individual might respond, "I didn't know?" What is the more accurate response is, "I didn't want to find out."

People create their own fantasies. They want to believe such and such because they find comfort in it. Well, we can find comfort in the wrong things. Those things can lead to death. We do not have to like that statement for it to be true, but we do have to live with it. A friend of mine once said, "Well, that's okay for you, but I choose not to believe that." What he failed to understand was, that in his choice, he did more than choose to disregard the witness I was giving him, he was not believing the word of God.

A problem many people have is their interpretation of Scripture. They will use one passage over and against another. Or twist the meaning of a passage to prove their point. Scripture must be taken as a whole and in context. God does judge, and God does forgive. In judgment His judgement is totally just, He doesn't do a thing to us that we haven't earned. In forgiveness, He forgives totally, and remembers not one sin. Not because we are such charming people, but because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He paid our debt. However, Jesus himself calls us to repentance. In short we must repent of our sins, for God to forgive them. To assume that God has to let us in the door because; a) Jesus did it for us, or b) we nice people; is to be on a slope that leads to the fires of hell with absolutely no one to blame but yourself.

The shooter in Las Vegas was evil and his acts were evil. Innocent people suffered and died in the evil he perpetrated. Yet in the days that have followed I have not heard one broadcast nor read one article that examined the nature of evil and how it destroys humanity. There have been those who said the act was evil. But, that means little if you do not cast light on the one who is evil. To simply say it is evil is to minimize the horror of evil in all its manifestations. The only way for evil to be addressed is in the light of Christ. To name it and to name Satan as the one responsible and to acknowledge that there are those who chose to follow him and the spew the death that he spreads. Never fear naming evil for what it is—Satan's handy work.

Sirach

15:17

*Before each
person are
life and
death, and
whichever
one chooses
will be*

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 congrega-
tional 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, October 11th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)

Saturday, October 28th at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
All men of the parish are invited to attend either of the meetings.

Second Sunday Singles Dinner

A new ministry is beginning at Trinity. The Second Sunday Singles Dinner provides an opportunity for single adults of all ages to gather for dinner and fellowship. The First dinner will be on Sunday, November, 12th 2017. The first gathering will be at the home of Margot Lingold located at 3254 Goforth Rd., Marshall, Texas and dinner will be from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish of their choice to share. For further information contact Margot at 903-926-0991.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee wants to remind each member of Trinity Church that every one of us serves as an ex-officio member of this committee...we like to hear your recommendations and suggestions as to how Trinity can better serve our Lord, by serving our community. Each of us should prayerfully consider some involvement or volunteering for some of the very worthwhile programs serving the "underserved" in Harrison County and surrounding areas. The Committee works hard to monitor and work with the programs that we select to support, to be faithful stewards of the monies allocated to our mission by the Vestry. We would welcome creative fund-raising ideas, fun activities that would build awareness as well as raise money for all the needs that we see "out there." We need your help...you can make a difference to someone in need. Don't forget, on the 4th Sunday of each month, when you walk the path to take communion...don't just walk past the collection plate, consider His words, "When ye do it unto the least of these, My brethren, ye do it unto Me."

WOMEN OF TRINITY

You could have heard a pin drop when Dr. Warren Johnson from ETBU presented his program to those of us who attended the October meeting of Women of Trinity...he made us feel like we were actually living during the time of Christ, the way our lives would have been then, the way society was in those days. See what you missed if you had to miss that meeting. But, hey, you don't have to miss the next meeting, because it's coming up on November 15 and we'll have another opportunity to experience a different existence when Edwina Thomas whisks us away(the only thing you need to bring with you is your attention and your imagination)...to her latest Mission trip to Africa. Please make note on all your calendars that Women of Trinity will be meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, in the Guild Room of All Saints Hall. In October, Peggy Tracy and Jeanette Shelton provided a wonderful salad and sandwich lunch and topped it off with a pumpkin cake that reminded us that it actually is Fall. November's meeting is when members bring unwrapped toys for those children who are less fortunate and will have merrier Christmas, thanks to the Empty Stocking Fund (a tradition founded by the Reverend Henry Selcer of our own Trinity Church). Many thanks to Lea McGee for all she does to keep this amazing project going. See you on November 15...bring a friend, a toy, enjoy a great program and a wonderful lunch to be served by Jackie Weeks and Susie Bogue. See you on November 15!

Birthdays

3 Susan Bogue	15 Patty Whaley
3 Carrie Weeks	16 Nora Brown
6 Sarah Slayter	16 Elizabeth Williams
6 Sharon Lundgren	18 Magda Altnau
10 Sarah Hasty	20 Spencer White
11 Bill Pool	20 Troy Simmons
12 Greg Gani	22 Gary Jackson
14 Ty Craver	22 Laura Rectenwald
	29 Jack Gray

Anniversaries

9	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Brannon
9	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gray
18	Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Truelove
18	Mr. & Mrs. Dick Tracy
24	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Minatrea

Church Financials and Attendance for September 2017

Budget Income for 2017	\$508,664
Budget Expenses for 2017	\$546,091
Budget Difference for 2017	(\$ 37,427)
Income Received to Date	\$291,205
Expenses to Date	(\$304,470)
Income for the month	\$ 37,727
Expenses for the month	\$ 37,416
Difference for the month	\$ 311
Difference to Date.....	(\$ 13,264)
	2016 Present
Average Sunday Attendance to date	173 160
Average Sunday Attendance for September	145 168
Sunday Attendance to date	6581 6229
Attendance all other Services	6837 7307

In-Gathering Sunday

Our in-gathering, where we will offer up our pledges, will take place Sunday November 26th Please mark your calendars and make plans to bring your pledges for the upcoming year. If you are unable to make it on that day, or if you forget to bring your pledge than they can still be turned in after that date.

Please continue to pray how you can support the church for 2018 so that we can continue to do the work of ministry in building up the Kingdom of God in Marshall TX and Harrison County.

The Annual Memorial Summerford-Parker Fall Concert

For the past two years Trinity Episcopal Church has hosted the Fall Concert with help from a grant given by the Diocese of Texas. Over these past couple of years The Shreveport Festival String Quartet led by Leonard Kacenjor has graced us with their music. However, in 2016 the grant was set to expire. In stepped the family of Wanda Summerford-Parker to save the concert. Her husband Andy Parker decided to sponsor the Fall Concert in her memory to ensure that it continues into the future.

This year as in years past, the String Quartet performed original Kermit Polling compositions celebrating the lives of the Saints. Many from the community attended the concert, including the family of Wanda Summerford-Parker. Following the concert was a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Daughters of the King. It was a wonderful night of music and fellowship. If you could not make it out this year, you have another chance to enjoy this night of music next year. Mark your calendars!

We are grateful for the support of Wanda's family, as well as the gift of music given to us by the Shreveport Symphony String Quartet. We are already looking forward to next year's Annual Memorial Summerford-Parker Fall Concert.



Curate Corner



Our Core Values:

Commitment
to Jesus Christ

Authority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-
ship

Hello friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I was sitting in the Fall Concert listening to the beautiful music being made and was mesmerized. Not just by the music, which was awe inspiring, but by how the music is made. I was watching as the leader motioned to the other members of the quartet to begin. They all would then begin playing at the same moment. I was watching the bows moving at the same time. All four of the musicians worked perfectly together to make the music. It struck me how much they relied on each other to make the music happen. How each person



had their own pieces to play, as well as three different instruments. If one was not ready, the whole piece would be off. I watched as they waited for different members to tune their instruments. They could not go on without that vital person. You see, they all had a vital part to play. Alone they would not be able to play the pieces that we heard, but together they could. It was great to see this working together make beautiful music.

I could not help but think about the Church when listening to the Shreveport Festival String Quartet. This is how the church works, like a quartet, or an orchestra. We are all given gifts by God, gifts we can use for the church. Some have musical gifts, like the Shreveport Festival String Quartet, that they use to the glory of God. Some of us don't. However, we all have a spiritual gift. If we do not use them we are missing out on the opportunity to participate in Kingdom building.

Paul used the metaphor of the church as a body. If part of the body does not work the whole body suffers. If we are not working together in ministry, the church suffers. If we are not playing our part, the ministry can't happen. If we are not bringing our own gifts, the work of building up the Kingdom is much more difficult. I urge us all in this stewardship season to explore ways we can not only give resources, but also ways we can give ourselves. In the Rite 1 Eucharistic Prayer we say we offer up ourselves, our souls and bodies. When we offer up ourselves, the work of ministry can happen. The work of bringing the kingdom of God to Marshall will happen. We can be like the Shreveport Festival String Quartet, and work together to make something beautiful. We can bring the church to the world.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew

Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XII. Of Good Works: *Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's Judgement; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.*

One of the key issues the reformers brought up as a reason to reform the western church was the idea of good works. They argued that good works were not sufficient for salvation. Their purpose was to get back to scripture being the basis of the church's faith, and they viewed this notion as scripturally based. This question of what grants salvation, works or faith has been a long running debate among theologians, both catholic and protestant. However, the problem's the reformers saw with the idea that works alone grants salvation came from the sale of indulgences. This was what set the reformation in motion, as it was the practice with the most opposition amongst reformers. "An indulgence was a payment to the Catholic Church that purchased an exemption from punishment for some types of sins." The idea that someone could buy their way out of purgatory and into heaven did not sit well with the reformers, especially since the selling of the indulgences was one way the church paid for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica. This in part led Martin Luther to write his Ninety-Five Theses. Thesis number forty dealt with this, "Papal Indulgences must be preached with caution, lest people erroneously think they are preferable to other good works of love." It is important to note that he is not saying good works are bad, in fact in thesis forty-three he says Christians are to be taught that giving to the poor and needy is a better deed than one who buys indulgences.

Here we see an idea that good works, IE, buying indulgences is not sufficient for salvation. Eventually the reformers began looking at the issue of works alone as not being sufficient. Reformer Ulrich Zwingli said of Good Works, "Christ is our Righteousness. Therefore, we conclude that works are good insofar as they are of Christ, but insofar as they are only our own, they are not right and good." Here Zwingli is saying if works are not done of Christ they are not good.

This brings us to our own twelfth article of religion on good works. The framers of the Thirty-Nine Articles were of the reformed mind. They followed the beliefs that the other reformers followed regarding works. This is where we get the twelfth article. In this article I will show what the writers meant by good works, and what they are saying. I will show that they are saying works are not bad. Rather, they are pointing out where our Good Works must come from. As well as warning that good works alone will not grant salvation.

Article twelve goes with articles eleven and thirteen, all dealing with justification; that being salvation. In this article it lays out what good works are. First it lays out the idea that good works are the fruit of our faith. It is making a point to show that works are important. They are something that is required of Christians. In St. Matthew's Gospel Jesus says "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." We are told to do good works so that others can see God's glory. St. Paul told the Ephesians that we have been "created in Christ for good works" We have been created to do good works, to care for the world and creation. The writers of the thirty-nine articles saw this.

There seems to be a misunderstanding that the reformers disregarded good works, but that is not the case. As I have shown above, they did view good works as a biblical necessity. Further into the article it states works are pleasing and acceptable to God. What they wanted to avoid, however, was an issue that led to the reformation. That a human can decide which good works gains salvation. Or that a person can hold others salvation, and judge those works, as a means to gaining salvation. This article makes it

clear that this is not the case. It first states that good works follows justification. That being, through Christ alone do we receive salvation. Through faith in him, and in his word spoken through scripture we are justified. We are not justified by our actions, but by him through our faith. Before the reformation, and even today, many think that our works done is enough to receive salvation; article nine and ten say otherwise. It is after we receive salvation, after we justified by our faith in Christ we are even able to do the good works. If we are not justified our works mean nothing. If they are not done for Christ, they mean nothing. This gets around the issue of one person deciding what good works must be done. Or even one person granting other's passage to heaven, as was the case in the sale of indulgences.

Another point article twelve makes is that our works do not put away our sins. It points out that even if we do good works we can still receive God's judgement. That is if we do the works without faith. Going back to the sale of indulgences, all one had to do to gain salvation was buy their way into it. This is a problem, because it ignores faith in Christ. While our good works are pleasing to God and a requirement as Christians, they do not forgive us our sins. The only way we are forgiven of our sins is to go to Christ. One of our sacraments is reconciliation, or confession. In that sacrament we turn to Christ with our sins, turn them over to him. We faithfully go to him because we acknowledge that it is only through him we receive forgiveness. It is not the priest who forgives us, it is Christ. In that rite we do not say there are works that must be done to receive salvation, just faith in Christ. This is based on the notion that our works cannot put away our sins.

So why do good works at all? For one as I stated, Christ commanded us to do good works. As did the apostles, St. James said as much in his letter. We are commanded to do works. God created us to care for the world, to care for His creation. This requires our good works. So the question is where does good works come from? According to article twelve they spring forth out of a true and lively faith. It is saying that our works should be based on our faith. The last sentence states "insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit." It is saying that our works should show our faith clearly. Not only that, it should show God's glory. If not, it is not a good work, and it is not pleasing to God. Our works should show him.

Too often we see people who say I have done good things, therefore I should receive salvation. Or people who try to do a lot of good things in hopes that it will be enough to forgive of their sins. This article and the reformers showed that this is not the case. In a way this is freeing and liberating. We should not worry about how good we look, or all the great things we do. We should not have to worry about buying our way into heaven. All we have to worry about is having faith in Jesus Christ, and going to him for forgiveness. If we do that, our good works will naturally show forth in our lives. This is what the twelfth article is saying, that works are good, but are not the basis of our salvation. Only Christ is where we receive our salvation, and that is a good thing. That takes the burden off of us.

i. Background to "Against the Sale of Indulgences" by Martin Luther. <http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his101/web/37luther.htm>

ii. Mark Knoll, *Confession and Catechisms of the Reformation*, The Ninety-Five Theses of Martin Luther, 32

iii. *Ibid*, 32

iv. Mark Knoll, *Confession and Catechisms of the Reformation*, The Sixty-Seven Articles of Ulrich Zwingli (1523), 41

v. Matthew 5:16, NRSV

vi. Ephesians 2:10



THANKSGIVING OUTREACH



**HELP MAKE THIS A GREAT THANKS
GIVING OUTREACH BY DONATING
FOR TURKEY TO FEED OUR
NEIGHBORS. YOU'LL GET A TURKEY
STICK-UP HONORING YOUR
DONATION**

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Children's Choir

Children K-5th Grade

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

PSALM 95:1





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

Luke 22:27

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

Jackie Weeks

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

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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