Call for prayers for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Trinity will take place on Sunday, October 1st at 9:15 AM. Every parishioner is urged to attend the meeting. There is important parish business that will be decided.

The 2018 Parish budget will be presented to the parish for approval. This will set the foundation for living into the Holy Vision that the parish will also be asked to approve. The 2018 vestry will focus on implementing that vision with the resources provided by the 2018 Budget.

The vestry has spent a great deal of time in 2017 listening and discerning what the Holy Vision is calling Trinity to become as His faithful witness in our larger community of Marshall and Harrison Country. The vestry is in the final stages of refining that vision to present to the parish. Each parishioner is encouraged to be in prayer during the month of September that our Lord might give us clarity in grasping the vision He has for our parish and pray for courage that we all might faithful live into that vision. We will proceed in living into God’s Vision for Trinity in faith that He will provide the means for His will to be made manifest in the lives of our parishioners and in the corporate life of the parish.

At the Parish Meeting we will also be electing four new vestry members. Ken Kerr, Joel True-love, Doug Jager and Cindy Cain will be rotating off the vestry. They have served well and faithfully for the last three years and each of us owes them a debt of thanks for their ministry to our parish. The new members of the vestry will join the existing vestry in implementing the ministries that grow and continue based on the Holy Vision the parish developed.

We will also be electing four delegates to the Diocese of Texas Annual Council to be held in Waco, Texas in February of 2018. Serving as a delegate is a vital role in the life of the Diocese. At Council our delegates will be asked to approve the Diocesan budget and fund diocesan programs that affect ministry throughout the Diocese of Texas. There is also that the delegates elected to this council will also be involved in electing another Suffragan Bishop for our Diocese in sometime in 2018.

The election of those to serve on the vestry and as delegates to Council calls for discernment and prayer. God is now calling those who will fill those important roles in our lives. Pray that those being called will hear and respond with, “Here I am Lord, send me.”

Pray for our parish in the days ahead of our Annual Parish Meeting that the hearts of all of us will be moved to follow our Lord and Savior along the path he is leading us to walk.
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.

TRINITY HOLY VISIONING REPORT FOR AUGUST

At the August Vestry Meeting the vestry developed three possible Holy Vision Statements for the Parish. The statements were developed by the three working groups within the vestry based upon the work they did in July synthesizing the statements made by parish members at the spring parish meeting. The statements are:

1. 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. Scripture: 1Peter 4:10

2. With a steadfast spiritual foundation, guided by the Holy Spirit, we embrace a unified parish to glorify God. Through the light of God and by living Christ’s love, we strengthen our relationships amongst God’s children.” Scripture: Jeremiah 32:27

3. As a unified parish, glorify God in all we do and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Scripture: Mark 16:15

At our October 1st Annual Parish meeting the parish will be asked to vote on which of the three statements will become the Holy Vision for Trinity. I would ask each of us to be in prayer for discernment in seeking our Lord’s guidance in being faithful to His call on our lives.

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, October, 8th 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.

New Wednesday Night Schedule and Service

Dinner 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Healing Mass 6:30 PM to 7:15 PM

We have made some changes to our Wednesday Schedule. We will resume our Wednesday night Family Dinner beginning Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 PM. We have shifted our worship time and Children’s Program time to 6:30 to allow folks to enjoy their dinner.

We are also changing the format of our worship service. We will celebrate Holy Eucharist at each service. We will also include a time for prayers for healing that will be different than we the service of Blessing and Anointing. The purpose of the Healing Mass is to allow an individual to receive prayers for healing, be it physical, spiritual, or emotional. We hope that everyone will take time to come together to pray for healing within our community and for individuals in need of healing their hurts.
Dear Beloved in Christ:

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

I can hear the whisper of many Trinity parents this month, “Thank God school has started!” We all enjoy the summer break. However, if the truth be told, it’s not just the parents that are glad school is back in session, so are the children. Friendships are renewed and new ones are founded. Education the attainment of knowledge is really enjoyable. Children want to learn new things. They enjoy challenges, they learn that they can solve problems, they learn the scope and breadth of God’s creation and the unlimited potential of human endeavor.

An academic education can fill a variety of voids in a child’s life. It helps them discover who they are and who they might become. Yet, an academic education will only partially help a child to grow into an adult and good citizen. There must be a foundation on which they can build and learn, to grow and prosper. That foundation is the Christian faith. Whose responsibility is it to teach a child to grow in faith and love of God? It is the parents. Wait, I thought that it was the church’s responsibility to teach Christianity. The answer to that is that is only one of the functions of the Church; it must be done in conjunction with life in the context of a family that lives out the faith day in and day out.

Consider the time a child spends in Church, if they are in Sunday School that is 50 minutes on Sunday and if they come on Wednesday another 45 minutes. If they worship with the parents there is an hour. So do we honestly think that the faith can be taught two hours and thirty-five minutes? The faith isn’t taught in the public school. At Trinity School it is a small portion of the curriculum. A child learns the faith in the context of the family.

Moms and Dads become the foundation in which a child learns of Christ in their lives. It is in the family where a child learns of the love of God, the mercy of God the redemption found in Christ. Parents do you pray with your children? Do they see Mom and Dad praying together and for them? Do Mom’s and Dad’s daily life look like the living of the faith once delivered? We parents model the Christian faith for our children. If they experience the unconditional love of God through the love of a mother and father they know God’s love. If they trust in the guidance of their mother and father they learn dependence upon God. If they feel safe and secure in a home filled with the presence of God, they will never want to be any place where they do not feel that unaltering presence.

The school year is back in session. Our homes are to be the daily school of faith, and of love of God. Back in my younger days there was a pop song with the words “teach your children well”. Those words would serve us well in teaching those little souls our Lord has entrusted us with the knowledge, love, and salvation found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pax et Bonum.
Fr. John
Our Vision:
Our vision for Trinity Episcopal Church includes:
Growing a dynamic youth program.
Reaching out to our community outside the walls with the love of Christ.
Increasing spiritual and congregational growth for our parish.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW
The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew Schedule for September is as follows:
Bible Study at Jucy’s on Wednesdays,
September 12th and 26th at 11:30
(Bible Study begins at 12:00)
Saturday, September 16th at 10:00 am monthly meeting at Golden Corral
All men of the parish are invited to attend the meetings.

OUTREACH
The Outreach Committee wants the Trinity family to feel a part of the sense of pride in the good works that are accomplished through this ministry acting on all of our behalf. When one enters the new location of the "Pregnancy Resource Center" (formerly known as "Living Alternatives) at 404 University, it's not what one would expect...doesn't look like a medical facility, but more like someone's home and the welcome is warm and friendly.

Michelle Spencer, Center's Director, an LVN and former Special Ed teacher can only be described as a delightful professional, perfect for this position. Her daughter, Kelly is an RN and serves as Administrative Assistant. The staff is completed with LeAnne White whose Master's degree in Social Work serves her well in her position of Client Service.

The Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by special appointment. You can almost sense the lives that have been impacted by this organization, the angst, the tears, both happy and sad, the heartaches and the utter joy. The Pregnancy Resource Center is supported by several churches and organizations. The Knights of Columbus from St Joseph Church are spearheading the drive to raise the funds for an ultrasound capability...ambitious, but a tremendous asset considering that it can save precious lives. Dr. Ricky Paul, Marshall Ob/Gyn, serves as Medical Director.

A fund-raiser Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 6, so set up your teams for a very important cause, that of saving human lives. There is a need for volunteers to act as receptionists...you can commit to scheduling as little as a two-hour shift...how easy is that? Think about it! You can also donate as an individual or family. Questions? Give Michelle a call at 903/938-8378 or text at 903/503-5503. Michelle will be speaking to the Women of Trinity in October...something to look forward to.

WOMEN OF TRINITY
Wait...was that a cool breeze I felt? Oh well, I guess it was just a leaf falling ver-r-ry slowly. And the good news is that Women of Trinity will be holding the first meeting of the 2017-2018 year on Wednesday, September 20th and that we're rather excited about the line-up of programs we've obtained for the coming months. Our own Father John will be our "kick-off" speaker and you just know that we can count on him to get our attention and get us off to a great start, so be sure to save that date, Wednesday, September 20. As usual, we'll meet at 11 a.m., after the Wednesday 10 a.m. service and we'll have a brief business meeting and following Father John's program, we encourage everyone to stay for a light lunch and no, this time you don't have to bring sandwiches...hostesses Trexler, Lewis and Toussaint will provide a salad lunch. Yes, you won't have to bring a sandwich for this meeting and we may take one step at a time...it's just so much more fun if we don't have to bring our own lunch, kind of like going out to lunch with 20+ of your closest friends. For any of you gals who have not attended recently or at all, Women of Trinity is a gathering of women of all ages and interests (the more the merrier) with the goal of enhancing our relationships with our Lord through a variety of programs and camaraderie. Please join us for the first meeting of the year, September 20...no dues, but we would like to have an idea of how many to expect. If you're not on the calling list and would like to be, please call the church office...we would love to see you there!!
Birthdays

2 Bill Jones, Sr. 15 Cade Runyan
2 Jackie Weeks 16 Jan Orta
4 Jerry Brannon 18 Joann Cason
4 Ronald "Bud" Denny, Jr. 19 Bill Sullivan
5 Kathleen Abraham 20 Ashton Beavers
5 Sue Boyd 25 Bud Bray
6 Kathleen McGee 26 Anne Godinich
7 Brandon Beavers 27 Jack Powell Taylor
9 Michael Brannon 28 Sagan Jameson-Hatch
11 Mary Spellings 29 Crystal Brown
12 Auby Minchew 29 Michael DeSa
14 Larry "Yank" Terrell 30 Jack DeSa
14 Madeline Runyan 30 Joyce Hammers

Church Financials and Attendance for July 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget Income for 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses for 2017</td>
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2016 Present

Average Sunday Attendance to date

| Average Sunday Attendance for July | 154 | 139 |
| Sunday Attendance to date | 5203 | 4978 |
| Attendance all other Services | 5058 | 5371 |

Special Giving Sundays

The people of Trinity have proven themselves to be among the most generous. For the last 12 years you have given to support the Food Pantry and the Dollar-a-Week Fund. One feeds the hungry, the other provides for the sustainability of our campus. Both have proved invaluable to our parish and larger community.

This year we are adding another request for special giving, our Outreach Committee. They are budgeted annual at $11,000. These funds help 501c3 ministries in our larger community to help meet the needs of those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. The Outreach Committee screens each request for assistance and then allocates funds. It is not unusual for the Outreach Ministry to expend all its funds by the middle of the year. We are adding another Special giving Sunday to our monthly calendar for funds to go specifically to the outreach of our parish beyond our walls. Special Giving Sundays are now as follows:

First Sunday of the Month - support for the Marshall Food Pantry

Second Sunday of the Month - the Dollar-A-Week Fund

Fourth Sunday of the Month - the Outreach Committee

Anniversaries

1 Fr. & Mrs. John Himes
4 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shelton
9 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kerr
17 Mr. & Mrs. Bud Bray
26 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brannon
As our youth looked forward to the mission trip this year to Denham Springs, Louisiana, the Lord began to prepare our hearts for what was to come. I had met two families months prior to the trip who had lost their home, one being a paraplegic who was rescued by boat when water was up to his chest. I asked if they would write their stories down so that I could read it to the youth to encourage them in their mission work. We started off our trip with one of these stories as we hugged our loved ones good bye and headed to Denham Springs.

On our first night there, our youth was split up and grouped with various work crews with various jobs. Some of the duties involved cleaning out storage rooms in schools, throwing away unusable items and organizing, working a food pantry, organizing and working in a donation center, painting walls, laying flooring, hanging doors and there was even an artistic group that worked on a mural that will travel the state with a story to be told regarding the events surrounding this flood. As the week progressed we worked hard and made new friends within the diocese and met a number of locals who told us their story. We saw the goodness of God coming together to help those in need and were moved to be a part of that.

One of the work sites where a number of our youth served was a day care center that also doubled as a food pantry and donation center. The Saint Bernard Project had opened that facility to help with a quandary of tasks. The facility not only watched the children for underprivileged families but also educated them on health and nutrition and even taught them how to play a musical instrument. This very facility lacked every day supplies like hand soap, paper towels and toilet paper. The need in just one place is abundant and our time there was welcomed and extremely effective. I received a text this week from the wonderful woman who runs the facility and she said that the children still look out the window to see if our vans are pulling up. We developed relationships with these children who wore the same clothes and smile all week.

Each one of our youth could tell you a different story. We all had a different experience but one thing that we had in common was the realization of how truly blessed we are. It is my hope and prayer that through mission trips our young people come to know and practice the true meaning of the Gospel, to know and serve God through his creation. In Matthew we read, “I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me…. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Every evening we had worship with the exception of one “free day.” We went to New Orleans, ate good food, walked the river walk and shopped. We did not leave without indulging in beignets and lots of photos which can be viewed on the youth Facebook page.

I am truly thankful to all the members who support the youth program and make these mission trips possible. It is always difficult for me to tell who is blessed more, those serving or those being served. This is just one of those perplexing mysteries of the omnipotent God we serve.

Rae Dickson
Hello friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. School has begun, temperatures have surprisingly already begun cooling off, football is back, and fall is almost here. In August, as kids were getting ready for school many of our family members gathered together for a pool party. I watched this gathering grow to about 34 people. 34 of us swam, visited, laughed, and ate pizza together. As I was watching it I was watching church at work. I was watching the gathered members of the Body of Christ fellowship together, and break bread together. Of course that bread was covered in tomato sauce, cheese, and various meaty toppings.

As I was watching this pool party unfold I noticed how the body is growing. How our young family ministry continues to grow. This year is going to be an exciting year for our young families. We have new members coming in, our Sunday school classrooms are growing, our nursery is growing. This is all because you as the body of Christ saw a need. You saw parts of the body that needed to grow. You saw parts of the body that needed care. So as the body of Christ we all dedicated ourselves to finding a way to nourish another part.

This year we have more planned for our young family ministry. We are planning a trip to the State Fair in Texas, the now annual camping trip will take place in the spring, and more ministry options are being planned. However, this is not the most exciting thing for me. Nor is the growing numbers, though they are good to see. The most exciting thing for me is seeing our young people being formed in Christ. Watching our young children in Sunday School each with a bible exploring God’s word excites me as I watch them grow into the full stature of Christ. Seeing our youth going on a mission trip to Southern Louisiana with many other youth from the diocese to help with the flood recovery that is still ongoing shows how they are living out their baptismal covenant. Seeing our young families developing bonds amongst each other and with the church is exciting. Most of all, I am excited that our body is doing what it should be doing, lifting each other up, sharing fellowship, and breaking bread. This is our young families growing in Christ with each other. This is our young families making Christ the center of their families. And this my friends is exciting. So join us for another year of growing in Christ, and let’s work to help others grow into the full stature of Christ as well.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew
**Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion**

**X. Of Free-Will.** The condition of Man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith; and calling upon God. Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

One of my favorite movies is Braveheart. In that movie, which is sadly not very historically accurate, our hero William Wallace fights for Scotland’s freedom from England. While William Wallace did not see the freedom he fought for, his actions led to the Scottish being free. One infamous scene was when William Wallace was given the chance to scream for mercy, instead screams “Freedom”. Being free has long been a source of pride for mankind. Look at our own country; we as a country appreciate freedoms. We fought our own war against England for the right to govern ourselves, to be free from the monarchy. However, with freedom comes responsibility. Sometimes that freedom can be taken and used for good, like striving for freedom for all. Likewise the freedom can be used in not so good ways.

Being free does not begin with just being free from a monarchy, or dictator. We also live lives where we are free to make choices. We are free to decide how we want to live, what we want to do, and if we will follow God or not. Is this freedom good or bad? I would say both. It just depends on how we use it. However, are we truly free? Are we truly given free will?

Article 10 of the 39 articles states what our doctrine of free will is. This article goes with Article 9 “Or Original or Birth-Sin.” The Article also goes along with Articles 11 and 18, all of which deals with sin and salvation. In this exploration of Article 10 I will show how the view of the church shows we truly do not have free-will when it comes to sin and salvation, and what exactly that means. I will also explore the difference between free-will and human agency. Meaning, God has given us some freedoms.

This may come as a shock, but the notion of free-will defers in different denominations and faith traditions. Some, like the Roman Catholics view free-will in the sense of St. Thomas Aquinas. Others look to St. Augustine of Hippo and his writings in basing their view of free-will, which follows John Calvin’s views of predestination.

Anglican’s views are shaped by Article 10. The article begins where article 9 left off. It states “the condition of Man is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good, to faith, and calling upon God.” This states that free-will makes no sense when talking about salvation. Meaning we cannot gain salvation alone, by our actions. In Donald Allister’s commentary on free-will he states that we may be free to decide if we will or will not commit a particular act of sin, but we are not free to save ourselves. The article is saying that though we are free to make decisions, we are not free to save ourselves. The article is further saying that good works done on our own cannot save us. I would say that our use of free-will without God’s grace is dangerous. Since the fall people have been using their free-will in opposition to God’s will. We saw this before the flood, before the exile, and before God became flesh and dwell among us. George Carleton pointed this out in his book *The King’s Highway*. “men changed, and became bad, deliberately using their will in opposition to God’s will.” This is why it is impossible to be free to do good works on our own will, because our will often is in opposition to God’s. So how do we do good works, how do our works gain us salvation?

The answer to these questions lay in the second sentence of the article. It states “wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.” Meaning it is the grace of God through Christ that our works are good. This is where we receive our salvation, through works done by God’s grace. When our works line up with God’s will, we receive our salvation. Simply put, it is God who gives us salvation. We can say that we want to do good works, but it is through God that our works are acceptable. It is God who gives us salvation; we do not have that power or capability.
We could say after this, “well that is good to know, I will just use my free will to not sin.” However, in this thinking we would be mistaken. Donald Allister continuing in his commentary pointed out this thought, “To say that we are free to choose good or evil is true enough if we are just talking about actual sin but when original sin is taken into account we are not free at all: we are trapped by sin, enslaved to it and at its mercy.” We are trapped by sin, sure we can choose to do good and evil, but we cannot conquer sin. Only one has conquered sin, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. This is what the tenth article is saying, it is not our free-will that triumphs over sin, that grants us salvation, it is God through Jesus Christ.

This brings me to my next point, the difference between free will and agency, as well as talk about how we do have free-will inasmuch as we have freedoms to make intellectual choices. I will begin with the later. St. Thomas Aquinas in his *Summa Theologica* made the argument that humans do have free-will. He stated that free will is a necessity for counsels, exhortations, commands, prohibitions, rewards, and punishments. He further points out that because we are rational beings, we must have free-will. He states that free-will is a natural habit, pointing out that man has lost free-will after the fall, but not natural liberty, that being freedom from coercion, but as regards freedom from fault and unhappiness.

This understanding set forth by St. Thomas Aquinas brings me to the next point. That while we do not have free-will in regards to salvation, we do have freedoms given to us by God. This idea is the term human agency. Agency is the capacity, condition, or state of acting or of exerting power. God has given us agency to act in the world. This agency helps us decide what we should do, if we choose to do good or bad, and if we choose to follow God or not. Notice, agency is only the ability to act in a specific environment; that being in the world around us. It does not grant us the ability to act on our own to free us from sin.

We see that the tenth article of the Articles of Religion states that our free-will to do works is not sufficient for salvation. The will in which we do the works must be done by the grace of God. Though we do have freedoms to choose good or evil, or to make informed choices, we do not have free-will to choose a life without sin. We are enslaved by sin, and nothing we can do on our own can free us. Only
Trinity Episcopal Church
Annual Memorial Somerford-Parker
Fall Concert
Sunday, October 22, 2017
At 5:30 PM
PRESENTS

The Shreveport
Symphony

String Quartet

Led by Leonard Kacenjar

Join us as the String Quartet performs original Kermit Polling compositions celebrating the lives of the Saints of the Church

Wine and Cheese Reception to follow in All Saints’ Hall

ADMISSION IS FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

The Concert has been funded by the family of Wanda Somerford-Parker in honor of her memory
Live From Trinity!
Its Wednesday Night

Joins us for Dinner at 5:30 PM
and Healing Eucharist at 6:30 PM
Nursery and Children’s Program
also start at 6:30 PM
Parish Staff
Fr. John M. Himes, OSF  
*Rector*
Fr. Andrew Ellison  
*Curate*
Rae Dickson  
*Youth Director*
Magdalena Altnau  
*Children’s Christian Formation Director*
Angela Bray  
*Nursery Director*
Jim Johnson  
*Music Director and Organist*
Melissa Hammers  
*Choir Director*
Stacey Shaw  
*Parish Administrator*
Suzie Ward  
*Administrative Assistant*
Melvin Williams  
*Sexton*

Vestry
Ken Kerr  
*Senior Warden*
Joel Truelove  
*Junior Warden*
Angela Bray  
*Clerk of the Vestry*
Julie Trexler  
*Treasurer*
Doug Jager
Cindy Cain
Leana Westergaard
Tony Pierce
Carol Meyer
Bonnie Strauss
Micheal DeSa
Cassie Rhoades

Weekly Schedule

**Sunday**
Holy Communion - 8:00 AM
Parish Breakfast - 9:00 AM
Christian Formation for all ages - 9:30 AM
Holy Communion - 10:30 AM
After 10:30 Service
Coffee & Cookies In All Saints Hall

**Wednesday**
Holy Communion - 10:00 AM
Dinner in All Saint’s Hall - 5:30 PM
Contemporary Worship - 6:30 PM

**Thursday**
Choir practice 5:00 PM
Martha’s Kitchen - 6:00 PM

**Trinity Episcopal Church**
106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670
903-938-4246
http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org

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