



Trinity Topics

January 2017

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**“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” *Hebrews 12:1-2***

The Greek philosopher Aristotle believed that true happiness (*Eudaimonia*) was found in a life of disciplined virtue (*Arete*), and that virtues like patience and courage were learned skills like archery or playing an instrument. You might be able to glean a few tips about these subjects through reading or upbringing, but to really learn and live them you need to practice, practice, practice.

This is a great thing to keep in mind as we make our New Year’s resolutions. A resolution isn’t flipping a switch and changing our behavior forever. It is more like working out weak muscles or picking up a new instrument. No matter what we resolve, whether it be eating healthier, exercising more, or being more charitable, success will take practice. Just like a new archer trying to hit his target or an inexperienced musician trying to hit the right chord, it will mean failing and starting over again and again until success is achieved. So, whatever your resolution is, never be discouraged! Failing is OK so long as we keep at it. Of course, any really worthwhile resolution will be hard at first, but like exercise, it gets easier.

I hope none of us neglects his or her spiritual life as we decide what to write on the blank slate of 2017. Resolve to recite extra prayers, give more to charity, or become more involved in the community. Pages 137-140 of the *Book of Common Prayer* have short, daily prayers you can recite individually or with your family. I commend to you the practice of daily Bible reading; there are copies of a Bible reading plan on the credenza in the church lobby which takes one through the whole New Testament in one year with just 5 minutes of reading a day, 5 days a week. For those of us who would like to grow in their lives of worship, we will be greatly expanding our service schedule in 2017, with a worship service at 10am Tuesday through Friday. We are always looking for more ministers of worship on Sunday mornings. I will be on the lookout for new community service opportunities for our members.

Trinity Church can be a sort of “gymnasium of virtue”—it can be a community of nurturing and encouragement as we work out our spiritual muscles and develop the skills necessary for living the Christian life. It can be the place where we always have new opportunities to grow and expand our relationship with Jesus Christ and with our fellow Christians. Indeed, the greatest factor in succeeding in a new habit or discipline is having someone to do it with.

May this new year bring good health and happiness to all of us.

The Rev. Zachary Brooks

News & Announcements

Epiphany Festal Eucharist

The Feast of Epiphany is the 12th day of Christmas and the conclusion of the Christmas season. We will be celebrating Epiphany with our friends at St. Luke's Church, Springfield. St. Luke's has celebrated Ascension Day and All Saints with us, so it would be wonderful to send a great crowd to Springfield as we deepen our friendship. The service will be **January 6, at 6:00 pm, at St. Luke's Church, 1218 S Grand Ave E, Springfield.**

The Magi



Opportunities to Serve at Trinity Church

Please let Father Zach know if you would be willing to serve in any capacity at the Sunday services. We always need Lectors, Acolytes, Oblationers, and Ushers.

Father Zach would also appreciate it if someone would occasionally write an article on aspects of our church and its history. Last fall we had one volunteer who wrote an article on the organ, and it was well received.

More Services

With our new Rector (no longer Rector-elect!), we have added an 8 o'clock Sunday morning Eucharist. Father Zach also leads Morning Prayer at 10 o'clock, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Wardens' Report

David Mumford and Alice Tracey are happy to report that projects to improve the physical plant have been completed. After some tuckpointing was completed, Renaissance Roofing was able to replace some tiles and install some splash guards to prevent leaking.

Johnson Engineering and Brennan's Heating and Air Conditioning also did a final walk through of the building to assure that the new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system was functioning properly. This multi-month project now provides a safe, modern system for all levels of the parish hall.

Contribution Envelopes

If you turned in a pledge card, your envelopes will be on the table in the foyer.

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

Due to the hard work and generosity of many Parish Members, the Episcopal Church Women are pleased to report a profit of over **\$4700** from the bazaar and luncheon. Preliminary reports show the following amounts: Book Sale \$1660; Gourmet Table \$357; Holiday Shoppe over \$1031; Luncheon Tickets \$2100; Donations & sale of food/decorations \$670; and Expenses \$1070. Thank you to all who attended, worked and contributed.

Outreach

The Church School sponsored a food drive for the needy on Sunday, December 14, and collected four cartons of food items.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will be delivering Doorbell Dinners the week of January 23 - 27. Please contact Adah Mitchell (243-2636) if you can help.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering totaled \$610. This money goes to the Outreach programs of Trinity Church.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Every Parish in the Diocese is required by Canon Law to have an "Annual Meeting" in January. One of the most important functions of this meeting is for the Parish to elect members of the Parish Vestry for the current year. At this meeting the Parish also elects Deanery Representatives and Synod Delegates.

There are three reports given at the Annual Meeting that deal specifically with finance. The first is the **Treasurer's Report** that summarizes the financial activity of the Parish for the previous year (2016). The second is a report given by the Endowment Treasurer and Assistant Endowment Treasurer on the performance of the Parish's **Investment Funds** for the past year. And the third report is a presentation of the **Operating Budget** for the current year (2017).

In addition to the above-mentioned items, we'll hear reports on the various ministries and groups within the Parish. Also, the Rector will give his address at the Parish Meeting, seeking to describe and discern how the Lord has been working in our Parish and what the future might hold for us as a Parish worshipping and serving God.

We hope all Parishioners will make a sincere effort to attend.

Parish Meeting Reports

It is essential that we have written reports turned into the Parish Office by Wednesday, **January 18**. Although brief oral comments are welcomed at the meeting, the printed reports are attached to the minutes and filed for posterity. Without written reports, our history does not reflect an accurate picture of the life and times of Trinity Church.

Vestry Meeting

Although the Vestry normally meets on the third Tuesday of the month, in January, we will meet on Tuesday, January 24, after the Annual Parish Meeting on January 22.

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Trinity Fellowship
Will meet on Tuesday,
January 3, at 7:00 pm.

We will continue our study of the book,
The Call by Rev. Adam Hamilton.
This series of lessons explores
the life and work of St. Paul

Pledge / Contribution Statements
will be mailed the first week of January.

Bishop Daniel Martins
will visit us
on Sunday, January 8.
(Please stay for a reception
following the 10 o'clock service.)

ECW
Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.
Monday, January 9
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Annual Parish Meeting
will be
on **Sunday, January 22.**

The **Vestry** will meet
on Tuesday, **January 24,**
at 7:00 pm.

Blanket Sunday
January 29
Donations for Church World Service will be
accepted at church this day, or you may
contact the Parish Office to make a donation.

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2017

Sunday, January 1:

THE HOLY NAME

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 4:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Friday, January 6:

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
at St. Luke's, Springfield

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 8:

EPIPHANY I

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 11:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 15:

EPIPHANY II

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 18:

The Confession of St. Peter

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 22:

EPIPHANY III

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 25:

The Conversion of St. Paul

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 29:

EPIPHANY IV

7:45 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist