



# Trinity Topics

**August 2017**

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## **“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” *Matthew 16:18***

Last month I wrote to you about the prospect of change, a very ominous word coming from a new priest! I get nervous hearing priests talk about change myself. I hope I allayed some of those fears by explaining that the goal is church health; how can we most authentically be the community that God is calling us to be? What is the Lord saying in our lives that we can proclaim to a world hungry for the Word?

This month I would like to write a little something about why this change is necessary. The simple and uncomfortable reality is that the models of church life most churches have relied on for decades are no longer tenable. In the “Good Old Days,” it was enough to simply be an Episcopal church because there were enough people around who already wanted to be Episcopalians, either because they were born Episcopal or they belonged to a certain social stratum that was attracted to the Episcopal Church. Yet this model hasn’t worked in a long time.

The decline in attendance at our own church has become impossible to ignore. Episcopalians are having far fewer children to “replenish the ranks,” and the children we do have no longer feel the need to identify as Episcopalians, or indeed as Christians at all. Neither is belonging to a church a social expectation any longer. We need not feel a sense of self-reproach at this reality. These trends have effected community organizations of every kind. Churches, bowling leagues, and Elks Lodges are all suffering the same decline.

We need to know these facts, but we need not feel anxiety about them. Rather, let us see in these trends an opportunity for new ministry. People today are feeling ever more lonely and isolated as community organizations have declined. They feel ever more desperate for ethical and spiritual meaning as Christian themes have faded from public consciousness. Trinity Church has much to offer these people. We have a community of truly committed members deeply grounded in the Word of God. We do, I believe, have what people are looking for. Looking for better ways to proclaim that to a world that has no idea what it is even looking for in the first place—that is the sort of change we need to consider. This change doesn’t necessarily mean getting rid of the things we love about Trinity Church—it can mean adding to what we already have, and transforming what we already have. As I begin my second year of ministry here at Trinity Church, I look forward to exploring this new call in the life of our community.

*Fr. Zach Brooks*

### Founders' Day

One hundred eighty-five years ago, on August 11, 1832, Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, was organized, making it the oldest parish in Illinois.

The Jacksonville in which this pioneer church was located was a bustling community of about 1800 population. It was in west central Illinois on the black earth prairie. It was near a grove of trees and a small stream. Many of the settlements on the broad flat lands were similarly situated because the necessities of the first settlers—wood and water—were not to be found on the prairie itself. But the soil was very rich and when John Deere of Illinois perfected the steel plow, the earth was soon supporting bountiful grain and stock farms.

The town of Jacksonville was platted in 1825, and it grew rapidly in population. The infant city was the seat of government of Morgan County, which then comprised the present counties of Morgan, Scott, and Cass, and included more than a thousand square miles within its borders. Its economy flourished because it was at the crossroads for persons coming into the center of the state.... As a county seat and a center of trade it had at the time of the founding of Trinity parish, sixteen stores, six groceries, establishments selling liquor, and two taverns or inns. Among the people were a number of tradesmen, numerous mechanics, eleven lawyers, and ten physicians. There was a flour mill, a saw mill, a cotton factory, a distillery, two castor bean oil mills, two carding mills, a tannery, and three brick yards.

While Jacksonville in the 1830's was possibly no better in appearance than other spreading boom towns in Illinois, it had an intellectual and cultural air that was not found in other communities, with its colleges and schools.

It was in this mixed community of industrious businessmen, thrifty farmers, and cultured teachers, lawyers, physicians, and college professors that Trinity Episcopal Church was nurtured. Men in all these businesses and professions were represented in the group that organized the parish.

Members of the first Vestry were: Senior Warden Jeremiah Barker, Junior Warden Dr. Bazaleel Gillett, Aylet Buckner, Joseph Coddington, Richard Dummer, Ebenezer Miller, Dr. Samuel Prosser, Dennis Rockwell, and Austin Brockenbrough.

(This information is found in Dr. Walter B. Hendrickson's manuscript, *A History of Trinity Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, Illinois*, dated July 3, 1974.)

### Stained Glass Window

Be sure to look closely at the window above the east entrance as you enter the sanctuary. In the Stained Glass Window book, it is described in detail as *The Coming of the Church to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1832*. The center lancet has a representation of our church building. In the left lancet you will see the cornerstone of our church.

## News & Announcements

### ***Ministers Needed!***

A Priest is essential to celebrate The Holy Eucharist, but others are needed on Sunday mornings to complete the service: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Oblationers, and Ushers. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please talk to Fr. Zach or contact the Parish Office.

### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Members of Trinity Church will be delivering dinners the week of July 31 – August 4. Please let K-Lou Ashmore (243-4309) know when you can help.

### ***Jacksonville Area Council of Churches***

The next project of the JACC is to collect items for the Personal Needs Pantry. The Personal Needs Pantry helps low income families in our community obtain basic hygiene and household cleaning items during difficult times. The JACC is proud to be partnering with this project of the First Baptist Church during the months of August, September, and October 2017. Household cleaning items needed are: laundry detergent, household cleaners, and dish detergent. Paper products are: toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues. Baby items needed are: shampoo, lotion, and powder. Oral care items are toothpaste, toothbrushes, and denture cleaner. Personal hygiene items needed are: shampoo, bar soap, hand soap, lotion, deodorant, shaving cream and razors, bandages, peroxide, feminine products, combs, and brushes.

### ***Congratulations!***

July 16 was a great day at Trinity Church. **Addyson Marie**, daughter of Jason & Carolyn Spraker and granddaughter of Rich & Deanna Tavender was baptized. Welcome into the household of God, Addyson!

### ***Death***

**Charlie Bellatti** died on June 30, 2017, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. His funeral was here at Trinity Church on July 8. He was a loyal servant to Trinity Church and will be dearly missed.

*May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

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

**Vestry Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 15**  
**7:00 pm**

Please join us  
for a potluck / cookout

after the 10 o'clock service  
on Sunday, August 13,  
to celebrate

### **Our Founders' Day**



Drinks and table service will be  
provided. Please bring a dish to share.

There will be a sign-up sheet  
on the table in the foyer,  
or you may contact the Parish Office for  
suggestions of what to bring.

### **SERVICES IN AUGUST 2017**

#### **SUNDAYS:**

August 6:

#### **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 13:

#### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 20:

#### **The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 27:

#### **The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

#### **WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am**

Wednesday, August 2

Wednesday, August 9

Tuesday, August 15:

#### **St. Mary the Virgin**

Wednesday, August 16

Wednesday, August 23

Thursday, August 24:

#### **St. Bartholomew**

Wednesday, August 30

