



Trinity Topics

October 2017

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**“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”**

Isaiah 6:8

The last few years of the Synods here in the Diocese of Springfield have been eventful ones. On the face of matters is a simple change of vocabulary, but these changes actually point to something much deeper. These changes reflect our bishop’s desire to reorient the mission of our diocese, our community and even of each of us as individuals standing alone before God.

We are no longer, according to diocesan terminology, a parish—we are a “Eucharistic Community.” This frees the term parish to take on its older meaning of a defined geographic area (as it still is in, for example, Louisiana). The change emphasizes a deep reality about our faith as Episcopalians—we are the Body of Christ in Jacksonville, Illinois, entrusted with a mission of proclaiming the salvation of God to all people in our community. This is a mission to *everyone* in Jacksonville, not only Episcopalians. They are our responsibility as God’s Elect in a hurting world.

A good mission will be tailored to the specific need of its community. Part of these diocesan changes mandate that we, as a Eucharistic Community, develop an annual “mission strategy” to be submitted to the diocese. We now have to think carefully about the unique needs and issues of Jacksonville, which is like no other place on this earth, and establish clear, specific, concrete, and Christian ways of addressing them.

These two parts—knowing the needs of Jacksonville on the one hand, then developing and implementing ways of preaching the Gospel on the other, is a task for the whole community. The Holy Spirit is giving you ears to hear with, and giving you words to speak with in this church. Each one of us sees this unique community in our own unique way and we need to hear your voice.

Finally, what are YOU going to do about God’s mission to Jacksonville? God’s call is to you as an individual. Mission is not something we can trust others to do as much as Christian life is something we must live ourselves and not leave to others to live for us. Trinity Church, the saints of God in the Parish of Jacksonville, is where that new life becomes possible.

Our Synod Delegate, Paula Woods, and I will be attending this year’s Synod on Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14, in Bloomington, Illinois.

Fr. Zach Brooks +

Who's That Saint?

The Episcopal Church Year calendar lists **St. Simon and St. Jude**, on October 28.

The only thing the Gospels tell us about Simon is that he was one of the disciples, and that he was called “the Zealot.” John mentions Jude in his description of the Last Supper. The Epistle of Jude may be the work of the disciple Jude, who is the man mentioned by John as the brother of James the Greater.

Tradition has consistently associated Simon and Jude as apostles to Persia. Some accounts state that they were martyrs, a tradition generally accepted by the Western Church. The *Monology* of Basil, however, says that Simon died a peaceful death at Edessa. Jude, who was surnamed Thaddeus, has been confused with another Thaddeus, who was also said to have died a quiet death, either in Beirut or Edessa. Whatever the facts, accounts conflict and reliable data are lacking.

There are other scholarly questions about both men. One involves Simon’s appellation “Zelotes.” Whether in fact he had been a member before his conversion of one of the several factions called “Zealots,” or whether this title refers to his zeal for the Jewish law, is not known, but he has consistently been identified by it. For some centuries, and even today, Jude has been regarded in popular devotion as the “patron of desperate or lost causes,” but the basis of this tradition is obscure.

The Epistle of Jude concludes with this striking doxology:

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time and now and for ever. (Jude 24-25)

From *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*

O God, we thank thee for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude; and we pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ne God, for ever and ever. Amen

From *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 194

News & Announcements

Trinity Fellowship

It's never too late to start attending! All are welcome to attend Trinity Fellowship. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May. From 7 until 7:30 p.m., dessert is served. Then from 7:30 until 8:30, there is a short video followed by lecture and discussion. This year's study will follow Adam Hamilton's book, *Moses*.

The October meeting will focus on the birth of Moses. The video helps us envision the area and time in which he lived.

Thank You!

Our first attempt (in many years) to offer meaningful activities for children during the 10 o'clock service in the summer was a success due to the generosity and dedication of those who volunteered.

We thank K-Lou Ashmore, Leah Brooks, Janet Cisne, Melissa Evans, Nancy Forsberg, Greta Hardwick, Donna Metcalf, Adah Mitchell, Jo Ann Nelson, Abby Radcliffe, Hilda Radcliffe, Allison Scott, Deanna Tavender, Nancy Taylor Porter, Alice Tracey, Sarah Van Aken, and Ginda Woodruff. These ladies were willing to spend some time with our children and to help them learn more about the Bible by sharing stories and leading activities.

We would like feedback from these leaders and parents of the children who participated to see what we should plan for the summer of 2018.

United Thank Offering

The Fall Ingathering for the United Thank Offering was \$673.08. This will serve many programs of the Episcopal Church. If you would like a box to keep at home to make offerings throughout the year, they are available in the Parish Office. We have many things to be thankful for in our daily lives, and this is a small way to show our gratefulness.

Parish Work Day

The Vestry has designated Saturday, October 28 as a parish work day. There will be jobs for everyone – both indoors and outdoors. Workers should arrive at 9 o'clock in the morning. Lunch will be provided by our Rector! It will be an opportunity to sample his culinary arts.

Jacksonville Area Council of Churches

Please consider supporting the project of the JACC. They are still collecting items for the Personal Needs Pantry through October. The Personal Needs Pantry helps low income families in our community obtain basic hygiene and household cleaning items during difficult times. The list of items needed and a box to deposit the items is in the upper hallway.

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

Trinity Fellowship

This year we are studying *Moses*,
using the DVD and book by Adam Hamilton.

Tuesday, October 3
7:00 pm

ECW

Build Your Own Salad Supper

Monday, October 9
5:30 pm

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

7:00 pm

Enclosed in this mailing is your **2017**
pledge statement if you made a pledge.

Pledge letters for **2018**
will be mailed in mid-October.

Looking ahead:

Thursday, **November 2** is the
Feast of **All Souls**.

Forms on which you may list the names of
those you would like remembered
will be available in mid-October.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAYS:

October 1:

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 8:

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 15:

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 22:

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 29:

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 4

Wednesday, October 11

Wednesday, October 18:

St. Luke

Monday, October 23:

St. James of Jerusalem

Wednesday, October 25