



Trinity Topics

January 2018

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“Q: Who are the ministers of the Church?”

A: The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”—BCP ‘79

As an Episcopal community, Trinity Church has always been led by laypeople called by God to carry out his purposes for Jacksonville. The Episcopal Church follows a biblical model in doing this. Lay leaders, people who are not ordained, have been essential to Christ’s mission from the very earliest days of the Church. The New Testament frequently names such people, both men and women, such as Aquila, Dorcas, and Prisca, who offered their talents for the good of God’s Church. An important expression of this reality is our Vestry. At our annual meeting in January, the Parish will elect new Vestry Members.

This model is called the “priesthood of all believers.” We believe that ministry is the call of all Christians, lay or ordained. Every one of us should have a say in what happens in Trinity Church because our Church is sustained by the graces God has put in every one of our hearts. The Holy Spirit is speaking to us, and we must listen wherever he decides to speak!

The laity don’t have this authority in every church. In many denominations, both Catholic and Protestant, the authority of pastors, priests and bishops is absolute, and the laity have little or no voice in how their churches are run. The Episcopal Church does maintain the spiritual leadership of the ordained, but it envisions a cooperative relationship between priests on the one hand and Spirit-inspired lay leadership on the other.

It is you, the laypeople represented by elected vestry-people, who are entrusted with the temporal business of our mission. This “temporal business” is absolutely essential to the life of Trinity Church. The Vestry’s work touches every part of parish life: the upkeep and maintenance of the church plant, interviewing and hiring parish employees (including the rector!), collecting pledges and planning the budget, planning Christian fellowship and educational opportunities, and the planning of the church’s mission, and so much more.

I write all this because we currently need 5 people to hear God’s call to stand for vestry election, including one person to serve as the Parish Warden. We have many important projects on the immediate horizon which need your leadership. If you aren’t sure of your call, we in fact have an election in which the Holy Spirit can make the definitive statement for you! The mission of Jesus Christ to Jacksonville needs you. For every one of us, this is our duty, this is our privilege, this is our call.

Fr. Zachary Brooks

VESTRY MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS AND WORK

Basic FAQs:

- To serve on the Vestry one must be a confirmed Communicant in Good Standing, at least eighteen years of age.
- The Vestry normally meets nine times a year (one meeting each in January, February, March, April, May, August, September, October and November.)
- Scheduled meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 or 9:00 pm
- The Organizational meeting in January lasts about 30 minutes.
- At the Organizational meeting the Vestry elects a Clerk, Parish Warden, Parish Treasurer, Endowment Treasurer, and Assistant Endowment Treasurer.

Usual business of the Vestry Meeting:

- Certifies the Minutes submitted by the Clerk
- Reviews the monthly Operating Fund Financial Statement prepared by the Treasurer
- Hears (and acts on) the Wardens' report
- Hears the Rector's report
- Considers (and acts on) Old and New Business

From time to time the Vestry:

- Reviews the status of Endowment funds as reported by the Endowment Treasurer
- Reviews current Operating Fund accounts, and creates or consolidates accounts as needed
- Generates policy guidelines for Finance and Building & Grounds
- Plans and carries out the Annual Pledge Campaign
- Creates and approves the Budget for the coming year

SYNOD DELEGATES

One must be at least eighteen years of age and a confirmed Communicant in Good Standing to represent to represent Trinity Church as a Delegate at the annual Synod of the Diocese of Springfield. Trinity Church is entitled to two Synod Delegates.

Synod is held each year in the month of October, on a Friday and Saturday chosen by the host Parish, with the concurrence of the Bishop. This year's Synod will be at St. Paul's Cathedral in Springfield, Illinois, on Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20.

DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES

Trinity Church is a member of the Northwestern Deanery of the Diocese of Springfield, and as such, is entitled to one or two lay Deanery Representatives, one which must also be a Synod Delegate.

The only requirement of a Deanery Representative, at this time, is to attend the Deanery Convocation held in September of each year, usually on a Sunday afternoon at one of the churches in our Deanery (Jacksonville, Springfield, Carlinville, Chesterfield, or Decatur).

A Note on “First” Communion:

All baptized Christians, of any age, who are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, are welcome to receive Communion at Trinity Church. This includes Christians who have not been Confirmed. The tradition of marking a child’s first Confession and reception of the Eucharist isn’t, as such, part of the Episcopal tradition. However, we at Trinity Church do have a long tradition of celebrating the occasion children first accept the significance of the Holy Eucharist for themselves at around seven years of age. If you would like your children to receive instruction in the meaning of our most central sacrament, please contact Fr. Zach. Email: brooksz@gmail.com

News & Announcements

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 **\$4000** from the bazaar and luncheon. Thank you to all who attended, worked and contributed.

Outreach

The Church School sponsored a **food drive** for the needy on Sunday, December 17, and collected more than four cartons of food items.

The less fortunate need food throughout the year. Therefore, we have placed a special green container in the upper hallway so that you can donate food at any time. Dana Ryan will transport it to the Food Center.

Trinity Church will partner with the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches again for a special collection for the **Shoeman Water Project**. New or shoes in good condition can be placed in the container in the upper hallway. Please tie the shoes together.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will be delivering Doorbell Dinners the week of January 22-26. Please contact Adah Mitchell (243-2636) if you can help.

Special Offerings

The Thanksgiving Offering was \$85; the Christmas Offering was \$356. Please remember that all money from special offerings goes to **Outreach**.

Parish Meeting Reports

It is essential that we have written reports turned into the Parish Office by Wednesday, **January 17**. 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.

Contribution Envelopes

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

**Trinity Fellowship will meet on
Tuesday, January 2**
to continue the study of
Moses, the Reluctant Prophet.
All are welcome.

**January 6
The Epiphany of our Lord**

We have been invited once again this year to
attend the service at St. Luke's Church in
Springfield.
Please try to attend.

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

**Monday, January 8
5:30 – 7:00 pm**

Annual Parish Meeting
will be
on **Sunday, January 21.**

Blanket Sunday

January 28

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

Pledge / Contribution Statements

Are enclosed with this mailing.

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2018

Monday, January 1:

THE HOLY NAME

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 3:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 7:

THE 1st SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

The Baptism of our Lord

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 10:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 14:

EPIPHANY II

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 17:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 18:

The Confession of St. Peter

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 21:

EPIPHANY III

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 24:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 25:

The Conversion of St. Paul

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 28:

EPHIPHANY IV

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 31:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist