



Trinity Topics

July 2018

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**“Go therefore into the main streets,
and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” *Matthew 22:8***

The Lord has blessed Trinity Church with many graces. We are a community nurtured by a beautiful life of worship—we are given a liturgy in which God offers us and all humankind a new possibility for living. True doctrine, forgiveness of sins, consolation in a challenging world, and the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God are all given free of charge week by week. We come together to study God’s word; we find common purpose in doing good works; we open our hearts to one another in Christian fellowship. The world is desperate for these things, but all too often does not know it is desperate for these things.

The world really has little idea what is going on in Trinity Church, or for that matter any church, anymore. Churches generally have been slow to adjust to this new reality, continuing to operate on an “attractational” model in which the goal was to impress visitors enough to keep them coming back. Yet fewer and fewer people these days are on the market for any church community at all. Our Bishop has called for a change of thinking about congregational health and growth. We cannot be content to sit in our church hoping for people to come in. Like the apostles in ages past, we must take the risk of going out to offer the Gospel of Christ to people where they are.

The new times we are living in demand a much more active and intentional approach to outreach. This initiative began with our Vestry (now officially called our Ministry Leadership Team) assessing the needs of our community and forming a plan for reaching out of our building to the city of Jacksonville. Our Mission Plan will be reviewed by the Bishop, who will offer some gentle accountability and support as we do this work. Assessing our progress annually will ensure our outreach continues to be a matter of ongoing discernment for our community.

The Ministry Leadership Team has identified Jacksonville’s colleges, retirement communities, and schools as possible fields for ministry. To be sure, we already have worthwhile outreach programs, and this process will also involve supporting them better. Your connections to these parts of our community will be essential to finding possibilities for service, and we encourage anyone to mention needs in those communities to a Vestry member or a member of the outreach committee. An example of this happening in the past year arose when a member of the Vestry alerted us to the need for snacks for the Washington Elementary after-school homework program, which we were able to support with a generous donation.

Meeting the needs of these communities with the gifts we have to offer will take some reorganization of our operations. We are reestablishing long dormant committees that can oversee critical parts of our congregational life. If you have gifts to offer in any of these areas, please speak to me or a member of the Mission Leadership Team about the possibility of joining one of these committees. The Properties Committee, led by Mary Watts, will oversee maintenance and improvement of the building and grounds. The Finance Committee, led by Dana Ryan, will work to ensure the financial health of the parish. The Outreach Committee, led by Sarah Van Aken, will work to implement our outreach goals. Finally, our Lay Ministries Committee, led by Ginda Woodruff, will work with parish life activities that can uphold the members of the congregation.

I hope we can all find ways, however small, to help the community reach our ministry goals. All of us are called to make a contribution, whether that will be founding the next great outreach project or simply praying for the community and its members. People today have no idea who Jesus is—it’s our task to show them.

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part IV

In 1527, Henry VIII was madly in love with one Anne Boleyn. He was certain that his marriage to Catherine of Aragon was contrary to divine law, and his righthand man, Cardinal and Lord Chancellor Thomas Wolsey, was eager to make the case for annulment to the Pope. Cardinal Wolsey was the most powerful man in England after Henry. He came of humble stock and rose to power as a ruthless bureaucrat that always just happened to strongly advocate whatever the king advocated. He opened the campaign like any modern-day politician would—with a press blitz. He toured the universities of Europe airing the King's argument for annulment. He organized members of parliament to stage impressively earnest pleas to the Pope that the King's marriage should be decided in the English Church. It was the 15th century equivalent of a tabloid sensation, and Wolsey made enough noise that the Pope agreed to send papal legates to England to hear the case and reach a ruling.

Despite the impressive political maneuvers from Wolsey, it should be stated outright that there was basically no chance Henry's annulment was going to happen. First, the Pope was a political prisoner of the King of Spain, who was the Queen's nephew. The most powerful man in Europe was hardly going to let his aunt be cast off and his cousin, Princess Mary declared a bastard. Second, his argument was shaky at best. While the Bible does forbid marriage between brothers and sisters-in-law, it also *commands* marriage between brothers and sisters-in-law in the case of childless widows. Third, the Pope was hardly going to dispense with his authority over the Church in England, especially with the Protestants making so much noise in Germany. In 1529, Henry reached the end of his patience and fired Wolsey. Supposedly Anne Boleyn's family, Wolsey's political enemies, whispered in the King's ear that Wolsey was failing in purpose. It was, perhaps, for the best that Wolsey died of natural causes in 1530, on the way to Henry's court to answer accusations of treason.

This column is the fourth in the monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Mission Strategy Statement

We, the Eucharistic Community of Trinity Church, are elect by God to proclaim the salvation of Jesus to the City of Jacksonville, Illinois. We call all of Jacksonville to encounter the beauty of holiness in our worship, where in Word and Sacrament Jesus becomes present to us and offers his transformative grace. The first part of this is a community oriented outward, in service to the whole world, which requires congregational health, active organization, and spiritual support. It also requires active community engagement, with members of our congregation forming connections with other individuals in the community, whether through church or secular organizations. These connections are where new ministries will develop. The three parts of our parish that have been identified as having potential for mission are Illinois College, school-aged children, and Cedarhurst Senior Living Facility. We will establish a committee to support the ministers of our parish and encourage greater involvement in congregational life and fellowship. Another committee will explore outreach opportunities and coordinate greater participation in these programs.

This is the statement we have submitted to our Bishop.

News & Announcements

Outreach

We continue to collect donations for the **Jacksonville Area Food Center**. The need is great. As an example, their April report showed that 114 families (a total of 222 people) were served food orders at a cost \$11,025.11. Another 508 families (1355 people) received bakery items at a cost of \$8859.39. Churches alone contributed \$5251.46 in money and \$780.50 in food donations.

Senior Warden Dana Ryan has designated two Sundays to be **peanut butter and jelly Sundays: July 1 and August 5**. Please bring a jar or two to add to our collection.

Due to the generosity of the ECW and some parishioners, we took \$292 over to Grace United Methodist Church in June for their **Take It To The Streets** summer lunch program for children. They deliver approximately 250 sack lunches every day to children around Jacksonville. We are still accepting donations for this. Checks should be made to Grace UMC, or cash may be left in the “lunch bag” on the table in the foyer.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches (JACC)

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is focusing on **College Welcome Packets** this summer. Each packet will have information about the JACC and contact information for the specific churches participating. They need tissues, hot chocolate, gum, and granola bars. There is a box for your donations in the upper hallway. Items need to be brought in by the **end of July** so that the packets can be assembled and distributed in August as the college freshmen arrive for the new year.

Summer Children’s Church

Children are meeting in the basement of the parish hall for a Bible story, an activity, and a light snack before joining the rest of the congregation in the church after the sermon. Of course, this will be provided as an option for children and their parents—children are always welcome to stay with their parents in our services.

Attendance has been very light, but those who attend have enjoyed the activities. All children are welcome, so if you have visiting friends and relatives, please bring them to church.

Congratulations!

Claire Van Aken attended the National Dance Alliance camp in Bloomington with her Jacksonville High School J’ette Team. She was awarded the overall Top Gun of the camp for her turns and was named All-American. The squad received Superior and Gold ratings for their performances. Way to go, Claire! We are proud of you.

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

Pledge Statements

Included in this mailing is the six-month pledge statement, if you made a pledge for 2018. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Contributions

If you did not make a pledge, but need a record of any contributions you have made, contact the Parish Office.



Sundays during the Summer
at 10 o'clock

Bible Stories and Activities
for children
in the basement of the Parish Hall

Children will join their families in church after the sermon.

SERVICES IN JULY 2018

**Sunday, July 1: THE 6th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Wednesday, July 4: Independence Day

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 8: THE 7th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Wednesday, July 11:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 15: THE 8th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Wednesday, July 18:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 22: THE 9th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

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

Monday, July 23: St. Mary Magdalene, tr.

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 25: St. James

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 29: THE 10th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

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