



# Trinity Topics

**February 2019**

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**“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”—**

*Isaiah 43:1*

*The following is the address delivered by Fr. Brooks at the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting:*

Let us take this moment right now to thank God for another year of his grace, and pray that he will be our defender still in the coming year. For my part, I offer thanksgiving to God that I am your priest. You take time out of your week just to listen to me talk, you invite me into your private moments of joy and sorrow, you care for and support me and my family, and in the coming year I can only strive to be worthy of all this trust you put in me.

This meeting calls for some reflection on both the past year and also the year ahead of us. Praise God for the uncountable ways the members of this parish have contributed to our congregational life in this past year! The Bible says we are the light of the world; in a world that is increasingly lonely and secularized, it will fall to Trinity Church to show Jacksonville what it means to be a true community where everyone has a seat at the table, and everyone has a contribution. I am happy to say that our members actively and joyfully claim this high calling. It is this devotion, this energy that will show the City of Jacksonville the possibility of God’s Kingdom in the here and now.

Our average Sunday attendance remained steady a second year in a row in an age of relentless declines in religious participation across all churches and public institutions. We also see a high level of participation in weekday services. Attendance isn’t everything, of course, but it can be a sign of congregational health. We will continue to face the challenge in the coming year, unfortunately, and we will have to continue actively discerning as a community how we can make Jacksonville aware of the great miracle that happens in our walls every single week. The goal in the coming year will not be church growth in itself, but church health. A healthy community where people are properly equipped for mission will often be a growing church, but God’s mission is not merely filling the pews.

I am also happy to report a sizable increase in the size of our average pledge. Praise God for your generosity. Active stewardship is an essential part of healthy congregational life—it’s harder to proclaim God’s Word to Jacksonville where we are all worried about finances. Your generosity this year pushes us toward greater reliance on pledges rather than our endowment, which not only draws souls into active investment in our community today, but also ensures the future needs of the parish will be provided for. It is, indeed, exactly our decades of financial responsibility that forms a core part of our secure finances today. The blessings of God grow more and more in our lives every day, and I hope in the coming year we can continue discerning ways, both as a community and as individuals, that we can push ourselves into greater reliance on pledges instead of endowment funds.

Of course, there are many ways that people can contribute to our common life. Our building is busy practically every day of the week. This parish recognizes the important fact that Church happens every day of the week because the prayers of the Church never cease. It is furthermore a task for every member, not only for the priest—my job as priest is to equip God’s saints to do this holy work. It is a sign of our congregational health that we have many hands involved in our day to day life. Thank God for that, and in the coming year I hope we can grow this grace more and more. I pray we can find ways of proclaiming this grace not only inside our church but outside a well. AMEN.

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

***A Course in Anglican History: Part IX***

After crushing the Pilgrimage of Grace, King Henry VIII soured not only on monasticism, but on all religious dissent from any party, including Protestants. While Roman Catholics continued to be charged with loyalty to the pope, Henry had little taste for further reform. Henry made definitive statements of his Catholic churchmanship by personally presiding over the heresy trial of a Protestant for denying the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in 1538, and by venerating a crucifix on Good Friday in 1539. Protestant theologians sent by German princes to encourage reforms in the English Church were expelled. After several years of Protestant advances in the Church, the *Six Articles* of 1539 reaffirmed a sundry list of Catholic practices such as clerical celibacy and private masses. Protestants who had gotten ahead of Henry's reforms hastily put their novelties away. Married priests (including Archbishop Thomas Cranmer) hid their wives, masses in English vanished, and bishops who refused to recant Protestant views were forced to resign. Somehow, both Catholics and Protestants found themselves persecuted in England, leaving Henry isolated for a season from both sides of the Reformation.

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

***Annual Parish Meeting – January 27***

Four new Vestry Members were elected: Bob Hardwick, David Mumford, Abby Radcliffe, and Alice Tracey. They join continuing members: Bruce Evans, Melissa Evans, Nancy Forsberg, Donna Metcalf, Michele Quinones, Mickey Quinones, Dana Ryan, and Ginda Woodruff.

The following elections also took place: John Clancy and Donna Metcalf, Synod & Deanery Delegates; and Hilda Radcliffe, Synod Alternate Delegate.

***The Readings for the Sundays in February***

	<b><i>Old Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Psalms</i></b>	<b><i>New Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Gospel</i></b>
February 3	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
February 10	Isaiah 6:1-13	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
February 17	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
February 24	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-12, 41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

## News & Announcements

### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Trinity Church delivered Doorbell Dinners the week of January 21 to 25. K-Lou Ashmore organized it and thanks the following who helped:

Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, Fr. Zach Brooks, Jim & Janet Cisne, Chuck Crim, Bruce & Melissa Evans, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Kirby Kitner, Donna Metcalf, Maryjane Million, Jo Ann Nelson, Dana Ryan, and Ryan Worrall. We will deliver Doorbell Dinners again in May.

### ***Special Offerings***

The total for Church World Service on Blanket Sunday, January 27, was \$410.

### ***Salvation Army***

We received a thank you note for ringing the bells back in December. They reported that \$545.37 was raised during our shifts! Thanks to Sarah Van Aken for arranging this.

### ***Forward Day by Day***

The February / March / April edition of *Forward Day by Day* is now available.

Pick up your copy on the table in the lobby. If you would like us to mail you one, call the Parish Office.

### ***Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches***

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is still collecting new and used shoes through the end of March for the **Shoeman Water Projects**. If you have shoes that still have a lot of good wear to them, you can tie or rubber band them together and place them in a box in upper hallway. These shoes are then exported to street vendors in places like Kenya, Haiti, and South America. The street vendors receive valuable shoes, and people without shoes can purchase them for pennies on the dollar. The funds generated are then used to provide well drilling rigs, water purification systems, repairs for handpumps, and health and hygiene training. Communities around the world receive the life-saving gift of clean water.

### ***Outreach***

Super Bowl Sunday is **February 3**. Let's make it a **SOUPER Sunday** at Trinity by bringing cans of soup for the needy and hungry.

You can bring nonperishable food items at any time so that we can continue to support the Jacksonville Food Center throughout the entire year.

### ***Congratulations!***

Luna Michelle, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Luis Valdez, and **great granddaughter of Liz Aldridge**, was born on December 28, 2018. Welcome to the world, Luna!

### ***Death***

Marilyn DeSpain, Helen Keaton's mother, died on January 24. Her life of prayer was perhaps her greatest contribution to the life of our congregation, and we offer thanksgiving to God for that gift of grace.

*May her soul and all the souls of the Faithful Departed rest in peace and rise in glory.*

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

February 3

**SOUPER Bowl Sunday**

Bring cans of soup for the  
Jacksonville Area Food Center.

**Trinity Fellowship  
Tuesday, February 5, 7 pm**

We will continue to study the  
History of Trinity Church

**ECW**

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

**Monday, February 11  
5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 19  
7:00 pm**

Fr. Zach will be on the **Diocesan  
Clergy Retreat** from Monday,  
February 25  
to Wednesday, February 27.

**SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2019**

**Saturday, February 2:  
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, February 3:  
4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, February 6:  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, February 10:  
5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, February 13:  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, February 17:  
6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, February 20:  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, February 24:  
7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, February 27:  
10:00 am = Morning Prayer**

*Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock  
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.*