



Trinity Topics

November 2019

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“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:21

November is stewardship season at Trinity Church, and I write to you this month hoping that all of us give generously and joyfully to this community that we all love. I know I have found in Trinity Church a spiritual home that I want to give myself to, and every day I see the devotion members of this community offer to our common life. We surely all want Trinity Church to stand until the Last Day as a testimony to Jacksonville of our faith in God and God’s faithfulness to us. We also all know of the Church’s day to day needs, from electricity, to paper, to occasional visits from the plumber. All of this relies on your generous gifts.

November is also the month of Thanksgiving, which places our giving to the Church in the context of our gratitude to God for all his gifts to us through the year. Gratitude is so central to Christian life because it acknowledges that God is our creator, our redeemer, and our sustainer. Our existence is tenuous. We have less control over our lives than we imagine. When we reflect on this reality, we see that our lives depend more on God’s grace than our own effort. How generously God supplies our needs, though! Since God has been generous to us, we must be generous to the Church. Furthermore, since our own existence is so tenuous, should we not therefore be generous to those less fortunate than us? Perhaps God has given to us so generously for the very reason to seeing to the needs of our community.

Generous, disciplined, sacrificial giving to the Church and to the poor is a spiritual practice that reminds us of our place in God’s generous work for us and also our duty in ensuring the needs of the community. When we put an offering envelope in the collection plate, it should be a moment to be glad of God’s love for us, as well as a sacrificial act. For my part, I don’t think there is any shame in finding pleasure in being generous either. I think that wonderful feeling in you heart when you are generous is the assurance of God’s grace in your life.

The gold standard of giving since biblical times has been the first ten percent of our income, which is called a tithe. It has to be admitted that this level of giving will be very hard for most of us. I have tithed at some parts in my life, and I have felt great blessedness in being able to do it. However, in most years it just hasn’t been possible. I also know the feeling of giving as much as I could to the Church while sincerely longing in my heart to give more. I hope we all strive to reach a full tithe some day, but until then be assured that the really important matter is making giving to the Church a priority rather than giving to the Church merely what is left over after the rest of the budget is accounted for. We might have to do some hard financial planning and forego some luxuries to ensure the needs of the Church are met, but a thinner wallet means a thicker soul. Almsgiving, which is charity to the poor, is traditionally on top of our obligation to the Church, and I encourage all of us to also consider giving to worthy charities and the poor around us during this time.

I know God is grateful for whatever we have to give to his Church, to the poor, and to his Kingdom. We give first of all our selves, our souls and bodies, which is a reasonable and holy sacrifice, so that we can receive from him redeemed selves in return. We also give our time and our prayer to Trinity Church. Yet we must also give of our income to the Church. Money isn’t everything, but it is an important thing—there is no part of our lives that we don’t owe to God. Let us all, therefore, come together on Stewardship Sunday to joyfully see the earthly needs of God’s Church. Give as generously as you can, knowing that God loves a cheerful giver.

+ Fr. Zach

A Course in Anglican History: Part XVII

The 1549 Book of Common Prayer was in itself decently Protestant, but it contained ambiguities that Catholics could continue reading their doctrines into. The fact that they carried on doing so vexed Protestants to no end. Many Catholic minded clergy continued saying the service like a Mass, complete with bells and incense. Some even continued muttering the Latin service between clauses of the English service. The King's Protestant regents were determined to move the Reformation forward. Beginning in 1550, Catholic bishops were dismissed from their positions and replaced with Protestants, removing much resistance to Protestant reforms. Stone altars were removed from churches and replaced with wooden tables to stamp out any idea of a Eucharistic sacrifice. In a sign of troubles to come, some of this new wave of clergy refused to wear the mandated vestments or use the Prayerbook, declaring them too Catholic for the pure, Biblical Church.

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

News & Announcements

All Saints' Day

The evening service will be at 6 o'clock.

All Souls' Day

The *Book of Common Prayer* refers to this day as the "Commemoration of All Faithful Departed." The service will be at 10 o'clock in the Lady Chapel on Saturday, November 2. At this service we will remember the Faithful Departed. There are forms on the table in the lobby if you wish to have your loved ones remembered by name.

Operation Christmas Child

The ECW will be collecting shoeboxes with children's gifts at its November meeting. Each box also requires a \$9 fee to ship. There is a display in the Parish Hall with more information on what is needed.

Our Local Author

Dr. Allan Metcalf's latest book, *The Life of Guy: Guy Fawkes, The Gunpowder Plot, and the Unlikely History of an Indispensable Word*, was published in September. It will be released in England on November 5, Guy Fawkes Day. Be sure to buy a copy, You Guys!

Christmas Luncheon & Bazaar: December 6 & 7

It's time to start planning!

- Luncheon: 11 and 12:30 (Helpers are needed in the dining room and kitchen.)
- Holiday Shoppe: Bring in gift items. Helpers are needed.
- Gourmet Table: Baked goods and pantry items are needed.
- Book Sale: Helpers are needed.

Please don't wait to purchase tickets (\$12 each) for the luncheon. Contact the Parish Office.

News & Announcements, cont.

The Readings for the Sundays in November

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
November 3	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	119:137-144	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4;11-12	Luke 19:1-10
November 10	Haggai 1:15b-2:9	145:1-5, 18-22	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
November 17	Isaiah 65:17-25	98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
November 24	Jeremiah 23:1-6	46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43

Outreach

These are the items **needed by November 27** for the Christmas Food Baskets.

instant potatoes	egg noodles	green beans	corn
stuffing mix	mac n cheese	fruit salad (can)	pumpkin pie mix
evaporated milk	cereal	Jello	Cool Whip
butter/margarine	sugar	flour	rolls

We do not have the space to store the perishable items, but other items can be left in the boxes provided in the upper hallway.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the “Give A Little. Help A Lot.” campaign benefiting New Directions **Warming and Cooling Center!** There are many volunteer opportunities at New Directions including the ongoing need for an evening meal donation. Fully prepared meals can be dropped off or meal provider can stay and share the meal with guests. The evening meals are scheduled in advance. If anyone is interested in donating an evening meal please contact Melissa Evans at 370-2424 or maevans83@yahoo.com for additional information.

Calling on all those who love to decorate for the holiday season. The Pathway Services **Festival of Trees** fundraising event this year will be held November 22 – 24. Individuals have the opportunity to design a tree or wreath on behalf of their organization to be displayed and then auctioned off. This would be a great opportunity to put “Trinity Episcopal” out in the community! Abby Radcliffe has volunteered to coordinate this project. Abby can be reached at 320-1811 or at abbyrad25@aol.com if you would be interested in participating on behalf of Trinity. **The deadline for entry into the Festival of Trees is November 8th.**

Doorbell Dinners

Coordinator K-Lou Ashmore would like to thank those who helped deliver the dinners the week of October 14 - 18: Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, Jim & Janet Cisne, Chuck Crim, Lisa Haley, Paula Herget, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Donna Metcalf, Maryjane Million, Hilda Radcliffe, Dana Ryan, Ginda Woodruff, and Ryan Worrall. Thanks to all of you! Our next week of duty is January 20 - 24, 2020.

Pledge Mailing

The pledge letter with a card and envelope was mailed on October 18. Extra copies are on the table in the foyer.

Congratulations!

Beckham Dean Tavender, son of Charlie Tavender and Marisol Mondragon, and grandson of Deanna Tavender, was born on August 16, 2019. Welcome to the world, Beckham!

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

**Pledge Sunday
is November 3.**

*Please make every effort
to return your pledge card by this date.*

Trinity Fellowship

This year we are following *The Bible Project*,
beginning with the Gospel of Luke and Acts.

**Tuesday, November 5
7:00 pm**

ECW

Build Your Own Salad Supper

**Monday, November 11
5:30 pm**

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, November 19

7:00 pm

**Friday and Saturday
December 6 & 7**

Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2019

**ALL SAINTS' DAY, November 1:
Evening service at 6:00 pm**

SUNDAYS:

November 3:

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

November 10:

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

November 17:

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

November 24:

**The Last Sunday after Pentecost
(Christ the King)**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Saturday, November 2:

All Souls' Day

Wednesday, November 6

Wednesday, November 13

Wednesday, November 20

Wednesday, November 27

Thursday, November 28:

Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, November 30:

St. Andrew