



Trinity Topics

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**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”—*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4***

As most of us probably know by now, my mother Elizabeth K. Brooks died a few weeks ago in Indiana. It was all very sudden—she had not been ill. She went to the hospital for digestive issues, which turned out to be a severe infection that progressed to septic shock. During the worst of the swelling, she suffered a stroke from which she was ultimately not able to recover. My brother and I were able to be with her as she died, and I hope she knew that we were with her. I know, at any rate, that she is still with me and that I will see her again one day in God’s Kingdom. I would like to thank everyone for their kind words, patience, and prayers as I sat with her during her last days and the days of grief that have followed. Many of you sent us letters and cards to express their support. Leah and I thank God that we have the love of this wonderful community during this difficult time.

Difficult though it may be to lose my mother, this is also a time of celebration for the Brooks family. 2020 has not been an easy year for any of us so far, but there is some light in it after all. We welcome to the world our third child, Lucy Elizabeth Brooks, who was born at Passavant Area Hospital on June 17. She is healthy and happy, and Leah is doing well. Her older brothers are very tender toward her. We look forward to having her baptized soon so that she can know the grace of Jesus that we have found in the Christian life. I am touched that so many members of the congregation have reached out to congratulate us. The miracle life is God’s gift to our whole community. I am so proud to be the leader of a parish that is so committed to coming together to uphold one of its own in his time of joy and loss.

This, I think, is the gift of God’s Church. The Gospel has no place for rugged individualism because Christian life is not a solitary affair. When we open our hearts to God’s grace, we receive brothers and sisters in Christ. The person in the pew next to us is God’s gift. We are part of a communion that stretches across history and throughout the world. We are connected to the saints in heaven and saints here on earth. We gather around those who mourn to let them know they are not alone. We rejoice with each other because of the uncountable miracles that God works among us. The Church becomes a place of support and safety where we can be vulnerable and know that we will be received with patient understanding.

Receiving so many sympathy and congratulation cards at the same time from all our friends at Trinity Church was a vivid reminder of the nature of God’s Church. We are meant to be there for one another, and I can confirm that Trinity Church came through for my family and me during these trying times. Trinity Church is exactly what I needed, and I know it is exactly what Jacksonville needs. Amen!

Fr. Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XX

When the deeply pious Princess Mary took the English throne in the summer of 1553, it was a given that the Catholic Church was back. Catholic worship was eagerly resumed in most places. Holy images that had been hidden away during the rule of Edward VI reappeared, Latin masses were resumed, and churches across the country commissioned artisans to restore Catholic grandeur to the realm. The papal legate, Cardinal Pole, absolved the nation of schism from Rome as Parliament begged for forgiveness on its knees. There were some setbacks. Mary was unable to restore Church lands that had been sold off to the gentry during Henry's reign, monks and nuns showed little interest in restoring monastic houses, and Parliament was reluctant to give up the monarch's supremacy over the Church of England. Mary was content to roll back reforms gradually. There was some hope at first that she would rule with some tolerance for Protestantism, which was starting to become a political force. In the first year of her reign, only the highest ranked Protestant leaders like Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, were arrested. It was not to last—in 1555, she insisted on reinstating English heresy laws which made divergence from Catholic dogmas punishable by death.

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

News & Announcements

Vestry

After consultation with our stained glass window company, the Vestry has voted to hire them to complete restoration of various windows in the church. The work will probably not start for a couple years since their schedule is very tight. This project will cost approximately \$36,000. We are thankful to those who have already designated gifts to help to get started with this project, and we welcome any other gifts.

Outreach: Shoeman Water Projects

An announcement from Diann Brechbuhl and the Jacksonville Area Council of Churches:

Thank you for all the support these past years with the shoe collections. This week the final pickup was made which brought the Jacksonville area donation to **39,457** pairs of shoes since January, 2010. When I called to schedule my final pickup, I was told the shoe project itself was coming to an end. While that was sad news, I also felt an inner peace knowing that we had supported the project to its very conclusion. We had done what we could to help increase the quality of lives for so many people.

Some have said over the years that this was a silly project, but I've always felt this was an opportunity for people, no matter their economic level, to know that they too could help change the lives of others while yet providing for their own families. What an awesome gift people could give with such a meager investment. Everyone that put shoes in those collection boxes had the same mind set—to help others, strangers even, and that I most definitely say is not silly but a reflection of God's love for others.

God has blessed our combined efforts and to Him we give all the glory. May God continue to bless your church's ministries as you seek to follow Matthew 25:40:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did for me."

News & Announcements, cont.

Outreach

Dana Ryan attended the Jacksonville Food Center's board meeting. She learned that the administrators of the Food Center, Melissa Hall and Christy Martin, have become the main volunteers for the Take it to the Streets summer lunch program. When they close the food center at noon, they collect lunches and go to Walnut Court to distribute them. So, the lunch program continues, but in a much different structure than before. Instead of a small army of volunteers making lunches at Grace Church, local businesses have stepped up to provide lunches for at least 80 children per day. Subway makes lunches on Monday, Hardees on Tuesday, Charlie's Cone Shop on Wednesday, McDonalds on Thursday and Handlebar/ Papa John's on Fridays. The meals are paid for partly by Take it to the Streets (donations from churches and individuals) and mostly by donations from those businesses. Drinks for the kids, usually just bottles water, are provided by Casey's, County Market, and Chip of Chip's Handyman Service.

During the meeting, the Food Center administrators repeated that the generosity of the community, individuals and agencies, to the food center over the last two months has been amazing. Jacksonville has really come through for the needy and the hungry in our midst.

But wait, there's more. Our homeless shelter has been closed due to coronavirus, but again, local businesses have answered the call to help those people. The Starlight Motel, Knight's Inn, and Super 8 take in homeless people when referred by the Salvation Army.

Our church family needs to know that the good work done in our community for the homeless and the hungry goes on, through the contributions of churches, individuals, and our local businesses. Our donations are still needed to keep these programs going. We can also remember those helpful businesses with our patronage.

Member Update

We have added Owen Blackorby's name to our weekly prayer list. Owen will finish his internship with the US Marshals in Atlanta on July 29. Once his internship is completed, he will have completed all requirements to earn a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Georgia. They hope to be able to have a graduation ceremony on October 16th. After his internship he hopes to find work in law enforcement, particularly conservation.

Death

Elizabeth Brooks, mother of Fr. Zach, died on June 7. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Congratulations!

Lucy Elizabeth, daughter of Fr. Zach and Leah Brooks, was born on June 17. Brothers Abraham and Jude are happy to meet her. Welcome to the world, Lucy!

Greta Louise Peak, daughter of Sam and Molly and granddaughter of Rob & Maureen Vidakovich, was born on June 27. Welcome to the world, Greta!

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

Reopening Procedure

The Vestry met on June 30 to discuss the necessary procedures we must follow in order to resume regular worship. This is not any easy task since we need to adhere to many guidelines.

Father Zach is preparing a document for the Vestry's review at its special July 14th meeting. Once the document is approved, we will notify the congregation.

A document is not the only step. Once the document has been approved, the church will need to be set up with the proper measures.

It is our hope that on July 19, parishioners will be able to worship in the church with certain restrictions.

Members who are in at-risk groups will be encouraged to use caution in making decisions to attend.

We can continue to live stream the service on Facebook. The office can still send out worship booklets for use at home.

Please let us know if you would like us to send you readings or the *Forward Day by Day* booklets.

