



Trinity Topics

September 2021

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**“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord!”—*Psalm 84:1-2a***

This month we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the consecration of our beautiful church. Old Trinity burned down in 1918 when a fire at the high school across the street spread to the roof of the church. Only a few items could be saved from the flames—the cross on the chapel altar, a processional cross, the eagle lectern. The foundations of the old building can still be seen in the undercroft of our current building. It must have been heartbreaking to watch. This was the place where our parish forefathers and mothers had married and then married off their children. This was the space where they celebrated Christmas and Easter. They celebrated new life by baptizing their children there, and it was the place where they brought the bodies of their loved ones in mourning. Surely, before the fire, they believed that Old Trinity would just be there forever, but all it took was a few stray cinders and it was gone.

The members of Trinity Church were faced with the staggering task of picking up the pieces and starting over from scratch with a whole new church. I think they faced the daunting task of building again because they believed their beloved building represented something so much bigger and more important than that one devastating moment in time. Sheer happenstance could take away their building, but that building was an expression of something that cannot be taken away by a fire. Trinity Church was their connection to the story of God's love for humankind. Trinity Church connected them to Christians across the world. We make our sacred space imitations of historical building styles because they offer us something timeless—they connect us to Christians across time, all the way back to Jesus Himself. They built a new church, more marvelous than the one that went before it, to be a new representation of that story.

This connection to Christians across the world and across time is called *Catholicity*, not in the sense of the Roman Catholic Church, but of the universal Church of all believers. Our building is intended to represent the Truth, with a capital “T.” Trinity Church is just an expression, in time and place, of the grand narrative of God's loving work for humankind in Jesus. Be assured that this story goes on much longer than the one hundred years of our building, and even the whole history of Trinity Church in Jacksonville. Trinity Church preaches beliefs handed on to us by the apostles almost two thousand years ago, beliefs that Christians in other parts of the world even today are risking everything to believe. While people today go about life desperate for meaning, we find our truest selves in this little space filled with the colors of our stained-glass windows, the booming pipes of our organ, and the fellowship of other Christians.

On the other hand, the reality that Trinity Church is just an expression of these timeless truths comes with the fact that it doesn't have to last. We cannot take the next hundred years of New Trinity Church for granted. Old Trinity was taken by a fire outside of anyone's control, though in the history of Jacksonville there are multiple churches that were lost because their congregations could not manage hard work of preserving what the past had given them. It falls to us today to make sure New Trinity stands for another century. We all have our contribution to make not only to the upkeep of the building, but to the spiritual life that gives the building purpose. As we celebrate a century of God's grace in Trinity Church, Jacksonville, let us consider today the part we will have in the ongoing story.

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXXI

While the reign of King James I is known for its relative stability in matters of religion, there were some tense moments. There were continual plots by what can only be described as Catholic terrorists to overthrow the Protestant king. The most famous is known today as the Gunpowder Plot. It was led by Robert Catesby, though the most famous conspirator is Guy Fawkes, the first captured as the plan of foiled. The plan was, to put it precisely, completely bonkers. They rented space in the basement of Parliament, packed it with dozens of barrels of gunpowder, and intended to blow the King and all of Parliament to High Heaven on the 5th of November. At this point the plot became rather confused. They would kidnap the King's daughter (third in line to the throne) and brainwash her into Catholicism. Every hole in the plot would be addressed with more assassinations until somehow England was Catholic again. The plan fell apart when someone sent an anonymous letter to a Catholic sympathizer in Parliament, Lord Monteagle, warning him to stay away on the fateful day. Monteagle promptly handed the letter over to the authorities, who caught Guy Fawkes checking on enough gunpower to blow up not only Parliament but also a third of London. The foiling of this "Popish Plot" was a sensation, and the Church established the 5th of November as a national celebration to thank God for the nation's deliverance. It's celebrated as Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night to this day. Like the Gunpowder Plot, these Popish plots were never quite thought out, and all they ended up doing was painting Catholicism as the faith of violent sedition in the eyes of the English people. Loyal Catholics could only look on in dismay as these plots provoked Parliament to pass ever more restrictive laws against them.

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

News & Announcements

Building Use Guidelines

The Rector and Vestry have decided to offer our space for events again with the following restrictions:

1. Events must be scheduled by a member of the congregation, who will be responsible for ensuring pandemic protocols are observed.
2. All individuals at events must wear masks and observe social distancing.
3. Organizers must take the names of all people who attend the event and submit the list to the parish office in case contact tracing becomes necessary.
4. Food and beverages served must be pre-packaged.
5. Events are limited to 25 people in the parish hall or church school area and 5 people in the lounge.

Receptions after Sunday 10 o'clock service

Since May we have had a small gathering in the churchyard after the service. We have offered bottled water, packaged snacks, and portions of cheese, fruit, or nuts. This has been a safe way to socialize. (Only once did the weather not cooperate.) We need volunteers to host these simple gatherings. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help.

Altar Guild Schedule

Members of Altar Guild will find a new calendar for the 2021-2022 year in this mailing.

News & Announcements, cont.

Choir

Choir has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. All are welcome to join. Talk with Mary Wilson for more details.

Church School

Church School will resume on September 12. The area has been completely renovated over the spring and summer so it will have a new look for the children. Procedures will be in place to maintain safety for all. Masks are required for all who are two years old and older. Areas have been set up to maintain some distance between the children. Each child will have individually marked supplies so that none will be shared. We will not be able to serve snacks.

We need volunteers from parents and other parishioners to conduct lessons. All lessons are prepared ahead of time so there is no advanced planning for these volunteers. We do not have a regular nursery attendant so a volunteer could be used for that area also.

Please let the Parish Office know how you can help. We can set up a schedule for you if you are unable to help weekly.

Doorbell Dinners

Members of Trinity Church delivered dinners the week of July 26 - 30. Thanks to all who helped: Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, Fr. Zach Brooks, John Clancy, Chuck Crim, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Skip & Jo Ann Nelson, Hilda Radcliffe, and Judy Tighe.

Our next week of duty is **October 4-8**. Please put those dates on your calendar.

Be Thankful!

The aim of the United Thankful Offering is for us to make an offering in thanksgiving for the blessings in our life. Traditionally, one takes home a box and makes regular offerings throughout the year in thanksgiving for the blessings and then brings the amount of money collected on the twice yearly Ingatherings. The funds collected are then used to help others in need. Boxes and envelopes are provided on the table in the foyer. Please consider making an offering on Sunday, September 26.

Baptism

Jett James Cisne, son of Adam & Katie and grandson of Jim & Janet, was baptized on August 28. Welcome to Christ's church, Jett!

Deaths

Dr. Richmond H. Simmons died on July 11, 2021. He was a dedicated member of this Parish for decades. He delivered over 5700 babies during his career, mostly in Jacksonville. His service was at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Clermont, Florida, where he was active until his death.

*May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

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

Lectors

September 5	Alice Tracey
September 12	Forrest Keaton
September 19	Nancy Taylor Porter
September 26	Cathy Nelson

Acolytes

September 5	Bruce Evans
September 12	Clayton Robb & Cail Lang
September 19	Clayton Robb & Levi Haley
September 26	Clayton Robb & Cail Lang

Ushers

September 5	Chuck Crim
September 12	John Clancy
September 19	Chuck Crim
September 26	John Clancy

Church School & Choir
will resume on
Sunday, September 12

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, September 21
7:00 pm

Sunday, September 26
Let's celebrate the 100th anniversary
of the consecration of our church!

The Fall Ingathering of the
United Thank Offering
will be on
Sunday, September 26.
*Make an offering in thanksgiving
for something or someone in your life.*

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAYS:

September 5:

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 12:

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 19:

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 26:

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Wednesday, September 1

Wednesday, September 8

Tuesday, September 14:

Holy Cross Day

Wednesday, September 15

Tuesday, September 21:

St. Matthew

Wednesday, September 22

Wednesday, September 29

St. Michael & All Angels

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:

On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays