



# Trinity Topics

MAY 2022

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***“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching;  
continue in these things,  
for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.”  
—1 Tim. 4:16***

The passage of scripture at the top of this article contains Paul’s advice to Timothy as he becomes a new bishop of the Church, which is appropriate for our newsletter this month. After a long search and election process we finally come to the consecration of our new bishop, The Very Rev. Brian K. Burgess. I hope the arrival of a new leader will be a moment of renewal for our diocese. We might not see the bishop very often at the parish level, but he is nonetheless an essential figure of parish life. Paul saw Timothy, in his new role, as a central figure in the mission of the Church to his community. Our part of the state, including our own city of Jacksonville, is facing many challenges. It will fall to us, the Diocese of Springfield, led by our new bishop, to preach the Gospel of Life to them. We should pray that our new bishop will help us confront these issues.

The office of bishop is a central part of our identity as Episcopalians. It’s right there in our name; “Episcopal” means “pertaining to bishops.” The Episcopal Church is the “Church with Bishops.” The importance of this office for Episcopalians follows from its apostolic origin. We believe Bishop Burgess will be our connection to the apostles, and through them, to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ himself. In the very earliest days of the Church, the only clergy were the apostles. The role of apostle morphed into the office of bishop as the Church spread across the world, and the apostles appointed a leader in every city to carry on their mission to the local Christians. Bishop Burgess’ ministry, so many generations later, will carry on this ministry handed on from the apostles, which will be represented by bishops laying their hands on his head to pass this preaching on to a new generation. The office of parish priest developed later, when bishops delegated their duties of preaching and celebrating the sacraments to community leaders to serve the rapidly growing number of Christians. This means my own ministry will be an expression of Bishop Burgess’s priestly authority.

Bishop Burgess will also connect us to the apostolic teaching of the Church. Since his ministry comes from the apostles, he is bound to preach what the apostles taught, expressed in the testimony of the Bible. A bishop is therefore the guardian of the faith of the Church in the Diocese of Springfield. He ensures that church leaders preach according to the teachings of the Church, and that our worship is in accordance to the ancient practices of the Church, expressed in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Our own parish will be accountable to him in the doctrines it preaches to our neighbors here in Jacksonville. Of course, if he should ever offer something that contradicts the commandments of Scripture, we are in our right to question his authority on that particular matter—the Truth is ever democratic!

After ordination, Bishop Burgess will connect us to the past, and he will also connect us a parish to the rest of the diocese. Our little community here at Trinity Church is part of something so much bigger than Jacksonville. Bishop Burgess will connect us to the rest of the Episcopal Church when he participates in gatherings of our leaders like General Convention or the Lambeth Conference. Through him we will all have our say in the Anglican Communion, which represents millions and millions of Christians across the world.

I write all this hoping that we will all see our new bishop’s consecration, on May 21, as an important day in our parish and in our own spiritual lives. We pray that Bishop Burgess will be a kind pastor, a faithful preacher, and a wise teacher of the truth. May he build up what is worthwhile in our spiritual lives and confront us when we fall short. May we hear the preaching of Jesus himself in his ministry. Amen!

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

### ***A Course in Anglican History: Part XXXVIII***

Otto von Bismark, Chancellor of the German Empire in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, famously said, “Politics is the art of the possible.” Few monarchs in history could be further from this philosophy than King Charles I, who never knew the meaning of retreat when he wanted his way, and who refused to see dangers of his actions until it was too late. When he came to the throne, there was a rising philosophy across Europe that kings ruled by divine right. Since a monarch was appointed by God, obeying the monarch was not only a matter of patriotism, it was a solemn religious obligation. Of course, kings saw this idea as especially appealing, and Charles doubly so as he continually struggled with the rising power of Parliament. In no part of national life was this disagreement hotter than in matters of religion. Puritans coalesced around Parliament, while those who thought English Church practice was just fine flocked to the monarchy’s banner.

It wasn’t clear who would come out on top in this debate at the time. Henry VIII clearly believed he had the authority to dictate the rites of the realm, and every monarch after him through Charles seemed to agree. At every turn, however, they were confronted with a Church that refused to go along with the program, and they fell back on Parliament to force through their religious ideas. So, is the religion of the realm decreed by the king, and Parliament was obliged to go along? Or is the king simply making suggestions to the real authority, Parliament?

Charles did have the authority to appoint the bishops of the Church, which gave him a lot of leverage in this disagreement. His chosen lieutenant in the religious struggle to come was William Laud, who rapidly ascended the ranks of the Church from Bishop of the backwater diocese of St. David’s in Wales, to royal Chaplain, to the cushy position of Bishop of Bath and Wells, to Bishop of London, to Archbishop of Canterbury in the space of only seven years. William Laud would go on to be a central figure in the formation of Anglican worship, influential enough for “Laudian” to be an enduring term in Anglican liturgics. His caustic attitudes also poured fuel on the fires that would soon explode into the English Civil War.

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

### ***Bishop’s Consecration, May 21***

Trinity Church will hopefully be well represented at Bishop Burgess’s consecration at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Springfield on May 21. This service will be true Anglican worship in all its grandeur! As space will be limited, anyone planning to attend must register in advance. Register as soon as possible to ensure a place. Carpooling is advised; please let the Church office or Fr. Zach know if you need to arrange for a ride or can offer another person a ride.

Visit <https://episcopalspringfield.breezechms.com/form/91b212> for the registration form.

**Furthermore:** Pay close attention to the chasuble and stole presented to the bishop during his consecration. These lovely vestments are gifts from Trinity Church to our new bishop as we celebrate his new ministry!

## News & Announcements

### ***Pandemic Protocols Update***

Due to low transmission rates of Covid-19 in our region, we have relaxed all pandemic precautions starting Easter Sunday. This includes restoring use of the altar rail and the common cup during the Eucharist. Individuals are still free to continue wearing masks, and may refrain from receiving from the common cup if they choose. Keep in mind that we may have to institute precautions again if the situation changes, so please keep an eye open to any changes in our protocols.

### ***The Heifer Project International***

The Church School would like to announce that they raised **\$2,186.31** for *The Heifer Project International*. Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children. We need to especially thank our Church School teachers Gayle Clark and Hilda Radcliffe who provided the lunch. At the lunch, local honey and spiced peaches were also sold to benefit the Project, thanks to Jim Herget and Gayle Clark.

### ***Foodbank***

The collection box for nonperishable food items is in the upper hallway. We take the items to the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center at the end of each month.

### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 16-20. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore to let her know when you can help.

### ***Burial Office***

The Burial Office for Ned Wheeler will be at 10:00 am, on Saturday, May 7. The Wheeler Family attended Trinity Church for decades. Mrs. Wheeler was one of the British war brides who came to Jacksonville after World War II. I'm sure the family would appreciate parishioners to attend the service. The ECW will provide a reception following the service.

### ***Good News***

Father Kip Ashmore has earned the Master of Sacred Theology from Nashotah House. He will receive his degree on May 19. This is the culmination of many years of research and study. Congratulations, Fr. Kip!

Nash James, son of Adam and Katie Cisne, and grandson of Jim and Janet Cisne, was born on April 3. Welcome to the world, Nash! (Nash is Katie's maiden name.)

Bob Underbrink has assembled many of his stories together again. His new publication is "Inbound From Auckland: And Other Stories from WWII." The cover of the booklet includes a photo of him and his first sergeant! We have an extra copy of it in the office, but you can contact Bob for more information. Congratulations, Bob!

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.  
Spring time brings graduations and awards ceremonies. We'd love to share your news!***

**Volunteers Needed:**

Ushers

Lectors

Acolytes

Talk to Fr. Zach to see how you can help.

**Vestry**

**Tuesday, May 17**

7:00 pm.

**ECW**

Build your own supper meeting  
Dessert and beverages are provided.

**Thursday, May 19**

5:30 – 7:00 pm

**Sunday, May 29**

Last day of regular Church School

**Saturday, May 21**

Consecration of  
The Very Rev. Brian K. Burgess  
to be the XIIth Bishop of  
The Diocese of Springfield



**SERVICES IN MAY 2022**

**Sunday, May 1: EASTER III**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Monday, May 2:**

**St. Philip & St. James, tr.**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 4:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 8: EASTER IV**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 11:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 15: EASTER V**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 18:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 22: EASTER VI**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 25:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, May 26:**

**ASCENSION DAY**

6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 29: EASTER VII**

**The Sunday after Ascension Day**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, May 31:**

**The Visitation of the BVM**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist