



Trinity Topics

January 2023

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“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”— I Corinthians 2:9-10

The New Year is a time for optimism and self-confidence. At midnight on the first of January, we can put the past away and become preoccupied with the future. We feel certain this is the year we start doing things right. Perhaps we usually have in mind more practical goals like exercising more, giving up a bad habit, or spending our money more wisely. We should also remember to set spiritual goals for ourselves like greater faithfulness in prayer and in the study of scripture. These are all worthy goals to be sure, though let me propose thinking about our future with a greater sense of ultimacy. Make this the year you settle your end-of-life plans and to ensure the Church will be part of your final plans for your life.

I hope considering your final plans, that is, your will, your wishes about end-of-life medical treatment, and your funeral rites, are not too melancholy matters to consider. In the spirit of New Year's optimism, we Christians should keep the Communion of Saints in mind. Though we all must eventually be parted from this world, we will still be alive in Jesus. The hundreds of saints that have been part of the Trinity Church community through the years are with us still, praying for us, rejoicing with us, and mourning with us. This is to say that, when you reach the end of your life on this earth, you will still have a place here at Trinity Church. This makes it important to remember the Church in your will. As we have been happy to support Trinity Church in this life, by leaving something behind for the Church in our wills, we will be filled with joy in heaven that our contributions continue to support the work of our parish.

Remembering to make plans for your funeral service and burial are important for some of the same reasons. Your funeral will be a celebration not only of the life you have lived, but also of the resurrection life you will still have in Jesus. Sorting these matters out in advance makes keeping this perspective much easier. This can be your gift to your friends and family. It can be very difficult to make these decisions in times of loss. In a time of great anxiety and stress, it feels impossible to really pay tribute to a lost loved one. As someone who has had to say goodbye to people in his own life, I can say it was a great relief to find that my loved ones' funerals were already planned. Forms for planning your funeral service are available in the church office. Included on the form is information about your next of kin so that the Parish Office has contact information. This can be needed even before your death. You should contact a funeral home to discuss what your funeral should involve. This is a chance to decide questions like whether you want to be buried or cremated, what casket you will use, and even what clothes you will be dressed in for the showing. Paying the funeral home for their services in advance can save your family a great expense.

Finally, despite the promise of the resurrection, death still waits for all of us at the end of our earthly journey. Now is the time to make your choices for your medical treatment at the end of your life. Decide who will make your medical decisions if you are incapable of making them yourself. Decide whether you want to sign a Do Not Resuscitate order. Talk to your doctor about what sorts of procedures resuscitation involves and a person's chances of recovering from them to help you make this decision. It is also essential to make this choice known to your healthcare proxies and next of kin to ensure that these wishes are followed at the hospital. Making these decisions will also be a great relief to those you will leave behind.

These are, it has to be admitted, very serious matters when it's still the holidays. They are, however, very important matters, and seeing to them now will give you and the people you care about peace of mind in the future.

Fr. Zachary Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXXVI

King Charles II, who as a child had narrowly escaped Parliamentary forces during the English Civil War and spent the Interregnum in the Netherlands, returned to England and took his throne in 1661. He brought his bishops and a newly revised Prayerbook with him. The *1662 Book of Common Prayer* varied only slightly from the Elizabethan Prayerbook. It now enjoined several practices greatly reviled by Puritans such as kneeling for Holy Communion, the priest making the sign of the Cross at baptism, and the wearing of a white surplice while leading church services. It remains the official *Book of Common Prayer* for the Church of England to this day. The more radical revisions were to the *Ordinal of 1662*, which contained the ordination rites of the Church of England. The new ordinal made it clear that the Church of England was led by ordained priests and bishops, not Protestant ministers like Congregationalists or Presbyterians. Over 2,000 clerics refused to recognize these changes and were dismissed from their positions in what is today known as the Great Ejection. While there wasn't to be a Protestant inquisition to ensure obedience to the Church's teachings, there were other ways of ensuring conformity. These acts mostly effected Protestants who refused to conform to the teachings of the *Book of Common Prayer*, thereafter branded "Non-conformists." Government officials were required to receive Holy Communion in an Anglican Church at least three times a year. The Act of Uniformity of 1662 required all religious services to be performed from the new *Book of Common Prayer*. Non-conformist religious meetings were banned in the Conventicle Act of 1664, and Non-Conformist preachers were banned from entering towns and cities. People who liked the return of the old ways celebrated by putting up giant Maypoles and dancing around them merrily, another practice Puritans had banned. Dissenters who were not so fond of the King's restored Church packed up and moved to the New World where they could build the New Jerusalem far away from royal control.

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

Annual Parish Meeting

Please make every effort to attend our Parish Meeting, on Sunday, January 29. It gives us an opportunity to review all the activities of our parish during 2022.

We will also elect three new Vestry Members and two Synod & Deanery Delegates. These persons must be confirmed Communicants in Good Standing, at least eighteen years of age.

Parish Meeting Reports

It is essential that we have written reports turned into the Parish Office by Wednesday, **January 25**. Although brief oral comments are welcomed at the meeting, the printed reports are attached to the minutes and filed for posterity. Without written reports, our history does not reflect an accurate picture of the life and times of Trinity Church.



News & Announcements

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Brian Burgess will visit us on Sunday, January 22. As is the custom, there will be a special collection for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. The ECW will host a special reception for him after the 10 o'clock service.

Parish Bible Study

The New Year is a good time to take up the spiritual practice of regular study of scripture. Please consider joining our parish bible study which takes place the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 7pm, via Zoom. Sessions last 40 minutes. Be assured Zoom is very easy to use—if Fr. Zach can figure it out, anyone can! Email Fr. Zach for the link, which is sent out before every session: brooksz@gmail.com

Outreach

Our Outreach Chairman Abby Radcliffe coordinated two initiatives during Advent. First, she organized groups of members to ring the bells for the Salvation Army. Then she adopted a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army. Members were very generous. Thank you, Abby, and thanks to all who donated goods and their time.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will be delivering Doorbell Dinners the week of January 16-20. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore at klouless@msn.com, or phone at 217-243-4309 or 217-473-1864, if you can help.

Special Offerings

The Thanksgiving Offering was \$317; the Christmas Offering was \$315. Please remember that all money from special offerings goes to **Outreach**.

Coffee Hour

There is a sign next to the kitchen serving counter so that members can sign up to host a simple coffee hour after the Sunday 10 o'clock service. It is good for us to enjoy some safe fellowship in these days.



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

Lectors:

January 1: Forrest Keaton
January 8: Cathy Nelson
January 15: Paula Woods
January 22: Alice Tracey
January 29: Nancy Taylor Porter

Acolytes:

January 1: Clayton Robb
January 8: Bruce Evans
January 15: Clayton Robb
January 22: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
January 29: Bruce Evans

Ushers:

January 1: John Clancy
January 8: Chuck Crim
January 15: John Clancy
January 22: Chuck Crim
January 29: Bob Hardwick

Trinity Fellowship
Tuesday, January 3
5:30 pm

ECW Supper Meeting
Thursday, January 12
5:30 pm

Bishop's Visit
Sunday, January 22

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 29
11:30 am

Blanket Sunday
To benefit Church World Service
January 29

Pledge / Contribution Statements
will be mailed the first week of January.

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday, January 1:

THE HOLY NAME

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 4:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Friday, January 6:

EPIPHANY:

6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 8:

EPIPHANY I

The Baptism of our Lord

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 12:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 15:

EPIPHANY II

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 18:

The Confession of St. Peter

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 22:

EPHIPHANY III

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 25:

The Conversion of St. Paul

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 29:

EPHIPHANY IV

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist