



Trinity Topics

February 2023

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**“And Jesus answered them,
‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’ ”—*Luke 5:31-32***

Lent begins with an invitation in the *Book of Common Prayer*. “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” Lent is holy because it is time set aside for heavenly things. Holiness is not a matter of giving a big enough tithe, saying the right prayers, or believing the right things and otherwise going about our lives of work, chores, and leisure without thought. That would make holiness merely another tax levied on our lives. Holiness stakes its claim to our time in our Lent precisely to challenge the rule of work and play over our lives. Holiness is about freedom—freedom to love God, freedom to love your neighbor, freedom to be a saint. Lent, therefore, is our annual call away from lives filled with ordinary tasks toward transformation into saints.

The first task of Lent is self-reflection and repentance. What first must be understood about repentance is that its primary emphasis is on God’s mercy. Repentance is not like a child who says to himself, “I’ve really messed up; my parents are going to kill me!” Repentance is a child who says to himself, “I’ve really messed up; I need my parents’ help!” We all have moments in our lives that we regret. Some of us carry the weight of this regret around for years. The good news is that God is ready to help. He gives us the assurance of pardon and the hope of a fresh start. Christian morality is not an impossible standard, it shows us the full possibilities of repentance and new hope.

Lent is the perfect time to train ourselves in the discipline of daily prayer. In prayer we make time to communicate with the God who has made us, and really, it’s amazing that the Almighty God who made heaven, earth, and all the vast cosmos does in fact hear us. My hope for my congregation is that prayer is the first instinct for all of us no matter what happens. In moments of joy we pray in thanksgiving, in moments of sorry we pray for strength, and in moments of failure we pray for hope. Prayer more than any other activity is our rebellion against those forces in the world that tell us this is all there is, and this is all we can hope for. Self-denial is a little rebellion against the control that our appetites hold over us. We give things up like caffeine or snacks because we live by the love of God more than any of these things.

Lent also is a wonderful time to begin a new regimen of scripture study. In the study of scripture, we learn of God’s loving works for us throughout history and even in our own lives today. Being a saint is always living in response to this good news.

Lenten discipline isn’t going to just happen. We have to consciously work it into our schedules. Perhaps we must move plans up or postpone them to ensure we have time to pray with our families. Maybe we could put an extra load of laundry in the washing machine before bed on Saturday in order to keep Sunday as a day of rest and reflection. It may well be that just moving activities around won’t be enough. We must make sacrifices to find time for God in schedules already packed with ceaseless activities. Time is a precious commodity, but “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Lent, above all, is a call to remember what matters most of all. As a great theologian once wrote, “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is to not become a saint.” In Lent we believe that this tragedy is not inevitable. God gives us what we need if only we stop to receive it.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XLVII

The reign of King Charles II was the beginning of a golden age of Anglican consensus. With the failure of Puritanism, the Church of England was left with a core of doctrine and practice that could provide stability through religious controversies. Whatever disagreements might happen between Anglicans, they could at least both assure each other that their religion was English. England showed little interest in expanding this establishment to its colonies, however. Indeed, the colonies provided a handy place to dispose of religious dissenters. Colonies were left to provide their own religious needs, and England would only get involved when matters got out of hand. For example, King Charles II forbade the execution of heretics after Massachusetts Bay Colony began executing Quakers. A few colonies felt enough attachment to the mother country to establish the Church of England—that is, to support its parishes through taxes and other privileges. Virginia, New York, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia all officially endorsed the Church of England at some point. However, the Church of England was never strong even in the colonies where it was established. Parish boundaries were established to ensure an adequate income for clergy, leaving the many far-flung settlements of sparsely populated areas with little access to Anglican services. With no local bishop, parishes had to send away to distant England to get clergy. Few vicars could be induced to make the long and dangerous journey across the sea, and candidates sent away to England for education and ordination often never returned. This left the Church of England in the colonies with a perpetual shortage of vicars and a reputation for the low quality of its clergy. The clergy shortage suited some parish vestries just fine who, without a clergyman around, could feel free to corruptly divide parish incomes up among themselves. All this left an environment where non-Anglican denominations could thrive, and from their earliest days the American colonies were dominated by Puritanism and Presbyterianism.

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

Annual Parish Meeting

Three new members were elected to the Vestry: Bruce Evans, Melissa Evans, and Paula Woods. They join continuing members Maryjane Bradbury, Janet Cisne, Laura Evans, Rob Haley, Cathy Nelson, Clayton Robb, Dana Ryan, and Deanna Tavender.

After the general meeting, the Vestry convened for an organizational meeting. Fr. Brooks appointed Dana Ryan to be Rector's Warden, and the Vestry elected Bruce Evans to be Parish Warden.

Copies of the handouts from the meeting are available on the table in the lobby, or you can contact the Parish Office to have one mailed.

News & Announcements

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church delivered Doorbell Dinners the week of January 16 to 20. K-Lou Ashmore organized it and thanks the following who helped:

Kip and K-Lou Ashmore, Keith & Maryjane Bradbury, Chuck Crim, Paula Herget, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Hilda Radcliffe, Joyce Surbeck, Judy Tighe, Don & Alice Tracey, and Mary Watts.

We will deliver Doorbell Dinners again in May.

The Heifer Project

Records show that the Church School has been choosing *The Heifer Project International* as their Lenten Project since 1996; however, I also remember my children participating in it during the 80's! In addition to filling the ark boxes, the teachers have organized other fun activities for all members of the parish to contribute. The generosity and support have been fantastic. The Sunday, February 26th bake sale is the kickoff. Watch for the Sloppy Joe luncheon to follow in March.

Forward Day by Day

The February / March / April edition of *Forward Day by Day* is now available.

Pick up your copy on the table in the lobby. If you would like us to mail you one, call the Parish Office.

Magnets

The Parish Life Committee ordered extra Trinity Church magnets. They are available to purchase in the Parish Office for \$1.

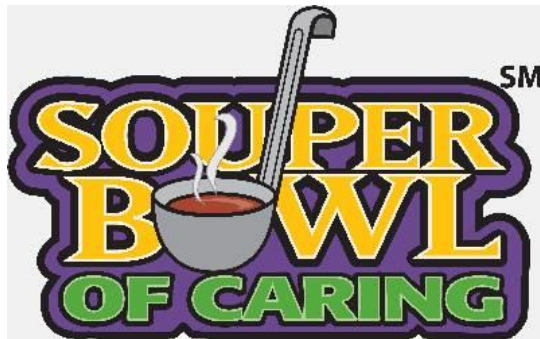
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Jacksonville High School J'ettes for being the IHSA State Champions in Competitive Dance. Our own Marley Van Aken is the team manager! Way to go!

Outreach

Super Bowl Sunday is **February 12**. Let's make it a **SOUPER Sunday** at Trinity by bringing cans of soup for the needy and hungry.

You can bring nonperishable food items at any time so that we can continue to support the Jacksonville Food Center throughout the entire year.



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

Lectors:

February 5 Cathy Nelson
February 12 Paula Woods
February 19 Alice Tracey
February 22 Forrest Keaton
February 26 Nancy Taylor Porter

Acolytes:

February 5 Clayton Robb
February 12 Bruce Evans
February 19 Clayton Robb
February 22 Volunteer
February 26 Bruce Evans

Ushers:

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

Trinity Fellowship

Tuesday, February 7
7:00 pm

February 12

SOUPER Bowl Sunday

Bring cans of soup for the
Jacksonville Area Food Center.

Fr. Zach will be attending the
Clergy Retreat for the
Diocese of Springfield
February 13

ECW

Thursday, February 9
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 21
7:00 pm

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2023

Wednesday, February 1:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, February 2:

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 5:

5th SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 8:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 12:

6th SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 15:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 19:

LAST SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 22:

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes

10:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm = Liturgy of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

Friday, February 24:

St. Matthias

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 26:

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

*Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.*

Bake Sale

to benefit The Heifer Project

Sunday, February 26
after services