



# Trinity Topics

**January 2025**

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**“For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’**

**Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”—2 Cor. 6:2**

I hope 2025 will be a very special year here at Trinity Church, as it will for all of Christendom. The Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis I, has proclaimed a Jubilee Year. I know we Protestants have our differences with the Church of Rome but let us not begrudge a good idea even from the Pope. The Jubilee Year originates in the book of Leviticus. Just like every seventh day is the Sabbath day, every seventh year was a Sabbath year when the land was left fallow to recover its fertility. But every forty-nine years, a Sabbath of Sabbaths, was a Jubilee Year and the Year of the Lord’s favor. Once a generation, all debts were forgiven, land was redistributed, and all slaves and indentured servants were freed. It was a time to reorder our lives and all of society around the remembrance that the God of the whole world was the God who hears the cry of the oppressed and acts mightily to give them freedom.

Instead of maintaining a cycle of 49 years, in the Christian tradition, leaders have declared a Jubilee Year whenever circumstances seem right. In Christian interpretation, forgiveness of debts is extended to the forgiveness of the debt of sin, both our sins against God and our grudges with other people. Freedom to slaves is extended to renewal of society around the principles of equality and justice, and the redistribution of land is extended to greater acts of charity and mercy to the poor and oppressed. Of course, every year should be focused on these Christian principles. Human beings being what they are, however, sometimes a greater occasion must be had to remind us of what truly matters. I therefore call all of us to join our Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ in the observance of a Jubilee Year. Make 2025 the year that you take charge of your spiritual life. Let us give ourselves over to special acts of piety. For example, visit church outside of Sunday morning for some time to meditate on God’s mercy for us. Perhaps visit our lovely Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle in Springfield to receive Holy Communion on a weekday. This is the year to get serious about daily prayer and study of the Bible. This is the year to reach out to estranged friends and relatives to rebuild relationships with them. The grace of God is always with us; in this Jubilee Year let us live like it!

Pope Francis has declared that this Jubilee Year will have a special focus on children and youth. If you have children in your life, whether children, grandchildren, or nieces and nephews, this is the year to focus on their spiritual upbringing. Teach them to prioritize church over weekend activities. Read the Bible with them and teach them to pray. If you are a grandparent, you can help their parents get them ready for church in the morning. This is the year of the Lord’s favor, and our children will see that if they see it happening in our own lives.

*Fr. Zachary Brooks*

***A Course in Anglican History: Part LXIX***

The Church of England in the colonies fell into disarray during the Revolution and officially ceased to exist when the United Kingdom recognized the independence of the United States at the Treaty of Paris in 1783. This left former Church of England parishes without identity or leadership. American Anglicans did not generally view themselves as distinct from other Protestants. They simply resorted to the official Church of the Realm, and suddenly that Realm was gone. One should imagine what would become of the public schools in a neighborhood that seceded from a city without plans to establish its own schools. Since there were no bishops in the colonies and no Parliament dictating the rites of the Church, there was no reason to think there should be any heir to the Church of England in the colonies at all. Parishes that had formerly enjoyed state support and funding found themselves without income to support clergy. Many Church of England clerics joined the minor exodus of Loyalists to other Crown colonies in Canada or the Caribbean. Many of them went to England. Others simply retired (often taking the parish rectories they lived in as their unofficial severance package). Some parishes resorted to extreme measures to find clergy. King's Chapel, Boston, for example, called a Unitarian minister who took it upon himself to revise the *Book of Common Prayer* to be compatible with his beliefs—King's Chapel remains Unitarian to this day. Most Anglican parishes, however, simply went without clergy or worship services for years. Surprisingly, very few Anglicans were asking themselves “What next?”

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

***TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR JANUARY 7***

*“The Ministry of Paul the Apostle”*

*This session begins with the intriguing question: Why was/is Paul so controversial, both then and now? Profs. Bird and Wright then move on to discuss Paul under five topic headings:*

***The Uniqueness of Paul:*** *Paul was a Jew, a highly trained Jewish scholar, at home in the Jewish, Roman, and Greco world of his times, one who had a dramatic encounter with the Risen Jesus, and consequently, an “apostle” of Jesus Christ. How did all these factors contribute to his uniqueness?*

***Paul's view of the God of Israel:*** *What are some of the major ideas that made up Paul's view of Israel's God? How does Jesus fit into this picture?*

***Paul's view of the People of God:*** *Who are the People of God? How did the People of God come into being? What does it mean to belong to the People of God?*

***Paul's view of Jesus as Lord:*** *How did the general idea, prevalent at the time, that the Roman Caesar was Lord conflict with Paul's claim that “Jesus is Lord”?*

***Paul's view of the Doctrine of Justification:*** *What are the three main passages in Paul's writings that lay out his doctrine of justification? What was at issue in each of these three passages? What are the points of Prof. Wright's summary of how justification “works” for Paul?*

*This session concludes with two questions: What was Paul's “Big Idea”? What was the central symbol of what Paul believed? (The answer will surprise you!)*

***Please join us on Tuesday, January 7, at 7:00 pm for dessert.  
The video and study will be from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.***

### News & Announcements

#### *Annual Parish Meeting*

Please make every effort to attend our Parish Meeting, on Sunday, January 26. It gives us an opportunity to review all the activities of our parish during 2024.

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 22**. 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.

#### *Doorbell Dinners*

Trinity Church will be delivering Doorbell Dinners the week of January 20-24. Please mark your calendars.

#### *Special Offerings*

The Thanksgiving Offering was \$320; the Christmas Offering was \$879 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 fellowship in these days.

#### *Congratulations!*

Hallie Raine Haley, daughter of Levi & Jill, sister of Hugh, Harper & Henly, and granddaughter of Rob & Lisa, was born on November 5, 2024. Welcome to the world, Hallie!

Eliza Louise Tighe, daughter of Nolan & Taylor and granddaughter of Judy, was born on November 20, 2024, in Cary, North Carolina. Welcome to the world, Eliza!



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

**Lectors:**

January 5: Paula Woods  
January 12: Alice Tracey  
January 19: Nancy Taylor Porter  
January 26: Forrest Keaton

**Acolytes:** (Please let Jo Ann know when available.)

January 5: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
January 12: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
January 19: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
January 26: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

**Ushers:**

January 5: Chuck Crim & Volunteer  
January 12: John Clancy & Volunteer  
January 19: Chuck Crim & Volunteer  
January 26: John Clancy & Volunteer

**Trinity Fellowship**

Tuesday, January 7  
5:30 pm

**ECW Supper Meeting**

Thursday, January 9  
5:30 pm

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Sunday, January 26**

**11:30 am**

*(reorganization of the Vestry following)*

**Blanket Sunday**

To benefit Church World Service  
January 26

**Pledge / Contribution Statements  
are included in this mailing.**



**LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2025**

**Wednesday, January 1:**

**THE HOLY NAME**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 5:**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Monday, January 6:**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, January 8:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 12:**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after The Epiphany:**

**The Baptism of Our Lord**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, January 15:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, January 18:**

**The Confession of St. Peter**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 19:**

**EPIPHANY II**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, January 22:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, January 25:**

**The Conversion of St. Paul**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 26:**

**EPIPHANY III**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, January 29:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist