



Trinity Topics

August 2025

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*“Let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”—Galatians 6:9*

“Go and do likewise!” Jesus gives this command many times in the Gospels. St. John the Baptist’s preaching was always “The Kingdom of God is at hand, therefore bear fruit worthy of repentance.” That is, Jesus’ arrival in the world requires a new way of living. The old way of life must be put away so that true life may begin. The life, miracles and teachings of Jesus are meant to give us some insight into how we must live now that the Word has become flesh and dwells among us. This new way of life is grounded in what God has done for us in the life of Jesus. In this one person, God has given his whole self to the world to be our joy, our life, and our hope. The command once again is, “Go and do likewise!” As Jesus gives his life for us, so we must give our life for others.

Jesus shows us in his death and resurrection how this spirit of self-sacrifice is its own miracle, whatever form it takes in our lives. That is why Jesus is called the Son of Man. In this one man we see what human life could be. In another place, Jesus says, “He who loses his life for my sake will find it.” Christian service is not a mere burden or obligation, it is a hopeful possibility for each of us. Each of us has his own cross to take up and our own way of dying to self. The great freedom of Christian life, and also the solemn obligation, is to find this life. We all have our own struggle for holiness. Each of us must have his own with Jesus. There are as many ways of being a saint as there are Christians.

Jesus says to us in the Bible, “I am the way.” As we read our bibles to discern our own path, we must look to the life of Jesus for our example. This primary expression of this devotion to Jesus in the Bible is to share his concern for our neighbors, especially the poor. Our God is the God of the poor, the outcast, the meek, the orphan, and the widow. Jesus rejected our consumerist focus on buying our way to happiness and insisted that we find our truest selves in giving to others. God blesses us exactly so we can bless others, and all can share in God’s abundance. The Bible asserts that God has provided for all in the whole world, so if anyone goes in want among us, it is because some of us are hoarding that abundance for ourselves.

I do not think that is the case at Trinity Church! Whenever the call goes out to support the needy in our community, I thank God for your generosity. We have many opportunities at Trinity Church to support our neighbors and the poor in Jacksonville. As we continue to grow in the holiness that Jesus has promised to us, each of us can consider blessing our community with further contributions to those in need. I will raise up the need for contributions to **Jacksonville Unmet Needs**, which Trinity supports. This group pools the resources of area churches to better support people in crisis in our community. **The Jacksonville Area Food Center** and the **Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen** could also use further support. If you can support these worthy causes, please send contributions to the parish office. Let Jacksonville come to know Trinity Church for its generosity.

+ Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part LXV

The first black priest of the Episcopal Church was Absalom Jones, ordained in 1802 to lead the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, the first black parish of the Episcopal Church. This congregation had left the Methodist Church because of discrimination and still exists today. As is the case with American history in general, race is a complicated issue in the history of the Episcopal Church. American Christianity generally (with the blessed exception of the Quakers) could not overcome the racial divisions of American society. Racism played a central part of this, but it wasn't reducible only to racism. Religion in his period was seen as an expression of community identity, so American Christianity could not quite conceive of the same congregation bringing together people of very different backgrounds. This didn't apply only to people of different races. For example, in many places separate German and Swedish congregations lingered long after their members had been completely assimilated into English-speaking society. Many of us may still remember Jacksonville's Portuguese Presbyterian congregation. In some traditions, such as the Baptists and Methodists, black Christians formed their own denominations. Some of these denominations are still with us today, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In other traditions, such as the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, black members formed their own congregations within the wider umbrella of the denomination. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Springfield is an example in our own diocese. Episcopal leaders envisioned these congregations as eventually having their own bishops, though the first black bishop of the Episcopal Church wouldn't be ordained until 1874 to serve as a missionary to Haiti. As American history has shown, however, separation can never be equal. Episcopalians, like all Americans, would have to struggle to see the new American nation as being defined by its ideals, and not background, origin, or race.

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



Founders' Day

One hundred ninety-three years ago, on August 11, 1832, Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, was organized, making it the oldest parish in Illinois.

Be sure to look closely at the window above the east entrance as you enter the sanctuary. In the *Stained Glass Window* book, it is described in detail as *The Coming of the Church to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1832*. The center lancet has a representation of our church building. In the left lancet you will see the cornerstone of our church.

Please join us for a Parish Potluck after the 10 o'clock service.

News & Announcements

Rites of Initiation:

Starting in September, Fr. Zach will offer a course on Sunday afternoons for anyone who would like to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church, or baptized. These lessons will cover Christian doctrine, history, and morality. Please contact Fr. Zach at the parish office for more information.

Help Needed!

After Labor Day regular church school will resume. We are blessed at Trinity Church to have dedicated teachers lead our children in worship and study. It takes many hands to conduct weekly lessons. There is a wide range of ages of our children. Our teachers want to be able to meet the needs of them all.

How can you help? Volunteer to be a teacher or teacher's aide. Volunteer to stay in the nurse's office with our youngest ones while the teachers conduct lessons. All extra hands are welcome. Although weekly help is needed, you can also offer help one or two Sundays a month. Let the Parish Office know how you can help.

These children are the hope that this church will continue to be filled for years to come.

Choir

Choir Rehearsals will soon resume. All are welcome to join! Contact Mary Wilson. Sunday, September 10 will be their first Sunday to sing at the 10 o'clock service.

Outreach

Our Doorbell Dinners coordinator K-Lou Ashmore would like to thank the following who delivered dinners during the week of July 21-25: Kip and K-Lou Ashmore, Chuck and Joann Crim, Forrest and Helen Keaton, Carl and Cindy Meisner, Mickey and Michele Quinones, Dana Ryan, Judy Tighe, and Ryan Worrall.

Trinity Church has been a part of this ministry, along with other area churches, for decades. The recipients of the meals are thankful for the food and the personal contact that volunteers provide.

Our next week of duty is in October, and K-Lou will again be booking volunteers. Please consider getting involved in this ministry, if you are able.

Death

John Hayter died on July 11, 2025. His service was held on July 21. We will all certainly remember his singing in the choir and his famous, beautifully served, trifle he brought to potlucks!

*May his soul and the souls
of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

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

Lectors

August 3	Cathy Nelson
August 10	Paula Woods
August 17	Forrest Keaton
August 24	Nancy Taylor Porter
August 31	Alice Tracey

Acolytes

August 3	Clayton Robb
August 10	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
August 17	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
August 24	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
August 31	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

Ushers

August 3	Brandon Carp & Chuck Crim
August 10	Jim Herget & Volunteer
August 17	Brandon Carp & John Clancy
August 24	Chuck Crim & Jim Herget
August 31	Chuck Crim & John Clancy

Join us
on **August 10**,
as we celebrate our **Founders' Day**.

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, August 19
7:00 pm

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2024

SUNDAYS:

August 3: **The 8th Sunday after Pentecost**
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 10:

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 17:

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 24:

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 31:

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS AT 10:00 am:

Wednesday, August 6:

The Transfiguration

Wednesday, August 13

Friday, August 15:

St. Mary the Virgin

Wednesday, August 20

Monday, August 25:

St. Bartholomew

Wednesday, August 27

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:

On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays