



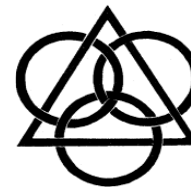
Trinity Topics

September 2026

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**“But thanks be to God,
who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,
and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”—2 Cor 2:14**

We have reached the midpoint of the long season after Pentecost. The vestments are green to represent the verdant life of the Church. This liturgical season is sometimes called “Ordinary Time.” This is a season to think about how the Christian story is going to take place in our lives while we are busy with finishing tasks, worrying about health, or reading about politics and world events. While stained glass windows might give the impression that, after the Gospel story, Christian life would consist of striking poses of pious awe while wearing togas, it is actually in “ordinary life” that we will be Christians.

Does Trinity Church make a difference in how we live ordinary time? Of course it can, and it must! The people of Jacksonville are increasingly lonely. Social organizations of all kinds, from churches, to the Freemasons, to bowling leagues, are all declining in membership. Social media is intentionally designed to divide us and make us resentful of people who are different from us. This leaves people today increasingly isolated. Trinity Church can offer the people of Jacksonville belonging and fellowship. The Church is not a private club, but rather a public institution that offers its graces without condition to all who desire it. If we all live our lives with generosity, patience, and acceptance, people will want to know what we have here at Trinity Church. It falls to each of us as individuals to grow our community by inviting the people we care about to share in the graces we know in our congregation.

Perhaps “Ordinary Time” is not the most compelling name for a liturgical season, because what’s so great about being ordinary? But the Christian story teaches us that there is something wonderful, even eternal, in our little acts of generosity for others. Trinity Church, in teaching the Gospel, can give lives purpose. We have many important tasks here at Trinity Church, both in service to our congregation, and to the wider Jacksonville community. Perhaps the person meant to do them is sitting at home now, tired of ordinary life, looking for something where their passion and skills will be important. Let Trinity Church be the community that will accept and value what they have to offer!

Most of all, I think people today need some assurance that ordinary time isn’t all for nothing. This secular age, with its modern-minded skepticism, is inherently incapable of describing the meaning and value of ordinary life. Here at Trinity Church, life is seen as an encounter with the eternal. Every interaction in our ordinary day, with our families, our friends, and every stranger, is a new opportunity to know God’s grace a little deeper. I do think we offer things that the people of Jacksonville need. During this season of Ordinary Time, let us all reflect on our own individual part in this important and vital mission to our community.

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part LXXI

No history of the early United States can avoid the tragedy of slavery. This includes the history of American Christianity. The earliest and most vigorous opponents of the institution of slavery in the United States were the Quakers, who expelled slave owners in 1776. Methodists made expelling slave owners their first order of business after establishing their denomination on Christmas Day in 1784. Baptists declared slavery to be against the eternal law of God. Presbyterians were conflicted, declaring slavery to be against the law of God while also failing to commit themselves to abolition. By the 1840's, American Christianity (with the admirable exception of the Quakers) had laid aside its principled opposition to slavery in order to attract the wealthy land-owning classes of the South. For a time, denominations tried to balance themselves between these dramatically different understandings of morality. This did not make the slavery any less contentious. Northern Christians committed themselves to stronger and stronger opposition to slavery. Southern Christians produced more and more convoluted justifications for it. The tension was more than Christian consensus could bear. The Methodist and Baptist Churches split into Northern and Southern branches in the 1840's. The Presbyterians split during the Civil War. Northern Christians fully believed they were fighting a holy crusade to destroy the demonic institution of slavery, and Southern Christians fully believed Providence was on their side to defend it. After the war the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in the North and South reconciled. The Baptists never reunited, and over the years the Southern Baptist Church has become the largest Protestant denomination in the country. The Episcopal Church is largely absent from this history because, to its great shame, it studiously avoided taking any position at all until the institution of slavery was already long gone.

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

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 8

Trinity Fellowship will gather Tuesday, 8 September in the parish hall at 7:00 pm to begin studying the program *Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer* by James C. Howell. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian, pastor, and ultimately a martyr during the rise of the Nazi regime. He is widely regarded as one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century. This program studies the Bible within the context of his life and theology. Trinity Church usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Social time is from 7 to 7:30 pm, with the study from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

News & Announcements

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will be delivering dinners again from September 29 to October 3. Please let K-Lou Ashmore know when you are available.

Choir

Choir has resumed rehearsals, and will sing at the September 13th service. Contact Mary Wilson if you are interested.

Church School

Church School will resume on September 13.

We need volunteers from parents and other parishioners to conduct lessons. All lessons are prepared ahead of time so there is no advanced planning for these volunteers. We do not have a regular nursery attendant so a volunteer could be used for that area also.

Please let the Parish Office know how you can help. We can set up a schedule for you if you are unable to help weekly.

Episcopal Church Women

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend the Build Your Own Salad supper on Tuesday, September 22. Lettuce, bread, and drinks will be provided. Each person should bring a salad ingredient to share.

Be Thankful!

The aim of the United Thankful Offering is for us to make an offering in thanksgiving for the blessings in our life. Traditionally, one takes home a box and makes regular offerings throughout the year in thanksgiving for the blessings and then brings the amount of money collected on the twice yearly Ingatherings. The funds collected are then used to help others in need. Boxes and envelopes are provided on the table in the foyer. Please consider making an offering on Sunday, September 27.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches

SUNDAY SACK LUNCHES TO GO

Help stop hunger in our community The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is partnering with Go Church to collect food items for their 'Sunday Sack Lunches to Go' program, helping the hungry in the Jacksonville Area.

Collected supplies will be donated to Go Church to include in their food distribution program. Needed items include:

- Mixed Fruit Cups, NutriGrain Breakfast Bars, Quaker Chewy Granola Bars
- Nature Valley Trail Mix Bars, Individual Packets of Cookies, JIF To Go
- Creamy Peanut Butter Cups, Peanut Butter Cracker Variety Packs
- Tuna Salad with Crackers & Chicken Salad with Cracker Packs (Individual Servings)
- Vanilla Pudding Cups, Chocolate Pudding Cups, Slim Jims

Monetary donations are appreciated and needed, with checks payable to 'Go Church.'

Dealing with Dementia

The JACC is sponsoring a training event for faith communities, churches, and faith leaders on how to engage and support those with dementia within their congregations.

The training will be held on September 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm, here at Trinity Episcopal Church.

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

Lectors

September 6	Cathy Nelson
September 13	Forrest Keaton
September 20	Nancy Taylor Porter
September 27	Paula Woods

Acolytes *(Let Jo Ann know when you are available.)*

September 6	Clayton Robb
September 13	Clayton Robb
September 20	Abraham Brooks & Clayton Robb
September 27	Clayton Robb

Ushers *(Let Jo Ann know when you are available.)*

September 6	Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget
September 13	Chuck Crim & Carl Meisner
September 20	John Clancy & Volunteer
September 27	Chuck Crim & Volunteer

Fellowship

Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 pm

Church School & Choir

will resume on
Sunday, September 13

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, September 15
7:00 pm

ECW

Tuesday, September 22, 6:00 pm
Build Your Own Salad

The Fall Ingathering of the
United Thank Offering

will be on
Sunday, September 27.

*Make an offering in thanksgiving
for something or someone in your life.*

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAYS:

September 6:

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 13:

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 20:

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

September 27:

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, September 9

Monday, September 14

Holy Cross Day

Wednesday, September 16

Monday, September 21

St. Matthew

Wednesday, September 23

Tuesday, September 29

St. Michael & All Angels

Wednesday, September 30

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:

On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays