Trinity Topics

October 2026

Phone = (217) 245-5901
info@trinitychurchjax.org
Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."—Matthew 6:21

This month you will receive your pledge cards in the mail, and I write to you hoping that all of us give generously and joyfully to this community that we all love. I know I have found in Trinity Church a spiritual home that I want to give myself to, and every day I see the devotion members of this community offer to our common life. We surely all want Trinity Church to stand until the Last Day as a testimony to Jacksonville of our faith in God and God's faithfulness to us. We also all know of the Church's day-to-day needs, from electricity, to bulletin paper, to occasional visits from the plumber. All of this relies on your generous gifts.

Making such a sacrifice is a spiritual practice that acknowledges that God is our creator, redeemer, and sustainer. How generously God has supplied our needs! Since God has been generous to us, we must be generous to His Church and even more generous to those less fortunate than us. Perhaps God has given to us so abundantly for the very reason of seeing to the needs of our life together at Trinity Church. For my part, I don't think there is any shame in finding pleasure in being generous. I think that wonderful feeling in your heart when put your offering in the collection plate is the assurance that God's grace is already in your life. To give to your community is to feed your soul.

The gold standard of giving since biblical times has been the first ten percent of our income, which is called a tithe. It has to be admitted that this level of giving will be very hard for most of us. I have tithed at some parts in my life, and I have felt great blessedness in being able to do it. However, in most years it just hasn't been possible. I also know the feeling of giving as much as I could to the Church while sincerely longing in my heart to give more. I hope we all strive to reach a full tithe some day, but until then be assured that the really important matter is making giving to the Church a priority rather than giving to the Church merely what is left over after the rest of the budget is accounted for. We might have to do some hard financial planning and forego some luxuries to ensure the needs of the Church are met, but a thinner wallet means a thicker soul. Almsgiving, which is charity to the poor, is traditionally on top of our obligation to the Church, and I encourage all of us to also consider giving to worthy charities and the poor around us during this time.

I know God is glad for whatever we have to give to his Church, to the poor, and to his Kingdom. We give first of all our selves, our souls and bodies, which is a reasonable and holy sacrifice, so that we can receive from him redeemed selves in return. We also give our time and our prayer to Trinity Church. We must also give of our income to the Church. Money isn't everything, but it is an important thing—there is no part of our lives that we don't owe to God. Let us all, therefore, come together in a month's time on Stewardship Sunday to joyfully see the earthly needs of God's Church. Give as generously as you can, knowing that God loves a cheerful giver.

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part LXXII

The Episcopal Church founded a central body in 1821 called the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the D.F.M.S.) to, as the name suggests, oversee missions to areas of the United States outside of established dioceses as well as serve Episcopalians living overseas. The Church committed itself to expansion in 1835 and made every Episcopalian a member of the D.F.M.S. (a canon that remains in effect today). This initiated a period of growth for the Episcopal Church. In 1835, Jackson Kemper was appointed Missionary Bishop of the Northwest, the territory that is now Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin. He founded dozens of parishes across the Midwest, as well as Nashotah House Seminary. As a ritualist himself, he played a central role in the spread of the Ritualist Movement in the areas outside of the more conservative dioceses along the East Coast. In 1856, the Episcopal Church appointed James Theodore Holly to be Missionary Bishop to Black Americans, a sign that the Episcopal Church was coming to realize that its mission was more than simply carrying on with English Christianity. This period also saw the Episcopal Church's reach extend overseas. In 1944, William Boon was appointed Missionary Bishop of China and Japan, and Horatio Southgate was appointed Bishop of Constantinople. These overseas bishops were originally appointed to serve Episcopalians living and working abroad. It would be at least a couple more decades before Anglicanism would awaken to the need to spread the Gospel. They consciously avoided competing with local Christian traditions. There was a sense from the beginning, however, that the Episcopal Church had something to offer the world: good schools, good hospitals and right ordered worship. Many of the hospitals, schools, and universities founded by these missionary bishops continue to exist to this day.

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

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR OCTOBER

We are studying the book *Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer.*. October's session is entitled "A Life with Scripture.". Each session begins with a video presentation, with discussion following.

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

News & Announcements

Blessing of the Animals

It's hard to separate Francis of Assisi and animals. Stories abound of how this great saint could communicate with animals and felt at one with all creation. During the 13th century Thomas of Celano recorded several of these encounters with animals: preaching to birds; releasing a rabbit from a trap; warning fish to not be caught; and taming a wolf, to name a few.
On **Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 pm**, Trinity Church will have a Blessing of the Animals in the church courtyard.

> Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets.
>
> Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. **Amen.**

Church School

Volunteers are always needed so please offer to assist our Church School teachers. There is always a job for everyone.

Pledge Campaign

Letters will be mailed the latter part of October, with Pledge Sunday being November 1.

News

Adah Mitchell is pleased to announce the birth of her first great grandson, Gerald Michael O'Hanlon. His parents are Quinn and Julia; his grandparents are John and Cynthia. Welcome to the world, Michael!!!

Our middle schoolers are off to a great start this year:

- Abe Brooks was named Student of the Week.
- Stella Van Aken was named the best offensive player of the year and made the All-State 7th grade softball team.
- Juliet Jamison made the All-State 8th grade team in softball.

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

Lectors

October 4	Cathy Nelson
October 11	Nancy Taylor Porter
October 18	Paula Woods
October 25	Beth Hilleke

Acolytes

October 5	Clayton Robb
October 11	Clayton Robb
October 18	Abraham Brooks & Clayton Robb
October 25	Clayton Robb

Ushers

October 4	Chuck Crim & Carl Meisner
October 11	Brandon Carp & Chuck Crim
October 18	Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget
October 25	Brandon Carp & Jim Herget

Fellowship
Tuesday, October - 7:00 pm
Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer

ECW
Wednesday, October 14
5:30 pm

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, October 20
7:00 pm

Diocese of Springfield Synod
October 23-24

Forrest Keaton & Cathy Nelson
are the Delegates from Trinity Church.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAYS:

October 4:
The 19th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 11:
The 20th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 18:
The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

October 25:
The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday, October 14:
Monday, October 19:
St. Luke

Wednesday, October 21:
Friday, October 23:
St. James of Jerusalem

Wednesday, October 28
St. Simon & St. Jude

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:
On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays